

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.*







Photos courtesy of Ann Swaney/  
NMC Archives

Two women made their mark on Northwestern Michigan College: Ilse Burke, the college's first (and only) woman president (pictured left), and Shirley Okerstrom (pictured right), the second woman to serve on the Board of Trustees. Burke's tenure as president spanned from 1996–2001, when current president Tim Nelson took the post. Okerstrom served on the Board from 1978–2000. In 2000, NMC's Fine Arts building was named in honor of Okerstrom, who was a strong supporter of the arts and advocated for the original project to build the Dennos Museum.



NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE  
**WHITE PINE PRESS**

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**What's Up on Campus**

**Are you a 2019 graduate?** Caps and gowns are now available for purchase at the NMC Bookstore!

**Bids have been approved for the West Hall Innovation Center and Library.** Estimated completion of the project is spring 2020.

**The Spring 2019 Transfer Fair will be held in the Health & Science building from 9:30am to 1pm on Tuesday, March 12.** More than 25 university representatives will be on campus to discuss their programs and the transfer process.

**Irish band The Outside Track will perform inside the Health & Science building from 11:30am to 1pm on Wednesday, March 13.** The performance will be followed by a 30-minute mix of Celtic music and a history talk.

**Fall 2019 registration begins March 13.** Tuition for fall semester is not due until July 30. Depending on total earned credits, your web registration start time may vary:

- March 13 at 8am: 45+ earned credits
- March 13 at Noon: 30+ earned credits
- March 14 at 8am: 15+ earned credits
- March 14 at Noon: 0+ earned credits
- March 15 at 8am: in-person registration at Tanis opens

**There's still time to register for summer classes!** Tuition for summer semester is due on April 23. Register through NMC Self-Service or in-person.

Cover Design by Eli Watts

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# Exploring New Cultures Through Language

**Tamara Wiget**  
Staff Writer

Spring will soon be in the air, and with it comes what is a frustrating task for many students: registering for classes. Fall registration begins on March 13, and if you're wondering what electives to take, consider this: try a world language.

The World Languages Department at NMC offers a collection of languages—French, Spanish, German, and American Sign Language—taught by professors who are passionate about helping students understand not only another language, but another culture.

German professor Konrad Visser frequently serves a side of decorum and everyday applications with the words and grammar he teaches. “Understanding other people’s cultures and languages broadens a person’s perspective of the world,” he explained.

Other professors in the department express similar feelings. “The world is ever shrinking and those who have knowledge of other cultures and the appreciation for what it takes to learn another language have a keen advantage to those who do not possess such awareness and knowledge,” said Dr. Charles Fleis, who teaches

Spanish, but also has a background in French.

The benefits are not just personal: many programs require a semester or two of a language course. Even so, the thought of taking a language can be daunting, especially since many pronounce certain letters and vowel combinations differently than they are pronounced in English. Some use entirely different alphabets, though none of those languages are currently taught at NMC.

It’s not unusual for students to feel uncomfortable and clumsy as they try to navigate new sounds. When asked what they would say to a student who is nervous taking a language course, all professors interviewed said the same thing: they’re here to help. “We are all excellent teachers with years of experience to help students be successful—as long as students are willing to put in the time they need to,” said French professor Bryn Lynch. “Students also need to realize that they can ask us for help if they are feeling overwhelmed.”

NMC is also working to make the material for these courses immersive and easy to understand. French and Spanish currently has an online text format which,

according to head of world languages Dr. Lisa Dohm, “allow students to access the content 24/7/365.... The videos and content are high-quality, authentic, and represent the different cultures that speak the language from around the world.” These students don’t have to worry about carrying a heavy textbook, and the content for many may be more engaging than just words on a page. The German courses don’t have this feature yet, but the department hopes to make that happen in the future.

If you’re still uncertain about taking a world language, contact the professor who teaches the course you’re considering. NMC’s world language instructors are approachable and have one common factor that motivates them: a love for teaching. They are all eager to share their knowledge and help students not only learn a new language, but also gain a deeper understanding of the culture.

## Alumni Spotlight: Joan Berg



Photo courtesy of Joan Berg

**Emily Slater**  
Staff Writer

When Joan Berg started teaching at NMC in 1974, the business program (known then as the Secretarial Administration program) was in a state of perpetual growth. Typewriters were phased out as computers made their way in. Courses morphed from Shorthand in Typing to Data Entry Input and Introduction to Computers.

Berg relished the opportunity to continually expand her knowledge and grow in her field of work. “I liked the ability to keep learning and creating new courses; the ability to try new things. I think we all realized technology was changing and we had to change with it.”

The ability to grow and learn new things in her field of work kept Berg motivated as an NMC professor for 24 more years before she retired in 2000. She developed new courses for the program and credits NMC for its openness to the wave of change in business and technology.

It wasn’t just the work she enjoyed. The students she taught solidified her love for her job. “The small classes that we had, and sometimes having the students in multiple different classes—you got to know them really well. I just loved that.”

Berg is a big supporter of students taking advantage of all the education they can while they’re in school. Between the University Center and the numerous vocational career pathways NMC offers, she believes students should absorb as much of the experience as possible. “Try to learn as much as you can while you’re there,” Berg says. “Whether it be through a four-year degree at the University Center or something in culinary, aviation, HVAC, or carpentry... each student should pursue their dreams to attain a career that makes them happy to go to work.”

Though retired, Berg returned to NMC as an adjunct professor, teaching Professional Communications in an online class format. The flexibility of the position allows her to split time between Michigan, soaking up the state’s warmer months, and Florida, where she spends her winters golfing, trying new recipes, and walking five miles a day. It’s an ideal situation for Berg, and she’s happy that being an adjunct professor provides her with the opportunity to move around.

“It’s a great life,” she says. “And that’s why the adjunct teaching is so nice. It gives me the time to do the other things that I love, too.”





Photos courtesy of Northwest Michigan Works



Veterans enroll and speak to employers at the 2017 Jobs for Vets! Hiring Event

## NMC Connects Veterans with Employers

**Randi Upton** Staff Writer One of the most difficult missions for veterans is finding gainful employment. Even with a college education this can be a stressful and confusing process.

NMC is hosting the Jobs for Vets! Hiring Event on Wednesday, March 20, from 3–6pm. Scott Herzberg, the military and veteran services advisor for NMC is organizing this event. Herzberg felt a need to do more outside of extended education. “We often hear of veterans coming home and saying that they’re not sure where they belong or need a new sense of purpose, so I wanted to help them get connected with a meaningful career, so helping them get connected with it just seemed to be a no brainer and a natural fit,” Herzberg

said of his involvement.

