

## Lessard ends 35 years of teaching

By Kate Splitt  
Staff Writer

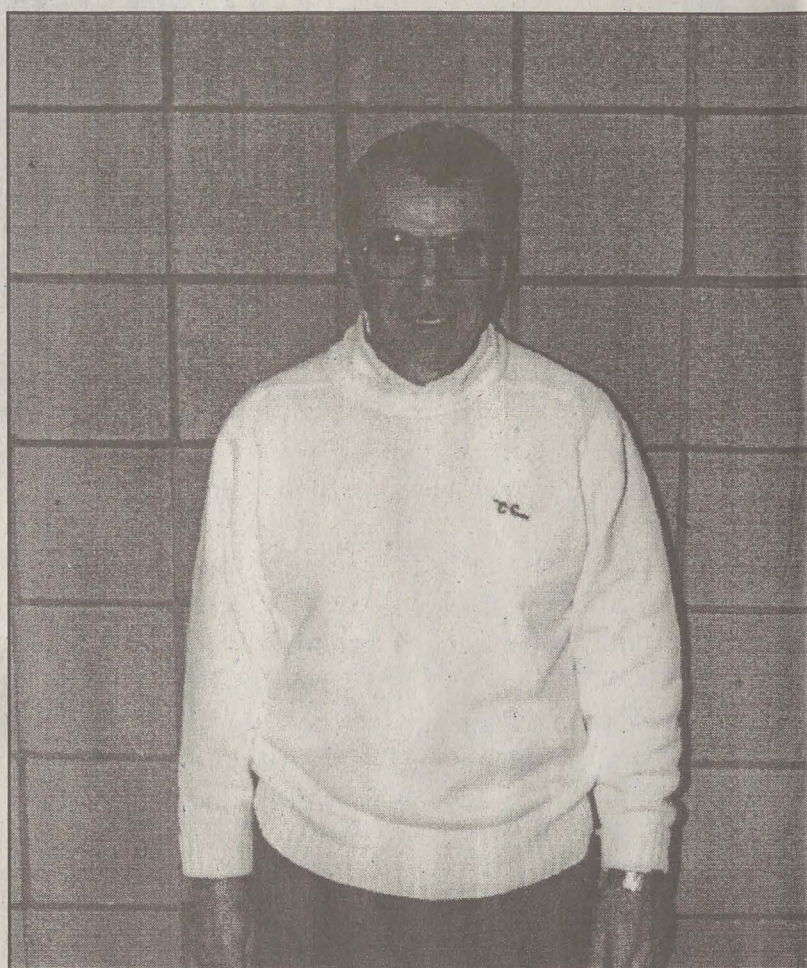
Dr. Richard Lessard will be retiring at the end of this semester after 35 years of teaching English. Dr. Lessard will be teaching two classes next semester, Advanced Composition and the Short Story, before he starts "...enjoying the things that I never had time to do."

Lessard graduated from Bellaire High School in 1960.

"I wasn't a good student in high school," admits Lessard. "In 1960, at that time, the way I saw it as a young man, I had two choices, go to school or go in the service and I intended to go in the service all through high school. But a friend of mine went in and I got letters about how much he hated it. Employers were reluctant to hire someone who had not been in the service...because of the draft."

He enrolled at Northwestern Michigan College in Traverse City in 1960.

"I went on to junior college to see what that was all about and I started to work hard there," he said. "I'd never worked at all in high school. I



Dr. Lessard will return spring semester to teach just two classes before he retires after a 35-year career.

blew off most of it and I don't know how I got through it. I had decent grades, but I really didn't apply myself."

But he settled down and after two years, Lessard transferred to Central Michigan University. When he was a junior, he realized that he didn't mind going to school. "I thought, I can do that," says Lessard. "I always found that my best grades were in English, so I decided that that would be the most logical field to get started in."

That decision had one

drawback, however. "Many's the day I regretted not having a different major because of all of the papers," he says. "That's something that a lot of other fields don't have."

