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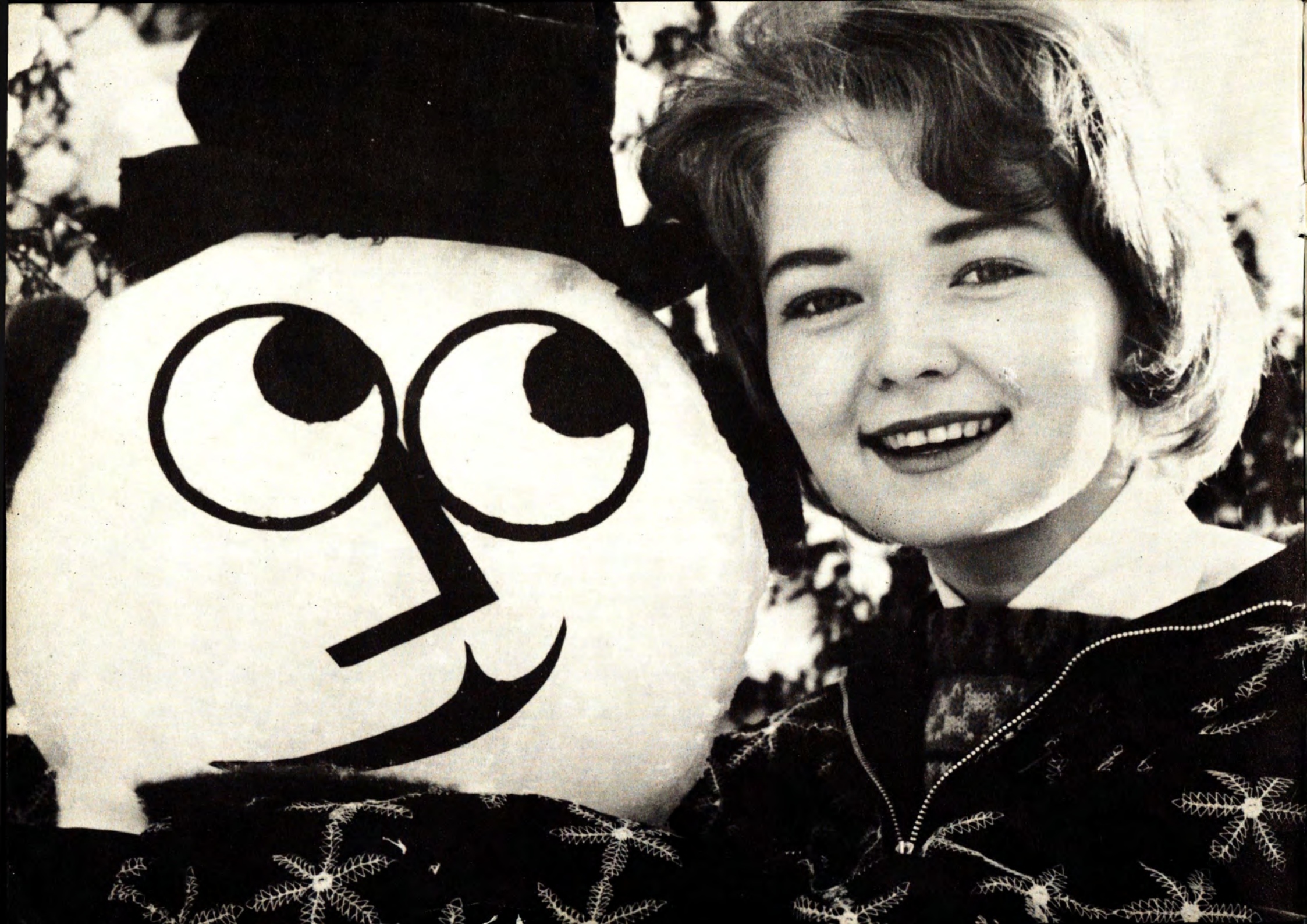
MICHIGAN TECH

Houghton, Michigan



Winter Carnival





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MICHIGAN TECH was established in 1885 at Houghton, Michigan, in the heart of the "Copper Country" of Michigan's Upper Peninsula—only a snowball's throw from the shores of Lake Superior. It is a state-supported institution, but paradoxically, is nearer the borders of four other states (Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois) and two of their capitals (Madison, St. Paul) than to the seat of Michigan government in Lansing. Houghton is farther north than Toronto. Its average annual snowfall is twice that of Juneau, Alaska, and more than the combined averages of such cold weather cities as Burlington, Vt., Cheyenne and Helena.

