

The Lumberjack

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

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

Possible Economic development

By John Garavaglia
Staff Writer

Alpena county officials recently submitted a plan for a possible tanker manufacturing facility for the regional airport.

All the sites in Michigan gathered information for the Boeing 7E7 project were asked to consider a request by the Staubach Company, the site consultant for EADS North America, or Airbus, who will be seeking a location to assemble the massive airplanes if it is a recipient of the U.S. government project.

EADS North America is the world's largest aerospace and defense company. It was incorporated in 2002 and the subsidiaries of EADS in the U.S. were integrated into EADS-NA in May 2003. The company brings an array of advanced products and services to meet the needs of commercial and government customers in the aerospace, defense, and homeland security markets. EADS-NA's commitment to customers complements their emphasis on expanding investment in the United States.

EADS' strategy is to integrate U.S. activities to achieve maximum presence. It would build on the county's capabilities by consolidation, investment, and acquisition.

With leverage like that the strengths to the U.S. customers will prove very valuable. EADS North America has a value based solution to meet the needs of the Air Force to develop the industrial capability to be a meaningful contributor to America's national security.

Alpena County Board of Commissioners chairman Len Zolnieriek stated this is an exciting opportunity for economic development. Airbus is not currently located in the U.S. and it may be an advantage.

The same group of people assembled to work on the Boeing project will pitch Alpena to Airbus. County Coordinator Jim Peltier will again chair project.

"It would create initial stages of the first phase on to produce \$39 million in payroll revenue to the community and services," said Peltier, explaining how the project would be significant for the development of Alpena. "If you take \$39 million in today's Alpena paper it will have a \$200 million impact annually. It would be a \$400 million a year annual impact in the economy within sixty miles of this plan.

The same location suggested for the Boeing project, located in Wilson

Township to the east of the runway at Alpena County Regional Airport, will be submitted. Water and other utilities would be supplied by Alpena Township.

The ability to use the airport runway, airspace and the fire suppression capabilities available are bonuses Alpena can offer. Airbus's main concern is transportation right now. Peltier said the parts for the plane will be built in Europe and how easily they can be brought here to be assembled. The majority of their U.S. suppliers ship their parts directly to the site by rail or road. The only exceptions are overly sized parts.

The total square footage of the buildings will be approximately 1.5 million square feet; the ramp space requirement will add an additional one million feet. The minimum site requirement would be the range of 75-100 acres. The maximum size would depend on site usability, setbacks, zoning and building requirements and other factors will all be location dependent.

The Boeing 7E7 project was a new long range, but smaller aircraft that Boeing has made. The project is now the 787 series was designed to make state government where they have the most assets, but where they cost



Alpena County Regional Airport as shown from above. Plans to build a tanker facility at the site could greatly benefit the Alpena area (photo courtesy www.alpenacounty.org)

to do their business. It's designed to go from city to city going across the continent. The project is in this state through \$400 million in incentives to get those jobs here. In the state of Washington, where Boeing's bigger production facilities are stayed through \$3.2 billion. Most of the incentive went to reducing their workman's compensation cost in all their facilities.

The Boeing American Company can get in concessions to operate their operations anywhere in the country. It was an economic issue and it saved them \$3.2 billion, however, they still laid off 37,000 people. The company also had a plant that was closed and reactivated

their assets so they wouldn't have to reinvest in it. They put their money in their engineering design and production to come up with a product that would need to eliminate the use of water. The proposed facility would be smaller than the Boeing project and Alpena's runway would have to be expanded. "This runway is 9,000 feet which meets the best requirement for Boeing and Airbus," commented Peltier. "They would extend it so we could get it up to 1,500 more feet overall we would end up with a 10,500 runway."

City manager Alan Bakalawski noted a lot of the main infrastructure for such a project is already in place. Bakalawski said by 2006

Alpena would have approximately 150 employees in the engineering facility.

Peltier believes this new venture will bring more jobs to the Alpena community. "In full production there will be 1,150 more jobs created at this site," he explained. "There would be 470 professional and 680

Please see News, page 2

Students travel to Washington D.C.

By Student Senate
Media Relations

Twenty-five Alpena Community College students were able to take part in the experience of a lifetime from January 20-23. After months of planning, students, along with Dave Eger and his wife Mona, traveled to Washington D.C. and were able to witness first-hand the inauguration of President George W. Bush. Also, while in the Capitol, the students visited the White House, the Supreme Court, the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Museum, Ford's Theater and Arlington National Cemetery.

According to many of the students who took part in the



ACC students were able to witness the inauguration of President George W. Bush (photo courtesy Jessica Slominski)

trip, the Inauguration was the highlight of the trip. With considerable help from Representative Bart Stupak's Alpena and Washington D.C. branches, the group was able to get tickets in the second

section away from the Capitol. Stupak also arranged a guided tour of the Pentagon and the White House, another unforgettable event. "The Inauguration was

Please see students, page 2

KBD holds annual induction

By Glenn Lenard
A&E/Perspectives Editor

Kappa Beta Delta, a Business, Management and Administration Honors society inducted twenty-nine new students into this years class roster.

To be selected for membership, you must rank in the top 20 percent of your

class, and be majoring in Business, Management, or Administration. Linda Suneson, Co-Advisor for KBD, discussed the importance that members must possess to be qualified for membership. Trustworthy, genuineness, and show a high level of excellence fall among

Please see Kappa, page 2

Check out Northwood

By Kara McDonald
Contributing Writer

For those of you looking for a little more from your community college experience, be sure to look into Northwood University. Northwood is new to ACC's campus, and is now offering

courses in the Business and Accounting field. Their goal is to help students work toward bachelor degrees in business and accounting through a private and interactive class environment. Northwood University is a

Please see Northwood, page 2

INSIDE THE LUMBERJACK:

News:

Junior High and High School students come to ACC to participate in the annual Science Olympiad competition. Page 2.



Perspectives: A look back at 'Gonzo' pioneer Hunter S. Thompson. Page 3.

Sports:

Surprise! It's softball season. Read a preview of the upcoming season in sports. Page 5.



The Last Word:

Take a look into Alpena's Blues Coalition. Page 8.



Science Olympiad puts young minds to the test

By Chris Engle
Sports/A&E Editor

Middle and high school students filled ACC's hallways and classrooms on Saturday, March 12 during the annual Regional Science Olympiad tournament.

The tournament, which draws teams of about 15 members each from northern Michigan schools, consists of a broad range of events that challenge team members' ingenuity and mental capacity to accomplish certain tasks.

The events include Reach for the Stars, Road Scholar, Water Quality, and others that test the participants' capability to do anything from identifying constellations and using maps to testing for contaminants in a water sample.

There are also events that require teams to construct an object before competition and to test its limits during the event. These include The Wright Stuff, Tower Building, and Robot Ramble, where teams construct an airplane, tower, or robot to perform a certain task.

In Tower Building, one or two members of a team construct a tower of balsa wood and glue that will support a suspended bucket of sand. As sand is added to the bucket, the tower creaks and pops but often is capable of supporting over 30 pounds. Others, however, are not so lucky and explode under the pressure, sending splintered pieces of wood into the air (participants must wear safety goggles!). Alpena High School's tower, tested by Melissa Marzean, held over 37 pounds without breaking, but was disqualified for having a width larger than the specifications allow.

