



Photo by Linda Simpson

Vernie Nethercut strives to encourage community service.

Nethercut represents volunteerism, community service

Nethercut reappointed to commission

By SCOTT REED
STAFF WRITER

"Everyplace I go, there's so much respect for Vernie. I feel if it weren't for her, there would be no Volunteer Center." These are the words of Dot Gonia, Youth Volunteer Corps director, speaking of Vernie Nethercut.

Nethercut, director of the Alpena Community College-Volunteer Center, was reappointed to the Michigan Community Service Commission when ACC hosted the quarterly meeting of the Commission on Friday, October 29.

ACC President Donald Newport welcomed first lady Michelle Engler, chairperson, and Commission members in room 450 of the ACC Natural

Resources Center.

Nethercut was first appointed to the Commission in 1991 by Governor Engler when he created the Commission to promote volunteerism and community service in Michigan.

Nethercut represents volunteer centers and community colleges throughout Michigan as the Commission strives, as she says, "to encourage community service and volunteerism, especially among young people, as an effective means of meeting the serious social challenges that face our communities today."

Gonia further stated that Nethercut "was on the cutting edge seventeen years ago [when she was appointed to head up ACC's Volunteer Center.] People from other sites are always seeking her out for

advice."

At the quarterly meeting, a presentation was given about ACC's Volunteer Center by Sharon Genschaw, Jacqueline Grukke, Julie Smigelski, Merrill Downs and Nethercut, Volunteer Center staff members.

Alpena High School students Fraih Wallen, Drew Downs, Melissa Brown, Sarah Warner, Melissa Brown and Jason Harris, supervised by Gonia, helped explain the VolunTeen and YVC programs.

Gwen Downs, a member of MYPAC, the Commission's standing youth committee and a YVC summer team leader, also assisted.

The Michigan Community Service Commission is composed of 21 ethnically and geographically diverse members from all

over the state and represents various segments of the population such as age, sex, race, political party, background, occupation and economic level. The Commission has also been designated as Michigan's lead agency in applying for federal dollars from the Commission on National and Community Service.

Current initiatives of the MCSC include developing and implementing Michigan's National and Community Service Act Grant Program, creating a statewide volunteer recognition program and supporting the President's Youth Service Awards, forming a statewide youth body to promote community service, and promoting the Michigan Year of the Volunteer Campaign.

Long lost languages return

By SHAWN DEMPSEY
STAFF WRITER

You've seen it in the catalog and soon you'll see it in the classroom.

According to English Department Chairperson Terry Hall, ACC will offer one year of Spanish and German starting in the 1994 fall semester.

The department is now in the process of looking at and updating the old course outlines, and after next year the need for advanced courses will be evaluated.

The hunt is on for a Spanish instructor but at least one person is currently being considered.

English Instructor Priscilla Homola will teach German. Hall says she is "lively and energetic and [students] will have a good time in her class."

In past years, ACC offered French, Spanish, German, and occasionally Russian and Polish, but Hall says, "There was a long period when we just couldn't get people to sign up."

Many of the four year schools are now requiring foreign language, and Hall feels it's much better to get it at ACC than to take it during the senior year of college when students are focusing in on their majors.

"I'm hoping we can get good cooperation from the advisors in advising students into the

classes because," Hall explains, "students need to know it's going to be required most places they transfer to."

Foreign language classes will fulfill the cultural awareness classes that, according to Director of Student Services Rick Counsellor, of the state's colleges and universities are requiring. He says, "At a lot of these schools, [ACC doesn't] have one course to satisfy this."

Currently, transfer students who will need foreign language or cultural awareness courses to graduate must wait until they reach university level before they can fill the requirement.

Some of the universities that require foreign language or cultural awareness classes for bachelor's degrees are: Central Michigan University, two semesters of foreign language for a BA and three semesters of diverse cultural studies for a BA in Education; Ferris State University, one global consciousness class; Grand Valley State University, one foreign culture class; University of Michigan, two years of foreign language proficiency in the school of Literature, Sciences, and Arts; and Western Michigan University, one year of college level foreign language or two years of high school level for the school of Arts and Sciences.

Starting in 1995, Michigan State University will have a col-

lege wide requirement of one college year or two high school years of foreign language for graduation.

"[Foreign language] is not something students need from ACC before they transfer, but it would be to their benefit," counsellor says.

Hall and Counsellor give other compelling reasons to take a foreign language. Counsellor recommends it to anyone majoring in business or teaching, or anyone considering a career on the West Coast or on a more global scale. In today's job market, with the economy the way it is, he feels it's just a good idea.

"In terms of job opportunities, a person strong in languages can write their own ticket in the business world. It opens all kinds of possibilities for travel or working in the global community as opposed to just the local communities," affirms Hall.

