

THE Polemic

Volume 9/Issue 8

Alpena Community College

May 2000

WHAT'S INSIDE



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HAWKS FADES, PAGE 3



DRUMMERS DELIGHT AUDIENCE, PAGE 6



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

See AWARDS, Page 2

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.

Polemic co-editor thanks people who helped her through college

Heidi Skuse
Co-Editor

The person who coined the phrase "man time sure flies when you having fun," wasn't lying. It seems like just yesterday was my first day here at ACC.

This time for graduation I am happy. I will have a bigger sense of accomplishment. When I graduate this time, I will have an actual degree. This is so different for me to have a degree instead of just a diploma. I am going on in life and leaving "little old Alpena." I will be heading to Central Michigan University studying to become a teacher and on my own for the first time ever. I am excited for the new transition and nervously await the day I walk into my first class on the campus of CMU.

My two years at ACC have been wonderful years and I couldn't have done it without the support of many people. Mom and dad, thank you for always being there and trying to help me get through the tough all nighters. Russell and Ethan, thanks for putting up with the light in my bedroom being on until that ungodly hour I finally go to bed.

Sandy Sengenberger and Sandy Libka, thank you for all of the help and support you have given me when I desperately needed someone and you were there with the answer to my problems. I feel privileged to have worked with your for the past two years. It has been a pleasure working with you both.

College experience isn't about classes

Amy Wallot
Co-Editor

As my three years at ACC come to a close, I've looked back at all I've done and learned. Sure, you're supposed to go to college to gain the skills necessary for career placement, but is that what college is really about? Instructors may want to wring my neck for this, but college is not about western civilization or English 121. College is about your experiences.

Since junior high the "older kids" have always said "get involved." It's a great way to meet people and you'll have fun. I used to look at them and roll my eyes. But what was I doing with my time — nothing.

Most recently I played Laura in the ACC play "Look Homeward, Angel." Although I had wanted to, I had never auditioned for a play here before. I was familiar with the actors who normally have roles in plays here and I didn't stand a chance, or so I thought. But I knew that this was my last chance to do a play here so I went for it. I almost had a heart attack when I was told I got a part.

And am I ever glad I did. That was some of the best three months of my time here at ACC. It was such a fun atmosphere. The people I met and the things I learned I will never forget. I only wish I hadn't waited so long to try out for a play because I would love the chance to do it again.

Through experience is how you will learn valuable life lessons. I've learned my limits, to take responsibility for my actions, and to loosen up. In college you'll realize just how important people like your parents and teachers are. But you won't learn these things hiding out in your apartment.

Whether you're here next year or not, do something! Join a club, play a sport or go out with your friends. When you're old and gray what will your memories of college be?

Will I be sad when I finally leave ACC? No, not because I'm glad to get out of this town, but because I feel I've made the most of my time here. As Chef from "South Park" says, "There's a time and place for everything and it's called college." Make college your time.

Dr. Richard Lessard, you challenged me to write in a new way. It was hard, but the challenged inspired me to become a better writer. Your class was one of the best that I've ever been in and your jokes made your class one that I hated to miss.

My sophomore year here at ACC has been much harder for me. My best friend Miriam Meddaugh went away to college at CMU. We have been through so much together. The two of us are so close that we know what each other is thinking. Both of us are able to tell how one another would respond to things and how we would react to different situations. We still keep in touch by email and phone and are still best friends, but it's just not the same without her here.

A wonderful treasure of a person stepped into Miriam's shoes, even though he didn't really know it. Without Bobby Allen I don't know if I could have finished this school year. From making me laugh until I thought I was going to pee my pants to the up lifting hug of the day to just listening when I need someone to talk to, he made me feel like I could accomplish any goal I set for myself and that he would be right behind me pushing me to my goal.

As for you Marty Mix, I am so glad that I nervously introduced myself to you one year ago. In that time our friendship has gone from merely saying hi to one another in the hall to spending hours talking and becoming extremely close friends. The Monday night wrestling tradition that we held at your apartment with John George and Rick Cope are some of the best Monday nights I've ever spent with friends. I will miss you greatly next year. Thank you for always telling me exactly what

you thought of things.

Monica, Holly and Jess this year has been quite an amazing one for us. I am so glad that we have become closer. The hours we have spent together I wouldn't give up for the world.

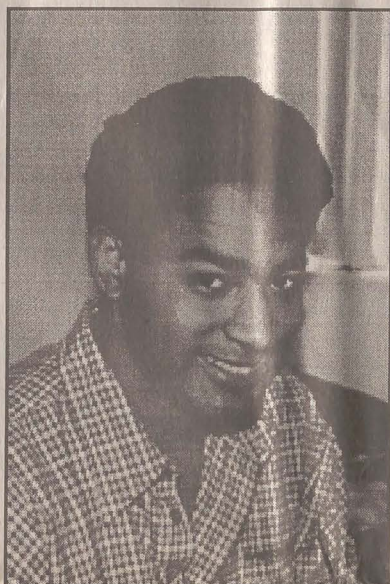
To all of the Polemic staff, thank you for working so hard throughout this whole year. Without all of us working together this paper wouldn't be able to be produced. Keep up the good work and good luck.

As this year comes to a close and graduation nears closer each day, I think of all the memories of ACC, from the relentless homework and tests to the hours of studying in the library. I remember the walk across "death valley," better known as the crosswalk between Van Lare Hall and Besser Technical Building, to not missing a men's home Lumberjack basketball game.

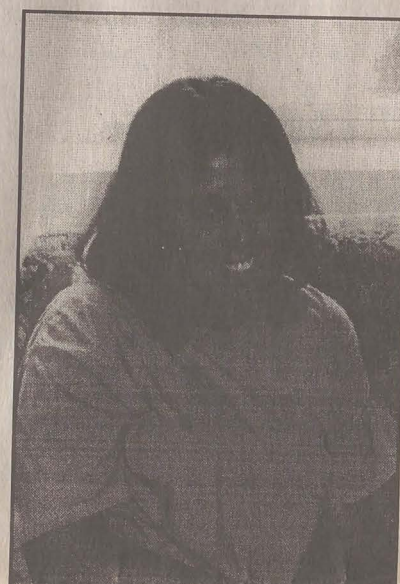
Many people believe that once one has earned a college degree that they have attained great wisdom. I don't know about wisdom, but I have learned a few things. Listen to everything the ladies in the Campus Services Office tell you. They know what they're talking about. These ladies are some of the nicest people you'll ever meet and don't be afraid of the sign by Aggie Ferguson's desk that says "dragon lady." She isn't a "dragon lady" in the least. Also if you're going out to cross "death valley" pray first and then wait until there is no chance you could get hit because those drivers don't believe in stopping.

Remember the few years you are at ACC will go by quickly, so live your life to the fullest. Be true to yourself and don't let other stand in your way. Don't be afraid to try new thing and always follow your heart.

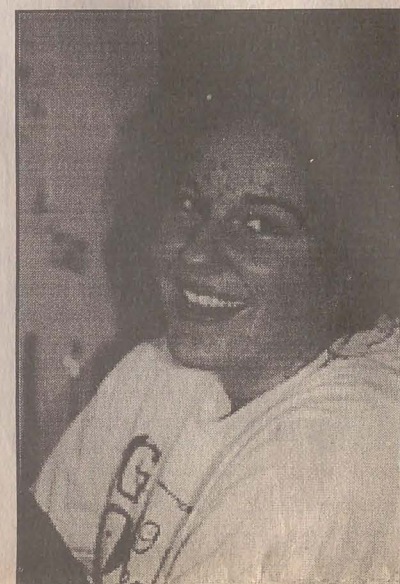
Lumberjack Voices: What are your plans for the summer?



Justin Chapman
"I plan to play in a summer basketball league and work at GM."



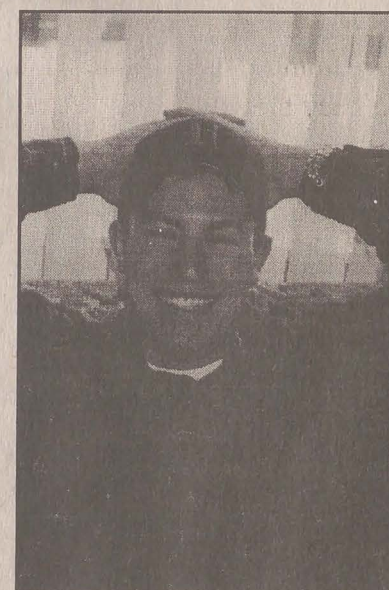
Jodie Fountain
"I plan to waitress and bartend."



Sarah Ellis
"I plan to work, raise money and come back to school."



Angie Boutell
"Work and make money. I don't really know what my plans are this summer."



Carroll Burgess
"I am working for Burgess Concrete."

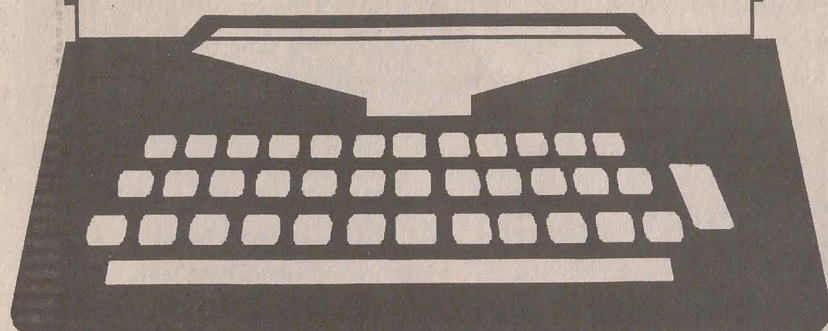
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Letters to the Editor

ACC staff and faculty friendly and professional

(Editor's Note: Duffy's Computers of Alpena asked to have this letter published)

I wanted to write a short note to thank you for asking me to participate in the Alpena Community College Business Expo on March 15. I really enjoyed being able to meet the people at the college.

I must admit it was very pleasant to spend time with such a quality group of people. They seemed genuinely interested, very sincere and excited about what we had to present. I was impressed with how po-

lite and inviting the staff and faculty were. (They even went as far as to ask our opinion on how to improve next year's program!!)

As you have probably already heard from me before, this is not the way we are normally treated at other such events across the state. So do me a favor and get the date for next year's event so I can plan on attending again.

Thank you for a great event.

Jim Ward
Xerox Corporation
Southfield

ACC needs more patrols

Why is it that there is only one security guard on the whole college campus? I believe this is extremely unsafe. When there is a problem we would have to call the police and wait for them to get here. Or what happens if you're beat up or hurt in some way in the parking lot or in the school. There are very few people around who know what to do in a situation like this. For example, one of my friends was in the Wellness Center exercising and a person fell and was unconscious. Everyone stood around and finally someone did CPR and called the ambulance, which took five minutes

to get here. If you were hurt out in the parking lot, you would have to make your way into the school and find a phone or someone to help you.

There should be more security guards around just in case there are things that happen like this. Even if there was some kind of telephone service. The telephones could be placed in the parking lots and a few places in the school. This could call the office or someone to help you in a faster manner. I believe this is very unsafe and harmful. I hope something is done in the near future to improve the safety of the students and staff at this college.

Alissa Chelotti
Alpena

Alpena prepares for the first goose hunt in city

By Chanda Wekwert
Staff Writer

The beginning of September marks the first hunt aimed at controlling the Canadian geese population in this area.

In Michigan, a firearm cannot be discharged within 450 yards of an occupied dwelling. Shotguns with a maximum range of 60 yards are the weapon of choice for the good hunt. If a specific hunting location falls within the 450 yards, the owners' consent is required by the city for using the land.

Another safety measure discussed by the Alpena City Council is law enforcement supervision. This supervision, mainly by city officials, city police and DNR, will protect the hunters and citizens from the dangers of the hunt. This monitoring will prevent hunters from straying from their specific locations, hunting past specified hours, taking more than their limit in geese, and other risky hunting behaviors that may result in accidental death or injury.

