

THE POLEMIC

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ALPENA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MARCH 30, 1999

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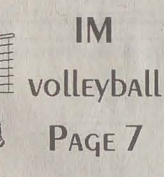


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Phone bank experience

ACC students give a helping hand

By ERIN BRUSKI
EDITOR

In efforts to inform Alpena Community College district voters about the upcoming college millage election this past Tuesday, the ACC Phone Bank was formed.

The phone bank consisted of volunteers from ACC staff and students, and citizens.

The duty of the phone bank volunteers was to call a number of college district voters and tell them about both millage proposals and remind them of the day of the election. We were also supposed to inquire if they were or were not in favor of the proposals.

About 5,000 area voters were contacted. Of the people contacted, about 50 percent said that they would vote in favor of both proposals, about 25 percent were undecided, and less than 25 percent said either they were voting against the proposals or they wouldn't say.

I was one of the many phone bank volunteers. At first I was very apprehensive about calling complete strangers and asking them about their voting preferences. And of course, the session I signed up for was from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m., so I would be calling and interrupting someone's dinner. There is no one more irate than someone who has had

their meal interrupted by a pesky telemarketer, which is basically what I was.

More than half of the people I called were very friendly and disclosed that they intended on voting in favor of both proposals. But unfortunately, I also encountered a lot of people who hung up on me.

There was one elderly lady who, before she hung up on me, told me that she wasn't "going to pay more property tax for something I don't get any use out of."

The very next person I called was another elderly lady. She told me that her husband and herself "would be delighted" to vote in favor of both of the millage proposals. Then she added, "my husband I were just down to your college campus a few weeks ago to attend a production, and we enjoyed it very much."

There were many people who had nice things to say about the college. It is good to know that they appreciate the college and see it as being an important fixture in the community. They realize the value of education, and how important it is to stand behind the facility that provides it. They realize all of the opportunities and services that the college provides are available to all who desire them. Those phone calls made me feel that the time I was volunteering was worthwhile.

Voters split on millage election

By ERIN BRUSKI
EDITOR

There was both good news and bad news for Alpena Community College, Tuesday, March 23, as the final results of the college millage election came in.

Area residents voted in favor of Proposition I, which was to renew and restore an existing 1.18 mills, 2,146 to 1,623 votes.

However, Proposition II, an 0.8 mill increase for capital improvements, failed 1,656 to 2,080 votes.

The renewal of Proposition I will mean that area taxpayers will continue to pay \$1.18 on every \$1,000 of the State Equalized Value (SEV) of their property for the

next five years. This renewal will raise \$805,000 per year through 2003. This makes up about 17% of the college's general fund that covers daily operations.

"We would like to express our appreciation to the folks who voted for and supported Proposition I. We would also like to express our appreciation to the many students and staff who worked extremely hard on carrying the message to the citizens," said ACC President, Dr. Don Newport.

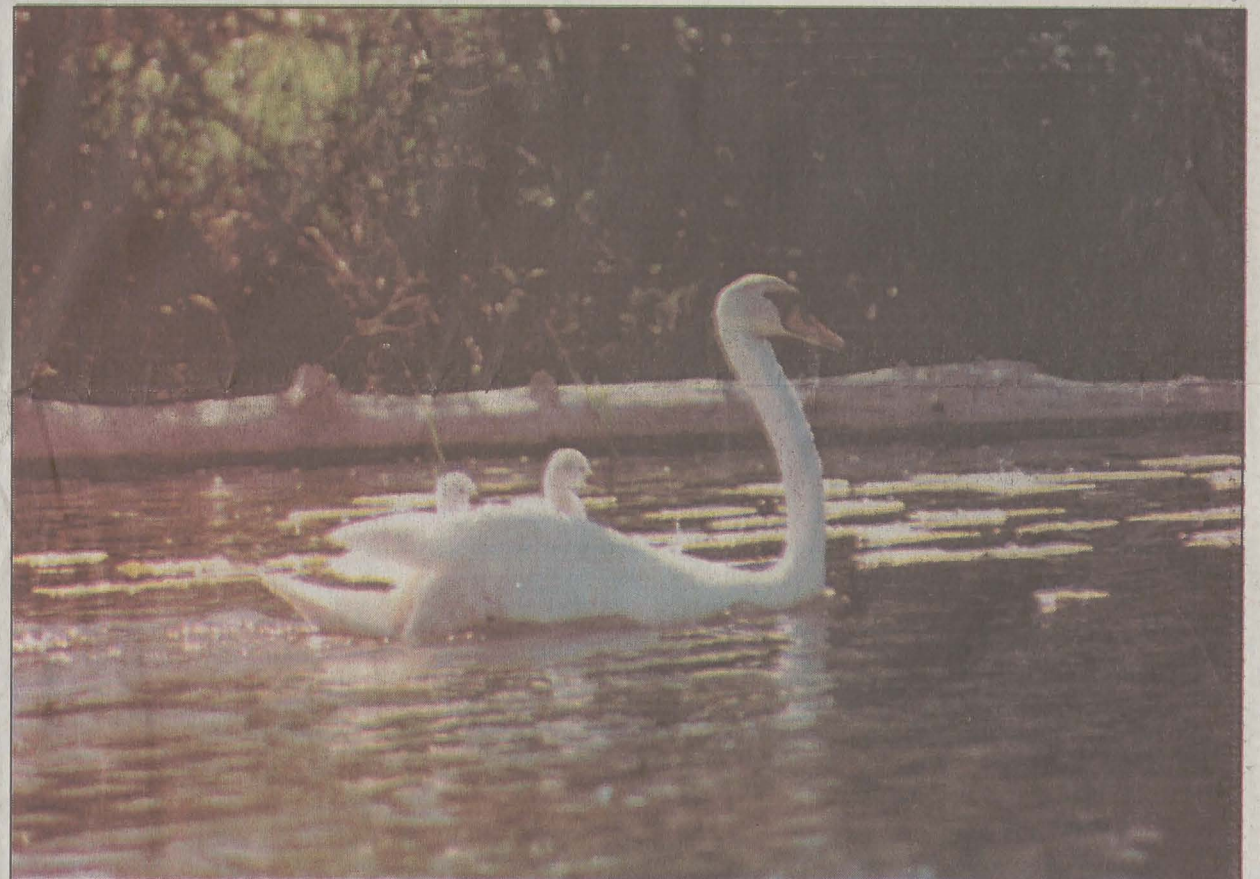
Had Proposition II been approved, taxpayers would have been paying an extra \$.80 for every \$1,000 of the SEV of their property tax.

This millage was to be used for technology, includ-

ing interactive, electronic and computer equipment, and tools and software for labs, classrooms and operations. It also would have been used for major maintenance to guarantee a safe and secure learning environment at ACC. There is also college-wide compliances with the Americans With Disabilities Act that would have been included.

"We are disappointed that Proposition II did not pass, but we are looking at options on being able to address those issues for the institution," Newport said.

Voter turnout was extremely low, in fact, only 3,791 eligible voters participated in the election.



A cygnet of trumpeter swans glides down the Thunder Bay River behind Alpena Community College. These feathered creatures were captured by the camera of Don Dihle. For more of Dihle's work, see the photo essay on the back page.

Dr. Boyer to retire

By JOHN KISSANE
STAFF WRITER

Dr. Lawrence Boyer will be retiring after this semester, ending a 32-year teaching career at ACC.

Boyer grew up around the far western tip of the northern peninsula. He went to local schools, after which he served with the Air Force for four years. While in the Air Force, he was permitted to attend college, so he went to Michigan Tech and attained a Bachelor's degree.

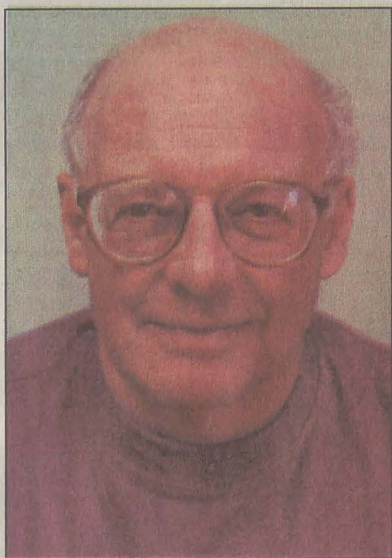
After receiving his degree, Boyer taught English and French at high school for three years. Then he went to Northern Michigan and acquired two Master's degrees, one in English and one in Educational Psychology.

In 1967, he was offered a job at ACC, and came here. The academic freedom appealed to him, as did the class sizes.

"If the school were smaller I wouldn't have been here," he said, and at the same time there weren't so many students that he couldn't know them individually.

"It's amazing the number of students you can get to know...I enjoy quality relationships with many students," Boyer said.

He was head of the English department for five years. During his tenure he introduced Introduction to



Dr. Lawrence Boyer finalizes a 32-year career.

Film, The Novel, Introduction to Literature, The Short Story, and Mythology.

"It was a nice period of being able to expand my own horizons as well as the school's," Boyer said. "If you can line up the needs of the institution with the areas that you want to explore, you can learn a lot that way."

Justifiably proud, Boyer said that "you couldn't have done any better at that than I did."

He was one of the original founders of the Thunder Bay Arts Council, along with Terry Hall, Debbie O'Dell, and John Heimnick. For several years he helped plan the programs for it. Boyer noted that it was always underfunded, but considers it a success.

