

St. Sgt. Rodriquez returns

by Melissa Parteka & Rich Spicer
Now that the war is over some people may be wondering what it was like for service men who were stationed in the Middle East.

One man, Staff Sergeant Mark Anthony Rodriquez, a native of Waco, Texas, was willing to talk to The Lumberjack about his experiences in Saudi Arabia.

He has been with the military for nine years and was deployed for action on November 5 returning to Wurtsmith Air Base March 10.

When asked about his experiences, Rodriquez was quick to respond. "Our first three months we stayed in apartments and we could get CNN." Two weeks before the war ended, Rodriquez was moved into the desert and had no access to the media reports.

Upon his return, Rodriquez was happy to be reunited with his family and friends. "The hardest thing was being away from them so long." All communications with his family were through letters. The mail that was sent took a week to get from Saudi Arabia to the US and two to four

weeks from the US to Saudi Arabia.

One of the things Rodriquez thought might be difficult upon his return was integrating himself into the learning experience at ACC - WAFB Huron Shore's Campus. In reality the administration was more than helpful with the process.

Currently Rodriquez is pursuing an accounting degree and is using the Huron Shores Campus "as a spring board to Saginaw Valley State College."

Looking back on his experiences Rodriquez said, "I'm thankful to God for my safe return and having this thing over so quickly with so few casualties." Rodriquez also mentioned that all the servicemen he was deployed with returned safely.

In retrospect Rodriquez said his strongest emotion occurred when the war began. "To me it was a big let down . . . we thought they (Iraq) would come to their senses and realize they were up against too much. That is something I will carry with me the rest of my life."



Since its beginning on local station WBKB TV, Knowledge Bowl is a program much involved and supported by the college. In the past, moderators have been Herm Bordewyk, former Law Enforcement instructor and James Miesen of the Fine Arts Department. Judges for the weekly contest have been faculty members and administrators at the college. Pictured above are Nan Hall, Richard Moreau, Science instructor; Priscilla Homola, English instructor; and Donna Gilmet, Upward Bound administrator.

ACC instructors look to challenge Knowledge Bowl participants

by Traci Manning

Alpena Community College has been involved in the WBKB Channel 11-sponsored Knowledge Bowl Show for several years providing judges for the weekly contest.

Knowledge Bowl is a season-long competition between 16 area high schools testing academic skills through a series of questions on a variety of subjects from English to Math to Science.

The questions asked are provided by WBKB who purchases them from 2 or 3 different sources. Dr. Richard Moreau and Nan Hall, both ACC faculty members, coordinate the judges who are ACC instructors or administrators and screen the questions "...as

to adaptability, clarity, correct English, content, and accuracy," Moreau states.

Hall is the present moderator for the program and is paid by the TV station for each program. Hall hopes to improve the show and add excitement.

Hall believes there are some problems with the questions. She states, "We are finding the questions we have been ordering from the companies are really out of sync with the kind of subjects the kids are learning in school."

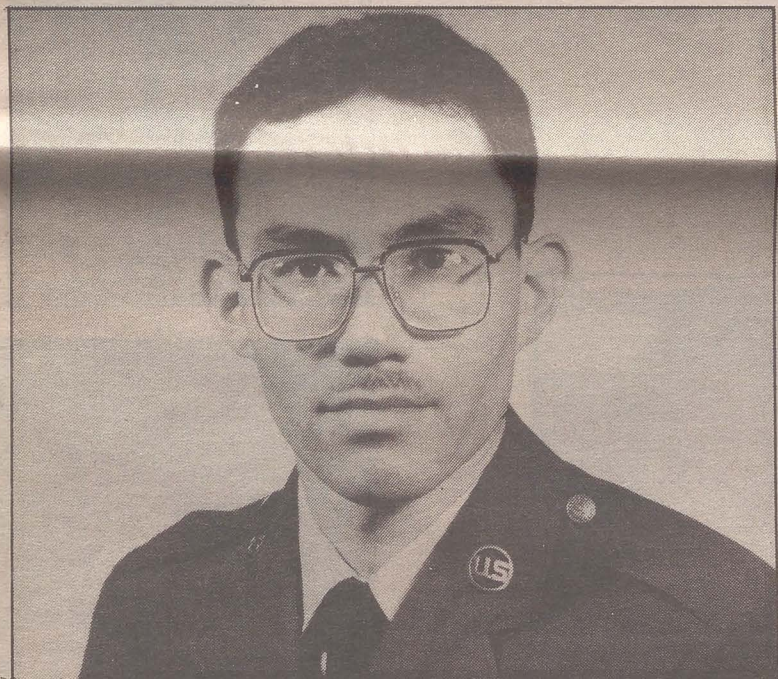
Curt Smith, WBKB's station manager, is pursuing the idea of having each competing school submit questions from each subject drawn up by the teachers at the school. So far all the feedback

has been positive regarding this program format change.

Hall also would like to see an award given by the college to a top player, for instance, a semester scholarship.

Hall strongly states, "My general feeling is this . . . if the name of Alpena Community College is going to be associated with the television program, then as faculty members we need to get behind it, and make it the best possible reflection on Alpena Community College that we can."

There are three panel judges chosen for each competition from a pool of 14 volunteers. Hall is always looking for volunteers and any staff persons can contact her at extension 306.



Staff Sergeant Mark Anthony Rodriquez, nine year Air Force veteran, has returned from the Gulf War to his home base at Wurtsmith Air Force Base, ACC's Huron Campus. He credits college administrative assistance for his smooth reentry to college classes as he continues the pursuit of his educational goals.

Peer pressure's impact on early drinking

by John Eagen

Studies show that young people begin using alcohol at an early age.

In a Weekly Reader national survey 34% of fourth graders reported that they feel peer pressure to try wine coolers, and 36% try beer, wine or liquor. At present, first drinking usually occurs around age 12 in contrast to age 16-17 in the 1940's and 1950's.

THE PRIDE SURVEY (a 1987 survey of more than 65,000 students) found 74% of 12th graders drinking beer, 88% drinking wine and 65% drinking distilled spirits -- percentages higher than for tobacco, marijuana and cocaine.

Nearly all high school seniors (92%) had experience with alcohol and two-thirds (66%) are current users (have used in the past 30 days).

The same survey found that 5% were daily drinkers and nearly 40% reported at least one occasion of heavy drinking during the past two weeks -- an occasion in which they had 5 or more drinks in a row.

A recent survey of 27,000 New York public school students attempted to estimate addiction. 11% of students in grades 7 through 12 described themselves as "hooked" on alcohol. 13% admitted attending class "high", "drunk", or "stoned" on alcohol.

The National Institute of Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse (NIAAA) estimates that the combined number of young alcoholics (between ages of 12 and 19) and those suffering from other negative effects of alcohol use is 17.7 million. NIAAA estimates the number of alcoholics alone is 10.5 million.



Alcohol use is portrayed as a positive, enhancing experience to young people and there is a great deal of social pressure to drink. One study reports that between the ages of 2 and 18, American children see something like 100,000 commercials for beer.

A National Council on Alcoholism study found that adolescents and young adults who are more heavily exposed to alcohol ads on TV and in magazines are more likely to perceive drinking as attractive, acceptable and rewarding than those who are less exposed.

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