

# The North Wind

Northern Michigan University's Independent Student Newspaper Since 1972

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—Marquette Blues Festival —page 9

## Residence halls receive “green” certification

By Carson LeMahieu  
news editor

NMU can now claim to have the only dormitory renovations in the Midwest and two of eight across the entire United States to receive official certification that they are “green buildings.”

The recent renovations to Meyland Hall and Van Antwerp Hall have both achieved benchmarks set by the U.S. Green Building Council.

Meyland Hall received a “certified” rating and Van Antwerp Hall received a “silver” rating on the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating scale. The highest LEED rating available is a “platinum” rating.

Brandon Sager, the owner's representative and sustainability coordinator for NMU's engineering department, said that the certifications of the residence halls are a big step for Northern.

“I think that this is a new trend in the construction industry right now,” Sager said. “It's even more special because they are the first certified buildings in the Upper Peninsula.”

The certification is based on five criteria: sustainable site development, materials selection, water savings, energy efficiency, and indoor environmental quality. The standards were created to provide consistent, credible guidelines for what constitutes green building design, construction and operation.

To achieve the ratings for the renovations, NMU used recycled construction materials, installed low-flow toilets, shower heads and faucets, improved airspace and natural lighting and purchased furnishings that were made of environmentally farmed timber.

“It's a lot of little things,” Sager said. “They aren't things that most people would notice.”

Taking environmental stability into account when planning renovations to buildings is nothing new for Northern. NMU Director of Communica-

tions Cindy Paavola said that the university has looked for ways to improve the eco-friendliness of campus buildings.

“Northern, as a university has always been concerned about stability and energy efficiency,” Paavola said. “From the 1970s on we have always looked for ways that we can promote energy efficiency.”

Paavola said the green buildings will also help the university attract potential students who are concerned about the environment.

“We recruit a lot of students who are interested in the environment, and renovations such as these are attractive to them,” she said. “These students will look to NMU and see us making these changes and receiving the LEED certification and realize where our priorities are when it comes to the environment.”

ASNMU President Hobie Webster said he is proud to be a part of an institution which is taking steps to become environmentally friendly.

“I think it's a phenomenal thing for the university to step up and realize that we have a

duty to reduce our ecological footprint,” Webster said. “It's exciting to see this happen because Northern is not endowed with the billions of dollars that bigger Midwestern universities are, and yet here we are leading the way on green buildings.”

These two renovations are just the tip of the iceberg for LEED certified buildings at NMU. The university plans to seek certification for the remodeling that was done to Hunt Hall over the summer. These updates are expected to obtain a silver rating.

In addition, the university plans to follow LEED standards as they renovate buildings in the future.

“We're going to build every building on campus with LEED standards in mind,” Paavola said. “Before anyone picks up a hammer to begin work we are going to be looking at these standards and making sure we are doing everything we can to go green.”

**Northern, as a university, has always been concerned about stability and energy efficiency**

—Cindy Paavola  
NMU Director of Communications

## WNMU prepares to go digital

By Jaci Bjorne  
assistant news editor

NMU recently received a \$633,231 federal digital television grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development program which will help broadcasting students gain the experience necessary to start a career.

As of Feb. 17, 2009, all full-power television stations in the country will switch from analog broadcasting to digital. Any stations that do not have digital capabilities will not be permitted to continue broadcasting.

The Director of Broadcast and Audio Visual Services, Eric Smith, said he has been actively

working with the NMU grant writer, Andrew Smentkowski to apply for the award.

He said the grant was a very competitive one, and that any station from around the country could apply for it. He added that NMU was very fortunate to receive the amount of funding that we did.

“There were \$5 million in the pool of money to give away, and of that, \$633,000 came to NMU,” Smith said. “They awarded 19 projects in 18 states, and Northern was in the top 3 in terms of awards.”

Smith said that U.S. Rep. Bart Stupak is on the telecommunications sub-committee which oversees the digital conversion, and

he authorized the grant money that NMU received.

Smith said he envisioned what the new equipment could do for the students in the broadcasting program.

“We happen to have one of the best faculty in broadcasting in the Midwest,” he said. “Not many higher education institutions have the kind of sophisticated equipment (that NMU is receiving).”

He said that adding this new equipment to our already great staff will help students to graduate with a solid knowledge of the broadcasting business.

See *WNMU* • page 3



Jeff Kitson/NW

**TWISTA!!** Students play inflatable twister at Late Night at the PEIF. The alcohol-free event was presented by Greek Council. In addition to the inflatable fun, the night's events featured a dive-in movie, a game show spin-off of the hit “Deal or No Deal,” ice skating and video games.

## Northern names new dining services director

By Kyle Whitney  
editor in chief

After a search that spanned the better part of a year, Northern Michigan University hired Greg Minner as Dining Services Director. He officially assumed the duties on August 4.

Minner has two decades of experience in university food service and comes to NMU after more than 12 years in the Pennsylvania State University system, where he was the assistant general manager of housing and food services. He had traveled through the Marquette area with his family in the past, and even named his daughter after the city.

When he noticed the job posting online last spring, he began to look at the prospects.

“I had been up here for vacations and things like that,” he said. “I thought, ‘You know, this might be a nice opportunity to try something different.’”

Minner applied for the job soon after and now fills a position that had been officially vacant since last fall, when then-director Andre Mallie resigned after accepting a job in California. Arthur Gischia, associate vice president

for Business and Auxiliary Services, served as the interim Dining Services director while the university conducted an employment search.

After advertising nationally and receiving minimal interest during the fall, Gischia and NMU decided it would be best to wait for a larger pool of more qualified applicants. The position was re-advertised after the first of the year and received much more interest.

A committee-consisting of representatives from student government, dining services and conference and catering, as well as housing and residence life formed a short list of candidates. Four applicants were interviewed and three, including Minner, made campus visits.

During their visits, each individual was asked the same set of questions by the committee. Gischia said that no applicant knew the questions in advance and that the candidates were judged not only on their answers to the questions, but also on their reactions to the situation.

“Greg Minner's ability to

See *MINNER* • page 2

## BRIEFS

### NMU receives grant

NMU has received a \$220,000 federal grant for an exchange program to prepare U.S. and Brazilian students for highly skilled 21st century jobs requiring expertise in entrepreneurship, corporate social responsibility and sustainable economic development. The four-year grant will allow NMU to collaborate with Western Illinois University and two Brazilian institutions — Universidade Federal Rural da Amazonia and Universidade Federal de Lavras. Ray Amtmann, professor in the NMU College of Business, is the project director. “An exciting feature of the program is that it provides scholarships for our students’ study abroad and language immersion,” he said. “NMU students will learn Portuguese, develop international skills, work with international students in their classes, participate in internships and have a semester abroad in Brazil. This will place our graduates at a distinct advantage when they compete for jobs and it will help to develop the College of Business entrepreneurship program into one of the leading programs in the country.” Rep. Bart Stupak (D-MI) recently announced funding had been obtained for the program, which is jointly administered by the U.S. Department of Education’s Fund for the Improvement of Post-secondary Education and CAPES, the Brazilian Ministry of Education. About 20 students from the United States and 20 from Brazil (10 from each university) are expected to participate in the program.

— NMU News Bureau

### NMU students attend convention

Eight students recently secured internships and will attend the Republican and Democratic National Conventions. Six of the interns will be placed with news outlets covering the events and two will be with the Democratic National Committee. The selection processes for the NMU students began with political science professors David Haynes and Steve Nelson. They started by asking various professors and administrators for potential students who may be qualified. The students who were mentioned were required to write an essay on how these internships would benefit them both academically and professionally. Haynes noted that the students serving the internships remained non-partisan. “They didn’t go as an advocate for a candidate but for the experience itself,” he said. Haynes also expressed hope that the internships would serve as stepping stones to bigger and better things for the students. “These media internships will hopefully lead to other elite internships ... (and) lead to offers from other outlets this year and the following years,” Haynes said. At the Democratic Convention political science majors Anke Hildebrandt and Lauren Mattioli will intern with NBC News and Bloomberg News, respectively. Katie Cox, a media production and news technologies major, will work for Time Magazine and Time.com. Students who are serving with the Democratic National Committee are public administration major Danielle Stein and political science and pre-law major Chelsea Smit. The following political science majors have internships at the Republican National Convention: Darren Widder, Bloomberg News; Neil Passinaut, NBC News; and Keith Voorheis, Time Magazine and Time.com. Jason Morgan, a political science major, is also a delegate to the Democratic convention after he was chosen as an alternate last spring. The Democratic National Convention runs from August 25-28 in Denver, while the Republican National Convention will be held in St. Paul, Minn. from Sept. 1-4.

— Roy Buck

### Wong gives convocation

In his fall convocation address, NMU President Les Wong said it will take “one Q and three Rs”—quality, recruitment, retention and revenue production—for Northern to “stay on top of its game” and weather Michigan’s struggling economy. “I remain guarded and very concerned about the ability of the State of Michigan to deliver our appropriation as promised,” Wong said. “A 1 percent increase is moving in the right direction, but it does not cover escalating operational costs or provide any kind of tuition relief. The budget model approved by the NMU Board of Trustees for this year included \$1.8 million in cuts and reallocations needed to balance the budget. Our current appropriation is equivalent in dollars to 1998, but we’re serving one-third more students now. We’re concerned about access and affordability and we remain vigilant about preserving program quality while costs continue to rise.” Wong said enrollment has rebounded from last year’s first minor decline after a decade of growth. There is a projected 2.5 percent increase in first-time, full-time baccalaureate freshmen this fall.

— NMU News Bureau



Jeff Kitson/NW

**PINTS OF A DIFFERENT KIND** Senior art and design major Justin Coluzzi inquires about donating blood at the blood drive in the LRC on Wednesday afternoon. Seniors Nicole Weber, Krista Leidi and Jaime Engvall were running the sign in table when Coluzzi stopped by.

## DINING

Continued from page 1

react to that was what I felt made him stand out far above the other candidates,” Gischia said. “He is very low key, he listens well and he communicates very effectively. The students who were members of the committee were asking him questions and he, in turn, was asking them questions. I just thought that was such a unique trait.”

After the interview process was complete, the committee discussed the choices only briefly.

“Once we got through his interview they were unanimous in saying, ‘We think he’s the person for the job,’” Gischia said.

Minner will now need to become accustomed to always operating from a single campus. Penn State has 24 campuses spread throughout the state of Pennsylvania and he had to help coordinate operations on a large scale.

He figured he put on 10-20,000 miles per year traveling between satellite campuses and said that he often spent nights on the road.

That travel time was the major catalyst in Minner’s career change.

“Coming here offers an opportunity to be more personable and more opportunities to meet with people on a regular basis,” Minner said. “Looking at Penn State—they call it the 1,000-pound gorilla sometimes. Here, there is an opportunity to move faster on innovative ideas. In a smaller atmosphere, you’re closer to people you’re working with day-in and day-out.”

That willingness to move forward with innovative ideas carries over from Mallie’s time as director, when he oversaw the creation of Fiera’s and Temaki & Tea. Although he has held his new position for less than a month, Minner has already started to impart his own style on NMU, introducing new menus and re-working portions of the NMU dining experience.

Students can expect to hear more specifics about Minner’s plans in the future.

