

The Lumberjack

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Alpena Community College

April 1, 2003

Dr. Davis Retires After 17 Years

JESSICA THIEM
Managing Editor

After 17 years at ACC, Dr. Curt Davis, Vice President for Instructional, Student, and Community Services, has initiated many projects at ACC. Unfortunately, this semester will be his last at ACC. Dr. Davis decided to retire at the end of this school year to do something different with his time.

Dr. Davis began working at ACC in 1986. Before he moved to Alpena, he was the Dean at Owens Technical College in Toledo, Ohio. After Owens, he went to the University of Toledo to get his Doctorate.

After finishing the doctoral program at his wife, Shari, and he decided they wanted to live in a smaller community. Dr. Davis and ACC proved a good match.

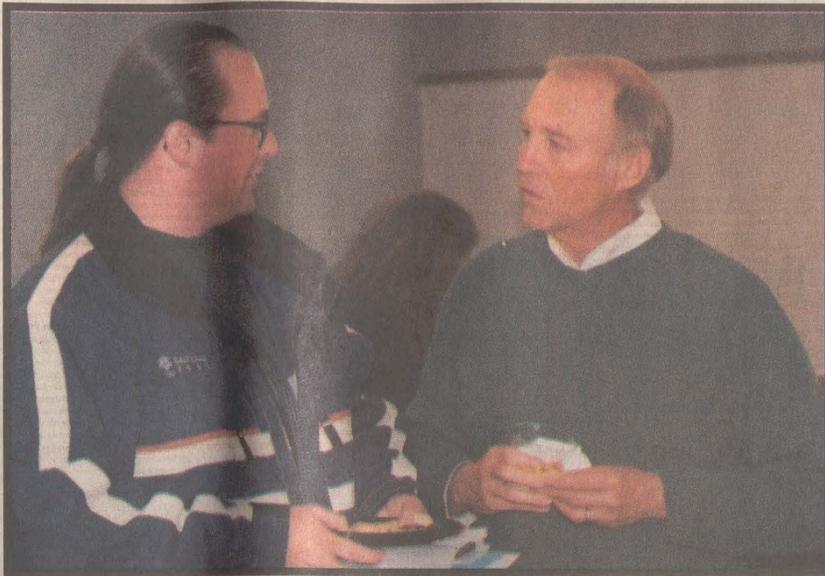
Dr. Davis said one of the best things about being at ACC is that it gave him the opportunity to work with students. He said that if he were at a major university, in

his job, he would very seldom come in contact with students.

"What I like about this college and being at a college this size is that you get to do a variety of things, and you get to interact with all kinds of people all in one day," stated Dr. Davis.

One of the biggest accomplishments that Dr. Davis has been part of at ACC is the bringing in of new staff members. Over the past 17 years, he has replaced nearly 75% of the teachers on staff due to retirement. Davis believes that ACC has always had a good faculty, and the challenge over the years has been to hire in staff that was just as strong in the classroom as the previous staff was. He feels he has done a good job in accomplishing that.

Another accomplishment he has helped along is the reintroduction of fine arts and performing arts to ACC. Dr. Davis said that when he came to ACC in 1986 none of those programs existed.



Dr. Curt Davis talks with Michael Dean Bergman after the 2002 Academic and Athletic Awards ceremony.

Photo courtesy Jay Walterreit

ACC now has dance, Jazz Ensemble, performing arts and fine arts classes.

The third largest accomplishment he feels he has helped in is the occupational areas at ACC. Davis has helped make sure they have the most current equipment and up-to-date labs. Dr. Davis believes ACC has to keep its technology

current so that students have the type of equipment to learn on that they will find in the industry they are going into.

Dr. Davis also had an impact on the ACC staff. Mary Skiba, Dr. Davis' assistant, said one of the things she will miss about him is his ability to pull everyone together at the college or in the community.

"The thing I enjoyed the most about working at ACC is that there is a wonderful group of people that work here at the college," stated Dr. Davis.

He and his family chose Alpena because it had a combination of two things they liked; the climate and the lake. Dr. Davis had grown up near Lake Erie in Ohio

and thought it would be nice to live near a lake again. Alpena also had a climate similar to that of West Germany where he and his wife had lived.

They moved to West Germany because he was in the Army and that is where the job sent him. He and his wife stayed there for a year and a half. They then decided to stay longer because Dr. Davis had started a Community College, which provided programs for Army and Air Force personnel in that area.

He decided to retire this year because there are more things he would like to do and it's hard to fit everything into a fixed schedule. Dr. Davis said he's been in this line of work for 35 years and feels it's time for him to do something different.

He and his wife plan on traveling the United States. They have friends all over the country that they would like to get reacquainted with. Dr. Davis also said that he plans on getting in a little more time for golfing and fishing after he retires.

State Cuts Budget; Tuition Hike Likely

KARA EUBANK
Features Editor

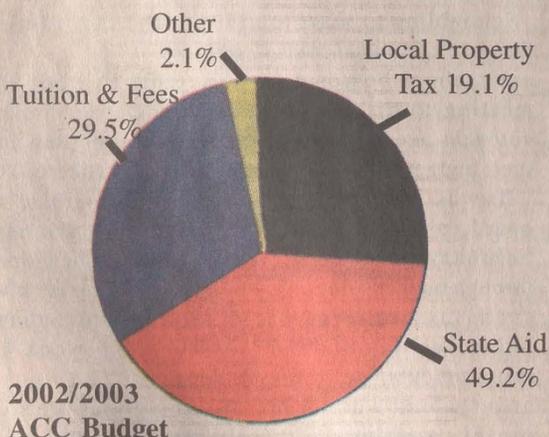
Dr. Newport, President of ACC, laid out an overview of the up and coming budget changes at a meeting held on March 13th in

the Granum Theatre. Dr. Newport simplified Governor Granholm's proposal and what it means to the college and the community as a whole. With the economy in a slump, cuts in the

budget have to be made in order to stay on top. Dr. Newport stated that this would be a multi-year budget procedure. "The problems we are facing will not disappear in just one year," said Dr. Newport.

Nearly 50 percent of ACC's budget comes from the Michigan State Appropriations. Thirty percent of the budget is from tuition and fees and the last 20 percent mostly comes from property taxes. A lot of the budget (77%) is used towards salaries and fringe benefits. With the substantial cut in state funding, ACC seeks solutions.

...Continued on page 2



2002/2003
ACC Budget

America Goes to War

JESSICA THIEM
SARA LYON
Managing Editors

On March 20th, the United States entered into war against the Iraqi Regime. After many months of inspections, warnings, and probing, thousands of troops were sent into and around Iraq after the United States officially declared war.

Saddam Hussein, President of Iraq, and his leadership were initially the target of the attack. Many air raids occurred that night in Baghdad, and at times it was believed that Hussein and his advisors were killed.

However, Hussein appeared on Iraqi television the next day, and though it was originally thought to be

one of his doubles, experts now believe Hussein is alive.

The day after, Baghdad and other Iraqi cities went under aerial attack in what U.S. officials said was a major escalation. The only U.S. casualties at that time were a result of a helicopter accident.

In the following days, the coalition pushed on. The U.S. led forces seized key areas of southern Iraq as they pushed on to Baghdad, which went under heavy bombardment.

On March 23rd, five captured U.S. soldiers were shown on Iraqi television as coalition forces met determined resistance, causing an uproar on the humanitarianism of Iraqi Journalism.

Heavy bombing was reported outside of Baghdad on March 24th. The U.S. commanders said that progress was "dramatic" despite stiff resistance.

The next day, sandstorms moved into the region and slowed down the military advances. Regardless, heavy bombing of the Republican Guard occurred.

On Thursday, March 27th, President Bush said the U.S. led forces would press on for "however long it takes" to topple the Iraqi leader.

As of Saturday, March 29th, U.S. casualties had reached a number of 57.

Experts say that the U.S. underestimated the Iraqi regime and the war will last longer than expected.



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ACC Player's Preview
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Chemical Weapons: National Crisis

JONAS BODA
Staff Writer

The world as we know it could cease to be. Chemical weapons are easily built. Terrorists can easily be trained to use them, and the effects of usage are catastrophic.

If a chemical attack was ever to hit Alpena without warning, there is very little recourse. The agents would hit the populous quickly, and efficiently.

Chemical weapons make up part of the trio of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs). The other

WMDs are nuclear and biological.

There are five types of chemical weapons (CW). The oldest are choking agents, such as chlorine and mustard gas. They act corrosively on the respiratory system. The lungs fill with water and choke the victim. They are generally non-lethal by themselves, and regarded as being the most ineffective of the WMDs.

Next we have blood agents. Absorbed into the body primarily by breathing, they cause rapid damage to body tissues. They prevent

the normal use of oxygen by the cells. This class includes cyanide and cyanogen chloride. These agents are most effective when delivered in a surprise attack. Due to their gaseous state, blood agents go away in air quickly.

After this, we have blister agents (BAs). BAs are used to kill; they affect the eyes and lungs and blister the skin. Such agents are simple to produce, and include sulfur mustard, nitrogen mustard, and lewisite. Sulfur mustard is considered by some as the ideal CW agent. It presents both a skin

and respiratory hazard. This requires handling personnel to wear protective clothing, and air filter masks. It is a long term weapon, and doesn't dissipate easily.

