



Interview with  
hypnotist Dale K  
—page 10

NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1972

## Students get naked for environment



Photo taken from SASM Calendar

Three Students Against Sulfide Mining members pose nude in their recently published calendar. The students (L to R: Krista Blair, Kim O'Hagan, Amber Masters) are featured on the August page of the calendar.

by CURT KEMP  
editor in chief

The NMU student group Students Against Sulfide Mining (SASM) has, since its inception, spoken out against the Kennecott nickel and copper mine site proposed 25 miles from Marquette. During public forums, members of the group shared their feelings about the proposed mine with government officials — baring their souls in the process.

Now, the group is baring a little bit more.

SASM members recently published a partially-nude calendar to raise funds which they posed for and conceptualized. All the photos in the calendar are in black and white and were taken on the Yellow Dog Plains, the location of the proposed Kennecott mine.

"It was done for fundraising, and also was a fun way to highlight the Yellow Dog Plains area," SASM faculty adviser John Rebers said.

Bethany Lyons, SASM president, said the idea of posing nude for a calendar was originally more

of a joke, but that the final outcome was nothing of the sort.

"It was a silly idea that turned out to be a very artistic and very beautiful product," Lyons said.

SASM member Amanda Boyle said the idea came from a student group at the University of Wisconsin La Crosse that put out a calendar titled "Green is Sexy." Boyle, who posed for the calendar, said it was an inspiring experience.

"It was a fun thing to do, especially being out on the Yellow Dog Plains," Boyle said. "At first we were all a little apprehensive to walk around naked with a bunch of your friends, but it got easier."

Boyle added that the photo shoot, during a cold winter day, was liberating.

"Obviously you're putting yourself out there to be shown in a public forum for all that you're worth," she said.

The calendars are on sale at Save the Wild U.P. and the Marquette Food Co-op for \$22. At press time, SASM had sold 135 calendars.

## Biology department analyzes influenza

by ASHLEY BERKEN  
news editor

Northern's biology department is currently seeking 30 to 50 students infected with the flu virus to volunteer for blood testing to be used in the department's on-going study on how to create a more effective flu vaccine.

Currently, flu immunizations don't produce enough antibodies to defend the body against the flu for at least 10 days, said Osvaldo Lopez, associate professor of biology and advisor of the influenza project. He added the goal of his study is to reduce the antibody build-up time to three days, reducing the chances of infection.

Lopez has researched this subject for 15 years and was awarded three patents by the U.S. Office of Patents in the area of virology/immunology

and molecular diagnosis. He was also awarded \$1.5 million from the National Institutes of Health and other organizations for the study, he said.

Michelle Collins, graduate student and biochemistry major, has worked on the project

**The question is not if we have a pandemic; it is when.**

**— Osvaldo Lopez  
associate professor  
of biology**

ect since the beginning of the fall semester and is heading one part of the study for her graduate thesis. She will be examining infected volunteers' blood for antibodies and how these antibodies act once initially infected.

One of the motivations behind this research is a possi-

ble future flu epidemic, Lopez said. Americans have suffered from flu pandemics before and there is still the threat that it could happen again.

"The question is not if we have a pandemic; it is when," he said. "In 1918, there was a flu pandemic that came from birds that killed more than 20 million people around the world. There were more people killed by the flu in 1918 than by bullets from World War I," he said.

However, if there was an outbreak of the flu virus, Northern's biology department is equipped to produce an influenza vaccination, said Lopez. He added that the vaccine is not FDA approved, but that in a moment of crisis, the regulations of the FDA are less strict.

Volunteers giving blood samples were crucial to scientific discoveries of the past and

are important to future discoveries, Lopez said.

"Our life expectancy compared to 60 or 70 years ago is 18 years more, and the reason for that is research. If [students] can help in any research, this one or any other, they are helping themselves and others that they love. This is serious," he said.

However, volunteers do not need to be diagnosed with the flu by a doctor to participate; they just need to show the symptoms.

Symptoms of influenza include: high fever (usually above 100 degrees Fahrenheit), headache, extreme fatigue, dry cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle aches or nausea, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

If the student donates their blood, there will be a small tube taken to be tested and all information received during

the testing will be kept confidential, Collins said. She added, however, that the only testing is for the flu virus and antibodies.

Testing will be done four times: while the volunteer is infected, one week after infection, then three weeks afterward and six weeks afterward to check the differing levels of autoantibodies and antibodies, Collins said.

Collins will be willing to waive the initial draw if students feel they can't make it on campus. However, waiting isn't recommended, she said.

"When you get the flu you feel horrible. Let's say you get the flu and you don't want to go to the health center or you don't want to get your blood drawn; I'll still take it a week later even though when you are infected it's considered day zero and good to measure the antibodies," Collins said. "If

Please see **FLU** on Page 2



Jeff Kitson/NW

**NEW AGE PHOTO** Rod Slemmons, director of the Museum of Contemporary Photography in Chicago speaks Friday in the West Science building about modern trends and current practices in the photography industry.

**FLU**

*Continued from Page 1*

they don't want to [come] when they're sick and decide later, they can still call me."

Physicians at the health center will be informing students who have the flu about the study and offering to draw their blood samples there, Collins said.

However, if a student does not want to go through a doctor's appointment certified phlebotomists will be drawing samples at the Clinical Science Laboratory (CLS) in the New Science Facility, said Luci Contois, director and pro-

fessor of clinical lab science and also the supervisor of blood draws at the CLS.

Contois added that the study is worth participation since it has a large group effort supporting the outcome.

"I think it is a worthy investigation that encompasses students from chemistry, biology and clinical laboratory science. I cannot speculate about the results, but I think the study is a fine example of interdisciplinary collaboration," she said.

*To give blood samples on campus without a doctor's appointment contact Collins at (906) 250-8519 or e-mail her at micollin@nmu.edu.*

**Corrections**

In last week's article, "Students at risk for theft," the title in the pull quote should have read, "Mike Prusinki, vice president of Lifelock."

In last week's crime map, the first entry should have read "...stolen from the Norwood Apartments."

In last week's crime map, the second entry should have read "...harassing phone calls at Cohodas."

In last week's article, "Where should I buy my books?," the Students First price of the book "Fit & Well" for HP 200 class should have been listed as the used price.

**Map Key**

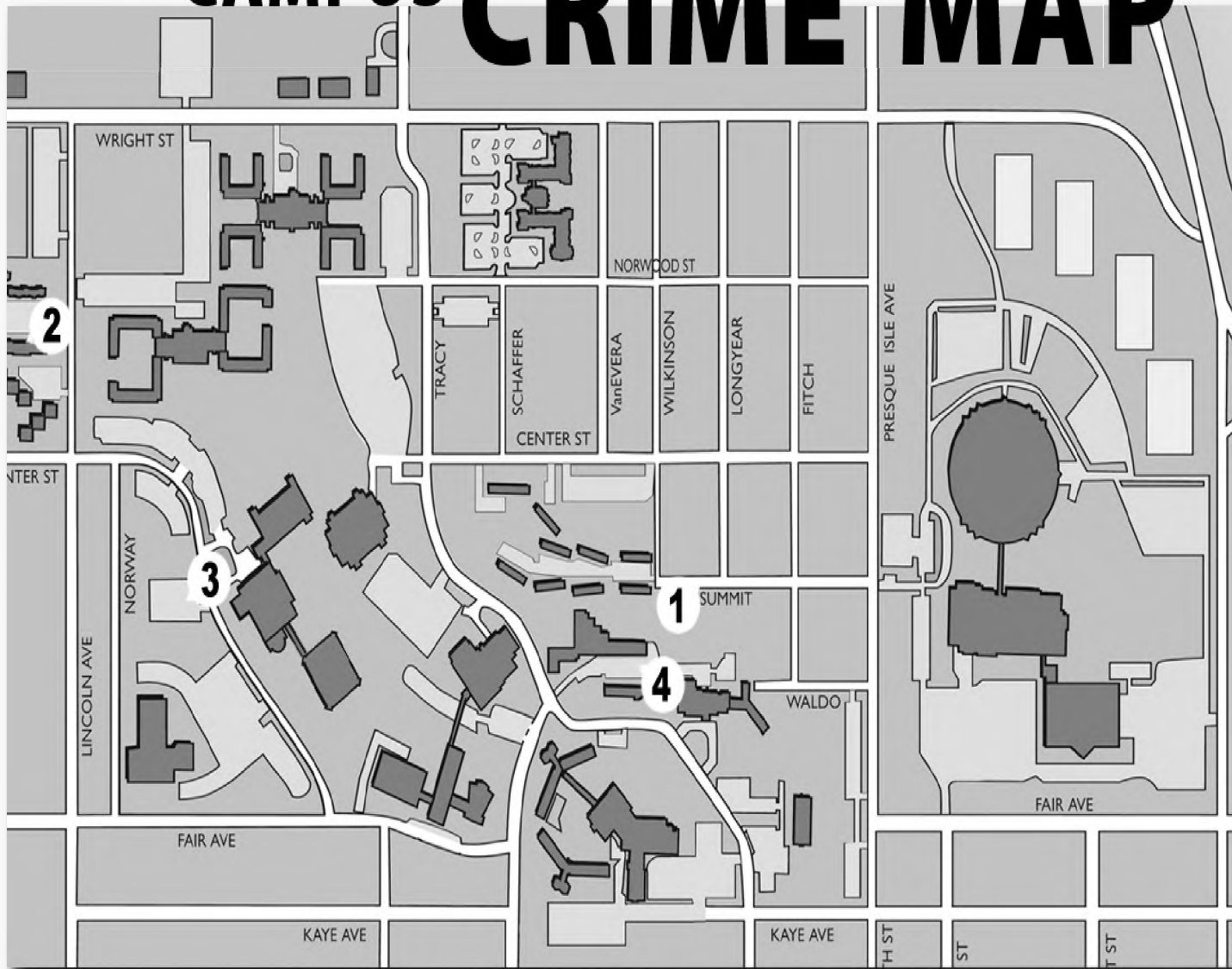
1) On Jan. 14, an individual was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol on Summit Street.

2) On Jan. 16, a man was arrested at Norwood Apartments after Public Safety discovered a bench warrant out for his arrest.

3) On Jan. 17, the window of a vehicle was broken and a purse was stolen in Lot 18. The case is still under investigation.

4) On Jan. 18, scratches were found on the side window of a car in Lot 2. The case has been resolved.

**CAMPUS CRIME MAP**



## BRIEFS

## Local

## Student found in critical condition

A 19-year-old male student from NMU was found in a snow bank on Monday after a one-vehicle collision. His vehicle was reportedly stuck in the snow near the Superior Dome, said Victor LaDuke, an investigator for Public Safety. Alcohol was a factor in the crash. The NMU student was later found by an individual driving on Lakeshore Boulevard. Public Safety was called along with the EMS. He was transported to Marquette General Hospital. His condition is critical but stable, LaDuke said.

—Cassandra Sturos

## Campus

## Students to learn about social class

NMU students have the opportunity to learn about how socioeconomic differences affect their lives at an upcoming Skill Builder. Courtney McNeal, resident director for Van Antwerp Hall, will host "Experiences with Social Classes" on Wednesday, Jan. 30 at 1 p.m. The Skill Builder will help students develop a better understanding of personal growth, what social class is and the impact it has on students' daily lives. Participants at the Skill Builder should expect an informal introduction to social classes and how they affect individuals, McNeal said. "I am not the expert ... but I can facilitate a conversation around your experiences and how your background affects you," she said. McNeal said her experience with social classes comes from the fact that she and her college roommates came from very different socioeconomic backgrounds. She added that she sees a lot of similarities with what she dealt with when she was in college and what her residents deal with on a day-to-day basis. To register for the Skill Builder, contact Janet Crick at slfp@nmu.edu or call 227-1771. "Experiences with Social Classes" will be held in the Back Room of the UC from 1-3 p.m. Students involved in Superior Edge will receive two hours toward their Diversity Edge for attending this Skill Builder. There is no cost to attend.

