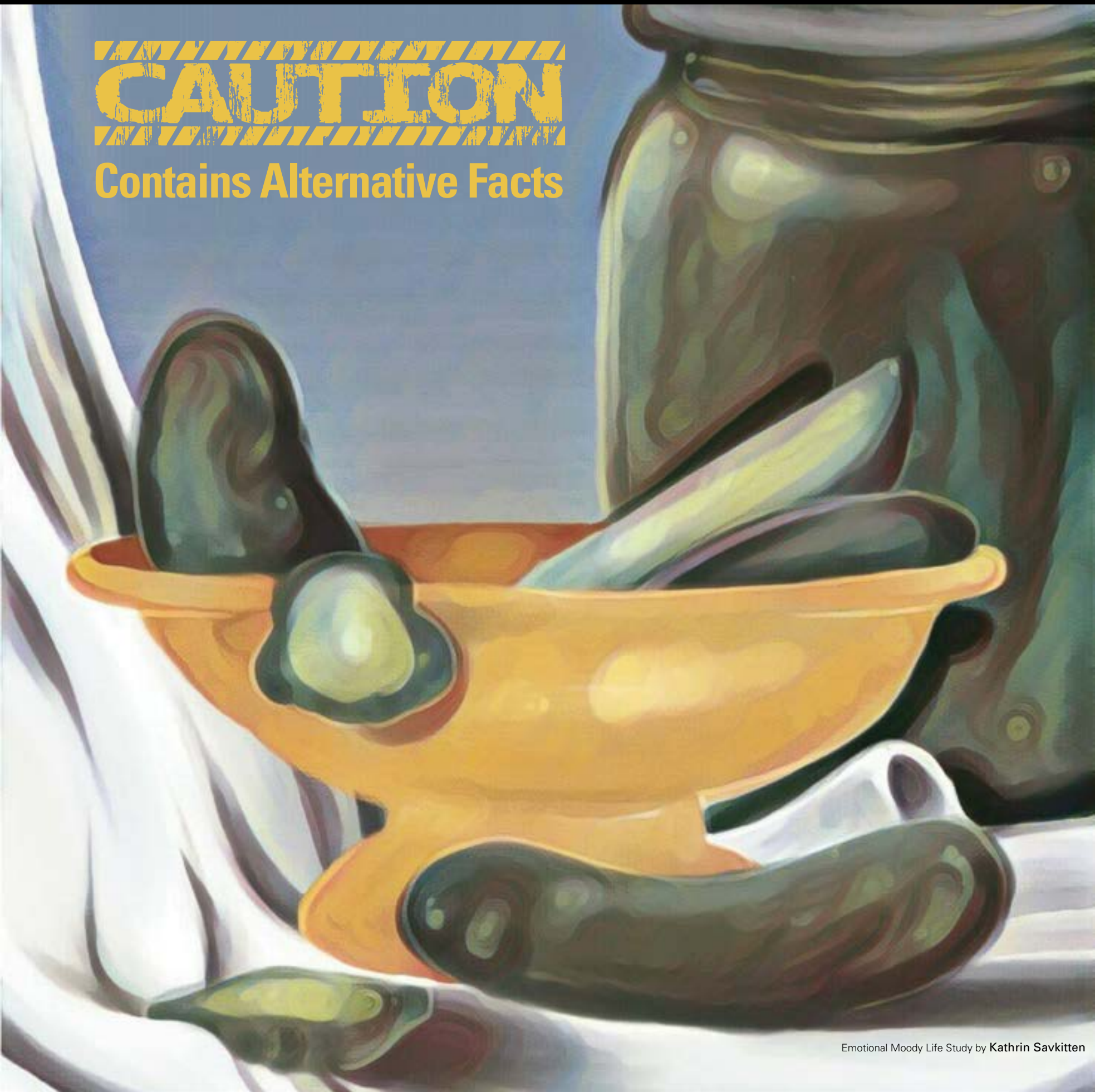


N O R T H W E S T E R N M I C H I G A N C O L L E G E

WHITE PINE PICKLE

Because our opinions are the best opinions.



Emotional Moody Life Study by Kathrin Savkitten



Photo by Ann Hosler

NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE

WHITE PINE PRESS

MASTER OF CEREMONIES Notorious B.R.E.

GRAMMAR NAZI Ash Lornne
TRAINED MONKEYS Seymour Butz
Mercury Davis
Pen Guin
Ginger Hooch
Billy O’Naire
Faye K. Nüs
BeepBeep Parking Warrior
Karina Smirnofv
King of the Fairies

WEB BALLER Kathrin Savkitten
CRAYON JOCKIES Blind Joe
Egg

NIGHT BIKER Billy Pilgrim
D Z N THUG Verréckt Fra

The *White Pine Press* welcomes comments, suggestions, ideas for news stories and calendar items.

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3rd Annual Big Little Hero Race

Saturday, April 15, 2017

Dust off your running shoes and superhero costumes! Registration is now open for the timed 5K and 10K, bring your family to register same day for free one mile fun run. There will be free superhero capes and activities for all children.

Race details: April 15, 2017
Fun run 9A.M.
5K/10K 9:30A.M.
NMC's Main Campus

Receive \$5 off of your registration!

Discount Code: 5K- SAVE55K or 10K- SAVE510K

visit www.biglittleherorace.com



Actual Real Event:

The Little Big Hero Race is hosted by the NMC Professional Communications students and all proceeds will go to the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Michigan.

