

# THE Filthy Lucre



Is Happy to See You.

Issue 2.8 October 15, 2007

## HELLO, MY NAME IS *Victory*. PROF. NAMETAGS SAVE NORTHERN

*Lupé Tragedia: Editor*

This week, our more observant students will notice that a significant proportion of the faculty are wearing name tags. You see, dear readers, there comes a time in every bureaucratic edifice that, in order to continue one's current direction in policy, one must receive some form of vindication from an outside source.

For Montana's university system, that vindication comes from the The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, an independent agency which provides performance assessments of universities across the northwest, and publishes reports detailing where and how improvement is needed.

The last assessment by the NCCU at Northern was in 2002; since then, our illustrious university has been, shall we say, in a dry spell. Northern saw enrollment drop by 173 students this year, and is down 374 from 2001†. In response to this decline in enrollment (and thus, in tuition), Northern's administration has dramatically slashed the school's budget, killing a significant number

† *Havre Daily News*, October 12, 2007

## IN THE MISTS OF MORNING: PART I

*Alice Raven: Writer*

[October is coming to a close and All Hallows' Eve approaches. So to get our readers in an appropriate mood, we proudly present "In the Mists of Morning," a two-part short story contributed by one of Northern's more literate students. -ed.]

It's foggy today. For once, the wind isn't howling, and so the fog hangs over the Northern campus like a death sentence. Looking out into the white abyss, I can almost see the shade of a tall, robed figure. He (for surely only a man could be so tall) seems to shimmer as I peer through the fog—that haze of impending doom. Hooded and waif-like—he walks with purpose.

Who knows what his task for the day might be? His robes rustle about him and remind those unfortunate enough to hear of fallen autumn leaves on a clear, crisp, windy day. From where does this sound come from? Who knows—for his steps are not as yours and mine. Indeed he does not even appear to move his feet. He does not move

of student services and staff positions in the process. We obviously support the Administration's strategy here, since there is no better way to, in the Chancellor's words, "focus on customer service" than to deny as many services as possible to the customer.

In any event, this week's visit from NCCU is a fine opportunity for the beleaguered administration to regain some of its tactical advantage; to that end, these exceptionally shiny name tags will no doubt present an enhanced aura of professionalism and competence to the accreditors as they begin their heavily scripted tour of the campus and interview pre-selected members of the faculty.

Some have said that the fanfare surrounding NCCU's visit amounts to rearranging deck-chairs on the Titanic, but we strenuously disagree. Northern's future is bright and the sky's the limit; if anything, they're rearranging deck-chairs on the Hindenburg!

A student open forum will take place on Tuesday at noon in the Hensler auditorium, so come for the festive atmosphere, stay for the vague sense of impending doom!

rhythmically up and down as we do when we walk. Neither does his posture shift from one side to the other. Instead, he appears to float, to slide, as if pulled forward with determination and constancy on a sled.

Where did he come from? This is a resounding question in the minds of those who see him. Perhaps if we might see his face, we could be able to guess at some kind of origin. If a smell could betray his home, then pray you never venture there. A malodorous scent emanates from him—smoke and carrion and dust.

Bile rises into my throat from this putrescence and I must bite down upon my coat sleeve to prevent my body from doubling over in a fit of retching. While some wonder how he moves without walking and others wonder of his past homes, the wise pose a better question in their minds. What is his business here?

*Tune in next week for  
In the Mists of Morning: Part II.*

## SMOKING UPDATE

*Anon-Smoker: Also Concerned Citizen*

Regarding the article in last week's Lucre about smoking, Section 1003.5 of Campus Policy states:

"The buildings on the campus of Montana State University-Northern are all smoke-free and *smoking is not allowed within 25 feet of any building*. Smokers are asked to use the designated smoking areas, ashtrays and refrain from discarding cigarettes on the grounds.

[...]Reported student violations will be handled by the Assistant Dean of Students according to the Student Conduct Rules."

This part of the policy was adopted after students in a health promotion class researched the issue and proposed it to the executive council for approval.

When the policy was instituted, black triangles were painted on the sidewalks to designate the appropriate distance; these have been worn away or not replaced with new concrete. The ashtrays have also been moved, so smokers don't know where the distance is. Also, when the policy was first adopted, signs were placed on building doors to alert people; they have not been in place for several years now.

[*Very enlightening; we always assumed that those black triangles served some sinister purpose, rather like crop circles. -ed.*]

## HTTP://:WWW

*Antimony Obfuscation: Assistant Editor*

As promised last issue, our website is now up and running! It can be found at [www.sparkycat.com/filthylucre](http://www.sparkycat.com/filthylucre).

Currently, you can find back-copies of past issues in pdf format, including all of Volume 1 in a collected, print-ready edition ready for download!

We expect that the website will be updated about as often as we can lock our resident technical expert in a room with nothing but a coffee can and a modem until he uploads new content. However, we do plan to occasionally include "deleted scenes" from the print edition, special content more suited for the digital medium, and much more in the coming months!

## Know Your Place.

We are always open for new written pieces, photos, artwork, and financial patronage. Send hate mail, love notes, and creative contributions to [northernlucre@gmail.com](mailto:northernlucre@gmail.com). For past issues & special content, visit our website at [www.sparkycat.com/filthylucre](http://www.sparkycat.com/filthylucre)