

## What's Inside



Lumberjack basketball teams facing tough competition this season. See Page 7.



"Nonsense" delighted audiences. See Page 6.

## Y2K

Preparation prevented the disaster that never materialized. See Page 4.

# Parking: a major issue at ACC

## Concern shown over parking at VLH

By Josh Helsel  
Features Editor

Many students have been upset when arriving at Van Lare Hall and not being able to find a parking spot. Students have expressed frustration over this issue.

"I feel there is a real need for additional parking spaces for students," ACC student Marie Pollard said. "With sometimes limited time spans between classes, it is difficult to be to classes on time."

What can be done to solve this issue? Don Witt, director of facilities management, sees only two solutions to this problem:

1. Increase the size of the existing VLH parking lot to accommodate students who have classes there at a cost of about \$3,000 per parking spot.
2. Park in the Besser Tech Center (BTC) parking lot and walk to VLH. The walk takes about four minutes.

Witt does not believe the lot will be expanded any time soon.

"To eliminate the congestion immediately, I recommend solution number two," he said. "Solution number one could be

instituted if extra funds become available. It may be hard to justify funding additional parking spaces in the VLH lot when there are empty spaces four minutes away."

Student James Motley doesn't agree with Witt's concept.

"I believe the parking lot should be extended," Motley said. "It may cost, but it would be more practical. The parking lot would be safer. People wouldn't be parked on the side of the road waiting for a parking spot."

Witt feels that only a few students are left with out a parking spot and it is usually due to last minute arrivals.

"Often, during peak times when arriving on the last minute, students will not be able to find a spot and park in faculty spots," noted Witt speaking of the trend that's been noticed by parking attendents.

During peak times approximately 160 students attend classes in Van Lare Hall, while VLH supplies only 107 student

See **PARKING** on Page 3.



Photo by Amy Wallot

ACC parking control, Terry Szczesniak patrols the parking lot looking for students parked in unauthorized zones. Don't let this happen to you.

## Tickets may now be appealed

Amy Wallot  
Co-Editor

ACC's Parking Lot Appeals Committee now gives students the chance to appeal their parking tickets.

The committee was formed this year after a member of parking control three years ago brought up the idea. Last year Donald Witt, director of facilities management, brought the idea to Student Senate, and this year it was implemented.

Student Senate members make up the committee. They meet once a week to discuss the appeals. Based on the reason the student gives for making the appeal, they approve or revoke the ticket.

"It's important to give students, with a valid explanation, a chance to appeal their tickets," said Beckie Filipiak, a Student Senate member.

All students must register their vehicles to park at ACC. According to Terry Szczesniak of parking control, tickets are

not the only reason students have to register. If students leave their lights or there is a problem with their car, they can be tracked down and informed.

The most common tickets given out are for parking in staff parking and for students parking in the NRC parking lot. Unauthorized staff parking occurs most often in the VLH parking lot.

"Parking at VLH is all timing," Szczesniak said. He encourages students to park in the BTC parking lot. "It's a four minute walk from the middle of the BTC parking lot to the front door in VLH."

Tickets must be payed before students can receive their report card or transcript. Tickets cost \$10 or \$25 for parking in handicap zones.

Students can pick up an appeal form from BTC 101. After their case is reviewed, a copy of the appeal form with the decision is mailed to the student.

# Trustees adopt Legislative Action Plan

By Stacey M. Zbytowski  
Contributing Writer

Bringing attention to Michigan's community colleges is one goal of the Legislative Action Plan adopted by ACC Board of Trustees at the Jan. 20 meeting.

The seven-point plan was proposed because of two years of changes in state government with more change on the way. The plan's main role is to provide information to government leaders about how state appropriations and grants affect ACC and other community

colleges.

The trustees instructed ACC President Donald Newport to oversee implementing the plan.

The seven priorities are as follows: friendship building, workforce development, operational funding, categorical

funding, performance goals, local tax support, and federal support.

Newport explained that friendship building is a way to "get state-wide information through all 28 community colleges" within Michigan.

ACC's operating funds come from three major areas, 51 percent from state legislative appropriations, 32 percent from tuition, and 17 percent from property taxes levied in the college's service area. These three areas support the college like a three-legged stool, he said.

Without the funding from the state, the other two legs must grow to support the stool, increasing tuition or property taxes and undermining the overall stability of the college, he said.

The action plan calls for a 3.5 percent increase in operating funds from a variety of sources, including local taxes and state appropriations.

Newport says he supports the plan and is eager to begin work on something that will ultimately benefit students.

"This is our drive, to focus our energy for students," he said. "We have our marching orders - to slay dragons."



ke

ACC's Homecoming will be Feb. 5 against Schoolcraft. Homecoming king and queen will be announced during half-time of the men's game. The court is (L to R) Women's Basketball, Joe Maupin and Melissa VanStedum; Cross Country, Mike Kenney and Angie Boutell; Polemic, Tris Coffin and Amy Wallot; Softball, Joe Case and Stacey Gagnon; Student Senate, Chip Redker and Beckie Filipiak; ACC Players, Chris Person and Liz Visger; PTK, Andrew Zbytowski and Carrie Taratuta; Dance Team, Dale Saranen; missing Men's Basketball, Gary Greenwood and Katie Konicek.

## A new student?



Photo by Heidi Skuse

This 30-foot lumberjack statue serves as a mascot and puts fear into incoming competitors. See story on page 3.

# EDITORIAL

## Students need more spirit

When people think of homecoming, they usually think of a dance, a spirit week, a homecoming court and a pep rally or tailgate party.

ACC has the dance and the homecoming court, but we don't have any of the other activities. Even big universities have a spirit week.

ACC's Student Senate puts on the homecoming dance and organizes the homecoming court. Along with these events, they should add a spirit week. Another idea for the homecoming festivities could be a pep rally and tailgate party mixed together. This could be arranged for the night before with all ACC students invited along with the Lumberjack basketball teams and coaches.

ACC's Dance/Cheer Team could also be on hand to celebrate the upcoming game and to participate in the activities of a spirit week.

Also, part of the job is the responsibility of the basketball players. They should be out encouraging others to come to their games and support them. Students get in free to these and they can sit with their friends and visit while cheering on the Lumberjacks.

These are some of our ideas. If you have any others, please let us know. Put these ideas in the Ask Lumberjack boxes that are located around the campus.

The bottom line is that ACC students must assume the responsibility for the homecoming activities and increasing the level of student participation in these activities.

## Calling all writers

By Colleen G. Steinman  
Polemic Advisor

Welcome to the Polemic's new editorial page. The editorial page provides an outlet for students and staff who have something to say.

It's place for people to talk about issues that affect ACC's campus community. Our intent is not to be controversial just for controversy's sake. Nor is it to be argumentative just to argue. Instead, we want this page to be a place where people can express a view, tell a story and share some of life's more interesting experiences.

Each issue will feature an editorial focusing on a campus-related issue. The page will include a variety of columns written by staff writers, the regular feature of Lumberjack Voices and, if there's interest, letters to the editor, point of view columns and editorial cartoons.

For this issue, Kelly Smith, director of LSSU's Alpena regional campus, shares a fishing tale from her soon-to-be-published book.

I encourage students and staff to submit pieces that are concise, well-written and relevant to Polemic readers. If instructors find a particularly interesting and well-written student essay, please encourage the student to submit the piece for consideration.

All pieces must be signed and include a telephone number for verification.

The editorial staff does reserve the right to reject material and edit for space considerations.

If you have an idea for an article or a question about submitting something for publication, please stop into the Polemic at 106 BTC or call me at ext. 264.

### The Polemic Contributors

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Entertainment Editor  
Sports Editor

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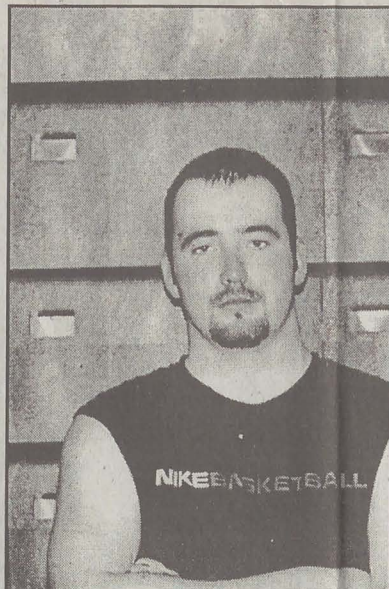
#### Advisor

Colleen Steinman

The Polemic is published on the first Tuesday of every month during fall and spring semesters and distributed free. Opinions expressed are strictly those of the writers. The Polemic welcomes all signed contributions, but we reserve the right to edit or reject material. Questions, concerns or contributions can be dropped off at The Polemic at 106 Besser Technical Center or call us at 356-9021, Ext. 264. Mail correspondence to: The Polemic, ACC, 666 Johnson St., Alpena, MI 49707.

