

WHITE PINE PICKLE

Because our opinions are the best opinions.



THAR SHE BLOWS!
NMC's whaling program — pg. 8



Cover by Prometheus

Photo by Ash Lornne

NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE
WHITE PINE PRESS

MASTER OF CEREMONIES
GRAMMAR STÜRMFEUHRER
HIGH FLIER

Chris P. Bacon
Ash Lornne
Prometheus

THOUGHT LEADERS

Antenna Loud
Auntie J
Kim Possible
Mini Moon
Wilhelm Walters

OVERTIRED, UNDERPAID
CUT'N' PASTE

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The *White Pine Press*
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Food Cult

No, we're not a cult, Sharon

Lingo Stronk Food Cult is alive. Thought Leader Or dead. Whatever begets your gastrointestinal lust.

We are everywhere and nowhere all at once. Meet us in the circle of hooded bodies past the Beckett building. You will smell rutabaga and kiwis and possibly see the eviscerated stomach of a bowl of fettuccine alfredo splayed on a sidewalk. Warning: it's okay. We are always okay. We have our stomachs and our hearts and our tongues and the camaraderie of lost souls gathered in the communion of longing and myriad tastes.

Sometimes, Jerry brings us a nice casserole, and we are enlightened. Other nights, we gather around a circular table at The Parlour in



Lingo Stronk invites students to become enlightened at Pine Palooza 2017.

downtown Traverse City (because the Applebee's doesn't have good circular tables for us to lock hands around), and we are enlightened. Every second Tuesday of the month Suzy sanctions her apartment for the sweet, non-ritualistic stench of braised lamb shanks and homemade mashed potatoes, and, as always, we are enlightened.

If you want to join Food Cult (AKA the Higher Order Food Society of NMC, or Alttoppslukende Kjøtt og Grønnsaker Fartøy—we have many cool, hip names), contact Lingo “Fleshgod Sandwich Philanthropist” Stronk at strongl@mail.nmc.edu for more scrumptious details and upcoming student events!

Wonderful Products at the Farbonaro Store

Mini Moon
Thought Leader

Disposable Paper Phone

This product has taken the world by storm. The Disposable Paper Phone is perfect for emergencies when you don't have your own phone with you. It is equipped with a special microchip and microwires, allowing it to function like a regular phone. To place a phone call, punch the desired numbers on the Paper Phone's keypad. When you need to text, flip the Paper Phone over and use a pen to outline the number box, connecting it to the microchip. Make sure that your pen does not leave the paper until the outline is complete. Write your message, and then fold the phone in half, positioning the microchip over the text. Press the fold down firmly to send the text to its recipient.

I always have one in my purse. It was my lifesaver last week when I was at class and had left my phone at home on the charger. Without my Disposable Paper Phone, I never would have been able to order Jimmy John's and would have starved to death!

Meteor Rock Pets

If you've always wanted an exotic pet from a faraway cosmos, look no further than the meteor shower display in Farbonaro's pet aisle. These rocks expand and become soft when placed in water, and then the meteor cracks open to reveal a tiny animal. Some of the unique animals include Space Crabs and Galaxy Kittens.

Just yesterday, I picked one up and now have a white and yellow kitten. I named her Nova and she sleeps on my bed all night.

Moldable Glass

Make your own glass marble, hourglass, or test tubes with Moldable Glass. A fun DIY for all ages, Moldable Glass comes in strips similar to penny candy and can be found in Farbonaro Stores everywhere. Simply roll the glass in your fingers to create a marble. To make an hourglass, blow the marble into a tube and then twist the middle to create an hourglass shape—or forget the twist to create a test tube.

I used Moldable Glass to create an hourglass at home, which is proudly displayed in my kitchen.



Auto-Arranger Closet

When you cannot figure out how to make your clothes into a nice outfit, the Auto-Arranger Closet puts together an outfit for you. Simply put your garments inside, close the door, and then input the combination indicated on the instructions. The Auto-Arranger Closet from Farbonaro Store puts your clothes into a perfect ensemble.

This Closet is perfect for the days I'm running behind and need a quick killer outfit. I depend on it for my chic looks at least twice a week.

Portal Press

Have a coffee stain from lunch but don't have time to wash your shirt? Use the Portal Press! This handy, easy-to-use contraption, found at your local Farbonaro store, cleans your clothes without you even taking them off. Just stand inside the Portal Press frame while it instantly cleans and presses your clothes.

I am in love with this thing! I have one in my bedroom, bathroom, and downstairs coat closet.

Instant Origami Spray

Want to make some cool paper art for your next party but don't have the time to learn how? Purchase the Instant Origami Spray. This easy-to-use spray creates perfect origami out of ordinary tissues (although Kleenex brand tissues are proven to work the best). First, spray the Instant Origami on a Kleenex, next, flop the Kleenex in the air and voila! The origami shape appears. The shape will vary depending on how much you flop it. The more you flop, the more complex the shape. This product is great for special events such as weddings, birthday parties, and baby showers. You can buy it for \$15 in the paper products aisle of the Farbonaro Store.

This past August I helped set up a retirement party for a friend. We used the Instant Origami Spray to make the swan centerpieces.

Be sure and pick up these amazing products at your local Farbonaro Store, but act quickly before they sell out!

Tourists File Class Action Lawsuit

Wilhelm Walters
Thought Leader

In a recent meeting of the Grand Traverse County Commissioners, one commissioner was allegedly caught using the term “Fudgie” behind closed doors during a conversation regarding the county’s new tourism initiatives. This was first reported by Jane Doe, a county employee whose family is originally from Ohio. She stated, “I am a pure Michigander. I’ve lived here over fifteen years. My parents come up to visit every summer. To hear them referred to as “Fudgies” in an official capacity... I thought that Traverse City was better than this.” When questioned, the commission denied any such incident.

