

Advisor's note: The following article comes from *The Ranger*, San Antonio College's Student Newspaper. *The Ranger* is linked with *The Polemic* as part of *Exploring America's Communities: In Search of Common Ground*. Sponsored by the National Endowment of the Humanities and the American Association of Community Colleges, *Exploring America's Communities* is designed to promote understanding of contemporary American culture.

The Ranger

San Antonio College

Vol. 72, No. 12 ■ Jan. 24, 1997

Viewpoint/Laura Jesse

San Pedro High underrated by the uninformed



San Pedro High. That is the illustrious name — well maybe not so illustrious — given to this college by many in our community.

In fact when I transferred to this school from Texas Woman's University two years ago, I would look down at the ground or look away and mutter, "San Pedro High," whenever I was asked what school I was attending.

It was not until my second semester here that I realized this college and the many programs it offers is a hidden treasure to the community.

Never in high school, when I showed an interest in writing, did any counselor or teacher suggest that I start my college endeavors in the journalism program here.

San Antonio College was reserved for the students who could not get into four-year universities or who did not have enough money to attend a major university.

We are ranked high among community colleges in the nation and generally students who come out of this college do better at four-year universities than transfers from other community colleges or students who did not attend a community college.

So forgive me if I sound like a cheerleader for this college, but in a sense I guess I am.

Let's start with what I know best about this school — the journalism program.

The *Ranger*, the student publication at San Pedro High, just received one of the highest honors for college media for the eighth time.

The paper also was inducted into the Associated Collegiate Press Hall of Fame in October.

The most recent awards, while celebrated, are merely a speck in the collection of regional and national rankings and awards *The Ranger* has received through the years.

Journalism schools at four-year universities do not have to ask where San Antonio College is; they cannot forget where it is because it is home to *The Ranger*.

The nursing program is highly acclaimed as the largest program of its type in the state as well as for offering the only registered nurse refresher course in the state.

The passing rate on state board exams for nursing students from this school is always in the 90s.

Students from the graphics design classes win Addy Awards for their designs and put together shows that draw public attention, such as Spamapalooza last spring.

The forensics team regularly collects awards.

Some of our art students and music students get recruited right out of the studio to attend the most prestigious art institutes and music schools.

But alas, despite all the public relations efforts, this college will probably never live down the name San Pedro High.

Which is a shame.

If someone showed me in this direction when I graduated from high school, I could be on my way to a bachelor's degree. I could have saved time and money to be part of the elite at this college.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RICK ENGSTROM

Automotive Technology Instructor Rick Engstrom and his scout troop take a break during their 56 mile backpacking trip on Isle Royale.

Engstrom carries on the scouting tradition

•The former scout is now a scoutmaster

BY NICK PHILLIPS
STAFF WRITER

Many of us were involved with the scouts at one time or another. Whether it be Cub, Boy, or Girl Scouts, it was a common experience for a lot of America's youth. The same goes for Rick Engstrom, an instructor of Automotive Technology here at ACC.

Engstrom was in scouts until the age of 16, but has recently been involved with them since his oldest boy joined Cub Scouts 10 years ago. He was actively involved in the Cub Scouts until his younger boy went through, then he moved up to Boy Scouts. He started off as a committee chairman, moved to merit badge counselor, then the position of Scoutmaster. He has held that position for

three years.

Engstrom has helped several people attain the coveted position of Eagle Scout, but attributes the success of the

Trying to get the scouts to be better citizens is what it is all about.

~Rick Engstrom

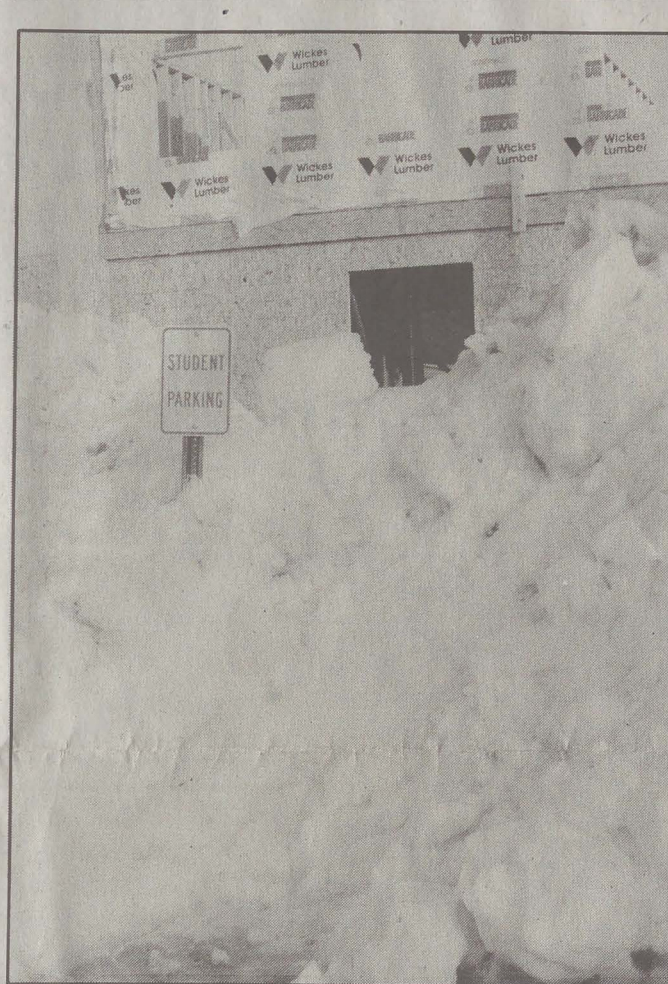
individuals to the individuals themselves and the parents who were actively involved and cared about their children's success.

