

WHITE PINE PICKLE

We love salsa; let the chips fall where they may.

Innovation Center's Controversial Statue *Story on Page 13*





Photo courtesy of Ann Swaney/NMC Archives

In the late 1950s, Northwestern Michigan College's business machines class began its study of the numerous 2018 tax code changes. Its students are now prepared to help you file your taxes by the April 15 deadline!

NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE

WHITE PINE PICKLE

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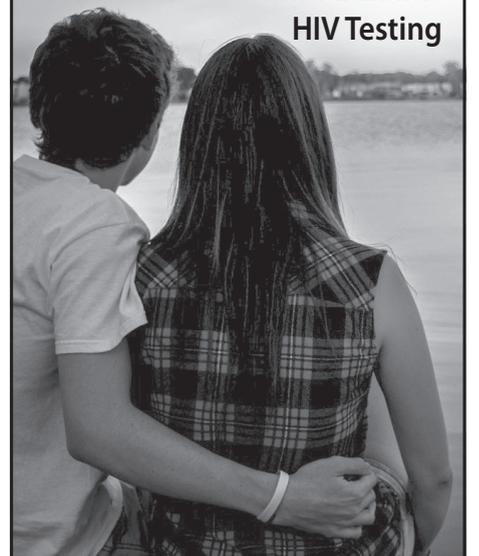
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Wineries Whining Over Pickle Brine Wine

Brine Williams Thought Leader
Everybody loves a glass of wine. It's the perfect way to unwind after a long day of being an adult. Wine tasting can be a great way to use up vacation time and it is always fun trying different pairings with breakfast, lunch, or dinner.



Luckily for northern Michigan, the Leelanau Peninsula is the best place in Michigan to make wine. In 2018, *USA Today* listed the Leelanau Peninsula as the third best wine region in the nation. Hoping to improve that position in 2019, one Leelanau resident has stirred up controversy with daring new idea: pickle wine.

For more than 4,000 years, human beings have made pickles. For more than 6,000 years, they have drunk wine. "I can't believe it has taken this long for people put the two together," says Todd Olive, owner of Olive's Brine Bog.

Olive's Brine Bog rests deep in the Leelanau Peninsula, where the hidden pickle brine swamps are little known. This property, which was once a Valasic Pickle company waste disposal site, has a unique green, damp, salty soil that exists nowhere else in the world. Walking across the property, you can see, hear, and feel the juice squeeze out of the ground under your boots. The air in the area is a mystical mix of fresh lake breeze and salty dill. This site will grow some of the thickest skin cucumbers in Michigan.

"These pickles aren't just marinated, but birthed out of the pickle brine soaked soil,"

Olive explains. "They'll go into my first batch of Olive's Pickle Brine Wine."

"Most vineyards use grapes," says Olive, "but that's ridiculous. There's no flavor in grapes." Normally, the sugars in grapes are turned into alcohol through the process of fermentation. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the average cucumber has one-tenth the amount of sugar as a grape. This is no problem for Olive. "I water the cucumbers with vodka and green Gatorade," he explains. "They soak it right up. It's what cucumbers crave."

Olive believes that the pickles grown on the Brine Bog land are the best he's ever grown. "For pickle wine, it's all about the skin," he says, picking a baby dill off a vine and breaking it in two. The brine oozes out as though it were under pressure. Olive explains that a thick skin helps block sunlight and lock in fluids for an extra salty finished product. It also elongates the fermentation process, ensuring the taste of cucumber is eliminated.

Olive understands that there will be skeptics. "They just don't see the point, and that scares them. I'm messing with the status quo." He insists that people will love his product once they've tried it. "Nobody saw the point in going to the moon either, but that turned out to be fantastic," he laughs. "Everyone loved America after that. My pickle wine will do the same for Leelanau."

The Leelanau Wine Trail denied adding his wine bog as stop in its 2019 season. Olive insists this setback doesn't faze him. "Sumioliies are hacks," he explains. "They're overpaid by the 'Big Grape' industry to sit around tables at fancy restaurants, smacking their drunken lips, giving arbitrary ratings to expired grape juice."

Mary Weissbrau, executive director of the Leelanau Peninsula Winegrowers Association, asserts that Olive is a crazy old man who fell out of favor when he poured pickle brine in the gas tanks of local wine tour busses and farm equipment. This, according to Weissbrau, was in response to being denied a spot on the wine tour.

"We can't have Mr. Olive's erratic behavior sully the good name of Leelanau wine. We have a Trip Advisor rating to worry about," Weissbrau explains. "Besides, have you tried it? It's saltier than Gordon Ramsay in that episode of Hell's Kitchen where someone tried to serve him McDonalds."

With or without the approval of the other vineyards, the first batches of Olive's Pickle Brine Wine will appear on shelves by late summer. Olive recommends either serving his wine at barbecues or dipping a hot dog into it. He hopes to solidify a contract to distribute a non-alcoholic version of his product nationwide in fast food restaurants.

"2019 will be a vintage year for pickle wine," Olive exclaims.

Fruit vs. Fish in Kalkaska

Fae Knewz Thought Leader
For years, Kalkaska has been known for all things trout—from the Trout Festival to the Trout Town restaurant. However, Kalkaska's "fishy" reputation may be about to change.

Several weeks ago, the City of Traverse City paid Kalkaska's debt of \$977,000, officially annexing the town as part of the city. This allows for the expansion of hotels and restaurants for the Cherry Festival to prevent overdevelopment of an already crowded Traverse City. Changes include renaming the infamous "Seitings Hotel" to the "Very Cherry Inn" and replacing the landmark Trout Fountain to a cherry. The Trout Festival will be a one-week pre-festival of the Cherry festival, called "Cherry Blossom Week."

"I'm very excited about this new project," says Traverse City mayor Tim Ruthers. "The Kalkaska deal is the first part of Project Cherry. We plan to further expand into other bordering communities such as Mancelona, Forest Area, and Kingsley." Ruthers hopes that these expansions will alleviate some of the "festival fatigue" that Traverse City residents are feeling.