Jane’s story is not the only one. Thousands of tourists have come forward with stories of their own. One tourist alleges that he has been specifically profiled by law enforcement. “I was just sitting eating my ice cream when I looked out the window to see a meter maid look at my plates and then slap a ticket on my car. I was clearly discriminated against for being out of state.” When asked for clarification he stated, “Of course I was double parked, how else would I protect my ride?”

In light of these allegations, a Class Action Lawsuit has been filed against the county. The plaintiffs, represented by the law firm of Johnson, Johnson, Nelson, and Johnson, accuse the county of:

- Government sanctioned hate speech and discrimination.
- Encouraging unfair prosecution of tourist drivers.
- Contributing to a culture of oppression against tourists.
- Exploiting the consumer habits of tourists.

Lead attorney John Johnson is optimistic. “We here at Johnson, Johnson, Nelson, and Johnson are proud to be representing the thousands of people affected by the disgusting prejudice of Grand Traverse County,” Johnson said in a statement to the press. “We intend to pursue this case to the full extent of the law. At this very moment, my colleagues are preparing a federal case that seeks to make tourists a protected class.” The court date for the class action lawsuit is currently set for April 23.

This follows recent similar lawsuits against the governments of Mackinac Island and Mackinaw City. These lawsuits have resulted in nearly \$3 million in reparations and \$8 million in punitive fines. Residents of both areas are calling for early elections.

The legal precedent behind these cases goes back to 2012, when a diner in St. Ignace was charged with discrimination after listing separate prices on their menu for locals and “trolls”,



a derogatory term used for those who live south of the bridge. A federal court convicted the owners in 2013, and their assets were sold, with the profits split among the victims as reparation. This ruling was cited in both the Mackinac Island and Mackinaw City cases, and it will likely play a significant part in the suit against Grand Traverse County. The *White Pine Pickle* will be covering this suit closely over the coming months.

Local Art Enthusiast Criticizes Museum Replicas

The Kingsley resident grouses over the Dennos Museum’s “false advertising.”

Ash Lornne
Grammar Stürmfehrer

The Dennos Museum has glittered like gold this year as it exhibits a plethora of artwork from the roaming “Tutankhamun: ‘Wonderful Things’ from the Pharaoh’s Tomb” exhibit. But one Kingsley man is upset about what he asserts is false advertising by the museum.

“Those items aren’t even real—can you believe it?” exclaimed Hank Anumutt. “The website claimed that it would bring the ‘enigmatic, opulent age of 18th Dynasty Egypt’ to life for me, but these rip-offs fell short. I paid my \$6 admission, just like everyone else. I deserve quality.”

The Dennos Museum staff is baffled by the outrage, which is beginning to spread among community members. “I don’t know why anyone would think that mummies could actually come to life,” executive director Jene Genneman said. “I carefully curate our collection, ensuring that everything meets my criteria for the highest quality of the arts. These replicas meet this level of quality—the exhibit is well-worth the \$6 admission price.”

Anumutt is displeased with Genneman’s statement, however, and thinks that the museum should apologize to the community by hosting an Egyptian-themed dance party. The turn-out would be high, Anumutt believes, not unlike that of the annual Traverse City Zombie Run.

“A mummy dance party would tarnish our reputation,” Genneman sputtered, declining to comment any further on the matter.



Photo taken by Prometheus

Time for a Laker Dome?

Harry Truman Capote As everyone in Glen Lake Laker Land basks in the glow of both the women's and men's basketball teams' awesome March Madness runs and the strong 7-3 season the football team had last fall, can't you just hear the whispers already: Laker Dome? Just last summer the *Glen Arbor Sun* followed the discussions in June before the school board voted 6-1 in favor of the \$839,488 project to install an artificial surface on the football field that will have a life span of 8-10 years. But what then? And what about the other local problems a Laker Dome would solve?

Glen Lake is the only Leelanau county school that doesn't have a cool auditorium for musical and theater performances. OK, the Auditoria got some work done on the bleachers, but it's really just a dining room with a stage on one side and bleachers on the other. Imagine the performances that could be staged in the Laker Dome!

When a local group recently took over the Poor House Barn from the county, the *Leelanau Enterprise* encouraged the Glen Arbor Art Center and other like-minded organizations to consider making it into a music venue, like the Aten Place Barn performance space in Boyne Falls that recently closed after 23 years of music. That's a great idea! But a performance space that seats 8,000 would have the opportunity to pay for itself. (The Yooper Dome in Marquette at NMU cost \$23.9 million, so we've got to figure out how to pay for it.) Millions visit the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore every year. If you brought in a Lady Gaga, a Taylor Swift, a Clint Black, or even a performance of Hamilton, for \$150/ticket, there's your Astroturf right there! With money left over for the Glen Lake Drama Program to do a reprise of *Oliver* with Bill Dungjen

in the title role!

What other big-time events might be interested in the Laker Dome? Remember the wrestling stars Bobo Brazil, Man Mountain Cannon, Gorgeous George, and Haystack Calhoun? I spoke with promoter Liko Shawn "Vinny" Papparazzi in Paramus, New Jersey. He puts together shows for the WWE, WWE, BTW, WTF, all the big wrestling organizations. Would he want to bring his show to Laker Land? "In a hot-beat," he says. "I've always wanted to bring big-time wrestling to the Midwest. You know, closer to St. Louis, Kansas City, Omahaw. You gotta lotta Trump supporters out there. OK, I admit I got a lousy sense of geography, but that's neither here nor there. Just lemme know." Vinny is sure he could draw a crowd.

Another aspect of the Laker Dome is the opportunity for Ecotourism it brings. Remember this lead from the *Glen Arbor Sun* in 2014?

Mark Evans is nothing if not determined. The ecotourism guide and explorer has led expeditions deep into the wild to view grizzly bears in British Columbia and whales in Antarctica, and has developed canopy walks in the Australian outback. Evans, who was raised in South Africa and lives in Canada, now has his eyes set on Leelanau County's forests and the arboreal view of the Glen Lakes.

