



*Player of the Month*

Women's Hockey Club

*Dana DesRochers*

**19: Age**

**Surveying: Major**

**Negaunee, MI: Hometown**

**4th: Year in school**

**Forward: Position**

This month's woman hockey player is Dana DesRochers. This is Dana's second year playing hockey for Michigan Tech. She was chosen as this month's player because of her consistent attendance at practice, her hard work ethic, and her general positive attitude. She normally plays forward for the team, but this past weekend when no goalies could make the game, she stepped up and played goal. Dana had never before even put on goalie gear, but she did a stand-up job, making 34 saves in the first game against Minnesota rivals, UMD.

## Urination Liberation

Having a hard time finding a place to pee on campus? It's not just you. Here's where it's not a good idea to have a full female bladder on this campus:

*MEEM has no women's bathrooms in the basement, floors 4, 6, or 7.*

*ChemSci has no women's bathrooms in the basement or on floor 7.*

*Fisher has no women's bathrooms on floor 3.*

*Kudos to Walker and EERC for having women's bathrooms on every floor.*

## SNOW

Late December: my father and I are going to New York, to the circus. He holds me on his shoulders in the bitter wind: scraps of white paper blow over the railroad ties.

My father liked to stand like this, to hold me so he couldn't see me. I remember staring straight ahead into the world my father saw; I was learning to absorb its emptiness, the heavy snow not falling, whirling around us.

a poem by Louise Glück, Poet Laureate of the United States

## My Christmas Wish

Kristin Arola

*I know, you're all tired of ed-op pieces on the election. But I promise not to whine—in fact I am incapable of whining because what is written below was written mid-day November 2nd. I rediscovered it recently and thought, "Huh, what a pleasant Christmas wish: the gift of dialogue and understanding!" Maybe it's impossible, I don't know, but if you want to talk (and promise not to try and convert me to any religion), send me an email. I promise I've been good this year, so it seems a reasonable wish. Well, that or proof of election fraud in Ohio—but I'll settle for dialogue.*

### November 2nd Journal Entry

It's 12:37pm on Election Day and everyone seems to be on edge: either we win or we lose. Meanwhile, I have "What the world needs now, is love sweet love" stuck in my head. My incessant humming aside, the general vibe I'm getting today is that it's *us against them*, and despite our condemnation of Bush's dichotomous good vs. evil logic, it seems most liberals I know are living with the belief that today either good will prevail or evil will again smother us for another 4 years. And this scares me. It's almost as though we've bought into Bush's rhetoric and just flipped it for our purposes. We've made him and his followers into the evil-doers, while we get self-righteous about our informed opinions. And no matter what happens today, there are some things I need to come to terms with because undoubtedly after today the Bush and Kerry people aren't going to come together and pat each other on the back. In a show of good faith, one candidate will congratulate the other on a good race, but I doubt my Bush yard sign neighbors and my Kerry yard sign neighbors will suddenly strike up meaningful political conversation. If Kerry loses, I for one will begrudgingly take down my signs and my buttons and feel entirely defeated.

I left the polls at 8:30am this morning and realized that I had just done all I could

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## Interview with Margaret Gale, Dean of Forest Resources and Environmental Science

Anna Cynar

*As a past student of the Forestry Department, I was well acquainted with Margaret Gale as a professor—but after spending the afternoon talking to Professor Gale I got to know the person behind the professor and left in admiration of the down-to-earth, insightful, and intelligent woman to whom I had just spoken. On behalf of tbt, I congratulate Margaret Gale for being the first woman Academic Dean at MTU.*

**tbt: Why don't you start by giving us a little background into your education and how you have gotten to this point.**

**MG:** I grew up in a big family in St. Louis, Missouri. I got my undergrad degree in Forestry from MTU in 1977. This was after I had already gone to college for two years majoring in math—and then art—and then working for four years to figure out what I wanted to do. I visited Isle Royale which piqued my interest in becoming a forest ranger and in going to school at Michigan Tech. By the time I got my undergraduate degree from MTU in Forestry I was married; my husband, who also graduated from the program in Forestry & Surveying, got a job in Marquette. But we ended up coming back to the Copper Country because my husband got a job offer from a Calumet local forestry group and I looked into graduate school. I got my MS degree in Forestry in 1980 and became a research/faculty assistant for four years. During this time I had a child. After the four years we headed off to St. Paul for our advanced degrees. I had a year-and-a-half-old child when I started my PhD at the University of Minnesota. When I was close to finishing my PhD a job came up in the Forestry School here at Tech, which I applied for and got in 1986. I have been working here ever since. I became an associate professor in 1993, a full professor in 1999, Associate Dean in 2002, and Interim Dean in 2004.