Non-Discrimination Policy Notice

Northwestern Michigan College is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all persons and does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, disability, genetic information, height, weight, marital status or veteran status in employment, educational programs and activities, and admissions. nmc.edu/nondiscrimination

Squber: NMC squirrels' innovative ride system

PEN GUIN
Antarctic Journalist

Do you have only minutes to get between classes at Scholar's Hall and Fine Arts? Have you ever stumbled in just as class begins, breathless and red-faced because you are *so* not an Olympic sprinter? Never fear, the squirrels of Northwestern Michigan College have formed a solution: Squber, a campus-wide transportation networking system. "We saw all these students racing across campus, and we thought, why not try and help them out?" says Geoffrey Eichhorn, one of the head squirrels and masterminds for the project. "Besides, it's lucrative for us."

Squber offers sled rides for the snowy months, and rickshaw rides in warmer seasons. With the speed and force of the squirrel teams, students can get to classes in minutes. "It's so helpful," says a student who preferred to remain anonymous. "Before Squber, the trek from one end of the campus to another was a nightmare, especially in the winter! Now it's no problem, and I'm never late to class. My professors love how my friends and I are always on time now."

They initially planned to only offer the service on the main campus, but rising demand and collaboration with other local squirrels led to rides to the Great Lakes Campus, the University Center, and even Rogers Observatory for astronomy students. "It's great to be spreading out," says

Eichhorn. "Maybe someday soon we'll upgrade to taking students to their favorite restaurants for lunch breaks!"

"We get to meet so many interesting students," says Salali Sciuridae, a Squber driver. "It has done wonders for the squirrel-student relations on campus."

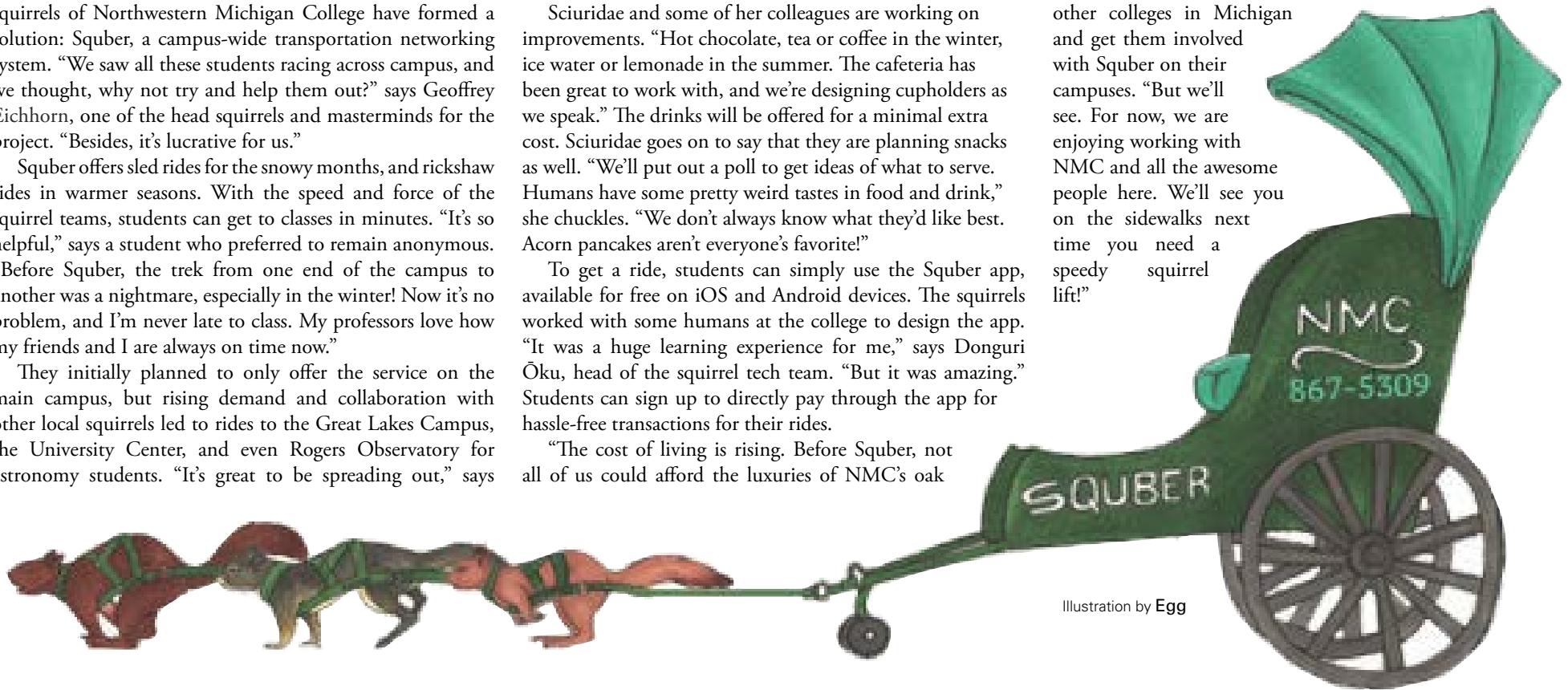
Sciuridae and some of her colleagues are working on improvements. "Hot chocolate, tea or coffee in the winter, ice water or lemonade in the summer. The cafeteria has been great to work with, and we're designing cupholders as we speak." The drinks will be offered for a minimal extra cost. Sciuridae goes on to say that they are planning snacks as well. "We'll put out a poll to get ideas of what to serve. Humans have some pretty weird tastes in food and drink," she chuckles. "We don't always know what they'd like best. Acorn pancakes aren't everyone's favorite!"

To get a ride, students can simply use the Squber app, available for free on iOS and Android devices. The squirrels worked with some humans at the college to design the app. "It was a huge learning experience for me," says Donguri Ōku, head of the squirrel tech team. "But it was amazing." Students can sign up to directly pay through the app for hassle-free transactions for their rides.

