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NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE

WHITE PINE PRESS

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

Beedoskah Stonefish, GTB Heritage Day Pow Wow 2014

Indigenous People's Day:

Celebrating Northern Michigan's Native Culture

Laureen Horan
Editor in Chief

Michigan is rich with the culture of Native Americans. In fact, Michigan got its name from the term "michigamea," which is a term for "great water." Twenty-four of Michigan's 83 counties are also named after Native American terminology. Today, there are more than 3 million Native Americans living in the United States and Canada, and here at NMC, we have 110 Native American students currently enrolled. NMC's Native American Student Organization, also known as NASO, is led by Todd Parker, who has been part of the Indian community since he was born. Parker had been a counselor and teacher of Indian education for 18 years before taking on the role as the Native American student success coach here at NMC. NASO strives to increase the number of Native American students and to be a voice and advocate for these students. His goal, and the goal of NASO as a whole, is to motivate Native students to not only attend college, but to get a degree in their hand and help students lead successful lives.

While all Americans are generally well-aware of our Native history, it tends to be sparcely celebrated and sometimes forgotten. Recently, the Michigan state Senate recognized the lack of celebration of Native American culture. The concept of Indigenous Peoples day was introduced in California in the 1970s; it reimagines Columbus Day and changes a celebration of colonialism into an opportunity to reveal historical truths about the genocide and oppression of indigenous peoples in the Americas, to organize against current injustices, and to celebrate indigenous resistance.

This notion has caught on in many places across the nation, and cities such as Minneapolis and Seattle have now replaced Columbus Day with a celebration of America's true first people. Another alternative to Columbus Day, known as Native American Day exists in South Dakota, Hawaii and Alabama. On Thursday, Sept. 24, the Senate adopted a resolution sponsored by Sen. Wayne Schmidt to establish the fourth Friday in September as Michigan Indian Day. This February, after the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians passed a name-change resolution, Traverse City also made the decision to recognize Columbus Day as Indigenous Peoples Day instead. This decision comes just in time for two exciting local events revolving around Traverse City's Native American community. All are welcome to attend these events and learn about the history of our native predecessors.

The first event is the 2015 NMC Indigenous Peoples Traditional Pow Wow, which is also referred to as "Jiingtamok." The event will take place on Saturday, Oct 10 from 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. at Traverse City Central High School. The event is free and will include musical performances of traditional native music. The next event is the Indigenous Peoples Day Celebration Night of Music. This takes place Oct. 12 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Dennos' Milliken Auditorium. Musical acts will include the Sturgeon Bay Singers, Aaron Otto, Spirit Lake, Francis Carew, Ruby John and George Trudeau. The event is free with your NMC ID.

Kelsey Wabanimkee is the student president of the Native American Student Organization, and she explained why these events are necessary and beneficial. "It's important because the history of America and the original people of this land isn't told correctly. It's important to recognize that when Christopher Columbus 'discovered' America, Native people were already here and had worked hard to make this land their home. I'm both happy and excited that Traverse City has taken the steps necessary to give Native Americans the recognition they truly deserve. I'm sure our ancestors would be proud to see this day. We also have a strong responsibility to future generations to ensure this history is told correctly, and I believe that Indigenous Peoples Day is a solid step in that direction.

If you'd like to get involved or learn more about these events, contact NMC's Student Success Center at 231-995-3025. The Native American Student Organization is very active and is always seeking new members.

The Real Cost of Living

Housing Strife in TC

Breanne Russell
Staff Writer

New York City, San Francisco, Honolulu and Washington D.C. annually make the top 10 for most expensive places to live. And it's not just the exorbitant housing that beats out other cities. It is the cost of living, the income needed to sustain basic expenses, which makes these urban regions infamously pricey. Some cities, such as San Francisco, are increasing the minimum wage in hopes of combating the huge gaps between income and living expenses. But it may be too little too late as housing across the nation becomes oppressively unaffordable. Major American cities may hog the housing crisis spotlight but even smaller cities like Traverse City are feeling the impact of low income versus the high cost of living.

Thirty percent of one's income should be spent on housing. But with many shelling out upwards of 50 percent for a roof over their heads, this rule of thumb becomes more arbitrary by the day. The average rent in TC, according to the rental housing statistics for Traverse City and Grand Traverse County from 2013, is $808/month. Residents who earn minimum wage would need to work more than 70 hours a week to meet this ratio. Not exactly a scenario that affords balance between work and home.