## Lumberjack Voices . . .

What are you doing for  
mid-semester break?



Matt Indish

"Going to Tennessee to do some white water rafting, rock climbing and camping over night in a cave I'm planning to explore."



Jessica Wilcox

"Watching my son."



Mitchell Valentine

"Spending time with my family back home."



Emily Bruski

"Visiting the Canary Islands or the Virgin Islands."

## No fish license costs \$45; teaches a lesson in integrity

The following is an excerpt from the upcoming book "Fishing Tales" by Kelly Smith, director of the LSSU-Alpena Regional Site. Her book, a collection of short essays based on her fishing adventures and misadventures in northern Michigan, is nearing completion. It has been accepted by a publisher and will appear on bookshelves for the holiday season at the end of the year.

By Kelly Smith  
Contributing Writer

I keep my fishing license in an orange hunting license holder prominently pinned to my fishing belt. Ern makes me do this for verification purposes. Now you'll read the rest of the story.

It was mid-May of 1997. Pretty much the start of the fishing season for that year. Ern had been out a couple of times already. See, he gets "fishing withdrawals" come mid-April just as the last of the ice melts off the Michigan waters. I had reminded myself several times that I needed to buy my fishing license. I was going to stop one day after work to get it, but I remembered that I didn't have enough money on me to buy a license. I figured I'd buy it the next day (Saturday) because my paycheck was due to arrive in the mail.

It's early Saturday morning and Miss Lizzie calls me to see if I want to fishing with Ern. I get so excited - time to go fishing again - fishing time is here! I roll out of bed and get dressed quickly since Ern will be here in 10 minutes. I wash my face, brush my teeth, throw my hair in a ponytail, and I'm ready to go fishing - fishing time is here!

We set off, straight out of the harbor. It was sunrise. There's nothing quite like being on Lake Huron and watching the sunrise. It my favorite time to be out fishing. I still stare in wonder as I watch the dark night turn gray, then pink, then orange, and then light. I noticed there aren't too many boats out and I ask Ern about it. He says that for some people it is still too cold or they haven't got their boats ready

yet. Ern sets his autopilot to where he has caught fish earlier that week. So, we're out in the middle of Lake Huron with no boats in sight. We've landed a few nice ones, fish are hitting pretty steady, and the weather has warmed a little since this morning. Time to get out the boiled eggs for a morning snack!

As Ern gets the eggs from the cooler, I notice a little dot on the water far away from us. As I kept an eye on it, the dot turned into a boat. As the boat came closer, I noticed a symbol on the side of it. I said to Ern, "That's not a DNR boat is it?" Ern told me it could be and went back to eating his snack. I asked Ern if they ever stopped and he said, "Nope, they usually spot it's me and wave as they go by." Just then a pole goes up and Ern yells at me to get it. Meanwhile, ever since I saw that symbol on that boat, my hands started sweating and my heart started thumping in my ears. Ern can't figure out why I'm not pouncing toward the pole as I usually am, especially when we hear the ZZZZiinngg! The boat backs off until Ernie lands a 15-pound salmon. I was hoping they were turning, going back to where they came from - not a chance!

It takes Ernie a good fifteen minutes to land the fish. Throughout this time, I have a lot of time to think - to think about how I'm going to get caught without a fishing license! See, that's why my hands were sweating and my heart was beating in my ears. I don't know if I was more scared of the DNR fine or having Ernie mad at me and kicking me off the boat for the season. As I think back on it, I was more afraid of getting kicked off the boat for the season.

Now Ern prides himself of being in complete compliance with all DNR regulations. As the DNR boat drew near after Ernie's catch, Ern said to me, "You do have your fishing license don't you?" Now what do you say? So I told a little white lie and said I couldn't find it because I was in a big hurry this morning. You see, I was going to feed that line to the DNR officer and bat my big brown eyes (that's how I got

out of a speeding ticket in Massachusetts and it worked every time). The DNR boat drew within three feet. Ernie gives them a cordial greeting and asks them if they want to board. "No," they said, "We're just doing some routine training of our new employee here but we'll check your fishing license." My heart sank. Ern piped up and said, "She left her license at home." Then the female trainee said, "We'll take her license to copy her Michigan ID and verify it when we get back at the office." Then she put a Tupperware container in the net for me to put my driver's license in.

I was still hoping that maybe they would forget to check my license and I wouldn't get in trouble with Ern. See, I told you trouble follows me everywhere! We're fishing in the middle of nowhere in Lake Huron, no other boats in sight, and the DNR happens to pay us a little visit. Not only that, but they stop Ern this time instead of waving and going right by - what luck! It was a long boat ride back to the harbor with me not saying much. I'm wondering how I'm going to break the news to Ernie that I don't have a fishing license yet. I didn't mean to not have one, I just didn't have time to get one yet. I'm imagining the front page headline of the weekly local newspaper that prints just down the street from me: "Local gets fishing license revoked and \$45 fine for fishing without a license." Getting my fishing license revoked for the year would be a fate worse than death for me! So, I was very quiet on our way into the harbor. As we re-trailer the boat and headed for home, Ern says, "Now remember to get up the DNR office and show them your fishing license before my name is mud!"

I go into the house not so excited about the catch we had that day. I wasn't expecting to get "caught" by the DNR and I did have good intentions of buying my fishing license. I felt bad and I wondered what to do. If Ern finds out from someone else that I was fined, he'd never speak to me, never mind let me back on the boat. And remember, this is a small town, everybody knows every-

body. I mull this over for about an hour then I head out the back door to Ernie's house with as much courage as I could muster. (Maybe I should have thought to do the "girl" thing and cry, but that didn't cross my mind.) Ern's done eating lunch and I see him in the back yard. "You take care of that?" he asked. I look down at my shoes and say, "Well Ern, you're probably going to kick me off the boat, but I don't have a fishing license and I'm sorry I lied to you." Silence....then more silence.... (at this point I was squirming in my shoes).

"I didn't think you had your license; you're not a very good liar," Ern said. I told him it worked all the time in getting

myself out of speeding tickets in Massachusetts. I could see a laugh starting to come from Ern but he held it in good. "Am I kicked off the boat?" to which he replied, "I'll think about it, but next time I better see your license before you board the boat." My fishing adventure was the talk of the town for a week. And when the local newspaper came out I checked to see if a mug shot of me was in it. It wasn't, but I was sweating it!

