

Photo Feature

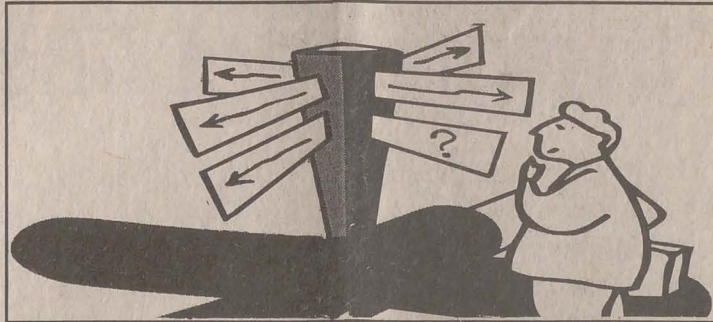
ACC students take a trip to Chicago



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December 2000
Volume 10/Issue 3

The Polemic

Alpena Community College

Phillips reflects on his educational journey

BECKY SCHMIDT

Staff Writer

Varied experience in education and other areas makes Roger Phillips an excellent choice to chair the English, Fine Arts, and Humanities Department.

Phillips has 32 years experience in the education field and is continuing to expand his experience in different ways.

Phillips began his undergraduate career at Wheaton College in Illinois and majored in literature.

He then worked on the outskirts of Detroit with youth in a church setting. That position evaporated, so Phillips began substituting in the Detroit school system.

Phillips worked for nine months at Hudson's in four dif-



Photo by Becky Schmidt

Mr. Phillips has taken many detours in his career.

ferent departments. He started out in the returned goods warehouse.

He worked there until his manager discovered that he had been hiding books in the ware-

house to read on breaks. His manager asked him if he was educated and then put him into a supervisor trainee position in the hardware department.

Phillips became a department manager of the ski shop and the infants and toddlers department. After Phillips worked at Hudson's, he decided to get his Master's degree in teaching. He filled in at a school in Detroit for a semester.

Looking for a job after earning his master's degree, Phillips ended up in Alpena teaching at the high school in 1971.

He worked at the high school for ten years and half a year at Thunder Bay Junior High School.

See Phillips Page 3

Homeless go beyond the stereotype

JOANN LANDRY

Contributing Writer

Consider these scenarios:

A TWO-PARENT family, with both parents working at jobs that pay minimum wage or slightly higher.

The car breaks down and they use their rent money to pay to get it fixed so they can continue to get to work, and now they are a month behind in their rent. But that is okay; they will catch up.

But the next month one of them gets sick and has to have surgery. They will lose half of their income for the next six weeks because it will take that long to heal.

Now they are two months behind. Because they are behind, the landlord adds late fees to their rent. They cannot catch up. The landlord now begins the eviction process, adding court costs to their final bill, which now exceeds \$1,000. They become home-less.

AN ELDERLY couple receives Social Security disability benefits for the husband because he is disabled. The wife, 59, has raised eight children but has never worked outside the home and has no marketable job skills.

They get a mortgage on the home they have had for 20 or 30 years in order to fix their leaking roof, and repair the furnace that is as old as the house.

The husband becomes so ill he is placed in a nursing home. All of his Social Security is taken to pay the nursing home fees. The wife has no income and no way

to pay her house payment.

They eventually lose the home. She is homeless.

A SINGLE mother of two works hard, but one day has a stroke at the age of 37. Her doctors say she cannot work again, but it takes months and even years to be approved to receive disability. She uses all her savings and finally has none left.

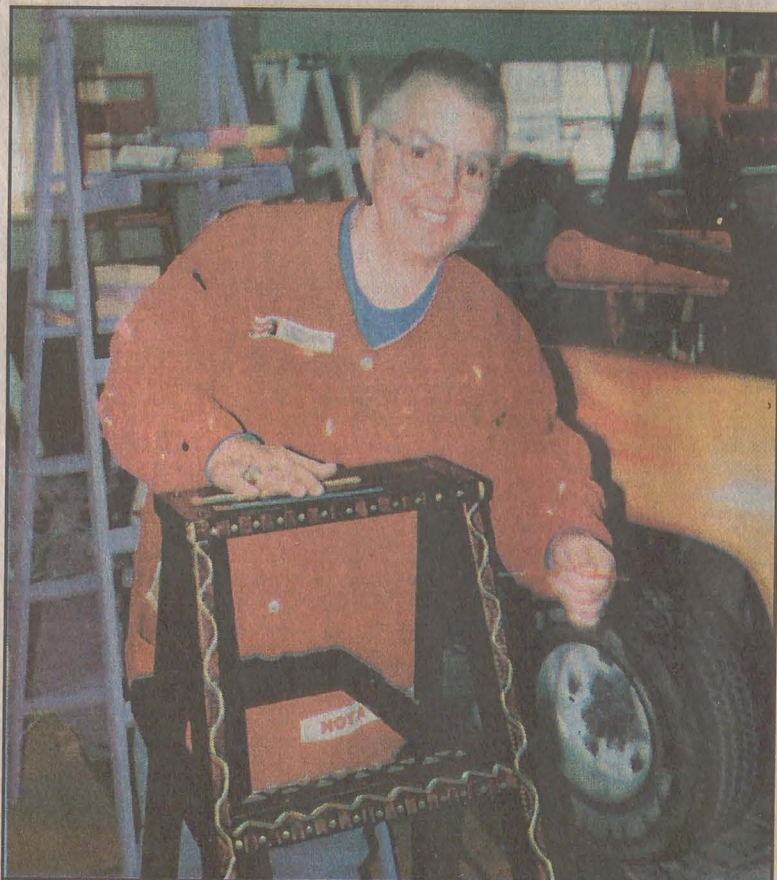
Her house payment is larger than the Family Independence Agency grant she now receives.

She loses her home and her ex-husband threatens to take the children from her for not providing for them. They are now homeless.

Although all of these are fictional cases, they are situations I saw on a daily basis in my work with Catholic Human Services of Alpena's Call Us for Help program.

See HOMELESS Page 3

Ladder project gives community a creative outlet



Marquette artist Mary Wright is set up at East Campus with a community art project called "Stepping Into Winter." Anyone is invited to create an outdoor ladder sculpture that will be displayed along the Alpena Bike Path.

Playing Santa is a family tradition

ROXANE SNYDER

Staff Writer

"If everyone did a little, it would mean a lot."

That's what Mr. & Mrs. Bob Richard said to their son, Paul, years ago. It has stuck with him and he practically lives by that advice from his parents.

Paul enjoys volunteering in

the Alpena area and lending a helping hand any way he can. One of his favorite times of the year is Christmas. He is a volunteer Santa Claus.

He took over playing Santa for his father when he couldn't anymore due to health reasons.

"I grew up learning to care for others," said Paul.

In 1989, he played Santa at

the Alpena Mall. He remembers being asked some challenging questions from the children who came to sit on his lap and read off their wish lists.

He doesn't remember the exact questions he was asked or how he responded to them, but he does know that both the children and parents walked away happy and in anticipation for Christmas!

"The answers that I gave those children came from God," he said. "He is there to help me through."

His Santa outfit is as authentic as can be because he knows how observant children are.

Since his experience at the mall, he has been playing Santa for Christmas parties and on his own on Christmas Eve.

On Christmas Eve, Paul starts out at 5 p.m. and finishes his visits around midnight. His last stop is always his mother and father's house.

Besides his regular scheduled stops, Alpena General Hospital, and local nursing homes, he visits about 20 unexpected houses.

"I pick out houses with a lot of activity going on," he said. "If the lights are on and there are cars in the driveway, I might just stop by!"

He told of the many people he has surprised throughout the years.

The owners of one house that he had visited for about three years decided that on the fourth year, they were going to find out who the man behind the beard was.

On his way out the door after his visit, the adults actually tackled him onto the couch and made him reveal his identity.

Another year, as he was trying to fit in all his stops, he was pulled over by the police. They eventually let him go, but only after some laughing.

Paul's middle name is Rudolph, after his grand-father.

Remembering his experiences, Paul laughs and says, "One of the best rewards that you can get for doing nice things for others, is the warm feelings that you get back."

He hopes that some day when he has a family, a Santa will come to visit his house. Maybe someone reading this article will volunteer and touch his life and many others, as he has done.



Courtesy Photo

Paul Richard, whose middle name happens to be Rudolph, has been playing Santa for 11 years.



Photos by Jocelyn Haske

Will change worsen the present financial problems?

HIGH
VOLTAGE



RICHELLE SIELAND
Co-editor

Financial aid: Part Two

The misinformation and confusion of the application process is unbearable. Deadlines for Free Application For Student Aid vary by state as well as federal dates. Most forms are sent just before the deadline. You may apply as early as January 1. You can apply on line January 3. Student aid reports must be submitted by the last day of enrollment or by August 31st 2001. But it still takes time to process.

Each school has a deadline for certain programs and scholarships it offers. If you don't know when they are, you could be missing out. A student needs to know what type of funds he or she is eligible to receive. The financial administrator of the college can tell you what they are. But you also must realize that it takes time to apply and for the form to be processed.

If you do not have a way to pay for your schooling until your financial need is determined, you have to find a way to pay. The FAFSA takes up to eight weeks to process. If you can figure out the cost of fees, tuition and books and living expenses for a semester of school, you are way ahead of the game.

The most important of all student problems in the financial aid system is student loan default. It has forced the federal government to hold people accountable for paying their loans.

If any of you have taken out student loans recently, you may have had to do an online worksheet, return multiple forms with your

legal signature, and take valuable time out of your day to watch videos that reinforce repayment and consequences for delinquency. The federal government is trying to make people more aware of its actions for holding students in default accountable.

Since 1992 the government has launched a serious attack on unpaid student loans. On one side of the default issue, it costs taxpayers for those who do not pay their loans. An anonymous individual from Southeast Michigan qualified for a \$2,500 student loan to a complete a training program in 1992. This person did not complete it nor is employed in that field.