"Half the pay for a view of the bay" combined with inflated housing makes TC a sometimes difficult place to call home and a risky choice for young workers looking to relocate. Lindsay Vanhulle, in her article "Traverse City Fears Talent Shortage," warns us that "Low-paying jobs and a lack of affordable housing are two of the culprits" keeping millennials from moving here.

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NEWS IN BRIEF
Compiled by Laureen Horan

NMC Transfer Fair

More than 30 university representatives will be on NMC's campus from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 13 to talk with students, staff and faculty about their programs and the transfer process. The university representatives will be located in the lobby of the Science/Math Building and in West Hall. Students have the opportunity to discuss transfer requirements and get information on degrees available at a variety of schools without having to travel to each university. Bring questions and explore your options!

Family to Freeform

ABC Family has announced that starting January 2016, the channel name will be changed to "Freeform." Representatives of the company stated that this is part of an effort to evolve with the average viewer. The term "Family" was leading viewers to associate all of their shows as "wholesome" and family-oriented, and so they chose to change the name to fit the viewing audience.

Campus Shooting in Oregon

Nine students were shot dead and seven others seriously injured after a student opened fire at the Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, Oregon. The shooter has been identified as 26-year-old Chris Harper-Mercer. An 18-year-old student who witnessed the horrific shooting claims that Mercer entered her classroom and told the students to state their religion before opening fire—an allusion to the 1999 Columbine shooting. Mercer was killed on the scene by authorities.

The Cost of Living

Continued from pg.1

Younger, full-time residents are essential, especially for a city with an aging population. Sara Lucas, regional planning department manager for Networks Northwest, speaks to the struggles many have: "We hear from young people who want to live up here, are able to find jobs up here but … can't take the job because they can't find a place to live. Or, it's too expensive, or they have to drive too far from the place they can afford." Whereas more affordable housing may be found in surrounding areas, commuting expenses may offset any savings. While residing closer to town can provide a stronger sense of community and support the local economy, it is just too high a price to pay for younger residents.

Northwestern Michigan College (NMC) is one of five community colleges in Michigan providing on-campus housing. In a city with limited housing resources, NMC's Residence Hall, Apartments and the Hawk's Nest can be a hail Mary for part-time and full-time students. NMC Apartments rent for $650-$775/mo. For the classic dorm experience, Residence Hall rooms rent for around $450-$600/mo. Many students would prefer to live off-campus but the economic burden can be a hindrance, especially when financial aid can assist with on-campus living costs.

Laureen Horan, editor-in-chief of the *White Pine Press*, recalls that even when money was not an issue, landlords were wary of renting to students. "Many places you apply to live at either turn you down for a lack of renter's experience, turn you down because you're a full-time student, or turn you down because they don't want multiple adults assuming residence of a place."

She observes that as a college town, student housing "needs to be considered as a serious community issue, and that the city needs to figure out a way to help students live near campus."

The demand for student housing mirrors that of Traverse as a whole. The supply is waning and waitlists can be long. Lisa Eiden, office manager of Residence Life, urges students to plan ahead. Those who wait may have a difficult time reserving a spot. The NMC Apartments have a pretty consistent waitlist of 15 to 20 students.

NMC's office manager of auxiliary services, Kim Gourlay, says that talks of additional housing are always in the works. NMC acknowledges the need for more student housing but, as witnessed with local housing developments, it isn't always that simple.

In May 2015, development plans were released proposing a 100-foot mixed-use building on the corner of Pine and Front Streets. According to the online *Traverse City Ticker*, the building would house 180 residential units, including 64 affordable housing apartments. Yet, a mere four months later the proposal was withdrawn. Complaints were voiced about view obstruction and potential construction run-off. Yet, one can't help but wonder if the notion of a nine-story building in idyllic small town America was an immediate show stopper. Within days of the withdrawal, local attorney Grant Parsons spearheaded a referendum petition to ban buildings over 60 feet tall in certain Traverse City areas. If successful, it could prevent much needed expansion of the downtown area. The question then becomes, if Traverse City can't grow up, can it grow at all?

Everyone knows housing is a problem, but it seems little is being done to solve the crisis. Available rentals are disappearing as home owners sell properties while the market is high. For those who do not have the resources to own, alternatives are limited. Many endure lower standards of living or negligent landlords for fear of losing rentals.

Needless to say, housing is a hot topic in the upcoming TC mayoral and city commissioner elections. At the UpNorth Live sponsored event Meet the Candidates on Sept. 29, all participants agreed that lack of affordable housing is a constant obstacle but opinions differed in regard to applicable solutions.

