

The Almanian

Alma College

Alma, Michigan 48801

Since 1907

Issue 11

Human rights week

Declaration includes 295 from Alma College

By Kristine Lovasz
Staff Writer

The names of 295 Alma College students and faculty are included on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a document being presented to the United Nations Dec. 10.

The presentation will conclude Human Rights Week, Dec. 5-9.

Saturday marks the 40th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a United Nations document which defines and supports universal human rights.

Amnesty International (AI) will be presenting signatures from around the world to the United Nations that day in support of this document.

The purpose of the presentation of signatures is to in-

crease public awareness and to show support of the Declaration.

An independent worldwide organization, AI works to stop torture, promote fair and prompt trials of political

people who are in prison because of their belief system," said Diane Schefke, president of the campus AI group.

"We work for them as long as they don't advocate

During Human Rights Week, AI will be sponsoring a petition table in Hamilton Commons, a candle in McIntyre Mall, displays in the Library, and WABM will only be playing music by artists who support Amnesty International. These artists include U2, Sting, and Phil Collins.

The AI group on campus meets every Tuesday at 9:00 p.m. in AC B-02.

"The group is very open," said Schefke.

"The more letters that are sent the more effective our group will be."

Next term, Amnesty International will be sponsoring a speaker, petition tables in Hamilton Commons and the Academic Center, Human Rights Concert Videos and a Can-Drive.

AI has worked in behalf of over 25,000 persons since it was founded in 1961.

prisoners and acquire the release of prisoners of conscience. With letters to government officials and public awareness methods, AI has worked on behalf of over 25,000 persons since it was founded in 1961.

"Prisoners of conscience are

violence," she said.

AI members manned petition tables in Hamilton Commons and the Academic Center to acquire the signatures being presented this Saturday.

"This is a monumental achievement," said Schefke.

Candy cane ballerinas make Orchesis suite

Senior Orchesis members Hope Waller and Ann Yunger perform a student-choreographed ballet in preparation for this weekend's three Orchesis performances: 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and a 3 p.m. matinee Saturday in Dow Auditorium.

Tap, traditional Scottish, avant-garde and jazz numbers are also included on the program.

Tickets are \$3 for non-students and \$2 for students, available at the Box Office (463-7306) or at the door.

A reception will follow each performance, providing refreshments and an opportunity to speak with the 55 dances and director Carol Fike.

See related story, page 4.