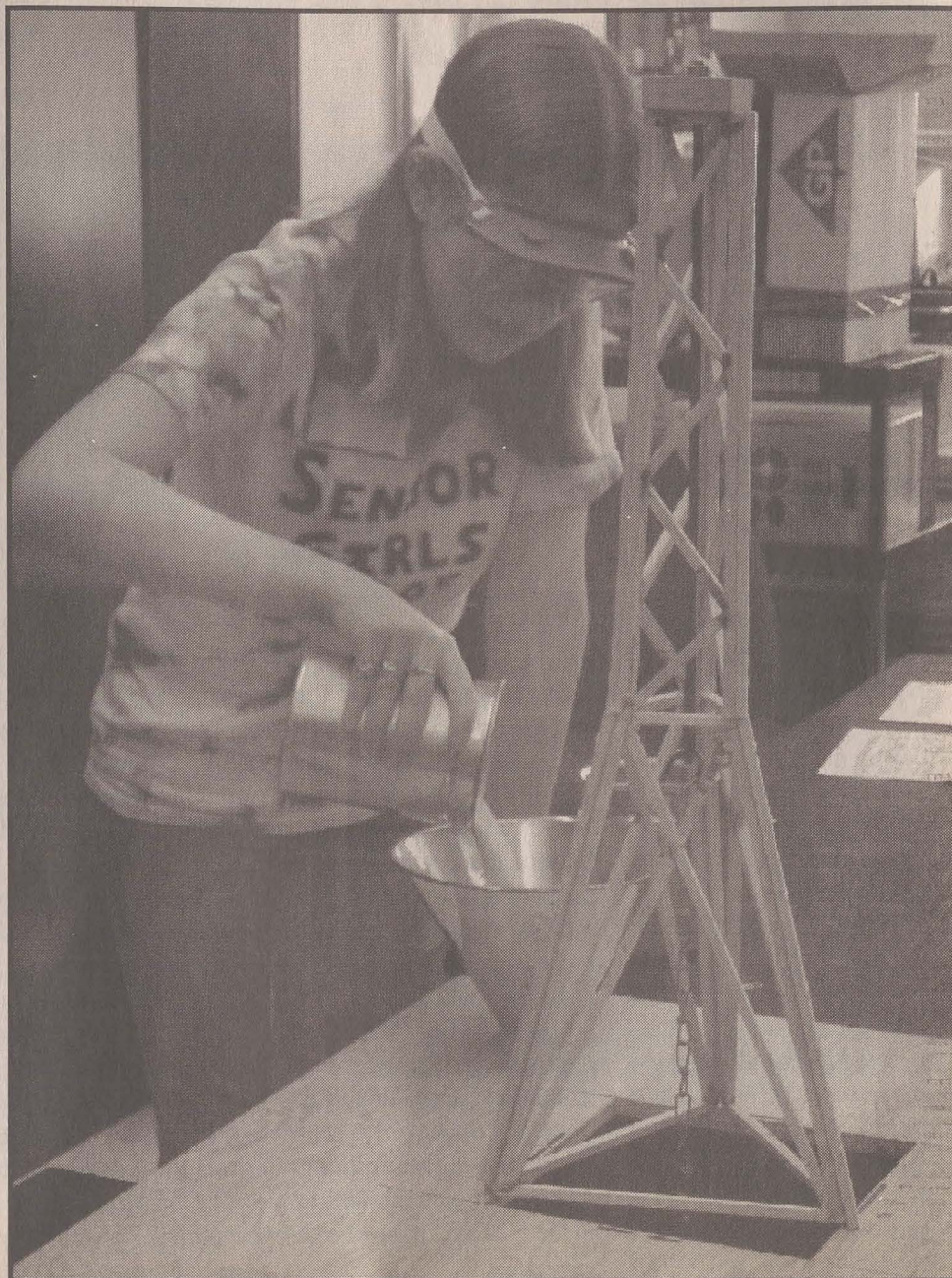
The Wright Stuff is an event where two teammates work together to build a model rubber band powered airplane out of balsa wood and thin paper. The rubber band is wound tight and as it unwinds, rotates the propeller, sending the plane through the air. Teams are judged by how long their airplane maintains flight, and at this year's competition, Thunder Bay Junior High School

soared above the competition with a plane that gracefully circled the airspace and brushed the rafters of the gym for nearly three minutes, before touching down to a roar of applause from the audience.

Judges for the events included ACC staff members, who had the chance to encourage the young participants to attend their own courses after graduation.

The awards ceremony was held in the gym after more than six hours of events and competition. Medals were given to participants in each event by rank of third, second, and first place. Alpena High School scored two gold, three silver, and five bronze medals. Thunder Bay Junior High School took 16 gold, 5 silver, and 2 bronze medals, and were also awarded a first place trophy and an invitation to the state competition.

Congratulations to all the participants, and thank you to everyone who provided encouragement and made them feel welcome here at ACC!



Alpena senior Melissa Marzean tests a tower (photo by Chris Engle)

Kappa Beta Delta welcomes 29

continued from page 1
a few of the qualifications.

There are currently 314 business students attending Alpena Community College, therefore the top 62 students were eligible and invited to join Kappa Beta Delta. 14 out of the 62 students were currently members, so invitations were sent to the other 48 students. Out of the 48 potential candidates 29 students and two adjunct faculty members pledged their honor to uphold the KBD Honor Society Pledge on March 11, 2005.

New facility could benefit Alpena

continued from page 1
professional and 680 industrial. The estimated annual payroll is \$64-95 million and times that with 5.5 and you'll get the economic impact." That would average between \$3,520,000,000 and \$5,225,000,000 a year. In 2003, the average U.S. aerospace engineer had nearly twenty years experience and earned a salary of \$82,227 annually with fringe benefits for an additional 35%. That calculates to \$111,000 per year.

"Estimated at a 30 year basis to fill all these tankers will get all the contracts from the U.S. government it would have a huge impact throughout the community," added Peltier. "By Monday (March 7) we'll have our final draft version and

Kappa Beta Delta has been involved in many service projects and activities throughout the year. These events allow students to participate in service projects while representing Kappa Beta Delta.

KBD inductees were congratulated with a membership certificate, a diamond shaped pin, a rose, and a candle.

If you are interested in Kappa Beta Delta, or upcoming events, contact co-advisor Mary Jane Thompson at 358-7313.

Wednesday it will be taken to Lansing."

The only negative variable to this project is the amount of people that would come to Alpena. It's estimated that over 3,000 people would be affected.

There will be more traffic, as well as more people filing for health care, and more police will be needed, and so on.

The same thing happened to Traverse City. They suffered because the road circulation system is not good, and Alpena has that problem too.

Currently, Alpena would route the road to the facility north of the city, and the Michigan Department of Transportation would build it. The road would be public, but once on the site it would become private.

Northwood offers another option for ACC students

continued from page 1
well-known business school located in Midland that is looking to expand their outreach, and the school felt Northeast Michigan would benefit. They have been on ACC's campus for almost a full year and came here after a year of talking with ACC.

Stephanie Schulze is a current student working on a four-year degree with Northwood. She recommends this program to anyone pursuing a higher education, particularly adults who work full or part time with family responsibility.

"When you are an older student with work and family responsibilities, you cannot just afford to pickup and leave," Schulze says. "Northwood paves the way for continuing education while realizing the needs of non-traditional students."

The ability to achieve a four-year degree while still in Alpena is a very convenient opportunity for Schulze and other students who don't have the means to leave for a large

university.

"The availability to complete a four-year degree close to home is so critical, and without it I don't think I could have ever thought of seeing myself the whole way through."

Northwood also offers a variety of options in continuing your education with online courses, independent study, express classes, and the traditional classroom atmosphere. Sessions of classes at Northwood are broken up into twelve-week terms. Most classes are six weeks long, one night a week, while some accounting courses are spread out over the twelve-week term. They also offer college credit for work life experience and volunteer opportunities granting up to a years worth of credit. Also, all the instructors for their course are from Northwood, which offers new perspectives on different subjects. Also, Northwood classes will not be dropped due to low numbers. All classes run as scheduled regardless of the amount of people in it.

As far a graduating from Northwood, all students who plan to graduate are required to take one class at their main campus in Midland. This class is a weekend event that will have seminars, major speakers, and business leaders form around the world.

Northwood University's Alpena Program Manager Barb Muessig is thrilled at the response that they have got from Alpena Community College and said that ACC's extreme support has helped their success tremendously. They are currently exceeding their goal of enrollment and have felt very welcomed and needed on campus. Muessig has assured that Northwood is here to stay and is very committed to the people of Northeast Michigan. For more information, check out www.northwood.edu, or contact Barb Muessig by e-mail: muessigb@northwood.edu, phone: 358.7302, or stop by the office during regular hours from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the University Center on ACC's campus

Students enjoys Washington experience

continued from page 1
breathtaking," said ACC student and Student Senate President Jessica Slominski. "It's not often that students from a small, rural town like Alpena receive the chance to witness a significant point in history like the inauguration of a President.

"The Pentagon was also inspiring in the fact that we were able to see where the plane hit on September 11, and where a memorial has been set up in its place," Slominski continued. "It was a somber moment when we all realized how many people had died on that day in the exact same place where we were standing."

Students received partial funding from the Alpena Community College Student Senate. All involved had a memorable experience that will not soon be forgotten. The knowledge gained from a firsthand experience goes a step further than what can be learned in a classroom.

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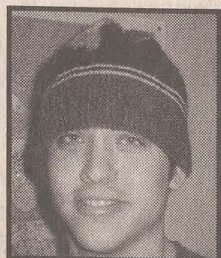
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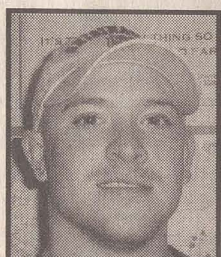
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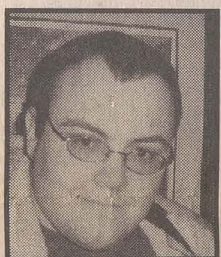
In the Hallways:
What are your plans for Easter break?



