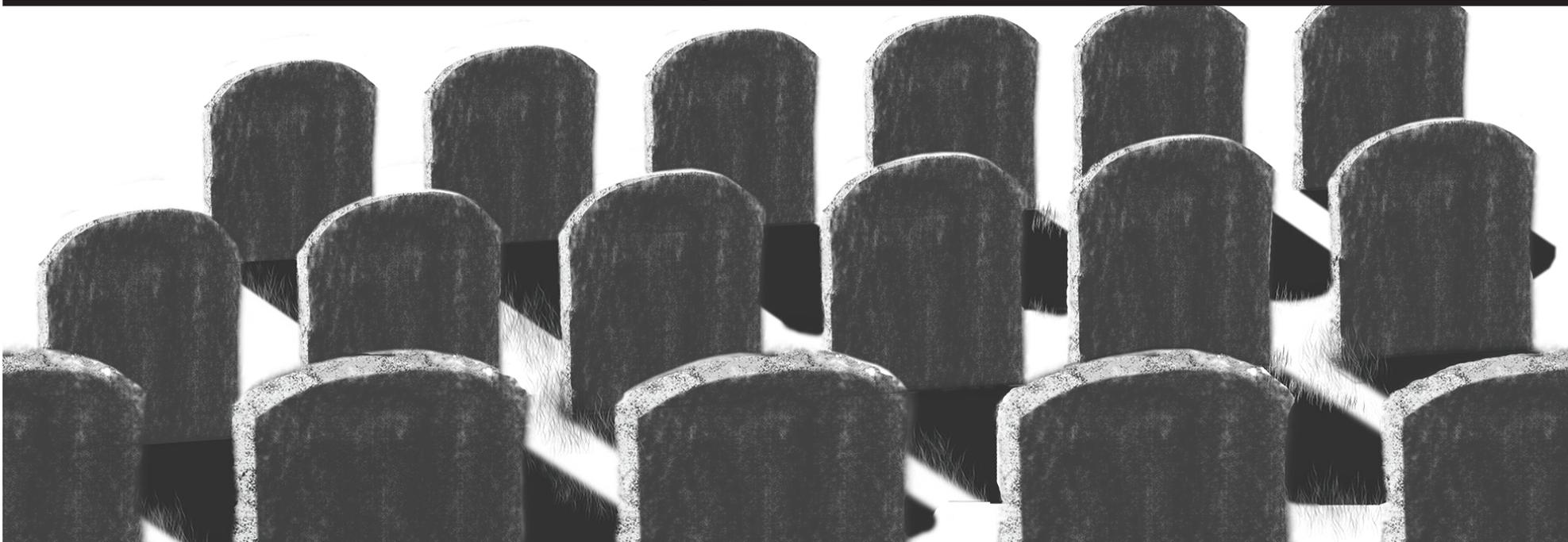


N O R T H W E S T E R N M I C H I G A N C O L L E G E

WHITE PINE PRESS

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



#MeNNext?



Photo by Emily Clements

NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE

WHITE PINE PRESS

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The *White Pine Press* welcomes comments, suggestions, ideas for news stories and calendar items.

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News-in-Brief

Spring Transfer Fair

Over 20 university representatives will be in the Health & Science lobby on Tuesday, March 13 from 9:30am–1pm to talk with students about their programs and the transfer process. This is a great opportunity to get information on degrees available at a variety of schools without traveling to each university.

#MeNext?

A peaceful protest against gun violence will be held at TC Central High School on March 14 in response to the recent massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Students are asked to meet outside the main entrance at 10am for a 17-minute school walkout, one minute for every person killed in the massacre.

Be a Hawk Owl Hero!

Earn \$10/hour for your student group at the NMC Foundation Phone-a-thon. The event will be held on Thursday, March 15, from 5:30–9:30pm in Founders Hall. You will be given an easy phone-calling script and time to practice before making phone calls. Contact Katharine Zurek at kzurek@nmc.edu or 995-1030 to learn more.

So Many Books, So Little Time

March is National Reading Month! Celebrate by visiting the Osterlin Library to grab an old favorite, or view the handful of new books the library recently purchased. They are on display in the library's lobby. Visit nmc.edu/library for hours and to browse the collection.

Cover Illustration by Adam Crocker

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Alumni Spotlight: Garret Ellison

Deanna Luton
Staff Writer

Garret Ellison
attended NMC

from 2002 to 2006, majoring in journalism. He took a gap year working as a cook after his graduation from Traverse City West High School. "I didn't want to work as a short order cook and sling pizza for the rest of my life," Ellison said. Currently an investigative reporter at MLive and the *Grand Rapids Press*, he specializes in covering the environment, natural resources, and the Great Lakes.

Ellison found his time at NMC enjoyable, having explored extracurricular opportunities like writing for the *White Pine Press* and volunteering as a DJ at WNMC. Hours put in with

Press was the most valuable aspect of my education at NMC. It was a unique on-the-job training experience that taught me a lot about journalism, leadership, long nights, interpersonal relationships, and administrative politics. No amount of traditional academic coursework could replicate that kind of education. *White Pine Press* is where I learned to love being a reporter."

The *White Pine Press* gave him experience that carried him forward. "When I transferred to CMU, I was more qualified than other student reporters thanks to my experience at NMC and my internship at the *Record-Eagle*—which I wouldn't have obtained

"Don't focus solely on your GPA as the metric for success. College is a nexus of opportunity if you know where to look."

the college's newspaper paid off with an internship at the *Traverse City Record-Eagle* in 2005. He remained there for two years, after which he transferred to Central Michigan University (CMU) to obtain a Bachelor's degree.

