

WHITE PINE PRESS

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



Stephen Krygier is a soon-to-be graduate of NMC. On May 4, he will receive his Associate of Science and Art, a symbol of his hard work for the past two years. Krygier will graduate Magnum Cum Laude. He is currently student government president and Phi Theta Kappa's VP of communications.

Press Photo/NATHAN BAILEY

2013 Commencement

EMALY PANEK
Press Staff Writer

Saturday, May 4, 2013 at 2:00 p.m., roughly 200 soon-to-be NMC graduates will participate in the 2013 spring commencement located in the gymnasium of Traverse City Central High School. After every fall and spring term, NMC students receive certificates and/or degrees, but since the ceremony is held only after spring term, both fall 2012 graduates and spring 2013 graduates are welcomed to walk. Also included in commencement are graduates of specific degrees through Ferris State and those students in the NMC Maritime program.

In total, the number of degrees and certificates to be awarded this year adds up to more than 600. According to an NMC news release, this breaks down into 40% of students receiving an Associate of Science and Art and looking to transfer to a university, 28% will earn an Associate in Applied Science, 14% a professional

certificate, 11% an Associate of Nursing, and another 6% earning an Associate in General Studies.

Though NMC does not specify Valedictorian and Salutatorian, many students are graduating with distinction—Cum Laude: 3.50-3.74 GPA, Magna Cum Laude: 3.75-3.89 GPA, or Summa Cum Laude: 3.90-4.00 GPA. In lieu of a Valedictorian speech, Student Government President Stephen Krygier will be speaking. Also spotlighted will be Kristy McDonald, recipient of the 2012 Imogene Wise Faculty Excellence Award. This year's winner and the winner of the Adjunct Faculty Excellence Award will be announced at the ceremony.

The event is free and the public is welcomed to support the graduates. Commencement will also be streamed live online at nmc.edu/video.

Tree Archangel asks NMC to plant trees

NICOLE WILDMAN
Press Managing Editor

David Milarch of Archangel Ancient Tree Archive, a non-profit organization that specializes in the cloning of "champion trees" (the largest trees of a specific species), spoke to a group of community members and students at NMC April 22 about the impact of trees on the environment. The talk focused on giant sequoias in particular, and Milarch shared his passion for repopulating the earth with these carbon-absorbing titans.

"Giant sequoias are the greatest tree of hope for reducing climate change on this planet," Milarch told attendees. "If we go after climate change, we can beat it."

On the same day—Earth Day, not coincidentally—redwoods clones, donated by the Archive, were planted in seven countries, including Germany, Ireland, Wales, Great Britain, New Zealand, Australia, and the U.S.

Milarch then made an offer: Archangel Ancient Tree Archive will donate 200 giant sequoia trees to NMC. These trees can hold up to 400 tons of stored carbon each, and Milarch hopes that NMC will be the first of many college campuses to plant a grove.

While the proposal may seem radical, many audience members were receptive to the idea.

"It's important that the students get involved," said NMC math and astronomy instructor Jerry Dobek, speaking on the likelihood that the plan could be implemented.

"If students want something here on campus, it's more likely to happen," said Troy Wilson, treasurer for the Student Government Association and member of the Planning and Budget Council.

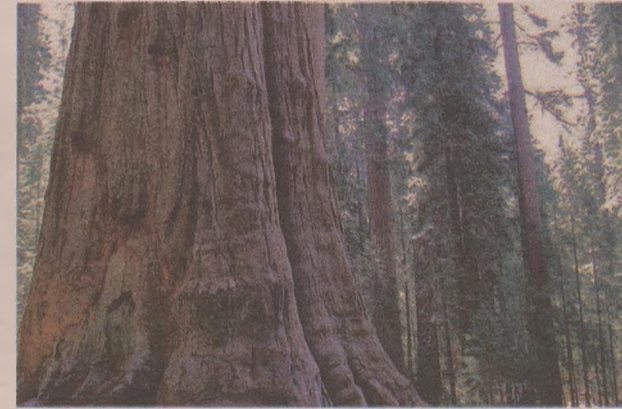
Last year, Wilson and a several other students, all members of SGA or Honor's Society Phi Theta Kappa, planted 200 trees: 100 dogwoods and 100 black willows, all donated by the Archive.

"Let's take Earth Day and put some teeth in it," said Milarch.

Watch for more on this story next fall in the White Pine Press.



NMC's own Jessica Abfalter, 29, is the prestigious recipient of two coveted awards: She is a New Century Scholar and the winner of a Guistwhite scholarship. The former is presented to 50 community college students throughout the country and is worth \$2,000 while the latter is an award given to 20 Phi Theta Kappa members nationwide and totals \$5,000. Over 1,800 students applied for both scholarships, respectively. Abfalter plans to transfer to the University of Michigan in the fall to complete her bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. She is one of three NMC students to ever be a New Century Scholar and the first to receive a Guistwhite scholarship.



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P6 - FACULTY APPRECIATION

P8 - THIRD ANNUAL TED-X

P10 - FIVE SUMMER READS



Photo courtesy of Chad Whiting

VOX representatives Kim Wiggins, Chad Whiting and Tatiana Crespo were in West Hall on April 19 to promote STD testing. According to CDC statistics, "One in two sexually active people will have an STD." The group handed out condoms, stickers, pins, and raffled off t-shirts, courtesy of Planned Parenthood, who offers STD testing for a flat rate of \$50. HIV tests can be performed on site in 20 minutes. For more info on STDs go to GYTNOW.org.