"Party!" -
Chris Romel



"Go to the bar." -
Troy Worvey



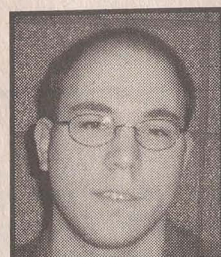
"Work on my models." -
Andrew Jaqua



"Hang out with friends." -
Jess Baumler



"Going to see my family." -
Tom Ray



"I'm going to Canada." -
Al Ludlow

Famous outlaw journalist Hunter S. Thompson kills himself

By De Maramed
Managing/News Editor

"We were somewhere around Barstow, at the edge of the desert, when the drugs began to take hold."

Either from the movie or the book *Fear & Loathing In Las Vegas* (F&LLV), most everyone has heard this infamous line. But not a lot of people know the man behind the words: The infamous outlaw journalist himself, Hunter S. Thompson, who a few weeks ago shot himself in the head at age 67.

I first discovered him because of the F&LLV movie back in 10th grade, over eight years ago. From there I read the book it was based upon, and quickly became a Thompson addict, gobbling up every book of his I could. The infamous "Duke Of Gonzo" had gained another reader.

I read his collected letters that chronicled his brief stint in the Air Force and his subsequent journey throughout the US and select countries in Central and Southern America in the late 1950s to 1960s. I read his articles up to and beyond his year riding with the Hell's Angels and subsequent stomping by the biker gang in the late 1960s. When he followed the entire 1972 Presidential campaign, riding first with George McGovern

and then his hated nemesis Richard Nixon; when he terrorized Las Vegas with Brown Power activist and Chicano lawyer Oscar Zeta Acosta; and all the way through the '80s and what he called the "Generation Of Swine."

I read about his arrest in the early '90s for drug possession, and how he ultimately beat that rap and the system. I read through his meetings and long-time associations with everyone from Richard Nixon to Bill Clinton to Jack Nicholson to Tom Wolfe to Johnny Depp and Benicio Del Toro.

But the most interesting story of all, and the one which best showcases Thompson for who he really was, when he tried to beat the system at its own game. In 1974, he ran for Sheriff of Aspen County on the Freak Power Ticket, with promises to disarm the Sheriff's Department, legalize all drugs, ban automobiles, rename Aspen Fact City so investors and big corporations would lose interest, and many more radical and extreme ideas. He got the hundreds of disillusioned young adults, hermits, hippies, druggies, beatniks, and general freaks and undesirables to get out and vote.

In 1974, Thompson managed to mobilize a voter bloc that had never before and never again been

mobilized. He gave them all hope that, yes, they could change the world. Yes, their voice counted.

He lost by six votes, and only then because the Republicans and Democrats allied against him.

Thompson himself was a very, very complicated man. An alcoholic, drugs and guns and sports addicted outlaw journalist veteran who terrorized politics and politicians and anyone he damned well pleased. A nomad who has seen and embodies the best and worst of America; a man who lived like superman, pushing to the edge and managing to go a little bit farther each time; a hopeless optimist hidden under a pessimist. A dreamer in search of the American Dream.

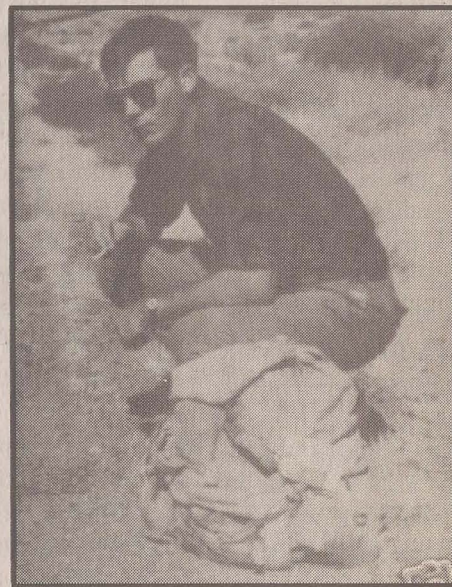
He traveled the western hemisphere, always one step ahead of "The Fear," as he called it. He is the only man to have ridden with both the Hell's Angels and Richard Nixon. And he rode a terrible burn through Las Vegas and every hotel he's ever stayed in.

He never compromised, never shied away from anything. He knew deep down that he was *right*, and he *must* have his way. If you were treacherous, if you were wrong, then you would be given no mercy. He uses the written word as precisely as a laser

scalpel, and as damaging as a demolition crew.

Either writing in his own unique form of "Gonzo" journalism, or in the more conventional vein, Thompson was one of a kind. The best description of him

comes from F&LLV, in which he is describing The Attorney character: "A high speed prototype never meant for mass production. Too weird to live, and too rare to die."



Hunter S. Thompson, 1953 - 2005 (Photo courtesy De Maramed).

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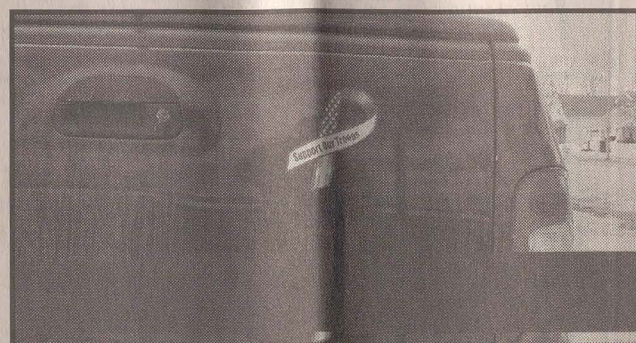
Market our troops!

By Chris Engle
Sports/A&E Editor

You see them everywhere while driving or parking your car, or on the wrists of your peers: They're magnetic ribbons or wristbands saying, "Support our Troops!"

While these items are trying to send the message that we should be supportive of our men and women overseas, they are more effective at stuffing with cash the pockets of those who make and sell these items.

The magnetic ribbons, which are conveniently removable for temporary periods of expressed 'patriotism,' can be received from local credit unions with a donation that goes towards buying phone cards or other luxuries for troops. However, they can also be found as impulse buys at gas stations, along with rubber or plastic bracelets with the same message, with proceeds only going to the store, the supplier, and the manufacturer. They can come in different sizes, colors, and designs to please the tastes of the consumer, not the donor, so that the consumer can



Ribbons like this one can be found on many vehicles in town (photo courtesy Chris Engle).

have the 'patriotic' look to match their vehicle or outfit for that particular day.

When you are buying one of these items, take a glimpse at the label: Made in China. Do you think China is forwarding the profits from the sale of these items to American charities? If you do buy one anyway, at least buy U.S.

Do not buy these magnetic ribbons or bracelets, or any other similar item, unless you are absolutely sure of where and to whom the profits will be appropriated. If you have already bought one, or several, from a gas station, remove them from your vehicle or body and decorate your trash with 'patriotic' pieces of garbage.

Remember, the last thing you want to label yourself as or tell others to be is patriotic; Bush tainted that word with his Patriot Act, which strips Americans of their freedoms.

If you really want to be supportive of our servicemen and women, find out how you can do it in a direct manner. Send them a letter, postcard, pictures, or food. Show them what they are missing and what they have to come home to, once Bush decides it is time to end the war. Whatever you feel will make them know that they are appreciated and will come home to open arms is more supportive than chunks of plastic waste. China-made junk doesn't cut it.

Perspectives

Page 4

March 15, 2005

Supreme Court threatens Fourth Amendment

By Erinn Kane
Staff Writer

This past January the U.S. Supreme Court established an opinion for the case *Illinois v. Cabelles*, Roy that further emphasizes the negative transformation of our Fourth Amendment.

Roy Cabelles was cruising down an interstate highway in Illinois one day when two police officers pulled him over for speeding. One officer was giving Cabelles his citation while the other came forward with a canine drug dog. The dog sniffed the presence of illegal drugs, and Cabelles was arrested after the officers searched his car and found illicit drugs.

But since the officers illegally searched Cabelles' vehicle by not performing the several factors necessary for a legal search, the search was fundamentally unjust. Initially, the officers illegally searched Cabelles without consent to be searched. The officers also had no probable cause that drugs were even within the vehicle, as he was simply speeding. The officers furthermore failed to provide adequate reasoning as to why they were illegally searching his vehicle. Finally, the officers had no reasonable suspicion of illegal activity occurring within Cabelles' vehicle. Every regulation for a legal

search dog search in Cabelles' vehicle unconstitutional in every way was disregarded during this simple pullover, making the aspect.

