

Alpena Community College

Lumberjack

October 28, 1987

Doors Are Being Locked

Since ACC closed the Russel H. Wilson dormitory in 1985, there has been quite a problem with out-of-district students finding suitable housing.

ACC used to have an off-campus housing policy which required all landlords, wishing to rent to ACC students, to register by filling out an ACC Registered Landlord Application Form. There was also a \$10 annual fee to cover the cost of printed materials sent to interested out-of-district students.

At present, ACC just updates their listing of available housing and sends it to the students and the landlords are back to advertising in the Alpena News.

The dorm was closed due to lack of students. To increase dorm residency, Dean of Students John McCormack required all out-of-district freshmen to live in the dorm, this brought about a negative response from prospective students. The dorms were designed to house 240 students, and they have never been filled to capacity.

It is now the students' responsibility to find suitable

housing. One of the major problems for the students is the lack of knowledge about tenant/landlord rights. Some landlords are also violating tenant

rights by not following proper eviction procedure.

In one case, there was no written agreement between the tenants and the landlord, just a

verbal one. The city police answered a call to one of the housing developments where a disturbance was being created. The tenants were warned that if they did

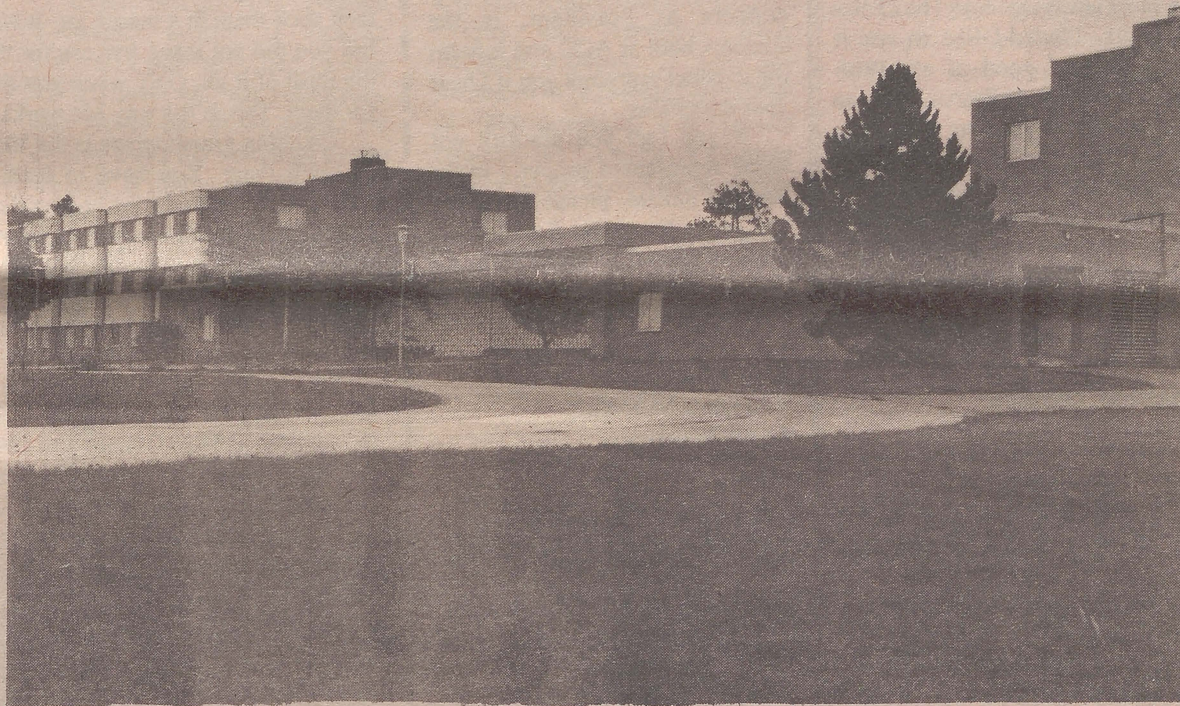
not quiet down or stop the disturbance altogether, they would be given a violation for disturbing the peace.

The tenants complied, but the landlord changed the locks on the doors the next day while the tenants were in school, which violates statute.

"Statute forbids unlawful interference with force or threat of force, dealing with the tenants personal property, changing locks, boarding of the premises, removal of doors, causing interruption of services or introduction of nuisances." A court case is still pending.

On the other hand, landlord rights are also being violated. At the end of the school year landlords are finding much of their property damaged due to the carelessness of many students. It is this carelessness that is prompting many landlords to refuse rental from college students.

Until these disputes are ironed out, the availability of student housing will continue to dissolve in the years to come.



Dorms

Should the Dorms Be Open?

Should the dormitories be opened or remained closed? When I thought about this question I decided that I would ask some of the students and faculty here at ACC what they think about this question.

Dick Miles, Physical Education Instructor: "When the dormitories were open, they were the heart of the campus and a catalyst for student activity. The dorms definitely generated a lot of enthusiasm among the students."

Miles also noted that when the dormitories were open more parents were apt to let their kids come to ACC because the dormitories provided proper supervision.

Miles stated, "There were also many foreign students who attended ACC because there was a place to stay. We had Arabs,

Micronesians and many others."

Frank McCourt, counselor and career guidance advisor was the supervisor of the dormitories before they were closed two years ago. He also had some insight to offer.

"I do not necessarily feel that reopening the dorms would help but," he added, "I do think the ultimate solution is to get some kind of student housing on campus."

McCourt does feel that renovation costs would be much too high to get the dormitories back into operation.

Here is what some of the students had to say about the dormitories:

Marla Spring: "When you first get out of high school it is hard to pay the rent, the bills and

go to school at the same time. It would be easier for the student if the dorms were opened."

Mark Larson: "A friend of mine is thinking about coming to ACC from Oscoda, but he might change his mind because there is no place for him to stay on campus."

Kathy Riggles: "I would not use the dormitories because I really have no need for them. I have a place to stay in Hillman."

Patricia Keleman: "Yes, because I came up to Alpena from downstate and I had no place to live. I think opening the dorms or some kind of student housing would be beneficial."

Anonymous Student: "Yes, because apartments are hard to find and in addition to the dorms being opened, there should also be some type of child care."

ACC's Flourishing Enrollment

Alpena Community College boasts the largest enrollment in its history at both the Alpena and Wurtsmith campus.

The college's present enrollment has increased 12.7% from last year's number to reach a high of 2,284 students. A total of 1,550 students are attending the Alpena campus, and WAFB students 734.

What is so impressive about these enrollment figures is that while the number of students attending ACC has increased by more than 12%, the number of students graduating from area high schools has decreased by 20%.

According to Max Lindsay, Assistant Dean of Students, the main reason ACC has more

students is cost. Because financial aid requirements have changed, students are not getting the money they need to attend a four-year institution. Therefore, Alpena students are switching to a lower-costing school and also saving money by living at home.

Student enrollment is evenly split between men and women. Men account for 1,108 of ACC students while women number 1,176. This is a change from other years when men outnumbered women.

College officials are pleased with the increase in enrollment and are working on fund-raising projects so that they can expand college facilities in order to handle the greater numbers of students.