—Danielle Brandreth

## Campus

## Massages to be taught for stress

Students will be able to learn about stress relief methods at an upcoming basic massage technique Skill Builder. "The Basic Massage and Simple Exercises — Self-Care Techniques to Reduce Work-Related Stress & Pain" will be on Thursday Jan. 31 at 5:30 p.m. in the Back Room of the University Center. The Skill Builder will be presented by Maggie Barch, a clinical massage therapist who has experience in physical and massage therapy. Students attending the Skill Builder will learn about stress relief techniques. "Participants will learn a bit of anatomy and physiology," Barch said. "I will demonstrate some stretches and movements. Participants will practice these as well. We will be out of our chairs and moving around for most of the Skill Builder." She added learning personal self-care techniques is helpful to everyone, no matter what age. To register, students can call Janet Crick at the Center for Student Enrichment at 227-1771. There will be limited seating and there is no cost to attend this Skill Builder.

—Ciera Cammon

## Weird News

## Bomb squad finds sexy surprise

A Swedish bomb squad called out to disarm a suspicious package on Wednesday did not find a ticking bomb. But they did find a vibrating sex toy. A janitor alerted police after he found the package in a garage of an apartment building in Goteborg, the country's second-largest city, police spokesman Jan Strannegard said. The package was humming and vibrating suspiciously, so police took no chances and sent out a team of explosives experts. After having cordoned off the area, they opened the package with bomb disposal equipment, only to find the battery-operated device inside. "The package was vibrating when the janitor found it, but I think it had sort of died out by the time it was disarmed," Strannegard said.

—Associated Press



Jeff Kitson/NW

A healthy alternative to tanning in beds or booths is spray tanning. The booths spray customers with a self-tanner. This booth is located at Utopia Tanning on Washington Street in downtown Marquette.

# Tanning bed season puts students at risk

by ROBYN FOSTER  
staff writer

As winter drags on and spring break looms on the horizon, students at Northern are flocking to the local tanning salons. But whether students are going for improved physical appearances or a brightened mood, they could be putting serious health risks on the back burner.

Jessie Miller-LaPlaunt and Barbara Jean Albrecht Nebel are the owners of Sunchaser Salon in Marquette. They said they see about 75 customers a day in their tanning beds and about 90 percent of those customers are NMU students.

"Most of the students come in around this time of year preparing for spring break and are heading someplace with lots of sun exposure," said Miller-LaPlaunt.

Besides spring break, some NMU students decide to tan for a boost in their mood, said Amanda Jordan, a junior social work major.

"The warm tanning beds cheer me up through the long winter season," said Jordan. "I've been tanning a couple times a month since I was 16."

Although many students enjoy the warmth of tanning beds, the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) reported that UV radiation levels in indoor tanning devices can be up to 15 times more than what one would experience when exposed to sun rays.

Milton Soderberg, a dermatologist at the Upper Peninsula Medical Center, has practiced for

over 30 years. Soderberg said he doesn't advise anyone to tan unless recommended to for acne, eczema or psoriasis.

"On average, I see at least two patients with skin cancer a day and many times it is associated with the use of frequent tanning," he said.

While tanning beds are popular, not all NMU students are giving into the trend. Ara Wittwer, a junior athletic training major, said she doesn't use tanning beds.

"It's simply not healthy,"

**On average I see at least two patients with skin cancer a day...**

**— Milton Soderberg dermatologist**

Wittwer said.

Many other students on campus have a similar attitude, declining to tan for health reasons or otherwise.

"It's too expensive and definitely not healthy," said Michelle Brittnacher, a junior nursing major.

Sunchaser Salon charges \$30 for 30 days of unlimited tanning under its student rate.

Amber Shumard, a junior French and Spanish major, said she decided to forgo the tanning bed when a family member was faced with skin cancer.

"My grandma got skin cancer after having tanned from age 20 to 60," she said. "She had to have a chunk of skin taken from her back and that basically freaked me out of tanning."

According to the AAD, one in

four Americans will develop some form of cancer during their lifetime. Additionally, the AAD predicted 108,230 new cases of melanoma for 2007.

According to the Skin Cancer Foundation, many people have misconceptions on tanning and tan for reasons that are unnecessary. This can include tanning to increase one's levels of vitamin D. Vitamin D has been shown to improve mood as well as prevent breast, prostate and colon cancer.

People also tan to try to prevent melanoma by building up the protective pigment melanin before high sun exposure. This is commonly referred to as base tanning and is often done before students leave for spring break.

But Soderberg said base tanning is simply a way to create extra damage to one's skin.

"If you want to prevent sunburn, use tanning lotions. They work much better than they have in the past," he said. "But for those who insist on [indoor tanning], be sure to use proper preparation, such as indoor tanning lotions," he added.

Even with the health risks, some students can't resist heading to the salon.

"I tan on occasion even though I know many of the risks," said Michelle Ehmer, a senior community health education major. "It might sound a bit stupid, but a lot of times I go to feel better, not to get a tan."

**Editor's Note:** The North Wind staff contributed to the reporting of this article.

# Deadline approaching for absentee ballots

by CASSANDRA STUROS  
associate news editor

With 22 states holding their primaries on Feb. 5, also known as Super Tuesday, students interested in voting need to take the opportunity to apply for and send in their absentee ballots.

Students have to vote in the primaries in order to determine which candidates go on the ballot in November, said William Ball, a political science professor at NMU.

"I tell my classes, you let people like me decide who makes the laws governing you for the rest of your life. You let people who do vote decide who runs the government," Ball said. "Really, if you don't vote you have no right to bitch about what the government does because you haven't tried to make a difference."

Ryan Pierce, a senior criminal justice major, plans on voting by absentee ballot for Wisconsin's primary and sees the value of voting in the primaries as a student.

"I think it's really important right now, because our votes count...not many people in our age group vote in the primaries so we have more power," Pierce said.

Students must be registered to vote in order to obtain an absentee ballot.

Devon Kobylinski a sophomore finance major, is not planning on voting in Wisconsin's primary because he doesn't feel that any of the candidates appeal to him. However, he still believes it's important for students who can find the time to vote.

"Students should vote because there are many issues that pertain to them," Kobylinski said.

Minnesota and Illinois will be holding their primaries on Super Tuesday for students from those states interested in voting in the primaries. Wisconsin's primary will be held on Feb. 19, according to [www.politics.nytimes.com](http://www.politics.nytimes.com).

For instructions on how to obtain an absentee ballot and where to send it in, students can get the application online from either their state's secretary of state website or visit [www.newvotersproject.org](http://www.newvotersproject.org). They can also download and print off the application forms to be sent in on the site, before they receive the actual ballot.

The last day to send in absentee ballots for Minnesota is the last mail delivery on Election Day. For Illinois and Wisconsin, the absentee ballot can be turned in up until the close of the polls on Election Day, according to [www.newvotersproject.org](http://www.newvotersproject.org).

## marquette music scene

Thursday, Jan. 24

Northland Pub:  
UpFront & Company:  
Vango's:

Paul Rintala, 8 p.m.  
Boxcar, 10:30 p.m.  
Jim & Ray, 8 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 25

Northstar Academy  
Gymnasium:

Hell Town Trio, Son of Man, Tommy Kilometer & the Nautical Mile, Sycamore Smith & Duct Ape, 7 p.m.  
Bumpus, 10:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 26

UpFront & Company:

Bumpus, 10:30 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 27

Northland Pub:

Mike Waite, 8 p.m.

Monday Jan. 28

Lagniappe Cajun Creole Eatery:

Zydecology, 6 p.m.

Wednesday Jan. 30

Matrixx-Skyboxx:  
UpFront & Company:

Wisecrack, 10:30 p.m.  
Dave Crossland, 10:30 pm



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**Tuesday, February 5**  
**8pm**  
**Great Lakes Rooms**

Hosted by  
 campus Crusade for Christ

**South America's Southern Cone**  
 LG 317 Z

Learn about the literature, culture and history of Argentina from leaders in their fields.

Visit Casa Rosada (where both Evita Perón and Madonna waved to their admirers). Travel to the magnificent Iguazú Falls on the border with Brazil.

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Students will live in homestay placements.

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 Jan. 30 and Feb. 11, 6 p.m.  
 Language Lab 203 JXJ

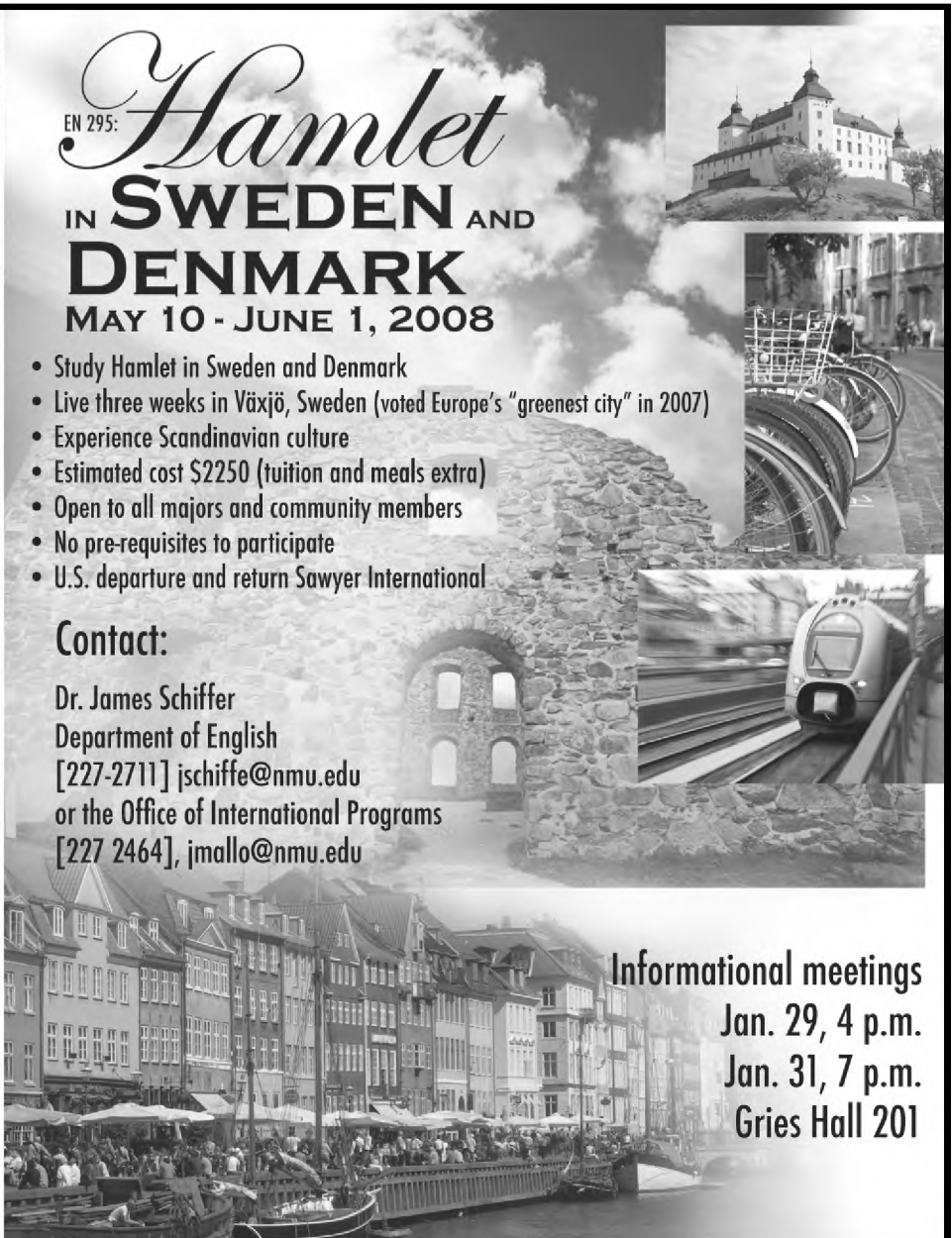


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 IN SWEDEN AND DENMARK  
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 Dr. James Schiffer  
 Department of English  
 [227-2711] jschiffe@nmu.edu  
 or the Office of International Programs  
 [227 2464], jmallo@nmu.edu

Informational meetings  
 Jan. 29, 4 p.m.  
 Jan. 31, 7 p.m.  
 Gries Hall 201




# Editorial

## MLK unappreciated

Martin Luther King Jr. Day has come and gone. For most of the students at Northern Michigan University, the day probably went by unnoticed.