The G-series nerve agents cause paralysis of the respiratory musculature and subsequent death, in sufficient concentration. They include tabun, sarin, soman, and GF. These may be absorbed through the skin or by breathing. Some agents, such as tabun and sarin, tend to be relatively non-persistent, creating a short-term respiratory hazard on the battlefield. All

of them are fast acting, and extremely dangerous.

V-series nerve agents are more advanced than G-series agents. They are closely related in construction though. This class includes VE, VG, VM, VS, and VX. The V-series are deadlier and stronger than the G-agents and present an even greater skin hazard.

The V series has no true names, as their existence is not heavily endorsed by the US government. The US government is in the process of building chemical weapons, and as such was

kicked out of a germ warfare treaty signing.

A way to prevent exposure to these CWs could be to hole up in an airtight room with filter air systems, but in general that is too costly for the average family.

Another option is going to the local fallout shelter, this to is pointless. The travel involved sets you up against more toxins, and someone already in the shelter may infect you.

The final option is the most viable, simply wait any threat out, and go on living life as normal.

Police Memorial Dedicated

AMANDA BARRIGAR
Staff Writer

On August 31st, 2001, ACC graduate Hagop "Jake" Kuredjian fell in the line of duty. He was bravely providing cover for a U.S. Marshal in LA county trying to serve a search warrant. Kuredjian suffered a fatal bullet wound to the left eye. After the incident, Jake's brother, Raffi Kuredjian, made plans with the Criminal Justice Department of ACC to make a wall of honor for fallen officers of the law.

The memorial wall, located in VLH, now contains six names of fallen law officials: Sheriff Duane A. Badder, Officer Gerald L. Carpenter, Trooper Bryon S. Egelski, Trooper Larry Forreider, Officer William F. Keller, and Deputy Hagop "Jake" Kuredjian.



The new Police Memorial, which is dedicated to fallen police officers, is located in Van Lare Hall.

Photo by Sara Lyon

At the dedication ceremony on March 7, family, friends, and city and state troupers all gathered to celebrate the memorial wall. The ceremony included speeches from Raffi Kuredjian and Mike Roy from the ACC Criminal Justice Department. During

his tearful speech, Raffi Kuredjian said that this wall should be a celebration of life, and it should be known that it is a privilege to wear a badge.

The wall is not the only dedication that the Kuredjian family made. They have also made

scholarships possible for students in the Criminal Justice Department at ACC. There is also a scholarship for the LA County Sheriff Police Academy (where Jake also graduated from) in honor of Jake. Contact Mike Roy (7208) for further scholarship information.

No ACC Nurse; No Problem

NICOLE HATCH
Staff Writer

An ACC Student sits in class bleeding profusely, thinking, "I need a nurse! Do we even have one?"

There are three reasons why ACC does not have a campus nurse, according to Dick Sutherland, VP administrative secretary at the college.

"First of all there has never been a need for a campus nurse at ACC. We run a very safe program and this is a safe campus," commented Sutherland.

He also added that the college has a low number of reported injuries and has an advantage because it is located only 400 yards from the hospital. In the event of an accident an ambulance could be at the scene within three to five minutes; the same amount of time it would take a campus nurse to get there.

A second reason is the lack of opportunity for a nurse in this particular college. There are just not enough accidents to employ one or two nurses. Many of the instructors have been trained in first aid and are capable of controlling a

situation should an accident arise.

Chances are that all a nurse can do in an emergency situation is access the injury, stop the bleeding (if any), and wait for an ambulance.

Third and final is the cost. The college would have to employ two nurses because it holds day and night classes. Two nurses at \$40,000 apiece would add another dollar per contact hour per student.

That's not all of it, though; each student would also have to show some form of insurance because medical care is

costly. These services would not be free to students. Right now because of liability factors the only thing you can get free from the college is a band-aid.

Judy Beyer, a nursing instructor at ACC, is in agreement with Sutherland when it comes to having a nurse on campus. Why have a nurse on staff if you do not need one?

So the next time you're hurt and in need of medical attention while in class the best thing to do is to report immediately to an instructor or dial 911.

March Issue Retraction

We would like to apologize for an error published in the March issue of *The Lumberjack*.

In the article "Results of Holiday Giving," in the Fea-

tures section of this paper, Alpena Community College's Volunteer Center was mistakenly credited for having created the Salvation Army.

This spot in the newspaper is reserved for retractions.

Teaching Positions Few for Graduates

ELLEN REEVES
Huron Shores

Where have all the teaching jobs gone? They have gone far, far away. In the mid 90's, Michigan anticipated a need for teachers due to staff reaching retirement age.

This prompted college students to apply to Michigan's Teacher Education Programs. At present these students are graduating to find school districts in financial trouble and projecting teacher layoffs.

Scrambling to react to the state's financial crisis, area school boards are meeting to discuss the cutbacks needed to meet their budget.

Tawas Area school board called a meeting February 24th to hash through budget solutions, such as retirement incentives, layoffs and program cuts. A Tawas area student, who sat in on this meeting, said, "They might lay off fifteen teachers next year."

So where does this leave Michigan's graduating teachers? SVSU student, Stacie Perkins, said that these jobs can be found out of state. Attending a student teaching seminar gave her some insight to her options.

"They told us Michigan teaching jobs will be very hard to find, and we

should look out of the state for work. Florida, Texas, Georgia, Arizona and California are the top five states in need of teachers." Many students that are beyond the point of changing their majors are considering this move.

Shar Wheatley, an ACC student, was planning to enter Spring Arbor's teaching program. Reacting to the loss of job demand, she investigated the job market on the Internet and enrolled at SVSU, changing her major to social work with a minor in youth and family services.

She said "All but one class transferred into my new education plan and there is a projected 15 percent job increase in this field over the next ten years." She hopes this change in career plan will allow her to continue to live and work in Michigan.

Teaching jobs are still out there, but you have to be willing to move to an area where they are offered. If Michigan is where you want to stay, talk to a counselor about compatible programs that might expand your job choices.

The job market for teachers in Michigan could change, but be ready to accept Plan B, and have it ready to put into action.

New Michigan Budget Cut (Continued from Page 1)

The most likely solution will cause tuition fees to go up around 6 to 9 percent over the next few years, which will mean about \$5 more per contact hour for in district student, \$7 for out of district students and \$10 for out of state students. This increase will go into

effect for the 2003-2004 school year and continue there forth.

There will still be equipment acquisitions and facility improvements made.

Dr. Newport does not see any dramatic changes occurring. Some changes have to be made in order to remain a strong institution.

"We can't price our students out of the marketplace, out of the opportunity...an access to a better life must be preserved," Dr. Newport said.

These are just some ideas that are not set in stone yet. ACC has to have a balanced budget in place by July 1st. If anyone has comments or

concerns they are encouraged to share them. The executive council and budget committee will review all ideas.

You can email your suggestions to Dick Sutherland, Vice President for administration and finance at <http://www.alpenacc.edu/suggest/savefundsform.htm>.

ACC Deems Campus Safe

NICOLE HATCH
Staff Writer

Many efforts are made to prevent accidents and injuries at Alpena Community College. According to Dick Sutherland, VP Administrative Secretary, ACC has a safe campus and a safe program, the protection of students is a number one priority.

Representative Doug Kimmel from Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) did a safety walk through at ACC and had a list of concerns for the college to address. 90 percent of that list has already been taken care of. The concerns were not life threatening and mostly

had to do with labeling chemicals, guard adjustments or having signs for emergency stop buttons.

Along with those corrections, ACC has updated the lighting in the Natural Resource Center and is in the process of doing so in Van Lare Hall. Also note, the college has emergency lights that go on in case of a power outage.

Tom Ludwig, Facilities Director and Noel Schlueter from health services just recently attended a MIOSHA training seminar for safety compliance issues. They both play an important role in keeping this campus safe.

The majority of school

accidents happen in good weather. According to Ludwig the occasional fender bender seems to happen on dry pavement. So far this winter there has been one reported car accident on campus. The worst accident at ACC was when a student fell from a utility pole.

Overall students feel safe at this institution. Students Delynn Glennie and Angie Hawks feel very safe here and have no cause for concerns when it comes to their safety.

ACC Student Jessica Linkeos said that her only safety concern is the icy conditions on the sidewalks and in the

parking lots.

On those icy mornings maintenance and ground crew begin their day early making sure the walkways and parking lots are salted. "It has been so cold for so long that the salt doesn't work, it can only bring ice down to a certain temperature" says Ludwig. Sand works better in these conditions and if available.

To report an accident or injury contact Dick Sutherland ext 7368, located in VLH, Tom Ludwig, ext. 7202 in the Parking office of BTC, or any instructor or staff member by calling 356-9021, student services ext.7286.

Students Gamble Away Their Last Dollars

MIKE GARY
Huron Shores

Whether it's done legally at a casino, or illegally at someone's house, students are gambling away their last dollars. A Harvard Medical study in 2000 showed that almost 50 percent of college students in the United States and Canada admitted to spending their time and money in casinos, and those numbers are rising.

The Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling stated, "Teenagers have a problem gambling rate of 10%-17%, a rate 2 to 3 times higher than the general population." But if college students have little cash and big bills, why do they gamble? Experts believe students gamble because the age group of 12-18 are involved in high-risk behaviors, which include drinking and taking drugs, which makes them more apt to gamble because of the risk involved.