After acquiring, in 1979, a Doctorate in English Language and Literature from the University of Michigan, Boyer returned to ACC to teach English and film.

He created The Classic Film Series. Eight films would be shown a year in NRC 105. A special tailored screen had to be custom-made to fit the specifics of the room. Boyer would give an introductory lecture on each film before showing it. Season tickets were sold. Some of the films shown included Federico Fellini's *8 1/2*, Michelangelo Antonioni's *Blow-up*, and Peter Bogdanovitch's *The Last Picture Show*.

"[They were] the films that the downtown had no interest in showing...art films," he said. He isn't involved with that anymore, but recently was involved with the China film series.

Boyer, referring to the differences between students he taught earlier in his career and students now said that "students in the late '60's, early '70's, seemed more idealistic about things, and were much less career-oriented in their education."

Boyer, noting these changes in attitude, did some experimental work in the mid-80's. Based on it, he and Terry Hall created the Liberal Arts Block in 1972. It was a fifteen credit-hour program

see BOYER, page 2

Honesty is the best policy

By BETH KLINE
EDITOR

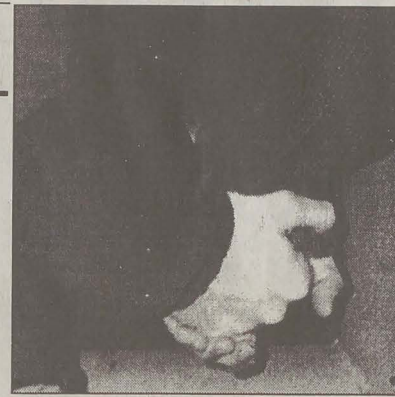
Editor's note: This is the last in a series of articles covering sexually transmitted diseases. The first article focused on what STDs are, the second on their long term effects.

With spring in the air, flowers around the corner, sunshine lifting spirits, love often floats in on the breeze for many people at this time. When presented with the opportunity of a new relationship, caution should be used before being carried away.

About 31 percent of students at Alpena Community College use protection during sex only when it is convenient, according to a survey taken by The Polemic staff.

There are more than 20 different diseases that can be transmitted through oral, anal or vaginal sex. In the Alpena area chlamydia and genital warts are the most common. Cases of syphilis and even AIDS are also present in the area, said Dr. Tina Rossi of the Alpena Medical Arts Clinic.

"There is still a lot of thought that you can't get it here in Alpena. Like 'it won't happen to me,'" she said.



virus without having any symptoms. Just like when a person with the beginning tingling stage of a cold sore kisses someone, even though the sore is not yet present, the virus can be shed from the skin to the other person. This same happens with warts and genital herpes," said Barb Mink, RN with District Health Department No. 4.

Another point Mink feels is important, is the occurrence of condom breakage.

In a study by Emory University of 49 men who reported experiencing condom breakage, 31 percent never informed their partners. Because STDs can be passed in reproductive fluids and blood, these people were at great risk of transmitting or contracting an STD.

"I'm not really worried right now. I'm with a great girl and none of us have ever had any weird signs. I suppose it would be a good idea to get checked anyway because I guess you never really know what could happen," Joe said.

Of the ACC students sexual histories reflected in the Polemic survey, 50 percent have had experience with a

About 35 percent of ACC students believe that condoms are very effective in controlling the spread of STDs. Condoms, however, are not 100 percent effective against diseases such as genital warts and herpes. A condom may not cover the affected area.

"People can also shed a

see STD, page 2

STD

STD, either by themselves or someone they know.

"These things spread because people don't do anything about it. If you don't know you've got something you can spread it. Babies can get something when traveling down the birth canal. Some of these things you can have forever," Mink said.

To help curb the spread of STDs, the most important points to remember are honesty, protection and preventive testing. Being open with a potential sex partner can protect that person from life dam-

aging ailments. Using protection every time oral, anal or vaginal sex is encountered will help stop the spread of possible life threatening diseases. And, being tested regularly for the presence of STDs could save lives.

To be confidentially tested for the presence of STDs in your body contact the Health Department at 356-4507, or your family doctor.

For more immediate answers, call the STD hotline at 1(800)621-8335 between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Press 3 after the recording.

Boyer

taught on an interdisciplinary basis. Boyer and Hall refined it, creating the Interdisciplinary Skills Program, which was sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities. It focused on "an intensive experience in writing, intellectual skill development, psychological adaption to the college environment, and extensive career counseling."

"One outstanding consequence of the program was a completion of four-year course rate of 95 percent, as opposed to that of University

of Minnesota's 36 percent, University of Michigan's 54 percent, and Central's 49 percent, according to Boyer.

Boyer isn't directly involved with the two programs any longer, but will, quietly and on the side, assist a student who comes to him with problems in career choice.

Boyer was also the advisor to *The Polemic* in its first year (before, it was known as *The Timber-Cruiser*).

He said that if he hadn't gone into teaching he might have gone into business, as it

was a family tradition. He taught, though, and thirty-two years of his teaching career were at ACC.

"I genuinely enjoy teaching," he said. "I have not lost any enthusiasm for it." However, he finds that "when you get older you realize you don't have energy for everything...you have to make a choice." He wants to devote time to keeping his body "as good a working instrument as I can," and further pursuing studies in both theoretical and applied Mythology.

Boyer isn't certain about

where he's going to be after retirement.

"If I do leave I'll miss my friends," he said. "I've had the good fortune to have wonderful teaching colleagues, and by large the administration has been good." He will also miss the students, who he said "really make the quality of an institution, if they so choose."

In a sense, though, considering his future projects, Boyer said he is going to once more become a student himself.

ACC students honored at banquet

By NICOLE HEWITT
GUEST WRITER

On March 16, 1999, an awards banquet was held in Lansing in honor of new members of the Michigan All State Academic Team. Two students from each two-year institution were chosen to become members. The two students from ACC were John Dietlin and myself, Nicole Hewitt.

To become a member of the academic team, you must be a student who has shown that he/she possesses the skills required to be a good leader in the community. There is of course considerable paperwork to fill out—forms, recommendations, and essays. Once you get the paperwork sent out, the rest of the experience is fun.

John and I were told that we were accepted and that we would be going to the ceremony in Lansing. Our first thoughts were "Yes, no school!" and our second thoughts dwelled on the long drive. The drive actually turned out to be very interesting, considering it took 3 1/2 hours. We drove down with Mr. Law, Dr. Newport, Trustee Florence Stibitz, and my mother, Lori Van Wieringen. That combination made for interesting conversation, conversation that revolved around politics, nursing homes, and the deer that couldn't manage to stay off the roads.

John and I went to sleep in the last two rows of the van. Finally we arrived at our destination: the University Club on the grounds of Michigan State University.

At the banquet we were

served wonderful food. It required us to use three forks, but honestly, the food was delicious.

After lunch was the awards ceremony. Because they went alphabetically (by community college), John and I were the first ones up there. We were both presented with medallions for our excellent academic achievement.

Afterwards, we returned to our table to enjoy the sight of other members receiving awards. There were 30 colleges with a total of 56 students being honored.

Finally the time had ar-

rived for us to head home. The conversation on the way back involved, again, politics, nursing homes, and deer. John and I, exhausted from the long trip, no doubt could be heard snoring lightly in the background.

Being a member of the Michigan All State Academic Team means that John and I represent the high standard of education that is common in the students at ACC and we are proud to hold that position.

We plan to uphold that standard through the rest of our educational careers, which in short means the rest of our

lives. At the banquet, we were asked to think back to a time when someone in our life helped us through a difficult decision considering our education and to write that person a thank-you letter. I think it was excellent advice and everyone should take the time out to thank someone.

John and I would like to thank Mr. Law, Dr. Newport, Mrs. Stibitz, and my mother for taking the time to be there. We would also like to thank all the faculty and staff at ACC for making the college what it is.

New PTK members inducted

By BECKIE FILIPIAK
STAFF WRITER

If you are an Alpena Community College student with a grade point average of 3.5 or better, you may be eligible for Phi Theta Kappa. Phi Theta Kappa is the national honor society of two-year colleges. Recently, I had the opportunity to become a member of Phi Theta Kappa.

On March 21, 1999, at 4 p.m. in BTC 106, the Phi Theta Kappa induction service took place. The service was an opportunity for the members of Phi Theta Kappa to welcome new members and inform them of the privilege of being a member.

As a member of PTK, there is potential for scholarships, recognition on our diplomas, and at graduation to wear the golden stoles and

tassels. Also important are the leadership experiences that will be helpful in the future.

Present at this ceremony were Wesley Law, ACC history instructor and PTK advisor since 1991, ACC President Dr. Donald Newport, guest speaker Reverend Pat Bascio, PTK president John Dieflin, vice president Nathan Kroll, and public relations representative Nicole Hewitt.

Other PTK office-holders include Treasurer Alisha Domke and Secretary Maria Standen.

The ceremony was followed by a reception that was put together by Doris Feys, Lynn Burke, and Kim Hartman. "They did a wonderful job," said Law.

As a new member of PTK, I will have the opportunity to go to the meetings and voice my opinion as a student.

The group is based on four hallmarks: Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Fellowship. PTK organizations sponsor and participate in a number of service projects that help to better the college and community.

Right now, PTK has chapters in Germany, Japan, Canada, and all over the United States. There are an estimated one million members nationally. PTK has also had some recognition as the beginning for some well-known people like Ross Perot and Jean Kirkpatrick. The national headquarters is in Jackson, Mississippi.