He struggled with math and had to take remedial classes, but NMC instructor Mark Nelson gave him tools to succeed. "I think he's the only math teacher who ever bothered to really try and help me learn the subject," Ellison said. "I still hate algebra, but Mark did help me develop an appreciation for the philosophy of mathematics."

In his free time, Ellison reveled in the beauty of the campus. "The towering stand of white pine trees behind the library is a wonderful feature." He often frequented the disc golf course and, although he wished it were closer to downtown, appreciated NMC's proximity to the wilderness of the peninsula. The nearly seamless blend of urban and rural allowed anyone in need to "quickly escape the city," soak up sun in the sand, or explore the dense woods.

Ellison did not realize he wanted to be a journalist before attending NMC. In high school he was enamored by photography, which led him to pursue a staff photographer position at the *White Pine Press*. Fate eventually forced him to dive into the reporting side of journalism. "In 2003, all but one *White Pine Press* staff member graduated and both advisors retired," Ellison explained. "I was the only one left who was even remotely qualified to be editor-in-chief. When fall rolled around, I was in charge."

Looking back, Ellison is grateful for the editorial experience he gained in college through working for the newspaper. "My time at *White Pine*

without my role at the *White Pine Press*!" Through CMU, Ellison took advantage of opportunities there and obtained an internship with the *Grand Rapids Press*.

Ellison regards being an environmental reporter as exciting and fulfilling. "It's taken me to the top of the Mackinac Bridge and above it—literally. A month after I went atop the bridge in 2015, I flew above it in a Canadian Air Force C-130 Hercules. I sat on the open-cargo ramp in a harness with my feet dangling over the edge. It was pretty wild. As I've gained experience on the environment beat, I've broken some major stories. In 2016, I revealed Nestle's plans to increase groundwater extraction in Michigan for bottled water production. That application remains stalled after a series of reports which showed the proposal was likely to harm wetlands around the wellhead."

More recently, in August he "broke a story about drinking water contamination in Kent County caused by historic tannery sludge dumping by Wolverine World Wide." Ellison has written about it almost exclusively since. "My reporting has helped drive the state's investigation, and the story is far from over."

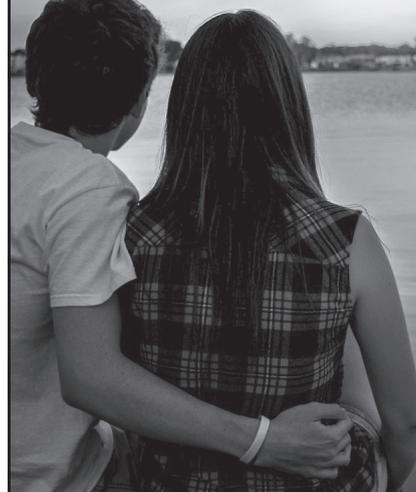
Today, he teaches basic news reporting twice a week at Grand Valley State University. Ellison encourages NMC students to explore learning outside class. "Don't focus solely on your GPA as the metric for success. College is a nexus of opportunity if you know where to look. Take advantage of the clubs, organizations, extracurricular and other non-class activities. That's where networking takes place. That's where you meet friends and find opportunities. That's where you gain experience."



photo courtesy of Garret Ellison

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Photo by William Walton-Case

Inside Looking Out

International Students Reflect on American Culture

William Walton-Case
Staff Writer

It's difficult to assess a culture from the inside. Whether it's as large as a nation or as small as our local church, familiarity causes us to perceive that our way of living is the right way. NMC has a large population of international students, providing us the opportunity to engage in cultural discussion.

Students in Nancy Parshall's English as a Second Language (ESL) classes shared their experiences about coming to America. One of their first surprises was the food, with most of the students remarking on differences in taste compared to its counterpart in China. "The popcorn here is salty," said Yunlong Wang, who also noted that Cherry Pepsi tastes weird.

Meihui Zeng found some popular flavor combinations strange, such as orange and mango mixed in a drink, while Xuexuan Lai found the sweetness of American food to be jarring. "I miss the taste of Chinese food," he said. "American food is very sweet and salty. Chinese food is bitterer. The Chinese food in America doesn't taste like the food in China."

The students are also impressed with Traverse City's natural environment. Shiyue Wang ranked it her favorite thing about attending NMC, adding that "the environment here is pretty good; in my city there is a lot of pollution." Others enjoy our wildlife. "There are so many squirrels around us," Meihui Zeng commented, while another student was impressed that deer live in the same areas as people.

Interaction between people in the city is perhaps the biggest surprise for these students. "The people in Traverse City are very nice," Yaqi Yang said. "They smile at each other. In China, it's weird for a stranger to smile at you." She also found the

openness and pervasiveness of religion in American culture unusual. "People go to church. My host family invites people to the house to discuss Jesus."

"In China, not many people believe in religion," Lei Tang added.

The students were also intrigued by the openness of our political culture. "There is freedom of speech here," Tianjian Zou said. "Anyone could be president depending on the election. Politics are so open to the public." He also appreciated how seriously intellectual property rights are taken in the United States. "I like how Americans are serious about patents and plagiarism. This never happens in China. My friends in China don't have to prove things with a Works Cited entry."

Xin Zhao appreciates America's application of freedom of speech to technology. "[On] the internet, I can research some things that I can't research in China because the government controls the internet. In China, I can't research about the (1989) Tiananmen Square Massacre."