This person also has neglected for eight years to contact anyone about the loan repayment schedule. To this day the loan remains unpaid, or in default, and is accruing interest that taxpayers will pay unless responsibility is taken.

And that is unlikely without legal action that is both frightening and humiliating.

Like the witch hunts of old, Joann Landry experienced the nightmare of student loan default. She is a nontraditional ACC student who knows about the wrong end of the loan recovery process. She took out student loans totalling \$2,500 to cover the cost of schooling in 1984-1986. Her loan went into default before the grace period, though she was still attending full time.

Financial aid regulations state: once a loan is in default the applicant is no longer eligible for any aid. She tried to go through the financial office to resolve the conflict with no results.

She faithfully paid on the loan for three years in the early 1990s to settle the issue. But when a loan goes into default it becomes subject to fines, adjustments, and penalties.

Her payments on the loan did not matter and she ended up owing more than twice what she paid on the balance.

In the meantime she had started her own day care business. The federal government decided to seize all her wages from the daycare to pay the loans. Regardless of what action or arrangement she tried to make and still operate her business, the government continued to take the money from the state for the daycare.

She could not keep paying money out of her own pocket to continue the costs because she was not making enough money to support her family. They were taking 50% of total family income.

She eventually had to close her daycare because of student loan default.

"They take those they can," Landry said, "It was easy for them to find me because I was already paying my monthly payments."

Hunting, a natural rush like no other

MATT FRANKLIN
Staff Writer

To hunt, or not to hunt? If you're not a hunter that's fine and dandy, but let me tell you you're missing out on quite an experience.

Hunting isn't just about going into the woods and slaughtering animals, it's about experiences and memories that will last a lifetime.

For myself and other hunters alike, we enjoy being in the woods watching animals in their playground. The things animals do are amazing. Sometimes you can't help but to burst out laughing.

The woods are quite an awesome place and unless you're actually there from daybreak until dark you've missed out on some great action.

Hunting has given many people the opportunity to spend time with friends and family whereas otherwise they're all too busy.

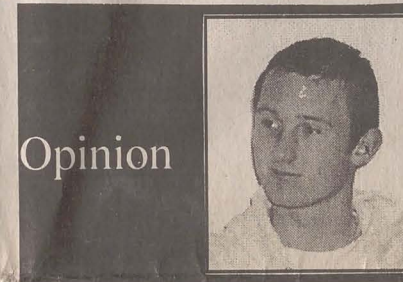
It gives people the opportunity to relax and enjoy themselves without the stress of everyday life. You rarely walk into a camp and find someone in a crabby

The truly sad part of the story is that just before Christmas of 1998, she was notified if she did not pay the balance of \$1,000 that remained, the government would resume penalties for an accrued total of \$2,500.

This story is just another reason for financial aid reform. Government should not take money from people already making payments on student loans.

What should the new policies of reform entail? Dr. Michael T. Nettles is a higher education professor at the University of Michigan. His article "Pursuing Broader Participation and Greater Benefit from Federal College Student Financial Aid" looks at the history of the system.

Some reform ideas for change are conceivable, but my question is whether change will create new problems that are worse than the present ones. According to Michael Nettle's article,



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mood.

Hunting also delivers a great natural rush. The feeling of harvesting your first and every deer gives you a rush like no other.

One ACC student, Dan Yachcik, said, "Hunting for me is awesome. I get to spend time in the woods with family, and get a little tickle in my tummy every time I step foot in camp."

"It's a place filled with memories and I love just being there even if I don't bag a deer."

Hunters are often misunderstood, when in fact hunters do more for the welfare of animals than any other group of people.

I feel as though it is a privilege to be in the woods and be able to harvest a deer. Hunting isn't just about killing poor little animals, and if you don't believe me, try it.

The 2000 Presidential Election

by Todd Koss, Contributing Writer

The outcome of this year's race was great
With many of the face-offs tight
Bringing unsettled results from each state
They made the fight last all night.

With so many numbers to report
And returns with margins that are razor thin
From ballot recounts to statements in court
The hard victory was won with a sly grin.

The victor perched on top of the hill
While the loser looking at scenery so serene
He who wins will govern with no clear will
The loser is left pondering over his lost routine.

The voters that fulfilled their duty
The candidates running ads so snide
The voters ignored comments that seemed so snooty
The candidates left the voters without a sense of pride.

some reform concepts are tax breaks or exemption for people who pay for their own education.

There should be incentives for banks to create student loans that do not involve the federal government.

The Pell system should be reversed: loans as you go through school to ensure accountability to complete their degree program, Pell grants would be awarded after students graduate.

Incentives should be awarded to colleges that provide more aid to students, and who monitor and account for dropout rates, and encourage higher rates of completion.

The system must change so that people can afford school with less dependency on the government to serve more cost efficiently. The present challenge is in the legal code of what the government is accountable to provide for an education.

Based on my college experience I have another idea for financial aid reform. This is influenced by the concept of grant writing. Accountability for grant money is demonstrated by a plan of action. Look at our local government, school and business systems.

Grant requests are based on a detailed account of reasonable calculations of cost and a step-by-step plan of action. A school district,

for example, must show proof of where every cent of that grant money goes. I think that this should be required in the implementation of student financial aid grants.

The demonstration of financial need to determine grants is not enough, but for the time being it is an easy way for the federal government to provide an equal opportunity. But with the changing costs of education, everyone needs it.

Reforming the accountability standard for grant and loan recipients should be a new way to distribute and use funds. This is the goal of the award. It is not just a handout disguised as a constitutional right. It is not a free deposit on something that goes unused or kept by the school without a record of it. If school is costly, then one must develop a plan to pursue his or her goal. If a student needs government to help with research, read, and write a plan of action. If a student is undecided about a career, she would be better off to pay for individual classes out of pocket until clear plan of action is designed.

The difference must be made between constitutional right and financial responsibility when it comes to the taxpayer in financial aid reform.

Forgotten birthday in a gimmie world

TINA WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

Is it my imagination or does America seem to begin celebrating Christmas earlier with every new year? It's down with the jack-o-lanterns and up with the plastic trees.

Who really gets the head start? Is it the consumer? No, I don't think so...it's the department store owners, mall vendors, and credit card companies.

We've survived the first half of this two-month "holiday season," but has it really been a holiday? Has it ever been a holiday?

Whether you are actually bumping shoulder-to-shoulder through the strip malls, among the penny-pinching grandmas and once-a-year fathers for the last "Sega DreamCast" or fighting the crowds virtually with back-orders and rain checks in the world of cyber madness, Christmas time is no fun!

This gimmie-gimmie world is disgusting me! Have we forgotten what we are really celebrating? Where did Christ go for Christmas? It is still his birthday party, isn't it?

To tell you the truth, I'm not so sure anymore. In my 20-some years celebrating the holiday, I don't remember celebrating anyone's birthday. Yeah, there's the occasional neighbor who puts out the glowing nativity set,



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but where's the love and joy that comes with the thought of Jesus?

I bet if he had one birthday wish, it would be that we would all just get along, love and respect one another, and that we would be happy with what we have already and not what we're going to get. O.K., that's more than one wish, but he deserves them all!

We can't change what America has done with this precious holiday, but we can change our own actions. This year I'm striving to bring back the real meaning of Christmas.

Yeah, I'll buy presents and put out my plastic tree, but I'll also smile at that penny-pinching grandma and wish that once-a-year father a warm "happy holidays." Most importantly I'll add a special prayer for Jesus, thanking him for the most precious gift of all: the gift of eternal life.

We should all do our part to make this holiday season brighter than it's ever been before!

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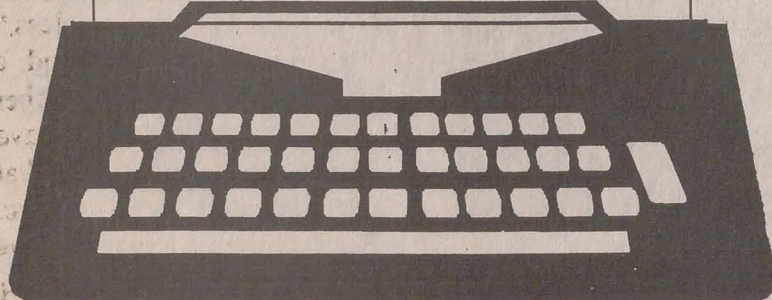
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Safety training grant helps community

JOCELYN HASKE
Co-Editor

Workers get hurt and in some cases, killed on the job. ACC's Safety Training and Education Grant "brings an opportunity for companies to tap into training to make employees more aware of safety," said ACC Assistant Dean Don McMaster.

This is the fourth year ACC has received a grant of \$45,000. The money comes from the Department of Consumer and Industries Services and is used to deliver safety training in work places. McMaster is in charge of finding instructors to teach specific safety areas such as back injury prevention, slips/trips/and falls, ergonomics, blood born pathogens, and workplace violence.

ACC works with two dozen or more area employers and has trained about 3,000 workers over the four-year period. The college covers the five-county service districts of Iosco, Alcona,

Alpena, Montmorency, and Presque Isle.

According to McMaster, there isn't a generic program that will work for every company. Michigan Limestone Operations' safety needs are going to be different than Fletcher Paper Mill or Besser Company or Metal Fabricator or Thunder Bay Manufacturing. An individual assesses work sites as to whether they are an industry or construction site, videotapes them, talks with safety officers, finds out what kind of accidents they have had, and then trains accordingly.

Employers are regulated in the area of safety with MIOSHA, the Michigan Occupational Safety Health Administration. The employer has the responsibility of providing safety devices and training. If there is an injury, MIOSHA can fine the employer from \$25,000 to \$150,000.