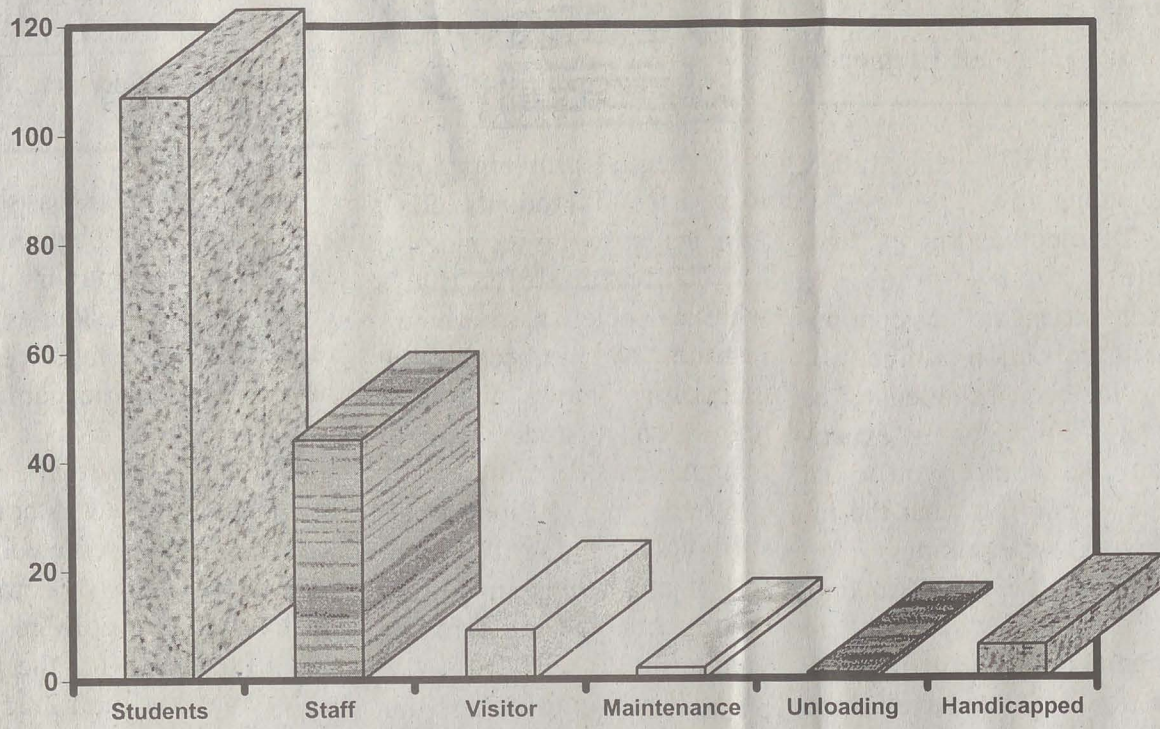
Well, 10 days or so went by before I got another call from Ernie. I showed up with my "proof of verification" which was my fishing license. I had placed it in one of those orange hunting license holders and pinned it to my back belt loop on my shorts. Ernie saw it and grinned. He asked me how much I was fined. I told him \$45 but that it was OK since we had enough fish in the cooler that day to be worth it. I asked Ern if he was still mad at me and he asked if I learned my lesson. I said, "Ya, that thing with batting my big brown eyes doesn't work anymore!"

"Don't be smart!" he said. "Throw the rope in a let's get going before I leave you there." Even now, two years later, Ern will nudge me each time we see the DNR and say, "Hey Kelly, there's your friend." So it looks like I've made friends with the DNR while learning a lesson in integrity as well.



Most students don't win when appealing tickets

### Number of Parking Spaces at VLH



## Trustees approve placing DEQ air quality monitors

By Liz Goeke  
Staff Writer

The Alpena City Planning Commission on Jan. 11 approved placing an air monitor on Miller street near ACC's East Campus.

For the next three years, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality wants to study the air Alpena residents breathe to determine its quality and measure any pollutants.

The DEQ will start construction on a concrete base for the air monitors as soon as possible despite the cold weather. The area will be no bigger than thirty square feet.

The college will be reimbursed for any maintenance costs and any injury that may occur.

When the study is complete, the DEQ is required to return the site to its original condition.

## Fee increase collected beginning this semester

By Nic Greenwood  
Staff Writer

There are always changes taking place at ACC. The college trustees voted in late 1999 to raise fees one dollar per credit.

These fees are not included with the regular tuition, but added on to a student's bill based on the number of credit hours each semester. The fees fund such things as registration, student services and facilities maintenance.

All students have to pay

the fees. They are on everyone's receipts, no matter if the student has a full scholarship or if he or she is paying out of pocket. So there is absolutely no student who gets out of paying these fees.

The increased fee equals to is one dollar per credit hour. To graduate from ACC you have to have sixty credit hours. So the added fee per graduating student is sixty dollars over the course of their degree.

One ACC student said, "I didn't even know about the new rise in fees." Most students responded the same way.

with help from Rich Grochowski, crafter of Kaiser Paul's ax. These men were assisted in their efforts by IXL, Inc.; the Hamilton Family; L&S Transit Mix; Thompson Sales and Service; and Three Rivers Construction.

Currently the giant doesn't have an official name but that may be in the works. According to Dr. Newport more finishing touches will include real logs for Paul to "chop" and outdoor spot lights so he can be seen clearly at night.

## Kaiser Paul towers at ACC

By Kim Hartman  
Staff Writer

He just appeared one day. He arrived on the back of a truck to fill a mysterious hole that had been dug.

Weeks of puzzlement about the purpose of that hole were resolved as a 30-foot lumberjack was welded into place. This new giant, Kaiser Paul, isn't really made of iron, but Kaiser automobile parts.

Our new giant has a long and distinguished history. He started life forty years ago at a Gaylord gas station and later moved to a real estate office in Grayling. Ten years ago ACC President Dr. Donald Newport, saw Kaiser Paul holding his post and thought he would make a wonderful addition to ACC as a symbol of the college's mascot and of the lumbering tradition of this area.

Dr. Newport said that over the years he talked several

times with Paul's owners about the college's interest in him. When the gas station decided to sell Paul, they had other offers but chose ACC because they felt he would have a permanent and meaningful home here, Newport said.

DeVere Construction of Alpena was instrumental in placing the giant. A crew retrieved him from his old home and brought him here to Alpena to be sandblasted, repaired and painted by Wilbert Sandblasting Co.

It took the efforts of many over the last year and a half to prepare Paul for his new job. According to Carlene Przykucki, ACC's director of public information, the coordination of this long-term project was accomplished by Mike Crick, special project director,

### ACC the Spotlight Series

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#### Tim Skubick

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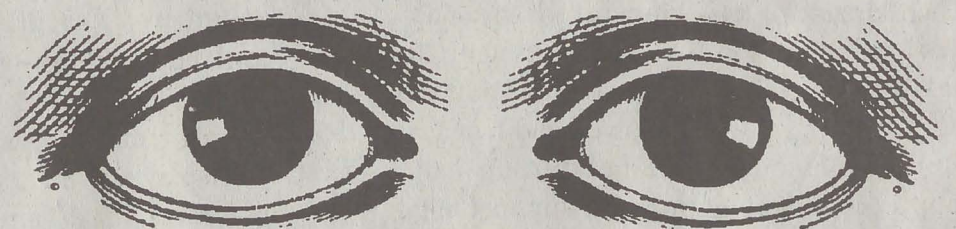


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- Pizza • Snack Items

## ACC explores on-line courses

Kate Splitt  
Staff Writer

Does anybody remember the Jetsons? Elroy and Judy would wake up in the morning, get dressed, have breakfast and then sit down in front of the television screen to see the teacher's smiling face looking back at them. Sounds pretty futuristic, right? Well, it's not. The future is here. We can not only do our shopping on the Internet; we can take college courses and even get a degree on our home computers.

Alpena Community College, along with other community colleges in the state, have joined together to create the Michigan Community College Virtual Learning Collaborative. After attending a seminar presented by this organization, instructors Terry Hall and Jeff Blumenthal began setting up a Language and Reason course which Hall says will be available to students as early as the fall semester. According to Hall, the trend toward Internet classes is new but growing rapidly.

"Five years ago, there were only a few classes around the country that were available," he says. "Now there are hundreds. In fact, I think there's a university that is totally on the Internet. It has no buildings. I thought that the Language and Reason course would lend itself to this kind of approach."

There are many advantages in taking on-line classes.

Because certain segments of the population can't attend regular classes, such as persons with physical limitations or family issues, the availability of classes on the Internet would accommodate these dilemmas.

"There was an effort that started two or three years ago by some individuals that were kind of pioneers in their field," says Jeff Blumenthal. "They wanted to take a look at distance learning. They wanted to utilize the Internet and web-based instruction because they saw this as the wave of the future. They wanted to make it so learning could be done anytime, anywhere."

Typically used by working professionals juggling careers and families, Internet classes provide the ability to upgrade training and, also, to pursue college degrees. The popularity of on-line learning has doubled the number of classes in the last year.

"One of the things I see, from a visionary standpoint," says Blumenthal, "are businesses and individuals [who] need continual training. That's not going to go away."

Not only can students benefit academically, on-line classes may be less expensive.

"Let's say, for example," explains Blumenthal, "you're a student at Michigan State University and there's a class offered at Lansing Community College, and it's being offered on-line, it's going to cost you less. The student could sign up for it, take it on-line and then transfer the

"This stuff is happening now."

Jeff Blumenthal

class to MSU. This stuff is happening now."

Blumenthal knows firsthand about being a cyber-student as he is continuing his education on-line.