NMC hosts and promotes the event while Northwest Michigan Works! reaches out to employers. Participating employers pay a \$50 registration fee with the money going back into the veteran community on campus. This year there are 60 employers registered with jobs that go across the board for veterans and their spouses: everything from part-time, seasonal, full-time, entry level to above. There will also be Veteran Service Providers onsite to help with things such as housing, benefits, and emergency assistance.

As with any job fair it is best to be prepared. Dress professionally and for success. In the past veterans have been hired on the spot by employers, so treat it like a job interview.

Come prepared with a resume. Michigan Works! offers free resume workshops and NMC career coaches will critique your resume. Herzberg also recommends that any veteran student who wishes to attend should register online for the event so they have an information packet to take to the fair.

NMC and Herzberg work with local veteran organizations to help veterans, especially students. Events like this are helpful to the veteran who is lost and confused in a world that is so different from the one they had before. Additionally, Jimmy John’s is providing a free lunch for attendees to make sure everyone is well fed while they seek out the start of their new career.

## Addressing the Dress Female Public Figures Objectified

**Lili Clendinen** Staff Writer It’s evident that the feminist movement sparked a change in the political atmosphere. The 2018 national election brought in a record high 127 women to Congress, making up 23.7 percent of the overall congressional populace. A historic number of women have also announced their candidacies for the 2020 presidential election.

While these triumphs are an improvement on representation, women in power continue to face sexism from both the public and fellow politicians. Labels such as bossy, emotionally unstable, and “nasty woman” are some of the many terms used to minimize women in power. In a recent case, Michigan governor Gretchen Whitmer faced objectification, being scrutinized for her curvy figure.

On Feb. 12, Whitmer gave her State of the State address. She spoke about Michigan’s failing infrastructure, stating that Michigan roads were rated the worst in the nation, with only 18 percent considered to be in “good” condition. She called for equal protection for women and members of the LGBTQ+ community. Expanding on the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act would ban discrimination against sexual orientation and gender identity. She also emphasized the need for increased funding of the educational system, as

Michigan 3rd graders rank in the bottom ten nationwide in literacy. She proposed a plan to close the skill gap and boost the economy by making higher education more affordable. She declared that the MI Opportunity Scholarship would launch this spring, which would provide debt free community college or two years of assistance at a public university for qualifying students.

Despite Whitmer’s optimistic vision for Michigan’s future, many people attacked her via social media—not for her speech, but for her form-fitting dress. FOX-2 News aired a story covering the comments that were left under their live broadcast of the state address. Screenshots of sexist comments were displayed throughout the segment, as news anchor Erika Erickson took to the streets of Detroit to find out what citizens had to say. “She’s the governor of our state,” one woman said. “Wear a business suit.”

“It’s no secret that people in the public eye, and people on television, are criticized for how they look,” said Jana Shortal at the Associated Collegiate Press Best of the Midwest journalism conference in Minneapolis on Feb. 16. Shortal, who is the host of KARE 11’s weekday show “Breaking the News,” faces frequent criticism for her hairstyle and clothes. Her story echoed the FOX-2 news

coverage of Whitmer just days before. She commented that she welcomes criticism about her journalism, but not of what she’s wearing. “People have tons of presumptions on what I think based on how I look. And they’re wrong.”

While the intent of FOX-2’s story was meant to defend Whitmer by calling out “keyboard trolls,” it may have done more harm than good. “The story is ridiculous and never should have given these losers a platform to make these inappropriate statements,” Lee Chatfield, the speaker of the Michigan House, said on Twitter.

Whitmer gave a powerful response to the backlash. In a Twitter thread, she wrote, “In an era when so many women are stepping up to lead, I’m hoping people will focus on our ideas and accomplishments instead of our appearance... until then I’ve got a message for all the women and girls [like mine] who have to deal with garbage like this every day: I’ve got your back.”

Objectification is nothing new. Michelle Obama was criticized for wearing dresses that showed her shoulders. Hillary Clinton’s famed pantsuits have led to bizarre statements, such as when fashion consultant Tim Gunn suggested that she was “confused about her gender” in 2011.



Photo courtesy of mi.gov

Governor Gretchen Whitmer

“I didn’t realize it was so different until people told me it was,” Shortal said of her critics. “I just put on my clothes like anyone else.”

The judgement that Whitmer experienced is just another example of how sexism prevails in our society, and how it is used to silence women in power.

“I’m tired, but I’m not scared,” Shortal added.





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# Paying a Living Wage

## NMC admin spar with faculty over salaries

**Steven Tucker** NMC’s administration and unionized faculty are trying to reach a collective bargaining agreement (CBA) through 2021. Negotiations began last September, but a dispute over salary has slowed its progress. NMC faculty have worked without a contract since Jan. 1.

One concern for faculty is the cost of living in the Grand Traverse region compared to other Michigan community colleges. Traverse City’s cost of living is two percent higher than the national average. Other locations with community colleges comparable to NMC have lower costs. Muskegon, for example, is about 21 percent less expensive than TC.

Administration and faculty have agreed upon several key areas such as sick leave, holidays, and academic responsibilities. Both sides agree that a competitive salary is important to maintain a standard of high-quality instructors at NMC. Because of the stalemate the issue has been forwarded to Lansing where a state fact finding committee, the Michigan Employment Relations Commission (MERC), will evaluate both sides and give a recommendation. The process can take months to complete. Until then, NMC faculty will work without protections offered by a CBA.

The faculty association would also like the cost of living to be considered in salary negotiations. “Cost of living can vary throughout the Grand Traverse region,” NMC director of public relations Diana Fairbanks told the *White Pine Press*, explaining why the administration was not taking cost of living into account.

On average, Traverse City is just over 19 percent more expensive to live in than areas with community colleges used in the administration’s salary comparisons. Of the 26 community colleges in Michigan that the faculty union takes into consideration, Traverse City has just over a 12 percent higher cost of living, according to available salary data.

According to a January press release from NMC, the sides have agreed on as many as 34 non-economic points of the three-year contract. Currently, the biggest sticking point is how to calculate salary. NMC uses 20 levels of pay. Faculty members typically start on the sixth or seventh level, depending on credentials, and move up one level per year of satisfactory performance. Most Michigan community colleges use a similar salary schedule system, though some only have 10 levels.

The Michigan Workforce Development Agency uses the Activities Classification Structure (ACS) to compare community colleges. In this system, NMC falls in group two along with six other community colleges. Of these schools, the administration uses the mean and average of their lowest and highest salary levels.

