

The Lumberjack

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

All of the news that affects the students at Alpena Community College

ACC students to host first annual film festival

By Kara McDonald
Photo Editor

Who says that nothing interesting ever happens in Alpena? On April 22 and 23 Alpena Community College will be holding its first annual film festival. It will be open to anyone who would like to submit a film of any genre; the sky is the limit! Like it says on the flyer, "If you ever felt the urge to create or be part of the film-making process, get out there, make a movie, and submit it to us!"

The idea of a local film festival started back when the creators were still in high school. Their vision was to allow the people of northern Michigan to express their art and ideas in the form of motion picture. The search for a place that would agree to hold the festival went on for almost a year. The high school refused, the movie theaters said no, but, finally, there was a light in the dark. After various screenings of their own movies, ACC decided make the dream a reality.

The masterminds behind the festival are first year ACC students Brian Guerriero and Joe Rybarczyk. They have both been interested and working on their own films for years and hope to spread the love to many others.

Please see Film, page 2

INSIDE THE LUMBERJACK:

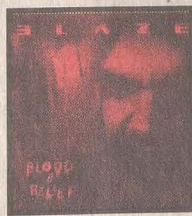
Sports:

Here come the ... dorks? Trustees during the week, "dorks" by the weekend. Check out page 5.



A&E:

Is the new BLAZE disc worth listening to? Read the review, page 7.

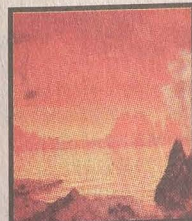


Perspectives:

The public good or private gain? Mr. Kuehnlein gives the answer. Page 3.

A Final Word:

We've landed on a moon! Really! Look at page 8.



School faces decisions

An anticipated \$743,000 will need to be cut for 2006

By De Maramed and Dominick Miller
Managing Editors

Despite ending the 2003-2004 year \$71,000 over budget, ACC finds itself facing an anticipated \$743,000 shortfall in the 2006 fiscal year, which requires the consideration of several drastic cuts to staff and programs around the college.

The administration is taking the beginning steps in a process to consider their options. The first step is in the Strategic Planning and Board Committee (SPBC), which has the primary responsibility of considering and analyzing the college's options.

From the SPBC, the Executive Council will receive recommendations no later than April of this year. From there, ACC President Dr. Olin Joynton will have the final say concerning a budget resolution that will ultimately go to the Board of Trustees in May. The final approval for the 2006 fiscal year budget by the Board of Trustees is scheduled for their June

See the complete list of what could possibly be cut, page 2.

Scenes like this may be gone in 2005-06. Fact file photo.

"This is undoubtedly a tough time for the college. Tough times can bring out the best in people." - Dr. Olin Joynton, ACC President

meeting.

"This is undoubtedly a tough time for the college," Dr. Joynton said in an email sent to faculty and staff on Monday, January 24. "Tough times can bring out the best in people."

While many ACC employees declined to comment, Dr. Teri Eide had this to say, "If cuts have to be

made, it shouldn't directly impact the students. It seems to me when those [budget cuts] come down, the ones it hurts the most are the students. The student is my employer. A lot of people seem to forget that."

Some of the larger possible cuts include the college wide wage freeze, which would save approximately

MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY

Manufacturing technology is another program that could be cut.

\$275,000; cutting Program, saving up to \$75,000. A complete list of programs and positions that might be cut appears on page 2.

The demise of Facets

The award winning Facets meets demise due to lack of funding

By De Maramed
Managing/News Editor

Despite four years of publications and numerous national awards, Facets, ACC's arts and literature journal has been shelved, due to budget problems.

For the past three years, Denise Hill and Laurie Wade, the advisors for Facets, had been scrounging up the money where they could in order to get Facets published. Hill had been writing grants on the side, and the student activity fee had even been tapped.

Last spring semester, however, it appeared that relief had finally come. ACC had specifically set aside money in the budget for Facets, as well as President



The 2004 Facets, with "To Paint an Alien" by Rachel Morey on the front cover.

Olin Joynton deciding to pay a full advisors' stipend to both Hill and Wade for putting in their time. The student editors received tuition waivers as well.

In June of last year they

submitted a proposal for the work, outlining what the activities were, how students benefited, how many students benefited, and how much time would be spent on Facets.

Please see Facets, page 2

On the brink

Talent Search and Upward Bound face uncertain futures

By Dominick Miller
Managing/Sports Editor

A program that brought over 100 students to Alpena Community College last year alone is in jeopardy of losing its funding. Talent Search, along with Upward Bound, two college-access programs, are in danger of being eliminated in President Bush's latest finance plan for his signature No Child Left Behind plan.

Talent Search and Upward Bound are pre-college programs that get children from sixth-grade through high

school prepared for the college experience. Activities range from college visits, tutoring, field trips and summer internship programs. Together, the programs, which run throughout the United States, cost over \$460 million annually and serve a total of about 455,000 students and veterans.

"It was a total shock," said Bob Newton, the director of Talent Search here at ACC, upon hearing about the possible elimination of the program. "I know we do well. 86% of our kids go to college. 99.6% graduate from high school. Obviously we're doing something right."

Students must apply to be included in Talent Search and Upward Bound. Talent

Please see Talent, page 2

The list: possible cuts in ACC's future

Area	Function	Amount
MIS	Systems analyst—part-time with temporary position	\$23,000
MIS	Look at tech and secretarial support in office	\$40,000
MIS	Computer tech. position	\$50,000
MIS/Library	Redefine audio/video tech position	Und.
Campus Services	One position – redistribution of functions	\$40,000
Instructional Support	Evening coordinators	\$25,709
Instructional Support	HUSH director (reduction of hours)	\$25,000
Instructional Support	HUSH TLC Tech	\$18,500
Instructional Support	Library – books, supplies, etc.	\$70,000
Student Services	Career Tech.	\$45,000
Student Services	Counselor	\$95,000
Student Services	Placement Counselor (vacant)	\$65,000
Executive Administration	Administrative assistant	\$60,000
Athletics	Eliminate conference athletics – Reduce student activity fee by \$3, increase tuition by same	\$120,000
Facilities	Half-time custodian	\$22,000
Facilities	Parking attendant	\$3,000
Nursing Administration	Part-time director	\$30,000
Instructional	Lab techs. (3)	\$66,310
Instructional	Social Science faculty position (vacant)	\$63,000
Instructional	Manufacturing Technology program elimination	\$75,000
Wellness Center	Tech. positions	\$41,000
Foundation	Increase funding from Foundation for director	\$60,000
College wide	Travel	\$61,016
College wide	Staff development	\$16,000
College wide	Board of Trustees travel	\$6,000
College wide	Wage freeze	\$275,000
College wide	Associations	\$36,000
College wide	Copier paper, printer cartridges, etc.	\$10,000
College wide	Car allowance and mileage reimbursement	Und.
Administrators	General fund-health care contributions	\$21,000
CEHRD	Reevaluate director position-Retirement (\$120,000)	\$60,000
CEHRD	Self Sufficient (already factored into budget)-look for additional ways to support General Fund	
Volunteer Center	Self Sufficient (already factored into budget)-look for additional ways to support General Fund	
WCCT	Look for ways to support General Fund	
Total:		\$1,522,535

Talent Search and Upward Bound face uncertain futures

Continued from page 1
search is more of a general program, with over 750 students per year. Upward Bound is a more intensive program that is limited to 70 students per year. The programs act as a counselor to high school students, especially low-income, first generation would-be college students. They basically expand on the job of high school counselors who may not be able to give students all the help they need when deciding to go to college.

