

# The Northern News

Student Newspaper • Northern Michigan University

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The Northern News is a free and editorially independent student newspaper. Editorials express the unanimous opinion of the editorial board of the Northern News unless otherwise indicated. Final responsibility for all news and editorial content rests with the editor-in-chief.



Mark Worth

## White Boys Ignorant

They say that history repeats itself, and it seems to have done so at Northern recently. Although I am in Green Bay, doing my student teaching, (and that is why this column has not appeared for a few weeks,) I have a good idea of what might be going on around the campus this time of year.

Just before the end of the Fall Semester, a number of black students were involved in a sit-in in some of the University offices in Kaye Hall. Afterwards, the University alleged that damage had been done to school property during the time the students occupied the offices.

Exactly what really happened, I

am not sure. I have talked to some people who were there and say that the black students did do the damage. Other friends of mine, who were also there, said that no such things occurred. And the Northern News ran a front page picture of papers scattered around an office—that was all I saw of what was supposed to be \$500 worth of damage. Whatever happened in those offices, the reaction of the white students was quick, predictable, and showed a clearly ignorant prejudice.

At the very next basketball game the whites decided that the black students were going to have a sit-in. None was planned by the blacks, of course, but the whites all believed

their own rumors and half-truths. The pledges of one of our noble Greek (white) fraternities were instructed to bring eggs and tomatoes to throw at the imaginary demonstrators. The same "brotherhood" (I hesitate to use the term) did the very same thing last year for another imaginary sit-in. Both years, the whites started the rumors and believed them.

I said that the white boys' reaction was predictable because we cannot only look to last year's racial tensions, but to almost any period in American history to discover that the majority of racial disturbances in the United States were begun by whites and aimed at their black brothers. This fact may upset some white people, but it is nothing new to the Black.

When we think of the damage in the University offices, we should think of the 1866 race riot in Memphis where 46 innocent blacks were murdered. Or think of the New Orleans riot of the same year in which 35 black men, women and children died. The next year the Ku Klux Klan was founded, an organization dedicated to murder, theft, and rape. The murders occurred every year. In 1900 there were 115 blacks lynched in the good old USA. In 1901 there were 130 blacks lynched. There were another 92 the next year. There were another 99 the next. The record goes on and on, and the slaughter was fantastic. At one point, there was a lynching every day in the South.

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## Greek Pullout

Once again this year, Northern Michigan University's winter carnival week has been nearly spoiled by the last-minute withdrawal of the Inter-Fraternity Council from competition. We say "nearly" because we believe that the week has gone well, primarily due to the dedicated efforts of FunFest planners.

We also must point out here that many individual Greeks are very disturbed by the IFC's actions of the past week, though they have no power to over-rule that organization's decisions.

It seemed at first that the biggest "bone of contention" was the system of awarding points in sporting events planned for the FunFest Week. But when it came right down to the "nitty-gritty," IFC featherness seemed to be the biggest problem of all.

According to Director of Student Activities Miss Carol Huntoon, Greek men simply didn't want to compete against the residence halls because it would "destroy the Greek system" and, after all, "Greeks are unique." Also, according to Miss Huntoon, it seems that the residence halls now have so many benefits (open houses, recreation programs, etc.) that the Greeks are finding it difficult to attract pledges.

Our heart bleeds. Anyway, it seems that the FunFest Committee was actually willing for the sake of the week—to revise the point system and place the Greek men and women in separate categories from residence hall men and women. Yet, the IFC still voted to remain out of FunFest.

This week, the Northern News contacted IFC President Kevin Kiley and asked him why the IFC pulled out of FunFest, even after concessions were made. In a printed statement, Kiley said that "the issues go deeper" than a mere argument over the awarding of sporting event points.

The IFC, says Kiley, is upset over "the tight off-campus housing policy (which) does not allow for more fraternity houses" and the lack of support Greeks receive for their "positive programs." Under "positive programs," Kiley includes "homecoming, All-Events, Greek competition, athletic events, community-action programs (and) in general, student opportunities for growth and leisure."

Quite frankly, we are confused. We had always labored under the impression that homecoming and All-Events (i.e., FunFest) were ALL-UNIVERSITY activities and not the exclusive property of the Greeks. As far as we know, these activities do receive "support" (whatever Kiley means by that term). As for the other exclusively-Greek activities mentioned, we would observe that "support" for these activities should come from Greeks only. If such support is lacking, that seems to be a Greek problem.

In short, we're just not impressed by the IFC's excuses for pulling out of FunFest. The Greek system is in trouble all over the country primarily because of the "we're better" attitude it often manifests. Today's students don't buy such nonsense, and the NMU IFC had better realize this fact before it writes its own death certificate.

