

The Almania

Monday, October 17, 1988

Alma College

Alma, Michigan 48801

Since 1907

Football, floats, fun

of flair and festivities Homecoming

By Becky Dine

News Editor

The campus roared with excitement as Alma College alumni made their annual pilgrimage home this past

Bands played, banners flew, and enthusiastic marchers displayed their spirit as the day began with the Homecoming Parade down Superior

Floats entered by the classes, several Greek groups, and community members were judged for top prizes, while the Homecoming court was paraded in boats, in keeping with the theme of "Island Paradise".

Following receptions and lunch with friends and family, crowds flocked to the football game between the Scots and Adrian.

"The Star Spangled Ban-

ner" was performed by Neil Jorgensen, Brad Hubbell, Mark McElwie, and Scott Bouldrey, and the Kiltie Band entertained the crowd during pre-game and half-time.

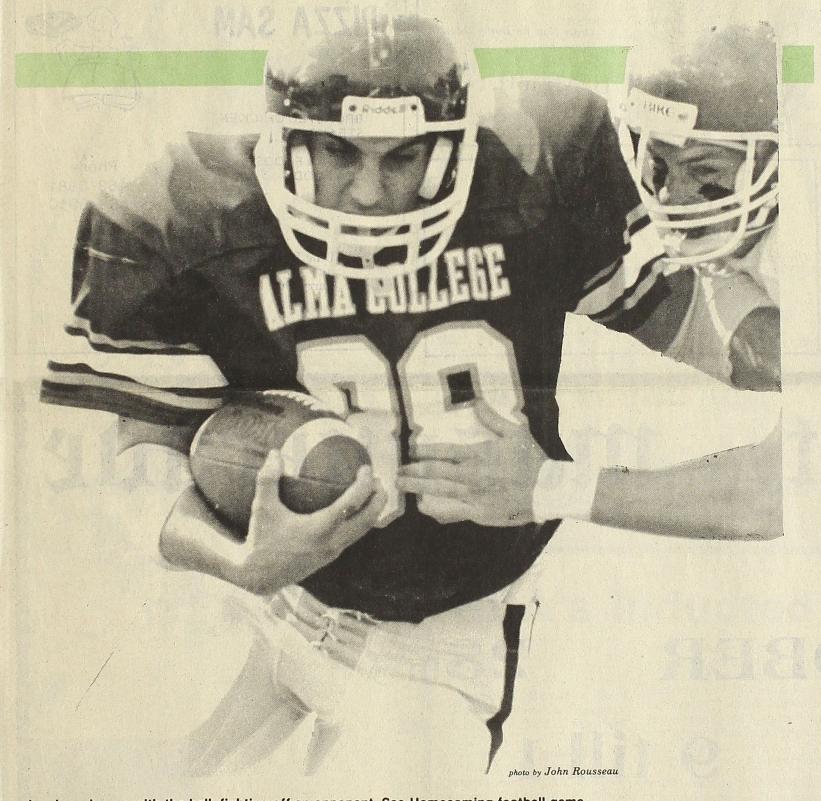
Jeff Graft and Lisa Elbers were crowned Homecoming King and Queen, and the Distinguished Alumni Award was presented to Gene Schnelz. Recipients of the Hebert Award were Albert

Dugan and his wife Jean (Cook) Dugan.

A soccer game followed at 4 p.m. against Olivet.

Later Saturday evening, alumni, faculty, and students danced the night away to the music of the Night Society Orchestra in Cappaert Gymnasium. Mocktails were served by volunteers as a part of last week's Alcohol Awareness program.

GO SCOTS!



Joe Joseph runs with the ball, fighting off an opponent. See Homecoming football game

results on page 7.

New uniforms

Kiltie band receives \$4,000

By Becky Dine News Editor

New spats and sporrans are in store for the Alma Kiltie Band as they march through another season.

As a thank-you for supportive participation in the annual Highland Festival, the Festival Board of Directors has made a generous donation to the marching band, according to Mr. Douglas Scripps, director and chairperson of instrumental music.

The \$4000 gift is to be used for uniforms, Scripps said.

The object is "not to replace the kilt and jacket," said Scripps, "but to replace sporrans, spats, hats, plaids, belts, buckles, and jewelry.

The jackets, however, are also in bad shape.

"The drycleaner said he could clean them two more

times, then they'll fall apart,

Scripps said.

The band is hoping for another donor who could help replace the jackets. The kilts are in varying conditions, and can be replaced three or four per year out of the regular department budget.

"A kilt will last about 40 years. They're made out of heavy wool. So if one is eight years old, it is still relatively new," he said.

The donation from the Highland Festival Board was presented to President Stone and Kiltie Drum Major Ed Carr at Community Appreciation Day.

The Highland Games, put on every spring, have been receiving good gate returns, and have made a small profit during at least the past two years, said Scripps.

The Board also made small gifts this year to the Red Cross and an elementary school whose students helped with the festival, he said. It also offers scholarships for Alma College students.

"We are very thankful," said Scripps.

"Replacing uniforms takes a huge amount of money, especially if doing it all at once."

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Homecoming relived

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50 years later

• FOOTBALL

play by play

• PARKING?

no wet feet

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Action packed

Inauguration activities planned

By Marcus Yamashiro

Assistant News Editor Several special activities have been scheduled for next week in celebration of the in-

Alma's new president on Friday Oct. 28.