Both mayoral candidates Jeanine Easterday and Jim Carruthers said that the city needs ample time to analyze new housing proposals. Easterday related her concerns about the Pine Street project to the *Ticker*: "I don't want to undertake a project like this without careful consideration of how it will affect the peace, health and safety of this community."

In the *Record-Eagle* article "Downtown Buildings Cause Conflict," Carruthers states that the city shouldn't forgo the individuality of downtown by expanding up. "You have all these young hipsters who want the housing, but I don't know if they realize what makes Traverse City so nice is its small-town character. We need to provide the housing, but at what cost?"

Talk, as they say, is cheap. Housing in Traverse City is not. It is time for developers and city planners to offer innovative, low-cost housing for the next generation. Too many young adults and middle-class families abandon Traverse in search of better employment and an affordable cost of living elsewhere. To answer Carruthers, current growth in Traverse already proves the city is shedding its small town mythos. The answer isn't in the past, it is in the future that the energy and creativity of educated youth provide.

BookMania

Jacob Wheeler
Faculty Advisor

The National Writers Series is hosting BookMania until Oct. 15 at the City Opera House and other Traverse City venues. This festival highlights fierce women and faraway places and hopes to draw both local and visiting literature lovers for a celebration of writers, lively discussion and book-based festivities.

NMC students get $5 admission to National Writers Series events.

BookMania, which began on Oct. 7, resumes on Sunday, Oct. 11 at 3 p.m. with legendary musician and songwriter Ben Sidran joining local jazz guru Jeff Haas on stage at the Milliken Auditorium. Sidran could never find a complete social history of Jewish contributions to popular music in America, so he wrote one himself. It took him 10 years, but he ultimately published *There Was a Fire: Jews, Music and the American Dream*. Sidran uses his personal experience to frame the story of Jews in America and their pioneering contributions, from nickelodeons to outdoor music festivals to jazz.

Tuesday, Oct. 13 at 7 p.m. Bonnie Jo Campbell takes the stage at the City Opera House together with guest host Thomas Lynch, the famous undertaker, poet, essayist and subject of two documentaries. Campbell made her mark writing mesmerizing stories and gripping novels about the dark and desperate side of country living. Her new collection of stories, *Mothers, Tell Your Daughters*, captures the central mysteries of life through fierce female characters that one reviewer likened to "rusty razorblades—damaged, but still sharp enough to draw blood."

Wednesday, Oct. 14 at 7 p.m. welcomes Paula McClain back to the City Opera House stage, flanked by guest host Benjamin Busch. She will facilitate an up-close and personal conversation about her new book *Circling the Sun*. McLain's heartbreaking love story is set against the romantic backdrop of colonial Kenya. Like *The Paris Wife*, which sold 1.5 million copies and landed her on the *New York Times* bestseller list for more than a year, this story centers around a captivating love triangle.

The first annual BookMania concludes Thursday, Oct. 15 at 7 p.m. with Sarah Chayes, appearing at the City Opera House with guest host and former diplomat Jack Segal. The event is presented in conjunction with Segal's International Affairs Forum. Chayes and Segal will examine the question: Is acute corruption around the globe responsible for the greatest security crises facing America today?

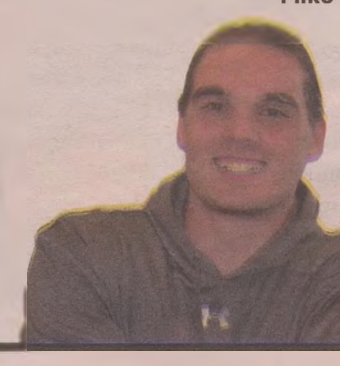
As a star NPR correspondent, Chayes covered the fall of the Taliban regime and made the unusual decision to settle in Kandahar, Afghanistan. While a new, NATO-led war unfolded around her, she founded Arghand, a start-up manufacturing cooperative where men and women worked together to produce fine skin care products for export. Running Arghand in downtown Kandahar gave her an extraordinary vantage point to observe corruption in Afghanistan—and the inadequate U.S. response.

Check out the full BookMania schedule at www.NationalWritersSeries.org. Tickets are available at the City Opera House Box Office, either online or in person.

CAMPUS QUOTES

Compiled by **Devon Harris**

What's your favorite part about fall?



"I like the cooler weather and the fact that the holidays are coming up."

COLLIN WILCOX
Majoring in Marine Technology

"My favorite part of fall is the changing colors and the awesome food from farmers' markets."