**tbt: In your observations of the Forestry Department's male to female ratio, how has that changed since you started?**

**MG:** When I got here it was probably the same as when I was in school: out of 115 there were about 10 women in my graduating class. We had a Forestry Program and a Wood Science Program and it was mainly male dominated until we started bringing in Grad Students. We seemed to be bringing in more female students and it became more 50/50 when we first started our PhD program. It became more and more female dominated once we started getting more and more female faculty members. The Dean's goal when I was hired was to increase female faculty members in the school. It's very unusual, now we have fourth and a fifth assistant professor, a shared position. We have four female faculty members at this level when we really only have 16 or 17 faculty members—which is a really high proportion of any school in Natural Resources. It's great that that Dean had a goal in increasing that and it's helped in having role models for the females in the school. It brings different ways of knowing into what we teach and how we teach it.

**tbt: What about administrative positions on campus?**

**MG:** In terms of administrative positions I think it's getting better. Only six months ago I was the first female Dean at MTU. It goes back to ways of knowing. I think there has been a lot written up on what women are passionate about. Part of that is related to that being an administrator is a little bit different than teaching and I think a lot of women like to teach. Administration falls into one of those categories of working with colleagues and making sure good things are being done as far as what's being taught. Power is somewhat associated with administrative jobs and I'm not sure if females are in that role a lot of times. I never thought I'd be a faculty member either.

**tbt: What do you think will be needed to break those barriers and have more women professors and administrators?**

**MG:** I think that most people would have to agree that it starts at the top, to always bring in females and minorities. You have to look at the qualifications. I remember talking to male students early on when there was a quota in the Federal Government in Forestry. A lot of guys thought, "I'm not going to stay here, I'm not going to get a job." I would ask why and they'd say because the jobs are going to females. We had discussions that it's not that females don't have the qualifications because that would be reverse discrimination but that they might not have as much experience. It was a time where it was about who you hung around and interactions with people. If you're hanging around with the guys and somebody says, well, I know this guy who might like that job, they recommended that guy. Again, I think more pushing by higher administration brought in females and minorities for interviews. I don't think we have been diligent enough even though we have requirements to bring more people in. It takes administrators to see that we always have some kind of mix, and if you don't have that mix maybe you

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## How I Became the First Woman to Shower in the ME-EM.

Margot Hutchins

The problem was common enough: I had a hectic day in front of me with a little tiny window of time for working out. I complained to my boyfriend that I didn't have much time to run. Karl happens to be an even bigger exercise fanatic than I am and he's grad student in the ME-EM. I knew he would understand both my desire to find a way to work out and my frustration with my schedule. He offered a surprising solution, to shower in the ME-EM: that would save me the time it takes to get up and down from the SDC.

**Shower in the ME-EM? There are showers in the ME-EM?**

That's right, folks; there are showers in the ME-EM, down in the basement. I'm not sure how Karl discovered this, but they're there, sure enough. He tells me that after you enter the bathroom, there's a door. Open the door, and there's a mini-locker room containing about 40 lockers and 2 shower stalls. But, I digress, back to the story...

I get to the window of opportunity in my hectic day and go for a run. I run up to my office, grab my shower supplies and head down to the basement, pleased with the extra time I had to work out due to the showers in the ME-EM. When I get to the basement, I discover *there is no women's bathroom*. Not surprising, many floors in the ME-EM have no women's bathroom. I check the floor plan:

there are showers in the men's bathroom. I'm on the right floor.