Michigan Tech is internationally known for its high standards in scientific and engineering education. Its students are compelled to work hard, but they play hard, too. There are six fraternities on the campus, an active student government, student publications, almost 70 special interest clubs and professional organizations, a full program of 15 intramural sports and 12 varsity sports.

Weatherwise, the Copper Country boasts mild summers, unbelievably colorful falls and white, white winters. Local wags insist there are nine months of winter and three months of poor skiing, so Tech students are, of necessity, winter oriented. Ice hockey is the major intercollegiate sport and the annual Michigan Tech Winter Carnival is the most exciting activity of the school year.

Winter Carnival is a seasonal madness that turns the Tech campus into a frigid fairyland of finely detailed snow statues of all shapes and sizes, silhouetted against a four-day backdrop of

Carnival activities—everything from snowshoe races and hockey games to dogsled races and ski meets.

The Carnival is sponsored by the Michigan Tech chapter of Blue Key National Honor Fraternity, but all Tech students are justly proud of the affair—particularly their snow statues. Working from detailed scale drawings, or sometimes blueprints, students log more than 1,000 man hours—mostly at night, frequently in sub-zero weather—molding hundreds of tons of snow and ice into artistic creations.

In past years there have been statues as tall as a four-story building and others nearly a city block long. Depending on the Carnival theme, some have been relatively simple one-figure creations—such as a giant Liberty Bell—while others have had the complexity of an entire Indian village, complete with Indians, captives, canoes and animal hides drying on frozen racks outside icy teepees.

Winter Carnival was started at Michigan Tech in 1922, floundered briefly during the early depression years, and was revived by Blue Key in 1934. Snow statues were added in 1936 and today the affair follows a basic—yet flexible—format. It includes three days and four nights of such activities as student skits, stage revue, ice show, queen selection, concert, broom ball, Snow-ball, statue building, hockey, skiing, dogsled races, snowshoe races, skating races, beard growing and other special events added from time to time.

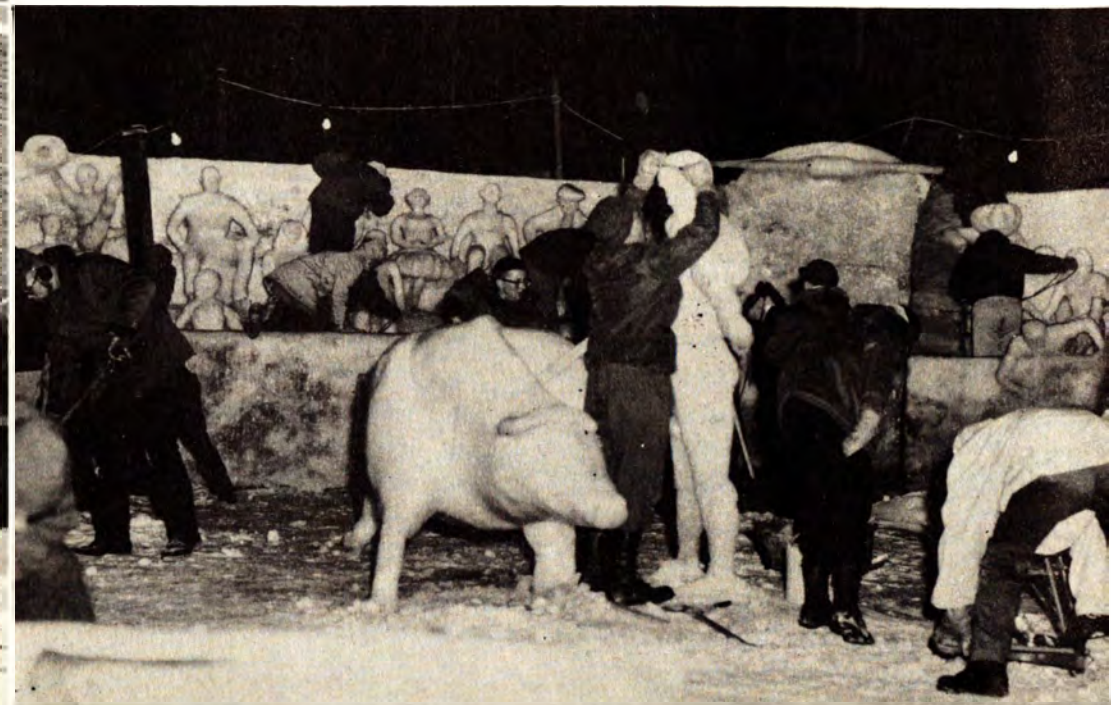
It's a lot of work, but a lot of fun and excitement, too. Come join us this year, won't you?