On Wednesday, October 26 the festivities will begin. President K. Weller from Central College, Iowa will be present at Alma for a symposium entitled "Division III Philosophy and Related Issues." This will be held in

auguration of Dr. Stone as

the Jones Auditorium at 2 pm. Later in the day will be two keynote addresses. The first address, "The MIAA Model and Future Issues" will be given in the Jones Auditorium at 4 pm, by Dr. William Vanderbilt of Hope College.

Then at 6:30 there will be a dinner and at 7:30 a keynote address, "Division III Athletics," by Dr. Richard Schultz, Executive Director, NCAA. This will be held in

VanDusen Commons. Reservations are being made until October 21 at 5 pm at ext.

Thursday brings the inauguration one day closer, and also brings two more keynote speeches.

Professor Martin Marty, the Fairfax M. Cone Distinguished Service Professor of History of Modern Christianity, University of Chicago, will be speaking at 10:30 am in the Dunning Memorial Chapel. The topic of his speech will be "Religion in America: Changing Visions for the Year 2020.'

At 1:30 pm in the Jones Auditorium, Ronald Stone, Professor of Social Ethics, Pittsburgh Theo Seminary will speak. Theological

Finally, on Friday, October 28, Dr. Stone will be inaugurated. At 10:30 the delegates will arrive, and at noon a luncheon will be held for the delegates and other special guests.

The Inaugural Convocation ceremony will be conducted in the Cappaert Gymnasium at 2:30 pm with a reception afterwards.

The final activity of the inaugural week, a costume dance, "Midnight Masquerade," will be from 9 pm to 1 am in the Cappaert Gymnasium.

Books needed

A book drive is being conducted throughout the campus to collect materials for the library of our Korean sister school, Kyonggi University. Books should be brought to

the Student Congress office. According to Julie Kimball, Student Congress president, Many have already been donated by faculty and staff, and students are reminded to bring any old books from home after mid-term break.

announcement.

Reigning on a sunny day



Homecoming Queen and King Lisa Elbers and Jeff Graft react to President Stone's

Classifieds

are as follows: Wed.-Fri. Oct. 19-21 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat. Oct. 22 closed

Sun. Oct. 23 1 p.m.-midnight

The Annual Halloween Concert put on by the Alma Choir will be on Monday evening at 11:00 p.m. in the Chapel. Come join the spooks and Dream Maestro for a chilling concert you will never forget.

Midnight Masquerade October 28th from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

George Washington slept where? "George No Martha, it's "George Washington Slept Here" and it will be put on my the Gratiot County Players on October 20th at 8:00 p.m. with a student discount of \$3.50 as long you have your ID.

FOR SALE: Motor Pool Vehicle-1977 four door Chevrolet Malibou Sedan, white, 79,600 miles with radio and heater. Car will be sold by sealed bid which needs to be submittted to Director of Physical Plant at the Trower Building by 3 p.m. on October 28th. Minimum bid \$500.00. Purchaser must pay all license and title transfer fees. Vehicle may be seen at the Physical Plant Monday thru Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

DON'T FORGET: SPAN meets on Thursday's at 8:30 p.m. in the Fireside. Come join us and share our beliefs and hopes for a better

Alpha XI's The Deck Club had its hands full this weekend! Wisdom for the Week: don't get entwined with too many mad people. The TKE House has a new dog. Be home for breakfast girls, but be quiet when entering the house because Cindy sleeps on the couch. First the bathroom and now the kitchen? Congrats to Bucky and Jomie! How does it feel to be so popular? Welcome to the family Kristin, Sarah, and Christina! Homecoming was great, study hard now for those midterms!

Take good care of my brother! He needs that every once in a while! This weekend sure was fun, huh? Seen Michael yet? So who's the lucky lady? Sure hope it's not a Sigma Alpha Epsilon One, Hope everyone had a great

Alice, even though you caught Skippy's cold don't feel blue, you've found a new career as a plumber. Spearo, make sure you fix the thermostat in your room, someone could get sick from ex-

Swab keep an eye out for neck and

If symptoms appear, relax in your chair for releif. Tex, is it heads

or tails, or does it matter? More later...

Give Yourself a Break!! Wouldn't it be great to ONLY have to write your term papers, thesis, etc., and not have to type them? We will do it for you—to perfection! \$1 per double spaced page. Call Karen Snow at 681-3584 or

Women's Topics Group meets from 6 to 7 p.m. tonight in the Faculty Dining Room.

FOR SALE: one white naugahide sofa/queen size sleeper. Real good shape and is real comfortable. Perfect for those unexpected sleepover guests. Only the finest Naugas were used on this beautiful piece of furniture. A one time offer, only \$60. Also some lamps, a dresser, tables, a 25-inch color Magnavox TV, and some other stuff. Call Mark in the Media Center at 7230.

CAR FOR SALE: 19851/2 Monte Carlo SS, PB/PS, AC, Cruise, AM/FM cassette, Mint, must sell. Best offer or

On campus travel representative or organization needed to promote SPRING BREAK TRIP to Florida or Texas. Earn money, free trips and valuable work experience. Call INTER-CAMPUS PROGRAMS at 1-800-433-7747.

> LEARN TO SKYDIVE Group Rates Available call ACTION-AIR (616) 834-8340

Splat-Look at my finger!

Welcome to the family, Toddly!

Sexy dress, sis!

M.W.-When are you ever going to move out of this basement?

Sigma Alpha Epsilon Two, Gilligan, we ordered you a super POWered stethoscope for you and your quest to discover disease. It should be here soon. Good job to everyone who helped on the Homecoming activities, things worked out well.