Not everything about America was a pleasant surprise, however. Some students found themselves annoyed with various American subcultures. "Hippies dress in colorful clothes and smell weird," Yunlong Wang described. "They drink too much and smoke weed. They are like love and peace all the time. I don't like them." He also disliked the practice of scheduling appointments. "You have to make [one] for everything. If I want to get my haircut, I have to make an appointment. If I want to go to the doctor, I have to make an appointment."

The students also discussed daily prejudice they face in

America. "In high school, some white kids liked to take things away," Xin Zhao said. "I was working out in the gym and some kids took my watch and threw it. I feel like some people don't like me even if they don't know me."

The language barrier alone presents a significant challenge. "Even with as how well we are speaking English as international students, in America we can never truly communicate the way we did in Chinese," said Tianjian Zou. Deficiency in language makes it hard to convey complex ideas. "Sometimes we cannot express our ideas correctly in English, so we cannot really get involved in society and culture."

The students were positive concerning their education here at NMC. "The system of the schools here is good," Shiyue Wang stated. "In China your grade was always based on the final exam, but here all of your grades and homework matter." Other students appreciated the services made available on campus. "I like the library because if I need to find something to support my opinion in my paper, it is easy to find," Haobo Zhou said. "In China, we have libraries, but they are so big that we can't find information easily." Junfu Hong appreciates the help that he can get on his assignments—in particular, free resources such as the Math Center and the Writing & Reading Center.

The international population on campus is one of the greatest things about NMC. These students provide an opportunity to share culture and ideas, and they give us outside perspective we would otherwise lack. There is so much that we can learn from their culture and their struggles—all we have to do is listen.



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Students Call for Firearm Legislation

William Walton-Case Staff Writer

Following the tragic shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, on Feb. 14, the national discussion of firearms and gun control has again been brought to the spotlight. Students across the country are banding together to make their voices heard, including teens from Marjory Stoneman. They have been leading the fight, visiting their state's capitol, as well as turning to social media as a platform for discourse. In this manner, they are at the forefront of the public and legislative debate on the issue.

Many high schools have already organized walkouts, with more—including Traverse City Central High—planning walkouts on March 14, exactly one month after the Parkland shooting. The walkout will last 17 minutes, one for each fatality of the shooting, in a show of solidarity. In an emailed statement to parents of TCAPS students, Superintendent

Even with the pressure of demonstrations, the nation remains divided on the issue of gun control. At the heart of this discourse: what type of firearms should be available to civilians, and how easy should they be to obtain? While lawmakers and lobbyists across the country debate the issue, citizens find themselves surprised with the disparity in policy

While lawmakers and lobbyists across the country debate the issue, citizens find themselves surprised with the disparity in policy between states.

between states. For example, California and Maryland have significantly more stringent regulations and requirements regarding firearm purchases, especially compared to other states such as Michigan and New Hampshire. Florida, the current center of the legislative debate, has relatively lax regulations when compared to other states.

In Michigan, firearms are broadly categorized into two groups: long guns (rifles and shotguns), and handguns. Of the two groups, handguns are more strictly regulated, with few state regulations applied to long guns. Any age 18 or older resident with a record clean of certain crimes (such as domestic violence) and mental health issues (such as being ordered to undergo compulsory mental health treatment) may purchase a handgun from a private seller, and those 21 and older may purchase from a federally licensed dealer.

If the buyer does not have a Concealed Pistol License (CPL), then a permit is needed to legally purchase a handgun from a private seller, including some sellers at gun shows. Such a permit is acquired at police and sheriff offices statewide. Buyers with a CPL do not need a permit to purchase a handgun.

Michigan is a “shall issue” concealed carry state. This means that any resident age 21 or older may receive a CPL if they are not prohibited from owning a firearm, have not been convicted of any felonies or certain misdemeanors, and pass a state-approved firearm training program. Neither CPL nor permit is necessary for purchasing a handgun

from a federally licensed dealer.

For long guns (rifles and shotguns not otherwise classified by the National Firearms Act, or NFA), regulation in Michigan is almost nonexistent compared to other states. Aside from firearms regulated by the NFA—short barrel rifles and shotguns, automatic weapons, true assault rifles, and weapons that do not meet any other classification—there are few regulations regarding the ownership of long guns. A long gun may be purchased by any person over the age of 18 who is not otherwise prohibited from owning a firearm. Michigan does not regulate long guns differently depending on the action, meaning that a semi-automatic weapon, like the AR-15 or Mini-14, is regulated the same as a bolt-action weapon or pump shotgun, such as the Remington 870.

A complete list of firearms regulations in Michigan can be found at:

legislature.mi.gov/Publications/Firearms.pdf

“We expect student voices to continue to be elevated as we navigate these difficult times.”
- TCAPS Superintendent Paul Soma

Paul A. Soma stated that “Student voices have played a large part in these efforts and we know that our young men and women have much to contribute when they become actively engaged citizens who are knowledgeable about multiple viewpoints surrounding current events. We expect student voices to continue to be elevated as we navigate these difficult times.”

Michigan itself continues to face the issue of gun violence. The most recent shooting left two dead (parents of the shooter) on the campus of Central Michigan University. Despite a statement on CMU's website informing the public that “police believe the situation started from a domestic situation,” experience is spurring action. Like the survivors of the shooting at Marjory Stoneman, students at CMU have turned to social media to call for new regulations to ensure the safety of students everywhere.