The ventilation windows in the top of the dome (45 meters high) could provide perfect "canopy walk" views out over Glen Lake, Lake Michigan, and the Manitous, just like the one that failed to gain approval in Kasson Township along Fritz Road. Once you've got your dome, how hard can it be to use the catwalk inside the cap for a scenic lookout tour?

And there's another angle: seasonal housing. Community

leader and owner of Cherry Republic, Bob Sutherland, is busy creating spaces to house his help during the hectic summer season. Housing in the area is so pricey that it's prohibitive for seasonal workers. I'll bet he'd be happy to buy all of the mats for the wrestling room next to the locker rooms in the Laker Dome if he could just use the space in summer (off-season for wrestling) as a place for the cherry workers to crash, shower, and hang out on the climbing wall. This is just a win-win!

Just like the Superior Dome in Marquette, the Laker Dome would be a multi-use facility. Just look at how many sports can happen there: "The dome features a retractable artificial turf carpet, the largest of its kind in the world. When extended, the turf can accommodate football, soccer and field hockey. Underneath the carpet is a synthetic playing surface that features three basketball/volleyball courts, two tennis courts and a 200-meter (660 ft) track. The carpet is winched in and out of place on a cushion of air. Retracting the turf carpet takes 30 minutes, with full setup taking approximately two hours."

This story is just scratching the surface. Once the Laker Dome is built, won't car shows, gun shows, RV shows, tractor pulls, political rallies, and the circus just be inevitable? It's a no-brainer! I've been trying to contact all of the important folks at Glen Lake School to get some quotes on this idea, but everybody is gone on spring break! The place is empty! So you'll just have to stay tuned.

This April Fools Day article was originally published in the Glen Arbor Sun.

NMC at MCCPA Conference



Photos taken by Ash Lornne



Adam Crocker's name tag was in fastidious attendance throughout the April 7 MCCPA journalism conference at Central Michigan University.



Adam rejoins his name tag mid-conference for lunch.

Reflections of a Procrastinator



Auntie J **Dear Diary,**

Thought Leader Today was exhaustingly endless. It was my study and cleaning day. After waking up around noon, I attempted to stretch and enjoyed a cup of coffee. I then remembered the laundry almost heaped to the ceiling in the laundry room. That will be intense, so I figured I might have more energy for it tomorrow. Instead, I grabbed some of my favorite Pop Tarts and listened to Pandora until I felt irritable from all the sugar.

Next I started my 10-page paper that is due in two days. While surfing the Internet for topic ideas, I got sidetracked looking at pictures of adorable puppies. I mean, they were so cute and I just couldn't stop looking at them.

Finally, my eyes needed a break from the screen, and it was time for lunch anyway. Nothing in the cupboards looked good except for nachos, and I really didn't feel like cooking raw hamburger. Instead, I ordered a pizza for delivery. I tried to wait for it in my room, but left after remembering there wasn't anywhere to sit among the piles I need to eventually organize. Maybe I'll do that tomorrow, along with the laundry. After the pizza man came with my incredibly cheesy pizza, I ate three slices and thought about what to do next next. It's important to accomplish a lot on my study day, so I determined I should spend more time on homework.

As I considered which subject to torture myself with first, I fell asleep. When I say asleep, I mean, I was out. I woke up around 6pm and felt very hungry. After grabbing some carrots from the fridge, I spent a little more time searching for topic

ideas for my paper. After a short while, I turned the TV on and caught the end of *Jeopardy!*. I figured the trivia on *Jeopardy!* would make me smarter, and my brain was exhausted by the end of the show. To relax I found an airing of "Back to the Future" and made myself some kettle corn to munch on.

The movie ended around 10pm, so I spent 20 minutes looking at an assignment from my online class. Finally, I climbed in bed, wiped out from such a long day. It's time to unwind. I'll write more tomorrow.

Dear Diary,

Today was very eventful. I had work today, but was really tired, so I kept snoozing the alarm because I just couldn't bring myself to wake up. I finally hoisted myself out of bed 15 minutes before my shift started. Needless to say, I was late.

Fortunately, there wasn't too much to do at work, so that made everything better, especially because it gave me the chance to think about everything I still need to accomplish for school. This evening, I really started to worry about my research paper that is due tomorrow. I still needed a topic, and by the end of my shift, I had decided to write about energy conservation and the art of postponing things. Experts call it "procrastination."

I wrote furiously through the evening and got most of it done. I'll finish editing it in the morning. I'll try not to think too much about it and just give myself a break. It's stressful, but I'm glad I didn't waste a bunch of time earlier, especially since I am efficient and can accomplish so much in such a short period of time!

Dear Diary,

Today was insane, but now that it's over, I can relax. I woke up later than I wanted to and scrambled to finish my paper. I felt frantic as I typed the last paragraph just as I was supposed to be leaving the house. Even though I was a half hour late to class, my teacher accepted my paper as being on time. That was a huge relief.

After school, I realized I still hadn't finished writing thank you notes from my surprise birthday party three months ago. I sat down and began writing profuse letters of thankfulness, then remembered that I planned to meet some friends for a pick-up game of basketball.

It took a while to locate my shorts, which I eventually found at the bottom of that horrible laundry pile. They were a bit musty, but I was just glad to have located them. There are a lot of clothes in that pile. I really need to take care of it soon.

While I was shooting some hoops, I told my friends about my life and how crazy the last few days had been. "Wow!" one of them exclaimed. "You're a real procrastinator! You might want to work on that." I think he is either jealous that he isn't as successful at energy conservation as I am, or thinks I should hone my skills more. I rather like the sound of the latter—it makes me feel accomplished.

Perhaps my life is a little more stressful at times, but it's definitely rewarding. I think everyone ought to try it.