Additionally, the administration is using data from the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), which compiles and organizes data about the compensation of instructors including a wide range of social and economic factors.

Brandon Everest, president of NMC’s faculty association, says that the AAUP is not a reliable source. He explained that their data relies on colleges contributing self-reported data to the AAUP in its optional annual survey, and few colleges similar to NMC are included.

“We wouldn’t allow our students to write a paper based on data like that,” he says.

The faculty is looking at an average of all Michigan community colleges, a metric they claim that NMC administration once used and quietly abandoned. According to the faculty association, this violates NMC’s own policy

regarding decisions affecting faculty. This change has resulted in faculty salaries losing considerable ground, according to Everest. “NMC faculty pay is 8 percent below the average of their peers,” math instructor Deb Pharo told the *Traverse City Record-Eagle* in February.

The main point is that we should have been consulted, and that we expect to come up with a new standard to judge the quality of faculty pay,” says Everest.

CBA negotiations take place behind closed doors, though proposals are available on NMC’s website. Salary and job security are the main disputed issues according to an email, obtained by the *Record-Eagle* in January, that was sent from the NMC faculty association to the Board of Trustees. The *Record-Eagle* obtained the email just before the end of an agreed upon gag-rule between the two sides.

“We would prefer that if we have an agreement to do something, that both sides stick to it,” Everest says about the email leak.

MERC’s findings are non-binding, but both sides welcome the committee. “Throughout this process NMC administration has been dedicated to negotiating in good faith at the bargaining table,” NMC vice president of finance and administration Vicki Cook stated in a press release. “We will continue to do that while we look forward to the Fact Finding report.”

Everest is also confident in MERC. “We don’t fear the facts whatsoever,” he said. “Inviting a fact finder in is perfectly fine to us. In fact, we would be willing to say at this point that we would accept the fact finders’ report regardless of the findings.”

This process may take a while, leaving faculty working with little protections. “It’s fair to say it harms morale,” Everest says. “Especially if you feel like you’re not being treated

fairly.” Everest explains that faculty don’t understand why they weren’t consulted as the administration moved away from its own method for setting pay.

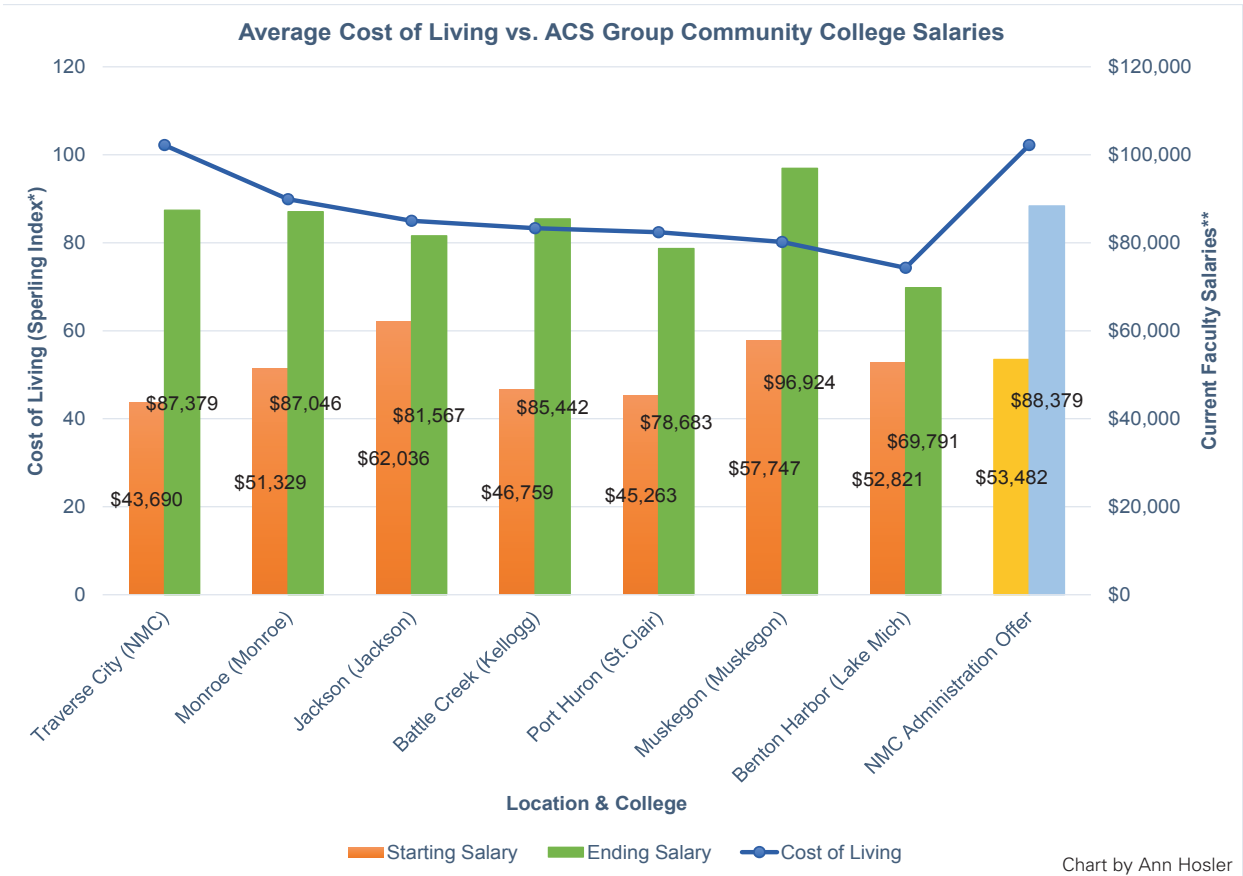
Another sticking point has been job security. The two sides cannot agree on the retrenchment process by which the college can lay off faculty members if needed. Faculty are asking for twice the advanced notice—120 days—and that the decision be made using two criteria. First, so it has the least impact on students, and second, so it has the least impact on faculty. Faculty are also seeking a modified reinstatement policy. The administration’s counter-proposal, made Jan. 11, offers affected departments “discussion regarding potential alternatives” and “opportunity to make recommendations.”

Teachers rallying for higher pay has commanded recent nationwide headlines. While most of these organized labor rallies have happened at the secondary school level, Everest believes it’s good motivation to fight for fair treatment.

“It’s always a great time to be a teacher, but this is an especially proud time to be a teacher because teachers are standing up and showing solidarity,” he says. “I for one am extremely excited to see the kind of organizing that’s taking place around the country.”