"It would really be a big loss," said Nadine Daw, a second year student at ACC who went through the Talent Search program out of Hillman High School. "They really proved to be an asset when I was trying to decide where to go. They recommended ACC, and it was the best decision for me."

Upward Bound was established in 1964 as part of President Lyndon B. Johnson's war on poverty. Talent Search was added a year later, and four more programs have been created over the years. Upward Bound Math-Science was created in 1990 to deal with the decline in math and science programs.

Both Newton and Upward Bound coordinator Joe Klemens believe that their programs do more than the No Child Left Behind program does. Under

President Bush's program, according to Newton, kids are learning enough to take a test. Through Upward Bound and Talent Search, kids are getting more real-life exposure, letting kids make a concrete decision when they head to college.

"We try to make everything they learn apply to life," Newton explained. "We ask them 'why is a college education important?' We offer that kind of program. We want to know what they want to go into, so they don't lose that time (college time).

First Career Pathway's Night coming soon

With over 900 participants in attendance last year, it's time again to start another six nights full of presentations, information, and questions at this year's Career Pathways Nights. Pathways nights are for anyone who is seeking career information, an opportunity to explore career paths by interviewing people who specialize and work in those careers, or is interested in going back to school to better themselves.

This year Pathways will be presenting throughout the end of February and the beginning of March of 2005.

February 21, 2005 will be host to the Health Sciences fields, February 22 the Human Services fields will be presented, February 24 Arts and Communication along with Natural Resources and Agriscience will be the topic of discussion. March 1st will include Engineering, Manufacturing & Industrial Technology. March 10 will go into Business Management, Marketing & Technology. And last but not least March 15 will

Kids that don't decide usually drop out."

If the cut does happen, it would affect the 2006-07 school year. Both programs have grants written to cover through next year. Newton and Klemens urge students who know what Talent Search and Upward Bound can do for prospective students to write letters to congress stating they wish to see Talent Search and Upward Bound continue.

President Bush is supposed to make the announcement in a February 12 speech.

be the one you should not miss, the "How to pay for it all" Financial Aid workshop.

Some of the presenters this year include a Detroit based FBI agent, Book author M.G. Kinkade, Bill Speer from the Alpena News, Software Development specialists, and other business owners from all over Michigan.

"Pathways Nights are the next best thing to job shadowing"-Cindy Besaw Secretary for the Educational Talent Search office.

For a complete list of topics that will be covered contact the Educational Talent Search at 989-358-7348.

- By Glenn Lenard

Film Festival hopes to showcase Alpena talent



1st annual alpena community college
FILM FESTIVAL
"Cinema should make you forget you are sitting in a theater."
-Roman Polanski



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ACC GRANUM THEATRE - APRIL 2005

An event unlike any other seen in alpena; the first annual acc film festival has one basic principle: to allow the people of northern michigan to express their art and ideas in the form of a motion picture. Simply put - if you have ever felt the urge to create or be a part of the film making process, get

The 1st annual ACC Film Festival

Continued from page 1

"I love the connection that can be made between the film and the viewer, and the impact that it can create," says Rybarczyk. Both of the men plan on furthering their film skills at Lansing Community College next year, where Guerriero will concentrate on Technical Directing and Rybarczyk in Motion Picture Production. Everyone involved with the film festival is very hopeful about the turn out and expect to see submissions from all over. Interest has already been

shown from places outside of Alpena, including former ACC students from Lansing. There is also the hope that the festival will live on after Guerriero and Rybarczyk leave Alpena. Remember, it's the First Annual Film Festival; that means more than one.

All entries must be received by March 18. Every movie will be screened prior to the showings and rated based on content. Submitters will be informed of the status of their film, and what time and date they will be

shown. Films can be of any type desired: documentary, horror, music video, experimental, etc. (no pornography please). The accepted formats include VHS, DVD, or even in mpeg/avi/ mov on CDROM. All entries must be sent to: Alpena Community College (care of Nan Hall), 666 Johnson St., Alpena, MI 49707.

Questions of any kind can be directed to alpenafilmm@hotmail.com, or Guerriero can be reached at 354-4368.

Facets may resume publication in the future



Denise Hill and Laurie Wade meet with Dr. Joynton after receiving the "Lumberjack Award" in March 2004 for their work on Facets (photo courtesy ACC).

Continued from page 1
But they were promptly denied in a letter from Dr. Joynton a month later.

A meeting was set up between Dr. Joynton, Hill, and Wade before the fall semester began. Hill and Wade argued that the college was in violation of their contract in refusing to pay the \$1560 stipend listed under "Positions developed by the college."

"The college developed Facets," Denise Hill explained. "They wanted it." Dr. Joynton did eventually agree to pay the stipend for a

literary advisor, but not for an art advisor. Faced with the choice of either splitting the money or having only one advisor working on Facets, they decided not to continue the publication. "Ultimately, we turned it down," Hill said.

"We spent 138 hours each over the course of a year on Facets," Hill explained. "How do I balance this between my students and my classes? You do want compensation at a certain point."

There have been numerous requests for Facets to return, but at the time there are no plans to resurrect it. Neither

Hill nor Wade have been approached to head up Facets for next year.

"I made some effort without much success in finding alternate people, other people to take the project over," Dr. Joynton said. "I would be very interested in speaking with any employee who would be interested in taking it on next year. To me it's a good thing, and I was sorry that we had to skip a year."

Facets was designed as a journal for the arts, exclusively for ACC students to showcase themselves and their abilities to the community. Facets is widely recognized outside of the community, and has received the first place with special merit award from the American Scholastic Press Association, the gold medal from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association, and the central division most improved magazine award from the Community College Humanities Association Literary Magazine Competition.

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In the Hallways: What is your opinion on the demise of Facets?



"Facets is such a wonderful publication, it shouldn't just be thrown away."

Wendy Gapinski



"I've never read it or anything, I don't know what it's all about."

Megan Brietzke



"It's sad that people aren't being recognized for their talents."

Chelsea Werda



"I don't think it's fair that sports gets more funding than other activities."

Brittany Posthumus



"If something as good as Facets is gone, I wonder what could go next."

Nadine Daw



"They should probably keep it, if it's something that students read."

Linelle Sylvester

The public good or private gain: The conundrum of our society

There is little doubt that many in the conservative movement over the last 10-20 years have eagerly sought to roll back the size, power and waste of government since the Great Depression era, and perhaps rightfully so.

Yet one wonders if current policy makers and supporters of austerity measures concerning scaling back government and government services, particularly through tax reductions, truly understand the full implications of this movement in so far as these policies are detrimentally affecting the most basic public service institutions in our society.

With the major financial challenges that our little college here in Northeast Michigan is facing at the moment, many of us fellow citizens have been pressed towards pondering whether or not our state and country realize the full potential of tax reduction policies and other conservative economic measures, like privatization of social security, and the general notion of a society of "private ownership" that President Bush eluded to in his inauguration speech.

There is no doubt that a little bit of belt tightening could never hurt an obese society such as ours, but perhaps there is potential for cutting off

one's circulation if the belt is tightened too much.

Is this austerity that we are experiencing simply a scaling back, perhaps a forced restructuring of public services leading towards the goal of a more streamlined and vibrant series of public services, or is this process a radical and perhaps hostile reaction against government and the public sector among narrow special interests with deleterious affects on some the core functions of society, like public education and social security nets for the elderly and disabled?