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NEWS IN BRIEF

By Emaly Panek, Ashley Quinn, Dominique Valentage, Katerina Chekhovskiy, Mathieu St. Charles, Paul Bahle

Northern Michigan Cultural Center

The Northern Michigan Cultural Center is hosting a four-course dinner on Tuesday, May 4. The Cultural Center is a non-profit organization with the purpose of bringing cultural understanding and experiences from other countries to Northern Michigan. The dinner itself will be split up into two different events. First, there will be a silent auction that will last from 5 p.m., when the doors open, until 8:30 p.m. Cocktail hour will be from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., with the dinner starting at 7:30 p.m., when Jim Adkins, a Shaolin Disciple, will speak about his trip to the Shaolin Temple. Tickets for the event must be bought no later than the day before. Individual tickets are being sold at \$50, or \$99 for two, and the ticket price includes the price of food. The dinner will be held at the Baytown kitchen, 420 Munson Avenue, Traverse City, MI. For more information, call the Cultural Center at 231-313-6900.

Tasters Guild follow-up

The annual tasters guild hosted by GLCI reported a 17% increase over last year's event. Totalling roughly \$92,000, all proceeds will go towards academic scholarships to help culinary students pay for books, equipment and tuition. The money came from both the event itself, and a live silent auction. Several wines, artworks, dinners and memberships were donated by local businesses to be auctioned off.

NMC Board of Trustees propose millage change

At their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, April 22, 2013, NMC's Board of Trustees proposed that the millage be increased by 0.4042 mills to return it to its original 2.5742. With the change, \$1.7 million in revenue will be brought into NMC to be used lawfully as seen fit by the institution. As it stands now, the proposal will be for a 15-year time frame, meaning that it will expire in 2027. The Board is planning one more look-through by next month and is hoping to have the proposal on ballots for the August election.

The Writing and Reading Center is now hiring for the 2013-2014 school year. Working in the WRC is for students who have strong writing skills and are able to effectively work with other student writers. Candidates must have completed ENG 112 by the end of the summer semester and be taking at least six credits each semester.

This job is not only for English majors; it is a fantastic opportunity for all students, no matter their intended job field. Working in the WRC builds experience in areas such as communication, interpersonal skills, tutoring,

speaking, writing and academic discourse. The WRC is an academic community that presents daily challenges and interest. In addition to fulfilling work, there are many opportunities for working in a classroom setting and attending and presenting at state, regional, and international academic conferences with peers.

Work hours will be 8-10 per week starting at \$7.75 an hour. Training includes two days before fall semester, one day before spring semester, mentoring and supplemental online modules. To apply, visit jobs.nmc.edu/writingcenter. Applications due by May 10.

NEWS IN BRIEF

By Emaly Panek, Ashley Quinn, Dominique Valentage, Katerina Chekovskiy, Mathieu St.Charles, Paul Bahle

NMC president attends nursing education conference

NMC president Tim Nelson attended a conference on April 9 in Washington D.C. to meet with representatives from four major nursing associations and from nursing education. President Nelson said he felt privileged to be one of only 15 college presidents invited to the conference, which focused on the Associates of Nursing (ADN) degree program and its importance in the progression of nursing education. Hospitals prefer nurses with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degrees but according to Nelson, 60 percent of nurses come from the ADN program. There is already a shortage of nurses in the U.S.; the elimination of ADN would worsen the shortage. The school presidents all agree that an ADN is a good entry point since it has similarities to the BSN degree. NMC's ADN program should stay the same despite other schools switching to BSN programs.

Fundraising event for Woman's Resource Center

On May 5, from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m., the third annual Sipping for Soles charity event will be taking place at Chateau Chantal, a local winery located on the Old Mission Peninsula. Chateau Chantal is teaming up with the Woman's Resource Center for a fundraising event that features wine tasting, food, music, a fashion show, and a silent auction. The mission of Sipping for Souls is to collect shoes, clothing, and any other apparel that can be donated to the Woman's Resource Center, along with any additional funds that will be raised. Tickets are available at Robert Frost Fine Footwear and the Woman's Resource Center website, and are \$40 each. Additional information can be found at www.womansresourcecenter.org and www.chateauchantal.com

NMC Barbeque

It's that time again! The NMC Barbeque returns to the Main Campus Sunday, May 19, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Events include free admission to the Dennon Museum, live entertainment, a student pottery sale, cake walk, classroom and lab displays, a greenhouse plant sale, and much more. There is the Del Corner Veterans' Tent where veterans and their families can mingle. There is also special handicapped seating available as well as a baby care station. Barbeque-funded projects for 2013 include College for Kids scholarships, creating an active learning classroom, replacing existing water fountains with bottle filling stations, NMC open scholarships, nickname logo design, simulcast capability, and a chassis and suspension trainer. Since 2010, the NMC Barbecue has made a commitment to being a zero-waste event through recycling and composting. More than 90 percent of all the residuals from the event are kept out of landfills. You can purchase tickets online until May 10 for \$6 each or you can call (231) 995 - 1020.

Reverse transfer

NMC is making an effort to offer certificates for former students who may have transferred to a university before completing requirements for a two-year degree. Students can send their transcripts back from their university and if requirements are fulfilled, will be granted an NMC degree. Currently, NMC has an agreement with Grand Valley State University and is working on additional partnerships with state universities to fluidize the process; partnered universities notify students when they can reverse transfer and receive an associate degree from NMC, or what additional requirements must be fulfilled to do so. Students attending non-participating universities can still apply for an NMC degree by sending their transcripts.

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Perspectives

EDRIS FANA
Press Staff Writer

News about a bombing in the United States has shocked the world. Since America is viewed as one of the safest places on Earth, the explosion was the headline in all the news websites and other private televisions in most countries within minutes of detonation. This event brought fear in many of the American citizens' eyes around the country, especially in Boston. The U.S. government tried to assure Americans that they had the situation under control, but the event still reminded many of 9/11.

It was a very shocking and sad moment for all Americans, and the two explosions in the Boston Marathon reminded many of the 2001 event—no one wants to see or hear anything like that in any part of the world.

After 9/11, America went to war with Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan and Iraq. Many people think that these bombings are related to Al-Qaeda, and that they have once again shown their hatred towards America. To this day, many Americans view those who practice the Islamic religion as terrorists, for people are using the religion as an excuse for destruction.