NMC’s unionized faculty agreed on their first three-year contract in 2016. At that time, faculty sought more participation in the operations of the college—what the union called “shared governance.” Salary was not a key factor in those negotiations.

Until MERC submits its findings, the faculty association and the administration will continue to negotiate. Everest says that the faculty is confident. “We feel like the wind is at our back, and we hope to sail.”



\* Sperling’s cost of living calculations sets the national average to 100, placing Traverse City two percent above the national average.  
\*\* The salary figures shown are based on a Master’s degree level with less than 15 post-graduate credit hours. Depending on experience, faculty can start higher than the base salary level. Some community colleges also offer higher salaries for faculty who have 15 or 30 post-graduate credit hours. Northwestern Michigan College is the only institution in its ACS group to not offer more salary for either post-graduate levels of experience.



# Border Wall Emergency Declaration Sparks Debate

**Kyle Jasper** Staff Writer On Feb. 15, President Donald Trump declared a national emergency in order to secure funding for a wall along parts of the U.S.-Mexico border. The emergency declaration came after two government shutdowns caused in part by a lengthy battle pushing Congress to find \$5.7 billion in the United States' operating budget to fund construction of a wall.

Shortly after the national emergency declaration, Trump signed a congressional spending bill to end the longest partial government shutdown in U.S. history, according to the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget. Trump had previously floated the idea of declaring a national emergency if government funding did not include the money he'd asked for. Congress's latest spending bill to end the shutdown on Feb. 15 only included \$1.375 billion for border wall funding.

One of the key campaign promises of then-candidate Trump in 2016 was to build a wall along the southern border to stop illegal immigration and disrupt the flow of drugs. Building a wall is a strategy that has been implemented by politicians to curb illegal immigration in the past. Presidents Clinton, Bush, and Obama have built barriers there, according to the Associated Press, but it is now heavily criticized.

Part of the critique stems from statistics that show a significant decrease in both apprehensions about illegal border crossings and estimates of undetected illegal border crossings over the past decade, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency and the Department of Homeland Security

(DHS). Other criticisms of the decision to build the wall come from a variety of directions, like the negative impact it poses on the environment, and skepticism that it will affect the inflow of drugs.

The national emergency declaration itself has also been panned for a number of reasons. Some politicians, like Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vermont) have called the national emergency "unnecessary."

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"On the face of it, it looks like the president is trying to authorize spending without Congress's consent, even though Congress has had plenty of opportunity to authorize such spending."

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"I could do the wall over a longer period of time, I didn't need to do this (declare a national emergency), but I'd rather do it much faster," Trump said in his national emergency declaration speech.

Opposition to the declaration has strengthened. NPR reports that "a coalition of 16 states has filed suit against the Trump administration to try to block his emergency declaration." These states, Michigan included, all have Democratic attorneys general. Other politicians have joined the effort as well. On Feb. 26, the House of Representatives

voted on a resolution to terminate the emergency. This resolution will soon move to the Senate for a vote.

Congress approved \$1.375 billion in funding for the wall. Trump's national emergency declaration seeks an additional \$6.625 billion, bringing the total to \$8 billion. The funding for the national emergency is comprised of "\$600 million from the Treasury drug forfeiture, some \$2.5 billion from counter-drug activities with the Department of Defense and some reprogramming from other Pentagon accounts, and some \$3.6 billion from military construction funds," according to NPR.

The developments that have transpired may just be the beginning to a long process. "I would anticipate that the court challenges are going to be significant," said NMC political science professor John Zachman. "On the face of it, it looks like the president is trying to authorize spending without Congress's consent, even though Congress has had plenty of opportunity to authorize such spending."

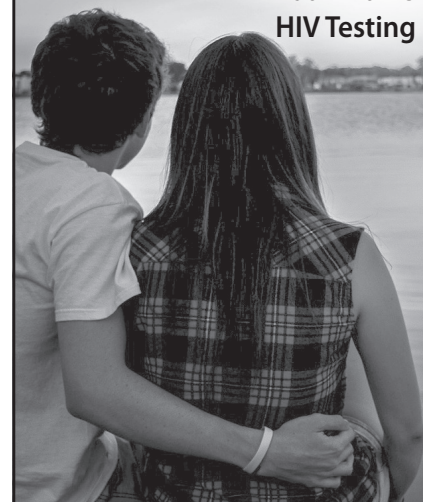
Circumventing Congress is problematic, Zachman explains. "Given that Article of the Constitution clearly indicates that Congress has the power and they also have the power of controlling the purse, you have a constitutional issue in terms of separation of powers and the responsibility of Congress to legislate." Zachman said that, because of the expected court challenges, he would be surprised if much construction was completed on the wall by January 2021.



The eight border wall prototypes President Trump's administration ordered were completed on Oct. 26, 2017 in San Diego.

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# Dzogchen Meditation

## Attaining a Healthy Consciousness

**Liam Strong** In recent years I've become more conscientious about my mental and emotional stability. Likewise, many others, college students or not, often undergo constant struggle juggling thoughts of class, work, family, social life, you name it—it's difficult to have a moment of solace where we stop thinking. We're always worried about being and staying happy. Most meditative practices, particularly in the Buddhist tradition, involve taking the time to stop what we're doing and sitting down to bring ourselves up to a peaceful place. For many adults, making that time isn't practical, let alone possible. But one practice, the Dzogchen tradition of Tibetan Buddhism, offers a different perspective and meditation.

The term Dzogchen (*rdzogs chen*) translates to "Great Perfection." The practice itself consists of eliminating discursive thought by acknowledging our minds are already empty to begin with. To give it a metaphor, think of a mirror, which is always blank, but captures images when they arise and move across it. We can apply this same idea to thoughts and emotions in our consciousness.

Instead of focusing on dualistic mindfulness—or the attempt of recognizing one's own consciousness—Sam Harris, a philosopher and neuroscientist, offers a critique

on basic meditation: "One feels that one is a subject, a locus of consciousness inside the head, that can strategically pay attention to the breath or some other object of awareness because of all the good it will do." As incessantly thinking beings, we struggle with being able to separate the self from our consciousness.

Typically, Buddhist meditation is regarded with the image of sitting as still as possible to make an otherwise vacant, empty mind totally cognizant. Dzogchen practice doesn't involve the act of being physically involved with one's mental physique. It revolves, simply, around recognition—what practitioners call realization.