A gun control rally was held in downtown Traverse City on March 3

Securing the Halls of Education

Manise Berg School shootings and safety on academic campuses have been an ongoing problem for decades, with many instances involving current or former students. The first Staff Writer shooting with double-digit fatalities took place at Texas University on Aug. 1, 1966; 15 people were killed by Charles Whitman (age 25). The next massacre happened April 20, 1999, at Columbine High School, when Eric Harris (18) and Dylan Klebold (17) killed 13 people. On April 16, 2007, Seung-Hui Cho (23) killed 32 people at Virginia Tech. Adam Lanza (20) killed 26 people at Sandy Hook Elementary on Dec. 14, 2014—20 of whom were six and seven-year-old children.

Now, in the wake of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland, Florida, on Feb. 14, the White House has proposed the idea of arming school teachers. Here are some local opinions on the matter.

The students and staff from NMC's Reading and Writing Center, as well as the Math Center, are uncomfortable with the idea of teachers carrying lethal weapons. Some are more concerned with preventing such incidents by reporting suspicious behavior instead of ignoring it, and by correcting problems in schools—such as bullying—that contribute to shootings. They are open to the possibility of teachers possessing non-lethal weapons, with one student suggesting paintball guns.

Suttons Bay High School math and science teacher Shannon Hymel was taught by her father how to operate guns. "I personally would not carry a firearm if I was allowed one," said Hymel. "I am not comfortable enough with them to act properly in an emergency."

Teachers want their students to be safe, but they also want a practical way to defend their classrooms in a shooting situation. Arming them with something as deadly as a handgun may not be the answer. NMC Communications instructor Mark Ross suggests that teachers carry tactical batons, bulletproof

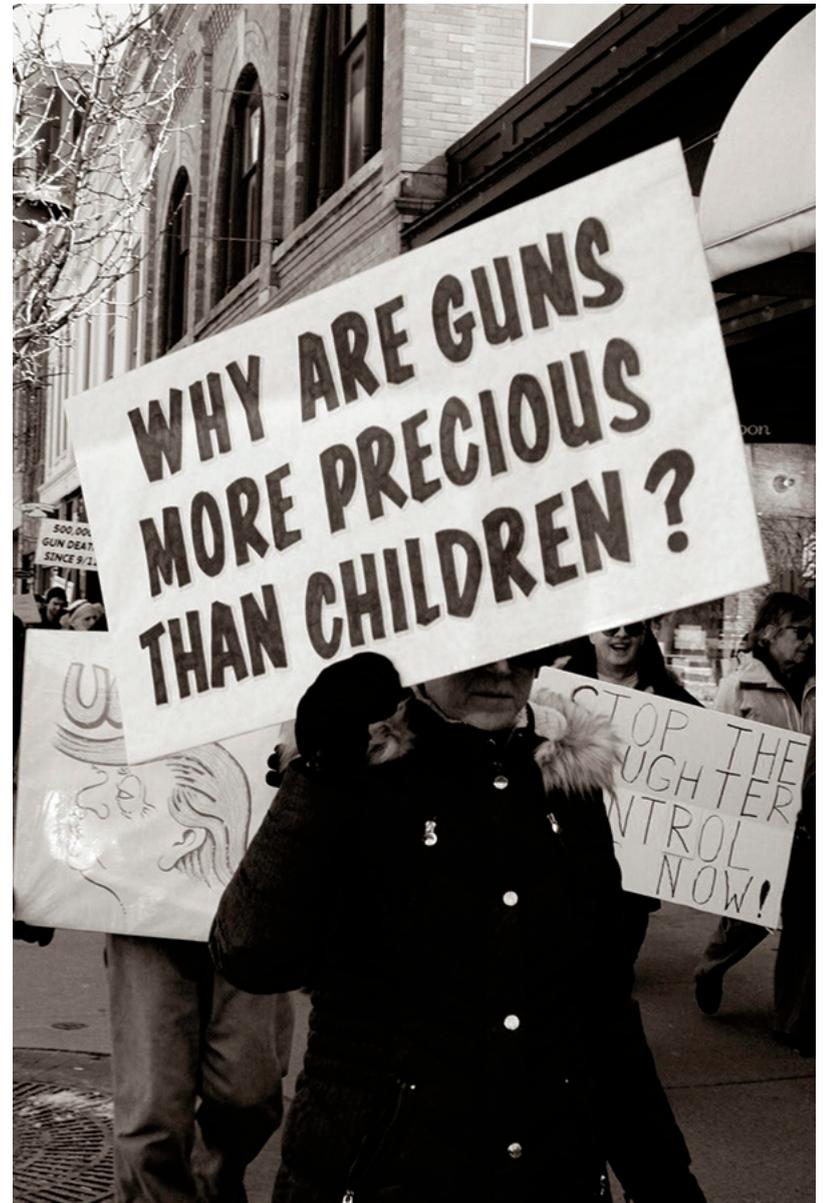
whiteboards, and bear spray. "Teachers would have some tactical advantage then," Ross says. Hymel also suggested strategies to avoid shootings altogether by increasing security on campuses. For example, keeping the doors locked at all times and showing extreme caution about who comes into the school, including alumni. Hymel also

believes there needs to be better screening of people buying guns.

