

# The Associated Press State & Local Wire

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## Holy whah! Some Yoopers fear colorful dialect may be fading; MICHIGAN AP CENTERPIECE

By JOHN FLESHER, Associated Press Writer, HOUGHTON, Mich.

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Dan Junttila is a proud Yooper. So proud that he teaches a course at the local middle school on the history and culture of his beloved Upper Peninsula.

So he would mourn if one of the most notable characteristics of da U.P. - dat colorful way of talkin' dey got up dere - were to fade away, eh? Holy whah!

"I love the dialect," says the 51-year-old Junttila, born and bred in the western U.P.'s mining and logging country.

"Preserving our heritage and our culture, what could ever be wrong with that? Seems to be such an effort to get everybody to melt together in such a way that we'll all lose any semblance of self or identity."

Plenty of Yoopers, as residents of the Upper Peninsula are fondly known, take pride in their distinctive accents and quirky colloquialisms. "Holy whah," for example, is the Yooper equivalent of "Holy cow" or a similar exclamation.

But some fear the dialect is declining and eventually could disappear. They point to an increasingly mobile society, the passing of immigrant generations whose native languages shaped the Yooper tongue, and the homogenizing influence of mass culture and media.

"It's partly the transplants - people coming here from all over the country," said Dan Dulong, 57, a meat cutter from Hancock, a former mining town home to many descendants of Finnish immigrants.

Last December, the Upper Peninsula's four state representatives sponsored a resolution to establish Yooper as the "official state dialect."

It describes Yooper as "endangered ... on the verge of vanishing forever," and argues that preserving it would "maintain a tie to our multicultural heritage."

Rep. Rich Brown, D-Bessemer, acknowledged the measure is largely symbolic. It was proposed by a ninth-grader to the Legislative Civics Commission, a group of lawmakers who visit schools to discuss state government.

Still, Brown said keeping the Yooper dialect alive is a worthy cause. "It is kind of a trademark," he said.

Elizabeth Norton, the student at Traverse City's East Junior High School who crafted the resolution, said her research had turned up scholarly papers that described Yooper talk as fading.

"If we lose that, we'll lose part of what makes us unique as a state," she said.

Even a troll - that is, anyone residing in lower Michigan (below the Mackinac Bridge, which links the two peninsulas) - can appreciate how sad it would be if Yooper dialect went da way of da dodo.

But is there really anything to worry about? Some say rumors of the demise of U.P. dialect are greatly exaggerated.

"It's changing, but it's not dying," said Kathryn Remlinger, an associate professor at Grand Valley State University who has studied Upper Peninsula speech. "Language is always changing."

Actually, she added, there is no single Yooper dialect. What you hear depends on where in the peninsula you are, and on the age and social class of the speaker. Many U.P. residents sound like typical Midwesterners.

Accents are thicker in rural areas, which are less exposed to outside influences, and among older people only a generation or two removed from immigrant ancestors, Remlinger said.

The Yooper dialect is a linguistic melting pot, featuring pronunciations and idiomatic words and phrases rooted in the languages of Europeans who settled in the Upper Peninsula - and of native Indians.

French explorers arrived in the 1600s and made their mark. But the stereotypical U.P. dialect owes more to the immigration wave during the copper and iron ore mining rush two centuries later.

People came primarily from Finland and the Cornwall region of western England, but also Sweden, Poland, Croatia, Slovenia and Italy. As the immigrants and their children learned English, their heavily accented pronunciations helped form the regional dialect.

In the "Copper Country" of the northwestern U.P., Finnish mining families mostly kept to themselves, preserving their native tongue for several generations.

"There were Finnish newspapers, churches, intermarriage - the kinds of things that keep communities together," said Victoria Bergvall, associate professor of linguistics at **Michigan Tech University** in Houghton.

Many of the most commonly known "Yooperisms" show the Finnish influence, such as the substitution of a "d" sound for "th," as in "dere" instead of "there" or "dem" instead of them."

Another example: the pronunciation of "yeah" as "yah," which Remlinger traces to the Finnish equivalent: "joo."

But she says the familiar Yooper practice of ending sentences with "eh" ("Have a nice day, eh") probably comes from the French "hein," a word French Canadians often tack onto sentences.

Alas, even those old standards may not last forever. Laura Walikainen, a student of Bergvall's at **Michigan Tech**, reported to a linguistics conference last fall that the younger generation is more apt to end sentences with "hey" than "eh."