In theory, the transcendence of the meditator relies on the subject (typically the person meditating) and an object (a focus point, such as breathing, keeping one's eyes closed, etc). The extremes of Dzogchen can result in nihilism or eternalism, so to prevent this, we must understand that Dzogchen isn't meditation at all, but rather non-meditation, according to Tsoknyi and Tulku Urgyen Rinpoche in *Tricycle*.

In practice, we can't just say we don't want to think and instantly be enlightened. If only it were that simple. I like to envelop myself at work with the Dzogchen method: I type on a computer which doesn't bear any reflection of me, so I am

only staring at the manifestations of my own consciousness.

Douglas Harding, a British architect, discusses a similar concept, of "having no head." We rarely notice we cannot see our heads; in conversation, we know the person across from us is directing their sight toward our head. In other words, Harris implores from Harding's concept that what we call "I," or our *selves*, is not a necessary component of our minds. In Dzogchen practice, this is to achieve selflessness.

What makes Dzogchen so practical is that it doesn't require the setting or break from one's day to be successful, but like all meditation, it does require the mental effort. Since the end goal is to have a clear, rational mindset, then you can take moments out of your day to practice. In Dzogchen, the best way to understanding our experiences as merely "mind essence" is to simply accept that our thoughts as just *thoughts*. To think that we are more than what our consciousness appears to be is one of the main roots of human suffering. If you follow the three main principles of Dzogchen teachings, you'll be on your way to fulfilling a healthy mental state:

1. Introduce yourself to your own nature (or consciousness)
2. Do not remain doubtful concerning this unique state (maintaining the separation of "self" from consciousness)
3. Continue to remain in this state (freedom of the mind)

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Justin Sheehan  
Allied Health Sciences major





**Miranda Felty**  
Staff Writer

# March Releases

Want to keep up with the newest in movies, television, books, and gaming? Here are the highlights for what's coming in March!

## Netflix Originals

- March 1: "Cricket Fever: Mumbai Indians"
- March 1: "The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind"
- March 4: "Rebellion" Season 2
- March 7: "The Order" Season 1
- March 8: "After Life" Season 1
- March 8: "Formula 1: Drive to Survive"
- March 8: "Juanita"
- March 13: "Triple Frontier" (movie)
- March 15: "Arrested Development" Season 5, Part 2
- March 15: "Love, Death, & Robots" Season 1
- March 15: "Queer Eye" Season 3
- March 15: "Turn Up Charlie" (movie)
- March 19: "Amy Schumer: Growing"
- March 22: "The Dirt" (movie)
- March 29: "Osmosis" Season 1
- March 29: "Santa Clarita Diet" Season 3

## Television

- March 1: "The Widow" (Amazon)
- March 3: "American Idol" Season 17 (ABC)
- March 3: "Cosmos: Possible Worlds" (Fox)
- March 3: "Good Girls" Season Two (NBC)
- March 3: "Leaving Neverland" (HBO =)
- March 10: "American Gods" Season 2 (Starz)
- March 15: "Shrill" (Hulu)
- March 20: "The Act" (Hulu)
- March 24: "Into the Badlands" Final Season (AMC)
- March 27: "Jane the Virgin" Season 5 (CW)
- March 27: "What We Do in the Shadows" (FX)
- March 29: "Hanna" (Amazon)

## In Theaters

- March 1: "Climax"
- March 1: "Greta"
- March 1: "A Madea Family Funeral"
- March 1: "Giant Little Ones"
- March 1: "We Die Young"
- March 1: "Transit"
- March 8: "The Wedding Guest"
- March 8: "Captain Marvel"
- March 8: "I'm Not Here"
- March 8: "Gloria Bell"
- March 8: "An Elephant Sitting Still"
- March 15: "Wonder Park"
- March 15: "Captive State"
- March 15: "The Mustang"
- March 22: "Us"
- March 29: "Dumbo"