"It's been a challenge," he says. "It's a lonely experience. Sometimes, you're out there wondering what the instructor was thinking. You wonder if the other students feel the same way about an assignment and there might be questions that you have for the instructor.

"Let's say I write the instructor about these questions. I might not hear back for a day or so, so you're kind of left in limbo. It's been a challenge but very enjoyable. I've been able to communicate with working professionals in different parts of the country, different parts of the world."

This type of instruction, however, is not for everyone. There are concerns about the isolation and the need for interaction with other students.

"I have to admit," says Blumenthal, "that being the so-called 'technological guru,' I'm still frightful of that type of atmosphere. It's very important to interact with people. You can't function with this alone. I see this as a potential for isolation if the individual doesn't have the development skills to express and communicate."



## No Y2K problems result of college's preparation

By Chanda Wekwert  
Staff Writer

So the year 2000 has struck and people have begun to relax. The newspapers have ceased writing headlines featuring Y2K and most people have forgotten the panic frenzy they were in just a short month ago. Now that everything has returned to normal and people have settled down, Lyle Beck, MIS director at ACC, said the college was "well prepared" for the possible dangers of the Y2K computer bug.

The beginning of 1999 signaled the start of a race to examine all 450 of the computers at the college for possible problems. Then again in December, with the last month of the millennium drawing to a close, all of the computers were tested again.

Through the course of preparing the computers, about 3,000 hours of other programming was delayed until after the year 2000. The programs delayed dealt mostly with account receivable and payroll revisions.

Exactly 90 computers were replaced during the year as they were found incapable of supporting the necessary year 2000 software. On Dec. 31, all of the computers were shut down in anticipation for midnight except for the Internet server; and early on the morning of Jan. 1, all of the computers were powered back up so they could be examined for

"The computers associated with the millennium but that everything 'worked out as we anticipated it would.'"

Another possible computer problem was mentioned during the board meeting, the unexpected arrival of a Leap Year this year. When Beck was asked if the computers would have a problem, he likened it to the earlier scenario of 9-9-99 and termed it the "Leap Year's Challenge."



## Life-Long Learners bring variety to course offerings

By Celeste M. Mertz  
Staff Writer

Over the past two years you have probably noticed many "older" students on campus. These older learners are most likely participants of the Association of Lifelong Learners at Alpena Community College.

ALL @ ACC blossomed when a group of volunteers worked together at a holiday function in December 1997. The group began talking about a pamphlet they had seen from the National Elderhostel which outlined some extended learn-

ing programs for various groups globally.

"It sounded neat," recalled Dennis Doubek, ALL @ ACC executive chairman. From that point on, the group worked long and hard to get the program off the ground.

Meetings with Chris Angel from ACC's Volunteer Center followed and by May of 1998 the new group had its first membership meeting.

Within the first year, ALL @ ACC surpassed its goal of 50 members with 168 participants. The group currently serves 205 people from many towns and villages in the area.

This special group offers year-long or life-time memberships at very reasonable rates. To join, one must be 50 years of age or older or a retiree.

ALL @ ACC offers a wide variety of experiences for its members. The group is involved in continuing education classes, out-of-door excursions, cultural trips, dancing, card playing, film series, travel series, and a vast array of other recreational and educational opportunities. Friendships, companionship, increased physical activity and social and intellectual gains are all part of the beauty of the group.

The program is run on its own budget with funds stemming from membership dues. Volunteers sit on the executive board, volunteers from the community share their expertise, whether it be from computers to history, by teaching classes, and volunteers from ACC support the program.

Doubek said that ACC President Donald Newport and the Board of Trustees at Alpena Community College are "instrumental" in keeping the program up and running.

Every three months the program changes, and more

new and exciting classes are introduced. The program is tailored to fit the needs and wants of older adults and strives for "continued educational stimulation," said Doubek.

Thus far, ALL @ ACC is quite successful. The continued dedication of all volunteers and participants can only make it more so.

For more information on the Association of Lifelong Learners at Alpena Community College stop by the Volunteer Center located in the Center Building.

### Attention soft ball players

Softball Coach Mike Wisniewski is looking for softball players. Any former high school softball players interested in playing for ACC's softball team should contact Dean of Student Services Max Lindsay in his office in Van Lare Hall or call 356-9021, Ext. 200 to leave your name and home telephone number.

## Alpena businesses feeling heat from little snow, snowmobilers

By Melissa Kennard  
Staff Writer

The weather outside is frightful for some area businesses.

With snow totals trailing a foot behind last year at this time, area businesses are feeling the pinch of a poor snowmobiling season. Snowmobiling has become an increasingly popular sport and the money it brings in helps to boost northeastern Michigan's economy.

Lodges, stores and restaurants are feeling the loss of business. The Little Town Lounge in Lachine is feeling

the effects of the lack of snow. The restaurant counts on snowmobile traffic from a nearby trail that hasn't been used heavily this winter, said Vance Mills, the owner's son.

"We have only had a few snowmobiling customers, really not enough to speak of, which has brought a decline in business," Mills said.

He also mentioned that the last three winters have been slow in the winter because of little snow fall.

Local snowmobile dealers Sports Unlimited and Great Lakes Sport Center also complained of a decline in sales.

"It sucks," said Chris

Yokey, owner of Great Lakes Sport Center, about the weather.

Doreen Kriniak, a co-owner/sales associate for Sports Unlimited, tries to look at the bright side. During the winter of 1994 it snowed on Nov. 15 and kept snowing. As a result, sales rose dramatically that year.

"If you say you are sick, you will believe you are sick," she said. "If you think the weather is terrible, in turn you will believe it to be."

Kriniak says people should stay positive; if it snows, it snows.

If not, maybe next year.


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## How accurate is the groundhog's shadow?

By Mary Beth Ponik  
Staff Writer

Did you know the most famous predictor of winter's end is a groundhog named Punxsutawney Phil?

For all but one day a year, Phil resides in a climate-controlled home at the Punxsutawney Library in Pennsylvania. Groundhog Day, Feb. 2, is his BIG day. According to the Punxsutawney Chamber of Commerce, on that morning Phil is placed in a heated burrow under a simulated tree stump on stage at a place called Gobbler's Knob before being pulled out at 7:25 a.m. to make his prediction.

The story goes that on this day the groundhog comes out

of his hole after a long winter of hibernation to look for his shadow. If he sees his shadow, the groundhog considers it an omen of six more weeks of winter weather and returns to his hole. If the day is cloudy and shadowless, the groundhog takes it as a sign of spring and stays above ground.

The Punxsutawney Chamber of Commerce reports that since 1886, the groundhog's seasonal forecasting accuracy is low. Phil's winter predictions have been correct only 39 percent of the time.

This groundhog tradition stems from similar beliefs of early Christians in Europe and their observance of Candlemas Day. For centuries the custom was to have clergy bless candles and distribute them to

the people. This day marked a milestone in the winter, and the weather was important. According to the Christian tradition, if Candlemas Day was cloudy, winter was almost over. However, if Candlemas Day was fair, the winter was considered only half over.

Denise Bazzett, ACC mythology instructor, considers the Groundhog Day story a legend because it is at least partly fictional yet told as if it were true.

"The origins of the story could possibly go back even before the Candlemas Day observances to some actual early myth regarding the seasons and/or fertility," Bazzett said. "I think there may well be a way to determine the season using an animal's shadow, but not by the simplistic way it's

portrayed in the media. As far as the groundhog's shadow predicting the length of winter, though, I don't believe it."

ACC and SAC student Catherine Gilmet said, "My husband's birthday is on Feb. 2 so I'm always aware of the day and whether the groundhog sees his shadow, but I don't put much weight into the prediction."

Despite his poor track record since the first official Groundhog Day in 1886, Punxsutawney Phil's popularity has sky-rocketed. The early observances of Phil's predictions in the late 1880s were conducted in private wooded areas neighboring Punxsutawney. According to the Punxsutawney Chamber of Commerce, today's Feb. 2 event attracts tens of thousands of curious visitors to Gobbler's Knob awaiting Phil's appearance.

According to WGKI FOX 33 meteorologist Todd Simcox, the validity of Punxsutawney Phil's predictions is definitely questionable.

"I, like most people, check out the groundhog predictions, but I don't buy into it," Simcox said. "I think it's just a novelty...something for people to talk about. The way weather has been lately, it could change no matter what the groundhog sees or doesn't see."

