

# WHITE PINE PRESS

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



# VOTE NOV 8





NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE

# WHITE PINE PRESS

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*Printed by Stafford Media Solutions and distributed free.*  
**Printed on 100% recycled paper**

## Correction

### WPP Issue No. 3: NMC Board of Trustee Election

In the third issue of the White Pine Press, the incorrect answer was printed for Michael Haynes' response to question #2: What qualifications do you possess that make you a good fit for trustee?

The correct answer is:

I have been fortunate to have a career as a physician, caring for my patients. I have held many leadership positions as department chair, president of the medical staff and later as vice president of Medical Affairs. I've been able to bring diverse groups together to reform and improve our hospitals. I initiated a Physician Hospital Compact, bringing doctors and administrators together to work for common goals. The compact has endured through eight years and three different administrations. I have been an educator of medical and nursing students, resident physicians, and led safety programs for system-wide staff. I've been the Medical Advisor for a community college surgical tech program.

## Unplanned Pregnancy Discussion

### Unplanned Pregnancy:

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Photo by Devon Hains

# Lead by Example

Candidates, citizens, and the qualities of a leader

**Tom Clarke**  
Staff Writer

The time to make history has arrived. Herald the moment as it comes, regardless of how small your part in it may seem, because this election is unlike any other we have seen before. For those of you who have yet to vote, you have a responsibility to do so. Otherwise, you give up your right to protest the outcome.

We are a democracy, a paradigm of contribution and an icon of conviction. But more than that, we are Americans. It is time to look inward and see where we stand, to wear our principles on our sleeves, to contribute our time and our say in who we want to lead this great country. It is vital that we do this. Not only because our votes will decide the future of our nation, but because it shows what we stand for as individuals. It shows we are willing to follow our hearts and lead ourselves by our own example.

We live in a world where the powerful assume positions of leadership, rather than the noble or the passionate. Stop for a moment and think. When was the last time you truly pledged your loyalty to a cause? When did you see a single person and follow them because of what they stood for, even if it was all-for-nothing? No matter who you vote for, it is important to understand what it means to follow and what it means to lead. Because leaders don't wear red or blue, leaders wear their convictions with pride and bare themselves to all scrutiny and

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ridicule. A leader has no hidden agenda, and a follower has every right to know who it is they are following.

So you see, this election, you are not voting Republican or Democrat. You are not even voting Libertarian, Green, or Independent. You are voting for people; people who have no obligation to their parties or their voters once they are elected. It may be hard to recall a time when a politician's promise meant much of anything. The simple truth is that it's easy to appease the populace — tell the majority what you think they want to hear. But a leader doesn't do that.

A leader loves his or her people, the ones who believe in them. A leader recognizes that the weight which is placed on their shoulder, by each and every vote, is not a prize to take advantage of, but a responsibility to uphold their values. A

leader, in fact, is not so different from a follower. Much as we must lead ourselves by following our hearts as we go to vote, so too should the leader who we elect exemplify their own ideals. If ever there was a time to realize this essential fact it is now.

I am speaking to the ones out there who are afraid to be heard; the ones who have a voice but do not use it. Perhaps you are not well-versed in politics, but maybe you're onto something when you suspect a politician is avoiding difficult questions. Maybe you don't believe you're smart enough for your vote to be placed at all, that it might be the wrong vote entirely because you're missing something crucial. I can tell you now that you share a mindset with countless others. If you of all people can be courageous and decide who is right to lead you and this great nation, others will too.

Whether you claim to be Republican, Democrat, Libertarian, Green, or Independent, I ask that you set aside your party allegiance and consider this one thing for a moment: American Flag. Does it define us, or do we define it? When the nations of the world look at Old Glory flying high 50 years from now, they will only see what you want them to see. A leader doesn't hide behind others. A leader will be found standing at the frontline ready to take the first blow. But only if you put them there.

# Tom Mair runs for County Commissioner

**Breanne Russell**

Editor in Chief

Americans face a difficult choice this presidential election. Some will opt for the lesser of two evils — or perhaps equal of two evils — but many will turn to alternative candidates as they cast their votes on Nov. 8.

Disillusioned citizens, upset over Senator Bernie Sanders' defeat, or fatigued by the derisive competition between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, are offering up their support to third party candidates this year. Jill Stein of the Green Party and Gary Johnson of the Libertarian Party have garnered the most media attention, and come election day both will be on 40 or more state ballots. But the truth is, elected third-party candidates are a rarity in government on all levels. Only two U.S. Senators, four major city mayors, and a couple hundred third-party officials at the local level currently hold office.

Tom Mair, Green Party candidate for 2nd District County Commissioner, hopes to change all that.

The US Green Party platform consists of 10 key values. The first of these, grassroots democracy, could be a pivotal key in changing the two-party majority demographic in our country. A difficult task met mostly with indifference, or at best, opposition. Many politicians — and citizens — assume third-party candidates will never amass enough support to be elected.

Just as Senator Sanders changed party alliances from Independent to Democrat to garner a stronger edge in the Presidential primary, many local candidates are persuaded by supporters to do the same. They simply believe a third-party candidate cannot win. Mair refuses to buy in to this type of political maneuvering. His loyalty has led to some upsets over lost elections in the past, but in the long run he feels it is important to stay true to his Green Party values. Like Sanders, Mair believes change comes at the local level.

This election, Mair is running against Republican Christine Maxbauer, who has sat on the County Commission Board for 10 years. Maxbauer has faced many battles during her tenure including her July 2016 arrest for drunk driving, but more pressing issues worry Mair.

Earlier this month, the Grand Traverse County's 2017 budget was mysteriously deleted. The lack of immediate transparency over the deletion has caused a stir. Some question if the budget contained plans for continued cuts of services and positions within the county, and if the loss of this information could benefit Maxbauer in the upcoming election. In a *Traverse Ticker* report from Oct. 26, County Administrator Tom Menzel attributes the deletion to a problematic computer system and the lack of experienced employees. The only two personnel qualified to run the program effectively left their



**TOM MAIR**

positions earlier this year.

Currently, this type of turn-over is not uncommon in county positions and is a trend that troubles Mair. "Some people have taken jobs with the city because it looks like a better place and they have the experience. Other people have retired, they're like 'what is the benefit of working longer, I have full retirement, why would I want to stick around and help them with their problems?'"

Most recently, Aimee Carroll resigned her position as Grand Traverse County Human Resources Director after less than two months. Carroll cited better opportunities as her reason for leaving, but some attribute the high rates of personnel loss to uncertainty regarding the budget deficit, and a breakdown of management at the highest levels. "It is not just the board," says Mair, "It is the board and the county administrator working in kind to cause problems. [County employees] blame their low morale and hostile work environment, whatever their grievances are, on those people." Contention also exists amongst current employees who want change but are afraid of reprisal if that change does not come.

By the end of the year, GT County faces a lack of nearly \$59 million funds for pension and retiree health care. Maxbauer told the *Record-Eagle* on Oct. 23 that the financial issues facing the county are an "11 out of 10." This number will continue to grow as long as the county commissioners prolong the decision-making process. Mair believes that the promises to curbe the massive debt have not been fulfilled. "[Maxbauer] has had plenty of time to fix some of the things that were obvious, as recently as two years ago. And they haven't fixed any of the problems." He is skeptical that a solution will be found without a drastic change in leadership, and hopes a fresh perspective can regain the trust of county employees and residents. "Once two new faces appear it will change the air in the room."

Mair believes problems the county

faces are not without solutions. As County Commissioner, he would reach out to others in the state experiencing similar issues. "What's going on in other places, other cities and counties in Michigan? I don't think our problems are unique, I think they are probably happening in other communities." He is also open to continued research on issuing municipal bonds to fix the complicated debt crisis, something Menzel refers to as "the worst option." Mair disagrees. He believes at this point every option should be on the table.

Whatever the outcome of the election, results will show whether the county trusts Maxbauer's experience. A loss may expose a lack of ability and inefficient leadership. A win may disclose the fear of change in government during a delicate time.