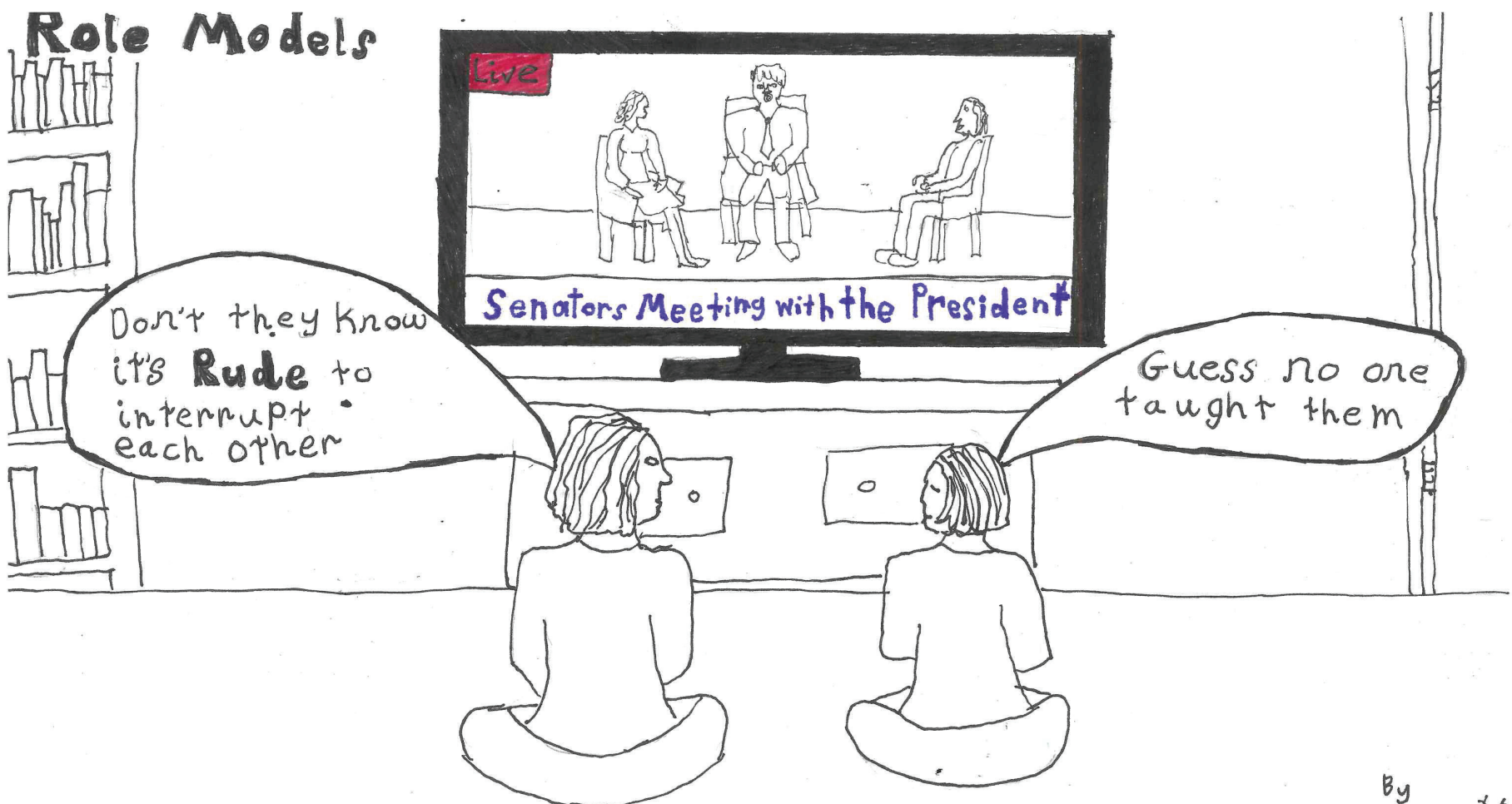
## Video Games

- March 1: "Dead or Alive 6" (PC, PS4, XBO)
- March 5: "Left Alive" (PS4, PC)
- March 7: "Total War: Three Kingdoms" (PC)
- March 8: "Devil May Cry 5" (PS4, XBO, PC)
- March 8: "Kirby's Epic Yarn" (3DS)
- March 15: "The Division 2" (PS4, XBO, PC)
- March 20: "Super Robot Wars T" (Switch, PS4)
- March 21: "The Sinking City" (PS4, XBO, PC)
- March 26: "Final Fantasy VII" (XBO, Switch)
- March 29: "Danganronpa Trilogy" (PS4)
- March 29: "Tropico 6" (PC, PS4, XBO)
- March 29: "Yoshi's Crafted World" (Switch)

## Books

- March 1: "What the Wind Knows" by Amy Harmon
- March 1: "Where the Forest Meets the Stars" by Glendy Vanderah
- March 1: "The Perfect Child" by Lucinda Berry
- March 5: "Daisy Jones & The Six" by Taylor Jenkins Reid
- March 5: "Superman: Dawnbreaker" (DC Icons #4) by Matt de la Pena
- March 5: "When All Is Said" by Anne Griffin
- March 5: "Before She Knew Him" by Peter Swanson
- March 5: "Cemetery Road" by Greg Iles
- March 5: "Girl, Stop Apologizing" by Rachel Hollis
- March 5: "The Island of Sea Women" by Lisa See
- March 5: "A Woman is No Man" by Etaf Rum
- March 5: "Outer Order, Inner Calm" by Gretchen Rubin
- March 5: "Opposite of Always" by Justin A. Reynolds
- March 6: "Shades of Magic Vol. 1: The Steel Prince" by V.E. Schwab
- March 12: "Shout" by Laurie Halse Anderson
- March 19: "Run Away" by Harlan Coben
- March 19: "The Last Year of the War" by Susan Meissner
- March 19: "Sherwood" by Megan Spooner
- March 19: "Queenie" by Candice Carty-Williams
- March 19: "The Sakura Obsession" by Naoko Abe
- March 26: "My Lovely Wife" by Samantha Downing
- March 26: "Tiamat's Wrath" (The Expanse #8) by James S.A. Corey

## Role Models

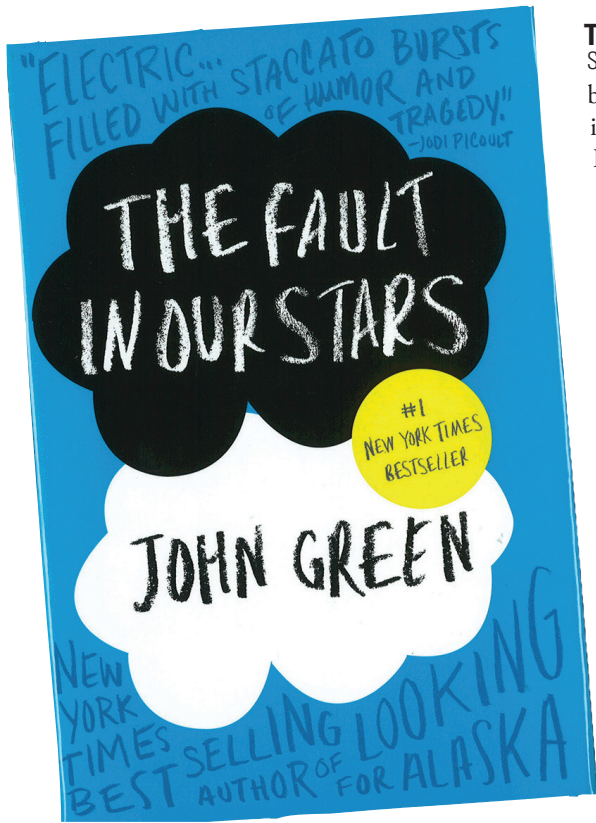


By  
winter  
Swap



# Book *Shady Lady* Reviews

“The Fault in Our Stars”



**Tamara Wiget** I’m a little behind on trends, so Staff Writer much so that apparently it has to be assigned reading for me to get caught up, which is why I now own a copy of John Green’s “The Fault in Our Stars.” And because I’m no slacker, I have dutifully read the tragic story of Hazel and Augustus.

Hazel was diagnosed with terminal cancer at 13. She wasn’t supposed to pull through, but at 17 she’s still going, and has accomplished a fair amount for a teen who, against medical odds, shouldn’t be alive. She’s earned her GED and attends college classes. She’s been to Disney World. She’s seen every episode of “America’s Next Top Model” at least three times. Her life is pretty repetitive, but at least it’s a life—until Augustus Waters walks into her cancer support group. A survivor himself, Augustus awakens in Hazel raging hormones and a sense of adventure.

I went into this YA novel expecting, based on hype and the movie trailer I accidentally watched part of a few years ago, to hate it. And sure, some parts of it are cliché from my 30-year-old perspective, but if I were fourteen again I think Hazel would be my hero. Green has given her a quick wit and a realistic yet dreamy perspective. She knows intellectually that

her body is failing, yet she still has typical teenage hopes. What it really comes down to is that, despite her cancer, she wants what all teens want: friends, love, and a future.

Despite their budding romance, things aren’t completely sunny for Hazel and Augustus. A much anticipated trip taken not long after they meet (which to me seems ridiculous for two teenagers, but I guess that’s part of the romance) has some major ups and downs, one of which leaves Hazel left to struggle with the realization that Augustus isn’t invincible.