Is the intended result to undercut the viability of such services as public services, or is it meant to simply empower people and invigorate the solvency of such systems?

Can the private sector adequately provide a safety net for the elderly, uninsured, and disabled, or is there some sort of public obligation to protect at least the weakest among us with principles of redistributing wealth and to enforce equal standards and applications of rights, privileges and obligations in our society?

Can the private sector adequately educate America's public towards the public good as opposed the narrow ideological objectives of private interests like denominational religious orthodoxies or cults or even special interest organizations who might otherwise educate America's youth?

Where is the end to the

reverberations of tax reduction and the ambitions towards structural change in our government and society, especially given the flux of our current economy here in Michigan?

What I find even more perplexing than these questions with no clear answers is that the mainstream society which sees the need and desire for reduced taxation must realize that for these services to be provided, regardless of whether they are public or private, people will have to pay for them one way or another.

There is a need in a compassionate society with a diversity of underprivileged for some degree of redistributive wealth that is objective and not laden with particularistic parochial obligations.

Let's just hope that in the process of finding a more efficient and hopefully effective manner of providing basic public services that we as a society do not compromise the public good for simple and narrowly focused private interests or gain, financial or otherwise.

In my mind this trend towards a "society of ownership", subsequently holding the public sector to the wall, potentially puts public institutions at the mercy of narrow private interests, especially if this process goes too far, and I would suggest that President Bush and the current

conservative agenda regarding austerity through tax reductions and privatizing social security, for example, are undercutting government's ability to protect the public good. Michigan's simultaneous movement in this direction compounds the problems facing us Michiganians.

Perhaps its time to stabilize the zealous nature of structural reform before the change insights destruction and counter-reactive forces. After all, Adam Smith, the conceiver of the modern capitalist system of economics who defined the values of the private sector, clearly recognized the value of government providing some

basic public services out of absolute necessity for the individual and private interests to be understood within society as a whole, and that government has a responsibility to provide some basic services, among these things are public infrastructure and public education.

If the pendulum of change is not tempered soon, the momentum could be destructive instead of constructive. Public education and basic social security are being severely challenged. Let's hope that they do not get undermined by threats of the unknown, neglect, or the ill-conceived.

Kuehnlein's Corner



Timothy K. Kuehnlein, Jr.

Click here for a free iPod!

By Chris Engle
Sports/A&E Editor

There isn't a day that goes by that I don't have to clear out a dozen bulk emails from my inbox offering me "Free iPods" in return for completing a survey or providing personal information.

Lately, simply deleting these emails is not satisfying enough, so I've started scrolling through the message to see who it's from, what they want, and if they provide a link where I can unsubscribe from their mailing list (since I don't remember subscribing in the first place). If they don't include an unsubscribe link, or they make me type my email address to unsubscribe (so they can sell it back to another spam company), I reply to that message. Sometimes the message cannot be sent, and the replies usually don't lead to a response, but it's a good way to vent frustration and let the companies know that you aren't buying into their bullcrap.

Another way companies try to 'give away' s iPods is by placing giant pop-ups and banner advertisements on websites that have quizzes asking, "Which one is so-and-so?" followed by pictures of three talentless pop stars. Answer the quiz correctly (or just click anywhere in the banner), and you will be taken to a site where you can conveniently submit your email and home address to complete strangers.

Why do I rant on over some stupid advertisement? Because these companies are taking advantage of people who cannot see that they're just being led on with empty promises of free gifts. Unfortunately, these ploys can be effective, because people love free stuff and often overlook the fine print to do whatever they need to do to get their free gift, even if it means surrendering an email or home address, phone number, or other personal information. Companies then sell this information or use it

to send these people more advertisements or offers.

I want this to be a wake-up call to anyone who has ever considered cooperating with these companies in hopes of getting free stuff. Use some logic, people. Do you think someone is actually going to send you a \$250 gift as a reward for your ability to pick out Beyonce from a lineup? No. This only grabs your attention so that they can throw a bunch of offers at you. Even if you take an offer (freeipods.com has offers including auto insurance, movie rentals, etc), these companies are not obligated by any law to actually send the iPod.

To some, this information may seem like common sense, but companies do this for a reason- it works. My hope is that people will stop participating with these companies and they'll give up, and I'll finally be able to play Collapse online without having to stare at a giant flashing banner ad with Bono's face on it.



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Hey! Don't be afraid to Do-It-Yourself!

By Kara McDonald
Photo Editor

How many of you out there feel like you have so much to say, but there is no medium for you to express it through? You might want to consider starting your own Zine. A zine is like a mini-magazine (hence the name "zine") that is a pretty simple DIY (do it yourself) form of expression. Zines are self-published and can be about any thing your little heart desires. Since you are your own boss and editor, you don't need to worry about guidelines and content, and you could also work with friends on ideas and contributions.

Like I have said before, since you are your own editor, your zine can be about anything you want. It can be a book of poetry, a collection of short stories or art, a short novel, or just random things you find interesting. I came across a zine one time that was just things people had found lying around on the street and in school (ex. letters, old photos, ticket stubs). A zine can be a lot of fun, and maybe even give you a sense of accomplishment like you did something with your life! One thing to consider when starting a zine is: are you ready? Doing a zine can take a lot of dedication and hard work, but don't let me scare you away. I'm here to

encourage you and get you on your way to becoming a "zine extraordinaire"!

We could get into some very fine detail on how to complete your zine, but I just want to get started. First off, decide on content, this is what will make your zine. Next, what size do you want it to be? To be very basic, you could use a full sheet of paper or fold the paper in half for a half sized zine. Feel free to experiment though, you may like the look of a large sheet which will give your project a square appearance. For printing a zine, the best and most inexpensive way is photocopying. Doing it Xerox style means you can print your mag on demand and as you need it.

Of course, before you print, you need to have your content pasted down and this is the most basic way to do it. First get what ever it is you want to go in your zine cut out, and tacked down. You'll want to make original pages for printing, and you can use any kind of paper you want. If you're going for the classic black and white feel, you'll only need regular letter paper, but you can always

mix it up a bit with some colored pages. Be sure to use a glue stick (or maybe even some reliable tape) to keep you content down on your original. Never use Elmer's or any such glue because it can be messy and crinkle what you previously put down, and we don't want to go and make your first zine to look bad, now do we?

So now you're ready to print. Make sure you have numbered all your zine pages that way you can keep them in order. The text on your pages can be typed, or even handwritten legibly with a good black pen for it to show up nice when printed. Photos and art should be black and white, even if it may be grayish or a little yellow, though most color prints should turn out okay. When putting art or photos in your zine, they can either be pasted right in, or even photocopied before hand and tacked down. Also, remember that a copy machine may cut of a little bit around the edges when printing, so be sure to not put anything too important too close to the edge. Now you are ready to print away! When it comes to binding your pages together don't be afraid to get creative, because that is what doing a zine is all about! You can

staple, or hole punch and tie together with whatever you wish.

Distributing your zine can be done in many ways. Of course handing them out yourself is one of the best ways. You can bring them to shows, school, art shows or set up a booth at a festival and maybe even charge a dollar a copy (price can vary according to how much you spent putting it together). You can also put a link up on a zine site, trade with other zine creators, leave them in local coffee shops, record stores and other such places, and even set up mailorder distribution yourself. So many choices, whew! You're going to be a busy little beaver. Other than getting exposure from the ways mentioned above, you can also try submitting your zine to a zine review website.