Recently Mair released a newsletter,

highlighting the need for transparency in local government, as well as his own personal values. At the top of the list: respect. "My values include grassroots democracy, social justice, ecological wisdom, and non-violence," says Mair, "If the county board isn't functioning and there is a divisive split—I suggest conflict mediation and peaceful resolution."

Mair feels his peaceful side is misrepresented in local media who have referred to the race between him and Maxbauer as a "feud" and "face-off." "My campaign is not about a 'feud' or 'feuding'. What's happening is more of a competition to select the best candidate. As candidates, and as people, we are different from each other. On Tuesday, Nov. 8, you get to decide."

# WMU

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# Prop 3: The battle hits the ballot

**Maya James**  
Staff Writer

Beautiful downtown residential areas in Traverse City, with lawns full of free speech, mailboxes stuffed with political propaganda, and ongoing divisive attitudes in a once quiet town—it's election time again.

Everyone sees them, few understand. The giant red “NO!” Or the bright green “YES!” In small print the topic of debate: “Proposal 3”. These familiar, simple and extremely vague signs often stick out, and due to Proposal 3’s controversial nature, party loyalty is simply not an option.

Prop 3 is an amendment to our tiny town constitution stating that all buildings over 60 feet are “generally inconsistent with the residential and historical character of Traverse City. Therefore, any proposal for construction of a building with a height above 60 feet, shall not be approved by the City or City Commission, until after the proposal is submitted to and approved by a majority of the city electors at a regular election, or at a special election.” This means that if any type of contractor wants to build a structure over six stories in Traverse City, it must first be approved by the residents of Traverse City, then the city commission. In other words, a special election could take place if and when any large building is proposed for our area, or the process would be delayed until a general election.

A loud divide has emerged surrounding this hot topic. Jeanine Easterday, former city commissioner, in her article “Proposal Three: Why Vote ‘No?’”, claims voting ‘yes’ on the proposal only represents a deep need for “the way things used to be”, and restrains innovative American architecture.

It’s important, however, not to write-off concerns as just pure nostalgia. Some supporters of Prop 3 believe that Traverse City should cater to residents who have lived here their entire lives. That when tall building developments are proposed in the city, the people residing here should make decisions on how safe and secure they will be. While many

claim they support a “yes” vote because they treasure the historical significance of our downtown areas, others believe just as strongly that democracy should be the basis of urban development.

Those against Prop 3 believe that it is the job of our city commissioners, who are just as capable if not more capable, to make decisions about zoning and urban development. Claims have been made that passing the proposal will drive away city investments which may result in a loss of jobs or tax revenue. Stand Up TC warns that the amendment would waste time and resources due to “countless special elections at a cost of over \$20,000 each.”

Much of the debate stems from this question: who controls what? Traverse City has a municipal charter (the constitution of our small town) that organizes leadership and balances powers of local government. Prop 3 acts as an amendment to the City Charter section 28, “Definitive of the shared powers of our commissioners.” This section explains everything from how voting takes place, to vacating public areas for events or construction, to how public funds should be used.

Many say the amendment would negatively affect low income housing for low to middle income citizens — especially students. In fact, a portion of section 28 states that “no plan for urban renewal, rehabilitation or redevelopment pursuant to Act 344 of the Public Acts of 1945, as amended [...] shall be adopted until submitted to and passed by a majority of the electors of the City at a regular municipal.” To put it simply, if a large federally subsidized affordable housing project was proposed, the city commission would *still* vote on it, meaning that Prop 3 only affects private industry. Could this be why the Downtown Development Agency is so deeply invested in a “No” vote?

Some allege that Prop 3 is illegal because it conflicts with the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act (ZEA) and the Home Rule City Act (HRCA). The ZEA regulates land and zoning

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ordinances, stating that city commissioners have the right to provide regulations and boundaries of zones in certain areas. Hypothetically, if Prop 3 passes, the act would conflict with liberties of the city commissioners. HRCA also includes similar laws for city commissioners and building codes, as well as other types of town establishments. In the end this argument is sort of true. While debatable on a state level the amendment is not necessarily a violation of any federal law, and is subject to a protest petition (Article 4 of Section 202, Zoning Enabling Act).

Many remain unconvinced by either sides’ rhetoric and will go to the voting booths undecided. Perhaps that is because Prop 3 is not the answer to many complicated issues. If the community is worried about affordable housing, why was Prop 3 not an amendment to implement a minimum amount of affordable housing structures in our town, say, every few years? If zoning is the concern, why did we not propose an amendment to zoning ordinances? If it is about the allotment of power to our city commissioners, why are residents not electing commissioners who represent their values? In the end, the proposal has too many strategic holes. A result that could be blamed on the habits of voters who blatantly ignore the fine print.



# A Woman in the White House?

## Deirdre Mahoney: What Clinton as President Would Mean

In fourth grade, my father handed me a copy of *Jane Eyre*. Sensing it was important I read every page of the novel—not well, but well enough to understand that although Jane was tossed many raw deals in life she remained independent and tough throughout. My father, the first feminist I knew, died nearly 30 years ago but it was because of his influence growing up it never occurred to me my ambitions were bound by gender or age. He demonstrated enormous respect for women’s intellect and abilities and championed their opportunities, particularly in the workplace. He believed women belonged not just *in* organizations but at the top, as they made the workplace dynamic and successful. If Hillary Clinton wins this election I know he’d be applauding but also wondering why it took so long for America to embrace the obvious.

Clinton in the White House, this time as president, will demonstrate a profound shift in our cultural and political landscape. This generation of young Americans will grow up in a world where an African American or woman as commander-in-chief represents business as usual. Ho-hum.

Yet this historical moment is anything but ho-hum. Choosing Clinton will be historic, not just because she’s a woman but because she’s also a 70-year-old working grandmother. Her presence in the Oval Office will help demonstrate Americans don’t have to timeout at an arbitrary date determined by the Social Security Administration. Clinton will be the embodiment of what current research verifies: compensated or volunteered, work in retirement keeps us fulfilled and healthy.

But it’s not that simple. Age discrimination is pervasive, and women still earn less for their workplace contributions than men. The reduction in compensation not only hurts women, but children and families too. Clinton’s paycheck will be on par with her predecessors but to date Clinton’s age, appearance, and “stamina” have been questioned, as have her qualifications (Wellesley College, Yale Law School, FLOTUS, two-term U.S. Senator, Secretary of State). This questioning aimed at Clinton, a compelling candidate for U.S. president if there ever were one, spotlights what so many qualified women and aging Americans face in the workplace today: ongoing doubt rather than inspired confidence.

Clinton’s election to the highest office in America will spawn important conversations. We’ll celebrate women shattering the ultimate glass ceiling, but I hope we’ll also begin to peel back the layers on ageism in America today, make real progress in closing the compensation gap between men and women, focus more on the role of education in positioning Americans for fulfilling lives, and create a better workplace in America—one that honors the wisdom and experience of the “aging” worker.

If my father were alive today, he’d be nearly 90 years young. I know he’d applaud Americans for electing our first woman president, and he would still be championing women’s causes everywhere. I miss him.

## Nancy Gray: My Feminist Badge

In 1974, all the sixth graders in my elementary school had to do jobs as part of their service to the school. The jobs were divided into two groups: safety patrol for the boys and kitchen duty for the girls. Kitchen duty consisted of donning ugly black hairnets and giant white aprons, washing sticky pots and pans and slopping food onto plastic trays. I stewed over the injustice of how the boys, in sharp contrast to the girls, donned yellow vests and carried stop signs outside in the fresh, cold air to safely shepherd the kids across the street. I wanted that to be me.