## Herbal supplements can cause serious health risks

By Lauren Beckeney  
Staff Writer

If you are using an herbal supplement as part of a New Year's resolution to achieve a healthier lifestyle, consider this: what you don't know can hurt you.

According to the editors of Consumer Reports, herbal supplements are hot commodities that have generated \$1 billion in revenue for many companies in 1999, alone. In a recent poll of 400 readers surveyed by Good Housekeeping magazine, 60 percent of consumers who use herbal supplements, never share this information with their family physicians. Of those surveyed, 61 percent believed that herbal supplements were beneficial and noticed a marked improvement in their overall health.

In order of popularity, the top grossing herbal supplements for 1999 were: echinacea, ginseng, ginkgo biloba, garlic, St. John's Wort, goldenseal and saw palmetto. St. John's Wort, according to herbalists, has properties that effectively combat depression. Another herbal supplement, ginkgo biloba, is said to improve memory as well as mental alertness.

Dieters have become an important target group in the business of herbal supplements.

The year 1998 saw the Food and Drug Administration ban the weight-loss combination known as "fen-phen"

(fenfluramine/phentermine) from pharmacy shelves due to the risk of potential heart valve damage and a condition known as primary pulmonary hypertension, or PPH. Panicking dieters, desperate to keep weight off that had been lost with fen-phen, flocked to herbal supplements containing ma huang, a powerful bronchodilator that not only elevates blood pressure, but increases heart rate.

Some herbal supplements have the potential to interact with prescription medication. A good example of a potentially deadly interaction involving herbal supplements, according to Consumer Report magazine, is with the prescription drug Coumadin and ginkgo biloba. The combination has the potential to cause severe internal bleeding when taken in tandem. Ginseng should not be used with any medication used to treat diabetes as it has the potential to cause blood sugar levels to dip dangerously low. Echinacea should not be used with drugs that suppress the immune system, as it may render those drugs less effective.

Many consumers wonder:

how can something natural harm us?

Some herbal supplements, because they are naturally occurring, may contain pesticides. Often it can be difficult to determine which herbal supplements are safe and which have the potential to do us harm. In some instances, consumers have been unaware of an allergy to a supplement until it is taken. And, like prescription medications, combining some herbal supplements has been known to be lethal.

So-how can consumers protect themselves?

If you take prescription medication and want to use an herbal supplement, discuss it with your physician. They know your personal medical history and can best advise you.

It is important to remember that the business of selling herbal supplements is just that: a business. Unlike prescription and over the counter medications, herbal supplements are not regulated by the FDA. Because this is true, there are no real standards to assure safety or quality. To put it bluntly, as consumers, we "fly blind" when we purchase herbal supplements in that there are no assurance of anything in this lucrative market.

How do I know which herbal supplements may be hazardous to my health?

Recently, the FDA received several reports regarding supplements that may be responsible to adverse reactions in some consumers. They are: yohimbe, ma huang, chaparral, comfrey, germander, jin bu huan, lobelia, and any preparations containing the combination of magnolia and stephania.

Herbs and herbal medicine

have been used for centuries, throughout the world. In the United States, herbal medicine is in its infancy, but research continues. In 1999, the National Institute of Health created the Office of Alternative Health, and operates under the auspices of the NIH.

While it may be tempting to medicate with herbal supplements, health and well-being is best left to the professionals.

## Proper treatment can help diabetics live long, productive lives

By Patrick Moore  
Contributing Writer

There are three types of diabetes that can be classified as type one, type two, and gestational mellitus. All of these are a form of diabetes and can have serious effects on the human body if left untreated. Even though diabetes is a serious disease, diabetics can live long and productive lives.

The first type is type one, formally known as juvenile diabetes (even though adults can get it too.) People with type one and type two did not catch this disease from another person. Instead, this disease is caused by damage to the pancreas. The pancreas is a vital organ which contains beta cells. Beta cells produce insulin, a hormone that helps glucose (sugar) enter a cell.

Sometimes, beta cells die. This means a person's pancreas no longer produces insulin. There are different reasons a person's beta cells have died, but for most people with type one diabetes, the immune system makes a mistake and kills a diabetic's beta cells. And without beta cells, the pancreas will no longer produce insulin, which in turn will allow glucose (sugar) to build up in the blood. When glucose builds up in the blood, it can cause two kinds of problems. One, the cells of a diabetic will start to starve for energy causing the person to feel tired and sluggish. Next, high glucose levels over time can hurt a diabetic's eyes, kidneys, nerves or heart.

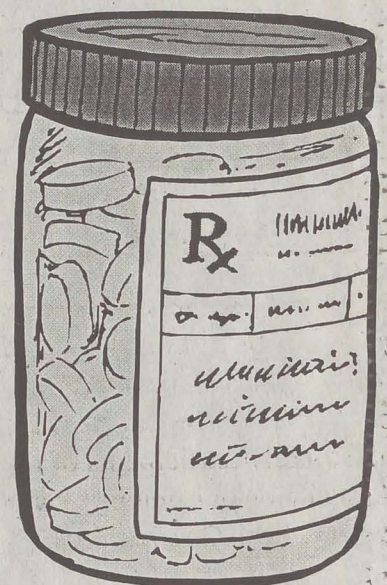
A type one diabetic must

take insulin either through injections or insulin pump. A diabetic must also change his or her eating habits. A good diet is critical for the diabetic. Diabetics must eat a diet low in fat with moderate amounts of protein and high in complex carbohydrates like those found in beans, bread and rice. This kind of diet pertains to both type one and type two.

Exercise is another part that is very important to a diabetic. It does not matter whether he or she has type one, type two or gestational diabetes. A person with diabetes must stay active as possible because this is another way the cells take in glucose. If the diabetic is not used to exercise, they should try a five-minute walk. Even something as simple as riding a bike can lower a person's blood glucose level.

The second kind is type two diabetes. This is where the person's body produces little insulin or the cells ignore the insulin. A person with type two diabetes does not require insulin shots, but may need to take a pill such as Diabeta. Once the diabetic starts taking Diabeta, his or her blood sugar will go down. This does not mean the person is cured. As with all diabetes, there is no cure, but proper diet, exercise and medication can control it.

The last category is gestational diabetes. Gestational diabetes affects about 4 percent of all pregnant women, 135,000 cases a year, according to the American Diabetes Association. Women who have never had diabetes before



but who have high blood sugar levels during pregnancy are said to have gestational diabetes.

Doctors don't know what causes this type of diabetes, but they have some clues. A woman's placenta, which holds the baby in place while he or she grows, contains hormones. These hormones which help a baby grow also interfere with the normal action of insulin in the mother's body. This is called insulin resistance. According to the American Diabetes Association, "Pregnant women who are 25 years or older, were overweight before they became pregnant, have a family history, and who are Hispanic, African, Native, Asian American, or a Pacific Islander should be screened for gestational diabetes between the 24<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> weeks."

If a person suspects he or she might have diabetes, it's very important to seek the advice of a doctor as soon as possible. Even though diabetes is a serious disease, most diabetics live long, healthy and productive lives.

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## Roots Rock Society brings crowd to their feet

By Jessica Rutan  
Staff Writer

An excited crowd welcomed the musical group Roots Rock Society to ACC's Granum Theater on Jan. 28.

The Chicago-based group combines African, Caribbean and American culture into one highly-energized program of music and dance.

The music has a reggae feel to it, but is much more than that. They combine many different styles in their music along with important messages of today. These included, "Cost of Living Going Up" and "Liberation."

They also played songs that got everyone up and dancing, forming a train for the audience to follow around the theater.

Guitarist/singer/songwriter Stann Champion, singer Jahkiya, percussionist Angel Luiz Bedell, and bass player James Cornolo form the group.

Champion founded the group in 1986 to keep his culture alive. He has been playing music since the age of 15. In 1981, he left his job at an ad agency in Chicago to play music full time.

Like Champion, the other members of the group also attended college.

Bedell was teaching nutritional chemistry in Cuba while playing. He began playing full time because music was in his blood. His dad was a musician and his uncle was a famous musician in Cuba.

