

THE ALMANIAN

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What's Inside

Poet presents 'Lindley Lecture'

Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Richard Wilbur will be on the Alma College campus April 4 in the Dunning Memorial Chapel to present a poetry reading and commentary on his own work. On the Second-Front-Page, Wilbur's style and works are discussed.



Two profs to retire

A retirement dinner honoring Charles A. Skinner, professor of chemistry, and Arthur L. Smith, professor of physical education, will be conducted April 1 in Hamilton Commons. Turn to page 6 for the achievements of these retiring professors and for more information about the dinner.



Circus comes to Alma

Freshman Neil Cockerline took upon himself the task of teaching fifty area cub scouts "the art of clowning". Cockerline, who has previously traveled with circuses as a professional clown, set to work to make the Alma cub pack into clowns. Turn to page 8 for more about Cockerline's endeavor with the Alma cub scouts.



Room sign-up scheduled

The schedule for reserving a room for the 1978-79 academic year is posted on page 5. Information and procedures for residence hall sign-up are also found on that page.

Alma frosh 'goes ape'



Alma cub scouts donned circus attire last week under the direction of Neil Cockerline, Chelsea freshman. Turn to page 8 for the story. ALMANIAN Photo

Senior art show opens

A full range of art forms offered in studio courses at Alma College will be on view while the senior art majors show is on exhibition April 2 through April 22. Drawings, sculpture, prints, paintings, fabrics, and ceramics done by 11 art majors will be on view in the Flora Kirsch Beck Gallery of the Clack Art Center from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, and other times by appointment. The show is open to the public without charge.

The senior art show fulfills a graduation requirement for a major in art. Exhibitors whose work will be featured are Berina (Binnie) Anderson of Ithaca; Carol Anderson of Allen Park;

Nancy Clark of St. Charles; Cynthia Frost of Ferndale; Michael Patrick Harrigan of Midland; Susan Laing of Bitely; Sheryl McCormick of Birmingham; Richard Earle Stevens of Royal Oak; Teri Talley of Hinsdale, Ill.; Martha Vail of Oxford, Ohio; and Sara Wilson of Petoskey. Harrigan is a candidate for a bachelor of fine arts degree; the others are candidates for a bachelor of art degrees.

Some of the students will show a cross section of work they have done, while others prefer to focus on work from their areas of concentration. Each will have three or four works on exhibit, plus a portfolio of 10 to 15 slides which will be projected throughout the show.

How do the student artists

select the work they want to exhibit when each has only a limited amount of space available? Nancy Clark observed, "Sometimes when you look back over you've made so much progress that you wonder, 'How could I ever have done that?' Then there are other things that you know you'll always, always like. It becomes a matter of choosing work you feel best represents you as an artist."

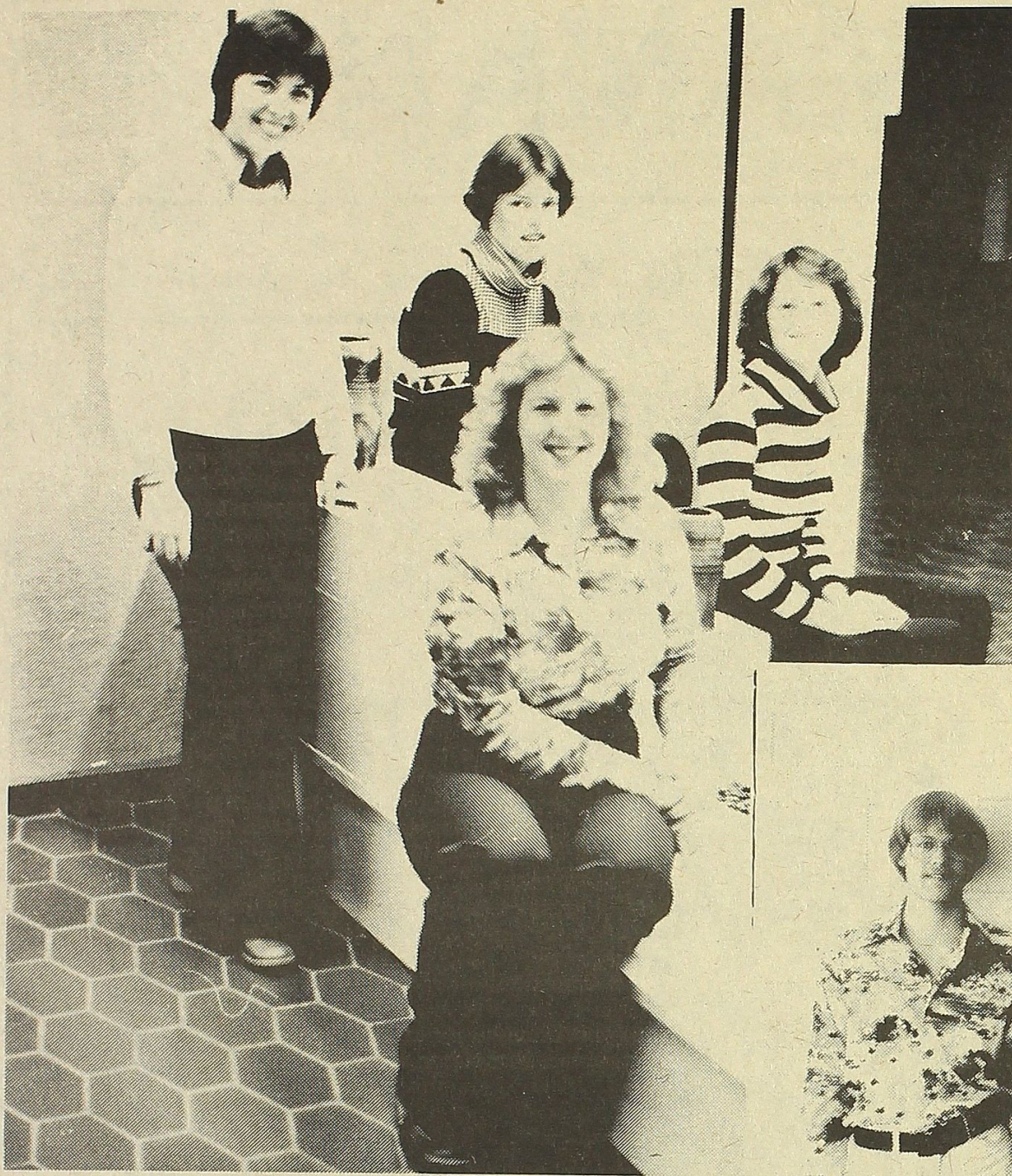
To represent her work, Clark has selected a stone carving, a charcoal drawing, and a fabric sculpture.