Then the funniest thing happened. I **assumed** that because there were men's showers, there must be women's showers **somewhere**. So, I ran down the stairs to the sub-basement. No women's bathroom there, either. I was already familiar with the location of the women's bathrooms in the rest of the building (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> floors) and I knew they didn't have showers. Then it dawned on me. There is no women's shower in the ME-EM. The ME-EM is not an equal opportunity facility. Just because there's a men's bathroom, doesn't mean there will be a women's. Just because there's a men's locker room, doesn't mean there's a women's. It's probably not appropriate for me to take that metaphor too far, so, I'll leave it up to you to think about the other inequalities. I urge you to ask yourself, "What are the effects of an environment in which it is **funny** to assume that the facilities will be equal?"

How did I deal with the lack of facilities and my post-running smell? I went back to the basement, opened the men's bathroom door, asked if anyone was there, and proceeded forward. I stuck a post-in on the door to the locker room area that read, "Facilities in use by woman."

should be paying attention to how to get that mix so that you have choices.

**tbt: Have you had any problems as a female professor and administrator?**

**MG:** No, I really haven't had any problems and I really believe that's because of my size. I know that sounds funny but it's hard sometimes to say no to me when I'm standing over people. I think that you have to exude yourself and your physical nature. You have to have the confidence to exude that and not think too much about whether you are male or female. You have to take control of the situation.

**tbt: What are your aspirations for the future?**

**MG:** I'd like to go back to research and do more teaching. Aspirations for anything further, no. Well, one person told me when I first got on faculty that teaching is the most important job in the world and I still believe that. That's why I still like teaching and working with students, that's the way I want to influence students. I really think we need to be really engaged in what we are doing and want to transfer ideas and knowledge that we know and also pique their curiosity about how great the field is. That's one reason I keep on teaching. When this person told me this, I also asked him what his passion was. He said that he'd always had this aspiration (and I guess I do, too) to write one line in the discovery of life. That's part of research: it's writing out one line. What he said (and I guess it's true) is that people will forget your name but they won't forget that one line after you've written it. To be able to figure that one line out and in the future say "Yes, I figured out that one line, that one description..." Again, related back to teaching, that's part of helping students with research projects, to get them to develop a possible direction so that they could write one line in whatever carries on, those are my aspirations. Writing, that's another aspiration: I really like writing.

**tbt: Last but not least, do you have any advice of words of wisdom for our readers?**

**MG:** Oh, gosh, yes. Look back at what you liked to do when you were young and try to incorporate that into your life! Make your field something that you really liked to do. If you really liked to be outside, you should go into a field that goes outside. Or say you really like outside but end up in a field that doesn't get you outside a lot, you could coordinate or control other people who go outside. For me it's my art and my math: I really like those two things, those really were my favorite. They really came back throughout my time. With the art and color and seeing things out in the field, I can see how that carries over into the things I do and ecology. The math, the quantitative stuff, I used that a lot. I'm getting away from the math, but look back to what you really wanted to do and what you really liked when you were young and growing up and incorporate that into your career.

## tbt gift ideas

- 1 **subscriptions** to Bitch Magazine ([www.bitchmagazine.com](http://www.bitchmagazine.com)) or Bust Magazine ([www.bust.com](http://www.bust.com))
- 2 **DVDs:** Amelie, Whale Rider, Run Lola Run, Antonia's Line, Laurel Canyon, Daughters of the Dust
- 3 **Music:** Sleater-Kinney, Jill Scott, Mirah, Beth Orton, PJ Harvey, Erykah Badu, Bikini Kill, Cat Power, Le Tigre
- 4 **donate** money to the Barbara Kettle Gundlach Shelter Home or the Baraga Women's Shelter
- 5 **anything** from Good Vibrations ([www.goodvibes.com](http://www.goodvibes.com)) or Toys in Babeland ([www.babeland.com](http://www.babeland.com))... wink wink.
- 6 **give a goat,** sheep, or duck in someone's name through Heifer International ([www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org)) to help a family become self-reliant