According to some news reports, authorities are still gathering information from the younger brother, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, who is being treated in a Boston hospital for injuries he sustained during gun battles with the Boston police. Authorities are still not sure why the brothers committed the atrocity, as reports gathered from the brothers' friends and family members are not clear. Instead, those interviewed tell of how kind and friendly the suspects were.

"The in-progress investigation will determine

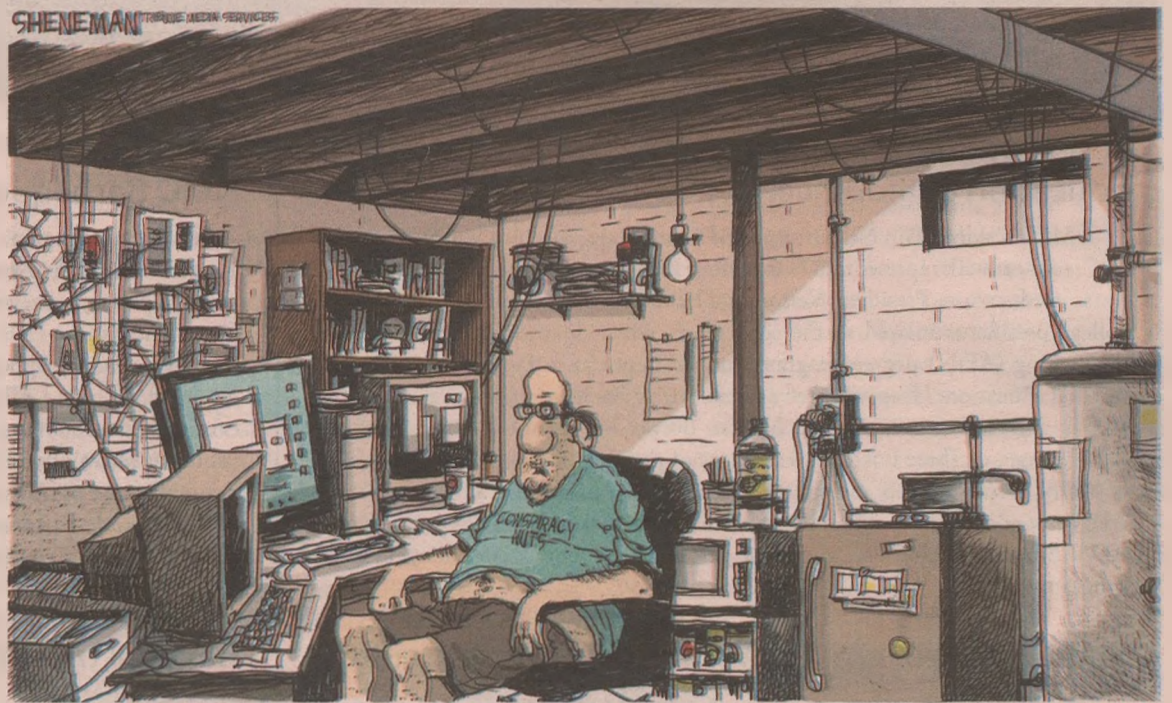
whether the two suspects of the Boston bombing were involved with an organized Islamic terrorist group or [if] they acted independently," says Dr. Amjad Khan, an economics professor at Northwestern Michigan College.

Khan, who was born in northern Pakistan, believes that Islamic extremism, which is seen throughout the Muslim world, needs to end regardless of the investigation's outcome.

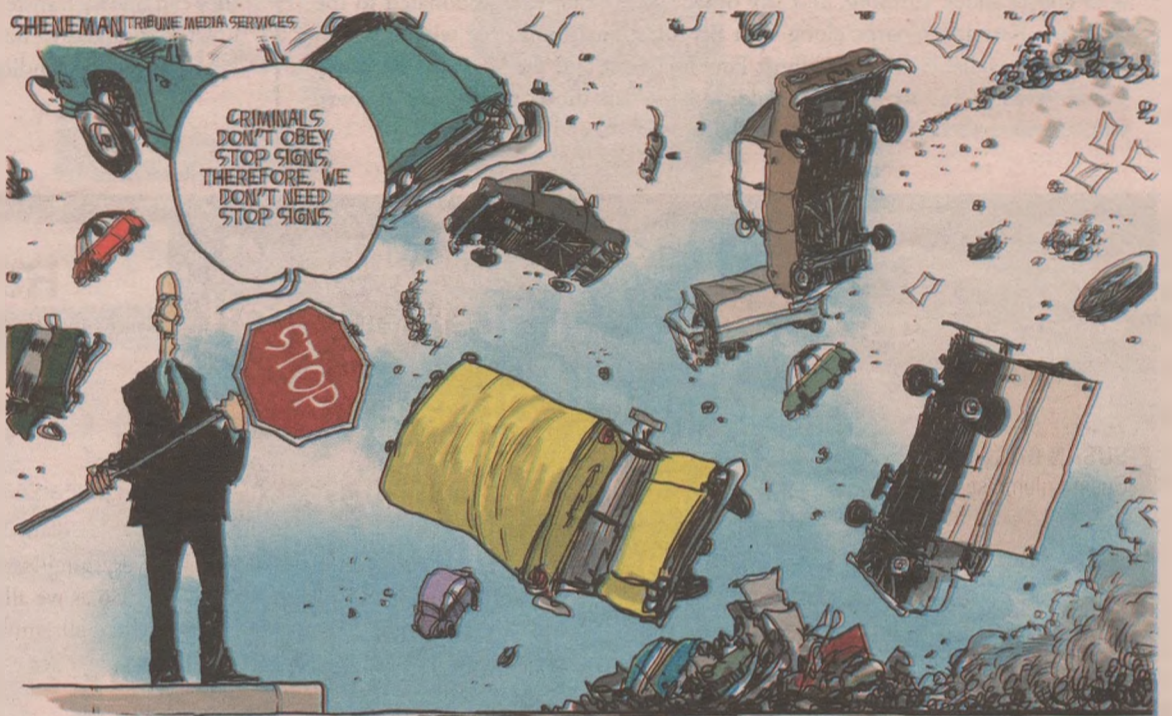
"It is the responsibility of the religious, political, and military leaders of the Islamic world to design and enforce specific laws of strict penalties for such practices," said Khan. "The Islamic world must adopt only those religious practices that are compatible with the life style of the contemporary world. If the Islamic world fails to do so, Islamic extremism will keep expanding; and although, it will be creating random disruptions in the U.S., it cannot put a single dent in the American culture."

