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## Dearborn Writer Recounts His Hobo Summer in New Book

DEARBORN, MICHIGAN, May 31, 2016: In many ways, 19-year-old Dan Grajek—a freshman at U of M Dearborn—was a typical youth in the 1970s. He wanted to go on a quest to “find himself.” Suffering from an acute case of wanderlust, he desired unfettered freedom. So he and a friend set out to hitchhike to California.

In his debut novel, *The Last Hobo*, the local author not only provides a colorful, insightful, and humorous account of his adventures, but he does so from 3 angles:

- His alter-ego, Ted Ganger, wants to be a hobo, the ragged, train-hopping figure romanticized in movies.
- The year of his trip—1979—turns out to be monumental. America is engulfed in anxiety, frustration, and anger over Jimmy Carter’s unraveling presidency, the Iranian Revolution, and Three Mile Island. With a Huck Finn-like innocence, Ted witnesses the tumultuous transition from the 70s to the 80s—*on the street level*.
- Ted has a distinctly Detroit point-of-view. The hometown he often refers to, has arguably the world’s greatest success story (because of Henry Ford) and the biggest failure story (because of the city’s infamous crime rate and racial divide).

*The Last Hobo* was written especially for:

- The young and restless (Age 16 and up),
- 1970s (and 1960s) nostalgia buffs
- Lovers of cars, trains, and Americana
- Hardcore travelers, roadies, and pilgrims
- Fans of Kerouac, Twain, Steinbeck, Fitzgerald . . .

*The Last Hobo* features the whimsical illustrations of award-winning artist, Tim Grajek.

AUTHOR DAN GRAJEK grew up on Detroit’s northwest side. By age 20, he had hitchhiked to New York once and California twice. Throughout his life, Dan’s been a graphic designer, a marketing coordinator, and a high school English teacher in the Dearborn area. Besides great books, Dan enjoys music in the tradition of The Beatles, Bob Dylan, and Bruce Springsteen. He considers marrying Lori Wunderlich—a violin-maker’s daughter—his greatest life accomplishment. He has three sons, Andy, Justin, and Ben.



***THE LAST HOBO: A Clueless Detroit Kid Hitchhikes across America the Summer the Seventies Ran Out of Gas***

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