

LBJ staff comments on issues

See you in Budapest

by Staci Radke
Editor

Around this time, many of us are turning our thoughts toward graduation and what lies ahead of us. One reason is because we all have spring fever (which I get in February, and we don't feel like being in class. We begin to look back at what we have accomplished here at ACC and realize what is ahead of us as well.

These thoughts cause me to recall a conversation I had a few weekends ago with a man named Tom, a member of the "Die Hard II" film crew. It was his last weekend here in town and he'd soon be on his way back to the Hollywood glitz and glamour. Our small town was probably just all in a day's work for him. Or, so I had originally thought. For the better part of two hours, we discussed life's most interesting and important lessons, travels, etc.

During this time, I thought of two key words which we all need to apply in our daily lives--discipline and self-motivation. No matter what we do, we must discipline ourselves. We need to force ourselves to write that essay due on Monday or send the letter we put off for two months.

Many of us have certainly learned what discipline is all about just by being here in college. Suddenly, teachers don't force us to attend classes or tell us to remember that our homework is due. As college students, we learn to do and act for ourselves, as opposed to high school, where we relied on others to remind us of what needed to be done.

Tom added, "you have your whole life ahead of you; you can travel or be anything you want to be--nobody has that power but YOU! Nothing should hold you back."

For most of us, this is extremely inspiring, since making a career choice is one of the toughest decisions ahead of us at the present time. We must believe in ourselves and be motivated enough to choose a direction and go with it, with nothing holding us back.

As editor of this newspaper, it's taken me a great majority of this year to be both disciplined and motivated! Knowing that this paper was ultimately my responsibility, I had to motivate myself to write, edit, assign stories, develop a 'thick skin', and many other tasks. Being shorthanded, our whole staff has had to follow discipline to the letter as well. The pressure of meeting the Alpena News deadlines is enough discipline in itself for us sometimes!

In addition, Tom told me of his worldly expeditions to places such as Mexico, Paris, and Rio. We sat and compared travel experiences. "See the world," he said. My next statement included something about money. He told me he went, on a whim, to Rio with a friend. Although he had no money, he said he was treated to food, drinks, etc. by the people there. "With personality and a little know-how, you'll make it."

As students, we are fortunate because many of us have youth on our side. We've all heard "if I knew that what I knew now and could go back and do it all again..." We shouldn't have to say that. We should be looking at life as a challenge, always going for one better, learning from the choices we've made up until now, both good and bad.

As for Tom, being older, he now claims he enjoys sticking closer to home; he's done his living. Through all his years of work, he did say that our town was the most open and friendly that he's seen. A nice compliment, I'd say.

Though all his travels, he stated, "if you never see anything else, see Budapest before it becomes too modernized like everything else. You've grown up in this town, now come back here if you want to. See what else the world has to offer, then decide. Don't just dream it, live it."

Tom, thanks for the 'words of wisdom', and I'll see you in Budapest!

Paying the cost?

by Staci Radke
Editor

Getting involved. Being concerned. That's the focus of the recent series of town meetings held in Alpena.

Sponsored by ACC, the Intermediate School District, and the Alpena County Library, the meetings center around issues of national concern.

Developed through NIF (National Issues Forums), the meetings present realistic alternatives toward a solution. Each year, NIF sponsors these meetings and chooses three topics for discussion. "The Environment at Risk" was the topic for the last meeting of the series.

One choice dealt with a plan implemented in California, called the South Coast Plan. This would ban the use of gas-powered mowers, and change various chemicals in products such as dry cleaning solution, paints, etc. to be more environmentally safe.

Advocates of this choice say people must make the environment a top priority and make changes in everyday life to help future generations. However, many are not thinking of those living hundreds, even thousands, of years from now.

One member of the group stated that when she moved here she could not perceive how we put up with the odors from the local plants. Many citizens would just reply with "that's just the plant," not thinking of how much pollution this adds to our air.

Another alternative, dealing with a "costs and benefits" solution, states that protecting the environment is important, but must be balanced with other goals as well. Supporters of this choice endorse plans to improve air quality, but advocate weighing the costs and benefits of these changes.

The third alternative dealt with putting a price on pollution. This idea would allow the government to put taxes on those habits that cause pollution. This choice says we should be given incentives not to pollute the environment. For instance, the cost of running a car could include a pollution tax. Rebates or rewards could be built in for driving fewer miles or buying a more fuel-efficient car as well. This choice combines elements from the first two.

Cindy Cook, home economist from the

Co-operative Extension and moderator of the forum, stated that "most participants agreed with the concept of setting up a system of rewarding people for being environmentally safe. We need to set up a system of what is acceptable and what we are willing to pay to make that possible. If I really believe we need to cut back, am I going to help to get rid of it (the problem)?"

[A follow-up study of the meetings will be held in April by Cook and Vernie Nethercut, who were both involved in the coordination of the meetings. They will discuss the effectiveness of these meetings and evaluate plans for the next year. Further details will be reported in the next issue.]

*****ATTENTION!*****

Earn Money from Reading Books!
Income potential: \$32,000/year.
For details, call (1) 602-838-8885, ext. BK 18475

ATTENTION:

Earn money typing at home!!! \$32,000/year income potential. For details, call (1) 602-838-8885, ext. T-18475

You're on the right track

by Karl Hardesty
Sports Editor

Well Alpena, here is a golden chance. A major industry could arrive in town. It would provide hundreds of jobs and bring in much needed revenue to our community. Yes, more money to spread around to our local merchants and services. Our college can graduate a large number of the skilled employees. Sounds great, doesn't it?

There is some bad news though. Some inventory could be dangerous.

However, Abitibi and Fletcher Paper use hazardous chemicals and Systech hauls toxic waste through our city streets. We seem to be accustomed to that, so one new "danger" should not be that bad. Besides, modern technology can keep a close watch on especially dangerous items.

All in all, this sounds pretty great, doesn't it? More jobs, more money, and that means more happy people.

You may ask what our local board and committees are doing to attract this new industry. The answer, next to nothing. You see, the

progressive members of our area who saw the benefits of this "industry" were beaten into silence by many who couldn't bear the thought of a prison tarnishing our community.

This issue was one used to help remove a gentleman from office who cared a great deal for our region and suffered because of it. Other officials are now weathering a renewed storm of criticism for supporting a prison in our area. Ladies and gentlemen, continue the fight to revitalize our part of the state. You are on the right track.