The primary court rejected Cabelles' motion to restrain the illegally seized evidence, holding that the use of the canine to sniff the whereabouts of the drugs provided sufficient probable cause to conduct a search. He was then convicted for his drug charges, but the Illinois Supreme Court reversed the unfavorable verdict, stating that because there were "no specific and articulable facts" to suggest drug activity, use of the canine unjustly changed this simple routine traffic stop into a drug investigation (Daily Texan).

The US Supreme Court, however, officially confirmed their opinion January of this year that a "dog sniff conducted during a concededly lawful traffic stop that reveals no information other than the location of a substance that no individual has any right to possess *does not* violate the Fourth Amendment."

The Fourth Amendment consists of many supplementary factors, most of which are relevant to the founded search and seizure amendment. One familiar

statute of the Fourth Amendment is the famous "Terry Stop," which originated in the Supreme Court case *Terry vs. Ohio* in 1968. This case came to action when a man named Terry was illegally searched without probable cause. The court ruled that the police officer that searched Terry did so unconstitutionally.

The Terry Stop law was then made in order to protect the citizens' rights of the Fourth Amendment. The Terry Stop consists of several main rules, all of which must apply for each search. Firstly, the officer must have reasonable suspicion of criminal activity. Secondly, the officer must have probable cause of that suspicious activity, which is obtained by a stop and frisk look through the car as the officer is walking towards the driver. The officer must also state the exact reason why they pulled the driver over, and the driver must understand.

These are the aspects of a Terry Stop, one of the most important Supreme Court rulings on the legality of a search and seizure amendment. This new ruling of *Illinois vs. Cabelles* completely disclaims the Terry Stop. As a result, officers of the law don't

need probable cause in order to search your vehicle, completely contradicting our instituted Constitution that founded and balances our government. The reality that this new revision in our Fourth Amendment "may" have a positive impact on the drug users and abusers who drive our highways is irrelevant; this verdict is a complete infringement on our rights.

The aspects of reasonable and sensible privacy and freedom from illegal and unreasonable searches and seizures are the main issues with this new Illinois Court ruling. Our nation is reluctantly watching as our most adored and highly valued rights go plummeting down the drain. These US Supreme Court rulings are in favor to protect the people, as most people in our country feel the government should have the power necessary to protect each individual right. Yet, the majority of outcomes that result from these Supreme Court rulings are somewhat protecting us, but in doing so, infringing and violating our rights.

Protecting an absorbed nation in order to contest a war on drugs cannot be won by adding more governmental participation, or violation of our rights, but instead miraculous revelation.

Movie Etiquette

By Glenn Lenard
A&E/Perspectives Editor

Are people getting more obnoxious and stupid in public, to be more specific, in movie theaters? We have all had it happen to us - wait in line, pay for our ticket, purchase our popcorn and soda and make our way into the theater and find a place to sit and watch the movie when someone comes in and sits right behind you and doesn't stop talking.

When did it become socially acceptable for people to talk throughout the whole movie? Oh wait, it did not! I am not talking about just kids and teenagers- it is adults who are also guilty of talking throughout the movie. Granted there are things I think about throughout the movie, however in respect for others I keep them to myself, and never in my wildest dreams would I yell

at the girl in the screen "Don't go in there," like they can really hear me. Despite constant shh's and "Will you shut up," some people still don't get it.

At the start of the movie, a screen comes up asking you to turn off pagers and cell phones. This clip is at the beginning of every show - how do people not see this? They put this clip there for a reason. Shut your cell phones off, and stop talking! That's why voicemail is included in most cell phone plans.

When we go to the movies, we want to hear what they are saying on screen and the dialogue being communicated, not what your plans for next weekend are. So the next time you are at the show, and are talking about making plans for next weekend, quietly sit back and allow the people sitting around you to enjoy the movie.

ACC Events Calendar

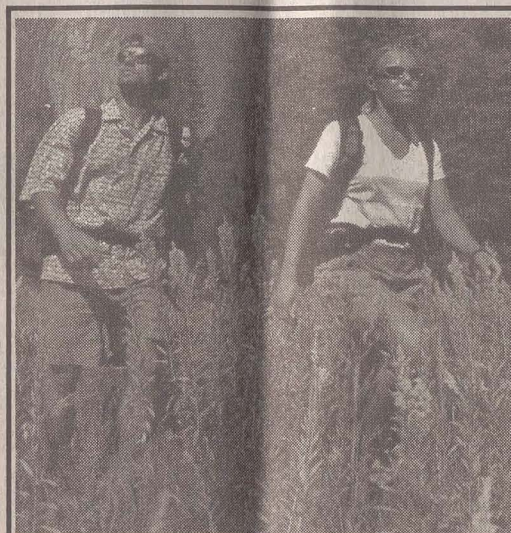
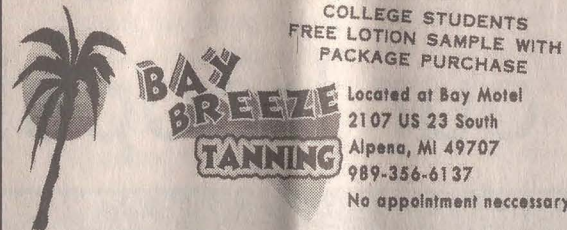
March 2005

- 15 **Gradfest** at the ACC Bookstore, 9 am to 4 pm. Students are encouraged to attend commencements.
- Career Pathways**, "How To Pay For It All" Financial Aid Workshop, 6:30 pm.
- ACC Collegiate Singers and ACC Jazz Band **Spring Concert**, 7:30 pm in Granum Theatre. Free admission.
- 16 **Staff Development Day**- No classes, college offices closed.
- 17 **Phi Theta Kappa Induction and Orientation**, 7:30pm in Granum Theatre.
- 18 **American Red Cross Blood Drive**, sponsored by Student Nurses Association, 10 am to 4 pm, Center building 104-106.
- 21 **MLA writing style workshop**, VLH 101D. Call 358-7329 or stop in the Learning Center to reserve your seat.
- 23 **Last day to drop 15 week classes**
- 24-28 **Easter Break**- No classes, offices open March 24 but college is closed march 25-28
- 31 **Fundamentals of Cooking**, 6:00-7:30 CTR 104. Fee is \$15. Pre-registration and payment is required. Call 358-7271

Live: From BTC106 ... It's from the editor

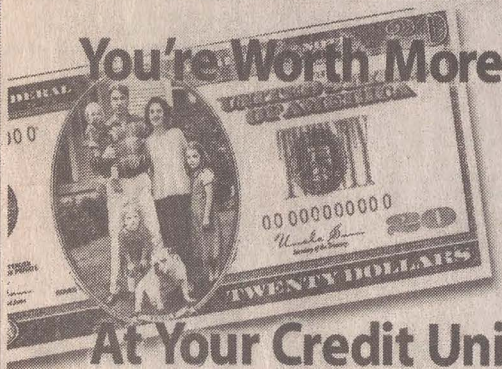
By now, we've all heard about the unfortunate accident that resulted in the death of fellow student, Trista Standen, on her way to class. While nothing can be done to bring her back to us, we can take action to make sure something like this doesn't happen again. The college has already changed its school closing policy by cancelling classes when public schools are closed. We can protect ourselves when the college is still open by deciding for ourselves if it is worth the risk. If you question the road conditions at all, locate your teacher's phone numbers or email addresses and let them know your reason for not attending class. Be aware that northern Michigan weather can change at any time and conditions may be worse later. Please take care of yourselves and drive safe.

LOOK 10 POUNDS THINNER GET A TAN!



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Spring 05 Lumberjack Staff



Meet the Editor: Glenn Lenard

KoNiChiWa-This is Glenn, I'm majoring in Journalism, can speak basic Japanese and travel all the time- my goals are to move to Las Vegas and become a Broadcast Journalist! Viva Las Vegas Baby!