“Innovative ideas are great,

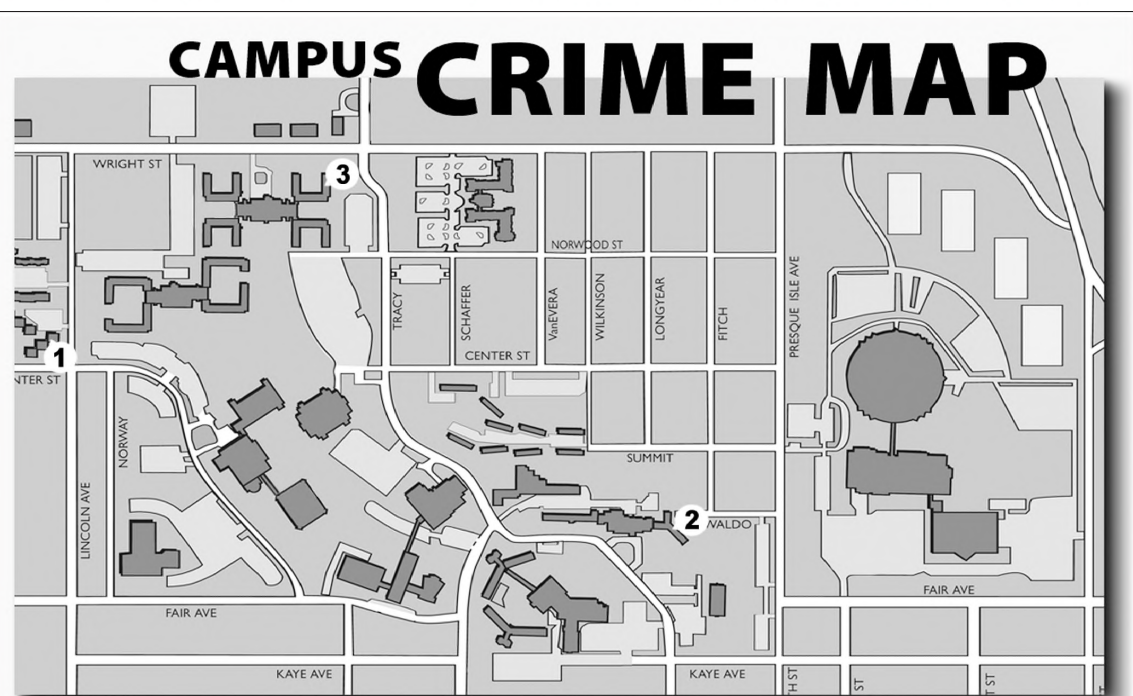
but I think you have to plan them out,” he said. “What we’re working on right now is a marketing calendar and how we will market to the students these ideas that we have.”

Even more important than innovation, however, Minner said that he wants to improve the product that the consumers receive at NMU.

“What I really want to focus on is the quality that we present to the customer and that we’re making sure the quality is there and that the quality is coming out,” he said.

And if during the coming semester anyone is looking for Minner, who spent Welcome Weekend on campus greeting both staff and students, it would be best to start the search somewhere other than his office.

“I probably spend the least amount of time in here as anywhere on campus,” he said. “And I just think it’s important that I’m out there—that people can see that I care about what’s going on with the food service and what’s going to happen in the future.”



#### Map Key:

1. On August 2, a domestic assault occurred at Lincoln Apartments. The case was closed by arrest.
2. On August 3, a rock was thrown into a window of Carey Hall. The case is still open.
3. On August 22, a bike was stolen from Meyland Hall. The case is still open.

WNMU

Continued from page 2

graduate with a solid knowledge of the broadcasting business.

"We're doing this in three phases. The first phase was to update our technical core, which is done," Smith said. "Phase two, which we're in now, updates our transmitter and our microwave system so we can get the digital signal from the studio out to the transmitter ... Phase three is what we just got the \$633,231 grant for, it upgrades our production facilities."

The upgraded facility and equipment makes it easier for students to get the kind of experience they would have in any quality television station, he added.

"This (equipment) is what gets them well-trained, there isn't going to be a station in the country that is going to be able to provide better training for students," Smith said. "You could pick NMU as your school for broadcasting and be assured that you're learning from high-quality faculty with a very well thought

out program and be working on some of the best equipment available in the industry."

To put some of the new developments into perspective, Smith described some of the memory capacity of the digital recording system.

"All of our recording is done on hard disks, we have 24 terabytes of capacity," he said. "A terabyte is 1000 gigabytes. If you think about the NMU computers, you have about 80 gigs of hard drive in it. So, one terabyte is equal to 10 of those laptop computers, and we have 24 terabytes."

Luis Gomez, grad. student majoring in public administration, said he has been a witness to the changing program for six years.

"It's great to see the transition, to know what it was like before and see what it's going to be like in the future," he said.

Gomez said he is confident that the practical experience he's gained at NMU will help him when the time comes to start a career.

"Without this (updating) pro-



Jeff Kitson/NW

Eric Smith, General Manager of WNMU checks out the monitors in the Audio Visual Lab. The lab will be remodeled this year due to a federal grant that the broadcasting department received.

cess I would have been completely unfamiliar with the digital program," he said. "We're up to the level where we can compete with not only other schools, but also other broadcasting stations,

we can produce tomorrows anchors, directors and producers.

"Other universities are not as advanced. Students don't get the privilege to say they've worked behind the scenes or in front of

the camera before they graduate, because they really don't have the resources to do it. This digital upgrade will do a lot for the station, and so much more for the students," he added.

## Study: Bush's approval rating linked to Iraq War deaths

By Erica Lee

UC-Davis

President Bush's low approval ratings may be more the result of personal experiences than of political beliefs, a recent University of California-Davis study suggests.

UCD political science professor Scott Gartner found that individuals who have experienced a personal loss in a conflict - such as the Iraq War or the 9/11 terrorist attack - are more likely to disapprove of their leader than those who have not.

"9/11 and the Iraq War represent highly personal events for those connected to the victims," Gartner said. "A social tie to a conflict's casualty transforms abstract costs into a vivid personal experience that increases the likelihood an individual disapproves of the President."

Gartner conducted his research by analyzing the results of two large public polls from 2001 and 2006 that surveyed whether an individual had ties to an Iraq War or 9/11 victim. The surveys also asked individuals about their party affiliation and whether they approved of the current administration.

In past studies, Gartner found a link between a nation's number of wartime casualties and the approval rating of its leader. Almost always, when the number of casualties spiked, the president's support level dropped accordingly.

"It is not just cumulative casualties that affect public opinion, but marginal casualties as well,"

said Kimberley Bellows, a senior international relations major who assisted Gartner in his research. "The number of casualties that occur within a certain time frame can be a strong determinant of how the people will react towards their leader."

Gartner's latest study sheds light on the often-ignored issue of an individual's personal wartime experience and the strong political effect it can have.

A Duke University study found that the likelihood of having social ties to a victim of international violence is surprisingly high. A 2005 Zogby International poll that found that "over a third of the nation's adults were personally impacted by the events of 9/11."

In light of these interconnections, personal losses and the emotional responses they elicit are not necessarily restricted to the individual level, but can operate on a much more widespread scale, according to Gartner's study.

The study also found that personal connection to a conflict often overrides party loyalty.

"Though partisanship is especially strong in the Iraq War, Republicans generated similar results as those [of other political affiliation]," Gartner said.

The pattern was also consistent across economic, cultural and social lines as well.

In addition, Gartner found that disapproval of a leader due to a personal loss does not necessarily go hand-in-hand with disapproval of the event itself.

For instance, those with con-

nections to victims of 9/11 and the Iraq War can simultaneously disapprove of the president and support military action against al-Qaeda.

"The key is to recognize the difference between blame for the initiation of an event versus blame for failed protection," Gartner said. "They don't necessarily belong to the same party. Blaming the President for failing to protect someone does not restrict vengeful feelings toward the perpetrators."

Gartner said it is still not known whether a personal connection to a wartime victim is strong enough to cause a change in one's political opinion.

For instance, he did not look at whether an individual who initially supported the president changed that sentiment after experiencing a personal loss as a result of the war.

Gartner said that his future work will involve tracking individuals' opinions over time, and it is a question he hopes to soon answer.

In the meantime, his current finding may change the way researchers view the formulation of public opinion.

"The effects of ties to those harmed in 9/11 and the Iraq War imply that individuals' interactions, and not just their personal characteristics, influence wartime political attitudes," Gartner said. "These results suggest that the distributions of opinions in the society are determined at least partially by the social structure in a society, not simply by the demographics of its members."

## Students meet parents' demands, still worry

By Stefanie Kuncman

University of Central Florida

University of Central Florida Psychologist Kimberly Renk said most students surpass their parents' expectations, yet still believe they are falling short.

Renk performed a study on parental expectations, which included 69 male and 105 female freshman and sophomore students. Also, 138 of their mothers and 92 of their fathers were questioned. They were asked about personal maturity, grades and dating.

According to a UCF News and Information article by Chad Binette, achieving a high GPA and finding an internship for job experience are common anxieties for students that can lower self-esteem and make the adjustment to college a difficult task.

Renk said college students' perceptions of what their parents expected differed from the parents' actual expectations. The mothers and fathers were in agreement on what they expected out of their children.

In many of the studies performed, the students were financially supported by their parents. Renk said all or at least part of their college expenses are taken care of.

Melissa Beer, a 21-year-old event management major said: "If my parents weren't the ones paying for my schooling, I wouldn't feel half as bad making a bad grade in a class. I feel more guilty because if I get a bad grade I am losing their money."

The students who believed the

were falling short of parents' expectations reported having more trouble adjusting to college.

Renk said the authoritative parenting style helps make the transition into college life easier for students. "Authoritative parenting describes parents who are warm and available to their children while also providing structure, predictability and limits for their children's behavior," Renk said.

The study bridged a link between how well college students communicate with their parents and how well they adjust to the change of atmosphere that college life provides. Renk said it may not be the actual communication that helps or harms adjustment, but the students perception of exchanged communication.

"I think my parents expect me to graduate on time, do well, and get a good job," Rosenthal said. "I think I'm on top of everything and their expectations are where they need to be."

"Many people still assume parenting ends when a child turns 18," Renk said in a UCF News and Information article. "But in our culture today, there is a longer extension of adolescence. Adulthood is starting later."

Renk said parents are more influential due to the increase in technology. Cell phones and iChat make it easier for students to feel a closeness with their parents even when they are thousands of miles away. This causes students to continue to rely on their parents, even while living alone.

# Search begins for new English head

By Jackie Stark  
managing editor

As a new semester begins NMU's English department will start its search for a new department head.

Dr. James Schiffer, department head for eight years, left his position at Northern over the summer to serve as the new dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences for State University of New York New Paltz University.

"It was a hard decision," Schiffer said. "I loved being at Northern. I loved the English department. But this was a good opportunity for me, a chance to try something new."

Schiffer's last official day as department head was July 31. As a result of his departure, a full departmental vote was conducted and Professor Ray Ventre was voted in as the interim department head.

"I'm holding down the fort until we decide what we're going to do," he said.

Since Schiffer left during the summer, the department had to wait until the semester began to decide on a procedure for finding a replacement, Ventre said.

"Over the summer, it would have been inappropriate to decide what we were going to do without faculty input, since a lot of people were away," he added.

A ballot, which will decide



SCHIFFER

**I loved being at Northern. I loved the English Department. But this was a good opportunity for me, a chance to try something new.**

—Jim Schiffer  
former English Department Head

whether the department wants to conduct an internal or external search for a new head, was submitted Wednesday, Aug. 27, to all English faculty members.

The results of these ballots will be known next week, and will be communicated to the

Terry Seethoff, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. If the dean and the department agree on which type of search to conduct, the department will begin looking for a replacement, Ventre said.

Since it is still just the beginning of the semester, the process will take some time, Seethoff said.

"We're still in the very very

year.

An internal search, however, could take anywhere from a few weeks to a few months, Ventre said.

"An internal search is much more convenient. It could be over before the end of the semester," he added.

Schiffer, who was hired as the head of the English department eight years ago, was found through an external search.

Professor Robert Whalen said there are also many benefits to conducting an external search for a new department head, including providing the widest possible pool of candidates for the position.

"An internal search alone would have a much narrower pool of candidates from which to choose, which isn't to say that we don't have some very fine and highly qualified internal candidates, Whalen said."

"Indeed, we do. I just think the selection of a department head is a very important decision with respect to the future of the

department, and that a rich pool of candidates from within and without will maximize our options, he added."