Inspired by the women’s movement and the fight for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, I staged a protest. First, instead of staying in my classroom waiting to be dismissed, I walked out with the boys, put on the vest and did the job I was meant to do. The boys stood there nervously wondering if they’d get in trouble, but the principal came only for me. I got a week of detention. For my second protest, I convinced most of the sixth grade girls to follow me into the gym after school and staged a sit in. As the spokesgirl, I told school officials of the school we would sit there until they said we could go on patrol and the boys would do kitchen duty. It didn’t work, and I got another week of detention.

Nothing changed that year, but the following year, the school changed the policy without fanfare with the boys and girls rotating jobs. My little sister went on patrol the first week of her sixth grade year. This was my first taste of how feminist protest could change the world, even my little Traverse City world. I took my inspiration from many amazing feminists after that: Gloria Steinem, Maya Angelou, Angela Davis, my Catholic hero, Mary Daly and most notably Shirley Chisholm. She proved to me that women could do anything, even run for president. These women taught me to stand strong.

I have worn my badge of feminism proudly ever since, and been unafraid of every patriarchal system that tried to stand in my way. That feminist badge is what Hillary Clinton represents for me. This is why I stand behind her. She’s the best person for the job, and it’s high time we had a woman doing it. Clinton knows that the America we create when she’s president is the America we need. She’s proven through her years of service that she can take on anyone and any issue with aplomb. She will fight for all of us and prove to the world that intelligent women of substance can and should run our country. She’ll prove that women can run for president, and women can win that presidency. I can hardly wait.

Hillary Clinton, and all the great feminist activists before her, are proof that every little girl experiencing injustice in this world can affect change.

## Maya James: You're Starving

You haven't eaten in weeks, and swallow heavy lumps of water to keep circulating the breath from your brain to your bloodstream. The decision to stop eating was not an easy one, taking deep meditation and determination. Until now you have never really even *skipped* a meal, and hunger pains get worse every day, twisting your guts and making you lightheaded. Spikes gnaw at your head. Pins and needles crawl up your arms and legs. Every step weighs millions of pounds on your walk to a fly-ridden toilet beside the urine-stained mattress you call home and—oh no...

Two guards approach you in a tumultuous rage, recalling their last assault. You know, the time where you bit them, kicked them, and dug your nails into their arms. You remember the slurs they called you; the hymns for freedom they referred to as noise. The glorifying free speech that brought you here and the cold metal chair they're preparing to strap you back into. The guard holds your nose. Though you held strong for your personal record of two minutes, you are now forced to open your mouth to breathe. Like clockwork, they stuff a metal bit in your mouth to spread your cheeks apart and force a tube down your throat containing raw eggs and other ungodly things you cannot even imagine. Free speech did not make you sit here, it required you to.

These are memories of the women who shaped our country, one of the hardest battles our country has ever faced. For each and every woman fighting for the right to vote this pain dominated their lives. Not hobbies, not aspirations. Just pain. Ninety years and 44 male presidents later, the first major female presidential candidate in United States history has been chosen—like it or not—in an election that has been referred to as “lice on rats on a horse corpse on fire.”

After receiving the right to vote, many women still relied on the opinions of their husbands for guidance. Some even found it necessary to carry their spouse's ideals in order for their family to accept their right to vote.

“On my mother's side voting was very important, and being informed highly important,” says Seren Aurora, 33, of Traverse City, “On my dad's side, my grandmother always voted but often relied on men in the family for information.”

Seren, who is highly involved in the community advocating for rights of minorities at the local Unitarian church, shared her feelings on the upcoming election and its personal affect on her life.

“Finally as a country we have come to a point where enough of us don't think being a woman disqualifies you to run our nation.”

This coming Tuesday we will choose the leader we see most fit to combat major pay inequality, oligarchic leaders and (for the first time in over 60 years) fascism. If we are a symbolic role model for the world as a “nation of immigrants”, it is no wonder why there's only been 12 female heads of state elected internationally in recent years.

In Democrats vs. the Businessman, how are women feeling? After email scandals, inappropriate sexual assault talk, and overall ignorance to policy from both parties, how will women still honor the ancestors that lived in misery for years so *they* could have a choice?

Many in our nation believe otherwise. After the highly publicized Billy Bush scandal where Donald Trump was blurting obscenities pertaining to sexual assault, many social media posts came to his defense, firing up a Twitter movement called #repealthe19th. ‘The 19th’ being referred to is the 19th Amendment, also known as the Equal Rights Amendment. This states anyone has the right to vote regardless of sex. Today the 19th has not been ratified and, in fact, ratification has been proposed and ignored since the legislature passed. While the notion of its abolition is almost impossible, people do take it seriously. These feelings may get stronger even *after* the election takes place. A reminder for everyone regardless of sex, race, or party to get to a voting booth next Tuesday while they still have the chance.

## Susan Odgers: Still Learning

When I was in high school we needed permission to take “boy's courses” (drafting) as did boys to take “girls courses” (home economics and child development). We could wear pants on Fridays. Women's sports were barely recognized. In college, I marched on Washington with Bella, Gloria, Betty, Wilma, Flo and Ellie for the Equal Rights Amendment. At the rallies we wore lipstick and bras, shaved our legs and were friendly to male reporters in an effort to counter stereotypes about feminists. My friends and I attended consciousness raising (CR) groups discussing reproductive health/rights, assertive communication and domestic violence.

Since then, I've learned that being female doesn't automatically make a person a feminist. Most dictionaries define feminism as the theory of political, economic, and social equality of the sexes. Men and women should have equal rights and opportunities. Currently, my husband is running for an elected office against a woman, and in my opinion, he's the stronger feminist.

In our history, more than 75 women from a wide array of political parties have run for President of the United States. They include Shirley Chisholm, Cynthia McKinney, Sonia Johnson, Margaret Chase Smith, Jill Stein, and Hillary Clinton. It's time for a qualified woman to be President.

Kimberle Crenshaw, an academic and attorney, is known for her introduction and development of intersectionality theory. My life as a woman intersects with my race, ethnicity, class, sexual orientation, disability, etc. Each component matters to my identity and experience as a whole person.

Since 1989, I've taught Human Sexuality at NMC. Over that time, I've seen students become more accepting of diversity and less rigid with regard to childbearing and rearing. Fewer women see their sexual experiences and leadership based on a male standard. Men have more choices with regard to employment, parenting and emotional expression.

However, in 27 years some things haven't changed. Too few women are in elected office or CEOs. Students know little about women's history. Society encourages women to be distracted from issues that matter by continuing to overvalue their appearance and desire for male attention. Men, to their detriment, are taught to play their part in this as well.

Many of my students say they aren't “political” though they see the need for power to be equalized for everyone. Some students who have worked on women's campaigns tell me they haven't always felt heard by older feminists. Said one student “Internalized misogyny is the patriarchy's greatest weapon.”

Supreme Court Justice David Souter's 2012 University of New Hampshire Law School speech “That Is How Democracy Dies” addresses civic ignorance. He urges US citizens to research who is responsible for our problems and then demand performance from them. To not do so, he believes, internally threatens our democracy.

Keep this conversation going. Take a look at the following websites: National Democratic Institute [www.ndi.org](http://www.ndi.org), Catalyst [www.catalyst.org](http://www.catalyst.org), Center For American Women and Politics [www.cawp.rutgers.edu](http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu), The Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning & Engagement [www.civicyouth.org](http://www.civicyouth.org), UN Women [www.unwomen.org](http://www.unwomen.org)

Learn more: PSY 225 Human Sexuality, Fridays 11:15 am - 2:15 pm. 3 cr. Beginning Jan. 2017.



Photo by Devon Hains

# Campus Quotes: Dear President...

**Lyric Belle Pawloski,**  
Psychology and Creative Writing major

**What is one change you would like to see the new president make?**

I'd like something to change regarding how easy it is for maniacs to get guns without people thinking their guns are being taken away. Shootings are such an incredibly awful problem in our country a lot of people have become numb to which is unacceptable.