College students in the local area seem to think gambling is acceptable. According to Terry Allison, a student at ACC, "Gambling is alright if you have the money. It's good

entertainment." With 26 casinos in Michigan, virtual casinos all over the Internet, and the legal gambling age being 18, students in Michigan find it easy to gamble and will often influence other students to gamble with them.

There are organizations to help people with gambling problems and most are free to join, but are completely voluntary. Gamblers Anonymous is among the most famous of these organizations. Anyone can visit their website at www.gamblersanonymous.com to join this organization or just get information on how to quit gambling.

Peer pressure and the abundance of casinos in Michigan push gambling on students, but there could be a way to use these pressures in a positive way. All casinos need people to work there. According to one employee at the Soaring Eagle casino in Mount Pleasant, the starting pay for employees at casinos is usually minimum wage, but they get tips on too.

So for students who like to gamble, the best way to win at the casino may be by dealing cards, not betting on them.

Ripley Street Station Closes its Doors

MICHAEL CHAMBERS
Staff Writer

On thursday, March 13, 2003, Ripley Street Station closed after nine years of service. Some of the employees that worked at Ripley's are now working at Neiman's Family Market.

Some of Ripley's employees are going to work at Neiman's and are being placed in positions similar to those they had held at Ripley's.

The opinion of the employees about the merge of the two stores is split.

According to one Neiman's employee, a lot of employees are running scared for their jobs

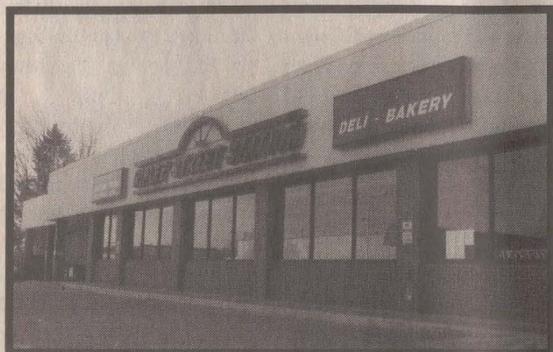


Photo by Sara Lyon

Ripley Street Station closed for business March 13.

because they don't know if they will be fired or lose their current position.

There is also some resentment by Neiman's employees for the positions Ripley employees

have been placed in.

On the other hand Service Desk Clerk Leah Dennis stated, "I think it's nice to see new faces and they bring some fresh air to the work force."

A number of the customers from Ripley's have decided to go to Neiman's now that their regular shopping place has been closed.

The new shoppers at Neiman's can still find great discounts on items just like they could at Ripley. Neiman's is also giving DialARide bus tickets to people 65 and older to get there. Ripley used to do this as well.

Neiman's has changed a little bit besides moving some isles around. They have just built a new beer and wine cooler. This is also where the pop is located. They also have a new bagel shop that is now open, and a new pharmacy will hopefully open in a few months.

Bad Weather Will Not Close ACC

NICOLE HATCH
Staff Writer

You're looking outside, it's freezing rain and the snow is piling up, and you're thinking "I know school is going to be closed tomorrow." You would be right if you were in high school, but wake up and get dressed because you're in college now and ACC is open. Go ahead turn on the radio, they will confirm it for you. The chances for a snow day here are slim. In fact the college has only closed 3 times in ten years.

Dick Sutherland, Administrative Director and Tom Ludwig, Facilities Director, get up on those bad winter mornings at 4:00 am and travel the roads that students will be driving. They consult with state police and the road commission to make sure conditions are favorable

for students.

According to Sutherland, 95 percent of all ACC students come from Alpena and each student should use their best judgment and drive according to road conditions. In most cases the Alpena public schools are closed because of the liability with 40 students on buses. Individuals need to take the proper precautions and allow themselves extra time to get where they are going. College should be seen as a job. Employers don't call off work due to weather.

Sutherland also said that each student has a tight schedule and snow days are not factored in. Those students receiving aid have to complete so many hours and it would be hard to make up time that is missed due to unnecessary snow days.

Student Matt Gibbons doesn't fight the inevitable, he

treats a bad winter day like any other, and if there is school he will be there.

"But the college needs to take into consideration that a great deal of students travel distances. We want to come to school, we pay money to go to school, and there are times when it should be closed in fairness and safety" says ACC student Michelle Heidt who drives from East Tawas.

"We are here for the students, we wouldn't be here without them and we will make the best decision concerning their safety" stated Sutherland. So if you're still not out of bed and you think school should be closed, note that Sutherland also added the college and your instructors reserve the right to call class on Saturday if school is cancelled for any reason.

Pros and Cons of Long Distance Learning

AMY ABRAHAM
Huron Shores

On-line or traditional classes? Students are increasingly asking themselves this question as colleges continue to add more courses available on-line and virtual colleges are springing up all over the Internet.

Sound too good to be true? That depends. Students should know more of what is expected of them before they go on-line educationally. Failure of an on-line course is just as detrimental to learning experience, as it would be from a traditional class.

Amy Jacobs, a current Spring Arbor University student, had this to say about on-line classes. "I think on-line classes are great. I can take classes from my home and still be there with my

family. On-line classes are tougher than regular classes though because they are a sixteen-week course crammed into eight weeks. You have to keep on top of the reading assignments or you are doomed because you will never catch up."

Haley Romel, another Spring Arbor University student, has a different opinion about distance learning courses. "I would much rather take a traditional campus course than an on-line class. I feel I need to interact with my professors and fellow students about course matter and on-line classes just don't offer you that interaction in the same way."

Before a student enrolls in an on-line course they should ask themselves if they are self disciplined

enough to complete the course.

If you can confidently answer "yes", you should be able to succeed in a distance-learning course.

The Michigan Community College Virtual Learning Collaborative website suggests that a student should "expect to be able to spend two to three hours per credit hour on coursework every week" for each on-line class taken.

Consider an on-line class to be like a fast-food meal that offers you convenience, at your time of need and how you want it. Make sure you keep up with reading assignments, due dates, and discussions within your courses and you will partake of an experience that is of high "nutritional" content and you will have good intellectual "absorption".

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McLaren's Innovative Teaching Will be Missed by Students

CONNIE IRLAND
Staff Writer

Ivan McLaren is retiring after 34 years as an instructor at ACC. His innovative teaching style has been a great asset to both his students and the college.

Ivan started his career as a diesel mechanic for Michigan Cat, and was with them when they moved to Novi. In 1964 he went to GM where he got his journeyman's card in the tool and die trade.

In 1969 he took the job as an instructor at ACC, a job he has enjoyed a great deal,

even though it meant a substantial reduction in pay.

Ivan said students who have previously done poorly in math, generally excel in his Machinist's Math. They often find it easier to learn because they know how and why they will use it.

He has found that students often excel where they have done poorly in the past when they understand how they will use what they are learning.

Former student Clay Ludwig said Ivan always kept the class interesting enough that you didn't know you were learning.

Ivan has helped ACC stay

current and competitive. When Computer Numeric Control was new to the field the company dropped off the new machine and Ivan proceeded to figure out the machine.

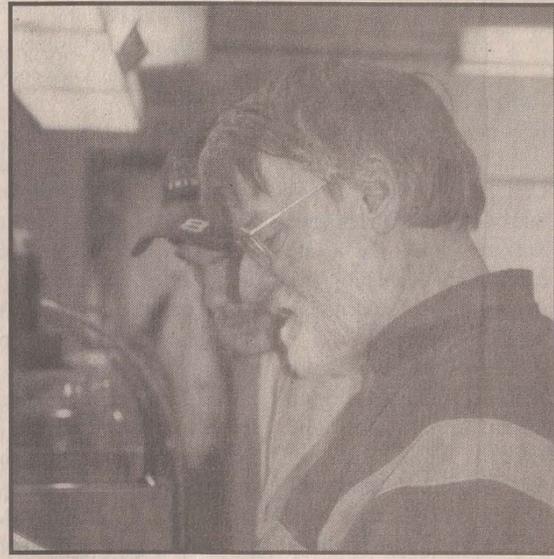
As it turned out, Ivan learned things about the new machine that even the company who made it was unaware of. Ivan then taught what he had learned to his students. ACC was able to keep up with the advancing technology because of Ivan's initiative.

It is because of him that ACC has such a well established program, said Jeff Monroe, ACC instructor and

a former student of Ivan's. He has a way with students. He is both encouraging and personable. Ivan's style of teaching makes it easy for his students to learn. Ivan also is involved in sports. He managed the Alpena Softball League for 25 years.

He has coached and played on the staff softball team. During his retirement Ivan plans to pursue his new appreciation for golf, and spend some time hunting and fishing as well.

If in time he feels the urge to return to work, he has a standing invitation from GM to fall back on.



McLaren helps ACC student Mike Johnson. Photo by Sara Lyon

Bike & Boot Club Bikes & Hikes Way Back to ACC

LAURIE PUROL
Staff Writer

The Bike and Boot Club, sponsored by Student Senate, has made their come-back to ACC's student extra-curricular activities.

The club existed in past years at ACC and its revival is due to a poll conducted by the Student Senate in 2001.

Students wanted the opportunity for an organized group that offered outdoor events. In its third semester of existence, the Club members have, at this point, only participated in ski trips.