Besides the mayor, the Cherry Festival Queen, recently renamed the "Cherry Empress," also looks forward

to the expansion of her court. "I feel so special! The Kalkaska Cherry Governess will certainly be a big help to me with preparation of the festival! I can't wait to expand my court!"

However, not everyone is thrilled about Project Cherry. Many in Kalkaska have already taken to the streets, protesting the erasure of their trout culture. Cherries have been boycotted in the town. A cherry protest in spirit of the Boston Tea Party is underway, where people dump all things cherry into Log Lake. Some have even gone as far as chaining themselves to the Trout Fountain to prevent its removal.

"Traverse City has gone too far!" exclaimed Kalkaska resident Mikey Talloe. "We're Trout Town, and that's how it's going to stay! We don't need their big city ways."

But with the debt already paid, it may be too late to stop the controversial expansion. The changes to Kalkaska is estimated to begin on May 25, when the snow is finally melted.

Sit-ins are also being scheduled for that day by the local group known as "STICK" (Stop Traverse Independence Council of Kalkaska). Will Kalkaska become the first of many small towns to be bought out by the Cherry Festival? Only time will tell.

My Bus Wants to Party All the Time

BATA Introduces New Line

Camera Widget Thought Leader
The Bay Area Transport Authority (BATA) recently announced that this summer a new bus will join its fleet: The Party Bus.

The Party Bus route will extend from the Hall Street Transfer Station downtown to the tip of the peninsula in an effort to allow patrons to enjoy the beauty (and wineries!) that the bay area has to offer. It will also stop at popular night spots such as Shimmers, Sidetraxx, and Dino's Pizza for a late night snack. The route runs from 2pm until 5am daily.

The Party Bus is equipped with strobe lights, a dance floor, and its own DJ. Riders can participate in karaoke on Friday and Saturday nights. In compliance with Michigan law, no alcohol will be allowed on the bus. To encourage safe behaviors when drinking, the Party Line is free, but drivers are allowed to accept tips for putting up with your drunk ass.

When asked his opinion on the new Party Line, one potential patron, too drunk to give his name, vomited his excitement.

Kamikaze Squirrels Plague NMC Apartments

Poniard Nut Thought Leader Tensions continue to rise between the local squirrel tribes and the humans that inhabit their former homes. It is no secret the dark and sordid history between the two species has been fraught with much pain and suffering from both sides. Beginning in summer 2018, the desperate squirrels reached new levels of resistance that has given humans a new perspective on their needs. They are called the Kamikaze Squirrels.

Representatives from the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, who has made it their mission to help these animals in their times of need, explained that squirrels have evolved their knowledge in more recent years. Squirrel leaders have sent its best and brightest to study humans—especially those who live in human population growth areas. Cities like Traverse City are excellent examples of this growth. While the humans flourish and build their shelters, squirrels and other animals have been pushed out of their homes.

In studies done by the wild animals, they have made it their work to discern the weaknesses of humans. The squirrels have exploited these weaknesses as they've been uncovered.

One common weakness is traffic. Squirrels have attempted the art of dodging, taking advantage of the fact that humans both dislike being inconvenienced and hurting small, cute animals. Over the years this stunt has been found to be fruitless, however, as the squirrels

usually died with it having little-to-no effect on humans. Some squirrels are squatting in the homes of humans, typically choosing the attic for convenience. According to their leaders, this has led to a series of unfortunate squirrel deaths, attributed to poison, while leaving humans unaffected.

As the summer season nears, squirrels have enacted a new plan. They have decided that if they are going to die, they might as well make it worth it and go out with a bang—and a bang it is. The Kamikaze Squirrels pinpointed a power transformer on NMC's main campus. It powers the apartments that college students and their families live in. Volunteers are sent in to chew on the wires, and with a shotgun sound, the squirrel is killed in an explosion. The effect on the apartment-dwelling humans is intense: electricity goes out for 8–16 hours.

So far, five Kamikaze Squirrels have struck. Apartment residents are frustrated by the Kamikaze Squirrels' success. "This is ridiculous," said one resident, who asked to remain anonymous for fear of squirrel retribution. "I pay a lot for rent on top of my tuition."

As of right now, there is nothing to be done to prevent this from happening. As long as we continue to take over their land, chop down their trees, and chase them while yelling, "SQUIRREL!" they will stay frustrated and do whatever they can to make us miserable.

Daily Potato Horoscope

Tallyho Thought Leader

Aries (March 21 - April 19)



Gemini (May 21 - June 20)



Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22)



Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)



Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)



Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)



Taurus (April 20 - May 20)



Cancer (June 21 - July 22)



Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)



Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)



Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)



Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20)



Five Still-Fresh Memes From 2018

Marinated Fly Thought Leader

Is this [a] _____?

The "Is this a pigeon?" meme is a screenshot from the 90s anime, *The Brave Fighter of Sun Fighbird*, where character Yutaro Katori incorrectly determines a butterfly as a pigeon. This meme has multiple applications and allows the memer to insert his/her ironic captions, usually to poke fun at a modern trope or situation.

Savage Patrick

The screenshot of Patrick, peering down maniacally, mischievously, is pulled from Season One of *Spongebob Squarepants*' episode "Nature Pants." This meme is best saved for the edgiest of confessions or intentions, such as kicking an ice cube underneath the fridge.

Weird flex but ok

"Weird flex but ok" is an expression used to point out the foolishness of brags posted on the Internet. Best used to call someone out on their awkward, or frankly problematic, boast. It's a nice, easy meme mostly seen as a retweeted catchphrase to a weird celebrity tweet, to cope with a sudden hit to your confidence, or sent as a text to razz your friends.

Distracted Boyfriend

Originally a stock photo uploaded to iStock by Antonio Guillem titled, "Disloyal man with his girlfriend looking at another girl," its use as a meme is first traced back to a Turkish prog facebook post with the inserts of the disloyal man, captioned as Phil Collins, eyeing "pop" while "prog" (the girlfriend) looks at Phil Collins with disgust. This meme is best used to express the infidelity between two concepts in contexts of history, millennial life, and political tomfoolery.