Relocation is the main alternative to the goose hunt. This alternative worked well across the United State for many years, but as the goose numbers continued to grow, the places to send them filled up and no longer accept more birds. As the relocation effort started to aim at closer to home, another problem arose: they kept coming back. About 90 percent of the geese relocated in Michigan return to their former breeding grounds.

Another alternative not attempted in Alpena is called a dummy egg program. In this alternative, trained personnel switched geese eggs with fake eggs on the premise that the geese would sit on the fake eggs and lay no more. This method worked reasonably well in areas down state with similar geese problems, except when the birds would disregard the fake eggs or the personnel were not trained adequately and given enough time. The main reason this alternative wasn't attempted in Alpena is the budget couldn't support it. The time spent finding the nests and exchanging the eggs simply cost too much.

The hunt(s) will be located at the Wildlife Sanctuary, the

park at the corner of Chisholm and Long Rapids Road, the park at the corner of Washington and Eleventh avenue and the portion of the Thunder Bay River called Lake Besser. To combat the busy season, the city council has proposed starting the hunt at daybreak and ending it no later than 9 a.m. Also considered is the closing of some of the less primary roads near the hunting sites to protect motorists. This could be a problem because of Labor Day weekend when family, friends and tourists are outdoors camping, hiking and picnicking.

Overfeeding is the main reason behind the hunt. The feeding ban doesn't work because it's rarely enforced. Because of overfeeding, the goose numbers have exploded, making them more of a stationary bird and less migratory. Along with the hunt, the council hopes to impose strict feeding laws and plans to enforce them with the help of law enforcement.

With the goose hunt decision already made, all that is left is the fine details such as the numbers of hunters and location consent from owners.

Once a thriving community, Hawks fades with years

By Jocelyn Haske
Entertainment Editor

Those who pass through the village of Hawks laugh and joke about its small size. One of the most common phrases used: "Don't blink, or you'll miss it." Unfortunately even the residents participate in the mockery. Several wood signs that are posted read "Hawks?" and "This is it?" How dreadful! Where is their sense of pride and appreciation?

With the exception of being a mailing address, today Hawks is merely an S-shaped curve in the road. There are two gas stations, side by side, a small one-room post office, a Lutheran church, a bar and a barber shop. Unknown to many is the fact that quaint little Hawks was once a large prosperous town.

According to the "Hawks Centennial," Hawks was founded in 1896. Records show that land was purchased from the state of Michigan in 1854. Many of who first settled in Hawks immigrated from Germany. They brought with them skills, optimism and a will to survive. Through hard work and community spirit, a town emerged.

Hawks flourished between the years of 1896 and approximately 1940. It bustled with activity and life. Business and industry included six general stores, two hotels, several saloons (beer gardens), a blacksmith, a machine shop, barber-shop, cigar factory, garage repair, two sawmills, Cement Block Plant, gravel processing plant, Butter Bowl Factory, shingle mill, livery stable and flour mill. Logging and farm-

ing were the most prominent industries. There was also a post office, train depot, two Lutheran churches and a dance hall. Seven schools existed, six of which were on-roomed, "offering the 3-R's to hundreds of student in the area," according to "Hawks Centennial."

Three elder Hawks inhabitants share their earliest memories of what life was like. "There were a lot more trees," said Ervin Mertz, a 90-year-old life-time resident. He tells of how the farmers came in and carved the land out. The main transportation was "your legs." Entertainment included baseball, fist fights, visiting with neighbors and friends and parties at the dance hall where he played the fiddle. "you could get into the hall for a quarter. People came from all around and especially came to Hawks because beer was cheaper, could get it for a nickel here. It was a dime out there," he recalls.

Emil Rasche, 89, came to Hawks in 1923 from Toledo, Ohio. He remembers rows of houses along the railroad nicknamed "Shantytown." The Butter Bowl Factory was "a pretty big operation," Rasche said. He recollects the passenger train unloading people directly to the hotel. There was no traffic; cattle grazed along the road.

Born in Germany, 95-year-old Emma Krueger witnessed the deterioration of Hawks first hand. Decline in the lumber industry carried most of the blame. The "Hawks Centennial" contains several photos of this industry but very little written information. In five years more than a thousand

acres of timber of cut and processed at the Hawks sawmill. Large maples were used at the Butter Bowl Factory to make bowls. The majority of logs were transported by train to other parts of the state. Logging was hard work that required the strength of many men and horses. After so many years of intense lumbering though, the trees along with the business thinned out.

Because most of the buildings were made of wood, fire hazard was high and as a result many structures burned. Several stores, one church, the town hall, hotel/saloon and dance hall (with its interior dome made of cheesecloth) were all destroyed by fire. Rasche remembers the lumber industry causing brush fires. Branches remaining on the ground dried up. "Anything at all would start on fire," he said. "As kids, we were paid 25 cents an hour to shovel sand on the flames."

Even more destructive were the effects of the devastating Metz fire of 1908. Many acres of forest burned. "I wasn't here, but Ma told me that when the big fire went through here, one man could clear as fast as horses could plow," Mertz recalls. "It burnt that clean."

Two tornadoes struck in 1964 destroying precious barns and homes. Mertz was sitting down to supper on that Sunday, July 4. "I sent the kids and Ma to the basement," he said. "Sounded like a freight train or a group of airplanes. Picked up the dog hut with the dog." Mertz said that trees were discarded like toothpicks.

The Detroit and Mackinaw railroad (D&M) was described as the lifeblood of the rural communities, delivering all that could not be produced in the area. The railroad helped local businesses such as the stores and the hotels. It also provided employment for many of the residents. The LaRocque Depot of Hawks

built in 1907 shipped cattle, timber, potatoes and bushels of huckleberries. At times, as many as 50 cars were moving up and down the tracks through Hawks, according to "Hawks Centennial." After the Big Cut gravel processing plant operation was shut down in the late 1970s, the trains ceased moving through the village. In the mid-1980s, the tracks were pulled out.

Technology advancement also played a role in the reduction of jobs. Work done by hand was replaced with machinery. What once took 50 men to accomplish in a day, now takes two. Because of this, the Butter Bowl Factory, cement block plant and lumber industry disappeared into the past.

In a letter written in 1928 by C.E. Wilde, who had served as manager of the Bell Exchange in Alpena from 1890-92, "the remoteness of northern Michigan and its scattered logging and farming communities is the reason for lack of communication service with the outside world."

The way of life was so very different 100 years ago. There were large families in which land was passed down through generations. Because children stayed in the area and raised families of their own, the population remained steady. People provided for themselves and were generally more independent. Vegetables were home grown and clothing was hand sewn. Also, imaginations were used more. Whether it be through forms of entertainment or problem solving techniques, they seemed to be innovative and resourceful.

Now, after nearly 100 years, people's way of life in Hawks has changed. There are few residents who live far apart, often the nearest neighbor a quarter of a mile away. The town wasn't able to stand the test of time. It lost to the rough and tough challenges of adaptation.

When asked if he would want to return, Mertz replied, "I wouldn't go back to the way it was at that time. Life was hard. You worked for everything you got. If you didn't work, you didn't eat. That's what it was all about."



Members of the Polemic staff to attend the Michigan Community College Press Association Conference included Amy Wallot (top row, left to right) Nic Greenwood, Heidi Skuse, Chanda Wekwert, (bottom row) James Eaton and Jocelyn Haske.

AWARDS, Cont. from Page 1

importance of listening. He told the audience that it's impossible not to think while being spoken to.

"We are entertainment junkies," said Voss. He explained that Sesame Street is a good learning show, but it creates a false idea in a child's mind. When a child enters kindergarten they think school will be fun and just as entertaining as Sesame Street, but it isn't so the child gets bored.

Voss also shared with the audience his perspective that he held as a college student about older professors: "Good gravy, turn in your chalk."

Throughout the speech Voss highlighted it with cartoons. The last one he showed was for the future educators in the group. It was to show them how to be an effective educator. The cartoon had a teacher with a classroom full of students and the teacher was sitting at his desk with his head inside of a television screen.

CROSSING, Cont. from Page 1

going to be any enforcement for speeders and reckless drivers that don't yield to pedestrians that some other type of crosswalk should be put in," ACC student Jeff Kozak said.

ACC has discussed several options to solve the dilemma, ACC President Dr. Donald Newport said.


"We have discussed putting up a street light, a bridge, a tunnel and a push button walk light," Newport said. "Our

best possibility is a push button crossing light or better signs."


He said the problem with a bridge or a tunnel would be the cost to construct them and the problem with a street light is getting city approval. Cost for either the bridge or tunnel would be in the \$250,000 range.

Alpena City Engineer Rich Sullenger estimated that a push button crosswalk would cost any were from \$10,000 to \$30,000 to construct.


Do you have a nose for news?




An eye for image?



An ear to the ground?



Or something to say?



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Titus says farewell to fun of classes

By Jessica Rutan
Staff Writer

A calendar with an "X" through each day gone by hangs in the office of Sonya Titus, head of ACC's English Department. This calendar counts down the days until her retirement on May 5.

"You can ask me on any day and I can tell you how long I have left," she said. "I'm getting anxious."

Titus has been teaching for 37 1/2 years. She graduated from Central Michigan University with a bachelor's degree in English and speech. She returned there for her master's degree. Titus began her teaching career at the high school level. She spent two years each in Midland and Marion and a year at Alpena High before coming to ACC.

"Alpena has been very good to me," she said. "I've had a lot of opportunities that I don't think I would have had in a bigger place."

This includes helping to start the drama program at ACC: "I'm so proud of the

ACC Players under Nan's directorship, where they have developed. I want that to keep getting bigger and bigger."

She says that she will miss the people at ACC the most.

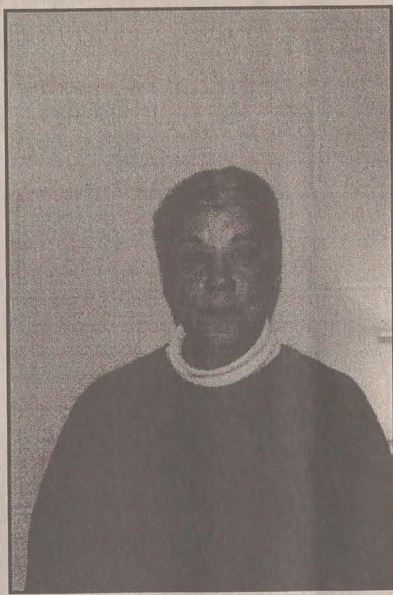
"This is a great place to work," she said. "You're treated well and with respect."

Titus says she chose teaching because she loved learning. She couldn't stay in college forever, so she chose the next best thing, placing herself in a classroom where there is an interchange of ideas.

"Teaching is intangible. You don't know what your effect is. I think all I really wanted to do is share my excitement about learning and hope the students would grab onto the same joy that I had," she said.

She thinks the greatest payoff is when a former student returns to tell her that her teaching has made an impact.

The way that Titus teaches has changed considerably. Teachers used to spend a majority of their time lecturing. Over the years, however, they learned that the most effective way of teaching is through



Sonya Titus

hands on experience.

"If you would have said at the beginning of my career that's where we'd be in education, I wouldn't have been able to even conceive of it," she said.

Titus tries to make her classes fun for the students because she thinks they learn more that way. "I'd like them to remember that we had some fun in my class," she said.

Titus plans to take the first year of her retirement just to decide what she wants to do. She is certain, however, that she will be spending the winter months in Florida.

Roger Phillips will take over two speech classes and head of the English Department. Nan Hall will teach the rest of the speech classes.