The 21-year-old Walikainen, a lifelong Copper Country resident with a barely noticeable accent, takes pride in Yooper dialect but admits she isn't immune to social pressures at college to avoid being too distinctive.

"The way you talk is so important - it's how you're judged," she said.

Concerns that U.P. speech makes one sound "like a hick" arise from long-standing stereotypes of Yoopers as ignorant and uncultured, Remlinger said. The word "Yooper" itself once was viewed as derogatory.

Many young adults who leave the area for school or careers suppress their accents to avoid ridicule, she said.

"People aren't aware of how damaging linguistic prejudices can be - not just to self-esteem, but in the way they contribute to the losing of a culture," Remlinger said.

Yet there's reason for hope, she added. A growing sense of ethnic identity and sense of place is actually strengthening many regional dialects. And most linguists believe the watering-down effects of radio and television are limited.

"There are a lot of people who darn well want to keep speaking Yooper and they really don't care what anyone thinks," said Junttila, the middle school teacher, who encourages his "U.P. Topics" students to appreciate their roots.

During a recent class, the youngsters read about the Cornish pasty, a meat-and-vegetable turnover that was a luncheon staple during the mining era and remains popular.

"We have an undying Yooper belief, a kind of stubbornness, that says something that was once so good and comfortable must be worth holding on to," Junttila said. "Not all change is good."

When filmmaker Jeff Daniels made "Escanaba in da Moonlight," an offbeat 2001 comedy larded with U.P. stereotypes and exaggerated renderings of the dialect, some complained it was demeaning. But other Yoopers took it in stride, considering it a celebration of the region's traditions.

"We're used to all the jokes," said Ken Myllyla, 71, of Escanaba, a third-generation Finn. He and a couple of buddies gave Daniels and his crew some tips on Yooper talk as they produced the film. "Mostly they just had us talk to each other while they listened," Myllyla said.

"People from lower Michigan used to call us hicks and that stuck in our craw," said Jim DeCaire of Ishpeming, leader of the comedy troupe Da Yoopers. "Now there's a love affair with the Upper Peninsula. Everybody wants to be a Yooper."

# Detroit Free Press

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February 22, 2004 Sunday 0 EDITION

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## Novices, beware Mt. Bohemia

BY JIM NEFF  
FREE PRESS SPECIAL WRITER  
LAC LA BELLE

If you launch off one of the cliffs in Mt. Bohemia's Extreme Back Country, you'd better have your chin strap buckled, your knees spring-loaded and your life insurance paid in full because the landing area is an ungroomed triple-black diamond glade that's the gnarliest terrain in the Midwest.

The plunges through the forest below have names like Hungry Vulture and Wandering Grizzly and they're even more intimidating than they sound. Bohemia is definitely not for sissies, as the sign at the base proclaims: "Reckless behavior on Mt. Bohemia can kill you!"

Located near the tip of the UP's Keweenaw Peninsula on the shores of Lac LaBelle and Lake Superior, Mt. Bohemia is Michigan's newest and most unique ski area.

Not only does Bohemia have the state's highest vertical drop at 900 feet, the largest skiable glades (forested slopes) between Vermont and the Rockies and terrain that is all black diamonds (single, double and triple) with an average pitch of 31 degrees, none of the trails or glades are groomed -- ever. The Keweenaw's annual 270-plus inches of snow falls on the mountain and that's what you ski on, untouched by man or machine. There is a trail groomer, but it's used to plow the parking lot, making Mt. Bohemia the only ski area in America that grooms its parking lot but not its slopes.

The skiing and snowboarding is strictly for experts and the area makes no bones about it with a "No Beginners Allowed" warning prominent on its signs and advertising. "When we opened Mt. Bohemia 4 years ago we wanted to create an experience unlike any in the Midwest, a place with a sense of adventure where you could ski in the back country through deep powder," says owner Lonie Gliberman, a Detroit area native.

"Bohemia is super steep, ungroomed, and as natural and wild as possible. Our ski patrol won't kick you off the hill for skiing in the trees, they'll go ski with you."

Indeed, Bohemia has no snowmaking, no novice runs, no ski school and no fancy lodge. The base area facilities are a series of seven yurts, canvas and wood structures similar to those used by Mongolian nomads. Inside the yurts the food service is spartan, with the main entree being Dinty Moore stew. Slope-side lodging consists of just eight cabins with a central activity cabin and an area for tent camping. The bottom of Mt. Bohemia looks more like a staging area for an assault on Mt. Everest than a ski area base. But the close quarters and rustic ambiance create a festive atmosphere.