"The cost of living is rising. Before Squber, not all of us could afford the luxuries of NMC's oak

trees," Eichhorn confides. "It's time we squirrels became entrepreneurs and started bringing in some revenue. It's benefited all parties."

Eichhorn and his colleagues would love to connect with fellow squirrels at other colleges in Michigan and get them involved with Squber on their campuses. "But we'll see. For now, we are enjoying working with NMC and all the awesome people here. We'll see you on the sidewalks next time you need a speedy squirrel lift!"



Revolutionizing NMC: A learning center of the future

ASH LORNE
Trained Monkey

21st Century. Flexibility. Collaboration. Learning. These are all uniquely huge concepts driving Northwestern Michigan College's vision for the new West Hall Innovation Center. Behind open

doors the administration has been pouring through at least tens of feedback, looking at how to best deliver the future to our campus.

"We definitely will be installing a hot tub," Marguerite Cotto, Vice President for Lifelong and Professional Learning, may have exclaimed when asked about available amenities. "Possibly two. We want as much group engagement as possible to foster our innovative learning environment."

The administration isn't stopping at hot tubs, however. Providing 24/7 access to the lifeblood of college students—food—is also in their crosshairs.

"It was one of the reasons we pushed for new faculty half-step pay scales, actually," said NMC President Tim Nelson, probably. "One fact-finding group pointed out that more employees needed to be hired to cover the additional shifts. Our current cafeteria workers recently stopped accepting discontinued used books through an established bartering system, so the money for them and new hires has to come from somewhere."

Once the new hires are in place the cafeteria can extend its hours. The administration hopes to expand the area so that more empty tables will dot the innovative revitalized landscape of West Hall.

A cutting-edge, modernized library will be a great boon to students as well. After touring other colleges for inspiration from their ground-breaking contemporary atmospheres, the administration knew the best way to inaugurate the new age of NMC's library was by completely abandoning anything containing the word "remodel" and establishing new plans: an original

state-of-the-art addition to the Innovation Center. "We're going to pioneer the most avant-garde leading-edge facility with our library addition," Vicki Cook, Vice President of Finance and Administration, potentially whispered under her breath in passing. "Students will have access to kick-ass services to guide their learning. The vicissitude is a slight wrinkle that proximity to food will quickly overcome."

"We're primed to innovate the hell out of West Hall so teachers have more flexibility to engage their students in collaborative group work," purportedly coughed Cook while strolling across a busy crosswalk during a lovely spring day downtown. "Serious, serious innovation. We're going to ensure that access to 21st century essentials, such as wireless internet, isn't blocked by those pesky walls our other buildings struggle with every semester."

Nelson's latest non-existent letter to the campus community emphasized that the future is coming to NMC. "I'm confident students will make good use of the Innovation Center's facilities, because if we know anything about Millennials, it's how motivated they are to engage in unnecessary ambulatory movement to access a building their next class doesn't reside in. Plus, hot tubs."



Hot tubs, like the one pictured above, offer unique studying opportunities for students. The NMC Innovation Center will provide on-site laminators so students can protect their studying materials. Administration is still deciding whether they will upgrade to include cup holders and nacho trays.

New Leaks Detail Trump's Refusal to Eat Vegetables

Light Shed on Daily Life with the President

FAYE K. NÜS
Trained Monkey

Sources from inside the White House kitchen reveal some of President Trump's interesting dietary habits. Staff chefs are reportedly having difficulties preparing meals for Trump, specifically dishes containing fruits and vegetables. Concerns have been raised among the staff that the president is not getting proper nutrition.

In past administrations, the role of Executive Chef was to plan all meals for the President and the First Family. But under Trump, much of the Executive Chef's responsibilities have been revoked.

Trump has tasked himself with planning his own meals and, according to a staff member, "requires at least three steaks a day." Many would suspect the source of the meat to be an exclusive butchery, available only to the upper echelon, but Trump demands that all his steaks come from TV dinners.

While reports state Trump claims the steaks from an undisclosed brand are the best available, he detests the rest of the food included in the packages and demands it be thrown away. To keep up with the commander-in-chief's appetite, kitchen employees are burdened with long shifts of unpacking and safely storing the frozen beef.

An anonymous source in the kitchen said "In a way, our jobs have gotten a lot easier, but duller too. I've started listening to a lot of podcasts while working. Man, I hope NPR doesn't get completely sacked."

To combat the president's limited food palate, all staff members have come together to devise creative strategies.

At the request of chief strategist Steve Bannon, a dessert chef crafted an elaborate replica of Trump's private jet out of fruit. However, no one could get him to take a bite until the First Lady fed it to him while making airplane noises, according to an unnamed insider.

After rigorous trials, the best method to get the president

to eat carrots and celery was discovered by a mother of two young boys. Trump is apparently far less apprehensive toward vegetables when they are served on ZooPals™ plates, which are disposable dishes designed to look like cartoon animals.

While this worked for a few days, it became apparent that Trump would not eat any vegetables at all unless they were coated in his "Special Trump Sauce". According to an email, Trump's homemade concoction consists of equal parts barbecue sauce, Russian dressing, and a third secret ingredient which Trump refuses to reveal in case he decides to bottle and sell it at a later date.

With the goal of increased productivity, those close to Trump are endeavoring to adjust his behaviors beyond his eating habits.

As evidenced by a number of his late-night tweets, Trump often has energy to last him well past midnight. Several anonymous sources have reported hearing the sounds of stomping feet and "No, I'm not tired!" through the walls. The noise usually does not subside until the voice of Ivanka singing Putin's favorite lullaby, "Tili Tili Bom," is heard coming from the president's bedroom.