Some of You Were Never ... and it Shows

The "Some of you were never [insert something nostalgic, or cringy, or coming-of-age here] and it shows" is a real relatable knee-slapper. Originally a tweet about the lyrics from the song "Airplanes" by B.o.B., many on the internet began to mimic the sentence form after, making their own deviations to mockingly "call out" those who didn't experience their defining rites of passage. My favorite has to come from the popular tweet, "Some of you were never the third friend that had to walk behind when the sidewalk is too narrow, and it shows."

Terrible Librarian Jokes

Warren Piece

Pen Pal

I went into the local library and asked if they had any books on floor panels.

"No," the librarian replied. "We keep them on shelves here."

A woman walks up to the library counter, slams a book down and screams, "This is the *worst* book I've ever read! It has NO plot and far too many characters!"

The librarian looks up and calmly remarks, "So, you're the one who took our phone book..."

I asked a librarian if she had a book about Pavlov's dog and Schrodinger's cat.

She said it rang a bell, but she wasn't sure if it was there or not.

I'D LIKE TO GIVE A BIG SHOUT OUT TO LIBRARIANS! (oh, sorry.)

I used to date a periodicals librarian. We broke up because she had too many issues.

A girl went to library and was thrilled to find a book called "How to Hug."

She got back home and discovered that it was volume seven of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*.

What do you call a sunburned librarian? Well red.

A guy walks into a library and asks for a book about cliffhangers. The librarian says...

Advice That is Sometimes Good but also Sometimes Not So Good

Auntie
Thought Leader

Dear Auntie,

I'm an older woman wanting to get back into dating, but things like Tinder didn't exist the last time I dated someone. I've been burned before by pretentious men who slandered my lack of wealth or suffered untimely deaths prior to our wedding day. I've heard a lot about swiping left and right from my younger co-workers, but I'm too embarrassed to ask them how to best determine which swipe to choose. Do you look deeply into the photo's eyes, read the bio, or is there some other way to weed out the crazies?

From, Jean Austen

Dear Jean Austen,

Hold on a second, I swear I've read about this somewhere. Let me check. I'll get back to you shortly.

Love, Auntie

Dear Auntie,

What's the best way to tell if my cat killed a man? What do I do if my cat has killed? Will it kill again? Am I in danger?

From, Afraid of my Feline

Dear Afraid of my Feline,

It seems you already know the answer to the first question, so I'll start with your second. Do nothing out of the ordinary. Cats are ruthless, cunning creatures and if yours has a taste for blood then it will undoubtedly kill again. I recommend that you regularly provide your cat with canned tuna, kitty kibble, and top shelf cat litter. If you are still uneasy, throw some fresh tuna and saucers of warm milk into the mix. A cat will never kill a human who proves useful. Make yourself into the most useful, unsuspecting human-slave that you can, and you will be safe.

Love, Auntie

Dear Auntie,

For nearly ten years I have been faking a British accent. It helped me a lot with making friends, and girls that would otherwise ignore me became very interested in me. But after all these years I am beginning to feel an identity crisis. I feel like I should go back to my natural accent, but it's been so long, I'm afraid I have forgotten my voice, and I am afraid of what my friends will think of me. What should I do?

From, Bendynook Cappersnack

Dear Bendynook Cappersnack,

You are officially in too deep. You may as well be British-born now. Learn to brew a proper cup of tea and learn to live with your lies. There is nothing more I can do for you.

Love, Auntie

Dear Auntie,

I invited an acquaintance to temporarily move in during the polar vortex, but he's overstayed his welcome. I've been leaving the door open and he hasn't taken the hint. I'm certain there's even a pee corner now in my apartment. How do I get my unwanted guest to leave?

From, Jon A. Bruckle

Dear Jon A. Bruckle,

It sounds like this acquaintance may be using animal tactics to claim your house as his own. Grab a gallon or two of your favorite sports drink from the gas station, as you'll need to hydrate for this one. Drink one bottle, locate the pee corner, and unleash your bladder. Drink another bottle, find where your acquaintance sleeps in your home, and unleash again. You may need to repeat this process a few times until your scent is again the dominant smell of the household. Your acquaintance will see themselves out once this is accomplished.

Love, Auntie

NMC Cuts Costs Vaping Allowed in Bathrooms

Tyrone Slothrop Thought Leader
Accepting the futility of restricting students from vaping in bathrooms, the Northwestern Michigan College administration has called for students to increase vaping as a mode for deodorization.

"It really just comes down to consolidating costs," said public relations director Fiona Darebanks. "If a student wants to smoke their Juuls in the bathroom, it just turns what was once a smelly lavatory into a fragrant environment of mint, fruit medley, pickle, mango, or crème brulee."

Students and some faculty, have celebrated the idea, calling it "liberating" and "another victory for civil rights everywhere." However, others were more hesitant, questioning what a Juul was and where it could be purchased.

The White Pine Pickle staff contacted Juul Labs for comment. In response, the company sent a framed and signed photograph of their CEO in an all-white cowboy suit, smoking a big cigar, while holding two gigantic bags embroidered with dollar signs.

Whether this initiative will work remains to be seen. What is known is that students and faculty can now enjoy the sweet, delicious nicotine in bathrooms, just like the generations of happy-yet-now-deceased smokers who smoked in bathrooms of the past.

Recipe: Crunchy Sugar Bits

Tenye Mirwen
Empress of News

Need a sugary blast to get you through the morning? Crunch through this complicated-yet-easy recipe to start your day. All you need to start is a bowl, but if you don't have one a coffee mug would suffice.