If you're an expert skier or snowboarder, Bohemia is heaven. Soaring above Lake Superior with incredible vistas below, the mountain has five distinct sections with powder skiing like nothing else in the region.

On the front side, Bohemia Bluffs has some great open trails, like Copper Plunge and Powder Keg,

black diamonds where you can cut wide swaths. Also frontside, the Bohemia Mining Company offers the gentler Prospector and a very manageable glade called Widowmaker.

More open trails fall off the back side in the Bear Den. These blacks and double blacks, like Polar Bear and Black Bear, feature some nifty headwalls.

Trails comprise only 35 percent of Bohemia's terrain; most skiers come for the glades. In Extreme Back Country, the challenges are immense. Monster cliffs, some with drops of 40 feet, dump into rock-lined chutes and expanses of triple-black tree skiing. This section is so dense that it has no chairlift; at the bottom there's a road where a shuttle bus picks you up for the trip back to the base area and lift.

The fifth section of Bohemia is yet another giant glade called Haunted Valley. This one has routes to the bottom with names like Cursing Werewolf and Thirsty Vampire, and they are all double-black diamonds with no bailouts.

While Mt. Bohemia's rugged mystique is well deserved (and even cultivated by its owners and skiers), the Keweenaw in winter is a lovely place. Lots of lodges and restaurants give multiple options.

Nearby Calumet is famed for its Finnish architecture, Hancock is home to Finlandia College, and **Michigan Tech** is in Houghton. Two other ski areas are also close by -- Mont Ripley in Houghton and Porcupine Mountain in Ontonagon -- both known for superb family skiing.

# The Associated Press State & Local Wire

February 23, 2004, Monday, BC cycle

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## A roundup of editorial opinion from Michigan newspapers

By The Associated Press

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A roundup of editorial opinion from Michigan newspapers: It's up to Tompkins to fix **Michigan Tech** mess

There will be a temptation among some in the **Michigan Tech University** community to scapegoat outgoing budget director Pamela Eveland for **Michigan Tech's** fiscal crisis, including an eye-popping \$6.3 million tuition miscalculation. That would be a mistake.

Eveland, who resigned, correctly took responsibility for the error, but Tech's financial troubles - dramatically exacerbated by the costly mistake, to be sure - nonetheless preceded it. It's up to President Curt Tompkins and Tech's board of control to fix those problems.

Tompkins, who recently lost an ill-advised no-confidence vote among faculty and staff, must request from an agreeable board of control the authority to restructure in dramatic ways that make the university more cost-efficient. That means, among other things, eliminating programs that are money pits. Mining engineering, for example, might be the school's heritage, but today there is little demand for it. Phasing out the program is the right thing to do.

Other, similar decisions should be made as well, and they won't be that difficult for someone whose principal concern is the long-term health of the institution. Tompkins, who has spearheaded important campus construction projects and raised many millions of dollars in a successful capital campaign, has demonstrated that he's capable of such big-picture decision-making.

And, as he surely knows, restructuring isn't restricted to cutting programs. He must reshape departments to create new efficiencies, and he must eliminate waste and unsound management practices. That includes the so-called "carry-over," which is money that departments have been allowed to hoard from year to year, presumably for pet projects. Department budgets should be cut next year at least by the amount they typically carry over from year to year.

Their pet projects should be dealt with as capital requests.

Tompkins' chief mistake in recent years was attempting to limit the impact of budget problems on the average Tech employee. While no CEO likes to lay off workers, the kid-gloves approach - along with state funding cuts over which he had no control - led directly to large, damaging tuition increases and the current \$9.6 million deficit, minus the tuition error. That can't continue if MTU hopes to increase enrollment, along with its national profile as a technological university.

Like most other enterprises, public and private, the vast majority of Tech's spending is labor-related. Labor, then, must be subject to belt-tightening beyond the few unpaid days off recently approved by the board of control. It won't be popular, but it is necessary.

Somehow, for trying to upset as few people as possible, Tompkins invited the wrath of the University Senate, which conducted the no-confidence vote in December. Clearly, the senate, some of whose members are behind an effort to unionize faculty, wants Tompkins out. That accomplishes nothing, however. **Michigan Tech's** financial problems will remain, and they might well be dealt with by a new chief executive who has less regard for the impact of budget cuts on the "university community."