Keep it up athletes. Don once again chalked up success, and the soccer guys kicked it out as well. Runners, keep moving! I.M. teams, you guys are doing great, two more and it is time to travel. Way to come back

and play your game!
Good luck on midterms and have
a great break. Watch out for
Brother Paddy when you return. Phi Alpha, Rapunzle



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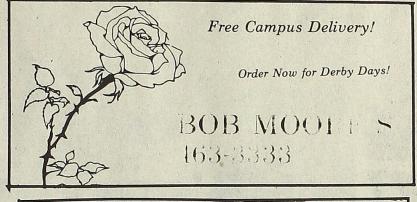
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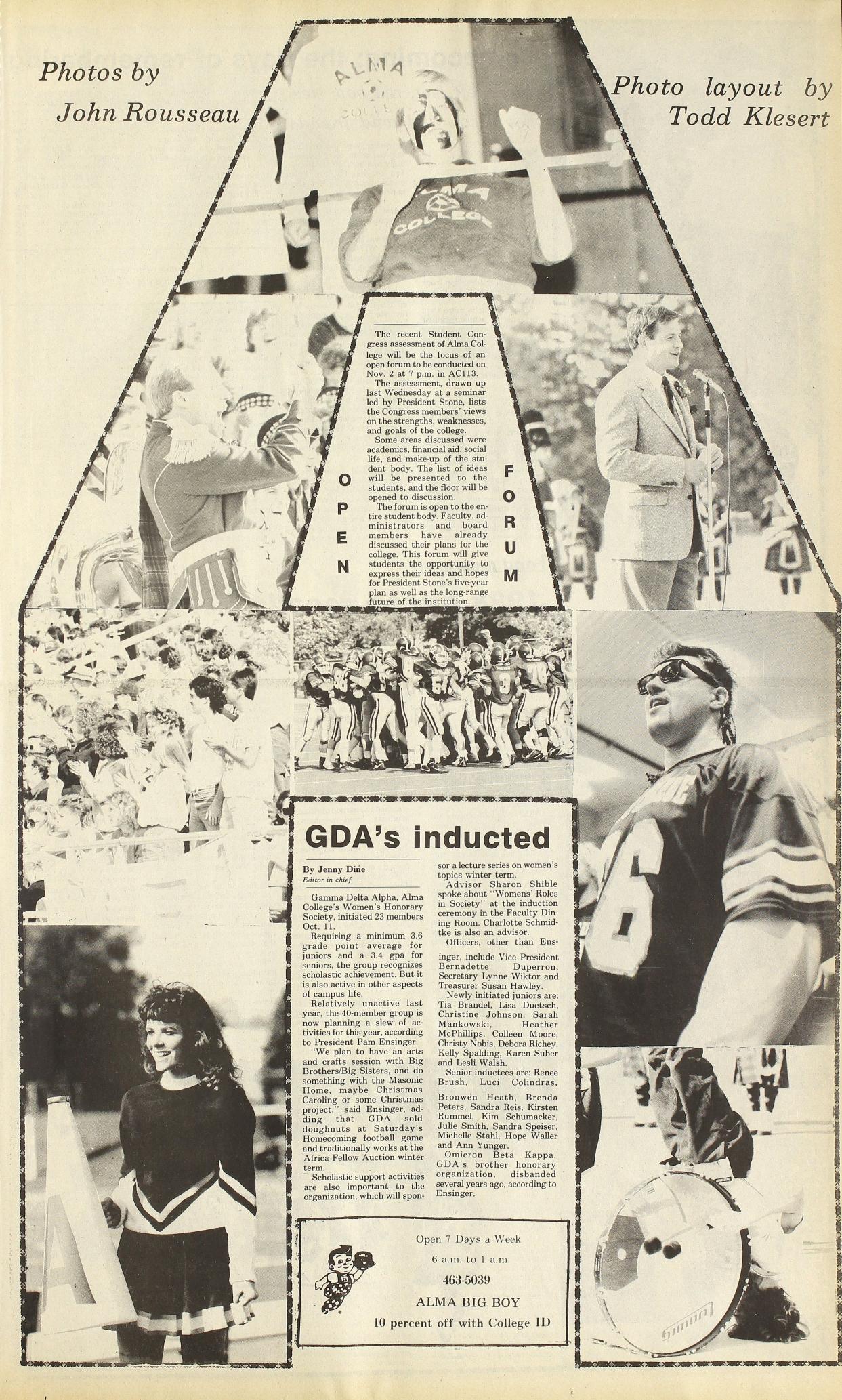
masquerade