Of the various difficulties the White House staff has had with the president, only one problem seems to be fully resolved at this point. During Trump's first weeks in office, numerous surfaces were found consistently saturated with various drinks. It wasn't until documents that only the POTUS had access to were found drenched in Diet Coke that staff were able to determine who was responsible.

After having several conversations urging Trump to be more careful, staff

became desperate when the spilling continued. Numerous brainstorming sessions produced a creative solution in the form of a large sippy cup, refinished in gold spray paint.

Staff noted that the President's reception to the cup was surprisingly positive. When asked in a recent interview about his special cup, Trump responded, "The technology is revolutionary and very helpful for me."

I'm a busy man; I'm on the move, constantly, all the time. I have very, very big, important things to do and... meetings, so I don't have the time to worry about spilling things."



Totally Accurate Portrait by Kathrin Savkitten

Breaking News: America the Carnivorous: The 28th Amendment

SEYMOUR BUTZ
Trained Monkey

Bad news for vegans, vegetarians, and most people in general. In what has been called the most controversial decision made by President Trump yet, the POTUS recently signed a new amendment to the Constitution, effective immediately, stipulating that every American is restricted to a meat-only diet. The details of this new law are still being explained, but citizens are encouraged to purchase directly from the re-opened Trump Steaks line and wash it down with Trump Wine.

"Vegetables are gross, nasty, sad little things. But steaks are tremendous, the best," said Trump in efforts to defend his meat-only agenda. "We'll have so many vegetables left, tons of vegetables, enough vegetables that cows will never be hungry. And this is great. Fed, fat cows are great. We'll kill those cows and feed them to other cows, then kill those cows and turn them into steaks. It will be fantastic. Double the protein! People love protein."

Trump also hinted that his new law will boost the economy. Roads will be repaired and built at lower cost due to cheap roadkill meals given to workers. Also, gun sales will increase by making daily hunting legal. Military costs will go down with the distribution of Rocky Mountain Oysters (cattle testicles) to our armed soldiers and give them, according to Trump, the added benefit of "bull strength."

The amendment was approved by every Republican seat in Congress. When asked about the Democratic vote, Speaker of the House Paul Ryan stated with a wink, "No Democrats attended the vote." This coincided with the White House barbeque held the day prior to the vote with mandatory attendance from all Congresspeople.

When asked why there was a ban on eating vegetables, press secretary Sean Spicer had this to say: "It's not a ban, which makes it not a ban. Those are the media's words! If you eat vegetables, you go to jail, but we didn't ban eating vegetables. Here's a test. Do you only eat meat? You're OK. But if you like to eat vegetables, you're in big trouble. But it's not a ban. That's why I switched the brand of gum I buy to Big Pink. It's the only gum with the breath freshening power of ham, and it pinkens your teeth while you chew."

Thousands of concerned parents sent letters to Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos regarding school lunch menu items. DeVos was quick to respond with non-alternate facts. "It's no secret that school lunches contain neither meat nor vegetables. This new law will have exactly zero impact on school lunch options."

Glenn Thrush from *The Failing New York Times* brought attention to conflicts with the First Amendment—in particular, the right to exercise religious beliefs where one must abstain from meat. However, many religious groups have positive views of this new law. Devout Christian Mohammed M. Mohammed stated, "For years I forgot that I could only eat fish on Fridays. But now that government has trumped religion yet again, I don't have to adhere to the strict dietary requirements of my faith!"

Rabbi Sidney Applebaum reluctantly agreed. "Oi vey, the meat-only law will make staying kosher impossible. But we in the Jewish community agree that when we eat the cows we will not be murdering our deity. Wait, that didn't come out right..."

Faced with this new law, Americans have become more divided than ever before, yet some entities expected to offer more resistance have assimilated. Ingrid Newkirk, president of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), made a statement on the matter. "It is with a heavy heart and multiple legal suits from Donald Trump that I have changed PETA into PETS, an acronym meaning People for the Eating of Threatened Species."

McDonald's CEO Steve Easterbrook announced that McDonald's and all related properties are in favor of the new law. "In fact," said Easterbrook, "we have decided to make the McRib a full-time item on our menu! We know that all Americans will be able to unite in this aspect." When questioned regarding what type of meat the McRib would be made out of and whether it would be pork, Easterbrook declined to elaborate. "Think smaller. And more legs."

All attempts by Trump to directly edit the Constitution with a red Sharpie have failed, but he has not given up. Any future ramifications he may come up against would be "A small price to pay to stop eating one's vegetables."

The Five Year Plan: A realistic look into the future

Ginger Hooch
Trained Monkey

2017 Finish semester at NMC Audio Tech program with panache and vitality. Work over the summer with Jack, Brian and Jonah at Milliken Auditorium, Studio Anatomy and outdoor festivals. Play out with Parking Lots and tear up the streets of Traverse City and the top 40 charts. Possible collaborations with Drake, Usher, Taylor Swift, Katy Perry, Bruno Mars, Brady Corcoran, Levi Britton, M.C. Escher, Crosby, Stills and Nash, Elvis, James Brown, Chris and Charlie. Enter music department courses in the fall and nail them to the wall with a gentle grace and beauty, like that of a swan.

2018 Continue to work recording sessions and live shows at Studio Anatomy, Milliken Auditorium, Perfect World Studios, and set trends and change the industry with Parking Lots during a pert keyboard phase. Possibly acquire baritone sax player with a delightful ombre-dyed pompadour to win second place at the Northern Michigan Music awards invented by thirty-something heart-throbs Becoming Human.

