

"ON GOLDEN POND" CASTS TWO INSTRUCTORS

by Deb Ferriter

The Alpena Civic Theater's upcoming production of Ernest Thompson's "On Golden Pond" will give students the chance to enjoy a recent and highly acclaimed comedy-drama, as well as the acting talents of two ACC faculty members--Mr. Keith Titus and Mr. James Miesen.

An added bonus for students is free admission to the first two shows (just stop in at the Student Services office for tickets.) The show will run from Wednesday, January 13, through Sunday, January 17.

"On Golden Pond" deals with the "difficulties as well as humor of people growing older," said Miesen. The play focuses on the pains and puzzles of family relationships, of aging, and death, bringing them to light with humor, realism, and feeling.

Main characters include 80 year old Norman Thayer Jr. and his wife, Ethel. The events take place during an annual stay at their New England summer cottage, "on Golden pond." On Norman's 80th birthday, the couple receive a visit from their estranged, 43 year old, divorced and recently remarried daughter, Chelsea. Chelsea's new stepson, 13 year old Billy, stays with her parents while she honeymoon in Europe.

Norman is preoccupied with death, and throughout the play he deals with the effects of aging and with finding a decent ending for life. The older couple seem somewhat isolated, with no close friends left on the pond and with their only child estranged from her father since childhood. The attempted reconciliation is awkward--but not a total failure. The relationship that develops between Norman and Billy is a key aspect of the plot, and develops between Norman and Billy is a key aspect of the plot, and helps both to deal with the changes and relationships in their lives.

In the ACT production, Titus will play Norman Thayer. Titus has been active in the local theater, acting and contributing in other ways. He is also offering instruction in a Theatre Practicum course at ACC this semester.

Miesen will play the supporting role of a mailman who was a close childhood friend of Chelsea. Other local talent will be featured in the production, including at least one former ACC student--Shirley Weaver.

Miesen noted the production's timeliness, saying that Alpena is perhaps the first amateur group in the state to be granted rights to do the play. (The play is being done by a few professional groups throughout the state.) It is quite a recent work, nationally known and just now being performed on Broadway. A film is also being made, starring Henry Fonda, Katharine Hepburn, and Jane Fonda.

DOES COLLEGE PAY?

According to U.S. Labor Department statistics, it does. A recent study found that 40% of the labor force aged 25 to 64 had completed at least a year of college, compared to 23% of workers in 1970. Those figures show that job opportunities for those who don't continue their education are shrinking, say department economists. High school dropouts comprised 36% of the labor force in 1970, but that shrank to less than 20% in 1981.

Save Energy This Winter

by Marjorie Voigt

If you would like to know more about the energy your home consumes get involved with Alpena's new Energy Conservation Project.

Alpena was one out of six cities chosen by the State of Michigan to put on the Energy Conservation Project. Funding by a State of Michigan grant made it possible for our city and the Alpena Energy Commission to carry out this project.

June Moulds of Alpena Volunteer Center is coordinator for the 40 volunteers needed to start the Energy Conservation Project. Training programs for the volunteers will be every Wednesday in January. If you would like to become a volunteer, sign up now at East Campus in the Volunteer Center.

Volunteers will be trained by professionals to read various charts in helping determine heat loss, and other wasted energy's. Alpena will be divided up into 25 neighborhoods. These separate neighborhoods will hold individual Energy Conservation meetings beginning February of 1982, through April of 1982.

For more information call or contact, Ms. June Moulds and/or Ms. Vernie Nethercut at Alpena Volunteer Center.

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Short Story/Essay Contest

- 1500 word maximum
- 1st place in each category wins \$50
- 1st, 2nd & 3rd place in each category will be published in Spring '82 earth
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