

POLEMIC

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Hello, and welcome to our 25th anniversary issue! Although it hasn't quite been twenty-five years yet (the first issue of *The Polemic* was released on March 5, 1970), we feel it appropriate to celebrate our anniversary in the first issue.

Alpena Community College's journalism program has been making newspapers since early 1959, when it was known as *The Timber-Cruiser*. (Unfortunately, there is no known copy of that very first issue in existence.) The ACC newspaper underwent many face lifts and name changes since then. In 1970, *The Timber-Cruiser* became *The Polemic* and remained as such until 1979, when it transformed into the *ACC Campus Update*. In 1986, it evolved into *The Lumberjack* until 1991 when it once again became *The Polemic*.

All the articles contained in this "archival section" have been rewritten exactly as they appeared in their corresponding original issue, grammatical errors and all. We had a lot of fun searching for stories, digging through the past and seeing how the college has evolved. We hope you enjoy it, too.

Besser museum under construction

Taken from the March 29, 1965, issue of *The Timber-Cruiser*.

By GENE DOOLEY &
CHUCK PRESTON
STAFF WRITERS

Construction of the Besser Museum, begun in early March, should be completed by the November 1, 1965, contract date. According to architect James Spence of Spence and Smith (Saginaw), the recent barrage of inclement weather has not proved a setback and that work is running "on schedule." Stated Mr. Spence, "We're happy with the progress. It's coming along very

nicely."

Because the low bid for construction of the museum, offered by R.C. Hendricks and Sons, Inc., was considerably higher than the figure anticipated by the school board, certain changes and deletions in the plan were necessary. Only two of these changes were of major importance, however, these being the elimination of the separate exhibition building and of concrete paving for the parking lot. The 100 x 50 foot exhibition building was originally planned to house restored antique autos and large machinery of historical importance. The parking lot will be paved with stone.

The museum structure will be 160 x 110 feet and consist of two levels. The first level of the museum building will contain three large art classrooms, a workshop, storage rooms, a

meeting room, and a memorial planetarium. This was donated to the museum by the citizens of this area as a gift to Mr. Besser's honor.

In the upper level will be three exhibit halls, a receiving room, a director's room, a terrace and administrative offices. The floors will be covered in terrazo and travertine marble.

An important feature of the museum will be the Foucault pendulum, to be suspended from the top of the building to the floor of the lower level. The device is used to geographically display the effect of the earth's rotation. It will be hung by a long cable which has, at its base, a tip. When the pendulum is swinging the tip will etch its movements on a specially prepared surface. When the pendulum is set in motion it will swing back and forth but is

forced to alter its movement by the revolving of the earth around its axis. Over a period of hours the arc will swing by the same number of degrees from its starting path as our latitude is from the equator. Very few such exhibits are now in existence.

The entire main building is to be equipped with air conditioning and sprinkler systems.

The planetarium will be covered by a dome, thirty feet in diameter, to be installed at the center of the building. It will be capable of displaying not only the stars and planets as we see them, but close-ups of distant planets, stars and galaxies, as well as the view of the earth as seen from points in the universe.

This addition to the community will be located on the campus of Alpena Community College, west of the Besser Technical School.

A.C.C. offers science course on Lake Huron's Middle Island

Taken from the April 25, 1973, issue of *The Polemic*.

By TOM MITCHELL
STAFF WRITER

This summer a class unique to Alpena Community College will be offered. Set up principally by John McGill, Wally Strom, and Richard Miles, the course (or courses) will take place during a five-week period.

What makes this class unique is the fact that the fifth (final) week will be spent on Middle Island.

Four weeks prior to the campout, classes in Field Biology, Ecology, and Physical Education will be taught in the classroom. During the fifth week on the island, classes will dedicate approximately seven or eight hours a day in the field.

Besides taking part in field studies, the students can also expect to cook, wash dishes, and spend their nights in tents.

To qualify, the student must take hiking, camping and canoeing, and either Field Biology, Ecology, or both. The latter two classes are worth four credits apiece, while physical education will be counted as one.

