

THE ALMANIAN

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NUMBER 21

"SHOW-OFF" WAS PLAYED FRIDAY

Alma College Drama Club Play Enjoyed By A Large Audience

The Alma College Drama Club presented its second three-act play of the season last Friday evening at the Strand Theatre. "The Show-Off," by George Kelley, was the name of the production. They played to a good house, and the size of the audience was indicative of the regard which students and townspeople have for this organization.

As the Drama Club announced at the beginning of the school year, it has been their aim to present three full length dramas during the year. The first was staged at The Strand before the Christmas holidays. It is planned to present the third of the series sometime in May.

Hailed as the "best American comedy," the "Show-Off" proved to be most interesting and entertaining throughout the entire three acts. The plot is very cleverly conceived and developed. The action centers around one Aubrey Piper, a very pompous, loud, and showy young man, who enters the otherwise peaceable household of the Fishers. He marries Amy Fisher, although all her relatives try to convince the girl that she is making a terrible mistake. The Fisher's tolerance of him does not increase to any great extent with his advent into the family circle. Months pass and the second act shows Amy in the sitting room of the Fisher residence, much discouraged with the problem of living on Aubrey's small salary. News comes of Mr. Fisher's sudden stroke while at his work, then while the mother is preparing to go to his side, Aubrey appears, scratched and bruised from an automobile accident which he has had in a borrowed automobile. It develops that he has run down and injured a policeman, besides wrecking the borrowed car. Mr. Fisher dies from his stroke, and after much persuasion, Mrs. Fisher is weakened sufficiently to allow Aubrey and Amy to live in the old house with her. She is still quite antagonistic to the wordy but quite harmless young man.

The third act winds things up in rapid succession. Aubrey is fined one thousand dollars for his automotive escapade, which fine was paid for him by a brother-in-law with a soft heart. Joe, inventive son of the Fishers, and brother of Amy, sells an invention of his for a fabulous sum which was quite double what he expected to receive. The final revelation comes when Aubrey, with customary importance, says, "Well, Joe, we did it, eh?" Pressed for an explanation he tells of going to see the buyers of Joe's invention and forcing them to accept the terms which he laid down to them. And so the play ends with the character of chief interest finally conceding a place in the family.

The entire cast deserves commendation for their efforts in interpreting the characters. The two main characters, Mrs. Fisher and Aubrey Piper, were excellently played by Miss Mary Mason and Mr. Earl Closser. Miss Irene Beuthin, as Clara Hyland, stood out with an excellent portrayal of character. The cast in its entirety is as follows:

| | |
|--------------|------------------|
| Clara Hyland | Irene Beuthin. |
| Mrs. Fisher | Mary Mason. |
| Amy | Virginia Hull. |
| Frank Hyland | William Owen. |
| Aubrey Piper | Earl H. Closser. |
| Mr. Fisher | Vaughn Pruyne. |
| Joe | Amos Ruddock. |
| Mr. Gill | Louis Nickles. |
| Mr. Rogers | Louis Zimmerman. |

The play was directed by Donald Horton, a sophomore in college who has shown much interest and talent along dramatic lines. Joseph Taylor acted as stage manager, and Louis Nickles as Business Manager.

BETA TAU ELECTS OFFICERS

At the regular meeting of the Beta Tau Epsilon Literary Society on March 12, the third and last group of officers for the year was elected. The following men were given the support of their brothers: Mr. Jack E. Thoma, president; Mr. Winston Thomas, vice president; Mr. Wilfred L. Scheifey, secretary; Mr. Paul K. Heberlein, chaplain; Mr. Leslie H. Harris, sergeant at arms; Mr. Frank A. Anderson, Almanian Reporter.

LOVELL ON CAMPUS FOR TWO-DAY STAY

Mr. Gilbert Lovell, of the Board of Christian Education of the Presbyterian Church, was on the campus at Alma College for a day and a half, arriving Wednesday at noon and leaving in the evening Thursday. Mr. Lovell is sent out by the Board of Christian Education in the capacity of Vocational Adviser. In this capacity he travels all over the United States, visiting the colleges of the Presbyterian denomination.