All in all, if you’re looking for a coming-of-age romance, “The Fault in Our Stars” is satisfactory.

# Music That is Sometimes Good but also Sometimes Not Good

Nuvolascura - “Nuvolascura”

**Liam Strong** Once, when I was probably ten years old, my family visited Staff Writer my grandmother after her breast cancer surgery. Then, grandma still looked like grandma. She was held in a ward of the hospital that was being torn down and rebuilt, patients attended by the staff as if there were no demolition or debris scattered about. After her funeral only a couple years ago, I saw pictures of her when the cancer returned. We thought it had filed its final exercise through her body, but for my entire life she had one variety of cancer or another. It never let her be.

This week’s record, Californian emoviolence band Nuvolascura’s self-titled debut, hallmarks the pain of what it means for things to linger and haunt: the death of a loved one, the defeat of personal identity, the failure of love. The prettiest moments of “Nuvolascura” are brief respites surrounded by spastic bursts of what can only be the aftermath of something good, now gone. As suffocating as it is, the instrumentation is purposeful in its frenzy.

By the end of its short run-time (under twenty minutes), “Nuvolascura” still didn’t ask any questions about the nature of loss. It doesn’t need to. Instead, it supplies what is truth, factual. The opening track, “death as a crown,” suggests that whether or not we have lost everything we still have memory, which might as well be more reliable than God.

I left the hospital that day over a decade ago scared. Uneasy not from my grandmother, but from not trying to feel out the aftermath, what would happen in the future. When I think about death, I recall the adage, “Bad things happen to good people,” and that same old discomfort overwhelms me. I tell myself no one is good, that no one is evil. I tell myself what happened to my grandmother is not a bad thing. It is just a thing.





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**Rachel Lynn Moore**  
Staff Writer

# EVENTS CALENDAR

March 9 – 20



## Saturday, March 9

9:30am: The all-day Spring Carnival at Crystal Mountain kicks off with a cardboard sled race, and ends in the evening with live music. See [crystallmountain.com/event/spring-carnival](http://crystallmountain.com/event/spring-carnival) for more information.

8pm: Traditional Irish band Dervish will play at the Denmos Museum Center. Tickets are \$24 for members, \$27 in advance, and \$30 at the door. See [denmosmuseum.org](http://denmosmuseum.org) for more information.

8pm: RUNA, a Celtic-American Roots group, will play at the City Opera House. Tickets range from \$15 to \$27.50. See [cityoperahouse.org/runa](http://cityoperahouse.org/runa) for more information.

8pm: The Sips & Giggles Comedy show, featuring Michael Palascak, will be held at the ECCO event space in downtown Traverse City. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. See [mynorthtickets.com](http://mynorthtickets.com) for purchase.

## Sunday, March 10

3pm: Encore Winds Presents "Songs of the Earth," a show to be held at the First Congregational Church in Traverse City, featuring a broad variety of music from popular present-day songs to old medieval tunes. Entry is free for those 12 & under, and tickets for others range from \$5 to \$15. See [mynorthtickets.com](http://mynorthtickets.com) for purchase.

4pm: Kennedy's Kitchen, a music group rooted in Irish Folk, will perform at the Bay Community Theatre in Suttons Bay. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Call 231-271-3772 for purchase and information.

## Tuesday, March 12

6-8:30pm: The Citizens' Climate Lobby will meet on the third floor of the Central United Methodist Church in Traverse City. Arrive 15 minutes early if you are new to the group. See [citizensclimatelobby.org](http://citizensclimatelobby.org) for more information.

6pm: Central High School in Traverse City will host a STEM Speaker Panel and College Fair with local STEM professionals, retired astronaut Gregory Johnson, and over 30 colleges. The event is free and open to all local students, their parents, and other interested community members. See [gotocollegefairs.com](http://gotocollegefairs.com) for more.

## Wednesday, March 13

7:30pm: The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center will perform at Interlochen's Dendinos Chapel and Recital Hall. Tickets are \$33 regularly and \$13 for youth. See [tickets.interlochen.org](http://tickets.interlochen.org) for purchase and more information.

## Thursday, March 14

5:30-7:30pm: Join TART Trails and Short's Brewing Company at Timber Ridge in Traverse City for a Grooming Appreciation Party to celebrate another great winter on the trails of northwest lower Michigan. See [traversetrails.org/events](http://traversetrails.org/events) for more information.

## Friday, March 15

Noon-11pm: The St. Patrick's Day Pub Walk will be held in downtown Traverse City.

## Saturday, March 16

12-2pm: Today is LEGO Saturday at the Benzon Library. All over the age of six are welcome to come create and play. See [benzonlibrary.org](http://benzonlibrary.org) for more information.

6:30-9:30pm: Relay for Life and Short's Brewing Company have partnered for 4C's Crawl for the Cure Pub Crawl. The event kicks off at Short's in Bellaire where \$25 registration gets you a t-shirt and bingo card, then attendees can crawl through various Bellaire establishments at their own pace. All proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society. See [relayforlife.org/antrimcountymi](http://relayforlife.org/antrimcountymi) for more information.

1:30-3:30pm: Come watch the annual St. Patrick's Day parade in downtown Traverse City!

## Sunday, March 17

1-4pm: The 5th Annual TC Family Expo is to be held at the Hagerty Center in Traverse City. The free event features family-friendly resources on health, education, music, recreation, and much more. See [tcfamilyexpo.org](http://tcfamilyexpo.org) for more information.

## Monday, March 18

4pm: A Family Sledding Party will be held at Bahle Park in Suttons Bay. Bring your own sledding gear. Free snacks and hot chocolate will be provided.

7pm: Here:Say is back at the Workshop Brewing Co. for another night of storytelling, this time focused on the theme of Shock and Awe. Donations suggested at the door. See [facebook.com/events/254648182095595](http://facebook.com/events/254648182095595) for more information.

## Wednesday, March 20

4-7pm: The Northern Michigan Wedding Expo is to be held at Kirkbride Hall in the Grand Traverse Commons. Registration is \$5 in advance, \$10 at the door, and earns you entry into the Ultimate Wedding Package Giveaway. See [nmiweddingexpo.com](http://nmiweddingexpo.com) for more information.

6:30pm: Join local botanists and conservationists for the Planting Workshop: Remove Invasives, Plant Natives! held in the Leelanau County Government Building community room in Suttons Bay. The free workshop will teach attendees how to spot invasive and native species, how to care for native plants, and more. See [leelanaued.org](http://leelanaued.org) for more information.