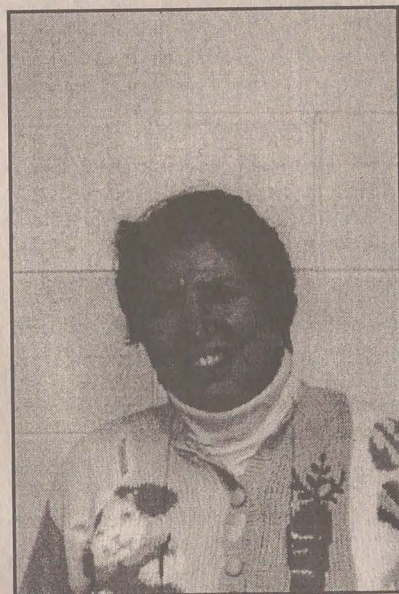
Gamage, Timm face retirement

By Melissa Kennard
Staff Writer

With 56 years of service between them, Jacquelyn Timm and Herb Gamage will retire at semester's end.

For 24 years Timm has held various positions as a member of the staff at ACC. She started out teaching part time, then in 1980 took on the role of public relations consultant. Next she moved into the position of director of public information. Timm has also assumed the roles of talent search technician and talent search director. She currently is holding the full time position of student support director. Throughout her career at ACC she has written grants for educational talent search and student support services totaling \$1 million.

She has enjoyed her time here working with a wonder-



Jacquelyn Timm

ful staff and interesting students who have offered her some interesting times. She has, however, different times planned for retirement.

"I am going to be a grandma for the first time in May!" Timm said. She also plans to vacation in Florida next winter and travel and enjoy life.

Herb Gamage has been an instructor of mathematics and engineering for 32 years. Behind the scenes of being an instructor, he has also been on the committee of the Michigan Engineering College - Community College Liaison Committee helping transfer student get into engineering programs state wide. Mr. Gamage was also a negotiator for the faculty contract devised in the early 1970s and has continued to be an active member in the union.

Mr. Gamage became a teacher because he felt his high school math teachers were not adequate and he wanted to do better. He has really enjoyed being a teacher.

"I had a great time with the students," he said. "The students were great."

Now that he is retiring, he plans to devote more time to the fire department and his grandchildren.

Bar scene provides view of life

By James Eaton
Staff Writer

Anyone interested in studying abnormal psychology in its most pure state should visit their local pub. I have spent the last year studying the persistently pickled patrons of all the bars from one end of the city to the other and the first conclusion that I derived was that people are even stranger than I had previously believed.

Often times I would walk into my favorite bar on 10th Avenue, also previously known as The Pump, in hopes that Harry would be there. Harry is one of the more entertaining regulars. He has a raspy, deep voice and the more intoxicated he gets, the more frequently he speaks in rhymes. He always asks me if I brought my harmonica so he

can play for the enjoyment of all the other inebriated customers. Harry lives in a sort of fantasy world. He told me that a piece of plastic wrap he had stuck to his face was a morphine patch and that he wants to go to Hollywood to be an actor. I hope he makes it.

Harry is just one of the many unusual people you might meet though. I once met a middle-aged woman in red sweat pants at Joe's Bar who wanted to take me home. When I gracefully declined, she proceeded to do the splits for me. I was so impressed that I agreed to dance to one song with her which happened to have been "Johnny B Good". That was the same night I was robbed by a carnival worker.

I have met everyone from bikers to bouncers, sailors to scholars. I have met a certi-

fied tiger trainer and I was even blessed with the opportunity to talk with (for those of you who know him) the infamous "pole-toucher." He played "Mustang Sally" on the juke box and bounced with the music's rhythm, mumbling most of the time. One week after running into him, I was accused of sleeping in a shopping cart in the SAVE A LOT parking lot (a completely false accusation I assure you). The police who had shown up were kind enough to show me the exact process of taking an alcohol blood content test, even going so far as to generously give me a ride home.

All of these experiences, all of the conversations I've had, and things I had done, stood alone as isolated recollections, independent experiences.

Toy sale makes a difference

By Kim Hartman
Staff Writer

It has often been said that one person can't make a difference. Ten-year-old Andy Libka proved that wrong. Libka's efforts resulted in \$10,615 to be donated to the Ronald McDonald House and Alpena General Hospital's Cancer Center.

After visiting a Ronald McDonald House and seeing a large cardboard replica of a donation check, Libka decided to try his hand at raising money himself. He held a toy sale on Make A Differ-

ence Day, Oct. 23, 1999. He sold many of his own toys as well as toys he gathered as donations from friends, family and his parents' coworkers. Even though the weather wasn't cooperative, people turned out to purchase his toys in support of Libka's effort. His original goal was to raise \$100 for each charity. He surpassed that goal by tripling the amount for each charity.

Libka's mother, Marilee Libka, heard about the USA Weekend awarding additional money to people participating in the annual Make A Difference Day event. She wrote a

letter in November detailing her son's efforts to raise money for these worthy causes.

Her son's was one of ten projects chosen from thousands of entries to receive \$10,000 from Newman's Own, a food company owned by actor Paul Newman. They were notified in February about his selection, but were told not to tell anyone until USA Weekend announced the finalists in March.

To receive his award, Andy Libka and his family

ingly snaking off into eternity, crawling on its rusty belly under the star speckled night sky, I came to the realization that my experiences aren't isolated events but make up the total of every thing that I am.

I realized with a smile that I'm a little "abnormal" too.

See TOYS, Page 5

Life for some is plastic wrap on their face. Life is compulsively touching poles or feeling lonely in your red sweat pants. And yes, life is sleeping in shopping carts and train hopping.

And as I looked toward the back of the train, its end seem-

ingly snaking off into eternity, crawling on its rusty belly under the star speckled night sky, I came to the realization that my experiences aren't isolated events but make up the total of every thing that I am.

I realized with a smile that I'm a little "abnormal" too.

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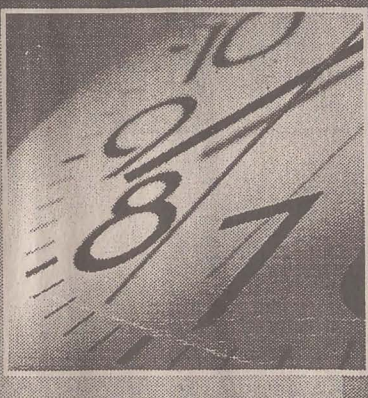
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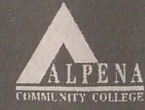
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SAC/ACC's teacher grads prepare for job market

By Mary Beth Ponik
Staff Writer

The first group of Spring Arbor College elementary education students in Alpena will be completing the program this month. Seven of the nine students in the group will be receiving a bachelor's degree from Spring Arbor College.

They are Lynn Borke, Crystal Brandt, Dahna Burrone, Mary Lightner, Laurie Maynard, Julie McLennan and Jennifer Ries. The other two students in the group, Toby Rickett and Kay Roggow, are post BA students and will be receiving teacher certification.

The papers, presentations, observations and examinations are finally coming to an end for this group of nine students who will be completing their professional semester, also known as student teaching, this month. This is typically the final hurdle for education students because it is time to put theory into practice.

"The professional semester is probably one of the most difficult of all semesters," said Lorraine Reuther, student teacher coordinator and assistant professor.

She added that student teachers have to be prepared with good lessons to teach, but that's not all. They also have to understand the psychology of children and their learning styles.

"They have to be on their toes all day long," Reuther said. "It is physically and emotionally draining."

Although the professional semester is tough, students agree

it is worth it.

"When I taught a new lesson to the students and they picked up on it right away, it was a very memorable moment," Student Teacher Mary Lightner said. "If I had to go back in time and decide whether to pursue this program through SC knowing what I know now, I definitely would do it all over again."

Jennifer Ries shares her classmate's enthusiasm: "I love student teaching. I just wish it hadn't taken me so long to decide on what I wanted for a career. I would definitely do it again."

Although these students are achieving a major milestone by finishing the SAC education program, their enthusiasm and thirst for learning are not going to stagnate. A conviction shared by each of the students is to be a lifelong learner. Teachers are required by the state to complete additional course work to maintain their certification.

"Teachers must complete an additional 18 credit hours within six years from initial certification," said Mary Henderson, SAC admissions specialist.

Whether they begin courses toward completion of a master's degree program right away, take courses to comply with the requirements to maintain certification, or just focus on teaching for awhile, these students will continue to learn as they inspire their students to develop that same love of learning.

The graduation ceremony will be held May 7 at Spring Arbor Free Methodist Church in Spring Arbor. SAC encourages students from satellite campuses to attend graduation because,

in most cases, students will not even know what the main campus looks like if they don't.

"It makes them feel more a part of the college," Reuther said.

"I wouldn't miss attending the graduation ceremony for the world!" Ries said. "My whole family is going - camcorders in hand."

Borke, Brandt, Maynard, McLennan and Burrone also plan to attend the graduation ceremony.

Completing a degree and moving on can be a bittersweet experience. While the students expressed great excitement at the prospect of being hired and having their own classrooms, they also expressed a little sadness. The students have become a close-knit group as a result of sharing the better part of the past two years together.

According to Kay Roggow, the best part of the program was meeting and working with so many wonderful people.

"I will always hold all of my fellow SAC students close to my heart," she said. "I will miss many people when we are through."

A special crop of SAC students will be making the move from student to teacher very soon. The staff at SAC is proud of these students.

"This first group of student teachers are outstanding representatives, and my only hope is that the students following will live up to the same standards," Reuther said.

Hautau makes a natural leap to motherhood with daughter

By Celeste M. Mertz
Staff Writer

"Try as many things as you can to find your strengths, then work on them," says Deborah Hautau. The ACC instructor believes that by working on what you are best at, your life becomes happier and richer in social, professional and intimate relationships.

Hautau came to ACC in 1993 with three degrees. He earned her associate's degree in science from a community college in Tennessee, went on to earn her bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Tennessee and master's of science from Wayne State University.

Entering the male-domi-

nated field of science, Hautau was well aware of the fact that she would be a role model for many young women in the field. The decision wasn't a difficult one.

"I grew up in nature," she said. "My dad was a landscape architect and we camped a lot."

Initially, Hautau was a pre-medical student, but then began teaching biology and enjoyed it. She was always a good student and the sciences interested her. She quickly discovered that science was her strength.

"I had an excellent biology teacher in high school," Hautau said.

Working with her hands and being creative in an artistic manner is one of Hautau's

hobbies. She enjoys wood-working, cross-stitching, ceramics, and of course "nature stuff" such as gardening. She loves to cook with herbs grown in her garden. He loves to dance, but always heeded her grandmother's advice: "It makes a good hobby, but math and science pay the bills."

Hautau is currently teaching part time due to a five-month-old addition to the family. Hautau and her husband, ACC instructor Mark Milostan, are sharing the baby responsibilities. Megan Celeste shares office space with her dad while her mom is teaching, and when it's dad's time to hold class, she is with her mom.

Megan is a happy, healthy



Deborah Hautau cuddles her daughter Megan. Hautau and her husband Mark Milostan share parenting duties as well as a love of teaching.

baby due in part to the constant kisses, smiles and loving touches her parents give her. But Hautau made a decision about Megan's health that created an important bond between the mother and child - nursing. Nursing you baby, Hautau feels is a "very natural thing" and Megan is "definitely healthier for it."

Hautau carries her love for learning farther than her instruction at ACC. She is involved in the Science Olympiad as the regional co-director. She serves on the academic standards committee and is going through the process to become a Catholic as her husband. As Megan grows, Hautau will be choosing more

committees to participate in. A very romantic story, almost a story of fate, brought Hautau to ACC and to her motherhood today.

When Hautau interviewed for the full-time position that ACC was offering, a panel interviewed her. On that committee sat Milostan. She was hired and other department figures joked with the two that they could be married because of the similarities of their research work. Milostan and Hautau also had a common thread between them; both had attended the University of Tennessee at approximately the same time.

It wasn't love at first sight, but Hautau says they did share

an appreciation of nature and biology.

"I knew I was in love with him when I saw him crawling on his hands and knees chasing a frog," she said.

Hautau grew up in Detroit and loves it "up north," she said. "It's like the country."

As Hautau was completing her remarks, Megan was leaving a small diaper deposit. With a wink and a giggle, Hautau looked down at the baby and asked: "You just couldn't do this for your Dad could you?"