According to John Roe, ACC's student organizer of the Bike and Boot Club, members' work and class schedules make it difficult to plan any activities outside of winter.

"The ski trips are fun and inexpensive because we go as a group," relates member Matthew Purol. Matt encourages more people to attend the meetings and to become involved in the club.

One of the faculty advisors of the club, Matt Dunckel, believes the club offers an opportunity for interaction

and to experience the outdoors with peers.

"In a society that is increasingly demonstrating a sedentary lifestyle, it's great to see students becoming proactive on exercising and utilizing what the outdoors has to offer." As an avid downhill skier, Dunckel, challenged and encouraged by club members, learned how to snowboard during one of the ski trips.

The advisors, Dunckel and Jim Berles, assist in an administrative capacity and answer questions of policy. "Student members decide what events to plan and organize. The potential for the club is great, but it depends on student involvement," added Jim Berles.

The club is tentatively planning a spring hiking and canoe trip. Membership in the club is free for all students. Look for flyers notifying members of meeting times and dates.

The Bike and Boot Club welcomes any suggestions and ideas of outings students may be interested in attending. Contact John Roe juansmaldez@hotmail.com for more information.

Take Advantage of Academic Achievements

DOREEN FOUCHÉY
Huron Shores

Have you been tossing those honor society invitations in the garbage? If you have, you're letting opportunities pass you by.

Honor Societies (such as Phi Theta Kappa and Kappa Beta Delta) can make furthering your education easier, as well as help you get your foot in the door of a university or profession.

They look great on your resume, too. Normally members must maintain a grade point average of 3.5 or higher to sustain membership at Phi Theta Kappa and a minimum of a 3.0 for Kappa Beta Delta.

Both of these societies cost an average of \$50 to join, a

one-time fee upon membership.

Phi Theta Kappa awards over \$33 million in different types of scholarships to its members annually.

Students are required to apply for and submit essays to be considered for most of these, but they must be members.

Also, they automatically enroll you into their transfer scholarships database. Universities use this database to recruit students to their institutions.

Phi Theta Kappa Transfer Scholarships are currently offered in 48 states. Michigan alone has 28 different transfer colleges affiliated with Phi Theta Kappa including Michigan State, University of Michigan,

Saginaw Valley and many more.

If anyone would like to find out more about these colleges and universities, they may contact them at www.ptk.org/members/schol/forms/application.htm. Kappa Beta Delta recognizes high academic status among students of business, management and administration.

This honor society helps their members by assisting them in finding their career of choice. Businesses work with the society looking for graduates that would like to obtain employment. Companies do this because students that are a part of this society are known as high achievers and hard workers. They also help by networking

members with business professionals (they believe this gives them a step ahead of the employment competition).

They also assist their members with help in finding out where current business jobs are located.

Sending letters of recommendation to college admissions, scholarships officials and even to places of employment for their members are also ways that an honors society can help someone.

Anyone interested may contact Phi Theta Kappa online at www.ptk.org or by phone at (601) 984-3504. Kappa Beta Delta can be reached by email at info@acbsp.org or by phone at (913) 339-9356.

The 'Barn's' Assets Have Been Frozen

BRAD BICKSLER
Staff Writer

After thirty years of frozen fun, Alpena's Michekewis Ice Arena will be torn down.

The pavilion was constructed in 1970 and has hosted such events as winter carnivals, hockey games, speed skating

tournaments and figure skating shows.

With the construction of the Northern Lights Arena, city officials chose to tear it down.

The "barn" as it has been so lovingly known will go down in June of 2003.

No plan of action has been stated for the beech

front property and any thing to do with it is still in the development stages.

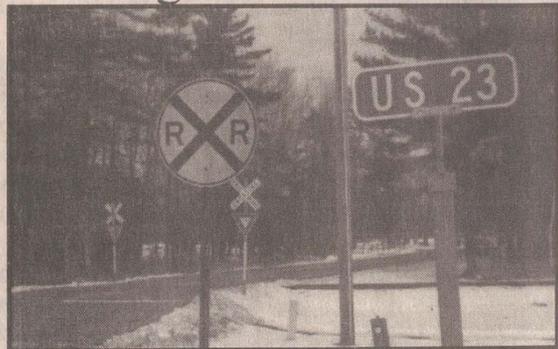
Some residents of Alpena have spoken out against the removal but due to the maintenance of the thirty-year-old building a tear down teardown was the option.

Other citizens have said

they would like the plot to become a city park or be added to a beech front renewal plan. Some have also stated that they would like to see the cement foundation maintained and a summer roller hockey league be started.

Options are still open for the lake-side property.

Michigan Ranked Among Top Fifteen States for Railroad Collisions



A common railroad crossing on US 23. Photo by Elaine Drumm

ELAINE DRUMM
Huron Shores

She was an only child; he was an only son, barely out of high school. They drove home together late one

night, never expecting a train at the railroad crossing, and then it was too late. Twenty years ago my classmate moved to another state to start a new life.

He met a nice girl, but both

of their lives were tragically cut short when they were killed by a train.

So many people take railroad crossings for granted. They become accustomed to crossing the tracks at a certain time of night, when they get out of work or school for instance, and the coast is clear.

The coast is always clear. They sail over the railroad tracks with only their destination in mind.

Terry Allison, a student at Alpena Community College knows this from experience. While driving a familiar route one evening he crossed the railroad tracks without

stopping first.

He said, "I never saw a train at that crossing before, and I have crossed it several times. I sped over the tracks only to see the train approaching. It scared the daylights out of me." A train can come from either direction. Train traffic is unpredictable.

National statistic report over three thousand collisions occurred at railroad crossing in 2001, and Michigan ranked among the top fifteen states.

In Northeast Michigan freight trains transport commodities through many crossings that don't provide

the protective warning signals of light, bells and gates.

Operation Life Saver, a national non-profit organization formed in 1972, promotes safety on railroad crossings. Since its inception, collisions have been reduced by over 9000 annually.

According to Mike Reed, a presenter for Operation Life Saver, "Anytime is train time... there can be multiple tracks. When people see a train going through, they proceed and then are stuck by a second train they never expected."

Mike said another thing

that causes collisions is that people become complacent. They come to a crossing where the tracks look rusted and unused, so they take for granted that there is no rail traffic.

Thirty seconds to stop a car and turn down the music could prevent a needless brush with death.

We all assume something like this will never happen to us, but it does happen and can easily be avoided if we take the time to stop and listen.

For safety tips and more information, log on to Operation Life Saver's web site at www.oli.org.

For Sale: Rare Piece of Local History

JOSEPH PREVOST
Staff Writer

Built some 89 years ago and remaining in the family for another 79 years, the house at 300 State Street is up for sale.

Currently owned by Betty Mahmoody (of *Not Without My Daughter* fame), it is a rare piece of local history that she has painstakingly restored to its original condition, right down to original appliances.

The house at 300 State Street was built by the Fletcher family who's patriarch, George N. Fletcher, was one of our town founders.

He arrived in the area in the mid-1800's making his venture in the logging industry.

Later he joined other town fathers and founded Huron Portland Cement (now owned by Lafarge Corporation) as well as

other major industries. Fletcher's influence has left a very long legacy of industry that remains well entrenched in our community. More information on Fletcher can be obtained at the George N. Fletcher Library reference section (211 N. first St., Alpena Michigan, 989-356-6188).

Mahmoody acquired the stately home from the Fletcher family in November of '93 for an undisclosed amount. She is selling the home for a little over \$1.2 million. It stands regally on an impressive slice of Thunder Bay Shoreline, apart from its neighbors.

Upon entering the house you are whisked away to a time when life was very different and the address 300 State Street was not even within the city limits of Alpena.

Its design and technology are a testament to the affluence of its original

owners. The house has hand woven, imported, seamless, wool carpets. It's nearly impossible to tell they are almost as old as the house is. The carpet in the master suite's sitting room cost nearly \$45,000 when it was imported from France and installed over half a century ago.

The house was designed for housing both family and servants. The north end of the house was intended as the servant's area. The remaining two thirds were for the family.

The kitchen, the servants' workspace and their living quarters were distinctly separate.

No expense was spared in building this house.

With five marble fireplaces, a grand dining room, and a library covered entirely in walnut.

The house is constructed of poured concrete and filled



The Fletcher House is a time machine back to the 1800s.

Photo By Joseph Prevost

from end to end with the best woodwork.

The kitchen is separated into three rooms by function. And the windows are constructed of copper with leaded windowpanes.

The basement houses a full service bar with a pool table and access to the elevator that goes directly to the master suite on the second

floor.

In a separate part of the basement is a fully functional bowling lane complete with original balls, pinsetter, ball return and score sheets.

The pinsetter is manual though, considerably limiting single player bowling.

As if that was not enough there is a private tennis court overlooking Thunder Bay.

Lee Pumford of LeValley Real Estate, Saginaw Michigan, 800-547-1918, was very accommodating in providing a tour and information.

Though Mahmoody was hoping to entertain the tour of her home herself she was unable to make it but expressed her gratitude for the interest.

Coast Guard Surprising Stateside Contributor to War Effort

KATIE PIZZA
Staff Writer

With the ongoing war in Iraq it seems necessary to focus some attention to the people here in Alpena who are involved in the military.

The war effort is not simply something that only takes place "over there" but is also relevant inside the United States' borders as well.