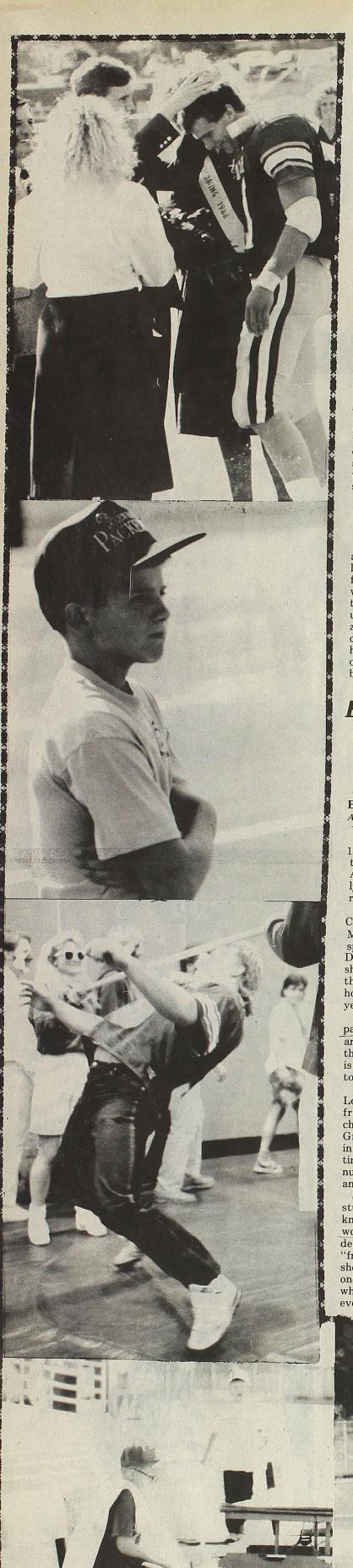
midnight

OCTOBER 28th 9 till 1

costumes encouraged

Remember Inaugural Convocation at 2:30. Attendance Required.





Homecoming: the days of remembering

three left feet, red bow ties, hot cocoa and wild friends

By Seth Twigs, Jr. Staff Writer

> Homecoming. The days of remembering.

Every fall, schools throughout America get together and try to prove their superiority over each by beating up on athletes from other schools. Gruesome as this may seem at first, it is a long standing American tradition, and one which I take dear

Homecoming is more than just another athletic contest though. We have lots of soccer games, plenty of football to watch, and field hockey, cross country, and volleyball are not singular events either. So, what makes Homecoming so

The days of remembering.

Parades, bands, wild friends. autumn, falling leaves, colored leaves, a wind, a chill, a fireside, cider, the Big Game, who will ever forget that fantastic pass and that unbelievable catch in the end zone with 5 seconds left on the clock? Sitting in the stands, hands wrapped around a cup of hot chocolate. Halftime, the band comes out, the members

shivering, their fingers freezing, the brass section unwillingly welding their wetted lips and tongues to the chilled metal mouthpieces of their instruments.

Ha! Those were the days to remember!

But we can do better than that. We don't need to remember yet. We're still here. We're living the memories as they happen.

To me, homecoming almost seems to make school worth all the trouble. Almost. My favorite part is the dances. I hate dances. I can't stand dances, and most anyone who has ever danced with me can attest to the fact that I never spent much time in learning the correct procedures. The best I can do is to swivel my hips in a poor Elvis impersonation and snap my fingers When it comes to dancing, I don't have two left feet. I have at least three. Homecoming though. That's different. I never miss a Homecoming

My physical imperfections being what they are, namely a few too many left feet, buying shoes has always been a problem. Not so with ties. I'm the kind of guy who always knows just what he is looking for in a tie. A few years back I

bought a nice (I thought) red bow tie. My girlfriend thought the thing was hideous and swore that if I ever wore the beastly article she would be my girlfriend no longer. Always ready to take a hint and aware of a certain tone of severe threat in her voice, I refrained from wearing my new purchase.

The fact is, I have never yet worn my red bow tie. She said it looked like something Pee Wee Herman would wear. Now, I like Pee Wee Herman,

Up until Wednesday night this worried me a bit, because I didn't have a date. I was depressed. Once having made the decision to wear the red thing, I had hoped to have occasion to wear it. And besides. I thought the dance might have some refreshments, maybe even cookies, of which I could partake. Whatever the reasons for my lack of popularity with the fairer sex, Wednesday evening presented a chance occurence that left me a date with a very nice

The games. The excitement. Homecoming is special.

but that does not mean that I want to dress like him. I would enjoy dances more if I could dance as splendidly as Pee Wee, but I don't want to dress like him. Even now, when I no longer see my old girlfriend, when I take that beautiful red tie out of my drawer to appreciate its form and coloring, I am struck with a certain dreadm a fear of what would happen if I were to wear it.

Like I said, homecoming is different. In the interests of having a good time to remember in the far future, like maybe next week (next week is a long way for most students), all restrictions are removed, all inhibitions are destroyed. With this in mind I have decided to wear my red. bow tie to the homecoming dance this year.

personality to match.

Not wanting to decrease my chances, I have not informed her that I cannot dance and intend to wear a red bow tie. I am looking forward to the dance, as well as the other events planned for the weekend.

The games. The excitement. The cold fall afternoons. The bands and music. Walking home with friends along the railroad tracks. Being with that one special person, hand in hand through the chill. It's all here. Live it with enjoyment and don't ever forget it.

Ah, yes.

These are the days to remember.

Fond memories

1938 queen recalls her royal reign

By Marcus Yamashiro Assistant News Editor

With the crowning of the 1988 Homecoming Queen this past weekend, Mary Alice (Damon) Fortino fondly remembered her royal reign: 50 years ago.

A 1938 graduate of Alma College, she was elected Mary Queen of Scots in the spring . This Homecoming Day, at her 50th class reunion, she has the privilege of joining the Golden Thistle Club, an honorary organization for 50 year alumni.

Although a half-century has passed, enrollment has grown, and the campus has expanded; the Alma College of yesteryear is really not so different from today.

Fortino is now living in St. Louis, a city about two miles from Alma. She attends church and is a volunteer at Gratiot Community Hospital in Alma, but she remembers a time when she was involved in numerous college committees and social groups.

She was in a class of 55 students, where everybody knew everybody else. The two words she first thought of to describe the faculty were "friendly" and "helpful." But she did have her differences; one with a Dr. Brokenshire whom she called "strict." But even with her differences, she

still considers the Alma College of years past as "one big happy family.'