Being a woman in a male-dominated department and field, a wife and a mother is tough, but Hautau handles it with humor and distinction.

TOYS

Cont, from Page 4

were flown to Washington, D.C. where they met the other award recipients. At the luncheon, he was presented his award and met country music artist Collin Raye and the current Miss America. The award recipients toured the city including the White House, the monuments and the Smithsonian museums along the mall.

Libka was especially

happy to donate to the Ronald McDonald House, which is referred to as "the house that love built." It is a place for the families of sick children to stay while their children are undergoing treatment in the hospital. Instead of a cold hotel with no amenities, the families stay in a house with all the touches of home. The house has cooking areas, washers and dryers, a game room, transportation to and from the hospital and volunteers to offer support to be

family members.

Libka's father, Jay Libka, an employee of ACC, said that his son may have a say in how the money is used at the Ronald McDonald House. Under discussion are putting the money toward the kitchen or the game room.

"We are all very proud of Andy," his father said. "The toy sale was all his idea and he did the work for it. He was thrilled."


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Audience drums and dances with Bon Foule

By Jocelyn Haske
Staff Writer

ACC Instructor Denise Bazzett proudly introduced Bon Foule, a drumming and dance troupe from Traverse City on Wednesday afternoon, April 26. Sponsored by the ACC Foundation, the troupe was requested and came as a part of Bazzett's introduction to mythology class. Members of Bon Foule included Victoria Sylvester, Dwight Sylvester, Daiva Strehl, and Nancy Curley.

The open event took place in the College Park Arena with a diverse audience. Children, parents, students, faculty and other interested people filled the bleachers. The large gymnasium doors were open letting in fresh air and natural light while also allowing the sound to entice outdoor stragglers.

Bon Foule began their presentation with a song in which the audience responded in chorus "abana" meaning none of us are free until all are. They then shared interesting information about African culture. The colorfully-patterned fabric worn, for example, has meaning for families. Shells were used as money and when



Photo by Jocelyn Haske

Bon Foule member Daiva Strehl, left, helps a drummer refine his technique. After learning a drumming rhythm and some dance moves, the participants joined Bon Foule's performance.

washed up upon the beach were a sign of the gods wanting them to be wealthy. The sound of drums traveled very far and was used to tell people in other villages a message.

Audience members were invited to participate in a final group performance. In one corner of the gym, dancer Victoria Sylvester instructed twenty volunteers in African

dance movement. Shoes were thrown off and bare feet wel-

come. In the meantime, Dwight Sylvester, Strehl and Curley taught a second group drumming rhythm.

"Come off the drum like it's hot, so as not to muffle the sound," Sylvester called out in his instructions.

After some practice and quick learning, the drumming rhythm and dance movement came together with a grand finale performance. And it was a beautiful combination.

The gym echoed with deep booming music as an intense dance was presented.

Cult films capture bygone days

By Lauren Beckeney
Staff Writer

"They're back and this time they're really stewed!"

If this line describes a holiday visit from the the in-laws, take heart. It appeared in the trailer advertising the feature film "Attack of the Killer Tomatoes."

This movie and others have risen (or fallen) within the ranks of film genre known as "cult movies." Apparently it is possible for movies having achieved popularity in an earlier decade to become popular at a later date due to dated dialogue, bizarre special effects or strange costumes.

How does a feature film actually become a cult film? Does it have to be bad to be good? Cult-film status has been assigned to movies that are silly, low budget and sometimes poorly acted. Many new movies need not be cinematic dogs to gain cult status; some are worthy of recognition from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Why are people attracted to cult films? As with other forms of entertainment, they offer an escape from everyday life. They entertain and sometimes bring like-minded people together. On occasion, they may help us accept aspects of our personality we fear may be unacceptable.

Vickie Percy, a local cult file aficionado, cites an example of a film that was well-received during the 1960s that has fallen to cult status.

"When the Jacqueline Susann novel, "Valley of the Dolls" first hit American theaters, it was considered pretty hot," she said. "It dealt with

drug addiction, adultery, and Hollywood. Now [30 years later] it is campy because of the dated dialogue. Most people watch it for a good laugh."

One of the more popular cult film offerings has been "Rocky Horror Picture Show," which has continued to earn money since its release in 1975. "Rocky Horror" has a following of devoted fans, some of which are now second and third generation.

Several years ago while living in Ann Arbor I attended a midnight showing of "Rocky Horror." Most of the audience arrived dressed as their favorite character from the film. However, it seemed to be more than a weekly opportunity to be someone else. Film-goers interacted with each other as well as the film. Lines were recited verbatim

with the characters on screen.

When the villain of the story appeared, he was roundly booed by all. And the true piece de resistance to any dyed-in-the-wool "Rocky Horror" follower was the opportunity to dance a musical number known as "The Time Warp" in the aisles of the theater.

Percy feels that "Rocky Horror" sends a message that is often overlooked by the general public.

"To me, the movie is about accepting people as they are," she said. "Life is a big party and everyone is invited."

Other movies approaching cult status with a devoted following are "The Sound of Music," "Taxi Driver," "Bad Day at Black Rock," "Trainspotting," "The Manchurian Candidate," "The Graduate," and "Ferris Bueller's Day Off."

"Angel" earns raves

By Cort D. Baumler
Staff Writer

I attended my first ACC production April 10 as a student and I was in awe of the entire group of people who performed "Look Homeward Angel." Everyone did a wonderful job, from the cast to the producers, from make-up to set crews.

I never realized how much work could be involved. The set was magnificent. While I noticed some dark spots due to minor miscalculations in the lighting, the realism portrayed by the set from the shadowing and painting schemes was quite incredible. Each of the actor's faces was

shining with emotion.

The story deals with the life of Thomas Wolfe. While some people may question the interest level of an autobiographical play, I found myself intrigued by the cast's portrayal of a family's struggle to stay united as one and to care for each other. The Gant family revealed the many things that an average family must deal with as children grow, dreams are pursued and loved ones are lost.

The cast kept the audience enthralled with the reality and seriousness of the emotions portrayed by each character. Power and wealth were feelings established early on by Mr. Gant's second wife Eliza.

The main roles were portrayed by Chris Person and Amy Wallot. Person played Eugene Gant, a teenage boy trying to discover his purpose in life. Wallot played the charming Laura James, Eugene's first love, and convincingly revealed the highs and lows of love itself after winning Eugene's heart with her knowledge of the big city and desire to travel the world.

Eugene's rural life did not adequately prepare him for his first rejection from love. Laura left Eugene out to dry, forcing him to move on heartbroken and unsure of himself.

Director Kirstine Titus said she was pleased with the cast's ability to perform such a complex play given the large crew that performed.

"I am very proud of the kids," she said. "Their patience and understanding were key to the success of the play."

Titus encourages people to try out for various plays that ACC puts on each year because it develops great communication skills and helps kids interact and discover all sorts of new people.

Everyone watching could relate to an experience in their lives that tied them to one of the many characters staying at the boarding house. The many smiles of the crowd and the occasional tear revealed the audience's enjoyment of a performance well done. The play was fun for all that attended as applause rang out as the cast came out for their final bow.

Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12			13						14		
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46	47			48	49			50		51	52
53			54				55		56		
57			58						59		
60			61						62		

- ACROSS
- 1 Place for experiments (abbr.)
 - 4 Sink
 - 9 Knock
 - 12 Slick
 - 13 Cheer
 - 14 Age
 - 15 Visualize
 - 16 Took out
 - 17 Admirer
 - 18 Spanish monetary unit
 - 20 Resigned (abbr.)
 - 21 Liability
 - 22 Cut
 - 24 Dog
 - 25 Article
 - 27 Fast
 - 30 Cam
 - 33 -eer (variety of)
 - 35 Flower
 - 37 Extravehicular activity (abbr.)
 - 38 Sand below water
 - 40 Story
 - 41 Square of any type
 - 42 Drag
 - 43 Ooze
 - 46 map; chart
 - 48 Ova
 - 50 Beak
 - 53 Sup
 - 54 Assembly place (Gr.)
 - 56 Mat
 - 57 ___ out (complete)
 - 58 Gemstone weight
 - 59 Of the kind of (suf.)
 - 60 Lead (p.t.)

- 61 Swelling
 - 62 The letter C
- DOWN
- 1 Speech defect
 - 2 Toward which the wind blows
 - 3 Bless (p.t. form)
 - 4 Cot
 - 5 One who scares
 - 6 Stuff
 - 7 A follower (sur., pl.)
 - 8 Man's name
 - 9 Umpire
 - 10 Semitic
 - 11 Huff
 - 19 N.W. state (abbr.)
 - 21 Dig (p.t.)
 - 23 Lupino
 - 25 Broadcast
 - 26 Born
 - 28 7th letter; Greek alphabet
 - 29 Message
 - 31 ___ Maria
 - 32 Male sheep
 - 34 Akin
 - 36 Dream stage (abbr.)
 - 39 Obese
 - 44 Not out
 - 45 Subject
 - 46 Pare
 - 47 Erie, e.g.
 - 48 Mild oath
 - 49 Stab
 - 51 Rational
 - 52 Rim
 - 54 High card
 - 55 ___ glance

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Year of coaching teaches new game

Marty Mix
Sports Editor

This year I was hired as an assistant to the ACC men's basketball team. I got the opportunity to learn hands on about many of the ups and downs, responsibilities, problems and excitement that come from being a coach, not to mention that I was working with two of the best at it.

I had the honor of coaching with Frank McCourt, who has been coaching for more than thirty years, and also Bobby Allen. Both Allen and I played at ACC under McCourt, but Allen's basketball career continued to Lake Superior State University. These two have been coaching together for seven years now.

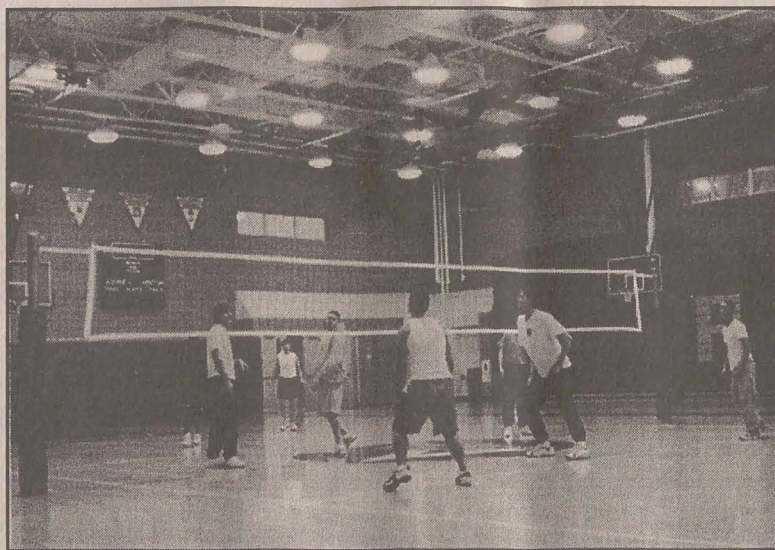
My year started out with many hopes and ideas along with a lot of excitement and anticipation. I was coming off of a recent knee injury and finishing a career at ACC. Honestly, I didn't really know what to expect.

I knew the basic layout of how the season goes, but I didn't have any idea of all of the little things that go into it to make it successful. I wasn't aware of all of the paperwork, phone calls, videos, and the conversations with players, their family, and their teachers to find out where they stood in the classroom.

The season went by extremely fast, and we had a solid record with a strong run at the end of the year. I was impressed with how well we came together as coaches as well as the players did with each other to make us become a team.

The hardest thing I had to overcome was the fact that I wasn't a player anymore and that I was in fact a coach. It still sounds crazy simply for the fact that at the same time last year I was wondering where I was going to play next, and then I find myself a year later out of uniform and in dress clothes.