So there is what goes in to making a zine. It may seem like a lot, but it can really be pretty simple. Remember, have fun with it! Isn't that why you started it in the first place? If you have any other questions about creating a zine, go to www.houseoffun.com/action/zines. It's a great site with in-depth info on formatting, layout, and anything else you would need to know. I know you're now incredibly pumped after reading this, so go start pasting and printing up pages, and don't be afraid to DIY!

You make the call

By Clare DeBlaay
Staff Writer

There are so many different services, phones, and plans to choose from these days when it comes to cell phones. Yet, when you live up north your choices become quite limited. After doing a short survey from some students who both attend ACC and own a cell phone, I found some pretty interesting facts. Six of the ten people that were questioned went through Alltel. Only two of those six people were actually satisfied with their overall service. Of the four students that went through Cellular One, only one person was satisfied with their overall service.

Basically what I found from talking with several various people that owned cell phones was that most everyone was grateful to have their own phone, but they were strongly disappointed with the lack of reception. When living in a bigger city than Alpena, Hillman, Posen or Lachine there are reception towers all over the place. This makes you able to have good service practically everywhere.

On the other hand, cell phones have been around for quite some time, but only within the

past 4-6 years have so many young kids and teens owned their own cell phone. And if you haven't noticed, every time you turn on the television, listen to the radio, or look at a billboard there is some sort of wireless advertisement. The phone service, cost, and overall quality has come a long way technologically just recently. The phones seem to get smaller even though the options and possibilities keep growing. Cellular One has recently broadened their coverage area. Also, other companies such as Alltel offers free phone and free minutes every time you turn around.

With the advancement of technology in the twenty-first century having a cell phone is practically a way of life. There are few people walking around or driving around without a cell in their hand. The big craze just six or seven years ago for kids' and teenagers' to communicate was through the Internet on MSN, AOL, or Yahoo messengers. Now most of those computer junky kids have turned into wireless addicts. Since the wireless trend is on the rise with new phones, plans, companies, and improvements there will doubtfully be an end to all of this chaos anytime soon.

ACC Events Calendar

February 2005

- 5 **Lumberjack Basketball Homecoming** against Wayne. Women at 5:30, men at 7:30 pm.
- 10 **ALL/ACC 2005 Film Series**, "Control Room," at 7 pm, Van Lare Hall 117. Al Jazeera Iraq War documentary. Discussion to be led by John Boaz. Film is open to students, ALL members and the public. Free admission.
- 11 **Deadline for Spring Semester graduation application.**
- 12 **Lumberjack Basketball** against Mott. Women at 5:30, men at 7:30 pm.
- 17 **ACC Board of Trustees Meeting** at 7 pm, Room 400, Natural Resources Center.
- 19 **Lumberjack Basketball** against Kirtland. Women at 5:30, men at 7:30 pm.
- 21-25 **Mid-Semester Break**- no classes; college offices open.
- 21 **Talent Search Career Pathways**, Health Sciences, 6:30 pm.
- 22 **Talent Search Career Pathways**, Human Services, 6:30 pm.
- 24 **Talent Search Career Pathways**, Arts, Communication, Natural Resources and Agriscience, 6:30 pm.

Live: From BTC106 ...

It's from the editor

Like Dr. Joynton said, we face tough times. Next year will be a time of tightening the belt and sucking it in. While the staff here at The Lumberjack won't be back, we sympathize, and hope that in some way, it works out for the best. Hopefully Dr. Joynton is right, that tough times bring out the best in people. We can only hold our breath and wait and see.

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Spring 05 Lumberjack Staff



Meet the Advisor: Ann Kitalong,
Adjunct Instructor

I'm pretty sure I got roped into having my photo here because Glenn's sick right now. So, look for him next month, because this is the second issue in a row that he's gotten out of doing the "Meet the LJack Staff" section! I've been teaching here since 1999, and I'm in my second year as LJack advisor.

Managing/Sports: Dominick Miller
Managing/News: De Maramed
Sports/A&E: Chris Engle
A&E/Perspectives: Glenn Lenard
Photo: Kara McDonald
Advisor: Ann Kitalong-Will
Contributors: Clare DeBlaay,
Michael Gartner, Erinn Kane,
Tim Kuehnlein, David Rude,
Angela Smith, Courtney Sobzeak

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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.

More
Cowbell



Dominick Miller

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.

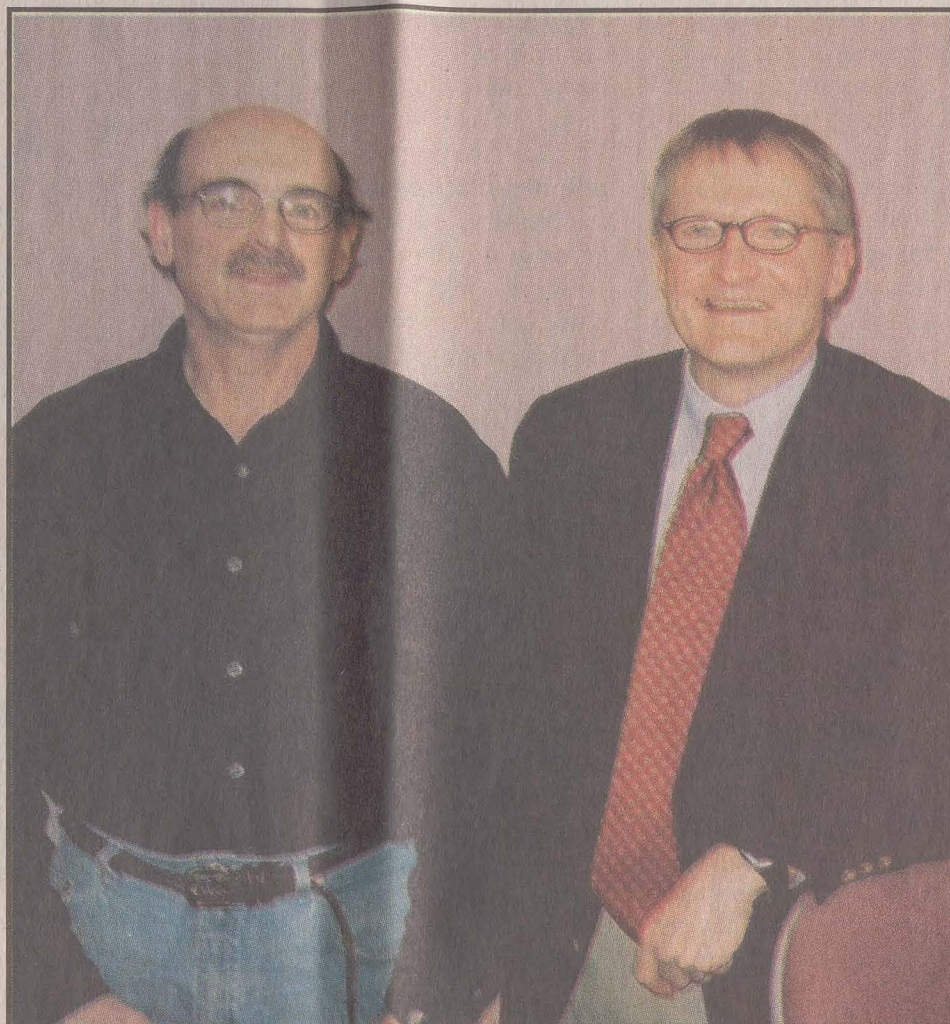
Here come the ... dorks?

