

Faculty Votes After Holidays On Proposed 3-3 Calendar Plan

At the first all-faculty meeting after Christmas, either January 6 or 13, a vote will be taken on the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Future to change the present semester system to the 3-3 program. If the recommendation is passed by the faculty, the proposed new calendar will most likely be adopted for the '64-'65 academic year. If the recommendation is defeated, the semester system will probably be employed for at least one more year.

Why is a change necessary? According to the preamble of the recommendation made to the faculty, "A ten-year projection of our budget, based essentially upon an extrapolation of present procedures, shows clearly that we would

soon reach a position where we would be unrealistically dependent upon gift income, or unreasonably expensive, or both. To plan upon a high level of gifts would jeopardize an important mission of the college and its parent church. A third approach appeared necessary: to seek more efficient and economical means of achieving our goals." The committee, realizing these facts, studied calendars at various other colleges and recommended the 3-3 program because it best facilitates the problems Alma faces.

The 3-3 program would change the present system into three ten-week periods in which each student takes three courses of equal value, each course equivalent to 3 1/2 credits under the semester system. So, instead of students being classified by credit hours, they would be classified according to courses, need-

ing 36 courses to graduate.

The 3-3 program has many advantages. It would abolish the two-week session between Christmas vacation and final exams. The first term would end before Christmas. Also spring vacation would fall between the second and third terms. The program also provides more starting points each year, enabling those students with deficiencies to make them up more easily.

One of the more important aspects of the program is that students would have the opportunity to work on their majors while they are freshmen. Presently freshmen are entirely loaded down with six courses—two semesters of three courses: Western Civilization, a foreign language and a laboratory science. In the 3-3 program the freshmen will be taking nine courses

instead of six. The program will also give students a better opportunity to give equal time to all their subjects. Many students are now carrying five and even six courses and tend to neglect one or two of the courses. Supposedly the proposed program will eliminate this situation and even produce better performances from the students.

From the faculty viewpoint the proposed system will cut down the number of preparations required from each instructor. Presently, there are 161 different courses being offered each semester, or three preparations per faculty member. Over a period of one term, each faculty member would handle two sections, providing 108 sections. Comparing the academic years, the semester system provides 322 courses; the new program will provide 324 courses.

There is also reason to believe that the number of transfers out of Alma would be reduced. As mentioned before, students will be able to enter their major fields sooner than they are now, and hence will be less likely to transfer after completing the basic courses in their fields by the end of their sophomore year.

The accelerated academic pace which will be necessary in the new program has its implications. According to the committee's report, "the faculty at almost every 3-3 school visited by members of this committee testified to a feeling, especially on the part of students, of increased pressure. This is probably inevitable, particularly in courses where papers are required, largely because of the reduced number of weekends in the term."

Eventually a summer program will possibly be adopted. This will enable students to complete their graduation requirements in three years. Dr. Howard Potter, member of the committee, pointed out that an eight-week program is even possible this summer if there is sufficient student participation. He said that almost every department is willing to offer some courses. There will be further details in later almanacs.

from the staff
Merry Christmas

the almanacian

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ALMA COLLEGE, ALMA, MICHIGAN

December 19, 1963

Exam Coming For Cutters

First examination for convocation cutters was announced recently by the Admissions and Academic Standards Committee.

It has been scheduled for January 11 at 1 p.m. Questions will be based on Leslie White's *Evolution of Culture and Essays in the Science of Culture*. Copies of these books have been obtained by the Varsity Shop and are now available for student purchase. A limited number of copies are on reserve at the library.

All students who were required to attend but missed the October 3 convocation delivered by Leslie White and who have an additional unexcused convocation absence are required to take the reading exam on the date indicated. Students will be notified by the Registrar's Office.

A student may read selections in either of the two works written by White. Students who elect to read the *Evolution of Culture* should read the preface and chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4. Students who elect to read *Essays in the Science of Culture* should read the preface and chapters 2, 3, 6, 11, 12, and 13.

It is the student's responsibility to have read the assigned material and be prepared for the convocation reading exams.