MELLA MCCORMICK
Philosophy Professor

"I love to go on fall color tours."

JULIA CASTILHO
Majoring in Buisness

"My favorite part is all of the orange."

OLGA NAROLSKA
Majoring in Aviation

"Everything pumpkin!"

MADDI WHITE
Major Undecided

WRITE US A LETTER

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The Strengths of Self-Defense

Laureen Horan
Editor in Chief

It's over a month into the semester, and you've finally got a routine figured out. You've got all your books and supplies, you're staying up-to-date with your assignments and you feel prepared. Preparedness is a wonderful feeling, knowing that you're ready to handle anything that comes your way. As humans, we dress in layers to prepare for unpredictable weather. We carry bags and purses to keep useful items with us. We cook dinner before we serve it… we just tend to prepare. However, we cannot be prepared for everything. Emergencies and bizarre situations happen to all of us, and sometimes these instances can impose long-term effects on people. Car accidents, shootings and kidnappings are all examples of drastic situations we attempt to prepare for, but still happen on a daily basis. It's no secret that sexual assault also occurs on a daily basis. In fact, the U.S. Department of Justice's National Crime Victimization Survey shows that in America, someone is sexually assaulted every 107 seconds. With a frequency rate that high, it makes sense that all of us, whether male or female, need to make a point to learn to defend ourselves in the event of a violent attack.

You may be thinking to yourself, "Oh, that'll never happen to me. I walk in well-lit areas, and I have a tiny can of pepper spray on my keychain. I'm set." Unfortunately, that's not going to do much for you if you don't happen to have your keys in your hand at the moment of attack. With stories of campus violence shaking the nation, it's up to everyone to be prepared and aware of their surroundings at any given moment.

You may not hear about these incidences occurring on campus, but it could happen at any time. On the evening of Sept. 22, student Brandee Gibson stopped by the 7-11 across the street from NMC after her class. "After I made my purchases, I was walking back out to my car and a man in the car next to me shouted, 'You've got some big boobs!' I tried to lighten the situation with a joke and said, 'Thanks! My boyfriend likes them.' The man then said, 'Tell your boyfriend I'm coming home with you.' He then stepped out of his vehicle and started walking towards me. I jumped in my car, locked the doors and drove away. I usually take Eighth street home, but this time I drove down South Airport because it's well-lit and I wanted to make sure I wasn't being followed." When asked about how important it is for people to know self-defense, Gibson had this to say: "I do think it's very important for people to know how to defend themselves, especially when they're alone in the dark. I was honorably discharged from the United States Marine Corps and earned the rank of green belt in my enlistment, so I have had some training on how to defend myself. Normally I'm not startled by these situations because it happens often at bars, but something was very wrong in this situation and I can actually say that I was pretty scared."

There is some technique involved when defending yourself against an attacker. The best defensive stance anyone has is the running position. It is a much better idea for you to escape the assailant if it is possible. If you know that a fight is inevitable, then do your best to stand firmly and not touch the ground. You will have a much better chance of getting the upper hand in the conflict if you never have to get on the ground. If you do end up on the ground, try to fall on top of the assailant and use your elbows and knees to hit their groin, ribs and neck. Keep your face blocked in the event of physical confrontation. Put your hands over your face and tuck your elbows in close to you. This not only protects your face but your ribs as well. If you feel as though it is necessary to punch the assailant, go for the eyes, nose or genitals. Fast, hard impact in these areas will cause the most pain to your attacker and give you an opportunity to get away. Poking the eyes is another effective tactic in catching your attacker off guard. If the attacker is trying to pick you up from behind, drop your hips quickly and violently as if you were plopping down on a chair. This will make you harder to pick up and give you an extra moment to attack them and fend them off by stomping on their shins or repositioning for a frontal defense. Screaming loudly could also be another technique of self-defense. It would draw unwanted attention toward the scene and give others who can hear you an opportunity to help you.

These are all useful ways to protect yourself against an attacker. If you don't feel confident in your ability to defend yourself in a violent situation, consider taking a self-defense course. Besides protection from attackers, there are many benefits to learning how to defend yourself. One of the biggest advantages to learning self-defense is the confidence it will bring you. A lot of people are unsure about their abilities to protect themselves before they learn, and this can be due to personal experiences, as well as driven by the news. We tend to be surrounded by negativity in our society, and this can leave people feeling unprotected. Self-defense classes will build confidence. If you are bullied, it is also a great way to protect yourself.