**What issues are most important to you this election?**

I worry quite a bit about the rising minimum wage because then everything becomes more expensive when one and two small businesses are unable to pay their staff competitive rates. If it weren't for extreme greed I believe it would be much better for the economy to lower the minimum wage, and the amount of money in circulation—which I know is up to the United States Department of Treasury. Also, the extreme amount of debt our country is in majorly concerns me! State governments are not allowed to go into debt but the federal government is. I know that's a problem we've voted upon in the past but I think it's an issue we need to first find a way to solve before bringing up again on a ballot.

**Are you gonna vote?**

I am definitely going to vote though it will be excruciatingly hard this year for my first time because the candidates are



both so atrocious regarding the presidency. I suppose I'm more excited to see the results of local elections for it seems more likely I can make a difference that way.

**Are you currently decided or undecided?**

I am currently undecided though I've done quite a bit of research to try and make up my mind.



**Spencer Hamilton, Law Enforcement major**

**What is one change you would like to see the new president make?**

Pay less taxes and as a result, earn more of a paycheck

**What issues are most important to you this election?**

Gun control and tax reform.

**Are you gonna vote?**

Yes.

**Are you currently decided or undecided?**

Decided.

**Michelle Yeider, Grounds**

**What is one change you would like to see the new president make?**

A change I would like to see the new president make would be for all people to be created equal. This may appear in words but it must appear in action as well. Women still make less than men, certain states reserve the right to refuse service to people based on sexual preference, black people still face mass amounts of poverty, and so on. Equality is not just a word, it's an action. I would like our new president to acknowledge we need action for equality for all!

**What issues are most important to you this election?**

Issues important to me are Social Security, Healthcare, Education, Political Reform would be GREAT! Military involvement.

**Are you gonna vote?**

I am going to vote! Many women are still fighting to have this right, and many women in our country fought for me to have this right! Not voting because you don't like the options is a disgraceful cop out.

**Are you currently decided or undecided?**

I have decided.



**Rachel Moore, English and Marketing major**

**What is one change you would like to see the new president make?**

I would like to see the new president address a number of things, including the growing islamophobia in our country, and police brutality. One thing I'd like to see them address but I really don't think they will is the way that people are treated so poorly in U.S. prisons and the sheer number of people in prison who really shouldn't be there—like for non-violent drug crimes that usually show a person needs help, not prison time. That's something that's needed to change for a long time but realistically I don't believe they'll do anything about it.

**What issues are most important to you this election?**

The most important issues to me are social issues like women's rights, LGBT+ rights, and racial or ethnic minority rights. But I'm also concerned about environmental preservation and regulation.

**Are you gonna vote?**

Yes I'm going to vote.

**Are you currently decided or undecided?**

Yes, I've decided who I'm voting for.

**Shaine Wilson, Psychology major**

**What is one change you would like to see the new president make?**

The discussion on tuition/college debt and climate change are important topics to me as well as pro-choice matters like abortion.

**What issues are most important to you this election?**

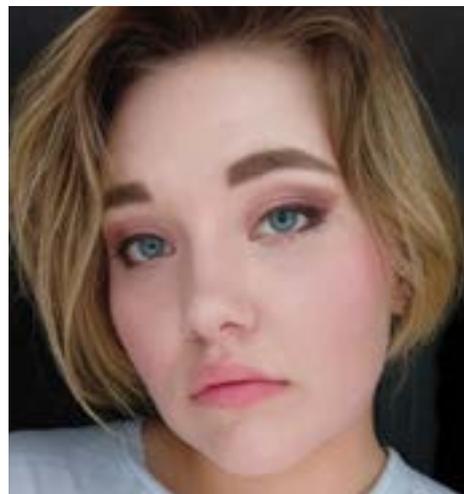
Social issues are most important to me. I think as president, you need to set an example for fight for social causes and I'd like to see our country pushed in the direction of equal opportunity for all men and women. But I want it to not just be laws that are passed because I feel like that just forces change. More like I want to see the president really talk and advocate for these changes and try to REALLY change the mindset of our country.

**Are you gonna vote?**

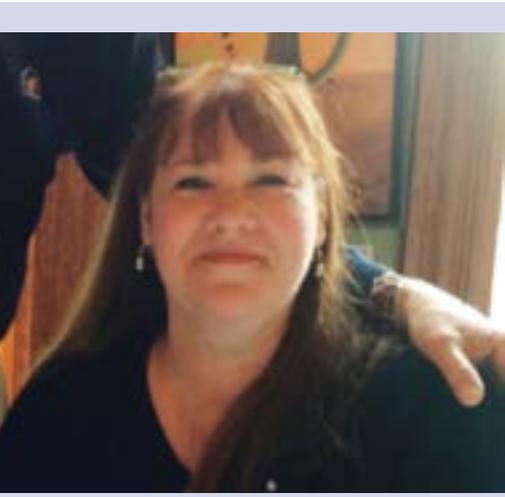
Yes, I'm going to vote.

**Are you currently decided or undecided?**

Decided!



# FEATURE



**Susan Odgers,**  
Adjunct Psychology and columnist

**What is one change you would like to see the new president make?**

Deal and rebuild trust and hope—citizens in their elected officials, process and participation.

**What issues are most important to you this election?**

Campaign finance reform...

Reverse Citizens United...

Keep your campaign promises and stick to your party platform...

Climate change...

Appoint Bernie Sanders to a Cabinet position...

Laboratorium on military spending, etc.....

Slow everything down and look DEEPLY at all

of the issues facing our country. Ask, encourage

citizens to assist in the creative problem-solving; including seniors and youth....

More balance amongst spending/planning; for

education and health care...

Focus on the basic needs of the 99%.

**Are you gonna vote?**

Yes, voting.

**Are you currently decided or undecided?**

Yes, decided.



**Stephanie Jones, Law Enforcement major**

**What is one change you would like to see the new president make?**

Make abortion completely illegal with no

exceptions.

**Are you gonna vote?**

Yes.

**Are you currently decided or undecided?**

Currently undecided on who I will be voting for.



**Kori Wickham, Political Science major**

**What is one change you would like to see the new president make?**

One change I'd like to see the president change would be to raise the minimum wage.

**What issues are most important to you this election?**

The issues that are most important to me are minimum wage, halting climate change, green energies, job security, human security and marijuana.

**Are you gonna vote?**

Yes, I'm voting.

**Are you currently decided or undecided?**

Decided.

**Samantha Hansen, Corrections major**

**What is one change you would like to see the new president make?**

I would like to see the new president make America a more easy place to find employment and help with the poverty of their people before they give out jobs to those who live out of country. I also would like to see something with helping college students be able to afford college more by lowering the costs of college tuition.

**What issues are most important to you this election?**

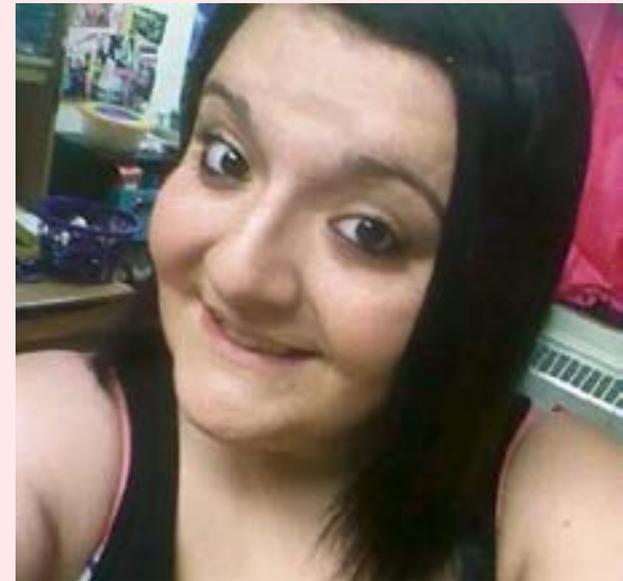
I feel like the most important issues this election to me are the issues on abortion and how a certain candidate is for abortion being available up to nine months into pregnancy. I also believe the ignorance and hatred towards each of the candidates is a big issue it's been feeding more and more lies about one another by the immaturity of the two running individuals.

