

# The Northern News

Student Newspaper • Northern Michigan University

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# Eldon And St. Valentine

Yesterday was Valentine's Day, a day on which most people take a little time to remember fondly events which took place in their past on this day for lovers. I choose to remember those unfortunate men who lined up in a garage in Chicago to be terminated. I, like the coward, have died a thousand deaths on Valentine's Day.

Not that I was the only one. Remember grade school? Your mother made you sit up the night before and write a card for every kid in the class, but that wasn't bad enough. You had a party in school and exchanged cards, and not only did you have to give a card to those rotten kids, but Sally, who wore long underwear under her dresses, and Wally, who picked his nose during recess, gave you cards, and remember how hard it was to thank them.

A few years later, when all the other kids were more or less indifferent, and your mother still made you give a card to everyone in

class, and you'd throw away most of them on the way to school. Remember fellas? When you did that, threw away all the boys cards in your stack, because you couldn't take the giggling? and it didn't do any good, because you got a card from the class sissy?

KEN AMO

Girls, remember when you sent Him a card, and you know he showed it to Her? Remember how you planned for days ahead the way it would be when Moose got your card and suddenly realized not only that you were a girl, but that you were a pretty girl? And you wore a new dress, and Moose read the card, and punched you on the shoulder, and said, "Ya Mother make ya do it?" And you had to punch him back.

Nothing ever seemed to go right for me on Valentine's Day. Most people have a bad one once in a while, but I had one every year. In

grade school, when I hated girls, they sent me Valentine cards with notes about my curly eyelashes, just to see me blush. And the class sissy, a pudgy lad who didn't dare defy his parents named Eldon, sent me a card every year, and delivered it personally, during the party.

Fortunately, I thought, all that no longer happened to me after I was eleven or twelve. But at that time it was occurring to me that girls weren't all that bad, and it was painful to be the only kid in the class who didn't get a card. Actually, that never happened to me. Eldon always sent me a card, to this day he sends me cards, and he's still a sissy. And although I'd never send any cards, because I wasn't going to send one to someone who didn't send one to me, and look like a fool, I got cards anyway. Usually from the tallest girl in class, who threatened mayhem if I didn't carry her books home, a mile and a half, and she had twenty-seven pounds of them.

The one time I got a card from Her, the love of my life, I was so overwhelmed I was speechless for three days, and she mistook it for indifference, and sought comfort holding the sweaty hand of Luther, who never sent anyone a card because he couldn't spell his name. In high school, when status was so important, I used to spend hours carefully signing cards I sent myself, and then pretended to "find" them in my desk.

Once I sent a card to Her, the love of my life, (not the same one as above, she changed every week or so) and, of course, I didn't have the courage to sign it. She took one look at the elaborate, seventy-five-cent special I had spent hours picking out, and wrote a feverish note in response, which she sent to a guy named Doud, who played football, and to this day is unaware that the first, last and only love he ever knew was the direct result of my seventy-five-cent special.

Now that I am all grown up and twenty two years old, I can look back at those times and chuckle. I don't need to worry any more. I have to go now. I'm expecting a card from Eldon; I can't understand why it's late, he never forgot me before.

## Impressions Count

Of the circumstances surrounding the events of last December 17 and 18 we can be at least sure:

- That there was a sit-in by approximately 70 black students in the Dean of Students' office for a duration of 19 hours and that the sit-in was sparked by an All-University Student Judiciary vote to suspend a black student for an alleged dormitory misconduct.

- That during approximately the last 45 minutes of the sit-in Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Allan Niemi was inside the suite of offices and that attempts to communicate with him by Northern Michigan University President John X. Jamrich were thwarted by those occupying the offices.

- That at the conclusion of the sit-in the offices were found to be in a general mess with \$265 in damages and with \$382 worth of materials missing.

Yet, while we can state positively and categorically that these things did occur on the days of December 17 and 18, and that these things did significantly disrupt the normal functioning of the University, and that those responsible should be held to account for their actions, this week there still remains an uncertainty as to who is guilty of what.

If one is to believe the testimony of NMU history professor Dr. Robert McClellan and the collaborative testimony of Dr. David Meneghel (of the Speech Department), Dr. John Watanen (of the English Department) and that of black student Vernon Smalls, President Jamrich had clearly given the impression that the black students could remain in the Dean of Students' office until the Student-Faculty Judiciary had made a decision on the Charles Griffis case. To further support his contention, Dr. McClellan claimed that President Jamrich, in a late evening visit to the Dean of Students' office, did in no way request to leave. Consequently, Dr. McClellan said, the black students were under the impression that they could remain in the office suite.