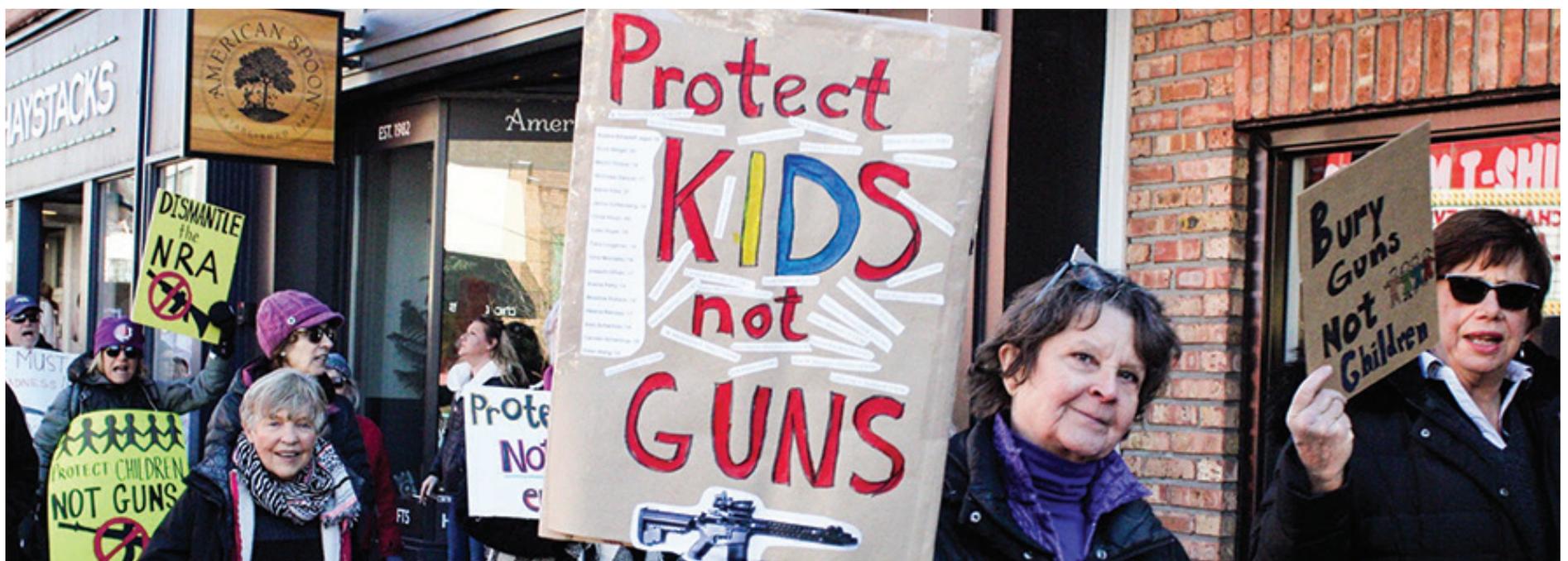
As a student, both myself and my family are interested in keeping classrooms safe. We brainstormed together, and my dad formed an idea as he watched television. He saw animal researchers using net guns, a device that looks like a large flashlight and shoots out a weighted net, and thought this may confuse the shooter and bring him down. Monitoring the school halls is another option, and attack dogs could be useful for the security officers to take with them. They could be kept by the officers and when an active shooter is present they could order the dog to bite the attacker's arm. Another idea we had was implementing code systems to alert school staff and students of a shooting threat. Teachers with the lethal or non-lethal weapons would be able to come help the situation. For example, "code red at hall z" could mean there is a shooter at that location, and all armed faculty would go there. Signs are also very effective. They warn potential shooters that the school has means of defending itself.

Change is needed and some kind of defense should be given to classrooms.

NMC has an emergency alert system in place. More information can be found at: nmc.edu/student-services/campus-safety/services/emergency-alert-system.html



Photos by Emily Clements



Campus Quotes

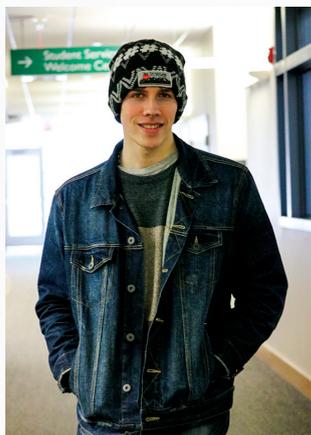
Kelsey Pease
Staff Writer

“What was your childhood dream job? Is it what you’re studying to be?”



“I had so many. One that I was really passionate about, though, was making video games. I’m studying Business and hope to someday work in the Audio Technology industry, so I guess my love for electronics has just kind of evolved. Music has always been an important part of my life and I’m glad that I’m trying to incorporate it into my future career.”
SHANE CRAMPTON, BUSINESS

“I honestly didn’t really have a dream job growing up, but what I’m studying now is the only thing I’ve ever imagined myself doing one day. I’m studying to be an architect because I have always been artistically inclined, and I would be very happy working in that field one day.”
SHELBY COON, ARCHITECTURE



“As a kid, I always wanted to be a writer and someday publish my own book, something about fiction and fantasy that wasn’t boring. Right now I’m studying journalism, so I suppose I’m lucky that I’m still in the writing field. I still hope, though, that someday I’ll be able to write a novel of my own.”
BAILEY BROVONT, COMMUNICATIONS

“I wanted to be an astronaut because it just seemed so exciting. After the job I had for the last decade was outsourced, I had to come up with a new plan, and that was Pre-med.”
JODI CAMINATI, PRE-MED



“I was determined to be a vet when I was little, but when I was in middle school I started getting really interested in various social issues. From then on, my area of study has remained in the social sciences.”
SETHE ZACHMAN, SOCIOLOGY

