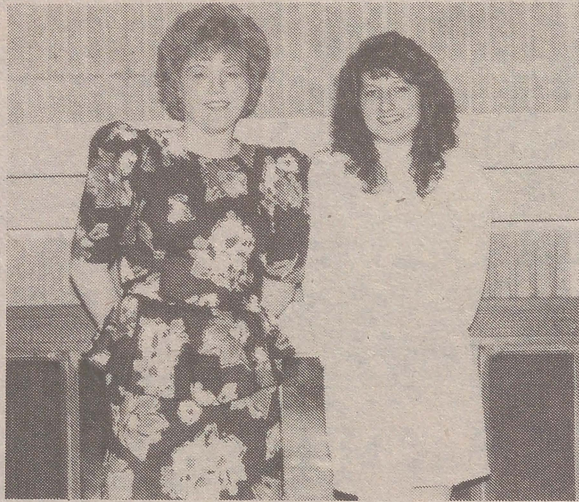


# Editors reflect on the year, express thanks, gratitude



by Staci Radke

Stress--if I didn't know the meaning of the word when I took this job, I certainly do now! Don't get me wrong, it has been a fun, and shall we say, interesting year. "Two ulcers, eight migraines (that's one per issue), and countless hours of tearing our hair out later," it is time to say goodbye.

It is hard to believe that it is our last issue. If you have never spent a weekend with us working in our office, you don't know what you are missing! If you can make your way through pizza boxes and donut crumbs to the light tables, you will see how we produce this thing we call a paper. Up until paste-up week, we are best of friends.

However, Tracey and I usually end up tearing each other's hair out and swearing we will resign. Of course it is all in fun, and when we see the finished product, it is worth all the efforts.

I call this a year of building. When I compare the first issue with the last, I cannot help but laugh (with pride). We have experimented with features, logos, and many other styles until we found something we were comfortable with. Call us unpredictable; you were always in for a surprise.

Now it is time to give credit where it is due to those people who helped pull this all together.

First and foremost, I must thank my partner in crime, the other half of the "dynamic duo," my assistant, Tracey. You picked up the slack when I felt like giving up; you were there to keep it going. I wish I could say more to let you know how much I appreciated your

determination and organization. No one will ever realize all that went on behind the scenes. I couldn't have done it without you.

John--although we were always at each other's throats, I do appreciate all your work with photos, layout, etc. I think you know that.

Ken and Vikki--thanks for all your layout expertise and help with making sure everything was in its proper place. Because of your skills, the paper improved greatly.

Ken Hubbard--for all the weekends you made sure the laser printer was in our office, all your knowledge whenever we needed it, and your smile when we were meeting a deadline. We needed more people like you! What a guy. Oh, one more thing, lunch anywhere is OK, as long as it's Chinese.

Mr. Miesen, my advisor and sympathizer--you were my "shoulder to cry on." How many times did I crash in your office with one problem or another? Maybe I should take lessons from the realists, not the romanticists? (see I remembered that much). You are one of the most understanding and compassionate instructors I know. I have learned so much from you in the past two years at ACC. To put it simply, you are the best!

M.K.--for your support, letting me believe in me, and an "I can do it" attitude. You were right, the paper got better and better. If you read this, I hope you realize all the positive things you have done, contrary to other beliefs. You taught me to follow my dreams.

Yvonne Swager (my ace reporter) and the rest of the staff--I am proud of the work you have done and what has

happened to this paper since the first issue. Thanks for all your extra efforts when we asked.

Carlene--thanks for all your newstips and facts all year long. You bring new meaning to the PR position.

Chuck Wiesen--one word comes to mind when I think of you--cooperation. Our reporters needed to have more sources like you, always willing to make sure stories were accurate and concise.

Dr. Newport and the publications board--thanks for giving me this opportunity to learn as much as I could about news in the past year. I appreciate the chance you gave me.

Mr. Witt--hey you! You are such a fun character. Thanks for your input all year. Your smile and occasional hugs were reassuring. You helped keep us going.

Karl--my lifesaver of a sports writer. You didn't miss too many deadlines. Thanks for your insight and humor. You enlightened our sports page and our office. Such a sweet person.

And, last but not least, Sonya Titus--what would we have done without you? Being a "new kid on the block," you helped us tremendously! We improved in so many areas; I hope you are proud. You have been a joy to work with. Good luck in the fall.

By now, you must see that this paper is about teamwork. No one could do it alone. All our skills together made this paper successful.

I wish my successor only the best of luck next year. May you enjoy it as much as we have and only improve on this foundation.

To close, I won't say goodbye, only til we meet again; or in this case, til I work with Mitch (Albom), whichever comes first.

by Tracey Barraco

Well readers, now that the end of the year has come, it is without any reservations that I can say "Thank God!"

There were many ups and downs, good times and bad, but through it all, I learned a lot about what I'm capable of doing and what it takes to put this "nightmare" called the Lumberjack together each month.

Through it all, there were many people who helped to make the bad times bearable.

First and foremost, I'd like to thank Staci, "my boss" for "getting it together". Thank you for trying your best not to fall apart when the paper needed you most. I'm amazed that we're still friends even though you type faster than I do.

Next I'd like to express my deepest admiration/appreciation for Ken Hubbard. Without you, this paper would never have gotten to the printer on time. All of the time and energy you put into helping us meet deadlines just goes to show what a great person/friend you are. Chinese anyone?

John, contrary to popular belief, thank God you came back! You're a lifesaver and without your expert layout and "technical advising" abilities, as well as your writing and photography skills, the paper wouldn't have progressed as far as it did.

Sonya, what can I say? You are a great advisor, that is, for a so-called "beginner". You gave us direction when we were wandering about without a "purpose". You were just what we needed to get on our feet again.

Mr. Miesen/ past advisor/ present sympathizer, "Thanks fer yer support!" You are the most caring instructor that I've met at this institution and I'd like to take this time to

thank you for all of your help, advice, and just for being there when Staci and I felt like tearing each other's hair out.

Don Witt- Hey Dude! What's shakin? I just want to tell you that I really appreciate all of your help with our "weekend work" and to let you know how much I appreciate your smile and occasional whistle. It's nice to know that there is always someone here who can brighten my day with just one smile.

Max- thanks for taking the time to approve our many requisitions ASAP, not to mention those from our petty cash fund, whatever they were for.

Yvonne- You're the best darn news reporter at ACC! All of your hard work on the paper is really appreciated and thank you for being there to take on "just one more story".

Jay McDonald- thank you for all of your hard work on "last minute stories". Of all of the "filler" ever produced, yours is the best!

Dean Davis- I'd like to thank you for helping to create as many journalism classes as is humanly possible. I really have learned a lot.

BTC Snack Bar Staff- Thank you for feeding me in my dark times of starvation. Oh, one more thing, "Can I cash a check?"

I'd also like to thank the Lumberjack staff writers from both this semester and last. Without you, we'd have no copy to print.

Last but not least, I'd like to thank ACC for giving us new and interesting stories to cover. Without that I would not have a job (or my ulcers!).

As I embark on bigger and better things at Ferris State, I would just like to wish next year's Lumberjack staff the best of luck. We're outta here!!!!!!

## Lumberjack Staff:

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