After receiving his bachelor's degree in 1964, he began his career at Clio High School in the fall of that year. He taught English until 1968, when he accepted a position at Rogers City High School. He taught English as well as Sociology and Psychology. He also

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## The Christmas story that became a family tradition

By Catherine C. Gilmet  
Staff Writer

Each year as we carry down boxes of Christmas lights, stockings and ornaments from the attic, we also get out our favorite book of Christmas stories and poems. My children are always anxious to hear the Christmas poem "The Boy Who Laughed at Santa Claus" by Ogden Nash. We wrap up in our special green and red afghan with my arms encircling the children and I begin reading:

*In Baltimore there lived a boy. He wasn't anybody's joy. Although his name was Jabex Dawes, his character was full of flaws. In school he never led the classes. He hid old ladies' reading glasses. His mouth was open while he chewed, and elbows to the table glued. He stole the milk of hungry kittens and walked through doors marked "No Admittance." He said he acted thus because there wasn't any Santa Claus. Another trick that tickled Jabex was crying "Boo!" at little babies. He brushed his teeth, they say in town, sideways instead of up and down. Yet people pardoned every sin and viewed his antics with a grin 'til they were*

*The Boy Who Laughed At Santa Claus*  
by  
Ogden Nash

*told by Jabez Dawes, "There isn't any Santa Claus!"*

*Deploring how he did behave, his parents quickly sought their grave. They hurried through the portals pearly, and Jabez left the funeral early. Like whooping cough, from child to child, he sped to spread the rumor wild: "Sure as my name is Jabez Dawes there isn't any Santa Claus!"*

*Slunk like a weasel or a marten through nursery and kindergarten, whispering low to every tot, "There isn't any, no, there's not! No beard, no pipe, no scarlet clothes, no twinkling eyes, no cherry nose, no sleigh, and furthermore, by Jiminy, nobody's coming down the chimney!"*

*The children wept all Christmas Eve, and Jabez chortled up his sleeve. No infant dared to hang up his stocking for fear of Jabez' ribald mocking. He sprawled on his untidy bed, fresh malice dancing in his head. When presently with scalp a tingling, Jabez heard a distinct jingling; he heard the crunch of sleigh and hoof crisply alighting on*

*the roof. What good to rise and bar the door? A shower of soot was on the floor. Jabez beheld, oh, awe of awes, the fireplace full of Santa Clause! Then Jabez fell upon his knees with cries of "Don't," and "Pretty please." He howled, "I don't know where you read it, I swear some other fellow said it!"*

*"Jabez," replied the angry saint, "It isn't I, it's you that ain't. Although there is a Santa Claus, there isn't any Jabez Dawes!" Said Jabez then with impudent vim, "Oh, yes there is; and I am him! Your language don't scare me, it doesn't." And suddenly he found he wasn't! From grinning feet to unkept locks Jabez became a jack-in-the-box, and ugly toy in Santa's sack, mounting the flue on Santa's back.*

*The neighbors heard his mournful squeal; they searched for him, but not with zeal. No trace was found of Jabez Dawes, which led to thunderous applause, an people drank a loving cup and went and hung their stockings up.*

*All you who sneer at Santa Claus, beware of the fate of Jabez Dawes, the saucy boy who told the saint off; the child who got him, licked his paint off.*

## Century's milestones overlooked due to fears of Y2K disasters

By Caroline Carps  
Staff Writer

5...4...3...2...1...

Happy New Year!!

What will you be doing when the millenium hits? What will happen? There are many questions unanswered right now, but some people around Alpena are not worried.

Just think about it. My children and their children and their children will not be around when the year 3000

hits. This is a special new year that will go down in history. How are you going to celebrate?

Holly Webster, a student at ACC said, "I'll be with my loved ones."

Personally, I will probably be with my loved ones too. I am not really worried about what will happen on New Year's, but because I will be in Royal Oak, I am kind of thinking about riots, looting and people that think the world is ending. But here up in Alpena,

### From My Point of View

things will probably be relaxed, and folks will celebrate how they usually do.

This new millenium has been a time of change and has brought new ideas to life. In this last 100 years many inventions have changed the world. Who remembers their first CD player? First TV? Even their

first radio? Space travel was invented, the information superhighway, all this technology that came around, it is all unbelievable.

What is going to happen when the ball drops this year? This Y2K thing is a little scary.

ACC student Danyael Dorr said she will be partying when the millenium hits. "The lights may go out, but they will eventually come back on," she said.

Did you know that accord-

ing to National Public Radio World News, that the government only scores a B- in a Y2K test? Only a B-. That is something I did not really want to know, because it makes me more nervous about how the nation will react when this supposed Domsday strikes. If the government falls apart, the people will too, because the government is the people.

I also heard that some businesses are also running Y2K compliant programs for their paycheck systems. It

seems that a couple lucky people in Michigan got a \$130,000 check, and another person got a \$13,000 check when it was supposed to be much lower. Imagine getting a check for \$130,000 for a week's worth of work.

No matter where you will be or what you are doing on New Years Eve, just stop for one second and remember what has happened through the last 100 or 1,000 years and how far we have come from those caveman days.

## At these prices, it's too bad we don't sell cars.

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