Khan's ultimate fear, however, is that the Muslim world will never recover from religious extremism, and that the potential for global unrest will grow even higher as tensions worsen.

"The ultimate victims of Islamic extremism are the Islamic countries that will be ruled by people like the Taliban, who will enforce a primitive and irrational way of life. Also, we here in America, as well as the remaining international community, should recognize that we live in an increasingly interdependent and shrinking world, and [in order to secure our] prosperous future, we need to sincerely encourage as well as support a modern Islamic leadership, in addition to many other responsibilities."



"THE BOSTON BOMBING WAS CLEARLY AN INSIDE JOB ORCHESTRATED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND THE FREEMASONS WHO—!! JUST REALIZED HOW RIDICULOUS IT SOUND."






NRA LOGIC

WRITE US A LETTER

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What DON'T you want to do this summer?

Sit around.

KARI CLAYCOMB
Liberal arts/science

Homework.

LEXA REVNELL
Pre-Med/Biology

I don't *not* want to have a job.

MARISA GREEN
Culinary

School.

SCHAFFER WALL
Marketing

I really don't want to get a job.

TAYLOR KANE
Pre-med



CAMPUS QUOTES — FINALS STRESS EDITION

Compiled by Britne Mckay, Nicole Wildman & Shelby Osborne

Recognizing Our Worth

SUSAN ODGERS
Guest Columnist

I am an adjunct.

I am one of 212 adjunct teaching professionals at Northwestern Michigan College.

Many of us at one time or another have had someone refer to us as a contract player, contingent faculty, dispensable staff, auxiliary teacher, hobbyist adjunct, freelancer, independent contractor, part-time faculty, nonessential faculty or shared faculty.

Our students simply know us as their teachers.

This month, The New York Times reported that 76 percent of American university faculty are adjunct professors. Since 2008, forty percent of full-time faculty positions have been eliminated nationally.

More than fifty-percent of all of the classes at NMC are taught by adjunct faculty, and they are currently the largest employee group of the entire college. The majority of adjuncts have taught at NMC for at least five years. Most have taught at NMC for much longer. Adjunct faculty members have worked with numerous boards of trustees and presidents. Adjuncts are peers with the full-time instructors, and what happens to adjunct faculty impacts full-time faculty, and vice versa.

No one forces anyone to be an adjunct instructor. Adjuncts teach for diverse reasons, and those reasons have no bearing on how we're treated. NMC's adjunct faculty has earned the right to share in the success of the college. Currently, the college is looking at our compensation.

Adjunct instructors are a vibrant force at NMC. As teachers, we lead student engagement through classroom discussion. We offer thoughtful comments on student work. We interact with students in a way that lets them know we care about them. We help our learners not just gather information but pursue knowledge. We model communication skills and assist our students as advisors and guides in our perspective fields.

We expand dance, music, photography and the arts at the college. We lead student groups and sit on various committees and councils. Our families volunteer at the annual BBQ and donate to the various funds. An adjunct faculty member has most likely been involved in

everything NMC in some way.

So as we all complete another academic year, I have an ever expanding vision of an NMC; where all employees have fuller participation and opportunities, are paid an equitable wage, truly know their work is valued, are recognized and respected as professionals, and where the values we all agree upon are practiced on a daily basis.

Yes, I am an adjunct.

Susan Odgers is a Social Science Adjunct, and just celebrated 25 years at NMC. She is not an employee of the White Pine Press, and all of the views expressed in this column are hers and do not necessarily represent the views of the White Pine Press newspaper.



photo courtesy of Susan Odgers



Sonja Olshove teaches Psychology and Social Psychology at NMC.

Sonja Olshove

"I really liked Sonja. She was very nice and made things easy to understand. I wanted to go to class. She was one of the kindest teachers I've had."

-Erin Perkette, Associate of Science and Arts

"She doesn't tell us her opinion; she tells us fact and lets you think about it what you want."

-McKenzie Campbell, Political Science, President of Phi Theta Kappa



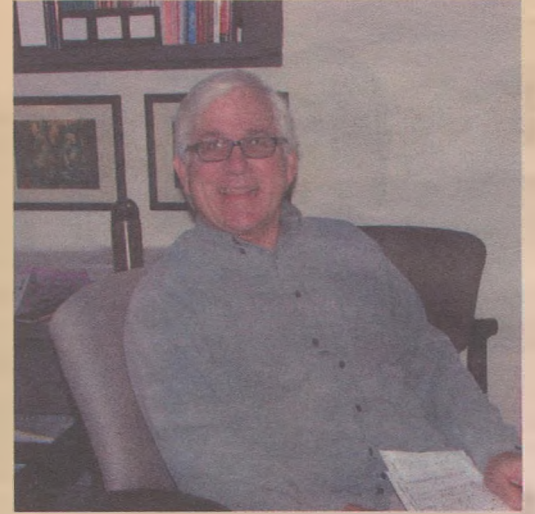
Lindsey Dickinson is an Adviser and the International Recruiter at NMC.

Lindsey Dickinson

"This is my first semester here and I would say my adviser has helped me out. She's helped me settle in, introduced me to the right people who helped me through this first semester."