Once the search is conducted, and qualified applicants are found, the department will submit one or more of the applicants to Seethoff, who will in turn discuss each applicant with Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Susan Koch.

If those recommendations are approved, Provost Vice President will then recommend a candidate to the President of the University.

Ventre said that though both types of searches have been conducted inside the university in the past year, it is still not an easy process.

"We have a lot of new faculty, and some of them are looking at this with nice, rosy-red glasses," Ventre said. "The rest of us had to do this before, and it was a little painful."

"Right now, my goal is to keep us going in a positive direction for everyone involved," he added.



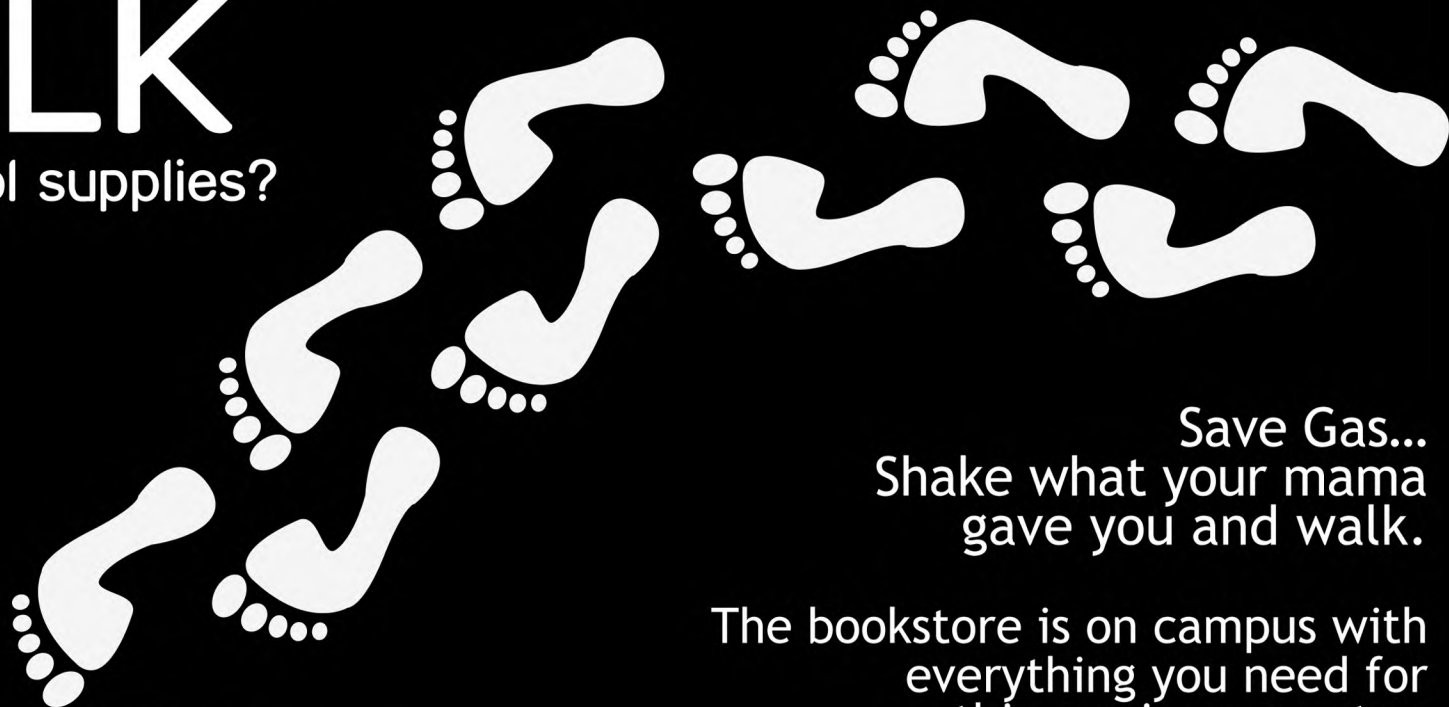
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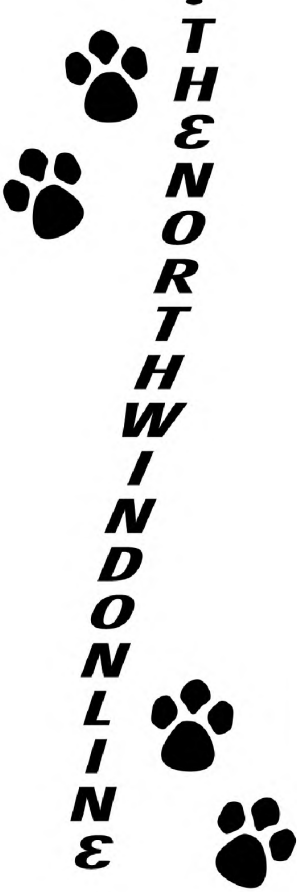
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**LABOR DAY WEEKEND!**

Mineapolis-based band Pretty in Pink (the Melismatics' alter-ego) pays tribute to that unforgettable decade with a night of great 80s classics!

**Labor Day Weekend!**



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a staggeringly good Belgian Tripple Pale Ale

**Staff Editorial**

**Green steps for NMU**

Over the last two years, a pair of Northern Michigan University residence halls, Meyland and Van Antwerp, were remodeled with sustainability in mind. As such, those two buildings are now the first in the Upper Peninsula to achieve benchmarks set by the U.S. Green Building Council.

Through the council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system, Meyland received a "certified" status, while Van Antwerp received a "silver."

The ratings, which range from "certified" to "platinum," are based on five criteria of sustainable construction and use.

The North Wind would like to congratulate the university on this achievement, as it is a positive move for all involved.

Today — when "green" is the new buzzword — few things carry more weight than environmentally friendly policies. In a time when Al Gore can win a Nobel Peace Prize for raising awareness about global warming, and two presidential hopefuls add words such as "eco-friendly" to their everyday language, Northern is publicly putting itself on the forefront of the green movement.

During this time of falling budgets and slipping enrollment — as well as rising tuition — this is one of the best things that NMU could have possibly done to further its reputation as an eco-friendly university. Not only is the designation important from an environmental standpoint, but it could do wonders to expand the Northern brand.

In taking steps to become a more environmentally conscious university, Northern will be able to attract more students from across the country who wish to earn a college degree without leaving a substantial carbon footprint. The title of "environmentally friendly" will allow NMU to aggressively market itself as a green university in a time when few exist.

And though this new certification will hopefully lead to more eco-conscious students attending Northern, it's also important for NMU's current student body to continue to embrace sustainable policies, both on-campus and off.

The trends in today's world tend to lean toward eco-friendly practices. Tote bags that proudly state "I am not a plastic bag," hybrid cars and energy-efficient appliances are all becoming more socially acceptable, and less grounded in political ideology.

As Northern follows these trends, and begins to set a few of its own, The North Wind encourages NMU's student body to follow eco-friendly practices, and continue to help truly make Northern a sustainable university.



**Dems doing best to push voters to GOP**

By Chase Cooper  
Indiana Daily Student

I hoped. I believed. Barack Obama let me down.

Earlier this summer I donated \$5.80 to Obama's campaign. Those of you who have had the pleasure of reading my columns in the past may wonder why I, a committed conservative Republican, would do such a thing. The reason is that the campaign was giving anyone who donated at least \$5 a chance to win a trip to the Democratic National Convention in Denver to meet Obama and watch his Thursday night speech in person.

Oh, how I would have loved to have been in attendance at the convention, an undercover agent of the vast right-wing conspiracy, covertly spreading mischief and reporting back to you, my beloved readers, everything I encountered. I figured five bucks probably wouldn't swing the election, so I made an online contribution. I donated an extra 80 cents, signifying Ronald Reagan's 1980 electoral victory. That way, if anyone ever found out about the donation, I could point to that 80 cents to prove that I gave in hopes of attending the DNC, not out of any love for Obama but for all my hoping and believing, I wasn't chosen.

So I had to be content watching the convention online Monday night. It actually wasn't so bad, at least I didn't have to smell the protesters. Imagine, for about a week, hundreds of far-left wannabe hippies were protesting the Democrats for being too centrist, trying to "Recreate '68." You know these people can't smell good.

Speaking of which, did you hear that Denver decided to limit marijuana enforcement for the convention? They must've known that trying to keep the country's assembled Democrats and their far-left agitators away from pot for four days would be a losing battle. Trying to prevent marijuana use during the DNC is like trying to prevent geeks from attending a Star Wars convention — it just isn't going to happen.

The convention itself was pretty bland, as conventions tend to be. Nancy Pelosi gave a yawning pep talk, taking a break from her recent role of trying to build party unity by bringing Hillary Clinton supporters under control. In an ABC News interview on Sunday, Pelosi encouraged Clinton's female supporters to "get away from the politics of victim." Fine advice, but without "the politics of victim" there would be no Democratic Party. Pelosi might as well have asked Clinton's supporters to avoid tax

increases and abortions.

Jimmy Carter appeared on stage but didn't say anything — an uncharacteristically wise move on the Democrats' part. Ted Kennedy gave a surprise speech, looking very well, considering his frail health.

Michelle Obama spent much of her 17 minutes at center stage trying to convince her listeners that she loves America. Some of her statements so far this campaign season — including her confession that she felt proud of her country for the first time in her adult life after her husband became a major contender for president — have led many reasonable observers to wonder what she really thinks about her country.

So can the Democratic leadership inside the convention and the nutty protesters outside remind the country to vote Republican this November? Yes, they can.

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# Political text messages unnecessary



## For What It's Worth

Claire Abent

The last time a Democratic presidential nominee announced his running mate, it was done at a morning rally in Pennsylvania. This time around, Barack Obama announced his pick, Joe Biden, to 2.9 million cell phone users via text message at 3 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 23.

I cannot help but feel that using text messaging to make a monumental announcement is both unnecessary and alienating at the same time. If Obama is trying only to speak to a younger audience, then he is achieving his goal. Technology is a great unifier for the people of my generation. And yes, the pool of people who regularly text message increases all the time. It is not only the youngest voters, such as college students, but even professionals who are using text messaging more frequently. More and more people have phones with full keyboards, making messaging much easier, even for those who have a hard time comprehending technology.

But by relying partly on newer technologies Obama is missing out on many voters, especially those over age 40. Those same voters might be more inclined to vote for someone they deem more traditional, such as Republican presidential candidate John McCain. Furthermore, those independent voters who are on the fence, are not likely to be swayed by the perceivably more efficient use of technology. Although this act alone will not make or break the election for Obama, the continued use of such tactics may discourage a lot more voters from leaning his way. Currently there is no clear leader in the presidential election and Obama really cannot afford to make many mistakes.

The forced implementation of technology into politics does not sit well with me, regardless of the candidate or political party. Furthermore, flaws quickly appeared with Obama's plan. Before the announcement was supposed to appear, it had already been leaked by both the New York Times and the Associated Press. The fact that the text went out at 3 a.m., five hours before it was supposed to, makes me wonder exactly how many Obama supporters were awake to receive it. My guess is that only diehard political fans would hold off sleep just to discover the Democratic

vice presidential candidate.

Along with the text message announcing the choice of Joe Biden, e-mails were sent to those Obama supporters who signed up for alerts, including myself. The email naming Biden reached my inbox at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday. And even those were sent out before a rally was held later than afternoon.

Obama is not the only candidate who has utilized the text message approach over the course of the 2008 presidential campaign. Both Hilary Rodham Clinton and Mitt Romney used similar programs, though not as

extensively as Obama.

Personally, text messaging is not my first choice for communicating with anyone. I am not one of those people who are glued to the keypad of my cell phone all day long. I do text from time to time, but I find its utility much less than that of an actual phone call.

Not to mention, it takes me forever to plug out an entire thought to someone and it racks up my cell phone bill. But I know plenty of people who text a lot more than they call.

All that being said, I still do not understand the need to

use technology so extensively, especially banking on text messaging to reveal a vice presidential candidate to the American public. I see nothing wrong with a simple rally or press conference, just like in the old days.