NMU students still had to attend classes, unlike the majority of public college students in Michigan. Eleven of the 15 public universities in the state, Michigan Tech University and Ferris State among them, include Jan. 21 on their academic calendars as a day of observance.

But there were still ways Northern could have taken notice of the occasion.

There was the outpouring of media attention on Dr. King's life work. It's possible that more than a few Northern students caught a glimpse of the features on the New York Times or read about Dr. King's imprint on the current election. But it's more probable that students went on with their lives, trying to keep up with classes and, for a growing majority, busy work schedules.

In the little free time left, perhaps students took a nap, or retired to their rooms for some much-needed relaxation.

Around the state however, university students were given the opportunity to take part in large-scale celebrations of Dr. King's work. Michigan Tech, a university with an enrollment close to that of Northern's, had no classes and held a candle-light vigil followed by various student-led speeches in the 1,000-seat Rosza Center.

The Multicultural Education and Resource Center has reported low attendance by Northern students at many MLK events in the past and this year.

While NMU has beefed up the MLK-themed events and now holds them throughout the week, students are still required to attend classes on MLK Day. Consequently, the events are under-attended. While it's a little optimistic to think that Northern's apathetic students would close their laptops, turn off the TV and give Dr. King the recognition he deserves, a day at NMU devoted to the civil rights leader would be a step in the right direction.

It's nothing new for NMU students to request MLK Day as a day off from school, and it's certainly been brought up by The North Wind in the past. But for a school that pushes more and more for diversity within the classroom, perhaps it's time to visit the issue again.

NMU has made steps toward diversity, but by giving Martin Luther King, Jr. the credit he deserves and holding no classes on only one day, the university would be taking a leap toward integration – the very same thing Dr. King fought for.

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Alex Stevens  
 opinion@thenorthwind.org

## North Wind "Juno" review way off base

I couldn't disagree any more with (Josh Snyder's Jan. 17 review of "Juno").

The greatest fault Mr. Snyder seems to find in the movie is that it bears resemblance to "Little Miss Sunshine" and "Napoleon Dynamite." I can understand the former—they both feature relatable yet quirky characters in pressing circumstances.

However, many comedies use this technique. The quirky characters and strange plot line is what make "Little Miss Sunshine" interesting and non-generic. As for "Napoleon Dynamite," I see little connection besides the fact that "Napoleon" and "Juno" both feature characters in high school.

While Mr. Snyder does very deservedly compliment the amazing performance of Ellen Page (the most three-dimensional, fleshed out teenage character I've seen in a film, perhaps ever), he also ignores "Juno's" strongest attribute: its incredibly talented ensemble cast. Michael Cera, J.K. Simmons, Allison Janney, Jennifer Garner and Jason Bateman all turn out entertaining, nuanced and inspired performances in this film. Page's achievements are only heightened by this cohesive cast, the best ensemble in a film of the past year.

Mr. Snyder does point out the two most polarizing features of the film: the dialogue and the soundtrack.

As for the dialogue, I agree that it was awkward and forced. However, I disagree that it misrepresents today's generation of high school students. These teenagers are not only raised

watching MTV and The OC (as we were), but also raised with nearly endless exposure to the new online world.

Teenagers today, more than ever, attempt to emulate the witty dialogue they see on television and in the movies. "Juno's" dialogue is brilliant in how it represents the way that teenagers attempt to speak with style, but ultimately fail.

As for the soundtrack, I challenge Mr. Snyder to suggest music that could possibly suit the movie better. Jason Reitman compiled the soundtrack by asking Ellen Page which bands she thought Juno listened to. In that way, the audience is listening to the music Juno listens to, and is therefore even more involved in her world and closer to her struggles. I can't think of a more appropriate use for a movie soundtrack.

Overall, I found "Juno" touching, smart, witty and funny, but with flaws. It definitely places somewhere in my top 10 of 2007, possibly in the top five. And the general public and critics seem to agree with me.

Dozens of major critics have placed the film in their top 10 lists, with Roger Ebert placing it at No.1, calling Page's performance the most impressive of the year. "Juno" will surely be nominated for several Academy Awards, including Best Actress, Best Screenplay and possibly Best Film.

While opinions on all things are subject to differ, especially movies, I feel Mr. Snyder was way off the ball on this one, and I encourage him to give the movie another viewing.

Michael Rudden,  
 senior, secondary math  
 education

## web poll results

### How often do you smoke marijuana?

- ✿ I'm high right now. Does that count?  
129 votes
- ✿ Once in a while, you know, when I need some inspiration.  
9 votes
- ✿ Sometimes I get a contact high from my suitemates.  
2 votes
- ✿ I tried it once.  
4 votes
- ✿ I don't smoke pot.  
22 votes

Total votes: 166

## web poll question

### Did you attend any of the Martin Luther King Jr. events put on this week?

- I went to as many as I could.
- I went to a few.
- I didn't go to any.
- I didn't even know there were any events.

## Letter Policy

Letters to the Editor must include full name, year, major and a phone number for verification. Please limit letters to 350 words or less. All letters may be edited for grammar and may be cut due to

limited spacing. Letters can be submitted via e-mail to opinion@thenorthwind.org or mailed to Room 2310 University Center, Marquette, MI 49855.

Comments on www.thenorth-

windonline.com are urged to be expanded into letters. Anyone desiring to have a letter printed from a comment on the Web site can contact the opinions editor of the North Wind.

# ourTunes not political

It is uncommon for today's youth to be involved in politics. Numerous factors are undoubtedly available to explain this phenomenon; television, celebrity obsession and video games are often cited as the explanations for apathy. In most cases, young people are berated for not caring what happens in the political sphere without any thought to the cause.

One difference always strikes me when I return home. I go downstairs to the record player and sit for hours with my father, listening to his favorite music from when he was growing up. Almost every song we listen to seems fueled by emotion, but instead of speaking of breakups and lost loves, the songs confront politics. Not a dry subject, as some might assume; the issues of the day provided material for scores of artists. My dad grew up in the era of Vietnam, the draft, Nixon and civil rights movements. He has a soundtrack including Pink Floyd and Jimi Hendrix to go along with memories of friends being taken by the FBI and sitting in to persuade schools to let girls wear trousers.

The music of the '60s and '70s strikes me as daring. Reading the cover of Jefferson Airplane's classic album, "Volunteers," I am amazed at the things they're saying about the government. While listening to Gil Scott Heron tell us the Revolution Will Not Be Televised, I grow angry about the

## Guest Column



by Anne Bradley

injustices carried out against black citizens. How is it that the revolutionaries of today still have to go back to these classic pieces of music to find a voice for their own 'rebellion'?

Aside from Green Day's laughably 'political' "American Idiot" and the offensively simple System of a Down, most political music today rests in the underground music scene, unheard by anyone not motivated enough to seek it out. Punk rock still heads the list, with angry bands trying to wake up their fans. Ausrotten, Rise Against and The Suicide Machines are all bands with a message. Neil Young released an album of political anthems, criticizing mainstream bands for not doing the same. Tom Waits includes the epic "Road to Peace" on his collection of B-sides. There is political music out there. One must simply look beyond the small scope of mainstream media to find it.

The problem lies in this

music's very underground appeal and popularity. In my father's day, the news was on the radio with a melody to make the issue stick in your head. Now a satellite radio or excellent downloading service is almost required to listen to anything besides the same music my parents listened to when they were in college. We have no political music to call our own, so we borrow from our parents.

Yes, there were just as many pop classics from the '60s and '70s as there are today, but alongside those pieces of bubblegum there were real politics and songs that made you think. Maybe CSNY's "Wooden Ships" doesn't strike youth of today, or The Beatles' "Revolution 1" is only useful as an empty campaign promise. These are songs which topped the charts in the era of Woodstock, and those of my parents' generation still remember and know the words to.

What will we remember of today? Hurricane Katrina, Abu Gharib and the Iraq War? And we'll be singing "Yeah, yeah, I want to be a rock star" to our children? We'll remember Yellowcard and Britney Spears having the greatest hits ... in a monumental election year?

It is impossible to separate young people from pop culture these days, so is it any wonder that they don't care about politics when one looks at the culture they are immersed in?

# Writers "Lost" paychecks

Back in my younger days, I lived in a duplex: my family and I in one half of the house, and a young couple in the other. One memorable weekend, it snowed a few inches overnight, so my brothers and I were sent out to shovel the driveway. Naturally, we shoveled the entire thing, not just what was technically "our half." The neighbors were so surprised by what they saw as an act of generosity (and what was really three kids doing what their parents told them to) that they bought the three of us a huge bag of Skittles and a new Monopoly game.

I was equally surprised by their generous thanks, but it was nice to be appreciated. So, the next time it

snowed, I was out there, shovel in hand, clearing out the entire driveway again, this time hoping for a huge bag of M&M's and maybe a new Clue game. And while the second time around, the neighbors didn't buy me anything, I learned one of America's longstanding mantras: Never do something for nothing.

So why does the writers strike come as such a shock to the public, and why are we not very sympathetic to the writers? Because after a long day of doing something for something, all we want to do is sit down and watch some quality television, like "Grey's Anatomy" or "Lost." And when people start messing with our TV time, we don't appreciate it.

It's easy to just turn on the tube and watch whatever show it provides, without pausing to think about how it got there. But these shows didn't just appear out of thin air. They are the product of the hard work of a team of writers, people who brought us classics like "The Simpsons," as well as newer hits, like "Heroes."

However, when the public goes to ShopKo, or Amazon.com and buys episodes of "Everybody Loves Raymond" or "House," the writers for these shows are being paid next to nothing. They receive about 4 cents for every \$20 DVD sold. They are being paid based on a deal that was made in the early '80s, which hasn't been revisited since. While most things from the '80s have already left us, such as leg warmers, cassette tapes and the ever-popular sideways ponytail, the Alliance of Motion Pictures and Television Producers (AMPTP) is holding them to that deal, made over 20 years ago.

The writers are asking to double their pay to a whopping 8 cents per DVD sold. I guess it's the word "double" that freaks out the production companies. But I can go to the casino with one dollar and double my money into two; that still doesn't mean I'm raking in the dough.

Even if the demand for more money from DVD sales does seem extreme to the AMPTP, the writers' other major complaint should be a no-brainer. Currently, writers are not being paid anything when their respective shows are being viewed online, even though the production companies are still making money off them. NBC is one of several networks that have a home page which allows anyone to watch almost any of their shows at any time. The Internet has opened up a remarkable market for television. You no longer have to sit through four whole minutes of commercials, nor do you have to sprint to the bathroom on commercial breaks, opting instead for a quick click of the pause button. If you miss the latest "The Office" episode, don't fear! It's right there at your fingertips.

And though the Internet provides possibly the easiest way to watch your favorite shows, the people who created those witty one-liners you love so much are not reaping any benefits. Anytime a TV show is viewed online, it's basically the same as illegally downloading a song. Except this time, instead of no one receiving any money, the production companies keep all the profits and leave the writers with nothing.

The writers' demands are not outrageous; they're needed. People should be paid for their work, not penalized because the companies they work for don't want to reach into their overflowing pockets and provide the paycheck these writers deserve.

So the next time you think about going online to see that episode of "CSI: Miami" that you missed last night, try and resist the urge. You'll make a writer very happy.