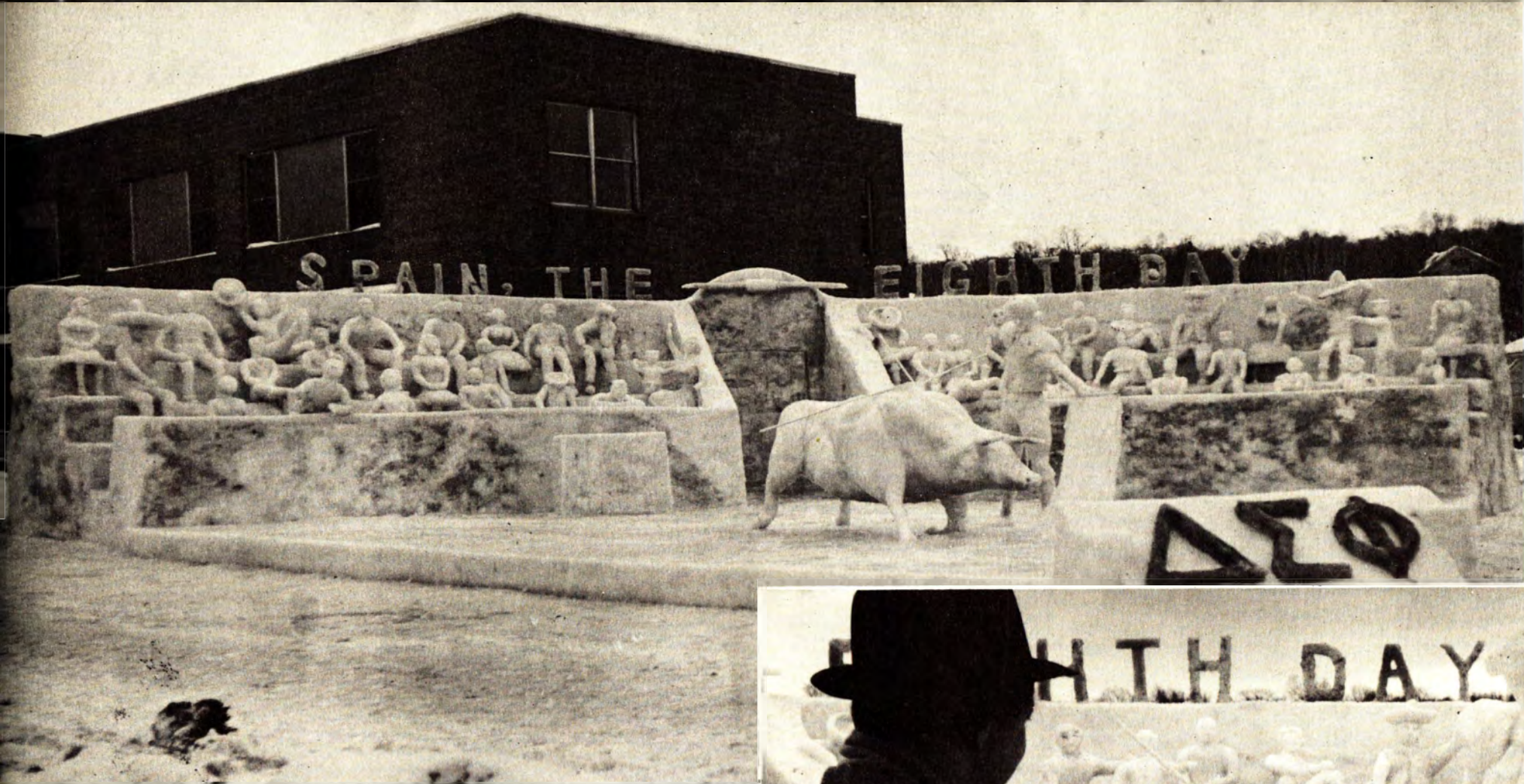
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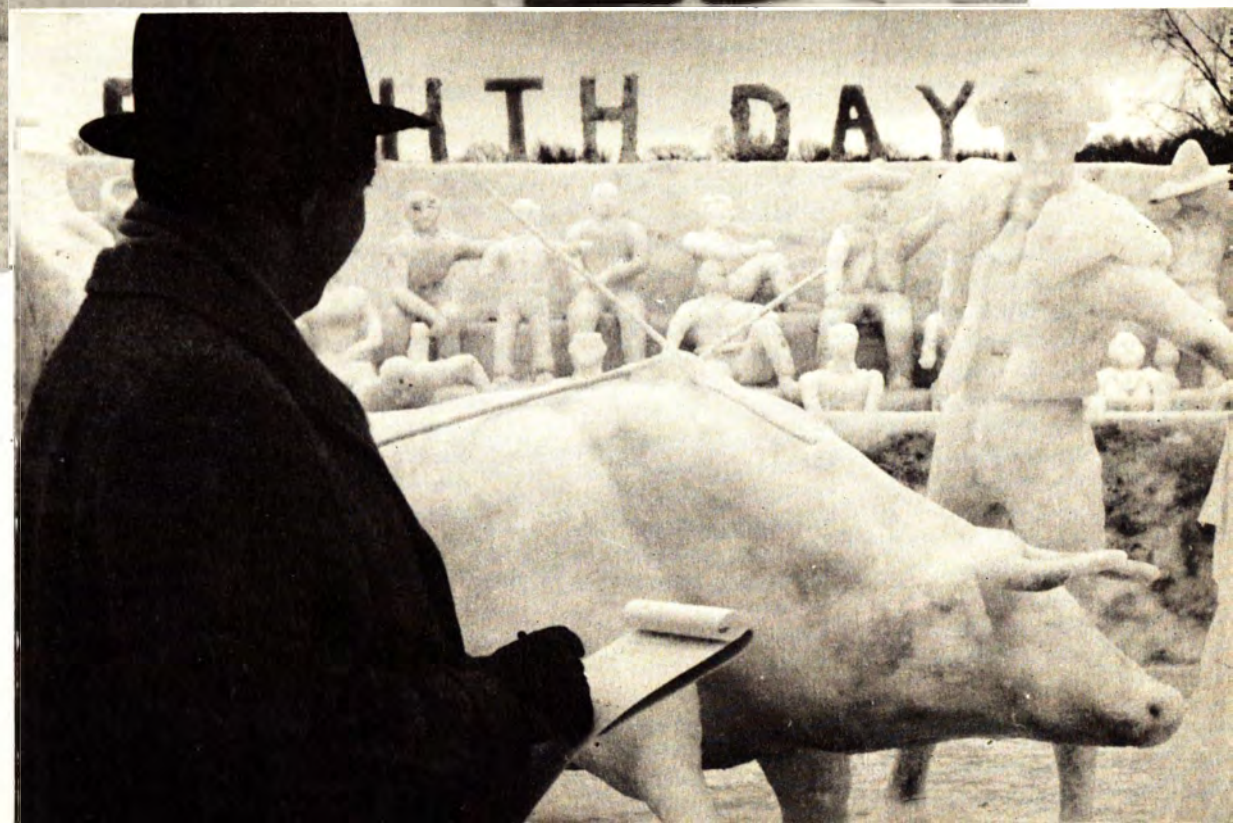