She vividly recalls girls having curfews. They usually had to be in early, but "they had nights that you could be out til' 11." Of course there were those who stayed out later and had someone open the front

Parties were usually fraternity and sorority dances. Proms were also greek sponsored and were held at the Midland Country Club.

Most of all, she remembers her friends.

"Some of them are the bestold friends (I have)," she said.

For now, Mary Alice (Damon) Fortino will be looking back at a different time and remembering..."I'm looking forward to getting reacquainted and talking about old times,"...cherished memories.

Behind the scenes with floats

By Sara Amell

Staff Writer

Saturday morning, as we watched the parade of Alma students, band members, administrators, alumnae and community members drift by us down Superior Street, each of us choose a favorite entry.

We saw cars carrying Homecoming Court members, tuba players and costumed marchers, but the parade units which perhaps catch our eyes the most are the floats.

Everyone sees the streamers and tissue flowers, the students, and the women in formal gowns riding on the floats. However, few actually see the work that goes into each float.

A good float should represent the theme and should look nice, and not be hastily thrown together the night before the parade, according to Parade Chairperson Denise

"The first step to a good float is to plan every step," Coiner explained.

Junior Class President Kevin O'Shaugnessey said people have been busy planning the joint junior-senior class float, "Paradise Island," since the beginning of the

Time and money spent in the actual building varies according to each entry. For instance, O'Shaugnessey approximated \$100 for the junior-senior float, but added that this amount was above average.

This year's Homecoming parade consisted of nine floats three in each of the respective categories: campus-wide, Greek groups and community organizations. The entries will be judged by the attendees of the 50th Alma class reunion.

From our places by the curb, we will continue to see the

waves and smiles, the crepe paper, and streamers, while the makers of each of the nine floats hope their planning and efforts pay off.

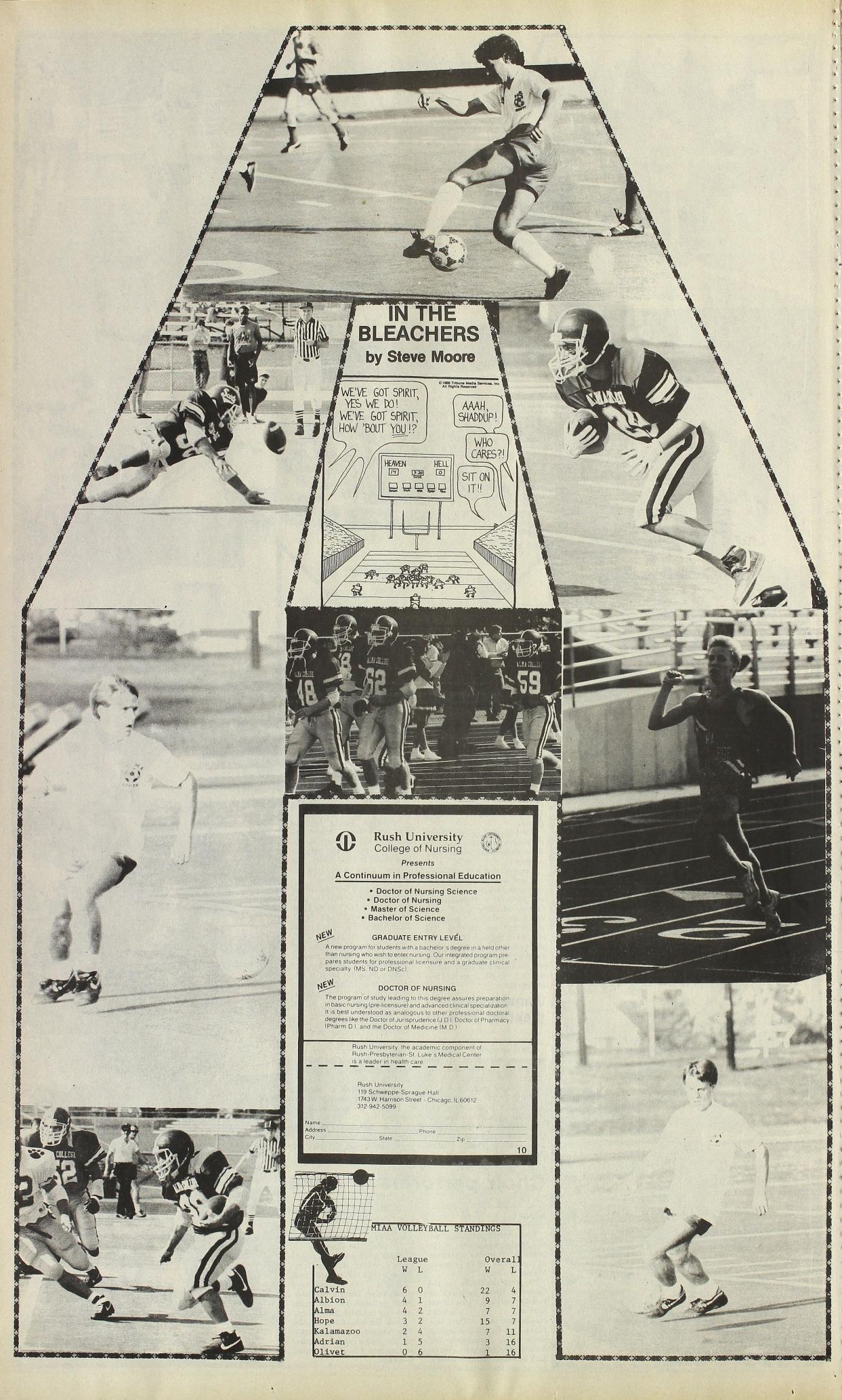
The winners of the float contest were the Zeta Sigma Fraternity with "Sig Hut" for a prize of \$150 in the Greek category; the junior/senior float "Fantasy Island," also for \$150, in the campus-wide category; and Pizza Hut was awarded a plaque in the community category.