One surprising branch of the

military that is involved in the war effort is the Coast Guard. While they are primarily known for their works protecting the coastline they are also present in the war with the use of landing craft and needed vehicles.

While the Coast Guard "may not have high numbers, [they] are a part of what is happening [in the war]," according to Chief Brad Adams of the Coast Guard.

This is not a new occurrence; the Coast Guard was involved in World War II causing one member of the Coast Guard to receive the Medal of Honor (an award given for bravery) for his efforts.

Another branch that is involved in the war effort is the Army. One group of soldiers that are especially involved in Iraq are the Special Forces or "Green Berets" as they are more commonly known.

Members of this group are at this time in Iraq and are presently waiting for further instructions.

At the moment, the U.S. is not relying on ground fighting but preferring to focus their attention on air tactics to destroy targets, which is still relevant to the Army because of their use of helicopters and other air transportation.

The Army is considered to be the "main force in Iraq

because [the Army is] self-supporting and can accomplish pretty much anything," according to Staff Sergeant Todd Easterday of the Army.

The reason for this is because the Army is the largest military branch and can have more soldiers readily available for whatever need may arise.

It is certain that a need will arise for both of these branches in the ongoing war

and it is also important to note that these branches are always looking for more people to join their ranks.

For information about joining the Coast Guard or about the Coast Guard in general please contact Chief Brad Adams at 356-1656.

For information about joining the Army or about the Army in general please call Staff Sergeant Todd Easterday at 356-6102.



Brownbag Lunch

"The State of Current Events"

April 9th, 23rd

11:30-12:30 p.m. BTC 107D

Left: Kappa Beta Delta Inductees at the March Induction Ceremony. Photo Courtesy Jay Walterreit.

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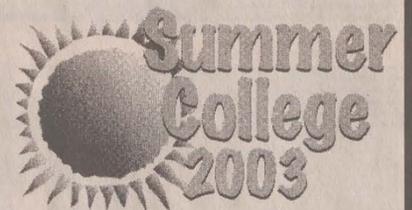
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Showcase

Welcome to the World of Troy Muritok

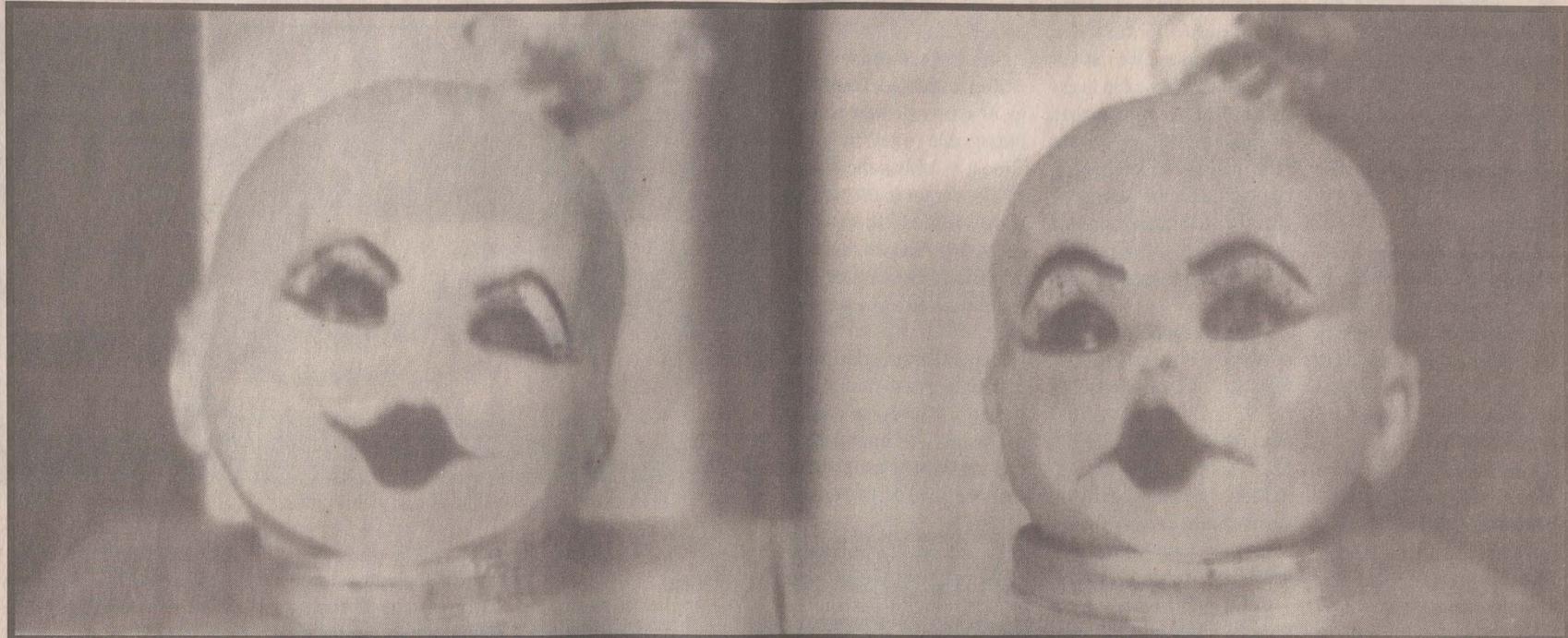


Photo by Troy Muritok



Photo by Connie Irland

CONNIE IRLAND Staff Writer

ACC student Troy Muritok is an art major with versatile talents. He explores various art forms for the simple enjoyment of artistic expression.

Although Troy was born in Alpena, he lived on Truk Island, near Guam, from the time he was 7 until he was 14. While on the island there were not many toys, and much of what they did have, they made. This

forced Troy to use his imagination. He also learned a lot about the culture and mythology of the island which enhances his creativity.

In ceramics, Troy is currently working on ten pieces that are based on a mythological sea creature from Truk Island. These pieces will be arranged in a tree of life that depicts their relationship.

Troy is also working on an imaginative performance piece he plans to have in the

art show. He is incorporating some of his ceramics pieces into the setting for the actors to interact with.

In photography he expresses his creativity in somewhat of a gothic manner. Troy's friends often pose in unusual settings for him while he experiments to see what kind of effects he can come up with.

Though Troy has not yet found what direction his art will take him, he is an artist with a promising future.

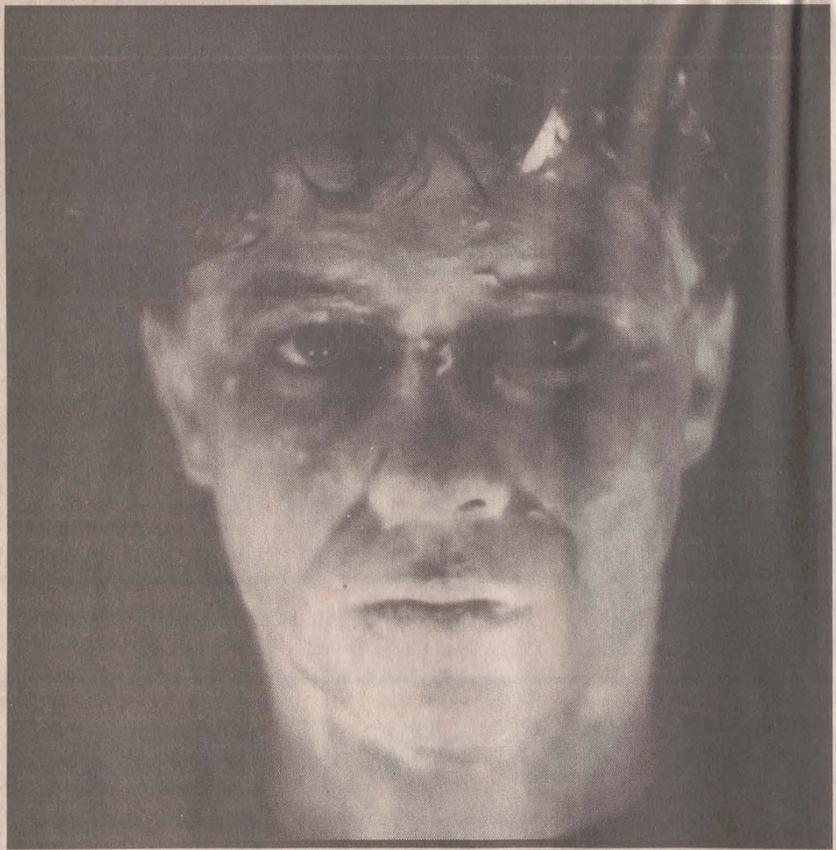


Photo by Troy Muritok



Photo by Troy Muritok



Photo by Connie Irland



Photo by Troy Muritok

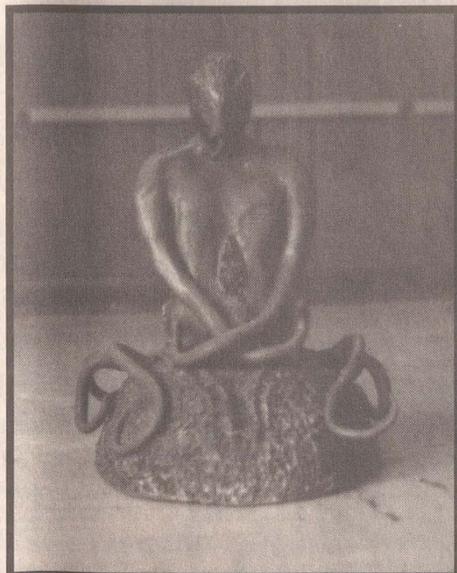


Photo by Connie Irland

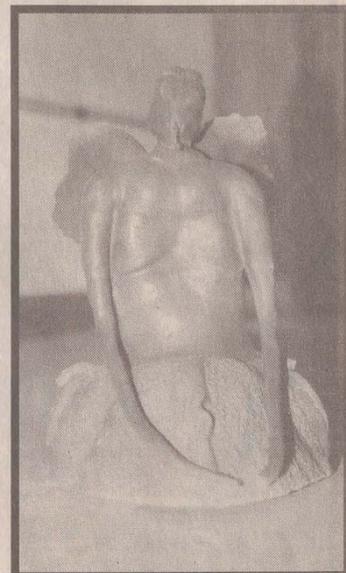


Photo by Connie Irland

Lumberjack Sports

Golf Team Ready for the Green

SARALYON
Managing Editor
BRAD BICKSLER
Staff Writer

The ACC golf team is preparing for what will hopefully be a good 2003 season.

