

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

WHITE PINE PRESS

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

Story on Page 7



Achieving Success, Working With Disability





Photos courtesy of Ann Swaney/  
NMC Archives

In the 1950s and early '60s, NMC's *Nor'Wester* newspaper ran snow sculpture contests, offering a prize to the winning club or organization. These elaborate sculptures included Pinocchio (1957-58), Smokey the Bear (1962), seals outside the Osterlin building (1960s), and even one of founding Board of Trustee chairman Les Biederman (1950s).

NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE  
**WHITE PINE PRESS**

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# What's Up on Campus?

**The BSUFest, hosted by NMC's Black Student Union, continues through Feb. 24.** Catch live music every night at 9pm in the PE building, and attend a "mentor speed-dating" in O205 on Feb. 23 from 4-6pm.

**The NMC Jazz Bands will perform at the West Bay Beach Holiday Inn in TC at 7pm on Feb. 28 and March 7.** Admission is free.

**Student Life is hosting a one-day conference titled Immigration: Michigan and Beyond on March 1 in the Milliken Auditorium.** Registration begins at 8:30am and the conference concludes with a complimentary lunch at 12:30pm.

**NMC's 13th Annual Career Fair will be held from 4-6pm at the Hagerty Center on March 7.** More than 70 employers are registered to participate. Bring multiple copies of your resume and dress in business attire. More info is available at [nmc.edu/careerfair](http://nmc.edu/careerfair).

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# Retain and Maintain

## Helping NMC Students Succeed

**Randi Upton**  
Staff Writer

According to the latest U.S. Census, one in four adults in Michigan have some college credits but no degree. Michigan has an alarmingly high dropout rate for adults in college, both at the two-year and four-year levels. Colleges all over Michigan have been scrambling to fix this problem, implementing hardship scholarships and issuing credit on financial aid to people who need it.

In Traverse City, a high cost of living and stagnant wages forces many to live paycheck to paycheck. Making the choice to go to college to get a certificate or degree is a great idea, but it is a strain on people who may be already stretched thin. In an attempt to keep students in school, NMC offers scholarships and different programs to help students who struggle both inside and outside the classroom.

There are plenty of options for the student needing academic assistance. The Tutoring Center is available by appointment to meet with a tutor weekly on any subject with which the student struggles. For walk-in or scheduled appointment sessions, there is the Math Center, Science Center, and the Writing & Reading Center. The tutors and readers in these centers can help complete specific assignments, flesh out concepts, and edit essays.

The Student Success Center offers the usual testing center and computer labs that other colleges have, as well as Success Coaching. Success Coaching is a walk-in appointment-based program that assists with time management, study and technology skills, and improving focus in class. This may be especially helpful for returning college students who have been out of school for a long time.

Student Life has information and referral programs to help students facing housing insecurity, and other obstacles. The office offers personal and life counseling. Programs such as the food pantry and child care on campus (at little to no cost to the student). For the veteran, there is the "Got Your Six" program that helps veteran students in financial need.

With all of the programs available, NMC is making attempts to battle the dropout rates in Michigan. Almost any problem a student faces can be helped through services available at the college. The best option is usually to stay in school and get a degree.

# Golden Dragon Acrobats Return to the Dennonos

The Golden Dragon Acrobats will take the Milliken Auditorium stage once again. Direct from Hebei, China, the Golden Dragon Acrobats have thrilled audiences all over the world performing in over 65 countries and all 50 states since 1978. Its members are athletes, actors and artists who have studied and trained for their craft since early childhood. Their amazing artistry, beautiful costumes and props provide a visual feast for the entire family to enjoy.

The performance will be held at 8pm on Tuesday, March 5. Tickets are \$27 in advance or \$30 at the door. Purchase them online at [dennomuseum.org](http://dennomuseum.org) or by calling the museum at 231-995-1055.



Photo courtesy of Dennon Museum Center



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# What the Tech?!

## The Future of AR/VR

**David Hosler**  
Contributing Writer

Oculus Rift and HTC Vive hit the markets back in 2016 for consumer use. At release, both platforms had only a handful of games available to play, but the past two years have seen explosive growth in the Virtual Reality (VR) market. Largely, these devices create a new environment, blocking the outside world and immersing the user in a simulated creation.

Augmented Reality (AR) was popularized in 2016 with the release of Pokémon Go. It has been used during the 2018 Olympic opening ceremony, NFL halftime shows, and many other environments where cinematography is used to impress viewers. It changes the perception of what is physically there, building upon reality to provide something new.

Amazon is using AR in its mobile app to allow a user to see what a selected item will look like in their home. This form of the technology uses a device's camera to augment reality, displaying the object "inside" the room on the app. On Feb. 10, Google enabled AR navigation in street view mode of the Google Maps mobile application. It uses GPS to discern your location, then provides on-screen navigation based on camera imaging.

The future of AR and VR is seemingly endless, limited only by the bounds of imagination. It will be worrying for some, particularly those concerned with privacy. For others, this is a major technological revolution, on par with the invention of the personal computer.

Augmenting reality to change instead of add is already in use to a degree. Images can be modified by adding filters like dog ears or a crown of butterflies onto a face. With

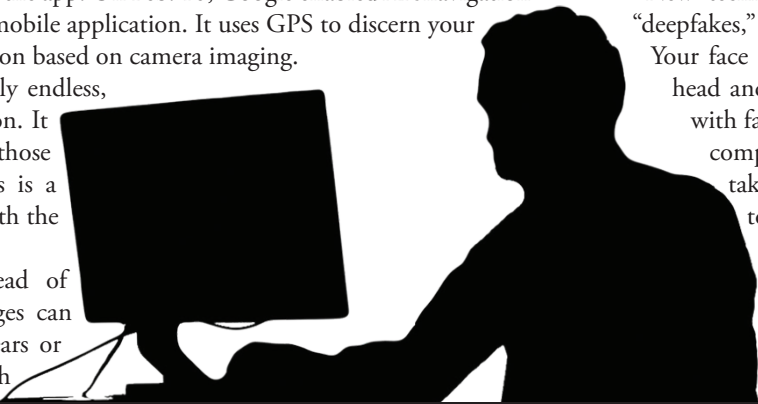
AR, images can also depict you in other environments. Want a selfie standing on a bridge overlooking a waterfall in the Amazon rainforest? No problem! It won't be the same effect as a green screen, where the background is changed based on filtering a color and replacing it, always leaving an embossed look around people. This will be the processing power of the computer in your pocket calculating you versus the background and replacing it—much like adding a drooling tongue hanging from your mouth on Snapchat.

The current controllers used for VR headsets are simple joysticks with buttons on them. What will happen when the controller turns into a pair of gloves that communicate seamlessly with the headset? For over a century, doctors have been using replica training equipment to perfect their craft, but with VR they will be able to view a human heart and with perfect dexterity, perform a simulated double-bypass.