It is possible to still be a liberal and forward thinking candidate without resorting to a communication medium frequented by teenagers and college kids.

I can only hope that if Obama wins the presidential election, we don't have to expect to find out on our cell phones.



Andrew McCanna/NW

# Smoking ban won't solve problems



## Guest Column

Chris Paulus

I am a non-smoker. The threat of poor health and performance, lung cancer, steak lungs and wrinkles is enough to convince me that I don't need to smoke. It doesn't do anything for me. But I'm sure it does wonders for others. Unlike those who support a proposed smoking ban, my perspective on rights extends beyond self-interest.

Here's the way I understand the smoking ban: If the campus-wide smoking ban is implement-

ed, no one will be able to smoke anywhere on campus, not even in parking lots or vehicles. As far as I know, the fine for this terrible, sacrilegious offense hasn't been released yet. Different variations of the ban have been proposed, such as allowing people to smoke in their cars, or building hot boxes around campus.

The idea of building hot boxes kind of defeats the purpose of having the ban, because the smoke will be released into the precious U.P. air anyway. But at least we'll have disgusting hot boxes to stare at around campus. And hey, since we're being fiscally frivolous, let's finish renovating the dorms and put air conditioning in them, while we're at it.

Before we reach the moral

reasons to reject the smoking ban, let's examine the practical: How will this be enforced? Well, I guess one can say that Public Safety has already done a great job enforcing the 30 foot distance rule, so how hard could it be to enforce non-smoking on an entire campus? Do people really think that college kids won't smoke simply because it's banned? Is Public Safety really going to be pulling people over and issuing tickets for smoking a completely legal drug in the privacy of their own car, while there are those smoking illegal drugs?

Unfortunately, Public Safety is not around all the time to protect non-smokers' lungs from cigarette smoke. Non-smokers tend to exaggerate with their complaints

about cigarette smoke. If the cigarette smoke bothers a non-smoker, it is his or her responsibility to deal with the problem, not the responsibility of the university or Public Safety. A non-smoker may think they shouldn't have to slow down or walk faster to avoid a smoker, but here's the deal: Everyone can choose to smoke or not. Non-smoker's rights are already protected by the fact that smokers can't smoke inside anymore.

Is this drug legal or not? Everywhere around the country, even in Michigan, cities and towns are proudly banning smoking. It's quite the double standard: You can buy cigarettes anytime you want, but you're only allowed to smoke them at certain times

in certain places. Rights aren't rights unless complete freedom is guaranteed. How can we even begin to call ourselves a free nation when every citizen isn't guaranteed their rights? People have to remember that rights have a left side too, and it often goes unnoticed. It's ridiculous that to some people this smoking ban is considered a progressive step. The only thing progressive about it is how it gets closer to the reduction of our rights.

I love to say it, but banning smoking won't solve any problems. The truth is, regardless of whether or not this smoking ban is passed, teenagers are still going to smoke, people are still going to die of lung cancer, and the earth will still revolve around the sun.

## Sound Off

What is the best part about starting school?

Compiled by Eric Hampton



**Patric Woodard**  
senior, public relations

"Getting back to my extensive list of 'extra-curricular activities.'"



**Heather Blackburn**  
freshman, psychology

"All of my new and exciting classes, and meeting new friends."



**Jenna Flatt**  
senior, computer information systems

"The chaos at Wal-Mart."



**Bobby Mantz**  
junior, construction management

"Just being back in Marquette."



**Jessica Boettcher**  
senior, electronic journalism

"Seeing everyone again and shredding Marquette gnar."

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## An American Art Form

### Festival gives Marquette the blues



**By Josh Snyder**  
features editor

To Lorrie Hayes, lead vocalist of the Flat Broke Blues Band, the blues is more than just another genre of music, it embodies something much bigger, something that all Americans can relate to.

"It's a true American art form," Hayes said. "If you get into the history of the blues, you get into the history of America."

Now, Hayes has been given a rare opportunity — to perform in front of a hometown crowd and give others a chance to become inspired by the blues the same way she was some 25 years ago.

That opportunity is the Fifth Annual Marquette Area Blues Festival. Hayes, along with other blues heavy-hitters such as Tab Benoit and Watermelon Slim and the Workers, will take the stage August 30 and 31 at Mattson Lower Harbor Park. The event is being put together by the Marquette Area Blues Society (MABS), a group started by local musicians to raise awareness for the blues in the U.P.

April Lindala, who serves as both the director of Native American studies at NMU and promotions chair for MABS, said it was her love of the blues and her passion for putting together events that gave her the opportunity to put on a show such as the one in Marquette.

"In 2003, my husband and a friend of ours were watching the Fourth of July fireworks at the International Food Fest," Lindala said. "The number of people (at Mattson Park) was amazing. It just seemed like the perfect spot for a music fest. One of [my friends] said out loud something like 'This town is ripe for a blues fest.'"

Shortly thereafter, Lindala and some of her closest friends put together MABS. Currently, the organization has 160 paid members from all across the U.P. The annual Blues Festival is the group's largest event, bringing in nearly 2,000 blues lovers to the area each year.

Lindala said that part of their goal was to help raise awareness of the blues, and pass this American treasure on down to younger generations.

"The feedback has been rewarding," Lindala said. "I am constantly approached by folks I don't even know who thank me and our society for putting this together. I believe the community really appreciates another event like this in town."

In recent years, the fes-

increasing.

"Year after year the lineup gets stronger and stronger," she said. "Both of these headliners are award-winning musicians/performers in the blues world, but they will appeal to everyone in attendance."

Despite the stereotype that the blues attracts a more mature audience, Lindala said that, as the festival grows in size, she sees more NMU students attending and getting involved, both as attendees and participants in the festival.

"(The) students that I have spoken with have a blast. It's a good time. These artists might be unknowns to the general public, but by the end of the weekend, the audience wants a photo and CD of main stage performers."

Other than a solid line-up of musicians, there are plenty of other activities at the festival. There will be a silent auction, as well as plenty of food vendors and various workshops. The Delta Jets will be hosting a guitar workshop, which will take place between acts later in the evening.

Senior Nursing major and vice president of NMU's Swing Club Katie Goodfellow will be leading a dance workshop at the festival. The workshops will last approximately 30 minutes and will be held once per day. Goodfellow said they'll be teaching an East Coast Swing that she hopes will get people up and moving.

"We're going to teach some basic stuff," Goodfellow said. "People can actually do [East Coast Swing] on the dance floor (at the festival)."

If you want to take a more active role, MABS allows both individual students and groups to volunteer at the festival. Lindala said that those who volunteer can receive a 2008 blues fest t-shirt after one shift and up to \$40 for

tival has begun attracting more nationally recognized artists. Saturday night headliner Tab Benoit was given the 2008 Contemporary Blues Artist of the Year Award at the Blues Music Awards. Watermelon Slim and the Workers, Sunday night's headliner, has been nominated for 12 Blues Music Awards in the last two years and was named the Blues Band of the Year at this year's award show. Lindala said that the festival attracting such renowned artists is a sign that popularity is



**Above:** Artist Lorrie Hayes plays before last year's crowd at the Blues Festival and Mattson Lower Harbor Park. The Flat Broke Blues Band will be playing this year's festival on Sunday (photo courtesy of April Lindala). **Right:** Contemporary Blues Artist of the Year Tab Benoit will perform Saturday night (photo courtesy of [www.tabbenoit.com](http://www.tabbenoit.com)). **Left:** Blues Band of the Year Watermelon Slim will headline the festival Sunday night (photo courtesy of [www.watermelonslim.com](http://www.watermelonslim.com)).

two shifts. She added that those interested should come down to Mattson Lower Harbor Park Friday at 6 p.m.

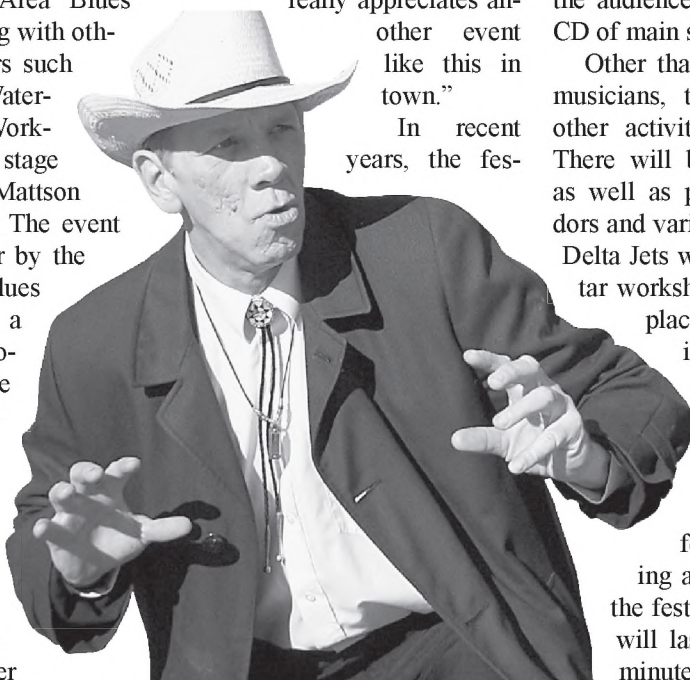
With a dedicated team feverishly working behind the scenes for both the artists and the fans, this year's festival promises to be better than ever. The idea that both local and national acts get to share the stage gets Lorrie Hayes excited for this event.

"Everything we do, we always bring 110 percent," Hayes said. "(But) there is some extra emphasis on this festival."

"What they (MABS) do backstage is class A," she added. "They're passionate about what it is they're doing."

The price of admission is \$25 per day, or \$40 for the weekend. However, NMU students that purchase their tickets in advance at the Superior Dome can do so for \$10 per day. Lindala said that the tickets must be purchased at the Dome by Friday, Aug. 29 in order to receive the discount.

To learn more about the festival, visit [www.marquetteareabluesociety.com](http://www.marquetteareabluesociety.com).



# Residence Halls:

## Helpful hints for living in the dorms.

By Sarah Hawkins  
Contributing Writer

## RULES

and expectations for living in the dorms are generally the same for all the halls, but there are a few exceptions for students living in Payne or Van Antwerp.

Van Antwerp is considered the wellness hall, and for years, one of its houses was chemical free. The Boulevard was a house designed for students who had made a commitment to stay away from alcohol, tobacco and drugs. Anyone living there was not supposed to use substances whether they were on or off campus.

In recent years, however, interest for living in a chemical free house has declined, so The Boulevard House has become like most other

houses on campus. Its RA, Zak Christie, and some of the other returning residents still want to try and keep the chemical free vibe.

"We want to keep this a safe haven for those who don't want to go out every weekend," Christie says. But at the same time, he doesn't want the students who do go out to feel out of place."

While there's no longer a chemical free house on campus, there are still other places that provide a similar atmosphere. The academic houses in Van Antwerp's American Graffiti and Payne's Breakwater are ideal for honor students and athletes. Students can request to be in an academic house, but they must

have a minimum GPA of 2.75 to get in.

Breakwater and American Graffiti are the only houses that require a minimum GPA, and it shows in the residents. Breakwater's RA, Jessica Walk, says she has a lot of pre-med majors, cross country girls and hockey players in her house this year. The academic houses allow for a better study environment, while Payne's 7p.m. to noon quiet hours help some students get a good night's sleep.

"It's nice for students who need to get up early," Walk says.

Academic halls are options on the resident hall application under Payne and Van Antwerp.

## Unconventional Cooking

A college dorm room may seem like an unlikely place to find culinary creativity, but for students it can be a convenient alternative to fast food when the cafeteria loses its appeal.

At Northern, the first step to cooking in your dorm is making sure what you're using is approved. For safety reasons, some common kitchen appliances are banned from the students rooms in an effort to prevent fires.

