

ACC hosts four-year colleges

BY HOLLY MACE
STAFF WRITER

According to Alpena Community College President, Dr. Don Newport, ACC is currently becoming involved in what is known as the University Center Concept.

The Northeast Michigan University Center will create "a broader base of contact with our four-year brethren for delivery of upper division and graduate courses on a central site other than the home site of the institutions," explained Newport.

This means that various four-year institutions will be offering some of their programs of study on this campus.

Presently, this is in a "planning mode," commented Newport.

On September 24, 1996, representatives from the following institutions met with representatives from ACC in CTR 114: Central Michigan University, Ferris State University, Grand Valley State University, Lake Superior State University, Madonna University, Michigan State University, Northwood University, and Spring Arbor College.

These representatives have participated in university centers around the state. There are approximately three or more that have developed in the last 3-4 years.

The reps spent about half a day going over the pros and cons to help the ACC reps understand this Center so that it works well.

Newport says that the next step is to determine the needs of Northeast Michigan.

Surveys will be taken -- some on campus involving the students. The survey might include questions such as:

What area would you be thinking about going into at the upper level or graduate level?

Would you be receptive to taking these courses in North-

Newport says that LSSU and Spring Arbor will remain on campus in addition to the four-year institutions taking part in this program.

After the surveys have been taken and the needs have been determined, then the college will look at who is "prepared and willing to deliver the best product," said Newport. Then the institutions will sit down and strike a bargain.

The courses will be taught in various ways. The interactive classroom will be used as well as the traditional face-to-face instruction. There will also be computerized instruction courses and correspondence courses.

There are several advantages to the University Center Concept, commented Newport.

The first advantage involves the "place-bound student" -- the middle-aged working mother of three children, for example.

"To ask this person to drive to Mount Pleasant two or three times a week [to attend classes at CMU] is impossible," added Newport.

The program is also ideal for the student looking to avoid the expense of relocating, hous-

ing, food, etc..

It will also develop an "articulated curriculum," said Newport. The student will learn more about what each institution is expecting and will have more regular contact with instructors of upper level courses. It will broaden the knowledge base and create a "comfort zone" for the students.

Also, added Newport, the community becomes a more educationally knowledge-based community. The level of education increases. It is also economically good for community development because people stay in the community.

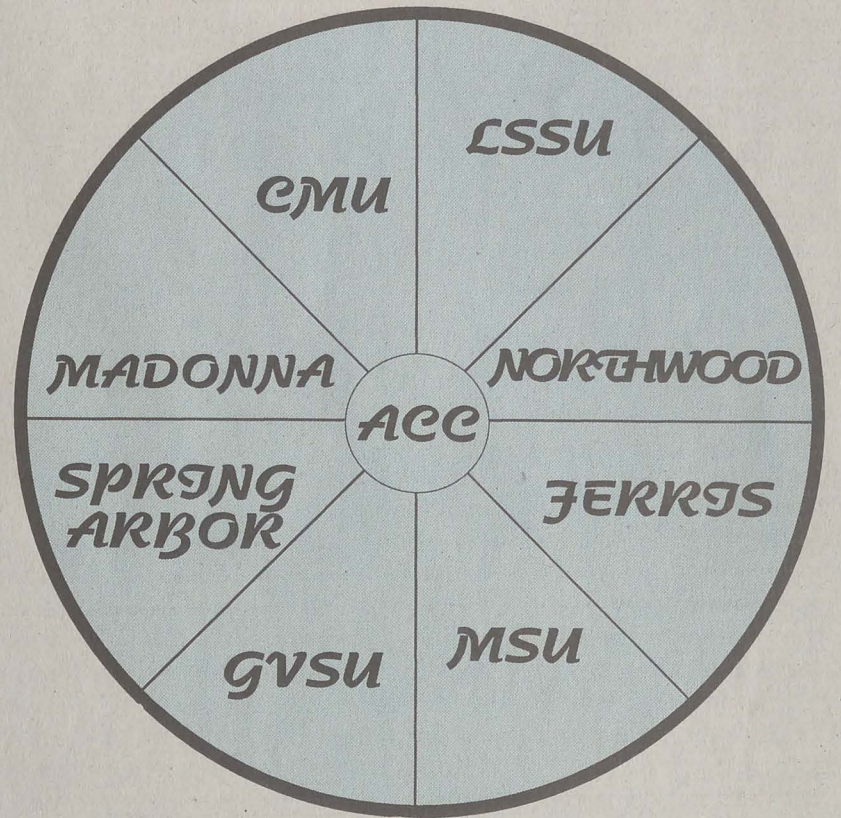
A major advantage, according to Newport, is that four-year institutions are forced to get to know each other, how their programs and requirements relate and differ.

As for the down side, "I don't know where the down side is if it's done right," said Newport.

According to Chuck Wiesen, Associate Dean, the University Center allows ACC to do three things.

First, it allows this institution to work with schools already here, such as Spring Arbor and LSSU, to improve the ability to move students to a point where they are ready to start working toward a Bachelor's or a Master's degree.

Secondly, it allows this in-



ACC starting plans to be a hub of higher education.

stitution to work with Spring Arbor and LSSU and others to look at possible new degrees to be offered here.

Finally, it allows this institution to share resources with participating institutions. Some examples would be purchasing equipment such as the interactive classroom, partnering with other schools for performing arts productions, and sharing part-time faculty in specialty areas to offer programs.

"Clearly, one of the challenges that we all face is being able to provide the best learning opportunity for a person whenever they're ready to go to school," said Wiesen. "The University Center extends the opportunity to learn beyond the two-year degree."