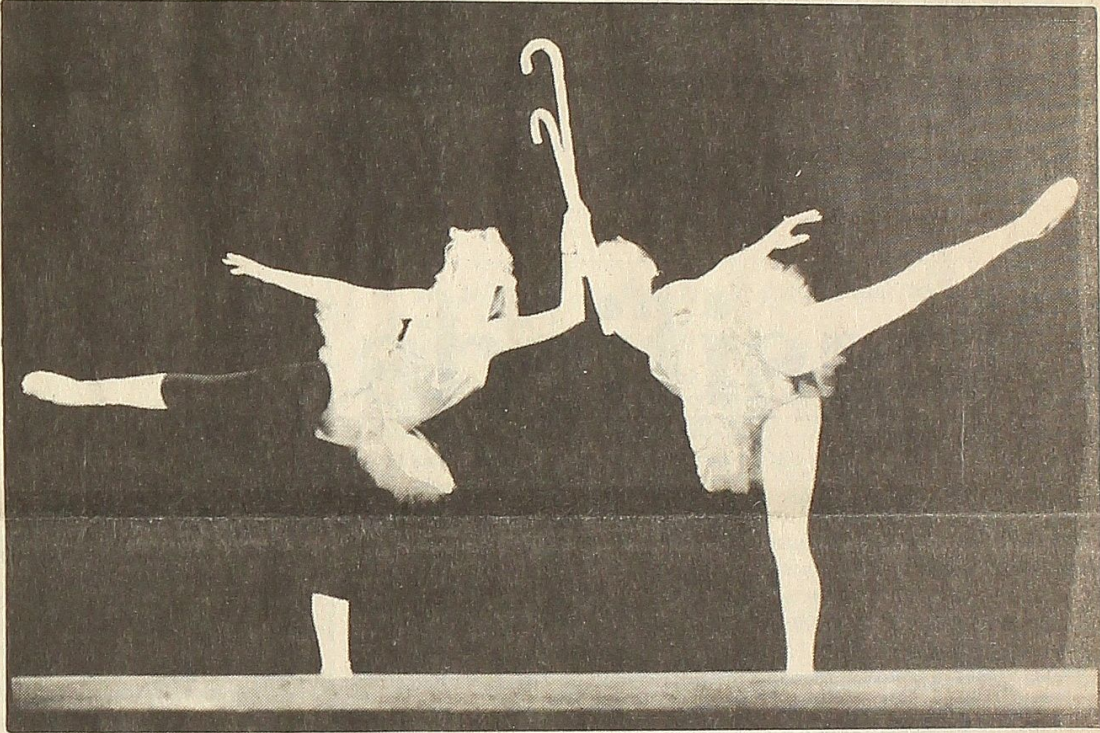


photo by Todd Klesert

Students sacrifice for the season

By Catherine Swender
Staff Writer

Christmas is a time full of holiday cheer, decorations, and celebrations. It is also a time for giving, especially to those who are less fortunate than ourselves.

For the 3rd year, the Alma College Community is working together with the Gratiot County Child Advocacy Organization to aid needy children and their families through the Adopt-a-Family Program.

This program allows different campus groups to adopt a needy family and donate to them items like coats, blankets, clothes, boots, and toys.

According to Ruth Ann Far-

rier, a coordinator of the college's involvement in this program, a basic philosophy is that no child should go without food, clothes, or gifts during the holidays.

Promotion of the program began during the first week of November when letters were sent to various campus organizations informing them of the Adopt-a-Family Program. Organizations who wished to become involved chose a family to help and began collecting items that the family needed.

Before Christmas, these gifts will be collected, wrapped, and given to each family.

Kristie Palus, a member of Gamma Sigma Sigma is glad that her sorority is involved in this program. "This season is such a lonely time for some people. It's nice to be able to

do something for those less fortunate."

There is still time for students to become involved in this program. Whether students wish to adopt a family or person, donate any money or gifts, or collect food for the families, all help is appreciated.

"There are so many people out there who have less than we do, and they are so thankful for anything we can do to help," stated Farrier. "It helps me put everything into perspective and appreciate more what I have."

Anyone interested in helping the needy through this program can contact on campus Ruth Ann Farrier (7357), June Teverbaugh (7141), or Sue Deel (7139).

By Becky Dine
News Editor

Library hours were again discussed by Student Congress at last Wednesday's meeting.

According to Bill Schultz, who is working with Peter Dollard to increase the library's hours, Dollard is willing to open the library at 11 a.m. on Sundays, but he needs to know that students will actually use the time.

"He needs a sign," said Schultz.

Schultz also said that Dollard suggested cutting one hour each off of Friday and Saturday night to prevent the necessity of an increased budget to accommodate the new hours.

Many Congress members strongly opposed this. Congress agreed to propose to Dollard a one or two month trial period with no cut in hours, which it hopes will go into effect next term.

Rick Lantz reported to Con-

Reps oppose cuts to add study hours

gress that 224 students from 21 different high schools were registered for High School Leadership Day, which was planned for Dec. 1. Campus tours, lunch, leadership seminars and discussion groups were all on the agenda, he said.

Dean of Students Jim Kridler reminded students that residence halls will open on Monday at noon after vacation. The first meal served at SAGA will be Tuesday morning, but Joe's Place will be open on Monday night. Students will be able to pick up their cards at the Marriott office and use Munch Money for dinner, he said.

According to Kevin O'Shaughnessy, Student Congress treasurer, \$263.21 is in the supplies account and

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\$8742.37 is in contingency. \$650 was returned by one of the IM teams because it cancelled its trip.

Mitchell Hall requested \$400 from contingency to repair its pool table. Congress agreed to allot \$200 and ask the hall to pay the other half.

\$95.10 was raised from the can drive to help send books to Kyonggi University, Congress President Julie Kimball announced.

Union Board announced the appointment of Todd Deci as technical manager, Bernadette Duperron as publicity coordinator and Lisa Wooton as public relations director.