According to the student hand book, open element popcorn poppers, hot plates, indoor grills and anything else that uses an external heat source are banned from the dorms. But there are other appliances that are dorm friendly and easy to cook with. Microwaves are the most common on campus, but they're not the only means of cooking.

One handy device is a hot pot. It's commonly used for making hot chocolate,

tea or coffee, but can also be used for soups. Former NMU student Sarah Geiger found other uses for it as well, such as making pasta.

The heat source on the hot pot is completely encased in the bottom of the pot, making it safe for the dorms and easy to cook in.

"[It's] like cooking pasta on the stove," Geiger says. She just boils enough water to keep the noodles from burning, adds the pasta and wait until it's tender. Once it's done, she dumps the noodles and water into a strainer at the same time to prevent the pasta from sticking. Add some olive oil to taste, and the meal is done, Geiger says.

For clean up, she recommends boiling some extra water in the pot once the noodles are done, to loosen up the starch. Pour the remaining water out once it's done boiling, wipe it out and it's good for another use.

There are more uses for

a hot pot than just soups and pasta though. Junior psychology major Nicole Stumpf found a way to make breakfast in her hot pot when she lived in Spalding Hall.

"I hard boiled an egg," Stumpf said. The key to making a good hardboiled egg is to put the egg in the water before turning the pot on. It'll cook the egg better and keep it from cracking.

She also uses it to make Ramen Noodles, heat up soups, and even tried to make macaroni and cheese in it. The hot pot has proven to be a good tool for cooking, but Stumpf has other means of making food as well.

She's able to make grilled cheese sandwiches in her room using a sandwich grill. It may seem that these would be banned along with others, such as the George Foreman Grill, but, as Woodland CA and former RA Paul Green Points out, it

## How to cook some of your favorite foods in your dorm room.

has one significant difference.

"You can have anything that closes all the way," Green said. "You can't have a George Foreman because it doesn't close all the way."

This allows for other appliances as well. "We make waffles in the T.V. room," Stumpf said.

This is not only a way to avoid cafeteria food for a meal, but also helps students bond with members of their houses. Stumpf has fond memories of her RA making waffles for the house on weekend mornings.

Green has also had residents who have mini outdoor grills and camp stoves in their dorms. The stipulation with these is that you have to use them outside, and you can't store the camp stoves' propane tank in your room. The best place to keep the tanks is in your car.

During the warm months, the mini outdoor grill is great for cooking steaks, burgers, and hot dogs, but you can also grill up corn on the cob or shish kabobs. However, be sure to clean up properly after cooking. You should never put hot coals in the trash containers. Wait until the coals are completely cool before disposing of them.

Camp stoves are more convenient when it comes to clean up, but the meals are considerably smaller. If you're only feeding a small number of people, the camp stove could be great for individual sized meals.

Some of these methods of cooking may seem like a hassle when the cafeteria or a microwave would be more convenient, but Stumpf says it's worth it.

"It's better than having to use the microwave. It's almost like you're not eating dorm food."

### DO's and DON'Ts

Dorm life can be a great way to meet new people and create lasting memories, but there are a few things to remember to avoid fines and to get the most out of the college experience.



FOOD	MIN.
------	------

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| Personalize your room. Bunking beds creates more space, and posters can add a personal touch.....                                       | DO    |
| Purchase a parking pass and know where on campus you can park.....  | DO    |
| Consider having overnight guests, but try to register them at least one day in advance, and remember, they're your responsibility.....  | DO    |
| Smoke within 30 feet of the buildings.....  | DON'T |
| Park in lots other than the ones you're assigned to. If public safety sees your car parked in the wrong lot, you will get a ticket..... | DON'T |
| Bring clip on lamps to the dorms with you. These can be a fire hazard.....  | DON'T |

# 'Thunder' not a roaring success



Film: Tropic Thunder

Director: Ben Stiller

Producer: Stuart Cornfeld, Eric McLeod, Ben Stiller

Writer: Ben Stiller, Justin Theroux, Etan Cohen

Starring: Ben Stiller, Robert Downey Jr., Jack Black

Runtime: 107 minutes

Rating: R



By Josh Snyder

features editor

The word "ridiculous" is often used to describe great comedies. Anyone who's ever seen "Anchorman's" epic fight scene can attest to this.

But a comedy also needs strong jokes to reinforce the sheer amounts of ridiculousness to truly succeed, which is where comedian/director Ben Stiller's latest, "Tropic Thunder," stumbles. The movie is filled with plenty of absurd, eye-rolling moments, but with simple, inside-Hollywood jokes that don't push any boundaries, it feels like a rental and not a must-see.

The film centers around three egotistical actors — action star Tugg Speedman (Stiller), comedian Jeff Portnoy (Jack Black) and award-winner Kirk Lazarus (Robert Downey Jr.) — as they struggle to make a Vietnam-based war film. But with rookie director Damien Cockburn (Steve Coogan) at the helm, production doesn't go smoothly. Cockburn can't keep the actors in line, and in an attempt to break them of their pampered lives, takes the entire cast into the jungle with Vietnam veteran Four Leaf Tayback (Nick Nolte), to film the movie guerilla-style. Once they're in the jungle they are discovered by a group of armed rebels who mistake them as American invaders, and the cast's foray into the jungle quickly turns from acting to a struggle

for survival.

"Thunder" is a movie that's all about its characters. Each of the three main actors plays their stereotypical roles well. Of course, the controversial Lazarus, an obvious parody of infamous method actor Russell Crowe, steals the show, and will easily be the one aspect of the film that people will remember. Stiller's portrayal of Stallone-inspired action hero Speedman is good enough to share the screen with Downey, and their interplay is often very entertaining. Sadly, Portnoy is underused, a considerable problem since Black's character is often the source of the more traditional jokes.

This ultimately leads into "Thunder's" major problem: there just aren't enough jokes, and those that are there are simple and run-of-the-mill. Sure, there are moments where you'll laugh, but most of the time you'll find yourself chuckling instead of belting out a gut buster. For a film that really takes a risk by having one of the lead actors in blackface, the jokes are often safe and, with the exception of some f-bombs, very tame.

What "Thunder" does have is some of the most ridiculous moments in any comedy released this year. But in a movie that exposes some of his inexperience behind the camera, Stiller focuses more on these moments, which include

a gun-wielding rebel dressed as a woman along with a kid who runs a large heroin ring, than he does the actual comedy. Although some of these scenes can be funny, there is very little substance to them, and they sometimes feel like filler. Worst of all, you can see all of them in the R-rated trailer on YouTube.

These more ridiculous moments tend to have one thing in common — they all heavily mock Hollywood. This gives "Thunder" an "Ocean's" sequel feel — they're films made by actors, for actors. There are a lot of scenes that feel like inside jokes to the Hollywood crowd, which are sort of amusing, but not too entertaining to viewers who are not involved in the movie business. This dis-

connect can oftentimes be jarring, especially when you can't relate to the characters that are often meant to be the centerpiece of the film. In a way, it's interesting to see actors critiquing their own industry, but it really doesn't give the viewer anything substantial to relate to.

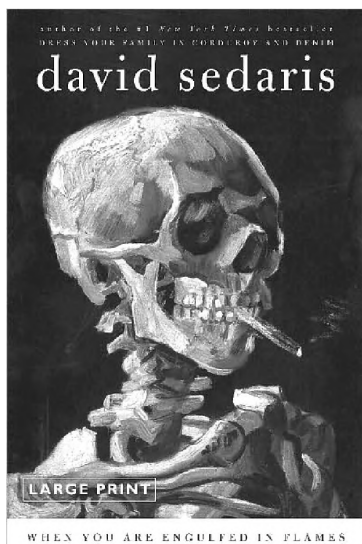
And that sums up "Tropic Thunder" perfectly. It's more interesting in its mockery than in its humor. Although it does offer some laughs, it's more an analytical look into a world that the overwhelming majority will never know. Technically, it succeeds at this, but that's not what it fundamentally sets out to do. As a comedy, it only makes us laugh so much, and most of its humor just doesn't matter.



Photo from Yahoo! Movies

Tugg Speedman (Stiller) and Kirk Lazarus (Downey) share an intimate moment on the battlefield in the mediocre comedy "Tropic Thunder."

## Sedaris' latest memoir goes down in 'Flames'



By Scott Viau

contributing writer

After five books of personal essays chronicling his life and family, David Sedaris seems to have finally run out of usable material. His latest, "When You Are Engulfed in Flames," does provide a few genuine laughs, although they come at a slower pace.

"Flames" involves his life in France with his boyfriend, Hugh, although the setting takes a de-

tour when David goes to Tokyo for three months. In addition, we are treated to essays featuring a leg infested with parasitic worms and David's desperate search for a human skeleton, which he feels would add to the décor of his home.

I happen to be more of a fan of his sister, Amy, than of David, so whenever a story involves her, my interest is piqued. She doesn't have as much time on the page as in previous books (especially in Sedaris' "Naked" where she bought a fat suit and wore it around watching everyone's reaction to how much "weight" she had gained) and is mainly a side note in this volume. She serves as a sidekick to David, giving him glib advice on items to purchase. Whether he is looking for shoes or a piece of taxidermy, her typical response is "Buy it, you'll feel better."

In the last essay, "The Smoking Section," Sedaris visits Tokyo for three months in an attempt to quit smoking. This essay contains the inspiration for the book's title. Being a smoker myself, I found this to be the most humorous story, although the comedy of someone trying to break the habit might be

lost on non-smokers. The most amusing aspect was when David was just beginning to smoke and his mother would buy him a carton of cigarettes as a present. I have also received cigarettes as a present, and it is always appreciated.

Aside from the few notable stories mentioned, there is really nothing here to get too excited about, although I did find his essay regarding his burgeoning homosexuality to be interesting. Sedaris goes through the typical gamut one might expect a novice to write about, not an author as critically acclaimed as Sedaris. He writes about crazy neighbors he had come to develop an affinity for and mice that burned down a house. These stories do have entertaining parts, but it's just not enough for me to fully recommend this book.

I feel those looking for the off-the-wall antics of the Sedaris family will be somewhat disappointed. By no means does that make this a bad book, it is just one I'm not altogether interested in. Mr. Sedaris' eye for catching the minutiae of everyday life seems to be as sharp as ever, he's just become involved in duller situations.