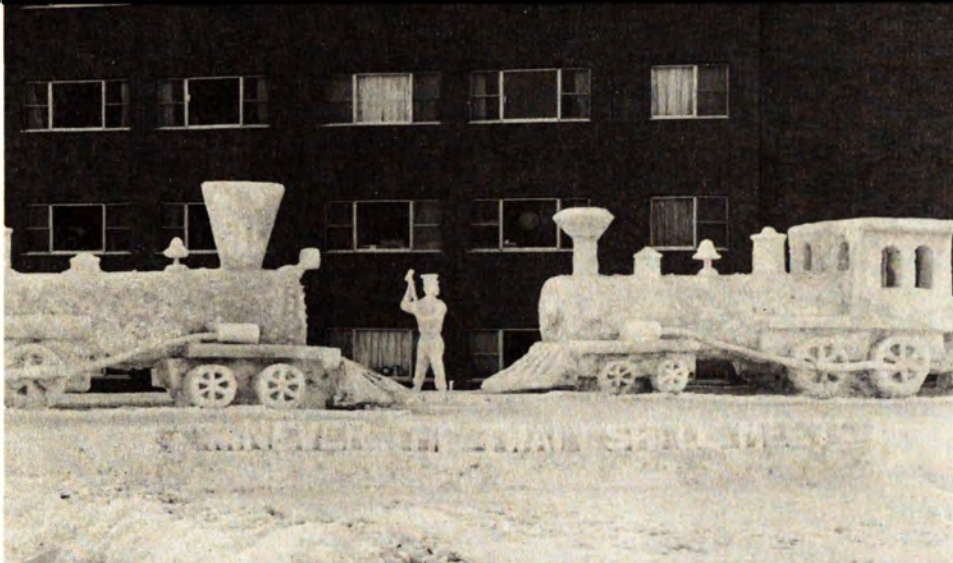
Where do a bull's muscles bulge? Michigan Tech's student snow sculptors employ a variety of sources for answers to this type of question . . . work continues by day . . . and usually all night . . . until . . .





