

How to deal with Michigan's bipolar weather

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According to thrillist.com, Michigan has the second coldest winters on average, with Minnesota out-colding us. Surprisingly, we beat out Alaska, the state furthest north. However, most of us know that this number is an accurate representation of the snow, wind and frigid temperatures we experience in the winter months. At Hope, we get the added lake effect snow, which adds another level of complaining to family and friends who do not know our yearly struggle.

And yet, this year has thrown us for a loop. Look at the temperatures for this past week; most are high 50's and pushing 60, and it is still February! Some of us will remember the great Snowpocalypse from 2014 that shut down Indiana's roads and forced snow days on us. Just three years and a month later, and people are wearing shorts and laying out in the Pine Grove. With Michigan, however, you cannot allow the weather to lull you into a false sense of security. According to weather forecasts, snow is expected on Saturday.

So what do we do? Our weather keeps swinging back and forth, and you never know if a parka or a windbreaker will suffice for the day! Here are some tips to help you stay ahead of the constantly changing weather.

1. Girls: carry leggings around. If the weather is looking like it will be nice and you want to wear a dress, go for it! However, since it takes so long to heat up, you might be faced with a dilemma: wear the dress and freeze until it is warm, or forgo the dress. I say you can wear the dress and be warm with the leggings! When it starts to heat up, just pull them off and put them in your backpack, or vice versa: if it gets cold again, pull them back on!



2. Carry an umbrella in your backpack. This is especially helpful when we start getting into more consistent spring weather, although we could get some of that rain instead of snow if the temperatures stay up. It's nice because if you ever get caught in the rain, you'll always have the umbrella right on you.

3. Download a good weather app. If you know that the weather is supposed to be tumultuous in the upcoming week, be sure to check the weather app—especially the hourly forecast. This way, you are not surprised when you walk outside your Residence Hall or house. Cnet.com ranks Dark Sky as the best overall app for both Android and iPhone users.

4. Dress in layers. The way Michigan works, the high of the day won't come until around 3 p.m. If you are like most students, you leave your room in the morning and do not expect to return for a few hours. By that time, the temperature has jumped 20+ degrees, and you find yourself sweating. Layers can help solve that problem, especially since buildings are not quite up-to-date with the comfortable temperature due to the extreme weather changes.

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