So all in all I look at this year's experience as one of most positive and most effective years that I have ever had. Just because you are in the coach's seat doesn't mean you stop learning, and I was extremely lucky to have the opportunity. Hurting my knee seemed like the end of the world to me, but coaching has brought an entirely different approach to basketball that I really enjoyed. It was tough to see the season end.



ACC players had fun on the courts this year.

IM Volleyball wraps up

By Nic Greenwood
Staff Writer

The intramural volleyball season is officially over. The season was short but sweet, packed full of great games and awesome action.

"I missed half of our games because I was on vacation," Pam Rich said. "I just wish the season could have been a little longer."

Even though the season was short, intramural coordinator Bobby Allen still found time to put on a tournament before the school year ended. The hard-hitting action did not stop for the tournament.

There were lots of highlights through the season and the tournament.

"My favorite highlight of the tournament was when the

wadesman volleyball champion (Steve Menzel) spiked on poor defenseless Heidi Skuse," Josh Holcomb said.

Player Jason Jore added: "That was my favorite too."

On this year's championship team were: Captain Nic Greenwood, Gary Greenwood, Josh Holcomb, Pam Rich, Jennifer Menzel, Steve Menzel, Katie Rapoza, Marty Mix, Jason Jore and John George. Out of the ten-member team, the first five were on last year's championship team.

From four-member teams to ten-member teams, from the happiness of winning to the sorrows of defeat, from high-flying action to the funniest bloopers, they all composed this past season.

"It was just a lot of fun," Jennifer Menzel said.

Rain, snow delays softball season

By Katie Rapoza
Staff Writer

The ACC Women's Softball team swung into their conference season with weekend double-headers against Oakland Community and Henry Ford Community College. They played Oakland on Friday, April 7 and Henry Ford Saturday and Sunday.

Alpena dropped the first game to the hosting Raiders 14-4. Despite their efforts, Alpena's starting pitcher Julie Lee, the Lumberjacks suffered the loss. Rachel Bischoff was her relief. Olivia Shield led Alpena's offense with a single-run homer in the fourth inning.

Alpena's second game against Oakland was suspended after the fifth inning due to snowy weather. Oakland was up 14-9 in the fifth. Rich had four hits and a home run. Jennifer Jore-Menzel batted four for four.

The Henry Ford games on April 8 and 9 were cancelled due to weather conditions. They will be made up May 5 and May 6 at Henry Ford.

"I don't mind it," Jore-Menzel said. "It will be nice because it will be a weekend get-away after exams."

Alpena traveled to Delta Community College on April 19 to face a double header. Alpena faced a huge mess when Lee, number one pitcher for Alpena, took a hit to the knee while pitching the first game. Bischoff had to finish the game. Alpena ended the loss with a score 8-3. The second game was an instant replay when Brook came into pitch and also got line-driven at the knee cap. Bischoff came to finish the game with a score of 14-3 with Delta on top again.

Easter weekend wasn't a break for Alpena as they would face two double headers against Mott. The games were suppose to be held Friday and Saturday.

Due to rainy weather, all the games were finished on Saturday. Alpena suffered for a pitcher. Lee is out for the season and Bischoff had prior commitments. So Alpena looked to Brook. The first two games were a struggle for Alpena when they took the lost 16-1 and 15-2. The next two games turned around with Alpena on top, 11-0 and 16-6.

Everyone took their turn to bat and there were lost of smiles and cheers as Alpena experienced its first wins.

Uncommon bait helps snag an uncommon brook trout

Kate Splitt
Staff Writer

I love the woods in the spring. But, I also love trout fishing. It's my favorite thing

to do, rain or shine. John and I were headed for our favorite trout stream on an overcast, early June day last year.

We followed the little trail through the woods until we

came to a small clearing. The trail led us to the bottom of a grassy ridge and as we climbed, we could see the creek. The first thing we noticed was that the normally fast

moving water didn't seem to be flowing at all. A closer look downstream revealed a large beaver dam that had turned the small stream into a rather large pond. That was going to change things considerably. But it was a beautiful spring day and my first time trout fishing this year.

Fishing for trout is a whole different experience than fishing for other kinds of fish. On a small stream like this one, we needed to sneak up on the fish. They see you moving and they hear even the slightest noise. I made my way down the bank and sat down to bait my hook. I was using a small Aberdeen hook and a gigantic crawler. I put a tiny split shot about six inches above the hook and flipped the line into the water. John decided to go upstream a ways and work his way back to where I was.

Trout are kind of tricky to catch. They like a natural bait presentation and the way I had my pole rigged was for fishing where there is a current that will bounce the bait along the bottom. However, my bait wasn't exactly bouncing along the bottom. It wasn't moving because of the beaver dam.

I made several casts without any success, and after about a half an hour, I realized that it was time to change tactics. I usually use a small clear bobber or float for trout fishing when I want the bait suspended off the bottom, but I left the last one I had hanging in a cranberry bush on a different stream. That's another deal with trout fishing...take lots of tackle.

Anyway, the only bobber I had left was a big, red and white one, and when I put it on my line, John looked over and started laughing.

"You're not serious about

using that, are you?"

He was still chuckling when I tossed my line into the creek. Hey, I had nothing to lose. We weren't catching anything anyway, and he can fish his way and I can fish mine.

Well, the bobber just sat there. I reeled in my line and tossed it out a little farther. The pond was full of tags and bushes, perfect hiding places for trout and so I tried to get my bait as close to the bushes as I could (that's why I take three tackle boxes).

There was just a little bit of current so my bobber was floating very slowly. I set the pole down on the bank and relaxed. What a pretty spot this was. It was worth the walk just to be there.

I glanced at the bobber as it meandered peacefully downstream. Suddenly, it stopped moving. A small circle on the water appeared around the float. I picked up my pole thinking that I had probably snagged one of the sunken bushes, and then the bobber went down.

I could see the bobber moving back and forth, really slow, under the water. Something had my bait and was swimming away with it. I opened my bale and let out some line.

The bobber was gliding just below the surface, first left and then right. John had seen the float go down and was yelling at me to set the hook, but it was so cool watching it, that I waited another couple of seconds. Of course, by that time, I had about a hundred yards of line floating on the water, so I started reeling in the slack.

When the line got tighter, I set the hook. When I did, I felt the weight of the fish and he didn't move.

"That can't be a trout," I

thought. It felt too heavy. Maybe it was a big sucker or maybe I caught the beaver.

Whatever it was, I couldn't move him off the bottom...and then he went nuts. He headed for the bushes and I couldn't set the drag tight enough to control him without breaking the line. I did my best to keep him out of the shrubbery and then he started coming up toward the surface.

My heart was pounding so hard that I thought I was going to have a coronary, but when I saw him break the surface of the water, I knew I was going to have a coronary.

It was the biggest brook trout I had ever seen. He took off again and headed for the other side of the creek. At this point, I was basically just holding on, trying not to lose him in all the snags.

After ten minutes or so, I started gaining some ground. John came running over with the net while I worked at getting the fish close enough to the shore for us to reach him, but, as soon as the fish saw the shore, he made another run. He was getting tired, though, and I started to reel him in closer again.

John was ready with the net and when the fish was just a foot or two away from the bank, John slipped the net underneath him, but this trout wasn't done yet, and he raced off again. I was shaking, not only from being excited, but from the energy used in fighting this fish. He wasn't going far this time, and when he got close enough, we had him.

The fish was sixteen and a half inches long, which isn't really all that long, but he weighed two and a quarter pounds. It was the biggest brook trout I ever saw and he was in my creel.

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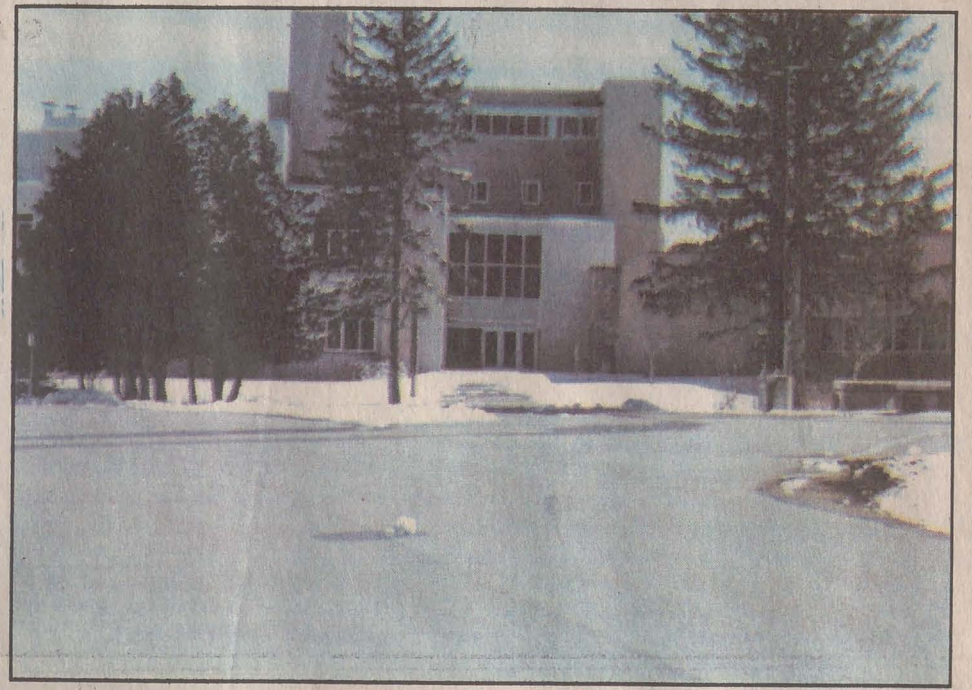
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Ah spring! Sun, blue skies with ice, snow and cold



By Chanda Wekwert and Melissa Kennard
Staff Writers

Spring! The time of year when the daffodils bloom and the robins sing their courtship songs.

The sun peeks out of the thick gray winter clouds and warms the earth, breathing life into brown grass and leafless trees to turn them green.

Not quite!

In March, an odd weather pattern disguised as spring hit Alpena. The thermometer hit 70 degrees; the grass rejoiced and the seagulls returned. Three days later in the midst of April, the temperature plummeted to the 30s and 40s and froze there for the next three weeks with snow twice making an appearance.

In February and March there wasn't enough snow to ride snowmobiles or ski. Wistful dreams of fluffy white hills and snowboards were packed away, along with snow dance costumes as spring was embraced. On April 8 and April 9, snow flakes and a thin layer of ice coated everything.

Alpena weather, and Michigan in general, is infamous as being unpredictable. "The weather report is always wrong" is an apt Alpenism regarding the seasons in northeast Michigan. It seems especially true this year as Mother Nature rolls a die to determine Alpena's weather in April.

Day to day decisions such as shorts or winter boots (or both) and mountain bikes or snowmobiles are difficult to make without precognitive powers.

ACC Student Jenny Cordes has had enough.

"On April 2, 30 people were at the Hillman fields playing softball in shorts with no coats," she recalled. "On April 9, we cancel due to snow!"

Ah yes, April in Alpena!



Photos by
Chanda
Wekwert and
Melissa
Kennard



May 1-3
Final Examinations

May 2
ACC Jazz Concert
Granum Theater
7:30 p.m.

May 4
Honors Breakfast
9 a.m.
47th Annual ACC
Commencements
Park Arena
7 p.m.

May 5
9th Annual Staff
Recognition and
Retirement Dinner

May 5
Besser Male
Chorus 53rd Annual
Spring Concert
Alpena High School
7 p.m.

May 14
Million Mom March
Bay View Park
Bandshell
2 p.m.

May 15
Deadline for ACC
Level I and Level II
Nursing Program

WHAT'S
INSIDE

INTERNATIONAL
STUDENTS AT WCCT
CREATE LANGUAGE
CHALLENGES, PAGE 3



LOCAL BUSINESSES
WILL BENEFIT FROM
GROWTH AT ACC,
PAGE 3



MEET THE PEOPLE
OF WCCT, PAGE 2

A world-class facility emerges . . .