A band competition was also conducted during the parade, and the Alma Middle School Band received a plaque for their performance.









Turf unkind to Scots in Homecoming game loss

by Ken Craig Sports Writer

The turf at Bahlke Stadium has not been kind to the Alma Scots this year. The Scots dropped their third straight game at home Saturday, losing to the Adrian Bulldogs 32-27 before a capacity homecoming crowd.

The Scot offense struggled from the start. Their first offensive play resulted in an Adrian interception. The Bulldogs drove 70 yards on 12 plays to take a 7-0 lead with less than five minutes gone in the first quarter.

The Scots' second possession resulted in another turnover as an Adrain defender stripped Jamie Wilson of the ball on second down. The Bulldogs recovered on the Alma 25. The Scot defense stood tall, and Adrian had to settle for a 38 yard field goal and a 10-0 lead.

The Scots got on the scoreboard thanks to the passing of Steve Kinne, who completed four tosses for 40 yards on the drive. Burt Jordan

scampered around the right end for the score with 37 seconds left in the quarter.

Adrian used an effective passing attack to move the ball down field on its next drive. The drive stalled on the Alma 12 yard line and the Bulldogs kicked a 29 yard field goal to stretch their lead to

The Scots fumbled the ensuing kickoff and Adrian recovered. Alma's defense forced the Bulldogs to try another field goal. The attempt was wide to the left, but an Alma player was called for roughing the kicker. The penalty gave the Bulldogs a first down on the seven yard line. On the next play, Adrian scored on a 7 yard run to increase their lead to 20-7.

The Scots refused to yield. Mixing their running and passing plays, they drove down the field and scored on a 5 yard pass from Kinne to Aaron Fletcher. Following

it appeared that the Bulldogs would go back on top, Mike Cherry jarred the ball loose from an Adrian ball carrier and recovered the fumble.

The Scots went to Jordan for three successive running plays which gained 50 yards. On the fourth play, Kinne's pitch bounced off of Jordan's shoulder pad and into the hands of a Bulldog defender. Three plays later, the Bulldogs were in the end zone on a 58 yard touchdown bomb. An unsuccessful two point conversion left Adrian with a 26-21 lead.

The Scots offense appeared undaunted, driving quickly down the field on the running of Jordan and Wilson. With 5:26 left in the third quarter, Wilson bulled his way into the end zone from two yards out. The Scots' two point conversion attempt failed, but they still led 27-26.

The teams exchanged punts and Adrian started a drive

from the 50. Two passing plays put the Bulldogs on the Alma 4 yard line. Three plays later, the Bulldogs took the lead on a 1 yard run. Another two point conversion attempt

failed and the Bulldogs led

32-27 with 7:32 left in the

The Scots started 85 yards

from the goal line, and drove to within 28 yards before the

ing fourth down and 21 with

just 1:09 remaining, Kinne

tried to find Fletcher in the

Bulldog secondary. Fletcher

was double covered on the

play and the ball fell harmless-

ly to the turf along with the

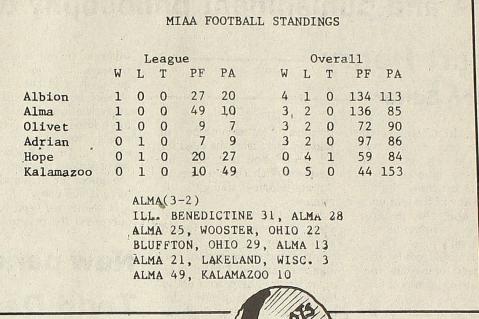
With the loss, the Scots fell

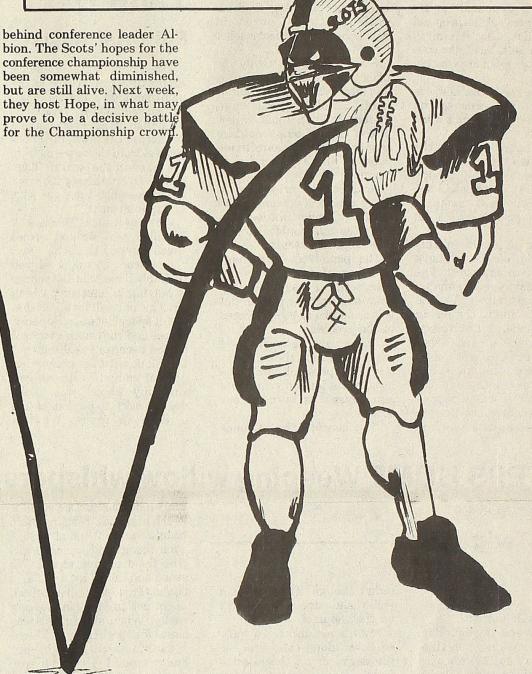
to 1-1 in the MIAA. Their

record places them in a four

way tie for second place

Scots hopes for victory.