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

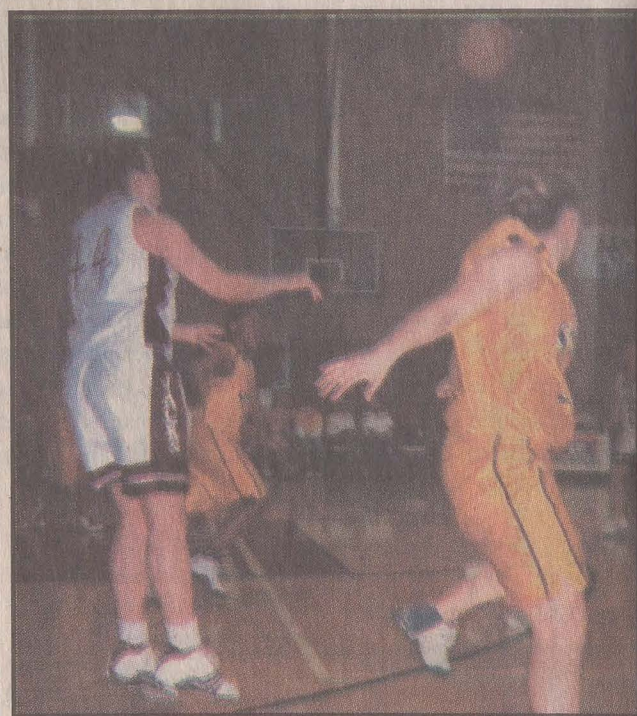
all 2004 area road races. In most of the area races, registrants already received an unusual t-shirt and the top finishers in each age category received medals.

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

Please see Dork, page 6

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.

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

Please see Snowmobile, page 6

Fletcher Pond offers a variety of fish for mid-winter anglers

In the Hallways:
SPORTS EDITION

Located just southeast of Hillman, Fletcher Pond is a fair drive for Alpena residents, but can pay off well even in the dead of winter. The pond is a 19,000 acre flooded portion of the Thunder Bay

Alpena Outdoors



Chris Engle

and averages about 4-6 feet in depth, with the deepest part of the old river channel reaching a mere 9 feet. During the early and mid summer months, bass and pike fishing is prime, as well as excellent panfish catching. The lake doesn't slow down for the winter, though, and can even provide a more exciting day of fishing.

Over the past few years, an invasive seaweed species known as the Eurasian Milfoil, spread to the Great Lakes area via freighters, and

has taken its grip on local lakes. The weed species is notorious for choking entire lakes with weeds within just a few years of its introduction to the water body, and is closely monitored by the Michigan DNR. Fletcher Pond has been infected with this species, but so far the local fishermen (and fish) have experienced mostly positive effects of the weeds.

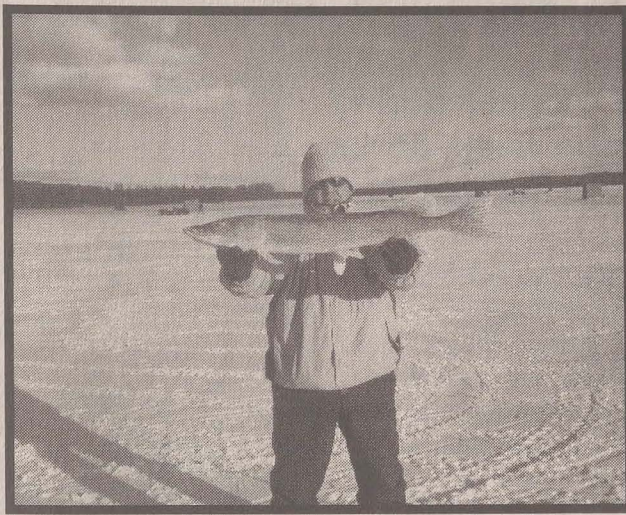
Brian Ferguson, of Jack's Landing, said that fish numbers have increased tenfold, along with increases in fish size and weight, due to the extra cover and shelter the growing weed beds provide.

However, in the late summer, the weeds become so thick that the surface of the lake becomes covered and boaters must clear the weeds from their propellers frequently while moving from one fishing spot to the next. Fishing itself becomes nearly impossible, since the weeds don't allow any lures to pass

through without gathering weed mass.

During the winter, the weeds die and collapse to the bottom, still providing shelter to baitfish and panfish but also allowing a clear view for fishermen of the bottom of the lake from the ice. Fishermen looking for a variety of fish can expect to catch six or more different species, ranging from the pond's famous northern pike and largemouth bass to more enjoyable fare for kids like crappie and bluegill.

By focusing on specific fishing methods, fishermen can target certain species. Many fishermen prefer to try for one of many monster pike the pond produces each year, which often reach over 40 inches in length. Do this by using tip-ups with heavy line and large minnows such as sucker chubs on treble hooks. Some prefer using fish decoys made of wood to lure the massive fish in, and then



Bill Bauer shows off a 38" Northern Pike he caught during a recent tournament on Fletcher Pond (photo courtesy Jack's Landing)

dropping large baits down for the pike to grab. Both methods are exciting and productive.

Those seeking smaller, but no less exciting game like panfish, use light line with small teardrops tipped with wigglers or waxworms, and either an ultralight rod or small bobber to make it easy to detect the bite. Fishing for panfish requires the least technology- a wooden dowel

with five feet of line tied to the end will work just fine; and is great entertainment for little kids.

Public access to Fletcher Pond is located 5 1/2 miles down Jack's Landing Rd. from M-32, just east of Hillman. If you have children interested in fishing, or you just want to tie into a master angler pike of your own, give this pond a try- you certainly won't be bored.

What is your prediction for the Super Bowl?



"Patriots 21-10." - Jenny Black



"Eagles 21-10." - Becky Witter

Merging trails would benefit Alpena, businesses

Continued from page 5

ability to retain jobs in the Alpena area," he said. "This could lead to less layoffs during the winter due to the lack of business and tourism throughout the area."

Not only would businesses have the potential to grow, but local riders would not have to trailer their machines so far to get to a trail, spending their money elsewhere on hotels and meals. The connector trail would allow snowmobilers to take a trail and come in from Hillman, or even as far north as Mackinaw City. Residents of Rogers City could also ride a trail close to home and come into Alpena for a day trip for lunch or dinner.

"The county and city need to do their part to get tourism in Alpena, and bring snowmobilers into Alpena, so they are able to see what Alpena has to offer," Eller added, "not drive the snowmobilers elsewhere for

their recreational fun."

"The County and City need to do their part to get tourism in Alpena, and bring snowmobilers into Alpena, so they are able to see what Alpena has to offer. Not drive the snowmobilers elsewhere for their recreational winter fun," said Eller.

The most promising route discussed would connect the trails coming out by Best Western on M-32, going down Bagley St. across the bridge, down Genshaw Rd., then out to Golf Course Rd. Under this proposed trail, snowmobilers would then be able to connect with the trail to go north on US 23. An idea for an off shoot of the trail would allow snowmobilers to come down Woodward Ave. by Pied Piper and the baseball diamonds, to the railroad crossing and the power line. This would then allow snowmobilers access to the

north side of Alpena.

Although this trail is still undergoing many finalization stages, Olin Joynnton, President of Alpena Community College, is very open to having the trail come across the ACC campus.

