

Library's Authors in the Fall Series Continues to Season Alpena

JESSICA MILLER
Staff Writer

At 7:00pm on Tuesday October 14th, Pete Hamill came to Alpena Community College to talk about journalism, writing, and the world today. Tickets were available in the library for 5 dollars each. The Friends of the Library afterwards held a reception.

Pete Hamill told the crowd about his life, including his childhood and his career. He also talked about politics, his experience with alcoholism, September 11th, writing, and reading.

Pete Hamill was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1935. He is the oldest of seven children of Irish immigrants from Belfast,

Northern Ireland. At the age of 16, Hamill left school to work as a sheet metal worker, and then went on to the United States Navy. Hamill completed his high school education while serving in the Navy. Then using the educational benefits of the G.I. Bill of Rights, he attended Mexico City College in 1956-1957, studying painting and writing. Since the 1950s, Hamill had an interest in Mexico, living there off and on, visiting each year, and covering events in Tlatelolco and other topics like the Olympic games. For six months in 1986, he served as editor of the Mexico City News.

Hamill worked as a graphic designer for many years, while studying at Pratt

Institute. Then in 1960, he became a reporter for the New York Post. Thus began a long career in journalism. He has also been a columnist for the Daily News and New York Newsday, and has won many journalistic awards. As a journalist, Hamill has covered wars in Vietnam, Nicaragua, Lebanon and Northern Ireland. He has also covered murders, crime, and the police. His work has been published in magazines such as *Esquire*, *New York*, the *New York Times Magazine*. He has been editor-in-chief of both the New York Post and the New York Daily News.

Hamill has also pursued a career as a fiction writer. He has written 9 novels including *Snow in August* and *A*

Drinking Life: A Memoir, which were both on the New York Times bestseller list for over 3 months. His latest novel is *Forever*. It is about an immigrant who comes to New York, and is given the gift of living forever as long as he never leaves the island of Manhattan. Through the character's eyes, readers can see the city grow from a small community to a thriving metropolis. Hamill has also written two collections of short stories and two collections of his journalism. Hamill's non-fiction books include *Tools as Art*, *Why Sinatra Matters*, *The Times Square Gym*, and *Diego Rivera*.

Hamill is married to Fukiko Aoki, a Japanese journalist. He has two daughters, one a poet, and the other is a photographer.

Hamill talked about hearing the first plane hit the World Trade Center and seeing the second one hit. He said while he was watching, he looked around and saw a spilled cup of coffee, a woman's high heeled shoe, a danish on the ground, and a pool of blood. Hamill talked about September 11th positively.

"If you think you can be murdered by a religious nut while you're reaching for a cup of coffee and a cheese danish than you'd better live every moment of your life...you better tell the people you love, you love them. You better take your

son to the ball park," he said Hamill also talked about war, his experience with alcoholism, and his relationship with his father.

Hamill stated, "I never got to talk to my father until I could stand with him at the bar, that was the moment in which you became part of the adult world. When you could put two dollars down and pay [for the] first round."

Hamill spoke about the importance of reading and writing.

Hamill has written columns for forty-three years and stated that he is ready to give up. He went on say that there's at least four more books that he would like to be able to get written.

Downloading May Soon Lead to Lockdown for Users

JON REID
Staff Writer

Music has always been a topic of discussion. In early ages, the Christian church controlled how music was listened to and heard by their followers. In current times, we have much the same situation. The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) has reported that it has begun a wave of what could amass to thousands of civil lawsuits against Internet users that share MP3 files. As of now, the RIAA has been concentrating its efforts on "major offenders", those who have more than 1,000 copyrighted media files.

The answer to the question "Is file sharing illegal" can be found by turning to the

Copyright Act. The Copyright Act of 1976 protects "original works of authorship fixed in any tangible medium of expression, currently known or later developed, from which the work can be perceived, reproduced or otherwise communicated, either directly or indirectly, with the aid of a machine or device." MP3 files fall under this protection.

The RIAA began its lawsuits with two hundred sixty one individual file sharers, including Michigan Tech student Joseph Nievelt who is being sued to the amount of \$150,000 per song, or 97.8 trillion dollars. MTU's president, Curtis Tompkins, accuses the RIAA of overlooking the school's efforts to curb illegal file

sharing within its network. Furthermore he hints that the RIAA is more interested in lawsuits and publicity than cooperating to avoid such occurrences.

The RIAA maintains that it is prepared to grant what amounts to amnesty to P2P users who voluntarily identify themselves and pledge to stop illegally sharing music on the Internet. It guarantees not to sue file sharers who have not yet been identified in any investigations and who provide a signed affidavit in which they promise to respect recording-company copyrights

Publicity, and public scrutiny is drawn when Brianna LaHara is sued with 215 other users. Brianna was what the RIAA was looking for. She has consistently

downloaded well over a thousand songs, and had no criminal record, cementing the RIAA claim that normal people are getting stuck with the suits.