New Phi Theta Kappa Members

- William Herbert Bethuy
- Jessica Rae Brege
- Linda K. Burgett
- Clay P. Cornelius
- Twila Mae Edwards
- Sarah Lynn Ewing
- David William Fancher
- Rebecca Sue Filipiak
- Diane K. Hansen
- Karen Lynn Koenig
- Montiel Marie Krentz
- Lisa Marie Kutschman
- Michael John Matthews
- Maynard Miller
- Catherine Moe
- Betsy Gabrielle Nowak
- Amy Lynn Nowakowski
- Jennifer Lynn Pawelek
- Rebecca Jane Prevost
- Kimberly Sue Przewozniak
- Erica Ann Read
- Rebecca Catherine Schiller
- Gail Lynn Skrine
- Sandra Lynn Stevens
- Carrie Renee Taratuta
- Lisa Marie Thibault
- Kristin Lyn Vandenberg
- Ellen Kaye Wickersham
- Kristi Lynn Wubbe
- Andrew Peter Zbytowski
- Victorine A. Zeckzer

We need you!

The Polemic needs potential writers, photographers, graphic artists, layout technicians, communicators and enthusiastic learners for next year's staff.

Interested persons can contact Don MacMaster at ACC 356-9021 ext. 344.

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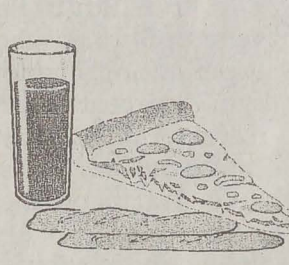
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Americorps lends helping hands

By JAMIN TREVARROW
STAFF WRITER

"I've been a volunteer most of my life," says Kristen Isaacs, ACC Americorps Youth Volunteer Coordinator. "I wanted to join the Peace Corps, but I didn't want to move so far away from my family. With Americorps I can serve my country without leaving home."

Americorps, also known as the Domestic Peace Corps, is a nationwide service program created in 1993 by congress and President Clinton, recognizing that there is much to be gained by meeting needs within our own country.

Americorps recruits volunteers, who in exchange for at least 1700 hours of service earn a \$5000 educational scholarship. Twenty-five thousand Americans serve in more than 430 different programs in varied positions assigned by Americorps hosting agencies.

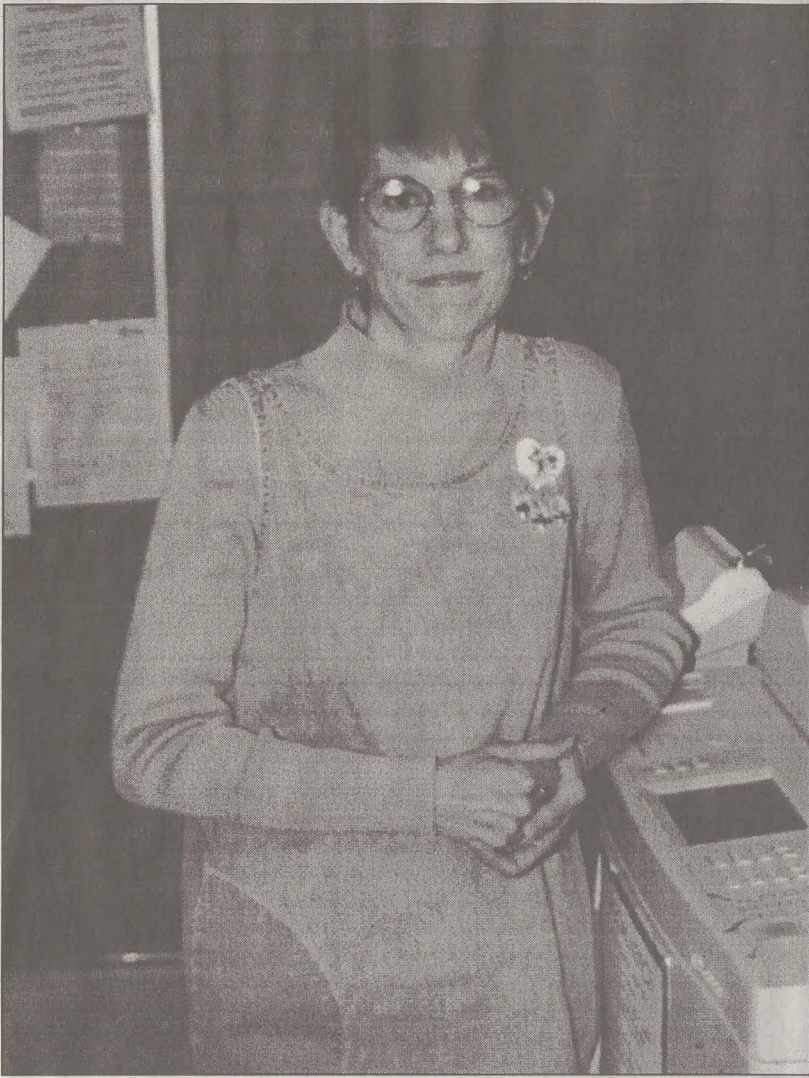
Alpena has its own agency, which hosts ACC's Youth Volunteer Corps (YVC) program. The YVC is currently led by three ACC team leaders—Toby Rickett, Mega Sodini and Mark Breckinridge—that work with local youth in the community.

"Its purpose is to serve the community while fulfilling the needs of the youth," says Breckinridge.

The youth help the area through direct community service, curriculum based service learning, and community based service learning.

"Direct community service is the usual picking up litter, but with community based service learning, before the kids pick up the litter, they'll learn why they're doing it, what problems led to it, there's learning connected to the service," Isaacs said.

"Curriculum based ser-



Americorps Youth Volunteer coordinator, Kristen Isaacs.

vice learning is somewhat similar," Isaacs said. "It takes what the students are learning in the classroom and ties it into the needs of the community. It makes education real, shows them how to use it in real life applications."

YVC often work in the Alpena Community Schools, tutoring Junior High and High School kids, taking the High School volunteers to help out in the Elementary Schools.

Sodini explains, "It's a lot of fun if you enjoy working with youth. You really get to know the teachers, what happens in school, and actually become a part of it."

YVC also take part in other activities such as the

beautification of Island Park, Sprinkler Lake Camp, and Alpena County parks. They also put together the Alpena County Library Reading Carnival and an upcoming Summer program.

If this sounds like something you'd like to do, anyone can become an Americorps volunteer. There is no grade point requirement, although someone with a past history of community service is preferred. To apply call Kristen Isaacs at 517-356-6161 Ext. 243 or leave a message at 517-356-9021 Ext. 301.

They are recruiting for the summer program and new volunteers are needed for the fall.

Fisher's Focus on faith

By AMY WALLOT
STAFF WRITER

There's strength in numbers. Just ask the members of Fisher's Focus Bible Study. The group meets every Tuesday in BTC 110 from 4 to 6 p.m.

"It's really nice to have friends that are Christians. We can encourage one another," said Angela Mausolf, a member of Fisher's Focus.

Fisher's Focus has been meeting since the start of the school year. According to group facilitator, Chuck Potrykus, the group was

started because there was no Christian outreach at the college.

Members study the Bible topics, examining verses and relating the Bible's lessons to everyday life.

"There's so many distractions that we face every day we believe that reading His word and studying it is the best way to really get the full appreciation for what God has to tell us as young adults," Potrykus said.

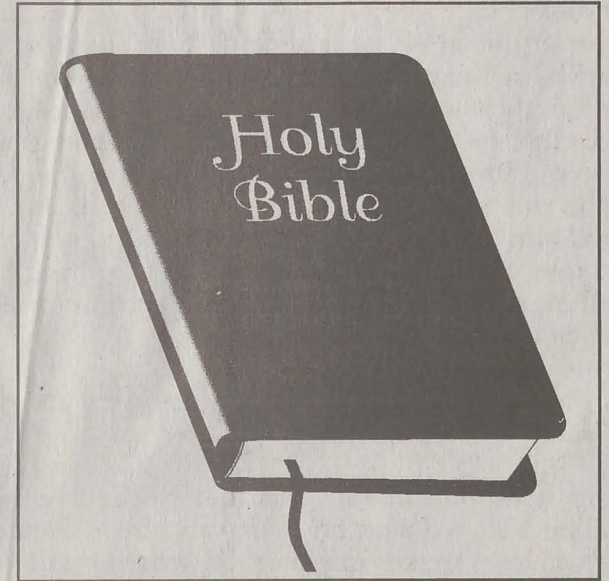
Besides biblical study each week, the members of Fisher's Focus discuss what has

happened to them during the week, do prayer, and inform each other of local religious happenings. The group also has a guitarist and brings in guest speakers.

The group hopes to continue through the summer and has discussed meeting twice a week.

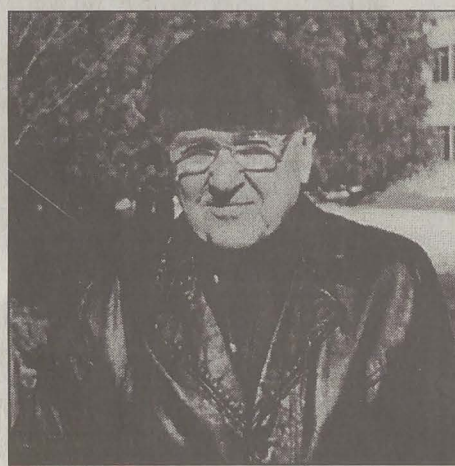
"Our group is non-denominational and everyone is encouraged to participate whether they are Christians or not," Potrykus noted. People of all ages are welcome to join or visit the group.