Another great reason to learn self-defense is because it teaches discipline. In order to learn and grow with your defense abilities, you have to develop self-discipline. You have to be motivated and dedicated to the practice. In order to be better protected, you have to keep practicing. Actually going

Practice can save your life—Most people don't know how it feels to hit or be hit. Practicing at full force with the correct protective gear can prepare you for the real thing. Repeating defensive moves will create muscle memories. Your brain will learn to automatically react in a dangerous situation.

Photo courtesy of AT

Go for the eyes—To properly gouge the eyes, a finger or thumb should be driven deeply into the eye socket. This must be done with the intent to cause harm or maim your attacker. Poking the eyes will not stop an attack.

Photo courtesy of Seung-ni Martial Arts Academy

A Martial Arts

Elbows, Knees and Fists—Hit hard and don't give up. Adrenaline can go a wlong way in defense. Go for the tender areas of your attacker's body. The face and groin are especially suseptable to defensive hits.

Photo courtesy of Seung-ni Martial Arts

Photo courtesy of ATA Martial Arts

Be aware—Walk with your head up and survey your surroundings. Don't be a target with your face in your phone. Looking strangers in the eye or verbally acknowledging their prescence can catch attackers off-guard.

to class and showing up on a regular basis develops discipline. Taking these types of classes will get you focused on your personal protection and on your surroundings. Like anything else, you've got to practice to develop your skills.

Knowing how to protect yourself in violent situations could be the difference between life and death. If you are ever on campus and don't feel safe, call NMC security at 995-1111 at any time. They can provide you with an escort to your vehicle and sweep the surrounding area to be sure no one is lurking where they shouldn't be. If you're interested in taking self-defense classes, there are multiple places around Traverse City that offer courses. At Traverse City ATA Martial Arts, you can take a four week course for $49, and that covers the cost of your uniform as well. Learning to use your strength, becoming more aware of your surroundings, gaining discipline and knowing how to defend yourself against an attacker are priceless skills to have.

Push yourself to limit—Endurance is key when it comes to defending yourself. By pushing your body to the limit you can train it to fight longer. Below ATA trainees practice endurance drills. In groups of three, one restrains another while they hit the pad at full force for one minute.

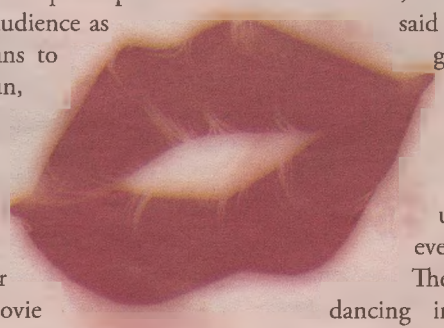
Photo courtesy of ATA Martial Arts

Rocky Horror: The Live Show

Jasmine Miles
Staff Writer

"Give yourself over to absolute pleasure." Give into your voyeuristic intentions. Come see the *Rocky Horror Picture Show* live by Richard O'Brien. This show is being produced by Elevated Arts in Traverse City. The show will be at the Inside Out Gallery Oct. 23 at 8 p.m. and Oct. 24 at 8 p.m. and midnight.

This show is fun, sexy, unique and so fun to see. Lesley Tye, who plays Columbia in the show, says this is her fourth time getting to play this role. She enjoys being a part of this show because everyone can participate. Not just the cast, but the audience as well. This is a place for fans to come as they are and have fun, which is why she enjoys this show so much. The *White Pine Press* asked Tye if she would ever want to play a different role and she said no. "This role was meant for me. I was born when the movie first came out and it was a 'meant-to-be' kind of role." Tye also writes her own mash up musicals and dances at Elevated Arts. She's very excited for this show to be taking the stage again.



Brett Nichols, who is taking on two major roles as both the director and Dr. Frankenfurter, says, "This show is going to be amazing." The *White Pine Press* asked Nichols how he made his casting decisions for the show. Nicholas states, "We casted people who we thought could work their butts off in any given situation. Even if they could not make it to rehearsal, we know they would be practicing somewhere else. When we casted we didn't focus on what they looked like on the outside. It was important to us that they were about to be hardworking and dedicated to the show. If I do say so myself, we have a pretty great cast." Nicholas also wanted to make it known that the majority of the cast and production team are volunteers, which means they are not paid for the hard work and effort they put into this amazing show. Other cast members shared what they must do to get ready for the show, and a majority of them said to be open minded, go with the flow, step off the box, be okay with the sexiness of the show and just psych themselves up. Be prepared for everything.