Radio X's  
top weekly  
album plays:

1. VARIOUS ARTISTS "Warped Tour 2008 Compilation"
2. SIGUR RÓS "Med Sud I Eyrum Vid Spilum Endalaust"
3. WEEZER "Red Album"
4. COLDPLAY "Viva La Vida"
5. N.E.R.D. "Seeing Sounds"
6. FLEET FOXES "Fleet Foxes"
7. MY MORNING JACKET "Evil Urges"
8. THE FRATELLIS "Here We Stand"
9. THE OFFSPRING "Rise and Fall, Rage and Grace"
10. JACK JOHNSON "Hope" (Single)



Week's top  
box office  
films:

- |                              |         |
|------------------------------|---------|
| 1. Tropic Thunder            | \$16.1M |
| 2. The House Bunny           | \$15.1M |
| 3. Death Race                | \$12.3M |
| 4. The Dark Knight           | \$10.3M |
| 5. Star Wars: The Clone Wars | \$5.6M  |

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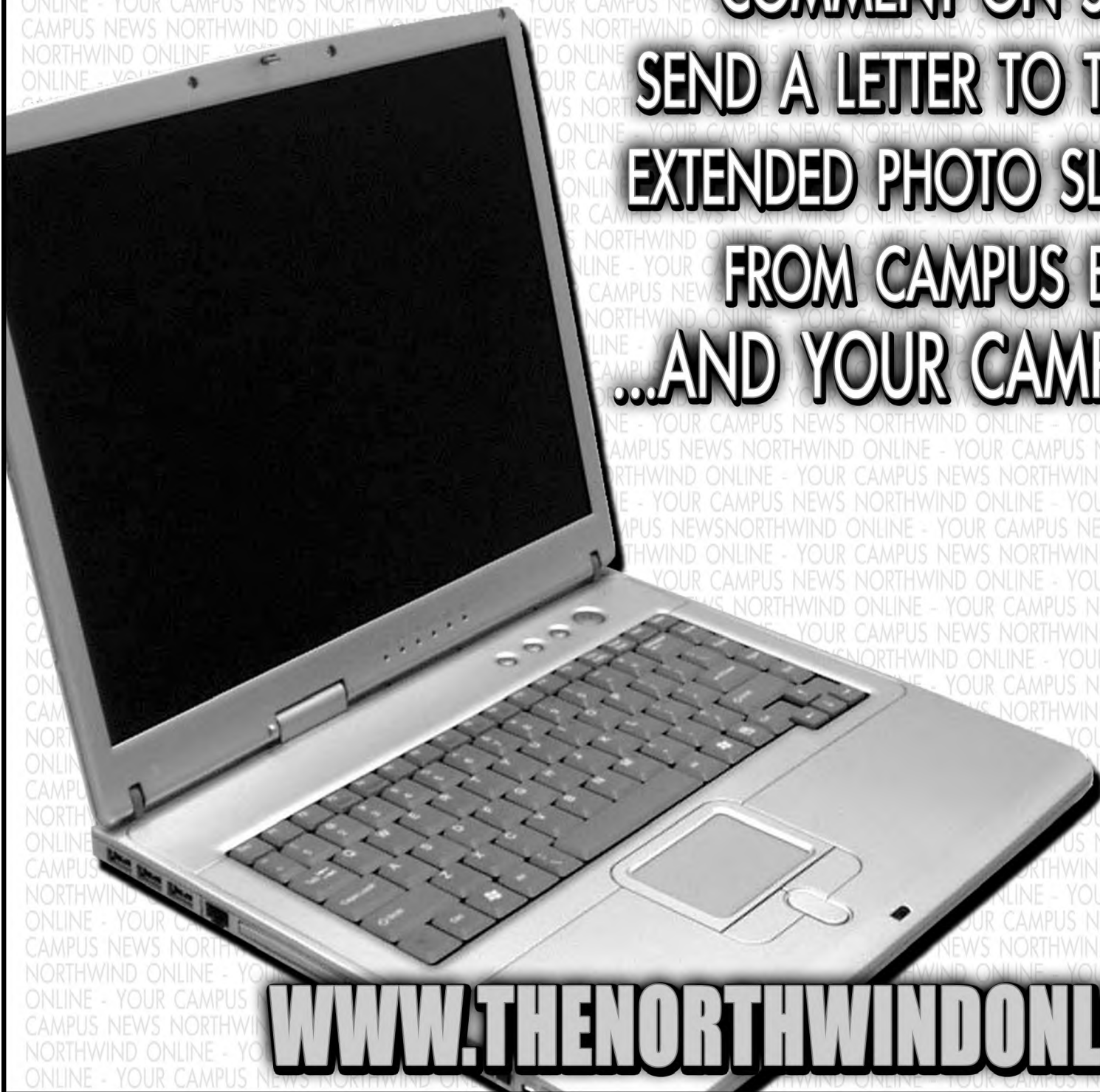
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Curt T Kemp/NW

Freshman, Manuel Lopez fights to help regrow the formerly diminished USOEC boxing program.



Jeff Kitson/NW

NMU starting quarterback, junior Ben Hempel goes deep during a preseason workout.

# USOEC boxing back in the ring

By **Gordon Beedle**  
 assistant sports editor

Olympic gold medalist David Reid, along with world champions Jermaine Taylor and Vernon Forrest are all historic athletes from the USOEC boxing team—the same boxing program that was NMU history less than eight months ago.

After a lack of funding from USA boxing, the national governing body of the USOEC program, boxing was forced to close its doors because coaches' salaries were no longer in the budget. But, in recent weeks, USA boxing has announced the reincarnation of the program with the needed funds.



**Gomez**

"I can't tell you where in the USA Boxing budget they found the money, but after they were given more time to try and raise the money and reallocate funds within their own budget, they were able to make it happen," USOEC Director Jeff Kleinschmidt, said.

Along with the return of the program, comes long-time head boxing coach Al Mitchell. During Mitchell's hiatus from Northern and the USOEC, he helped open a boxing program with Ringside Fitness, a local fitness facility, and is currently helping former USOEC boxer and NMU graduate Vernon Forrest train to fight for a World Boxing Council light-middleweight title shot.

In order to pay Mitchell's salary and benefits, USA boxing has collected \$50,000 for the 2008-2009 academic year.

Mitchell said his plans for the year included coaching for both Ringside and the

USOEC, but he realizes he will be busy.

"The first couple months are going to be hard because we really don't have the funds to be doing what we really should be doing. But in January, I think we'll have everything back, and if we do, it will make it a lot easier on me," he said.

In the prime of the boxing program, the roster had up to twenty athletes, two coaches, a coordinator and a better training facility.

Now, the USOEC has a six-man team, one head coach, one volunteer assistant coach and just two punching bags.

Despite the recent hardships, the team feels blessed to be training again.

"It's a privilege, definitely, to be here and to help out," said volunteer assistant coach Luis Gomez. "I just want to make (USOEC boxing) stay. It's huge, not only to USA boxing, but to these kids' future. It helped me tremendously, and it can help out so many more kids in the future.

"Nowhere else can an individual be offered an education while pursuing their dream," Gomez added.

Gomez is a former member of USOEC boxing and is currently working toward his master's degree in public relations. Mitchell said he acquired the help of Gomez for training not only in the gym, but also outside of it.

"He is just great help, not only in the boxing system but in the college system as well," Mitchell said.

Even though Gomez is unsure if he will continue boxing as an athlete in the amateur or pro ranks, he would like to incorporate both what he has learned in and out of the ring in his future career.

"If this were to develop into something where I would have a paid position, which

By **Drew Kochanny**  
 staff sports writer

Ben Hempel had never given much thought to attending Northern Michigan University while he was younger. In fact, he had never even heard of the place until his junior year of high school.

"A friend of my father had told me about [NMU] while at a Wisconsin Badgers game, but I never thought I would end up here," Hempel, a junior and now the starting quarterback for NMU's football team, said. "I was later recruited, and now I'm here. The isolation can hurt a place."

That isolation of the U.P. can be a good thing; and several locals would argue that it is the remoteness that makes living in northern Michigan so great. When it comes to building a football team though, isolation is something that can hold a program back. Luckily for the 2008 football Wildcats, recognition is on its way and it happens to be in the form of a national TV audience.

On Thursday, September 18, the annual rivalry between the Wildcats of NMU and the Michigan Tech Huskies (in which NMU won last season 34-27) will be broadcast and made available to more than 3.2 million state-wide including hundreds of thousands more nation-wide. CBS College Sports Network (CBS CSTV), along with Fox Sports Detroit (FSN Detroit) will air the battle between the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) schools at 8 p.m.

"I think it's great for the university and the entire community," head football coach Bernie Anderson said. "You get exposed to so many people that might watch Thursday night college football."

The game, originally scheduled for Saturday, September 20th, was moved after CBS College Sports Network asked Northern if they would like to be a part of one of their broadcasts during the year. The game

was later picked up by Fox Sports Detroit as well, which reaches an estimated 3.2 million households in Michigan, northwest Ohio, and northern Indiana, the game will also be made available via a broadband-internet connection at NCAA.com.

"The decision and the schedule decisions overall are made cooperatively between the



**Anderson**

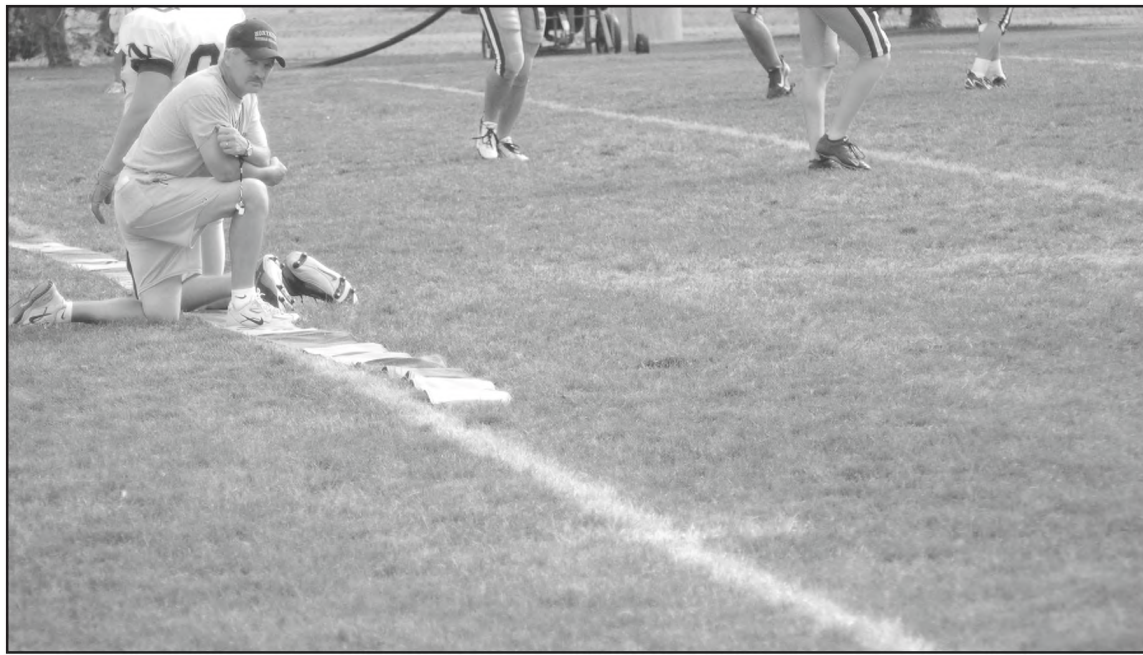
NCAA and CBS College Sports Network," said Tim Perneti, executive vice president of content for CBS College Sports Network. "This partnership was hatched to grow D-II exposure together and in the process, showcase the top programs, matchups and rivalries in D-II sports."

Many players seem excited about the fact that family members and friends, who may not get to see them play, now have a chance at it this season.

"Everyone likes to see their kid play," senior defensive back Alex Grignon said. "We got a couple guys from Florida and some guys from California so I'm sure it's exciting for them and I'm sure their families will be watching it too."

One thing that may become a factor following the game is the recruiting attention both schools acquire. A player downstate or even across the country may consider attending and playing sports at NMU or Michigan Tech when they may not have considered either college beforehand.

"All of a sudden they see you're on TV or they like the dome or they like something else, where if you're not [on TV] there's just no exposure," Anderson said. "So there's exposure for football and recruiting for the



Jeff Kitson/NW

NMU head coach Bernie Anderson watches over his players during the final weeks of preseason.

**FSN**

*Continued from page 2*

university.”

Michigan Tech head coach Tom Kearly thought differently on the subject that the game may shape recruiting for one of the programs.

“I think a young person will choose a college for different reasons: a chance to play, and play early, and the quality of education,” said Kearly.

In players cases, such as Ben Hempel’s, who may not have been aware of schools like Northern and Tech, it gives kids a chance to see the caliber of football being played in the GLIAC.

“The game on TV opens up the eyes to a lot of viewers that there’s good football up here,” Hempel said. “It gives them a chance to see the rivalry and see the dome and campus.”

Whether or not recruiting for either team is affected by the larger audience, one thing it does give football fans across the state and

country is a chance to see a great football game and one of the oldest rivalries still alive today, dating all the way back to 1920. Last season’s scuffle between the two came down to the final seconds of play before a winner was crowned.

With 44 seconds remaining, and with Northern ahead 34-27, Tech found themselves on their own 44-yard line on fourth down. Three straight plays by the Huskies were stuffed by a stiffening Wildcat defense. Tech quarterback Steve Short took the snap on the final play, a draw up the middle, but was tripped up at the one yard line to end the game, giving the Wildcats the victory.