THE RESERVED OF	4年1月20日						
	MIAA GOLF S	TANDINGS					
	AVG	TOTAL	R 1	R 2	R 3	R 4	R 5
1. HOPE	391.0	1955	360	395	401	392	407
2. CALVIN	401.4	2007	374	395	397	405	436
3. OLIVET	410.6	2053	388	405	428	402	430
4. ALBION	411.0	2055	383	421	406	422	423
5. KALAMAZOO	414.8	2074	392	408	411	423	440
6. ALMA	417.6	2088	395	415	403	422	453
7. ADRIAN	420.6	2103	408	425	413	416	441

Mike Meehleder's

extra point, the

Scots trailed 20-14. The Scot defense

stopped the

Kinne connected with Jordan

on a 40 yard pass to set up a

Kinne one yard dive. For the

first time in the game, the

Following the halftime

homecoming festivities,

Adrian came out strong. An

efficient passing game and

several Alma penalties

resulted in the Bulldogs being

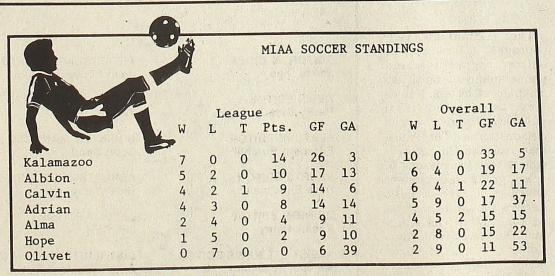
deep in Alma territory. Just as

Scots led 21-20.

Bulldogs' next drive

in three plays, forcing a punt. Adrian defense stiffened. Fac-

		(*/ a)				and method
		MI	A CROSS COUNTRY STANDINGS			
Land of the State of the Control			独自的国际的对对			
MEN	W	L		WOMEN	W	L
			*			
Hope	4	0		Alma	2	0
Calvin	3	0	*	Hope	2	0
Alma	1	1		Calvin	1	. 1
Adrian	1	2	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Albion	0	1
Albion	0	1		Kalamazoo	0	1
Kalamazoo	0	2	*	Adrian	0	2
Olivet	0	3	?			



MIAA FIELD HOCKEY STANDINGS												
League	W	L	Т	GF	GA	League	W	L	T	GF	GA	
Calvin Alma Hope	6 4 4	0 2 2	0 0 0	27 24 25	2 5 7	Kalamazoo Albion Adrian	3 1 0	3 5 6	0 0 0	14 1 0	6 36 35	



New prison proposed for Gratiot area

Crime and punishment philosophy only denies constructive deterrence initiatives

Robert Henry—

Opinion Editor—

Every so often a small community becomes enraged over proposed and eventually completed prison cites in their area. Their concerns mainly stem from fear of the criminals escaping and the general impressions negative associated with prisons.

Now Gratiot County-St. Louis in particular—has joined this growing group of concerned citizens.

I am not completely aware of the progress of the proposal to establish the minimum security prison, but I have not heard many opponents speaking out.

Perhaps the community is not threatened because the level of security is not very dangerous.

I would not suggest that the prison would be that dangerous; however, I hope that the area citizens will not sit idly now, only to complain about the prison once it is

Building a prison in this area would obviously have significant advantages. The prison would increase employment opportunities for the county. Assuming the hiring is done locally, the prison would provide jobs in areas custodial and maintenance care to social work and psychotherapy.

The building of new prisons always alleviates the burden of overcrowding in our current

prisons. As the number of felonies increases, the need for adequate housing also increases. With the number of "minor felonies" rising, this is

From an academic point of view, this new facility would also bring myriad opportunities and resources for college students and faculty to draw upon. The prison could be an extention of the classroom, bringing field experience to a course in psychology or political science or education.

Students could easily be placed in various practicums and internships if those will be made available. Although prisons exist in Ionia, a new prison in St. Louis would increase the possibilities because of its proximity to

Granted, the prison would bring practical economic and academic opportunities, but the situation would also produce negative results.

The perceived or perhaps real fear of criminals is not necessarily a reason to keep from building the prison, but it is a concern to be considered in the process.

To explain the reason I might be against the construction of the prison, I need to approach the idea of crime and punishment as seen in our society.

First, consider the attitudes

inherent in our minds about prisons. On one hand, we generally feel that criminals should be locked up-throw away the key. Sometimes we have hope for remission, but mostly we know a hopeless case if On the other hand, we complain that prisons are too good for criminals; they have it too easy.

It seems we need to define our goals for prisons a little

more clearly. I suggest aiming rehabilitating toward criminals if possible. I am not saying that all or even half of them have a chance, but let's not kid ourselves. Most criminals usually learn to become better criminals in prison. They have no intrinsic motivation to change. They are not threatened by prison or possible death.

Capital punishment has

received much attention from both "wings" of the political spectrum. It is evident that this punishment serves no constructive purpose other than to "get rid of" the criminal; we get revenge.

This "eye for an eye" philosophy reaks of inhumanity and ignorance. Be it for moral or logical reasons, this "punishment" is more unusual than cruel I suppose; nevertheless, it is not going to decrease crime or recidivism by previous offenders-at least not significantly.

More seriously, our entire penal system is ineffective and inefficient. The methods we have of deterrence run contrary to most psychological theories about human instincts toward punishment. Our methods of deterrence are completely backwards.

I am not naive enough to believe that every criminal is able to be rehabilitated; however, I would suggest a dramatic change in punitive philosophy. Instead of negative punishment after the crime is committed, positive reinforcement of accepted societal values should be ingrained into all our lives.

In other words, let's ride the horse facing the front where we can see ourselves more clearly and honestly. In a way I almost have to laugh at my own suggestion because it sounds absurd compared to the status quo or any alternative plan.

We can choose a constructive solution, or we can perpetuate the criminal cycle.

So should we build a new prison? Of course we should. I would rather gain the advantages of the new facility for now, and perhaps see a philosophical shift away from pointless punishment to constructive prevention.

