

ACC's ability to meet need of diverse student population in question continued from page one

While interviewing Miss Bazzett, an English professor here at ACC, we had a chance to talk about faculty representation. She shared an interesting theory; "Our student's cultural diversity and the different minority groups should be equally represented in the college's full time staff." For example, if 6% of our student body were African American, than about 6% of our full time staff would be African American. In our situation, we would have African American teachers, Spanish or Latino teachers, and maybe some European teachers. The idea is to have people on staff that can directly relate to different cultural backgrounds. It also allows students to feel more comfortable knowing there are mentors who understand where they are coming from.

Step back for a moment and ask yourself: what is the overall purpose of a college or educational institution? Bazzett commented on how education is supposed to broaden student's perspectives on the world and its many cultures but more importantly to bring those cultural perspectives into the classroom. And we do this through staff and students.

Jesse Christopherson is a 19-year-old sophomore majoring in Engineering. He was born and raised in Alpena, Mi. He shared how Alpena is a predominantly white community with relatively few minority groups living here.

"All though there are

a few, for the most part, kids grow up here and have little interaction with a variety of different cultures. In Alpena, people don't get exposed to different viewpoints, ideas, and approaches that come with having a culturally diverse faculty."

Many kids who grow up in Northern Michigan, and attend ACC, will likely be transferring to a bigger school down state or even out of state. The fact is, in a school like U of M, there are huge amounts of students from all over the world. This means a students body full of different backgrounds, lifestyles, ways of doing things, languages, and ways of living life. Having a culturally diverse faculty here at ACC would help students become aware of all together.

Lacking diversity in school has an effect on students transferring from larger cities, or from areas with more diverse populations. Two African American students were able to share their thoughts and feelings on the issue at hand.

Matt Harrington is from River Rouge, Mi. He's a freshman majoring in Electrical Apprenticing. Broderick Knight is from Detroit, Mi. He's a freshman majoring in Auto Engineering.

When asked what their initial reactions were after being here for a couple of weeks, Matt described it as being very different from back home.

"In River Rouge, the majority of people were African American, and then all of a sudden, there's not as many."

Broderick just thought of it as a whole new

experience; something that would be completely different from back home. While chatting with these two, they shared how easy it is to see the surprise in people's eyes and facial expressions. Although there has been no real discrimination they've faced at school, they still notice some people are still just a little hesitant at first, before saying hello or talking. It's almost like there's a natural pause at the time of initial contact. This isn't necessarily a bad thing. It's primarily due to the limited exposure and interaction

most people have had with African Americans, here in Alpena and surrounding areas. It's still a rather new site to see African Americans at school.

Bobby Allen is the only African American on staff. He's the Men's Basketball Assistant Head Coach and is involved in helping students on and off the court. Matt commented that having a more diverse

staff would provide teachers who would understand them in a more personal way.

"It wouldn't be such a new thing to have an African American in class." Allen said.

Broderick shared how overall, most people look at African Americans as being different. But like everyone else, they too, want to have a sense of belonging. Everyone wants to fit in. One

thing Broderick noticed was when people see you, they automatically assume that you're here to play ball, but the fact is, there are two African Americans here who aren't.

New Alpena Statistics

TRACI SOBEK Staff Writer

Change. That's one thing that always stays the same in life. Everyone can name something personal that has changed in the last ten years. In the community, things have also changed over the last ten years. Not only have businesses and buildings changed, so have the statistics of Alpena County.

Alpena County is approximately 574 square miles with 55 people per square mile. The 2000 census showed that approximately 31,314 people reside

here. That is a 2.3 percent difference from the 1990 census. In the 2000 poll, females out number males by 868.

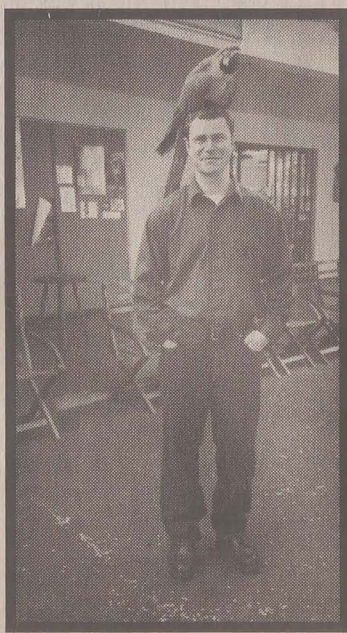
Caucasians make up nearly 98.2 percent of the population. People of two or more races are 0.7 percent of the community. Four-tenths of a percent of Alpena is American Indian and Alaska Native. Alpena also consists of Asian (0.3 percent), African American (0.2 percent), Native Hawaiian (0.1 percent) and other races (0.1 percent).

