



Financial Aid Cuts and ACC --What can students expect?

by Lori Lightner

ACC students can have a strong influence in defeating the federal government's proposed budget cuts to financial aid by writing to their congressman.

"Congressmen hear from me all the time," said Assistant Dean of Students Max Lindsay. "They would be more interested in letters from students."

One of the proposed cuts which could have an effect on many ACC students planning to further their education is the tightening of the Guaranteed Student Loan Program.

It appears that GSL will become a need-based program. Students Aid Form and meet the qualifications in order to receive aid from this source.

Proposals also include a plan to increase the loan origination fee from five to ten per cent. This means that a student borrowing \$2,500 would actually receive only \$2,250. The banks would retain the additional \$250 to pay for costs presently covered by the federal government. Over a four year period, the student would have to repay a total \$1,000 that he never received.

Administration officials also hope to eliminate the GSL program for graduate students, allowing them to borrow only under the much less subsidized Parent Loan Program to a maximum of \$8,000 per year.

These auxiliary loans have proven unattractive to borrowers and lenders alike. In the two months they have been available in Michigan, only 17 such loans have been issued.

The proposed figures are highly subject to change. Since new information is being put out every day, it is difficult to predict with any certainty exactly what effect the cuts will have on ACC. The best that can be done at this point is to take national percentages and attempt to apply them to our situation.

Drastic cuts are not expected for 1982-83. Students who qualified for financial aid this year will probably continue to receive it, but the awards will be smaller.

The following cuts appear likely for the 1982-83 academic year at ACC:

An 8% cut in the college's approximately \$20,000 Work Study Program.

A major 20% cut in the \$23,000 Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants. ACC has repeatedly been deprived of SEOG funds in the past, but this year's \$23,000 a \$5,000 increase from last year.

A 10-12% cut in the \$500,000 Pell Grant Program.

The Guaranteed Student Loan Program is not forward-funded, thus estimated cuts cannot be determined at this time. ACC currently has about 250-300 students receiving federal loans. Most of these students take out loans because they receive no parental support. Problems have arisen because a few students have put their loan money into bank accounts, rather than using it to defray educational expenses as it is intended.

Lindsay does not foresee cuts having an enrollment affect on students from local or surrounding areas. The biggest enrollment decline is expected from the southern Michigan population, traditionally attracted to ACC's special programs. These students must pay out-of-district tuition, room and board, and high transportation costs. Many rely on financial help from outside sources to attend ACC.

Since many students will find it impossible to attend four-year institutions without financial assistance, community colleges in southern Michigan may actually experience enrollment growth. Lindsay does not predict that this will improve ACC's enrollment situation, however, because Northeast

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'Godspell' Update

by Jenni Ritzler

Curtain time is nearly here as members of the Alpena Community College Players' put final touches on the production of 'Godspell' set for March 17-21 at the Alpena Civic Theatre.

The rock musical, under the direction of Sonya Titus, is based on the gospel according to St. Matthew. 'Godspell' is the staging of well-known parables through pantomime, children's games, puppetry, charades, vaudeville routines and through songs and music covering nearly every style.

ACC students: Victor Bruning, Don Elliott, Herman Retzloff, Paul Jurusov, Dan Bohlinger, Jenni Ritzler, Karen Wood, Connie Gamage, Sue Manning, and Cheryl Dierking.

Band members include: Mark Brosz, Candy Belton, Bill Milligan, Terry Thomas, Nancy Tripp, and Julie Elliott.

Tickets for the show are available in Titus' office. Patronages are available for those who are interested. Tickets: \$3.50. Patronages: \$8 Single; \$15 couple. Free tickets of 20 per performance are now available to ACC students on a first come first serve basis, compliments of the Student Senate. Students may pick up a free ticket in the lobby of the Besser Tech.

MUSEUM HIGHLIGHTS

by Joel Reeves

Coming soon to the Jesse Besser Museum will be an impressive new sky theater program entitled "Skywatchers of Ancient Mexico."

This show will discuss the remarkable astronomical discoveries of the Olmees, the Maya, the Aztecs, and other ancient cultures living in and around Mexico and Central America.

"Skywatchers of Ancient Mexico" will be presented March

14 through May 2 on Sundays at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. The regular public admission is \$1 for adults and 50 cents for students.

However, the museum would like to remind all students that it costs only \$1 to join Founders Society. By becoming a member you will be admitted free to planetarium programs and receive a reduction on fees for some of the museum's special classes.

Interested in photo-silk screening? The museum will hold a three-day workshop instructed by Tom Allen who will teach the technique of photo-silkscreen or "Serigraphy." Participants will be charged a \$25 fee to cover all three sessions, Saturday, March 13-10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, March 20-10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Sunday, March 21-1 p.m. to 5 p.m. A list of supplies will be given when you register. Registration is limited to twelve, so call soon.

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Have a happy St. Patrick's Day!

by Tom Talaski

March 17, the day when the little Irish comes out in all of us, even the Polish can get into the Irish spirit.

With this day comes the green hats, vest, carnations, and what would it be with-out green beer? You will see a lot of green beer and celebration in the town of Alpena, but not as much in other towns, like New York, where their parade will draw 100,000 marchers and 1.25 million watchers.

One place that you would think would go way out does nothing. This is the little town of St. Patrick MO, with a population of 53. Anna Logsdon owner of the only local pub says, "Most people leave town for that evening." She also said "the only big thing around here is the St. Patrick's Day postmark."

But myself, the thing I find the best, is the "Kiss Me I'm Irish" buttons.