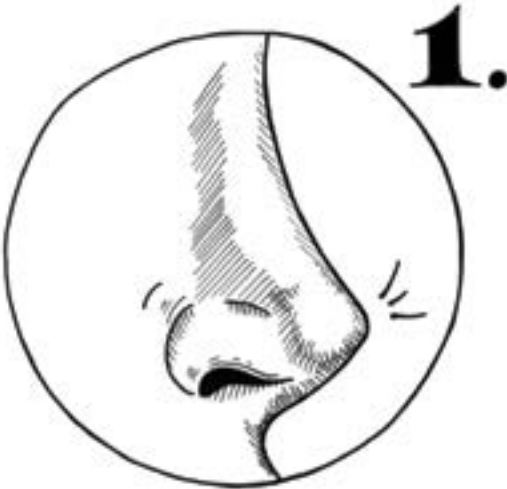
2019 Marry the Accidentals' mom to get in with Sony Masterworks. Quit smoking. Learn

to drive. Buy an iPhone and create Facebook account. Devise rigid vitamin regimen. Parking Lots/J. Marinelli world tour with Metallica as opening act after Ringo Starr replaces Lars Ulrich.

2020 Land a job jobbing as the most qualified jobist on the job and deign my wisdom to the other jobbers while maintaining kayfabe so that no works become shoots. Leave job to take a position at Heart and Seoul productions as a sound grip on the feature film chronicling the achievements of Terry Hogan called "Goodnight HULKAMANIACS and jabronie marks without a life that don't know it a work when you work a work and work yourself into a shoot, marks."

2021 Hopefully finish my AAS at Northwestern Michigan College in Audio Technology. Learn the true meaning of Christmas, friendship and Palm Sunday. Figure out what all the buttons do on my mixer and my car door. Take a walk around the block. Get a gig as a roadie for the Oro North American tour. Send some projects to Steve Quick to master. Buy a song from Brady Corcoran to skyrocket Parking Lots back to the top of the charts and live happily ever after. Amen.

HOW TO: PICK · YOUR · NOSE AND · EAT · IT · TOO



In-Depth Explanation by Notorious B.R.E.

Letter to the Editor

From:john
Date: Sat, Mar 18, 2017 at 5:00 AM
Subject: catering services
To: whitepinepress

I'm john, How is your day going ? i have a reunion party coming up 14th of April 2017 I would like to know if Do you render catering services and make chicken salad wraps/sandwiches? Do you accept credit cards payment?

Letter from the Editor

From: whitepinepress
Date: Weds, Apr 12, 2017 at 3:47 PM
Subject: catering services
To: john

Hi John,

Although the *White Pine Press* is a two year community college newspaper with a limited staff, we are always looking for ways to broaden our horizons and pad our resumes.

As luck would have it, we are currently seeking ways to boost our revenue. Catering may be the perfect avenue.

I feel it is only fair to disclose our total lack of catering knowledge, but I'm sure together we could forge an exciting relationship on the food-preparation front.

It may take some time to wrangle the ins and outs of chicken salad wraps/sandwiches, but I'm fairly confident that we could handle hot dogs. And yes, we do take credit cards.

Eagerly yours,
WPP Staff

Murder Beach?

Incident Sparks “Shrieker” Rumors

Mercury Davis
Trained Monkey

It has been two weeks since a group of downstate party-goers disappeared from a Benzie County beach, but law enforcement officials still have more questions than answers.

Benzie County Sheriff Jerry “Bud” Sager is asking anyone who may have been on the lakeshore between Empire and Point Betsie, and especially in the vicinity of Petersen Beach Road on the evening of April 7, to contact him.

“We are re-interviewing everyone,” said Sager. “Anything anyone may have seen—vehicle descriptions, hikers or hunters in the area, boats passing by—anything might be the clue we need to figure out what happened out there.”

Sager confirmed that his office is working with the Michigan State Police and the FBI. Thus far, police have been unable to turn up any solid leads on the April 7 disappearance of eight people who were at a bonfire on the beach. The group—friends from downstate and Ohio—were reported missing the next morning by family members.

An incident report describes the chilling scene at the bonfire: “Evidence of a violent struggle, blood everywhere, torn clothing. Tracks heading off into the woods that suddenly stop. And a severed hand resting on a piece of driftwood.”

Karl and Edna Boeke, lifelong residents of Benzie County, recall coming upon the grisly scene while walking their dogs on the beach early the next morning.

“It was Edna who saw the hand. She told me not to look,” said Karl. “But I remember a lot of blood, and M22 hoodies torn to shreds and like...arranged in a pattern...it looked to me like the letter S.”

Their vehicles were found in the parking lot by deputies, locked and undamaged. “At first I couldn’t believe my eyes,” said Edna Boeke, “But then all I could think of was, ‘He’s back. The Shrieker is back and he’s angry.’ I’m never going to that beach—or any beach—ever again.”

The “Shrieker” is said to be a creature—half man, half bird—who roams Leelanau and Benzie Counties, appearing every three or four years and more often during summer months. It’s rumored to be responsible for a chain of killings and disappearances going back to the mid-19th century.

Countless reports of sightings describe the Shrieker as a dark-feathered creature, about seven feet tall, with a long beak and razor sharp talons.

Leelanau County cherry farmer Bill Rice said he “is a believer.” “I saw the Shrieker about 25 years ago, while I was driving down one of the rows. It was in the middle of the day. I see this blur come down from the sky and land right in front of my tractor. It looked like a gigantic bird, but different somehow. I stopped the tractor and it looked at me with its huge dark eye for a few seconds and I felt like it was getting into my thoughts. Then it jumped over the trees, bounding over the rows and out of sight,” said Rice.

Five summers ago, a spate of disappearances on the lakeshore rekindled these rumors and emptied beaches, cutting short the tourist season and “creating a climate of fear” according to local business owners.