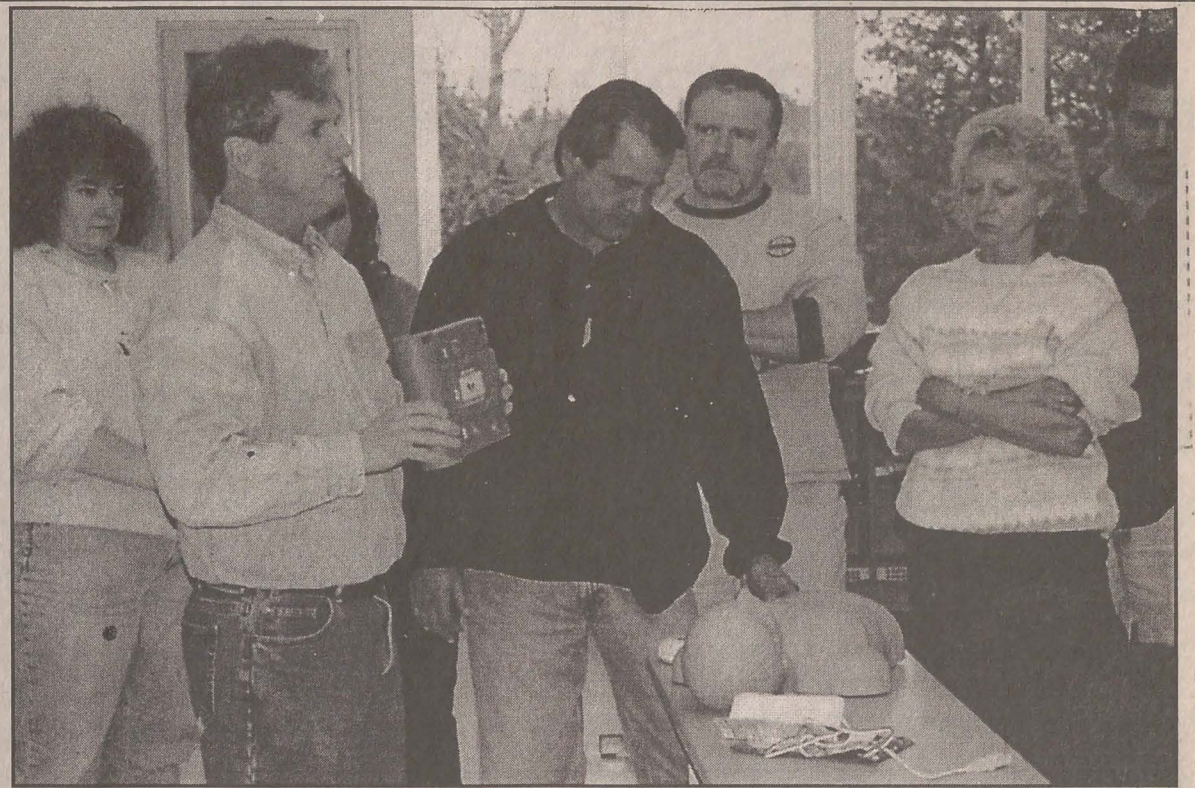
According to McMaster, businesses have to have less cost than revenue in order to make a

profit. "The temptation is to look for ways to cut corners. It's human, but the idea of protecting workers so they don't get hurt or killed is important and that's what these grants are intended to promote and contribute to. And I think they do," said McMaster.

Staff trainer Tom Hainstock of Community Mental Health has been teaching for the grant for three years. He is also an adjunct ACC instructor of PEH 262, first aid responding to emergencies.

According to Hainstock, ergonomic training, the science that seeks to adapt working conditions to suit the worker, has been highly requested at ACC because of the many injuries caused.

"Most of your work should be out of the top two drawers of file cabinets. People who work at a computer should put a pad across the front so that their wrists don't hang. Work should



Tom Hainstock instructs a class at ACC as part of the Safety Training and Education Grant.

Photo by Jocelyn Haske

be kept between the knuckles and the shoulders."

Hainstock finds many positive results of the grant.

"It helps reduce injuries at work. It also identifies the college as a welcome community resource that is trying to help not

only students out of high school, but people already in the work force."

According to Hainstock, two people who had taken the CPR class saved people in the community. They had done an abdominal thrust Heimlich

maneuver in restaurants.

"We're just entering our second month and I think our numbers indicate that we're at 60 percent of our goal. And we still have 11 months to go, so it should be our record year," said Hainstock.

The local quest for the perfect tree

SHAWNA K. THOMPSON
Staff Writer

It's that time of year, folks! It's the beginning of the race to gather your loved ones' Christmas lists, check them twice and dust off the decorations that have been resting in the back of your closet from the year before.

The traditional quest of finding the perfect Christmas tree doesn't have to be a difficult one if you know where to go. I had the pleasure of visiting with Harry Kubbie of Kubbie's Tree Farms

at Hubbard Lake and he was kind enough to not only help me pick the perfect tree, but he also shared some insight on the process of raising and maintaining the trees year-round.

Kubbie has been in the business for about 20 years and sells up to a few hundred trees annually. His 15-acre farm consists of white and blue spruce of all sizes, and according to Kubbie, the blue spruce has remained the most popular.

"These trees are planted at three years old and are well taken care of for 15 years until they are

ready to be harvested," said Kubbie.

"The pruning of the trees starts in late July and by Thanksgiving the fields are filled with Christmas tree hunters cutting their own trees. Believe it or not, I've had customers here as late as Christmas Eve."

Kubbie advises his customers to cut the tree while it is rainy or damp out so the tree will hold the needles longer.

Bob Koenig and Jody Chrivia of Hillman were among the tree shoppers at the farm recently.

"We've been coming to this farm for eight years and always get here early to get the first pick of the trees," said Chrivia.

"We usually tag more than one for backup in case the first one accidentally gets cut by someone else."

Kubbie adds that another good reason to choose a tree early is to avoid having to shake the snow off the branches to get a good look at it.

"Customers are more than welcome to tag their tree at any time, but there are no guarantees."

For the shoppers who haven't got the time to scout out and harvest their own tree, Kubbie joined other tree farmers this year offering pre-cut trees at Walmart of Alpena starting November 24. The trees are selling at \$10 each regardless of size.

This was the first year Kubbie sold pre-cut trees from his farm and he anticipates good sales.



Photo by Shawna Thompson
Jody Chrivia of Hillman tags a tree for harvest

Roger Phillips

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Phillips was laid off along with 50 other teachers the semester after "Black Friday."

Black Friday occurred in October in 1981. The schools were closed for two weeks and came back without any busing. Many teachers were laid off the following semester due to the cutting back of expenses of the school system and a recession in the economy.

Vegetable farming is what Phillips and his family turned to

when he was laid off. He described it as "homesteading in the woods."

Later in the spring of 1983, Phillips worked for Child and Family Services in the maintenance department.

In the fall of 1983, Phillips started working at ACC for the Upward Bound program to assist at-risk or disadvantaged students in continuing their education after high school.

He worked for Upward Bound until August of 1986.

He finally took his place as a full-time faculty member in the English department in January of 1987.

Phillips had worked part-time

at ACC from fall of 1980 until fall of 1985, primarily at the Huron Shores campus, before taking the full-time position.

This past year is when he became the chair for his department by election of his peers.

One thing that students of Phillips might like to hear, especially speech students, is that he is always nervous for his students when they have to present in front of the class.

"I have a great deal of empathy for my students," said Phillips.

His favorite moments in the classroom are "unexpected moments [that] happen in the classroom. You can't plan for them

New inductees for Phi Theta Kappa

The Phi Theta Kappa induction ceremony was conducted Oct 29.

Initiated were members Nicholas Brege, Matthew Burg, Julie Coats, Carrie Dekett, Dana Foley, Matthew Grulke, Eric Hamp, Carol Huizenga, Amy

Krans, Genny Luppino, James Maynard, Kathryn Mulson, Julie Patzer, Richard Van Dam, Evonne Webster, Alicia Wells, and Jamie Zbytowski.

ACC instructor Wesley Law serves as the advisor. Officers include: President Chris Tank,

Vice President Clark Van Dam, Secretary Dawna Smith, and Treasurer Lynell Rospierski.

Phi Theta Kappa is an honor society for community college students who achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

Reuther receives Athena Award

Lorraine Reuther, adjunct professor in Spring Arbor College's program at Alpena Community College, is co-recipient of the prestigious Athena Award.

The award is presented annually to recognize professional excellence, commitment to the

community, and, most importantly, work by individuals in assisting women in attaining their full potential.

At a luncheon on November 10, Reuther and the Rev. Tom Downs were announced as co-winners of this year's Athena Award.



Photo by Jocelyn Haske
Spring Arbor College instructor Lorraine Reuther has been recognized for her professional and volunteer work.

They were two of five nominees for the honor; among the others was Bonnie Urlaub, director of the Women's Resource Center at ACC.

She is a former high school instructor of English, drama, speech and journalism.

She served as foundation and resource development director at ACC for three years. During that time, the foundation's assets grew from \$1 million to \$2.8 million.

Reuther also worked with ACC as a business partner in the National Workplace Literacy Program.

She is the recipient of many awards for her outstanding teaching and for her regional and national work with scholastic journalism.

In the community, she has been involved in the Alpena Rotary Club, Child and Family Services, and Alpena Civic Theater.

like you or me. They are just people without homes.

According to Northeast Michigan Community Service Agency, only six percent of homeless are substance abusers.

It is also very hard to be homeless and unemployed. You can't be lazy because you spend all your energy trying to survive—trying to answer the questions of what do we eat today? And where will we sleep?

Without a permanent address, the employers have no place to call and go on to the next applicant. The homeless often have transportation and child care issues, and usually a single parent with little education who can expect only to get a minimum wage job to support a family of perhaps four or more. This is not feasible.

Stephen Jones of the Detroit Free Press coined the term "invisible homeless." They could be your friend, a classmate, or even a member of your family. They have carefully hidden the fact that they have no place to live. They will wash at the gas

Homeless continued on page 4

Homeless

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In other situations, I saw people lose their homes due to uncontrollable circumstances including child abuse, domestic violence, and mental illness.

A person does not choose to be homeless. But in those types of circumstances, they must choose to get help, and face a system that is often too compli-

cated for even the "professionals" to understand.

Even in northeast Michigan, homelessness is a problem that many area programs are trying to address. But many people continue to "fall through the cracks" of a system that you and I can help.