Fisher's Focus Bible Study



What is your favorite part about spring and why?

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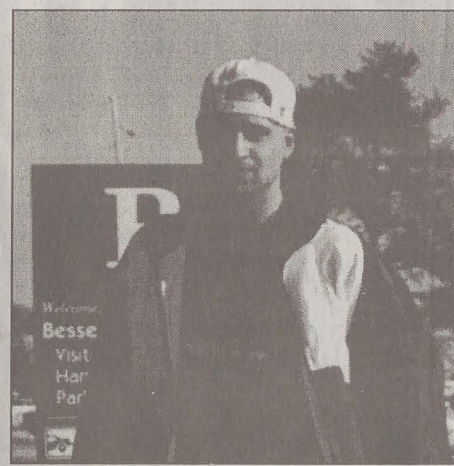
Harry Kirk

"It's beautiful! Much more so than the dead of winter. Also it brings the Alpena area great opportunities. People love to get out and enjoy a beautiful spring day."



Azra Pilav

"I like being outside more and having fun in the sun."



Brian Veitengruber

"I'm looking forward to meeting girls. The hotter it is, the less they wear. Also, rollerblading down by the bayside in hot weather to play basketball."



Jamie Patzer

"I like the warm weather, and the fact that it's not so dreary."

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Lessons

by Jeff Williams

I went to visit my grandpa last weekend. We really didn't do anything special. Took a walk around in his front yard and enjoyed the beautiful northern Michigan weather. Watched some TV (the Home and Garden Channel...his choice, not mine). After lunch he took a nap and I talked with the rest of the family that was gathered there. We ate dinner together and afterward we listened to grandpa tell stories about when he was young...WAY back when. Then we all went to bed.

Now, you're probably wondering why I think this is special enough to waste precious newspaper space with. Here's why it's important...grandpa is dying of brain cancer.

Over the last 11 months he has had four major brain surgeries and gone through a round of radiation therapy. But he is livelier than I think I have ever seen the guy.

Beginnings

Grandpa is a farm boy, has been all his life. Farm folk tend to be quite self-sufficient, stubborn even. Grandpa is no exception. Things always had to be his way or the highway. Since he has gotten sick I think he has realized the burden of the farm is off his shoulders (the barn torn down years ago and all the cows sold after he got sick). And now, even though he is dying, he is completely care free.

Part of this is his faith in God. Right now he is totally sure he is going to Heaven (a little excited too...he gets to see my grandma who passed on 15 years ago). He realizes that the accident that ended up causing his brain cancer (a tire exploded when he was changing it, causing the rim to hit him across the forehead) could have taken him some 40 years ago when it happened. But he knows that God wasn't ready to take him, he still had things to do. Now that he has accomplished those things, it's time to go.

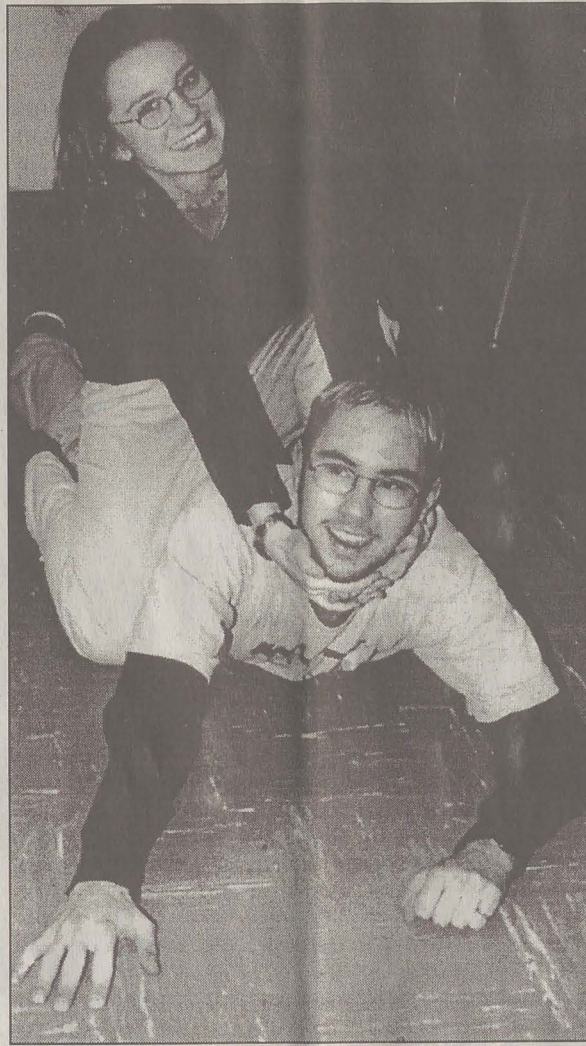
Coming Together

I really admire this in grandpa. To have gone through almost 80 years on this earth and be as secure in his faith as he is makes me question where I will be when I am in his position. Will I be as ready to meet my maker as he is?

Even through all the pain, some really good things have shined through. The family has been drawn closer together. Mom's three brothers and two sisters are spread all over the state and country. But since grandpa got sick we have seen more of the aunts and uncles than ever. I also think that a lot of the family (me especially) has gotten a different view of grandpa. Through the many trips down memory lane we have heard some great stories about grandpa and his siblings in their youth. It has caused me to take him down off this pedestal that I had put him on, to see him as a more real person, but it has caused me to gain a great deal of respect and admiration for him.

It's really not an ordeal that I have enjoyed. I would not wish it on anyone. But I think that it has been a real learning experience. If you encounter this situation, don't take it for granted. Spend as much time with the grandparents as you can...they have a lot of wisdom accumulated over the years and they are more than willing to share it with you. If this situation hasn't found you yet, waste no time. Get to know them and spend as much time with them as you can while they are still healthy. They are a great deal more fun than they look.

April 1, 1999: National Gullibility Awareness Day



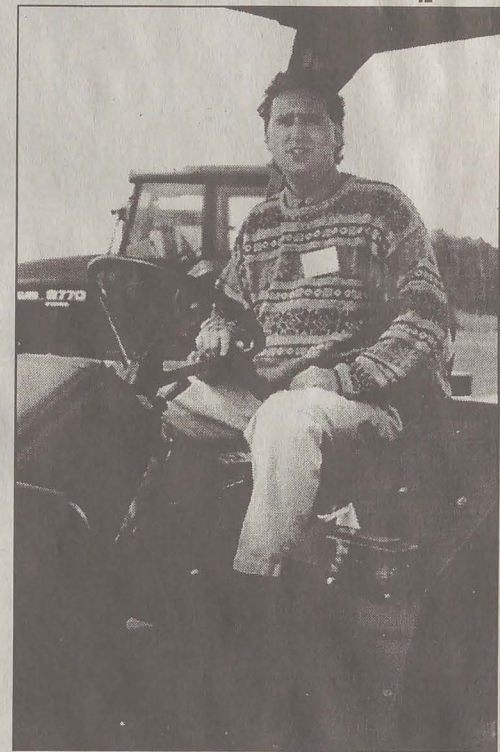
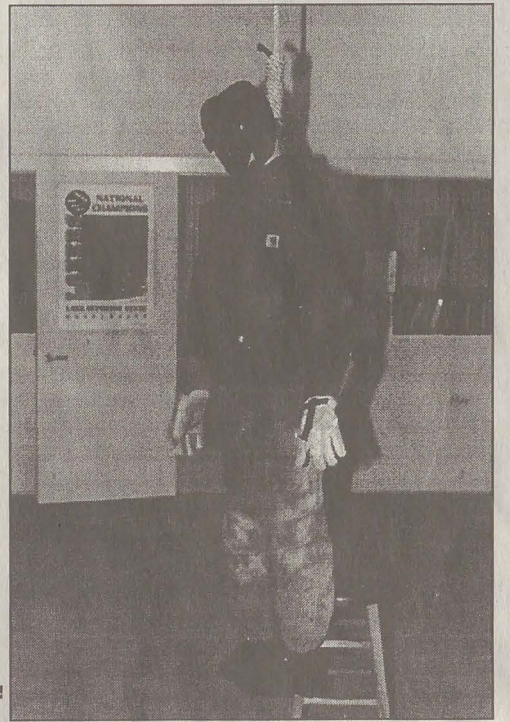
Upper left: After hours of layout work, Amy Wallot snaps.

Upper right: Deadlines force John Kissane to self-Kevorkianate.

Center, right: Crazy Polemic advisor Don MacMaster vows to knock down ACC.

Lower left: One of MacMaster's more modest possessions.

Lower right: MacMaster orders swift disposal of Kissane's corpse.



