

Lumberjack Sports

February 1, 2005

Athletics may be next to go

As this paper was starting to come together, and a story about the demise of *Facets* was being written, a common theme was being tossed about that a quality publication was being thrown out while we have athletic teams taking quite a bit of money, and, frankly, not producing in the win-loss column.

I've always defended athletics at every level. While some people do not want to hear it, athletics does teach you a lot of things other than how to catch and shoot a ball. Camaraderie, discipline and a general sense of belonging are just a few of the many benefits of playing a sport.

As many of you probably know by now, the school is facing a slew of budget cuts for 2006, and athletics may not escape the axe. While it would be sad for the people participating, and there are people who may lose scholarships, the harsh reality is that a good portion of this school simply would not care if athletics disappeared.

I've been to my fair share of basketball games the past two years, and each time the attendance has probably not risen over 100. The same can be said about the volleyball and softball teams. This is not a knock on the players; it's just the sad reality that there is not a lot of support from the school for athletics.

When you're drawing less than 100 people, and many of those people are students that get in for free, the team really isn't making the money back that it is using. It costs money to run the scoreboard and lights, keep janitors on to clean up afterwards and provide any transportation that the team may need. Also, coaches get paid. There is a reason ACC would save \$120,000 if athletics were to be cut.

If athletics were to be cut, the \$3 activity fee that every student pays would also be cut and added to tuition costs.

Another factor that hurts ACC athletics is that there are no other community college's nearby. Every away game is a trek down to at least Saginaw, and most of the time further.

I, personally, would not want to see athletics cut. But I also have to be a realist on the topic. The \$120,000 savings could be well used in other areas. There are plenty of other programs that could use the money, like *Facets*, for example.

No matter what happens, it should be interesting at ACC in 2006.

More Cowbell



Dominick Miller

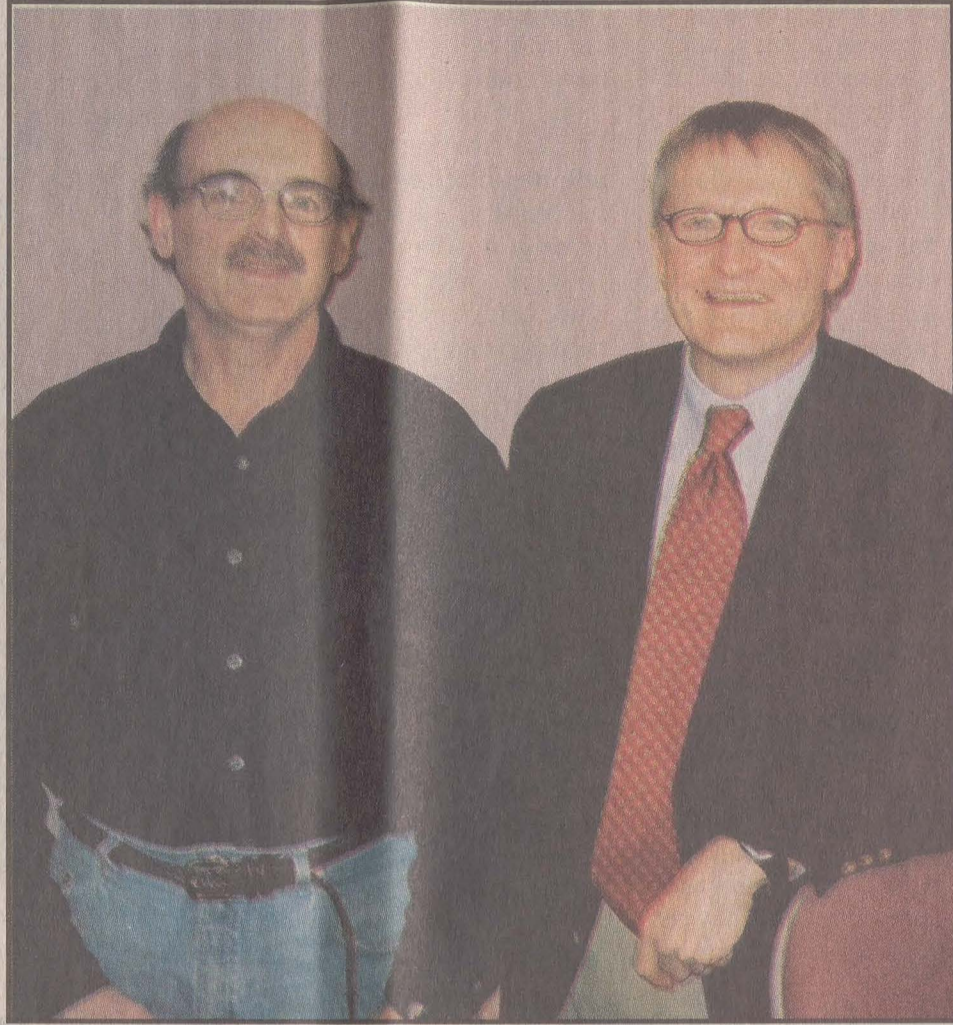
Here come the ... dorks?