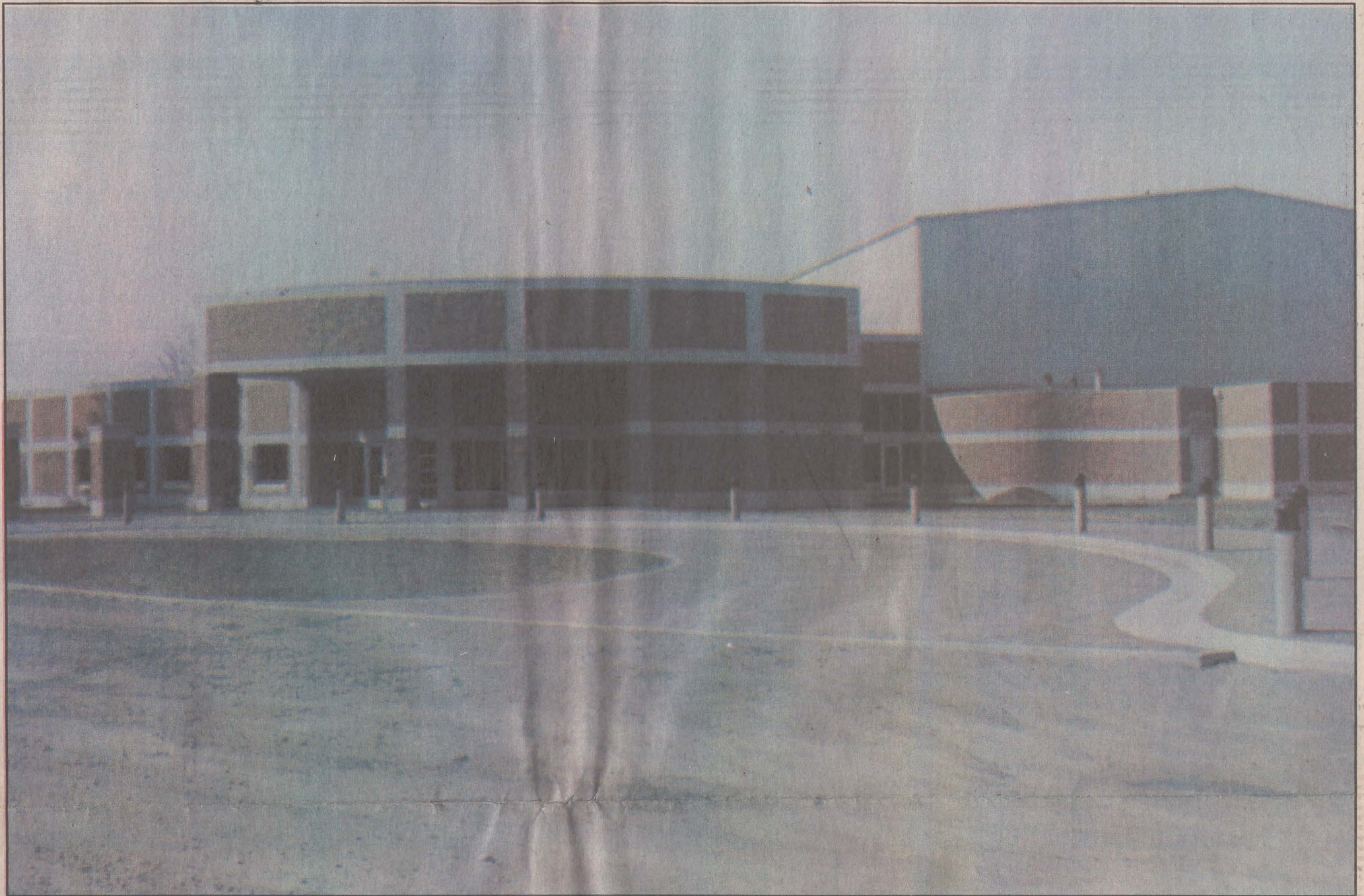


Photo by Amy Wallot

Harris Hall, which will house the World Center for Concrete Technology, will be fully operational by fall 2000. Grand opening ceremonies are scheduled for Aug. 4 and Aug. 5.

ABOUT
THIS
REPORT:

The stories in this special section represent the final projects of some of the students enrolled in English 126 and English 254. Instead of completing a final examination, these students pursued stories about the opening of the World Center for Concrete Technology housed in Harris Hall.

The grand opening of this new facility will be held in Aug. 5.

While many students might feel that the new building won't affect their education, such a facility will have tremendous impact throughout the community and throughout the student body. Read on, to learn more about the impact this facility will have on our community.

--Colleen Steinman,
Polemic Advisor

Single gift
expands to
global facility

Kate Splitt
Staff Writer

Jesse Besser had an idea. Besser, founder of the Besser Company, heard of a program that had been implemented by the Portland Cement Association, (PCA), which taught courses in concrete technology. He decided that Alpena needed such a program. Shortly after ACC opened its doors in 1954, the Blockmakers program was offered as part of its curriculum.

In the past, Besser Company had trained their personnel at their manufacturing facility, but available space was becoming an issue. The PCA had already developed the curriculum, including textbooks. Besser contacted the PCA and told them that he wanted this program in Alpena.

The Alpena Public School system, together with National Gypsum, now the Lafarge Corporation, convinced the PCA that Alpena would be an ideal location, however, there were no facilities available at ACC.

"Mr. Besser donated everything," said Bob Eller, concrete tech instructor. "He donated over 600 acres of land and told us [the college] that he would build the building if we would

A Global
PositionThe World Center for
Concrete Technology

include the Blockmakers program in our curriculum. That gave us the opportunity to have it on campus.

"We then bought the Blockmakers program from Besser Company. They ran it themselves and didn't have the space for it, and they wanted to do something cooperatively with the college."

The concrete technology program in Alpena was one of the twelve original programs available across the country. The program here is the only one remaining, and according to Eller, it's because of the resources available locally.

"We have the cement and aggregate right here," Eller said. "Besser Company and the block is right here. We have a block plant that our students can learn on. Other schools wouldn't have that."

"The type of program we have is fairly equipment in-

tense. Because our equipment is so specialized, it's expensive to purchase; manufacturers don't make a million of them. I think that's part of the reason other programs died."

In 1968 concrete technology was added to the Blockmakers program, offering a two year associates degree in applied science.

The program has come a long way since its installation.

"The first programs had five or six students," Eller said. "When I first came here in 1978, we had eight or nine sophomores and maybe ten freshmen."

The PCA textbooks once use have been replaced by more concise training manuals.

"Our students have to know industry standards," Eller said. "I tell them that these [the manuals] are what they should carry on the seat of the truck when they're working."

Funding WCCT
joined government,
ACC and industry

By Heidi Skuse
Co-Editor

ACC is looking for cash.

The push for cash came so that ACC could build Harris Hall to house the World Center for Concrete Technology. The 42,360 square-foot facility will have three classrooms, computer and testing labs, mason and manufacturing labs, conference rooms and offices.

ACC is still looking for \$600,000 and, according to Vice President for Administration and Finance Richard Sutherland, ACC should have it by July 1.

No money from ACC's general fund has been or will be used in the building of the WCCT. The reason for this is, "the feeling that because it had a single purpose use it didn't seem fair for our students to have to pay tuition on a building that they wouldn't use," Sutherland said.

ACC didn't ask for a millage or a bond because of the narrow focus of the building.

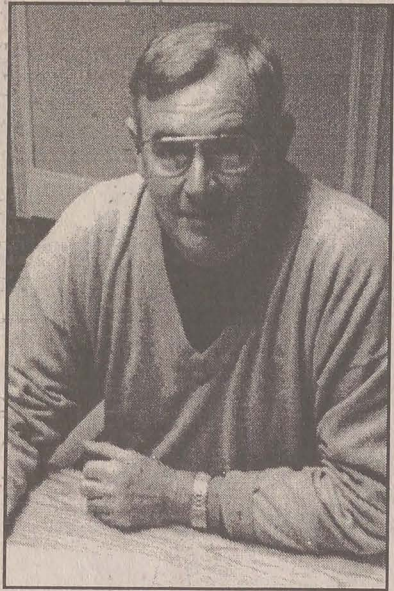
"All the contributors so far have had ties with the concrete area and this is who we went to to solicit funds from," Sutherland said.

The money that has already been contributed to the WCCT is as follows:

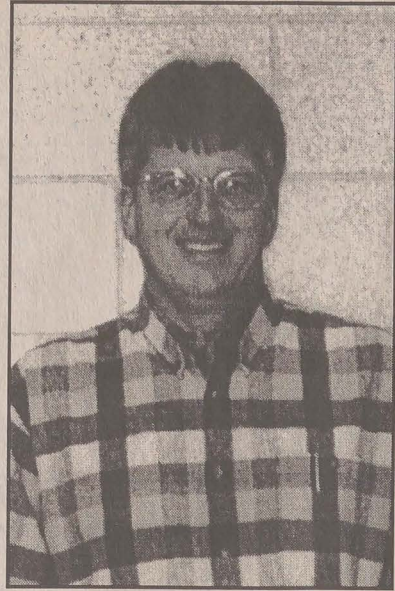
- \$3.36 million from the State of Michigan
- \$99,000 U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Business Enterprise Grant
- \$750,000 U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration
- \$1.3 million Besser Company
- \$500,000 Besser Foundation
- \$50,000 ACC Foundation
- \$40,000 John Wilk & Family
- \$25,000 Dale T. and Judith L. Dean
- \$25,000 the Lafarge Corporation Alpena Plant
- \$10,000 Edgar Boettcher Mason Contractor

See CASH, Page 2

Faculty and staff are key to WCCT's success



Chuck Wiesen



Bob Eller

Wiesen has been with ACC for over 30 years, and has been involved with the Concrete Technology for six years. He received his education from Western Michigan and Central Michigan. He received his bachelor's degree in industrial education at Western and then went on to get his master's degree in educational administration from Central.

His position for the new building will still be the same. He is in charge of preparing grants, mostly coming from the economic administration and the USDA. What he does is get the information on these grants started by other people, and then finishes all the detailed work.

Wiesen also will be involved with some of the new courses and training some of the trainees, and he will work with some of the workshop courses. There will be a lot of to get the new programs developed and tested before they are offered to businesses.

Wiesen is also very excited for the WCCT to open because he thinks it is a marvelous opportunity to extend a partnership with Besser Company and other concrete industries that have been in effect for more than forty years.

said that with the exposure of the new building, other countries will grow more and more involved with the concrete industry.

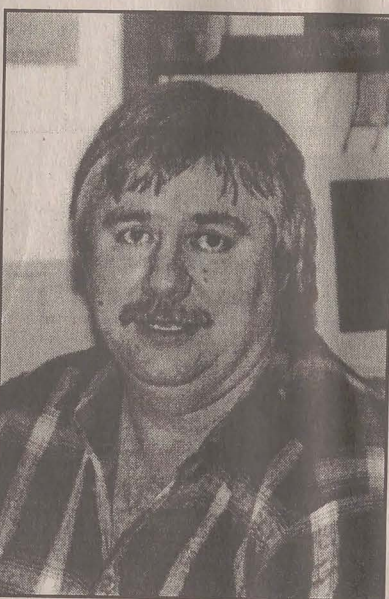
Eller believes that there might be a downside to the center if it becomes too isolated. He doesn't want concrete students to be restricted to the new building. He hopes that classes will be intertwined so that students who aren't in the concrete program will still have classes in the new building allowing it to be another building just the same as Van Lare or the Natural Resources Center.

Eller believes that the new center will be a huge asset to the college and the community, while at the same time give students another opportunity to extend their education.

Bob Eller is very experienced with the Concrete Technology program at ACC. When asked how long he has been with the college, he joked to say too long. Actually, he has been with the college for over 22 years.