Campus Quotes

“What did you do during spring break?”

Kim Possible
Thought Leader



“I walked up to a lemonade stand, and I said to the man, running the stand, “Hey! [bum, bum, bum] Got any grapes?”

Duck



“I’ve been waiting for an open spot in an exhibit at the Dennos. My application was rejected again.”

Payphone



“I lamented over the fact that U of M was not practicing with me enough. I was right.”

Basketball Hoop



“I was forgotten.”

Time



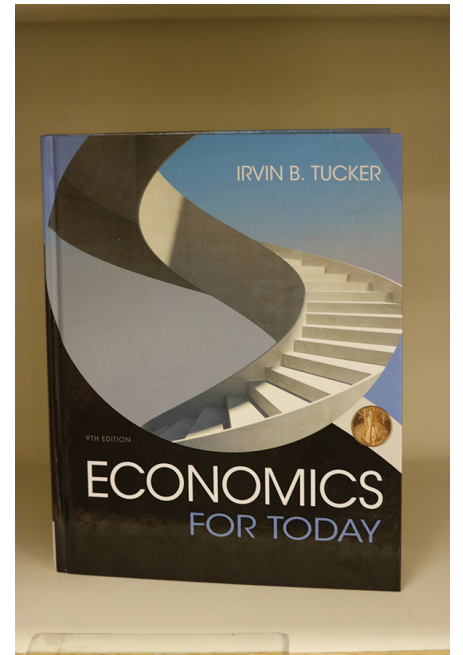
“I came to the realization that I might be staying here after graduation.”

NMC Bookstore Mannequin



“I came back. With a vengeance.”

Snow



“I never saw the light of day. I’m also fairly certain that all students ignored my financial advice.”

Macroeconomics Textbook

Whale of a Tale

Experiential Learning Makes a Splash

Chris P. Bacon Master of Ceremonies As winter fades and the ice recedes off the Great Lakes, Michigan residents and tourists alike are in for quite a treat: the return of the freshwater whales! Once regarded as sea monsters by early sailors, these majestic creatures (nicknamed Freshies by the locals) surface in large numbers every spring after their long winter hibernation. Beaches are packed with onlookers during this time of year hoping to witness the spectacle.

The Freshies have long been a part of Michigan’s natural and cultural history. Despite the angry arguments of whale deniers, fossil records from Pictured Rocks and Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshores, as well as regional Native American cultural artifacts, have confirmed their historic presence. Some of these artifacts are on display in the Inuit exhibit in the Dennon Museum Center, including a sculpture hewn from a whale vertebrae.

Recently, the Lake Michigan Whale Migration Station, located on Beaver Island, noticed a dramatic decrease in the Freshies’ population. This is primarily due to the presence of an invasive new aquatic species: the pickle whale.

These infamous creatures, known as Salties, were accidentally introduced into the Great Lakes when an ocean

freighter spilled a cargo container loaded with Ja-Ru Magic Grow Animals. The massive amount of freshwater caused these animals to grow to an enormous size as they migrated through the lakes. Salties are now outcompeting the Freshies for food and territory, and are simultaneously causing catastrophic flood damage to beachfront property due to massive water displacement.

Northwestern Michigan College is taking the initiative on solving this problem by offering a new experiential learning program in whaling. “As an institution, we seek to demonstrate collaborative and inventive approaches to real-world problems,” says NMC President Tim Nelson.

The college received \$1.2 million in funds from the International Whaling Commission to establish the program, which brings together students from many different fields of study, including construction, welding, culinary, and maritime. “I thought this was going to be a class about bemoaning my hectic life, so I was a bit surprised after the first day of class. However, I’ve grown to like the program and see a real future as a wailer—er, I mean, whaler,” said one student in with the program.

A portion of these funds are being used to construct an

authentic 18th century whaling ship (built with the help of NMC construction technology students), while the rest will be used to pay for the ship’s maintenance and other program expenditures. In addition to the involvement of construction technology students, welding students are responsible for producing the harpoons for the program. Culinary students have the difficult task of making a palatable meal from salted beef, hardtack, and boatloads of citrus fruits. Most importantly, maritime cadets are tasked with navigating the vessel as it sails on its maiden whaling expedition around the Great Lakes—tentatively set for May 2020. Meat from every pickle whale caught by the expedition will be donated to the NMC Barbecue.

“I believe this program will be a valuable addition to the maritime curriculum in particular,” commented Great Lakes Maritime Academy Superintendent Jerry Achenbach. “Our graduates are licensed to sail the Great Lakes and oceans. It seems only fitting that a familiarity with the historic maritime activity of whaling be included in this curriculum. We’re always eager to provide the cadets with experiential learning opportunities.”

Pothole BnB

Traverse City Residents Finds Use for Holes in the Road

Auntie J Thought Leader Two local entrepreneurs, brothers Grant and Jett Stone of Traverse City, have struck a pot of gold. Actually, they’ve struck something else—potholes—but the brothers say they have seen potential in the seemingly worthless craters in the road.

“We hit enough potholes in Grand Traverse County to realize that these spacious caverns are more than the dread of drivers in the springtime,” explains Grant. “We realized they are actually a goldmine.” Grant, 30, along with his younger brother, Jett, 28, have launched a new and innovative company, Pothole BnB.

Similar to Airbnb, this rapidly growing business takes the curses of Northern Michigan’s roads and turns them into beautiful short-term rentals. So far, they have seen a very positive response; many of the rentals are booked throughout the spring and summer months.

Renters have praised the innovation of the Stone family. “I can’t believe no one thought of this before!” said Cole Tarr of Grand Rapids. “My family enjoyed our stay, and we plan to come again next year. The location was incredible and prices are affordable. Nicest rental in TC!” Rocky Whole, another renter, added, “Pothole BnB is going to be the newest craze!”