The selection and exam dates for students who have missed other convocations will be announced the week following Christmas Vacation.

Two appearances of Alma's choral groups are set for December 22 and Christmas Eve.

Channel 8 will carry a program by the choir, Alma Singers and Orchestras from 1:30 to 2 p.m. on December 22.

The Singers and Orchestras will appear on Channel 12 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on December 24.

Faculty Is Close But Lose By Two

Considerable change occurred in the "A" League Intramural basketball race as a result of games played Monday night. In the opener, the Marauders erased a one-point half-time deficit to win in overtime, 49-47, over a hard-fighting Faculty squad. Gene Henderson led all scorers with twenty-one points, followed by Tim Pete of the Marauders with eighteen.

In the second game of the night, the Delt Sigs eeked out a 54-52 decision over the Teke Take-ems in another overtime contest.

In the "A" League nightcap, the Took-ems grabbed a 27-22 half-time lead and held on to win by one point in a real thriller, 43-42, over the Sig Taus.



"Yes, Darlene, there is a Santa Claus." But is there? (Photo by Beck)

Armstrong Adds Comment On Russians

This is a continuation of a letter by Dr. William Armstrong, Alma professor who is spending this year in Finland as a Fulbright scholar.

Russians are very scarce on the streets, and are stared at whenever they come to Finland. I ought to explain that the Finns are very style-conscious in the Western sense, and Russians are easily recognizable in Helsinki from their "dowdy" attire. Nor do the Finns visit Russia. Typically, they cannot understand why all of the American Fulbrighters intend to enter Russia, as I, for example, plan to do during the Christmas holidays.

Yet Finland cannot escape its servitude to Russia by reason of its geography, its adjacency to the Soviet Union as the only nation on the Soviet European defense perimeter that has not been formally drawn within the Iron Curtain. The Finns, whose cultural heritage and modern outlook is overwhelmingly Western, accept the harsh facts of their existence on the Soviet border without forgetting *sisu*, that peculiar national trait of dogged fortitude and endurance which made it possible for this little nation of hardly more than

four million persons to stave off the Red Army for three months during the famous Winter War of 1939. Even the Finnish Communists, it is confidently believed here, would take to the skis and fight if Russian invasion ever came. Meanwhile, the Finns sit in their crow's nest atop the continent of Europe, watching the antagonists in the world-wide power struggle and charting a course of neutrality for themselves.

Concert Coming On January 12

The Alma College Concert Band will present a concert Sunday, January 12, in Dow Auditorium at 8 p.m.

The band will play a march *fiesta* by Handel arranged as a suite by the English conductor Sir Thomas Beecham, "The Gods Go A-begging," "In the Cathedral," by the French composer Gabriel Pierne; "Prayer and Dream" from *Hansel and Gretel* by Humperdink, music from the movie *Exodus*, and music from the Pulitzer prize-winning musical *Fiorella*.

Who's Who Here? Nineteen Students Named To National Publication

Nineteen Alma College students will be listed in this year's edition of *Who's Who in*

American Universities and Colleges. These students were selected by a vote of both the Student Council and the faculty. People eligible for consideration must be juniors or seniors and have a three point average overall.

Race Issue Discussed On Campus

by Margaret Charleton

Last Thursday night the TKE house was the scene of an open discussion on this semester's reading selection, *Black Like Me*, by John Howard Griffin. A very large crowd turned out.

The two-hour discussion, arranged by Eric Swanson, TKE social chairman, was led by Mr. Kenneth Eckhardt, who presented a short paper on the subject. The reading of this paper was followed by discussion and argument.

Besides the implications of *Black Like Me*, much of the conversation centered around last week's convocation address by Rev. Bryant George.

Three areas were then discussed: Why American society has been so taken by surprise in regard to the Negro American's demands for equality; the attention paid to problems faced in trying to meet total integration; and the white student's perception of segregation.

The group discussed prospects for the future. Many agreed that there still were problems, even in the best of humanitarian values.

There appeared to be a genuine concern for the problem of segregation on the part of some students, and those who came showed continued interest, as the test on the book has already been given. Everyone present had an opinion and expressed values, and no one was too shy to ask questions.

