

# Editorial

By Mike Centala

"I put 400 hours a year in this job and let me tell you there are no winners in this room. We are all losers. The state is bleeding us to death and you are letting them by just sitting back and saying nothing."

This declaration by Board of Education member Don Elliot, seemed to typify the general sentiment of the Board in reaction to a series of inquiries aimed at discovering the rationale behind proposed cutbacks throughout the Alpena Public Schools.

While these reductions are currently confined to the K-12 system, an implication of Elliot's quote seems to suggest that the college may also suffer a financial wound. For, as Mr. Elliot's statement insists, if it is true that "the state is bleeding us to death", then this college cannot escape the infectious effects of present school afflictions as long as they persist within this community.

Assuming the state's guilt therefore, the only real solution indicates that local citizens must assert their requests and take affirmative action toward making this abstract and alien entity, accused as the "state", liable for its policies.

However, without pointing a finger at either state or local school administration, it is this reporter's opinion that a shortage of money really isn't the cause of controversial cutbacks in our schools, but rather there is a shortage of equity in administrative determinations of financial priorities.

Sadly enough, the Board reaffirmed this position by its action on Dec. 13, 1977. For, in spite of a significant degree of public resistance which deemed that the Board adopt other alternatives, the Board still voted to accept all the reductions it had proposed.

It would have been nice if the Board and concerned citizens had united in a cooperative effort to challenge a priority system which places administration on top, staff in the middle, and students eating dirt. This type of hierarchy makes political equity in the schools virtually impossible and destroys the objectives of quality education.

Shall we cooperate for the sake of all?

# McCourt Burns Over

## False Alarms

by Joan Stoops

In the last Polemic, it was stated that fire alarms were being pulled at the dorm when there were no fires. Frank McCourt, Director of Housing, offered a reward if someone could show proof of who had pulled the alarm. The subject of fire alarms is a very touchy subject with Mr. McCourt as he was here when there was a real fire in the dorm. If you read on you will find out why.

On January 6, 1974 at 12:30 a.m. a fire broke out in Wilson Hall.

The entire center section was burned down to the brick walls and there was smoke damage done to the halls and the Head Residents Apartment.

The starting of the fire was confessed to by a dorm resident who claimed he was fooling around with lighter-fluid. This resident was convicted of arson by the court.

There were about 12 residents staying in the dorm over that Christmas vacation, including the Head Resident.

All dorm residents were moved into Fletcher Motel for approximately three weeks.

The plumbing and electrical wiring was redone and the students were then moved back into the two wings of the dorm. The Head Resident lived in the north wing, as the center section was not rebuilt until the summer.



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# Handel's Messiah

## Performed By

## Local Artists

By Mike Centalla

Under the adept direction of Robert Hein, G.F. Handel's "Messiah" was superbly performed by the Alpena Civic Orchestra and the Alpena Choral Society on Dec. 11, 1977 at Alpena Community College's East Campus.

Performing as soloists for the event, Stacy Jo Gagnier, Tom Marshall, Toni Titus, and Keith Titus each captivated the audience's attention with the professional quality of their singing.

Overall, the entire ensemble presented an enchanting and impressive tribute to the classical work of Handel. Also, as approximately 500 people in attendance would testify, Mr. Hein and the performers expertly demonstrated the deep and diverse calibre of this community's talents.

Congratulations for a song well sung.

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—On December 4, a meeting was held with the Student Organization from Wurtsmith Air Force Base in Oscoda. The Oscoda group appreciated suggestions from the ACC students.

—A letter read from the suggestion box asked for the Student Senate to try to eliminate the "boring monotonous" in the Van Lare Hall lounge. It suggested the purchasing of a radio for the area, with funding coming from a drop box. The suggestion was well received by the Senate and action will take place on the matter.



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