New technology introduces new risks. AR technology is already being used as "deepfakes," fooling users into believing that celebrities are stripping for them on video. Your face is no longer your own. All someone needs is a picture of you, and your head and face are now part of a different body. This opens up security problems with facial recognition, not to mention the personal ramifications of being put in compromising situations—even though it isn't really you. The same tech used to take a selfie on a bridge overlooking the waterfall could be used to alter images to place you at the scene of a crime, letting the real suspect walk free.

While this technology will catapult global society forward, there are potential drawbacks. It is already in the market, and it won't be long until everyone has access to VR and AR features at a very reasonable cost.

*David Hosler is an instructor in the CIT Infrastructure program at NMC.*



# Australian License Plates Are Too Woke, Too Pure For This World

**Ann Hosler**  
Editor-in-Chief

On March 1, Queensland, Australia drivers will have the option of adding emoji to their license plates.

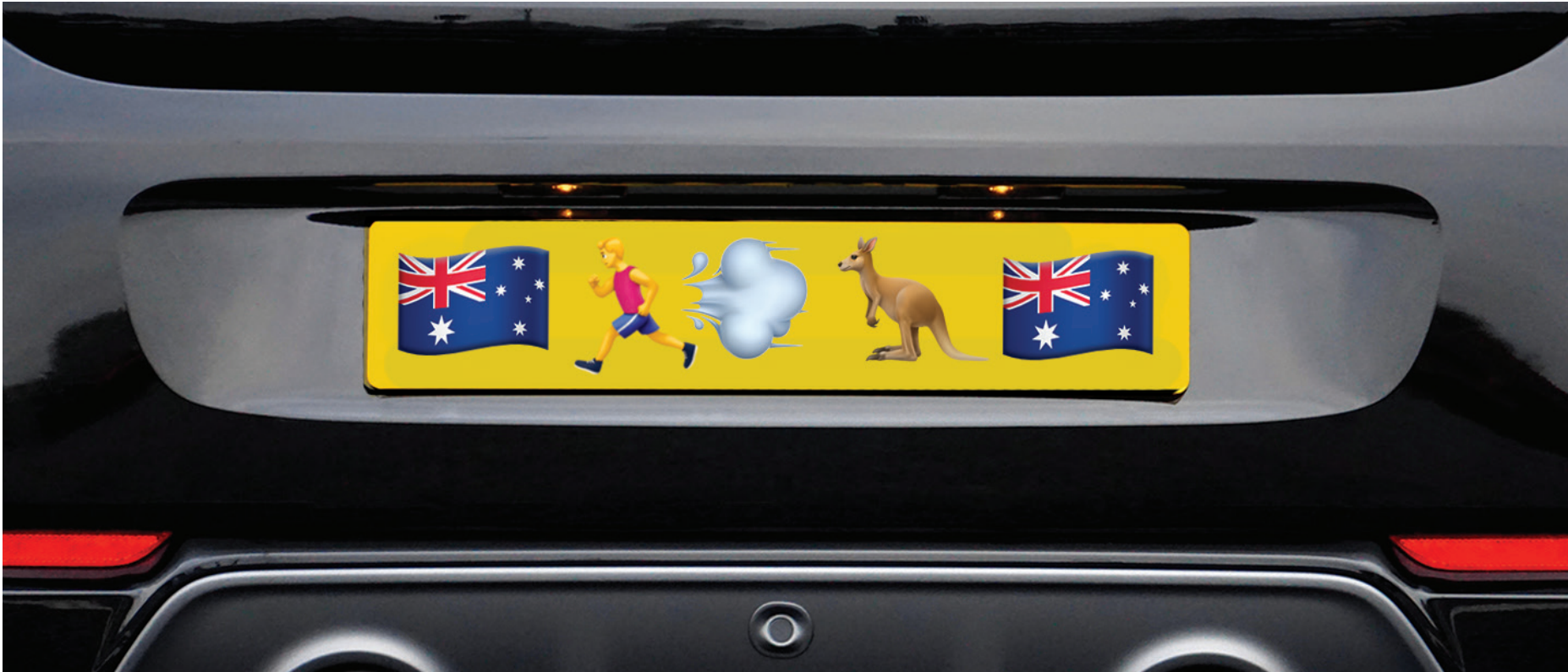
Though the emoji are a vanity addition, some law experts have wondered if emoji could disrupt vehicle identification efforts by police. Personalized Plates Queensland—the department that sells vanity plates—has said

that the emoji are decorative only and not part of the registration number.

The emoji choices are limited to five faces: winking, heart eyes, sunglasses, smiling, and laughing. "Emojis provide us with an insight into human behavior in the digital age," Australian Catholic University researcher Dr. Stephanie Malone told the *Brisbane Times*.

"There should be changeable emojis, so the face turns from a frown to a smiley depending on the driver's mood and as the traffic gets heavier it becomes angrier," Queensland Law Society president Bill Potts told the *Brisbane Times*. "I'm still a big believer in the turd. If someone is in real trouble, the smiling turd should come up."

With Australia breaking the seal on emoji decorating license plates, it's only a matter of time before the United States follows suit. Would individual states limit emoji choices? Will Americans prove Malone right—and show the depth (or shallowness) of human behavior?





# Supreme Court Upholds Transgender Military Ban

**Liam Strong** On Tuesday, Jan. 22, the Supreme Court voted 5-4 to uphold President Donald Trump’s order to restrictions on transgender military personnel. The Court began preliminary efforts by reviewing the case for Trump’s policy for banning transgender individuals from joining the military.

For active transgender service members, this leaves lower courts subjected to possible policy changes regarding the status of medical care. This could result in the complete refusal of medical care, or even to be discharged from service. The Trump administration stands as the first in U.S. history to disregard the integration of a minority group into the military.

The military is the nation’s largest employer of transgender individuals, with some 15,000 personnel enlisted since 2017, according to *The Washington Post*. But the accommodations granted from the Obama administration may soon peter out if policies follow similarly. This implies that transgender service members may be declined training, transfer, promotion, and re-enlistment.

A review of the merits of the case by the Supreme Court is underway, and has led to results against the current injunctions in support of transgender individuals in the military. The injunctions of the Obama administration allowed for transgender individuals to undergo the same training and standards as any other service member without discrimination of their gender identity, as suggested by the Human Rights Campaign. No opinions from any justice have been released as of yet. If actions continue in the lower courts to reverse policy, the framework designed by the Obama administration to protect transgender individuals in the military will be repealed. In replacement, the Trump administration policy suggests that it will work against those who identify as anything other than their biological assignment at birth.

Discrepancies in lower courts continue to present arguments against the Trump administration’s revisions to existing policy. Though the blanket plan of Trump’s policy isn’t widespread in effect, current transgender members of the military are still allowed to serve. Currently, if an individual wants gender-reassignment surgery, they would be denied the procedure.