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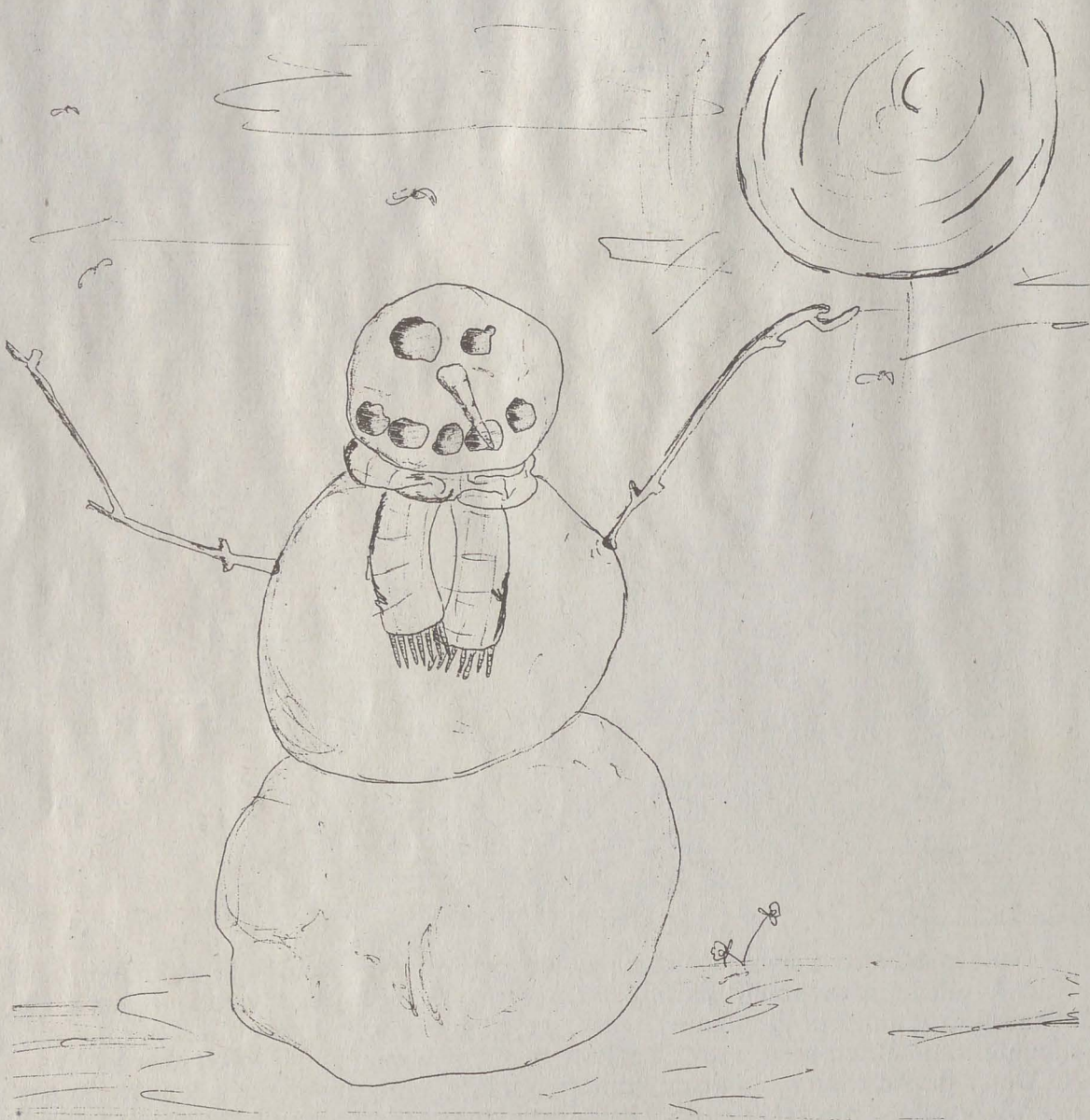
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Superfluity By Josh Timlick




Damnable season, ol' contemptuous destroyer, spring has bested my fragile being. Bested! Nah, snatched away, taken without permission and with no regard to the owner. The once noble icon has now been reduced, brought down by the rising mercury. I have become a knave to be robbed by a brazen thief. To be left a puddle, to reflect the blue sky and the hot yellow death.

Wait...hush. Perhaps I was too quick in my thinking.

Allow me the quiet, and I'll produce for you this epiphany. A thousand of my unmade brethren lay in waste, never to know anything of this life, and I in my endless selfishness weep over this burden of being. What a magnificent fool I have been. I shall welcome these last few melting moments, make peace with my constructor, and embrace my deconstructor. I know now that I must die so that the things of spring can be what I once was...somewhat alive!

Wanted:

Students interested in journalism, communication, and photography for next year's Polemic Staff. Learn to write concise stories, gain experience in graphic arts, organization and layout skills. Anyone interested can learn more from Polemic Advisor Don MacMaster at extension 344.



Oh lordy mama mama

By JOHN KISSANE
STAFF WRITER

When the author of a book acknowledges "the women of Viking Press. *Oh Lordy mama mama*," the reader knows he's in for a treat.

The latest book by Garrison (heavyweight champion of NPR) Keillor is *Me by Jimmy (Big Boy) Valente*. It's a fictional memoir, like *Memoirs of a Geisha*, except that most geishas haven't fought in Vietnam, professionally wrestled, and become the governor of Minnesota.

The book functions, of course, as a satire on Jesse (The Body) Ventura. Valente tells his story to Keillor and Keillor transcribes it.

The plot is a fairly simple one: Jimmy Valente, a physically weak boy who's tormented as a child, sends fifty cents to a place that promises to turn boys into men. He starts working out, and becomes Jimmy (Big Boy) Valente. He's showered with affection and respect.

He enters the Vietnam war as a Navy Walrus (Walrus is an acronym for "Water Air Land Rising Up Suddenly"), where he spends a lot of time going "ballistic" and taking out the enemy. He also encounters a VC-turned-Walrus nicknamed "The Rodent," who has an awful lot of trouble pronouncing "l's" and "r's." This foreigner will turn up again and again, turning against Jimmy, and, thus, also against all of America.

Back stateside, Valente makes money by joining the I.W.W., a professional wrestling circuit. He plays the character of The Flower Child, a pro-environment fan of Ralph Nader's from Berkeley. Obviously, he's a villain. Eventually, though, he takes over the circuit, wrestling as Jimmy (Big Boy) Valente, and dubbing himself "the first existential wrestler of modern times."

Keillor, who shows up occasionally in the book, has some problems accepting the label. Here's an extract:

Ghost [as in ghost-writer]: *Do you know what existentialism means?*

Valente: *I am the man who redefined existentialism. I made it mean what it means today. It means me. The way I am. Jimmyism.*

Valente and his unique mind are soon called to serve a higher purpose, that of governor. The chairman of the Ethical Party asks him to run. Valente isn't sure he wants it, but after suffering a mid-life crisis, being visited in a dream by Lenin, and seeing a hospitalized boy with only one hand, Valente decides to go for it.

Many people laugh at the idea. Valente pitches a heartfelt position, though, pointing out that the Democrats have a party based on unnecessary bureaucracies and the Republicans are inherently selfish. He wins the election, and starts to consider running for the presidency.

The book is hilarious, and it derives its hilarity mostly from the language. Valente speaks like a caricature of our most masculine governor...but not one so far removed from reality that it's nonsensical. And Keillor, Democrat though he is, seems to have some sympathy for Ventura's viewpoints, which is essential for a work of this kind.

If you read this book, you'll laugh. Then you'll laugh. Also, you'll laugh some.

And the next time you hear Keillor on the radio, or see one of his books, you'll think to yourself, *oh Lordy mama mama*.

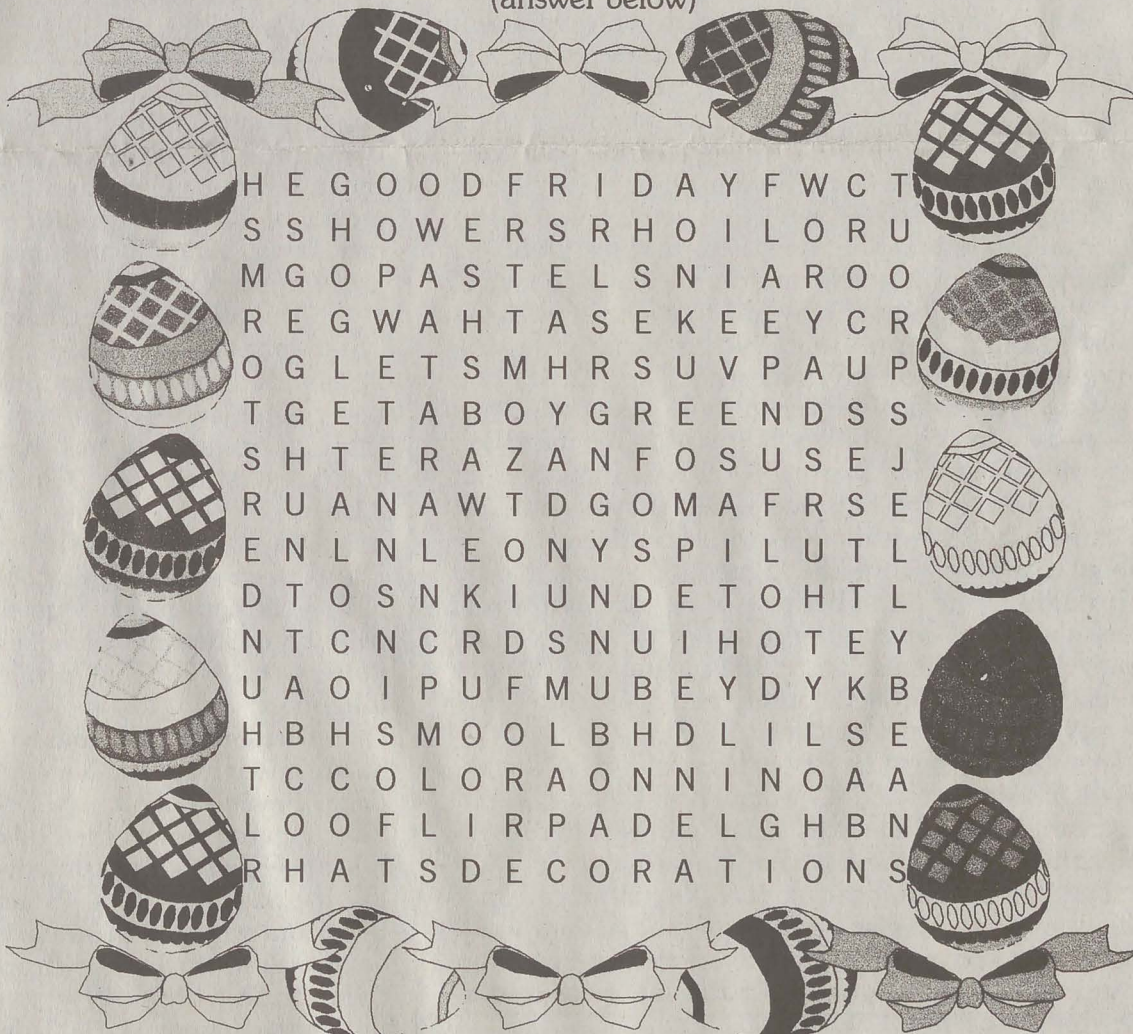
Which is, despite what you might have been told, the truest indicator of a fine, fine book.

