

## Need A Ride?

Ridesharing is something new to Alpena Community College according to Susan Lindroth, Rideshare Program Coordinator.

Through ridesharing, commuters can save on auto maintenance, gas, parking problems, insurance costs, and of course, money.

There are three methods of ridesharing available to students at ACC. The first is van-pooling, which is the most cost efficient method for commuters.

In van-pooling, between ten and fifteen people get together and drive to and from work by way of a van. The cost is determined by dividing the total amount of operating expenses for the van equally among the passengers. The costs may include lease, insurance, maintenance, any repairs, and gasoline.

To save commuters money, there are three basic methods of van-pooling available.

The owner-operator method in which an individual buys a van and through passenger fares recovers the operating costs.

Secondly, the employer sponsored method in which a company buys vans and assigns them to employee groups.

The final method is called third party which is achieved when an agency contracts a private fleet management firm that provides services to interested individuals.

One such third party program sponsored by the Michigan Department of Transportation, is the MichiVan program.

MichiVan supplies completely insured 12 or 15 passenger vans to qualified groups of 10 or more people anywhere in the state of Michigan.

The benefits of riding in a van-pool range from being "chauffeured" to and from work, saving money, and riding in leisure to lower insurance rates on personal cars.

There are also benefits for being a driver of a van-pool. One of these is the driver is able to ride for free. Being a driver also means receiving personal use of the van during non-working hours and on weekends.

In order to qualify to be a driver or a back-up

driver (one who takes over if the regular driver is sick) a person must have had a minimum of 5 years driving experience and a valid driver's license. The person must also meet other driver eligibility criteria as well as having no more than six violation points on their driver's license in the last three years.

In Michigan, over 4,000 people ride in van-pools. Over 70,000 people in 7,000 van-pools nationwide, travel daily.

Carpooling is the second type of ridesharing available. Carpooling is the easiest method because it involves the fewest number of people.

If a person commutes 40 miles a day at an average of 15 miles per gallon, the person will save \$804 a year in operating costs. The more people in the carpool, the more money that is saved.

Two carpool plans to consider are the shared driving plan and the shared riding plan.

With shared, driving each driver takes turns driving his or her own car on a daily, weekly or monthly basis. The members usually pick up the costs each time they drive.

In addition to shared driving, there is shared riding where a designated member picks up all other members of the group. All members use one car and share all the costs.

One last type of ridesharing is bus-pooling which is good when a large number of people live close to each other.

Members of a bus-pool meet at one or several points along the bus-pooling route.

If a person was ridesharing with one other person just 10 miles to and from work that person would cut their commuting costs in half and save \$400 a year.

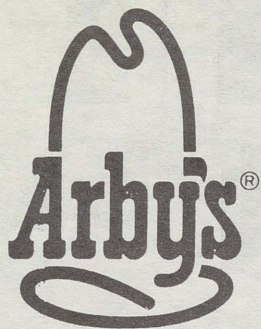
Anyone interested in the rideshare program should contact:

Susan Lindroth, Coordinator  
NEMCOG Ridesharing  
Program

P.O. Box 457  
Gaylord, Michigan 49735  
(517)732-1347

or pick up a pamphlet from  
VLH, BTC, or the NRC.

by Jennifer Aube



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## Food for Thought...

by Nick Barraco

Students with limited amounts of time and even more limited amounts of cash, I give to you the definitive guide to college fast food.

First, let us turn our growling bellies and thin wallets toward McDonald's, the brand most chosen by knowledgeable college students. The biggest advantage of choosing "Mickey D's" is the Student VIP specials. How the VIP works is extremely simple and beneficial to us, the "striving seekers of academic excellence."

All that is required is asking for a student VIP card, and upon subsequent visits, informing the counter person as to our elevated status. Doing so gives us the benefit of the monthly special; whether it be a free sundae with our meal, or a two-for-one sandwich offer (which usually appears in December.)

McDonald's research team did a good job in placing the site close to the college. If you hurry, you can leave class, buzz down, pick up lunch, and be back in time for your next class.

Keeping with the thought of location, let us turn our attention towards Mickey's next door neighbor; the infamous "Home of the Happy Little Hamburger Makers" who specialize in "gourmet fast food." You guessed it--Lud's! Do you have lots of free time to spend waiting for your "fast food?" If that's the case, Lud's is the place for you! However, the overall quality isn't too bad.

Moving a little further down Chisholm, I have only one word to describe the best reason for going to Wendy's--SUPERBAR!!

For your money, there is no better deal in town. You get as much food as you want. You also reap the additional benefit of three different varieties of food, featuring Italian (my favorite), Mexican (also good), and the standard salad bar (great if you are a rabbit!) My advice is to go during lunch hour when it is cheaper, and stay several hours, providing one has the time and appetite.

Moving across town, we find good old "Slippery Chicken" (known to the uninitiated as Kentucky Fried Chicken), Home of the Colonel. KFC is expensive unless one remembers to clip the coupons from the Sunday paper; it is, however, the most nutritious meal for your work-study dollar.

For those of us who cannot resist a lunch-hour answer to Camelot Music's siren song, we offer Burger King--which if OK if you have already driven across town.

If you are tired of the burger scene, go to Arby's. My only comment is that this restaurant has been in town 5+ years and I have been there three times--eaten there once--"Nuff said.

Finally, for those of you who are without transportation and any appreciable amount of time, I offer you the ACC Snack Bars! Here you can get a quick, relatively nutritious meal while helping out the ACC athletic program.

## Boiler Explosion?

The Van Lare Hall Boiler has blown up!

Now that I have your attention, that was just a rumor that you might have heard earlier this month.

Students complained of classrooms being a bit chilly for a few days and the cause did have to do with the boiler but things weren't that severe.

"Workers were able to locate parts that were completely destroyed," commented Director of Buildings and Grounds, Don Witt.

"Parts were air-freighted in from Detroit and igniters were worked on." Witt continued.

Plans for installment of a new boiler system for the building will take place in the summer of 1990.

by Pam Coddington

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