Eller has an associate in applied science received from ACC. He is an instructor for the Concrete Tech program. He is very excited for the new building to open up because it eventually will attract a four-year degree based with Lake Superior State University. These dual programs would be with business and sales and engineering management. Currently, only about 5 percent of students continue their education elsewhere. Also, bringing in a four-year degree will be more appealing to those from other countries because over seas a two-year degree doesn't really account for anything whereas a four-year degree will help guarantee the international student more employment opportunities.

He believes that with this exposure of WCCT, enrollment will increase by a goal of 25 percent. He commented on the success of the concrete program over the last thirty years and he has no doubt that it will continue to rise, especially with the new building. He also



Kevin Sylvester

Sylvester has been involved with the Concrete Tech program for five years. He received his associate degree in business from ACC and also his associate degree in concrete technology. He worked with the National Gypsum Millwright Association for 14 years. He is now finishing his bachelor's degree in business management through Lake Superior State University.

Sylvester is a concrete technology instructor for the two-

year program and his role will be the same in the new facility. His job is to provide students with better technology and real-life opportunities. He believes more space will allow more things to happen.

Sylvester said that Alpena is now on a global level and the larger space will accommodate more of the industries' needs. He believes the new center will definitely generate revenue and strengthen the relationship with the industrial world.

He says currently over 200 jobs are available for 10 of his students and there are still calls coming in to try and get some of the graduates to go to the various companies. Associates from businesses around the country come to Alpena to recruit students who are in the program now to work for them.

In Sylvester's classes, the students do a lot of research for industries around the country. He is ready for the WCCT to open because it is the only one in the United States and nobody has one like it.



Vicki Cripps

Cripps is the secretary for the concrete technology program, but her job extends her title. She has been involved with the program for more than fifteen years. She received an associates degree in applied science at ACC.

Her position isn't just of-

Profiles by Marty Mix, staff writer

Photographs by Amy Wallot, co-editor

vice work and answering phones because Cripps is involved with the program's books and lessons. She is in charge of setting up all of the meetings from the incoming businessmen and setting up contacts for graduating students. She prepares all the books, shipment orders and anything else that comes in and out of concrete operations.

She is excited about the new building and has very high hopes for all it has to offer. Her position will not change in the new building, but she knows that she will be very busy.

Pete Alexander

Pete Alexander has been at ACC for more than four years. He is the lab technician and teaches the Blockmakers program. When the new building is completed, his position won't change, but he will be involved with some of the new programs being introduced.

Alexander worked in Virginia, gaining experience managing three machines for a block plant. He says he is ready for the building to be completed so when the summer classes arrive bringing in co-op students, the new testing labs will be complete.

He says the new building is excellent for industry because it provides more opportunity for further testing. An example of one of the tests would be adding ground rubber tires to the concrete to see if it will hold to cut down on the price of mate-

rials by using recycled materials. He believes that the new building will allow testing to pick up. Alexander is also excited because the Concrete Technology program can expand. With a nationwide shortage of masons, the new center is going to add masonry training. He anticipates immediate success for the facility.

Jeff Oliver

Oliver is a Texas native who has been at ACC for just over a year. He received an associate's degree in applied science in 1978, but then moved on to take an electrical engineering technology course offered at Texas Tech, a hydraulic change course in Amarillo, Texas, and management courses at the University of Texas, Austin. He also received training at the Feather Lite Company in Texas. He then returned to Alpena as an instructor through the Besser Company at ACC.

His plan is for the building to be opened by this June so training can begin immediately and the staff can begin some of the testing that they have planned.

He is excited for the WCCT building to get exposure because it will have better courses with the latest equipment that is made by the Besser Company. Some of the new classes he will be involved with are showing how the different materials are used the right way and the wrong way and new management techniques. They will also offer classes on hydraulics and mechanics.

Oliver says the new operation will basically be one happy family working together to get a great outcome.

CASH

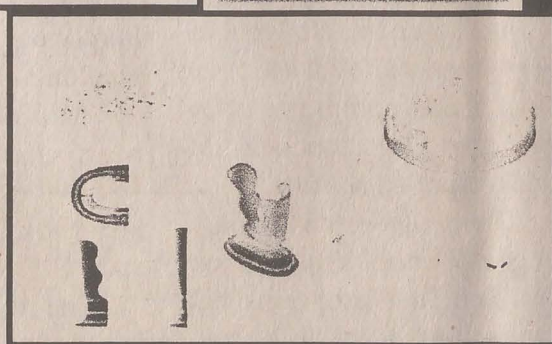
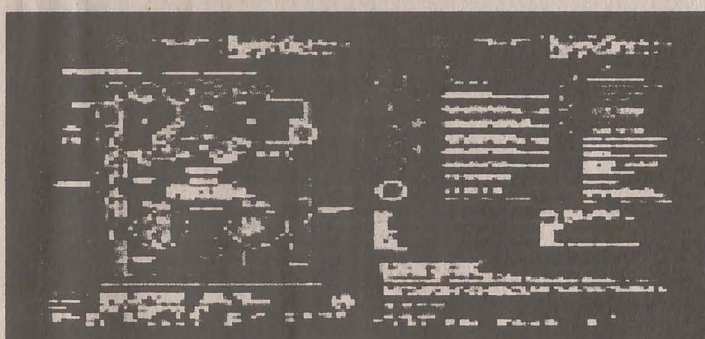
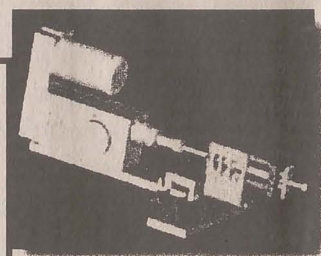
Continued from Page 1

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Alpena businesses will reap benefits

By Celeste M. Mertz
Staff Writer

The World Center for Concrete Technology will not only benefit the college, but will have an effect on the business community of Alpena.

The week-long Blockmakers program that will be housed in the new facility currently trains about 425 students each year.

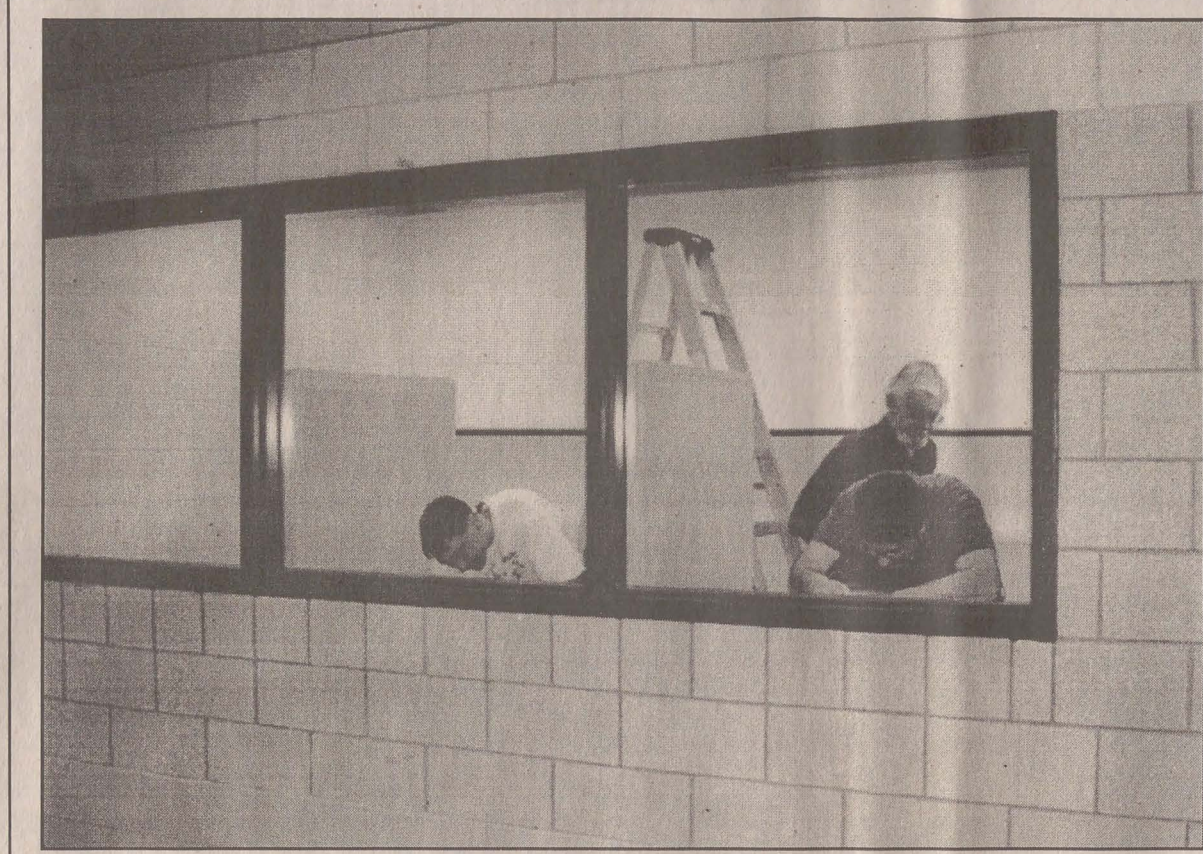
Chuck Wiesen, ACC associate dean for technology, projects that the new center will soon accommodate about 600 students a year. That is an increase of 175 students a year in the community.

The additional students will need a place to fly into, housing, meal accommodations and transportation to and from the program. That means dollars for Alpena.

Economic impact begins for Alpena at the Alpena County Regional Airport. The airport is the first sight of the town that will be the week-long home for the students. It may be a welcomed sight considering many of the students will have been on long flights within the intercontinental United States, as well as flights from overseas.

"I think it [the new World Center for Concrete Technology] will increase business. There will be more traffic," said Bonnie Krajniak, chairwoman for the airport. "There will be more people coming and going."

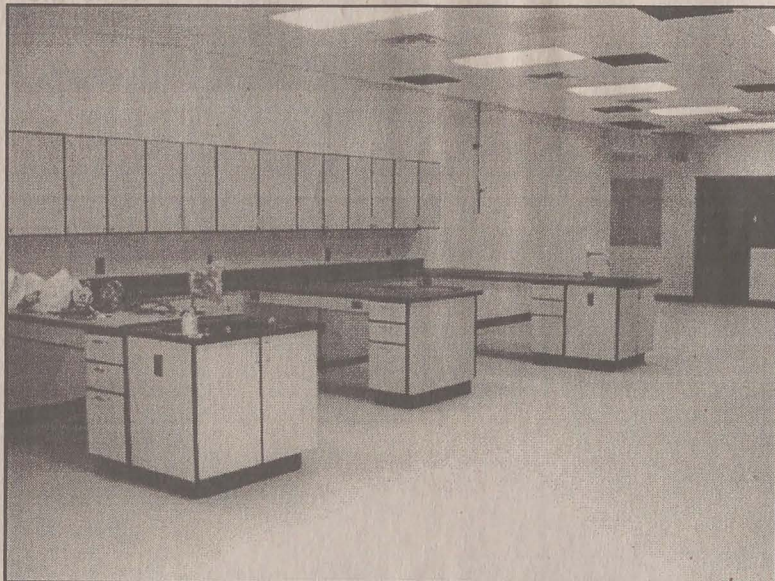
The students in the Blockmakers program will need transportation to and from



A Work in Progress

Construction crews are outfitting Harris Hall with wiring (above). Labs (right) are nearly complete.

Photos by Amy Wallot



the airport to motels. This can be done by car rentals, cabs and business or private vehicles.

"I couldn't predict an increase in business. Many people take a bus or their own people pick them up and take them to the center," said Lill Lemieux of Hertz Rent A Car.

While vehicle rental businesses aren't making any predictions as of yet, perhaps they will see a greater need as more and more students come to Alpena for training in the program.

Hotel/motel business is certain to increase due to the influx of students who enroll in the program.

"We've already experi-

enced an increase in revenue from the Blockmakers program," said Yvonne Swager, manager of the Fletcher Motel. "More people coming for the program will increase reservations."