Managing/Sports: Dominick Miller
Managing/News: De Maramed
Sports/A&E: Chris Engle
A&E/Perspectives: Glenn Lenard
Advisor: Ann Kitalong-Will
Contributors: John Garagavalia,
Erinn Kane, David Rude, Shane
Eiseler, Michael Gartner, Kara
McDonald, Clare DeBlaay

Volume 7, Issue 6. The spring, 2005 *Lumberjack* is printed on February 1, March 15, April 5 and April 26. Opinions expressed are strictly those of the writers and are not endorsed by Alpena Community College or by the entire *Lumberjack* staff. Letters to the Editor can be sent to our e-mail address: acclumberjack@yahoo.com, mailed to: *The Lumberjack*, Alpena Community College, 666 Johnson St., Alpena, MI 49707, or dropped off at the Besser Tech Center, room 106. All letters to the editor must include valid contact information for verification purposes. *The Lumberjack* reserves the right not to publish any letter that does not contain contact information or what we deem inappropriate in any way.

Lumberjack Sports

March 15, 2005

Page 5

Something I'll never forget

While this is a sports page, and I'm supposed to write a sports column to go in this space, I've been finding it difficult to find something that interests me in the sports world to write about here.

More Cowbell



Dominick Miller

I was reminded, recently, of a very sad moment in my life. The tragic passing of Trista Standen, an ACC student who died in a car accident last month, brought to my mind a friend of mine that died in a car accident almost exactly to the day that Trista died.

Katie Krug was a girl who I had dated in high school. She was the first girl I ever told I loved, but I didn't treat her with the love and respect she deserved. After dating for several months, I broke up with her over the phone, like a jerk.

I had always felt bad about the way that I had acted around her, but I never worked up the courage to tell her how I felt. I knew she had moved on, and she was having a good time down at CMU. She would have probably thought that I was crazy if I did tell her, but I always felt the need to.

I never had the chance. Coming home from college to get ready for spring break, Katie got into a car accident about five miles from her house and died the next day. When I was told the news, I cried like a baby. With the exception of my grandfather when I was very young, nobody close to me had ever died.

I had always wanted to apologize to her, tell her how much of a jerk I had been, but now I just had a hollow feeling throughout my body as I came to the realization that I could never, ever talk to her again.

When I went to her funeral, and I saw the large number of people grieving, it felt like somebody hit me with a stack of bricks. She had managed to positively touch all of these people's lives, and I had managed to hurt her. When I went up to the casket, I managed to keep my composure, somehow, but I mumbled "I'm sorry" over and over through my light tears.

When I heard about Trista, that hollow feeling crept back into my body. I had never met Trista, but it's apparent that she was loved by the amount I have heard about her since that horrible day. In that regard she reminds me exactly of Katie. I just hope that no one took Trista for granted. It's a life of guilt and torture that I know way too well.

Fishermen itching for Spring Steelies

March is always a magical month for northern Michigan fishermen, when they are able to dust off their casting rods, change the line on the reel, stitch up the waders, and head out into the sunshine and warm air for some spring Steelies. However, it looks like the magic may hold off until April, since it is already mid-March with no sign of a thaw near.

Alpena Outdoors



Chris Engle

Once the snow begins to melt and the runoff starts to flow, the spring steelhead run kicks into high gear. Alpena's hotspot for steelies is the Ninth Street dam, attracting hordes of fishermen each day. A three way bottom-dragging rig with natural or artificial spawn or a fly is most effective while working the swift current. While orange is the natural spawn color, artificial spawn in green or red are very effective. Also, selecting a lead sinker weight to match the speed of the current is vital- using a heavy sinker with slow current will get you snagged on the bottom, while a light sinker with fast current will probably result in you snagging someone else's line. Getting your drift just right can pay off with a hell of a fight and one good eating fish.



A lone fisherman tries his luck at the base of the 9th Street Dam (photo by Chris Engle)

When the current is slower and the water level is low enough to where rocks are exposed by the dam gates, fly fishermen try their luck in the swirling pools, often landing small brown trout and the occasional steelhead. Reaching these rocks can be hazardous, so make sure the water is low and slow enough to walk safely.

If you don't feel like squeezing yourself between two neoprene and flannel-clad men to fish at the dam, try using the three-way rig from the bridge. However, make sure there is someone else up there with you to net your fish- it makes landing your catch a lot easier.

If you hit either one of these spots late in the run and hook a fish, don't get too excited. Chances are, it's a sucker that has come up on its own spawning run. Once you hook a steelhead, though, you'll be able to tell the difference.

A favorite spot of some fishermen is Island Mill, located behind the Boys and Girls Club and just down river of the bridge. There's always a smaller crowd here and makes for a more relaxed fishing method, since you do not have to constantly be aware of where everyone else's lines are. Casting a silver and red or gold and pink Pixie spoon or Krocidile is your best bet, but floating

wigglers under a bobber on a perch rig can pay off as well.

If these places are too crowded, there's plenty of room on the newly rebuilt boardwalk between the bridge and Island Mill. While not an excellent spot, it's a good vantage point to see where fish are being caught and where you're going to move to next, once somebody gives up their spot.

The steelhead are ready to run and, with a break in the weather, should be coming into the river late this month. Remember to update your fishing license, patch that hole in your wader boot, and good luck!

In the Hallways: SPORTS EDITION

Who's winning the NCAA national championship?



"I have no idea."
- Scott Smolinski



"We'll go with Washington."
- Nate Gagnon



"I'm more of a baseball fan."
- Amanda Lyttle



"Nate Gagnon told me to say Kentucky."
- Dan Standen

ACC softball has tools for success

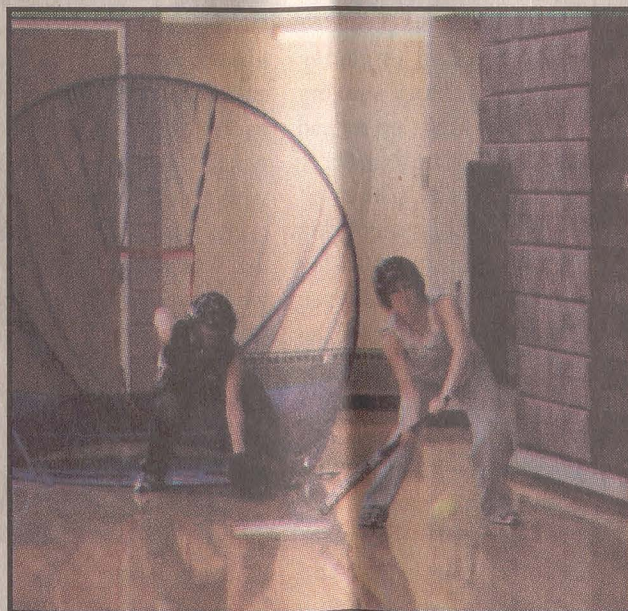
By Dominick Miller
Managing/Sports Editor

It's about twenty degrees outside with nearly 10 inches of snow on the ground. That can only mean one thing: it must be softball season in Northern Michigan.

The ACC softball squad began practice towards the end of February in Park Arena, and they'll probably be forced to practice indoors until early April. That's O.K., though, as coach Noel Curtis is seeing plenty of good things early on.

"We're a young team with a great deal of potential," Curtis said.

They are a young team, with only four returning players, and also a small team. With only 12 players on the roster, everybody on the squad will get a chance to play. The returning players include Amy Timm, Stephany Rekowski, Megan Grulk and Katherine Dutcher, while the new players include Kelly Weichel, Jenny Black, Ashley Skiera, Elizabeth Somers, Rachel Boyk, Angel Howard,



The softball team is getting prepared for battle with fundamental work in the Park Arena (L-Jack file photo)

Claire DeBlaay and Anna Bashins.

Like last year, pitching should be a strong point. While the team did lose Lisa Dahm, who is now pitching at Lake Superior State, the Lady Lumberjacks do have two strong pitchers in Timm and Rekowski, and Curtis foresees pitching as a strength.

If the team has a weakness it could be the lack of players.

If an injury or two were to occur the Lumberjacks could have trouble replacing those spots.

As her players know, Curtis has high expectations for all of them. "I expect all of the sophomores to stand up and lead the team," Curtis explained. "If we strive to be successful at each of our individual responsibilities, like at their position and hitting,

Please see Softball, page 6

The madness is back

By Clare DeBlaay
Staff Writer

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) has put a basketball tournament on every year since 1939 for the top Division I, II and III college teams in America to determine who the number one team in the nation will be.

Over the past sixty-six years, the frenzy of the NCAA tournament has almost exceeded that of the Super Bowl. Based on their stats and records, sixty-five men's teams are given the opportunity to play in the single elimination tournament with the hope of surviving all the way to the final four. Unlike the NBA and other professional sports, these college students are not playing for money and fame but because of their desire and love of the game.

Each game during their regular season is just as vital, you cannot make it to the championship game without getting into the tournament in

the first place. The way to make it into the NCAA tournament is pretty simple, win more games than you lose. It is not always as simple as that, though.