Who are the homeless of northeast Michigan? There are many myths about them. Many believe there are no homeless people in our area.

They look for the scary old many who stands on the street corner...the stranger we warn our children to stay away from...or the bag ladies with their shopping carts full with bags hanging from the sides, filled with all their possessions.

Others claim that the homeless choose to be that way, reasoning that if they wanted a place to live, they would have one. They are dismissed as lazy or substance abusers who spend their money on drugs or alcohol—and therefore they deserve to be homeless.

The myths of Hollywood, like other exaggerations, are often unreal. The homeless are not portrayed as they really are. In the real world, the homeless are just

because sometimes the best, most careful plans you lay are the ones which work the most poorly, then the ones that are somewhat serendipitous, they just kind of come together... and bang! — It's a kind of magic that happens."

What would Phillips do if he hadn't been a teacher?

"I could very well have done something like technical or scientific writing," explained Phillips.

He said that creative writing is not his specialty, but he does occasionally write "roasts for retirement dinners."

Phillips' spare time activities include gardening and exercising.

Graphic Arts program fosters creativity



Photo by Alicia Wells

Graphic Arts student Carrie Sauer helps instruct papermaking at an open house Nov. 9.

ALICIA WELLS
Staff Writer

Have you ever found yourself wanting to draw or design? Maybe you're interested in computers or machinery.

Graphic Arts is a program that allows you to use any or all of these interests.

With Alpena Community College's graphics program, students can be creative in many different ways.

The class offers instruction in areas ranging from printing and press operation to computer layout and design.

The program conducted its annual open house on Thursday, November 9, at Alpena High School. The students brought in more than 225 family members and

friends to see the many areas of graphic arts.

Students shared with local residents some of the printing presses in action, as they printed holiday greeting cards and gift tags for the visitors.

Many students showed their talents on the computer software also, including Quark XPress and the Painter program using a pressure tablet. A CD burner and the use of digital cameras are some of the new technology that the students are learning.

The graphic arts department is not only a class, but an in-house print shop for the Alpena Public Schools and Alpena Community College. The students are also encouraged to create and print their own projects, either for themselves or local residents.

Student Rick Boven said his favorite part of graphics is working with photographs on the computer.

"I got to scan in my own artwork on the computer," said Boven, "and then use the Photoshop program to add color."

Although the graphic arts department conducts its classes on the high school campus, it is a college course. Students can obtain an Associate in Arts degree and transfer to a university in the area of graphics that interests them most.

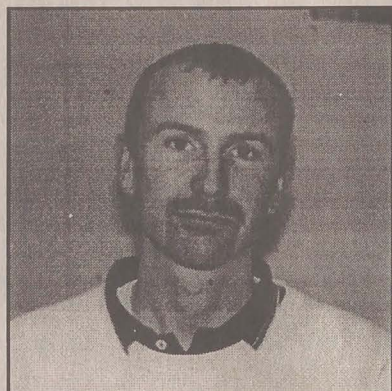
"The graphic arts program is one of the top five largest employing industries in the world," said program instructor, Kelly Belew.

What are you reading/watching/listening to?



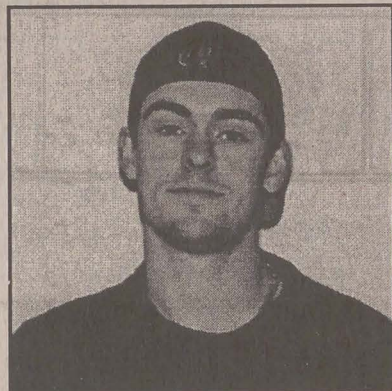
Book
"The Legends of Sleeping Bear Dunes:" Deb Parks

"A great American legend about a part of our state."



Movie
"The Matrix:" Jamie Gwilliam

"It's important for us to realize that there is a possibility that we don't have all the answers."



CD
"Country Grammar-by Nelly:" Kevin Sobczak

"I would recommend this CD because the style and level of his lyrics are taking rap to a different level."

What/who is the Lumberjack of the Month?

LAURA PARKS
Staff Writer

Have you ever wondered why ACC has a Lumberjack of the Month?

This program was begun about 10 years ago. The first Lumberjack of the Month was Lyle Beck, director of Management Information

Systems. The award is specially intended for a staff member of the college. Instructors, custodians, secretaries, full-time and part-time employees are qualified to win the award.

Dr. Donald Newport, President of ACC, said the award is presented to a

person "...who walks the extra mile," does things or goes out of his or her way for the students and community.

Over the past 10 years 134 staff members have received the award.

Newport said he saw a lot of good things happening and had to award those who deserved it. He also says it is

a tough decision; sometimes there can be as many as eight people nominated.

The good thing about that is if it is a really difficult decision, he picks one and then the others will fall in sometime in the coming months. It takes a lot of consideration to pick just one. Sometimes he gives the

Lumberjack of the Month award to a group or a team.

The benefits of being Lumberjack of the Month are quite nice.

Winners get to choose their own parking place anywhere on campus, their name flashes on the electronic sign in front of the college, they get a night's

stay at the Holiday Inn with a guest with dinner included, and they can refill a coffee mug anywhere on campus for free for the month.

In addition, their name goes on the plaque near the library, and the college plants a tree on campus in their honor.

The Lumberjack of the Month for November was Tom Brindley, controller of the financial business of the college. He helps with the Scholarship Scramble, the golf tournament at the beginning of the year, and for the past two years has sold the most raffle tickets for this occasion.

Anyone can nominate a staff member of the college. So when you see a professor, custodian or a secretary going the extra mile or doing anything that benefits the student body, community, or the college, be sure to recognize them by nominating them for Lumberjack of the Month.

Homeless continued from page 3

station and sleep in their car. Many have lost their homes for reasons that were out of their control.

Alpena County has many programs that help address the problem of homelessness.

There are two shelters. One is called the Sunrise Mission. It has a dozen beds for women or men. It has been in operation for about four years.

The second shelter is called Shelter Inc., and houses victims of domestic violence.

These are temporary solutions for some of the people in need. Both shelters are often full during parts of the year.

There also are two soup kitchens. Friendship Room of St. Bernard Church serves an evening meal every day but Sunday. Members of Trinity Episcopal Church saw the need for a Sunday meal and serve one weekly.

There are programs that

try to head off the homelessness problem instead of just helping in a temporary fashion.

Northeast Michigan Community Service Agency, or NEMCSA, has two programs, the Emergency Needs Program and the Homeless Prevention Program, which help pay security deposits and rent payments/evictions and utility shutoffs for some situations.

Catholic Human Services' Call Us for Help is a referral program that assists families in accessing the area programs, and coordinates the help needed.

In addition, St. Vincent DePaul and the Salvation Army both help families in emergency crises such as homelessness.

Why, then, are we still finding people who are in need? Some segments of society often have barriers that programs do not address.

One of these barriers is age. If a person is homeless and under 18, they are not able to use either shelter or any of the help programs listed here.

A second reason is a person who is homeless and works the midnight shift is not able to sleep at the Sunrise Mission, because it requires that all persons must leave at 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

A third barrier may be to the many mental health clients who have no access to help both because they have no understanding of how to get it, and because area programs feel that they will be held legally liable if something were to happen to them.

In addition, clients who have no income can stay at the shelters, but have difficulty getting a place of their own because the programs require that they be able to afford the monthly rental obligation in the future. The small percentage of

clients who do have drug and alcohol problems cannot stay at the shelters, and often end up on the street.

These individuals and those who have used the programs so often in the past often have difficulty finding help again.

In order for these programs to continue, they need the support of the community and also of individuals like you and me.

Donations can be made directly to church and organizations. An annual donation to the United Way will help many of these programs through the annual grants appropriated to area programs.

Many programs such as the shelters and the soup kitchens need volunteers to operate. Our area has a local chapter of the Homeless Coalition that interested people can join and be at the ground level in finding new ways to help this population.

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If you have a newsworthy opinion, comic, or story idea, the Polemic staff would like to hear from you.

polemic8@netscape.net

WCCT program has attracted students from 54 countries

DANA HEITZ
Staff Writer

The World Center for Concrete Technology provides an opportunity not only for local and domestic students to learn the technological details of their trade, but for international students as well.

Every year the Center, located at ACC, offers a set of Blockmakers Workshops that each last four days.

These workshops deal,

generally, with production and maintenance of machines used by Besser Company and other corporations to manufacture concrete blocks.

Courses are offered in specific areas such as product testing, supervision, hydraulics, employee training, plant management, product development, and machine rebuilding.

There are anywhere from two to five workshops occurring nearly every

month, with the Center's next one beginning this week, in Concrete Masonry Technology.

Each of these sessions draws a number of international students, from Canada to Australia.

Since the program's inception in 1954, ACC has enrolled more than 11,500 students from 54 countries.

Jim Hayford, the Center's executive director, said that most students come from

Russia, China, and the Far East, with a large percentage visiting from Central and South America.

For October's workshops, three of the fourteen students came from Bangladesh, and the rest from Canada, while the countries represented last June included Venezuela, Egypt, Surinam, and Nigeria.

Such a diverse assembly of students will, at some point, inevitably result in a

language barrier. While not often required, the Center provides three translator booths in the rear of the conference room.

The students listen to the translators communicate through wireless speakers. The course material, currently provided in English, is in the process of being made available in more languages, the first of which will be Spanish.

The cost to each international student, said

Hayford, is about \$800 per week. In most cases, this is paid by the company sending the student.

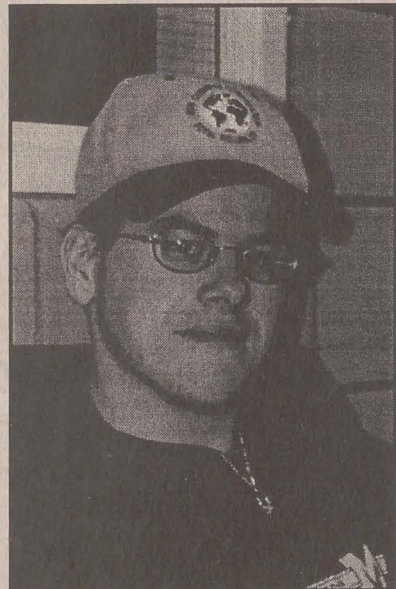
Other costs include transportation, room (at Fletcher's Motel or the Holiday Inn), and all meals.

