

# Briefs

## Severe weather revisited

According to the Office of Public Information, when morning conditions are severe, there may be a decision to close ACC or to delay opening until 10:00 a.m.. Closed means that all classes are cancelled, so neither students nor staff need to report. When opening is delayed until 10:00 a.m., staff should report to be on the job by 10 o'clock, and only classes scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m. or later will be held. Information will be given to all radio stations and to WBKB-TV. Every effort will be made to assure that the stations relay the appropriately worded message. This information will also be on the telephone greeting as close to 6 a.m. as possible.

## Forum To Discuss Parking

The next meeting of the Forum is scheduled for Tuesday, December 17. The first item on the agenda for the December meeting is parking. At the November meeting, the agenda consisted of three items: (1) scheduling training opportunities for staff, particularly secretaries, to learn new software programs; (2) looking for ways to help staff access the database; and (3) searching for an employee lounge for those who work in Van Lare Hall. All three items generated discussion, which led to potential solutions. Attend the next Forum meeting if you have an item you would like to discuss. Forum meetings begin at 11:15.

## Christmas Caper shines

Many members of ACC family and their families enjoyed the Christmas Caper on Tuesday, December 3. A highlight of the event was Christmas Wish, a Volunteer Center activity that matches donated gifts to needy children in the community. A group of excited youngsters placed their gifts under the tree, then visited Santa to fill his ear with requests and pleasantries. A sleigh ride followed, capping this special evening of holiday cheer.

## United Way update

The 1996 United Way campaign at ACC ended last week. Pledges totaled 91 percent of the \$4100 target. Less than half of ACC's fulltime staff contributed to United Way this year. Giving across northeast Michigan to the United Way has been down about ten percent this year.

## Peck delivers the goods

Mail technician Cheryl Peck won the "Guess the number of lights on the Christmas tree contest," netting her the \$50 prize. Actually, Peck was doubly lucky. Two others guessed 750 lights, the correct number. The three names were thrown into a hat, and Peck emerged the winner. Members of ACC's utility tech program strung the lights on the tree, which stands near the front entrance of Besser Tech. Participants paid one dollar per guess, with the proceeds going to decorating the tree.



PHOTO BY POLEMIC STAFF  
This Utility Tech student hung 750 lights on the Christmas tree near the entrance to Besser Technical Center.

# Pied Piper offers friendship and opportunity

● "It's a wonderful program," says Hart

By CHARLES K HURST  
STAFF WRITER

Believing in the worth of all individuals, Pied Piper Opportunity Center's goal is to assist disabled children and young adults in the Alpena-Montmorency-Alcona county Educational Service District.

In 1996 Alpena Community College's new cafeteria and Wal-Mart joined forces with Pied Piper Opportunity Center. The objective: to provide a hands on job development site for the center's students.

"It's a wonderful program," said Kathy Hart, director of food services at ACC. "We're delighted that they let us be a part of it."

One student who has been involved in the Center's Vocational Community-based Instructional Program is Barney Trahan-Grabiell. Most recently he has been on site at the ACC cafeteria. He is just one of 14 students who gets to take advantage of this merger under the tutelage of Jeff Ashley, the center's job coach.

Ashley's responsibility as the job coach encompasses a lot. Before a student can perform any task on a job site the job coach must first perform that task himself. He then analyzes the task and breaks it down into steps that will be