Chris Reinsma informed Congress that EPC added courses in watercolor painting.

see CONGRESS page 2



Art by Brad Guigar



Student congress

continued from page 1

planetary science, and Indian literature. He also said that several professors expressed concerns to the committee that Homecoming was too close to mid-terms and interfered with studies, so Homecoming has been scheduled accordingly for the next four years.

Judicial reported that two fraternities were given \$50 fines for discharging fire extinguishers. The fraternities requested that the extinguishers be encased in something instead of being left out in the open.

The Student Life Committee reported that it had spoken with fraternities about the impact of pledging on grades, and that it would be meeting with sororities in the near future.

Julie Kimball also said that she talked with President Stone about the difficulty students have in being able to call off campus at night. Three extra trunks were found at physical plant and hooked up, she said, so that should not be a problem in the future.

Next week's meeting will include the Student Congress Christmas party.

Student Congress conducts open meetings every Wednesday night at 7 in AC 113.

Stones show Christmas cheer

By Karen McDonald
Staff Writer

This year Alma College will be celebrating Christmas with a new twist. President and Mrs. Stone have invited all Alma College students to their home for a Christmas open house held on Sunday, Dec. 11.

The open house will be held from 2 pm to 6 pm and is one of six open houses being held for various groups such as the faculty and the Alma community.

"We thought it would be a nice opportunity for students to have a break before exams and celebrate the Christmas tradition," Joneita Stone explained.

President Stone added that he has been impressed with the amount of students that have been dropping by during his designated hours and hopes that they will attend the Christmas open house as well.

This will be their first open house of this type, and the Stones are hoping for a good attendance.

Raccoons pronounced innocent, real bad guys uncovered

(CPS)--Oakland Community College in Michigan has exonerated the raccoons who share its Highland Lakes campus of eating its computer system.

Campus investigators last week switched the blame for an August 31 campuswide computer system blackout to biped maintenance workers.

Officials initially blamed a group of raccoons for, well, bytting through a main computer system cable. "It had happened before," OCC

spokesman George Cartsonis explained contritely.

But investigators have now concluded campus workers had let the cable slip against hot water pipes, and the heat from the pipes melted the cable, eventually shorting out the whole system.

It was left to Cartsonis to explain the miscarriage of justice to the public. "Just because raccoons wear masks," he said, "doesn't mean they are always the bad guys."

Classifieds

Dirty Dancing like its never been done before. Feel the excitement. ORCHESIS
December 9 & 10, 8:00 pm
December 11, 3:00 pm

CPR instructors-Recertification for current instructors will be held at the American Red Cross office in Alma on Tuesday, November 29 at 6:00 pm. If you are interested contact Irene at 7181.

Hey Dude-Orchesis Dec. 9,10,11
It is cool!!!

Anyone interested in becoming an American Red Cross Instructor for CPR. A class will be held at the Red Cross office in Alma on Dec. 7 & 8 at 6:00 pm. For more details contact Irene at 7181.

DON'T FORGET!! SPAN meets every Thursday at 8:00 pm in Van Dusen Fireside. Come join us as we share our beliefs and hopes for a better world.

A look into movement...Discovery of inner self...Orchesis
December 9 & 10, 8:00 pm
December 11, 3:00 pm

Dave-
Have you resolved all your problem with the brown murky gunk at the bottom of your Mellow Yellow?

Don't Worry, Be Happy ORCHESIS

KI's and Brothers,
Don't forget this Friday is our Christmas party!!! Get your person a great present!!! Good luck on your finals!!
Your loving sis,
Pat

Modern pieces of art form, done in exuberant colors. Orchesis- Reception following every performance.

Women's Topics Group
Tonight at 6:00 pm in Faculty Dining Room

SIG I -
Who's that sharp-dressed guy that's been hanging around the house lately? To those who survive "soon you will feel an irresistible pull towards a far away land - the gathering - there can be only one. Congratulations to all new officers; may you carry on the tradition with pride. When the time comes you'll know what to do. Good luck to everybody these last days of the term. See you in '89.

OBSESSION: A personal struggle. An Orchesis Production

3 on 3 HOOP TOURNAMENT
January 15, sponsored by Zeta Sigma - proceeds to Big Brothers/Big Sisters. First Prize is \$150. Entry fee \$30 per team. Pro. Amateur. Over 30, Womens Divisions. For more info call the house.