ST.  
PATRICK'S  
DAY



# Google+ Closure Looms on Horizon

**Andrew Veith** On April 2, the Google+ social networking service will close its virtual doors. I received this news in an email encouraging me to download and save my information, lest it be lost forever.

I contemplated this for a fleeting moment. Not able to think of a single thing I ever posted to Google+ that was of any true importance, I did nothing and moved on with my day. This speaks volumes about Google+. If you got an email saying that YouTube is being terminated and that you had better download your channel contents, or Instagram said to grab your photos before they get tossed on a digital bonfire, most of us would be in a panic. But the cancellation of Google+ hit me (and many others, I'm sure) with such a feeling of indifference that I can hardly think of any interesting way to describe it.

Google+ launched in June 2011. I vaguely remember the passing excitement of using a new platform. Having never used

Facebook, Twitter, or other popular social media platforms, Google+ was a fun novelty to play around with—but I never found it useful. As casual internet searches will reveal, hate for Google+ ran deep through the short years of its dull, troubled life. Many people protested when Google+ was integrated with certain aspects of YouTube, forcing users to adopt the unwieldy platform as part of their accounts. Google+ struck me as a passive and unwanted presence when working with YouTube and Blogger. It was akin to having a third arm grow out of your side, but lacking a third hand to accomplish tasks. Google+ also had considerable security issues. In the recent fallout of scandals involving big tech companies, we as consumers are more aware of how our data is treated. Until now, we've taken the privacy and security of our information for granted. We rarely stopped to doubt whether these massive corporations really care about our privacy like they claim to.

It seems doubtful that many people stored sensitive information on such an unpopular platform, but it is concerning nonetheless. Basic information such as gender, birthdates, and relationship statuses were compromised by Google+'s application programming interface (API), an issue which Google claims it discovered in March 2018. However, in the interest of self-preservation as the Facebook-Cambridge Analytica scandal was busy making headlines, the company held back this information. Lack of understanding on the part of the consumer is certainly a reason that technology companies have gotten away with so much up to this point—but we are also seeing a quickly growing effort to hold these companies accountable. This is an interesting time in the tech industry, and time will tell how this all sorts out. I won't miss Google+. We can only hope that Google doesn't replace it with something worse.

## What the Tech?! The Dangers of Technology

**Scott Goethals** As a child growing up in the 1960s and '70s, I was fortunate. Daily activities included going to school, doing my homework, and spending time with family and friends. The rule at that time was that I could play outside (once my homework was done) until the street lights came on, and I was able to ride my bike within a 5-block radius of the neighborhood. While I was allowed freedom, I knew the rules, and life was good.

Today we live in a different world. Technology has changed how we work, live, and play. We can connect with others around the globe. While technology has made life better and more convenient, the advances we see today are not without consequences.

Our global connectedness and the advances we have become accustomed to yield opportunities for a much darker side of life. There is no longer a 5-block boundary. Each day we are susceptible to outside threats. These threats take on many forms, and every one of us must now make sure that we and our families are protected.

Cyberbullying, teen suicide, human and sex trafficking, identity theft, hacking, and invasion of privacy are just some out of many issues that we must deal with today. While most of these problems are not new, many have made their way into our communities. It's up to us as parents and community members to work together.

You might wonder what can be done to reduce, if not eliminate, these threats from our lives. The measures vary, but it's often the simple things that make the difference.

As parents, we need to limit our children's screen time. We must be aware of what they are doing when they are online. Do you know what applications they are using? Many popular apps that kids use today reveal their location and allow them to text and

send pictures to others they might not even know. Are your children allowed to install and run any application, or do you have control over what apps they can use? By using software controls, you can prevent them from installing applications and limit when they can be used. One popular program that can controls applications on mobile devices is Netsanity (netsanity.net). In addition, most computer operating systems also provide controls to ensure your child is unable to access specific content.

Another way to protect children is to become engaged in their online activities. Be aware of changes in behavior and anything that might indicate they are struggling. We can't assume they will come to us when they are hurting.

As adults, there are ways to ensure that we are also protected in an online environment. As an IT professional, too often I hear of people that have been hacked or had their identity stolen. There are simple measures that you can take to protect yourself.

First, use different passwords for each website you access. Make sure you are using complex passwords, and if the option is available, use multi-factor authentication. This results in an access code being texted to your phone, or in some cases, a phone call from the site. This reduces exposure if someone were to determine your password.

Next, use common sense and make sure you also only open email messages from people you know. Even then, ask yourself if the message you received is one the person would have sent you. I have often received an email from someone I knew only to find out the email was spoofed, meaning that it came from someone else. Also, don't click a link or open a document in an email unless you are sure of its source. Lastly, never send via email or post

personal information online. Refrain from posting information that could allow an individual to determine where you live or when you will be out of town. If your home is a smart home, take advantage of its features to make it look as if you are home even when you are not. If you use online dating, make sure you always let someone know where and with whom you are going before heading out

with an individual you have never met. Through these simple steps we can make a difference and protect our family and ourselves. Help your community by passing on this information to friends and family.

*Scott Goethals is an instructor in the CIT Infrastructure program at NMC.*

### 14 Apps Parents Should Know About

On Feb. 18, the Fairview Park Auxiliary Police Association of Ohio shared a list of potentially dangerous apps that children use. They include:

- Ask.FM:** Known for cyberbullying, it encourages users to anonymously ask and answer questions.
- Bumble:** Similar to Tinder, this app requires women to make first contact. Children have created accounts citing falsified ages.
- Burn Book:** This app allows users to post anonymous rumors via audio, text, and photos.
- Calculator%:** An app used to hide browser history, photos, files, and videos. The app appears like a calculator, but functions like a secret vault.
- Holla:** A video chat app connecting users worldwide. Users have been exposed to racial slurs, explicit content, and more.
- Hot or Not:** Users rate profiles, find people in their area, and chat with strangers on this app.
- Instagram:** Some children are creating fake accounts on this app to hide content from parents. It can also be used for direct messaging, which is deleted once the user leaves the conversation.
- Kik:** This app bypasses traditional text messaging features and allows anyone to contact and direct message other users.
- Omegle:** A free chat website that promotes interacting anonymously with strangers. Snapchat: The story feature of this app keeps photos and videos live for 24 hours. It also allows users to see your location.
- Whisper:** Promotes sharing secrets anonymously with strangers. It also reveals a user's location.
- Wishbone:** This app allows users to compare and rate children.
- Yellow:** Designed with a Tinder-like atmosphere, this app allows teens to flirt with each other.