Trustees during the week, dorks on the weekend

By Michael Gartner
Staff Writer

There is a "dork" side to ACC and area athletics, where a reasoned approach in a board room later turns zany and unfashionable on area roads, and the shuffle of papers turns to the shuffle of feet. ACC student Chris Wright has seen it; Joe Gentry and Stan Mischley admit to it: they are week-day-professionals turned weekend dorks.

Thirty years ago, a harmless Sunday jog among friends literally turned ugly when Mischley, Gentry and a few others sported red handkerchief bandannas and striped long underwear. An amused youth was heard to blurt out, "You guys look like a bunch of dorks." Thus their story begins. Humored by the epithet, the group developed jerseys with the wording "Athletics Werst" as satire on corporate America's sponsorship of runners then known as "Athletics West." Thereafter, they entered the Crystal Lake Team Marathon under the Dork Brothers name. Then, when Alpena's Thunder Bay Run lost its sponsorship, these fellows were motivated to continue a community run and so they



developed the first Dork Brothers Run.

Gentry, an ACC trustee and Mischley, an Alpena Township Trustee, together with their wives, children and a host of volunteers, will help organize eleven races in 2005. This month, they will announce the age group winners in the Northeast Michigan Runners Cup, an award based on an individuals combined score in

all 2004 area road races. In most of the area races, registrants already received an unusual t-shirt and the top finishers in each age category received medals.

ACC campus remains an integral part of the Dork Brothers tradition. Thirty years ago, as an adjunct faculty, Gentry had keys to the East Campus gym and would begin and end his Dork Brother races there.

Today, the ACC campus remains the longest running locale for the Dork Brothers July 4th Run. As a former ACC mechanical apprentice student, Mischley participated in an indoor triathlon (rowing, biking and running) at the ACC fitness center and today continues with the outdoor triathlon (swimming, biking and running) at Hubbard
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Hoops continuing play



ACC star Megan VanSchoten delivers a pass against Schoolcraft January 26 (photo by Chris Engle)

By Dominick Miller
Managing/Sports Editor

The basketball teams have concluded January, and both teams have plenty of things to be proud of.

While the men's team finished the month 2-7, they did play every game fairly close, and had plenty of players step up and play well.

For the season, the Lumberjacks sit at 5-12.

The Lady Lumberjacks are in the same position as the

men's team. The girls finished January 3-6, and have an overall record of 3-14.

"Overall, I think the girls are doing well," coach Bobby Allen said. "They're working hard everyday."

It's been a team effort, but the girls have been paced by Megan VanSchoten, Kelli Weichel, Anna Bashans and Bridget Hillard. Hillard, in fact, is coming off two major injuries. We hope to have a feature on Hillard in the future.

Merging trails would benefit Alpena business

By Courtney Sobczak
Staff Writer

Snowmobiling is the second leading tourist attraction in Michigan, just behind golf, bringing in over \$1 billion in statewide business profits annually. How can Alpena's local businesses share in this profit margin? Simple: connect two frequently used snowmobile trails in Alpena County, and possibly make Alpena's North Side snowmobile trail accessible.

In early spring 2004, planning began within the Inter-Governmental Council, which is made up of members from the city, county, and surrounding townships, for ideas to boost the economic development in the Alpena area during the winter months. There is always talk of how to boost the economic development during the spring and summer, but tourism should be considered year-round. Opening the city up to snowmobilers would allow for a possible economic growth in the cold, winter



The current trail leading from Posen provides access to some businesses north of town. Extending the trail would allow snowmobilers to reach more local businesses (photo by Chris Engle)

months.

The county commissioners contacted the Alpena Snowmobile Association (ASA) and together they started brainstorming ways to connect two popular snowmobile trails in Alpena. In the past, with the development of the local 75 miles of trails that the ASA controls, the idea was designed to allow people to travel out of Alpena. If the

Intramural basketball season starts

By Dominick Miller
Managing/Sports Editor

Despite a smaller than anticipated turnout, the intramural basketball season has kicked off.

Only five teams submitted entries, which left Bobby Allen in the tough position of trying to schedule enough games. As it stands right now, every team that signed up received at least five games throughout the month of February.

"I expected to have more teams," Allen admitted.

Even though games have started, Allen would love to add at least one more team, possibly more. Anyone interested should pick up a sign-up sheet in the Wellness Center and give it to Allen. It's free to play.

As it stands right now, games are Monday and Thursday nights, beginning at 7 p.m. The games are played at Park Arena on the main court. That is different from years past, when the two side hoops were used. The games feature 20-minute halves with a running clock. Players are allowed five fouls.

The teams have between six and ten people on them. The five captains are: 1. Joni Ames; 2. Aaron Klien; 3. Mike Zinke; 4. Nathan Gagnon; 5. Jimmy Hart.

two trails were connected, though, it would draw people into Alpena, and economic development could occur.

Co-Director of the World Center for Concrete Technology and ASA member Bob Eller commented on the positive economic aspects of the trail. "I have a hope that this trail will allow for job opportunities or even the
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