**Are you gonna vote?**

Yes.

**Are you currently decided or undecided?**

I plan on voting I just at this time have no idea still who I want for president.



**Conner Bebb, SGA President**

**What is one change you would like to see the new president make?**

I would like to see the president bring greater unity to the country. This election has highlighted the division within this nation and efforts should be made to fix these fractures.

**What issues are most important to you this election?**

I would like see a greater focus on climate change than what we saw in the debates, a topic that was essentially ignored during the presidential debates. Given the long lasting impacts and consequences not only in the United States, but the entire world, I would like to see much more focused commitment to addressing this issue. An additional issue of concern for me is the federal minimum wage here in the United States.

**Are you gonna vote?**

I am absolutely going to vote this election. If you believe politicians don't do enough for students and other young adults, then you have to make your presence known that this age demographic is active and worth their attention.

**Are you currently decided or undecided?**

I have decided who I will vote for this election.



**Maya James, Political Science major**

**What is one change you would like to see the new president make?**

Free tuition in schools. It's important to invest in future informed voters, and it would only be a small addition to everyone's income tax instead of the heavy load people may paint it as.

**What issues are most important to you this election?**

Ending domestic terrorism and fascism.

**Are you gonna vote?**

Absolutely. It's my public duty and it's what this country was founded on as well as what my female ancestors risked their lives to be able to do.

**Are you currently decided or undecided?**

I'm completely decided and it's a choice that I believe will help our country give back to a world community.



# Why I Will Vote (and so should you)

**Ann Hosler**  
Staff Writer

My first presidential election was the year that Bush, Gore, and Nader were pitted against each other. I simply claimed “I hate politics, not going to bother!”, and I didn’t. The next presidential election was Bush versus Kerry. “Both candidates are terrible,” I said over and over. I didn’t see a reason to waste my time going to vote for two people I couldn’t stand listening to and so I didn’t.

It wasn’t until 2006 that Michigan’s gubernatorial election drove me to the polls. By this point I was mother to one grade schooler and a soon-to-be preschooler. Disgusted with public school funding, I was determined to vote for anyone whose last name wasn’t Granholm.

She won anyway, but I realized something that year. I still don’t enjoy politics—in fact, I’m going to assume many of us don’t. For years I had been making empty excuses, but there was a more powerful force at hand. I cared.

We don’t have to enjoy everything we care about, but we do need to care about our home, community, and country. Our futures. Our family’s futures, our friends’ futures. Our neighbors’ futures—even the crazy ones that dig up dandelions from your yard and offer to gold-plate your hubcaps (true story).

This election has been tiring. Something new pops up in the news or on social

media daily. Debates have spawned memes, talking points, frustration, and sometimes outrage. Some polls make it look like a one-sided race while others don’t. In the end, polls don’t matter (ask Mitt Romney)—but high voter turnouts and results do.

I’m not going to tell you who to vote for. That’s your business, just like who I’m voting for is mine. You may not have decided yet, and that’s fine, too. I didn’t decide who to vote for president in 2012 until I was staring at the ballot, and 2016 is shaping up to be the same way.

Also keep in mind that, depending where you reside, this election involves voting on a lot more than our next president. All of Michigan will be voting on a state Supreme Court Justice, members of MI’s Board of Education, and seats on the state universities’ respective boards. Depending on your district, you’ll also be voting for a congressional representative, as well as court justices, commissioners, or similar offices.

When you start breaking down the ballot by cities, townships, and counties, there are local proposals, millages, and issues. Northwestern Michigan College has two Board of Trustee spots up for grabs as well. Six candidates are vying for the spots, each with their own vision for our school. This is the time for your voice to be heard. You will make a difference. Do some research, set an early alarm (or two... trust me, get in line before it opens), and vote.



Sample ballots by area:  
[traversecitymi.gov/elections.asp](http://traversecitymi.gov/elections.asp)



Find your voting location:  
[webapps.sos.state.mi.us/MVIC](http://webapps.sos.state.mi.us/MVIC)



Nonpartisan voting info:  
[vote411.org](http://vote411.org) and [lwvmi.org](http://lwvmi.org)



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# Election Bully

**Deanna Luton**  
Staff Writer

In March of this year, *White Pine Press* writer Krystn Madrine attended a Donald Trump rally in Cadillac

and was subjected to a type of cruel crowd mentality. As a disabled person she joined the mass of Trump supporters and was almost immediately met with combative behavior. "Hey, lady," a man shouted at her, "you can't cut in line!" Calmly, she responded that as a member of the press her credentials were inside. This was met with allegations that she was lying. Then she was accused of using her cane for sympathy to 'cut in line.'

Madrine said she felt "shamed, harassed, and hurt by this exchange, and I was not even in the door yet! As a handicapped person, I have never, ever been treated like that anywhere, and it took me several minutes to shake it off and get my bearings in the crowd." Sadly, this lack of compassion was not an isolated act. Prejudiced commentary, reminiscent of kindergarten arguments and riddled with paranoia, can be found throughout this presidential campaign.

Often modern bullying is reinforced by gang mentality. In Madrine's case, four men joined in the spectacle, and no one came to her defense. With a rowdy audience, extremes in behavior is accepted as the norm. Trump is guilty himself, mocking a disabled reporter at one of his own rallies in 2015.

Trump is running rampant. He is even taking his bullying tactics to the courtroom, threatening to sue anyone who disagrees with him or exposes his failings. Recently, the American Bar Association (ABA) ran a report on all of the

**[Trump's] election tactics have reached a new low. America has watched Trump build a reality TV star legacy as a bully. Now he is taking advantage of the bipartisan bickering in America and has turned this country's political arena into a joke.**

accusations Trump has made in court. Adam Liptak wrote in his *New York Times* article that the "report concluded that Mr. Trump was a 'libel bully' who had filed many meritless suits attacking his opponents and had never won in court." The ABA then failed to make the report public out of fear that Trump would sue them!

His election tactics have reached a new low. America has watched Trump build a reality TV star legacy as a bully. Now he is taking advantage of the bipartisan bickering in America and has turned this country's political arena into a joke.

Early this year, Trump told FOX News that bullying victims should just "get over it." This callous rhetoric is not becoming of a president candidate. Politifact reports Hillary Clinton believes the "Trump Effect" is responsible for an increase in bullying in public schools, that Trump's campaign is one of "prejudice and paranoia."

As a survivor of excessive bullying throughout middle

school, I can personally attest to the lasting trauma it leaves behind, especially on the developing psyche. The infliction of these deep psychological wounds cannot always be reversed.

In the adult world, social media is the new platform for bullies and is heavily shaping this presidential election. From various people trolling the comments of every politically-oriented post to individuals trying to participate in articulate debates, opinions, ridicule and downright hate are spreading like wildfire.

Matt Kapko wrote in his article for CIO.com how powerful and dangerous social media can be during this point in the election. He believes that much of today's political discourse occurs on social media. It has the power to reinforce narrow, popularized opinions, and similar to herding sheep, social media has a tendency to reinforce confirmation biases. Although social media allows for an individual to be exposed to many differing political opinions, most choose to put themselves in digital environments with like-minded people where their political ideologies will be reinforced.

This election this year will go down in history for being one of the most childish campaigns America's political theatre has seen. At what point does this school yard-esque bullying become harassment? Grown adults, both politicians and citizens, are resorting to unacceptable immature behavior. Politics are normally a contentious topic of conversation topic, but it has been brought to extremes this year. This violent atmosphere is instilling fear in citizens. No one is immune.

## Third Party Voting

**Lauren Horan**  
Staff Writer

The election is less than a week away and things are getting tense. Our nation is about to select a new leader and our two main options are both facing persecution from the American people for various reasons.