The quick turnaround that the Supreme Court supplied credence to Trump’s redactive policy-making shows how influential his tweets are. “After consultation with my Generals and military experts, please be advised that the United States Government will not accept or allow Transgender individuals to serve in any capacity in the U.S. Military,” the president tweeted in July 2017. “Our military must be focused on decisive and overwhelming victory and cannot be burdened with the tremendous medical costs and disruption that transgender in the military would entail. Thank you.”

The Trump administration has introduced large policy changes that sometimes shock the nation. Overall, the Republican party continues to support these efforts. Policy, in the era of the Trump administration, is based off impulse.

The ban of transgender individuals from the military is not presented as a policy on transgender persons. The Trump administration defers to the policy as “necessary to ensure the most lethal and combat effective fighting force in the world,” Air Force Lt. Col. Carla Gleason, a Pentagon spokeswoman, stated in a Department of Defense press release on Jan. 22. The implication seems to reinforce that active transgender members are a hindrance to the military.

Since the ban was lifted in 2016, it’s still unknown whether or not there was any empirical change in morale or military effectiveness. Despite the controversy of the policy’s efficacy, this does not account for the fact that thousands of transgender service members face the uncertainty of being discharged from the military. As a country which boasts the world’s best military force, its military is also the most consistently revised due to policies regarding minority groups. There are 19 countries worldwide who do not deny transgender individuals the right to serve.

Similar bans have been successful prior to the Supreme Court’s recent decision. An extension of the Trump administration’s policy wants to bar against services members with the smallest history of gender dysphoria. In October 2018, a memo from the Department of Health and Human Services suggested to omit the federal acknowledgement of non-binary and trans identities, whittling Title IX’s definitions down to just “unchangeable” female and male sexes.

Until definitive policy implementation is agreed upon, the effects of the situation are unknown. The reluctance of military officials to commit to indirective policy changes is contributing to the debate as well. Under recent administrations, the military has taken steps to be more inclusive of all minority groups. Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis and Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman Joseph F. Dunford, Jr. have opted not to enact any changes until more specific rulings are made.

Depending on what repeals ensue after this recent Court decision, the transgender protections implemented by the Obama administration may be completely reversed. Unless “expressly revoked,” as stated by the Pentagon’s policy guidance in 2018, the enlistment services for recruiters will remain unchanged, and transgender individuals can still serve.

# Keeping Up With the Times: A Pride Glossary

**Tamara Wiget** Recently a friend asked me to explain a sexuality term with which they were unfamiliar, but I didn’t have a good answer. Even as a queer person myself, some of the recent sexuality terms that have become more popular can be confusing. Here’s a glossary of some that are gaining recognition, as well as related terms.

**Bisexual:** Attracted to two or more genders.

**Pansexual:** Sex and gender have no bearing on attraction.

**Allosexual:** Feels sexual attraction.

**Asexual:** Feels no or limited sexual attraction. Asexuality is a spectrum.

**Demisexual:** Only able to experience sexual attraction after a strong emotional bond has been formed. Demisexuality is on the asexual spectrum.

**Aromatic:** Feels no or limited romantic attraction.

**Romantic Attraction:** Like sexual attraction, there are different orientations. It is possible to have one sexual orientation and a different romantic orientation.

**Heterosexism:** The assumption that all people are (or should be) heterosexual.

**Biphobia:** Prejudice, fear, or hatred directed towards bisexual people.

**Closeted:** Someone who is not open about their sexual orientation or gender identity.

**Outing:** Exposing someone’s sexuality or gender identity without their consent. It is never okay to out someone.

Sexuality is private, and not something everyone wants to share. If someone trusts you enough to tell you about their sexuality or gender identity, it’s important to respect their privacy and their safety by not sharing that information with others.



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# Blue Vase Opens New Doors

**Emily Slater**

Staff Writer

Avid book lovers know that little else can beat the thrill of spending a few hours browsing the shelves of a used bookstore, saying hello to old favorites and hoping to discover new ones. A bookstore is a place to be celebrated, but a store that sells used books carries with it a little something extra: history, maybe a rare find, prices cheap enough that you can quiet that guilty voice in your head bugging you about buying more books before you've even read the books you already own. The Blue Vase Book Exchange, one of northern Michigan's largest suppliers of used books, is just such a place.

Originally an online business that started in 2012, the company opened its doors to the public with a brick-and-mortar store in 2015. Store hours were one weekend a month. That grew to every other weekend, then finally every weekend as word spread of the hidden gem. During the week, employees work around the clock to maintain its active online business, while weekends are reserved for the community to come in and find their own treasures. In store, used books, comics, CDs, DVDs, and records are all priced between \$1 and \$3.

Recently Marie Kondo-ed your life and found a few books that don't spark your joy? Bring them to the Blue Vase and exchange them for something new to cosy up with during the next inevitable snow storm. Generally they offer a two-for-one trade in credit for qualifying books. While the store has guidelines for what types of books it will accept in exchange for store credit, 100 percent of unsold books are donated or recycled and kept out of landfills. Not interested in removing a single book from your life, only in adding more to it? That's fine, too. Exchanges are not necessary to shop at the store.

The Blue Vase Book Exchange recently moved to a location more visible to traffic and has quadruple the store space. Formerly located off M-72, the used book store now resides at Interlochen Corners in the building previously occupied by Ric's Food Center. Once forced to be split between store space and five semi trailers in their parking lot, Blue Vase's vast inventory of used books and media now have room to breathe in the large building. "We're really excited about it," says Blue Vase Book Exchange manager Victoria Pearson. "We've gotten away from the warehouse vibe we had before and it's much more of a retail space now."

More room means people can take their time perusing the walls and walls of books, or sit in the reading lounge set up in the heart of the store to enjoy new finds. It's set to be a great addition to the quickly growing town of Interlochen, and Blue Vase is thrilled to be a part

of the neighborhood. "We're really excited to become a part of the Interlochen community," Pearson says, "We're excited to get to know the locals and for them to come and see what we've done with the store."

The Blue Vase Book Exchange is open to the public Fridays 9am-7pm, Saturdays 10am-6pm, and Sundays 11am-5pm at 2048 M-137 in Interlochen. Check it out online at [bluevasebookexchange.com](http://bluevasebookexchange.com).



Photos courtesy of Blue Vase Book Exchange

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# Resilience, Job Success in Face of Disability

**Liam Strong** Staff Writer Bailey Kivell's bottle of Sprite dances on the table as her sewing machine hums and she works on a canopy for TentCraft, the Traverse City-based maker of custom tents for outdoor events.

Kivell, a Liberal Arts and Sciences student at Northwestern Michigan College has received support from Upbound at Work, a student organization that helps students with disabilities succeed in school and get meaningful jobs. TentCraft was so impressed with Kivell's skills and work ethic that they increased her part-time job from seasonal to year round.