Weaving has been Berina [Binnie] Anderson's area of concentration. She will exhibit a woven shawl of mohair and linen, raku pots,

and mixed media drawings. Her work has also been exhibited at Calvin College and at the Mid-Michigan Art Show in Mount Pleasant. Art education/teaching is her career goal and she has been a community education assistant in ceramics and done student teaching in elementary grades in Portage.

Carol Anderson, chairperson of the senior art show, has concentrated on drawing and plans to exhibit degrees drawing and weaving. In addition to work exhibited on campus, she has shown work at Calvin College. Also an English major, Anderson eventually wants to be a free

See ART SHOW, page 7

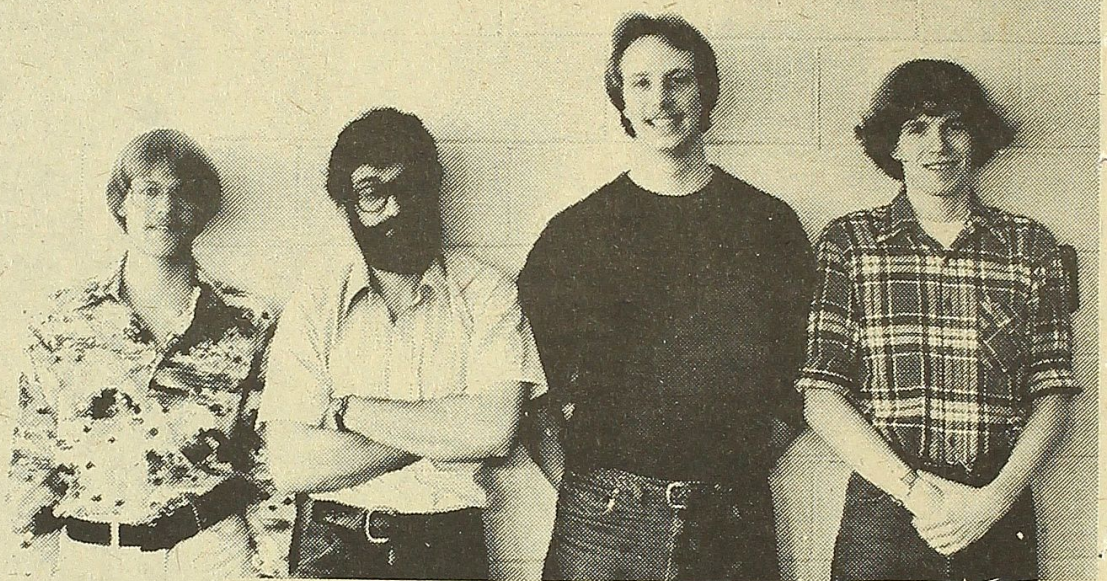


Top ten

Seniors selected

Ten senior men and women recently were selected as nominees for the Outstanding Senior Award. The winners will be announced at the Honors Convocation, April 11. The senior class voted for the ten March 21. Five men and five women were picked on the basis of contributions and participations in collegiate activities. The five males [from left to right] are Dan Dosson of Midland, Andy Jones of Clio, Bert Jones of Saginaw, and Jamie Kneen of Kalamazoo. Dave Houck of Howell presently is study-

biology society], and was last year's African Fellow. Bert Jones has served as a resident assistant and resident advisor. He is a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon and has lettered in football and baseball. A Theta Chi, Jamie Kneen is this year's Student Council president and has been a resident assistant and IM sport participant. Cunningham is AZT's president and has been involved in the Gratiot County Big Sisters program. She also was on this year's homecoming court, and has played varsity basketball, softball, and vol-



ing in France. The five women are Phyllis Cunningham of Plymouth [front], Val Hansen of Battle Creek [left], Darcy Smith of Breckenridge, Carol Furrow of Hastings, and Jenny McLaren of Northville [not pictured].

During Dosson's college career, he served as junior class president and senior class vice president. He is business manager and president of the A Cappella Choir. Houck is an active Theta Chi member and has been president of the Inter-Fraternity Council. Besides involvement in the TKE's and Inter-Fraternity Council, Andy Jones also is a member of Tri-Beta [a national honorary

leyball. Furrow, Delta Gamma Tau sweetheart, has served on the Pan-Hellenic and Student Councils and is a TKE Little Sister. She also was on the homecoming court. Hansen has been the women's field hockey team captain and women's intramural director. Senior class president, Hansen also is a member of AZT. McLaren presently is vice president of Student Council and was this year's homecoming queen. She has been a resident assistant, and is a member of Alpha Theta and TKE Little Sisters. Smith is a member of Theta Chi Little Sisters and Alpha Theta. She is a resident advisor and has served on Dorm Council.

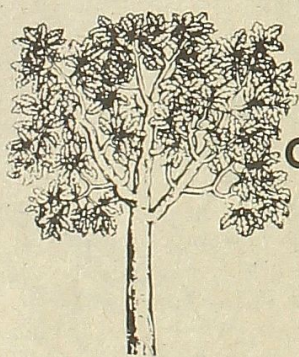
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Players to stage 'Blithe Spirit' soon

The cast for the Alma Player's production of *Blithe Spirit* recently was selected. The production will be staged on campus April 13, 14, and 15.

The cast for the 1978 winter production consists of: Dawn Ferran, South Bend [Ind.] junior, as Elvira; Don Graves, Rochester junior, as Charles; Pam Smith, Clawson sophomore, as Mrs. Bradman; Leslie Mathiak, Milford sophomore, as Ruth; Frank Yurgens, Chesaning freshman, as Dr. Bradman; Mary Wood, Linwood freshman, as Edith; and Kathy Young, Harbor Beach sophomore, as Madame Arcati.

Tom Norman, Comstock Park senior, is the director of the production and Theresa

Czaja, Union Lake freshman, is the assistant director.