Jahkiya began her career

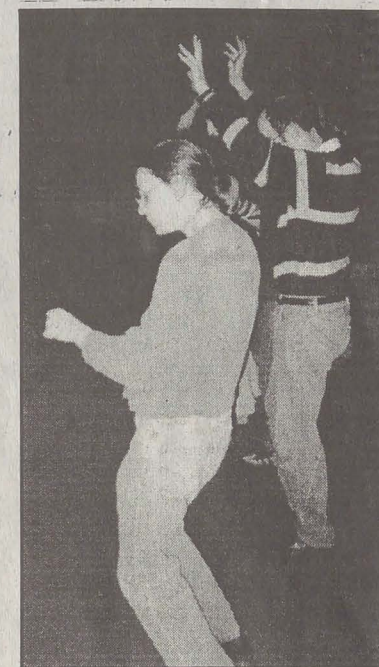


Photo by: Jocelyn Haske  
Roots Rock Society had the audience moving to the music.

singing in the church choir. She has been singing reggae for ten years and has been with Roots Rock for three years. She has a degree in music business management.

James Cornolo became interested in this style of music because he went to school

with a Jamaican singer at the Chicago Conservatory of Music. He enjoys reaching people through Roots Rock.

"Roots Rock is kind of political because we're a mixed group," he said.

Champion enjoys the diverse audiences they play for.

"By coming to places like this, I meet people I would never meet any other way," he said. "I get to reach out to all races and ages."

The band has gained worldwide attention with the release of two albums, 1993's "Bass Mint Sessions" and

1995's "Again!" They are currently working on a new album.

"Trends come and go, but culture is forever," said Champion.

The band can be reached at <http://members.xoom.com/iriemusic/>

## "Doors" labyrinths through author's mind

James Eaton  
Staff Writer

"If the doors of perception were cleansed every thing would appear to man as it is, infinite."

This fitting quote by Blake was used by Aldous Huxley to create the title of his book "The Doors of Perception." The book takes its reader down the spiraling path of Huxley's mescaline-induced consciousness, illuminating the reasons people can never truly share experiences.

Huxley enlightens the

reader by describing how most people perceive the objects in their environments as utilitarians, seldom taking the simple joy in those object's form, color, and texture. An example of this idea can be found in a portion of the book in which Huxley is looking at the objects in his home.

He writes, "I was looking at my furniture, not as [one] who has to sit on chairs, to write at desks and tables...but as the pure asthete whose concern is only with forms and their relationships within the field of vision or the picture

space...The legs for example, of that chair, how miraculous their tubularity, how supernatural their polished smoothness."

Huxley's writing style is refreshing and a pure delight to read, creating transitions from one point into another with amazing clarity and ease, giving

the reader the feeling of being inside the author's mind. A relatively short book, Huxley succeeds in saying in 80 pages what would take many writers considerably more. However,

this slows the rapidity of the reading down, leaving almost too much to digest with each page.

Huxley takes the reader from Buddhist philosophy to the "labyrinth of endless significant complexity" found in the folds of his gray flannel trousers.

Anyone who has ever wondered how great artists, musicians, the mentally ill or children full of simply blissful naivete might perceive the world around them would thoroughly enjoy this book.

## Reviewer's high hopes for "The Wood" dashed by boredom

Amy Wallot  
Co-Editor

MTV's "The Wood" shows the lives of three Inglewood, Calif., boys through their adolescence and adulthood.

The story starts with Mike (Omar Epps) and Slim (Richard T. Jones) looking for their

friend Roland (Taye Diggs), who has vanished on his wedding day. To help Roland with his cold feet, the trio reminisces about their first experiences with females.

With a backer like MTV, "The Wood" has the promise of being a hysterical movie that can go places that more civilized movie backers wouldn't dare. Unfortunately, that's not the case.

The flashbacks of the past contain the funniest scenes. Too bad they had to be interrupted by the present. Between the occasional humor of awkward teenage adolescence, there isn't much else. The constant jumping back and forth between the past and the present does not give us the chance to connect with the characters. Combined with one of the most boring endings of all time, "The Wood," while not completely horrible, just isn't really good.

MTV does provide a positive aspect to the movie. It does have a great sound track, featuring artists like DMX, Blackstreet and R. Kelly.

While "The Wood" has promise, it just doesn't live up to it. Stick to the soundtrack, and just skip the movie.

## "Nunsense II" audience rolls in fits of laughter

By Jennifer Werda  
Staff Writer

Nunsense II, the Second Coming presented in January by the ACC Players was a smash hit. The sequel by Dan Goggin to last fall's successful comedy played two weekends to sold-out audiences.

Directed by Sonya Titus, the play was filled with laughter until the last "Amen."

Linda Suneson, appearing once again as Mother Superior, scored with her one liners like, "I'd rather have a bottle in front of me than a frontal lobotomy." Suneson's facial expressions and body movements showed the energy she puts into her role.

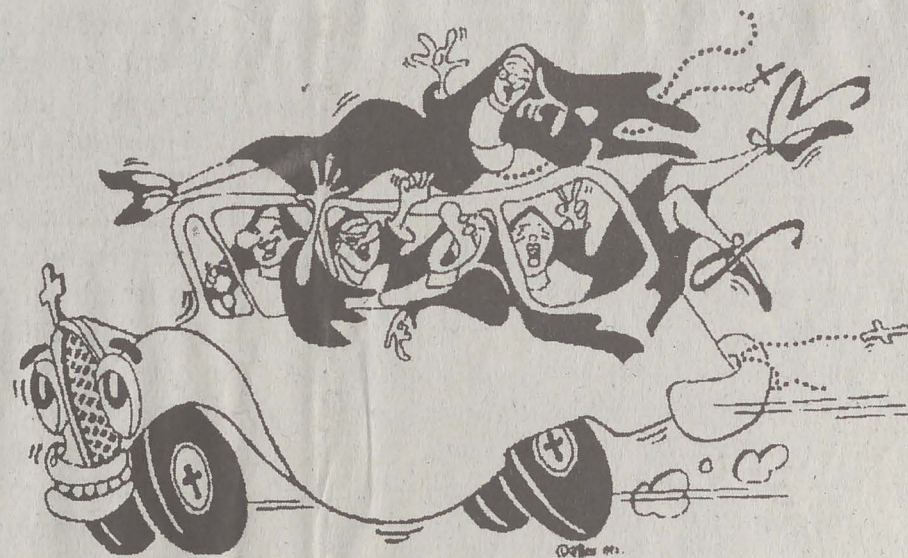
Sister Mary Paul AKA Amnesia played by Mary Broad was superb as the nun who has amnesia and tries to remember who she is through a psycho puppet nun. Alisha Cole who portrayed Sister Mary Hubert was splendid as the jealous nun under Mother

Superior. Marsha Hoppe played Sister Robert Anne, the nun with the shady past, and Heather Pines portrayed Sister Mary Leo, the dancing ballerina nun.

One of the hardest parts of comedy is timing including leaving enough time between lines to allow for audience response of laughter. During rehearsal, the cast has no audience to practice timing with. Even without the practice, the cast handled the timing like pros, pausing to allow just the right amount of time between lines for the audience to laugh but not miss the next line of the show.

Titus, the cast and all of the people behind the scenes of Nunsense II should be proud of their efforts on this production. The zany nuns left the audience crying with laughter and begging for more!

## NUNSENSE II The second coming ...



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## ACC Men looking to finish strong

Marty Mix  
Sports Editor

The ACC Men's Basketball team is already half way through the long 27-game season, but more importantly they are headed into a very tight second half of their conference schedule.

Going into yesterday's game against Henry Ford Community College, the Lumberjacks had an overall record of 10-9, and their league record stood at 5-4. The team's record has been up and down from the beginning of the season.

"We need to have five guys on the floor working together at the same time instead of just one person trying to take it on themselves while the other four guys just stand and watch," Head Coach Frank

McCourt said. "We need to have complete team play if we want to be competitive."

Alpena started off the season at 2-0, picking up a pair of wins from their first tournament at home. They defeated Sault College and Cambrium College, both of Canada. The team's record was evened shortly after that when they made the first road trip to Muskegon where they dropped two games to Muskegon and Kalamazoo Valley. Alpena then picked up two wins the following weekend back at home when they defeated Olivet's J.V. squad and Ancilla, a first-year team out of the Western Conference.

The Jack's winning streak was once again halted when they returned to Muskegon and lost a pair to Lansing and St.

Clair.

Going into the semester break, the record for the men was 4-4, with two games remaining before conference play began. Last year ACC dropped a game in the finals, and were hoping to redeem the title this year.