"They helped me get accustomed to working for TentCraft first off, and they wanted me to keep track of how hard I'm working, what I do each day there," Kivell told the *White Pine Press*. "I've been getting better working there. I'm getting faster and able to do more things."

At NMC, Kivell is currently studying for her Associate degree and is involved on campus as co-head of the NMC Anime Club. Before working at TentCraft, Kivell, like many other students with invisible disabilities, had difficulty finding work. Many employers have a stigma against hiring students with Autism and other disabilities. For the interview with TentCraft, Upbound helped prepare Kivell with common interview questions and answers to reinforce what to remember for the actual interview. "They'll help push me in any direction I want to go. And they'll help accommodate in any way," Kivell said

Though employers have a growing desire to hire a diverse range of workers, they tend to overlook people with disabilities, or limiting people with disabilities to particular, lesser jobs or job codes. College is already a competitive environment for many students. Many students with disabilities do not seek the support for employment otherwise.

Upbound at Work is an employment program powered by the Autism Alliance of Michigan which supports job seekers with disabilities to break down obstacles for employment, including the need for counseling and transportation. Likewise, the program offers pre-employment support with resumes, job searching, interview preparation, skill development, and onboarding and training with a new employer. Any person with a disability or learning difference can enter the program's free database to search for the ideal employer to their corresponding skill set. Subsequently, Upbound at Work offers employers training to welcome employees with disabilities.

For five years, Upbound at Work has engaged through consultation and placement with companies, at first under Autism Alliance of Michigan. Since then the organization has

expanded to work outside Michigan and beyond Autism to any disability. For the past two years, Upbound at Work has connected with NMC, attended job fairs and worked with students with disabilities, including Kivell. Upbound's goal on campuses is to aid students in preparation for any barriers before entering the workforce.

Tammy Morris, chief program officer for Upbound at Work, says that the reality of job seekers with disabilities is changing, despite the difficulties and common hurdles they encounter. For many students, they may be prone to hide what others may perceive as a "weakness."

"People with disabilities are the largest minority group on the globe, however the majority of disabilities are invisible," Morris said. "One in five people have a disability. If you include older adults who have mobility impairments that number grows to one in four." Though the workforce has its own competition and obstacles, many students with disabilities don't need assistance with college, and are even high performers academically. "Even in a college classroom of seemingly healthy adults, one should assume there are at least a couple of students who are living with some form of disability, mental health challenge, or learning difference," Morris said. They are probably the most resilient people in the room."

Over the course of their employment and case management programs, Upbound at Work has helped approximately 1,000 job seekers to understand their rights of disability employment under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Upbound at Work functions to bring the right individual from an often overlooked talent pool to a befitting company. Federal contractors have quotas for diversity and disability, so Upbound at Work works to make these employment opportunities grow in numbers.

The most important thing to remember for people without Autism is that we need to alter the way people with disabilities are accepted and perceived. Morris suggests this involves "moving far beyond awareness but to ensuring that our world is universally designed to accept and welcome everyone."

Students like Kivell are helping to raise an otherwise heavy bar of expectations in academics and the workforce. Being respectful and cognizant of others is the first step toward separating person from disability. A student with a disability is not identified by their disability, but should be held to an equal playing field as the rest of their peers. Kivell is a testament to how passion, work ethic, and perseverance are the greater parts of who we can be. Her identity is stronger and more evident than any disability.



Associated Collegiate Press

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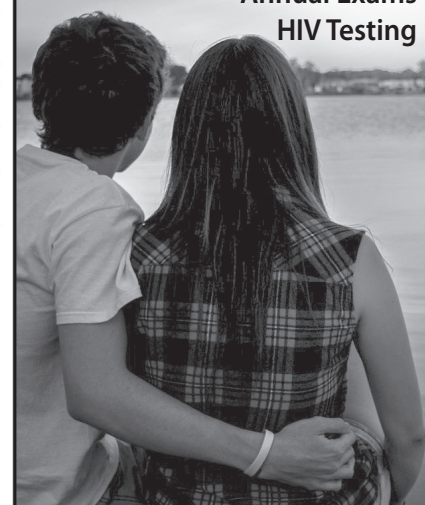
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The *White Pine Press* attended the 2019 Associated Collegiate Press Best of the Midwest conference from Feb. 15-17 in Minneapolis. During the award ceremony, the *WPP* was honored with a second place Best of Show award for two-year colleges.



# Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor of the *White Pine Press*,

NMC students and faculty struggle to find parking spots every day. Parking is quite far away from buildings most people need to go to. This issue is usually dismissed as a non-problem because students are “lazy.”

Personally, I work at the Osterlin Library and usually at night which means I have to get out of my math class as fast as I can to move my car closer to the library before work so that when I leave, I don’t have to walk so far alone in the dark. I’m sure this campus is pretty safe, but you never know what might happen, and I don’t want to take any chances. There’s also an endless list of first-year classes that take place in Scholars Hall which has the smallest parking lot of the whole campus. There are only about 15 parking spots in front of the building. During the first part of the semester, people are coming to and from work and the whole campus is packed so at times parking by the apartments is a must even if the destination is just Scholars Hall. I know college students and faculty who have the same problem as I have, for most of the day there are very limited spots, even for teachers.

A parking garage would be best to fix this issue. One that is in a central location like the Maple lot’s current location. It would be expensive but I learned through a previous project, there are ways to build a parking garage cheaper by using recycled products. Concrete International has an article for awards given to people who designed parking structures, most of them have earth-friendly options.

Furthermore building a parking garage instead of adding more parking lots would protect the nearby wetland areas from being harmed. This solution would also make it easier to find parking spots, and it would be a safer walk at night.

For the public to come in and find a place to park, it really isn’t that bad now. Community members have their own parking lot which is paid parking but it’s almost always empty. However, the new West Hall will soon also be open to the community, and they will need somewhere to park. The closest parking lot is the Cherry lot which is where most students park, thus we will need more parking for everyone.

Natalie Hornacek

Dear Natalie,

As someone who practically lives in Scholars Hall each semester, I understand your pain. If you don’t arrive during the 7am or 3pm golden hours, parking on campus is best described as an aggressive melee, where there are no factions, just individuals battling for *a* spot.

Parking issues at NMC is an issue that is both a running joke on campus as well as a frustration among all. This newspaper mocks it on a near-annual basis in our *White Pine Pickle* issue. During the warmer months, I simply give up and park in the Maple Lot, which always has available space, on the opposite side of campus, and walk 10-15 minutes to SH. It’s good exercise, if anything.

I’ve heard plenty of fellow students mention the idea of a parking garage, but have never seen anything official about the idea. Enrollment has declined in recent years, so if the administration didn’t act on the idea when NMC was at a high, it likely won’t now.

I also understand your nighttime concern. Remember that you can contact campus security to be escorted to your vehicle if you feel unsafe walking to it. You can reach them at 231-995-1111.