Here's hoping instead that the board of control grants Tompkins the broad authority to deal independently with Tech's budget crisis. This mess occurred on his watch and he's ultimately responsible, so let's see what he can do with the proper mandate from the proper people.

THE DAILY MINING GAZETTE (Houghton), Feb. 7. Defendant's right to attend trial should not be eliminated

Among the revisions the Michigan Supreme Court is considering to Michigan Court Rules is a proposal to allow increased use of video in criminal trials. That could mean that a defendant might not be present for his or her trial, thus losing the right to confront those who testify against him or her.

Video technology already is used in some preliminary legal hearings, such as arraignments.

But the right to a trial before one's peers is a cornerstone of American justice, and that would be seriously hampered by a rule that would allow a judge to decide whether a defendant needed to be present for a trial. Current law allows a trial to be held if a defendant chooses not to be present. That decision should remain with the defendant.

If the rules are revised, not only would the defendant lose the right to confront witnesses, but it could seriously impede communication between defendants and attorneys, as several local defense attorneys have pointed out. Attorney and defendant both need to be present at a trial, unless they choose otherwise.

We know that there are a number of horrifying criminal trials - for murder, child abuse, sexual assault, etc. - that make it difficult for witnesses to testify before the accused. But witnesses' comfort or convenience cannot negate a defendant's right to be present at a trial.

The proposal to permit increased use of video in trials is just one of more than 100 pages of proposed revisions to procedures that govern Michigan criminal cases. The proposals are from a 19-member committee that was formed in March 2002 after the Michigan Supreme Court requested a review of criminal procedures.

The state's high court is right to seek ways to make criminal procedures more efficient, fair and up-to-date. Likewise, it is commendable that the public's response to proposed changes is being solicited. Residents have until May 1 to submit their comments and may do so either by e-mail to MSC-Clerk@courts.mi.gov or by postal mail to Michigan Supreme Court, Clerk's Office, P.O. Box 30052, Lansing, MI 48909.

But in revising rules, the court must be careful not to undermine our rights.

BATTLE CREEK ENQUIRER, Feb. 11. Effort to keep tuition hikes in check a start

If education is the key to the future, then the doors to our state's universities must swing open wide for students. Among other things, that means the cost of attending a university needs to be in reach rather than an unobtainable dream.

In recent years the cost of attending a state university has gone through the roof. Often, many don't qualify for financial aid because their family "makes too much money," yet paying for college is a hardship at best. For others, it means trying to hold down several jobs while carrying a full school load - and being in debt upon graduating.

In today's climate, times are hard for many. Families are struggling as unemployment continues to soar. The state budget is dismal to be put it generously, and more cuts are expected. We understand universities are facing increased costs as well these days, but we also know they, too, have to "tighten their belts."

Central Michigan University is the latest to pledge it won't increase tuition more than the rate of inflation - 2.4 percent - for the 2004-2005 school year. In return, those universities who sign on will get back 3 percent of the 5 percent reduction they saw in last year's budget. While this deal won't be as beneficial to CMU, which is on the low end of the state funding scale, it is a step in the right direction.

We all are facing challenging economic situations right now, that is certain. But education is key to the future of our kids and our communities. Working to find ways to make attending a university in the state of Michigan more affordable should be a goal of us all.

HURON DAILY TRIBUNE (Bad Axe), Feb. 11. Granholm is right to raise cigarette tax

Let's not kid ourselves. The main reason Gov. Jennifer Granholm wants to raise Michigan's cigarette tax isn't to encourage smokers to quit. Next year's state budget is expected to be about \$1 billion to \$1.3 billion short. Bumping the cigarette tax from \$1.25 to \$2 a pack could raise about \$295 million.

That said, forcing smokers to pay more to service their habit is a good way to reduce their numbers. According to Granholm administration estimates, cigarette sales would drop by 14 percent. Some health experts say that each time cigarette prices go up, about 5 percent of the people who smoke end up breaking the habit.

Normally, government fiscal remedies don't offer much of a bright side. In this case, the governor's cigarette tax appears to bring opportunity.

The majority of Michigan's residents aren't very healthy. About 61 percent are overweight and nearly 22 percent are obese. Granholm noted that 27 percent of the state's residents smoke. So do 25 percent of Michigan residents younger than 18.