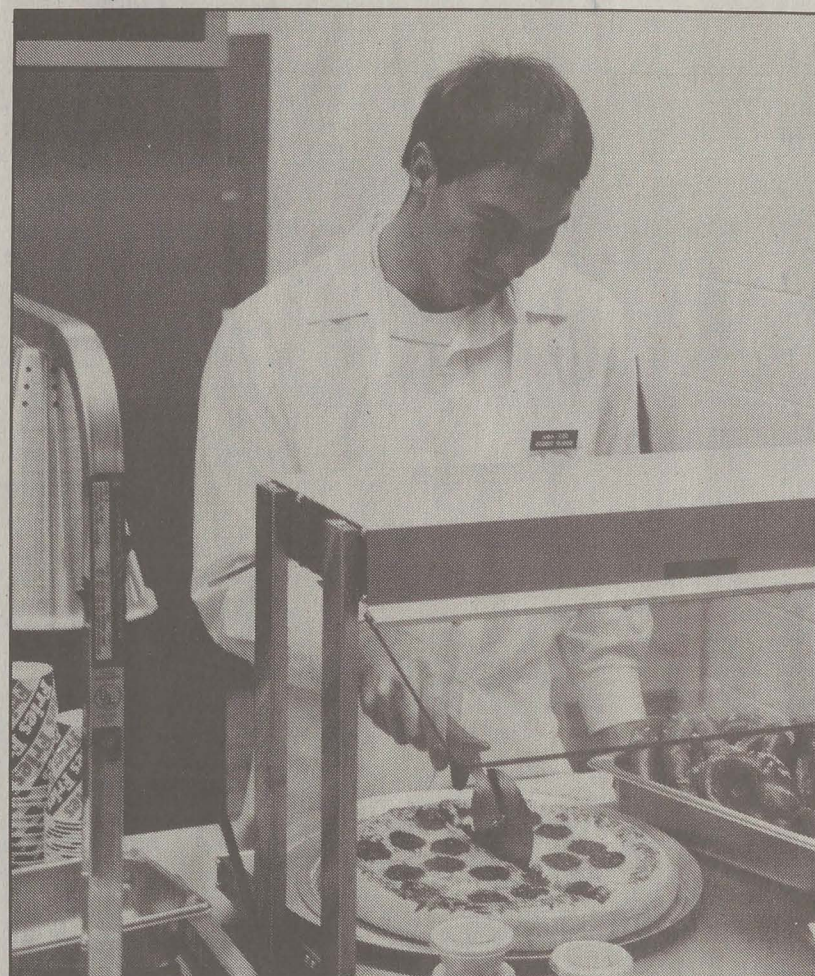


PHOTO BY POLEMIC STAFF  
As part of Pied Piper's Opportunity Program, Barney Trahan-Grabiell slices pizza in the ACC cafeteria.

easier for the students to perform themselves. All the while he takes into consideration each individual's strengths and weaknesses.

Barney, among others, has excelled in the program, showing the ability to work inde-

pendently. However, this ability has taken some time to develop. He started in the program when he was 20. He is now 25. State and federal laws mandate that special education terminates at the age of 26. So, where does he go from

there?

According to Jeff Ashley he will be referred to Michigan Rehabilitation Services and Community Mental Health, he will then be referred again. This time to another job coaching service. He will suddenly go from being a student to being a client.

The new job coaching service will train him on a specific job task. If he shows the ability to perform independently, they will withdraw their services and support.

"I'm going to miss my friends at the school," Barney said, looking a bit sad.

The transition from the school setting to the actual work force should not be a problem for Barney, but some of the students there won't be as fortunate. They will not give up though, they will keep trying until they make it work.

When asked about his future Barney said, "I would really like to work at the college, I like it there."

According to Kathy Hart, they liked having him there.

Over the 36 years Pied Piper has been in operation they have had many success stories. Their students are the epitome of drive and determination. One student, Barney Trahan-Grabiell, is no exception. So keep your fingers crossed for him.

# Women's Resource Center assists ACC students

● Center offers an "unbiased ear"

By LESLIE MALE  
STAFF WRITER

The Women's Resource Center, one of ACC's student services, is a valuable asset to the college. The Women's Resource Center deals with many of the issues one might encounter on a day to day basis, such as academic and personal concerns, exploration and assistance, and can also be a referral service to many of the other facilities in the community.

The activities and services in the Women's Resource Center facility are there to help increase self esteem and communication skills, while developing students' full potential and giving them a sense of direction.

There is an array of

books available at the Women's Resource Center, plus audio and videotapes for students to use free of charge.

Bonnie Urlaub, counselor and coordinator of the Women's Resource Center, says the facility is "a necessary resource," although many students are unaware of its location in VLH 102.

Despite this, Urlaub says "students are my best referral source," meaning that students tend to direct others in need of counseling to the other programs available.

Most personal problems need a unbiased listening ear, not answers, Urlaub says. "Good counseling is not advice."

The Women's Resource Center can serve many needs. Men are welcome.



PHOTO BY POLEMIC STAFF  
Women's Resource Center coordinator Bonnie Urlaub (right) and work-study Theresa Green (left) discuss resources available in the center.

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Print Media is an artform unto itself. Today's designers are using many tools in order to get their message across. While computers play a large role, many traditional methods are also used.

Here at ACC we try to expose students to many methods of print communication. While the final product must "sell", the student is free to choose the overall design and execution of the project.

For more information and a "gallery" tour, please call 356-9021, ext. 239.

Graphic Arts- the art beyond the palette.

Currency Exchange

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