

THE POLEMIC

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Millage renewal is scheduled for Feb. 1 ■ \$500,000 revenue or \$12 per contact hour is at stake

By DENNIS KONWINSKI
Co-Editor

Community support is needed Feb. 1 when Alpena Community College requests the renewal of a one-mill levy to cover operating expenses over the next five years.

"This is a renewal issue. This is not a new millage," President of ACC Don Newport strongly emphasized. "This is a renewal of an existing millage for the institution . . . and it's for operating purposes . . . to keep the heat, the lights, and the instructors in the classroom."

The decision to seek the renewal was made by ACC's Board of Trustees at its Nov. 18 meeting. The one-mill levy would provide approximately \$500,000, and would be added to the college's general fund.

The fund consists of tuition money - about 33 percent of the total amount, state aid - about 50 percent, and a set amount of 1.5 mills, which was approved in 1979 when voters in the Alpena Public School District agreed to separate ACC from the K-14 system.

Voters approved the one additional mill in a May 1989 election by a margin of 746 votes. The appropriated revenue allowed the college to move ahead on state requirements, such as the installation of barrier-free entrances.

Energy-efficient windows and a new parking lot are two more of the many significant improvements made.

Most importantly, the one-

mill levy laid the foundation for upgrading classrooms, shops and labs, which is a large part of ACC's long-range plan.

"That [staying current] is a major issue for us. The day we let a program slip behind means we will produce a graduate that is obsolete, which means that you wasted your time here, and that's not very smart for us," Newport stated.

There is, however, the unfortunate possibility the millage may not be renewed if people don't get out and vote.

"To try to absorb \$450-500,000 in an already tight budget would mean some pretty serious things for us as far as program cutbacks, and potential staff reduction and those kinds of things," Newport explained.

Another possible way to

face a defeated millage would be to try to create additional revenue to offset the loss from property tax, "but if you follow what's going on in the state [K-12 funding woes], that's a tough deal," Newport said.

A solution Newport doesn't want to see: an increase in student tuition. According to Newport, a one dollar increase would generate about \$45,000. It would come out to a \$10-12 increase per contact hour, "and I don't think any of us would feel comfortable with that," he commented, "but that's the potential impact of trying to offset [the loss of millage] revenue."

Because there's so much at stake, Newport hopes to see students pull together and spread the news to area voters to vote yes in the Feb. election.

At least 150 volunteers are needed to participate in a phone bank and the mailing of literature for the election.

"We are looking at the students as being a real component to that effort," said Director of Public Relations Carlene Przykucki. Anyone wishing to donate their time can contact the president's office at ext. 246.

One thing that Newport wants to avoid is something that he says happens too often. "People . . . think the college is such a good place, it does so much for the community, that if we put an issue on the ballot, it's a done deal . . . but we know from statistics that it's not a done deal. We have to overcome the apathy of the folks who feel good about us and get those folks to the polls."

Student Senate secretary impeached

By JEN GOODBURN
Co-Editor

With Adviser Rob Roose presiding over the November 18 special meeting, the Student Senate impeached its secretary with a six to one vote.

Tina L. Jones, who ran for the office unopposed last fall, allegedly failed to attend required meetings. The exact number of missed meetings is unknown, as there are no official minutes for

the meetings Jones didn't attend.

The Senate's constitution requires that the individual facing dismissal be given one week to prepare a defense. Jones was contacted and given the option to resign, but refused.

According to minutes voluntarily taken by Sophomore Representative Dena Luckett, "Tina's defense was that the period of time which she was not present at Student Senate meetings was a time of illness. Also, in the process of changing work

hours to come to the meetings, she was dismissed from her job."

As secretary, Jones received a total tuition waiver of 15 credits to be split between the two semesters of her term.

The seven and a half she used this semester does not have to be repaid, but she has forfeited the other seven and a half.

In a Dec. 2 regular meeting, Sophomore Rep. Dena Luckett was nominated and elected to fill the vacancy.

Beware of breaking ground

By SHAWN DEMPSEY
STAFF WRITER

Despite almost a year long delay, ACC will finally have its day in the dirt.

On December 17 at 12:00 p.m., college representatives and invited guests will gather between the Besser Technical Center and the Charles R. Donnelly Natural Resources

Center to watch twelve people officially break ground for the new \$7.2 million Student/Community/ Business/Learning Resource Center.