Many local businesses are appreciative of the tourists that Pothole BnB attracts. “Pothole BnB has expanded and aided the tourist industry. This town should feel thankful for that,” stated a local business owner who wished to remain anonymous.

Still, there are others who feel that Pothole BnB is profiting from public property. MDOT expressed that the State of Michigan “deserves to benefit from this use of public roads. The rentals are on property that belongs to the State of Michigan. No one should profit off of something they don’t own.”

“The state may not like what we’re doing, but the state also has not thought it worthwhile enough to fix the roads,” Jett responded. “We are doing something useful here that shouldn’t be stopped. This company brings many tourists to the Traverse City area, and we believe that is important. If the state can prove it wants to fix its potholes for good, we’d consider giving up the business. As it is, we’re going to keep providing quality vacation rentals, and I don’t see any harm in that.” Since the state is unlikely to fund any serious fixturing of potholes, Jett believes that Pothole BnB is not in any jeopardy.

The company offers many luxurious options, including the Picturesque Pothole—the most newly renovated rental. This spacious lodging is in one of the nicest areas of Traverse City, perfect for those seeking a prime vacation spot. The Picturesque Pothole is on Munson Avenue, conveniently located directly across from West Bay.

Renters will appreciate the many attractive features this pothole offers. Joy Driver of Petoskey, one of the first renters of the Picturesque Pothole said, “This is the perfect rental! The stony interior is so incredibly comfortable, and the location is ideal. Being right in town is so optimal, plus it has many modern updates. This little hole in the road has it all!” Sandy Divot of Kalamazoo stated, “This is the most amazing rental I have ever seen! Great price, very clean and spacious. It has everything, including an ideal location and many luxurious amenities. An amazing rental for any family who is looking for comfort and plenty of space!”

In addition to the Picturesque Pothole, Pothole BnB offers several other waterfront rentals, many accommodating up to eight guests. The growing business hopes to continue expanding its horizons and wants to keep attracting eager and adventurous tourists. “Our renters are truly special,” said Grant. “They have an appreciation for innovation and see the value of Pothole BnB. They understand that they are a part of something bigger. We enjoy providing quality rental homes for these people, and we’re excited to see where the road continues to take us!”



Photo taken by Ash Lornne

This Pothole BnB location features an indoor hot tub and below-ground pool.

An Interview With the Commander-in-Chief

Wilhelm Walters
Thought Leader

WPP: So, Mr. President, before we began I just wanted to say that it's... it sure is something having you here to do an interview for the *White Pine Pickle*.

Trump: Sure is. Let me tell you, this interview is going to sell bigly. Believe me. Your gonna have to find a new press just to print all the copies you're gonna sell.

WPP: We actually give the paper out for free. Anyways, I'm curious and I'm sure our readers are as well, what made you decide to talk to us today?

Trump: Well, let me tell you. The deep state shills over at CNN have just been spreading lie after lie and I've gotta set the record straight. Sean. Hannity, that is. Great guy, has a show on Fox, you know him?

WPP: I know of him.

Trump: He and I go way back okay. Way back. Great guy, and the other day we're talking on the phone, and he looks at me and he says, "Mr. President, I can't do it alone. You have to find someone else to help get the facts out there." And I won this very county in a landslide.

WPP: You won by 53-percent.

Trump: I won, okay, I won. You know that.

WPP: I do know that. Before we get into any serious questions, I was wondering what you think about the area.

Trump: Great place. I mean wonderful, good people. Let me tell you something. I won, okay, I won. That's it. As I was being driven here from the airport I saw a Ford truck and let me tell you, real American and I mean real American. That's me, okay. Who knows what that truck would be if Crooked Hillary got elected.

WPP: So you are personally responsible

for people driving Fords?

Trump: Bigly. I mean, just look at the huge increases in their stock.

WPP: It just fell for three months straight.

Trump: Fake News!

WPP: Alright. So I wanted to know your thoughts about the...

Trump: Fake News! Crooked Hillary has bought the FBI. I won, okay, I won. There is no evidence of collusion. No collusion. Zero. Okay. And another thing, people keep saying that I fired Rex Tillerson because Putin told me to. Now, Putin's a real good guy, but let me tell you I fired Rex to drain the swamp. Real Americans know that.

WPP: ...about the steady fall in unemployment over the past several years. It currently sits at around 4.1-percent. Do you think this trend will continue throughout your term?

Trump: Absolutely. When I was your age, jobs, okay, there were jobs. Coal mining, factory work, real jobs for real Americans. Nowadays I look in the paper and all I see are computer jobs. People are asking, what is out there for real Americans? Nothing, okay, nothing. I will get those jobs back, believe me. Everybody is talking about it.

WPP: U.S. unemployment is the lowest it's been since 9/11. You believe that your policies will get it to go down even further?

Trump: 9/11 was a real tragedy, okay, real tragedy. That's why we need the wall, okay. You've got Saddam Hussein training these guys and sneaking them in through Mexico. And another thing, we've been over there almost twice as long as the Russian's were. People are saying that they're the bad guys but we've been there twice as long. That's math, okay. I'm very good with numbers. Everybody knows it. You call up anybody, ask them who's

good with numbers. And the Democrats have even proven it by them saying I'm not.

WPP: I... I don't know how to process that. But what do you think about the low unemployment?

Trump: That's what I promised. Real jobs for real Americans, okay? Obama couldn't do that.

WPP: The decline in unemployment started while he was in office.

Trump: Listen, I was on the phone with Bob Iger. They were going to open the new Disneyland in China but I said, "You can't do that Bob." Two months later the Star Wars in Florida opened. Real jobs for hard working Americans.

WPP: Alright, we asked our readers what they wanted to know, and one question in particular caught my eye. The question comes from a Mr. Liam Strong. He writes: "Mr.

President, over the past two decades we have been facing a crisis in this country. The Bush presidency saw the release of three Shrek films, while the Obama presidency only saw one film in eight years. My question is: do you intend to continue this dangerous trend of infrequent Shrek releases?"

