

Con't from page one

Dr. Stoutenburg

II.

From my vantage point I am most optimistic as to the progress we have made together this academic year under some severe budget limitations and external pressures. The enrollment has improved, the services to students have seen changes for the better, some needed academic reviews have been made, relationship with the Board has eased, committee work has been productive, and a general air of optimism seems to prevail. However, I am aware that some distrust still exists within the institution but I suppose this can always be expected. I have felt a spirit of innovativeness in many quarters since last August. One of the most exciting programs this year has been the Developmental Program. Although much of the data has not been analyzed, there is enough information available for the college to plan for an expanded approach next year involving some course work in the spring semester. This innovative idea has caused other faculty members to think of other new approaches to teaching including the study of cognitive mapping of faculty members and students. Some of the new ideas will be implemented and others will not, but the fact that you are interested in improving your teaching methods in order to recognize the individual differences in students shows professionalism always exists in a good teacher.

Today we hear a lot about open door admissions, equality of education and equal access to education. These are all phrases that create an emotional response in most listeners. I am afraid that each phrase is not well understood by most people but considered as panaceas for the ills of education from kindergarten through graduate school. We in the community college can be subject to the same emotional reactions to the "fools gold" of a cure-all if we take these phrases at face value. However, I believe if there is any place in education today where these three ideas have a chance of happening, it is the community college. As I have said before, this is where the excitement in education is today - the community college.

Open door admissions is a good concept if four things exist - (a) if the student has a desire to learn, (b) if the student willingly accepts appropriate placement, (c) if the student diligently pursues his studies and (d) if the faculty is interested in making the educational process exciting for the student. Short of acceptance of these four principals, the open door admissions can become a revolving door in the process. I believe the Developmental Program is a prime example of a community college trying to make the open door concept work.

Equality of education has many connotations. Some people would relate this concept to the size of an institution's budget, but the fact is that this concept requires many inputs in order to be achieved. Equality of education is most nearly achieved when Board support, community support, budget, physical facilities, faculty selection and motivation and student desire for improving their situation are appropriately mixed. It is obvious that to obtain that appropriate mix would be happenstance at best; but as members of a college community, we each have the responsibility in our own areas of competence to facilitate the bringing together of these requirements.

Equal access to education is another concept that is impossible to completely achieve. For example, students in northeastern Michigan do not have and cannot expect to have the same opportunities that exist for students in the more populated and wealthier regions of our state but the fact that Alpena Community College exists is a step in the right direction. What we develop in the future in new educational opportunities will move this institution closer to achieving equal access to education for the students of northeastern Michigan.

Why have I taken time to look at open door admissions, equality of education and equal access to education. The reason is that I believe we are in the most exciting years of educational history. As I said earlier, we are where the action is. If open door admissions, equality of education and equal access to education can exist, it is my belief that it can best occur in the community college - like Alpena Community College. Our philosophy, goals and procedures establish a base for taking people from where they are and moving them forward to new personal goals and achievements.

III.

Now I would like to take a few moments to look at the future. Where are we going? Frankly, I am not sure but I do have faith that by working together we can provide a better quality of education and greater educational opportunities for more people in the future. In the short range I can see new curricula in the paramedical fields, a program in home and community living, a program in computer science, and a program in hospitality services. I can see the reestablishment of foreign language program by instituting third year language courses and possibly introducing Polish as a new language offering. I can also see an increase in our over-all student enrollment and expansion in the art and music departments, an improvement in the services to students, more student involvement in the recommending process of committee work, an improvement in our budget condition, a reorganizing of the administrative structure, an improvement in our library holdings, and the strengthening of our committee structure. Although some of the items listed above may sound threatening to some individuals, it is not intended to be so because none of this can happen unless we work together in making these things happen.

It is my belief that any long term goals we can develop depends on the achievement of the purposes and goals of Alpena Community College in the short run and the continuing desire and support of all members of the college community to improve the quality of community service, the quality of teaching and the quality of administration.

# 12TH NIGHT REVIEW

By Keith Titus

I must preface my remarks by confessing that I am not fond of Shakespearean Comedy . . . even when well done. I will also confess that I left after the first act, so in essence this is a review of the first act of "12th Night". In all fairness I have it on good authority from a lumberjack and an anthropologist that the second act was considerably better than the first.

The production by the Michigan State Performing Arts Company could best be described as well-intentioned, but (like the blind date our best friend describes as having "a swell personality") good intentions don't necessarily result in a pleasant evening.

The setting was all right, (as in O.K. or adequate) but that is better than all right when you consider the difficulties of designing a traveling multi-scene set flexible enough to be put up and taken down day after day without constant replacement. The lighting was unbelievably bad; a pitch black area dead center stage and patchy elsewhere. I understand the troupe did not bring their own instruments, but rather made the mistake of relying on A.H.S. auditorium equipment. Speaking of which, let me digress.

The lighting equipment at the auditorium is an example of artistically criminal misuse of public funds. The auditorium could be a tremendous asset to the community but instead ranks as a blue goose, which is a step below a white elephant). I have yet to see an adequately lit presentation in that building except when lighting units were borrowed from another source. The auditorium has a beautiful light control board but not even half the instruments necessary to light the stage. This is somewhat akin to shooting peas with a cannon. And while we're at it, the auditorium is acoustically ridiculous, but could be remedied very inexpensively. And

who told who that a stage floor was supposed to be waxed and polished. I know it looks shiny and new, but, folks, you're not supposed to wax and polish a stage floor.

But the play's the thing.

The acting was earnest. Orsino had a bad throat, I hope, because with the exception of vocal quality he had promise. The scene between him and Viola near the end of Act I, made Viola look quite passable. Sir Toby and Maria both were delightful. Sir Toby has excellent physical control. Sir Toby also, alas, had the most amateurishly applied fake stomach I have ever seen on stage.

Sir Andrew Aguecheek is a delightful role and should vie with Sir Toby as a central comic character. Unfortunately . . .

Malvolio was overblown, overdone, ham on rye. The rest of the cast made appearances on stage at various times during the evening.

I question whether this cast took seriously their ethical responsibility to perform to the utmost of their ability. I detected an undercurrent of lackadaisical attitude.


Oh yes, the fool has a pleasant voice.

This review will seem by some to be excessively vitriolic, but I think I have reason. We are a culturally isolated community which does not generally consist of a theatre going public. The Civic and Summer Theatres are attended, but only by about 600 people per production. What a shame to bring in outside company of selected men and women from the drama department of one of the largest Universities in the world, and end up with a mediocre production. This did the cause of "culture" in Alpena no benefit.

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