"ACC wants to agree to the trail using the college property on Wilson St., and Woodward Ave, but the Board of Trustees has the final say on the issue."

The college has their lawyer reviewing any legality issues, especially in the worst case scenarios that could cause the college any unnecessary lawsuits. Once the lawyer produces her report, it will go back to the Board of Trustees and they will make their final decision based on the report.

"The Alpena Snowmobile Association may need to post signs at least at the beginning and the end of the trail, and possibly periodically

throughout the trail stating that the trail is for snowmobile use only to reduce any legality issues," Joynnton said. "There may be a need to produce a separate trail for winter walkers and skiers at some point."

The snowmobile recreation group in Alpena is the only group whom does not ask for funds from the city or the county to fund their sport. The Alpena Snowmobile Association owns a large groomer for Alpena and they groom and maintain trails around the area without financial help from either the city or county. The long-term goal of the city is to allow snowmobilers access to downtown businesses. Some issues that have come up have been the thought of trespassing on private property. Eller commented that for as long as he has been a member of the Alpena Snowmobile Association,

trespassing has never been an issue. Also, if residents are concerned about noise during the evening hours, the city could put a curfew and speed limit that all snowmobilers will have to follow.

"I am a snowmobiler and live in the city of Alpena. It just makes sense to have a trail so close to my home, therefore I wouldn't have to trailer my machine the two miles it takes to get onto a trail now just for a day trip," said local resident and ACC student Ashley Wedge.

Alpena County can benefit from this trail, local businesses could also grow, and snowmobile enthusiasts would not have to trailer their sleds so far to find a trail. Not only would the snowmobilers benefit for the three months of good riding that Michigan has, but the other nine months, the trail could be opened to walkers and bikers, and still be maintained by the Alpena Snowmobile Association.



"I don't even know who's playing." - Julie Penn



"Ninja's will rain down and do backflips." - Brent Champagne



"The Patriots will win." - Erinn Kane

"Dork Brothers" continue unique Alpena tradition

Continued from page 5

Lake.

The Dork Brothers not only organize athletic events, but also have stories of personal victory. As a college student, Gentry smoked cigarettes and made several unsuccessful attempts to quit. He wasn't able to stop until he was introduced to a book entitled *The Joy of Running* by Dr. Theodore Kastarabula.

"The best medicine is to quit smoking and the best motivation for that is regular exercise. You give it thirty

minutes a day for thirty days and then you make your decision to quit," Gentry said. He hasn't smoked since. "I was overweight and also smoked," says Mischley, but states that he overcame those with regular exercise.

The area's road races have evolved over the years but still attract families and individuals of all ages and walks of life. Families and seniors have increased over the years in part due to the inclusion of a walking race. The 12-22 year age group and the over 35



The "Dorks" in the earlier years (photo courtesy Mike Gartner)

crowd have the greatest numbers and strongest competition. However, "there is a huge void in the 23-35 age group", Gentry says with resignation. The reasons for their absence are probably as varied as their reasons for return. Some return for stress

reduction, some for weight loss and others for health reasons. Still others, like fellow Dork Brother, Wayne Christopherson, come for the friendships. "I am always in favor of the smaller races where there is camaraderie and a chance to talk to each other," he

says.

"Running isn't something you do, it's a way of life. Once you start to do it, it's like brushing your teeth. It becomes automatic and becomes part of who you are," Gentry comments. His yearly mileage peaked at 4,000 and currently runs at 1,400.

When asked how best to combat Northeast Michigan's cold weather, Gentry replies with a Norwegian saying, "There is no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing."



"Of course the Patriots are gonna win. They'll win by 20, at least." - Travis Morasky

Sky Captain flies to the top

By Chris Engle
Sports/A&E Editor

Intense action, cutting-edge computer animation, and old-style cinematography rule the screen in *Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow*.

Set in the 1940's, the movie opens in New York City where Sky Captain (Jude Law) takes to the air in his World War II fighter plane to defeat an invading force of massive robots. Hot on her story involving the mysterious disappearances of many of the world's top scientists, *Chronicle* reporter Polly Perkins (Gwyneth Paltrow) hits the streets and puts herself in the path of the destructive robots to get that perfect photograph to go with her story.

Putting aside their arduous history together, Polly and Sky Captain join forces to uncover the doomsday plans of Dr. Totenkopf, and recruit the help of Franky Cook (Angelina Jolie), an old friend of Sky Captain's. Together, the team fights intense battles against technologically advanced enemies as they make their way to Nepal, ground zero for Dr. Totenkopf's plans of world destruction.

Reaching the end of their trip, Polly tries to conserve her one remaining exposure by passing up spectacular scenes, knowing she can find a better one. Finally, she raises her camera and shoots the perfect photo



Sky Captain And The World Of Tomorrow (photo courtesy Chris Engle).

for her story...

Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow takes computer animation to a whole new level. When paired with the 40's-era cinematics, cool technology and robotic enemies, and a bunch of explosions, it makes for some truly amazing scenes. Kerry Conran describes the cinematics as "a comic book brought to life."

The DVD features and extras include the usual commentaries and deleted scenes, as well as an original six-minute short

version of the film and a gag reel that gives a glimpse into how little actual movie set was needed due to the constant use of green screens. Just make a selection quick on the DVD menu, because the sound loop can get annoying.

Sky Captain makes for a great action movie for the family with its PG rating. While computer animation is often overused in recent movies of the genre, Sky Captain is able to pull it off and take a big step in how movies will be made in the future. 3 and a half stars out of 5.

Not sure where to go for spring break?

By Angela Smith
Staff Writer

Who's ready for spring break? As everyone knows, spring break is March 24-28 this year, and the fashionable thing to do is take a vacation. When looking for beaches, fun in the sun and amusement parks, Cancun is one of the places to go.

During spring break 2003, college student Stephanie Fournier traveled to Cancun, Mexico, with six of her good friends. Stephanie has done quite a bit of traveling, but does not consider herself a regular traveler. Two of the friends' parents helped the girls out by searching the internet and talking to a local Alpena travel agent about the trip's expenses and the cost

of plane tickets.

They were able to locate a seven day trip for approximately \$800 dollars. During the week, the girls stayed in a hotel called El Pueblito in Cancun. The hotel featured bingo, two pools with connected restaurants, and a bar. The girls went to Cancun open minded without a set schedule, which Stephanie would recommend everyone else do. They spent a lot of time on the beach soaking up the very warm, sunny weather. The girls went sailing on the ocean, where they then went snorkeling to and island and rented golf carts that they raced around in. Wave runners and four wheelers were also available.

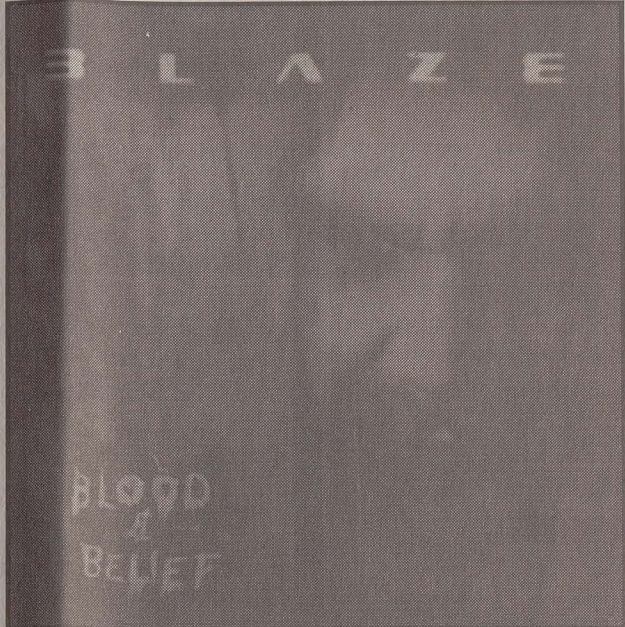
At night, the girls spent most

of their time in nightclubs, which had a lot of entertainment, foam parties and live bands. "Foam parties are a lot of fun," Stephanie said. It is an actual room filled with foam that everyone walks around in.