Trump: See, this is why I won. The Democrats couldn't manage more than one cartoon in eight years. Sad, right? I am going to Make America Great Again. In my one year, we have already cut the taxes that have kept businesses from making the things people want. Believe me, big changes are gonna come from this. Americans are going to have more things and better things.

WPP: So the new tax laws will mean more Shrek?

Trump: That's right. And a whole lot of good stuff too, everybody's saying it.



Photos taken by Wilhelm Walters

Knock Knock Jokes:

Knock! Knock! Who's there? **Owls say** Owls say who? **Yes, they do.**
Knock! Knock! Who's there? **Kanga Kanga** who? **Actually, it's kangaroo.**
Knock! Knock! Who's there? **Opportunity** That's impossible. Opportunity doesn't come knocking twice!
Knock! Knock! Who's there? **Interrupting cow** Interruptin- **Mooooo!**
Knock! Knock! Who's there? **Says** Says who? **Says me, that's who!**

Corny Jokes:

Q: What does Earth say to tease the other planets? **A:** "You guys have no life."
Q: How does a tech guy drink coffee? **A:** He installs Java!
Q: Why was the cat disqualified from the game? **A:** It was a cheetah.
Q: Why did the invisible man turn down the job offer? **A:** Because he just couldn't see himself doing it.
Q: Why do people make bad chemistry jokes? **A:** Because all the good ones Argon.

Find more jokes at www.rd.com/jokes/

Want more?

Tap this button to load new material.



*Warning: May take a long time to load.

Pickle Surprise Word Search

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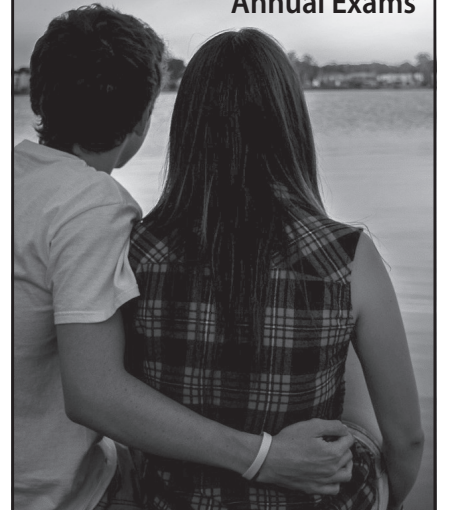
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Zodiac Awareness


Antenna Loud Thought Leader With mercury in retrograde, the month of April started in turmoil. Things will get better soon! There is a new moon in Aries mid-month that will incite the courage you have been missing. Maybe you will be compelled to finally stand up to your boss, or tell off your ex. The end of the month will bring a full moon in Scorpio, wherein massive transformations are bound to occur.

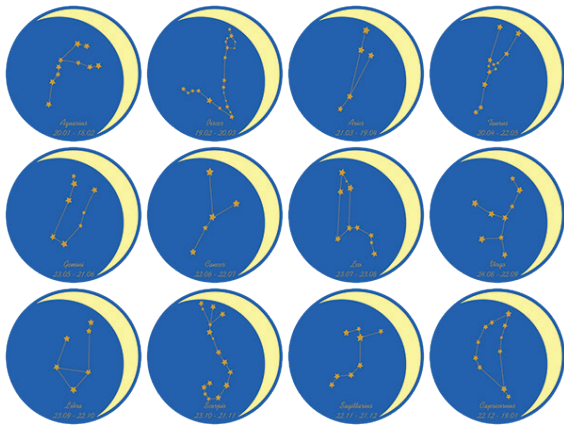
 Since communication is highly important to you, Mercury's retrograde particularly frustrates you. You're not bothered so much by the delays and forgetfulness, but you care too much. Take the time to avoid miscommunications. Misread body language, mysteriously vanishing text messages, and conversations that are conceived with good intentions but birth confusion can dampen your month.


 Your imagination and flexibility cause you to be unaffected by Mercury's retrograde. However, it will work its way back through the sector of your chart that rules finances and your sense of self-worth. Watch your wallet closely, and look through those clothes you stored away before winter because you might happen upon some forgotten cash in a coat pocket.


 April places you on the precipice of prime reflection relating to your ego. Contemplate the weight that it bears on your social life and long-term goals. Though you have a tendency to be over eager, little ram, now is not a wise time to rush. Think things through thoroughly. Consider seriously if small affronts are things you have to take personally. It is important to remember sometimes we are victims of circumstance, and not everything is about you! This full moon will be a great chance for you to challenge yourself and grow.


 Venus is in your sign at the start of the month. This is a great time to be mindful about commitment and boundaries. Hammer out a budget and really underline the important things to you in life. Beware of struggles with jealousy, obsession, and power that block your fulfillment. As the month reaches its median, your social life will soften. Creative juices flowing, your mood will connect. New moons often mark new beginnings. Wipe the slate clean and let go of emotional and psychic baggage. As Taurus's season unfolds, you will feel more outgoing. With this renewed energy, do something beneficial for yourself. Don't be afraid to ask for what you want.


 Mercury is in retrograde at the start of this month. You're more likely than normal to rekindle old connections and reunite old bonds. Dreams from your youth may resurface with a newfound and rejuvenated purpose. This isn't a good time to start new projects or conversations, but the perfect time to finish old ones. Mid-month, the new moon will bring you an electric energy when connecting with others. This new beginning will be an exciting time for you, full of potential for risk-taking and surprising news. As the month comes to a close, the full moon in Scorpio will allow you to rise like a phoenix from the ashes. Full moons are a great time for release. Be honest with yourself and insure you are investing your energy in the right things.