“My biggest dream was to be an ice cream truck driver. Now I’m studying Pre-nursing. Money changed my mind, I suppose.”
BRITTON DENNIS, PRE-NURSING



“I always wanted to go into the medical field because my mom is a nurse. Actually studying it, though, has determined what area specifically I’d like to go into: physical therapy.”
MADLINE ZEILINGER, PRE-MED

“When I was younger, my heart was set on being a famous singer; Dora was my absolute favorite. As I got older, though, I realized that the chances of me, a small-town girl from Traverse City, becoming famous were slim to none. Now, singing and playing the piano is more of a hobby. I’m happy with my current career path, and I felt a lot more confident in what I could accomplish as a nurse when I was hired by Munson.”
MARRISSA SMITH, PRE-NURSING



Reducing Your Garbage Output

How to (Realistically) Live More Sustainably

Lindsay Schmandt Do you hate taking out the garbage? It's smelly, heavy, and can be quite a trek through the snow during the winter. I've reduced my garbage output to about one bag a week by doing some research and switching up some of my age-old habits. The goal is to one day cancel my garbage service completely, but a common question that arises if that were to happen is: "If it isn't going to the landfill, where is it going?"

Your garbage is an opportunity for renewal and redirection, but is a slow-moving process. As wonderful as it might seem to live a waste-free life, it can take years to accomplish and even then, it is dependent on many uncontrollable factors. Regardless, every step to reduce your carbon footprint is a win for both you and the planet.

The first step to reducing waste output is to understand where most of the waste you're creating comes from. The best way to do this is to choose one day to "track your trash". After your trash-tracking, there are three simple questions you should ask yourself:

Could I have lived without this? If the answer is no, then you can begin the process for a better way to replace this item with something reusable. Replace foam or paper coffee cups with a thermos. Plastic bags can be replaced with cloth bags. A lunch box can replace those numerous take-out containers.

If the answer is yes, then you know what choice to make next time. Did you know that the average plastic grocery bag is used for approximately 11 minutes and can take up to 1,000 years to decompose?

Can I reuse this? The possibilities for utilizing used materials are endless and opens the door for creativity. Heavy-duty plastic containers, glassware, and burlap bags can be refilled at bulk stores, saving you money on your next grocery trip. Sunday's newspaper can be tomorrow's gift wrap, and yesterday's egg carton is a wonderful herb starter this spring. You can even make a couch from pallets, which are usually free from any hardware store.

Can this be recycled or composted? If you're stuck with it and can't reuse it, odds are that it can be recycled. Make sure to keep updated on what your recycling services will or will not accept.

Most paper, plastic, metal, and even glass items are recyclable, with the exception of hazardous materials like light bulbs, electronics, and batteries.

It can be hard to know where to start or how to answer the above questions when you set off on your new adventure, so consider these common items you might be able to replace or reduce in the near future:

- Replace your daily disposable coffee cup with a reusable mug. Did you know that most coffee cups are not recyclable? They commonly contain an inner wax coating that prohibits the paper from being used again.
- Ditch the plastic produce bags. It is a common misconception that a plastic produce bag will keep your fresh fruits and vegetables cleaner and make them last longer. In reality, it's recommended that all produce is washed thoroughly before consuming and plastic bags can hold in moisture, which can cause fresh berries and herbs to rot more quickly. Mesh, burlap, or cotton bags are a great replacement that can be thrown straight into the laundry after they're used. In most cases, thin plastic bags are not recyclable and can even cost recycling plants more money than they're worth disposing of them.
- Consider buying in bulk. The most popular components in your kitchen are likely available to purchase in bulk—even spices. Investing in glass containers, or even keeping empty containers around from previous purchases, can make it easy to replenish your back stock of nearly any dry good or spice. Check out your local food co-op for some awesome finds!

Changing your lifestyle can be overwhelming and difficult, so try starting with one small step at a time. Get in the habit of questioning your actions and you'll be a pro soon enough. Keep in mind that the waste you create is likely to outlive you so the choices you make can (and will) have an impact on the future.

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“Passpartout”

Ann Hosler NMC VCA instructor Managing Editor Alex Smith once told my Digital Graphics Design class that everyone can draw. My inner monologue scoffed at the idea, as the extent of my artistic ability is stick figures. That comment stuck with me, though, and I finally met a video game that proved Smith right: “Passpartout: The Starving Artist”.

Released by Flamebait Games in June 2017, “Passpartout” takes you on a journey through France. Playing a puppet-like artist, the primary goal is to sell paintings to pay the bills (which are rent, wine, and baguettes). You begin in an alleyway garage and progress through bigger galleries as you attract both customers and critics. All of this is done using your mouse on an MS Paint-style easel.

Your style of painting appeals to different art connoisseurs, divided up between three acts. The first act is when you establish either your creativity or passion, attracting a critic who will determine which tree you branch out to in Act II. Passionate artists can either specialize in Expressionism or Minimalism in the second act, while creatives choose to either become a Sellout or embrace Realism. Again a critic appears,

and you progress to Act III, working until you sell your first masterpiece. At this point the branch is completed, and if you’re a completist, you return to the beginning to master everything else.

All of the above would be simple enough if your customers didn’t get more demanding and picky as your talent expanded. Of all the branches, Expressionism was the easiest: some random spatters here, some lines there, a few blobs, and hang to sell. Minimalism customers were the worst; you couldn’t repeat a pattern, couldn’t use bold colors, and had to utilize very few brush strokes. Sellouts wanted vibrant realistic scenes with imprecise detail, while Realism customers were the second hardest to please, demanding crazy amounts of detail.