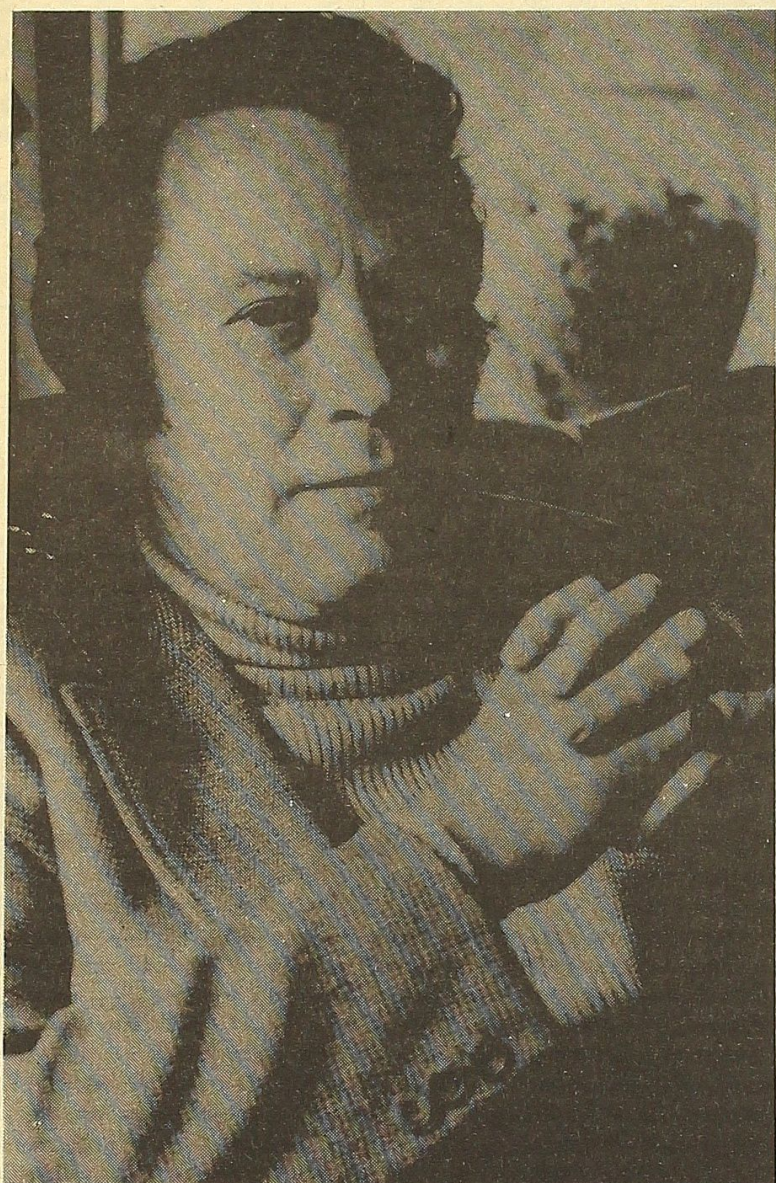
Blithe Spirit tells the story of a novelist who invites a medium to his country home to conduct a seance so that he can write a novel on the occult.

The novelist, Charles Condomine, is married for the second time, and the seance summons back his first wife from the dead. She still is attractive and very mischievous, and torments everyone in the house even though her ex-husband is the only one who can see her.

She then tries to get her ex-husband killed in a car accident; unfortunately, his second wife is killed instead. The result? Condomine now has two ghosts to deal with.

THE ALMANIAN

2nd front page



Famous poet visits campus

Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Richard Wilbur will be on the Alma College campus to present a poetry reading and commentary on his own work for the college's 1978 Lindley Lecture. The free public presentation will be given at 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 4, in Dunning Memorial Chapel. "Our serenest, urbanest and most melodic poet" is how John Ciardi described Wilbur in *Saturday Review of Literature*.

"I don't mean to stretch the superlatives," said Joe Sutfin, chairman of the English department, "but Wilbur is one of the two or three most significant poets of my lifetime. In a century, he will be one of the two or three most significant poets who will have survived, for one reason because he's so much smarter than most poets."

"He's so brilliant a linguist -- and most poets don't know much about words; they work on feelings -- that his poems give lessons in etymology any time you read them."

To those who think poetry too deep or too profound to be enjoyable, Wilbur offers a humorous perspective in a brief book of poems called *Opposites*. Using iambic tetrameter couplets (Wilbur is ever the master of meter, rhyme and form, according to *New York Times* book reviewer and poet Myra Livingston), the poet presents some novel opposites. For example, he disputes that the opposite of white is always black: ".....within an egg [A fact known to the simplest folk]

The opposite of white is yolk!

Within the 39-page book one reviewer listed for children aged 8 to 12, Wilbur's poems tell opposites of soup (nuts), spit (a narrow cove or bay), riot (lots of people keeping quiet) and other amusing twists of language.

Opposites helps illustrate the range Wilbur's work covers, for he is regarded by some as the premiere English translator of Moliere in the world. A Wilbur translation used for

Manhattan's Circle in the Square production of Moliere's *Tartuffe* prompted the following comment in *Time* magazine: "His (Wilbur's) springy rhyming couplets carry scarcely a trace of melodic monotony and he turns Moliere's French into buoyantly idiomatic English."

Between *Opposites* and the Moliere translations lies work which has delighted readers for decades.

Wilbur's publication credits include more than a dozen books, among them *Things of this World*, which won both a Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award for Poetry in 1957, and *Loudmouse*, a children's book published in 1963. The *Atlantic*, *The New Yorker*, and other magazines have carried his poetry.

Another phase of his work has been translations from French poets. Most notable are his Moliere translations, including *The Misanthrope*, *Tartuffe*, which won the Yale Library's 1963 Bollingen Prize for the best translation of poetry into English, was produced by New York's Lincoln Center repertory company, revived in 1977 by the Circle in the Square, and is now being taped by the Public Broadcasting System (PBS) for showing in May; *School for Wives*, which has been produced on and off Broadway and by touring theatrical companies; and *The Learned Ladies*, which premiered in summer 1977 at the Williamston (Mass.) Playhouse.

Wilbur also wrote the lyrics for the New York production of "*Candide*," a comic opera based on Voltaire, with a book by Lillian Hellman and music by Leonard Bernstein.