 The stereotypical assumption that Cancers are inherently homebodies who desire nothing more than to cook all day, scrapbook with their moms, have a good cry alone in the shower, and snuggle in their pajamas isn't entirely untrue. You are much deeper than this shallow summary of your personality, though, sweet crab. Traditionally, you avoid conflict and confrontation but you do have pincers and you are ready and willing to use them to protect yourself or those you love when necessary. As a tenacious and hardworking Cardinal sign, Aries's season will be full of working toward future goals. This month will also be a creative time as you draw from the energy of the stars.


 As April opens in fellow fire sign Aries, it will put you in an adventurous mood. It may be hard to take advantage of this due to the impact of Mercury's retrograde on your schedule. What is an ambitious Leo to do with so many opportunities, yet so much cosmic drama in the atmosphere? Patience is key, little lion. Good things come to those who wait.

 As a peacemaker, Mercury's retrograde will have you in a flurry. This confusing time will push you to clarify your love life. As we ease into the middle of the month, your planetary ruler Venus will bring harmony and catalyze a connection with Saturn. This will stabilize the energy in your deeper, more emotional relationships. Harmony will flow into your home life, embracing you with cozy cuddles from your pets and loved ones. This energy will also push you to talk about your feelings and make plans for the future. Take it slow and give yourself time to relax.

 As your planetary ruler is Mercury, its retrograde will find you reflecting on your past. This may feel out of place during Aries's season. The ram is all about pushing forward, not looking back. Mercury's retrograde is turning life upside-down: you're running into exes, flights will be delayed, and your alarm clock hasn't gone off (but don't worry—no one else's has, either!).

 Just like everyone else, Mercury's retrograde has you feeling amiss. You just took out the trash, yet its overflowing again. You just touched up your roots, yet they're peeking through. You just went to the dentist, but now a toothache sets in. During the beginning of the month, keep your phone off. Everyone else will be in an argumentative and aggressive mood, and you are not known for conflict resolution.

 Aries's season puts you in a flirty, playful, and creative mood due to the Sun activating your most fertile and celebratory sectors of your chart. Amid this energy, though, Mercury's retrograde will cause miscommunication and delays. This backward momentum will also find you running into former crushes. It will be an optimal time to slow down and reflect.

 What has come over you, Capricorn? Mercury's retrograde has you feeling particularly nostalgic. You'll be more interested in family photo albums than your biggest competitor's Instagram. Deep childhood connections from the past will surface. This time finds you rethinking boundaries with a focus on security. You'll reconsider living situations and contemplate if it's time for a change.

Spoiler-Filled Review: Translate's New Book is Action-Packed

Mini Moon Thought Leader Recently I came across a new book from the Derptropolis corporation, "Cloudy Meatballs", written by Google Translate. "Cloudy Meatballs" is a short chapter book that tells the story of a man and woman's rise to political power. It is a riveting tale filled with adventure, romance, and peril. The story begins in an old house in Paris that was covered with vineyards. In this house lived twelve little girls in two straight lines. In two straight lines they broke the bread, brushed their teeth, and went to bed. They left home at 9:30, in two straight lines, in the

rain or the sun. The youngest of them was Jill. She desired to someday become senator so she could aid the poor citizens of France. When Jill turned 20, she ran for office. At her inauguration, she spoke against the former senator for his negligence. "Friends, fellow citizens, peasants, I lend your ears! I have come to bury Chester, lest I praise him," Jill declared. Chester ordered his guards to seize her, but a man from the crowd ran forward and jumped in front of her. He raised his sword and whispered to the head guard, "My name is Ignacio Monty. You killed my father. Ready to die?" The guards fled because

they were a spineless lot. Jill and Ignacio took this opportunity to escape to the hidden heart of France, where they began stirring up a rebellion. They jumped onto a large rock and shouted together, "Will you fight? Yes, fight and you may die. Run, and you'll be living for at least a while. And living in your beds, you would be happy to trade ALL the days, for but one chance, to come back here and tell the enemies that they could take our lives, but never get our FREEDOMMM! Remember we are, that is, the land of the free and the house of the mighty!" The people

were so moved and inspired by this speech that they dropped their various jobs as bakers, egg collectors, and bacon sellers to join the rebellion. They gathered their weapons and stormed the capital. Along the way, Ignacio took Jill aside and made a confession. "Jill," he said, "I love you, you finish me." Jill smiled and told him, "I'm in love now, I'm a believer. If I try it, I can't leave you." Soon, the group reached the capital, overthrew the corrupt government, and lived happy afterwards.

Ash Lornne
Grammar Stürmfehrer

Sliced Dairy Recipe

Sometimes I crave a delicious 60-calorie meal that has minimum fuss. It took a few tries to master the steps to prepare Sliced Dairy, but it is totally worth the effort.

Step 1

Center your slice on a microwave-safe plate.



Step 2

Carefully tug the flap on the backside of the wrapper, until it peels loose.



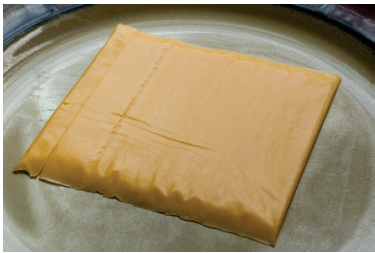
Step 3

Continue pulling gently, until the fleshy frontside of the slice is freed.



Step 4

Flip the slice over to finish removing the wrapper from the delicate backside.



Reviews of Sliced Dairy:

Vivian: "Say cheese!"



Candis: "One must take time and appreciate the ingredients to craft such a delicacy."



Rachel: "Now I gotta go write a poem about my sad, cheeseless life. I like the garnish, though."



Dave: "A true slice of American cooking!"



Step 5

Optionally garnish Sliced Dairy with a sprig of sage (as pictured) or mint.



The Best Weather Forecast EVER!!

Chris P. Bacon Master of Ceremonies There's a common saying that climate is what you expect, and weather is what you get. We all get a bit frustrated when the weather forecast isn't quite as expected. Fortunately, there's a way to get accurate, timely weather forecasts right outside your window.

