Welcome Kiwi Blocks!

On March 24, we officially welcomed the Kiwi Blocks into the SLFP. Congratulations and welcome to:

Ben Ayotte
Lindsay Backes
Amber Baillargeon
Melanie Bell
Melissa Benner
Jeanine Blom
Kurt Brandly
Michelle Brittnacher
Emma Budros
Cassandra Buss
Joseph Clement
Meghan Connell
Alysa Diebolt
Sarah Dudley
Sarah Eberhard
Jessica Elbe
Denise Elizondo
Amanda Emerson
Paul Ewbank
Anna Ewing
Stephanie Felton
Laura Garlick
Nichole Goetzke
Molly Grala
Jennifer Grasch
Christopher Grigas
Sarah Harriger
Amy Helminen
Kirsten Hoklas
Mark Hopperstad
Jessica Huron
James Jones
Andrew Kandell
Jane Kreul
Lakin Lanich
Victoria Leonhardt
Andrew Mallo
Chelsea Martin
Lisa McCarthy
Danielle Miron
Jason Morgan
Moira Mosher
Anthony Plemmmons
Anna Prahl
Jessica Price
Rebecca Rasmussen
Christel Ries
Mercedes Rosado
Amber Snyder
Alisyn Staub
Christiane Stubbs
Riley Torreano
Erin Ulrey
Sarah van Oss
Lauren Veale
Lacey Wallace
Whitney Warren
Thomas Wynsma

See a picture of the newest SLFP’ers on the back page!
## Community Service and Fellowship

By Robert Vest, *Cerulean Block*

Ever since high school, I have always thought that community service was a great way to build great friendships. It is more than helping out those in need, although that is a big part of it, but is also about being with friends, working for the greater good, and simply having a good time.

At NMU, I am a member of Circle K, an organization based on fellowship and service, and, of course, the SLFP, an organization based on those two concepts as well as leadership. I enjoy going out to service projects with my friends, whether it be working the U.P. 200 Sled Dog races or doing a 24-hour marathon of service events.

Community service is a way to bond with other progressive individuals, people who believe the world can and will be changed, one raked yard at a time. It is hard to think of college without all the time spent participating in the various causes.

Some of my best friends I made through volunteering. Volunteerism is an important part of college life, since we are not yet dedicated full time to a single job. In addition, it allows us to sample various fields and see what interests us most.

## Organization Spotlight: Fencing Club

By: Tom Rich, *Cerulean Block*

Given that every SLFP member is required to be part of at least one other student organization, it seemed logical for Connections to spotlight a few of these groups, and since I couldn’t think of another absurd topic on which to opine this month, I got to do said “spotlighting”. This worked out well for me, since I happen to be the president of Northern’s very own fencing club.

The NMU Fencing Club was formed in 2005 and has been going strong ever since. Our adviser, Dr. Greg Warchol of the Criminal Justice department, is the only certified fencing coach in the Upper Peninsula. While Michigan Tech has a club, they don’t have a coach. The club has remained a steady core of 6 to 10 regular members, with a number of less consistent fencers dropping by now and again.

Fencing activities include weekday practices in the Superior Dome and weekend practices in the University Center. The club provides instruction and equipment to all new fencers, and no experience is required. We attend several tournaments each semester, typically in the Milwaukee or Chicago areas. Next year we hope to build our reputation by hosting an official United States Fencing Association tournament.

The fencing club will accept new members for the fall semester. Feel free to contact me with any questions at trich@nmu.edu.
Indoor and Outdoor Skating Locations

By: Bisi O Lashore, Cerulean Block
Marquette is known for its wonderful climate. I always say, even when the climate gets so cold, snow is a bonus (at least to those who partake in snow sports). Because of this, I suggest you make the most of the weather. In Marquette, there are several indoor and outdoor skating rinks ranging from a convenient place on Northern’s campus to almost a “blink and you’ll miss it” spot on Wright Street.
You could locate them by putting to use the search engines available (e.g. Mapquest). Unfortunately, using this method requires you to drive around or have a basic knowledge of the Marquette area; there are three indoor ice-skating rinks, and more than two outdoor rinks.