## For What It's Worth



by Jackie Stark

## SOUND OFF

*How has the writers strike affected you?*



**Phillip Turner**  
freshman, radiology

*"It didn't."*



**Kelly Pawlowicz**  
junior, geography

*"The strike hasn't affected me. I don't watch TV."*



**Chelsea Burkhart**  
freshman, early childhood development

*"I wasn't able to watch Jay Leno for awhile."*



**Laura Coon**  
sophomore, graphic communications

*"It didn't really affect me because I don't watch a lot TV."*



**Paul Johnston**  
resident director

*"...wait, there's a strike?"*



**Danielle Steffes**  
construction management

*"I haven't heard of a strike."*

— Compiled by Spencer Bouchard

**Citizenship**

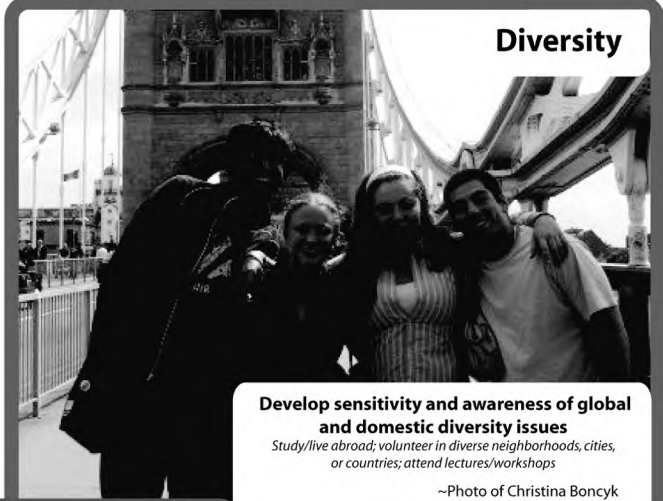


**Become an engaged, involved citizen**  
 Make A Difference Day, Habitat for Humanity, blood drives, food pantries, volunteer for a political campaign  
 --Photo of Krista Leidi

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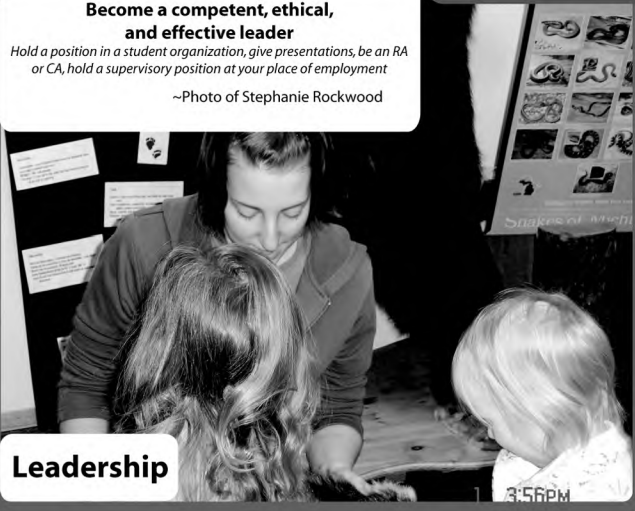


**Develop sensitivity and awareness of global and domestic diversity issues**  
 Study/live abroad; volunteer in diverse neighborhoods, cities, or countries; attend lectures/workshops  
 --Photo of Christina Boncyk

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**Become a competent, ethical, and effective leader**

Hold a position in a student organization, give presentations, be an RA or CA, hold a supervisory position at your place of employment  
 --Photo of Stephanie Rockwood



**Leadership**

**Orientation Dates:**

Please call 906-227-6543 or e-mail [edge@nmu.edu](mailto:edge@nmu.edu) to register.

Wednesday, January 23	5-6 p.m.
Friday, January 25	1-2 p.m.
Tuesday, January 29	3-4 p.m.
Monday, February 4	5-6 p.m.
Thursday, February 7	4-5 p.m.
Friday, February 8	Noon-1 p.m.
Tuesday, February 19	5-6 p.m.

All of the orientation sessions will be held in The Back Room, University Center.

**Questions?**

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 Phone: 906-227-6543  
 1206 University Center  
[www.nmu.edu/superioredge](http://www.nmu.edu/superioredge)



**Relate classroom theory to workplace practice in real-world settings**

Employment or internship related to your major/minor, attend conferences pertaining to your major/minor, be involved in your major/minor's academic student organization  
 --Photo of Allie Mundell



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**7pm**  
**Great Lakes Rooms,**  
**University Center**



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 \$2 for General Public





Spencer Bouchard/NW  
Members of Alpha Sigma Phi, Alpha Xi Delta, Kappa Beta Gamma and Lambda Chi Alpha participate in the Greek Week Quiz Bowl.

## WEEK for the GREEK

*Campus fraternities and sororities kick off Greek Week with a series of events including human bowling, sledding and quiz bowl*

by JAMIE REED  
managing editor

Barreling down a slippery snow-covered slope on your backside and colliding into a cluster of trash cans might sound a little like an embarrassing tumble on the way to class. However, for the Greeks on NMU's campus, this event, christened Human Bowling, is just another part of Greek Week.

"We have garbage cans set out like bowling pins," said Anna Kortier, a sophomore member of Kappa Beta Gamma and secretary of Greek Council. "You sled down the hill and whoever knocks down the most gets the most points."

Kortier, along with the rest of her fellow Greeks on NMU's campus, will host Greek Week Jan. 23-26, with different events held each day. While Greek Week is held every winter and spring, the events differ every semester. Events this year include the Wear Your Greek Letters Day, a pop culture Quiz Bowl, Human Bowling, Sledding Day and a Greek formal. Each activity is co-hosted by a fraternity and sorority, Kortier added, maxi-

mizing the effort to get as many people as possible involved.

Rory Goosen, a junior and member of Kappa Sigma Psi, has participated in Greek Week for the past two years with his fraternity.

"We've been having it every semester and we were involved with it last semester," Goosen said. "It was actually a lot of fun just getting everyone together to have a good time."

Goosen added that his favorite part of Greek Week is the formal, which concludes the week's events. This semester's "P.S. I Love You" themed formal will feature dancing, a DJ, a Greek slideshow, appetizers and a bar for those of age. A shuttle will be available to give participants a sober ride home.

Dave Bonsall, the director of the Center for Student Enrichment and the adviser of the Greek Council, said the

idea of Greek Week is a long-standing tradition of friendly competition.

"I came to Northern as a student in 1969," Bonsall said. "And when I got here, Greek Week was very much alive."

**We're not like the Hollywood fraternity that's drunk and wasted all the time and hazes kids.**

**- Rory Goosen  
Kappa Sigma Psi**

Every Greek Week event this semester besides the formal, which is by invitation only, is open to the general student body. Although the Greek community is always asking for more participation at its Greek Week events, the general NMU student body sometimes seems reluctant to attend.

Goosen said he blames low participation from the student body on a negative image of fraternities at Northern.

"I think that's probably the feeling on campus," Goosen said. "We want people to come out and have fun and see that we're not like the Hollywood fraternity that's drunk and wasted all the time and hazes kids; we're not about that at all."

"I think the general population has a very low opinion of the Greeks on campus," he added. "Some universities aren't very Greek-friendly, while at other universities, Greeks are the main focus of student life. Northern's campus just isn't one where it's a main focus."

Andrew Halcomb, a freshman athletic training major, said he doesn't plan on attending Greek Week even though he has social ties in NMU fraternities.

"I have a lot of Greek friends," Halcomb said. "But it's just not something I'm into."

Kortier, on the other hand, said that while non-Greeks do participate in Greek Week, they are always hoping for more involvement.

"Random people sometimes stop by and have a good time with it," she said. "[But] we could always see more."

Students interested in getting more information on Greek Week and NMU Greek life can contact Bonsall at the Center for Student Enrichment office. Students can also look out for student announcements and recruitment fliers, which are regularly posted on-campus.

### GREEK WEEK EVENTS

**Jan. 23:** Wear Your Greek Letters Day, All Day, NMU Campus

**Jan. 23:** Quiz Bowl, 7 p.m. Woodland Apartments, Multipurpose Room

**Jan. 24:** Human Bowling, 7 p.m. Whitman Hall Hill

**Jan. 25:** Sledding/Toboggan Day, Negaunee Area

**Jan. 26:** Greek Formal



Photos courtesy of Anna Kortier  
Left: Students celebrate at last year's God and Goddess competition.



Right: A group of sorority sisters at a previous Greek formal.



## a conversation with **DALE K**

*Hypnotist and comedic entertainer Dale K will return to NMU on Friday, Jan. 25. After giving Northern several performances over the past decade, and constant touring all over North America, the 35-year-old Canadian took a few minutes out of his busy schedule to talk hypnotism and performing with North Wind Features Editor Shane Nyman.*

**North Wind:** As a child, did you know this is what you'd be doing when you grew up?

**Dale K:** Yeah. I grew up doing magic because my dad was a part-time clown. I was always surrounded by magicians and those kinds of things. In high school, I saw my first hypnotists and that's when I made the decision.

**NW:** What type of training or education does becoming a hypnotist require?

**DK:** I'd suggest if you're interested in

doing what I do, you solidify your information through research and clinical courses that teach you to deal with people who have issues — people that want to quit smoking, lose weight, that kind of thing — that kind of knowledge helps. There are courses online and there are books out there that will teach hypnosis but most of them don't really give you the information that you need. At that point, you really want to become an apprentice with somebody, to learn the dos and the don'ts.

**NW:** Did you ever consider a career in clinical hypnotism? Or were you always set on entertaining?

**DK:** My interest was always in entertainment, but I still do a fair bit of [clinical hypnosis] for special occasions for certain individuals. I don't promote it too heavily because I just don't have the time when I'm on the road.

**NW:** Do you remember the first time you hypnotized somebody?

**DK:** Yeah, I do. I actually remember better the first time I did my first show where the pressure was on me to be able to do this in front of an audience. It was incredibly stressful until I had the ability to put that first person to sleep, then it all clicked.

**NW:** What is your life like now? How much touring and performing do you do?

**DK:** I literally live in airports. I'm on the road for about half the year, from coast to coast, all over Canada and the United States. Most of the work is colleges and universities. I've been really well accepted in that market. The rest is

corporate events, casinos and then some theaters.

**NW:** In the simplest way possible, can you describe hypnosis?

**DK:** Hypnosis is really about stripping away the inhibitions of individuals. When people walk on stage, there's that immediate effect of stage fright. They get nervous, they clam up, they're self-conscious. Using different relaxation techniques, you get those people to relax and open up their imagination. That gets to the point where you can feed them all kinds of things — suggesting "It's getting warm in here," or suggesting that they're driving a car, and it's very easy at that point for them to latch onto those suggestions. A good example is maybe

## I WAS HYPNOTIZED!

Four years ago, business management major Bruce Dudley, now a senior, was the star of hypnotist Dale K's performance. Dudley recalled the experience fondly, albeit the memories a bit foggy.

"He snapped me out of my hypnosis, and I was standing at the front of the stage with my shirt off," Dudley said.

"I felt kind of numb and out of the moment," he said. "You make mental notes but you kind of fly through the experience and have to get reminded after it happened, kind of like the morning after a sweet party."

During the show, Dudley said he was hypnotized and believed the temperature in the room was changing drastically. He also believed his hands were glued together for a time and he struggled to hold up a pillow that he was told weighed a thousand pounds.

"You don't feel the weight at the time," Dudley said. "But the muscle fatigue afterwards — you feel that."

When Dale K chose Dudley to hit the stage, Dudley said he was skeptical of whether or not hypnosis was legitimate. Later in the night, when he stood shirtless in front of hundreds of his peers, his attitude changed.

"It definitely works. It made a believer out of me," he said.

—Shane Nyman

DALE  
K

when you were a kid, you'd be laying on the couch, totally focused on watching TV but your mom is in the background saying "Hey Shane, don't forget to take out the garbage," and you half-ass answer "Yeah, yeah. I'll get to that," but you never do. You acknowledge it but it doesn't have much of an effect on you.

**NW: So those with strongest imaginations work best?**

**DK:** Absolutely. Then it works great for the show because I can push them to further points, if that makes sense.

**NW: What are some of the wildest things that have happened during your shows?**

**DK:** In general, I'm always blown away

by two things. First, I'm blown away by the skeptics that come to the show and end up on stage. Usually they turn out to be the most hypnotizable people. I love to see that. That actually happened last night. We had two people come up and you could just tell that they were too cool for school and yet it worked really, really well on them.

Secondly, I love hearing people talk when they are under the influence of hypnosis. You just never know what's going to come out of their mouths, and it's always funny. In my show, I always try to give the people a lot of opportunity to be verbal. It's so unpredictable and I like to be entertained as well.