Directions

1. Go to a grocery store. My store of choice is Olesons at Hammond and 3 Mile Rd. It's completely biased due to two distinct factors: closeness to primary domicile and availability of sushi*.
2. Navigate to the cereal aisle.
3. Choose a cereal. If you're going for cost efficiency, the generic bagged cereals taste just like their name brand.
4. Navigate to the dairy aisle.
5. Get milk**. Type and size will vary on your household preferences.
6. Pay for everything before leaving. This is a very important step.
7. Once you're reunited with the bowl, pour the dry cereal into it and add desired quantity of milk. Be careful not to overfill.
8. Enjoy your crunchy sugar bits—in the car, at home, while waiting for the bus, wherever!

* Do not purchase sushi to use in Crunchy Sugar Bits bowl

** Almond milk is not milk, but I respect your choices

Reviews

Becky: "How far do you think an African swallow can carry that?"



Liam: "Those are just Cherrios."



Alexandra: "Apple Jacks are the best of the froot flavored ovoid cereals."



Candis: "The color! The composition! It's spring in a bowl!"



David: "I'm a teacher, we can't afford real Apple Jacks, so they are Apple Rolls."



Matt: "Apple Jacks... neither Jacks, nor taste of apple."



Dennos Museum Opens Outdoor Art Installation

Regional Student Art Featured in First Exhibit



SNOWMAN BY ROB H.

Tenye Mirwen Empress of News Now that the Dennos Museum expansion has seen months of success, executive director Jene Genneman is opening a new experience for the community: outdoor student art.

“I want our visitors to feel that they are getting a first-rate experience,” said Genneman. “This new seasonal-based outdoor art gallery will showcase quality art from a variety of age groups.”

The outdoor art exhibition is erected by opening staff before opening hours each morning, and taken down after closing. To keep this additional workload from being too taxing, Genneman only curates student artwork that is light and not prone to breakage.

“I prefer drawings, macaroni art, popsicle stick people, and everything glitter,” Genneman explained. Due to unpredictable wind gusts, he tends to decline ceramics and other fragile work. Tents protect the art from potential rain, and the staff keeps an eye on weather predictions to avoid exposing the works to storms, extreme humidity, and other hazards.

Students from Traverse City and its surrounding areas have hosted Genneman at school art shows, hoping that their work is chosen for the new Dennos exhibit. “He uses a star sticker system, and those with silver and gold stars will be rotated into the Dennos,” explained East Middle School seventh grader Alli Memmo. “My watercolor portrait of Beyoncé got a silver star!” she enthused.

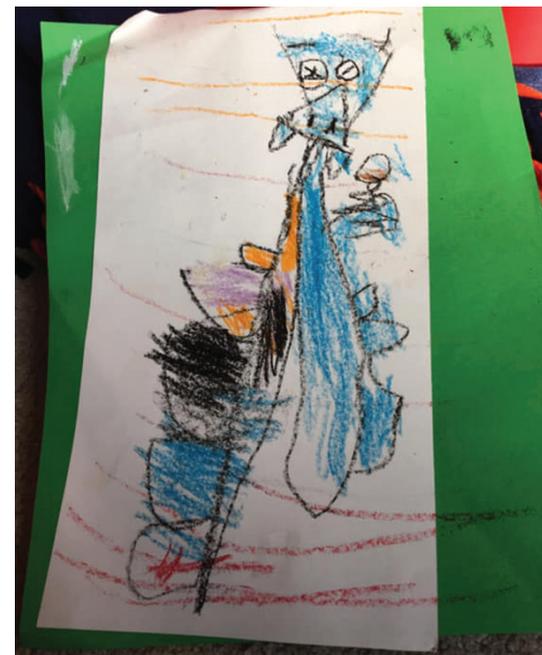
Even with tightened restrictions on what art can be safely displayed, Genneman feels that the student art will enrich the local community. “We now have a great range of offerings that the Dennos is excited about. This student art is a prime example of what meets my criteria for the highest quality visual arts experience.”

Lacking walls, the outdoor installation is a free exhibit for the community. In its first week the Dennos has seen a spike in admissions to the museum. “I keep an eye on sites such as Trip Advisor, and we’ve gotten some great reviews from our visitors this past week,” Genneman said.

Genneman is glad that his final contribution to his more than 25-year tenure at the college involves showcasing student art. “My vision for the museum was to bring in regional cultural opportunities. I stand by our exhibits and can’t wait to see what the next director will bring to the Dennos.”



JENE'S STUDENT ART PICK OF THE WEEK



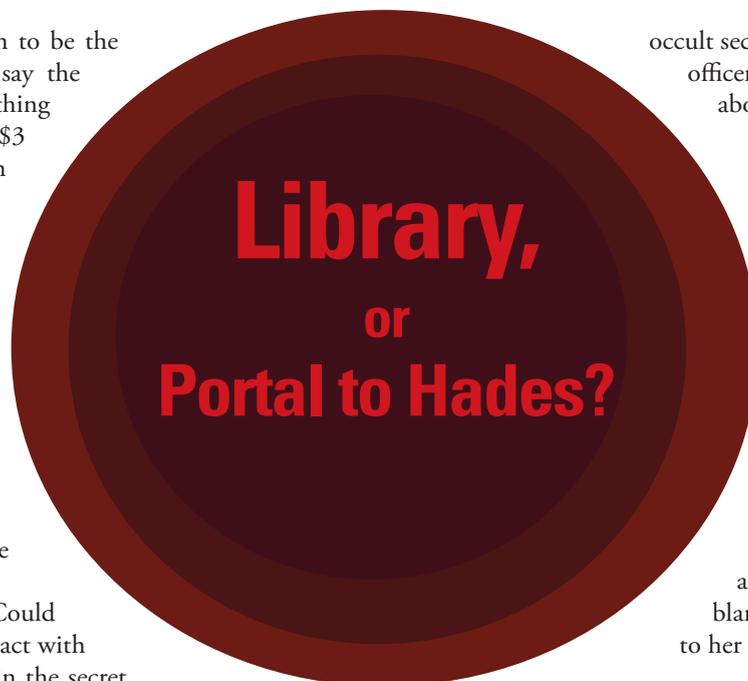
JOHN TRAVOLTA BY CLAY W.