His hours in Alma were very busy. So many of the students wished to take advantage of the opportunity of talking to this man that all the hours in which he interviewed students were filled almost before he arrived in town. Those who gained interviews with him say that his advice was most worth-while and helpful.

Mr. Lovell spoke to the student body in the regular chapel period Thursday morning. In his speech he treated on the problem of choice of a vocation for life work. It was enjoyed thoroughly by the students. He was the guest of Beta Tau Epsilon Society at their house Thursday evening after dinner, where he conducted a short meeting before he took the evening bus to Grand Rapids.

VESPER SERVICE AT WRIGHT HALL

Grand Rapids Choir Present Fine Program Sunday Afternoon

Sunday afternoon a Vesper service was sung by a double quartette from the Westminster Presbyterian church of Grand Rapids. The service arranged by W. A. Hughart, a trustee of Alma College, was an excellent one, and greatly appreciated by all those present.

Professor Hamilton opened the service with a short appropriate talk on music, after which the program, consisting of six selections by the octette and four vocal solos, was given. The program was as follows:

Just for Today—Mr. T. Heins.
Repent Ye—Mrs. Carl Dingman.
Lo, It Is I (Faune-Shelby)—Octette
The Glory of God And Nature (Beethoven)—Octette.
The Publican—Mrs. F. Showen.
The Lord Is My Light (Hiles)—Octette.
He Watching Over Israel (Mendelssohn)—Octette.
Prayer Perfect—Mrs. L. Holly.
Seek Ye The Lord (Roberts)—Octette.
Trisagion and Sanctus (Hawley)—Octette.

After the service, the octette and the accompanist were entertained at supper at the President's House by Mrs. Crooks, who served a delicious Sunday night supper to the visiting musicians. In addition to the octette and their company, Mr. and Mrs. Bahlke, Professor and Mrs. Hamilton, Miss Grace Roberts and Professor and Mrs. Ewere were present at the informal supper.

ALPHA THETA GAVE A UNIQUE DANCE

Alpha Theta Literary Society of Alma College sponsored a very unique and successful party last Saturday evening in the Reception Room at Wright Hall. Announced as a "Stag Dance," at which there would be no couples countenanced, the party was very well attended. There were about sixty or seventy students who took advantage of the opportunity for the informal dancing.

Starting at eight o'clock, the music played continuously until eleven. Frank Kennedy at the piano, Paul Bennett with his banjo, and Ken Hicks at the drums, furnished a very acceptable brand of dance music. This combination, though small, is to be commended for their melodies.

From eight until eight-thirty the outlook was very dark for those of us fellows who had come early, because there were not enough girls to go around. From eight-thirty, when the outlook began to brighten with the advent of ten or fifteen girls who came downstairs to enter into the activities, until the end of the evening, there were dancing partners enough for all.

The inquiring reporter asked many

(Continued on Page 4)

THOMA REPORTS TO STUDENTS

Gives Paper On Student Government In Chapel Friday

Jack Thoma spoke in chapel Friday on his findings at the N. S. F. A. Congress at Lincoln, Nebraska. In his speech he treated in full the problem of student government as it was represented at the meetings in Nebraska. His speech was very full of interesting information and the Almanian is glad to print it in part as a real contribution to the thought of the campus.

His speech follows, edited because of lack of space to print it in its entirety.

The best chance to get more information and details was by meeting the different representatives at the banquets, meetings and also at the frat houses where we stayed. The information from these different sources I have summed up under various headings. First I will consider student government proper.

Our council is made of 14 members, 4 seniors, 3 juniors, 2 sophomores, and one freshman together with the president of each class and one faculty representative. The president of the council is elected by the council so let me give you a few examples of how other schools handle student government.