One candidate started out as a rich celebrity and seems to spew ignorant, uninformed, and demeaning comments every time he speaks. The other candidate has a reputation of caring more about big business than the "little guy" and is considered to be a criminal by many due to her involvement in Benghazi and thousands of missing emails, an investigation which is picking up speed right now.

As someone who has never voted for president until now, I'm pretty disappointed in the hand we've been dealt as far as candidates. I'd like to think we live in a country where the governmental powers that be wouldn't allow either of these candidates to come this far in the presidential race, but alas, here we are.

Personally, I wouldn't say either Trump or Clinton represent the desires and goals of the people. Maybe *some* people, but not as a whole, and certainly not younger generations. We want discussions on how to keep campuses safe for all students, instead we have discussions about grabbing girls "by the pussy." We want proposals for better education standards, economic standards, and healthcare, not proposals that could exploit small businesses and middle class workers.

I know I'm not the only one who's not thrilled with either leading candidate.

According to the Pew Research Center, overall satisfaction with the choice of candidates is at its lowest point in two decades. 57 percent of Democrats and 60 percent of Republicans say they are not satisfied with their choices for president, so why are we forced to choose between them?

Realistically speaking, we're not exclusively limited to Trump and Clinton. We do have other options with third-party candidates. The bad news is that these other candidates have no chance of winning the election. They didn't even get enough votes to participate in the debates or enough funding to really put themselves out there. This resulted in three weeks of debates that focused on allegations and scandals from decades ago rather than education, healthcare, environment, or economy.

This dilemma with voters and candidates is intensified by the myth that voting third-party is a "wasted vote." If you ask me, a wasted vote is a vote without knowledge or purpose. Voting is your opportunity to show what you believe in and share your vision of how the country should be run. You sacrifice what you stand for when you simply vote for the "lesser evil."

So who should you vote for? My first suggestion is to *learn about the candidates*. What do they stand for? More importantly, what do YOU stand for? The candidate who best represents your personal views should be your pick! If you're not sure which candidate this is, you can take the test at ISideWith.com. This test shows which political parties,

candidates, and ballot initiatives match your beliefs based on the 2016 issues that are most important to you. From there, you can learn more about the candidate you matched with before you decide to vote.

The good news that comes along with voting third-party is that even though a third-party candidate won't win this election, enough support toward these candidates will help them get more funding and media attention in the next election. It's better than being stuck in the same position four years from now!

To qualify for the debate stage, a candidate needs to be polling at 15 percent or higher

in an average of five major national polls and qualify for the ballot in enough states to have a mathematical chance to win the presidency. Both Gary Johnson (Libertarian) and Jill Stein (Green Party) fell short of these numbers before the first round of debates. Johnson was averaging eight percent and Stein at three percent.

The point is, your choice is up to you. Your choice isn't decided by the GOP or the DNC. Inform yourself about the candidates and get to the polls. We can continue to settle for the same two choices over and over again, or we can decide on Nov. 8 to use our vote to progress in a new direction.



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# Michael Moore in Trumpland

**Isaac Vanderwal**  
Staff Writer

Let's clear the air—Michael Moore will not be voting for Donald Trump. No matter what you read on Twitter or what content Trump supporters manipulated from Moore's newest film *Trumpland*, come Nov. 8, Moore will be voting for Hillary Clinton.

I confess, I'm not much of a political commentator. My own biases have no place in a newspaper that hasn't endorsed a presidential candidate this election. That aside, on a rainy afternoon in downtown Traverse City, I walked into the State Theater to watch and review *Michael Moore in Trumpland*.

For the most part, *Trumpland*, a satire presented like a stand-up comedy sketch, persuades the audience to vote—for Hillary Clinton. Moore's goal? To sway Trump's base in a way no one on the left has attempted. He wants to make Trumps' voter demographic comfortable, so he walls off Mexicans (and Guatemalans just to be safe) and with sounds of drones hovering overhead, "checks in" on the Muslim Americans in the audience.

Following the film, Moore Skyped into the theater for a Q&A session. Before he took questions, he told the audience that as we watched *Trumpland* political

conservatives took snippets of the film, removed their context, and began spreading the lie that Moore endorses and will be voting for Donald Trump.

The clip in question is Moore reading from his notebook to give us a view through the eyes of a Trump supporter; the eyes of a person who's been constantly "fucked over" by the system. They see a vote for Trump as a middle finger to that same system. For them, Trump is the answer. Moore does not share this same view.

Shocking, I know, that the guy who made *Sicko* and *Fahrenheit 9/11*, publicly endorsed Bernie Sanders and describes the Republican presidential candidate as the "embodiment of a human molotov cocktail," won't be voting for Donald Trump.

*Michael Moore in Trumpland* reached #1 on the iTunes charts, but not because it's a cure for our political nausea. *Trumpland* was propelled to the top of the charts because the political right ached to see a liberal praising Trump. What they got was a rude awakening, and an activist-liberal with a fatter wallet.



Photo by Isaac Vanderwal



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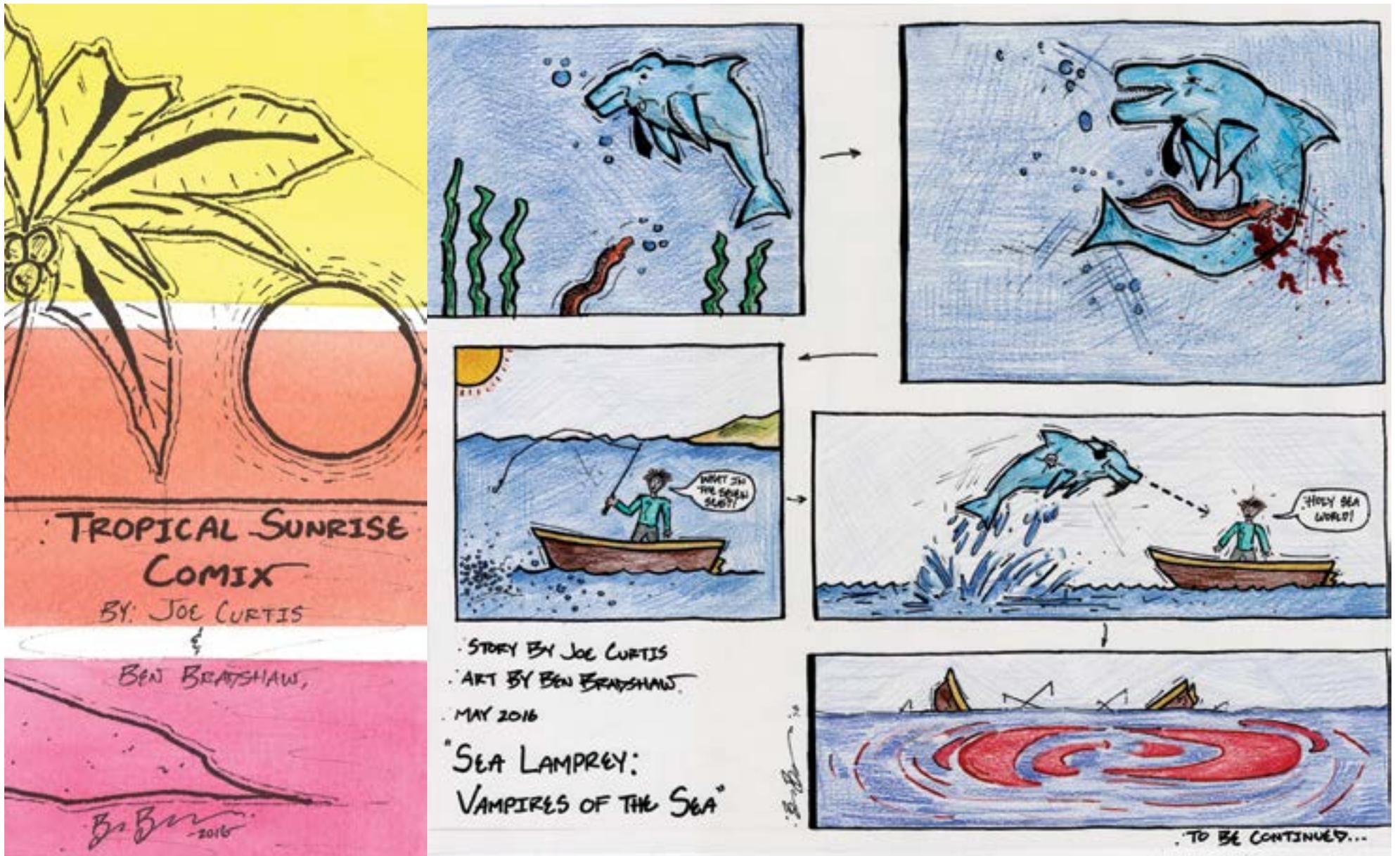
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## Mini Meringue Puffs