It's too bad that the need for more revenue is the bottom line for encouraging smokers to kick the habit, but the road to better health should be taken any time Michigan can.

Granholm is pitching the tax hike as a means to help cover health care expenses. The state spends \$881 million a year on smoking-related illnesses, she said, noting that 40 percent of Medicaid recipients are smokers.

Smoking has become a lifestyle that's fallen out of favor. Its links to cancer, heart disease and strokes are well-documented. Opportunities to inhale cigarettes in public are shrinking all the time.

Some states have banned smoking in restaurants and bars. A bill to enact the same restriction in Michigan is drawing attention in the state Legislature.

Taxing cigarettes can be considered an act of opportunism. Given what we know about tobacco's dangers, no one really should be smoking. But as long as they are, they might as well pay for their guilty pleasure.

If some smokers decide the price is too high, so much the better. With state government scrambling for money, cigarettes are the closest thing to a cash cow.

TIMES HERALD (Port Huron), Feb. 11.

# PR Newswire

February 19, 2004, Thursday

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## Gage Sponsors SAE Clean Snowmobile Challenge

FERNDALE, Mich., Feb. 19

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Gage Products Company for the second consecutive year will be the official fuel sponsor for the fifth annual SAE Clean Snowmobile Challenge at **Michigan Technological University** (MTU) in Houghton, Mich.

Sixteen student teams from universities in the U.S. and Canada will compete in the six-day event (March 15 - 20) with snowmobiles modified to reduce noise and emissions levels. MTU is hosting the competition for the second consecutive year.

Gage, a leading global supplier of test fuels, paint solvents and paint- system recycling programs for the automotive industry, will provide specially blended fuel for the event and present an award for best overall fuel economy.

"We are excited that Gage will again play an important role in this competition," said Jay Meldrum, director of the Keweenaw Research Center, lead organizer for the program. "Gage will help to ensure a better playing field for the competitors by donating specially blended fuels and measuring the fuel economy of each snowmobile."

The goal of the competition is to develop snowmobiles that are acceptable for use in environmentally sensitive areas. Snowmobiles entered in the program are required to run quiet and emit significantly less unburned hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide than conventional snowmobiles.

Technical inspections and team check-ins take place on Monday, March 15. An endurance and fuel economy event will be held at Copper Harbor, Mich., on Tuesday. Cold start, noise, braking and emissions tests will take place on Thursday and Friday. Other events include design presentations and static displays, as well as acceleration and handling competitions.

Teams registered for the international competition include U.S. entries from Clarkson University (Potsdam, NY), Colorado State University (Fort Collins), Idaho State University (Pocatello), Kettering University (Flint, MI), MTU, Minnesota State University (Mankato), Montana Tech (Butte), SUNY-Buffalo, University of Maine (Orono), University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Wisconsin-Platteville and last year's winner, University of Idaho (Moscow). Canadian entries include, Ecole De Technologies Superieure (Montreal, Quebec), McGill University (Montreal, Quebec), University of Alberta (Edmonton, Alberta), and the University of Waterloo (Waterloo, Ontario).

The team with the most fuel-efficient snowmobile at the 2004 event will receive the "Gage Products Best Fuel Economy" award at a banquet in Houghton on Saturday, March



20. Donald R. Dixon, an MTU graduate and president of Gage Products, will present the award.

"Gage is pleased to be a sponsor of a program that both encourages student excellence and benefits the environment," Dixon said. "Based on the success of last year's event, we are expecting an even better competition this year."

A specialist in the production of test fuels for the automotive industry, Gage has provided its customers with more than 1,000 different test-fuel blends over the past six years. Gage's custom-fuel customers include Bosch, Visteon, TI Automotive, Inergy Automotive Systems, Eaton Corporation, Detroit Testing Services Group and Stant Manufacturing.

Headquartered in Ferndale, Mich., Gage also has operations in Germany, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Brazil and Mexico. The company is a leader in the field of sustainable manufacturing and solvent remanufacturing systems. In addition, Gage manufactures paint-related products and cleaners for a wide variety of industrial uses, as well as calibration and test fuels for use in the auto industry.

Additional information about Gage is available on the Internet at [www.gageproducts.com](http://www.gageproducts.com). Further details about the 2004 SAE Clean Snowmobile Challenge may be found at [www.sae.org](http://www.sae.org).

SOURCE Gage Products Company

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