Word Find

"April Showers"

After finding all the words, circle the left over letters for a hidden quote.

(answer below)



- | | | | | | |
|------------|-------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
| April fool | Chocolate | Finery | Jesus of Nazareth | Rain | Thaw |
| Basket | Color | Flooding | Lamb | Showers | Thunderstorm |
| Bloom | Crocuses | Good Friday | Lily | Soft | Toys |
| Bonnet | Decorations | Green | Melt | Spring fever | Tulips |
| Buds | Dresses | Hats | Mud | Sprout | |
| Bunny | Easter | Holy Thursday | Palm Sunday | | |
| Candy | Egg hunt | Hope | Pastels | | |
| Chick | Eggs | Jelly beans | Rabbit | | |

Quotation answer:
He who looketh upon a women loseth a fender.
Sign in auto repair shop

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Self-inflicted pain burned in by John Kissane

(Note: this column, which mentions an incident that occurred in the completion of work for Photography 112, in no way implies that the class is either inherently harmful or a catalyst for burning flesh).

So I'm in my house, right, trying to think of interesting pictures to take for class, shooting ideas back and forth with fellow *Polemic*-writer and amateur photographer Jeff Williams, okay, and it hits me like *Titanic* hit that iceberg that I should cover my hand in hair-spray and light it on fire, and take a picture of that. I'd heard somewhere that if you did that, your hand wouldn't burn. I tell this to Jeff, and he says it wouldn't work, but what the hell does he know, and besides, it probably wouldn't hurt that much anyway. I spray my left hand and flick a Bic.

It really, really hurts.

I wave my hand up and down in the air, and watch, with a fascination I really don't want to be feeling, the orange flames grow and grow, whooshing in the air. Deciding that this just isn't working, I slam it as hard as I can into the hallway wall, bam bam bam, ten times maybe, finally putting it out. I look at my hand, which looks pretty bad: all the knuckles have huge blisters and it stings terribly. I glance at the wall, where there's a black mark from singed skin.

I start cracking up at the absurdity of the situation, and how it's completely the sort of thing I do, and Jeff, seeing me laughing, asks if my hand hurts. "Yeah," I say, still laughing, "it hurts like a [and here I said a word which rhymes with 'brother trucker.']"

Having found out that you need to put Vaseline on your skin before doing it, I won't do that in the same way again (though I will try to do it with Vaseline; I missed the photo the first time).

Now, I guess you could call my actions pretty weird. Does that make me a bad columnist? If your answer is, "No, but your allusion-heavy, high-vocab, subjective style which sometimes slips into first-person for no apparent reason, adorns itself with run-on sentences, is pseudo-conversational, and wanders incredibly far from the point, does," then you're stupid and I hate you. But at least you don't confuse my personal actions with my writing.

What's the deal with the Kazan controversy? If you haven't heard about it, it's the one surrounding the famous director. The Academy of Arts and Motion Picture Sciences presented him with a lifetime achievement award, which many people felt he shouldn't have gotten, because he named names in the 1950s.

Huh? What? Excuse me? Now come on. I realize that turning in left-leaning people to that fascist board is nothing but vile, horrible, and inexcusable behavior. To use that to deny him an award that's based solely on his work, though, is pure bigotry. It's turning awards into popularity or morality contests.

It's a symptom of a greater evil. Woody Allen's films are avoided by people who point to his marrying his adopted daughter. Diane Keaton is dismissed as an actress because of the hats she wears (I swear to God this happens). A president is impeached because of personal matters. It could be argued, of course, that he was brought to the brink because of perjury, but it was perjury about sex, an experience so heady that it causes people to expose themselves to the plague of AIDS out of a desire for it. And it's a purely personal matter, not reflecting on his job performance.

As Dr. Lessard has pointed out, FDR drank, smoked and slept around; Churchill drank, smoked and slept around; and Hitler was a patriotic war hero who didn't drink or smoke and was monogamous.

I've had enough, dear reader. Next time you spot the flaws in someone else's nature and judge their work by it, I'll have no recourse but to spray hair-spray on you and set you aflame, having purposely neglected to cover you in Vaseline.

How stupid was that movie

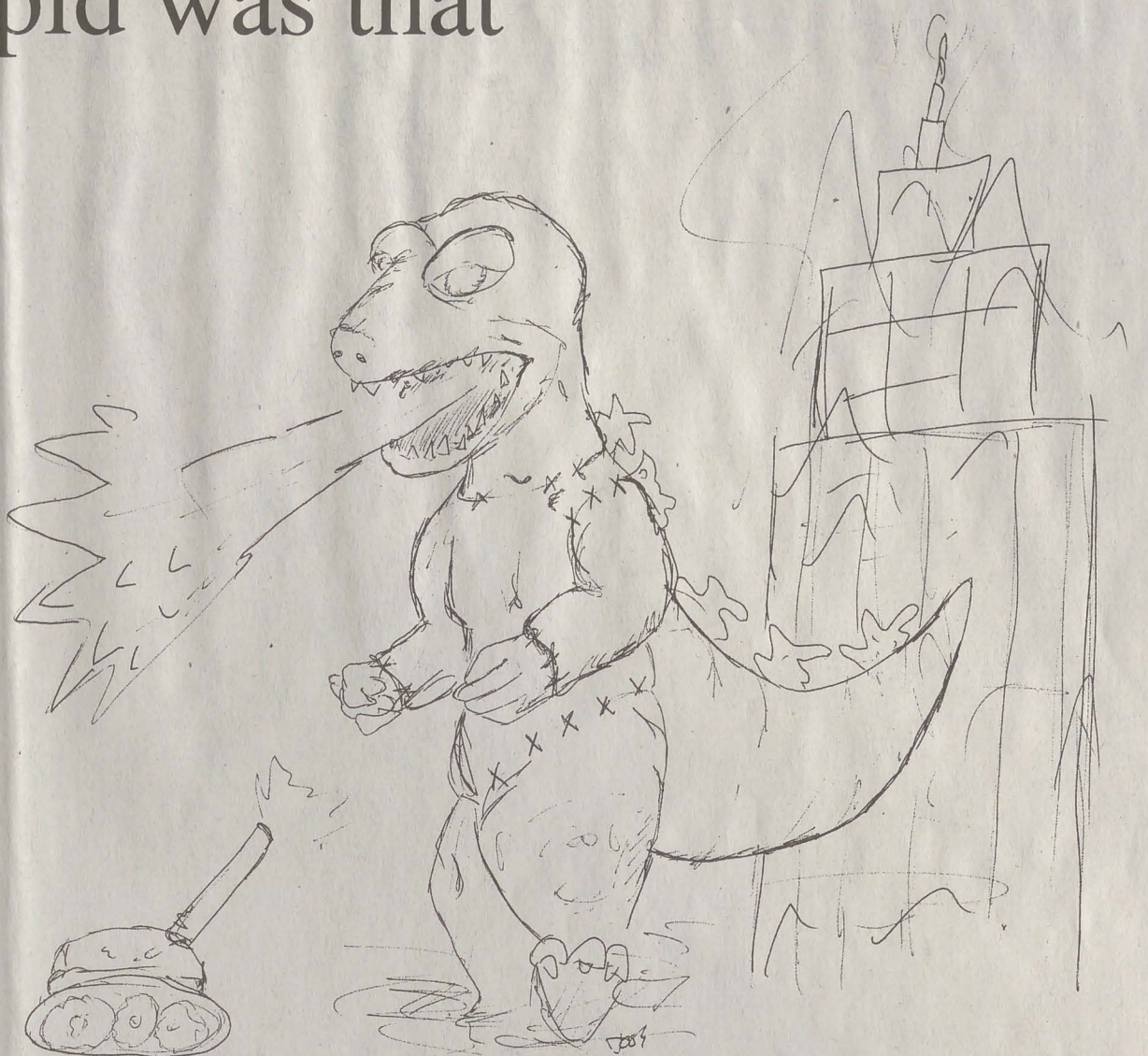
By JOSH TIMLICK
STAFF WRITER

The current movie trend in the past few years has been to take a classic film and (1) remake it, thereby ruining it; (2) make a sequel with no regard to its predecessor; or (3) make a movie from a video game.