Stephanie believes that while Cancun is a great place to go on vacation, it helps if you talk to someone who has been there to give you advice and refer you to excellent places to stay.

A web site titled AllAboutCancun.com, more fully describes the many activities you can experience. Certified divers are available to teach you how to dive; there is fishing with experienced captains and custom built fishing yachts;

BLAZE is on fire with latest album



BLAZE's *Blood & Belief* (photo courtesy De Maramed).

By De Maramed
Managing Editor

Former singer of Wolfsbane and metal supergroup Iron Maiden, Blaze Bayley now heads his own band, BLAZE. With their fourth album *Blood & Belief*, the group of relatively unknown musicians continues their trend of dependable, rock solid traditional heavymetal albums that stands out because of Blaze's personal, painfully honest lyrics.

Blood & Belief starts off with a bang with the first track, the distortion-heavy "Alive." This is one of the album's strongest songs, with the very catchy chorus, "I missed the meeting/where you were appointed god."

The frantic and hurried sounding "Ten Seconds" is next, followed by the title track, "Blood & Belief." The title track is, oddly enough, the weakest song. Very uneven, with confusing tempo changes and jumbled lyrics, it's best to skip this one altogether.

"Life And Death" and

"Tearing Yourself To Pieces" are next, and puts the album back on track. "Tearing Yourself To Pieces" is a particularly good track, with the slow, chugging guitars complementing Blaze's changing emotional voice.

"Hollow Head" picks up the pace, describing Blaze's personal problems, and his attempts to overcome them with the help of a therapist. Particularly powerful, and the disjointed, almost jangled music is perfect for the subject. "Will To Win" keeps up the faster pace, galloping along while Blaze pumps up the listener, telling you to never up, to keep fighting. Although it does sound suspiciously like *Silicon Messiah's* "The Brave."

"Regret" is the slow, lost love ballad that's actually very good because of Blaze's sincerity and honesty. Anyone listening can easily identify with this track, and exemplifies Blaze's earnest songwriting.

"The Path And The Way" and the finale, "Soundtrack

Of My Life" are both solid songs. The finale is particularly good, where Blaze looks back on his life, "This is the soundtrack of my life/the sound by which I live and die."

Blaze has one of the most unique voices you'll probably ever hear. He can't scream to the heavens like Tim Owens or Rob Halford, nor does he have the range of Geoff Tate or Bruce Dickinson. His is a rumbling, deep bass voice that is hard to fit into a metal group. Iron Maiden didn't know quite what to do with him, but here in his own band his vocal talents are showcased.

The weakest point of any BLAZE album is the redundancy of Blaze's writing. A majority of BLAZE songs are about not fitting in, going against the grain, and being the outcast that overcomes the majority's persecution. The tracks may be solid musically, but sometimes it seems like you're listening to same old lyrics. *Blood & Belief* is no exception, although it's not nearly as bad as their previous studio album *The Tenth Dimension*.

If you're looking for speedmetal, look to earlier Megadeth. If you're in the market for some good thrashmetal, go buy Iced Earth's *Horror Show* album. If you want a big pile of crap, then KISS has what you're looking for. But if you crave heavymetal at its best from an up and coming band that's a talented as they are hungry for success, then feast your ears on *Blood & Belief*. 4 out of 5 stars.

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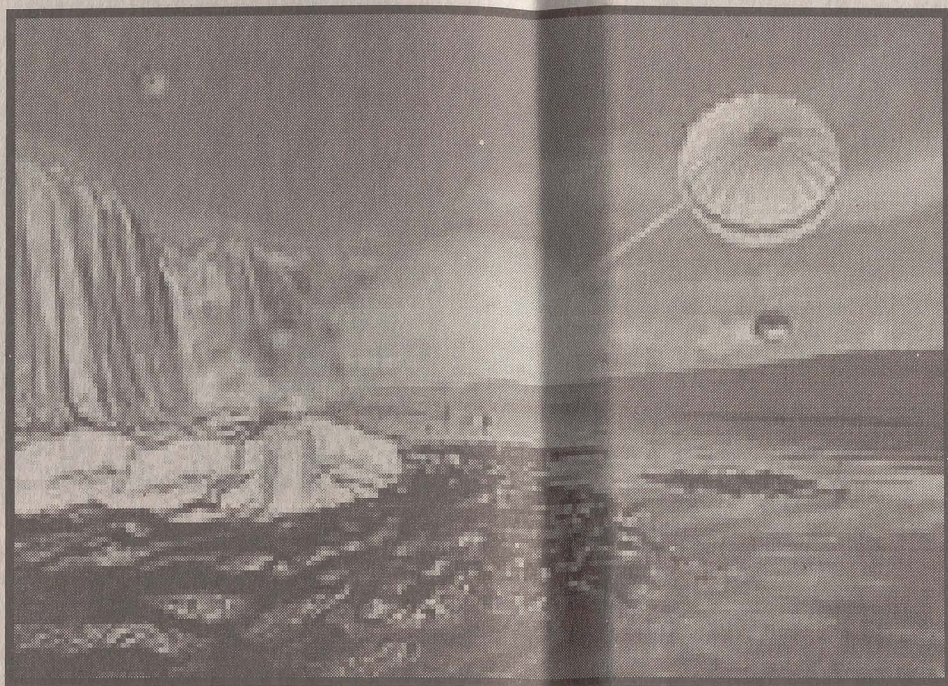
We've landed on a Moon!

By David Rude
Staff Writer

On Friday, January 14, 2005, after a seven-year trip through the black of space, the European Space Agency's Huygens probe successfully descended through the frozen atmosphere of Saturn's largest moon, Titan, and landed on its surface.

At a time when it's the norm to hitch a piggy-back ride to space for cost-efficiency, the Huygens probe was launched along with the Cassini voyager on October 15, 1997. While Cassini's mission was to fly to Saturn and study its rings, Huygens' mission was to study Titan's atmosphere and clouds and to characterize Titan's surface on a regional scale.

Why Titan? One reason is that Titan is a large moon in our outer solar system that is remarkably like a planet in our inner solar system. Also, the conditions and gases in Titan's atmosphere are similar to those of our Pre-Cambrian Earth. Like Titan's atmosphere now, Earth's early atmosphere contained gases that would be toxic to us. Nevertheless, it was in this period that life first appeared on Earth. Not only does this swing the door open to study how our



An artist's rendering of what the landing might look like (photo courtesy spacedaily.com)

planet formed, but Titan is a goldmine of natural resources for our future generations.

"Space exploration gives us the opportunity to explore space in ways that are obviously impossible from Earth," said Tom Gougeon, Physics and Astronomy instructor at ACC, and planetarium technician at Jesse Besser Museum. "From such explorations, we are learning about the origin, evolution and ultimate fate of our universe. Studying Titan up close may give us some insight as to what the Earth may have been like in its infancy, since

Titan is the only moon in the solar system with an appreciable atmosphere."