The average number of participants in each workshop is 20, but numbers can go as high as 35 or, in the more specialized classes, as low as eight.

Lumberjack voices: What are your plans during break?



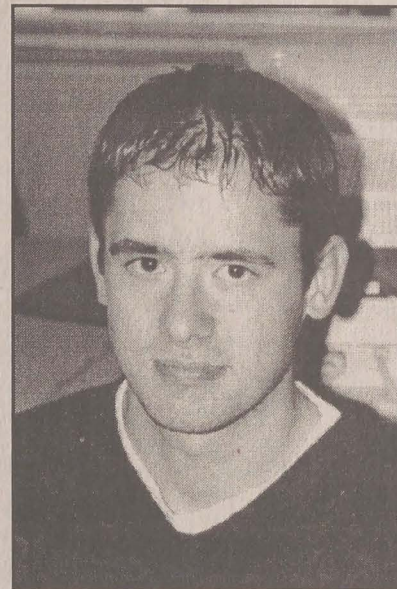
Jobeth Johnson
"Ride my horse, bake cookies and do some shopping".



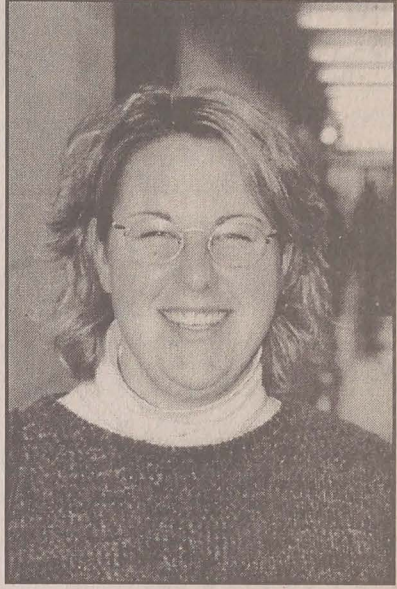
Chris Walters
"Travel with my girlfriend".



Kati Weigand
"I'm going to Germany to spend Christmas with my family".



Andrew Grohowski
"I'm going to take a well needed rest".



Corinna Balentine
"Work and sleep".

Recognizing signs of depression and suicide risks

WENDY WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

It's sad but true: the holidays bring more suicide thoughts and attempts than any other time of year. As friends and family we need to be aware of warning signs and what we can do to get the situation under control.

According to the American Association of Suicidology, it's the third leading cause of death among young people aged 15-24. More than 13 of every 100,000 people aged 15 to 24 committed suicides in 1990.

Experts estimate that each year nearly 5,000 teenagers commit suicide.

Men account for 80 percent of all suicides in the United States. White males have had the highest increase in suicide, which rose 50 percent in the late 70's.

The incidence for white females increased 12 percent. Recent studies show suicide among young blacks is also a major problem.

Generally, women are more likely than men to make suicide attempts, as over 50 percent of suicidal women make attempts.

However, men are much more likely to be successful at killing themselves as they choose more lethal methods of suicide.

Generally, differences in suicide rates are much more dramatic in older adults.

People 75-84 years old have the highest suicide rate of any age group at 23.5 per 100,000.

White men over the age of 65 have a high risk of suicide with a rate of 42.7 per 100,000 population. Non-

white elderly men have a suicide rate of 16.7 per 100,000.

In comparison, women over age 65 have a suicide rate of 6.0 per 100,000 population.

Most suicides are committed by firearms. Hanging is the second most common method of suicide and drug overdose is next. The majority of overdose attempts are unsuccessful.

According to the American Association of Suicidology, these are signs of depression and possible suicide risk:

Recent Loss -- through death, divorce, separation, broken relationship, loss of job, money, status, self-confidence, self-esteem, loss of religious faith, loss of interest in friends, sex, hobbies, activities previously enjoyed

Change in Sleep Patterns -- insomnia, often with early waking or oversleeping, nightmares

Change in Personality -- sad, withdrawn, irritable, anxious, tired, indecisive, apathetic

Change in Behavior -- can't concentrate on school, work, routine tasks

Decreased Sexual Interest -- impotence, menstrual abnormalities (often missed periods)

Fear of Losing Control -- going crazy, harming self or others

Low Self-Esteem -- feeling worthless, shame, overwhelming guilt, self-hatred, "everyone would be better off without me"

No Hope for the Future -- believing things will never get

better; that nothing will ever change

Other things to watch for include: suicidal impulses, statements, plan; giving away favorite things; previous suicide attempts, agitation, hyper-activity, restlessness or lethargy.

Experts advise people to not be afraid to ask: "Do you sometimes feel so bad you think of suicide?"

Just about everyone has considered suicide at one time or another. There is no danger of "giving someone the idea." In fact, it can be a great relief if you bring the questions of suicide into the open, and discuss it freely without showing shock or disapproval.

Raising the question of suicide shows that you are taking the person seriously and responding to the potential of her or his distress. And, if the answer is: "Yes. I do think of suicide," experts say you must take it seriously and follow it through.

You might ask, "Have you thought how you'd do it?" "Do you have the means?" "Have you decided when you would do it?" "Have you ever tried suicide before?" "What happened then?"

If the person has a definite plan, if the means are easily available, if the method is a lethal one and the time is set, the risk of suicide is very high.

Your responses will be geared to the urgency of the situation as you see it. It is vital not to underestimate the danger by not asking for the details.

If you think that the risk of suicide is high, try to make a verbal agreement with the

person to contact you before he or she follows through with suicidal intentions.

Do not shy away from the topic of suicide. Suicide is ugly. It reminds us of a whole world of things that we do not wish to think about.

Because suicide arouses great fear and anxiety, we actively avoid the topic. Feelings of guilt and responsibility haunt us. Our emotions are intense, so we deny the reality of the suicidal person's concerns.

The person in crisis is troubled and has problems that need to be discussed openly. If not taken seriously, the suicidal crisis could worsen.

By not asking obvious questions or avoiding the topic, it may seem as if you are not interested. The person will probably feel rejected, guilt ridden, and more deeply disturbed.

Avoid moralizing. It is ineffective to tell the person that it is wrong and against God's will to commit suicide, or to remind him of obligations to family and society.

The suicidal person carries a heavy load of guilt,

and moral arguments only add to this burden.

Do not be aggressive. Suicidal people sometimes make us feel hopeless and impotent, to which we often respond by becoming belligerently helpful.

We urge the potential suicide to live in order to justify ourselves. Emotional advice based upon our own needs are useless.

Do not try too hard to reassure the person. You may be tempted to rescue the potential suicide by telling him that he is a good guy and that life is worthwhile.

But your efforts will only succeed in making the individual feel rejected, misunderstood, and dismissed. The suicidal person does not like himself nor does he feel life is meaningful. Telling him that

he is a good guy and that there is hope is worse than useless.

The information in this article was obtained from: www.metanoia.org www.suicidology.org and www.psych.org. If you or someone you know is contemplating suicide call 1-

800-442-4315 (24 hour crisis hotline).

Submissions sought for magazine

ACC will be publishing a literary arts magazine. It will be student run and will consist of student's work in the arts and literature.

According to the application for submission, any individual enrolled in at least one credit course during the 2000-2001 school year may submit work for publication.

Individuals may submit up to five works. Works in a series that exceed five pieces will be considered based on available space.

Written works include poetry no longer than four pages and fiction and non-fiction no longer than 3,500 words. Visual works include photography and other artwork.

For more information and an application for submission, contact Denise Bazzett, Ext.371, Tom Ray, Ext.250, or Laurie Wade, Ext.343.

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Hopes high as local rock group releases first CD

VICTOR KAHN
Staff Writer

Ear-piercing feedback. The steady thump of a bass drum. Sweaty kids dancing to an energetic blend of pop-punk music. Am I in the right town?

These were all normal sights at the CD release party for Shanghai Zoo.

So who, or what, is Shanghai Zoo?

On the outside they're four Alpena High School kids who play punk rock. On the inside, Jon Visger, Becky Lawrence, Pat Stafford, and Steve Livermore are in love with music. But being in love with music can't stop these rockers from having a little fun.

So, every band needs a name. How did yours come about?

Pat: We were in a rush for a name so Jon just picked one.

Jon: Well, my sister and I were looking in magazines for hip words to put together.

What magazines?

Jon: Like Delias and Girlfriends...

Steve: Jon, you dork!

Jon: Hey, it's your name too!

What made you choose music instead of other activities?

Pat: Look at us, we're skinny white kids!

Jon: I wanted to play sports but I tried and failed.

Do you plan to stay together after you graduate?

Steve: Well, Jon is going to college and leaving us.

Jon: If things are going well with the band I won't leave.

Do you enjoy playing for the local crowds?

Pat: Depends if the local crowds like us. At times everyone just stands there.

Jon: Lately it's been awesome. The crowd has really started dancing along.

What's the craziest thing that has happened during one of your shows?

Steve: When the bra flew at us.

Pat: Yeah, I threw it back and it hit me in the face.

What experiences did you have while recording your CD?

Steve: Becky's drumstick flying.

Pat: I had to pee like every five minutes.

Are you possibly searching for a record contract?

Jon: Very much so.

Pat: Yeah, we don't wanna go to college.

Steve: We wanna be rock stars.

How would a record contract change your plans for the future?

Jon: I wouldn't go to college right away.

Pat: I wouldn't either.

Jon: I might move to a bigger city.

Where does the inspiration for your songs come from?

Steve: If something happens and it makes you feel good or bad, you write a song about it.

Jon: I write about jealousy a lot.

Steve: Depression helps too.

Jon: Yeah, depression is good for songwriting.

Do you think punk music has a future in America?

Jon: As long as there are new musicians it will exist because it is fun and easy to play.