If, on the other hand, one is to believe a statement by President Jamrich made in the form of a letter to the Student-Faculty Judiciary and presented in evidence by Dr. Lowell Kafer, Dean of Students, and if one is to believe the testimony of Dr. Kafer and Vice President Niemi, then "at no time" did the President or anyone else give permission to the black students to remain in the Dean's Office.

Actually, the "middle-of-the-road" route through the above "maze" seems to be most logical. Dr. Jamrich may have "at no time" given the black students permission to stay in the office, while at the same time, through failure to give forceful expression to his intentions, literally inviting them to remain in the office!

It's easy for Dr. Jamrich to say (as he did in Dr. Kafer's letter), that he did not want the blacks to remain in the office. But, unfortunately for the administration, it's the impression given at the time of the "fact" that is important in a court of law or anywhere else where legal questions are resolved.

If sophistication is to be the order of the day within the legal structures of Northern Michigan University, the administration had better learn to deal with such sophistication. In the University tribunal, as in the court of law, one would do well to remember that the burden of proof is on the accuser, not the accused.

## Press Not Informers

Responding in his commentary to the recent actions of the federal government in subpoenaing unused television news film, ABC News commentator Frank Reynolds asserted Wednesday, February 4, on the "ABC Evening News with Frank Reynolds and Howard K. Smith" "the press of this country cannot discharge its obligation to inform the people of the country... and that's the only obligation we have... if our reporters are to become government informers."

"The Constitution imposes a clear wall between the government—local, state and federal—and the press.

"From time to time, the government tries to breach the wall, and such an attempt is underway right now.

"It must be turned back, for the press is not an arm of a prosecutor or a grand jury. It is not an agency whose purpose is to help the government. It is much more an agency whose purpose is to watch the government and inform the people of the country about its actions. The press is not, repeat not, obliged to inform any area of the government about the actions of its citizens, but that is precisely what some federal attorneys are now trying to force the press to do.

"This is not in any way a question of preserving secrecy; it is a way of providing information. If the sources of information are afraid to talk to newsmen, it is not the newsmen who will suffer. It is the public who will be denied information.

"We have many faults. We're aware of them and are trying to correct them. But the press of this country cannot discharge its obligation to inform the people of the country... and that's the only obligation we have... if our reporters are to become government informers."



## Editor's Mail

Only signed letters will be accepted, but names will be withheld for adequate reasons upon request. Letters should not exceed 300 words.

### BSA

To The NEWS:

To the puppet administration... When will you become men again. For those of you who are not aware you have been given incorrect information by your president, mislead, and misconstrued, and robbed of your humanity. Incorrect information can turn into a disease that can pollute the community and one day you will walk across campus and see such a person directing traffic with his picture plastered all over newspapers, sidewalks, letters, cars, trees and you will wonder what happened to America.

Black Student Association

### Williams

To The NEWS:

In the past there has been a lot of talk about what black students are up to and why they take extra effort to get their points across. I say to you this information has been kept from you not by the

black students but by the administration.

We have made endless attempts to get the information to you, the students of NMU, through written material, namely a black newspaper, to inform you of our point of view... what's going on on campus... student rights and injustices... and human rights. Each time they tell that the budget won't allow this—we don't have any money. Meanwhile students are having conflicts on all fronts because of no communications, no information, or misinformation.

Blacks are tired of the ridicule that's coming down on campus, the shakey cooling off programs and double crosses.

We are through with having secret meetings with the administration because of double crosses and lies. It's time the students know what is going on around here. Yea, it is time we had a symposium or debate with all the university once in the fieldhouse with Jamrich and the administration and students, where

the community can dig out what the real deal really is and what is going on around here. Who can answer what is going on on NMU's campus without communications.

Students, I will grant you that the university will not let you have this opportunity. Freedom of speech and expression, they won't let it happen, I guarantee it. What's more, if they do, I personally will sing my Sherry armour from the Mackinac Bridge.

It would be like the execution of the black student going on every night in the University Center. If they are asked for these forums, here's what will happen. The Administration will go in a huddle with the Student Government officials and make a new law that suits them, regardless of the students' feel. Like the one on open trial. (Check it out.) The student charged of crimes which could not be proven asked for open trials along with 2500 students and some faculty on a petition circulated by