

## Photo Feature

Best costumes win cash prizes at dance



PAGE 8

## Editorial

American politics in a downward spiral



PAGE 2

## Sports

B-ball teams prepare for opening season



PAGE 7

November 2000  
Volume 10/Issue 2

# The Polemic

Alpena Community College

## How do young people feel about the election and issues?

WENDY WILLIAMS  
Staff Writer

Based on an informal survey at ACC and participation in the mock election last month, it was found that the majority of students plan to vote in the general election.

Students questioned by the Polemic said Proposal 1 and gun control were among the topics attracting their

attention. Few, however, mentioned the presidential race.

More than 800 young people ages 18-24 were interviewed for a survey, sponsored by MTV, titled "Youth, Voting and the 2000 Election."

The following information was taken from the MTV-Kaiser Poll at choose or lose.com: At least three out of four 18-24 year-

olds say they support tougher gun control, giving patients the right to sue their health plans, funding comprehensive sex education in public schools, expanding health coverage for the uninsured, and expanding hate crimes protections for gays.

But only 50 percent of those surveyed say they are registered to vote and less than half (46 percent) say

registered and 64 percent say they are certain to vote in the November general election.

Those under 24 who are not certain they will vote cited three top reasons: a lack of information on the candidates, cited by 60 percent; the belief that they can make more of a difference getting involved in their community rather than voting 58 percent; and the sense that "politics is just

about money and lying and I don't want to involve myself in it" 39 percent.

Other possible reasons for lower participation among this age group include their general sense that things are already "going in the right direction" in this country 60 percent, and the fact that their positions on the issues don't put them neatly into either the Democratic or Republican camp. The survey

revealed a number of strongly-held and often surprising opinions on many of the issues in the current campaign. The results make it difficult to categorize these newly-eligible voters along traditional ideological lines.

For example:  
See Voting, Page 3

## MEAP brings big bucks

VICTOR KAHN  
Staff Writer

Money. It's one of the greatest concerns facing college students. But now, students in Michigan have found help in the form of the Michigan Merit Award.

The award gives \$2,500 to high school students who successfully complete the MEAP High School Tests. The first of these awards were given to graduating seniors from the Class of 2000.

"It's a really good idea," said ACC freshman Jesi



Hartman. "\$2,500 is a big chunk of change. It paid for my entire first year."

ACC freshman Ian McConnell said, "It's going to be a nice boost for me. It See MEAP, Page 6

## Al Gore wins! -- in mock election at ACC

JOCELYN HASKE  
Co-Editor

If ACC ruled the world, Al Gore would be our country's next president.

Students and staff chose Gore in the mock election conducted Oct. 11 and 12.

Gore won over Bush among staff, 58 percent to 35 percent.

Gore's margin of victory was closer among students, 46 percent to 41 percent.

Among those aged 31 and over, Gore won 56 percent to Bush's 35 percent. However, among those younger, 18 to 30 years old, there was nearly a tie: Gore 44 percent, Bush 43 percent.

Gore won among males, 45 percent 40 percent, and won among females by a larger margin, 53 to 38 percent.

This shows that a gender gap exists in Northeastern Michigan, a common electoral phenomenon whereby females vote Republican less often than men.

Of the 474 students and staff members who participated, about 80 percent indicated they were likely to

