

EDITORIAL PAGE

It's a well known fact that this great country of ours runs on the principle of government by the people and for the people. So by the same token, shouldn't Alpena Community College operate on the same idea? By the students and for the students?

It is quite evident that the vast majority of students (and faculty for that matter) support the reinstatement of varsity athletics at this college. Through two separate and unrelated polls both run this school year, students say they want athletics and are willing to pay for it. An ad-hoc committee formed by the president of the college, Dr. Charles Donnelly, consisting of three administrators, three faculty members and three students, recommended the reinstatement of athletics. The faculty council supported the recommendation, provided the money did not come from the general fund and hurt any other programs.

The money would not come from the general fund, but from a student activity fee, earmarked for support of an athletics program.

The most recent poll was conducted just this past week by the Student Senate. Using administration figures on the amount to be assessed from each student should athletics be reinstated, the Student Senate found an overwhelming majority willing to pay the fee.

And how much is that fee? \$12.50 per semester for full time students, and \$7.50 per semester for part time students. This fee would be added on to the end of all normal college payments such as tuition, supplies, etc.

And what do you get for your money? Five sports programs including men's and women's basketball, men's and women's cross country, and men's golf. Plus, thinking back to high school, remember all the other activities that went along with an athletics program? Pep rallies, parties, dances. All of these would be free to students by way of the activity fee. Also, free admission to all home basketball games. About 28 in all. Is \$12.50 or \$7.50 really all that much for the activities? Let's compare it to something more material. \$12.50 would buy a 12 pack of good beer and a bag of potato chips. One night of fun and it's all gone. Or maybe a couple of nights of bowling for your boyfriend/girlfriend. It seems that this money could be spent far more wisely.

Consider for a moment the positive aspects of bringing such a program back to A.C.C.

Outside interest is just what this college needs to put it back on the community college map in this state. Plenty of that interest would come with each team that comes to Alpena to play.

Athletes who come to this college to play would live in the dormitory; therefore raising the numbers there and stimulating student life in the dorm.

Varsity athletics is not playable by all students. However, intramural sports is and athletics serves to stimulate this activity for the other students.

And probably the most important of all, having a team on campus boosts morale and would probably do wonders for the apathy problem.

So for the price, how can it be beat? It can't

Varsity athletics has been proven at this college. Go back three years to the spring of 1981. The lady Lumberjack basketball team became the Eastern Conference Champions and were finalists in the region 12 playoffs. And just one year later again made it to the playoffs.

The men's team made it to the national finals in 1966. Not bad for a small community college. Throw a couple of All-Americans in that line-up and several now famous university coaches around the country who started their careers here at A.C.C., the potential of bringing back the athletics program to this college is limitless. That is, of course, if the Board of Trustees can see the value that this program can bring to A.C.C. next year.

Letter to the Editor:

When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bonds which have connected them to another . . . hmmm . . . It seems as though when the founding fathers set forth certain documents in 1776 they failed to include some college officials . . . All men are created equal . . . well . . . how is it that some people take the haughty position that they know what's best for all. Gee, college presidents are like that, aren't they? A government for the people, by the people, and of the people? . . . my, my, my . . . but a college isn't a governmental body and why should it be run by the majority? Because that would be democratic, or would it be considered fair?

At any rate, if ACC is expected to knuckle under from pressures that are far beyond those of mortal man, then somebody has another thing coming. The students of ACC are built of sterner stuff than that and won't skulk away with their tails 'tween their legs. When a fight is imminent they put on their gloves, but there'll be lots of tape on the knuckles first. They'll stand squarely in front of their adversary and will not diminish in the sight of overwhelming odds. So take heart students and all those opposed. Watch Out!

Frank Pickard
Student

Editor,

I am writing to the paper to find some answers. Why do I have to keep filling out opinion forms to let people know that I am in favor of the reinstatement of varsity athletics at Alpena Community College?

This year, I filled out a form at registration, then later in the fall, then someone took one in my English class, and now I find that I again have to say "YES!" because I am in favor of Varsity athletics at this college AND I am willing to pay for it.

This college thirsts for an athletic program. Basketball is popular in this area. I understand that when this school had a basketball program the community took pride in the fact that there was a college in the town. My impression now is that the townspeople and students look on the college as if it is a blight on the good name of Alpena.

A varsity sports program would enhance this college. It would prove an added attraction to what could be a very stable community/technical college. This would mean an increased enrollment and additional programs of study -- perhaps even the reincarnation of dropped programs such as the fisheries program. This expected increase would mean new money for the college and dormitory, and now blood for the town of Alpena.

I can see nothing wrong with encouraging pride in our school and community.

I guess what I am really asking is, "Who keeps the Student Senate coming back to take more opinion polls?" Why aren't the first ones evidence enough that the students at this school want an athletic program?

Although I wonder at the reasons as to why I am filling out another damned poll, I will not grow tired of the process. So great is the student desire for this program that I fill out as many forms as it will take to convince the administration that this college wants and needs a sports program.

Sincerely,
John Loflin

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