Last month, the team of five men had some successful practice time in North Carolina.

Heading the team will be veterans Brett Anderson and Travis Wyman. Newcomers Adam Peterson, Kurt Wirgau, and Adam Hainstock will bring some more depth to

the team.

The experience of the veteran players goes well with Peterson's consistency, Wirgau's ability to work the greens and Hainstock crushing the ball off the tee.

"There is no clear number one player," said Wyman. "Anyone can come up with a low score any day."

The team kicks off their season with a road match on April 14th against Henry Ford Community College. Anyone interested in a position on the team should contact Coach Bill Peterson at 356-3712.

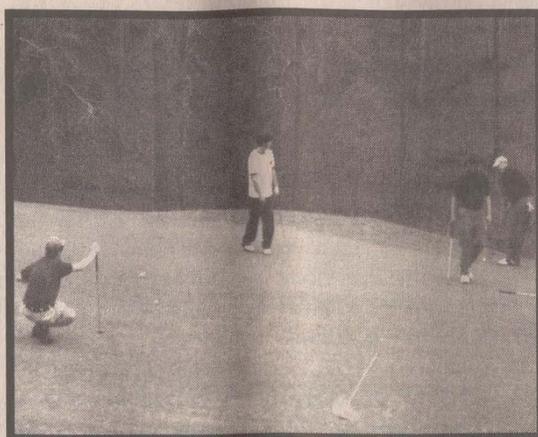


Photo courtesy Adam Hainstock

Four of ACC's golf team members analyze a shot while practicing in North Carolina.

Falcons Play Game with Intense Focus

JOBETH JOHNSON
Sports Editor

This year's Pied Piper game filled the stands with as many people as a regular Lumberjack game.

Many parents, friends, teachers, and students turned out to see the athletic abilities of the Pied Piper Falcons. The mettle of the contestants was tested, and in the end, everyone turned out to be a winner in the game.

They were treated to a great game in which the Falcons

played with extreme determination. The sheer will and focus of the Falcons has proven to be a watermark for other teams who wish to prove themselves.

The Falcon team was split evenly up into two teams and then the Lumberjack Men's sophomores were divided up into two equal teams as well.

This way half the Lumberjacks were combined with half the Falcons, making the two teams equal.

Four quarters were played and at half time the two teams

mingled. It was easy to see the comradery between the players. Sportsmanship was the keyword here, and everyone shared smiles along with a blossoming teamwork. Both teams scored well and every player made at least two points.

Money was raised for the Pied Piper school during half raffle and at the concession stand. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves immensely and it was good to see so many people supporting the Falcons and the

Lumberjacks.

Next year, it would be good to see the female Falcons play the Lady Lumberjacks. This could show itself as being a pinnacle game, and wonderful opportunity for anyone that would be involved in the event.

Thanks to everyone who helped the game come about and to the Falcons and Lumberjacks who played with their hearts. Good luck with next year's game. If this year was any indication, we'll look forward to the next one.

Lady Lumberjack Softball Schedule

April 4	at Oakland	3:00 p.m.
April 5	at Macomb	1:00 p.m.
April 6	at Macomb	11:00 a.m.
April 11	at Delta	3:00 p.m.
April 12	at Mott	11:00 p.m.
April 13	at Mott	11:00 a.m.
April 18	Henry Ford	12:00 noon
April 19	Henry Ford	11:00 a.m.
April 25	Delta	3:00 p.m.
April 26	St. Clair	3:00 p.m.
April 27	St. Clair	11:00 a.m.
May 1	Oakland	2:00 p.m.

Look for a full page of softball coverage next issue

Lumberjack Men's Golf Team Schedule

April 14 th	Henry Ford Invitational @ Dearborn Country Club
April 15 th	St. Clair Invitational @ Black River Country Club
April 21 st	Grand Rapids Invitational @ Egypt Valley
April 24 th	Oakland Invitational @ Pontiac Country Club
April 25 th	Schoolcraft Invitational
May 1 st	Eastern Conference @ Alpena Country Club
May 2 nd	Second Round Quest @ Kirkland
May 8 th & 9 th	State Tournament @ Crystal Mountain
May 12 th & 13 th	Region 12 hosted by Columbus, Ohio Country Club
June 5 th - 11 th	Natural @ Chautauqua, New York

Future Teacher Leads Teammates on the Court

JOBETH JOHNSON
Sports Editor

Joshua Walker, 22, hails from Toledo, Ohio, only a half-hour away from Cedar Point. Josh says he hates Cedar Point though, since he has been there at least a million times.

Josh is one of ACC's second year basketball players. He says he has had two great coaches while he played and that the teammates came together well this year.

"Josh is a good leader and makes the other teammates work harder." Chris Dorsey, a fellow teammate, said.

He started playing basketball in the 4th grade, inspired by his dad who also played when he was younger.

Josh's younger brother Matt will be playing basketball here next year and he has an older brother Phil who used to play basketball as well. He also has a younger sister, Tamara, who is three.

Josh chose Alpena mostly because he wanted to get out of his town for awhile and experience something different.

Even though he doesn't like Alpena that much since Toledo has clubs and more night activities, he wishes he had another year of

basketball here.

He will be coming back up to watch his brother play and to party with old friends.

Josh used to work in a nursing home back in Ohio, but has decided he'd like to become an elementary teacher and maybe work with mentally disabled kids as well.

He has already had some experience in that area.

Josh assisted teachers at Pied Piper helping students with their homework and also spent a lot of time playing basketball with the kids and bowling with them.

"I enjoyed working with them, but you have to give a lot of extra special attention to them. Not a lot of people have that much patience. I'd like to work more with them in the future," Josh said.

He does not want to work with high school kids because they have more attitude and he thinks the younger kids will be a little easier to work with.

Josh enjoys shooting hoops for exercise, watching comedic movies, especially those with Martin Lawrence and Bernie Mac.

He listens to rap and R&B, his favorite performers being Jadakiss and Jay-Z.

Josh says his greatest influences here at ACC were Frank McCourt and Dr. Terry Eide.

"Dr. T. kept me focused on

Preventing Sports Injuries

TERRY ALLISON
Huron Shores

Every year ninety percent of athletes injure themselves while participating in sports.

On the city of Atlanta's website Jay Berkelhamer, M.D., senior vice president of Medical Affairs at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, says there are several precautions parents and athletes can take to make sure injuries are not so numerous.

Drink plenty of water, stretch muscles before starting any strenuous activities, and also stretch after athletic activity.

According to the University of Iowa Healthcare, and extension of the University of Iowa's website, the "No pain, No gain" is not a good saying for athletes to live by. Exercising requires some effort, but no pain.

If you are in pain stop the exercise immediately, and do not proceed until the pain is completely gone.

Also, if pain is felt in the chest or neck area seek medical attention as soon

as possible. Athletes should make exercise a habit, exercising only once a week puts you at risk for injury.

People should exercise at least three times a week for thirty to sixty minutes each session.

If you still find yourself being injured use the RICE method for treatment. RICE is an acronym that means Rest, Ice, Compression, and Elevation.

The first step to treating your injury is Rest: Reduce or stop using the injured area for at least 48 hours, apply ice to the injured area twenty minutes at a time, four to eight times a day.

Elastic wraps and air casts reduce the swelling of the injured area, especially in the ankle, knee, or wrist areas.

The final stage of RICE is elevation. Keep the injured area above the heart. This minimizes blood flow to the injury and will help keep the swelling down.

Stretching before and after activities and exercising at least three times a week are just some helpful ways to prevent painful injuries.

So the best advice to young athletes is to practice to your ability and do not over do it.