**NW: You've performed at NMU several times in the past. Do you remember any specific instances of craziness?**

**DK:** All I know is we've always had such a great turnout. The show is not only fun for me, but the audience energy is always great. That's why out of the hundreds of schools I've done, your school definitely ranks up there as one of my favorites, because the crowd is just so into it. It's always a blast there and I'm excited to get back up there this week.

**NW: Have you ever found yourself in trouble because of something that went on during your show?**

**DK:** I really care about my career and I care about my volunteers, so ever since I started doing this, I've been very respectful of that situation. The only person that's ever been hurt on stage has been me. I was at a small comedy club and I told a guy that he was a cheerleader and he raised his leg up, hit my elbow and the microphone that was in my hand shoved into my mouth. My bottom tooth went through my lip. It was pretty exciting. The front row got a really good show.

**NW: After it's over, do participants**

**remember what went on?**

**DK:** Absolutely. You can delay that response, but you can't wipe away memories like that. If anybody leaves that building thinking that they've been changed or have lost some of their memory, they're just making it up from that point on. They've been up on stage and in that spotlight, and they don't want that to stop.

**NW: Have you ever been hypnotized?**

**DK:** To be totally honest, only once. It was in a clinical situation. I never got it to work well when I would go up on stage. I think I was just so interested in it and so over-the-top paying attention, it just wouldn't work for me. Now, I don't think I could ever do it. I think I'd just sit in that chair and laugh at the hypnotist.

**NW: Any final thoughts?**

**DK:** I'm really stoked about coming back up to your school. It really is one of the fun ones that I look forward to on the calendar. The only problem is I wish we didn't do it when it was so frickin' cold. I'm Canadian, but I live in Florida now. I get spoiled with the nice weather. Hopefully it won't be too bad this weekend.

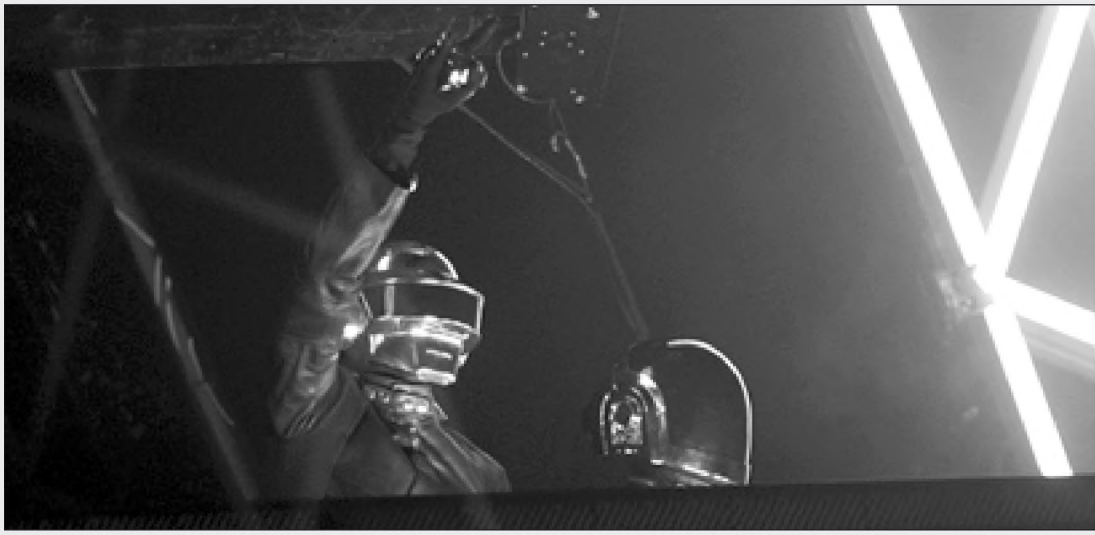


Photo from PitchforkMedia.com

The French techno duo Daft Punk (Thomas Bangalter and Guy-Manuel de Homem-Christo) toured extensively in 2007, including a stop at Chicago's Lollapalooza festival.

## Daft Punk "Alive 2007" ★★★★★



It's hard to imagine a very impressive live show from a band who makes their music by pressing buttons and turning knobs, but the French duo Daft Punk has figured out just

how it's done.

Daft Punk rode the electronic/dance wave to the top of the charts near the end of the last decade alongside groups like Basement Jaxx and Fatboy Slim. As the '90s came to a close, electronic music left the mainstream. However, over the last handful of years, electronica has been making a comeback, thanks in part to pop acts from hellogoodbye to Justin Timberlake incorporating the style into their music.

Daft Punk released "Alive 2007" at the end of the year, in the middle of this new electronica surge. The album is a 74-minute live outdoor concert from Paris where the pair, Thomas Bangalter and Guy-Manuel de Homem-Christo, remixed

their own songs in front of a sold out crowd.

These aren't any typical remixes of Daft Punk. They took two, three and sometimes four of their own songs and mashed them together to create an album that has only 12 tracks, but features 27 of their best songs from their 14-year career.

"Alive 2007" is an awesome album that is a definite must-have for any dance music fan. If 74 minutes of one of the greatest live raves isn't enough, there's more. It comes with a bonus disc featuring ten more minutes of music, the music video for their single "Harder, Better, Faster, Stronger" and a 50-page booklet with pictures from the show, with Daft Punk rocking their robot helmets and leather jackets inside a gigantic mirrored pyramid.

**For fans of:** The Chemical Brothers, Justice or Fatboy Slim

— Radio X staff

For more Radio X album reviews, visit [www.thenorthwindonline.com](http://www.thenorthwindonline.com)

### This week's top Radio X album plays:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Scary Kids Scaring Kids<br>"Scary Kids Scaring Kids"  | 6. MXPX<br>"Secret Weapon"                   |
| 2. Foo Fighters<br>"Echoes, Silence, Patience and Grace" | 7. Company of Theives<br>"Ordinary Riches"   |
| 3. The Ocean<br>"Precambrian"                            | 8. Thrice<br>"The Alchemy Index Vol. I & II" |
| 4. The Universal Temple of Divine Power<br>"Hand of God" | 9. Sigur Ros<br>"Hvarf/Heim"                 |
| 5. Various Artists<br>"Juno" Soundtrack                  | 10. Radiohead<br>"In Rainbows"               |

### This week's top RUCKUS downloads at NMU:

1. "Apologize" Timbaland
2. "Low" Flo Rida
3. "Bubbly" Colbie Caillat
4. "Stronger" Kanye West
5. "Kiss Kiss" Chris Brown
6. "Love Song" Sara Bareilles
7. "The Way I Are" Timbaland
8. "Tattoo" Jordin Sparks
9. "Hate That I Love You" Rihanna
10. "Crank That" Soulja Boy Tell 'em

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Tell us a little bit about yourself and the issue you would like to write about.

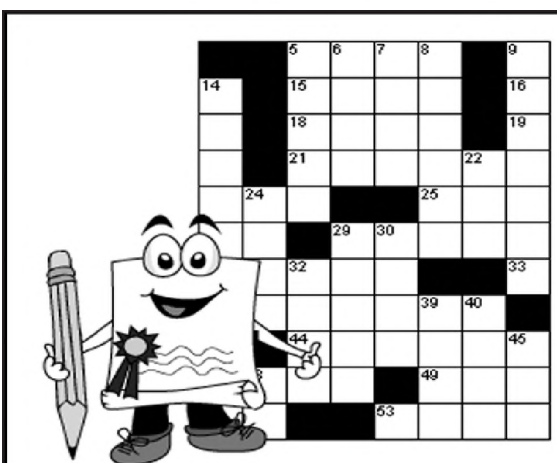
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# 'Cloverfield' delivers intense thrills



★★★★☆

by JOSH SNYDER  
staff writer

A good monster movie is about more than a man in a rubber suit destroying a model town. Films such as 1954's "Godzilla" were metaphors for the fears people had of nuclear weapons. However, many saw the genre as being similar to horror in that it was all about cheap thrills. Because of this, the monster genre has struggled and we're overdue for a film that brings it back to its roots. As I began watching director Matt Reeves' latest, "Cloverfield," I wondered: would this be just another monster flick, or would it be something more?

New York City resident Rob Hawkins (Michael Stahl-David) has landed his dream job in Japan, so his friends throw him a surprise party. As everyone's having a good time, a sudden jolt ripples through the city, causing alarm and panic. Unsure of what's happening, Rob and his friends head to the roof to get a better view, in time to see an explosion from the center of town, throwing debris across the city. An enormous monster emerges and begins to tear its way through the skyscrapers, killing everything in its path. Before they can escape, Rob learns that his friend Beth (Odette Yustman), who he's madly in love with, is trapped downtown, and Rob vows to rescue her before they leave the city.

In terms of story, "Cloverfield" is sparse, but it doesn't need to be a deep, philosophical film. In fact, the only parts that could have been cut deal with the love story between Rob and Beth, which strays into clichéd territory. However, it's more than a cheesy love story. The film is set in New York City for a reason. Reeves wanted to use "Cloverfield" as an allegory for the fears and confusion still surrounding 9/11. I can see this causing controversy but I didn't feel as though Reeves was exploiting 9/11, he was simply using it as a backdrop. This parallel to real events only helps to increase the intensity.

In fact, if I had to sum up "Cloverfield" in one word, it would be intense. The action sequences are insane, rivaling the biggest summer blockbusters. Thankfully, the action is well-paced with a surprising amount of horror and comedy, both properly executed.

What makes "Cloverfield" so intense



Photos from Yahoo! Movies

Rob (Michael Stahl-David) and Beth (Odette Yustman) use a videocamera to document a monster's attack on New York City in Matt Reeves' "Cloverfield."

is the style. The entire movie is filmed with a camcorder, capturing the events just as an average person on the street would. This ends up being the film's biggest strength and greatest weakness. The viewer is thrust into the action and thanks to some excellent set design and CGI, you really feel like you're there. And Reeves uses this unique style to his advantage, feeding us information in clever ways.

However, this style of filming naturally limits what can be done with the narrative. We learn very little about what is going on, because the person filming is an average person who would learn very little. I appreciated that Reeves didn't explain everything to us, which I felt was the right decision in the end, but it did result in a few moments of frustration.

Then there's the camera itself. There were moments where you could tell the writers struggled with how to keep the camera part of the action when it would have been easier for the character to ditch it and run. But Reeves was tethered to it, making for a few silly moments that detract from the overall experience. Still, I couldn't see a movie like this being filmed in a traditional fashion.

"Cloverfield" is a film that could have gone one of two ways: a monumental failure, or a huge success. Although it won't revolutionize the monster genre, it is definitely entertaining. A few flaws in the story and filming style hold it back from true greatness, but if you're in the slightest bit interested, get some friends and some popcorn and see this on the big screen.

# Spanish horror flick spins its wheels



★★★★☆

by JOSH SNYDER  
staff writer

Much like 2002's "The Ring" did with Japanese horror, 2006's "Pan's Labyrinth" introduced many to the emerging Spanish horror genre. Because of the film's success, studios are bringing more Spanish horror films into theaters, the latest being director Juan Antonio Bayona's "The Orphanage." Although a refreshing nod to classic horror films with surprisingly high production values, "Orphanage" unfortunately leaves plenty to be desired.

The film follows Laura (Belén Rueda),

who, with her husband Carlos (Fernando Cayo), decides to buy the orphanage she was raised in. Together, with their adopted son Simón (Roger Príncipe), they move in and renovate the building to become a home for children with special needs. Simón dislikes the house until he invents an imaginary friend who he calls Tomás. Believing it's his way of coping with the situation, Laura leaves Simón alone until one day he goes missing. Laura then learns of a dark secret about the orphanage and begins to unravel a mystery that suggests Tomás may not be an imaginary friend, but rather a spirit haunting the orphanage who may know where Simón is.