A reception in the BTC lobby will be held immediately following the fifteen to twenty minute ceremony. Phi Theta Kappa will act as hosts to the approximately 200 guests expected to attend.

Eight hundred people have been invited including 500 donors. Also invited are local government and school officials, the Alpena Area Municipal Association, the emerit, the Advisory Board, 1992 annual givers, Michigan community college presidents, and the State Appropriations Committee.

Student Senate, The Polemic, Besser Technical Association, Criminal Justice Club, ACC Players, and the Student Nurse Association have been invited to represent the student body.

The ground breakers will be: Dr. Donald Newport, ACC President; Jim Park and Steve Fletcher, fund-raising campaign co-chairs; Dick Wilson, Besser

provided by Dot Gonía and Candy Patterson. John Parris, LRC media technician, will videotape the events.

The ground breaking is the culmination of a two and a half year, \$1.5 million, "Building on Tradition" fund-raising campaign and planning period. Besser Foundation contributed a \$1.25 million matching grant, the college generated \$850,000, and the remaining \$3.6 million is coming from the state of Michigan.

The 60,395 square foot building, designed by Dow Howell Gilmore Associates, will contain a new library, gymnasium, health fitness area, classrooms, offices, business and industrial training areas, a performing arts and lecture theatre and student activity areas.

The ground breaking delay was due to 17 other community college projects that needed approval from one legislative committee.

The college is currently seeking construction bids and it is hoped the building will be open for the 1995 fall semester.



Candace Perkins, president of the Journalism Education Association, presents Lorraine Reuther, ACC's resource development and foundation director, with JEA's Medal of Merit Award in Washington, D.C. Nov. 20, 1993.

Award winning Reuther seeks a new position

By SHAWN DEMPSEY
STAFF WRITER

"I look for things [to do] that are fun and challenging," says Lorraine Reuther, executive director of the ACC Foundation.

This simple statement could explain both her receipt of the 1993 Journalism Education Association's Medal of Merit and her January 1 resignation from ACC.

Reuther traveled to Washington, D.C. on November 20, on November 20 to the JEA national convention to receive the award. Its recipients are members who have supported the association for a number of years and they are chosen for their substantial contributions to scholastic journalism.

Before she departed, she announced her resignation from the foundation. The ACC Foundation is the non-profit organization which helps support the college financially. It has assets of nearly \$3 million and is managed by a 15 person board and run by an executive director.

She has held her position for three and a half years, and she explains, "I've fulfilled my goals." Reuther's accomplishments while the foundation director include arranging and managing the \$1.5 million capital campaign for the new building, identifying the alumni, establishing a donor base, increasing annual giving, strengthening staff development, planning and presenting board development, creating resources for grant activities, and selecting computer software for updated record keeping.

She is currently planning the ground breaking ceremony

and reception for the new Student/Community/ Business/Learning Resource Center.

When Reuther came to ACC, she knew she had the skills and the talents necessary to do her job, but she had no fund-raising experience. And that was exactly what she wanted.

She was then looking for, as she is now, "something completely different than I've done

before . . . you come [into a job] with all the skills, but you've never used them in this way."

Reuther started her career as an English and acting teacher at South Lake High School where she taught for 20 years. She went back to school and studied journalism at Wayne State University and became the

adviser for the school's paper.

She believes journalism is good for students in all areas, "because it's tied to freedom of speech which is tied to democracy."

She also sees journalism as a prime example of the hot topic of outcome based education in which students see the results of their work. Journalism students create a product, a newspaper, plus improve their reading, writing, and thinking skills.

After leaving high school teaching and coming to ACC, Reuther remained active in journalism education.

One summer activity Reuther is involved with is the Michigan Interscholastic Press Association workshop, which she started with in 1981 and eventually directed for five years. The workshop is held at Michigan State University and drew 415 students last year.

Please see "Lorraine" on page 2

Action Line

Where does the money received from student parking tickets go? Also, how much money is taken in each semester from student parking tickets?

~Karen Heller

The money collected from parking tickets is used to help defray the costs of parking lot upkeep such as, resurfacing, marking and other supplies. This is also the source of funds for student parking permits, a potentially large expense. How much money do these tickets represent? Here are some recent figures: 1991 - \$5986, 1992 - \$3240, and 1993 - \$3898.

Action Line is a regular, informational column which answers questions posed by students. Questions dealing with ACC may be dropped off at The Polemic office in BTC 110, placed in the mailbox or given to any staff member.