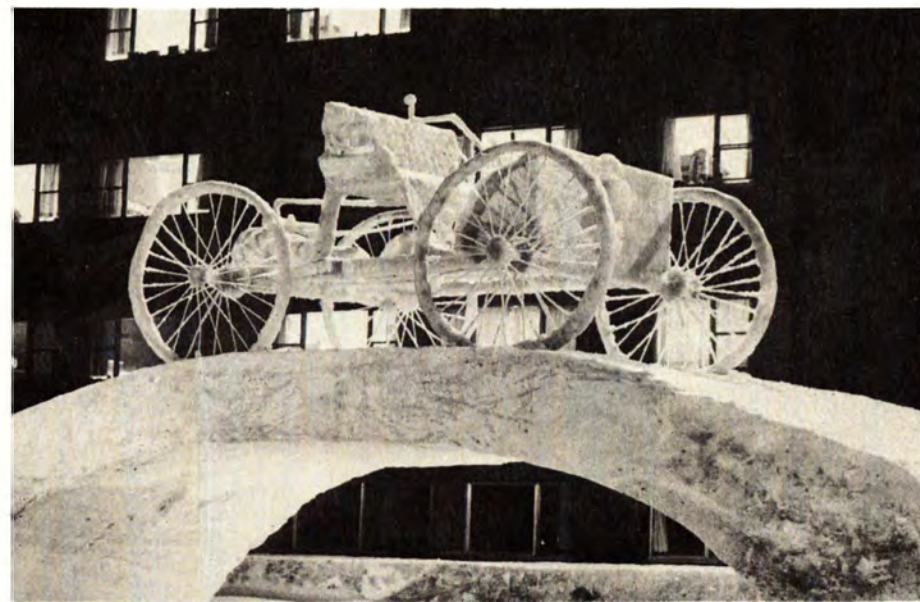
... 1,700 man hours later, the bullfight scene is completed. Then comes the moment of truth—the judging. Despite meticulous attention to detail, this statue only placed third.





In statue construction, two basic methods—with unlimited variations—are generally employed. First requirements: a huge chunk of ice roughly the size and shape of the main statue figure or figures. This is done by piling snow in temporary forms, adding water and packing, or freezing blocks of slush (snow and water) and stacking building-block style.





Next, a rough outline is sculptured by hacking, chipping or sawing the large ice block. Statue details are added by hand-molding fresh slush, mixed in buckets, barrels or just holes dug in the snow. The slush—about the consistency of cement—remains pliable 20 to 30 minutes, depending on the temperature. The clean-up detail tidies up the area and the final touch—the glaze—is added by melting the surface with a blow torch or some other device and allowing it to re-freeze into a glistening finish.





Intercollegiate hockey is an exciting attraction of Winter Carnival. The Michigan Tech Huskies annually schedule a two-game series with some arch rival such as the University of Michigan, Michigan State or Minnesota. In recent years the Huskies have won one NCAA national championship and had several players receive All-American recognition.





Despite a “fun and games” appearance from the sidelines, the dog sled race is a grueling test of human endurance. Team members relieve each other in the races along the half-mile course, but their facial expressions testify that the event can only be described as “tough sledding”.





Mont Ripley, the Tech-owned ski hill across Portage Lake from the campus, is a busy area during Winter Carnival. Students compete for Carnival honors, an invitational intercollegiate meet is scheduled and Blue Key sponsors a high school meet the Saturday before the Carnival opens.



For those who miss or survive the dog sled races, there are the snowshoe events—dashes and cross country races. The competition is spirited at the start, but at the finish line the scene is one of complete collapse.





Despite Tech's 25-1 boy-girl ratio, there are dates a-plenty for Winter Carnival affairs—by the chartered bus load, in fact. For an added bit of femininity, who ever heard of a carnival-type celebration without a queen contest? No one, that's who. Winter Carnival queen candidates are not required to be Michigan Tech coeds, so organizations frequently sponsor students from St. Joseph's School of Nursing and Suomi College in nearby Hancock.





Ah, at last, a Carnival function that doesn't require snow boots, ski pants and long woolies—the Sno-Ball. The winning combination of pretty girls and good music makes it one of the “in” functions of the social season—especially for those in line for Winter Carnival trophies.



Tech faculty members, politicians and world situations are frequent targets for the humor in the skit competition. The skits, written, directed, produced and performed by student groups, are staged for two nights during Carnival week.







For additional information about Winter Carnival, contact the Michigan Tech Chapter, Blue Key Fraternity, or the University Relations Department, Michigan Technological University, Houghton, Michigan.