While more parking options, especially between H&S and SH, would be wonderful, we must continue our battle royale for a parking spot. Also consider alternatives:

- BATA’s Bayline (free!) bus has a stop outside NMC’s main entrance; if you live near one of its other stops, you can ride it in: [bata.net/trip-planning/bayline.html](http://bata.net/trip-planning/bayline.html)
- Find fellow students to carpool with
- Avoid the clash by parking further away in less-used lots and enjoy the fresh air
- Arrive earlier to dedicate more time for driving in circles (rectangles?)
- If it works with your class/work schedule, show up before 7:45am or after 3:15pm

May the odds be ever in your favor.

Regards,  
Ann Hosler  
WPP Editor-in-Chief

# An Alternate View: “You”

**Ariel Haddix**    When I heard about the idealization of Joe from the Contributing Writer Netflix show “YOU” that is blowing up, I knew I just had to write.

Anyone who glamorizes and romanticizes Joe and his behavior as sweet and protective needs to reevaluate their outlook on love and relationships. Joe is the perfect example of a person believing just because they want you and are “good for you,” they deserve you. No one gets to decide who deserves you, but yourself. No one gets to decide what is best for you but yourself. Joe narrates Beck’s life passive aggressively over and over with statements like: “You don’t want that, Beck.” “That’s not really you, Beck.” “Those friends are the only reason you are doing something ‘I’ don’t think you should be doing, Beck.”

He treats Beck as if she is not her own person, with the ability and right to make her own decisions. Obviously that really is what she is choosing to do, as she is doing it. She is choosing to keep those friends in her life, as she is answering their phone calls and making plans with them. Beck, regardless of Joe’s controlling narration and actions, is responsible for her own life and the decisions she makes. A stalking, lying, thieving, controlling person who cannot respect that she is an independent thinker and decision maker in her own life in the name of love is not a romantic dreamboy, they’re an abuser.

# Back to the Past: My Chemical Romance

**Mike Sims**    “Darken your clothes or strike a violent pose” because it’s Staff Writer time to trek the lane of good old memories. Reminiscing this band is like dipping your heart into an ashtray that doesn’t kill you, but instead grants you solace away from the crazy world, much like a cigarette. That’s how it was during my high school career.

My Chemical Romance (MCR) formed around 2001 and broke up around 2013. The band’s angsty lyrics coupled with their early gothic themes generated a cult following among teens and young adults throughout the globe. Was I one of them? Yes, indeed.

The band often has been described as an Emo band. However, they’re much more than that. Their music has resonated beautifully across the finite horizon, as if the band members have transcended multiple sentiments into an acute ray that emits a nostalgic memory, whether good or bad.

It was on the advent of 9/11 that MCR was born. The tragedy resulted in their first song, “Turnstiles and Skylines,” to be written. The lyrics imply the band’s will to make the world a better place, and throughout the band’s career they’ve time and again had a goal to bring a flicker of light to the world. The 2011 tsunami, fight against AIDS, suicide prevention, and cancer are notable examples of the band’s efforts in creating something sincere and honest.

The entire scope of their profession brimmed with passion fused with unique variety. Each album has a phase that gives meaning. Their debut album, “I Brought You My Bullets, You Brought Me Your Love,” offers a Vampiresque feel and a bit of gothic aesthetics in a pattern that assimilates tragedies to life. MCR’s second album, “Three Cheers for Sweet Revenge,” embodies a spirit of vengeance that employs a stylistic flow, similar to a crestfallen waterfall. The third album, “The Black Parade,” splits and spits the mind into dimensional pieces, harboring a discord that disconnects our feelings into our eventual deaths; it is all about death and how dying can be a beginning for healing, not an ending. Their last album, “Danger Days: The True Lives of the Fabulous Killjoys,” was Japanese music combined with some dance. If you’re not into depressing music, this album is a highly recommend. Even with the death of MCR, their music is very much alive and well. As someone who usually isn’t a fan of Emo music, they hold up. Perhaps in time, their legacy and ideas will carry for generations to come.

# WRITE US A LETTER

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# “Female-Fronted” is Not a Genre

**Liam Strong**  
Staff Writer

You’ve probably talked about music with your friends before, sharing new bands and artists. But when the topic of introducing similar artists arises, you might note that these bands have a female vocalist, member, or are fully led by women. When discussing music, regardless of genre, this rhetoric is employed for bands who have any member with a gender other than male. Likewise, it suggests that the preselected option of musicians is male. “Male-fronted” is not a genre you hear, because it doesn’t exist. “Female-fronted,” however, is an exaggerating adjective and term that is detrimental to both women and the music scene.

Determining genres, whether from the perspective of music elitists or casual listeners, emphasizes what you expect to hear, purely in instrumentation and sound. By this definition, categorizing artistic composition works to recognize similarities in form, style, sound, and subject matter. As a description, “female-fronted” diminishes a band to the gender of its members, as if only one woman would muddy the band’s sound and reserve them such a categorization. There is no such thing as a “female” sound. A vagina does not give a band more or less sound. Even all-women or riot grrrl bands don’t fit this label; it’s a punk movement by and large. “Female” is not the experience of the music.

Since utilizing genre labels gives a sense of sonic quality, “female-fronted” is ineffective on this front. It does nothing to explain what a band will be like. The discrimination in the music industry doesn’t end with its blatant sexism and misogyny, either. Year of the Knife, a hardcore punk band from Delaware, has a female bassist, yet no effort is made for her accreditation. There’s a distinct line between tokenization and expunction from being noticed. If you looked up 10 different “female-fronted” metal bands, you’d more than likely find 10 different genres of bands who sound nothing alike. We’ve long been accustomed to women as the focal point that to remove this label is to practically take away its merit. Obviously, this isn’t true.

Genre and subgenre are already finicky areas to discuss in the realm of music. Nobody wants to classify something wrongly, but bands are constantly concerned with being “genre-defying” to begin with. Regardless of scrutiny, people will find a way to put artists into a box. You shouldn’t disregard listening to bands that have women fronting them. You shouldn’t support “female-fronted” as a label just because you want to support women; despite how the label brings attention to women, it’s not for a good reason. You should support bands by supporting bands, listening to their music for what it is, buying their merchandise, going to their shows.

Marketability of the female form in the music industry is sexism at its most apparent, and women are suffering for it rather than gaining from a redundant music “genre.” Kaydan Howison, writer for *Wall of Sound*, an online music publication, suggests, “But once your band becomes lumped with the tag ‘got women in it’ anything concerning your art is totally and utterly invalidated. Your creative output becomes diminished to the point of not even existing because it’s just about your gender.” The problem is that people are so conditioned to not seeing women in the music scene that we are depreciating them as the token minority. If “female-fronted” is the first label you slap on a band without any actual definitive characteristic, this would be neglecting the music itself.