So I remain practical in my

New parking lot: needed convenience?

Todd Deci-

Editorial Assistant -

I hate having wet shoes. Every time I'm late for an appointment on campus, I cut across the lawn to save time. And just about every time I cut across the lawn, my shoes get wet from the dew-or from the snow in the winter. Then I have to sit there with cold, wet shoes until I'm done with my appointment.

Wet shoes suck. This is why I smiled as I walked across south campus the other day.

I noticed, as many of you probably have, that the college is putting in another parking lot. This one will fill up all that awful space between Superior Street and the tennis courts. I smiled because I realized that I could now cut across another part of campus without getting my shoes wet. Dew doesn't stick to pavement like it does to grass. What a

convenience.

I was, of course, equally thrilled when I returned to school earlier this year to find the new lot between Gelston and Mitchell. New pavement seems to be showing up all over campus. Everywhere you look, you find that beautiful blacktop where there was once

I figure that if this trend continues, there soon will be no grass at all, and I'll be able to walk anywhere on campus with dry feet by the time I graduate. What a convenience.

But dry feet aren't the only advantage of an all-blacktop campus. Heavens no! Why, I'm sure that all the new parking lots will also provide us with opportunities to meet new and interesting people, as Alma College is sure to become a haven for skate-

And with all the grass and trees replaced by pavement, all the the birds will move

Also, as people don't like to lie out on pavement, no one will be trying to get a tan around here anymore. No more half-naked bodies of men and women in their physical primes around here. No sir. Think of all the skin cancer cases that will be prevented. What convenience indeed!

elsewhere and will no longer

wake me up in the morning

with all that horrid chirping.

Why, I'll be able to enjoy my

bad moods in peace!

What? You ask why I haven't listed more parking spaces as an advantage? Well, we already have thirty extra spaces for student parking as it is, so the extra seventry-two that we're getting probably won't make that much of a difference. But at least we'll have dry feet. What a convenience.

Meteorite?! Volcano? Superior Mammalian Competition or Changing Plant Life?!??!

NO000.....

LETTERS HOME Weeping willow whispers Seth Twigs, Jr.-Dear Nell, didn't though. The guys just smiled and punched each other College life is great. on the shoulder.

Thursday was my birthday. My entire corridor sang Happy Birthday to me. My corridor is not in the choir. I know

A friend brought over a plate of cookies that her grandma had made. With friends and grandmas like that, yep,

College life is great.

The highlight of last week was pianist Frank Wiens with the Alma Symphony Orchestra. It is perhaps evidence of the influence of animated television cartoons on our generation that I could not close my eyes to take in the power, depth, scope, and beauty of the music without envisioning little furry animals cavorting and galavanting about the wooded countryside trying to blast each other with bazookas and blue elephant guns. What's up, Doc?

This week was homecoming and that made for lots of activities. Parents and alumni were everywhere and the food was better than usual. My date for the dance didn't work out quite as well as expected (do they ever?), and I didn't get to wear my red bow tie.

The whole business of homecoming got me to thinking about home of course. I keep remembering the night of my high school graduation. It was our last night together, I wanted to take a hold of everybody and never let go. I

My friends and I, we walked down along the water, on the docks or on the railroad tracks. Ever since we were in fourth grade we've always competed to see who could walk on the rails the longest without falling off. We haven't had a train come through town since the mill closed down, but the tracks are still there. Just for kids and recent graduates to walk on, I think. Funny thing is, I can't walk on that rail any better now than I could in fourth grade.

They have rails here in Alma too. We still walk on them.

I don't think I will ever forget anything about that last night. The way the sky smelled, the long grass, the rails shining in the glow, the park bench, the way the streetlights reflected on the water, and the shadows that grew everywhere. The way we walked as friends, laughing, looking at each other with eyes that won't see those friends as close ever again. But if we knew that, we didn't think about it. We simply walked, just being, and glad about it.

It had to end, of course. Like high school itself did. I walked home, coming up the street and noting the flowers in the yards along the road. Marigolds here, panzies there, dandelions marking our house. There is an old willow in the yard at the Home Place, and as I walked down the street I could make out a figure stan-

ding under the curtain strands of the branches. Nothing more than a dark outline at first, I soon recognized her as a girl who lived on our street. We stood and talked for a while, in the night, just the two of us, about nothing very interesting really. When she said it was time for her to go, I said something well thought out and profound. I think it was 'Yeah, me too.' And then I did what I had been longing to do all evening. I took hold of her, and she of me, and we held on to each other for what seemed a long time. Not nearly long enough. When I stepped away, the light of the moon was reflecting on her face in long streaks that looked like the trails that tears make when they decide to come out and slip away.

Alone after she left, I stood and heard in the quiet that is a northern day's end the spring breeze searching and sifting through the long leaves of the willow. It was a soft sound. A whispering, weeping, willow sound.

Goodbye to the hometown

Goodbye to friends walking the rails together.

Goodbye to standing around the drive on Saturday nights, not wanting to go in just yet.

Goodbye to a girl I knew, who lived on my street. Who walked home alone with tears in her eyes.

Goodbye to more than any of us could ever, will ever,

Love, Seth.



The Almanian courages letters to the editor. Signatures and phone numbers must accompany all letters. Names may be omitted from publication under special circumstances. The Almanian reserves the right to edit letters for reasons of space, grammar or content which is abusive or false. Letters should be addressed to: Editor, The Almanian, Newberry Hall, Alma College, Alma, Michigan 48801. Deadline for letters is Thursday at 5 p.m. for the following Monday's paper.



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