Take for example, *Godzilla*, *Psycho*, *Great Expectations*, *Super Mario Brothers*, *Mortal Kombat* and *Wing Commander*.

The most depressing of all these would have to be *Godzilla*. Oh man! How stupid was that movie? *Godzilla* is supposed to be A MAN IN A SUIT, not some computer-generated nonsense. It didn't even look like *Godzilla*.

The thing about remaking a film is this. It's already been made. What more could a director possibly do with it? Well, if he is the director of *Psycho*, he could fill it with some trendy new actors, throw in a cool sound track, wrap it all up with a technicolor sheen, and there you have it—a brand new movie. A guaranteed hit. What a bunch of crap.



It would be nice if just once in a while someone could scrape up enough original thought to fill a two-hour space. Don't get me wrong. There are a few good nuggets out there, but they are few and far between.

An example of just such

a nugget would be *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*. Now I know what you're going to say. "But Josh, that movie was made from a book." Yeah, yeah, I know and I guess that makes me a hypocrite. Oh well, it was still a good movie. Here's one more for ya. I hate

computer animation and effects, yet I love *Star Wars*. Go figure.

In conclusion, I want all you fine people to go out and write some decent scripts, send them to Hollywood, get a fat paycheck, and give me something good to watch.

The Onion Presents Our Dumb Century

By JOHN KISSANE
STAFF WRITER

The funniest humor in America has often been its most dangerous, its most edgy, its most polemic. Consider the works of Lenny Bruce, Richard Pryor, Andy Kaufman, and Chris Rock.

And consider *The Onion*. This paper, which contains articles and editorials and graphs and photos and—well, everything a newspaper has—has run such stories as "Child Abuse: How much is too much?" and "New study shows Drug Use down among Uncool Kids." The paper is the master of the type of humor that makes you cry, "that's horrible!" while laughing.

The staff of the paper has just released a book called *The Onion Presents Our Dumb Century*, a parody of every book that's been released documenting the past 100 years. It has fake front pages from January 1st, 1900 (on which the Vatican condemned the rhythm method) to January 1, 2000 (on

which the Christian Right ascends to heaven. Jerry Falwell gloats. Carl Sagan, calling up from hell, repents. Weird day).

The pages follow standard layout procedure for the years the papers are dated; the humor comes forth in the content. What other paper would have, in huge type, the 1969 headline "HOLY S***" and in slightly smaller print, "MAN WALKS ON F***ING MOON?"

Or consider headlines such as 1969's "SHARON TATE, FOUR OTHERS SLAIN IN GRISLY 'PARTRIDGE FAMILY' MURDERS." Or my personal favorite, "TELEVISION PROMISES MASS ENRICHMENT OF MANKIND." The stories contained under these headlines are simply hilarious, and a "powerful combination of puerility and intelligence," to quote *The Washington Post*, a lesser publication.

This book will challenge the reader, as it is intelligent. It isn't condescending, despite the masthead logo "Tu stultus es," which means you are

dumb (but isn't it nice to have one aspect of the media tell you straight out you're dumb, instead of the usual heavy implying?). It draws sources of humor from obscure aspects of pop culture, art, psychology, history, politics, literature, and pornography. At the same time, though, it deals with the major events of our time, albeit in a twisted, off-kilter way.

It missteps, once. One article, about low birth-weight babies, writes about them as collectibles, sort of linking them to the Beanie Babies craze (and labeling them "Teeny Babies.") The problem is, they show pictures of actual babies, and it's simply too much, like the old horror film *Freaks* that

used real freaks to evoke terror. It was too far over the edge for even this reviewer.

The rest of the articles, though, however offensive, will be defended by this reviewer until his death. And one mistake does not make for a bad book.

In fact, *Our Dumb Century* is a marvelous book, and perhaps the funniest ever written. It's on the level of the works of Douglas Adams or Mark Twain. Crude, brilliant, and maniacally funny, it's better than any other comedy-driven work that's been released in the past decade.

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By Kevin Brown
Sports Editor

Play ball! Drama returns

Amid the hustle and bustle of the new spring, baseball comes every year. It is an exciting time for many because for almost four months this time has been anticipated.

To be honest though, this is the first baseball season I have really looked forward to in some time. The strike a few years back, accompanied by increasingly greedy players and owners, had left the game somewhat tainted in my mind.

But last year I rediscovered my love for the game and I found myself continually glued to the television set. Now some of you may be thinking, "Sure I know what he's talking about, Mark McGuire and Sammy Sosa." Well, you're partially right, but it goes much deeper than just home runs for me. You see, if you've read my column before, you probably know this. But for those who haven't, I'll tell you. I am a sports drama nut. I would be lying if I said the home run race isn't exciting to me. The truth is though, that I really live for epic, deep sport stories that grab your heart and twist it around.

For example: Last year Sammy Sosa hit home runs. Sure that's exciting in its own right, but his story goes much deeper. Sosa was nothing short of a hero here in the U.S. but in his homeland, the Dominican Republic, he was comparable to a mythic god. He was looked up to so much because he showed his countrymen that if they worked hard and were determined, anyone could step from poverty to greatness. Here's the the real wrenching part of the story though. Let's say Sosa hits between forty and fifty home runs and has 130 RBI with a batting average of .300 this year. The sad fact is some people won't notice him for those great numbers, but instead for having significantly lower statistics than he did last year. Some will call him a one-hit wonder and others will call him a flop. To his own countrymen though, he will always be a hero for his great accomplishments last season and they will judge the rest of his career in comparison to that one great year. You see, that's the drama of baseball. You never know what's going to happen next or how you'll be viewed tomorrow. He could hit 71.

Even though Sosa's situation may be somewhat moving to me, there are a couple other things going on in baseball that drag me in even more. I am talking about the three most recent cancer victims in the game. This to me is the ultimate drama. Not because I am a huge fan of the guys, but because it is a true battle of life and death right before your eyes. These are people that are on TV in your living room for eight months of the year; you see more of them than most of your distant relatives.

Unfortunately, when some people stand around the office cooler talking ball, they never say, "I wonder if he's gonna be alright," or "I wonder how his family is dealing with it." Too often you hear, "I wonder if the Yanks can win without Torre or Strawberry." Or, "the Braves are screwed without Gallaraga."

The fact is, life is so much more significant than a baseball game or any other sport. I wish more people would realize that. Not enough do! But baseball, like life, is filled with drama. I don't need *Days of our Lives* or *ER*. I have baseball, the Greatest Soap Opera there is.

Thank You

to all those who have supported
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We would especially like to thank:

our advertisers,
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Word Find.

Pied Piper takes the court

By HEIDI SKUSE
STAFF WRITER

Smiles and fun were the order of the evening when the Falcons from Pied Piper and the ACC Lumberjacks hooked up in a Special Olympics benefit basketball game on Wednesday night March 24 in Park Arena.

According to Dennis Smolinski, ACC men's basketball standout, the evening was a great success.

"It was fun," he said. "It gives the Pied Piper players a chance to live out their dreams. It also raises money for Special Olympics."

Smolinski added that the highlight of the game for him was "when I lifted the little kid (Tommy, Pied Piper



A Falcon from Pied Piper is open.

player) up so he could dunk." Each team was made up of a mixture of Pied Piper players and Lumberjacks. Everyone looked into the game, Lumberjacks and Pied Piper players alike. Smiles didn't leave their faces the entire night, and it was an entertaining game to watch. By the end of the night, it was hard to tell who was on whose team.

Money made from the game goes to the Special Olympics. At halftime, there was a raffle to raise more money. Raffle items included t-shirts, hats, sweatshirts and various other items.

The final score? 52-52. Everyone could call themselves a winner in the gym last Wednesday night.

IM Volleyball Gets Started

By HEIDI SKUSE
STAFF WRITER

Intramural volleyball is alive and well at ACC. This spring there are nine teams with at least six players each, including a team of faculty members.

The league is co-ed, with more women than men. According to Bobby Allen, intramural coordinator, the teams are coed in part because there weren't enough players to have separate leagues for men and women, but also because "it's more fun" to play coed.

Onaway's Marty Mix said, "Volleyball is fun because it's something that the guys and girls basketball teams can do together. Mix also said that playing his old high school rivals is fun because "you can talk smack to them."

Mari Klinger, a former Tawas Brave volleyball

player, said, "I just play for fun now. It's not as competitive as it was."

Intramural volleyball is a way to relieve a lot of pressure, Allen observed. It's just

about having fun, he said.