Not Leslie Knope
Pen Pal

Libraries are widely known to be the literal worst, but sources say the NMC Osterlin Library may actually be hiding something sinister. The Osterlin is going to cost an estimated \$3 million to renovate after the new library building on campus is constructed, says the FY2020 Capital Outlay Plan on the NMC website. Why is it so expensive to move a library and then turn a building that is library into study and student services space?

NMC professor Cattle Wrangler said, “Osterlin library is the last place I would ever go to study. It’s creepy. And Treena Allbirch? The library director? I heard she used to be a dryad. She’s cursed to live out her life among the mutilated bodies of dead trees. I steer clear of curses.” While the veracity of this claim is unverifiable, Wrangler also said, “You didn’t hear it from me, but her office may even be hiding an entrance to the underworld.”

Such an entrance would certainly explain a lot. Could this expensive renovation be related to Allbirch’s contract with the underworld and the alleged dragon kept hidden in the secret



occult section in the tunnels beneath the library? NMC finance officer Balsam T. Poplar did not respond to our questions about cost.

Wrangler wondered about the library budget and safety. “Libraries rip money away from flower and festival budgets,” she said. “Allbirch and the librarians are, under the guise of ‘helping’ us, controlling the flow of knowledge, hiding their top-secret occult connections, hiding their portal to the underworld, and may even be dangerous to students.”

Wrangler also expressed concern regarding the A&P study aid skeleton in the library. When asked for comment on the matter of the skeleton’s origins, Allbirch cackled, “That’s just plastic resin.”

“That’s what they want you to think,” Wrangler said, eyes widening in suspicion as Allbirch waved at her and smiled from a library window. Wrangler blanched and walked off into the pines, clutching her bag to her side.

Writing and Reading Center Really Only Teaches Writing

Orgasm Lint Thought Leader It should come as no surprise our tutoring services at NMC are particular to each subject. The Science Center teaches “science.” And the Math Center basically teaches students how to talk with numbers. But the Writing and Reading Center (WRC) on campus is one area where students go regularly to seek assistance with essays, citing sources, and MLA formatting. Little do students know that the WRC in fact does not teach reading at all.

The Writing and “Reading” Center staff pride themselves on being witty people with colorful pens who know how “syntax” works. Since the demographic of its staff aren’t even English majors, it’s obvious students are thrown for a loop. Everyone knows only English majors actually read.

“Honestly, I’ve never read anything aloud to a student. But ‘writing center’ on its own doesn’t sound hip or marketable. And that’s what people want. Capitalistic intention,” Carrie Dunklow, staff reader, said.

James Asava, frequent student at the WRC, notices that no one is ever reading when he

walks in. “All they do is eat vending machine food. True intellectuals who know anything about writing only eat soup and drink wine. This place is a sham full of Neanderthals,” Asava exclaimed.

White Pine Pickle sent staff intern Billy to discover and report firsthand the nature of the WRC. His corpse was later found draped atop a cheap light-up pencil in the hallway of Scholars Hall. His field notes revealed the inhabitants of the WRC are a savage people who critique papers with blood-soaked pens. However, in the public eye, they are a benevolent tribe of students who joke about how much they like movies and only sometimes read student work.

When asked about the importance of commas and contemporary grammar, one staff member and self-proclaimed vegan, Emma Moulton, while gnawing on what may or may not have been Billy’s femur, said, “What?” WRC Coordinator Judy Chu, who definitely wasn’t burning a human effigy outside of the center, said, “Believe me, I know what words are. But do I know what they do? Not a clue. Most of the time I just

look a paper and guess what the problem is and people believe that I’m right.”

If you’d like to get your paper looked at, stop by the WRC* in Scholars Hall 221, or call to make an appointment at 995-1189. They will look at your paper. They will only look at it. For a long time, they will look at it. And you will leave a new person, or not a person at all.

*Note: Utilizing the Writing Center does not guarantee you will receive a 4.0 or any other grade. Ultimately, your writing is still your responsibility.



American Government Released from Power

No Joy Sparked in Citizens

E.S. Milligan Thought Leader In an unheard of show of unification, United States citizens have come together to announce that the U.S. government no longer sparks joy in the hearts of its people. The decision marks the first time since the start of the nation that everyone has agreed on something. A ceremony was held last week to formally release all government branches from power.

Marie Kondo, decluttering guru and author of “The Life-changing Magic of Tidying Up” and “Spark Joy,” hosted the event in which citizens declared that while the government once served a useful purpose, it was time to move on.

“After years of political fighting, broken campaign promises, and little-

to-no accountability or progress, the effectiveness of the U.S. government has reached its end,” said Kondo in front of a crowd of all political affiliations. “We now take the time to thank the government for its time and we release it from our collective life.”

Singer Ariana Grande led a group sing-along of “Thank U, Next” as the government was set gently afloat on a melting iceberg.

In lieu of appointing a new government, the country has slid into the DM’s of Her Royal Highness, Duchess of Sussex, Meghan Markle, in hopes that she will use her newfound dual citizenship to pivot the United States back into Queen Elizabeth II’s good graces.

NMC Crates Eliminate Tuition

Will Be Replaced with “Free-to-Play” Model

Tyrone Slothrop Thought Leader In a radical departure from the traditional American college tuition protocol, Northwestern Michigan College will no longer charge tuition to attend classes, effective with the Fall 2019 semester.

Inspired by the success of video games such as “Fortnite” and “Apex Legends,” classes will be free to attend. Textbooks, supplies, class registration, and even specific teacher “skins” require students to find strategically scattered “NMC Crates” containing textbooks, calculators, pencils, and more. The inclusion of microtransactions allows students the option to “Pay-to-Win.”

