

THE Polemic

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Photos by Josh Helsel



An ACC student keeps a watchful eye out for semi trucks (above). Students complain about having to wait for the traffic to clear before crossing Johnson Street. ACC Instructor Steven Lewis (left) waits for traffic to clear

Students think crossing unsafe

By Joshua Helsel
Features Editor

Many students have shown concern over the "speedy" traffic they have encountered while crossing the marked crosswalk connecting Van Lare Hall and the Besser Technical Center.

Students are concerned not only with the time it takes them to wait for traffic, but also the danger of crossing the street. Traffic often fails to stop for waiting students and also fails to obey the posted 30-mph speed limit, which makes it extremely dangerous for students crossing.

While there have been no documented accidents, many students report near misses, which have caused many to label the crosswalk the "death trap" and "the valley of death." Even the enforcers of law have shown a lack of respect for students waiting to cross.

"I was waiting to cross the street and a local police car drove right past and did not stop," ACC student Richelle Sieland said.

According to Michigan law regarding pedestrians right-of-way in marked crosswalks, when traffic-control signals are not in place or are not in operation, the driver of a vehicle must yield the right-of-way slowing down or stopping if needed to be able to yield to a

pedestrian crossing the roadway within a crosswalk when the pedestrian is on the half of the roadway on which the vehicle is traveling or when the pedestrian is approaching so closely from the opposite half of the roadway as to be in danger. But a pedestrian cannot suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the side of a vehicle which is so close that it is impossible for the driver to yield.

Dean of Student Affairs Max Lindsay feels that a part of the problem is that "many people are not aware of the law and others just don't care to follow the law."

Lindsay said that the college has made several attempts to make the walk safer for students.

"We fought to get the speed limit reduced from 35 to 30 and lost when we attempted to reduce it to 25," he said. "A big part of the problem is the fact that we have so much industry on Johnson Street. Companies such as Besser don't want their truck drivers to have the burden of stopping."

As Woodward Avenue continues to develop with the World Center for Concrete Technology and other ventures, traffic along Johnson Street is only likely to increase.

"I think that if there isn't See CROSSING, Page 2

New Student Senate officers plan changes for ACC

By Jennifer Werda
Staff Writer

After a three-day election, ACC student elected new Student Senate leaders.

Beginning the fall 2000 semester, Kati Wiegand will serve as president. Wiegand said that she was very pleased to win and will put her previ-

ous senate experience to work next year.

"I will lead the Student Senate to start to represent the whole student body," she said. "I will help develop a plan to resolve the parking problem at Van Lare Hall."

Chris Sparling will serve as vice president. He believes that the Student Senate needs

an effective communicator for students' concern, goals and interests.

Jocelyn Haske will serve as public relations manager for the group. She is eager to start the fall with fresh ideas and fresh faces.

"I plan on participating in all meetings and Student Sen-

ate activities, and will be creative and successful in advertising Student Senate events," Haske said.

Douglas Hibbs was elected secretary. Two other positions, sophomore representative and treasurer, ran unopposed.

The Student Senate provides tuition waivers to the students who participate and pro-

vides an opportunity to learn more about leadership skills, according to outgoing Vice President Josh Helsel.

"You get to meet new people and you know what is going on at school all the time," he said. "A big problem is many people run unopposed so there's not enough competition."

Polemic captures 11 awards for writing and design

Heidi Skuse
Co-Editor

Polemic student journalists brought home 11 awards at the Michigan Community College Press Association's annual conference held April 15 at St. Clair Community College in Port Huron.

Competing against 13 of Michigan's 28 community colleges, the awards were judged by professional journalists in Michigan. The Polemic's awards included:

- Second Place to Jocelyn Haske's photo essay

- "Through snowy cedars"
- Second Place for the staff's editorial "ACC-SAC program needs attention"
- Second Place for Jamin Trevarrow's graphic illustration "Local bands sonically spew"
- Third Place for John Kissane's review "Oh lordy mama mama"
- Third Place for the Polemic's front page design
- Honorable Mention for Lauren Beckeney's feature story "Treating seasonal affective disorder as simple

- as light and exercise"
- Honorable Mention for Catherine Gilmet's analysis "Meningitis: A concern for students"
- Honorable Mention for Amy Wallot's commentary "Family Values—a preventative measure"
- Honorable Mention for Caroline Carp's commentary "Smear at the death trap"
- Honorable Mention for Josh Timlick's cartoon "Superfluity"
- Honorable Mention for the Polemic's advertisement placement.

"What's really interesting about the judges' comments regarding our awards in editorial and commentary writing is that they recognized that Polemic staffers were not only presenting problems, but exploring and suggesting workable solutions," Polemic Advisor Colleen Steinman said. "Anyone can whine and complain, but the Polemic's commentary pieces and editorial demonstrated the students' critical thinking skills. That's a reflection of the quality of their entire education at ACC."

At the conference journalists were entertained by speak-

ers in the business. Frank Shepherd, CEO of the 21st Century Newspapers, talked with the journalists about his experience in the field.

"You really become the heart beat and soul of the newspaper, the lifeblood of the industry," he said.

Shepherd stressed to be very active: "Nike got it right, just do it."

Another speaker, James Voss, professor of speech communication, spoke about the

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Meisen to give graduation address

Amy Wallot
Co-Editor

Park Arena will host this year's commencement ceremonies. This spring, 218 students are candidates for graduation, including fall graduate. About 142 students plan to participate in the ceremony.

James Meisen, a former ACC English instructor, is scheduled to speak as well as ACC student Anne Przykucki.

Przykucki, an Alpena High School alumnae, will be graduating this spring. She plans to study meteorology at Oklahoma State University.

Commencement ceremonies will take place Thursday, May 4 at 7 p.m. in Park Arena.