While Huygens studies Titan, Cassini will remain nearby for now, orbiting around Saturn and relaying data from Huygens.

Cassini is the largest unmanned interplanetary vessel ever built by NASA. Unable to launch directly to Saturn with the inefficient propulsion systems at the time, NASA sent Cassini and Huygens on a "gravity assist trajectory" - the vessel flew to Venus, made two orbits, shot back to Earth in 1999, used Earth's orbit to sling it to Jupiter, and so on

to Saturn.

Cassini orbited Saturn twice while setting up for the piggy-back probe's deployment, and on Christmas day, 2004, Huygens launched from Cassini and traveled twenty days to Titan.

Huygens entered Titan's atmosphere at about 5:15 a.m. EST Friday morning, and descended for two and one-half hours. After a heated entry, a sequence of parachutes slowed it down while the probe's scientific instruments were exposed to test the atmosphere. The probe landed with an impact that would be consid-

ered only a fender-bender here on Earth. Upon impact, a spike from the probe's bottom stuck into Titan's ground for further sampling. Data from Huygens and Cassini was then transmitted across the void to Earth, routed with the help of NASA, and collected at the European Space Operations Centre in Darmstadt, Germany.

"Not only is the information we learn from space travel important," said Gougeon, "but it is also important because it pushes technology forward, ultimately making life on Earth more convenient."

There were some gaps in the data, meaning that there were some technical glitches - there are so many complex systems operating on a mission like this, that errors are expected. However, the data that has been retrieved will be studied for generations to come.

"Space travel is never a waste of time or money," said Gougeon. "It more than pays for itself in the knowledge gained and the technology developed. I think from a scientific standpoint, this is a Golden Age, as scientists are learning a wealth of information about the solar system and universe."

African village to welcome ACC students

By David Rude
Staff Writer

The students of an ACC class, Great Books on Leadership, are planning a trip to Gambia this spring, to the village of Njawara, which will benefit the villagers of this severely im-

poverished community.

The students will be staying for two weeks in Gambia, helping with various needed errands, such as helping with irrigation or planting food crops.

"The villagers of Njawara desperately need our help, and they will appreciate anything our Alpena students can offer. Likewise, our students need help in raising the money to travel and stay in Gambia," said Tom Ray, instructor of Great Books on Leadership.

The class needs to raise approximately \$40,000, and the money must be generated before May.

There will be a donation canister in the ACC Library, and elsewhere in the community.

"Please help in any way you can. Help make the trip a success. Your own personal reward will be knowing that you helped students of Alpena learn, and helped the villagers of Njawara smile," said Ray.

For more information, contact Tom Ray at rayt@alpenacc.edu.

Who truly benefits in President Bush's proposed Social Security reform?

By Erinn Kane
Staff Writer

President George Bush has truly taken consideration of Americas plunging social security system by being the first president ever to propose a possible alternative system. Since election, Bush has announced his idea for our "supposed" retirement funding. The plan is to either keep our Social Security (abbreviated SS) plan existing presently, or to divert 2% from our already taxed 12.4% directly into a private investment account. The 2% taxed is predicted to gain substantial interest over the course of each workers lifetime, so much interest that the retiree would not even need any other SS aid to support their retirement. On his SS speech President Bush quotes, "Owning your own personal savings account allows you to pass on your savings to whom ever you choose, and at the same time, manage your own account."

So the real question is what is the problem with the SS system? Every worker sees approximately three bucks auto-

matically deducted from their paychecks weekly, depending on how much money made. That money is used in gov't spending, expanding the federal deficit. That SS tax is guaranteed from the gov't to be paid back when we retire. The problem today is the gov't is in debt 413 billion dollars! What guarantee can any American trust from such a wealth-depleted gov't as ours? The answer is, we can't trust our gov't with our money. It's predicted that only 13 years from now, the gov't will begin to disburse more in SS than it gains, obviously increasing our federal deficit. The "present social security plan will only guarantee to pay retirees until 2042, then it will be bankrupt," says Bernie Wasow, an economist for Century Foundation. Americans age 18-40 have a serious problem rousing, and without action, we can all kiss our dream retirement vacations goodbye.

The reality is, if we don't either update the SS system, or structure a completely different one, our generation as well as two ahead will pay \$10.4 trillion

according to Fox News Channel. Considering that our national debt is currently 413 billion, 10.4 trillion is insupportable, and undoubtedly ridiculous to comprehend. This is precisely why a new SS retirement funding must transpire.

When President Roosevelt conducted the SS system over six decades ago, the economy was reasonably contrary to as it is presently. According to the White House, for every retiree half a century ago there were at sixteen workers supporting their SS benefits. Today, merely three workers support each retiree. The loss in workers is astonishing. Most agree the loss in workers supporting each retiree is on account of the drowning economy; yet, the baby-boomers are the ones to blame. With increasing numbers of baby-boomers retiring, and families having fewer children, there are obviously fewer workers to support the each retiree. What is the solution? The payroll tax is already at 12.4%! If we are to keep the current system instead of reform, in order for

us to retire, the payroll tax will be raised to 18% says the White House. Another option is to elevate the retirement age from the already extended sixty-seven to sixty-nine, allowing people to receive retirement funding five years before they are expected to die! Obviously, these answers, if executed, will merely delay the inevitable problem of SS for a decade or two, but what will the government do then?

With the depressing voter turnout in this election, it is quite obvious that most Americans do not worry nor care for these future enigmas of SS. The generation that will be affected worse is the group whom produced the least voter turnout. Tim Kuehnlein, a professor of American politics at ACC, agrees that the "Government has a major crisis; this becomes an issue of whether people want to take care of themselves; not everyone can take care of themselves."

Surprisingly, the proposed plan has failed to energize most politicians. Most democrats especially argue that this plan will be costly and have little

effect on the pending SS problem. In all actuality though, most democrats disprove of this plan because the government would lose 2% of the total SS money they depend on for federal disbursements. With this plan, 10% of our SS money will stay in the current system while 2% is diverted into private investment accounts that gain mad interest. "Opponents maintain private investment accounts would alter the intent of Social Security, possibly harm beneficiaries, and widen federal budget deficits," writes Pamela Gaynor of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. Truthfully, the federal deficit is already outrageously out of control, and the gov't is still spending our SS money, hence, guaranteeing our SS dependent retirees that their retirement funding will be provided with money the gov't cannot afford.

So why is it such a difficult decision? If the present system is a failure for our generation, modification should occur. According to a new poll on Fox News Opinion Dynamics, 60% Americans supported giving people the choice to privately invest 2% of their SS tax. Regardless of partisan differences, 53% Democrats and 71% Republicans like the

new personal investment option, which makes sense; half of Congress currently has private investment accounts for their retirement, so why wouldn't more than half Americas politicians prefer the plan? "Young workers who elect personal accounts can expect to receive far higher rate of return on their money than the current system could ever afford to pay them," said vice president Dick Cheney at Catholic University America.

Are you not convinced yet? Do you still believe that our countries present SS system is workable? The baby-boom generation is ending, meaning more people are retiring than working. The present SS system is eventually going to fail, "it makes sense to try and get a better rate of return on our money if we expect there to be a social security fund," says Bush. Since many people in our generation plan to be wealthy fifty years from now, I have to say, President Bush, I could not agree any more on this one.