

STUDENT POPULATION CLASHES WITH LOCAL POLICE FORCE

JOBETH JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Many students complain that the Alpena Police have nothing better to do than sit around and hand out tickets and MIP's. Some say the police are rude and gruff. Is this true?

Sergeant Phil Wisner, one of the senior officers at the Alpena Police department, said that ACC students have a misunderstanding of a cop's rights. The police have laws they need to enforce. They aren't sitting on every corner just waiting for students to do something wrong. He said that the police have to check out complaints of loud parties and are out there to protect students.

Sergeant Wisner has recently become involved in the D.A.R.E. program, giving him an awareness of drugs in the area.

He said that he has noticed an increase in binge

drinking and in the use of drugs, but that these things go in cycles. Wisner said a lot of students don't use common sense in this area and they need to.

Sometimes an officer will berude and blunt because he is in a hurry. Wisner stated that many times you don't know where the officer has come from. They could have just come from a suicide or maybe the officer had a call come in and needs to speed things along. The police are very busy and don't have time to waste.

Patrol Officer Lee Grant, the youngest officer, said that he didn't think college students were a big problem other than the occasional loud party. The major problem that he saw was that students tend to have preconceived ideas about the police, "they think we're out to get them."

Grant said the police check out parties because of complaints, not

to shut down the party. He said they patrol the area because the college staff asks them to. The police aren't above everybody. They're there to serve and protect. He also stressed that police do not have quota. There is no such thing as having to hand out a certain amount of tickets each day.

Alpena students think otherwise. Kelly Potter, a sophomore, said that compared to other small towns, the Alpena Police are much more aggressive. She understands they're just doing their job, but notes that her only speeding ticket was from Alpena.

Jesse Harvey said he thought the cops goof off some. While pulled over for not wearing a seatbelt, he says the cop searched the car. Upon finding Jesse's girlfriend's bra, he waved the bra around at the other cop. Jesse thought the cop should have acted more mature.

One student, who

wished to remain anonymous, said that the cops "sucked". He said he was walking home one night because he was drunk. A cop picked him up and took him to the station. No MIP was issued, but the student stated that he still wasn't fond of the police.

Several students told of being pulled over for no apparent reason or for something really off the wall. Josh Kumrits, another sophomore, said he was taking home seven friends from the basketball team after band practice when a cop pulled him over.

The officer said Josh had swerved over the right white line on the road and then asked for I.D. from everyone in the car and if they had been into any trouble that night. Josh, plus three others, had no I.D.

The officer decided to let them go after the group rapped a song for him. Josh and his friends think the real

reason they were pulled over was because everyone in the car was a minority.

One ACC student is in the process of seeking legal justice from the cops. In an incident three years ago, the student was pulled over for a broken taillight when the cop became aggressive and searched the truck with no warrant. He ended up busting the back of the truck and hitting the student's friend in the back. No Miranda rights were read and the student was interrogated.

All of this was caught on videotape, but the Alpena Police protected their own. The state police said there was enough evidence to show the student was telling the truth about the incident, but nothing was done about it.

Instead, the Alpena police have watched the student's house, pulled the student over for no reason, and followed the student around town. This has been

going on for the past three years and nothing has been done in the student's favor.

When Sergeant Wisner and Officer Grant were asked what could be done to improve the relationship between cops and students, the responses were similar.

Wisner said if anyone had a problem with an officer or just wanted to ask a question, they could. The building is open to the public. Wisner said that he enjoys young people and thinks they have a lot to share with the future. Just use common sense. He said to stay in college and "hold on tight to your dreams."

Grant said people can always call the station with questions. The police are more than willing to help. He said to have respect for your neighbors and don't get out of control at parties. He stated that most college students are ambitious and trying to better themselves.

STUDENT SENATE OFFERS MORE

DAVID CABLE
Staff Writer

Our college's student senate is working to bring forth many new events and activities. Entertainment, sporting activities, instructor of the year, and student concerns are things that our student senate is working on.

Student senate is working on several additions and activities for the college this year. This year, A.C.C. will host the first annual ball, called the "Spring Formal". The gathering will take place on Saturday, April 20th, and will take place at the Alpena Civic Center. You can likely expect a live band, a DJ, and playing of softer music. There will likely be something to suit everyone's tastes. The "Spring Formal" is something that hopefully will be an ongoing tradition, and people are encouraged to attend.