Alpha Gams I-
The house looks like Christmas Wonderland - It's great!! Thanks, everyone, for all of your help because it surely paid off!!

What a fantastic time everyone had Saturday night at our Christmas party. It's good to know we all can get together during such a hectic time and enjoy the holiday season.

Modern, Instrumental, Interesting Sign of Life...
"Perferatum holem" - see what it is all about.
Simply Irresistible...
ORCHESIS CONCERT
December 9 & 10, 8:00 pm
December 11, 3:00 pm
Reception following every performance

Alpha Gam II-
A special thanks from Lisa to everyone who came to the "Mystery Event" last week. Even when everyone is under so much stress, we realize the importance of true friends. It's also special to hear how everyone is bound together by Alpha Gamma Delta. Sisterhood, understood, always binds us together.

Good luck on exams, and have a very relaxing break!!!
The Pub Crew

Winter term housing available for non-smoker who desires to live off campus. Please call after 6 pm at 463-8307.

To All KI's and Brothers!!!
HAVE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TOO!!!!

As times go by
and seasons change

And planets move
from age to age

I feel like a target
on a firing range

As time goes by
and seasons change

Rick Garcia

Kevin,
Good job in making to the semi-finals. Sorry we couldn't see you play.

Hey!!!
Go to Orchesis Dance Concert- could you ask for anything more? Superb dancing, exciting music, full of surprises and a special added bonus - a reception following every performance.

Go to the Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Christmas Concert. Celebrate the holidays with friends.

Sigma Alpha Epsilon,
Ho Ho Ho!
Holly House, a success. Great job everyone and thanks to all who celebrated with us.
Is it live or is it Digger?
Hey Jethro, do you have a new address now?
X, Mule, Tex and Spearo, once again a hit, but you guys are bad. Bennie, selective memory or what?
Hope everyone does well on finals and has happy holidays!
Phi Alpha, Rapunzle

Hear your friends sing on stage! See a live barbershop quartet!! Take a date, take a chum, take everyone!
The money from every ticket sold goes to SUPPORT the UNITED WAY!!!
COME to the PHI MU ALPHA SINFONIA CHRISTMAS CONCERT this FRIDAY in DUNNING MEMORIAL CHAPEL, and celebrate the Christmas spirit.

on each page to American Poetry Association, Dept. CN-74, 250 A Potrero Street, P. O. Box 1803, Santa Cruz, CA 95061.

Poems are judged on originality and sincerity. Every poem is also considered for publication.

In the last six years the American Poetry Association has sponsored 27 contests and awarded \$101,000 to 2,700 winning poets. Poems postmarked by December 31 are eligible to win. Prizes will be awarded by February 28, 1989.

Poetry contest, prizes!!!

A trip to Hawaii for two is the new Grand Prize in the American Poetry Association's latest poetry contest. There is also a \$1,000 First Prize. In all, 152 poets will win \$11,000 worth of prizes. Contest entry is free.

"Students have been winners in all our contests," said Robert Nelson, the publisher for the Association. "So I urge students to enter now. Later they may be too busy with exams."

Poets may send up to five poems, no more than 20 lines each, with name and address

THE ALMANIAN

WISHES TO EXTEND SEASON'S GREETINGS
AND BEST WISHES FOR A SUCCESSFUL 1989

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ALMA VIDEO WORLD
CALIFORNIA TONING
EUROTAN
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HIGHLAND AUR Lanes and Lounge
TOM BILLIG FLOWERS AND GIFTS
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Creative Corner

Everlasting

We know each other
Like no two people have known each other before.
I know your hopes and fears.
I know your past like not even you do: objectively.
You know my dreams and nightmares,
the shadows from my past that continue to haunt me.
And those that don't.
I finish your sentences.
You start mine for me.

Yet we continue to fascinate
and even surprise each other,
growing ever closer
even though we are farther
apart than ever before.
We will make it,
You and I,
because We love each other
Like no two people have ever Loved each other before.

Like no two people will ever Love each other again.
I am yours,
You are mine,
and
I Love You.