The best aspect of "Orphanage" is its lack of blood and gore. With only a couple scenes that depict violence, "Orphanage" ends up relying more on subtle tricks to build tension and suspense. Lighting is used to create an eerie atmosphere and basic cinematography tricks help create tension. Characters hide in dark corners and the camera sometimes reveals only half of the setting. Simón interacts with his imaginary friends who are off-screen, teasing the viewer with the idea that they may be imaginary or they may be ghosts. It's nice to see a horror film that does not rely on cheap shock value to scare audiences.

Where "Orphanage" disappoints is in its story. Nothing in the first two acts that drew me in. It's not that the movie was done poorly – the dialogue and acting are both very good, especially for a horror film. But there was nothing about the plot that hooked me. The story follows a very simple



Photos from Yahoo! Movies

Belén Rueda stars in the Spanish horror film "The Orphanage," where she is faced with the not-so-new idea of her child dealing with a ghoulish imaginary friend.

formula: Laura and Simón run around the orphanage, Simón plays with his imaginary friends and Laura questions whether or not the house is actually haunted.

What didn't help was the bland setting and mediocre soundtrack. I cannot figure out what Laura saw in the orphanage, because it looks extremely boring and uninspired. The music does very little to enhance the mood, which is an essential element of horror films.

But where "Orphanage" stumbles the most is in its pacing. Again, the first two acts of the movie were uninteresting and slow. Sometimes, I will sarcastically write that a movie was so boring it nearly put me to sleep. However, "Orphanage" now holds a rare distinction – a movie that nearly did just that. It's not until the third

act that things pick up, but not to a level that makes up for the first two-thirds of film. The movie spins its wheels and ends up going nowhere. The film's eventual resolution is both extremely predictable and corny — not a good way to end a horror film.

The last few scenes are instrumental in delivering the film's underlying message, which is a very optimistic one. Maybe that's why I feel saddened in giving "Orphanage" a bad review. The film has some positives, but in the end there are one too many flaws for me to recommend it. If you're a fan of classic horror, and are desperate for a movie that doesn't start with the word "Saw," then you may appreciate this a bit more than I did. Otherwise, I'd wait for the DVD.

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## NMU ski team continues hot streak

by GORDON BEEDLE  
associate sports editor

Despite harsh weather conditions, the NMU Nordic ski team was still able to win three out of four races last weekend.

Due to a forecast of dangerously-low temperatures, the Central Collegiate Ski Association's (CCSA) Supertour took place in Marquette at Noquemanon trails instead of the originally-scheduled location of Coleraine, Minn.

In Marquette, the weekend low was 10 degrees below zero but it didn't cool the winning ways of the Wildcats.

"We deal with it quite a bit. These guys are out roller skiing in sleet and rain. We are just used to those conditions," said head coach Sten Fjeldheim. "It's an outdoor sport and we are just used to taking whatever weather comes our way."

The 'Cats used their superior depth and experience toward a better than expected finish, Fjeldheim said.

The only race the team lost this weekend was the men's freestyle race — by seven points.

Top finishers for the 'Cats were Phillip Violett, with a third place finish, Justin Singleton in sixth and Tim Cook, who came in 14th.

In Sunday's classic race for the men, Violett once again placed well, with a second place finish, just one second behind Alaska's Maruis Korthauer. Singleton finished seventh and Gus Kaeding finished ninth.

After the race, Fjeldheim said these were the best finishes he had seen from Violett and that he was impressed with how quickly his hard work started to pay off.

"I have been working on my technique a lot these last couple of weeks, and I have been trying to find a new rhythm," Violett said. "I'm always happy to get on the podium in any race because it helps me and my team."

The women's team found help this weekend from Laura DeWitt and Morgan Smyth, with the pair taking two of the top three places in Saturday's freestyle race, which the Wildcats won by eight points (85).

On Sunday in the classic race, Dewitt and Smyth took the top two spots to lead the women to another victory with 86 points.

"I'm really proud of this team. Everyone has good days and bad days, and when you put in as many hours as we do

training all year, it can make the bad days really discouraging, but it also makes the good days really rewarding," Dewitt said. "This team has done a good job of doing their best all season, and whether they have a good race or not, they still stay positive and support everyone else."

Other supporting finishes in the women's classic race were from Maria Stuber in ninth and Tayna Cook, who came in 11th.

In the skate race Stuber was sixth and Anna Berglund place 13th overall.

"I am really pleased with everybody's performance. I couldn't be happier as a coach it is just really satisfying," Fjeldheim said. "We expected to win but we didn't really think we could win without Martin [Banerud]."

Banerud is the men's top skier and had the best finishes two weeks ago at the U.S. Cross Country Ski Championships before missing last weekend's race due to illness.

Banerud is expected to be back this weekend as the 'Cats travel to Hayward, Wis. to ski in the conference championship on Saturday and Sunday. Fjeldheim said he expects another close race between University of Alaska-Fairbanks and NMU. With the recent success of the 'Cats, they feel the momentum is certainly on their side.

"We are definitely a force to be reckoned with now," Violett said. "We definitely should put fear into other teams."



Spencer Bouchard /NW

Gus Kaeding battles the elements in the Supertour race. After being moved from Coleraine, Minn. due to sub-zero temperatures, the race was held in Marquette's brutal winter conditions.

## After split, 'Cats prep for final stretch

by KYLE WHITNEY  
sports editor

After losing a close game, 3-2 on Friday night, the NMU Wildcat hockey team rebounded with a 4-1 victory on Saturday in Big Rapids, Mich. and earned a split with conference foe Ferris State.

"It's always difficult to win on the road in college hockey," head coach Walt Kyle said. "You're obviously trying to win both games, but the truth is that if you can go in and be successful and have splits, you're doing a pretty good job."

After a poor showing against the Wayne State Warriors in their previous series, the Wildcats may have been a bit unsure of themselves on Friday night.

"It was a bad weekend against Wayne State and it was a bad result," Kyle said. "I think when you go through something like that, there is always a hesitancy right away going into the next weekend."

Luckily for the 'Cats, though, a strong third-period performance on Friday night helped to catapult the team toward Saturday's four-goal game, which has been a rarity for NMU recently. The win marked only the sixth time this season that NMU scored more than three goals in a contest.

"For us to be able to get that fourth goal that night was a positive, and hopefully it's something that we can see much more consistently in the back half of the year here," Kyle said.

When scoring more than three goals, the Wildcats are 5-1 this season.

### Reaching the peak

As the end of the season approaches, the offense isn't the only aspect of the Wildcat team that has begun clicking at the right time.

Over the weekend, NMU goalie Brian Stewart started both games and allowed just four goals on 77 shots (.948 save percentage).

"I thought I had a pretty good weekend. I'm starting to get better and I'm starting to find my game a little bit," Stewart said. "I wasn't on my game at the start of the year, but hopefully I can keep playing well for the team."

The defense in front of Stewart has also started to play better as of late and may be one reason for his improvement. His teammates, however, feel the goalie has initiated the change himself.

"He's playing really well right now," sophomore NMU defenseman T.J. Miller said of Stewart. "This weekend was good for him and his confidence. He's a guy that we definitely need to be back there during the playoffs and further down the road to get us more wins."

Also making himself known this weekend was junior Wildcat forward Tim Hartung, who, prior to the weekend, had just one point on the season. Hartung collected a goal and an assist on Saturday night.

"I thought [Hartung] was outstanding. He has very good hands and he is a good passer," Kyle said. "Coming into the year, we had hoped that he would be a real productive guy, but for whatever reason, it hasn't happened."

Kyle felt that the most important aspect of Hartung's play over the weekend may not have shown up on the score sheet.

"It'll be huge for us down the stretch if he can continue to play the way that he played," Kyle said. "Not just production—that's always a byproduct. If he plays the way that he did, he's going to be an asset to us."

### The playoff race

The recent split with Ferris State—coupled with a pair of Alaska losses on the weekend—left the Wildcats in eighth place in the Central Collegiate Hockey Association. NMU's 14 points put them just five points behind the fifth-place University of Nebraska-Omaha Mavericks. The top four teams get a bye in the first round of the CCHA Playoffs, while the fifth through eighth teams host a playoff series in that round.

Each game is worth two points and with only ten contests remaining, the 'Cats know they need to make the most of their opportunities.

"It's a race right now for home ice," Kyle said. "Do I like our position? I wish we were higher, but

we're right in the hunt and right in the mix. One of our goals is to get home ice this year and what we do over our next ten games is going to determine that."

Before the Wildcats embark on their season-ending ten-game stretch, though, they will first host an exhibition game against the USA under-18 team.

Kyle said the week of practice and the exhibition game will allow the Wildcats to improve their overall conditioning level and to shore up some needed areas of their game before jockeying for final playoff positioning.

"Every game is going to be playoffs, pretty much. Everybody wants to get that [home series]," Miller said. "In the next five weeks, hopefully other teams win and lose to help us and hopefully we keep playing like we did [Saturday] night against Ferris."

The puck will drop in the exhibition game on Saturday at 7:35 p.m. in the Berry Events Center.

**Every game is going to be playoffs, pretty much. Everybody wants to get that [home series].**

— T.J. Miller  
Wildcat defenseman

# All Superstitions Aside

*Senior forward Allison Carroll wants to succeed for both her team and her family. Sometimes, that can be harder than it seems.*

by GORDON BEEDLE  
associate sports editor

After consuming practically a whole roll of Tums before every basketball game, Allison Carroll, a senior forward, frantically paces back and forth in the locker room while listening to AC/DC or Metallica.

Carroll said she is nervous before games because she feels she has to play well for her teammates, her coach, her school, her fans, her friends and her family.

"It's important to me for my family and the people I love to watch my games," she said.

Her mom, her dad, her Aunt Jo and her grandfather attend nearly every game. But one family member who doesn't is her grandma, Nancy Brunner.

"I feel bad saying it because I'm bad with superstition—but, yeah, my grandma is bad luck," Carroll said.

Carroll and her grandmother are very close off the court, but ever since Carroll was in junior high, she has been unable to play as well with her grandma in the stands.

"I think, 'oh, my grandma's here, I'm going to play like crap,'" Carroll said. "I have serious nervous issues."

Her grandmother attended two of Carroll's games in high school, where she averaged 20 points per game her senior year. In the two games her grandma saw, she scored seven total points and had foul trouble in each.

"I don't know what it is about basketball. I have watched her excel in other sports like volleyball and softball, but basketball is a different story," Brunner said.

Carroll did mature out of this phase during her college career and asked her grandmother to come and watch her play for Northern.

Brunner went to the NMU-Gannon game last season. She was there before the game, smiling and waving to Carroll, wishing the best of luck.

In the game, the 'Cats had been winning by 20 points. But Gannon rallied and sent the game into overtime, where Northern fell 70-76. Carroll scored 18 points, but her grandmother still has never seen a basketball victory.

"I never in a million years put any pressure on her," Brunner said. "I don't know if she thought she had to do the best for me, because she didn't."

After the game, Carroll told her grandma that she didn't want her to go to any more games. She



Spencer Bouchard/NW

Carroll gets advice from head coach Troy Mattson and assistant coach Kerry Janquart during a game against the University of Minnesota-Duluth.

said her grandma didn't argue with her and wasn't upset.

"It has to be a coincidence because I'm not superstitious at all, but it's quite a coincidence, isn't it?" Brunner said.

The family treats this situation as an ongoing joke. None of them can really explain why it happens, but there are no hard feelings.

Brunner said she's still almost too proud of her granddaughter, not just as a basketball player, but as a person.

"She is just an awesome and wonderful girl," she said.

Without her grandmother in the stands, Carroll has led the 'Cats in scoring for the past two

**I feel bad saying it because I'm bad with superstition—but yeah, my grandma is bad luck.**

**— Allison Carroll  
Wildcat forward**

seasons. In the 2005-06 season, she had 351 points. Then last year, as a junior, she scored 371 points.

This season, the senior said she hopes to contribute on the court as a dominant point scorer and as a leader.

"I have always been a leader by example, I think, and I'm trying to do that this year as much as possible," she said.

To succeed this season Carroll and the Wildcats are going to have to put all of their superstitions behind them and play to their full ability every time they step on the court, said head coach

Troy Mattson.