“There ain’t no Shrieker,” said Melvin Haines, owner of The Knickknackery, a Northport gift shop. “People disappear all the time, but these rumors almost put me out of business. They’re just kids who get drunk and swim out too far. Folks need to get real. Bird-men don’t exist.”

But so many sightings, according to some residents, and over such a long period time, give evidence to the myth.

“Is it so far-fetched?” said Thom Casper, researcher at the Leland Genealogical Society. “Local newspapers have reported on this creature for 150 years, and even native legends speak of a ‘binesi,’ or a ‘thunderbird.’ There is something out there,” said Casper.

Sheriff Sager had “no comment” on the existence of the Shrieker. But Sleeping Bear National Lakeshore Director Pam Ulrich has direct advice for visitors to the lakeshore.

“Visitors, and especially those from Wisconsin, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Kentucky, Georgia, Florida and Texas, are strongly advised to remain only on beaches that are close to villages,” said Ulrich. “And remember that if you take Pierce Stocking Drive, you can enjoy the dunes from the safety of your vehicle.”

“If you must hike, please stay on marked trails,” Ulrich added.



Police Sketch based on Eye Witness Accounts by Kathrin Savkitten

Ghost Housing Crisis

Renovations and How They Affect Post-Life Americans



King of the Faeries It seems we have lost track of something important among the excitement surrounding the new Northwestern Michigan College dorm construction. We forgot to consider the needs and perspectives of NMC's significant Post-Life American (PLA) population—or the less politically correct, but more common term: ghosts.

Renovations of any kind can be a struggle for anyone, but for PLAs it is both emotionally and physically challenging. One PLA student, April*, who occupies East Hall, explains one of the many difficulties these entities experience on a daily basis.

"I've been at East Hall for years now. The place ages of course, even if I don't, but... when they replaced my couch for that ugly one! I just..." (The recording equipment had technical difficulties from that point onward, but I think the message is clear: just because they're not alive doesn't mean you can't hurt them.) (These new renovations do irrevocable harm to PLAs.)

Later that same day, after avoiding flying furniture around a dorm room, we sat down with local psychic medium Mad Am Madam or "Madame Madam," who was featured in last year's Pickle when we covered her escape from prison. Madam had little to say, so after sitting down we got up, then went out for milkshakes and before sitting down again with local post-life advocate and scientist-person Dr. Sauntblogget Hampter Von Fuppinsshire, or Shirley, as her friends call her.

"Post-life Americans are just like you or I," Sauntblogget Hampter Von Fuppinsshire said. "They get very attached to the things they owned before their passing, and when we get rid of those things we essentially say that we don't want them, which causes enormous emotional damage. Often they lash out in anger, a reasonable reaction to be sure, and then most people try to have a séance, compounding the problem."

We asked if her doctorate was real. She replied by taking off her prosthetic arm and beating us

half to death with it.

In that near-death experience however, the Grim Reaper came and told us her doctorate was real because she made it before we snapped back into consciousness.

We also gained a new appreciation for many PLA struggles, such as the paperwork one must fill out before the Grim Reaper allows you return from the afterworld, made more tedious by ghost mice who eat said ghost papers, forcing you to begin the whole process over again. (Sadly not all our staff filled them out in time and so we lost... I forgot what her name was, the one with the hair, and the face with the like... you know? That one.)

Since space in the new dorms is limited, the NMC board decided to introduce a contest for PLAs; winners would be moved into the new luxurious rooms. However, the ensuing "foot race" contest was not only an embarrassment, but also a huge social-blunder and considered highly insensitive. The PLAs involved have threatened to sue NMC for irrevocable harm and emotional damage, and have promised possible hauntings of campus staff and faculty.

David*, a PLA plaintiff A living in East Hall, will be represented by none other than lawyer and Founding Father Alexander Hamilton, who has gained massive popularity in the past few years through the popular, biographical musical "Hamilton," which he says is "More or less exactly how it happened, only I had an invisible pet dinosaur no one knew about, and my singing voice was slightly lower." Hamilton says he will stop at nothing to seek justice for the wrongly treated PLAs.

As for the housing situation, the PLA community at NMC says they can wait until the case is resolved, and a personal parking lot would be nice.

* Names changed upon request to remain anonymous to avoid séances

Little Trouble in Big Pharma

Karina Smirnov
Trained Monkey

Scandal broke today as Dr. Walter Miranda, co-founder and self-proclaimed “HE-E.O.” of the pharmaceutical firm North American Environmental (NAE), a company that prides itself on its successful all-natural and organic over-the-counter male enhancement drug SmartZ, faces harassment charges from the city of Boston. As of yet, Miranda still holds his position on the company’s board despite allegations, though a memo from NAE was released to the public earlier this month promising his dismissal from the corporation.

For almost a decade Miranda has been an inspiration to male-supremacist groups for his laid-back demeanor, male-skewing ads and activism against feminist male enhancement bans in a backlash against birth control advocates.

According to sources, NAE’s former director of public relations Robert Floyd McCloud filed a sexual harassment claim in Feb. with the Boston City Commission on Human Rights.

The claim stated that Miranda used lewd language regarding sex and repeatedly expressed an “obsession” over his genitals, persisting to touch them without his consent even after he was told to stop. Among these allegations, McCloud expressed his concern that monetary raises were often “rare, and only reserved to women” with “barely any equal treatment based on gender.”

Miranda negates McCloud’s claims that he conducted a workplace containing a “cadence of shame with a dictator holding a retaliatory and aggressive demeanor.” McCloud’s accusations include, but are not limited to, conducting Skype meetings on the toilet, body-shaming staff who had “Dad Bods”, sharing explicit details about his sex life with staff, screaming homophobic slurs at LGBTQ+ male staff and transgender employees, as well as giving only one week paternal leave. Miranda intends to fight all allegations, but based on evidence, it may be an uphill battle.