-Kalizya Nsleuka, Nursing

Who has been most inst at NMC



Regis McCord teaches Psychology at NMC.

Regis McCord

"He doesn't stress the academic side of learning as much, so there is less pressure and it makes you actually want to learn."

-Emily Keene, Pre-nursing

Cody Mutter

"He's a genius. He's got it together. He explains things in a way that we understand; he tries to help everyone. He put together a study group on Saturdays on his own time to help people that were struggling."

-Amanda Armstrong, Pre-nursing and Michelle Godin, Pre-nursing

Adam Shafer

"He's a good teacher to go to. The way he teaches, I like, because most teachers just go through it but he shows you every step."

-David Francisco, Agriculture

Bruce Gillissie

"He's always trying to explain things so we understand. He makes himself available—he's never too busy to stop and help us."

-Amanda Armstrong, Pre-nursing and Michelle Godin, Pre-nursing

Bill Stott

"He was willing to help on everything and he was very nice."

-Veronica Cozad, General Studies

Instrumental to your success this year?



Kari Kahler is the Associate Dean of Learning Services at NMC. She is currently pursuing a PhD at Michigan State University, working on her dissertation, "Beating the Odds: Stories of Successful Community College Students."

Kari Kahler

"She's helped me with scholarships. Whenever I've had major problems I could go to her, and she would figure out what to do."

-Paul Leon, Visual and Sound Communications

Bryn Lynch

"It's just her attitude and outlook on life. She's my role model. She's my inspiration to continue learning foreign languages."

-Evan Glowicki, Modern Language

Robert Scott

"He helped me get a job and he cares about his employees. He wants the best for students, as well as for his employees, and has helped Culinarians in the past."

-Tyler Shields, Culinary

Chef Shawn Burks

"He was a great teacher and helped me through both Intro to Cooking and World Cuisine. He sincerely cares about his students and helps them whenever he can."

-Tyler Shields, Culinary



John Mauk teaches English and Writing and Rhetoric at NMC. He has written/co-authored multiple textbooks and published two collections of short stories.

John Mauk

"He has a way of teaching that makes 'interest' interesting. He really encourages that you have passion for what you're writing about. On a scale of 1-10 he's a solid 9 ... because nobody's perfect."

-Casey SeGraves, Culinary Arts



Mella McCormick teaches Philosophy and Religion at NMC.

Mella McCormick

"She connects with her students really well and makes a really difficult topic—philosophy—something that someone can understand."

-McKenzie Campbell, Political Science, President of Phi Theta Kappa

NMC to host third annual TEDx

DAVID ROOT
Press News Editor

The Miliken Auditorium will be hosting its third annual TEDx Traverse City event on Wednesday, May 15.

TEDx will feature 19 speakers, including scientists, educators, entrepreneurs, economists, and human rights advocates. Two student speakers will also be present, including international student Olubusayo Akande from western Nigeria, a graduate of the AAS Renewable Energy Technology program at NMC, who will speak about American misconceptions on Africa. It will also feature three musical guests: 11-year-old Sonya Shoup of Northern Michigan, local songwriter Blake Elliot, and traditional folk duo Don Julin and Billy Strings.

The event was founded in 2011 by author and nationally renowned financial expert Paul Sutherland, and is still sponsored by his company, FIM Investment Group. It is modeled after the larger TED Talks organization, known for their motto "Ideas worth spreading," a motto well recognized throughout the world, as the tickets for TEDx Traverse City (at \$100) were sold out mere minutes after going on sale.

"We do all the heavy lifting," said Sara Harding of FIM concerning the company's large role in TEDx. "Coordinating the speakers, election of speakers, and we have an advisory board to help guide us with our theme and our speakers."

Since the beginning of last fall, FIM has been organizing TEDx 2013 in a number of ways, including coordination of travel arrangements for speakers and of the day's events themselves. Some of the other local businesses that helped sponsor the event include Hagerty Insurance, Cherry Republic, Northwestern Bank, Grand Traverse Pie Company, and Ferris State University.

Harding says that, like TED (Technology, Entertainment, and Design), TEDx focuses on three key themes: innovation, creativity, and integration.

"There were some themes we wanted to kind of look for as well when we were trying to decide, like transformational change and embracing the human condition," said Harding. "We want to be sure that we're inspiring people to make change, and find innovative and creative ways to help do that."

One of the unique benefits of TEDx being held on the NMC campus is the chance for students to be nominated by their instructors to attend the event for free as representatives of the college. A total of 19 students were selected by professors to represent NMC at the event.

"At the end of January, faculty were invited to nominate students who have distinguished themselves in the classroom and/or on campus for their engagement and excellence," said Karen Ruedinger, a member of the TEDx TC event planning team who helped coordinate the nominations for NMC. "I was able to offer a ticket to the first choice student from each faculty who submitted student names."

As the event nears, many of the students nominated to represent NMC are very much looking forward to meeting some of their intellectual idols, often displaying the same kind of enthusiasm for learning that prompted their selection in the first place.

"The speaker I am most looking forward to hear is Dr. Garvin. His insights and experiences have been something of a dream

for me," says Jeremy Whitely, an Aviation student at NMC who was nominated by his academic counselor. "As a child, it was my goal to be the first man on Mars. To hear someone speak about his experiences of Mars will be very exhilarating."

Other student representatives, like Christina Collins, have much less specific expectations for the event.

"I personally expect to be inspired," says Collins. "I have watched several TED Talks on many different subjects, and I always walk away feeling inspired and motivated to change the world."

Collins, a GVSU student at the NMC University Center, was nominated by Susan Odgers, an adjunct instructor of Social Science at NMC.

"It is hard to pick one speaker that I want to see the most," she continues, "they all have so much to offer."

As with previous TEDx's, many of the lectures given will be available online after the event. For more information, visit www.tedxtraversecity.com.