There is the system used by Marietta College, Marietta, Ohio in which each fraternity, sorority, and organization, as Y. W., Y. M., Band, glee clubs, etc. chose two representatives each. Baldwin-Wallace College at Berea uses this method also but in addition have one representative from each class. The question I wish you would have in mind as I cite the various points of this report is, Can this method be applied to Alma to better advantage than the present system?

Then there is the election by popular vote seemed to receive considerable approval. Here the old council suggests candidates for the ballot and additional ones are added by petition from the students. Then, your annual election becomes an election instead of an approval. Swarthmore is one that has this system. Now there is another form of this popular election, that is, the Commission form. This interesting system was set forth by North Dakota State Teachers College. In this the council is composed of a group of Commissioners, each one responsible for a certain branch of student activities. There is the commissioner of Athletics who is a member of the athletic board of control, hence the requirements for this office are partly set forth. Then there is the commissioner of social affairs, of curriculum, of publications, of public speaking, commissioner of the campus who is the student marshal, and the commissioner of judiciary who is the judge and presides over class elections, all trials for misdemeanors, etc., as well as supervise class elections. These commissioners are nominated by petition and elected by popular vote. I might say this school has abolished paddling with success. Carney is another school that has this form. Each commissioner is required to give a written report at the end of the year or upon reasonable request.

Hence I have suggested the four forms of student government based on method of selection, namely by class elections, by fraternities and organizations, by popular vote and by commissioners. I have not time to go into particulars regarding each system but have suggested these forms for you to think about.

In regard to scope and jurisdiction, it was unanimously agreed that the jurisdiction was the weakest point of student government. After some discussion, it was agreed that the main cause of failure of student government was lack of cooperation with the faculty. This may sound queer to a few of you but try and get around it. The student body voted against chapel last year, but we are still coming five days a week; so far the only way we have been able to get around it is to take practice teaching. But we find that final authority on anything is up to the faculty; here we had much debate as to where faculty authority and student

(Continued on Page 4)

SPRING VACATION BEGINS FRIDAY NOON

The spring recess begins at Alma College at noon Friday, March 23, and continues until Tuesday morning, the third of April. Classes will resume at seven-fifty that morning.

The spring vacation is the last vacation of the school year, with the possible exception of whatever concessions are made to the student body by the faculty on Memorial Day. The spring holidays are welcomed by the students because on their return to the campus they are supposedly greeted by the newly arrived balmy weather and fragrant air which is to be expected at this season. And in the minds of a great majority of college men and women, the months after this vacation are the most enjoyable of the whole year. At any rate, this vacation comes as a heartily welcomed event on the campus.

For some of the seniors who are doing the newly installed practice teaching, there will be no spring vacation, since they will have to remain in Alma for their daily classes at the High School. The others of the student body, though, will take themselves to their various homes with their customary alacrity for the ten days of ease and rest.

MEN'S GLEE CLUB TO LEAVE SUNDAY

Ten Day Tour To Take Them Through Southern Part Of The State

Under the intensified program of practices the Men's Glee Club is rapidly rounding into shape for their annual spring tour which starts this year on Sunday, the twenty-fifth of March. The management has about completed all arrangements for the itinerary of the trip, which will take the Club through the southern part of the state.

The tour this year will be the eighteenth for the Men's Club, and the fifth for the club under the leadership of Professor Ewer. During that time Alma's Glee Clubs have built up an enviable reputation for themselves. They have been compared with the best clubs in the state, representing the biggest colleges in Michigan, and have in no instance suffered by the comparison. Under Professor Ewer, the ensemble work with drowning piano accompaniment has been done away with. The features have been soft harmonies and unaccompanied numbers. As he says, "Anyone can sing with a heavy piano to cover up the slips in harmony, but it takes real work to do soft voice work and still keep the harmonies perfect." The popularity of the soft numbers on the Club programs is ample proof for his statement.