Engstrom places the emphasis not on rank and advancement, but the values. "I

guess the values which scouting builds are things that I believe very strongly in." He says that one way they go about doing that "is by the boys interacting with many different adults who have their priorities and moral values in order," and also through the outdoor program. "Trying to get the scouts to be better citizens is what it is all about," Engstrom said.

Engstrom described one of the outdoor activities that the scouts did. They have recently taken a backpacking trip to Isle Royale, in which they traveled 56 miles on foot and took a week to do so.

"When you're in that kind of a situation you do an awful lot of thinking and an awful lot of reflection on what life is really like and what life is all about," said Engstrom.



PHOTOS BY POLEMIC STAFF

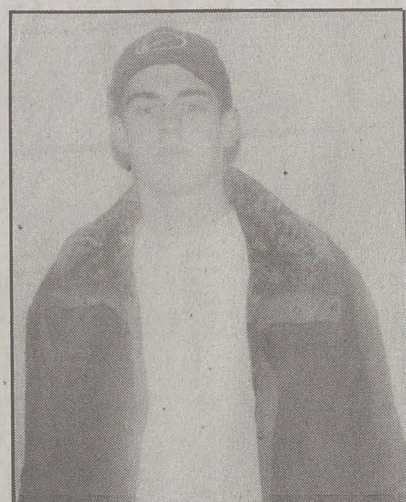
Snow is left by "The Blizzard of '97"

Thursday February 27, at 10 a.m., ACC was closed because of weather. Fifteen inches of heavy snow fell in less than 24 hours. Kathleen McGillis, Assistant Dean of Health Occupations, stayed over to catch up on some work and could not get out of the parking lot until she was assisted by an ACC student. Nat Salziger and son Stephan not only assisted McGillis out of the lot, they followed her home to Grand Lake to make sure she had no more problems.



If you could change something about ACC, what would that be?

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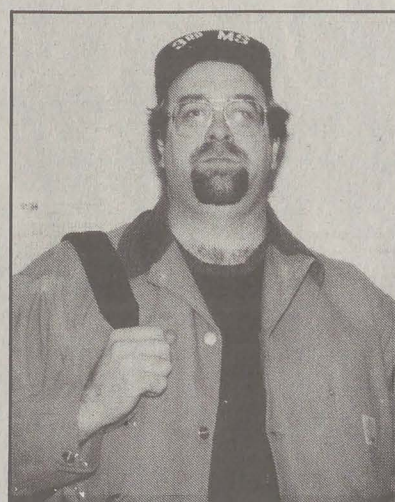
Kevin Sobczak
"More student activities, maybe more student bodies."



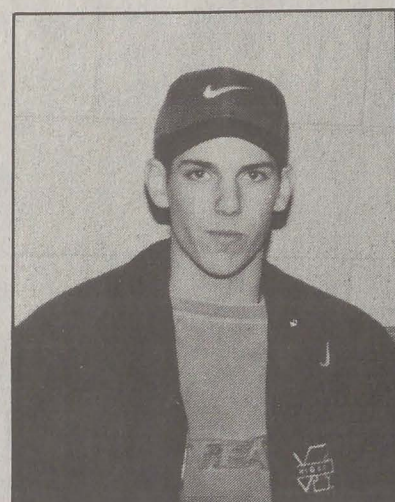
Jennifer Ries
"I would offer a wider range of classes to choose from."



Tonya Flemming
"I would change the parking. I usually have to wait in line, and I have gotten two parking tickets."



Eric Wregglesworth
"Probably a bigger machine shop area. We need new equipment, and there is not enough room."



Darek Purgiel
"No classes on Friday."

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Photos by Lyz Huffman

By Lyz Huffman