There is a lot of dancing in this show and Kristina Nicholas has done a wonderful job as choreographer. The number one thing each cast member looks forward to is the performances and just showing everyone what they've been working so hard and diligently for the last few months. The costumes are also a highly anticipated part of the show. The *Rocky Horror Picture Show* reminds us that it's okay to be different. Come support some very talented local actors and actresses and enjoy some live theater. Don't forget to dress the part and be ready for a fun, musical experience!

Bob James: Jazz in TC

Taylor McLain
Staff Writer

In the September 2015 issue of *Jazz Inside Magazine,* the Dennos Museum Center is mentioned in an article about Bob James and his concert which took place at the Milliken Auditorium and became a CD of the live performance.

For those of you who don't know, Bob James is a legendary Grammy Award-winning jazz musician who owns his own record label. Known for his sweet and lively piano playing skills, James is more than deserving of his legendary title; how is it that such a musician would record his second ever live album at our Milliken Auditorium?

The *White Pine Press* interviewed Eugene A. Jenneman, executive director of the Dennos Museum to bring you the story straight from the horse's mouth—or piano's keys in this case.

It all started oddly enough in South Korea with an artist named Seungmo Park. Jenneman visited Seungmo outside of his studio in Seoul in October 2013.

Jenneman had originally gone to speak to a museum director group in South Korea when he meet Seungmo and was amazed by his work.

Jenneman talked extensively with Seungmo to convince him to display his works here at our campus. Seungmo struggled with the decision at first, but decided to do so after a word of recommendation by an artist friend. After finding out that Seungmo was a huge fan of Bob James—as many people living in eastern cultures are—Jenneman told him that he could get James to play at the opening of his exhibit, which became the deciding factor for Seungmo.

James, being a solo act, gathered a set of three "sidemen" to form a merry band. For those of us who don't speak jazz, a "sideman" is a professional musician who is hired to perform or record with a group of which he or she is not a regular member, often, but not always, for jazz ensembles.

These musicians are self-taught jazz guitarist Perry Hughes, the bassist who set the standard for all bassists, Nate Phillips and native Detroit-er and alumni of Interlochen Arts Academy, Clarence Penn on drums.

These men had all played with Bob James before but had never worked with each other, so initially they didn't think their performance should be recorded. But, something magical happened that night and everyone knew it had to be preserved. Milliken tech director Jack Conners listened to their performance and was eager to test out the new recording equipment. He took a huge risk and recorded the concert without asking the artist first. He could've faced criminal charges for this, but in what some might call a bizarre twist of fate, halfway through the performance, James himself thought he should've recorded the concert. So after working with James for days to make sure it met his personal standard, and one generous donation from the Begonia Foundation, the CD was released with great success. I have thoroughly enjoyed this CD. Its sweet rhythm and natural in-the-moment performance you could've only gotten live is a gift even non-jazz fans will enjoy.

The CD is now on sale at the Dennos Museum gift shop for $14.95 and is worth every penny.

Courtesy of the Dennos Museum

Global Endorsement Program

Breanne Russell
Staff Writer

Ever dream of traveling the world—of exploring the dungeons at the Tower of London, collaborating with Cuban artists and musicians or putting your social services to the test in Brazil? Well, the opportunity is here. NMC's Global Endorsement Program not only makes travel to other countries a reality, it enhances students' overall connection to the world.

The Global Endorsement Program is an official certificate applied to NMC transcripts, which confirms students have surpassed expectations, through academic and extracurricular learning, in global awareness and understanding.

With an ever-increasing global workforce, students can reap multiple benefits from immersing themselves in foreign cultures. As first lady Michelle Obama explains, "Getting ahead in today's workplaces isn't just about getting good grades … It's also about having real experiences with the world beyond your borders."

NMC's Jim Bensley, Director of International Services and Service Learning, shared with the *White Pine Press* some of the ins and outs of the Global Endorsement Program (GE).

WPP: When was the GE program started and what was the impetus behind it?

Bensley: The Global Endorsement began in the fall of 2014. It is based on research leading to a proposal I authored in 2013.

WPP: Did you have a program similar to this when you were in college?

Bensley: There was not a program like this offered when I was in college. My institution had semester and year-long study abroad opportunities (most four-year institutions did), but did not have an overarching plan like the NMC Global Endorsement.

WPP: How is GE different than merely studying abroad?

Bensley: The GE is a multi sensory/multicultural exploration of the world which allows students to obtain a higher level of understanding, knowledge and skills to solve problems in collaboration with diverse communities. Study abroad is one component of the GE, and although it is extremely beneficial, it is not the only way to complete the endorsement. Students who are not able to participate in a study abroad opportunity have options, including a domestic intercultural experience or an honors based research project where they work closely with artifacts and/or personnel on the ground in their area of research."