The itinerary of the Club, as announced by Romaine Hogan, manager of the organization, is as follows: March 25, Battle Creek; March 26, negotiations not complete; March 27, Otsego (afternoon) and Allegan (night); March 28, Cassopolis; March 29, Niles; March 30, Fordson (afternoon); March 31, open; April 1, Fort Street Presbyterian Church, Detroit; April 2, Flint. A concert for the third of April will probably be arranged before the Club starts its journey.

In addition to the concerts listed in the announced itinerary the Club will sing before several high schools along the road, as the opportunity presents itself.

The Club will travel, as they did last season, in "Dalt" Foster's big bus, the "Annie Rooney." This mode of travel has proved itself to be the most agreeable to the members of the Club, since they are not at the mercies of railroad schedules. The longest jumps are not expected to be tiresome, because of the riding qualities of the bus and the paved roads on which the boys will be practically all of the time during the trip.

Incorporated in the program this year are several specialties of more than usual merit. The quartette reports improvement over last year. Pete Boutin has augmented his brother Pierce, and together they will offer some flute and clarinet duets which are guaranteed to please the most critical. Then there is Pomeroy and his saxophone for another sure hit. It is reported that the last part

TWO ALMA MEN ON ALL M. I. A. A. FIVE

Simmons, Tiderington Get First Team Berths. Holdship Placed On Second

The All Michigan Intercollegiate basket ball team for 1928, shows Alma with two places on the first team, Kalamazoo college two places and Albion with one. On the second five Alma placed one and also took two honorable mentions, not a bad record at all.

The First Team

R.F.—Davis, Kalamazoo college.
L.F.—Carlson, Albion college.
C.—Simmons, Alma college.
R.G.—Muelenburg, Kalamazoo college.
L.G.—Tiderington, Alma college (Captain).

The Second Team

R.F.—Allinder, Hillsdale college.
L.F.—Schrier, Kalamazoo college.
C.—Hackney, Kalamazoo college.
R.G.—Holdship, Alma college.
L.G.—Berry, Kalamazoo college.

Honorable Mention

Forwards—Wagner, Alma college; Liephan, Alma college; Gray, Albion; Owens, Hillsdale; DePree, Hope.
Centers—Vos, Hillsdale college, Martin, Hope.
Guards—Wager, Hillsdale; Goldberg, Albion; Johnson, Olivet.

It is noteworthy that of the three men who were unanimous choices of the five coaches, who selected teams at the request of the sport editor, two are Alma men, Simmons and Tiderington. The third, Muelenburg of Kalamazoo, has previously been honored on the All M. I. A. A., while the Alma men are named for the first time.

It is pointed out that this year there was no difficulty in the selection of the first honor team. With Simmons, Tiderington and Muelenburg out of the way with unanimous choices, the forward positions were all that were left for consideration. Four of the five coaches making selections named Davis, and he romped in as an easy first team choice. Carlson of Albion was picked by all of the coaches on the first or second team and with three first team votes was a winner by a fair margin over Schrier of Kalamazoo.

On the second honor five Allinder and Schrier were easy winners of the forward jobs, as was Hackney of Kalamazoo for center, with four second choices for the place, and one first team forward pick. Holdship of Alma had easy time landing a second team guard berth, while Berry just edged out the balance of the field for a second team choice.

In the naming of the All M. I. A. A. team this year the high scorer for each position on the team has been named. And in these five men, thus named, are five of the first 10 high scorers for the association season, regardless of position. This indicates an unusually powerful offensive for the honor five. The low scores of the teams against Kalamazoo and Alma came as a result of five man defenses, which would indicate that the selection of Kalamazoo and Alma men would aid in building a good defense for the honor team. Carlson of Albion was one of the leading defensive men of his outfit, as well as high scorer.

The standings of Kalamazoo and Alma at the close of the season is indicative of the right of the Kazoo and Almates to predominate in the selections, as they do, as only Kalamazoo and Alma of the association fives turned in more association victories than defeats.

of the program will be informal in character. Exact details of this have not yet been disclosed.