His academic credentials are strong ones. After graduation from Amherst College in 1942, Wilbur saw combat as a non-commissioned officer with the Army's 36th Infantry Division at Anzio and Cassino. He received his M.A. at Harvard in 1947 and taught English there until he received the \$3000 Prix de Rome Fellowship of the American

academy of Arts and Letters in 1954.

On his return, he became associate professor of English at Wellesley College, where he taught until his appointment as professor at Wesleyan University in 1957. He moved to Smith College in fall of 1977.

Among the many honors Wilbur has accrued are Guggenheim and Ford Foundation fellowships, nine honorary degrees, two Bollingen Prizes, a Shelly Memorial Prize and a Brandeis Creative Arts Award.

As part of the Lindley Lecture series, Wilbur will also be meeting with members of the campus community during a two day visit to Alma's campus April 3 and 4.

Established at Alma in 1968 by 1911 graduate Adelbert H. Lindley in memory of his wife, Ellen Baker Lindley, the Lindley Lecture series is designed to stimulate cultural and intellectual concern among the entire campus community.

Recent Lindley lecturers have included bacteriologist Rene DuBos, polar explorer Lawrence Gould, economist Joseph Spengler, church historian Sidney Mead, Georgia legislator Julian Bond, and former deputy assistant secretary of defense Morton H. Halperin.

"This year we felt it was time for a poet," said Paul Storey, assistant to the provost for co-curricular affairs, "so we went looking for the best one we could get. Richard Wilbur is one of the outstanding poets of our time. He's frequently anthologized in poetry collections and is not only a poet but a fine scholar. He is perhaps, the most erudite of the current poets."

Wilbur's poetry reading and commentary April 4 is open to the public without charge. Anyone wishing further information about Wilbur's visit to Alma may call either Joe Sutfin or Paul Storey at 463-2141. A display showing the variety in Wilbur's work will be on view in the Alma College library from March 27 through Wilbur's visit.

Richard Wilbur, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, will present reading and commentary of his own poetry for the college's 1978 Lindley Lecture on April 4.

Students nix constitution

By Cathy Henry
News Editor

The proposed student council constitution, which the student body voted on last week, was soundly defeated by a margin of 260 votes. **Jamie Kneen, student council president, commented on the election results and voter turn-out in an interview Thursday.**

Kneen was disappointed by the large number of students who failed to vote. He said that since the controversy was over the Greeks' representation, it was pretty obvious that the Greeks were the only ones that voted.

"It's a reflection on the people who didn't vote, rather than those who did," he commented.

One of the objections to the proposed constitution was that, by giving votes to the Inter-Fraternity Council and the Pan-Hellenic Council, the Gamma Sigma Sigma sorority would have no representation because they do not belong to Pan-Hel. Acknowledging this as a problem, Kneen stated that the

council was not informed of this until after they had written the constitution -- a process which took most of the school year.

Kneen commented that the problem of equal representation for Greeks and independents was a sticky one. He said that he still felt that the new constitution was more equitable than the new one.

"I still think it's the right thing," he commented, "but fortunately, the system does not allow one person to impose his will on everyone else."

He further stated, "Some people got the impression that it was my constitution, that it was Jamie Kneen's constitution...No, this was not my constitution." He noted that several other council members were involved in the project.

Kneen also noted that, since he is a senior, he won't be back next year. "I wasn't working on it for my sake," he said.

He commented that many See CONSTITUTION, pg. 7

Homosexuality concerns student

Dear Editor:

While thinking about the campus reaction to the panel on homosexuality being sponsored by Newberry this week, I remembered a column by Jim Fitzgerald which I read in the **Detroit Free Press** last summer. I think it expresses some of the reasons why education on this topic is important. I hope that a lot of students, faculty, and administration attend this panel no matter what their opinions on the topic are, as homosexuality is not something which just happens "out there" but is a concern which involves our campus as well.

The column is entitled: "Anita is not Funny, Now that John is Dead" and reads as follows:

"Last March I laughed at Anita Bryant. But now she has won an election and young John is dead, and I'm not laughing anymore.

I knew John for several years, but not well. He promoted dances in my old hometown and he regularly sought publicity in the newspaper where I worked. He seemed a shy but friendly kid and I enjoyed talking to him.

I had no idea John was a homosexual. I didn't know whether he was Protestant or Catholic either. I have never been good at finding the labels on people. I figure it is

not my responsibility, so why should I care whether a person is drip-dry or should be sent to the dry cleaner?

OK, I'll admit I'm a bug on the subject. Many years ago I pledged myself to never look for those facial features and personality traits which are supposed to reveal whether a person is a rich kike, a dumb Polack, a greasy Wop or a lazy nigger. I knew I was reaching for a special kind of blindness that couldn't be attained outside of Utopia. But I figured my vision would get plenty blurred in the reaching, and that would be something.

A few years ago there was a story in the newspaper about a woman I'd known in my youth but hadn't seen since. There was a clear photograph of her and her two sons, both adopted. It wasn't until recently that I saw my old friend and her family in the flesh and noticed that one of the sons is white and the other is black.

I hadn't noticed in the photograph, or at least I'd forgotten because it wasn't important enough to remember. That's the type of blindness I'm dreaming about. We should all have it.

So any way, it's not surprising that I was probably the only one in town who didn't know John was gay. He hadn't tried to freshen his

ranks with me, even though Anita Bryant says all gays are recruiters.

I'd seen John's obituary in the newspaper, but it didn't say why the young man, not yet 30, had died. The information came in a letter sent me by one of John's friends. That's also how I learned John had been gay.

There is a connection between John's death and his sexuality. Add another notch to the Bible as wielded by the like of Anita.

According to his friend, John suffered the usual cruel lies aimed at homosexuals in a small town. He never caused anyone any trouble. His dances gave many youngsters something to do on Saturday nights for several summers. He helped fledgling rock bands get gigs. A nice guy.

But John was still "queer," and that was how he was treated. There were the snickers and the closed doors and all the other penalties that must be paid for being different from the mob.

Finally, John gave up on the small town and moved to Detroit to live in Palmer Park, that enclave to which so many homosexuals retreat in search of understanding. John thought he would be happier there, but it didn't work out.

In his hometown, near family and childhood friends, John could laugh off the hostility and excuse the stupidity, his friend explained. But in the city, alone and still with the same disadvantage he had learned to accept, he was faced with more. The distrust, the lack of compassion or friends were more than he could

handle. The shift from country to city was too great.