“Look, you don’t need a weatherman to know which way the wind blows,” NMC public relations specialist Nari Cayoga said regarding the rationale behind the radical change. “These new crates allow for *endless* reasons for students to pay money rather than just a one-and-done fee. It will potentially provide the capital needed to make NMC the largest community college in the world!” After a few minutes of maniacal laughing, Cayoga took a deep breath and added, “It’ll be great for students! It’s like you’re *playing* college! How cool is that?”

Cayoga highlighted the benefits of NMC Crates, such as the new teacher skin feature. “One exciting component will be the ability to pay for who you want your teacher to be. Examples include 2018 National Cherry Queen Grace Boyles, filmmaker Michael Moore, or even UpNorthLive meteorologist Joe Charlevoix!”

Even President Trump seemed enthusiastic about this new initiative. “Folks, this Northwestern Michigan College, we love it! Oh, don’t we love NMC, folks?” Trump exclaimed at his recent rally in Grand Rapids. “The dishonest, oh so dishonest, fake news will have you believe I don’t support these video game inspired ideas. We need ideas, folks! I’ve got ideas! You need good genes to have good ideas and NMC has good ideas! My son Barron has great genes, and he plays video games all the time, folks!”

With such an aggressive, battle royale styled approach to education, the *White Pine Pickle* asked Cayoga if weapons and violence were necessary to get a chance at reaching the best crates. “Of course not!” she replied, winking.



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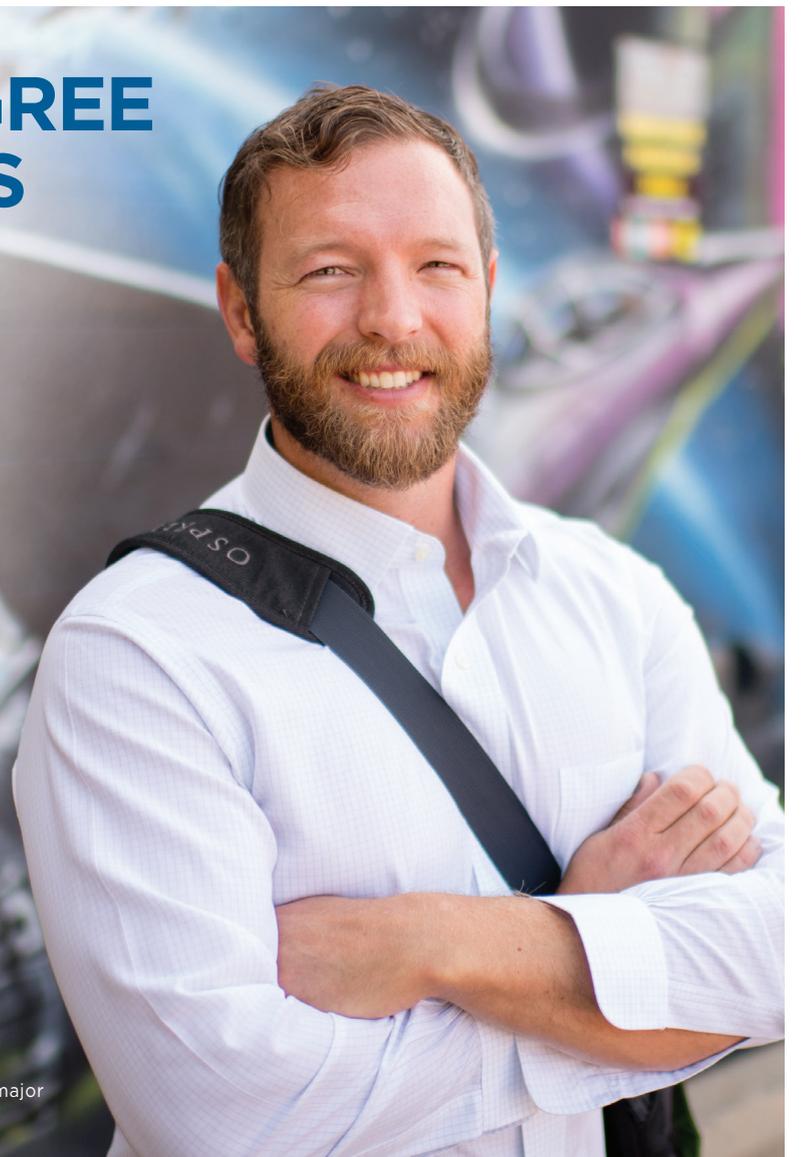
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Shady Lady Operating Systems Review

Orrius Ulysses Snivvel



Pen Pal

To horribly paraphrase Moore's Law from 1965, the power of computers doubles every year. This review delves into some of the operating systems (OS) in a Golden Age of Computing.

Microsoft Windows 95

A new innovative product from Microsoft was released a couple months ago. It features a brand new interface over their previous versions, including updated icons and brand new task bar to access your entire system from one place. They also added many great features and interfaces for users to interact and manage the system. In addition to the new OS, Microsoft has also announced an exclusive, innovative approach to graphics: DirectX 1. This new graphics application programming interface is intended to handle media on your system and will only crash every 30 minutes. Microsoft has promised that they definitely will not collect your data with this version of Windows. This is sure to bring the power of computing to a new generation.

Rating: 🇺🇸 🇺🇸 🇺🇸

Red Hat Linux 2.0

A newcomer to the OS market, this latest release by Red Hat opens up the power of computing by completely changing the way it works. There are many versions of Linux (also known as distros) available, but the most popular one is Red Hat 2.0. The company's focus is on server operations, but you can also install it on your home computer system.

The primary focus of a Linux system is the use of a command line interface to run applications. Once you get used to it, you will find that being able to launch applications from anywhere, without finding an icon or navigating menus, makes this an innovative experience unlike that of Windows 95. Drawbacks include a blocky desktop user interface with very low resolution icons and hard-to-find applications. As a server, it connects easily to networks and other resources, which makes it a truly innovative approach to connectivity. Red Hat 2.0 is a game-changing OS—as long as you don't want to play games.