On my own personal search through Google Map, I found several locations for both indoor and outdoor skating rinks. For indoor skating rinks, I would recommend the NMU Berry Events Center (contact the NMU Recreation office to obtain open skate times) and the Lakeview Area which is located at 401 E. Fair Avenue. As far as outdoor skating rinks are concerned, there is an open rink on Presque Isle Avenue, located after Wright Street, by the large baseball field. There is also an open lot on Baraga Street, right behind the Marquette City Hall (close to Pathways).

The Magical Shape-Changing Month of February

Tom Rich, Cerulean Block
Ah, February, the shortest month, the misunderstood little sibling of the calendar. The most notable event in this chilly month is Valentine’s Day, but given that 100% of SLFP members writing this article are single, why bother talking about that? February is a month with many wonderful holidays, and for the Student Fellow sick of heart-shaped boxes of mystery-flavored chocolate, we present three of the best.

February 2: Groundhog Day
The only day of the year where one can control the weather by finding an animal den and shining a flashlight over it. Groundhog Day holds immense significance for Michiganders. Quite aside from the spectacle of watching a small brown creature peer dazedly about itself, then vanish into its hole, whether or not that cuddly little fellow sees his shadow determines how long it is until the black ice and thick snow of winter turns into the muddy slush and swampy lawns of early spring. Who doesn’t look forward to ankle deep mud?

President’s Day (February 18)
This holiday was created to celebrate our two February-born Presidents, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. Clearly, the magnitude of such a holiday was too great for it to occur on a fixed date, and the founders decided that it would simply occur on the third Monday of February, no matter the date. Popular President’s Day activities include never telling lies, crossing rivers in small boats at night (bonus points if there are sleeping Germans on the other side!), and watching people from Kentucky and Illinois argue over who gets credit for being Abraham Lincoln’s home state.

Leap Day (February 29)
What other month can claim to have a magical extra day which swoops in every four years? Like a masked crime-fighter, Leap Day appears when it is needed to keep the calendar in sync with the seasons, then disappears into the shadows from whence it came. Leap Day is coming in 2008, and I encourage the intrepid people of the SLFP to celebrate with gusto. Leap from one end of campus to the other. When called on in class, stand up and solemnly declare your love for truffles. Paint a turtle shell pattern on your face and, when questioned, deny its existence. Remember, Leap Day isn’t real, so anything that happens on it doesn’t count.

These are just a few of the many and varied holidays in February. The whole month isn’t cards with bad poetry in them and love-sick swooning; there are rodent weather oracles, birthday parties for dead presidents which do not occur on either president’s birthday, and mysterious days which appear from nowhere and return there just as quick. Enjoy the shortest month, and as for March; I understand one should beware of its Ides.
10 Things I Love About Spring

1. Flowers
2. Tee-shirts
3. Swimming trunks
4. Actually swimming (maybe not in Lake Superior)
5. Leaves
6. Hiking
7. Warmer weather
8. Getting to see the sun after its three-month break
9. Enjoying a gentle(ish) breeze off Lake Superior
10. Spitefully watching all that snow melt while laughing

Friday, April 25
- Mint Graduation Reception, 4:30 p.m., Great Lakes Rooms, UC
- Workshop: Beer and Booze 101, 1:30 p.m., The Back Room

Saturday, April 26
- Last Day of Classes

Monday, April 28
- Exam Week Begins

Saturday, May 3
- Commencement

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**STUDENT LEADER FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**
Northern Michigan University
Student Leader Fellowship Program
Center for Student Enrichment
1401 Presque Isle Ave.
Marquette, MI 49855
(906) 227-1771

**BIRTHDAYS**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Molly Grala</td>
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<td>Jenny Miller</td>
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<td>Danielle Brandreth</td>
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<td>Angela Neumann</td>
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<td>April</td>
<td>Bisi Lashore</td>
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<td>Megan Meeuwsen</td>
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<td>Klamesha Richards</td>
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A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO EVERYONE THAT HELPED WITH SELECTION!! IT WOULDN’T HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE STRONG SUPPORT WE RECEIVED!!

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New SLFP Kiwi Blocks at Welcome Reception

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**CALENDAR**

### Student Leader Fellowship Program
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