One day John was found dead. His co-workers said he was accidentally electrocuted by a hair-dryer.

'Because I knew John, I understood it was more than that,' his friend wrote. 'He was an army-trained electronics expert with years of experience in that field. He would not have been electrocuted unless he wanted to be.'

'I think he did it because the pain of fighting had grown to be too much.'

Anita Bryant says the law must protect out children

against abuse from homosexuals. I say the laws are already there, to be applied equally to homosexuals and heterosexuals. There is no need for separate drinking fountains marked gay and straight.

In this column, I changed John's name. I wish I could have changed his story. But the Anita Bryants of this world were too much for him, and there is no changing that.

Anita Bryant is still a clown, but I can no longer laugh at her."

Sincerely,
Joyce S. Mahan

The Communications Committee

is still accepting applications for the following ALMANIAN positions:

Advertising Manager

Managing Editor

Copy Editor

Assistant News Editor

Layout Editor

Distribution Manager

Entertainment Editor

Pick up applications in the ALMANIAN office. All applications must be turned in to John Sefcik BY Tuesday, April 4 at 6:00 pm.

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Interested in a Student Council or Community Government Committee position?

Petitions are now available outside the Student Council office:

- * Student Council president and vice president
- * Four representatives - at - large
- * Class officers: president, vice president, secretary/treasurer treasurer (sophomore, junior and senior classes of 78-79)
- * Associate member - Board of Trustees

Petitions for Community Government Committee:

- * Educational Policy
- * Academic Standards
- * Co-Curricular Affairs
- * Student Life
- * Co-Curricular Affairs
- * Judicial
- * Provost Advising

Return applications by Tuesday, April 4 at 5:00 p.m.

Return petitions by Wednesday, April 5 at 5:00 p.m.

Candidates for Student Council President and Vice president are required to give speeches before the Student Council and the student body on Wednesday, April 5 in AC 113.

Address any questions to : Jamie Kneen, Jennie McLaren

Deadline for all copy is 5 p.m. Friday. The ALMANIAN is printed every Monday by Graph-Ads, Inc.

The views expressed in the ALMANIAN are not necessarily those of Alma College.

Housing sign-up info available

Residence hall sign-up information and procedures, 1978-79.

During the coming year campus housing facilities will be used to accommodate students in the following manner:

Bruske, Gelston, Mitchell, Newberry -- These halls will be open to students from all classes (entering freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors). A limited number of spaces, yet to be determined, will be reserved on each corridor for entering freshmen in order to distribute these students as evenly as possible throughout each of these halls.

Bonbright, Brazell, Carey, Nisbet -- These South Complex facilities will again be available to students who are currently members of the freshmen, sophomore, or junior class. Entering freshmen will **not** be assigned to these halls.

Small Housing units -- The College will operate six small housing units during the coming year. Four of the houses, Babcock, Clizbe, Meyer, and Plaxton, will be open to women who are currently members of the freshmen, sophomore, and junior classes only. Entering freshmen will not be assigned to these facilities. Kirk House and Roach House will continue as Small Housing units for men under the same provisions. Also, Meyer House has been designated as a non-smoking housing unit and Roach will continue as a low noise housing unit. In addition, only male students who are not members of a fraternity which offers housing will be eligible for housing in these units.

Non-smoking corridors -- Corridors and quads presently designated as non-smoking areas in Bruske, Mitchell, and Newberry halls will be maintained during the coming year, as well as the addition of Meyer House to the non-smoking units. There will not be any non-smoking corridors established in Gelston, South Complex, or in the remaining Small Housing units.

Low Noise corridors -- Low noise corridors or quads will again be available, on a contractual basis, in Bruske, Mitchell, and Newberry halls as well as Roach House. Only students who are willing to support and personally abide by the provisions set forth for these areas should

sign up on these corridors. There will not be any low noise corridors established in Gelston, South Complex, or the remaining Small Housing units.

Miscellaneous Notes:

Gelston Hall: Women will be assigned to the second and third floors; men will occupy the first floor.

Single rooms and designated single/double rooms: Those rooms which are not retained by students who are currently occupying such assignments may be reserved only during the open lottery as follows: Men -- 8:00 p.m., Monday, April 3 in Tyler; Women -- 8:30 p.m., Monday, April 3 in Tyler. Note: Designated single/double means certified as a single/double at housing sign-up last March, 1977.

Proxies -- Students who cannot attend their particular session may ask someone to represent them. The proxy must, however, have in his/her possession the room reservation card of the person they are representing.

Class Standing -- Class standing will be determined from the official listing distributed by the Registrar's Office. If you have any questions, contact the Registrar's Office **prior** to sign-up.

Reminder -- In order to reserve a room, a student must: 1) Be pre-registered for the fall term. 2) Pay \$25 at the Cashier's window of the Business Office. 3) Complete the left-hand portion of the room reservation card which is receivable upon payment of deposit and **bring the entire card with them when they come to reserve a room.**

Lottery numbers -- When participating in a lottery, a student is expected to keep the lottery number which he/she has selected for that particular lottery. Lottery numbers cannot be traded. Any violation of the above will result in the loss of any priority in the sign-up process.

Room changes -- Changes in room assignments will not be considered by the Student Affairs Office prior to April 14, 1978.

Questions concerning the above information should be directed to members of the head resident staff or the Student Affairs Office.

