

Is it laziness or stupidity?

By Jen Goodburne
Layout-Editor

Sonya Titus was approached by one of her English 112 students last week.

The student asked to be excused from the term paper requirement. The reason: she claimed she would never use the term paper once it was turned in.

Was this an attempt to be honest, or was it a new twist on the "dog ate my homework" routine?

If the experience of writing a term paper isn't enough of a reason to do the assignment, one would think a passing grade should be. And, of course once the paper is graded and returned, it could always be framed and hung in the den.

Maybe the red marks would clash with the color scheme, but it would hang forever as a testament to the uselessness of education.

When parents (or the government) pay thousands of dollars to put a person through college, it's an investment in the future. I wonder if the losses during this academic year are being written off.

A politically correct way to label students at ACC would be Motivationally Challenged. But to accept laziness and responsibility, which is in part the point of education, the correct label would be lazy.

Accompanying the first installment of the series about poor academic achievement at ACC was a survey. The hope was to generate a response from the student body in order to balance the perspective of the instructors who contributed to the series.

- Here is a statistical breakdown of the responses:
- One third of the students who responded received an A.
 - Two thirds of the respondents took a failing grade as opposed to dropping the class.
 - The total number of responses equaled one fourth of the responses received for the "Guess Who" contest (in which the prize was free food).

In truth, these stats aren't an accurate portrayal of the academic situation on campus. (We only received three polls.) But the last stat is a very accurate portrayal of the problem with students: they plainly don't care.

Maybe if instructors attached a value meal to an, A students would do better. Free fries for turning in a term paper may work, too.

Or maybe instructors need to tie in a use for term papers after they've been graded.

How about an eight page analysis of the IRS's tax auditing procedure? (Cheating is allowed.)

Engler strikes education again

By DENINE KONWINSKI
COPY-EDITOR

Through all the haze and shades of gray surrounding Proposal A, one fact - and probably only one fact - is certain. Raise the sales tax and everyone pays evenly.

Some strongly suggest this aspect of the proposal is unfair to the many. If an increase to six percent was so drastic, it wouldn't have been done in so many other states.

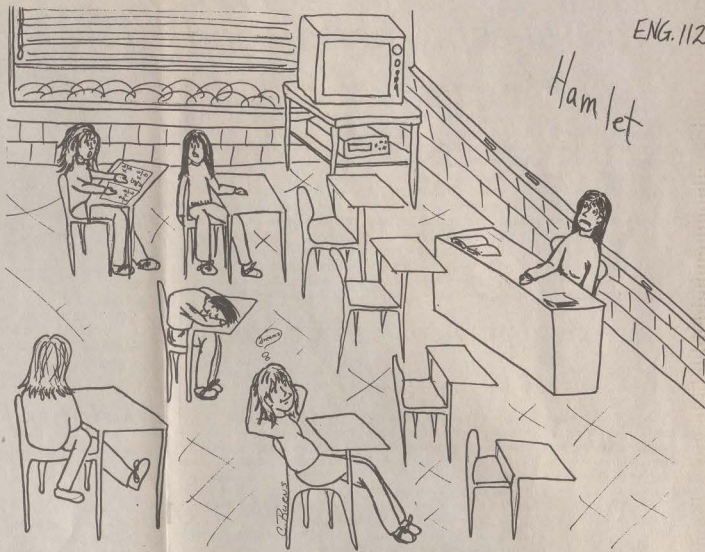
Though a sales tax increase should go for the funding of Michigan schools, the big question is if it actually will.

Governor John Engler has once again presented the tax payers with an "idea" or two that has not been thought through.

Just as he did with school reform, this proposed means of funding the schools is unorganized and presented in an almost impossible manner.

Engler went so far as to change the ballot language after some absentee voters had already submitted their decisions.

If he would keep on a straight track, lets say one that says sales tax monies will go for education, and there won't be any "hidden" taxes involved, and that they'll come up with a lottery that really works for education, we'd be all set.



Letter to the Editor

Dear Polemic Editor,
Mr. Byrley recently responded to the reaction some faculty had towards the language used in the Homecoming campaign. He suggests these faculty members had no right to bring issue nor should they have been offended. He also complained that none of these faculty members attended homecoming or other student sponsored events.