Middle Island is located approximately one mile offshore just south of Alpena, in Lake Huron. Although once containing a Coast Guard station and a light house, it is now abandoned and has been for many years.

Though there are some small swamps on the island, there is considerably more dry land than swamp. Cedar, Spruce and other trees are found there, while many wild flowers not found on the mainland can be seen.

The fact that the class takes place during the summer has many advantages. Weather should not play a major factor as it does with spring and fall

field trips; even rains are warm. Since nature is in its active period, it provides the student with much more to study.

Another plus for any interested student is the fact that the island has never been extensively studied by any particular group. This means that any type of research and drawn conclusions will be made by this summer's class.

The first day of classroom instruction will begin June 25 and the fifth week, on the island, will be July 23-27.

More planning and information will be collected once enough students show interest.

It seems that now should be the time to plan for the summer; if you're interested in the biological field or just the outdoors in particular, this should be a good course for you - so sign up now!



Nowadays, an ACC student can take such courses as sign language and aviation, but had you been a student in 1978, you may have wanted to enroll in the belly dancing class.

Photo courtesy Carlene Przykucki

250 protest war in Indo-China

Taken from the May 13, 1970, issue of *The Polemic*.

By JAMES BARTZ
POLEMIC EDITOR (1970)

Wednesday night, May 6, an estimated 250 to 300 Alpena area students gathered on the lawn at Wilson Hall Dormitory on the ACC campus to protest U.S. involvement in Indo-China. Two Alpena area bands entertained the students who were huddled in blankets and winter jackets in the cold night air.

The first four speakers, ACC Student Government Vice President, Jim Pongones, expressed the disgust and anguish felt by many over the Indo-China War, saying, "I really don't know what to do but, goddamn, something's got to be done. This shit can't keep going on."

The second speaker, Larry Boyer, an instructor at ACC, suggested that perhaps the best thing an individual can do at the present time is to write those officials elected to represent him. Mr. Boyer said that shooting doesn't seem to do any good, because government troops have better guns and can shoot better. "Armed rebellion would be suicide, and no one can change anything if he's dead."

Attacking Nixon's invasion of Cambodia, Boyer said, "What Nixon has done in the last week, by not submitting his action against Cambodia to the Senate,

is to say that you people don't count. He said I don't care what you people think, I'm taking you - your bodies - the 130 pounds of flesh that can squeeze a trigger."

Mr. Boyer explained that those who misuse power depend upon a silent majority of individual citizens afraid to say no. "There comes a time when you have to make a choice. Do you say yes or do you say no? All of us must make that choice. Those dictators, Nixon included, feel that we don't have the capacity to say no. No one forces anyone to go into the military service."

As long as people say no, people like Richard Nixon have to sit and twiddle their thumbs."

The third speaker, Norman Malstrom, editor of the *Polemic*, announced that the advisory council of the college, which consists of administrators, faculty and student representatives, had that morning sent a telegram to Richard Nixon condemning the Kent State Massacre. Norman then read a petition to Mr. Nixon condemning U.S. involvement in Indo-China which read:

"We the undersigned condemn the military intervention of the United States into the affairs of the sovereign nation of Cambodia. We feel this action is a blatant violation of the Con-

