

What's up this weekend?



Skaters at Campus Martius Park will be able to enjoy free skating during Detroit's Winter Blast February 6-8. Photo: Delaney Cade.

Winter fun in southeast Michigan

By DELANEY CADE

Michigan winters are famous for being cold and full of snow. Metro Parks in southeast Michigan have come up with a way to keep the communities outdoors and let them enjoy the winter weather. Parks in the southeast region of Michigan stay open during the winter to give people the chance to have fun in the snow. Metro Parks have activities available such as ice skating, ice fishing, sledding and tobogganing.

Stony Creek Metro Park near Rochester offers snowshoes for winter entertainment along with the traditional sledding, tobogganing, and ice fishing. Stony Creek is open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Snowshoes are only available 1 p.m. to 5

p.m. on weekdays and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends.

The short road trip is worth it to experience the fun and unique winter activities available right here in Michigan.

The Hudson Mills Metro Park located northwest of Ann Arbor clears biking and hiking trails in the winter. Huron Meadows Metro Park in Green Oak Township is offering ice fishing during the winter. Indian Springs Metro Park in White Lake/Clarkston is offering a sledding hill and an eight mile trail free of snow for biking and hiking. All of the parks are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Another Metro Park that is hosting outdoor winter fun is Kensington Metro Park near Milford and Brighton.

Kensington has a winter sports area that includes slopes for sledding, two toboggan runs and intermediate or advanced sledding hills. Ice fishing and ice skating are held on Kent Lake, Kensington also has a cleared path for bikers and hikers. The park is open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

A Metro Park that is closer to Wyandotte is Lake Erie Metro Park in Brownstown. This popular summer park can be just as fun in the winter with sledding and ice fishing. Lake Erie Metro Park is open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Another Metro Park closer to Wyandotte is Lower Huron Metro Park near Belleville, this park has three natural ice rinks available for the public to use. Lower Huron is open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The Metro Parks are not the only places hosting winter entertainment this year. Detroit's annual Winter Blast is scheduled for February 6 thru 8. The Winter Blast is centered around Detroit's Campus Martius Park.

During Winter Blast the public can skate at the ice rink for free, and enjoy professional and talented amateur skaters that will be performing.

Other entertaining events at Winter Blast will include ice sculptures and gardens, marshmallow roasting in the streets, and two music stages with over fifty performers to entertain the crowds.

The event that began as a way to count down to Superbowl XL, has become an annual event that attracts over one million people to the heart of Detroit, Campus Martius.



Comic drawn by Nathan Bogart

Time to get up for The Get Up Kids

BY NATHAN BOGART

The Get Up Kids' re-released their LP *Four Minute Mile* on December 9. *Four Minute Mile*, originally released in 1997, launched them into indie stardom. Not only did the LP increase their success, but it also had a huge impact on pop-punk and emo music. With touching and simplistic lyrics, this twelve song LP is sure to please fans of indie music.

The Get Up Kids formed in Kansas City, Missouri in 1995. Similar to the other "emo bands" in the nineties, The Get Up Kids tried to dissociate themselves from the term. Most bands thought it almost insulting to be labeled with such a title. They are associated with such acts as Reggie And The Full Effect, Weezer, Green Day, The New Amsterdams and Blink 182. Similar to these bands, The Get Up Kids produce music with quality lyrics, fast-toned melodies, and an energy that gets you moving.

The Get Up Kids decided to split up in 2005, but reformed in 2008 for a possible reunion tour. Re-releasing *Four Minute Mile* was a nice touch to send out to their fans reminding them that The Get Up Kids are very much alive.

Four Minute Mile was recorded in a two day period, and is the rawest material of The Get Up Kids. The album conveys love, angst, and all the other things that create the average teenager's life. So, if you are a fan of The Get Up Kids' new music, then I'd suggest going out and getting a copy of what made it all happen. Even if you have never listened to The Get Up Kids, where better to start than the album that changed indie music forever?

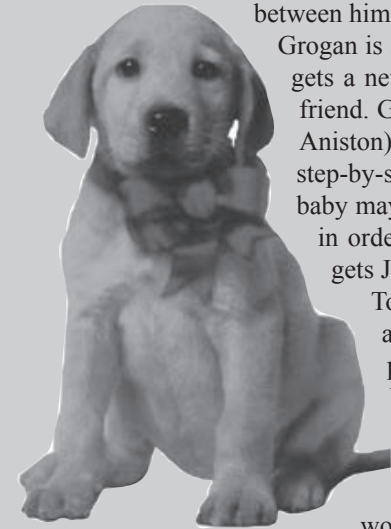


The Get Up Kids first LP changed indie music forever and was rereleased December 9. Photo: Nathan Bogart

Marley and Me brings laughs and tears

BY DEVIN CADE

The movie is based on the bestselling book, and the life of author John Grogan (Owen Wilson) and the relationship between him and his dog Marley.



