



# The CrossCut

**Meet the new  
CrossCut Staff  
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October 2008

## Protecting ACC students

Renata Bur  
Staff Writer

Alpena Community College hosted a mock shooter incident Aug. 13-14.

It is a concept known as quick action deployment or QUAD training. It consists of the state police, the city police and the county sheriff's office using one of the local buildings to practice a situation involving a live shooter. This year it was the Natural Resources Center building at ACC.

"It was quite realistic. Firing weapons...with blanks of course," Dr. Olin Joynton, ACC President, said. "... (there was a) lot of shouting and yelling. Guns were going off and yelling and moaning came from wounded role players."

Joynton said the exercise went really well and he was impressed with the professionalism the three teams showed while working together.

Terry King, Alpena County Under-sheriff said, "This is something that our office looks forward to every year and we have to because it seems our society's becoming more and more violent every year. The violence becomes closer and closer to Alpena and we, the law enforcement, we train and more importantly not only do we have to train, but we have to train together. And that's a key factor right there."

After the Columbine shooting, the way law protected citizens had to be altered.

"The thought process in law enforce-

ment changed from sitting out and waiting, to taking quick action and solving things," Thad Taylor, Alpena Public Safety Director, said. "It's a total mindset for us. Usually with police work, if we see somebody with a gun or knife, we order them to stop. Well in this, you don't. You see somebody with a gun, you have to eliminate them."

However, this process of practicing for such an event is being taken in small steps.

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At this time in the exercise only ACC's Emergency Management Team, a group of administrators, was permitted.

"They got to follow us and observe. They could see what we were doing, why, and what is accomplished," Taylor said.

The whole idea for these kinds of exercises is to raise public awareness and strengthen preventative measures.

"It's a college campus, it's open, you have a lot of buildings with a lot of access," said Taylor.

Joynton added, "I believe the college

could benefit from practice on campus."

King said another aspect that makes the college unique is having Johnson Street run through the middle of campus.

"With ACC, you've got two sides of the road," he said. "The officers need to be familiar with the layout."

Joynton said he thinks the college is better prepared than a few months ago.

However, the openness of the college is a factor that could challenge this. It is a soft target according to Joynton. He explained, soft targets are welcoming and inviting, with an appealing front. Whereas hard targets, he added, have some kind of imposing figure stationed in the front, visibly present. It unnerves the possible shooter and he goes in

search of a softer image.

Joynton said he has hopes of eventually bringing students and faculty into these type of safety practices.

Law enforcement previously trained in the high school and middle schools. The decision to train here in the NRC came about because of its unique characteristics.

Taylor said the NRC had multi-floors, smaller rooms, stairways, narrower hallways and an entirely different layout than they had been used to previously.

## Police Blotter

The following incidents at Alpena Community College have occurred between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008. To learn more on what to do concerning campus crime, consult the Alpena Community College 2007-08 Catalog and Student Handbook, pages 22 and 23.

### Campus

False Alarm: 5

Hit and Run: 1

Larceny: 3

Lockout: 13

Parking Lot Accident: 4

Assist to Citizen: 1

Suspicious Situation: 1

Suspicious Person: 1

Liquor Violation: 1

### Apartments

Lockout: 4

Malicious Destruction of Property: 2

Liquor Violations: 1

Suspicious Persons: 2

Violation of Controlled Substance: 1

Burglary: 3

Intoxicated Person: 2

Harassment: 1

Assist to Citizen: 3

Lost/Found Property: 1

Criminal Sexual Conduct: 1

Source: Clery Act

## Don't be a target: part 2

Garret Schuelke  
Staff Writer

Somewhere in Grand Rapids at a psychiatric facility is Cameron Conklin. Conklin, who was charged with aggravated stalking of three Alpena Community College instructors, was ordered by Alpena County Circuit Court Chief Judge John Kowalski to attend the facility due to issues related to mental illness.

### The Story

The stalking started when Conklin, then an ACC student, started sending Christmas gifts to his instructors around Dec. 5, 2007. Dr. Olin Joynton, President of ACC, also received a package of letters from Conklin later that same month on Dec. 30. The letters, as Joynton described them, contained references

to the Bible, popular songs, and number games.

"He did not seem to be reaching out for help," said Joynton, who did not find the letter overtly threatening. "I would describe the letters as more wanting to state things to people."

Nevertheless, Joynton took the letters to the department of public safety. Upon concluding that the letters presented a potentially dangerous situation, Joynton spoke to Max Lindsay, Dean of Student Affairs at ACC. Lindsay then contacted Conklin by phone, telling him to cease the harassment. He also sent a letter to Conklin containing the same message.

Further investigations into Conklin's history revealed that in the past Conklin was convicted for

cruelty toward animals and was once arrested for drunken and disorderly behavior.