This season’s game looks to be just as intense, that is, if players stay focused on not letting themselves get star struck.

“I think the players were excited to see it on FSN, but (the excitement) has been under control. They know that that’s not for three weeks yet,” Anderson said. “I think when we get to that week there will be a few extra butterflies. I will discuss it with the team so

they know how to mentally handle it – so there are some small points to address, but you don’t prepare any differently just because it’s on TV.”

Alex Grignon felt the same on the issue, that no players will be starstruck by the bright lights of a national stage.

“Some players like to shine when the spotlight is on them and that’s when they play their best,” Grignon said. “Refer to them as primetime players; I feel we got several primetime players all over the field for us that will step-up.”

Players aren’t finding themselves get away from what is important now, though, as the game between the bitter rivals will have to wait a few more weeks, but it doesn’t hurt to get excited.

“Right now the focus is on Northwood,” Grignon said. “But obviously in the back of their mind everyone is thinking about Tech, especially on national TV, everyone is fired up you can tell. The intensity is definitely going to step up after these first two weeks, too.”



Jeff Kitson/NW

Coach Anderson with his players in a short break from the action on Wednesday at the NMU practice field.

WEEKEND SPORTS CALENDAR

Aug. 29-31	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	No upcoming events		
		NMU VS. Bemidji State 11 a.m. Outdoor fields	NMU VS. St. Cloud State 2 p.m. Outdoor fields
	Nebraska-Omaha Invite	Nebraska-Omaha Invite	
	U.P. Collegiate Open 3 p.m. Houghton Mich.		

Bold-Home



File photo/NW

Senior defender Meghan Sarna will be expected to be a leader this season.

## NMU heads toward new soccer stadium

The NMU soccer team is looking to reach the NCAA national championship tournament this season, a feat that has eluded the team thus far in its 13-year existence.

“Our goal is to reach nationals,” head coach Matt Granstrand said. “There is no magical formula, but we try to play a very competitive non-conference schedule. The trick is to get better every week and continue to do that through the conference games and tournament.”

The Wildcats have finished one spot out of qualifying for the tournament the last two years. Last year, NMU finished with a 12-5-2 overall record and ended its season with a loss to national runner-up Grand Valley State University in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) semifinals.

This year in the preseason poll, Northern Michigan is tied for third with conference newcomer Tiffin, and receiving one first place vote.

Leading the way in the conference preseason poll is Grand Valley, with the remaining seven first place votes. Saginaw Valley State University sits in second, scoring 37 points compared to the 30 points of Northern and Tiffin.

“Grand Valley is the best, and Northwood is better this year, but still the lowest,” Granstrand said. “But there is zero difference between the middle teams like Ferris, Tiffin, and us.”

The Wildcats are led this year by captains Meghan Sarna, Brittney Buchanan and Emily Lockery, who, according to Granstrand, are skillful and confident leaders. NMU has 22 players on its roster, giving much needed depth to the team. Granstrand said none of his athletes are ‘superstars’, but all quality soccer players.

“Depth is a strength of ours – [one] that we need because we will play so many games,” Granstrand said. “We have 22 players, and for us to have a successful season this year, we need 22 players to step up and have a good year.”

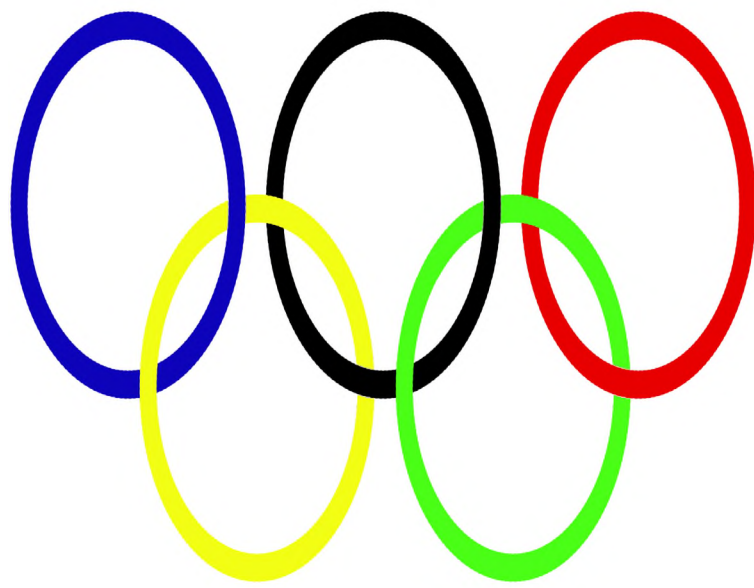
In addition to the new season, the ‘Cats are also going through a renovation project to build a new stadium for the soccer team.

The \$100,000 project will improve drainage, irrigation, recondition the soil and add more seating.

NMU will start its season at home in the Wildcat Soccer Invitational held Aug. 30-31.

— Brice Burge





# Northern athletes tied to Olympic accolades

By Gordon Beedle  
assistant sports editor

The opening ceremony for the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics was held at the Bird's Nest. On August 8, 2008, athletes and coaches from all corners of the globe flocked to this venue to represent their country and walk in the parade of nations.

Amongst the athletes at the event representing the United States, more than a dozen had ties to NMU's United States Olympic Education Center – two of whom picked up bronze medals.

"I think this was a very successful Olympics for us," USOEC Director Jeff Kleinschmidt said.

2006 NMU graduate Adam Wheeler received a bronze in the 96 kg weight class of greco-roman wrestling. Wheeler's degree is in criminal justice, with a minor in psychology.

Freestyle wrestler Randi Miller was awarded a bronze in the 63 kg weight class. Miller had a two-year stint at NMU majoring in outdoor recreation before going on to train at the USOC training facility in Colorado Springs.

In the Olympics, there are three styles of wrestling: men's Greco-roman, men's freestyle and women's freestyle. The only two medals earned by the U.S. in greco-roman and women's freestyle came from athletes associated with Northern's USOEC.

Junior Spenser Mango also competed on the Olympic greco-roman mat, finishing with a 1-1 record.

"Spenser, for being a young guy, did really well and the coaches were very proud of him,"

Kleinschmidt said.

Greco-roman was the only sport to send a competing athlete and current NMU student to Beijing. Kleinschmidt said Mango's accomplishment should help the program because most wrestlers reach their prime in their mid 20s or late 30s, and the USOEC is sending athletes to the Olympics who are in their early 20s.

Current greco-roman head coach Ivan Ivanov served as an assistant coach with the U.S. team and former USOEC athletes Willie Madison and R.C. Johnson contributed as training partners for the U.S. team at the Olympics.

"It really is a tribute to the athletes and the program but also the coaches," Kleinschmidt said. "We have some of the finest coaches in the world training the athletes here, and they are the ones who make the difference, and they're the ones who help the athletes make the Olympic team."

Other USOEC athletes involved in the Beijing Games:

- Amy Borgnini was also a former resident and training partner with the women's free-style team in Beijing.

- Two boxers, senior Greg Carter and David Clark a graduate in criminal justice were alternates with the U.S. team and made the trip.

- Larry Nicholson a former assistant boxing coach with NMU's USOEC and Ma Jianping a past weightlifting coach attended the games.



courtesy of Julia Woehrer/Mining Journal

Walt Kyle and NMU athletes run to support cancer patients and caregivers.

## Walking for Walt

By Curt T Kemp

sports editor

For NMU students who spent the summer in the Marquette, and particularly for those students who spent their days lounging about watching television, it probably comes as no surprise that NMU head hockey coach Walt Kyle has been working with River Valley Bank.

But aside from the local commercials of Kyle on the Berry Events Center ice, River Valley Bank and NMU's head hockey coach are working together on a more important task than managing finances – the fight against cancer.

Last weekend, River Valley Bank, along with several other local sponsors put on the first annual Walt Kyle Mile, with proceeds going to Marquette's Beacon House, a non-profit organization that provides lodging and other services for patients and their caregivers traveling to Marquette County for medical treatment.

"When I got involved with [River Valley Bank], one of the reasons I got involved was because they wanted to be involved in the community. And they wanted to do something that would benefit the people in this community," Kyle said. "So we put our heads together and we came up with this idea."

Kyle is a two-time bone cancer survivor, and the issue of cancer awareness hits close to home for him.

"20 years ago I had two separate battles with bone cancer. So, I was fortunate enough and blessed to have another 20 years up to this point, and I know that there's a lot of people that are going through the same trials that I did," Kyle said. "You need help to do it, and to me, it was just the natural thing to do."

Marcy Griffen, the executive director of the Beacon House, said she was impressed with the community participation in the event.

"It was absolutely incredible," Griffen said. "We were so pleased with the turnout."

Patients and their families and friends who stay at the Beacon House often stay between six and 10 weeks, and Griffen said events such as the walk provide funding that is important in keeping the Beacon House running.

"Events like this exemplify the spirit of the U.P." Griffen added. "It's people helping people."

At press time, Griffen did not have the final numbers of how

much money was raised from the event, but said the event was definitely a success.

"Both in terms of dollars raised and turnout, the event far exceeded expectations," she said.

For the event, Kyle walked the three-mile route from River Valley bank to Lake Superior and back alongside his hockey team and numerous other NMU athletes, including the basketball teams.

"The basketball teams, both men and women showed up," NMU hockey senior defenseman Derek May said. "So it wasn't just us, but it was more of a good showing from the athletic department as a whole. That was definitely nice to see."

For the hockey team, the event was a good opportunity to come together at the beginning of the semester, get some exercise and do it all for a good cause, he added.

"It was a nice thing for Walt, and the many other people that are dealing with cancer in their family, or them themselves," May said. "It's definitely a good feeling to see everyone come together and raise some money for a good cause."

Junior forward Billy Smith said he enjoyed being able to participate in the event, both for his head coach and the others who are battling, or who have battled cancer.

"Obviously, anybody who goes through an experience like that – just being able to show your support for someone whose determined and is able to work through something like that, it's impressive and a good feeling," Smith said. "It was a good way to start the season."

Senior forward Nick Sirota was especially passionate about the event, having one family member currently battling cancer.

"It hits home, it hits home a lot," Sirota said. "Obviously, the only thing you can do is support them. From Walt's experience, he got through it with friends and family and came out on the good side from battling cancer."

Overall, Kyle felt the event was a success, and was hopeful that would expand for the second annual edition.

"I think that for the first year – judging by the participation – we got a lot of corporate sponsors in the community and we got a lot of other people involved," Kyle said. "We were really happy with the turnout for the run and walk, and we hope that it can just grow again next year and expand."

## BOXING

Continued from page 15

where I would have a paid position, which would be awesome, or something else down the road working in boxing, that's what I'm hoping for," he said.

For at least a month, Gomez will be the role model Mitchell has chosen to lead this new squad.

Mitchell said the program was great because it took kids, often from inner-cities, and provided them with an education while they trained.

"The program should have never been closed because we've got young men getting their education," Mitchell said.

"People always talk about all the world champs we've got out of the program and the Olympians, but they don't say nothing about the guys who are teachers, or the one who is a principal, or guys that are policeman. And those are the good parts about [the program]."

With the intense demands of training for the USOEC comes the great responsibility of developing in the classroom – an obstacle the new athletes are willing to overcome

The future of this program rest in the hands of returning seniors Greg Carter, a national silver medalist and Olympic alternate this summer, and DeRae Crane, also a former national silver medalist. Along with the two returning boxers are four new promising athletes.

Manuel Lopez, a freshman on the squad, said he knows what is expected with the balance of the USOEC program and he is willing to work for it.

"While I'm here, I want to win. I want to win every tournament we go to. I want to win Regionals, I want to win the Golden Gloves, I want to win everything and at the end of the road I want to go to the 2012 Olympics," Lopez said.

"I want to be on the dean's list every year, every semester," he added. "I want to be a straight-A student."