WPP: Do you feel that overseas studies are more enriched than domestic studies?

Bensley: I think most of our students who have gone abroad with NMC will tell you that, yes, getting your feet on the ground and interacting with a new culture and language for more than 12 hours daily would be more enriching than a domestic experience where you might be working with a group for just a few hours per day. However, participating with a culture different from one's own, even while in the U.S., also provides a unique learning perspective. Not only have I led groups overseas, I have also taken students on domestic experiences to places such as central Mississippi, the Cheyenne Indian Reservation in South Dakota and a ghetto neighborhood in inner city Philadelphia. Each of these experiences was unique and so very different from what students living in Northern Michigan were used to. So, yes, although overseas experiences are very enriching, domestic opportunities can also be very rewarding.

WPP: Is the GE a nationally recognized program?

Bensley: NMC is currently a part of the Community Colleges for International Development—Global Certificate Learning Community—a group of 20 community colleges nationwide who have, or are developing, programs similar to ours.

WPP: Are there financial aid options for overseas study?

Bensley: Study abroad options are supported by The Global Opportunities Scholarship. Intinally begun by president Tim Nelson and Nancy Johnson, and supported by the NMC Foundation, the scholarship allows students to receive up to$1000 in funding to support their study overseas. In addition, students may also use their Federal Financial Aid to assist in making study abroad possible.

This amazing program is available to all NMC students. For details, frequently asked questions, acedemic programs involved and who to contact regarding the Global Endorsement Program visit:

www.nmc.edu/student-services/international-services/global-endorsement

In the Minor-ity

Enjoying Traverse City as a Minor

Dyana Allen
Staff Writer

Growing up in Traverse City, the abundant amount of bars becomes monotonous. The loud music, neon lights, and drunken laughs echoing through the alleys at night become something we're generally accustomed to. With any late-night trip downtown, the accompaniment of tipsy laughter and stumbling groups of friends are almost guaranteed. But what happens on the other side of this? Those of us who don't drink, or are underage, seek out other means of entertainment from the city.

A website known as RoadSnacks recently rated Traverse City as the number one "drunkest place" in Michigan based on bars, pubs, wineries, and liquor stores per capita, "drunk related tweets within the week," and each city's divorce rate. A lot of events in TC are alcohol-oriented or don't allow people under 21 inside; this tends to happen more with bars and clubs that host shows and concerts. This can be restricting, especially when there's a cool band somewhere like Streeters, but it isn't accessible to all ages because of the alcohol factor, even though it is optional.

The nature throughout and surrounding the city is nothing to be overlooked, providing acres of forest playgrounds filled with opportunities for exploration. The TART trail, state hospital grounds, and the peninsula are some perfect examples of the beauty Traverse has to offer. I recently spent some time in the trails around the hospital on Women's Walk, and I highly recommend it. I've spent my whole life living on the peninsula but never really appreciated its beauty until recently, which led me to think about how this beautiful corner of the world has kind of been taken advantage of.

Sixteen-year-old Vivian Burgess of Traverse City commented on her recreational activities and says, "If I'm not at the library, I usually spend time at the record store that's down the road. I like exploring Hickory, long-boarding the TART trail, and spending time in Horizon's basement. I also enjoy going to the shows at Studio Anatomy. Those are a lot of fun." When asked if she thought there was anything that she'd want to change about Traverse City, she said, "I'm pretty pleased with it. It's been my favorite place that I've lived so far." There is an immense amount of culture and history surrounding our city, which feeds into the people who have made a home out of dear TC.

When asked about her life, 18-year-old Kiara Ortiz responded with, "If I'm not working, I'm at home doing homework, playing video games, or painting. Sometimes I'll go out to restaurants with my friends and eat late at night." Ortiz followed up with, "a teen-oriented club would be cool." Aside from Brew or Horizon, there aren't many places where people can hang out away from the bar scene. Especially when it seems as if there's one on every other corner of downtown. Fortunately, there are places like Lucky Jack's and Incredible Mo's that host events such as teen night and other opportunities to get together with some friends, go out, and have a nice time.

One of the most popular attractions to TC is the annual Cherry Festival, bringing thousands of people from all over while still providing a family-friendly atmosphere. With the festival comes rides, musical artists, and plenty of activities for all ages. One of the things most people can agree on is that we certainly aren't lacking when it comes to celebrating. Along with the Cherry Festival, TC hosts Fourth of July fireworks, the Film Festival, Seasonal Microbrew fests, the National Writers Series, the Winter Comedy Arts Festival, and pub-crawls.