### Ingredients

- 2 egg whites
- 1/8 tsp salt
- 1/8 tsp cream of tartar
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar

### Directions

1. Preheat oven to 225°F.
2. Line two cookie sheets with aluminum foil
3. Mix egg whites, cream of tartar, and salt to soft peaks. I use a stand mixer on medium-low for this step.
4. Slowly add granulated sugar and continue mixing until stiff white peaks form. I start this cycle on medium and ramp it up to high. It can take a while, especially if doubling or tripling the recipe.
5. Space about 1/2 inch apart on the cookie sheets. You can drop spoonfuls (quick but not as pretty), use an icing bag (don't overfill or it will come out of the top), or fill a Ziploc with the mixture (can be messy filling if not careful; be sure to seal while dispensing), cut a tiny hole in the corner, and squeeze it out.
6. Bake for 1 1/4 - 1 1/2 hours. Try not to let them turn brown.
7. Pull out to cool completely (1-2 hours to be sure), then remove from cookie sheets.
8. Make sure no foil sticks to the bottom!
9. Store in airtight container or Ziploc bags up to several weeks.
10. Add a paper towel to help keep moisture out if you're not sure they're fully cooled or if it's really humid.

Recipe adapted from *allrecipes.com*



Photo by Ann Hosler

# Snowden's Struggle

## Crossing Three Presidencies

**Zack Harrington**  
Staff Writer

There's no time like election time, when one is told, "There's the line; pick a side."

And how Edward Snowden crossed the line. With his release of National Security Agency (NSA) surveillance files to journalists in the early summer months of 2013, Snowden put himself under heavy scrutiny. He's been called many things: traitor, patriot, turncoat, hero. But what does he call himself? "I am simply the mechanism of disclosure."

Speaking at the Associated Collegiate Press conference on Oct. 22 in Washington, D.C. via teleconference, Snowden explained to young journalists from across the country, the *White Pine Press* included, how the collaboration between whistleblowers and media work as the "fourth branch" of government. When the executive, legislative and judicial branches fail in their duties, these "First Amendment defenders" serve a vital role for American citizens: exposing the truth.

Truth, however, is a tricky business. Even Snowden acknowledges this. For him, one moment was the last straw. One moment that finally drove him to divulge sensitive national secrets.

Superimposed over the large screens where his visage was projected, Snowden played us a short video of an interview of General James Clapper, Director of National Intelligence, conducted by Sen. Ron Wyden in the spring of 2013. In it Wyden asks Clapper, "Does the NSA collect any type of data at all on millions or hundreds of millions of Americans?" The response: "Not wittingly." Snowden then revealed that in a private interview between the two men 24 hours earlier, it was agreed that the answer was regarded as "the least untruthful statement."

When the press is given "the least untruthful statement" from the government, how can they report the truth? Snowden asked the audience, "Imagine you're a reporter there. What would your article say? Would you write it skeptically? Or would you simply report what these officials said as if it were true?"

Authority figures, including President Barack Obama and Judge Richard J. Leon of the U.S. District Court of D.C., have called into question NSA's methods of intelligence retrieval. Obama legitimizes Snowden's concern, but criticizes his approach: "My preference, and I think the American people's preference, would have been for a lawful, orderly examination of these laws; a thoughtful fact-based debate that would then lead us to a better place."

So why did Snowden not go about correcting the discrepancy from the inside, using legitimate means?

Rewind eight years ago to 2008, the last few months of George W. Bush's presidency. Snowden reviews the sensitive data he's discovered, concerned with what his conscience tells him. He watches the



Edward Snowden's keynote presentation via Skype at the Associated Collegiate Press conference in Washington, D.C. on Oct. 22, 2016.

news and listens to the speeches of the presidential candidates. Obama promises reform, change, and improvement. He waits to see if Obama will become president, to see if the unconstitutional surveillance will be addressed. However, four years later, during President Obama's second term, Edward continues his work for the NSA, disappointed by the continued activity against American citizens. The initial stages of his plan to expose the truth to the public begin to form.

Considering that the NSA programs Snowden was exposing, specifically PRISM, Turbine, QUANTUMHAND, and MonsterMind, were created as a post-9/11 counter-terrorism measure, they had been reviewed and used by several thousand government personnel. "I talked to people about it," says Snowden, "but I was told 'don't rock the boat.'" He also said he was afraid of going the way of other leakers, such as former NSA Director Thomas Drake, who had their careers ruined, reputations destroyed, and were charged as spies under Espionage Act of 1917. In the end he only regrets one thing. "If I could go back in time, I'd do it again. But earlier."

To this day, Snowden defends his actions and the actions of the journalists who worked with him. "If you cannot do the right thing because it would lead to bad labeling, if you can't sacrifice for your country especially on this scale, you must not love your country. [...] Journalists are charged in our society with revealing when, where, and how to contest the government's control on its monopoly of information."

However, he also calls for balance. "There are three basic levels of classified info that are measured by the damage that would happen if they were leaked. 'Confidential' means harm. 'Secret' means grave harm, that lives

are lost. 'Top Secret' means great grave harm. Journalists must practice discretion, measuring the importance of disclosing those documents against the potential loss of life."

Snowden rationalizes his disclosure of NSA documents because the counter-terrorism unearthed no immediate threats. Judge Leon said in 2013 that "The Government does not cite a single instance in which analysis of the NSA's bulk metadata collection actually stopped an imminent attack [...] Because of the utter lack of evidence that a terrorist act has ever been prevented because searching the NSA database was faster than other investigative tactics — I have serious doubts about the efficacy of the metadata collection program."

Not all countries operate under the same standards of the American government. The First Amendment and Fourth rights are not global. Snowden described how the United Kingdom arm of *The Guardian* had been threatened by U.K. government officials who said "You've had your fun," then physically destroyed documents related to his story. Vladimir Putin, President of Russia, where Snowden currently has asylum, explained his country's regulations when interviewed by Snowden in April 2014. "Russia uses surveillance techniques for spying on individuals only with the sanction of a court order. This is our law, and therefore there is no mass surveillance in our country." Snowden encouraged the audience in D.C., "If we are trying to portray the U.S. as the model for government, one others should adopt, we need to uphold our own standards."

The world has taken note of advancements in technology and how such power can lead to corruption. Specifically citing Snowden's leaks of NSA materials, the United Nations unanimously voted on Resolution 68/167,

in order to protect the rights of individuals. This anti-spying regulation addressed how people's rights remain constant regardless of technology. The European Union also began to implement more Internet privacy and security. Several Latin American officials have publicly supported Snowden, even offering asylum.

Corporate policies have changed as well. Between 2013 and 2016, companies lost upwards of \$35 billion due to consumers worrying their data would be exposed.

The security-oriented email service Snowden used, Lavabit, joined with a similar company to create Dark Mail Alliance, an email encryption program designed to prevent government intrusion. iPhone iOS 8 software, automatically encrypts your information unless it is shared over the Cloud.