As the Club will appear in concert they are: First Tenors, Marvin Stapleton, Leslie Hawthorne, Edgar Karpp, Paul Heberlein, and Holland; Second Tenors, Paul Wolfe, Charles Shaeffer, Merrill Hendershot and Lyle Kinney; Baritone, Richard Crowell, Leland Pomeroy, Lee Crooks, Gordon Lamb, and Pete Boutin; Basses, Homer Barlow, Donald Horton, Ralph Frazer, Paul Bernd, and Clifford Erickson. Jerry Phillips is the accompanist. Pierce Boutin is the flute soloist.

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EDITORIAL

Student Government

Jack Thoma's report on the meetings which he and Lucille Wolfe attended in Lincoln, Nebraska, raised some questions which should be very seriously considered. Student government was the subject on which he talked, and with it he brought up our own Student Council.

There is a very real question as to the use of having any form of student government in a college of the sort that Alma is. The final authority rests with the faculty. It always has, and always will. The reasons for the permanence of faculty authority can be expressed without hesitation. In the first place, students do not want full authority. Who among the students of Alma College would want to sit in judgment on a case which would result in expulsion for one of their fellows? We wouldn't, for one. This job of disciplining people, especially when their misdeameanors could easily be our own, is a dirty one, and is one in which no student has any desire to participate. Besides, it would be a sure way to gain distinct unpopularity on the campus, if any student imposed strict punishment on a brother student. And so, we are content to let the faculty do the disciplining. They, in turn, feel that they must do it, because they would not trust a group of students to pass a just and heavy judgment on an offender. Add to this that the governing body of rules and regulations are faculty-made, not student-made, and it seems that there is enough reason not to expect a Student Council to take upon themselves any disciplining except that of the freshmen.

With the disciplining of students out of the way, let us turn to other uses of the Student Council. It is supposed to govern all campus activities, athletic, social, and whatever else may happen on the campus. In theory, it is most important. In fact, just how important is it? In theory, the campus and every student, organization and club should be under the controlling finger of this power. In fact, how many of these many groups and enterprises does the Student Council have any account of?

It is a rule of the Student Council that the minutes of every meeting shall be printed in the Almanian, so that the student body may know what is being done in the meetings. So far this year there have been no minutes handed to the editor. That omission is nothing new, however, there were no minutes printed last year, or the year before that, or—but our memory fails us back beyond our sophomore year.

All through our sophomore year we sat on the Student Council and wondered. We fail to remember much about the meetings, except that we were appointed as a committee of

one to get a report on The Almanian. Being of a conscientious nature in those days (we have since recovered, thank you) we saw the manager and served notice on him that the Council would require a report in a short time. We then waited for the report


to be called for in meeting. It never was, so the Student Council knew nothing whatever about the college paper that year. Other than that little personal experience we remember nothing of importance. How many (Continued on Page 4)

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WRIGHT HALL NOTES

The most important note we have to offer is a sad one. Pete Baetz has left Alma College and will enter Harper's Hospital for Training. The hall will certainly miss the peppiest inmate ever, but it has to be. We wish her success.

Every week end finds some former students straying back to the seat of past pleasures. This week end, it was Betty Campbell, who is now attending school at Ann Arbor.

The friendly rivalry between the wearers of the green and the wearers of orange in the dining room Saturday noon was very amusing. The only regret is that head swipe Hogan was not able to be here and stand up for Paddy. Nevertheless the orangers were not able to quench the greeners, either in spirit or in number.

Wright Hall has discovered a new comedian—Elsie Bell Sprague—who has at last decided to crowd out of her shell, and instead of being meekly docile last Saturday night, was found with a red wig, gummed tooth, and outlandish costume, swinging herself on doors, and posing on other heights in various parts of the Hall. We are looking for more surprises from Elsie!