Due to not ceasing his harassment of ACC instructors after a restraining order was in place, Conklin was expelled and, as of this article, banned from stepping foot on the campus, with exceptions to meet with Joynton or Lindsay.

"I cannot imagine a situation in which I would be comfortable readmitting him to study at ACC," said Joynton.

The instructors mentioned in this story declined to have their names released.

### Security Measures

On Aug. 13 and 14 training exercises for local law enforcement

took place at ACC, simulating a school shooting. The exercise was meant to help law enforcement and college staff prepare in case of school shootings, such as the ones that took place at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University on April 16, 2007 and Northern Illinois University on Feb. 14, 2008.

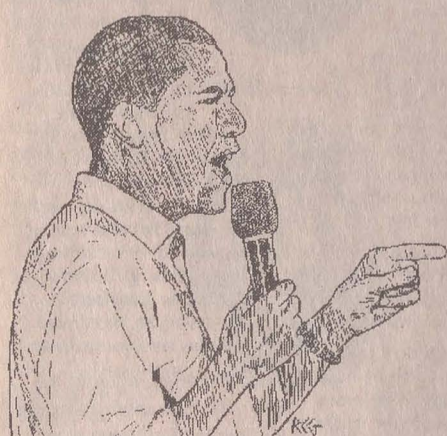
ACC also has an Emergency Management Team, which consists of Joynton and other ACC staff members.

As mentioned back in the April 2008 edition of *The CrossCut*, there are still plans of replacing the phone system at ACC, which is more than 20 years old. This will also include installing a phone in every classroom, along with a phone service that can be used over the Internet called VOIP, or voice-over Internet protocol.

On the topic of other security measures at ACC — such as installing metal detectors — Joynton replied, "One of the things about campuses historically is that they are welcoming places...we are open, welcoming environments and that's the way the community expects to be served by ACC. Coming on the ACC campus shouldn't be like going through security checks at an airport."

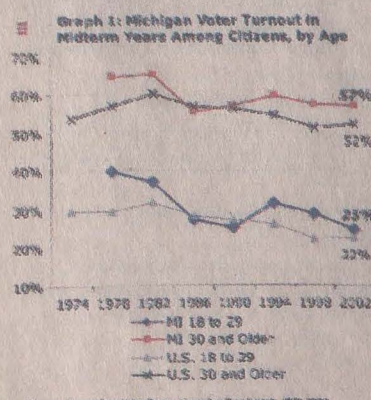
Joynton said ACC's campus is very safe.

"It would be wrong to spend money on security that makes the college look like a prison as opposed to educational needs and programs."



By Gay Lynn Fry  
Staff Writer

On Nov. 4, Americans will once again have the opportunity to have their say in America's politics by voting.



## Your vote is power

*"Bad politicians are sent to Washington by good people who don't vote."*

—William E. Simon



Political sketches by  
Robert Gandy

"Voting is the one formal vehicle and the one power Americans have to make decisions at the federal level," said Timothy Kuehrlein, Alpena Community College political science instructor. "Citizens have one opportunity to get the best possible people into these positions for a term."

Some of the younger generation in Alpena recognize the importance of this opportunity.

"I am going to vote. It's really important for younger people to vote because it appears the world is in a downward trend and the younger generation is going to be left with the consequences," said Ashley Marquardt, 25.

Many Americans have not always had the right to vote.

"In 1776 only white men who owned property could vote. White men who did not own property were given the right to vote in 1840. It was not until 1870 that the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment gave African Americans the right to vote and women had to wait until 1920 before they got a say in the US government. It was the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment that finally granted women the vote. The youth of America were always asked to risk their life in battle but were not allowed to vote until 1971 when the 26<sup>th</sup> Amendment granted those 18 and over a vote," said Kuehrlein. "It is relatively recent that they have been given the right and the opportunity to vote."

He said it is important Americans take advantage of this right to vote in order to ensure the best possible people hold these positions of power.

"The statistics show that only 50-60 percent of registered voters show up to vote at major elections and every election we hear how

America's youth will come out in droves to vote, but every election they fail us," Kuehrlein said. "If they do not participate now, what is the future of our country?"

### This is what a few of the Alpena youth had to say:

- Katie Budnick, 19, said, "I'll vote because I feel it's the right thing to do. You don't have a say and can't complain if you don't vote."
- Casey Amo, 21, said, "It's going to be my first time to vote and I am just going to go with my gut feeling."
- Kyle Sams, 19, said, "It is important to vote or you are going to get another George Bush."
- Russ Skuse, 23, said, "Vote for Obama. It's time for a change."
- Chris Goodwin, 27, said, "I want someone who has been in the military and not someone who neglected to serve."
- Jackie Spencer, 20, said, "It's important because each vote makes a difference whether you think so or not."