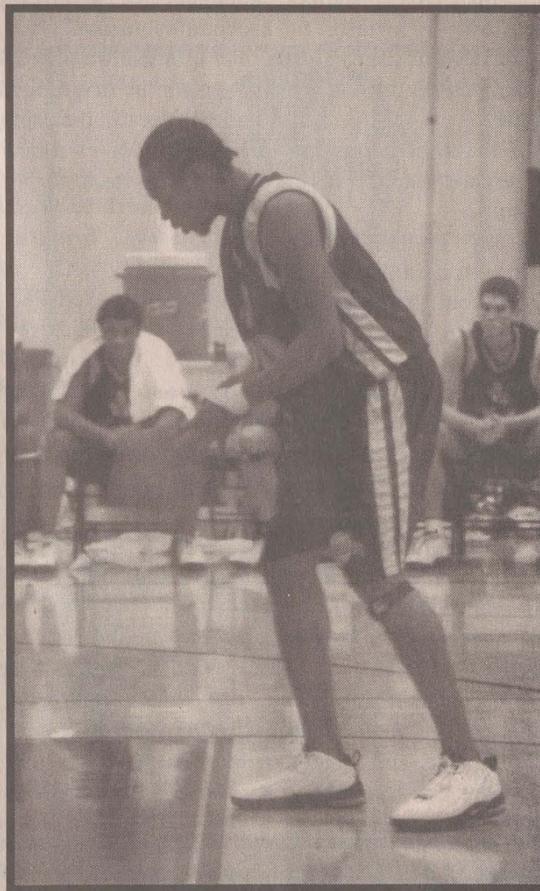


Photo By JoBeth Johnson

Josh Walker sets up for a freethrow at the charity stripe.

my studies when I was falling off track. I really appreciate the help she's given me."

Dr. T. agrees, "Josh has come a long way. Before his focus was mainly on basketball, but I helped him to see that he needed to focus more on his education."

She said she spent a lot of one-on-one time with him

like she does with many of her students, and that Josh has come to realize that effort in his studies is important.

Josh doesn't know where or what he will be doing next year. He plans on continuing his education, but isn't sure when.

For now he plans to stay in shape on the court, shooting hoops with friends.

ACC Golfer Lives Up to Par

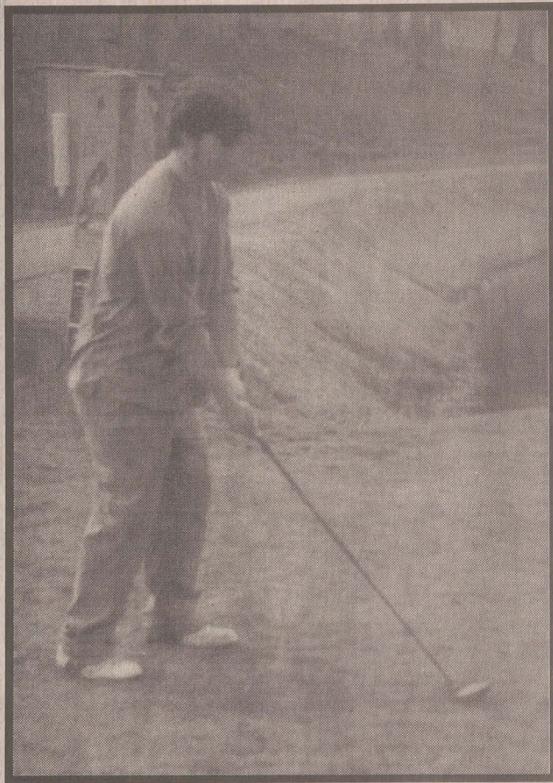


Photo Courtesy Adam Hainstock

Adam at practice in North Carolina.

SARALYON
Managing Editor

Adam Hainstock, an ACC sophomore, loves golf, but doesn't necessarily live for the game.

While studying to become a manager for a golf club, this busy student finds time to work endless hours at a local restaurant, party with his friends, and hang loose in the wild outdoors.

Although the golf season hasn't officially started, Adam had the opportunity to go out east to North Carolina for the team's practice.

For almost four days, he and five other ACC students had a luxurious stay at a golf club which once hosted a PGA (Professional Golf Association) tour.

When asked how his experience was, his response was "sweet."

Adam has been involved not just in golf, but also in a few other sports.

In high school, he was the defensive end and running back on the football team.

He also played baseball as the pitcher and third baseman. Adam said that he had a passion for baseball, and he sometimes regrets not going off to a university and playing on a team.

He enjoys playing golf for the college, however, and looks forward to having a career in the field.

While Adam's not on the course teeing off, you can usually find him in the kitchen of The Courtyard.

He's been working there for the past three years, and he's become very good at his job.

Though he admitted that he wouldn't help cook for Thanksgiving, he said that a hearty turkey dinner is the

best meal.

When it comes to his college classes, Adam is very serious. Though after high school, he didn't plan on attending college at all.

"Finally, I came to my senses and decided that I needed to go and do something with my life," Adam reflected.

Shawn Sexton, English instructor at ACC, believes that Adam is capable at achieving anything he puts his mind to.

"He is a hard-working, reliable, and smart guy. I enjoy having him in my class, especially because of all the effort he puts forth," Sexton said.

If Adam could spend a day with anyone, anywhere, he said, "I'd definitely go fishing with Willie Nelson in the Adirondack Mountains in New York."

Adam loves being outside,

especially if he's on a clear stream catching trout. He also tries to find time to hike, snowshoe, and ski.

Adam explained that the best time he has ever had was in Tennessee at the Bonaroo Festival, which was a three-day hippie fest that catered to 90,000 people.

He's a big fan of the Grateful Dead, Phish, and Neil Young, which could explain why most of his friends would label Adam as "pretty laid back."

Next year Adam plans to go to Ferris State University and get his bachelors degree in professional golf management.

Adam would like to play on the golf team at Ferris as well.

With a sister who already attends school there, he plans to live with her and concentrate on school.

Nice Guys Don't Always Finish Last

COREY DALESKI
Staff Writer

Two years ago, my friend Eric, whom I'll call "Bill" to protect his identity, asked whether or not I would be interested in going to an ACC men's basketball game.

I'd rather sit on my rump and watch reruns of Leeza.

Okay, I admit, that's a little too radical. But come on, that was two years ago. They were 16-14.

This is America. Nobody wants to watch mediocre basketball.

On the contrary, a winner is exactly what we got this season.

The men's team demonstrated the heart of a lion (not a Detroit Lion; God forbid).

The players represented this college well - with both dignity and pride.

"That was fourteen of the nicest kids I've ever

coached," coach Frank McCourt said.

During this year's roller coaster season of 20-10, the Lumberjacks were able to achieve an abundance of significant accomplishments.

For example winning 20 games for the first time in half of a decade, defeating Kalamazoo Valley during the regular season for the first time in three years, and, lastly, bringing excitement back to Lumberjack basketball.

Many outside observers believed winning 20 games and having the fortune that the team had this year, would be a far cry from reality - heck, I thought 15 wins would be a difficult feat. But head coach Frank McCourt, evidently, knew this team was special all along.

"We had the talent, it was just a matter of putting it all together," McCourt said.

The Lumberjacks don't have the prestige that a

Duke, Indiana, or even a Dayton has - that's apparent. But what they do have, is a coach that believes in fundamentals and playing good clean basketball - the way it is supposed to be played.

Six players from this year's team, remain eligible to return next season. And with the recruiting campaign right around the corner, the ACC coaching staff has the chance to sprinkle in some young athletic talent into next year's team. This makes next season that much more compelling.

Even though the season ended abruptly - with a loss to Kalamazoo Valley in the playoffs, the team has earned the respect of many.

Hold your heads high gentlemen, you have a to be proud.

You are a remarkable group of coaches and players that deserve all the credit in the world.

'Boots' 'N Basketball

BRODERICK KNIGHT
Staff Writer

Jermaine Collins, better known around campus as 'Boots' is a sophomore studying to be a social worker and he loves the game of basketball.

He got the nickname Boots when he was in elementary school. His father couldn't afford gym shoes at the time.

Instead, Jermaine would wear his boots to gym class. "I was so good at kick ball, that the other kids said I had to take my boots off. The name stuck ever since then," Jermaine said.

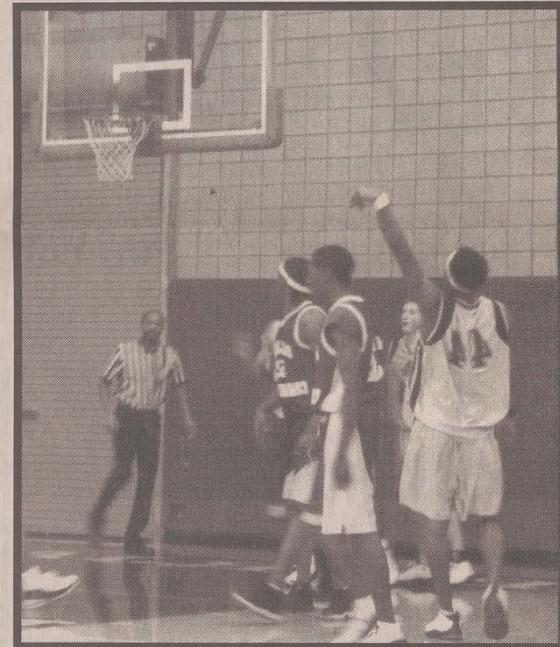
Boots started playing basketball to escape the problems that were going on at home.

"I would go and hoop all day...the court was always there for me...it made me feel worth living," Boots stated.

He came to Alpena on a basketball scholarship. Boots played a power forward or center position.

He made key contributions during many of the games. Fellow teammate Jake Henski added, "Boots was the motivational leader of the team; he kept everyone fired up."