Rick Garcia

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Phone calls subside, but harasssment continues

By Jennifer Dine
Editor in chief

Although intimidating phone calls to two campus women have subsided, harasssment has not. One of the women continued to receive calls at work and at home over Thanksgiving break, and was followed by a license-less car on her return to Alma. The car attempted to run her off Luce Rd., and a man wearing a ski mask and carrying a baseball bat got out of his vehicle and approached hers when she pulled to the shoulder, according to Dean of Students Jim Kridler. She pulled away and drove safely to the college. The other vehicle temporarily pursued, but turned around in the Pine River Country Club parking lot at the corner of Luce Rd. and Lincoln Rd, he said. A police and college in-

vestigation continues to point toward an on-campus perpetrator. "If someone is playing 'Catch me if you can,' it's a pretty sick thing to do to risk expulsion," said Kridler. A third woman has also reported harassing calls to the Student Affairs office, this time conducted by both a man and a woman. The calls began Nov. 17, but were not reported until Nov. 28. "Even with heightened awareness, here's a student who is being harassed but didn't come forward for 10 days. We can't help if we don't know what's going on," said Kridler, adding that the calls are believed to be a student prank and that one of the voices is "vaguely familiar" to the woman. Other students are also reporting suspicious activity on campus. A male student claiming to be a resident assistant knock-

ed on a Bruske woman's door the night of Dec. 3. According to the woman (identity withheld upon request) she opened the door and he said "You shouldn't open the door if you don't know who it is." The woman did not

have been being more careful. That's good, and that's positive." Police, security and faculty members are continuing to surveil the campus "to be more eyes and ears," and "two or three new lights" are being

"If someone is playing 'Catch me if you can,' it's a pretty sick thing to do to risk expulsion."
—Dean of Students Jim Kridler

recognize him, but believes he is a student. The previous evening, another Bruske woman had propped an exterior door when a male student warned her he had seen a "guy sitting on a car with a baseball bat looking in the window" in Mitchell Parking Lot. "We ask anyone with any information to come forward. The \$500 reward applies to all situations," said Kridler, adding that overall "students

installed near Gelston Hall. Twenty-three new lights were installed on campus over the summer. "It's impossible to watch everything all the time. The people doing it would stand out. It's a matter of doing it randomly," said Kridler. "I urge students not to believe everything you hear," said Kridler, dispelling the rumour that an arrest has been made. "There have been no arrests,

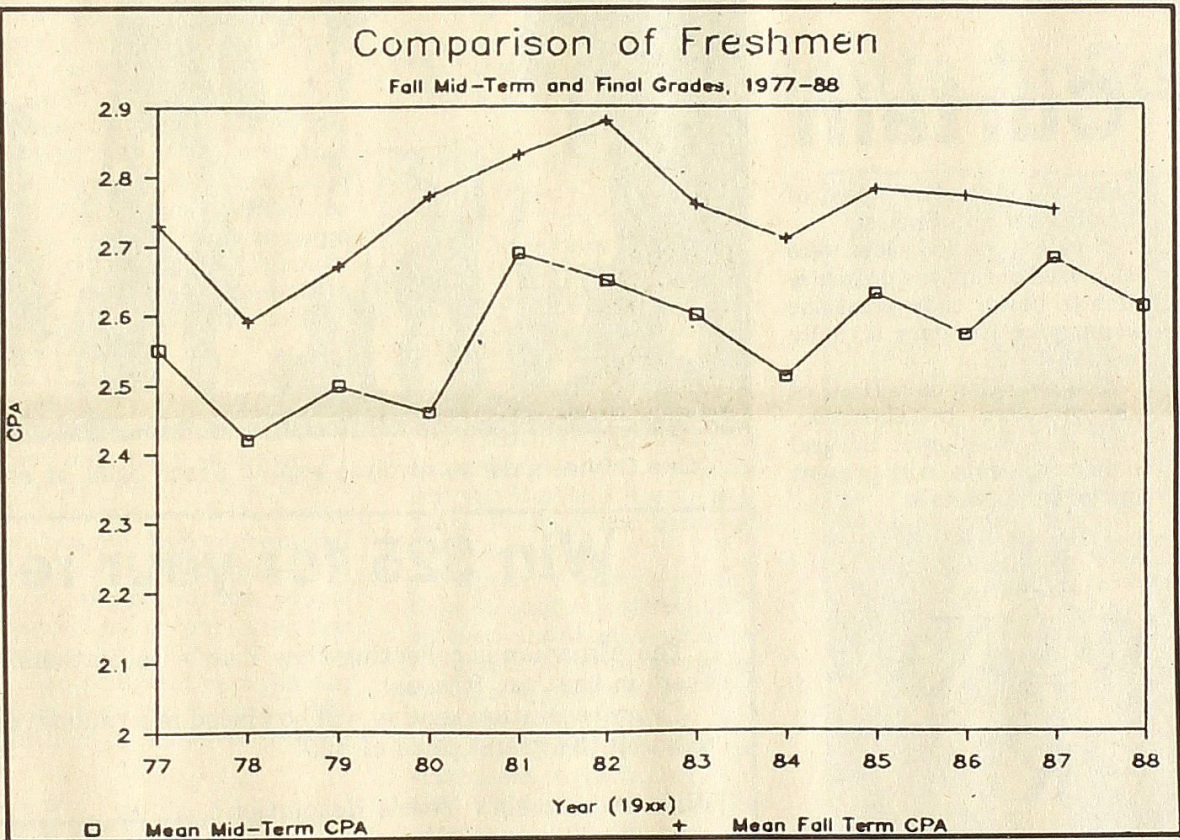
unfortunately," he said. A positive identification will be public immediately, said Kridler, but "we will not put out a memo every day or every two days for a soap opera update." A 28-year-old Edmore man, Randall Meirs, was informed last week that he is "not welcome" on the Alma campus, but that incident is related to loitering and is not believed to be connected to other happenings on campus. "His description is very different from the description of the man in the car (that followed the woman)," said Kridler. "He had been hanging around the gym for two or three weeks. He has been informed that he is not to come back or he will be subject to prosecution," said Kridler. "His paroll officer has also been informed," said Kridler, adding that he is uncertain