They Can Take Our Spaces but They Can Never Take Our Freedom

BeepBeep Parking Warrior
Trained Monkey

It’s a typical day at NMC, and the 23rd morning in a row that I’ve channeled repressed emotions from other aspects of my life into rage over the lost battle for a reasonable parking spot. I lower my head in defeat, no longer ashamed of the tears that fall silently onto the steering wheel before I headbutt it rhythmically, producing the “Tune of Parking Pain and Peril.” The tune is defined by an impassioned series of seven honks and two monotone screeches, communicating to all other motor players of the parking game that I am, once again, forced to maneuver my despair and 2002 Subaru Outback to the rear of the Cherry Lot.

My life used to be different. I used to have innovative parking options, diverse opportunities spread throughout the campus lots that passed as a parking victory, got me to class on time, and received campus-wide respect from my NMC counterparts. Recognizing the unjust parking environment in my first few weeks at NMC in Fall 2015, I turned my forlorn frustration into determination, and worked hard to “become” the NMC Employee of the Semester.

One of the parking spots closest to the library in Cedar Lot, arguably home to the most fought-over parking spaces (although the Aspen Lot is also full of tension) was designated to the NMC Employee of the Semester with a small sign. A green Subaru Outback parked there frequently, possibly owned by the actual employee of the semester. However, due

to dire circumstances, I began to take on the role. Some would say my actions at this time were immoral and disrespectful to the owner of the green Subaru Outback, but I disagree fervently. Such comments were just feeble excuses ignoring the bigger problem of unjust societal parking standards.

The next semester, coincidentally, the employee of the month sign had been removed. I resorted to parking in a handicap spot in the Aspen Lot on days I was running ridiculously late. Realizing how ethically horrendous it was for an able-bodied person to do such a thing, I abandoned the handicap spot and returned to manipulating the institution of NMC as a whole.

Putting up with the injustices of NMC’s parking system but refusing to be defeated, I laid low for a time in the Cherry Lot, promising to only maneuver around the parking issue in ways respectful to others. I did just that in the Conifer Lot, located directly in front of West Hall. The lot is reserved for visitor parking, the only condition being that no NMC decal sticker can be found in the bottom left corner of the car’s windshield.

Noticing that no large supply of visitors existed at all times to keep the lot company, I, a pliable member of the human species, became an impassioned, loyal visitor of the lot. Very few found this wrong—all recognized my dedicated creativity and chronic late issue which justified my risky behaviors. In the midst of my new routine however, workers quickly swarmed Conifer Lot and installed a gate, rising to allow entrance only for visitors with some magical code unknown to students. Enraged (but also secretly excited to have something to bitch

and cast blame about again), I returned to the Cherry Lot.

Eager to know how the issue has affected others, I befriended NMC sophomore Fred Hall, who, even without a chronic late problem, has also experienced parking discrimination. In a soft, serious voice threatened by sobs, Hall admitted to being at a disadvantage, since many students and teachers continuously arrive early in the morning and repeatedly claim luxury parking. He also reasoned that the people who stay on campus all day should park in the back lots since they only have to go to their car twice.

Doing well now, with warmer weather for long walks, extra time before classes, and the discovery of the hidden Tamarack Lot, Hall still recalls several traumatizing parking experiences. “Once my psychology teacher from my first semester beeped at me and I felt really awkward because I almost backed into him,” he told me, tears falling from his eyes. Hardened by the many parking injustices he has endured, Hall supports implementing a parking spot lottery at the beginning of each semester.

So here I sit, once again in the back of the Cherry Lot, punished repeatedly for my innovative parking, one palm pressed down permanently on my horn to signal war.

And as I see the worn-out walk of my fellow students and faculty from far away lots, I can hear the faint thrum of the “Tune of Parking Pain and Peril” in the distance, recognizing the melancholy cry of their cars all too well.



TROPICAL SUNRISE COMIX PRESENTS... "NO TIME TO LUMBERSLACK WHEN YOU'RE A LUMBERJACK!"



STORY BY JOE CURTIS
ART BY BEN BRADSHAW.



BB
-2017-

Fly Me to the Moon

Study abroad opportunity goes universal

Billy O. Naire
Trained Monkey

Getting ahead in today’s workplace isn’t just about getting good grades. While that’s important for success, it’s equally important to have real experiences with the world beyond your borders. “We need to create opportunities so that a student can acquire skills, have experiences, and truly examine and understand the values that other cultures have,” says Northwestern Michigan College President Tim Nelson. “We have a responsibility to make certain our learners are prepared for success in a global economy.”

NMC’s Global Awareness initiative has made it possible for students to explore the world beyond their borders, sending students to places such as Costa Rica, Ecuador, South Africa, China, and the United Kingdom. With so many fantastic opportunities, interest in the study abroad program is sky high and boundaries must be pushed to keep students interested. This summer, a few lucky students can expect to fly to the moon and swing among the stars as NMC introduces its new, week-long lunar expedition!

Since there are nearly endless possibilities for space expeditions, NMC narrowed their selection to the planetary bodies within Earth’s solar system. Pluto was considered, but since its demotion to dwarf planet, it was put on the chopping block. Most of the other planets would be either too hot

or too cold, posing a safety hazard for students. To protect students and minimize the potential for lawsuits, the moon was selected for its location within the “Goldilocks Zone”, the habitable area of our solar system.