Miracle slime

NATHANIEL KIRKLAND
Press Staff Writer

The demand for petroleum products is close to all of our hearts, whether we are aware of it or not. Petroleum has become an integral part of our economy and livelihood. Petroleum products range from transportation fuels, fuel oils for heating and electricity generation, asphalt, and road oil, and is used to make chemicals, plastics, and synthetic materials found in nearly everything we use today. Perhaps one of the most concerning factors of petroleum is that it is a non-renewable resource whose extraction can be damaging to both humans and the environment. As such, the quest for renewable resources to mitigate our petroleum need is both a responsible and lucrative business endeavor. A possible solution to this dilemma comes from some of the most unexpected places; one such place is the mucus glands of a hagfish.

The hagfish is among one of

the most abundant groups of demersal fish (a fish that lives on or near the sea floor). Fossils of this creature date back as far as 500 million years ago (the first appearance of the genus homo was only 2.5 million years ago). More interesting than this creature's ancestry is the slime that it exudes, which could become a legitimate replacement for some of our most abundant synthetic materials such as plastic, nylon, Lycra, spandex and polyester. Within the hagfish's slime are threads made of intermediate filaments, a protein in the same family as bone and nails. The hagfish threads are 100 times smaller than a human hair and have given the creatures an evolutionary advantage as a unique defense mechanism; when attacked by a predator, a shark for example, the shark will, in addition to biting into the hagfish, bite into a thick barrier of slime that will coat the shark's mouth and gills with slime. If the shark does

not release the hagfish, it runs the risk of being suffocated by the slime.

Unfortunately, we still do not know very much about the hagfish, and have yet to be able to have two hagfish reproduce in captivity; consequently, it's much more likely that scientists will transplant the slime-making genes into bacteria which can be cultured on an industrial scale. Researchers have been doing similar studies with the protein that makes spider silk. The advantage to the hagfish slime over the spider silk is that the proteins are simpler and are therefore easier to replicate. It is believed that these proteins, once replicated, could be used to manufacture clothing such as tights, breathable athletic wear, or even bulletproof vests. Hagfish slime has the potential to provide a natural and renewable alternative not only in clothing manufacturing but also in an immense number of household products.

Community Garden construction underway

ASHLEY QUINN
Press Staff Writer

On April 28, the Community Garden Guild had a kick off party to welcome returning and new gardeners. It gave anyone interested in being a member the chance to examine the plots and sign up for the plot of their choice. The community garden is located at the Historic Barns Park, which was once part of the 54-acre farm on the Old State Hospital grounds.

The Guild has roughly 50 plots available this year, which are being offered in two sizes, large and small. Large plots, which cost \$60, are 30 by 24 feet. The small plots, costing \$30, are 15 by 24 feet.

Flint Horton, a member of the Community Garden Guild, said that anyone, whether they live in the area or not, can join the Guild and rent a plot. In the past, Horton has seen people come all the way from Grand Rapids to be a part of the organization.

The Community Garden Guild has recently had some of the gardeners unite to become the new management, after Little Artshram stepped down. They are now collaborating with Oryana, a local natural foods market, to

help fund the project. Without the help of Oryana, Horton said, the Community Garden Guild would not be able to continue this year. The Guild will be offering a discount on plots for anyone who is a member of Oryana.

The mission of the Guild is to provide garden space for people within the community and to offer an enjoyable, friendly gardening experience. They also hope to bestow valuable gardening skills to members and nonmembers. The master gardener has a plot set aside especially for anyone with a desire to learn new gardening techniques. In the past, there have also been programs for youth.

With the unique location of Barns Park, anyone can walk through the garden and see the beauty and pride that comes from it. Horton said he hopes to get younger people involved in the Community Garden Guild because they could benefit from growing their own food.

Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Community Garden Guild can contact Flint Horton at 231-735-8361.

International student profile: Edris Fana

KATRINA CHEKOVSKIY
Staff Writer

When I first heard of an NMC student who had come from Afghanistan, I found myself quite surprised. Even though I had multiple friends from Middle Eastern countries, and had grown accustomed to NMC's diversity, such news was unexpected. Though personally I had no qualms towards Arabs, I was nervous about what their experience in the United States would be like.

Edris Fana, who came from Afghanistan five months ago, has seemingly had no trouble assimilating. He came to the U.S. for a better education, specifically to pursue aviation and engineering technology. NMC was a good place to start for Edris because his brother, who is currently pursuing medicine at Ferris State University, was nearby. Edris is interested in transferring to LeTourneau University in Texas. Though Edris' native language is Dari, he also speaks English, Pashto (another dialogue), and Urdu. In Afghanistan, Edris attended an international school where he studied English.

When asked what inspired him to pursue aviation, he replied, "I thought about flying when I was six and living in Pakistan as a refugee and heard that my people are dying because of sickness and injuries. The cause was security and being too far from the city."

Edris describes life at home as:

"Life in my country is like living with your family until you die and loving them, but here once you grow up you get apart from your family." He went on to say that for entertainment, young people fly kites, participate in kite fighting, and play marbles and soccer. Despite the unsettled state in Afghanistan, Edris reminisces fondly:

"Home is home, so after living inside the conflict, conflict gets to be a part of your life and people find ways to get away from it. Security is one of the major issues right now, but every parent does their job to keep their kids safe, and of course they wanted me to be safe and would always be in contact once I would go out of the house."

Edris misses having family around and his parents love everyday, but he likes that in American culture, you can do what you want and no one cares. He has been enjoying his time in the U.S. and has become very active in the NMC International Club, as well as becoming the newest member of the White Pine Press. Even though people harbor stereotypes, Edris is happy to share his culture.

"So far it is interesting and because I get to explain what my country really is other than what they hear in the news. People always ask me questions and once they find out that I am from Afghanistan, they want me to answer their question[s], just to know how much of their thoughts are true."



Edris Fana of Afghanistan standing in front of his native country's flag.