Although the group was enthusiastic, no easy solution was arrived at, since segregation is a widespread problem and will take much more than a college discussion to be solved.

Alma's star center Bud Acton scored a sensational 40 points, tying the school record, to pace the Scots to a 90-86 triumph at Eastern Michigan Tuesday. Acton hit 58% of his shots and grabbed 20 rebounds. Two free throws each by Pannier, Miller, and Acton iced the game in the last 30 seconds.

Knights Triumph

Third Road Game Is Loss to Calvin

by Jim Martz

The third road game of the season also became the third loss for the Scot cagers last Saturday afternoon. Calvin's Knights tripped the Maroon and Cream in a wild and wooly affair, 98-84 at Calvin. The loss dropped the Scots to a 2-3 season record and 1-1 MIAA record.

Calvin's Jim VanEerden stole the show for the afternoon by scoring 34 points. The senior guard literally shot the eyes out of the basket. He connected on four long field goals at the beginning of the game, giving Calvin an 8-0 lead after just 90 seconds.

The Knights led 56-41 at half-time. 26 of those points belonged to the hot-shooting VanEerden. Ray Moore's 13 points in the half kept the Scots from being completely routed.

Calvin opened a 20-point lead after the intermission before Alma's Bud Acton took over the scoring reins. The big junior center pumped in 12 straight points to bring the Scots right back into the game.

The Scots used a full-court press led by ball-hawking Tom Miller and Jim Flora. But the Knights were able to draw fouls and successfully make free-throws to again put the game out of Alma's reach. Calvin sank a total of 24 out of 40 free-throw attempts, while the Scots had fewer tries and connected on 14 of 22. Calvin led in field goals just 37-35.

The Scots had to play most

of the game under the harassment of the Calvin partisans. The boos and catcalls reached a peak when the Scots tried in vain to get back into the game with the full court press. The Calvin fans were more than delighted to see Alma's Bill Pendell and Tom Miller foul out of the game.

In addition to VanEerden's 34 points, Calvin's Ron Fletcher scored 17, Rick Duistermas 15, Paul Tuls 12, and Ed Douma 10. The Knights fielded a young ball club. Only two seniors and one junior are on the team.

Again the Scots had four players scoring in double figures. Acton's 24 points were high, followed by Pendell's 19, Moore's 17, and Miller's 11.

The next home game for the Scots is Saturday, January 4, 1964, against Olivet. On January 8 the Scots travel to Kalamazoo, and on January 11 host Albion. All games are important MIAA contests.

Not including the Tuesday game at Eastern Michigan University, here is how the top scoring looks for the Scots:

	Total Points	Average
Acton	101	20.0
Pendell	91	18.2
Moore	78	15.6
Miller	68	13.6

	Statistics of Calvin game:				
	FG	FTA	FT	PF	TP
Pendell	8	3	5	6	19
Schultz	6	0	0	0	0
Hawley	1	2	0	8	2
Pannier	3	0	0	2	6
Acton	8	12	8	4	24
Moore	8	2	1	3	17
Flora	2	1	1	3	5
Miller	5	2	1	5	11
	35	22	14	25	84

6 a private place . . .

Over the past few weeks the almaniac has printed several articles concerned with the problem of finding "a private place" either for students to talk together or to engage in other activities. Obviously this is because we see a problem in this regard.

We feel that the nature of the problem has been rather well illustrated by comments we have printed from both students and faculty members.

As for solutions, we have seen none without faults, but would give encouragement to any who attempt to try any of these suggestions or find other possible solutions.

We also see encouragement in the fact that something is being done about the problem. The basements of the men's dorms are now open once a week. Moving the T.V. in Tyler has provided another small lounge, (which incidentally has been used for studying by a good number of couples and individual students).