Division I teams are the ones that usually make it into the tournament, and over the years the talent and competition has become bigger and more intense. Each team is given an equal opportunity at becoming the national champions, an honor that only the strongest and best can achieve.

March is finally here for the year 2005. And all of the basketball fans can already feel the excitement and thrill in the air. Televisions are being surrounded by people cheering and yelling for their favorite teams to win.

So prepare yourself, the Madness is here to stay.

Selection Sunday was March 13, as the tournament teams were announced. The four number one seeds were North Carolina, Illinois, Duke and Washington.

Arts & Entertainment/Sports

Page 6

March 15, 2005

An interview with Captain Sensible of The Damned

By David Rude
Staff Writer

During punk rock's infancy in the mid-seventies, A band from England called The Damned emerged as one of the best and most enduring of the breed.

Formed by Brian James, Captain Sensible, David Vanian, and Rat Scabies, The Damned began in clubs alongside The Sex Pistols, The Clash, The Jam, and The Buzzcocks, among many others. Credited with recording and releasing England's first ever punk rock album, they endured a number of comrade changes through the years. Nevertheless, unlike the Sex Pistols who only released one studio album, The Damned hatched album after album of fierce, memorable music.

Captain Sensible departed from The Damned in the 1980's, procreating a series of pioneering solo albums. The Damned continued, and later in the 1990's, Captain and Dave Vanian reunited for a brand-new Damned, eventually releasing *Grave Disorder* in 2001. Although largely overlooked in the United States due to poor publicity and faulty backing from their

record company, *Grave Disorder* was a forward-looking venture with some of their most solid songwriting in years, showing The Damned as vital and energetic as ever.

They have toured endlessly, with frequent stops in Michigan. The Damned were recently featured in Vans' Warped Tour, a favorite festival of college-age concertgoers and more popular than Ozzfest the past several seasons. When not part of a festival package, The Damned are busy with their own headlining tours around the world.

Presently at their quarters in England, working on a new album, The Damned are certain to be stopping by Michigan again very soon, according to Captain Sensible. Here is a brief interview with Captain Sensible.

Lumberjack: What was your first guitar and how did you obtain it?

Captain: "Futurama. It was the first electric one I owned - you don't count some rotten old Spanish guitar with a lousy action do you? The Futurama was such an improvement and was so easy to play after the acoustic I called the 'MAGIC' guitar -

anyone who sells a kid an unplayable guitar should be horsewhipped....we may be depriving ourselves of the next Hendrix."

Lumberjack: In your youth, what was one defining music event where you thought afterward, Yeah, that's what I want to do?

Captain: "I was toilet cleaner at the Fairfield halls, but on Sundays I was given a uniform and it was my job to show people to their seats for the concerts. When Marc Bolan and T. Rex played, it was impossible to stop the fans running down the front as we were told to, so I just joined 'em. Well, the audience was 95 percent gorgeous birds. I thought, that Bolan's got the job I want..."

Lumberjack: What kind of music do you listen to now, and who do you listen to?

Captain: "All sorts...punk, classical, pop, jazz. I like Sing Sing, who evolved out of Lush...great melodies. Maybe some Rachmaninov for those melancholy moments."

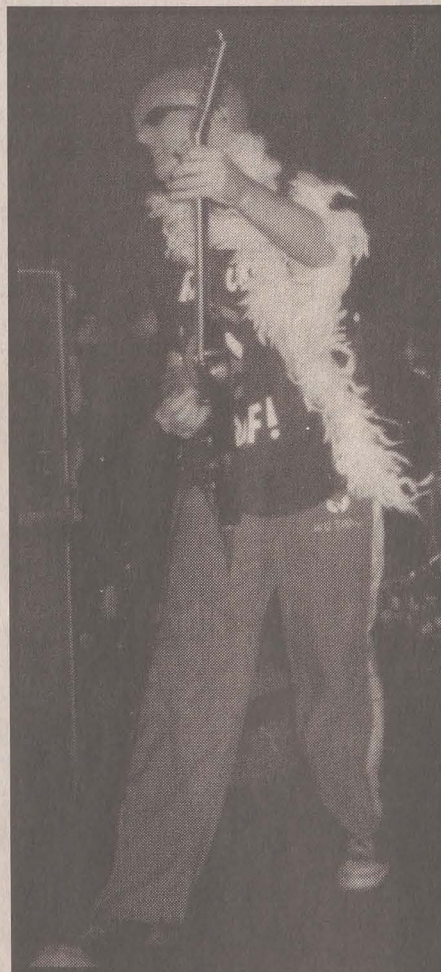
Lumberjack: When you've come to America, are there any particular cities that stand out in your mind as

being good fun? Or where you thought, 'These idiots are crazier than me!'

Captain: "New York's a happening city, and SO MANY restaurants of all kinds to try out. The Staten Island Ferry is the best free ride in the world. Poor old Detroit could do with a bit of a spruce up - you'd think those automobile companies who made so much cash in the neighborhood would put something back, wouldn't you? We've visited so many interesting and fun places...Atlanta - good music scene...Frisco - still a scent of the '60s there...Chicago - I rode the Loop! And there are so many nice people I've met, it's such a shame the neocons are running ya foreign policy at the moment."

Lumberjack: In the 1980's you departed from The Damned and were gone from them for a long time, throughout the '90's. What brought you back?

Captain: "I was happy to do me bit for pop music, AND play guitar with the Damned. But the hectic schedule got too much in the end and I chose to carry on with the easiest and



Captain Sensible rocking out (photo courtesy David Rude)

most lucrative of the two careers. While doing a show with my band and Dave Vanian's Phantom Chords, we hatched a plot to reinstate me to my Damned guitar twanging duties. And why not!"

Lumberjack: Any plans for

any more solo albums in the near future?

Captain: "I think a lot of people are releasing their stuff on the net - maybe I'll give that a go sometime soon. My material is a bit 'off the beaten track' for most record companies (laughing)."

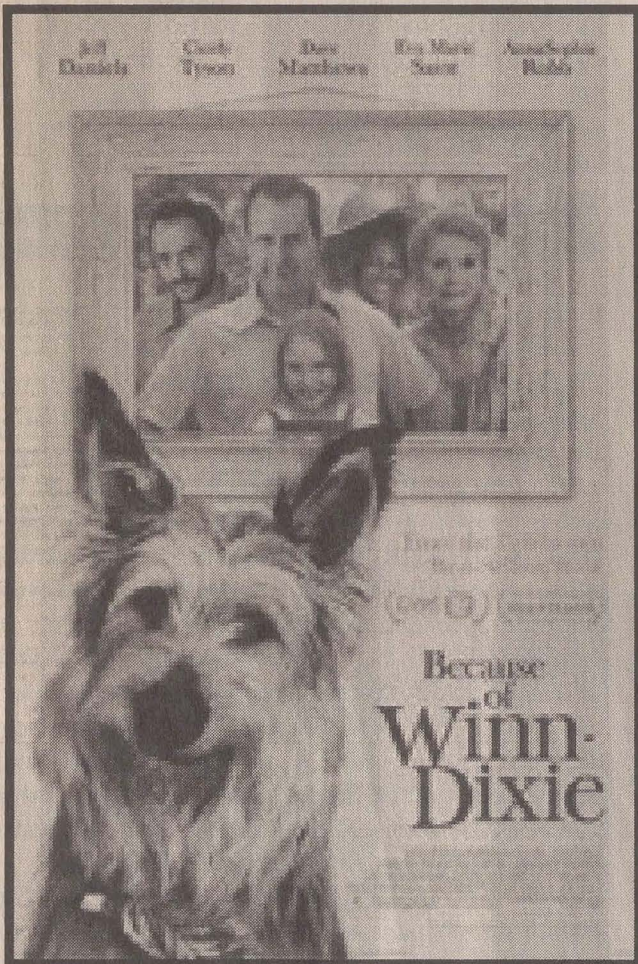
Lumberjack: How about a beer and a film?

Captain: "Oh, I don't generally like movies...they are too corny and clichéd most of the time. I usually fall asleep with the boredom of it all. Just leave me in the pub and pick me up when the film's finished...thanks."

Lumberjack: Any hints on the upcoming Damned album?

Captain: "No...I could only say what direction my portion is going in at present. What Dave and the others are concocting is a mystery as yet, but they never fail to come up with a few surprises. Cheers!"