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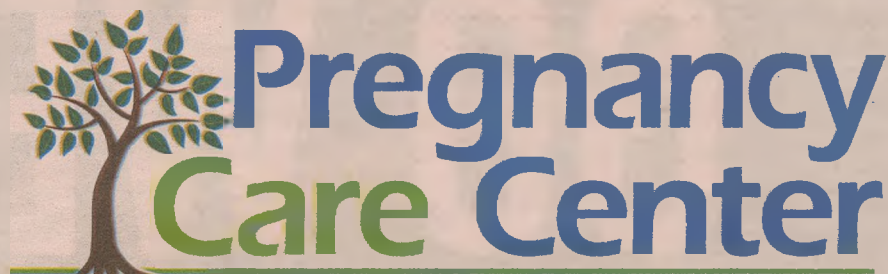
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Five must reads, Summer 2013

STEPHANIE HUTCHINSON
Press Staff Writer

Neil Gaiman has a much-anticipated adult novel being released June 18, titled "The Ocean at the End of the Lane." Neil Gaiman has authored such works as "The Graveyard Book," "Coraline," and "Stardust." In traditional Gaiman style, "The Ocean at the End of the Lane" is a story of supernatural and horror told from the perspective of a seven-year-old child. The book is reportedly "deeply personal" to Gaiman, and critics appear to be quite impressed with this latest addition to his collective works.

"Thankless in Death" by J.D. Robb will be released September 10. "Thankless in Death" is the new novel in a futuristic series about the lives of a New York cop, Eve Dallas, and

her billionaire husband, Roarke, as they work together to solve homicides. "Thankless in Death" takes place around Thanksgiving. In the novel, a young man, Jeremy Reinhard, decides to kill his parents before going on a full-blown killing spree. Eve and Roarke race to figure out who his future victims are going to be so that they can save them and capture Reinhard. The book will be filled with cop drama, mystery, and a heavy dose of romance.

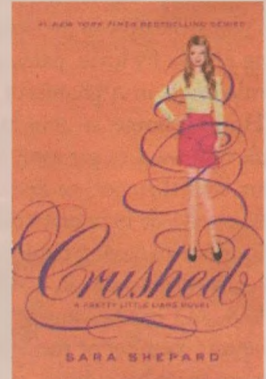
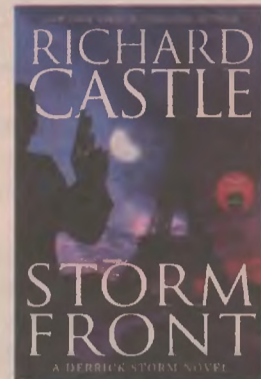
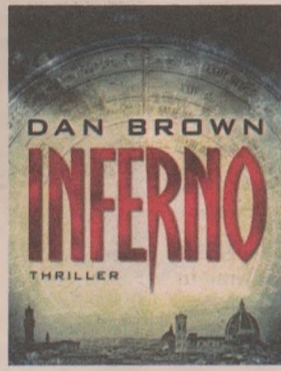
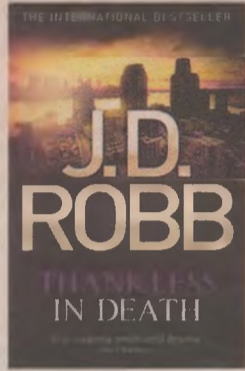
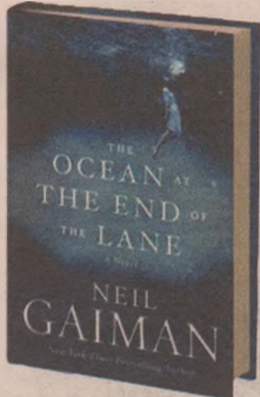
"Inferno" by Dan Brown will be released May 14, and is the fourth book in a series following Robert Langdon on his historically related adventures. Other books in the series include "The Da Vinci Code" and "Angels & Demons," both of which have been turned into movies starring Tom Hanks. This much

anticipated novel follows Langdon in the heart of Italy as he goes on another adventure through history and battles new foes, this time with the literary masterpiece, "Dante's Inferno." The third book in the series, "The Lost Symbol," is in the preproduction phase of being made into a movie, so don't be surprised when "Inferno" comes to the theater.

"Storm Front" by Richard Castle, will be released May 21. Castle is actually a fictitious character in a show on ABC called "Castle." In the show, Castle is a writer whose muse is a cop he solves crime with. "Storm Front" follows a man, Derrick Storm, as he takes on an old adversary, with the help of a beautiful and mysterious foreign agent. While a bit cliché, the novel will provide interesting

insight into the show, and promises to be an adventure as well as quite humorous.

"Crushed" by Sara Shepard is sure to provide the summer with a dose of drama, lies, and romance. "Crushed" is the thirteenth novel in "The Pretty Little Liars" series, which inspired a show of the same name on ABC Family. Hanna, Spencer, Emily, and Aria are all on a quest to find out who "A" is and to stop her...or him. They each feel like they are so close and yet, "A" always remains one step ahead of them, knowing all of their secrets and hurting them and the people they care about. One thing is for sure, this book is going to be as surprisingly addicting as the show has become.



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Video game review: Pandora's Tower

MATHIEU ST. CHARLES
Press Staff Writer

A determined, fan-based campaign with the purpose of bringing Japanese Wii games to America has won over another game. Previously, fans have rallied up enough support to bring over "Xenoblade Chronicles" and "The Last Story", which sold well in Japan. The newest game to be brought over goes by the name of "Pandora's Tower." Like "Xenoblade" and "The Last Story," "Pandora's Tower" has unique gameplay, likeable characters and an attention-grabbing story.

The game starts off with a beautifully rendered CG cutscene to bring players into the game, which not only sets the mood, but also makes the player care about the characters. The main character, Aeron, is a blonde-haired white knight. He saves the princess, Elena, from an attack in the intro cutscene. They then meet a little old traveler by the name of Mavda, who guides them on their journey and tells them about the curse that the princess has. She also tells them what to do to reverse the curse and save Elena's humanity. The relationships between the characters and the interactions make the cutscenes worth watching and the dialogue worth listening to. The gameplay sets this game apart from most other RPGs.