A majority of those occasions are alcohol-oriented, which makes it difficult to be under 21 in this town. Drinking has become something that's socially acceptable and is a key point of socializing in Traverse City. Lexie Penny, 19, comments on the effect this has on the underage community: "It makes for a kind of recreational vacuum often orientating around legally frowned- upon behaviors. This is because there are few other popularized opportunities for community engagement of young people. It also sets a stage for desensitization to the dangers and legal implications of underage participation in these cultural activities that can restrict growth for their quickly encroaching futures." This opinion is shared between many minors on this issue, also reminding us of the importance of keeping safe and informed.

Traverse City is a wonderful town comprised of rich culture, interesting people, and unreal scenery, not to mention how strong our community is. Regardless of what age you are, there's always a place for you.

Orange, Black, and Green?

Tips for a Sustainable Halloween

James Robinson
Staff Writer

Witches will be cackling, ghouls and ghosts will be prowling, and millions of people across America will be stalking cul-de-sacs and subdivisions in search of sugary treats. Yep, sounds like Halloween. Originally a pagan celebration honoring the dead, Halloween has morphed into a modern day celebration of consumerism. According to the National Retail Federation, 157 million Americans are expected to celebrate. The average American is estimated to spend $74, with overall spending on candy, costumes, and decorations estimated at $6.9 billion. That's a lot of money for one night! The amount of waste generated by this holiday would make any sustainably-minded person cringe. So, how can you have a fun-filled Halloween without the waste? Here are a few ideas to help you have a green Halloween.

Candy: Despite the protest by dentists, candy is a large part of the Halloween celebration. However, the packaging of our favorite candies is a large source of waste. When shopping for your Halloween goodies, look for candies that have minimal packaging made from recyclable materials, such as Dots, Mike and Ike, and Junior Mints. Some companies, such as Yummy Earth, make organic candies packaged in recyclable materials. When trick-or-treating, trade in the wasteful plastic bag for a reusable canvas tote or pillowcase. Take an extra bag with you to pick up any trash you may find while trick-or-treating. Are you trick-or-treating in several places? Try carpooling with friends between trick-or-treating hot-spots. Your dentist might be grumpy, but the earth, and your wallet, will thank you.

Costumes: These are also an important part of the Halloween tradition. Roughly 68 million Americans are expected to dress up this year. However, many of the costumes you find in the store are made with cheap, possibly toxic, materials. Rather than buying a toxic outfit, start by exploring your local thrift stores for great deals on costume apparel. You could also try hosting or attending a community costume exchange to swap gently used costumes and accessories. Are you thinking of wearing face paint with your costume? Some face paints contain trace amounts of lead and other heavy metals. Try making your own face paint from various homemade recipes. One simple recipe includes mixing equal parts cornstarch and face lotion, 1/4 tsp. vegetable oil, and your choice of food coloring or natural dyes. You can find more recipes on DIY websites and blogs. Are you an artsy person? Get creative and make your own costume. I'll never forget the year I dressed as a laundry basket. You could be one-of-a-kind!

Decorations: The celebration wouldn't be complete without spooky yard decorations. Start by searching your local thrift stores for gently used decorations. Even better, you could make your own decorations with craft supplies and items lying around the house. A white bed sheet can become a ghost and empty milk cartons can become skulls. What about the iconic jack-o-lanterns? Don't throw them in the trash! Composting those gourds will add nutrients to your backyard garden patch. Who knows, if you're really ambitious, you could grow your own pumpkins for next year!

Parties:

This year, an estimated 49 billion people will host a Halloween party. If you are one of these people, how can you have a fun-filled party without contributing waste? For starters, you can design an online invitation and e-mail it to your guests. These online invitations can look very cool and cause no waste. When shopping for munchies for your guests, try buying organic and locally grown products. These products support local farmers and are typically fresher than products that have been shipped long distances across the country. Purchase recyclable eating utensils or ask your guests to bring their own reusable utensils. Every little thing helps.

With sustainability, little changes can have big impacts. You might not be able to do all of these things, but even a few changes could create positive outcomes. So, get out the canvas shopping bags, comb through the local thrift stores, or purchase your locally grown pumpkins. This year, when October 31 comes around and the ghouls and ghosts come knocking, practice a few of these tips for a green Halloween.

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