These are steps in the right direction according to Snowden, but more progress needs to be made. "Companies leave 'backdoors' in their programming, and American Intelligence can threaten them into being allowed through those backdoors. The problem is because these companies are American based but global corporations, if they let the U.S. do that, they have to let every government do it too. *Russian, China, North Korea.*"

With the expiration of the Patriot Act, the USA Freedom Act began implementing greater regard to mass electronic intel gathering. Snowden still believes more needs to be done. "We are living in the greatest computer crisis in history. Our society focuses on aggressive digital capability, despite how being the most connected country in the world, we should focus on defensive digital capability." Can we expect more change in the future?

Hillary Clinton questioned Snowden's acts, including his flight from the U.S. and current asylum in Russia. She believes Snowden did not go through the proper channels and could have been protected as a whistleblower. However, due to the massive legal web of sub-clauses and fine print, Snowden does not qualify for any of these protections.

Donald Trump tweeted in 2013, "Snowden is a spy who should be executed — but if he could reveal Obama's records, I might become a major fan." To this day he speaks of how Russia and Snowden should collaborate in finding Clinton's 30,000 missing emails.

It is questionable if either presidential candidate will support a full pardon of Snowden, even though many believe he fought against unconstitutional injustices.

His battle to return home may go on for four more years — or longer. "Technology has outpaced democratic controls," says Snowden, "If we actually knew only what the government wanted us to know, we wouldn't know all that much... I came forward, which made the documents undeniable by the government... The moment I handed that data over to responsible journalists, I won."

# Alumni Spotlight: Michelle Witkop

**Deanna Luton** Staff Writer The 2016 Outstanding Alumni Award went to Michelle Witkop, who

earned her Associate's degree in nursing at NMC in 1977. Among many other degrees, she most recently completed her doctorate in Nursing Practice from Oakland University. From her humble beginnings at NMC, Witkop has built a life around healing the sick and helping the injured manage their pain. She resides in Traverse City, working as Lead Clinician in Munson Medical Center's Northern Regional Bleeding Disorders Center. Witkop has earned multiple awards for her groundbreaking leadership in research on pain management for hemophilia patients.

Witkop had a rough start in higher education. She graduated high school, married less than 10 days later, and then enrolled in the nursing program two days after her wedding. At the time, students were required to complete their humanities courses alongside their nursing ones. Witkop started by taking 20 credits a semester. Struggling with the transition into a married life and higher education, as well as the aftermath of losing her father at age 17, Witkop ended her first semester with a GPA of 1.79.



However, NMC's dean saw her potential and advised her to "buckle down." This small act of encouragement inspired Witkop to put her nose to the grindstone. In the end, she graduated magna cum laude as class president. Her journey was challenging, but through dedication and fortitude she achieved her goals. She has gone on to earn a total of four college degrees but she says none of them were easy—and NMC was the hardest program of all. "It was worth it though," says Witkop. "It gave me

a great baseline to build from."

Witkop also received support from her professors. One in particular left a lasting impression. "Terry Gremel...remains a dear friend to this day," says Witkop. "She was on my thesis committee for my Master of Science in Nursing and my capstone project committee for my doctorate in Nursing Practice. She has been my mentor, my muse, and one of my best friends throughout the years."

Currently, it is under debate whether NMC should institute a Bachelor's degree for the nursing program. Munson's nursing positions require more education than NMC currently provides. Witkop says the future of the medical field is moving to require a Bachelor of Science in Nursing for entry level positions. This requires students to leave the area to further their career. They often don't return, finding better jobs at bigger hospitals nearer to their new alma mater.

NMC needs to prepare for this shift by allowing students to seek higher nursing education without leaving the area. Witkop agrees. "By instituting these additional educational requirements now, our community is benefiting in the way of better healthcare for all."

## Letter to the Editor

Dear NMC Students:

I would like to invite each of you to take part in the very important process of selecting one of our faculty members to receive the Imogene Wise Faculty Excellence award, and one of our adjunct faculty members to receive the NMC Adjunct Faculty Excellence award.

In recognition of NMC's commitment to celebrating excellence in teaching and learning, two faculty members are chosen each year by NMC students to receive these prestigious awards. Each of you can nominate faculty members who demonstrate teaching excellence at NMC – see link below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/R2VG6QG>

Please consider nominating more than one faculty member for these awards. Faculty are truly honored to be nominated and receive these annual awards. I look forward to commencement in May when the 2016-2017 award recipients will be announced.

Sincerely,  
Stephen Siciliano  
Vice President for Educational Services

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James Robinson

Staff Writer

# The Newseum in Washington DC

From the bustling crosswalk on Pennsylvania Avenue, I quickly glance up at the 75-foot tall marble tablet reaching up the side of the building in front of me. On the tablet are 45 engraved words: “*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.*” It is the First Amendment of the Constitution of United States, or as First Amendment Center refers to it, the “blueprint for personal freedom and the hallmark of an open society.”

The building prominently labeled with the First Amendment is known as the Newseum. Opened on April 11, 2008, the Newseum “promotes, explains, and defends free expression and the five freedoms of the First Amendment: religion, speech, press, assembly, and petition.” It is “considered to be one of the most interactive museums in the world” and includes seven levels of interactive exhibits.

As visitors enter the lobby they are greeted by a colossal movie screen, playing an inspirational promotional video for the Newseum. A great, glass elevator takes visitors to the top level of the museum, where they can take in a sprawling view of Pennsylvania Avenue and the National Mall. Several display cases line the walls, showcasing the front-page news from various national media outlets such as the *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, and *Detroit Free Press*.

Descending the winding staircase, you enter various interactive exhibits such as the News Corporation News History Gallery, which features an extensive collection of over 300 historic front pages. Some of these front pages showcase events such as the terrible 1906 earthquake in San Francisco, the end of the First World War in 1918, and the first moon landing by Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins in 1969. Also on display are a replica of a Gutenberg press, which printed the Declaration of Independence, and a graphic-novel style retelling of early media’s role in the American Revolution.

Descend the stairs again and you enter the 9/11 Gallery, featuring the mangled broadcast antennae from the top of the World Trade Center. This gallery also features a memorial



Photo by Jamie Robinson

## The Washington D.C. Newseum on Pennsylvania Avenue.

to Bill Biggart, the only working journalist killed while reporting on the terrorist attacks. Also on display is the Make Some Noise exhibit, dedicated to the young people of the 1960s who fought against segregation.

Descend the stairs yet again to enter the Journalist’s Memorial and the Time Warner World News Gallery, which compares levels of free speech around the world. Finally, upon descending a few more stairs and reaching the first floor, visitors are offered a glimpse of eight graffiti-covered sections of the Berlin Wall as they enter the Pulitzer Prize Photography Gallery, showcasing photographs from every winning entry since 1942. The Newseum is a thought-provoking and awe-inspiring artifact of journalistic history.

It’s hard to imagine what would happen without the protections of the First Amendment. As the First Amendment Center suggests, “religious minorities could be persecuted, the government might well

establish a national religion, protesters could be silenced, the press could not criticize the government, and citizens could not mobilize for social change.” Despite its importance, 39% of Americans couldn’t name any of the freedoms in the First Amendment, according to a *State of the First Amendment* report conducted by the Newseum Institute.

This is precisely why the Newseum exists. The museum’s free online learning center, NewseumED, offers teachers, students, and other interested individuals with multiple resources to help them better understand and appreciate the five freedoms of the First Amendment and their connection to daily life. The Newseum believes “exercising, defending, and promoting freedom is crucial to protecting our way of life” and works “to make sure the freedoms of the First Amendment remain strong and protected both today and for future generations.”

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## THE FREE PRESS IS A CORNERSTONE OF DEMOCRACY.

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People have a need to know. Journalists have a right to tell.

Finding the facts can be difficult. Reporting the story can be dangerous.

Freedom includes the right to be outrageous. Responsibility includes the duty to be fair.

News is history in the making. Journalists provide the first draft of history.

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## A FREE PRESS, AT ITS BEST, REVEALS THE TRUTH.

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Photo by Devon Hains

9/11 wreckage on display at the Newseum. 9/11 Headlines hang row after row.