In the end, I had a good time making ridiculous flowers and sheep, and splattering crazy lines across the canvas. The game has 25 Steam achievements that I accomplished over 15 hours of gameplay. The downside is there isn’t much replayability unless you want to return to prior branches you completed; the upside is you get many hours of creative fun and virtual baguettes for only \$10.

Movie Review

“The Greatest Showman”

Jaime Boerema Staff Writer Movies embellished by beautiful cinematography, catchy songs and memorable moments have made a name for themselves these last few years. While I had heard good things about “The Greatest Showman” I was not prepared for the depth and creativity that I encountered while sitting spellbound in the theater. The movie has heart, with an underlying message that greatness is not defined by how much the world adores you, but by how much you love and are loved by those that matter most to you.

Hugh Jackman was immensely entertaining and perfect for the role of P.T. Barnum. His triple threat talent as an actor, singer, and dancer allowed him to seamlessly create his character. Overall, the movie boasts a talented cast, with Zac Efron, Zendaya, Michelle Williams, and Rebecca Ferguson delivering top-notch performances that are sure to delight.

The movie brims with fantasy and realism, highlighting themes of friendship, family, romance, imagination, and courage in the face of pressure and disheartening trials. Darker elements like selfishness, racism, greed, and dishonesty are also portrayed, but the movie deals with these struggles while keeping a magical and glowing approach to it all.

I think the energy and visual appeal of the finale stands out as a remarkable part of the movie. However, there were other stirring moments, especially the scene where Jenny Lind (played by Rebecca Ferguson) comes at Barnum’s request and sings her debut in America. During her song “Never Enough”, we are shown immense talent intertwined with conflicting sentiments and turmoil, creating a gripping scene. This forms an

intricate emotional tapestry that is one of the most beautiful aspects of the movie. “The Greatest Showman” delivers a beautiful story hallmarked by love and redemption.

Viewers should keep perspective while watching “The Greatest Showman”. While the movie is fascinating, it has some flaws. Many sources, including The New Yorker and History vs. Hollywood, have cited its historical inaccuracies—though this is the case with most movies based on real events. Just don’t let this movie be your P.T. Barnum history lesson.

After many emotionally riveting moments, the movie has an idyllic film ending. Of course everything ends perfectly for the Barnums, an

This forms an intricate emotional tapestry that is one of the most beautiful aspects of the movie.

outcome bound to occur when Hollywood oversimplifies real life. Unlike reality, where people often lose sight of their dreams, spouses don’t always come running back into your arms, and trust doesn’t usually return within the snap and sparkle of a song, “The Greatest Showman” asks viewers to see what life could be like if it were closer to perfect.

Though there are flaws, “The Greatest Showman” is a compelling must-see. Prepare to be dazzled by the many beautiful songs, and don’t be surprised if you find yourself lost in a daydream. This is a movie that asks you to imagine a world where dreams do come true, and where those without a family can “come back home.” I hope you can join me in finding “The Greatest Showman” to be an inspiring cinematic masterpiece.

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Breakfast Omelet Muffins

Ann Hosler
Managing Editor

Mornings are rough, and making breakfast is a daunting task for those of us lacking motivation until later in the day. The base recipe will feed 3–4 people for up to five days.

Ingredients

- 1 lb Italian sausage or other meat (bacon, Canadian ham, etc)
- 1 cup green veggie (spinach, green onions, leeks, etc)
- 10 large eggs
- 1/4 cup milk (or substitute 1/2 cup creamy cheese, such as feta)
- 1/2 cup freshly grated cheese (if not using creamy cheese)
- salt & pepper to taste

Supersized Ingredients

I often make this to feed 5–6 people, and use this modified ingredient list:

- 1+ lb Italian sausage or bacon
- 14–15 large eggs
- 1/2 cup green onions or leeks (green parts only)
- 1/2 cup spinach
- 3/4 cup feta
- salt & pepper to taste

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350°F
2. Pre-cook any meat; break into tiny pieces/chunks
3. If using feta, crumble large chunks
4. Whisk together eggs, milk, cheese, meat, and greens
5. Season lightly with salt and pepper
6. Spray muffin tin with non-stick cooking spray
7. Spoon mixture into tin, about 3/4 full, distributing evenly
8. Bake for 25 minutes; let cool completely
9. Store in refrigerator inside airtight container or ziplock (add a paper towel to absorb moisture)

EVENTS CALENDAR

March 9th - March 23rd

Kelsey Pease
Staff Writer

Friday, March 9

10am: Spring Carnival at Crystal Mountain, featuring ski deals, a cardboard sled building workshop, and Cardboard Classic.

5:30 to 6:30pm: Voices student group meeting in Health & Science 100.

6 to 10pm: Volleyball sponsored by Ratio Christi in Physical Education 100.

7pm: “The Lion King on Ice” presented by the Traverse City Figure Skating Club at Centre Ice Arena.

7pm: “Legally Blonde: The Musical” performed at TC West Senior High School.

Saturday, March 10

10am to 2pm: Indoor Farmers Market at the Village at Grand Traverse Commons.

4:30pm: “The Lion King on Ice” presented by the Traverse City Figure Skating Club at Centre Ice Arena.

7pm: “Legally Blonde: The Musical” performed at TC West Senior High School.

7 to 10pm: TC Swing Club meeting in Physical Education 100.

Monday, March 12

5:30 to 6:30pm: Live Poets Society group meeting in the West Hall Conference Room.