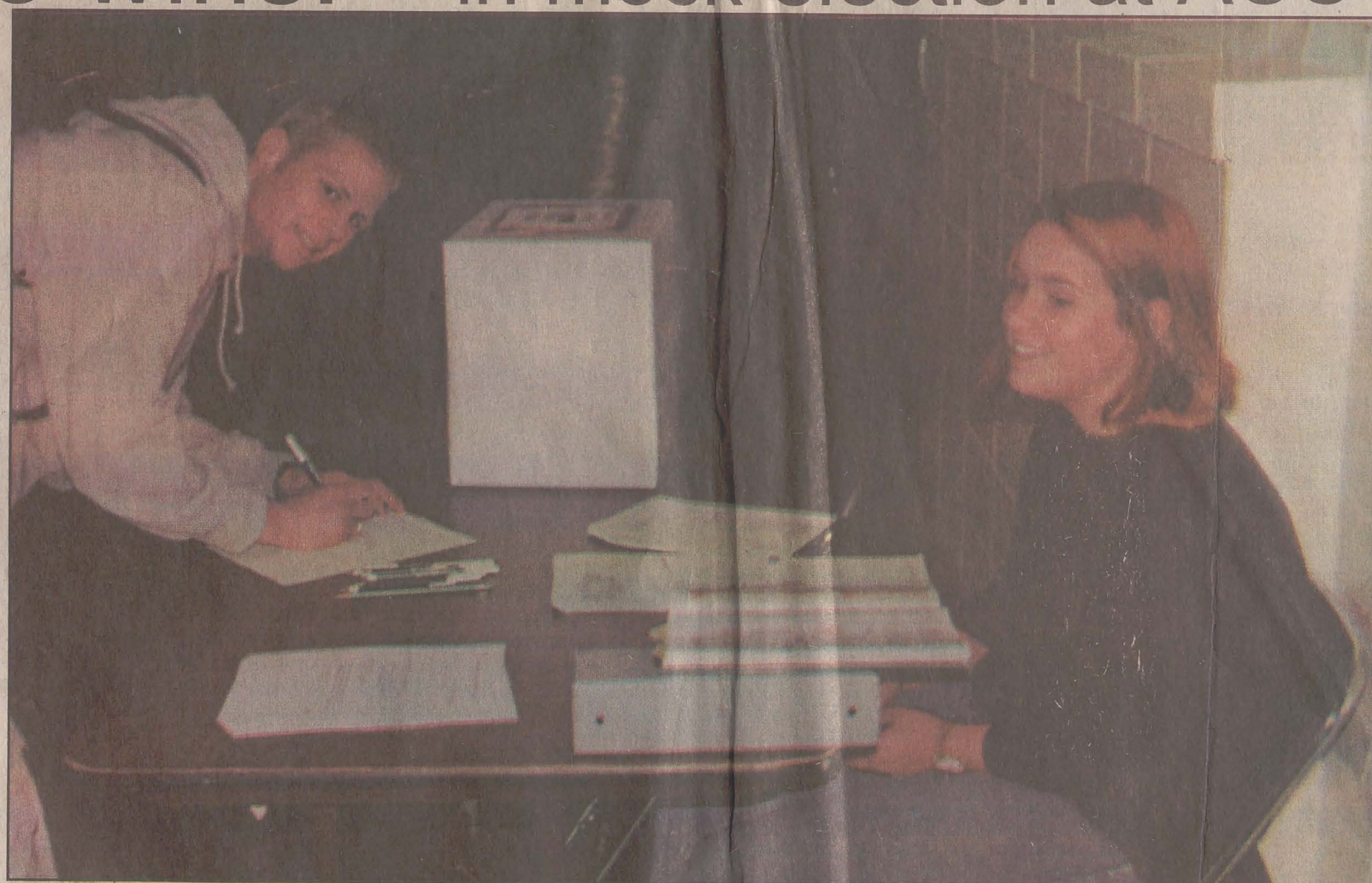


Photo by Jocelyn Haske

Student Joshua Brege votes in mock election. At right, volunteer Kathleen Borowski assists with voter questions.

vote on Nov 7.

"There's a lot of talk about students and the younger generation not voting," said Political Science instructor Aaron

Veselenak.

In several instances students told him they didn't participate not because they didn't care but because they weren't well informed on the

issues and the candidates.

"I respected that. I would like to see their voter count increase, but so long as they are educating themselves."

According to Veselenak, uneducated, ignorant votes can do harm.

"Educate yourself first and then go out and make an See Mock Election Page 3

## AGH Cancer Center scheduled for completion in spring 2001

ALICIA WELLS  
Staff Writer

Alpena General Hospital is building a cancer center. The center will provide many services in a partnership with the University of Michigan Health System.

Currently Alpena General Hospital offers chemotherapy, but with the cancer center, radiation therapy also will be

provided. Along with radiation therapy, a community resource center will be available to inform the public on many diseases and general health care.

Program Administrator Chuck Sherwin said the center will be very helpful for many cancer patients because of the many services provided in one area. An average cancer patient makes 100 trips for

treatment each year. The patient will be able to walk into the center at one time, receive multiple services, and see the same staff, which makes treatment much easier and more comfortable.

"The center expects to treat 600 patients per year, with about half in radiation therapy," said Sherwin. That also means about 30 patients per day in radiation therapy,

and 20-30 in chemotherapy.

Plans call for the cancer center to open in the spring of 2001. Sherwin said patients are expected to travel from the Upper Peninsula, from as far south as Oscoda, and as far west as Traverse City.

"It will be a much shorter distance for someone in the Upper Peninsula to travel to Alpena than all the way to Ann Arbor for treatment at the

University of Michigan," said Sherwin.

AGH is in the process of hiring a radiation oncologist from the University of Michigan and hopes to recruit other staff for the facility also.

The facility will allow staff to research in areas of prevention, quality of life, treatment and therapy.

"The cancer center will benefit the community because

more and more citizens are being diagnosed with cancer who want to be treated close to home," said Bud Wegmeyer. "I had to make 33 trips to Petoskey for my treatment. The center will allow patients to go for treatment and be back for lunch with the family if they like."

Vote today, Nov. 7