The main character is given a chain that he can use to manipulate the monsters he encounters. This chain is not any ordinary chain; it is imbued with power that will be restored as the story progresses. The chain is a clever weapon because the player doesn't just hit monsters, nor do they just wrap them up with it, it can also be used to swing monsters into other monsters, take items, and rip items out of monsters after they have been killed. Since there are so many possibilities presented for this unique weapon, there had to be a unique controller to handle it. The Wii remote and Nunchuk combination was the perfect fit. For someone who has only used the standard controller, this will be a new experience, however, learning how to use it is easy, but it will take time and practice. The Nunchuk is used to move the character while the Wii remote is used to aim the chain and grapple enemies. When an enemy is grappled, whether it is by the head, body or feet, swinging the Nunchuk spins the enemy so he can be thrown or slammed into another opponent. With a little creativity, this can be used with deadly efficiency. A flick of the Wii remote will rip items off of dead enemies or activate contraptions in the dungeon.

If that isn't enough to convince the

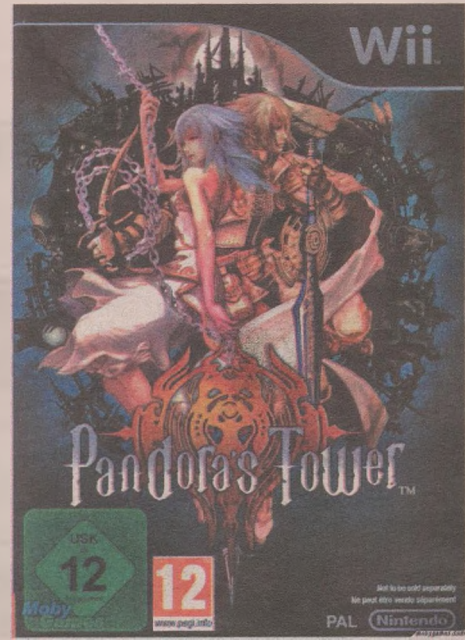
standard gamer that this is worth checking out, then the story and puzzles will. Instead of venturing into the castle to save the princess, the main character must venture to 13 towers to collect monster meat and bring it back in order to keep Elena human. While the player is in the dungeon, a meter at the bottom of the screen will indicate how much time they have until she starts to transform into a beast. The beast transformation is quite hideous and gives the impression that it is very painful, too. Throughout the game, there will be clues hidden around the towers, which will help the player figure out what he needs to do or how he can defeat the final boss at the end of each tower. To make matters more interesting, instead of just mindlessly beating or shooting the final boss until he won't bleed anymore, the player needs to hit the weak spot a certain way. When the boss is defeated, the player must retrieve the monster meat from the boss. Collecting the final boss's meat will reverse the curse and "save the princess."

The presentation is quite good. The music fits well and the scenery is outstanding. The cutscenes really bring the story to life and they are actually fun to watch.

Overall, "Pandora's Tower" is a great and

unique experience. It is a welcomed break from the onslaught of first person shooters and certainly a nice getaway from the many shades of brown and green as seen in most shooters. The gameplay also makes for a fun experience.

9.5/10



Music review: Killswitch Engage

"Disarm the Descent"

DAVID ROOT
Press Opinion Editor

Break out your short shorts and don't you dare shave that beard: Killswitch Engage is back, and better than ever.

Four years after their less-than-popular second self-titled album and nearly two years on near full hiatus after losing Howard Jones as front man, Killswitch Engage has revived itself with 12 of the most beautifully aggressive and melodic tracks since Beethoven. Widely considered the commanding sound of the melodic metal scene, "Disarm the Descent" has accomplished far more musically than any previous album. With the addition of their original vocalist Jesse Leech, the band has successfully revived the raw energy and momentum of "Alive or Just Breathing" with the instrumental maturity gained by every album since—especially "Killswitch Engage II."

Killswitch has continued their legacy of a down-to-earth approach to music, going so far as to require Jesse Leech to try out and compete against stiff competition. Adding to the all-around humble nature of the band, Killswitch continues to forego the current studio trends of quantization and auto-tune, remaining unaltered in the studio and just as tight during live shows as on any album. Once again self-produced through guitarist Adam Dutkewitz, "Disarm the Descent" uses real drum sounds without any use of triggers, creating a perfect blend of hard hitting single kick and realistically underwhelming double kick rolls. The snare hits with enough depth to

cut through the entire mix—and even make your woofers pop. That's pretty impressive, considering the signature low end of the guitars already makes your woofers wump with every glorious chug (and then some).

Musically, the upbeat pace and raw power is at the core of this album, complimented by some of the best-sung choruses since "Element of One." Justin Foley, KSE's drummer, has once again played with the perfect blend of technicality, groove, and straightforwardness the band has always utilized, along with a new appreciation for crushing blast beats to further compliment the band's return to their adolescent aggression. Jesse Leech's lyrics are powerful, heartfelt and passionate, resurrecting the vocal energy lost since II. Adam and Joel, the guitarists, have retained their crushing riffs and spine-tingling melodic choruses, retaining their status as the single most underrated guitar duo in metal today. Mike D Antonio, bassist, rounds out the band's overall sound wonderfully, further reinforcing the ever-present need of bass guitar, even in heavy metal.

One of the few bands able to create an album with a natural progression that isn't engineered in the grand scheme of individual songs, Killswitch Engage has evolved its music, not its individual style, in order to rekindle exactly what made the metal community fall in love with it in the first place. Such a profound level of creative chemistry will always adapt and push on, always innovate beyond the Internet hype, and never fail to

push the boundaries of the previously receding genre; "Disarm the Descent" is no exception.

10/10



Dirt Fest



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