

**po·lem·ic** (pə lem'ik, pō-) *adj.* [*< Fr. < Gr. polemikos < polemos, a war*] 1. of or involving dispute; controversial 2. argumentative Also, esp. for 2, **po·lem'i-cal** —*n.* 1. an argument or controversial discussion 2. a person inclined to argument —**po·lem'i-cal-ly** *adv.*

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# THE POLEMIC

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## Fournier tosses his hat into the ring

by Jackie Skaluba

"I don't think we should have as many laws as we do, regulating everything that comes down the pipe. Laws take away the rights of the people."

ACC instructor Bob Fournier has announced his candidacy for Representative of the 106th district early in order to get out his message.

"I expect the Republican party will spend \$500,000 to hold onto this district. I don't have that kind of budget, so my strategy is to talk to the people. I think the value of the 106th has increased. The stakes are higher."

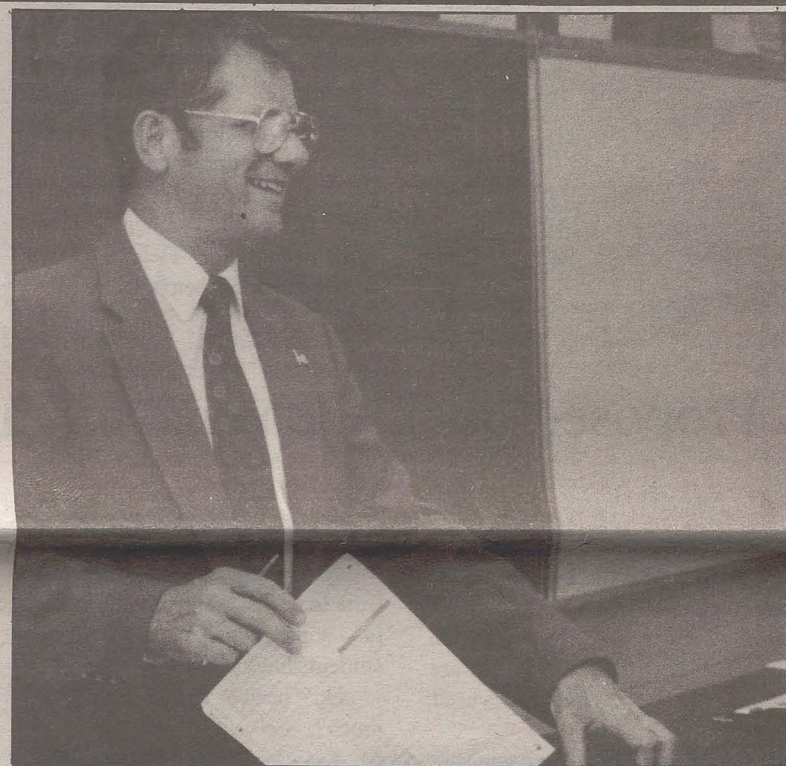
Fournier sees the astronomical costs of health care and the high number of people who do not have health insurance as major issues.

He lists as additional concerns -- the need to attract high-tech jobs and small businesses to the area, and the short-comings of the educational system. According to Fournier, "Michigan's educational system has had financial problems for a long time. The Michigan Education Association (MEA) is putting together, for the first time, a really workable approach to the problem." Fournier plans to attend a Sault Ste. Marie conference which will focus on the 12 page document, and he's optimistic, "There isn't anything that can't be solved over time. We need to understand that we're responsible, we're accountable. Raising taxes isn't the solution to funding the educational system."

Looking at daycare, Fournier feels that "... we have never really approached the issue." Instead of government stepping in and legislating what needs to be done, he believes that "... ACC and Alpena General Hospital must take leading roles, give of their expertise. That's just good management."

Fournier has concerns about the politics of reapportionment and feels it could better be "... solved in an unbiased, mathematical way by computer without regard to party."

While speaking before a group of students at Alpena Community College, environmental issues arose. Fournier responded, "I know in my heart that we must do it (recycling). I have mixed emotions. ... concerning the WERS facility. I'm concerned about (burning) plastics. I'll shake the bushes and find out."



Instructor Fournier has begun his campaign for political office based on the premise that less government is better government.

## Mid-East expert to speak

by Joe McKenna

Dateline: August 1, 1990. Only one out of four Americans is able to locate the Persian Gulf on a map. Less than ten percent can find the miniscule country of Kuwait.

Dateline: August 2, 1990. Iraq pours tens of thousands of troops across the Kuwaiti border. President Bush and his western allies respond by a massive mobilization of personnel and equipment in the Arabian Desert. Months later the U.S. is embroiled in a financially costly war with Saddam Hussein's Iraq. Americans then find their fate intertwined with this not so distant military conflict.

Now after the intervention is completed many questions still remain.

If anything, our involvement in the Persian Gulf awakened us to the fact that we can no longer ignore the political, economic and social forces of the world. This fall, Alpena students will have the rare opportunity to learn from an individual who has a wealth of

knowledge on the tumultuous region we commonly refer to as the Middle East. On October 16, Mr. Walter Cutler brings his distinguished career of Foreign Service to our campus.

Mr. Walter Cutler entered the service over thirty-five years ago in 1956. A long and colorful career included stops as an ambassador in Algeria, Iran, Korea, Vietnam, Tunisia and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

In 1989 the Ambassador left the Foreign Service to become President of the cultural institution, Meridian House International. This organization is dedicated to increasing international communication.

The major thrust of Mr. Cutler's presentation will concern the many unanswered questions in the Middle East, including the United State's new role in this unsettled region. The primary goals of Mr. Cutler's presentation is to enhance understanding of our third world neighbors and offer first-hand insights about the future of those regions.

## Freedom of speech on university campuses under attack

by Jackie Skaluba

From the House Republican Press Office comes word of one legislator's reaction to the efforts by some colleges and universities to restrict free speech on campus.

"They have succumbed to the siren song of intimidation by those who preach mandatory sensitivity and 'political correctness,'" according to State Rep. Stephen Dresch, R-Hancock.

Dresch has introduced legislation to protect the First Amendment rights of students. This legislation parallels the efforts by the Michigan chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union which has filed suit against the University of Michigan.

At issue are certain policies adopted by the university which places restrictions on student's speech.

Governor Engler, in Alpena

briefly this month, commented, "We better defend the right of people to speak. It is the history and tradition of universities to tolerate a wide range of views".

ACC President Dr. Donald Newport added, "Rights and freedoms always bring with them responsibilities, even with something so cherished as the freedom of speech ... often the issue boils down to motivation. Certainly when censorship is used to inhibit the exchange of ideas or facts or as a means of arbitrary control, then few would debate our rightful freedom of expression. But, again, a right to extend my fist ends where another's nose begins."

Former advisor to ACC's student newspaper, instructor Jim Miesen, feels, "While state Rep. Dresch's fears regarding misguided restrictions on student's rights of free speech on college campuses

may be valid, his statements are really nothing more than over-blown rhetoric which in simplest terms, state that these restrictions should not be allowed.

"If the legislation would prevent government from threatening students' rights by withdrawing funds when some official did not agree with a student publication's right to print, then that act should be supported".

ACC advisor Frank McCourt was brief: "This is a crock. We have to teach our students to be somewhat sensitive".

University of Michigan faculty are calling the current charges of left-wing censorship, "political correctness fever." In an attempt to counter what they see as a "frame-up", a conference for November 15 - 17, has been scheduled in hopes of clearing up the "widespread confusion and misinformation".