Rating: 🐧 🐧 🐧 🐧 🐧

IBM OS/2 Warp 3

Two tech giants, Microsoft and IBM, have colluded for years to bring us a completely innovative approach to operating systems. Unfortunately, both of them wanted majority control of the new system and they parted ways. Despite the breakup of this partnership, IBM has released OS/2, with the new innovative version being Warp 3. This OS allows you to create instances of Windows or Linux within its desktop. It sports a sleek interface and has easy-to-navigate application menus. IBM's success with personal computer operating systems has been limited, but it is refreshing to see companies still willing to compete in a unsaturated market.

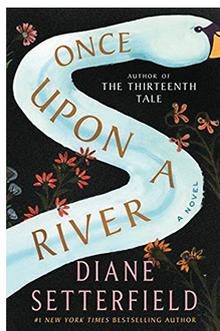
Rating: 🇺🇸🇺🇸🇺🇸 🇺🇸🇺🇸🇺🇸 🇺🇸🇺🇸🇺🇸

By the Cover

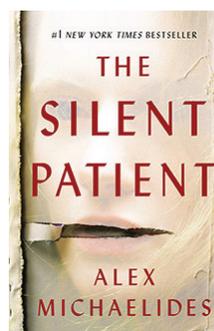
Camera Widget

Thought Leader

According to Wikipedia, 1860s author George Eliot once said, "Don't judge a book by its cover." Had she seen some current-day book covers, she may have rescinded that sentiment.



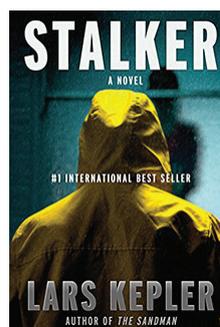
"Once Upon A River"
by Diane Setterfield
A swan with a birth deformity finds acceptance and friendship.



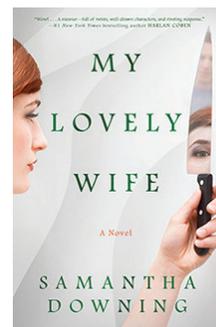
"The Silent Patient"
by Alex Michaelides
Probably like "The English Patient," but really quiet.



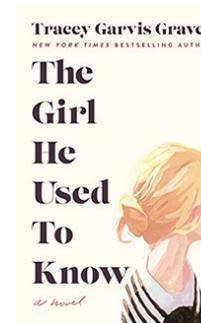
"Impossible Owls"
by Brian Phillips
A government sanctioned science experiment to create human-owl hybrids goes terribly, terribly wrong.



"Stalker"
by Lars Kepler
A "nice guy" in a yellow jacket doesn't understand why women don't like him.



"My Lovely Wife"
by Samantha Downing
A husband struggles with his well-adjusted, not at all murderous wife's decision to get plastic surgery.



"The Girl He Used To Know"
by Tracey Garvis-Graves
A man listens to Gotye on repeat as he tries to forget that he used to know a girl without a face.

Fuzz for President 2020

Tallyho

Thought Leader

Fuzz was born on a farm owned by the crazy cat lady of Fun du lac, Wisconsin. He and his sister Hemingway (who was thought to be a male as a kitten but was later discovered to be female) were adopted and taken out of the over populated environment and moved to a comfortable apartment in Oshkosh.

He grew up to appreciate being adopted by his gracious college student mother. Fuzz and Hemingway had a shot at a great new life with more opportunities, such as counters to jump on, drawers to get stuck in and endless toilet paper to decorate the apartment with.

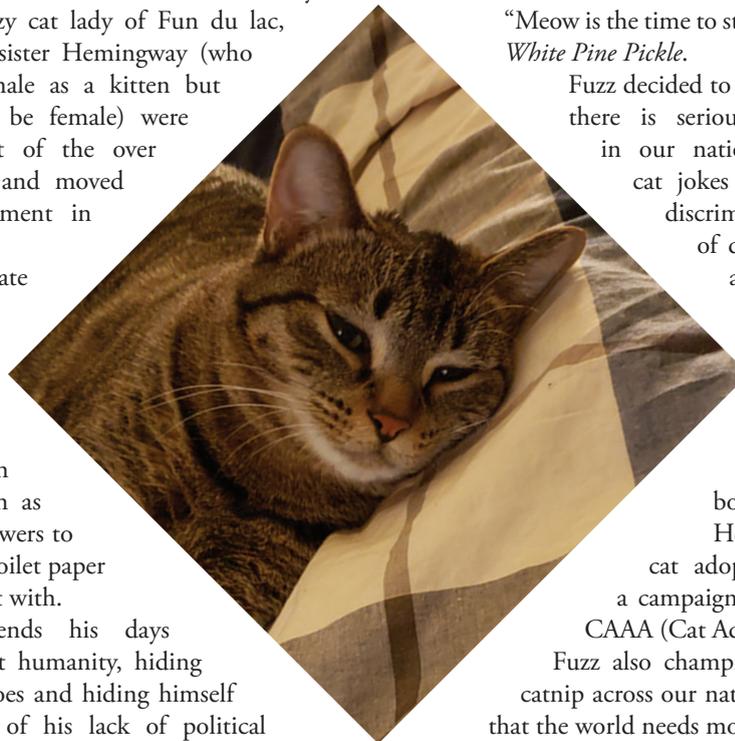
Currently, Fuzz spends his days napping, plotting against humanity, hiding his toys in his mom's shoes and hiding himself in boxes. He is aware of his lack of political background but believes he is just as qualified to run

as Bernie Sanders.

"Meow is the time to stop Catism," Fuzz told the *White Pine Pickle*.

Fuzz decided to run for president because there is serious Catism taking place in our nation. Catism is offensive cat jokes and memes, as well as discrimination against the rights of declawing house cats. He already has a campaign going for CADC (cats against declawing). Fuzz believes cats should have a choice in getting declawed or not—their body their claws.

He supports and encourages cat adoptions. Fuzz is building a campaign for this endeavor called CAAA (Cat Adoptions Across America). Fuzz also championed the legalization of catnip across our nation and is a firm believer that the world needs more naps. Vote for Mr. Fuzz in 2020. Hear the purr!