Food is the fourth consideration for incoming students. They will be in Alpena for a week and in that week's time will eat, on average, three meals a day. Many of the students may opt to dine at the very place they are lodging.

"The restaurant (The Grove) will also be affected from the increase in stays. It will have a trickle down effect from the rooms. An on-site restaurant is a benefit for us,"

said Swager.

Eating meals out is also an option for many to come.

"Sure, it will increase business," said Ken Stafford, owner of the McDonalds on Chisholm.

Economic impact is felt throughout a community in many ways and the new World Center for Concrete Technology at ACC will be providing a benefit to the business community of Alpena.

Many business personalities are thrilled to have the center located here in Alpena.

"I'm glad to see it progressing," Stafford said.

"We're excited about it," said Swager.

Language barriers add to the teaching challenge

By Kim Hartman
Staff Writer

Besser Company brings students to ACC's Blockmakers program from more than 90 sites worldwide. What happens when a student arrives here who does not speak English as their primary language? Given the technical nature of the course, language barriers may seem an impossible hurdle to jump. The instructors and students don't let this stop them though.

"Many of the students arrive here Monday with a blank look on their face, but by Wednesday we see the lights turn on and that is a high for us," said Eric Krebs, director of research and training.

Krebs and his fellow instructors Bob Rohn and Jeff Oliver said that it usually takes about two days for international students to start to relax here. To facilitate this process, the instructors encourage the students to introduce themselves to the class. After this, the instructors give an introduction to Alpena.

Once the students have begun to feel less apprehensive in their new surroundings, the class is treated to some of the local sites. Krebs, Rohn, and Oliver laughingly recounted an ice skating excursion with a group from Thailand and how one man's fingers became so cold he tried to warm them around an automobile exhaust pipe. Other favorite activities are hockey and basketball games and trips to hunting camps.

According to Rohn, there are varying levels of apprehension among the students based on their country of origin. Rohn recalled in one instance, there was some tension when the leader of a group from China was not chosen as the class president. He felt he had been snubbed as his country has class or social tiers not used in America. All of these things add unknown dimensions to the teaching process.

Large groups such as those from China and Russia usually bring a translator with them to assist in understanding the English language. While this helps, it doesn't completely do away with all language obstacles. When a translator changes the instructor's words from English to the student's native language there isn't always an equivalent word. There may not be a translation for some technical terms.

Also the translators do not have previous knowledge of the blockmaking process. The interpreters are learning the process along with the students they are translating for. One set of interpreters, while being fluent in both the students' language and in English, were pediatricians rather than concrete technicians.

Recently a hearing-impaired student attended the program. He required a sign language translator and most of the technical words and phrases would have had to have been spelled letter by letter rather than conveyed as an entire word.

Associate Dean of Technology Chuck Wiesen told about a part of the machinery called the vibrator shaft that causes another part on the machine to vibrate. This has been mistranslated as vibrating shaft giving the student an entirely different belief as to the part's purpose.

It is important that the student have a good grasp of information being conveyed to them because they often train others when they return to their native countries.

Harris Hall name honors three generations of concrete executives

By Carleen M. Przykucki
Director of Public Information

The facility housing ACC's World Center for Concrete Technology will be named Harris Hall to honor an Alpena man whose generosity will recognize both father and grandfather for their contributions to the industry.

William P. Harris of Alpena and Florida said supporting the WCCT was attractive because it preserved the history of this family's contribution to the concrete industry. His gift of \$400,000 is part of the private sector funding that is matching a state capital outlay appropriation. His grandfather, W. P. Harris and his father Clinton Harris provided a combined 50 years of leadership at Huron Portland Cement Co. in Alpena.

W. P. Harris came to Alpena in 1903 to develop a quarry and in 1908 was also put in charge of the new cement mill. Until

retiring in 1935, he served as manager of both quarry and mill for their respective independent owners, Michigan Alkali Co. and Huron Portland Cement Co. Clinton Harris succeeded his father as superintendent in 1936 and was made mill manager in 1941, retiring in 1953. Their half-century of influence at what was then the world's largest cement company will be detailed in a publication in the lobby of Harris Hall.

William Harris is a former U.S. diplomat whose love of foreign service took him far from northeast Michigan but whose roots in the industry here also helped shape a successful business career. After graduating from Alpena High School in 1938 and from Dartmouth in 1942, he served in the U.S. Navy. Following his discharge in 1945, Harris worked briefly in the Detroit office of the Huron Portland Cement Co. running the shipping operation. He left after six months to begin a 10-year foreign service career.

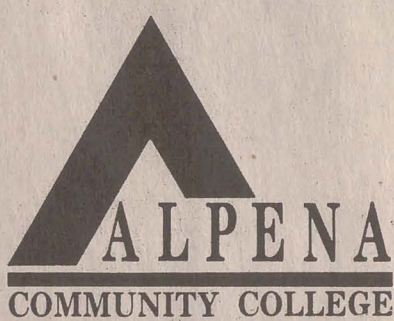
In 1955, he purchased a ready-mix plant in the Detroit area and began a 10-year involvement with another aspect of the concrete industry. Harris said it was his familiarity with cement that influenced his decision to buy the plant.

"You can't go to college to learn how to run a business," he said. "You get the concepts, but if you get into a business, the one thing you better do is learn all the technical aspects of the business."

Under his leadership, Harris Concrete & Supply grew from one plant and seven trucks to six permanent plants, two portable plants and 100 trucks. When it was purchased in 1964 by Texas Industries, the company had a good share of the business in the metropolitan area. Harris also served as president of the Michigan Ready-Mix Association in 1963.

"I am interested in what's going on in this structure," Harris said. "I believe in it."

Industrial Technology Education



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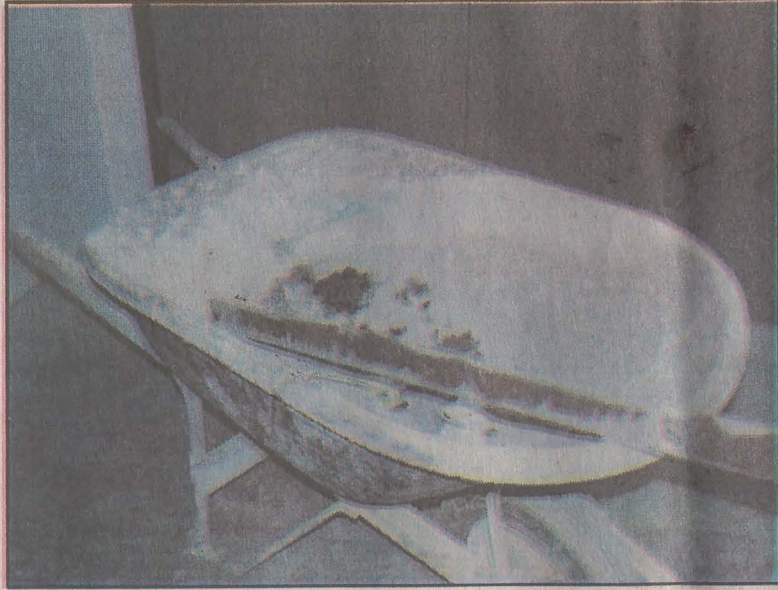
Years in the making . . . Harris Hall and WCCT near completion

1996

ACC, Besser Company and the Michigan Jobs Commission announce the proposal for the World Center for Concrete Technology.

WCCT is approved as a State of Michigan Capital Outlay Project with \$3.36 million in state funding, approximately 50 percent of the total cost.

Hobbs + Black Associates, Inc. of Ann Arbor named project architect.



1997

Campus site along Woodward Avenue selected.

U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of Rural Development awards project a \$99,000 rural business enterprise grant.

State Joint Capital Outlay Committee approves schematic drawings.

1998

U.S. Department of Commerce awards the project a \$750,000 economic development administration grant.

Design documents finalized and approved.

1999

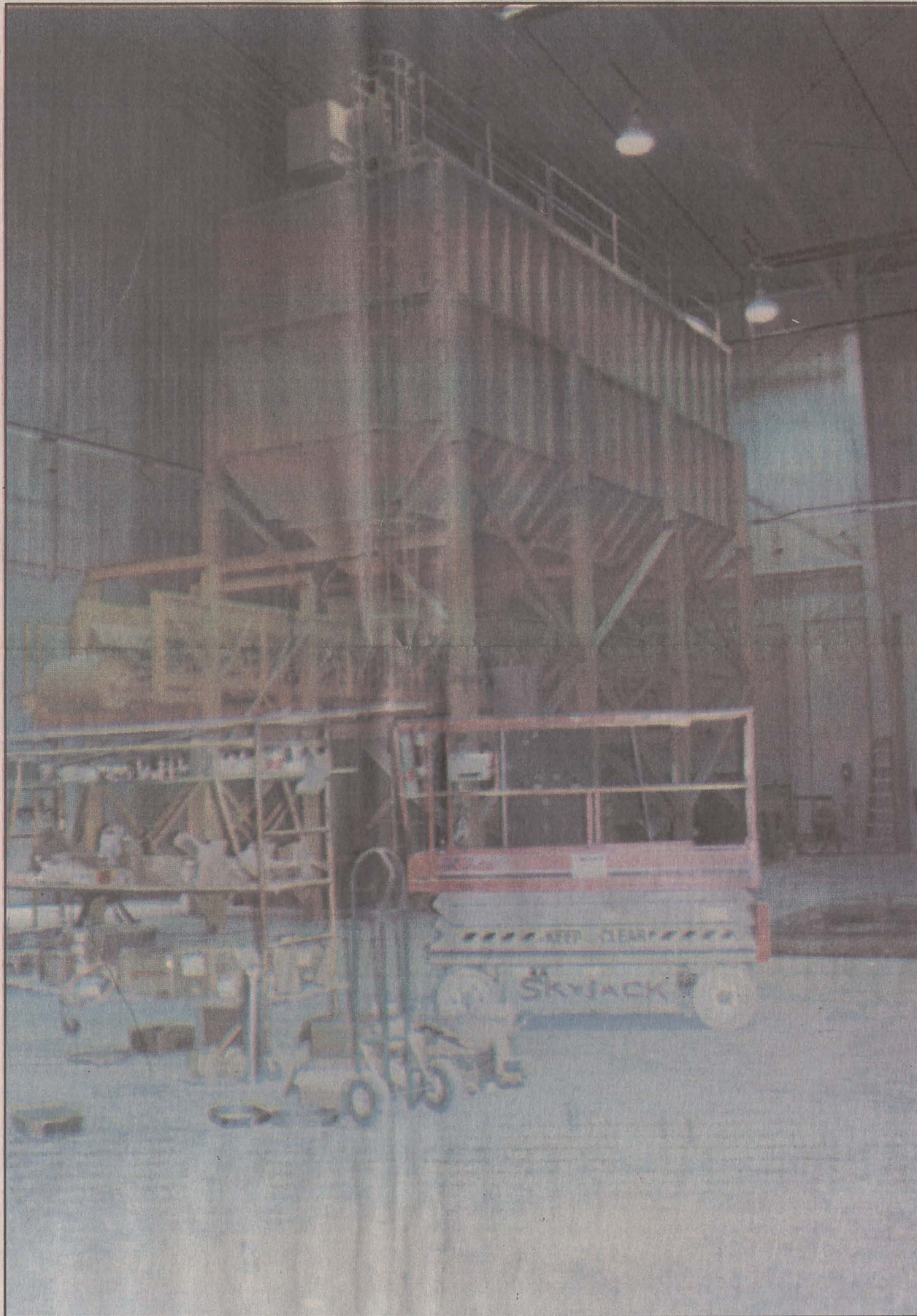
Three Rivers Construction Co. of Midland named general contractor.

Project begins site clearing on March 30.

2000

Donor Appreciation Reception scheduled for Aug. 4

Grand Opening Ceremony with ribbon cutting and public tours scheduled for Aug. 5



Photos by Amy Wallot, co-editor

Timeline provided by Carlene Przykucki, director of public information