do. Not only have I volunteered hours of my time to the local Democratic Party, I voted. But maybe this isn't all I can do, maybe there's more to such a divided election than winning and losing, maybe it provides us all with a chance to understand where others are coming from. I for one am tired of resisting the urge to spit on parked cars with W'04 stickers. I instead would really like to understand where Bush supporters are coming from. I was reading an article this morning that called for more productive and compassionate communication between speakers and their audience. The writers suggested that we all learn to offer our perspectives, to tell what we currently know or understand and to present our vision of the world and show how it looks and works for us. Despite winning or losing, this, at the root of it all, is what I want. I want to sit down and listen to Bush supporters, outside of empty campaign rhetoric. I want them to tell me their vision of the world and how and why it works for them. I want to understand, because it scares me that there is such a huge ideological gap between us, and sometimes I wonder if it's really there at all.

Yet I worry that this dialogue is impossible. I've tried. Granted I only know a few Bush supporters, but when I try to listen and understand I find that they take my questioning as an attack. When they say "Bush will fight for our freedom," and I ask "Freedom from what? What do you mean by freedom?," I don't say this to make them look or feel stupid, I say this because I honestly don't understand what they are trying to tell me and I want to understand. When they say, "Bush has shown strong leadership in the face of adversity," and I ask, "Can you tell me what you define as strong leadership?," I don't say this to catch them in a Fox-news sound-byte, I say this because I honestly don't understand where they are coming from, and I want to understand. But instead the opposing party usually retorts to Kerry-bashing or instead just calls me a liberal academic, as though that's some kind of attack (I am a liberal academic. This is like calling me a Finlander: ummm yeah, I am.) I'm not necessarily trying to change Bush supporters' minds, instead I'm trying to wrap my head around how we can see the world so differently. I want to understand. But I can only understand if you'll present me your vision of the world and show me how it looks and works for you.

I told this to a colleague today, that no matter what the outcome of today's election, I've reached this sense of calm where all I really want more than a Kerry win is an understanding of the other side. She told me that this was impossible, that I would never understand the other side because Bush supporters are illogical people. Maybe she's right, but I'd like to think that 50% of the population aren't supporting Bush simply because they're illogical. I'm reminded of George Carlin's quote, "Just think how stupid the average people you meet are, and then realize, half of them are more stupid than that." But I don't want to believe that, nor do I want to have some sense of logical superiority over Bush supporters. I'm tired of feeling like only if they'd listen to NPR like me or read AlterNet like me or watch BBC World News like me that maybe we'd agree. I don't even want to agree anymore, I just want to understand. Now I just need to find people who want to talk, but this might be easier said than done. When the election is over, both Kerry and Bush supporters will be celebrating either a win over evil-doers or a defeat by evil-doers. Either way, I suspect nobody will want to have meaningful discussion and in the end, none of us win.



## In the Spirit of Commercialism

by Anna Cynar

Thanksgiving has come to an end, signaling the final haul before Christmas, and I cannot help but think that Thanksgiving

has become one of the largest marketing driven schemes to be manipulated by commercial America. It serves as a reminder to children to extend their already immensely long wish lists and a reminder to the rest of us that presents must be bought immediately. Why else would Santa Claus visit the Thanksgiving Parade, a parade full of the harmonious raptures of Christmas carols played by marching bands and floats sponsored by corporations, a constant reminder that there is no venue safe from their relentless advertising? They know no limits.

Thank goodness for the Friday after Thanksgiving to come to our aid with early bird specials at times when any sane person would be sleeping. How considerate of stores such as Target for giving us the capability to request, online, a wakeup call for our convenience, so we do not risk the horror of missing such an important cultural event. I always wonder who those intense shoppers must be because, living in suburbia outside of Detroit, which I consider a shopping mecca conglomeration, I have always feared leaving my house and getting swept into the month-long traffic jam full of inconsiderate, bargain-driven consumers. Thus, along with the pressures to buy quality, thoughtful gifts in spite of the thoughtless environment present before us, shopping can become a daunting, stressful task. Fortunately, with the power of the Internet, I can reside in the comfort of my own home while participating in the material devaluing of Christmas. In the spirit of commercialism, I will continue the consumerist craze by presenting my recommendation for an exceptional Christmas gift, *America (The Book): A Citizens Guide to Democracy Inaction*, presented by *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*.