Things looked good as they won the first game, but they again faced a tough Muskegon team and lost a heartbreaker by three points to be runner-up's for a second year in a row.

"Going into the league, this year's squad, though they are young, could surprise a lot of people because of their talent and depth," McCourt said. "The conference is where we really see how good we are because the level of competition is so intense, and we play

so many games in a short amount of time."

The Lumberjacks currently are in a tie for third place with a 5-4 record in the Eastern Conference. The men have found it rough going in the league thus far, but are hoping that after six straight games on the road that they can turn it up for the second half of league play, and end the season strong at home and on a positive note heading into the playoffs that begin in late February.

"The team has the potential to be competitive and win the majority of the games remaining, but in order for them to do so they are going to have to pick up their level of intensity," McCourt said.

Six of the next seven games are home, so the rest of the season will be interesting.

## Tris pegs St. Louis Superbowl winners

By Tristram Coffin  
Staff Writer

### Wild Card

Ten. 22, Buf. 16

Was. 27, Det. 13

Min. 27, Dal. 10

Mia. 20, Sea. 17

### Divisional Games

Jac. 62, Mia. 7

T.B. 14, Wash. 13

St.L. 49, Min. 37

Ten. 19, Ind. 16

### Championships

Ten. Vs Jac. American League

T.B. Vs St.L. National League

### Super Bowl XXXIV 2000

Georgia Dome, Atlanta, Ga.

The NFL's playoffs are off to the races. Who would have thought at the beginning of the year that Tennessee and Jacksonville would be meeting up to decide the American League's champion and the right to meet in the Super Bowl XXXIV in Georgia

against Tampa Bay or St. Louis.

St. Louis' season is a complete surprise considering the loss of their starting quarterback at the beginning of the season and the unproven Kurt Warner stepping in, but if you followed this season's games you would have known he is this year's league MVP and a definite super power on the offensive side.

My prediction is Tennessee defeats Jacksonville for the third time this season in a close one (24-21).

In the other game, I have St. Louis defeating Tampa Bay in a blow out (38-17).

Now for Superbowl XXXIV. I have St. Louis still on a role and defeating Tennessee in a close battle (28-21).

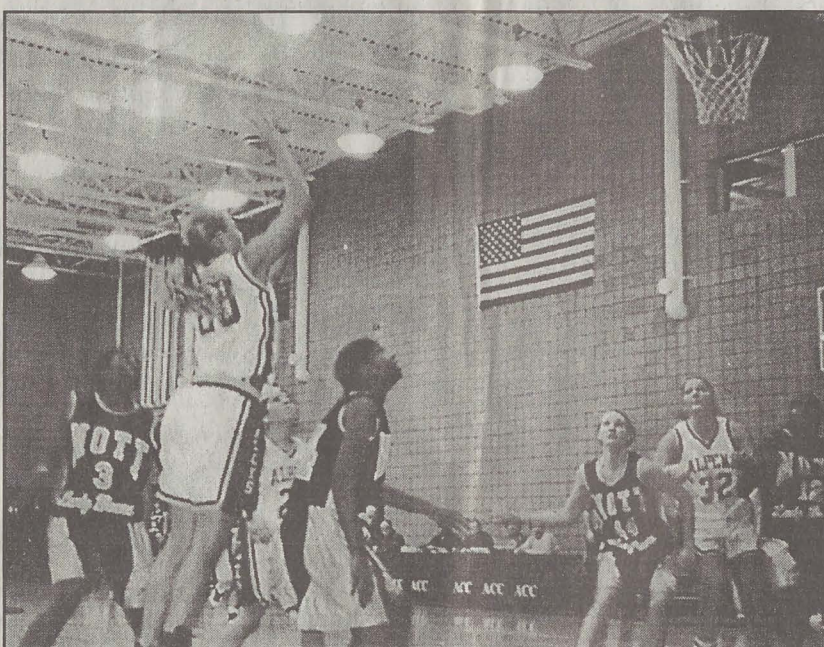


Photo by Amy Wallott

Freshman Angie Boutell (#20) takes a jump shot over a Mott defender.



Photo by Amy Wallott

Sophomore Gary Greenwood (#32) looks for a cutting Christian Adolffson (#34) during the first half of the Mott game.

## Balancing sports and school creates pressure for athletes

By Katie Rapoza  
Staff Writer

After visiting with some of Alpena's finest athletes, one quickly realizes that these athletes deal with a lot of pressure everyday.

Sarah Ellis, a freshman on ACC's Women's Basketball team, "said, "There is a lot of self-discipline."

Ellis feels pressure from school, making herself sit down and do her homework.

"You don't have much of a social life; the people you get to know about are your teammates," she said.

Angie Boutell is also a freshman on the team. "It's difficult to walk around knowing that I represent my college and community," Boutell said. "Being a role model is tough."

But women are not the only ones who feel the pressure. Men also struggle to balance classwork and team practice time.

Nic Greenwood, an ACC sophomore, said the balancing act is harder when an athlete is injured and misses class.

"You have to find time on your own to make up that work you did in class," Greenwood said.

Class and school is just a portion of their pressure. Other athletes added that living on their own and paying bills cause pressure as well.

## ACC Women play despite injuries

Marty Mix  
Sport's Editor

The ACC Women's basketball team has had many obstacles to overcome this season. They have been up and down with injury, fatigue and a number of illnesses.

The ladies started out the season with four tournaments, and three of them were on the road. The women dropped all four games in the first two on the road, but even more importantly they lost Marisa Fenner due to back problems. Fenner is scheduled to have surgery later in February.

They then traveled down to a three-day tournament held by Oakland. There were eight very strong teams there and the girls played very well. This time though, they were without sophomore Pam Rich, also out with back problems. The women beat Oakland and Sinclair, but lost to Lakeland. Their record stood at 2-5.

The next tournament was at home, and they lost their first game against Glen Oaks but beat Wayne County in the consolation game. These ladies had a tough week going into the game because of three straight days of exams, followed by three straight days of games in the Oakland tourney. They also suffered the loss of two more players. Angie Boutell was out because illness, and Laura Parks tore her ACL on her right knee. Boutell returned a few games later, but Parks is done for the season. She had surgery a few weeks

ago and is doing well. The women's team record now stood at 3-6 heading into the New Year.

Starting the New Year meant starting a very tough conference schedule. The Lady Jacks lost three in row, then picked up their first win against Macomb. They continued on their six game road trip, dropping another pair of games. Wayne County had to forfeit two games to ACC so their record was 6-11.

The women returned home, but things weren't about to get any easier as they were about to face sixth-ranked nationally, undefeated Mott team. The women refused to go down without a fight. They led the majority the entire game but Mott had too much in the end and came out victorious. The women played one of their finest games of the season, and have a lot of incentive going into the second half of their league season, Head Coach Mike Kollien said.

"Throughout this fast-paced season, these women have had to overcome many obstacles, and still try to maintain focus for the games remaining. Practice intensity has picked up these last few weeks and the girls have positive attitudes for the games remaining," Kollien said.

The women know that the rest of the season isn't going to get any easier, but they believe many of the goals that they set out for in the beginning of the season can still be reached, he said.



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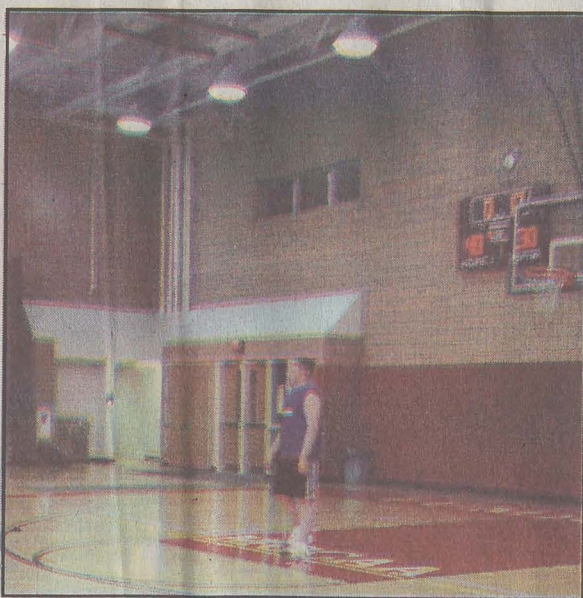
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# Resolutions: are they really beneficial to us?