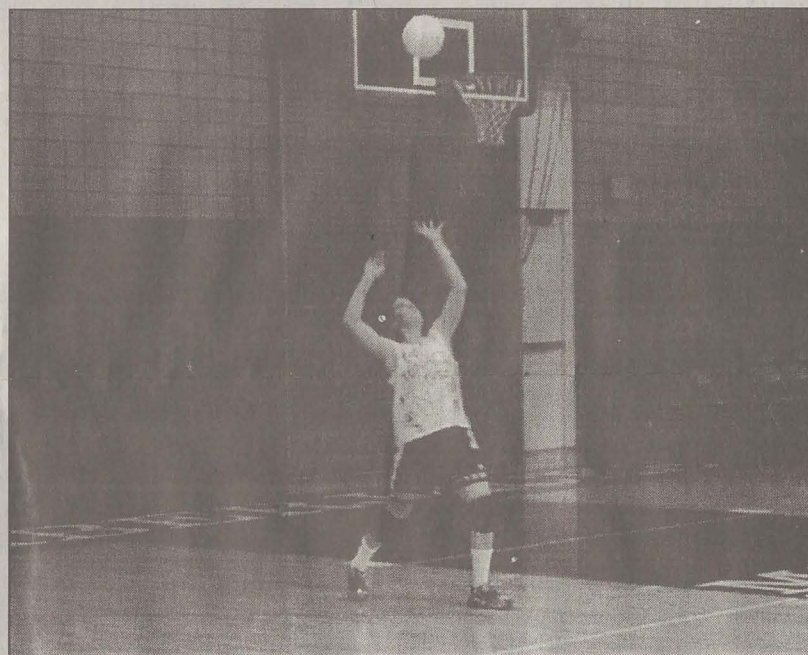
Tyson Smith said that intramural volleyball is "competitive, but you don't have to be serious about it. You never know your competi-

tion. It's a little different every time."

The faculty team includes John Singer, Matt Duncel, Kendall Sumerix and Sandy Eastway, among others. The faculty team has held its own against the students. In fact, they recently defeated Sofie Bootz's team.

"They can play," Allen said.

Alpena, Hillman, Rogers City, Atlanta, Alcona, Tawas, Oscoda and Onaway High Schools all have strong volleyball programs, which contribute many of the women players now playing in the IM league. Team captains are Sarah Ewing, Kristen Tuori, Jodi Phinney, Chris May, Jeff Kozak, John Singer, Sofie Bootz, John Dietlin and Heidi Skuse.



Intramural volleyball ace Heidi Skuse eyes a serve.

Steelhead arrive with spring

By KEVIN BROWN
SPORTS EDITOR

To many, fishing is just a sport. But talking to Alpena's steelhead fisherman though, you might just think it's their job. Every late March and early April, the city's true sportsmen break out their waders and prepare to brave the chilling Alpena air and even colder water.

Alpena's Ninth Street bridge is a popular spot for local anglers.

"I've been out here soaking (wading) with twenty other guys before, but they (steelhead) always come and there is always enough to go around," fisherman Paul

Niewadomski said.

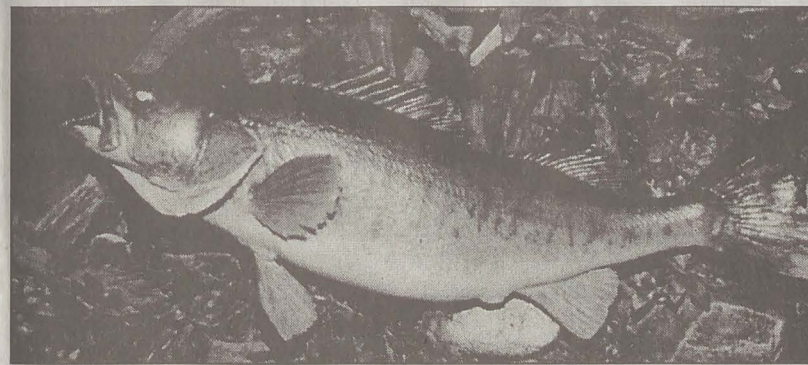
Niewadomski is one of the annual anglers at the dam. He is a retired contractor from Lachine. "My wife sometimes tells me that retirement is supposed to be relaxing. She

doesn't understand why I get so worked up over fishing," Niewadomski added.

Others testing the waters included teenagers, vacationers, and even a female now and then.

"You get to meet a lot of people out here every year. You recognize a lot of faces and make a lot of acquaintances. You see more of these people than your family for a month. Between work and fishing, I am usually only home about ten hours a day," angler John Pelon, a local mechanic and regular at the Ninth Street bridge, commented.

For many, the beginning of spring means warmer weather and leaves budding. But for some local residents, it means it's time for the steelhead to head upstream and spawn, giving them a chance to do what they love to do, which is fishing.



This walleye photo comes courtesy of Don Dihle.

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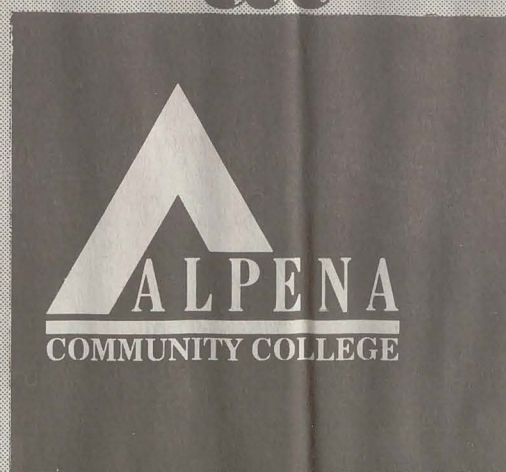
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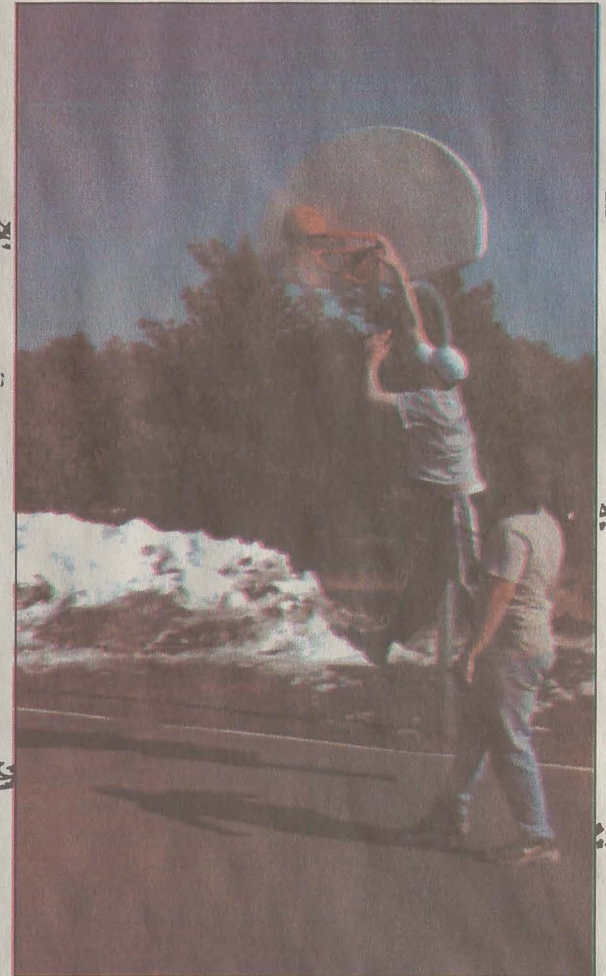
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Springtime pleasures



Spring is blooming around Alpena Community College. Clockwise from top left are signs of spring. ACC student Don Dihle's son, with his puppy tussle over the last snowball of the season. Joe Miller and Jason Clark can finally venture outdoors to enjoy shooting some hoops. Leslie Fullerton and Jason Tapio enjoy the warm spring sunshine. And, a pair of swans shimmer down Thunder Bay River as the sun sinks.

Photos by Don Dihle

April 1999

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 College offices closed for Spring Break	2 3 College offices closed for Spring Break
				Lady Lumberjack Softball at St. Clair 3:00 p.m.	Lady Lumberjack Softball at St. Clair 11:00 a.m.	
Easter ⁴ College offices closed for Spring Break	5 College offices closed for Spring Break	Caps and Gowns available for purchase at ACC Bookstore Stress and Time Management Tips TLC 11:15 a.m.	6 CMU Representative on campus 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	7	8 ACC Bookclub Meeting BTC 107D 11:30 a.m. Lady Lumberjack Softball at Oakland 3:30 p.m.	9 10 Lady Lumberjack Softball at Macomb 2:00 p.m.
11 Lady Lumberjack Softball at Macomb 11:00 a.m.	12 ACC Golf at Henry Ford 10:00 a.m.	13 ACC Golf at St. Clair 10:00 a.m. Test Taking Tips TLC 11:15 a.m.	14	15 Glass Menagerie Granum Theatre 8:00 p.m.	16 Staff Appreciation Breakfast Lady Lumberjack Softball at Delta 3:00 p.m. Glass Menagerie Granum Theatre 8:00 p.m.	17 18 Lady Lumberjack Softball vs. Henry Ford 12:00 p.m. Glass Menagerie Granum Theatre 8:00 p.m.
18 Lady Lumberjack Softball vs. Henry Ford 11:00 a.m. Glass Menagerie Granum Theatre 2:00 p.m.	19	20	21	22 ACC Golf at Lansing 10:00 a.m.	23 ACC Golf at Mott 10:00 a.m.	24
25 Lady Lumberjack Softball vs. Oakland 12:00 p.m.	26	27 Spring	28 Fling Lady Lumberjack Softball vs. Delta 3:00 p.m. ACC Golf at Alpena 1:00 p.m.	29 WEEK ACC Golf at Delta 10:00 a.m.	30 Last day academic advisors will be available Big Roast VLH Lounge Last Day of regular classes An Evening with the Arts Student Exhibit	