The purpose of the media in our lives and the question of what their obligations to the public entail are not new areas of debate and concern. Yet increasing incidents, such as the uncovering of the news reporting of CBS's faulty memos regarding President George W. Bush's service in the National Guard, covered

by Dan Rather, to the documentary *OUTFOXED: Rupert Murdoch's War on Journalism* attacking the Fox Network, have lead to heightened criticism. It only reaffirms the belief that journalism contains many biases and distortions, that there does not appear to be fair or balanced broadcasting, an issue that Jon Stewart addressed on CNN's *Crossfire* in October. While criticizing Tucker Carlson's obnoxious behavior and utterly ridiculous bowtie, Stewart confronted both Carlson and Paul Begala about their news coverage debate show tactics. He delivered a message, which can be found in the transcripts of CNN.com, of concern not only for CNN but to all news stations and reporters that, "you have a responsibility to the public discourse, and you fail miserably."

Jon Stewart, the host of *The Daily Show* on Comedy Central, reports real news in a satirical manner, turning the political arena as well as current national and global events into comedic entertainment. Intended not to be taken seriously, there still exists a strong underlying truth and rightful criticism of our country throughout the show. Behind the humorous skits and in spite of the channel on which it resides, Stewart presents an intellectually stimulating attack on political absurdities, filling a venue that media broadcasting fails to address. At times *The Daily Show* appears to carry more candid truth than the slew of broadcasting channels with deeply embedded ties to corporate America.

*America (The Book): A Citizens Guide to Democracy Inaction* carries over the witty nature of the show to print. It is a mock historical textbook I wish could have supplemented the dry presentation of information that seems to unfortunately plague high school texts. Despite the blatant fabrications and butchering of historical events and peoples, the book presents an amusing approach to traditional history of the past and present, investigating the faults and fallacies of our Democratic nation, disregarding the notion that history can only be written by the winners but also by the comedic public. For those who hold a constantly critical and somewhat mocking view of our government and society, for those who may need uplifting and consolation after the recent election outcome, and for those who just enjoy comedic entertainment, *America (The Book)* is a must-have, regardless of what seems to be the perfect season and inspiration to buy a gift, the month-long commercial holiday leading up to Christmas, the season of giving.



## RESOURCES

Barbara Kettle Gundlach Shelter ..... 337-5623  
*domestic violence shelter; 24-hour crisis line*  
 Career Counseling ..... 487-2313  
 Counseling Services ..... 487-2538  
 Dial HELP ..... 482-4357  
*Crisis intervention: a gentle, helpful voice, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week*  
 Employee Assistance Program ..... 482-2299  
 Houghton Community Health Center ..... 483-1860  
 Keweenaw Pride.....pride@mtu.edu  
*an MTU group for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered or Questioning Students, Staff, Faculty, Community Members, Friends, and Allies*

Legal Services of Northern Michigan..... 482-3908  
 Office of Student Affairs..... 487-2212; 487-2465  
 Office of Residence Life..... 487-3404  
 On-campus emergencies ..... 123  
 Society of Intellectual Sisters (SIS).....  
<http://www.sos.mtu.edu/sis/>  
*Promoting sisterhood primarily among African-American women and scholarship among members*  
 Society of Women Engineers .....  
<http://www.sos.mtu.edu/swe/>  
 Western UP District Health Department .482-7382  
*AIDS testing, family planning, immunization, pregnancy testing*

## WHAT IS tbt POLICY ?

The TechnoBabe Times is dedicated to the empowerment of women in all aspects of technology.

We want tbt to be a place where voices not usually heard or seen on campus or in the community can be seen & heard. We want to be a publication that encourages new and different voices. And so: we solicit thoughtful, reflective, critical writings (or drawings or mixed media pieces or poems or...) that offer us all positive views and smart actions...

If you have any ideas, questions or comments—or wish to advertise in tbt—please contact our staff at [tbt@mtu.edu](mailto:tbt@mtu.edu). You may also write the list to submit a piece of work or to become part of the tbt staff (all girls and boys interested in the cause are welcome!).

THANK YOU to the CCLI for help on this issue.

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