

President Donnelly addresses millage election:



April 7 is another important milestone in the history of Alpena Community College.

That is the day when the registered voters of the college district will again be asked to vote on a 1 mill increase in taxes for the support of the college.

ACC faces the same financial problems that most educational institutions are facing - increased costs and decreased revenues. We have four sources of revenue - state aid, tuition, local taxes, and federal aid. A goal of the college is to keep tuition as low as possible. The local tax evaluation is decreasing as well as federal aid. State aid is increasing but not enough to offset increased costs caused by inflation, building expenses, and salary increases.

The college wishes to maintain its high quality instructional programs, maintain our current facilities, provide up-to-date equipment, and stabilize tuition rates. In order to do these things more income is needed in the future and the only source is through local taxation.

If one projects costs and income predictions into the future for even 5 to 10 years, one discovers that unless more money is generated through local taxes, the quality of the college programs will suffer. Tuition would undoubtedly increase. Purchase of new equipment and starting new programs would cease. Even some current programs might be dropped or curtailed. Needed facility repairs would continue to be lacking.

The cost to each taxpayer is minimal. A person owning a \$40,000 home would pay only \$20 per year increase. Only two community colleges in the state receive a smaller percentage of their income from local taxes than Alpena Community College.

If all of our staff and students will vote yes and encourage others to do so, the millage will pass. The last date to register for the election is March 9. Any person over the age of 18 is eligible to vote.

We hope all students will register, vote, and make April 7 a great milestone for Alpena Community College.

Charles Donnelly
President

Smoker's Lament

I follow the rules and obey all the signs,
But I simply can't quit, and I can't afford fines!
I'll smoke where they tell me, don't care where it's at,
But if I stop puffing, I just know I'll get fat.
I've read all the reasons, reports, and the scares;
I've survived all the comments, and stared down the glares.
Now, the nicotine's got me firm in its hooks.
I keep lots of spare packs, stashed in strange nooks.
I'm a victim; a junkie, quite helplessly bound,
To a habit that leaves me, when deprived, quite unsound.
I never intended to harm other souls;
In choosing to smoke I've paid many tolls.
But now I stand facing an additional charge,
Society decrees me— "Health Hazard At Large"

Ronni Stewart

Smoking violation penalties

The issue of smokers' and non-smokers' rights at ACC is still an issue. As it stands there are designated smoking areas and a policy of enforcement is included in the decision.

When a student is bothered by smoke in a no-smoking area the first step is to ask the person to move to a smoking area or to stop smoking.

The second step is a written incident report which is avail-

able at the Student Services Office. The report must contain the name of the violator, date, time, place, and circumstances of the violation. It is then submitted to the Dean of Students.

The student would be charged with a violation of the Disorderly Conduct Regulation. A hearing would be scheduled and the student making the complaint must appear as a witness.

The penalties for not comp-

lying with ACC's policy are:
1st. offense-Verbal warning
2 nd. offense-\$15 fine
3 rd. offense \$25 fine.

Letter from a smoker

To Whom This May Concern:

Sure. I smoke, but I've never forced a cigarette on a non-smoker. I've never told a non-smoker he can't enter my home, or ride in my car. (Most non-smokers wouldn't want to anyway — it's cluttered with empty cigarette cartons).

Smoking is still an individual choice, despite the health issue. Indulgers will continue to do so at their own risk, even if it means climbing three flights of stairs to a broom closet with an astray.

Perhaps in the near future cigarette sales will be made illegal and that presents a number of possibilities. Picture a seedy-looking character on a street corner whispering, "Psst-buddy, wanna buy some prime tobacco?"

Letters — Non-smoker disputes ACC smoking regs

Dear Mr. McCormack:

This letter is to protest the way that Public Act 198 of 1986, Michigan's New Clean Indoor Air Act has been implemented by the Community College. Specifically, I disagree with the designation of the student lounge-cafeteria-locker room in Van Lare Hall as a "smoking permitted" area. The way it is now, I, as a non-smoker, cannot purchase a soft drink or snack, have access to a locker, or sit at a table to eat my lunch or study without being in an atmosphere heavy with smoke and littered with smoking materials. And as a non-smoker, I have no where to go in Van Lare Hall with equivalent facilities.

P.A. 198 allows a "smoking permitted" area to be designated only on request. I am unaware of any student making a formal request for a "smoking permitted" area to be designated by the college. If no such request has been made, then there should be no "smoking permitted" areas.

If such a request was received by the college from a student, then the guidelines from the Michigan Department of Public Health Center for Health Promotion should have been followed. Namely that areas designated as "smoking permitted" include: outdoor areas, empty rooms, infrequently-used hallways, and other areas not generally used by non-smokers.

The lounge area can in no way be considered an area "not generally used by non-smokers". In like manner, to construe this area as qualifying for the less stringent Food Service Establishments requirements would be a terrible disservice to the non-smokers. There is nothing voluntary about my need to use this area for lunch (I carry my lunch), lockers, and study. Where else am I to go? The intent of the law is to (1) protect non-smokers from secondhand smoke, and (2) to generally prevent smoking in areas deemed to be Public Places. The College's action in designating the lounge area as a "smoking permitted" area upholds neither of these principles, and is in fact an insult to both the law and non-smoking students.

As we discussed today, rearranging the lounge seating and limiting the "smoking permitted" area to one-half the room is not an acceptable solution. This remedy is for "work areas" where smokers and non-smokers must be together in a single room. We are not workers, and smokers should be removed to the locations suggested - outdoor areas and empty rooms. There is no reason that non-smoking students should be forced out of the lounge area by your "smoking permitted" rules, which are contrary to the express and implied intentions of P.A. 198. This is not just a good idea, it is the law.

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