Conveyor Belts

An Underrated Delivery System

Rando Writa Thought Leader On a recent trip to Minneapolis, my fellow travelers and I stumbled upon a wondrous place where sushi was served to hungry customers via conveyor belt. It was, not to be too dramatic, the most amazing experience of my young life. It also left me wondering: why don't we use conveyor belts for more than just sushi and old timey automobiles? It seems a shame to limit such an ingenious system to only two uses in the entire world.

Paul Beltly, CEO of Conveyor Belt Industries, LLC, spoke to me about this concern. "Our R&D department has been working on the issue, but we have so far been unsuccessful in finding new uses for our conveyor belts. We've tried to deliver sloppy joes in restaurants, but the joes were so sloppy that they clogged up the conveyor belts and stopped them completely. We also tried to deliver medicine to hospital patients via conveyor belt but there was a great

deal of confusion about whose pills were whose and this resulted in a couple of, um, incidents." Despite these setbacks, Beltly assured me that many other ideas are in the works.

I have a few conveyor belt ideas of my own. The newly popular DIY crafting bars could benefit from a very, very slow conveyor belt where patrons could begin their crafts without having to wait in a long line to pick up supplies. Dog parks could have plastic doggie bags on a conveyor belt at human height and an assortment of tennis balls, rawhide bones, and tug-of-war ropes at dog height, improving the experience of both humans and animals. I could have a conveyor belt in my home that kept me constantly supplied with spaghetti, garlic bread, and sautéed broccoli. That last one is personal, but I still think it's a good idea.

"Conveyor belts are the past and the future," Beltly stated. "Our society today would be completely unrecognizable without them."



Performance-Enhancing Pickles

A Growing Epidemic?

Orgasm Lint Thought Leader All-star freestyle swimming Olympian Kramer Bork, from Oatmeal, Texas, has undergone massive changes in his performance due to a heavy pickle juice diet that may or may not be infused with steroids.

White Pine Pickle talked to Bork about his training routine, and how he feels about the 2020 Olympics. “It’s like my body is made of vinegar. I just slip through the water. Nothing can stop me. Literally. Like, it’s hard for me to even open my door—everything’s so *greasy*,” Bork stated.

Bork’s briny skin and lubricated lack of surface tension has made him the ultimate contender for next year’s competition. However, the International Swimming Federation (FINA) has suggested Bork is a “real big cheater” who “isn’t really that great of a swimmer, really,” because of his addiction to the performance-enhancing pickle-based drug, Vlasticynol, which has absolutely no relation to the famous brand of brined cucumbers, Vlasic.

“I don’t even know what drugs are. And what is a pickle? Are they like Skittles? I like Skittles,” Bork said, before plunging into his pale moss-tinted training pool.

FINA has given many details on the pickle epidemic in the Oatmeal area. Up to 17 people have overdosed on Vlasticynol and suffered from heightened levels of super-sodium, which causes the user to become like a pickle. Local grocery store manager Herb Yuggel has seen a recent outbreak of shoplifting in his store-chain across the tri-county area. “Most people just eat oatmeal in Oatmeal. I thought about discontinuing the pickle section. I thought they were just some rare aphrodisiac from Croatia or something,” Yuggel said, appearing more confused than angered.

Bork thinks he has a chance of taking gold this year. Raised in a small town, he never thought he had a chance. Bork’s greening flesh, he suggests, is from his pool replacing chlorine with salt and vinegar. Bork, however, doesn’t seem to notice his physical alterations. He suggests that his bulbous and pickled muscles are the result of his highly advanced ketogenic diet.

According to Bork’s personal trainer, most people don’t know what it takes to be an Olympic swimmer. “You have to be in water, like, a lot,” Dill Chunke said. The stress of being submerged is sometimes too harrowing for many individuals.

Bork has made it his dream to become the best swimmer on the planet. “Hey, do you guys want to hear a joke? What’s green and sour and swims in an aquarium? A tro-pickle fish. Hey, why are you leaving? Is the interview over already?”



Expert Raises Concern About NMC Squirrel Weight Issues

Squirrels on Campus Identify as “Thicc,” Not Fat

Rob Loxton Thought Leader Lately around Northwestern Michigan College, a concerning trend has been noted. The squirrels that thrive on campus have been getting rather fat. D.B. Smotes, a noted sciurologist, claims that this could be a serious problem for the welfare of our beloved furry friends.

“People often think of squirrels as chubby happy animals, but really the food consumption of the squirrels at NMC is excessive and alarming,” Smotes says. He goes on to suggest that this epidemic is due to students and staff feeding the squirrels human food items.

While I won’t point fingers, the author of this article can attest to being eyewitness to such acts. Only last fall I distinctly recall seeing a window being opened on campus, and a human hand passing edible contraband to a susceptible campus squirrel.

The squirrels, however, have their own side of the story. Snuffy, a highly wizened 2-year-old campus squirrel, claims that the trend is not the problem we humans believe it is. “Everybody on campus has been complaining about ‘chunky squirrels’ but I don’t really think it is a

problem. We all like to make our homes on campus because we can spend more time doing meaningful activities instead of simply foraging for food. We might pack on a little weight, but that is normal for squirrels.” He hesitates for a moment, then adds, “If we really want to talk about an obesity problem, you should be looking at the rabbits on campus. They’re the big chungus in real life.”

Others have taken outright offence at the concerns raised, such as Wingnut, a 3-year-old campus squirrel who has clearly taken advantage of the food items offered. “I find it completely revolting in 2019 that anyone would dare to call me ‘fat,’” he says. “I am body positive and identify as ‘thicc.’” Wingnut declined further questioning as we tried to define what this is supposed to mean. According to the top definition on Urban Dictionary, being “thicc” means you have “fat in the right places, creating sexy curves.”

In the meantime, campus security has declared a ban on feeding squirrels in anyway shape or form. Violation of this directive may result in suspension.