High school graduates ages 25 and over, make up about 47 percent of Alpena's population. How-

ever, only 7 percent of those people are college graduates.

Over 1,000 people are unemployed in Alpena. Almost 18,000 are employed either full-time or part-time. The average earnings per job are about \$24,000.

These are only a few of the many statistics of Alpena. Will these numbers increase or will they decrease? We will find out in 2010.



JENI MANNING Staff Writer

Tom Ray, an English Professor at ACC, traveled to Brazil over the summer. Throughout his travels, he learned about the economics, history, education, business, family, and social life within the country of Brazil.

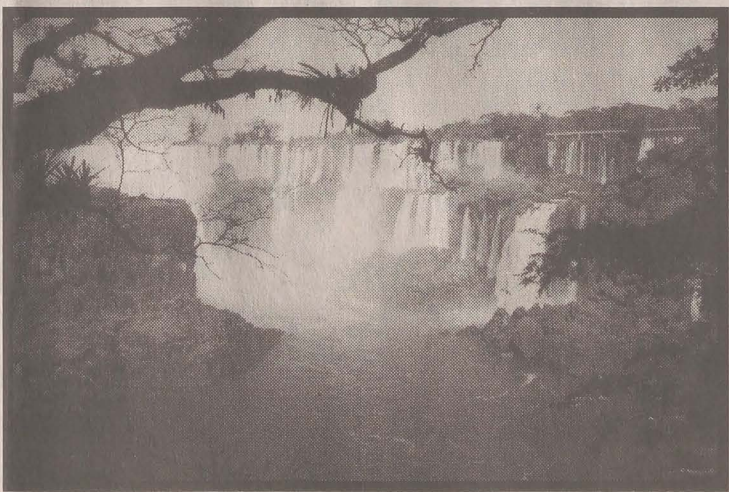
Ray applied for the Global Studies Exchange sponsored by The Rotary International. To his surprise, he was accepted along with two other people from this area and two from Lower Michigan. The Rotary International for Professionals accepts people between the ages of twenty-five and forty to participate in the cultural exchange. Through the exchange, the nominees are sent to learn more about another culture. In return, Brazil sent people to The United States.

Ray and the other four participants left for Brazil on May 1st and returned May 29th. In order to communicate with the people, he had bought cassettes to teach himself Portuguese. The group stayed in the state of Parana. They traveled to nine different cities within Parana. Each city was different due to its size and population. Parana is located in Southern Brazil and according to him it is like Southern Florida.

Each new city meant a new family to stay with. The chosen families were all upper-middle class families. During the interview the question about comfort arose and he said, "The families were very warm and friendly. They were very inviting." According to Ray the most difficult part of staying with

entire structure is made of steel and glass. The opera lies in the middle of a park.

Out of all the places he visited, there were three which he found the most memorable for their beauty. The first, Foz do Iguazu, meaning mouth of the river, was ultimately beautiful according to Ray. This



the families was that many spoke little English.

Throughout his stay in Brazil, Ray visited many areas and cultural landmarks. He toured a number of small museums, factories, and industries. In response to the question about the factories he stated, "They are similar to ours, they are technical and modern." The group visited many tourist parks and architectural landmarks. Of these, the Wire Opera caught his eye the most. It is an indoor opera with a steel frame and glass walls. The

waterfall is the largest in the World. As stated by Ray, six times the volume of Niagara Falls passes over the Foz Do Iguazu falls each minute. The second, Vilha Velha, is another one of Brazil's most famous landmarks. It lies in the city of Ponta Grossa. The third most memorable landmark was Ilha do Mel, meaning Island of Honey. On this island no motorized vehicles are allowed. All travel is done by foot, on sandy paths. During his description of the island, he compared it to Mackinac

Island, because of its tourism industry. Ray viewed these places as "magnificent beauty".

The question arose about the similarities and differences between the U.S. and Brazil. In response to the question Ray stated that we are alike in many ways. He defined the biggest difference as our attitudes. The people of Brazil are warm, friendly and inviting. Americans tend to be colder, even arrogant. Brazil patterns their democracy around ours, creating even more similarities. Brazil, like America, is centered on many different ethnicities. One other major difference spoke of by Ray was the amount of meat they consume, at least twice as much as Americans.

When asked if he would ever return to Brazil, Ray stated, "In a heartbeat." In fact he is planning to return during the summer of 2003, to teach at a University in Brazil, Univeidade Estadual de Ponta Grossa. He is excited about this opportunity. He stated that if he weren't going to China this summer to teach at Beijing University, he would be in Brazil.

Halloween Dance Oct. 26th at the East Campus. Held by the Student Senate. Have a "ghoul" of a good time!

Voter Registration Oct. 8-10 at the Van Lare Hall and in front of the library. Make your voice heard.

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