Lopez is from Denver and was raised around the boxing ring by his father, who had a short professional career. Lopez applied for the program the same day he heard it was to be reinstated, because a trainer back home spoke highly of it.

Knowing the history of the program, Lopez and the new fighters have some big shoes to fill but it's nothing but another round of a sparring session for the newcomers and the USOEC boxing program.

"I see history as history," Lopez said. "I know all the great fighters that came out here and I'm like wow, and I know that that's going to be me one day, and in a way, it makes me work harder—knowing world champions have been to this gym and that Al Mitchell is training world champions."

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**Roommate** — You get the second shout out because Josh took the first. I hope you're ready for a year of ridiculousness and Frosty Treats, before it closes. — **Other Roommate**

**China** — I miss you guys. But don't worry, I'll be back. — **Jackster**

**Abent** — You've already said @\$^% several times tonight, and talked about smoking. Welcome to the fold. — **Stark**

**Arrested Development** — It's good to be back. And I promise to try and not break anything else. — **MR. F**

**Ma & Pa** — Hey guys. It's my last year. Get ready for me to move back in for at least five years after I graduate... Just kidding. — **Daughter**

**Joe Crick** — Sorry I didn't make it out to your party, I'm a tool. — **JDS**

**Housewife with trig skills** — I got nothing. — **JDS**

**510 N. Front** — I wish I was there. Can't wait until we have the internet. — **Missing Roommate**

**Izzy** — I miss you and your pretty purple collar. — **Your Deadbeat Mom**

**Rob and Mom** — You guys are awesome and thanks for all the support and candy. — **Your Offspring**

**Designer Bags** — I don't appreciate how beautiful you are and how much I need you. — **Smiten Shopper**

**Berken** — The North Wind just isn't the same on Wednesday nights without you. I miss you love — **Andre**

**Lisa** — Thanks for being such a wonderful inspiration to me all summer! I love you. — **Cass**

**Monica** — Backstreets Back. — **C-Money**

**Whitney Morgan** — I'm awfully glad you are back — **Ex-Roomie**

**France** — Way to go with the chocolate. You and Jess made my night. — **Guess Who**

**Superfan** — Find any nice guys online lately? Especially in the Marquette area? — **Non-spanish speaker**

**JDL** — I'm glad you're back. It's lonely up here without you — **AMF**

**Mandy** — I'm excited for another crazy year. Thank you for living with me. — **Your loving roomie**

**Stark** — You're Super. Even though you make me want to take up smoking. — **Abent**

**Layout** — Not real happy you got to leave so much early. — **Opinion**

**College Education** — You make my life so much more difficult. — **Student**

**Jen** — I miss living with you and having daquari parties! We have to get together soon. — **Ex-Roomie**

**Tilden Mine Employees** — Hope you guys have a good year, see you next summer! — **Summer Student**

**Public Safety** — Watch out—we're gettin crunk this semester. — **Unruly kids**

**Thompson Family** — Thanks for taking such an interest in my writing, it helps to keep me going. — **Miss Bjorne**

**Mom and Jerome** — Love you guys! Thanks for encouraging my dreams. — **Jaci**

**Paris** — I can't wait to come back. — **Claire**

**Jon and Tommy** — Come see me with your new Jeep. — **Claire**

**Katey** -- We're back! And you're jealous of my bike... -- **Curt**

**Shane** -- I miss you. And I live with you. Come work for me. — **Sports Editor**

**Dan Olson** — You're always in the hearts and minds of North Winders. And that horse you were with? Thank goodness, that's over. — **Sports Editor**

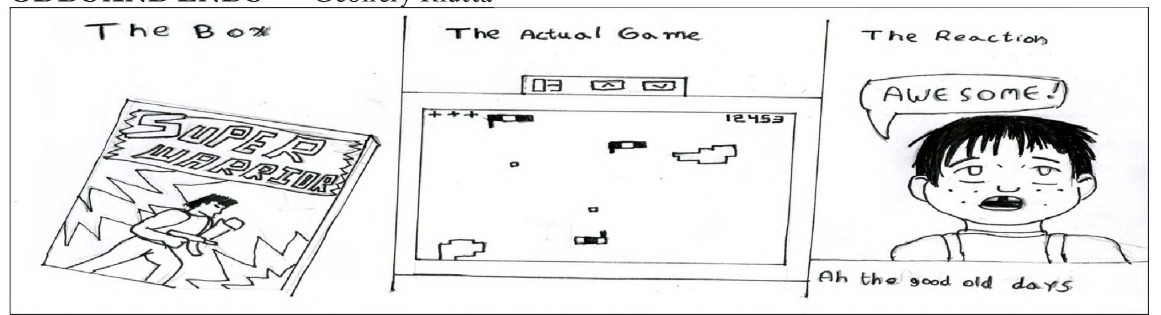
**Gordon** — Don't take my harassment to heart. I like you. There's just times when I need to vent. — **Sports Editor**

**Shane** -- Seriously, man. Come work for me. I'll give you the preference of what you want to write. I can start a freestyle walking beat if you want. Just write for me. — **Sports Editor**

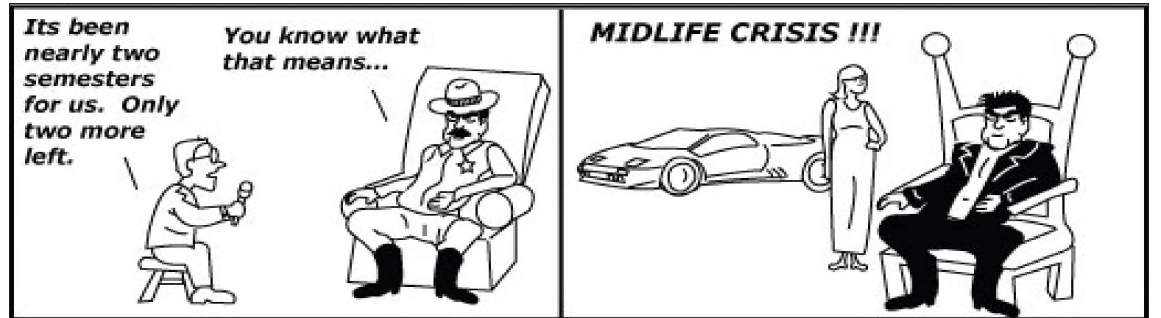
**Drew** — You're doing a heck of a job. And, oh yeah, we're doing a football insert for next week. Just a little heads up. — **Sports Guys**

**Casperitus** — It was good to bask in your comedy tonight.

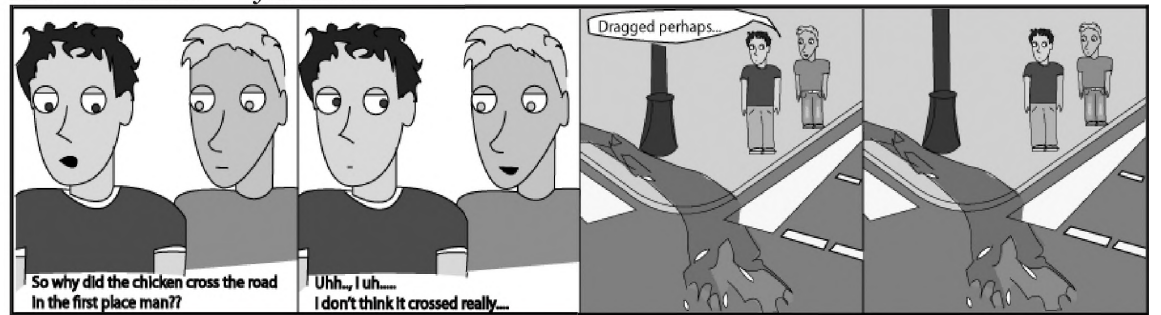
**ODDS AND ENDS** — Geoffery Riutta



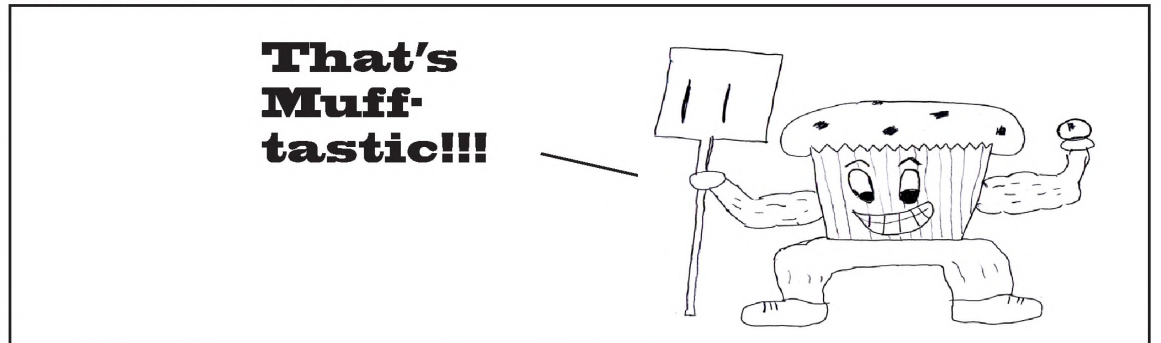
**ASSASSIN SESSIONS** — Andrew McCanna



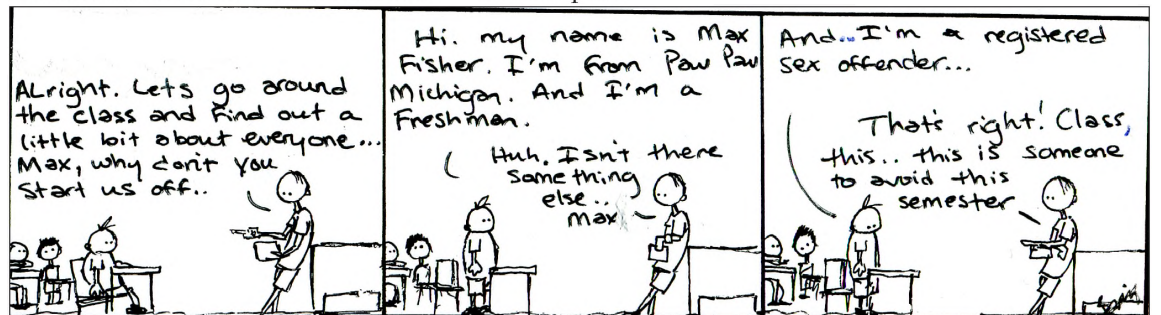
**MOTHBALLS** — Jeff Kitson



**MUFFINTOPS** — NW Staff



**AUSTRALIAN MUDWIZARD** — Sean Baptist



Thanks. I'd pay to see that stuff live. — **Curt**

**2214** — Expect to see a lot of me this weekend. I'm sick of everywhere else. — **Curt**

**Ryan Howe** — Do you still read this stuff? If so, way to stay true, man. Mad respect. — **Curt**

**Bobby Reichel** — I still can't believe you bought a bike with

disc brakes. That's so unneeded. — **Curt**

**Richie Halas** — Where were you tonight? You didn't even stop by. I get depressed. — **Sports Desk**

**Philip the Cat** — Every single time you purr as I pass your window, I die a little bit inside. Tell Shane to suck up the allergy issue. — **Curt**

**Inspirations**  
New Semester  
First Edition  
Hannah Montana & Miley Cyrus  
Red Tacos  
The Man Box  
Carson's silly grin  
Complainers and their demise  
The last time I freaked out  
Just being (insert first name here)  
The Weekend  
Beer and Brats  
Kiddy Pools

# SUPERIOR DOME PACK THE PLACE



## NMU vs. MTU MINER'S CUP

8 p.m., Thursday, September 18

**Nationally Televised**  
**CBS College Sports Network**  
**FOX-Detroit**

- NMU Students—show Wildcat ID for FREE admission
- Tailgate at the Dome (Marketplace will be closed)
- Check with your residence hall staff and other student leaders about activities for the game.
- Bring all your friends, show our Upper Peninsula pride



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