



CAMPUS UPDATE

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ISP Launches Successful Second Year

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The Interdisciplinary Studies Program, initiated with the support of the National Endowment for the Humanities, is in its second year of operation once again under the direction of Terry Hall and Lawrence Boyer.

The general purpose of this program is to provide students with an alternative first year college experience, stressing the humanities disciplines and the education of the "total person."

Many significant changes have been made from last year's program. "Last year was a year of problem definition," stated Hall. "We are much more able to define what needs to be done for the students this year." As a result of redefining and restructuring, Hall feels "more comfortable" with this year's program.

Hall cited the major change in the program as being a shift from abstract to more concrete learning materials. Since last year's students had a hard time dealing with the level of abstraction and since "the students attracted to this program are more concrete" the switch was made.

A result of this major revision is the introduction of an analytical reading component in the English courses. It is designed to help move students to thinking in more abstract terms.

Another major change in this year's ISP is the added feature of a highly structured group process activity operates in the form of support groups which consist of four or five students who lend one another assistance in dealing with problems of both an academic and personal nature.

Frank McCourt has been supplemented into the program to serve as a counselor to the ISP students. McCourt meets weekly with the group to discuss and answer questions about college life. Attending the workshops offered through the Learning Skills Center is also another group activity that the students benefit from.

With a year of trial and error to look back on, the 1983-84 Program's course objectives are as follows:

1. A reading level between grades thirteen and fourteen as measured by the Nelson-

Denny Reading Test. This reading level includes an equivalent score on vocabulary and assumes appropriate analytical as well as mechanical reading skills.

2. A certain level of writing proficiency which includes a score of 75 percent on the Academic Competency Communications Test and a comparable score on the Alpena Community College Writing Assessment Test.
3. An I.Q. (or Generic Skill Index) between 120 and 125.
4. A score of 70 on the WMRT, a test of mathematical reasoning.
5. A certain level of psychological maturity that includes the ability to appraise realistically one's educational goals and values, to pursue appropriate educational programs, and to plan for a career that is

consistent with one's interests and achievement.

Students who may be especially attracted to this program are those who fail to meet any one of these five objects. One should not misconstrue this, however, to imply that the ISP is for below average students. Hall vehemently states that this "is not a remedial program." There exists within its framework real opportunities for students at all academic levels. The present group, according to Hall, is certainly comprised of a well-balanced cross-section of student abilities.

One facet of the program that hasn't changed, and which Hall cites as perhaps the single most successful component of the whole program, is "the environment" that is created. With the students all taking the same classes together, Hall states that the "peer interaction is wonderful" and it is a "great support system in which friendships are easily formed."

With all of the ISP courses planned
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Student Senate Plans Daytona Beach Trip

The Campus Activity Board, under the suggestion of the Student Senate, has formed a three man committee to investigate the possibility of a vacation-styled trip for college students during the Spring break, Feb. 27-March 4.

The Committee is chaired by Student Senate Representative Ron A. Ross, and under his guidance has put together a low cost, fun-filled trip. *Daytona Beach Florida!* is the call this year for Alpena Community College students interested in getting away from the cold, frosty Alpena environment.

"Our committee had organized a low cost vacation to Daytona Beach," stated Ross. The cost, a meager \$204.00, covers transportation to and from Daytona Beach, 8 days and 7 nights in the luxurious Hawaiian Inn,

located on Florida's famous beach. This price is based on 4-to-a-room occupancy and also includes full use of the hotel's kitchenettes.

"We feel this is a great price for this type of activity," remarked committee member John Loflin. "In addition, we are offered various side trips for around \$20.00 each, all optional." These side trips, according to Loflin, are day-long events, and include Disney-world, deep sea fishing, touring St. Petersburg, and many others.

"The reason we are able to offer this package for such a low price," says Ross, "is because they are sponsored by the many American beer companies." Apparently the beer companies aim these trips at using adults for promotional advertisement. These companies have been

known to sponsor free parties and to give away free T-shirts, frisbees, and other items which display their product.

"It's going to be a great time!" piped Loflin. The trip is definitely on according to committee members, since there is no minimum required attendance. The trip is available to all. Sign up sheets are posted in traffic areas of the college. A \$50.00, completely refundable, deposit is due by December.

Other colleges in Michigan attending the activity include, Michigan Tech and Ferris State.

Starlight Beach Receives Improvement Grant

U.S. Congressman Bob Davis recently announced that the City of Alpena has been awarded a grant from funds that have been released by the National Park Service to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

The \$65,867 grant will be used for Starlight Beach improvements such as road repair, parking, and a bike path. It will also include renovation of the picnic area.



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