Schedule for room reservation

DATE	TIME	PLACE	ROOM RESERVATIONS
MONDAY, APRIL 3			
	1:00-4:30	Student Affairs Office	Small Housing residents interested in retaining their current room.
	4:30-5:00	Student Affairs Office	All other Small Housing residents interested in a different assignment within Small Housing. By lottery.
	6:30 MEN	Tyler	Small Housing--Open lottery by class. (not including singles)
	7:00 WOMEN	Tyler	Small Housing--Open lottery by class. (not including singles)
	7:30	Tyler	Students in singles and designated single/doubles interested in retaining their current room. (Designated means certified as a single/double at housing sign-up last March, 1977. This will be certified by the Student Affairs Office..)
	8:00 MEN	Tyler	All remaining singles and designated single/doubles (campus wide). Open lottery by class.
	8:30 WOMEN	Tyler	All remaining singles and designated single/doubles (campus wide). Open lottery by class.
TUESDAY, APRIL 4			
	6:30	Present Hall	This will end housing sign-up for all Small Housing units and all singles and designated single/doubles.
	7:30	Present Hall	All students interested in retaining their present room.
	8:00	Present Hall	Students who are displaced due to the reservation of a limited number of spaces for freshman may reserve a different room within their present hall. By lottery.
THURSDAY, APRIL 6			
	7:00 WOMEN	AC 110	Current juniors, sophomores, and freshmen interested in a different room assignment with in their present hall. By lottery. [See specific class schedule as posted in your dorm.]
	8:00 WOMEN	AC 110	Current juniors interested in moving to a different residence hall. By lottery.
	9:00 WOMEN	AC 110	Current sophomores interested in moving to a different residence hall. By lottery.
	7:00 MEN	AC 109	Current freshmen interested in moving to a different residence hall. By lottery.
	8:00 MEN	AC 109	Current juniors interested in moving to a different residence hall. By lottery.
	9:00 MEN	AC 109	Current sophomores interested in moving to a different residence hall. By lottery.
			Current freshmen interested in moving to a different residence hall. By lottery.

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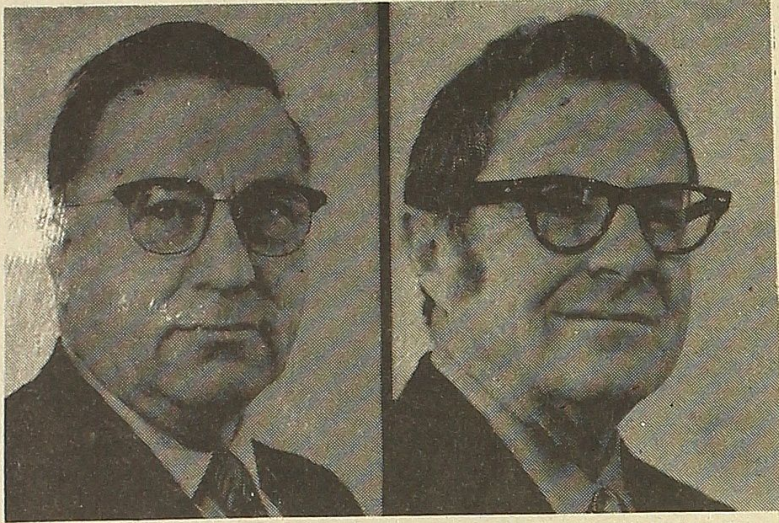
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Dinner honors retiring profs



Charles Skinner [left], professor of chemistry, and Arthur Smith [right], professor of physical education, are both retiring this year.

These two faculty members, who are also Alma Alumni, will be honored in a retirement dinner on April 1 in Hamilton Commons.

A retirement dinner honoring two Alma College faculty members with combined service of 56 years to the college will be conducted Saturday, April 1 in Hamilton Commons. The event to honor Charles A. Skinner, professor of chemistry, and Arthur L. Smith, professor of physical education, begins with a reception at 6:30 in Hamilton Lounge, followed by dinner at 8 pm in Hamilton Commons.

Smith, a 1938 Alma graduate, was an assistant coach for Alma for two years after graduation, left for 16 years then returned to Alma in 1956 as a physical education faculty member. he was an athletic director and football coach from 1956 to 1962, and

has been golf coach since 1956.

His Alma football teams compiled a 22-36-2 record; his golf teams have won Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Championships (MIAA) in 1964, 1974, and 1975, and have tied for championships in 1963, 1967, and 1968.

During his own four-year college career, Smith won ten varsity letters and was one of the greatest quarterbacks and basketball centers ever to wear the Scot colors.

Skinner, a 1939 Alma graduate who started teaching at Alma in 1946, was selected by Alma graduating seniors in 1972, 1974 and 1976 as the Distinguished Professor in the Natural Science Division [award reg-

ulations prevent professors from being honored in consecutive years]. For many years Alma's baseball coach, Skinner piloted Scot teams to six consecutive MIAA championships in that sport during the 1950's. Since 1949 he has served as Alma's scoreboard keeper in both football and basketball. Skinner was inducted into the college's Athletic Hall of Fame in February 1977.

The dinner honoring Smith and Skinner April 1 is open to community members, who may make reservations by calling the Alma College Physical Education Department, 463-2141, ext. 394. The cost is \$7 per person.

Alma students play 'fools' April 1

By Eugene Pattison
ALMANIAN Advisor

April Fool's Day may be as old as Rome or India, but as an American Holiday it's as Anglo-celtic -- Scotch and Irish -- as St. Patrick's Day or our Highland Festival.

No one knows for sure when this day of practical jokes, fools' errands, and dupesters' tricks got started. Ancient Rome's Hilaria (March 25) or India's Holey (March 21) observe times of the year when nature plays sudden tricks on us with the weather, and may be the

oldest of "fools' days."

But Americans got the custom of "April fooling" from England, where the day began to be celebrated a little over 200 years ago. Scotland's version was called "hunting the gowk." A "gowk" was a cuckoo bird.

In France the day could have been observed beginning in 1564 when New Years' Day was changed from April 1 to January 1. Diehards who fought the date change were called "April fish" -- something like "April fools," the cry of

later renown.

Of course, a holiday for joking and fooling might come a quarter of a year earlier. Mexicans celebrated it on Dec. 28; youths of southwestern Ohio 130 years ago may have celebrated it on Christmas, with their custom of trying to be the first to shout "Christmas gift!" to a playmate, who then had to give the shouter a small present.

And in the Middle Ages, the "Feast of Fools" took place just after Christmas. It was a time of mockery,

riotous processions, drinking, and putting on farces. The Feast of Fools took a lot of criticism for the scandals it caused, and was finally suppressed in the 1550's.

In our own time, days are set aside when authorities are mocked or parodied, as at office parties or picnics, or special graduation rites. These festivals, too, have "rubbed" a bit.

Whenever its celebrated, and whatever you call it -- Fascing, Feast of Fools, Misrule, Roast, Saturnalia, or Schnitzelbank -- some say that a fools' day gives everyone a much-needed excuse to play the fool.

Making fun of authorities, or burlesquing or satirizing the sacred chief, as among the Ashanti, or reversing

usual distinctions of rank or status may release inhibitions, repressions, or frustrations. Being able to let out hostility and aggression, people may not act with greater violence or harm, experts claim.