Wednesday, March 14

All Day: Registration for Fall 2018 classes begins!!!

7:15 to 9pm: His House student group meeting in Osterlin 205.

8 to 11pm: Open Recreation/Student Volleyball in Physical Education 100.

9:30pm to Midnight: NMC iDance club meeting in Physical Education 120.

Thursday, March 15

Noon to 6pm: Monthly blood drive in West Hall.

6:30 to 8pm: Studio Dance student group meeting in Physical Education 120.

Friday, March 16

5:30 to 6:30pm: Voices student group meeting in Health & Science 100.

6 to 10pm: Volleyball sponsored by Ratio Christi in Physical Education 100.

7pm: Disney and Desserts at the TC Central High School auditorium.

Saturday, March 17

10am to 2pm: Indoor Farmers Market at the Village at Grand Traverse Commons.

2pm: Disney and Desserts at the TC Central High School auditorium.

7 to 10pm: TC Swing Club meeting in Physical Education 100.

Tuesday, March 20

7:30pm: TC Charity Joke Jam at the Grand Traverse Distillery tasting room to benefit the Cherryland Humane Society.

Wednesday, March 21

5:30 to 6:30pm: Live Poets Society group meeting in the West Hall Conference Room.

7:15 to 9pm: His House student group meeting in Osterlin 205.

8 to 11pm: Open Recreation/Student Volleyball in Physical Education 100.

9:30pm to Midnight: NMC iDance club meeting in Physical Education 120.

Thursday, March 22

6:30 to 8pm: Studio Dance student group meeting in Physical Education 120.

Friday, March 23

5:30 to 6:30pm: Voices student group meeting in Health & Science 100.

6 to 10pm: Volleyball sponsored by Ratio Christi in Physical Education 100.

Ongoing Events at the Dennon Museum Center

Through April 29: Lines of Light: Craig Tandy Monofilament Sculpture

Through May 6: Tutankhamun: “Wonderful Things” from the Pharaoh’s Tomb

FEATURE

Courting in College

Kelsey Pease Staff Writer When Paty Nuño stepped onto NMC’s campus for the first time last fall, she wasn’t sure what she’d find. A small-town girl and recent graduate of Suttons Bay High School, she was eager to start this next chapter of her life, but unsure where it would lead. Having been a four-sport athlete and involved in a variety of extracurriculars in high school, she wanted to get involved in student life in any way possible, but—like many other freshmen at NMC—she had little knowledge of what was available.



That was remedied by the annual fall Pine Palooza event, where she was encouraged to attend a recreational volleyball session. Once she showed up one Friday night, there was no going back.

“It was a lot more intense than I expected,” Nuño said. “When I think of open gym volleyball, I imagine average players basically playing ping-pong back and forth. This was a whole new game.”

That night, Nuño was invited to play on one of the NMC intramural teams. Later she joined two community teams and was on the court seven days a week.

Nuño’s story isn’t unusual, though. As a small community college, most students assume that activities like intramurals aren’t offered.

“There are a lot of things that we have to go without since we’re such a small school, but we take advantage of the facilities we have,” Ric Wireman said. Wireman is the current intramural sports supervisor and referee at NMC, although his connections to the college go beyond those of a professional capacity. He was a student at NMC in 1991, and has since then been affiliated with the college in some way for nearly two decades.

As a student, he appreciated the flexibility that accompanies intramurals. “When you’re younger, have a full-time job, and a heavy class load, it’s nice to be able to join but have a small time commitment.”



Although Nuño’s time commitment quickly became anything but “small,” she agrees it doesn’t take much participation to experience the benefits that intramural and recreational leagues offer. “You literally show up one day and you’ve made so many new friends,” Nuño said. “You’ll be walking around on campus, and even if they went to the gym just one day a while ago, you still recognize them and say hello.”

With students of so many ages and skill levels, one assumes it would be difficult to make teams fair yet still competitive. Wireman has found, though, that even if a student didn’t play a particular sport in high school, their athletic abilities eventually adapt to the change in pace, rules, and more.

Garrett Koss is a prime example of this. In high school, Koss played baseball and soccer, but at NMC is well-known for his intense spikes on the volleyball court. In Wireman’s opinion, Koss is the one that keeps the programs going each semester. “Our sports are player driven,” Wireman said. “You need a person like Garrett who’s out there actively recruiting students.”

For Koss, it’s always been about students feeling like they’re a part of campus life. “It gets you active and out of the dorms, and you get to have a good time with all kinds of different people,” Koss explained.

According to Wireman, the primary goal of intramural sports is to serve as many students as possible. In order to do so, he’s had to be creative. Some sports are offered as day-long activities, through events such as skills contests. In the past, there has been punting, passing, shooting, and kicking contests, as well as occasional softball and soccer games.

This year, NMC offered four intramural sports to students: flag football, volleyball, basketball, and dodgeball. Following the conclusion of the championship basketball game this month, dodgeball will begin.

In Wireman’s eyes, the benefits extend far beyond being active. “Intramurals give students a place to feel like they belong. I’ve seen kids drop out of college, show up here a few times, and turn their lives around. We have literally saved a few people.”

Open Recreation Hours

Sunday: 10am–Noon

Monday: Noon–2pm

Tuesday: 8–10pm

Wednesday: Noon–2pm

Thursday: 8–10pm

Friday: Noon–6pm

Saturday: Noon–4pm

**Clockwise from upper left:
Emily Greirson, Gabe Huffman,
Mitchell Laracey, Josh Smith**



Photos by Kelsey Pease