"Learning to master another language really stretches you intellectually," Hall adds. "I think it's part of what it means to be an educated person."

Hall hopes the program will be successful, and says, "We're definitely trying to do something about [the lack of languages offered] but it's been tough in the past. If students won't sign up for the classes, you can't run them. It's as simple as that."

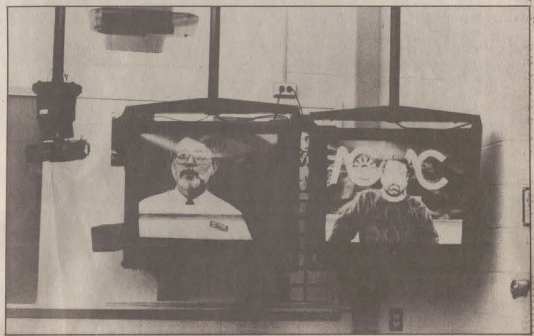


Photo by Linda Simpson

This could be your next instructor . . .

Technology at ACC is bringing people closer together

By DENNIE KONWINSKI
CO-EDITOR

The new interactive classroom in Van Lare Hall is operational," but some fine-tuning is needed, says Learning Resources Director Charles Tetzlaff.

The classroom, expected to be ready for instructional use in January, will allow students and instructors at one institution to interact with others from another location via television monitors and telephone lines.

All major technological components are in place, and when the fax machine arrives, construction will be closer to being final.

Vendors installing the equipment are also waiting for a fire-proof curtain and a demagnetized chalk board before the classroom can be completed.

Tetzlaff explained the college was unaware the curtain, which will be used as a backdrop when the room is utilized for a meeting place, is required to be fire retardant. "That was a cost we hadn't anticipated," he

said.

The classroom was recently used for a meeting between the ACC Telecommunications Committee and a similar group at Lake Superior State University.

According to Tetzlaff, the meeting went fairly smoothly with the exception of images locking up on the monitor. To correct the problem, a new kodak has been ordered to replace the dysfunctional one.

Tetzlaff is excited about the new technological doors the interactive classroom opens up to the college.

Once things are more in place and a cable head-in is installed, TCI Cabling of Alpena will play a large part in the entire operation, partly by broadcasting announcements and related educational information on channel seven.

Tetzlaff says television monitors will eventually replace The Spinter, ACC's daily news bulletin. There will be two monitors allowing qualified persons, such as those in the Public Rela-

tions Office, to enter information directly to the other screens.

There will also be one at the switchboard, and one for student access. "You won't be able to tune into soaps or cartoons," Tetzlaff said, but the monitors will still prove to be useful.

Another advantage of the cable head-in is that it will allow student organizations, such as student governments and/or student newspapers, to meet and exchange ideas, as long as the technology exists at each location.

It could prove to be costly, \$25 an hour, but with good planning and organization, could also be a cost-saver in the long run. Instead of groups and organizations traveling to meet one another, they could simply gravitate to two locations equipped with the interactive system and exchange ideas through television.

If things continue to go as planned, the students should be able to take courses through at least two distant institutions, come January.

Where will the axe fall?

By GARY PINGEL
STAFF WRITER

The ACC Board of Trustees met Thursday, October 23 and raised the gillnetline. Who or what will get it on the neck? Wait until Nov. 18, the next board meeting, to see. This was not an early Halloween prank; someone's budget is about to get the knife!

Dr. Newport, ACC president, explained to the college trustees that budget monitoring reveals the need for cuts to be decided this month, a process that usually begins in January.

Presently, the goal is a reduction in expenditure of \$100,000 to balance lower than the projected income.

Areas targeted for possible reduction are: travel supplies, mileage and advertising accounts. A freeze on equipment expenditure and reduced maintenance is also expected.

The department chairs have been asked to update balances and help identify areas where cuts can be made.

English Department Chairperson Terry Hall gave an example of what may happen. "We've made a ten percent cut

in supplies which raises concern about the art area. Usually we run out of clay at the end of the year and have a little left over for summer school. The supply may be exhausted prior to that time. The effect is not too great at the moment, but if there have to be more cuts I will have real concerns about the impact in the art area."

The budget will be looked at again in January when actual income figures are known.

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DUNKIN' DONUTS
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By GARY PINGEL
STAFF WRITER

The Liberal Arts Network for Development (LAND) has formally announced the opening of the 1993-1994 community college writing contest.

The contest is open to all students and includes awards in three categories: essay, poetry and short story. First place winners receive \$150 and second place is \$100. In addition, all

winning entries will be published.

LAND is an organization whose purpose is to promote and strengthen the liberal arts in Michigan's community colleges. Recognizing and rewarding outstanding written art is one phase of LAND's objectives.

Take advantage of a chance to have your work in print. See your favorite English teacher for details of how to enter.

Who knows? You may be another Hemingway! Good luck!