Reviewer finds happiness Because of Winn Dixie



By Michael Gartner
Staff Writer

Author Kate DiCamillo's award-winning youth novel is wonderfully adapted to the movie screen in *Because of Winn Dixie*. Its amiable but flawed characters provide a believable and engaging weave of the story's savory theme that life is sweet and sour all mixed up together.

A young lady's heartfelt prayer for companionship quickly culminates in her adoption of a less fortunate stray mutt she names Winn Dixie. Together they infuse her preacher-dad and a menagerie of small town characters with a healthy dose of candor and joy. And their whimsical journey out of personal loneliness and uncertainty into friendship and understanding is truly engaging.

Lead character India Opal

Buloni (played by newcomer Anna Sophia Robb) has an authentic mix of youthful vulnerability and precocious insight. The 10-year-old's innocent tendency to list, embrace and dream about the character traits of her long absent mother is both endearing and understandable as she desires to hold on to what should have been. And while her canine companion is credited with "everything that was good that summer," it is this young lady's sincerity and charm which carries the plot.

With a few exceptions, the movie's supporting characters are strong. Otis, a guitar playing pet shop custodian (Dave Matthews) is a solid portrayal of the book's persona of a humble, emotionally wounded talented musician. Played by seasoned actress Cicely

Tyson, Gloria Dump is a sensible, though visibly haggard, former alcoholic who uses her own past failures as an empathetic rudder to help Opal understand the troubled demeanor of her father and fellow town folks.

Together Dump and Buloni plant a "wait and see tree" which proves to be an instructive metaphor for the importance of patience. The character Franny Block (Eva Marie Saint) is an outgoing librarian whose deft storytelling accents the town's history with both gravity and levity. The preacher-dad (Jeff Daniels) reluctantly emerges from his turtle shell to reveal a warmth and candidness his daughter so deeply south. The town youth are remarkably well cast, with a wide eyed toddler tag along, a pinch

faced troubled teen, and two buzz cut boy antagonists.

If the screenplay has a weakness, it is in the Mr. Alfred character, whose sour manner is a bit overplayed, and the screen creations of a bumbling redneck police officer (Harland Williams). Neither of these characters are effective antagonists and both detract from the storyline and theme.

Nevertheless, the screen adaptation excels in ways the book could not. The soundtrack is superbly adapted to the story's theme with its wonderful assortment of contemporary songs, each enhancing the on screen action. And take note of lyrics such as, "It grows in a sunny place," and "I feel so much better since I laid down my burden," and you will understand how this story has delightfully whisked you through some timeless lessons of life. Five stars out of five.

ACC softball team features young, solid roster

continued from page 5
etc, we will be successful as a team."

Curtis, who is entering her fourth year as head coach, along with assistant coach Shannon Woloczyk, who has been there as Curtis' assistant these past four

years, have a basic goal for their team.

"Performing the fundamentals and becoming more consistent by the end of the season (are our goals)," Curtis said. A strong fundamental team will go a long way

during the season.

So, while the snow is still piled up outside, Curtis and Woloszyk preach the fundamentals to a relatively young and inexperienced team, but a team that the coaches believe has a chance to be very

competitive this season.

The girls begin their season on April 1 at Oakland. The team plays a 10 game schedule, with all games being played in April. Playoffs begin on May 8, with regional action happening May 12-14.

Softball roster, schedule

Date:	Opponent, time:	Name, year
4/1	at Oakland, 3 p.m.	Amy Timm, So.
4/2	at Mott, 1 p.m.	Stephany Rekowski, So.
4/3	at Mott, 11 a.m.	Megan Grulke, So.
4/9	at MaComb, 3 p.m.	Katherine Dutcher, So.
4/10	at MaComb, 11 a.m.	Kelly Weichel, Fr.
4/15	at Delta, 3 p.m.	Jenny Black, Fr.
4/16	Henry Ford, 3 p.m.	Ashley Skiera, Fr.
4/17	Henry Ford, 11 a.m.	Elizabeth Somers, Fr.
4/22	Oakland, 3 p.m.	Rachel Boyk, Fr.
4/23	St. Clair, 3 p.m.	Angel Howard, Fr.
4/24	St. Clair, 11 a.m.	Claire DeBlaay, Fr.
4/29	Delta, 3 p.m.	Anna Bashans, Fr.

Arts & Entertainment

March 15, 2005

Page 7

The Priest... is... back!

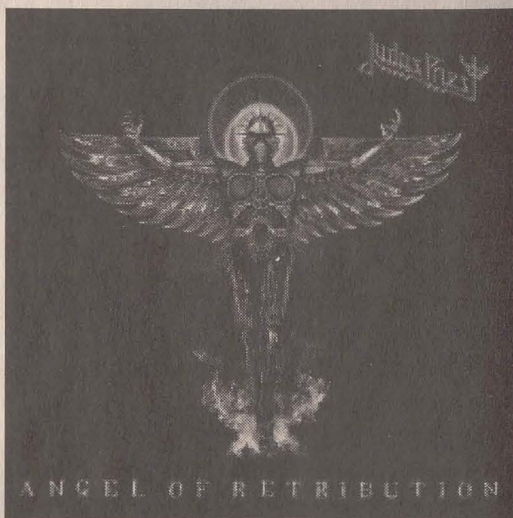
By De Maramed
Managing/News Editor

Renowned vocalist Rob Halford is back in the legendary British metal band Judas Priest, and on the heels of a successful reunion tour, Priest picks up right where 1990's *Painkiller* left off with *Angel Of Retribution*.

The huge success Iron Maiden had when they reunited with singer Bruce Dickinson, and the less than stellar sales of Priest and solo Halford records finally convinced Judas Priest and Halford that it was time to forgive, forget and reunite. With four out of five original members, sans the child molesting drummer Dave Holland, Priest shows that they are back in true form — blindingly fast twin guitar attacks, soaring vocals, and shallow, repetitive lyrics.

The album starts out strong with "Judas Rising," an ultra fast chest thumper that reclaims some of the frenzy and speed that has been absent in the past few non-Halford Priest albums. "Deal With The Devil" is next, and is the weakest track on the album. The music is okay, but the lyrics are recycled from at least four previous Priest tracks. Describing the roots of the band, the band itself, and metal in relation to the Devil and Hell. It's been done before, and done better.

"Revolution," the most radio friendly track, is next. Heavier, but with a slower beat. This too harkens back to previous tracks. Take "United" or "Take On The World" and inject some steroids into



Angel Of Retribution cover (Photo courtesy De Maramed)

them, and you have "Revolution." Worth Fighting For" slows the album down, and lo and behold, you can actually hear Ian Hill's bass, a rare treat considering how guitar-centric Judas Priest is. A ballad, but a good and unique one, where you can actually hear the sorrow and resolve in Halford's singing.

"Demonizer," is another standout track, pumping adrenaline through your blood and your fists in the air. Very fast, and with some interesting lyrics that any longtime Priest fan would recognize. Hellions, screaming for vengeance, the Painkiller? They're all mentioned.

Nothing special in "Wheels Of Fire." What usually saves a Priest song is the music. The lyrics may be shallow and repetitive, but guitarists Glenn Tipton and K.K. Downing always make it interesting.

"Angel" is easily one of the strongest songs, and also an acoustic track until the end, where it builds up emotionally and musically. The lyrics are

actually very thoughtful and insightful, showing a side of Priest we haven't seen since 1979's *Hell Bent For Leather*.

"Hellrider" revves the album back up, showcasing drummer Scott Travis's knack for lightning-fast drumming. The 13-minute finale, "Eulogy/Loch Ness" is the tragic and moving tale of...you guessed it...the Loch Ness Monster. The music is outstanding, but you can't help but laugh, can you?

Angel Of Retribution will put the naysayers to rest, and definitely bring back all the old fans that got turned off when Halford left the band 15 years ago. Musically, Judas Priest has regressed, choosing the more traditional formula that carried them through the 1980s on top. Gone is the experimental, and very very good and under-appreciated, *Demolition* album days. But, no matter what anyone else says, the Priest is definitely back. 4 out of 5 stars.

Now if only KISS will hurry up and die, we'll be in pretty good shape.

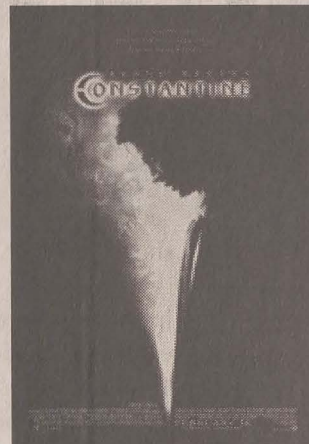
Constantine rises above the rest

By Shane Eiseler
Staff Writer

With fire and brimstone, hell and earth, and a demonic cast of characters, *Constantine* keeps audiences on the edge of their seats and leaves you with the bitter taste of sulfur in your mouth. Its constant plot twists and unusual storyline make for two hours and fifteen minutes of time and money well spent.