This opportunity is open to all NMC students with an interest in going where no man has gone before—or, at least, where only twelve men have gone before. All expedition members must complete courses in Observational Astronomy (AST 100) and Planetary Astronomy (AST 109) prior to lift off. A comprehensive survival course is also required, in case of unfortunate events. Rest assured, safety precautions are in place to keep this from happening. No one wants to be stuck burning down their fuse up there alone.

Students will spend two days exploring the Kennedy Space Center before blasting off from Cape Canaveral Air Force Base in a SpaceX rocket. They may be flying to the moon, but these adventurers are still college students and flying in a used rocket is much cheaper than flying in a new one. With financial assistance from the Global Opportunities Fund, the \$150 million price tag is actually quite affordable. Along with transportation, this fee includes three pre-packed, freeze-dried meals per day, plus three snacks, and temporary housing in the form of solar-powered, pressurized domes. Drinking water will be recycled from, well, you know.

Students will have the chance to participate in many activities, including moon walking and space jumping, rover racing, anti-gravity golfing, swimming in the Sea of Tranquility, and generally having an out of this world experience. We suggest that students also pause and take a moment to stand in awe at the Earth rising out of the endless, dark expanse of space.

Since this is an educational experience, students will also have opportunities to explore the Apollo 11 historical site, gather rock and mineral samples, collect moon beams in a jar, conduct various experiments, and visit the dark side of the moon. Very little of the lunar surface has been explored, so you’re bound to discover something!

After a successful return trip, the Hagerty Center will host a moon landing party for the student astronauts to meet with fellow students and community members and share stories and lessons from their trip. Snacks will be served, including mini Milky Way chocolates, Mars Bars, Moon Pies, space ice cream, and various flavors of Tang.

If this trip is successful, NMC may consider sending a second expedition in the next few years. Space expeditions to Mars are still a few years away, but NMC is working to send students to the red planet very soon. To infinity and beyond!

Ash Lornne
Cooking Monkey

When I’m feeling motivated enough to spend a few minutes on making breakfast, this tasty crisped gluten recipe is my go-to staple. If you’re really hungry you can double it, and it also pairs well with coffee, eggs, and/or oatmeal.

Ingredients

- 1 slice bread
- butter or jam (optional)

Directions

1. Plug in toaster; rotate or slide control knob just below half (more or less to taste)
2. Prepare plate or paper towel, as well as either butter or jam and a butter knife (optional)
3. Insert bread slice into toaster slot and press lever
4. Remove crisped bread when toaster slot pops up; if using butter or jam, spread onto slice
5. Eat while warm for optimum flavor.

Crisped Gluten



Crisped Gluten Rave Reviews:

★★★★★
Betsy: “Now I want some toast.”

★★★★★
Winter: “YEAH, TOAST!”

★★★★
Jennifer: “I am now hungry”

★★★★
Rijacki: “Tasty!”

★★★★★
Amy: “Yeah, JAM!”

★★
Candis: “It looks like toast with jam. Severe lack of strawberry.”

★★★★
Kaya: “Home made bread fresh out of the oven is good with just butter or even nothing.”

★★★
Emily: “You should try baking your own bread too, so delicious with butter and jam when it’s fresh out of the oven.”

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Leelanau Conservancy, Program Manager
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To Stalk a Writer

Confessions of the grammatically inept

Entry 1

As I write this, I am concerned for my life. Perhaps it is just deep-seeded paranoia that accrues like a snowball over a lifetime. Perhaps it is just gas. But in my defense, this is not the fear one feels when going to an interview or meeting someone for a first date. It is a questionable fear, which in its wake leaves me bordering on insanity. It envelopes and smothers you, leaving you defenseless. It is the fear of being followed.

It began as a whisper, a shuffle, a faint click, a motion in the corner of your eye. But when I turned, nothing was there. It continues to follow me: a shuffle outside the window, a breathy sigh as I walk to my next class, a ‘click click’ as I go into work, a slight groan as I lock the bathroom door. But over time it is more like a waking dream than a reality. I cannot find the source, no matter how hard I try.

I am writing you, dear friend, in case the source finds me first. In case my certifiable mind is, in fact, a sane one, and someone—or something—is hunting me.

Entry 2

Much of the fear has subsided and been replaced by curiosity. What or who would take such an interest in my mundane life, the little insignificant movements throughout my day which culminating into one big boring existence. I am not a movie star, I am not a politician, I am not even prom queen. Other than my amazing ass, there is little that is stalk-worthy about me. Why go through the trouble?

This question haunts me.



Entry 3

It seems it is not my ass that interests my fanatic shadow, but my words. Lately, strange packages have appeared on my doorstep. On the front, in cut-out magazine letters, the words “you’re welcome” read like disjointed stamps. Inside, neatly stacked and paper-clipped, are my words, in written form, from the last five to ten years—with a compulsive twist. Each ivory page has been sliced into with a bright red marker. Punctuation, like little stabs marks across the sheet, splatter in every direction. It is a grammatical slaughter, inappropriate for children over the age of 13. This editorial Dr. Frankenstein has turned my carefully selected copy into typographical monstrosities. What once was eloquent is now a run-on sentence. Extravagant semi-colons have become dusty old yawn-worthy periods. Imposing em dashes now litter the page, and commas have reproduced so dramatically they threaten to steal the spotlight.

In the bottom of the box, a thesaurus was passive-aggressively placed.

I do not like this person.

Entry 4

I love this person. Apparently editing can go a long way. Not only have my average grades transformed into excellent ones, but my essays are award-winning, my articles have been published on the most prestigious blogs, and my screenplay about a copy editor who stalks a writer has been opted for a YouTube channel.

I have yet to meet my mysterious avenger of grammar, but if you ever emerge from the shadows, I invite you for some tea and, hopefully, engaging conversation. I may even let you edit my wedding vows.