The suit against her was estimated at roughly \$150,000 dollars a song. In total, 1.5 million dollars. Brianna in a tear soaked confession admitted her guilt, and with that the RIAA had everything they needed to attack one of the largest fileswappers on the web. Ms. LaHara has claimed that the suit filed by her as caused her to get both butterflies in her stomach, and 'upset'. The RIAA has settled for a reported fraction sum out of court. The 12 year old by the name of Brianna was only charged two thousand dollars.

Classic Book Still Able to Affect Today's Readers

KARA MCDONALD
Staff Writer

The Color Purple brings readers into the life of a unique young woman growing up, changing, and finally learning to live and love, under difficult circumstances. The main character Celie shows her painful experiences, and torn emotions through her personal letters to God, and her beloved sister Nettie. The novel opens with the brutal, descriptive account of the sexual and physical abuse Celie endures from her father. This is the beginning of the horrible cruelty Celie faces at the hands of men in her life. In Celie's time, middle 1800's, a woman is inferior, and they are expected to serve their men. She is simulta-

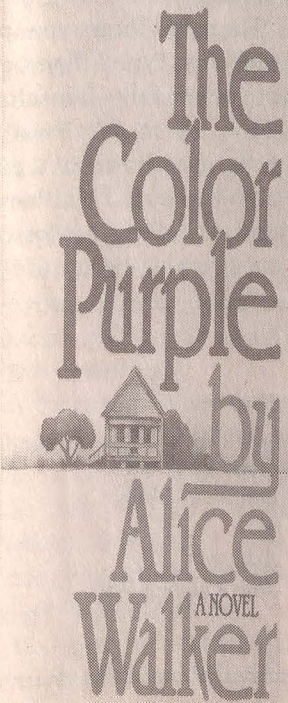
neously struggling to take care of her family consisting of many siblings and a sick mother. It seems things could not get any worse for Celie's life, until, as an attempt to get rid of her, Celie's father offers hand in marriage to Mister. In Celie's marriage to Mister, she suffers even more physical and sexual abuse, while she is expected to take care of his ungrateful children.

Soon, she has lost all hope in life, until an unexpected arrival changes everything. Shug Avery, who is a flamboyant blues singer and who is also known in town for her promiscuity, is the mistress of Celie's husband. When Shug becomes ill, Mister brings her to their house to recover. Celie is fascinated by Shug's

strength and will to do things her own way. Before long, the women form an unlikely bond that ends up saving Celie from her own anger and frustration towards life. Slowly through Shug, Celie learns to love and to live again. Celie finally achieves enough strength to believe in herself and stands up to Mister, telling him she is leaving.

This is a turning point in Celie's life, and things progressively improve, until she is no longer the sad, broken and abused woman of her past. Through many other side plots and characters in the story, Celie's personality is developed. There are major changes in Celie, in the other main characters and through them; each learns a valuable lesson from

each other. This is an inspirational book that I could not put down. Alice Walker is a woman of talent, and also won a Pulitzer Prize for *The Color Purple* in 1982 making it a classic in literary history.



Rosa's: Lookout for Good Food

JESSICA MILLER
Staff Writer

Rosa's Lookout Inn, about 3 1/2 miles South of Ossieneke, is a place to enjoy yourself. Upon entering the newly redone building, it is obvious that this is a classy Italian restaurant. A hostess seats all of the arriving guests. The atmosphere is inviting and comfortable. The tables are set nicely with water glasses and cloth napkins. A candle is lit as you sit down.

The menu is unique and diverse with plenty of pastas, meat, fish, and appetizers. A separate menu lists the wines that the restaurant carries, and a description of their flavor.

My meal began with sauteed mushrooms, served in a garlic butter sauce, which were juicy and full of flavor. I also had cheese bread with Alfredo sauce. After the appetizers, a salad was brought out. Not just any salad. This salad was topped with pieces of salami, onions, green olives, tomatoes, and a thick

creamy Italian dressing, in which the waitress grated fresh Parmesan cheese onto. It was also served with warm homemade bread. The Prime Rib is juicy and cooked precise. It was served with a baked potato and side of vegetables. I had a non-alcoholic strawberry daiquiri, which was garnished with a slice of lime. For dessert Crème Brulee cheesecake was served. A creamy vanilla flavored cheesecake with a caramel glaze on top. The filling is a creamy custard cheese, and the caramel topping is sweet and gooey.

The price was about 60 dollars for 2 appetizers, 2 - 12 ounce Prime Rib dinners, 1 dessert, 1 pop, and a non-alcoholic strawberry daiquiri. I left 12 dollars for our waitress, who was prompt, as well as friendly.

Though it was slightly pricey, I found Rosa's to be a great place to relax, enjoy yourself, and of course eat.

Calling All Writers

Do you write fiction or poetry? Is some of it



gruesome?

creepy?

dark & scary?



We are looking for writers to read their own work at

An Evening of the Macabre Oct. 30, CTR 106, 7-10 pm.

Contact Tom Ray (NRC 304, 358-7250) for information.