Story by Heidi Skuse



Photos by Heidi Skuse

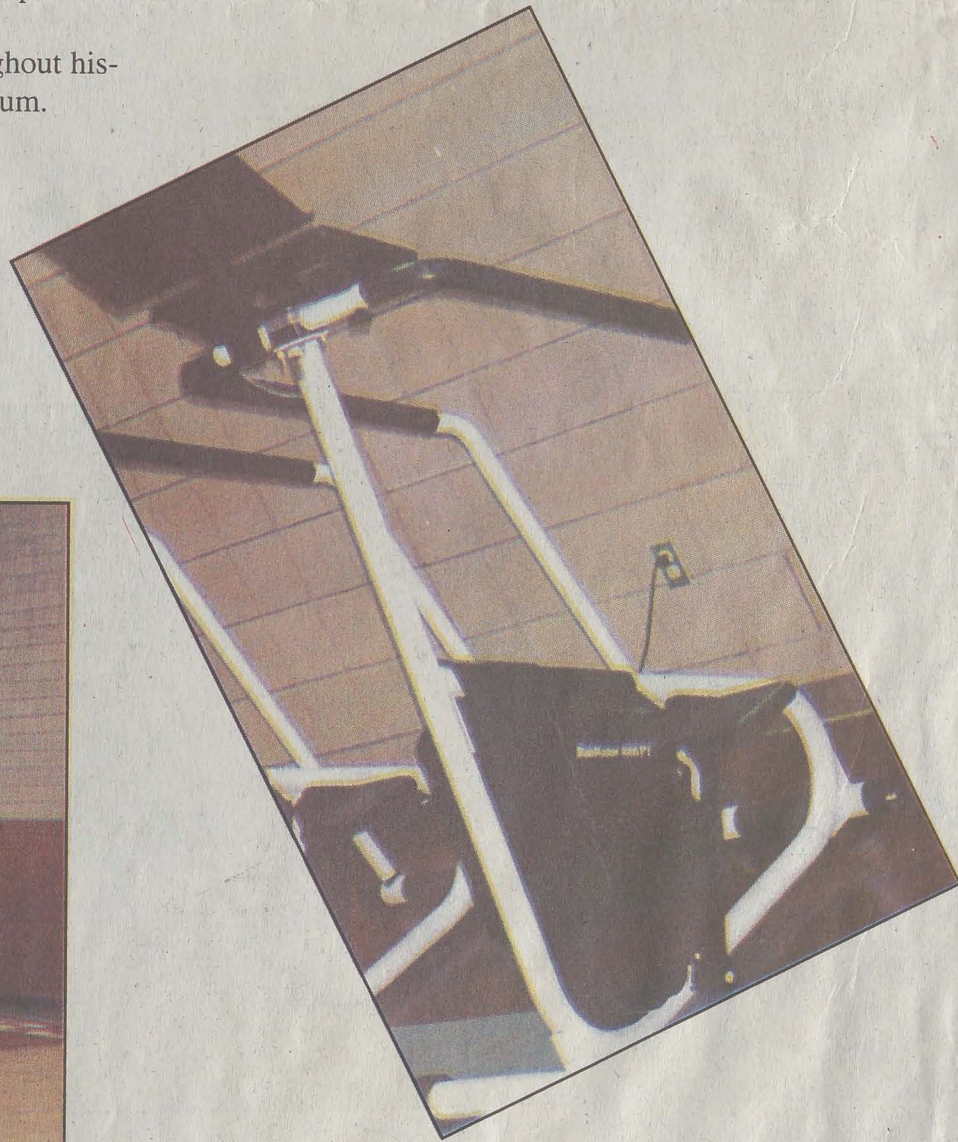
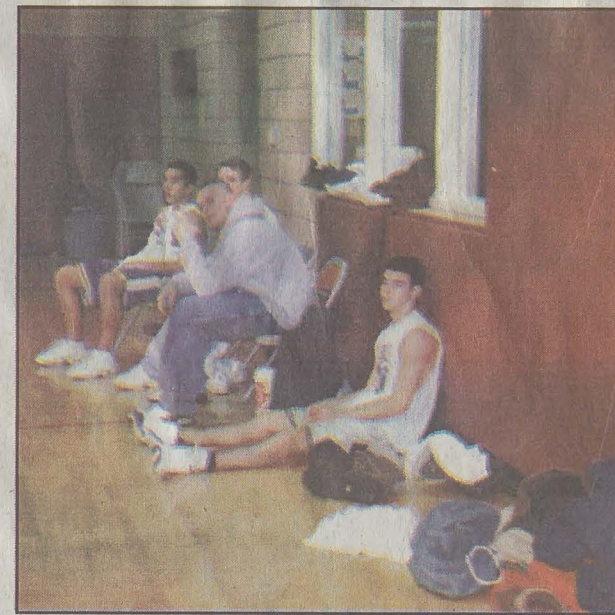
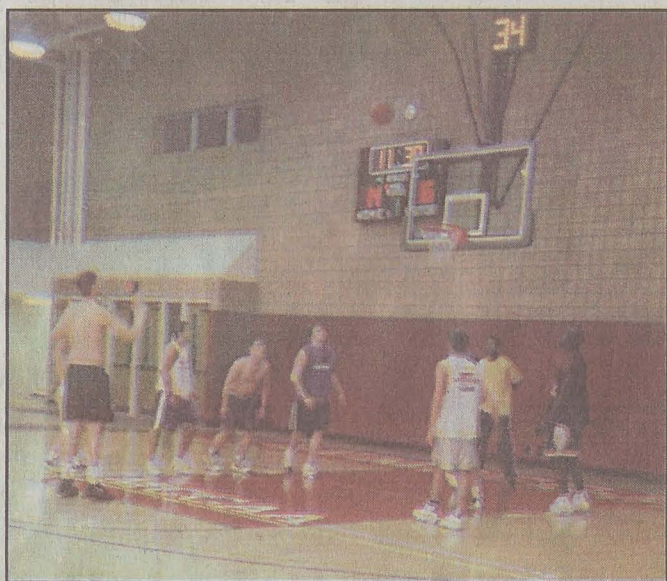
Resolutions are made every year as to what each of us want to change about our lives. The big hit this year was making a resolution for the millenium. Whether it was what people were going to change about themselves, add to their life or cut back on.

As many of us know, the great resolution is made every year and most of the time broken before a month goes by. The new fitness equipment that someone got for Christmas is left and either never used or used very sparingly. Some of it is never even taken out of the box; it just stays there and collects dust. Some of these pieces of equipment are even made into coat racks, book shelves, clothes hampers or even closets.

Some people decided to work out and to get in shape. Others decided to hang out with their friends more. Just because someone isn't in the ACC Wellness Center doesn't mean that they aren't working out. They may have just decided to work out in a different way. Playing intramural basketball is a great way to get your heart pumping.

Also, don't count out those referees. They're in shape too. They run just as much as the participants in the game, if not more.

Resolutions will keep being made throughout history, except that they won't be for the millenium.



# CALENDAR

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| <p>2 Financial Aid Workshop<br/>Posen High School Library 7 p.m.</p> <p>3 I.M. Basketball.<br/>Jeff-Kozak vs. Mike Kenney -- 7 p.m.<br/>Clay C vs. Rick Boyk -- 8 p.m.<br/>Andy B vs. Keith Van H -- 9 p.m.</p> <p>4 Deadline for Spring Semester graduation application</p> | <p>5 ACC Homecoming Dance 10 p.m.<br/>Homecoming court 11:30 p.m<br/>Lumberjack Basketball vs. Schoolcraft<br/>Women 5:30 p.m.; Men 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>7 I.M. Basketball<br/>Rick Boyk vs. B-Love -- 7 p.m.<br/>Jaff k vs. Clay C -- 8 p.m.<br/>Andy B vs. Jerry K -- 9 p.m.</p> | <p>9 Lumberjack Basketball vs. Wayne<br/>Women 5:30 p.m.; Men 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>10 ALL @ACC's A Focus on Africa's<br/>presentation of "Hyenas" 7:30 p.m.<br/>Free and open to the public.</p> | <p>21-25 Midsemester Break:<br/>No classes; offices open</p> <p>29 ACC Spotlight Series<br/>Tom Knific &amp; ACC Jazz Ensemble.<br/>Tickets at 356-9021 Ext. 373</p> |
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