"No matter how high the king's throne is," a satirist has said, "he still sits on his own bottom." Being able to say that once or twice a year, his subjects are less likely to try to overturn his throne, they say.

Students who find release in March madness or almost any unexpected holiday can use April Fools' Day as a chance to play jokes and to "ventilate creativity" too. As long as each one knows that others may just be joking, too.

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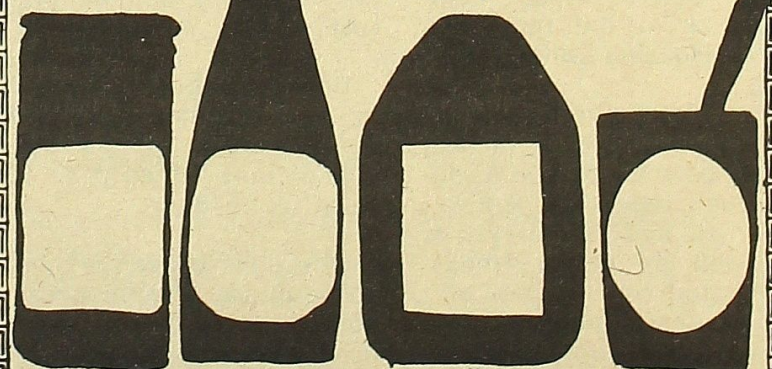
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Senior Mike Harrigan prepares for the senior art show by hanging one the art works. ALMANIAN Photo

Seniors display arts

Continued from pg. 1

lance artist and to further her education in graduate school.

Drawings, ceramics, and an acrylic painting are the exhibition choices for Cynthia Frost, whose concentration areas have been drawing and design. She has served as a staff photographer and art director for the student newspaper, the *Almanian*.

Michael Patrick Harrigan has concentrated on print-making and sculpture and plans to exhibit wood sculptures and two prints, one a lithograph and the other a colotype. Other places of exhibition for his art include the Albany Institute of Art and History, Albany, (N.Y.); the Detroit Institute of Art; Second Street Gallery, Charlottesville, (Virginia); 120- in- the- Shade Gallery, Lansing; and the University of Illinois.

"Working with my knowledge of weaving and textile design in any capacity I can" is how Susan Laing expresses her goal after graduation from Alma. Two of the works she will exhibit, one a linen and synthetic and the other a batik wall hanging, reflect her concentration on textiles. She also plans to exhibit a series of raku tea boxes and a ceramic body.

Richard Earle Stevens is both a religion and an art major. His areas of concentration have been sculpture and drawing, and he plans to exhibit drawings, a welded steel sculpture, and a wood-cut print. In addition to work shown on the Alma campus, he has also exhibited work at Calvin College.

Design, Teri Talley's area of concentration, is one she will enhance through an internship at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago this summer. There she will be assisting in the exhibition design department and will also do preparatory layout and photo research work. After a summer of study and learning at the Field Museum, she plans to continue her

specialization in design through further study at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design.

At Alma, Talley has used her design training as layout editor for the college year-book, *The Scotsman*. For the senior exhibition, Talley has selected a wood sculpture, a ceramic work, etching, and drawing. She has also exhibited work in a special exhibit at Miami University in Oxford, (OH.)

Martha Vail will exhibit litho prints, etching, and a mixed media litho-painting.

Sara Wilson, an art education major with an emphasis on fibers, is exhibiting floor weaving and tapestry. During winter term she has been student teaching art classes at Fulton-Middleton High School.

For her senior exhibition Sheryl McCormick has selected weaving and fabric work from her concentration area in fabrics. Her interest in ceramics will be shown in slides of her work. Her work has also been exhibited at Oakland University. Eventually, McCormick would like to teach art to young children.

Council discusses elections

By Lucy Best
News Writer

Last week Student Council discussed upcoming council and class officer elections.

Petitions were available Monday, March 27. Candidates will give speeches on Wednesday evening, April 5, in A.C. 113. Elections will be conducted Tuesday, April 11.

Petitions for community government positions also were available March 27.

In regards to the recently rejected constitution, representative John Swartout questioned President Jamie Kneen's use of council funds and materials for what Swartout believed to be a personal lobbying effort. Further discussion was postponed till the next meeting so representatives could "contact their constituents."

Gripe Table reports consisted of complaints about library noise, the sound system in Dow Science Building, and locked rooms in the Academic Center preventing room use, and the closing of the Physical Education Center at 9 p.m.

Representative Tom Weede reported Gelston residents have asked for doors to be placed at the north

ends of the first floor east and west corridors.

Robert Maust, dean of student affairs, reminded the council of the archives and suggested minutes and committee reports be placed there for future reference. He explained the archives were available for the stor-

age of documents by any campus organization.

Maust also announced the second annual Faculty Breakfast will occur Friday, March 31, at 11 p.m.

Housing sign-up will begin Monday, April 3. Instructions will be distributed prior to that time.

Students nix constitution

Continued from page 3
people didn't have confidence in IFC and Pan-Hel to represent them, and that the Greeks couldn't work together. However, Kneen pointed to the fact that the Greeks pulled together to defeat the constitution, showing they can work together.

Kneen commented that, while the council may choose

to amend the constitution and present it to the students in the future, he won't do it. "I will not do it because I don't think it's right," he said.

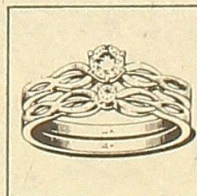
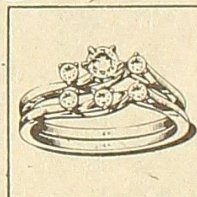
Kneen admitted that he was disappointed, but not bitter. He commented that, while he hated to say it, "Maybe the people just don't care."

Midland Arts hosts contest

The 32nd Annual Exhibition of the Michigan Water Color Society will be held this year in the Midland Art Council Galleries at the Midland Center for the Arts. Prizes of \$200 each, totalling \$1200 will be awarded to the six outstanding works in the exhibition by the juror, Mr. Walter Darby Bannard, internationally renowned artist and art critic.

Entry forms may be obtained by writing to Nancy Hawkins, 4672 Turner, Trenton, Michigan, 48183.