According to Paul Wegmeyer, ACC Trustee and MSU County Extension Agent, "There's a lot of optimism and hope."

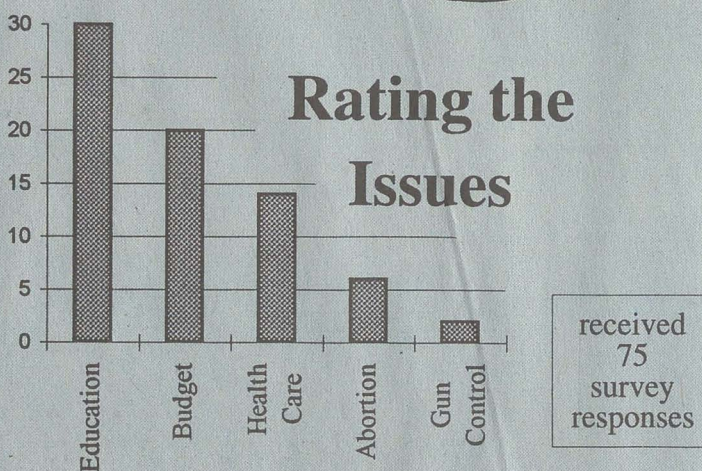
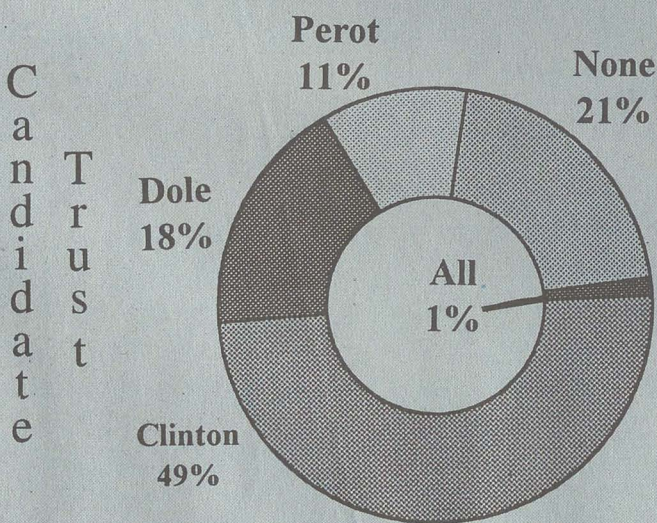
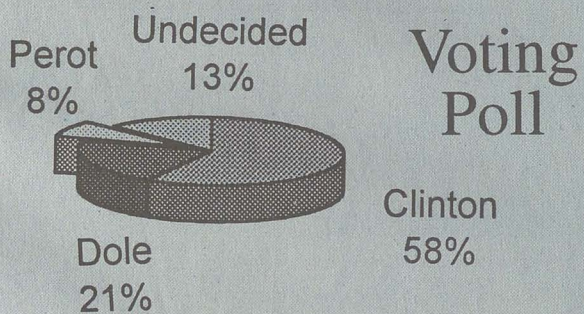
He went on to explain that small business owners and agriculturalists have little opportunity to leave town and pursue Master's and Bachelor's degrees. The University Center would be a "tremendous service" and would help them expand their knowledge.

Wegmeyer also added that children taking over their parent's farms need to maintain their education and knowledge of the new technologies that are constantly becoming available. The University Center would bring this opportunity to the community.

"Clearly, one of the challenges that we all face is being able to provide the best learning opportunity for a person whenever they're ready to go to school,"
Chuck Wiesen.

east Michigan at ACC? Or would you rather leave town and go reestablish yourself in a different environment?

Polemic Political Survey



Justin Thomas (above left) and Ana Gallaway (above right) and Nathan Garant (below) get ready for Halloween at ACC's "College Day for Women" on October 19.



PHOTOS BY POLEMIC STAFF

Forum deals with smoking issue

BY KENT ANDERSON
NEWS EDITOR

On October 15, the second meeting of the College Forum was held in the campus auditorium. The Forum is an assembly of Alpena Community College faculty and staff that is co-chaired by one faculty member and one administrator, each selected at the beginning of the fall semester by ACC's president and the faculty counsel.

One of the items on the agenda at the latest meeting concerned ACC's smoking policy, which, as it stands now, bans smoking within all college buildings. A change in the policy was proposed: ban all smoking on campus.

From that desire for change, four choices emerged to be voted on: 1) leave the smoking policy as it stands; 2) the establishment of a 100 foot radius smoke free zone at all building entrances; 3) ban all

smoking on campus; 4) by way of the Student Senate, educate the students as to what smoking practices are acceptable and what ones are not.

Twenty-one out of 26 voted for option four. Students who smoke should be aware that certain courtesies need to be extended to the non-smokers.

The total ban was proposed due to a few specific concerns. First, the piles of cigarette butts at building entrances is unsightly and unhealthy.

Second, when groups of people smoke at entrances, the smoke is often sucked into the building. Third, smokers clustered at building entrances force non-smokers to walk through a cloud of smoke to enter a building.

If students who smoke do not comply with these measures, the College Forum could vote on one of

the three other options and send the choice to ACC's president and Board of Trustees for activation.

Operating in a democratic fashion, the Forum allows ACC's faculty and staff to voice their concerns, which can become agenda items to be voted on by the assembled faculty and staff members.

Items that are supported by a majority are sent to the college's president and Board of Trustees, both of whom then decide whether or not to enact the proposed item.