Boots is hoping to further his



Boots (44) sinks an easy shot.

Photo By JoBeth Johnson

education in social work at Ferris, Saginaw Valley, or Oakland University.

When he was younger, Boots and his sister were abused by their father. Because of this, they were separated and he ended up living in the foster care system for three years.

During his time in the foster system, Boots' mother had another child. Shortly after, she passed away due to heart problems. Boots' father regained custody of

the children after serving time in jail.

"Problems escalated again at home, and I left at the age of fifteen," Boots said. He continued on to say, "This inspired me to push hard and to become a social worker so I can help the people in these types of abusive situations."

Boots has enjoyed his time here in Alpena. He is grateful for many of his teachers' and teammates' support and encouragement.

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You're a Good Man Charlie Brown

SARAH POKORZYNSKI
Staff Writer

This spring there is a classic comic being relived as a musical on the ACC players' stage. Based on the popular comic strip, *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* chronicles the events of a day in the life of Charlie Brown and his imaginative

beagle Snoopy.

With an all star team including Roger Phillips, Director; Erica Detro, Assistant Director; Brian Mills, Music Director; Brent Deller (Charlie Brown), Joe Sparling (Snoopy), Heather Garant (Lucy), Lisa Schultz (Sally), Morgan Suszek (Linus), Kevin Surbrook (Schroder) and a gifted character chorus, this play is sure to be an en-

joyable production. "A light hearted comedy, to make you laugh at any age, young and old alike" Detro stated.

The play opens on April 3rd and has showings through the 12th. Opening weekend Thursday, Friday and Saturday shows will be at 7:30 p.m. and a Sunday show at 2:00 p.m. The weekend of April 10th through the 12th all shows will be at 7:30 p.m.

The cost for the play is \$10.00 for adults, with a dollar discount for senior citizens. Students over 12 are \$6.00 and 12 and under are \$4.00. The great news is all ACC students will receive free admission courtesy of the ACC Student Senate. So remember to thank those members of the Student Senate after you see this classic heartwarming comedy.



Photo by Jessica Thiem
Kevin Surbrook (Schroder) teams with Heather Garant (Lucy).

It's What You See Before You Die



CONNIE IRLAND
Staff Writer

The Ring is a supernatural thriller that soon has you waiting for the phone to ring. This movie uses the premises of a video that is rumored to kill the viewer within seven days.

Following the death of her niece, journalist Rachel Keller (Naomi Watts) investigates the

rumored video. The rumor is confirmed, and the stakes grow higher. Her investigation takes many twists, growing stranger with each one.

The first scene is the lowest point of the entire plot; after which, I thought it would be a take off of *Scary Movie*; although, once the phone rings the suspense begins. The tension builds with each person who watches

the video. Rachel's investigation leads the movie. Each discovery adds a new twist. When Rachel's young son sees the movie, it really gets personal. Just as you think it has ended in the predictable manner, you're wrong. The suspense is maintained through the end leaving the viewer half wondering if their phone will ring next.

With the exception of the first scene, *The Ring* was so scary I forgot to pay attention to the acting. The "horror" scenes were few and far between. The supernatural element was what truly made it scary. The only thing I found particularly gruesome was when Rachel picked up a dead young girl who dissolved into a skeleton in her arms.

The next time you're up for a good scare, check it out.

Back Roads Connection

ANDREW KOWALSKI
Staff Writer

Interest in music is one of Alpena's greatest qualities. Several artists from around the country are brought to various venues throughout the year. The music ranges from country to hardcore; the audience ranges from eighteen to eighty. Now we can add another venue to the list.

Paul and Angela Wieske own the Back Roads Concert House. They had heard the idea from a friend in Colorado. Their interest in folk/acoustical music, combined with a lack of venue for that type of music, led them to try the house concert idea themselves.

The Back Roads Concert House is Alpena's newest musical venue. It consists of an everyday living room, large in size, and with a well-lit stage area. It

seats anywhere from thirty to forty-five people. "There has been an amazing response," said Angela, referring to the numbers they have posted since January. Many people love the atmosphere because unlike in a bar, you are there only to see the performer. Angela referred to it as "comfortable" and "intimate." It gives the audience member a chance to see the artist up close and experience the music in a comfortable, smoke-free, alcohol-free environment.

Each show is about two hours long. There is an intermission halfway through the program during which desserts, coffee, and other nonalcoholic beverages are served. Those attending get a chance to meet and chat with the artist during the intermission or just after the show. April's feature artist is Ashley Peacock. Ashley

is a singer/songwriter from Cincinnati that plays folk music and does it well. The show is on Saturday, April 12 at 7pm. Those attending are encouraged to make a ten-dollar donation that is collected before the show. All money collected is given directly to the performing artist.

The Back Roads Concert House will continue to host performers from around the country through next year. Angela admitted that the house is actually booked through fall and she hopes to book further into the year. If interested in folk music, this may be the place for you.

Anyone with questions about the Back Roads Concert House Series is encouraged to check it out on the web at www.backroadhouseconcerts.com. You can also contact Angela Wieske at (989) 356-1605.

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The Best Pizzas Under One Roof

Photo Story

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April 1, 2003

MICHIGAN TROOPS READY FOR WAR

Grayling Based Army Unit Begins Preparation for Deployment Overseas; Troops Anxiously Wait for Word of Departure Date

JESSICA THIEM
Managing Editor

Unit #1438, an Engineer Detachment Unit for the Army National Guard based out of Grayling, Michigan, officially began the tedious preparation for deployment around the middle of February. Troops look forward to their upcoming journey overseas and the experience that will come along with it.

This unit is responsible for vertical and horizontal construction. It consists of electricians, plumbers, masons, carpenters, and heavy equipment operators. Soldiers from this unit are not only from the Grayling area, but also from places all over the state, such as Grand Rapids, Alpena, and the Upper Peninsula.

"Troops are in good spirits and are quite patriotic to do what they signed up to do," stated Chief Warrant Officer II Bruce Ward. He then added, "It's very important for all the soldiers right now to know that they are being supported, not only by the public, but by their employers and by their families. It's very important to their frame of mind at this time."

When soldiers were asked how they felt about going

overseas many of them said they were really looking forward to going.

Emily Mulder, student at Grand Valley Community College and soldier from Unit #1438, said she was looking forward to this because she has always wanted to travel and this is what she signed up to do. This will be Mulder's first time overseas.

Staff Sergeant Greg Starr, Equipment Platoon Sergeant, said, "I'm anxious to do the job right this time, whatever it may be." This will not be Staff Sergeant Starr's first time overseas; he was in Desert Storm and has been around the world twice.

Sergeant Todd Thomas, Equipment Platoon Sergeant, stated, "It [going overseas] breaks the monotony of civilian life, you actually get out and you actually appreciate what you have at home more." Sergeant Thomas has been overseas twice once for Desert Storm and the second time was post Desert Storm to defend Kuwait if need be.

Soldiers said that although some of their families may not be happy about them leaving, they still support the troops 100%.

The troops in this unit were quite expressive about how



Soldiers from Unit #1438 inspect this five ton dump truck in preparation for shipment to another location.



Sergeant Todd Thomas and Sergeant Joe Pigeon discuss who is going to drive their "favorite toy," the Small Emplacement Excavator (S.E.E.).



A few of the many supply crates that have already been prepared.



Chief Warrant Officer II Bruce Ward packs up equipment.

Photos by Jessica Thiem

willing they are to go overseas, however it is not something that happens overnight. There is a lot of preparation before actually traveling to their final destination.

According to Chief Warrant Officer II Ward these soldiers, were required to report to Camp Grayling in preparation for deployment around the middle of February. When they reported to the base they began an SRP (Soldier Readiness Process), which consisted of checking clothing records, medical records, immunization records, wills and Power of Attorney papers, financing situations, identification cards, and dog tags.

SRP is the part of preparation that helps make sure these soldiers have everything that they need to go to their next destination.

After SRP was finished, Unit #1438 was mobilized under Title 10, which brought the unit to active Army. This means they no longer were treated as a National Guard unit, but as a full Army Unit.

They then began Common Task Training, which consisted of packing all of the unit's supplies and small equipment into crates in preparation for shipment. All of the unit's equipment goes

with them wherever they go, be it another base or overseas. This does not only apply to tools, but also to heavy equipment such as dump trucks and bulldozers. All of the equipment has to be shipped commercially to its next destination.

After all of these tasks were completed at Camp Grayling the unit waited almost a month before they were sent to their next destination. Fort McCoy, Wisconsin is Unit #1438's Mobilization Station and where they left for at 3:00 a.m. on March 6th.

While at Fort McCoy the soldiers began URP (Unit Readiness Process), which is another check for all of their equipment to make sure they have everything they need for their journey overseas.

Their destination overseas will be somewhere in Southwest Asia. The tasks this unit will perform overseas are not certain yet. They could be responsible for building base camps, prisoner of war camps, or even facilitating an airbase. Until these soldiers are notified of the actual date they will be leaving Fort McCoy, they wait anxiously.

For those interested in supporting these troops and others already overseas, a yellow ribbon can be hung on a tree, door, or car antenna.



Sergeant Joe Pigeon turns around to say goodbye before leaving to go load a truck.



Sergeant Todd Thomas checks the hydraulics of the S.E.E.