It's called the weather rock! It consists of a rock, typically a small boulder, stationary in a central, visible location. The earliest known use of the weather rock dates back to 3000 BC with the construction of Stonehenge, the world's oldest known weather center.

Common interpretations of the weather rock's forecast are as follows:

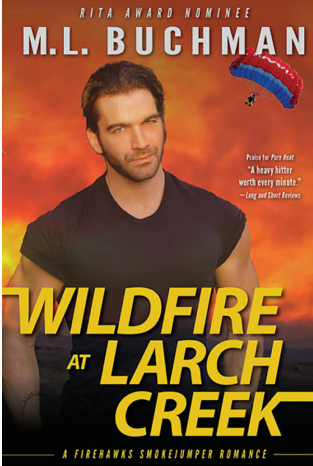
- If the rock is warm, it is warm outside.
- If the rock is cold, it is cold outside.
- If the rock is cool and wet, it's raining.
- If the rock is warm and dry, it's not raining.
- If the rock is difficult to see, it is foggy (or dark).
- If the rock is cold and white, it is snowing.
- If the rock is warm and white, you need to chase the birds away.
- If the rock is bouncing up and down, there is an earthquake.
- If the rock is missing, there is a tornado (or someone "borrowed" it)

For a more complex forecast, hang the rock from a tripod to determine wind speed and direction. Remember, proper maintenance is necessary to keep this finely-tuned device working properly. Don't take it for granite! With the proper care, you'll be getting the most accurate, up-to-the-minute weather forecasts for years to come.



Book ^{Shady} ^{Lady} Reviews
By the Cover

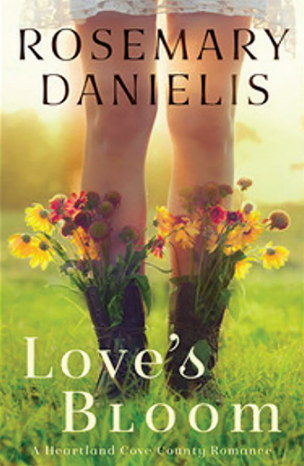
Ash Lornne According to Wikipedia, 1860s Grammar Stürmfehrer author George Eliot once said, “Don’t judge a book by its cover.” Had she seen some current-day book covers, she may have rescinded that sentiment.



“Wildfire at Larch Creek”
by M.L. Buchman

He looks a bit too smug for someone that just set a wildfire.

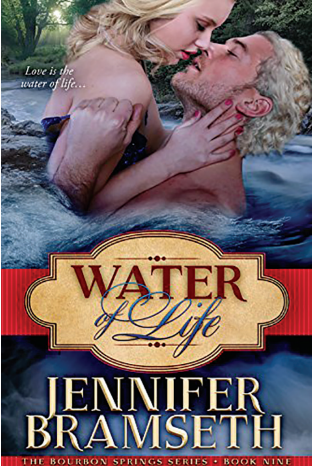
☆☆☆



“Love’s Bloom”
by Rosemary Danielis

Magic boots cause flowers to grow continuously from woman’s feet.

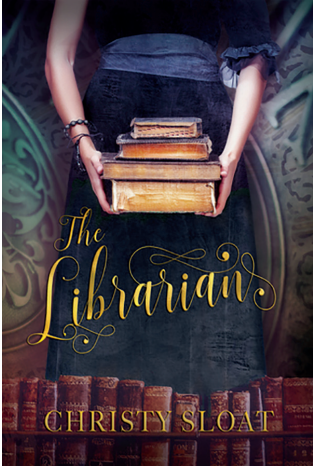
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“Water of Life”
by Jennifer Bramseth

Terrible photoshopping inflicts massive arm damage to the hero.

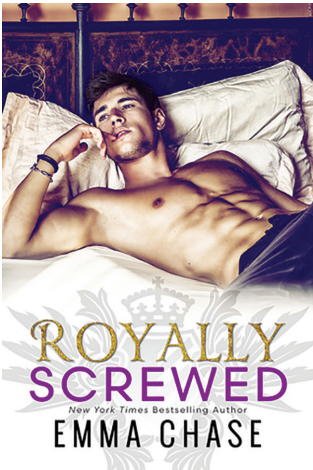
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“The Librarian”
by Christy Sloat

Unfortunate font choice pluralizes the title, but there’s books!

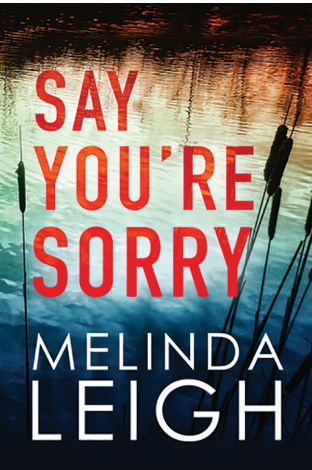
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“Royally Screwed”
by Emma Chase

Yes.

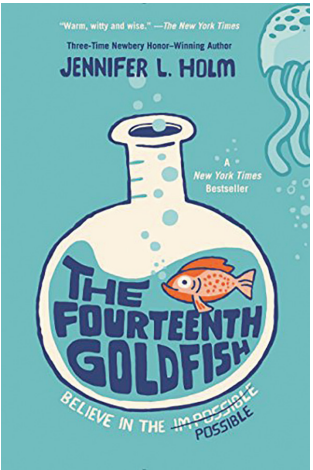
☆☆☆☆☆



“Say You’re Sorry”
by Melinda Leigh

No.

☆☆☆☆☆



“The Fourteenth Goldfish”
by Jennifer L. Holm

I forget what happened to the previous 13.

☆☆☆☆☆
☆☆☆☆☆
☆☆☆



“Let It Snow”
by Erica Ridley

Disappointing amount of snow.

-☆☆