Incidentally, the solution to this is difficult to remove. Once you type “female-fronted” into Google, it spans all genres. The best we can do is embrace music without insistent preoccupation with gender. Phrases like “female-fronted,” in any medium, are a demeaning pat on the back; acknowledging powerful women in different industries is absolutely important, but this isn’t how to do it. Aggrandizing women as zoo exhibits in the world of music is not the way to bring about change, but revamping our conversation of music is.

# Librarians and Their Words

**Ann Hosler**  
Editor in Chief

Some words have fantastic meanings, or are simply fun to say. Others are ridiculous, or abrade the air as they tumble out of your mouth. NMC’s librarians peek into their personal lexicons and share their favorite and least favorite words.

**Rochelle Hammontree**

Favorite: smitten – you don’t have to explain, it just says it all!

Least Favorite: rent – when someone says they want to rent a book in the library, it just sounds like we charge, but we don’t, books are free to borrow!

**Nicco Pandolfi**

Favorite: wolf tone – a jarring, dissonant overtone caused by a flaw or imperfection in a string instrument; I love how vivid and medieval this term is, it’s been in use for centuries

Least favorite: utilize – it always sounds a bit technocratic and soulless, and I have yet to see the case where ‘use’, ‘employ’, or ‘avail of’ wouldn’t be an improvement

Favorite newly added word: cakeism – the philosophy of having one’s cake and eating it too (see: Brexit); runner up for Oxford Dictionaries’ Word of the Year 2018

**Tina Ulrich**

Favorite: Byzantine – “(of a system or situation) excessively complicated, and typically involving a great deal of administrative detail.” It’s fun to say and it’s used to describe something unnecessarily annoying.

Least favorite: collaboration, or any word that’s used to describe a simple human activity but make it sound like it’s something new and special (e.g. “innovation” or “impact” or “ideate”)

Favorite abbreviation: tl;dr, because it’s shorthand for a universal experience.

**Mary Becker**

Favorite: genau – it’s German and means “exactly” or “precisely.” The hard G sound makes it sound more emphatic than its English equivalents, and it just fits better when you really want to express strong agreement.

Most irksome (which is a great word as well): ED (emergency department) or really any medical abbreviation. I can fall seriously behind in a conversation with nursing students or instructors as I try to figure out what they just said and what it means.

**Joelle Hannert**

Favorite: companion – a friend told me the etymology of this word years ago, over a shared loaf of bread: the Latin com (together) + panis (bread). Since that day, this word has given me a warm fuzzy feeling whenever I hear or use it, bringing to mind a lifetime’s worth of breaking bread with good friends.

Least favorite: tour de force – this phrase, meaning “a feat of strength or skill,” is used almost exclusively in media reviews, and it always bugs me. It strikes me as a lazy descriptor, and a falsely fancy one at that. It also has a combative tone, which often doesn’t fit with the works it’s used to describe.

Favorite made-up word: sensiblunch – a few years ago, a friend of mine made up a new word every day for a month. Of the several from his list that have made their way into my day-to-day lexicon, “sensiblunch” is one of my favorites. It means a lunch-size portion of dinner leftovers that is purposely saved for the following day. Who wouldn’t love sensiblunch? I’m eating one today!



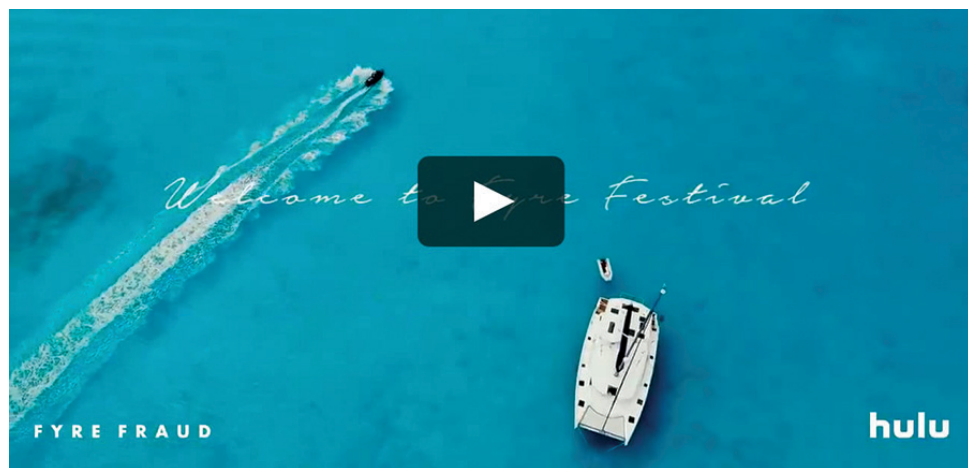


## Two Tales of One Fyre

**Nick Moug** Staff Writer What happens when image replaces reality? In 2017, entrepreneur Billy McFarland and washed up rapper Ja Rule attempted to organize a “luxury music festival” for privileged millennials that promised a glamorous event featuring socialites and supermodels on a private island in the Bahamas. The tickets for the festival sold for \$500 to \$12,000 VIP passes. It was promoted by a viral marketing scheme through online influencers like Kendall Jenner, Bella Hadid, and Emily Ratajkowski. The influencers posted a vague orange square on Instagram, and festival goers were told the island hosting the concert once belonged to drug kingpin Pablo Escobar. When the attendees arrived, their thousand dollar tickets purchased them rain-soaked camping tents on a deserted beach with no musicians or supermodels.

Both currently available on Netflix and Hulu, the documentaries “Fyre: The Greatest Party That Never Happened” and “Fyre Fraud” provide insight into the notorious Fyre Festival that had social media’s attention from inception to its disastrous conclusion. Netflix’s “Fyre: The Greatest Party That Never Happened” has a more objective perspective, getting testimony from investors, promoters, graphic designers, and festival employees who got sucked into the whirlwind of 26-year old entrepreneur Billy McFarland’s ambitious, yet ultimately, hollow vision. Hulu’s “Fyre Fraud” interviews McFarland himself.

While Netflix’s film offers a more robust panorama of what exactly happened, both documentaries act as worthwhile commentary on the other. “Fyre: The Greatest Party That Never Happened” provides a larger canvas for dozens of perspectives telling how they enabled, were persuaded by, or were conned by Billy McFarland. Hulu’s “Fyre Fraud” grills McFarland, who is repentant, but undoubtedly spending his six-year prison sentence calculating the next project that could fit his ambitions, whether substantial or fantasy.



## Music that is Sometimes Good but also Sometimes Not Good

Pedro the Lion - “Phoenix”

**Liam Strong** Staff Writer I busked on the downtown streets of Traverse City the summers between each passing year of high school so I could have money to expand my music collection. Sometimes, I didn’t take a break from playing my drums for over an hour. I wanted to be gracious with myself.

The summer before my senior year I earned \$500 just busking, which went into records I haven’t listened to in years. That money will never be in the same place again, in my old bloated dice chest, unorganized but proud. I would skip youth group to go to the mall, converting my money into new punk records which, if I was lucky, may have been shelved a day before the Friday release date.