Grogan is a reporter from Michigan and gets a new job in Florida with his old friend. Grogan's wife, Jenny (Jennifer Aniston), has their lives planned out step-by-step. Grogan realizes that a baby maybe one of the next "steps" so in order to slow down the steps, he gets Jenny a puppy.

Together they pick out Marley, also known as the "clearance puppy" (which should have been a hint to both of them).

Grogan picks up the puppy while Jenny is out of town. He soon realizes how much work Marley will take. Marley is scared of thunderstorms and shreds

anything he can.

At work, Grogan is asked to fill in as a columnist. Marley soon becomes a hit in the column and Grogan has found his life passion. The columns go from Marley eating mangos in the backyard to Jenny's gold necklace and everything in-between. Grogan becomes a permanent columnist at the paper.

Grogan's best friend Sebastian (Eric Dane) even becomes attached to Marley and uses him to get dates at the dog beach.

Jenny and Grogan eventually do have children and have to learn to cope with Marley and the kids. Grogan gets a new job in Philadelphia and moves the family there. Marley starts to get older and the children notice, along with both Grogan and Jenny.

The movie has many unexpected twists and turns. It becomes an emotional rollercoaster ride of a movie. It takes you from hysterical laughter to hysterical tears. I would highly recommend seeing *Marley and Me* but be prepared for a very emotional two hours.

Bedtime Stories that do not put you to sleep

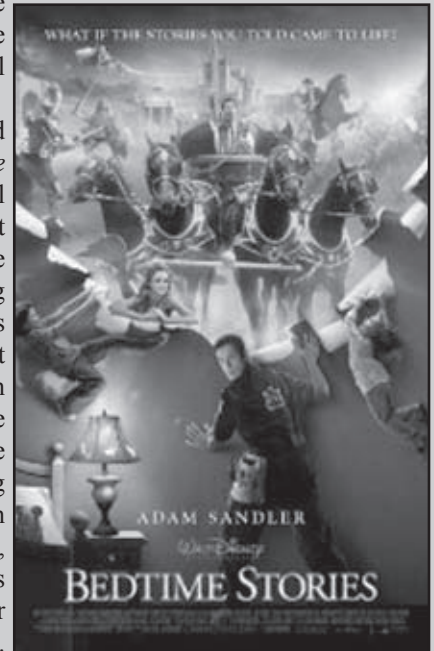
BY SAMI MICHAEL

Skeeter Bronson, played by Adam Sandler (*Don't Mess with the Zohan*, *Click*), grows up with his sister Wendy (Courtney Cox) and their father (Jonathan Pryce) in their hotel. When their father encounters money problems he is forced to sell it to Barry Nottingham (Richard Griffiths), on the condition that Skeeter will one day become the manager of the hotel.

Years later, Wendy becomes the principal of an elementary school. Unfortunately, it is being shut down and demolished to build a new structure. When she has to travel to Arizona for a week to find a job, she leaves her two kids, Patrick and Bobbi in the hands of one of her colleges Jill (Keri Russell) during the day, and her brother Skeeter at night.

The magic begins when Skeeter tells the children a bedtime story. The very next day, the story comes true. Half way through the week, Skeeter realizes that only what the kids say in the story comes true, not what he says. Another conflict appears when Barry Nottingham decides to give Skeeter a shot at designing a new hotel. Little does he know, the hotel would be going where the school is.

This movie reminded me of *Nanny McFee* (2005), with the magical feeling of Disney. Not only did you watch the stories as they were being told, such as cowboys and Indians, you also got to see the real life version - like a really cool game of dress up. The movie was full of other big names such as: Carmen Electra, Russell Brand, and Rob Schneider (Has there ever been a Sandler movie without him?). If you are looking for a magical movie this winter season I would recommend *Bedtime Stories*. Don't pass it up just because it's from Disney.



Speak Out should reading material in public institutions be censored? Why or why not?



"No, because people have their own ideas and should be able to read what they want."
-Freshman, Tamika Gentles



"No, because we have been given the freedom of press under the constitution and we should be able to read what other people have written."
-Sophomore, Brandon Quigley



"I don't think so because people should read what they want without it being censored."
-Junior, Cortie Masserant



"No, if you want to read it, you should be able to."
-Senior, David Thomas



"No, because the books that teachers chose are chosen for a reason."
-Teacher, Mark D'angelo