However, the millenium has not yet arrived—the problem still exists. The responsibility for its solution rests on the dorm councils of the several dorms, the A.W.S., and the individual student who can make his voice heard to his representative bodies and to administrators.

letters to the editor

The "fact that Alma College is first and foremost a Christian academic institution" and that there may be certain "obligations binding on the students (and college) in relation to the Presbyterian Church," does not mean that one of these obligations is the segregation of the sexes. One of the projects of the reformed faith is directed against convents and

monasteries. "The experience of Alma College is a venture into knowledge and understanding," and I would hope and expect responsibility. Responsibility must be allowed to develop, and this should take place in a suitable atmosphere. The atmosphere of an open dorm is not the "Cythera" a parked car can be. Invited

guests do not "invade" the rights of "privacy," but the lack of privacy now existing on campus does infringe on peoples' needs. Serious ideas that propose to help remedy definite needs should be considered—and considered carefully. I sincerely hope Mr. House's position will be considered.

Robert VanOeyen

from the faculty

Mr. Albert Katz received the B. A. degree from Union College and the M.A. degree from the University of Michigan. He joined the Alma College Faculty in 1962 and is an Assistant Professor of Speech.

by Mr. Albert M. Katz

Theatre is a funny business. There is no way that I know of to put your finger on the essence of it because theatre, being a living, breathing, moving thing, won't stand still long enough. Above all else, theatre is ephemeral. A performance takes place, and is gone. There remains no canvas, no marble, no permanent, fixed work of art to which we can return and say, "This is what we did. This was our creation. Look at it. Listen to it. Isn't it beautiful?" I think it is this very lack of permanence in its finished form that makes theatre so profound and flexible. What is this "theatre?" It is entertainment. It is, or can be, a commercial venture. It is, quite often, social protest or social commentary. It is certainly, for those who participate in it, an educational experience, even under the most crassly commercial of conditions.

Most importantly, at least for me, it is a coming together of people who, in order to do their job well, must work together, and who must touch each other's emotions in the most intimate way. It is this "touching" that makes for growth.

"Togetherness" is a word that has turned from a national cult to a national joke. There is nothing wrong with the term, in its original meaning. The trouble is that "togetherness" has come to mean "proximity" rather than "contact;" it has come to mean "doing things" together, rather than "feeling things" together. We, as a nation, seem to have come to feel what "David," in the film "David and Lisa," felt . . . fear, almost horror, of personal contact. "Don't touch me! Don't you know a touch can kill? . . . You musn't touch me!" One of the last bastions of intimate, human contact . . . where contact is neither suspect as Freudian, nor derided as unmanly, nor shielded away from as "square," . . . one of the last bastions is the theatre.

The role of the theatre at a small, liberal-arts college, like Alma, is to provide entertainment, and to expose the community to forms and ideas which they have not seen before, and, by so doing, to broaden and enrich their cultural outlook. So much is obvious. But these functions are basic to any and all educational and civic theatres. The small college, with its close-knit student body has the unique, potential advantage of community. In my opinion, this one advantage more than offsets the university's advantages of manpower and physical facilities.

At Alma, we have the opportunity to involve the entire community; faculty, and staff

as well as students. The production of Our Town, recently completed, offers a perfect example of this. We worked with a cast of 35 and a crew of over 20. They were drawn from all four classes and from every discipline. There was, and is, a core of theatre-oriented students, but of these only five were in play and the rest of the core . . . what may be called the "in group" . . . were either working on crew, or just sitting this one out.

This was a community effort and it involved all facets of the community. Several members of the staff, of the faculty, and faculty wives, contributed their time, effort and cooperation to the production. In essence, the whole campus did the show, and the whole campus had a stake in it. At this point, then, the Alma Players have served, and hopefully can continue to serve, as a focal point for contact, for communication, within the college community.

There is, however, another point to make, and I think that this is the core of the matter. A small college theatre, such as we have here at Alma, can do its best work when it serves the central goals of the college community as a whole. The goal of the theatre unit is not to build a huge number of professionally-oriented theatre people. On the contrary, I would discourage almost any student who announced his or her intention of going "on to Broadway." Its goal is not solely to prepare students for graduate school in theatre, or to teach the field in high schools. I am delighted to find students who have both the interest and the talent to do these things, and when I do come across them I encourage them as best I can. This, however, must take second place to what I feel is the larger overall goal, or direction, that of "holding the mirror up to (human) nature."