This week’s record, “Phoenix,” by indie rock band Pedro the Lion, reflects on the anecdotes of childhood and young adulthood after regret has finally set in. David Bazan, the main writer and vocalist behind the project, implores that between thoughtless childhood adventures are lessons with startling discovery. “Circle K” approaches Bazan in a vulnerable exchange where he spends all his money on candy and soda pop instead of saving for a Santa Cruz skateboard.

If the tone of “Phoenix” is warm and homely on its front half, then the back half is a rainy day in Arizona walking home from school, where the instrumentation is minimal yet accentuated. The record demonstrates that complexity isn’t necessary to create contemplative moments. However, there are moments where echoes of the American Dream drive how we perceive the world. Should we question if we’ll receive that new job or make a down payment on a house, or when? We can only allot for ourselves a certain amount of being tired of what we have, where and who we are. How long will it take me to sell those records? Will that give me the money back I so valued, more than its actual worth?

## Book *Shady Lady* Reviews

Life of Pi

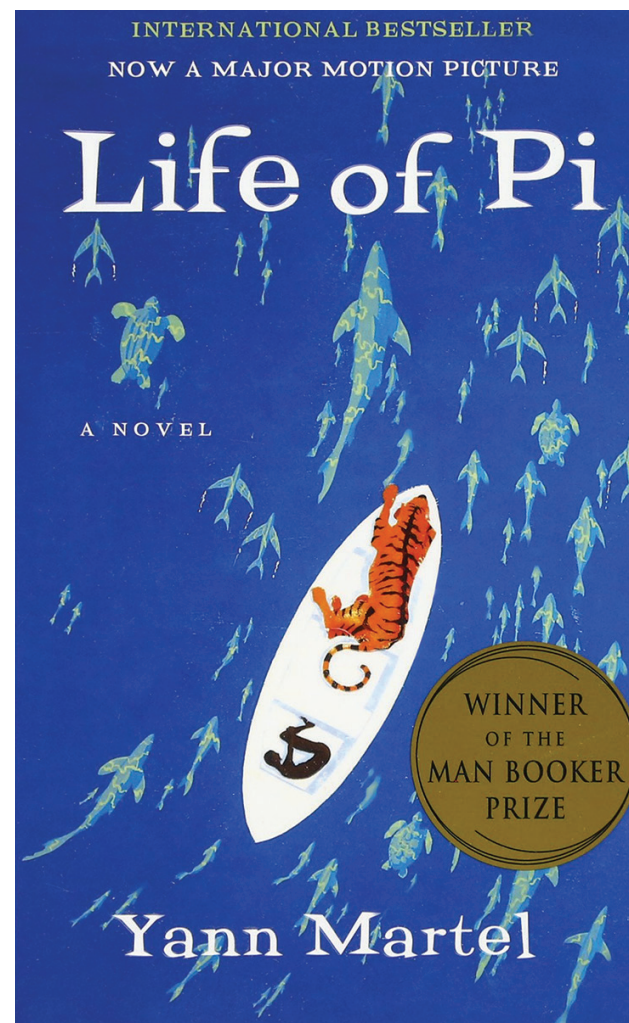
**Tamara Wiget** Staff Writer

Piscine “Pi” Patel lives what seems an idyllic life with his family in the village of Pondicherry, India. True, he is made fun of at school, but this seems a minor thing in an otherwise happy life. He is a faithful Hindu, Christian, and Muslim. He sees God in everything and wants to connect with the divine in any way he can. He is also the son of a zookeeper. His father’s zoo is successful, but when the opportunity to relocate to Canada comes up, he and his family board a ship for Ontario.

The ship will never make it to its destination. Only Pi, Richard Parker, and a few zoo animals manage to board a lifeboat. They have no food, no fresh water, and no way of knowing where they are. They will spend nearly a year at sea.

As if all this weren’t disastrous enough, Richard Parker happens to be a 600-pound male tiger.

“Life of Pi” is a novel that moves slowly, but this is not a hindrance to the plot. Author Yann Martel builds up to the heart of the story, giving the reader time to build emotional ties to Pi and his family before ruthlessly separating them with one unlikely event that will forever change Pi’s life—if he can survive it.





# Egg Roll Tacos

**Kyle Jasper**  
Staff Writer

Cooking at home when you have a busy schedule can be hard, especially when you're trying to cook something new. While I'm someone who tends to throw ingredients into a pan and apply heat, my wife is slightly more meticulous. One of her favorite meals to make (and one of my favorites to eat) is a fun combination: Egg Roll Tacos!

If you're cooking for two, you'll need ½ lb ground beef (just as good with imitation beef, if you're not a meat eater!), vegetable oil, taco seasoning, 8 egg roll wraps, 1 cup chopped tomatoes, 2 cups shredded lettuce, and 1 cup shredded cheese.

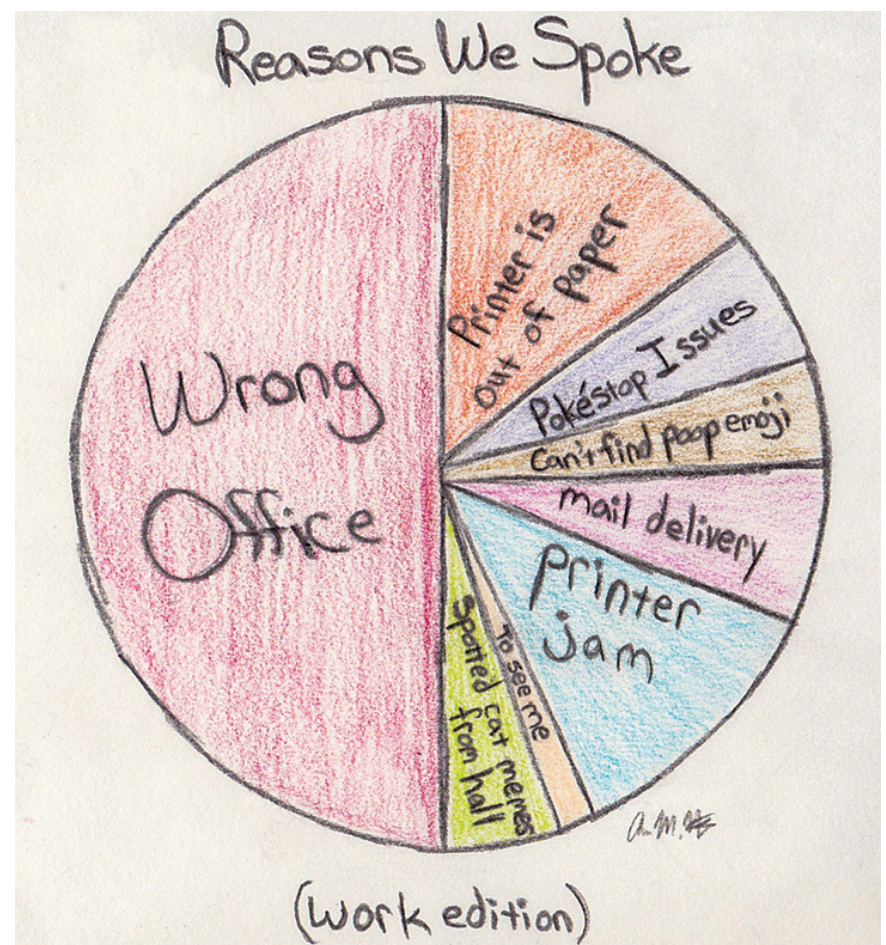
## Directions:

1. Thoroughly cook and season ground beef, drain, and let cool.
2. While the beef is cooking, pour oil (about ½ inch deep) into a sauté pan, and apply medium heat for 10 minutes.
3. Once the beef has cooled, put desired amount of lettuce, tomato, beef, and cheese in the middle of the egg roll wrap. (Be careful not to overfill, you will need the wrap to seal to itself once wrapped.)
4. Roll the wrap halfway, over top of the filling, tuck edges, and roll the rest of the way.
5. Dip your fingers in room-temperature water and wet the seams of the wrap, sealing the wrap to itself.
6. Carefully drop rolls into the oil, cook on medium heat for 8-10 minutes (or until golden brown), flipping halfway through.
7. Using tongs, remove rolls from the pan and let them cool for a couple minutes. Using paper towel, pat the rolls down to remove excess oil.
8. Let cool and enjoy!
9. (optional) dip in Frank's Red Hot sauce!

Photo by Kyle Jasper



Getting to Class February 2019





# What Does Organic Really Mean?

**Lili Clendinen** Over the years, food quality has become a Staff Writer rising factor in consumer decision making. While evidence of horrific treatment of livestock challenges some people's ethical beliefs, it has become apparent that there are also major health risks involved with the way our food is produced. Although the use of antibiotics and growth hormones in meat and dairy have been approved by the FDA in "safe" measurements, research has linked them with antibiotic-resistant bacteria, hormonal imbalance, and cancer in its consumers. These concerns are not only limited to meat and dairy, but also extend into fruit and vegetable farming, where GMOs have become increasingly controversial, due to inconclusive effects on the human body. Additionally, pesticides have been proven to leach into produce, causing a rising level of toxicity among consumers. Because of this alarming information, more people have begun to incorporate organic food into their diets.

To obtain the USDA "organic" seal, farmers must follow the certification requirements, which call for humane living conditions for livestock. This includes access to the outdoors and an organic diet. Furthermore, the USDA prohibits the use of synthetic pesticides, fertilizers, chemicals, dyes, GMOs and sewage sludge on farms. However, the prohibition of synthetic chemicals is not synonymous with "chemical free." Organic farms are permitted to use naturally derived chemicals, as well as 25 synthetic pesticides that the USDA has approved of for organic farming. While debate continues on whether or not natural is less toxic than synthetic, a 2012 Stanford study shows that 38 percent of conventional produce contains pesticide residue in comparison to only 7 percent of organic produce. And in a 2016 study by the Pesticide Data Program it was shown that conventional produce had an average of 3.2 detected pesticides, while organic produce only had 0.8. This information is especially important to young children and pregnant women, as research has suggested that pesticides can hinder cognitive development.

Aside from health aspects, many people switch from conventional to organic with the belief that it is better for



Photo by Ann Hosler

the environment. One major advantage of organic farming is that crop rotation is required, which means that farmland is able to be reused without stripping the nutrients from the soil. However, studies show that the carbon footprints of organic and conventional farming are relatively equal. But, one drawback of organic farming is that it uses more land. This is because livestock on organic farms are required to have access to pastureland, which means that the ratio between the

number of livestock and the amount of acreage is significantly higher in comparison to conventional meat farming. Research says that organic farms are estimated to use up to 40 percent more land, while producing lower yields. This, of course, is beneficial to the welfare of the animals, but also means that as organic farming increases, more farmland will be needed to meet USDA criteria.

## Effective Exercise for Students

**Miranda Felty** Winter feels like it's working against you. Your body is naturally more Staff Writer fatigued. It's cold. It's dreary. You're stuck inside and tempted to turn to Ramen and Netflix. It's easy to fall into the sluggish routine of napping, comfort foods, and procrastinating. One thing you can do to avoid winter blues, along with getting adequate rest and letting in enough sunlight, is exercise.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recommends that adults engage in at least 150 minutes of moderate physical activity each week or 75 minutes of vigorous physical activity each week, with preferably two workouts involving muscle strengthening activities. According to the Centers for Disease Control, only 23 percent of adults get adequate exercise. Getting enough physical activity is especially important for college students who are building habits to carry into adulthood. Exercise fosters healthy bone development, prevents chronic illnesses, and improves mental health. Other benefits include increased energy levels, increased memory retention and concentration, and minimized stress and restful sleep.

So, what are the basics you need to know before exercising? First and foremost, setting a routine that fits with your schedule is important. All you need is 30 minutes of moderate exercise a few times a week to start out. Moderate exercise constitutes anything from brisk walking, aerobics, dancing, yoga, and guided workouts (e.g. an ab workout would involve crunches, planks, and sit-ups). If none of these options sound interesting, there are always other options on campus such as intramural sports (NMC has open rec for volleyball and basketball, as well as open dance lessons). Exercising doesn't have to be boring, and shooting hoops, volleying, or learning new dance moves can be a great way to stay fit while having fun connecting with people.

How do you tell if the exercise is moderate? You want your heart rate to be 50 to 70 percent of your maximum heart rate. To find your maximum heart rate, use one of the many free target heart rate calculators available online.

It is also important to find a time in the day to exercise that best suits your physiology. Everyone will be different. Some people feel they perform best in the morning, others in the evening. Exercise when you feel like you have a good energy level. If you feel the most awake and focused in the morning, exercise is a great way to start your day and boost your metabolism, but many people also find evening workouts give them that much needed boost of energy to get through the rest of the day. Just avoid working out three hours before your bedtime as this can disrupt sleep.

How am I supposed to exercise when I am stuck inside all day? You don't need to go to the gym to exercise. Many people find dorm-room exercises equally as effective, and even more fun. All you need are some good tunes, a good amount of space (preferably you're able to stretch your body out on the floor without hitting walls or furniture), and a workout routine. YouTube and exercise apps offer so many free exercise routines that target different parts of your body, whether you are looking for strength or cardio, aiming to increase your endurance or flexibility, the options are really limitless. You can also Google different exercises or take ideas from magazines and make your own list.

If all else fails, opting to walk instead of driving to classes, even in horrible winter winds, gets your body moving and also gives you that necessary sunlight. You don't need to go to the gym every day to become physically fit; aim for 150 minutes of physical activity a week if you can. Your body will thank you.