Soccer fans, you probably know that this year the college had a successful soccer team, but will it remain? Following a great year of soccer, student senate vice president Ryan Townsend says that the team will "certainly be continued". Some of the teams you can look forward to watching Alpena play will include Delta College, Oakland Community College, and Lansing Community College. Interested players can contact Ryan Townsend at 356-1214, or Max Lindsay for more information.

If activities like backpacking, skiing, snowboarding, and camping

sound fun to you, then A.C.C.'s new addition will be a pleasant surprise. After conducting a poll, student senate found that a bike and boot club would be the most popular addition to A.C.C. athletics. Full time and part time students are all welcome to join bike and boot. For further information you can contact Matt Dunkel, Jim Berles, or Ryan Townsend. Also be advised that you will be able to find out updates on such activities on new televisions that will soon be located in the "Lumberjack Shack".

Those of you that might have been around A.C.C. while may have wondered what happened to Instructor of the Year. Student senate President, Cristie Neubert, would like to see instructor of the year as a twice a year tradition. If you are interested who will be awarded for this year, you can find out who gets the semester titles on awards night in April.

Besides activities and events, student senate also pays a lot of attention to the concerns students may have. One concern student senate is currently looking into is the Van Lare Hall parking situation. Neubert says that student senate is "exploring the possibility of expanding Van Lare Hall parking". Student senate listens and incorporates student ideas and concerns as much as possible. Students are always welcome to stop by the student senate office, or call at 358-7287.



Alpena says goodbye to Quality Farm and Fleet
Photo by Joshua M. Bragg

Farm and Fleet Out; Tractor Supply In

BRANDIE KOLNOWSKI
Staff Writer

Alpena's Quality Farm and Fleet closed its doors for good on Wednesday, February 20, 2002. A new store will be reopening in its place, the Tractor Supply Company.

About 3 years ago Quality Farm and Fleet bought a chain of Country stores in the south part of the United States that was in the same situation that they're in now. They were in debt. Quality figured that buying the 200 some stores would be a profit. Instead it just pulled them under.

Quality's parent company Quality Farm Inc.

filed for Chapter 11 on November 1, 2001. As the first of the year the Michigan Bankruptcy Courts opened Quality Farm and Fleet.

Out of the 336 Quality Farm and Fleet stores only 85 will be reopening as The Tractor Supply Company store. Alpena is one of the lucky ones, along with West Branch, Gaylord, North Saginaw, Fremont, Ludington and St. Clare Shores. Alpena's will be the farthest TSC store in the North.

Alpena was chosen because of the volume of products that they sold. So taking that into consideration they decided to open one in our community. The new store will be opening mid-

summer.

The Tractor Supply Co. offers basically the same items as Quality, but is more geared towards the farmer. They offer feed, tools, hardware, fencing and gates and some clothes. The overall store offers some 13,000 different products.

The Alpena Quality Farm and Fleet employed an average of 20 people. Most of these people will receive jobs from the Tractor Supply Co., but all have to be interviewed to re-obtain a job. A previous Quality sales associate,

Steve Donjakowski received one of those jobs. Previous full time employees will receive a severance package if they are not hired.

The new store will occupy the same building as the former Quality Farm and Fleet occupied, but will be much smaller. Alpena's Quality was 55,000 sq feet and the new Tractor Supply Co. will only occupy 17,000 sq. feet.

To get a better idea of what the Tractor Supply Co. has to offer check out their website at, www.tractorsupplyco.com. The web site offers online shopping information on how to apply if you want to get a job there, and a learning center with links to other websites.

Acc Players Present
"Once upon a Mattress"
 Musical Comedy-Fairytale.
 Music by Mary Rodgers Lyrics by Marshall Barer.
 Book by Jay Thompson, Lorraine Barer, and Dean Fuller
 Dates:
 April 11-13 7:30 p.m.
 April 14 2:00 p.m.
 April 18-20 7:30 p.m.
 April 21 2:00 p.m.
 Granum Theatre
 Reservations- 7392- NRC 210
 ACC student tickets free






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