Members of Shanghai Zoo include, from left, Jon Visger, Becky Lawrence, Pat Stafford, and Steve Livermore. The group has just released its first CD.

Most women seem to find you guys attractive. What's your secret to looking good?

Steve: I just gel my hair and play guitar.

Pat: Girls don't like me. And last but not least, for the record, boxers or briefs?

Jon: Upside-down teeshirts

Steve: Just a sock.

Pat: I don't wear under-pants.

Nursing students take banner award

Students from ACC's nursing program captured the award for "best overall banner" at the annual Student Practical Nurse Day in Lansing.

Twenty-five students attended the Nov. 17 program sponsored by the Michigan Licensed Practical Nurse Association. They were accompanied by adjunct instructor Melissa VanWagoner.

Judy Beyer, nursing instructor, said ACC students

have attended the event since 1986, and it has proven to be very beneficial.

"It helps them recognize the purpose of a professional organization," Beyer said. "It also gives them an opportunity to bond among themselves, away from class, and to bond with students from other schools."

A total of 300 nursing students from eight practical nursing schools attended the event.

This year marked the

fourth time that ACC students have taken the trophy for best overall banner.

Praise for 'Mrs. Warren's Profession;' next play Jan. 18-21

RYAN SPAULDING
Staff Writer

"Mrs. Warren's Profession," a play written by Bernard Shaw and directed by ACC English instructor Tom Ray, was nothing short of an excellent piece of work.

Ray did a superb job at putting together this classic, and the six talented cast members: Jennifer Alsup (Mrs. Warren), Rachel Baumgardner (Vivie Warren), Patrick Walchak (Praed), Mark Breckenridge (Sir George Crofts), Marc Gauze (The Rev. Samuel Gardner) and Chip Redker (Frank Gardner) did an amazing job of portraying their characters.

"Mrs. Warren's Profession," which ran Nov. 16-19 at the Robert & Jacquelynn

Granum Theater in the ACC Center, was about a headstrong young woman (Vivie) who finds out about what her high-class mother (Mrs. Warren), does for a living.

After Vivie learns of this

she must make very difficult decisions concerning her love for Frank and her relationship with her mother.

This play was a great representation of the limited and difficult choices women had concerning jobs in the

early 1900s.

Although there wasn't a lot of action (sorry, no explosions) and some of the monologues ran on a bit long and seemed hard to follow at times, the many plot twists

and great story kept me hooked.

The acting was top notch, as the actors/actresses really got into their roles and performed with a lot of emotion, which showed how much time and work it must have taken them to perfect their character's style.

Congrats to Tom Ray who brought the play together into an intriguing performance.

If you didn't see "Mrs. Warren's Profession," you certainly missed out on a truly intellectual and fun experience.

Look for "I Hate Hamlet," directed by ACC instructor Nan Hall, running Jan. 18-21. All roles will be filled by faculty members and all proceeds will go toward Performing Arts scholarships.



Chip Redker as Frank Gardner and Rachel Baumgardner as Vivie Warren act out a scene from "Mrs. Warren's Profession".

'Evening with the Arts' set

A special program is planned Friday, Dec. 8 to showcase the work of this semester's art students.

"An Evening with the Arts" is set from 7-9 at East Campus.

According to Art instructor Laurie Wade, the event will feature work produced this semester in the following classes:

Beginning Ceramics, Advanced Ceramics, Sculpture, Design, Drawing, Painting, and Photography.

"Everybody is invited to come and see the students' work," Wade said. "It is quite an event. The students bring hors d'oeuvres."

"They're really excited to show their stuff," she said, adding that most of the work in this year's program is by freshmen.

HOROSCOPE

RICHELLE SIELAND
Staff Writer



Sagittarius
(November 22-December 20)
Great changes are ahead for you in the new year.

But alas, love may be fleeting—especially on-line. Focus on developing what it is that you really want. It is time to quit slinging arrows off the cuff. Ted Nugent, Ozzy Osbourne share your sign.



Aquarius
(January 20-February 17)
Social outings for the remainder of the year

will crown you the king or queen, but you may reap these rewards with a hangover. Your "first love" syndrome could interfere with a crush. Ronald Reagan was born this month.



Aries
(March 20-April 19)
Fight your boredom

Aries, watch some wrestling. But don't let it go to your head. Although stubbornness is a virtue, why isn't anybody calling you? Alec Baldwin and Liz Taylor share your sign.



Gemini
(May 20-June 20)
Don't shop last minute Gemini.

The pressure of impulse buying will certainly come back to haunt you. Gift certificates may serve you better for those picky Virgos and thrifty Cancers. Other Geminis are Jack Nicholson and Stevie Nicks.



Leo
(July 22-August 22)
Be aware that the Christmas party could

go bad, Leo. And my do you hate it when things get spilled on you! Hopefully you will get everything you want without a tantrum this year. Madonna is alot like you.



Libra
(September 22-October 22)
Council others on the repercussions

of gag gifts for the boss! Refrain from your tendency to overindulge in the pleasures of Venus. Holidays make you nervous. David Lee Roth, singer for Van Halen tries to balance the scales too.



Capricorn
(December 21-January 19)
Family issues come to the forefront. No

one seems to understand the depth of your caring. Aquarius, Libra, and Gemini tend to get on your nerves and offer no confidentiality. So your inner nature may be the best guide. Cuba Gooding, Jr. shares your birth month.



Pisces
(February 18-March 19)
If anyone calls you "fishy washy" you

know why. More decisive and practical signs find you irritating. Just tell them you are working on it. If an Aries or Taurus is in the picture, tell them to go watch some Seinfeld reruns and reflect on the value of friendship.



Taurus
(April 20-May 19)
When are other people going to

figure out that it does no good to nag at you? Aries, Sagittarius and Leo always try to suck up any of the limelight you deserve. Hang in there! Actor George Clooney shares your sign.



Cancer
(June 21-July 21)
I hope no one asks you about your

mood this month. You have just got too much on your mind. Social gatherings just are not going to do it for you. One-on-one relationships figure best. Susan Sarandon shares your moods and integrity.



Virgo
(August 23-September 21)
Your knack of organization has you way

ahead of the game this year, Virgo! Silly Sagittarians and hungover Aquarians really hate your guts. Pay further attention regarding love and money. Don't be so naive. Fellow Virgos are Michael Jackson and Janis Joplin.



Scorpio
(October 23-November 21)
Well, Scorpio, rely on your secret nature

to solve a problem. There is someone who is not who they say they are, though it could be you. Despite your sex appeal, anyone interested in you can get in line. Actress, Julia Roberts and former teen idol, Leif Garret, share you sign.

Inaugural season over, spikers look toward 2001

MEGAN FLETCHER
Staff Writer

ACC's first official volleyball season ended a little over a month ago, but already coach Dana LaBar is preparing for next season.

LaBar said he has been receiving phone calls from prospective athletes. He also has four or five possible players lined up. When it is time to do official recruiting,

LaBar plans to recruit locally. As far as returning players from this year, Sarah Stafford will be back and possibly Laura Grainger and Emily Blankhorn. LaBar plans to have a total of 12 players next year.