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Alma frosh creates minicircus

By Karen Magnuson
Managing Editor

Most anyone would agree the circus has a magical air about it. But the circus in Alma last week displayed a real magical trick: 50 ram-bunctious cub scouts turned into colorful clowns, terrific tumbling artists and dignified ringmasters.

A difficult task? Not for Alma freshman Neil Cockerline.

Cockerline, who boasts a history of circus-related endeavors, was asked to teach Alma Pack #3401 the art of clowning and other aspects of circus life. The Chelsea resident not only boasts experience traveling with circuses as a professional clown and human gorilla, but also he conducted clowning workshops throughout the past four years for children of all ages.

With only three weeks until show time, Cockerline immediately set to work to design an entire circus. Acts were decided, the boys were trained and costumes were prepared. Venita Maxwell, St. Clair Shores freshman, assisted in teaching the tumbling acts.

At last, the night of the miniaturized show arrived. The hour and one-half-long show, conducted in Alma's First Presbyterian Church, was entitled, "Let's Go to the Circus!" And what a

circus it was.

An old-time circus parade featured an assortment of bright-colored clowns, exciting acrobats donned in sparkling sequinned suits, long-legged stiltwalkers towering above the audience, and performers dressed in various animal costumes. Some of the acts included "Crazy Capers with Swami Baloni," "Mirthful Magic and Ventriloquism," "The Human Pyramids," "Toto, the Human Gorilla," and "Barrons of Balance on the High Ladders."

PRESTO! Boys, from ages 8-11, suddenly were transformed from spectators to performers. The circus offered them a world of fantasy and color. Little painted faces grinned with anticipation as their eyes seemed to shout "Look at me!" And, when the audience clapped for more, grins turned into beaming smiles of delight.

"Some of them really turned on in front of the audience," Cockerline chuckled. "For quite a few it was just like a game, and that's o.k.," he added. "It was more important to me they have fun than to put on the greatest show that was ever put on."

Although the show was a success, preparations were not free of problems. The boys, going through what Cockerline termed "that fun-

ny age," embarrassed easily.

It was hard to get them to style an act and bow -- they thought that was funny," Cockerline explained. "And they had no concept of ad-libbing. I had to teach them what to do every second."

Some of the boys stubbornly refused to wear tights for their acts, and others nearly flipped when Cockerline asked for volunteers to dress up as female clowns. "But I hate girls!" one cub wailed.

However, Cockerline emphasized, there were ways to get around problems -- the cub scouts were not forced to do anything they didn't want to.

The leaders of the pack, he noted, were a big help.

"They were probably better than any community group I've worked with before," he claimed. "They were really excited about it and the den leaders worked really hard."

He added it's important for both young and old to learn about the ways of the circus.

"That's the only way the circus will carry on. People need to be aware of it...so they can appreciate it more."

Joseph Walser, professor of religion at Alma, also was involved with the show. As the pack's secretary and assistant cub master, he suggested Neil teach the boys. Each month the cub scouts learn about a different subject; themes vary from kites and rockets to pilgrims. Of course, March featured circus life.

"Thanks to Neil and Venita, it came off very well," Walser commented. "The expertise in the area was needed, and here was a resource at the college we

could take the opportunity to use."

He added the community and Alma College students generally work well together.

"It paints a very healthy picture of student interest and their concerns...It gives a more realistic picture of what college students are all about."

Students receive honorary grants

Congratulations are in order for two Alma students who recently received honorary research grants from the Sigma Xi National Honorary Research Society.

Ron Frenette, Redford Township senior, and Dennis Gervin, Alma junior, were awarded grants of \$37.50, and \$50.00 respectively, by the Central Michigan chapter of Sigma Xi.

According to Richard Bow-

ker, assistant professor of biology, the grant program is intended to encourage independent research by undergraduates. Gervin is studying axillary glands in catfish, and Frenette is working with snails in the Pine River flood plain.

Bowker commented that these grants are quite an honor and Alma should be proud of these students' accomplishments.

MENU à la Saga

Friday, March 31, 1978
Breakfast

French Toast
Scrambled and Cooked Eggs
Lunch

Chicken Gumbo Soup
Pizza

Corned Beef Sandwich
Meat Roll-up Salad Plate
Dinner

Corn Chowder
Baked Ham
Chicken Pot Pie

Poached Turbot
Midnight Breakfast!
Scrambled Eggs
Sausage
Pancakes
Hashed Browns

Saturday, April 1
Breakfast

Apple Pancakes
Poached Eggs
Lunch
Clam Chowder
Salami & Cheese Sandwich
Ravioli
Scrambled Eggs
Dinner

French Onion Soup
Chicken

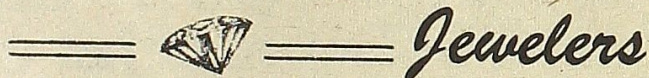
Steak
Baked Potatoes
Sunday, April 2
Breakfast

French Toast
Fried Eggs
Lunch

French Onion Soup
Roast Turkey, Dressing
Beef Ragout
Spanish Omelet
Dinner

Beef Noodle Soup
Hot Dog Reuben
Chinese Chicken Casserole
Waffles

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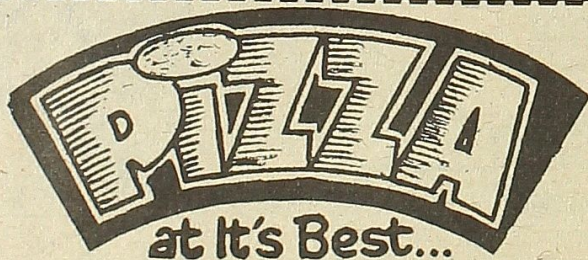
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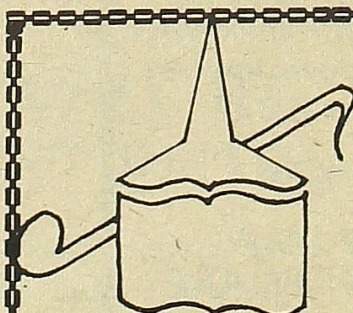
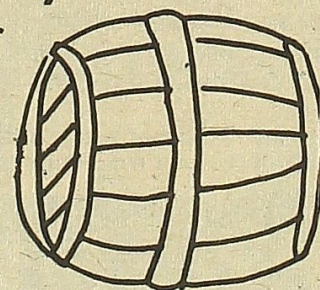
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