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THOMA REPORTS

TO THE STUDENTS

(Continued from Page 1)

council authority extended. The discussion centered mainly around the subject of expelling. The majority, in fact nearly everyone, decided there was no dividing line because the student council had no authority to go beyond. And this has been the argument on our campus, students council says, "Give us authority and we'll get along more successfully, instead of being merely a bank, loan and dance association." The faculty come back with the retort, "We offer you chances but you won't accept the responsibility." I dare say it would be an interesting debate between student council and faculty on the question "Resolved that the Student council should have some authority." The solution of this deadlock on so many campuses lies in a cooperation between student council and faculty. Swarthmore handles this problem by letting the council pass on any question, it is then taken to the faculty and if turned down it is submitted to a committee of three faculty members and three student council representatives to decide the issue. One college even told of having a faculty-student council luncheon at regular intervals. Of course this is not to be taken as a hint but merely a suggestion.

Let me cite a few instances discussed regarding scope of student council. In regard to expelling as I mentioned before, there was much disturbance. I asked for a show of hands on the question, "How many student councils have power to expel?" The result was the six out of seventeen did have power to expel. Another question, "How many have authority over student publications?" This resulted in seven out of seventeen having this power. In regard to authority over drama club, band, etc. four out of seventeen; also four out of seventeen controlled the extra curricular activities of the students by limiting the number of offices a person can accept.

Then came the subject of frosh discipline. To begin with I must incur the disgust of some by saying the opinion of the majority of colleges was against paddling. Of course there was some variation in this respect for example Otterlein College, Westerville, O. abolished paddling of frosh and their representative said they want paddling reinstated because freshmen now get far too overbearing. Another college at Muskingum, O. also abolished this form of discipline but could say nothing for or against the change. The delegate from Wooster College, O. said they did some paddling there and no harm was done. They have a sophomore disciplinary court. He said they make the freshmen do foolish stunts for punishment as leading a cat or chicken around, sing in front of chapel, or wear galoshes and carry umbrellas on a nice warm day. Now let's have an example of the other opinion. The man from Marietta College, Marietta, O. was heartily against paddling. He said that one of their students became insane due to a certain paddling he received. Immediately paddling was abolished and they have resorted to ducking in the river instead. This same school, in fact most of them, allow the frosh to doff their green earlier than we do. At Marietta, if the frosh win the flag rush, they are allowed to discard the pots earlier than ordinary, which seemed to give some reason for the frosh to enter the spirit of the flag rush. Take some examples from our own M. I. A. schools—Kazoo burns their green after the last football game; I believe. Hope at Thanksgiving and so on. More food for argument. Now, back to paddling. The most efficient and least troublesome method I ran across was at the frat house where I stayed. After dinner the fellows all gather in the hall; the paddle was brought out and the frat marshall called the names one at a time. The frosh came forward, admitted guilt and took his paddling without being held. Could this method be used in Alma? To sum up the subject of paddling I might say that the vote on the question—"How many councils have abolished paddling," the result was that twelve out of seventeen had abolished paddling.

**ALPHA THETA GAVE
A UNIQUE DANCE**

(Continued from Page 1)

students their views on the party, as to whether or not the party furnished a good time. The consensus of opinion was overwhelmingly in the affirmative, and many of them expressed hopes for more of them. The idea of the party is not new, the Student Council has tried such a dance, but always with disastrous results. Alpha Theta deserves an amount of congratulation for having engineered the affair as competently as they did.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

(Continued from Page 2)

others have had the same experience

with a membership on the governing body?

It must be admitted that the Council does some good. It has staged several dances already this year, and will probably put on some more. It lends money to needy campus organizations, and is very easy on its debtors. It brings some worth-while entertainments to the college and cheerfully digs in its pockets to cover the deficit incurred by its venture. It sits on people once in a while who need very much to be sat on.

It is our opinion that student government can never be startlingly successful, because of the restriction, both self-imposed and otherwise, which it labors under. It can very easily be mediocre, doing little things in little ways, and it will probably get along without much criticism for years. Or it can be a complete failure. The much quoted example of the last category is the Student Council at the University of Wisconsin, which abolished itself in something very much akin to disgust. They announced in no uncertain terms that student government with them had been flatly a failure and a farce.

It is time that the students of Alma

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