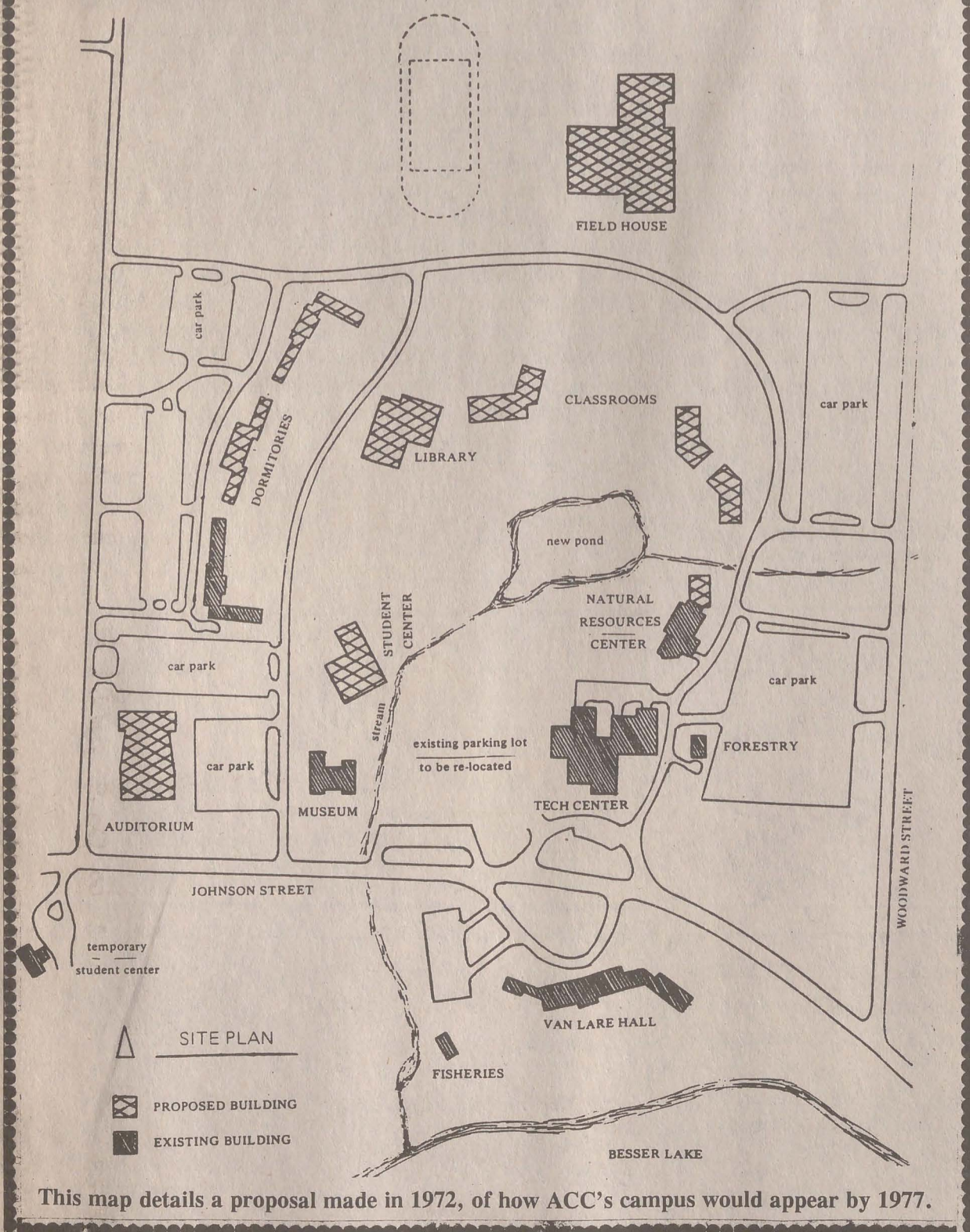
stitutional power of the United States Senate to declare War. We, as citizens of the United States, demand that all United States armed forces be immediately withdrawn from, not only Cambodia, but from all nations in South East Asia."

The letter when circulated, was signed by almost everyone present.

The fourth speaker, Mr. Titus, an instructor at ACC, questioned the morality of today's world at war. "People have lost sight of the fact that it is never right to take another human being's life. The most horrifying thing about our mentality today is that we somehow find it noble to die in order that other people may die. But somehow we find it meaningless to die that other people might live."

Only a few of the students residing in Wilson Hall did not participate in the protest. One of these students explained his absence by saying, "I'm a middle-of-the-roader. I don't get involved." Another explained, "I think that every generation has to answer its call. I can't see

why I should protest the war over there, because there are men dying over there, and if it's all right for them, it's all right for me. I'm not saying that war is something we all have to put up with."



This map details a proposal made in 1972, of how ACC's campus would appear by 1977.