Theatre on this campus, as I envision it, is for the entire campus. Its purpose is to introduce the students, and their faculty, to themselves and to each other . . . to reintroduce them to the sensitivity, the curiosity, the awareness of self, of others, of objects, and above all, the inter-relationships between these things. This uninhibited, open curiosity they had as children, but a materialistic and "sophisticated" society has forced them to abandon it. To do a play, and do it well, you must love; you must care about anything and everything you touch; you must become aware of what is going on around you; and YOU MUST APPROACH EVERYTHING ABOUT IT WITH PASSION.

To do this is to make yourself vulnerable. You are vulnerable to emotion, to thought, to rhythms, to the basic concept

of living with people instead of around them.

To touch is to care, and to care is to be vulnerable. Everything has its price. You may stay alone and safe and secure behind the wall of your defenses and by never reaching out, never get burned. The price you pay for this "security" is to drive through Kahlil Gibran's "seasonless world where you shall laugh, but not all of your laughter, and weep, but not all of your tears." Vulnerability is the price of community, of communication. For your payment in embarrassment, in pain; for your gift of honesty to someone else . . . you are paid in kind.

Okay. What happens when the play is over? I don't think you can do this kind of thing for six, seven or eight weeks and then zip your shell back up nice and snug and go back to your test tube, or your textbook. I think . . . I hope . . . that it is impossible to do so. Something of what you have done, of what you have been, for the past weeks goes with you, and, if it does, then you, as an individual, are more alive . . . more aware . . . more involved with everything you touch, than you had previously been. To me, that is progress. To me, that is a service. To me, that is the proper function of a theatre such as we have here at Alma.

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Science in Red China Is Splitstone's Topic

by Sammie Gilley

"Science in Communist China" was Dr. Paul Splitstone's topic December 12 when he spoke to the Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society. Splitstone pointed out that until 1949 China had a very limited program in science as we know it. In 1950 there were fewer than 250 scientists doing research work.

In 1955 the Academy of Science was reorganized. In 1956 a planning committee for science advancement made a 12-year plan that by 1967 would supposedly have science in China at a level with that in the rest of the world.

In 1956 the Academy of Science was again revamped as a copy of the Russian Academy of Science. The reason for this was the launching of the Russian rocket with the dog in

it, which made a great impression on Mao Tse Tung.

In 1957, 7,000 students were sent to Russia for training. Half returned and somewhat less than half received their doctorates.

In China today the good scientists are forced to do research work that must be done and to teach in order to build the man-power for basic research.

Today, Splitstone emphasized, a "common refrain is very, very, little basic research." However, this is not as great a hindrance as it sounds to many people. They have excellent library facilities. By using Western journals and papers they benefit greatly from the Western world's basic research. Because of this their industrial development does not seem to have been re-

tarded, even though their basic science suffers. Their "main idea is to produce . . . to build factories." They have made advances in optical instruments, radio, telescopes, and electron tube factories.

Peking is the main center of science today. Right outside Peking is a school with a capacity of 1,000 with excellent facilities. Shanghai is the center of the organic and biochemistry interest because of the large coal deposits found there. Researchers can get the necessary coal tars and other raw materials needed from the coal. They are doing a lot of steroids and antibiotics research. Though China has many problems and probably won't have much basic research for years, her industrial development has thrived.

Favor Privacy; 72 Sign Petition

An envelope was discovered on a table at the Pub early Wednesday. It contained 72 signatures to the following petition:

The undersigned do hereby declare that they are in favor of Chaplain House's privacy plan so stated in the December 6 issue of the almaniac.

An anonymous letter accompanying the names stated, "Would you, please, in some way make recognition of this in the almaniac. I believe these 72 people realize their responsibilities also."

The lists were posted on the bulletin boards in Mitchell Hall, according to the letter.

A request that the lists be forwarded to the Dean of Student Affairs accompanied the letter.

This has been done, says Edythe Trevithick, editor.

Did You Know

that Mitchell Hall is donating its money ordinarily spent for Christmas cards to a charity, announces Mr. Stuart Strait, Head Resident. This will be about \$5, he said.