"Different people have different personalities. That's all it is. Some people believe [in superstitions] and some people don't," Mattson said. "I don't think our team has too many. We are just trying to get out there and play good basketball games."

The 'Cats have a 7-10 record overall and a 2-7 record in the conference. Carroll is leading the team with an average of 15.1 points per game and 6.2 rebounds, but she wants to be leading the team in more than just points as the season progresses.

"I think for every team, a common goal is to win a conference championship. That would be great and I personally would like to grow as much as I can as a player and become smarter," Carroll said.

Another personal goal she would like to achieve is winning a game in front of her grandma. She said her grandmother is an inspiration in her life—a person who has helped raise her to where she is today.

"My grandparents and I are really close," she said. "I would love for her to see me do well."

To this point, Carroll's grandmother has been jokingly prohibited from attending NMU women's basketball games. But this is the forward's last season and her grandmother may just find the time and travel the distance to see her granddaughter win a game.

"I am going to make it up to a game," Brunner said. "But I'm not going to let her know I'm there."

## NMU Women's Remaining Home Games

Thursday	Jan. 24	Ferris State	5:30 p.m.
Saturday	Jan. 26	Findlay	11 a.m.
Thursday	Feb. 14	Northwood	5:30 p.m.
Saturday	Feb. 16	SVSU	1 p.m.
Saturday	Feb. 23	LSSU	11 a.m.

All games will be held in the Berry Events Center



Spencer Bouchard/NW

Carroll led NMU in rebounds last year and was the 13th-leading scorer in the GLIAC. She hopes to become even more of a leader this season.



# A Dream Come True

**After attending four different schools, senior walk-on Mike Polfus may have finally found a home on the NMU Wildcat basketball team.**

by CURT KEMP  
editor in chief

After the Jan. 20 67-66 win against Hillsdale College, Mike Polfus left the men's locker room of the PEIF with his gym bag slung over his shoulder. It was a sight that had become all too common since Mike came to NMU two years ago. Since his arrival, Mike has been a staple in the Northern gymnasiums and weight rooms.

He has played basketball every chance he could and can be seen working out nearly as often.

When Mike left the locker room that night, he was leaving not simply as a PEIF member, but as a member of the NMU basketball team—a fact apparent because of his team-issued sweatpants.

For Mike, who hasn't played organized basketball in two years, just wearing the warm-up gear of NMU is a dream come true. And without the help of his longtime friend and current NMU basketball teammate, Ryan Reichel, Mike's dream may have remained just that—a dream.

According to Reichel, during the wedding of a mutual friend, he was asked by Mike's father to get Mike into shape. After playing collegiate basketball at the University of Wisconsin-Marinette for the 2004-2005 season, Mike had admittedly gotten a bit overweight.

"He wanted him to drop 25 pounds, and I said, 'How about I have him drop 20?'" Reichel said.

Mike's father, Paul Polfus, agreed to Reichel's proposal and now—two years later—Mike has lost nearly 25 pounds.

"When I got to Northern, I was easily 25 pounds heavier and Ryan helped me work out," Mike said. "I wouldn't be in any kind of shape if it wasn't for him."

Reichel said that Mike spends hours in the gym now, and described his long-time friend as a "gym rat."

"When I leave the gym from working out, Mike's always the one right behind me," Reichel said.

Mike's father Paul is the varsity boys basketball coach at Carney-Nadeau, and organizes several basketball tournaments throughout the year, including the tournament where Reichel and Mike first met as eighth graders.

"After the game, he said to me, 'Man, I've never had anyone guard me like that before,'" Reichel said. "We've been friends ever since. And each year we've gotten closer and closer."

During the year, Reichel said he spends approximately 20



Spencer Bouchard/NW

Mike Polfus and coaches Dan Waterman and Dean Ellis watch from the sidelines during NMU's Dec. 5 game against Finlandia University.

weekends with the Polfus, where he has become like another son.

Reichel even plays in basketball tournaments with Polfus' father.

"Last summer, I think I played in more basketball tournaments with Mike's dad than Mike," Reichel said. "In one tournament, we ended up beating Mike's team in overtime. I was playing with all the old guys and we ended up beating the young guys."

**Mike's been fantastic in learning and understanding what he needs to do out there.**

**— Dean Ellis  
NMU head coach**

After playing basketball in 2004-2005, Reichel didn't go out for the team the next year. This season, though, he got the itch to play again.

Mike also got the itch too and attended the walk-on tryouts for the NMU team. After the end of the tryout session, Mike wasn't offered a roster spot. Then, when starting point guard Chris Warner went down, the Wildcats were in need of another player. Reichel said he wanted to be the one to tell Mike the news.

"I was hoping it would work out for him, because if it didn't, I don't know what he would have done," Reichel said.

NMU head coach Dean Ellis said it was a no-brainer to put Mike on the squad after the injuries to the team.

"He tried out, and when we were down to only nine players,

we obviously needed another point guard," Ellis said.

It took a while to determine if Mike was eligible to play.

"He had been to four different schools, counting Northern, so we didn't know what his eligibility status was," Ellis said. "He caught on a rule where he hadn't played for two years and, no matter what your situation is, if you're non-participatory for two years, you're eligible no matter what."

After the eligibility issues were ironed out, there was the problem of getting Mike some equipment.

"Coach Ellis had to go out on the day after Thanksgiving and find shoes for Mike in Duluth," Reichel said.

Reichel said it wouldn't matter to Mike if he had a new pair of shoes or not.

"He's got travel gear that's too big for him and he'll wear it everywhere, just because he can. Mike's playing because he wants to. You could give him an old pair of shoes and he'd wear them, just as long as he could play."

Ellis said Mike was able to adapt to the team's scheme quickly, partly because his father is a basketball coach, and also because of the experience Mike has playing basketball.

"Mike's been fantastic in learning and understanding what he needs to do out there," Ellis said. "His basketball savvy is exceptional; I guess when you play a million tournaments in the Carney gym, you figure out how to play the game. He's going to step up and be a factor for us during the year."

## NMU Men's Remaining Home Games

Thursday	Jan. 24	Ferris State	7:30 p.m.
Saturday	Jan. 26	Findlay	1 p.m.
Monday	Feb. 4	Northland Baptist	7:30 p.m.
Thursday	Feb. 14	Northwood	7:30 p.m.
Saturday	Feb. 16	SVSU	3 p.m.
Saturday	Feb. 23	LSSU	1 p.m.

All games will be held in the Berry Events Center



—Photo courtesy of Ryan Reichel

Long-time friends Ryan Reichel and Mike Polfus are teammates on this season's NMU basketball team. Polfus has played in 10 games this year.

**TODAY, JAN. 24**

University Center.

**Academic:** Last day to withdraw from all classes at a 90 percent tuition refund. This date applies only to full semester classes.

**Event:** "Understanding Linear Semi-infinite Programming via Linear Programming over Cones" lecture will be presented by Qinghong Zhang and will begin at 4 p.m. in room 1209 of the New Science Facility.

**Event:** Martin Luther King Banner Contest will be held from 4-6 p.m. in the Peter White Lounge of the University Center.

**Event:** Human Bowling begins at 7 p.m. at the Whitman Hall Hill as part of Greek Week.

**Event:** First Aid Productions will meet from 7-8 p.m. in the Nicolet Room of the University Center.

**Event:** Swing Dance Club will meet from 7-11 p.m. in the Superior Room of the University Center.

**Event:** Victory over Death will meet from 7-10 p.m. in the Marquette Room of the

**Film:** "The Darjeeling Limited" (R) will show at 9 p.m. in Jamrich 102. Admission is free to NMU students and \$1 for non-students.

**FRI., JAN. 25**

**Event:** Sledding Day in Negaunee as part of Greek Week.

**Event:** Superior Edge orientation will begin at 1 p.m. in the Back Room of the University Center.

**Event:** Magic the Gathering tournament will begin at 6 p.m. at Ultimate Game Zone on Washington Street. Entry fee is \$15.

**Event:** Hypnotist Dale K will perform at 8 p.m. in Jamrich 102. Admission is free.

**SAT., JAN. 26**

**Event:** Dreamscapes will meet from noon to midnight in the Pioneer B Room of the University Center.

**Event:** The Falun Dafa Club will be meeting from 1-3 p.m. in

the Pioneer A Room of the University Center.

**Event:** Magic the Gathering tournament begins at 1 p.m. at Ultimate Game Zone on Washington Street. Fee is \$6.

**Film:** "30 Days of Night" (R) will show at 9 p.m. in Jamrich 102. Admission is free to NMU students and \$1 for non-students.

**Film:** "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" (R) will show at 11:55 p.m. in JXJ 102. Admission is free to NMU students and \$1 for non-students.

**SUN., JAN. 27**

**Event:** NMU Paranormal Research Team will meet from 5-7 p.m. in the Huron Room of the University Center.

**Event:** Victory Over Death will meet from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Nicolet Room of the University Center.

**Film:** "30 Days of Night" (R) will show at 6:30 p.m. in JXJ 102. Admission is free to NMU students and \$1 for non-students.

**Event:** Latin Dance Club will meet from 7-9 p.m. in the

Superior Room of the University Center.

**Film:** "30 Days of Night" (R) will show at 9 p.m. in JXJ 102. Admission is free to NMU students and \$1 for non-students.

**MON., JAN. 28**

**Event:** Steppin' Out Dance Club will meet from 6:30-11 p.m. in the Superior Room of the University Center.

**Event:** NMU Cuong-Nhu Oriental Martial Arts Club will meet from 6:45-9:15 p.m. in the Pioneer B Room of the University Center.

**Event:** RUSH Lambda Chi Alpha's Capture the Flag will begin at 7 p.m. Meet in the Gant/Spalding lobby.

**TUES., JAN. 29**

**Event:** Superior Edge Orientation will begin at 3 p.m. in the Back Room of the University Center.

**Event:** NMU International Dance Club will meet from 6:30-11 p.m. in the Superior Room of the University Center.

**Event:** Northern Entrepreneurship Organization will meet from 7-8 p.m. in the Charcoal Room of the University Center.

**Event:** RUSH Lambda Chi Alpha Dodgeball will begin at 7 p.m. Meet in the Gant/Spalding lobby.

**Event:** A Holistic Health Forum for the mind/body/spirit will be held from 7-9 p.m. in the Community Room (lower level) at the Peter White Public Library. Suggested donation at the door is \$10.

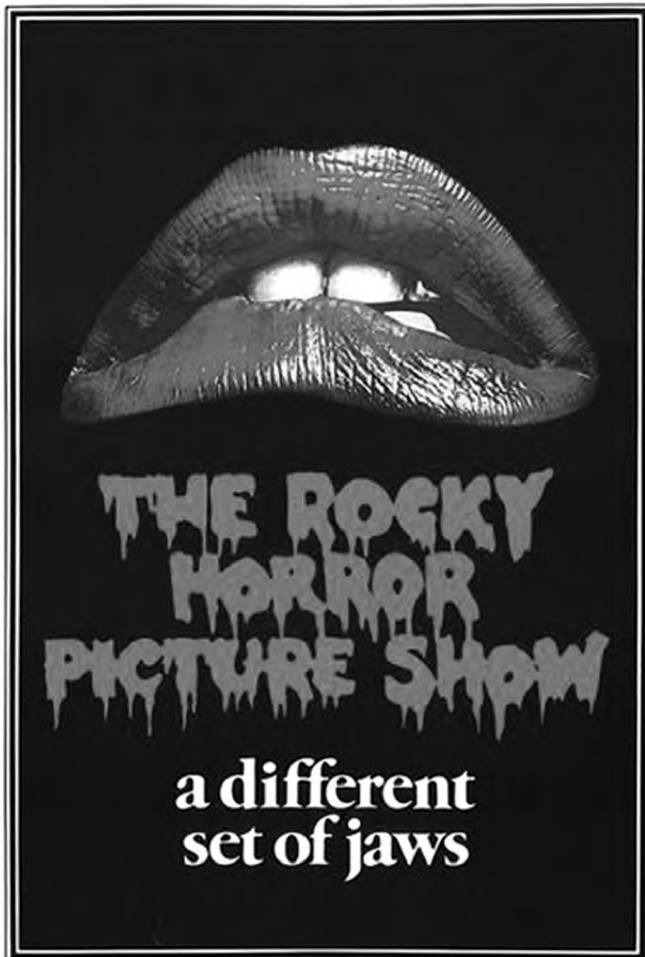
**WED., JAN. 30**

**Event:** RUSH Lambda Chi Alpha, Scavenger Hunt will begin at 7 p.m. Meet in the Gant/Spalding Lobby.

**Event:** Lutheran Student Movement will meet from 8:30-10 p.m. in the Erie Room of the University Center.

**Editor's Note:** Send your organization's meetings or events to editor@thenorthwind.org or call The North Wind office at 227-2545.