Adapted from a comic book called *Hellblazer*, the movie kicks off in Los Angeles with John Constantine (Keanu Reeves) exorcising a demon from a possessed woman who, after a brief struggle, sends the demon back to Hell. After this opening scene, we are formally introduced to Constantine's character. From the day he was born, John Constantine could see things other people could not, demons among the world of the living. This horrible "gift" eventually drove him to the point of taking his own life, a mortal sin. This earns him a ticket to Hell only to be resurrected against his will. Now he uses his sight to exorcise demons that have broken divine law by trespassing in the world of the living. In doing so, he hopes to earn his passage into Heaven. To add to his troubles, he is also plagued by cancer due to his chronic smoking.

Enter detective Angela Dodson (Rachel Weisz), who has sought out Constantine because her twin sister, Isabel, speaks his



Constantine (photo courtesy Chris Engle)

name on a surveillance tape of her committing suicide by stepping off a building and plunging into a cross shaped pool. Constantine, a chain-smoking rude cynic decides to take her case and opens her mind to a nightmarish reality she hadn't dreamed possible.

From there on out the movie teases between earth and Hell with Constantine battling to stop a plot by the son of Satan to enter the world of the living. In order to do so Constantine must prevent Satan's son from reaching detective Dodson with "The Spear of Destiny," a religious artifact believed to be the same spear that pierced the side of Jesus Christ during his crucifixion.

Constantine is aided in his struggle by his young apprentice Chaz (Shia LeBeouf), and Hennessy (Pruitt Taylor Vance), a clergyman who is sensitive to otherworldly vibrations.

As the movie winds towards finish, Constantine has to face off against an entire room full of demons with the help of Chaz and confront the son of Satan, who has possessed Angela. In the end...if I told you the end why see the

movie, right? Let's just say Constantine gets what he deserves in the end.

This movie takes the age old topic of Heaven and Hell and goes a different direction than previous movies, which helps create its unique storyline. In the vein of *The Matrix*, it makes you take a look at the world around you and wonder just how much you don't see.

Keanu Reeves does an excellent job of portraying the sarcastic, bitter, reluctant hero that is Constantine. Rachel Weisz, who also starred with Reeves in *Chain Reaction*, supports his character well in her role as the skeptical detective who gets a harsh lesson in reality. These two are backed up by a few other familiar faces in the roles of the angel Gabriel, the religious artifact collector Papa Midnite, and Balthazar, who assists the son of Satan (everything Zen? I don't think so).

The dark and gloomy atmosphere of the movie is aided by top-notch special effects and scenes that have you sweating as if you were actually in Hell. A great movie from start to finish, *Constantine* leaves room for more and hints at the possibility of a sequel. With an R rating due to the amount of violence and demonic imagery, it may not be for everyone. Nor is it a *Devil's Advocate* sequel as some believed. But for most, it will satisfy those of us craving something different than *The Matrix*. For the seven dollar ticket price, and another twenty bucks for popcorn and pop, it's at least worth the price of admission (I'd skip the artificial butter flavoring though). 4 out of 5 stars.

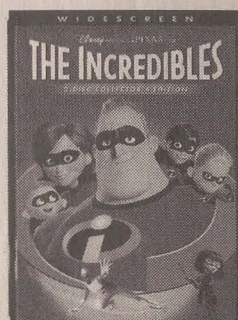
Props must be given to *The Incredibles*

By Chris Engle
Sports/A&E Editor

Disney's Pixar Animation Studio, well known for its works like *Toy Story* and *Finding Nemo*, have set the bar for computer-animated cartoons even higher with *The Incredibles*.

After several lawsuits are filed against Mr. Incredible and other superheroes by people who were injured in the process of being rescued, the 'Supers' are forced into isolation.

Years later and living under a secret identity, Mr. Incredible (Craig Nelson) suppresses his urges to use his superpowers at the insurance agency where he is employed. He occasionally



sneaks out of the house from his superhero family to revisit the "good ol' days" with his superfriend, Frozone (Samuel Jackson). When a secret mission requires him to use his superpowers, he gains a whole new self-esteem and enters the hero game once again.

The first 40 minutes of the movie focuses mainly on Mr. Incredible and how sad his life is without the ability to

exercise his capabilities. The movie swiftly picks up once the entire family unleashes its powers and decides to protect the world and each other from Mr. Incredible's arch nemesis and once-biggest fan. With his wife, Elastagirl, and his two children at his side, Mr. Incredible leads a force of diverse powers that will battle to restore peace to the world.

The last hour of the film is loaded with hilarious scenarios as well as some awesome action scenes, all with very well rendered computer animation that we have come to expect from Pixar. While some scenes are drawn out slightly and Elastagirl's ability to stretch is

somewhat exploited, *The Incredibles* makes for a movie that will have the whole family laughing.

The 2-disc DVD, released on March 15, is loaded with special features that will keep the laughs going. Be sure to watch Jack-Jack Attack to see what it would be like to baby sit a superhero baby who doesn't quite have his powers under control. The Incredi-Blunders extra pairs bloopers with graphics construction, and the Mr. Incredible and Friends extra is a hilarious old-fashioned short cartoon. This is a movie that most parents would gladly watch another time or two with their kids. 4 out of 5 stars

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The Last Word

Page 8

March 15, 2005

Bringin' the blues



to Alpena

By De Maramed
Managing/News Editor

The recently formed non-profit Alpena Blues Coalition seeks to promote and preserve blues in the Alpena area by hosting the popular and successful Blues Festival, blues-in-the-schools program, and many other activities.

In a meeting for the mid-Michigan Blues Society in August 2003 at Shooters Club 32, Dennis Kirk, Wayne Gauthier, Scott Alloway, and a few others found themselves alone, as the Blues Society never showed up.

"There were eight or ten of us sitting there, and one of us said 'Why don't we just make our own blues coalition?'" Wayne Gauthier explained. By September they had had their first meeting. They started out just sharing and exchanging CDs, but it quickly grew from there.

They had all been to the highly successful Tawas Blues Festival, run by Kate Anscheutz, and it wasn't long before they decided to try to put on their own festival. It was an uphill battle, as the only member with any experience in the entertainment industry was Brian Cousineau, who had previously worked as a stage hand for 18 years.

"Kate was a huge help," said Dennis Kirk. "We had once-a-month Sunday meetings, and Kate would attend, helping out where she could. During one meeting, she said 'You have no idea what you're in for.'"

In the months leading up to the festival, the members put in hundreds of hours each,

planning, setting up the Alpena County Fairgrounds, getting advertising, and booking the bands. Local advertising was particularly hard at first, as many advertisers looked back at the Polka Explosion debacle. "The man in charge had picked up and left Alpena quickly, owing several people money," Kirk explained.

During the summer of 2004 the first Alpena Blues Festival was finally held, and it was an enormous success. Around 4,000 people came for the three-day festival, with Budweiser through Huron Distributors paying out nearly \$12,000 in advertising. The profit made from the festival was donated to charities, one of them the local Vietnam Vets chapter, which had provided security for the festival.

The festival was so successful that the Detroit Blues Society and West Michigan Blues Society have expressed interest in getting involved in the next one. "People as far as Midland have heard of and are now interested in our festival," Kirk said.

There was also an extremely positive reaction from the community. They had invited all the city officials and people from Besser and the Cement Plant, giving them free tickets to see just what the Blues Coalition is and what it's doing.

With their first festival out of the way, the Blues Coalition is gearing up for this year's festival, holding the recent winter fundraiser at the Alpena Fairgrounds. Ticket sales were promising, and the fundraiser itself was a huge success, raising thousands of dollars and gaining new members for the Coalition. They are now considering making the fundraiser an annual event.

Aside from the festival, the Blues Coalition is also trying to spread blues throughout the community in other ways. The recent blues-in-the-school program, where guitarist Pete Van Vlerah went to Emmanuel Lutheran Elementary School and played blues songs written by the children, was also a big success. They are also interested in starting a Scott Alloway music scholarship, dedicated to one of their members who is dying of cancer.

To contact the Blues Coalition, call either Wayne Gauthier at 356-9490, or Dennis Kirk at 356-4900. There's a \$15 a year membership fee to join the Coalition. "What do you get as a member?" Wayne said. "You get the pride of being able to help people. It's a community thing, being able to donate."