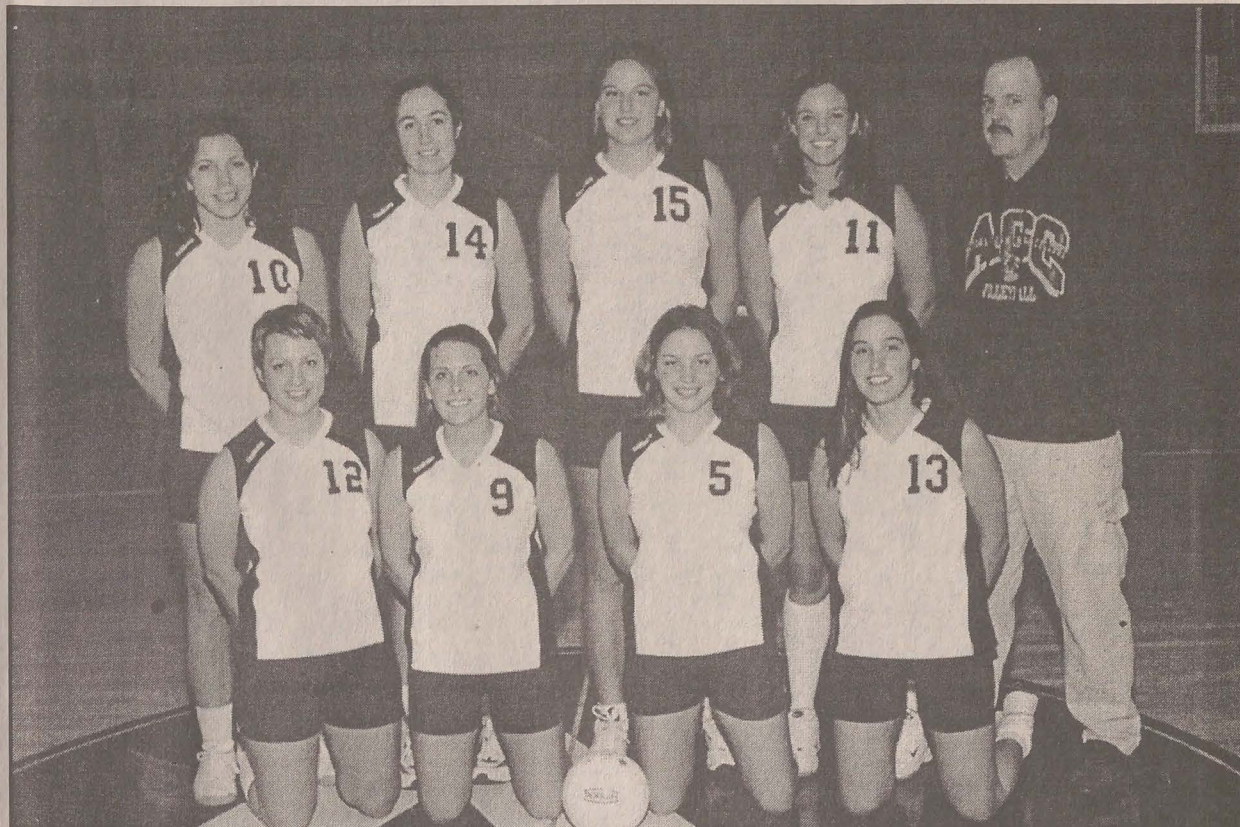
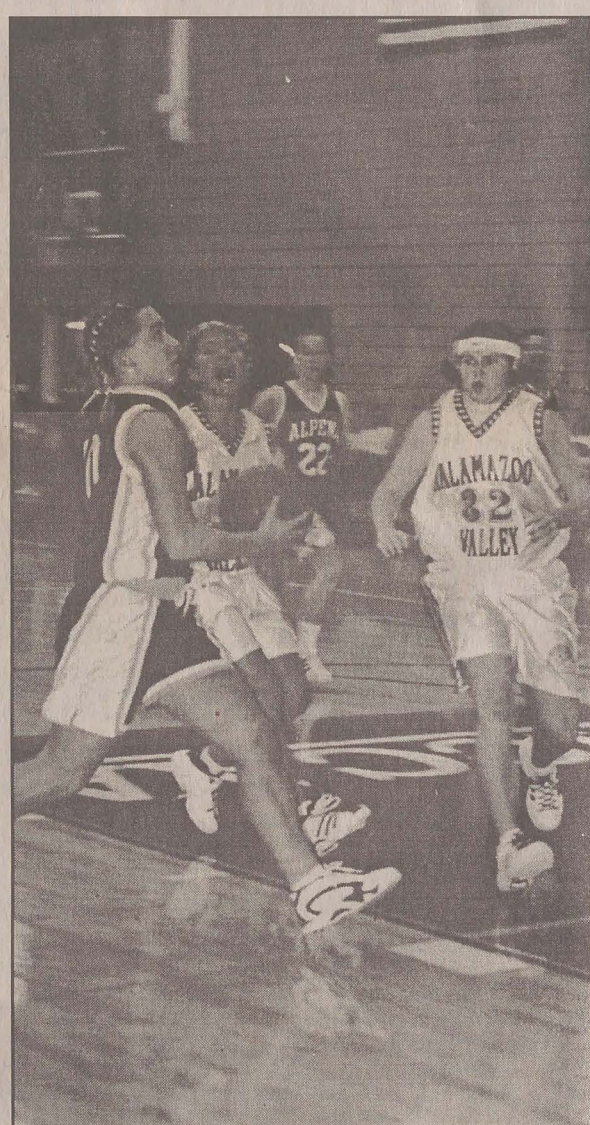
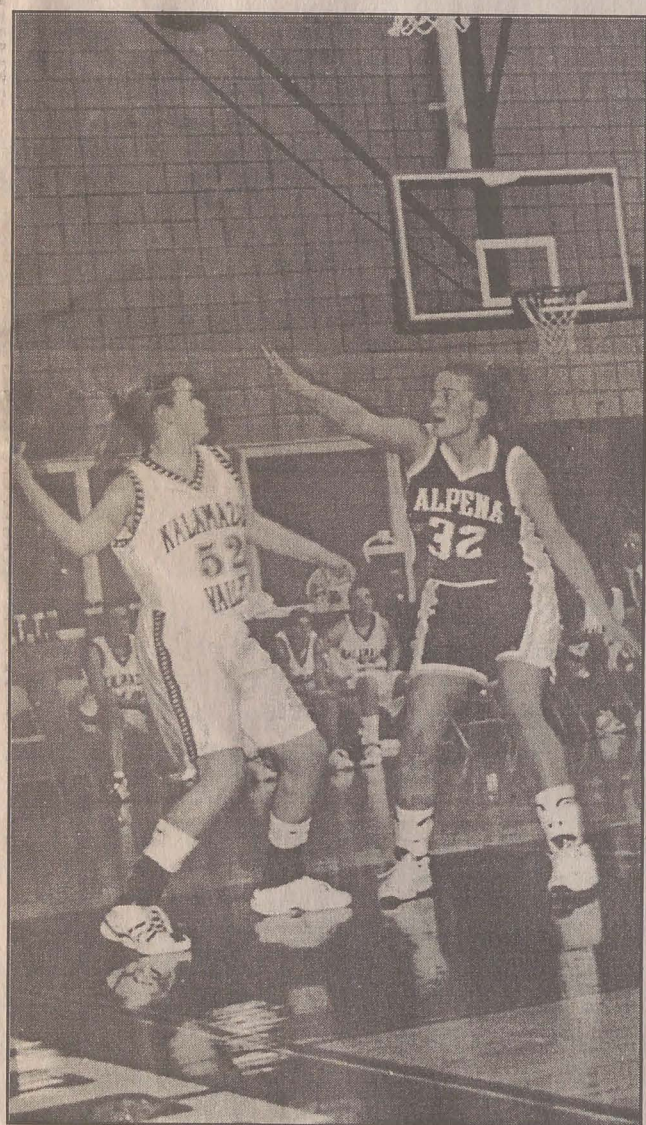
For next season LaBar is going to have the team condition more intensively. He also hopes to schedule pre-season scrimmages to get them ready for their

conference games and tournaments.

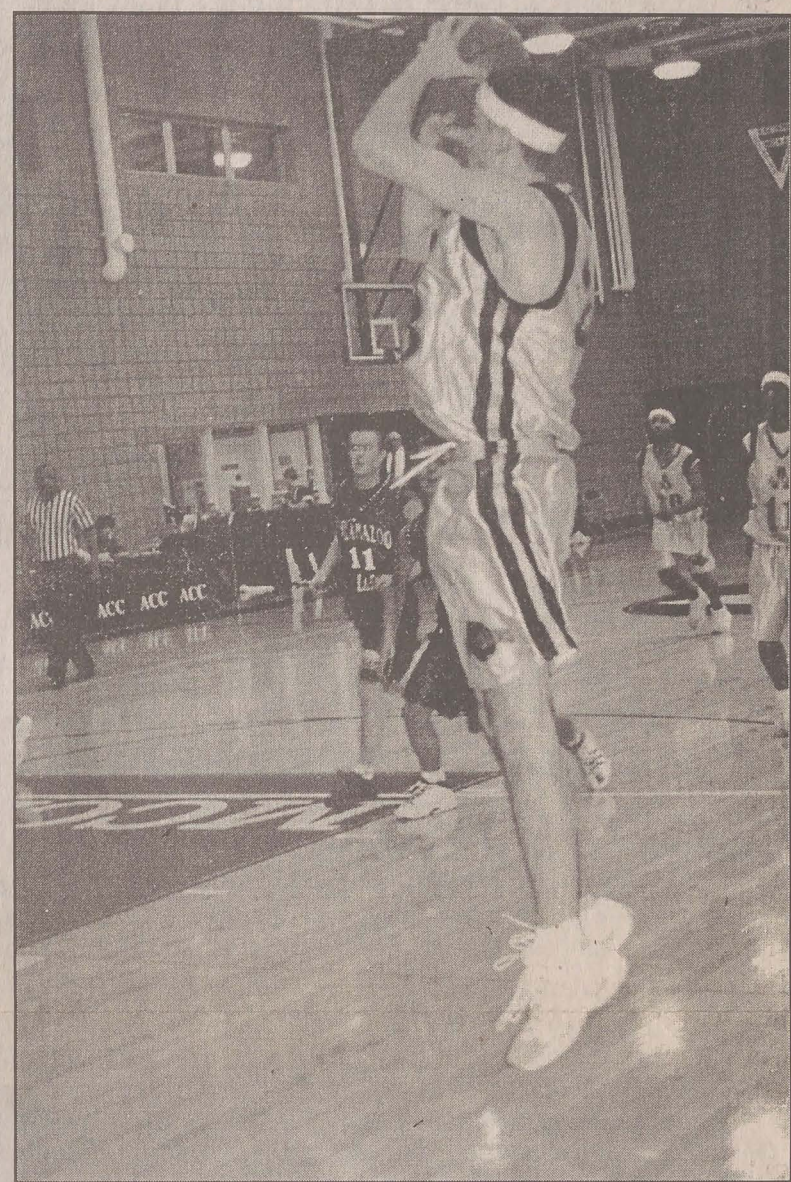
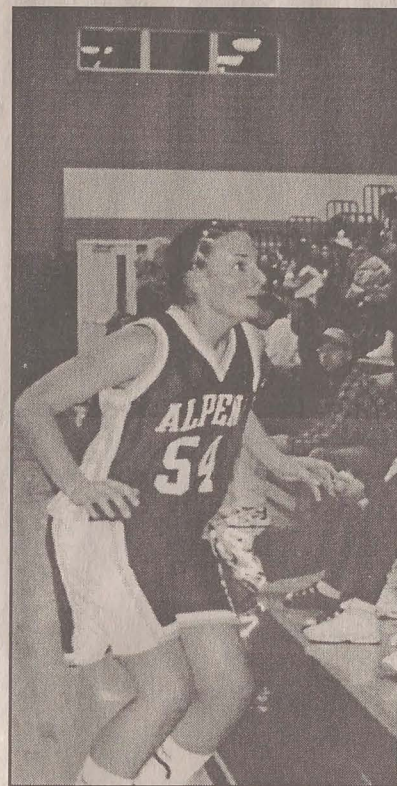
He also plans to work on getting the team to play more aggressively.

LaBar described the first season as being "thrilling" and "exceptional." The athletes "progressed so much."

Coach LaBar said he is very appreciative of all of the support the team received from the community and the college faculty.



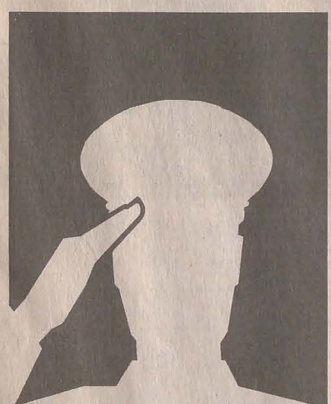
ACC's 2000 Women's Volleyball team included, from left, front row: Erika Romel, Emily Blankhorn, Sarah Stafford, Olivia Shields. Back row from left: Laura Grainger, Lisa Mertz, Sarah Ellis, Susan Hecklik, Coach Dana LaBar.