As one of the offended faculty, I objected to having the notice in a classroom. I do not like the word or its connotation but the fact that it is used on television does not make it acceptable to me - there are other ways of expressing yourself. I could not attend homecoming this year, but have in the past so please don't assume I don't care. I attend as many of the functions that I can including: PTK installations, spring flings, games, family days, graduation,

spaghetti dinners and others. I buy raffle tickets, baked goods, flowers, and sub sandwiches from student organizations. I encourage students in my classes to attend events by giving extra credit points. I volunteer my time, money and commitment to this institution because I feel I do care about the students.

I am offended by the language choices of other faculty members and have said so. I

would also request a student refrain from using such language openly. Just because foul language is commonplace doesn't make it appropriate. Crime is commonplace too, but that doesn't make it right.

As to the issue of the apology, I never asked for one nor did I expect one. I brought the issue up because it portrayed a negative image for the organization represented and the

students themselves. Had I known such controversy would arise I probably would have simply removed the signs. I don't "take myself so seriously" that I can't comprehend why someone would belittle themselves publicly; I just don't understand why they would consciously choose to do so.

Thank You,
Dorothy Fancher
Instructor

Mechanical wizard fouls up again

■ Aren't women suppose to know about cars?

By MELODY SHARP
STAFF WRITER

Chalk up another victory for the macho mechanical male world.

Recently on a very needed spring break my car decided to act up. I made an appointment to have it fixed. I told them it was making a loud whining noise in the front of the engine by the alternator. I told them it was out of time because of back firing and starting problems. "Okay," they said, and dropped me off at work, saying it would be done in two hours.

Three hours later the mechanic calls and says, "We can't find any problems." So I relate the story once again and they say, "Okay, we'll take a look." One hour later they call again saying it's the alternator. Duh!

I get a ride to the garage, and it's now two hours later. I walk in and they say, "We won't have that part until tomorrow, so we put the old one back on." I drive home in my ailing car and make an appointment for 8 a.m. the next day.

I am there bright and early, but they say, "That part won't be in until 11:30 on the truck; you can wait, have a cup of coffee."

Meantime, outside, the worst storm of the year is piling up and I just know the public schools are going to be cancelled.

The parts truck arrives.

Anticipations are mounting on whether I get home or get snowed in with these mechanical wizards.

The service manager stalls up an hour later saying, "It's not the alternator, it's the timing belt. We don't have one in stock."

Over the PA system, school cancellations are being announced.

I am seeing red and ask, "Why didn't they test the alternator yesterday when they had it out?" The service manager looks kind of dumb founded, then says, "I really can't tell you." Now is that because it's top secret or because they didn't think of that?

"Okay guys. This is the plan: I need a car in one hour or a ride home before the bus from school gets there," I calmly state.

They opt to take me home and get the part from another local store and promise to have it done no later than 5 p.m. because they close at 5:30.

They got my car done at 5:15, delivered it to my husband at work and only charged me \$44 for a timing belt, and \$115 for labor.

I should have charged them for the two days I lost of my spring break. And if they would have listened to me in the first place, I am sure time would have been a lot less wasted.

Why is it that when a man gets a tool box and a manual he thinks he has the auto world by

the tailpipe, when actually he's been sniffing too many exhaust fumes?

The Polemic Staff

- Adviser Sonya Titus
Layout Editor ... Jen Goodburne
Copy Editor ... Denine Konwinski
News Editor ... Shawn Dempsey
Cartoonist Carol Burns
Photographer ... Linda Simpson

Contributors

- Jim Ballmer
Scott Reed
Melody Sharp
Don Filarski
Jeremy Williams
Katie Dilks
Angela Beaubien
Kendin Jones
Jenell LaFevre
Kara Boomer
Deb Haske

The Polemic is published bi-monthly, and is distributed free of charge. Opinions expressed are strictly those of the writers. Questions, concerns, and other input can be dropped off at The Polemic office in Besser Tech 110, or in our mailbox in BTC. Mail correspondence to:

The Polemic
Alpena Community College
666 Johnson Street
Alpena, MI 49707

students SPEAK

How do you feel about the security on campus?



I didn't actually know there was any security, but I don't see it as a problem in this size of a school.

~ Kelly Zielakowski



I don't see security as a problem around here. I don't feel you have to worry about it. ~ Rachel Romel



Basically I feel security on campus is as worthy as a Cracker Jack prize. ~ Carl Prieur



Maybe they should worry more about our security than our parking. ~ Shari Brotzke



What security? ~ George French