## Facts Missing

The decision of the Student-Faculty Judiciary to acquit those blacks charged with being involved in the December 19 sit-in has met with mixed reaction among the citizenry of Marquette. Predictably, the *Marquette Mirror*—the local weekly which has made a career of defaming NMU and the *Marquette Daily Mining Journal*—had plenty to say about the situation in last week's edition.

Had the *Mirror* stuck to the facts and based its editorial position thereon, we could hardly have objected to their having had an opinion different from ours. But, as we have learned to expect by now, the *Mirror* will not let itself be confused by the facts.

In a "front page editorial," the *Mirror* referred to the Student-Faculty Judiciary as a "kangaroo court" and "phony." The *Marquette Mining Journal* (which defended editorially the decisions of the S-F J) was referred to as "slaves (sic) of a state-wide corporation (Panax, Inc., which owns the *Journal*) that also controls the Board of Regents of Northern Michigan University..."

Of course, the *Mirror* never offered any factual information to support its allegation. It is also interesting to note that the *Mirror* never bothered to send a reporter or representative to the NMU campus to cover any event from the sit-in right on through to the final hearing before the Student-Faculty Judiciary.

If, as it claims editorially, the *Mirror* is the only paper with the interests of the citizens of Marquette at heart, then the people of Marquette are indeed poorly represented. While we have no particular stake in supporting the *Mining Journal*, it takes only the slightest observation to realize that the *Journal* is Marquette's only real, responsible newspaper.

The *Mirror* may delude itself into thinking otherwise, but we can't really believe that its readers are as gullible.

### FRANKLY SPEAKING by Phil Frank



"It's rated XX "approved for convicted sex criminals & people under 25 accompanied by their psychiatrist!"

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## 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.

### Dear Mirror

To the NEWS:  
An open letter to the *Marquette Mirror*.  
Gentlemen, I have observed the growth of your paper from its very outset, and it was with considerable interest that I read your recent front page editorial concerning the trial of the black students by the NMU Student-Faculty Judiciary, and the subsequent approval of the Court's action by the "local daily."

First of all, in your editorial you refer to the Student-Faculty Judiciary as "phony", and a "Kangaroo Court." In reference to the first charge, gentlemen, let me assure you that it was indeed the Student-Faculty Judiciary in actuality, and not any group of people posing as the S-F J. And in case you don't have a dictionary in your office, mine says this about "kangaroo court", "an unofficial group that acts as a court of law." Again let me assure you that the S-F J is an official court established by the university to deal with university problems, and does not pretend to be an arm of the government. You may not be aware of it, but the students involved are also being tried in Civil Court in regard to the damage incurred to university property.

Perhaps you didn't notice, or don't care, but in an editorial of approximately two hundred words you made five references to various internal organs. I can only say that I am both shocked and disgusted! If God wanted us to talk about our

internal organs, He would have put them on the outside of our bodies, where they could be seen, or at least made them more attractive. In the future I wish you would confine yourself to decent language in your editorials.

Now you claim to know people in the community who are so weak-willed they are forced by circumstance to both condone and encourage violence in the "guise of academic freedom and freedom of the press." I am a citizen of Marquette, and I've never met these people, but who am I to doubt the word of anyone who for years praised the merits of Third Street, and the Third Street Development Association, then quietly moved to South Front? I am against violence under any guise, and that includes "cracking down on the long-haired Hippie types", which sounds like a violent proposal to me.

As I said, I am a citizen of Marquette, and I and many of my friends, who are also citizens of Marquette, and pay taxes and vote, seriously wonder just what those interests are of ours, that you people claim to stand up for. It seems to me that your whole editorial was designed for one purpose, to enlist support for your paper. Could it be that you are having problems? I assume you are not connected socially with NMU because you don't like them, and not the reverse. But why is that more important? Could it be that you are the kind of people who would not print the truth because it would offend your friends, and that's why you are free to print the truth

about NMU, because you have no friends there?

In closing let me say that, yes, I have long hair, and we all know how you feel about long hair. Perhaps you are against it because it looks effeminate, or because it isn't sanitary. If that is the case, my wife begs to differ with you. But I wonder if the real reason you hate long hair is not that the people who wear it do so because they know anyone who is bigoted against long hair is probably bigoted about a number of things, and they wish to alienate themselves from the unwelcome, indeed, unwholesome, companionship of bigots?

Charly Marquette  
(Editor's Note: Name withheld upon writer's request.)

### 'Sad'

To The NEWS:

Four years ago when I was first attending this university I was impressed with the feeling of growth

and change on this campus. Things seemed to be alive and happening. The social life was more interesting. The basketball games were more exciting. The University Center dances were always crowded and above all people seemed to show interest.

My fondest memory of that year was All Events Week when students worked with pride and unity to build the many excellent snow statues and the sport events were jammed with screaming spectators. Also the Michigan College Snow

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