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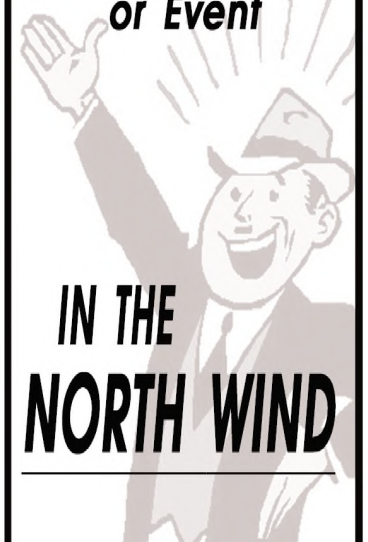
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Shout Outs

Green Bay — wtf? — Severely Dissappointed

Heath Ledger — I'm a big fan of your work. Total bad ass. Can't wait for Dark Knight. I'll miss you. — Shane

NY Giants — THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! — Shane

Bonnaroo — I hope you have a better lineup than Coachella. I guess that's not too hard to top. — Shane

Aaron Rodgers — PUT 'ER IN THE OLD VICE! — Brett Favre

Kyle — It's too bad we didn't get you and the hypnotist together... in a dimly lit room with soft music. — Clint

Roomate — I love telling the cast story. Thanks for making my life interesting. — Freaker Outer

Superfan — Watch out for those doors. Sometimes they hit you in the face. — 3 Time Unsuperfan

Dad — Happy Birthday! Love you. — Daughter

Mom — Thanks for the e-mails, even if I don't respond. — Sorry

Shane — You're obviously just jealous that whatever team you like can't even dream about making the playoffs. — So there

Nicole — I'm going to miss you so much! I can't believe you're leaving me. Those Minnesota people better appreciate you as much as I do. — Soon to be Lonely in MI

Becky — Hope San Fran is treating you fantastically. Did you get to ride on a trolley yet? I hope so. Expect a letter sometime soon. — Jamreed

Patriots — Please win. — Still bitter.

Donald — I still want pizza bites. Keep reading this section. It's very popular. — Curt

Cakes of Cups — Happy extremely belated anniversary. I guess old timers like us don't count these things anymore. — Beans of Jelly

Family — I miss you guys. I promise to see you soon! — Jamie

Rachel — I can't believe you sat and counted all 22 snails. Maybe you could name them next? — Loser of the mail key

Brett Favre — I still love you even though we lost. — Nicole

Jamie — Will you please move to Minnesota with me? I'm going to be lost without you. — Your biggest fan.

Grandma — I hope you and Rosebud are cuddling and reading the paper. I miss you very much. — Ashley

Claire — Welcome to the NW staff. It's going to be a trip. — Ashley

Jamreed — Can we please have class together? I miss laughing about idiots. — Berken

Gordon — It's Burt Reynolds. Glad I could help. — NW Movie Geek

Jackie — Thanks for showing me how to minimize windows and zoom in and out. I feel all that much more competent. — n00b NW Writer

NIEM — I know you're really emo. It's ok, I won't judge you anymore than I already do. — Non-emo Roomate

Videogames — Spring break isn't that far away. I'll see you soon. — Too Busy

Packer Fans — Sorry if I don't sympathize with your NFC Championship loss. Suck it up. — Bitter Lion's Fan

Aaron Whitaker — Thank you so much for all of your input. — NW Staff

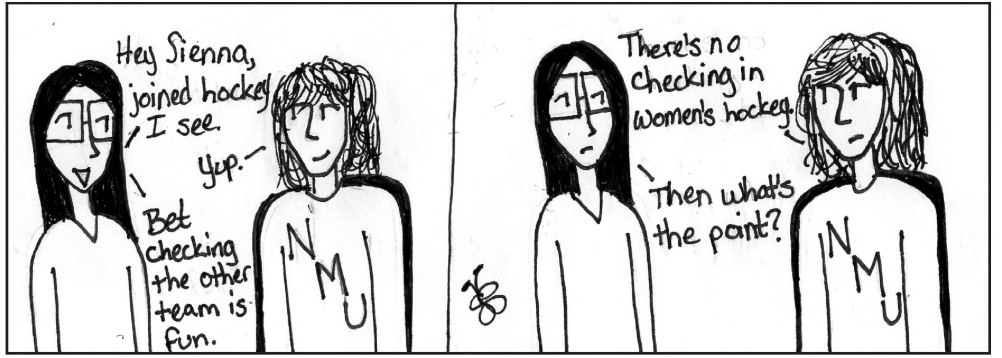
Ex Smoker — I hope I get to see more of you this week. No more casting this weekend. — The Narcoleptic

One Jess — You rock. Thanks for feeding me all year. — Another Jess

Inspirations

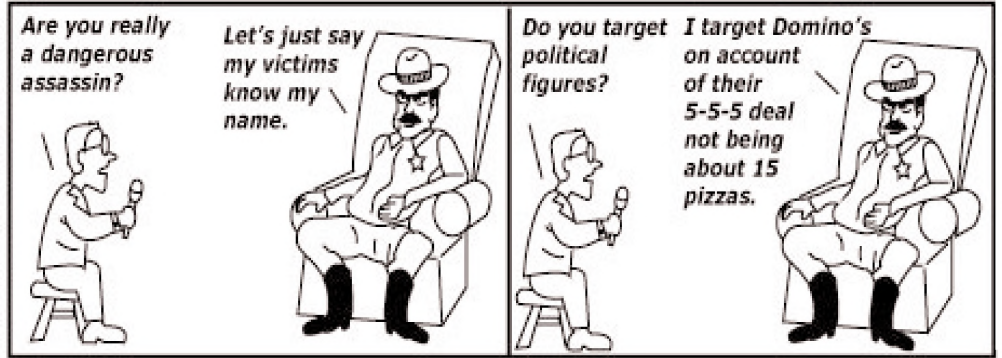
- Susan's crazy good cake
- Pandora
- Stinging insults
- Economic wastelands
- Eli & Plaxico
- Difficulties ordering food
- Princess
- Bad memories
- Iced Coffee
- Kyle's shifty eyes
- Pizza Bites
- Ishpeming
- 13 inches
- Stumble Upon

Snow Days



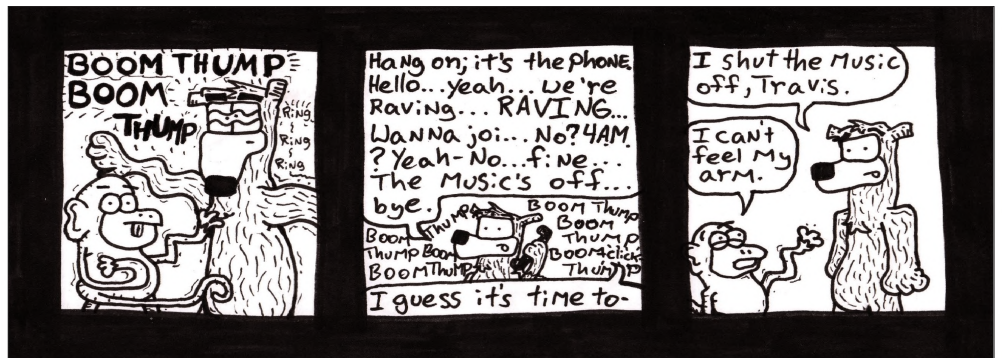
Susan Page

The Assassin Sessions



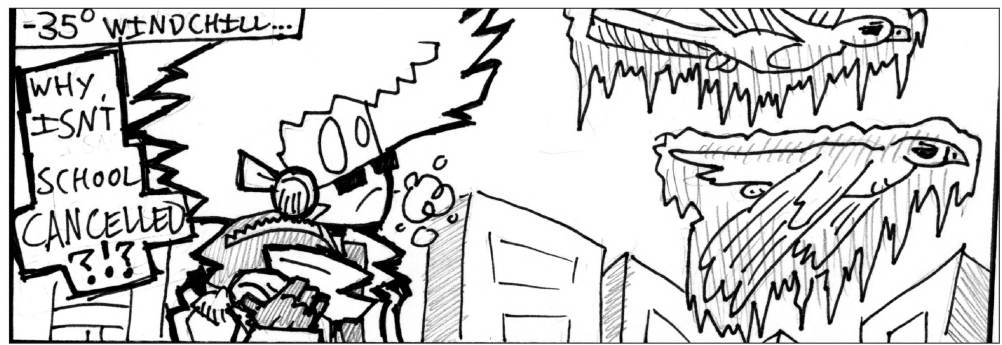
Andrew McCanna

Stick People



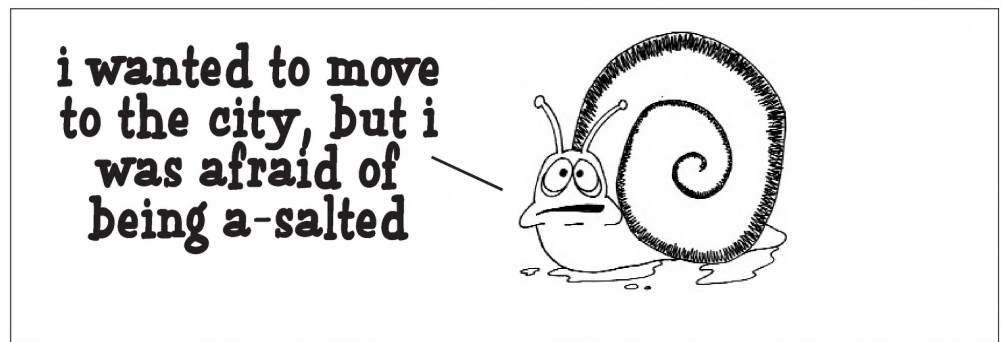
Sean Chevrier

Creative Diarrhea



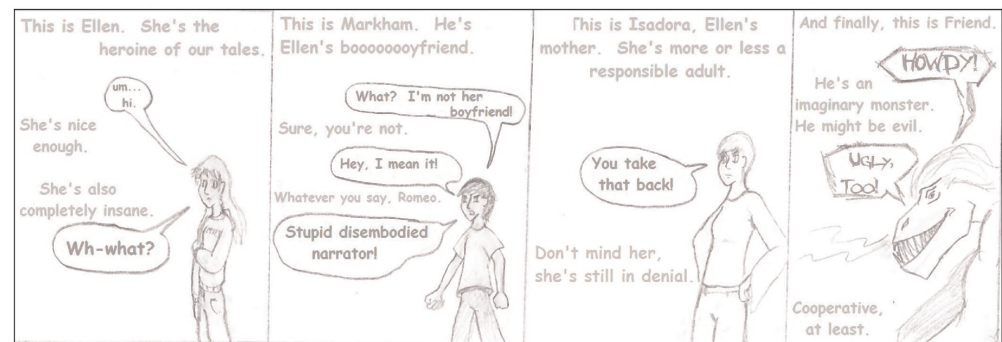
Alex Stevens.

Snail's Tales



NW Staff

Ellen's Friend



Matt Peach

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Thursday Jan 31  
10am-2pm

**Bag Toss**  
LRC

Monday Feb 4  
7-9pm

**Banana Split  
Night**  
Payne/Halverson Lobby

Tuesday Feb 5th  
10am-2pm

**Bag Toss**  
LRC

Wednesday Feb 6  
6:30-8:30pm

**Sledding &  
Hot Cocoa**  
meet in  
Payne/Halverson Lobby