Photos
By
Megan
Fletcher

The basketball season is in full swing. Top left, David Manchester plays defense against Kalamazoo Valley. Top center, Marissa Fenner defends an inbounds pass. Above, Matt Gleason shoots for two. Far left, Sarah Ellis tries to stop a pass downcourt, while, at left, Roxanne Ewing drives past two Kalamazoo Valley players for a lay-up. The next home competition for the men's team is Dec. 16; both teams will play in the Holiday Inn Christmas Classic Dec. 27-28.

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All wrapped up in maroon & silver compliments of ACC's Bookstore

An escape to the windy city Chicago!

RICHELLE SIELAND
CO-EDITOR

It was an early Wednesday morning at 6 a.m. Some people in Northern Michigan were headed to their deer blinds. But a group of ACC students and staff were loading the bus for the city of Chicago. The long ride and time change were only small sacrifices for a three-day getaway of museums, shopping, great restaurants and a break in the semester monotony.

Laurie Wade, Head of the Art department, had a fun-filled agenda for students enrolled in Art and Humanities classes. Lynda Riedasch and four students from Student Support services were also part of the experience. Jim Kollien was the faithful bus driver who transported us safely and comfortably to our destination.

We arrived in Chicago around 3 p.m. and settled into our rooms at the Essex Inn. A group of us decided to whet our retail appetite down the Magnificent Mile, a strip of top-name stores on Michigan Avenue. FAO Schwartz was preparing for the rush of the holiday season and had a bizarre indoor display of toys and games like something out of a fantasy.

The first night we dined in the lush atmosphere of Italian cuisine at Trattoria No. 10 on Dearborn Parkway. It made our local restaurants seem like greasy spoons. The famous blue's bar called Buddy Guy's Legends was the first stop after dinner. Famous Dave's Ribs and Blues, down on Wabash Avenue, was the group hangout for the second night. The music was awesome and no one wanted to come back the hotel.



City lights downtown on Michigan Avenue look beautiful despite the cold and rain.



Classical statues await the replenishing of their waterfall.

The following day was the hike to the museums. The first was the Art Institute of Chicago. There were three levels of historical artifacts, prints, drawings, and sculptures. The featured exhibits were the paintings of William Merritt Chase, an American artist influenced by the work of French impressionism. The other main exhibit was a display of Ming and Qing Dynasty textiles. Unfortunately, many of the main exhibits would not allow photographs be taken, so I was unable to capture the awe of these works.



Our group in front of the Art institute of Chicago

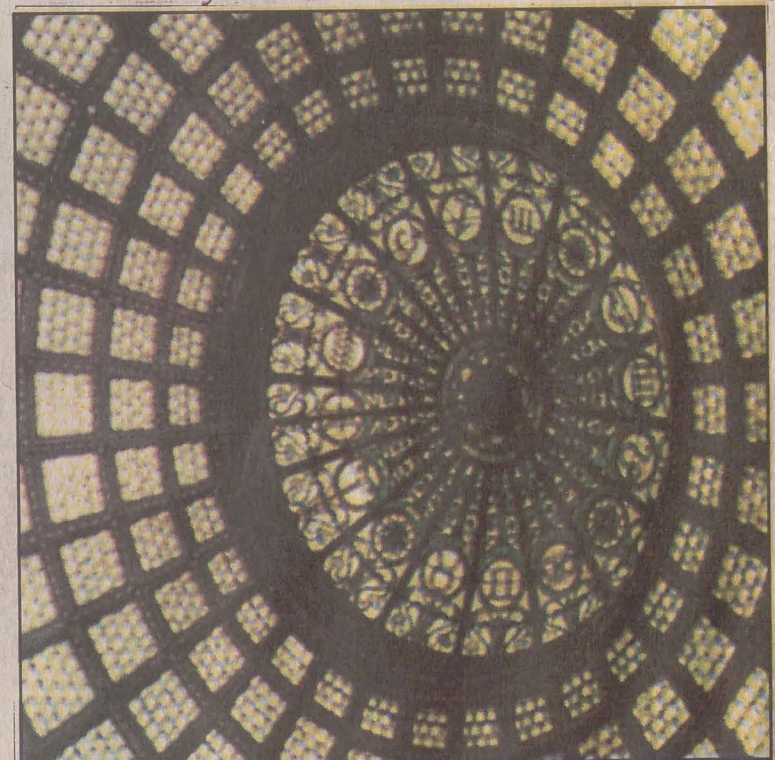
The walk to the contemporary museum was definitely worth the trip: three floors of the most modern and bizarre paintings and sculptures were visible for the eye, as well as the mind, to see.

The Field Museum looked like the Parthenon as we approached it from an underground walkway. The first thing we saw as we walked inside was the massive remains of a Tyrannosaurus Rex named "Sue." The main exhibit was called "Kremlin Gold". It was all of the jewelry, church artifacts and an array of other articles from the 12th century. This museum had wonderful displays of cultural history of the world's people from the beginning of history as we know it.

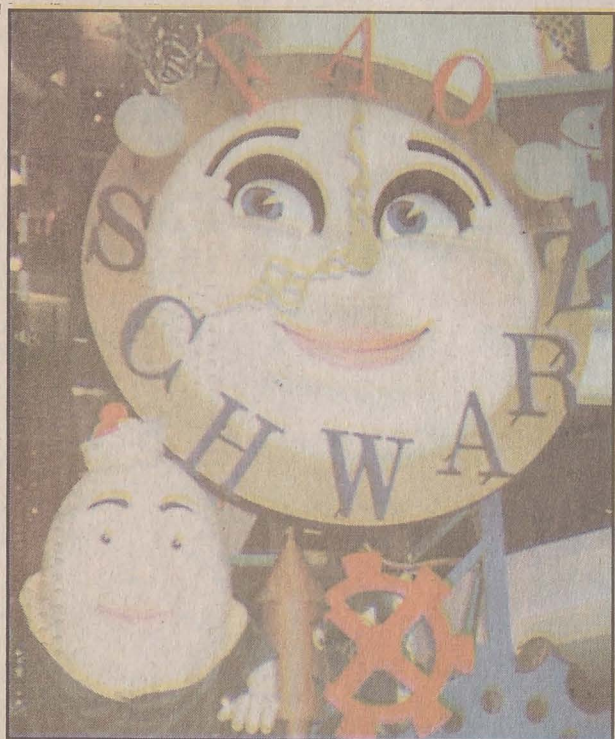


Window dressers give the manikins a new look for Marshall Field's

The Chicago Cultural Center, formerly the Central Library, built in 1897 was an aesthetically pleasing demonstration of marble and tile work. As we walked through it, one could notice that much of the design is influenced by Greek and European architectural styles.



A view beneath the Zodiac dome of Chicago's multicultural center.



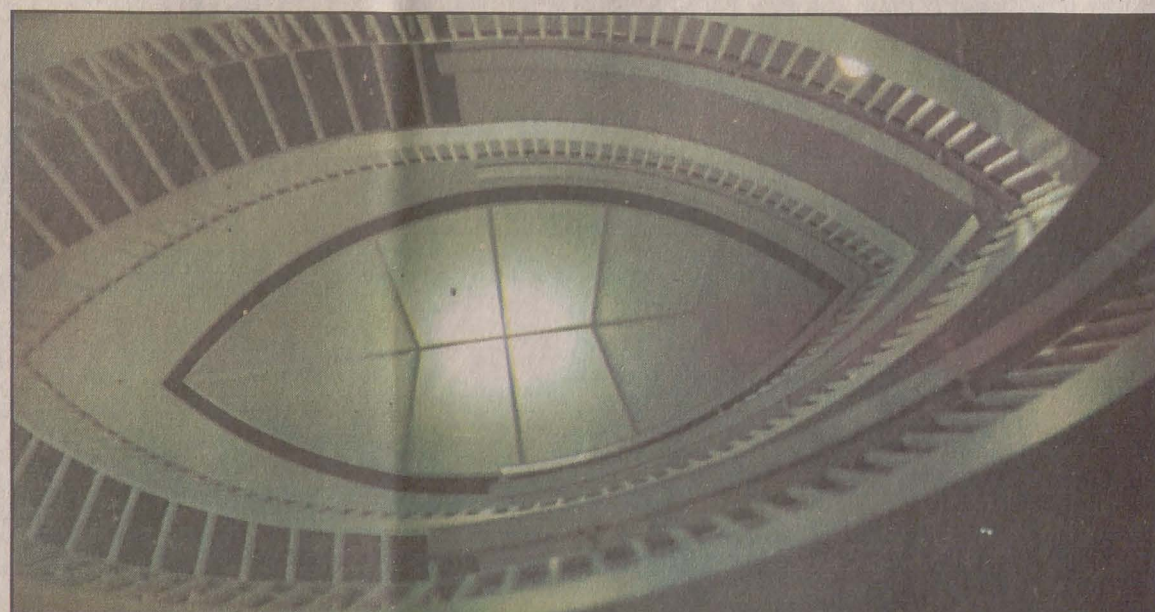
Humpty Dumpty is rocking the house at the toy fantasy land of FAO Schwartz



The joys of being tourists are expressed by the bizarre choice of wigs and hats. Posing with the store clerk are Taishaw Pemberton, Richelle Sieland and Dana Corthal.



Like a weird flashback of the seventies, Rhoda and Mary Tyler More were seen strolling downtown.



The staircase of the Contemporary Art museum left a new appreciation for architectural design.

The Shedd Aquarium was a definite stopping spot for some members of student support services. It is the world's largest indoor aquarium that holds over 6,000 different animals from around the world. and a massive 90,000-gallon underwater world of colorful corals and aquatic life.

With so many things to see and do, I am sure much has been left out here. The trip was organized and fun for all. It submerged many students in cultural activities that are unavailable in Northeastern Michigan. But it was good to get home.