SNAP UP BARGAINS

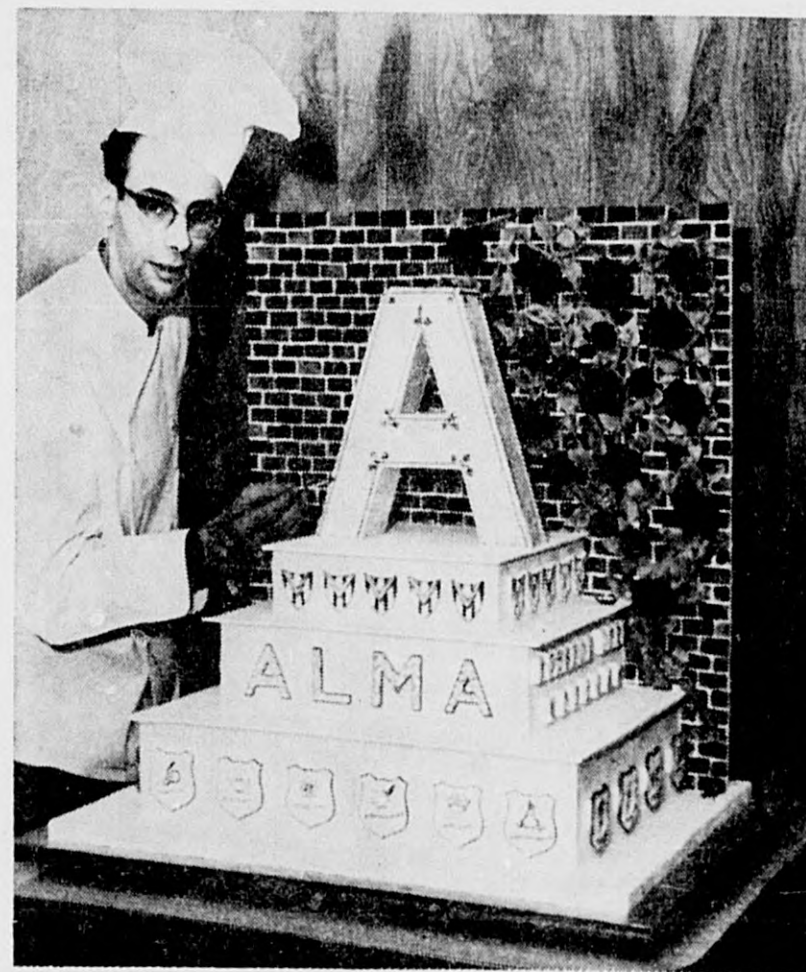
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Mr. Benjamin Vandenberg, pastry cook for Saga Foods, is shown putting the finishing touches on his creation, "Steps of Education," which will be used as a table decoration at the annual faculty Christmas party tonight. Vandenberg estimates that he has spent more than 200 hours constructing the all-sugar center piece.

The shields at the bottom are symbolic of various academic areas. The shields on the top layer are in maroon and cream, the college colors, and also colors representative of various academic disciplines. The center layer has the word Alma at the front, and liberal arts college on the side. According to Vandenberg, the lettering type on the side is of Greek-Roman style popular during the twelfth century. The center piece is topped by a large letter A and is set against a rose-covered brick wall, also of solid sugar. The color of the brick matches the color of the brick

used in buildings on the campus.

Mr. Vandenberg and his wife, the former Jacoba Soek, came to the United States in 1957 from Amsterdam, Holland, where Mr. Vandenberg served as a pastry chef in hotels, bake shops, and passenger steam ships sailing to Africa and Indonesia.

He learned the baking trade in Holland where he studied for three years at baking school. Thirty-five students started the program with him and only nine finished three years later. He also spent an additional eight years in a training program at the Baking Institute of Amsterdam.

After coming to the United States in 1957 he worked for Schafer Baking Company in Lansing until returning to Holland for a visit in 1962. Mr. and Mrs. Vandenberg moved to Alma in December 1962. Mrs. Vandenberg is a secretary at Alma College.

(photo by Smallcombe)

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