what Meirs served prison time for, but that it may have been for an attempted abduction surrounded by personal circumstances eight or nine years ago. "He's the first person we've identified who we really don't want around." Confrontations with local high school students before Thanksgiving break are also unrelated to the continuing harasssment, said Kridler. "There have been no more confrontations with high school students. We've worked out an arrangement with the high school that students wishing to use our library must get signed permission from the principal, and show it when they enter the library. "The students are not welcome unless they have specific business. That includes faculty children," he said.

Freshman class grades destined upwards

By Marcus Yamashiro
Assistant News Editor

Midterms are long gone, and finals are nearing, but looking back may show freshman what's up for the future. Freshman this year had a cumulative GPA (CPA) of 2.61, which is normal when compared to the past 11 years (see graph). The CPA has gone up for freshmen from the midterm grade to the final an average of .18. A problem that has arisen is 20 percent of the students in the freshman class have GPA's below a 2.0. This is a higher percent than normal. What are the chances that the CPA will go down? Not very good according to Bill Potter, "If it would be lower at the end ...I would be shocked!"



Stress management vital during exams

By Jennifer Dine
Editor in chief

The effects of "stressing out" over exams can linger longer than a week. Meeting the demands of academic pressure can put a very real physical strain on the body, and "is a common underlying factor in a great range of illnesses," according to the Mental Health Association of Michigan. And continued stress can make dealing with both physical and emotional situations progressively problematic. "Everyone is very different in terms of what you find stressful," according to *Understanding Stress*, a leaflet produced by the Mental Heal Association of Michigan and distributed by Wilcox Mer cal Center. Reactions to similar inci,ents, intensity of response and inherited factors all vary from individual to individual.

"Everyone is very different in terms of what you find stressful."
—Mental Health Association of Michigan

Ferguson embraces new position at Alma

By: Seth Twigs, Jr.
Staff Writer

Last Thursday, Dr. John Ferguson took over his new post as Director of the Capital Campaign at Alma College. The main task facing the campaign right now is raising funds for the renovation of the Dow Science building and the construction of a new theater. Dr. Ferguson is replacing Mr. Art Rathjen, who left Alma for a position at Penn State University. Mr. Rathjen, who was an 1982 graduate of Alma College with a B.A. in biology, started working for Alma in 1983 as the Director of Annual Giving, before taking over the Capital Campaign in early 1988. Mr. Rathjen was also very active in the United Way, serving as President of the United Way of Gratiot County. He also acted as advisor to the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity. Dr. Ferguson, whose son Jay is an Alma College freshman, makes his home in Spring Lake.

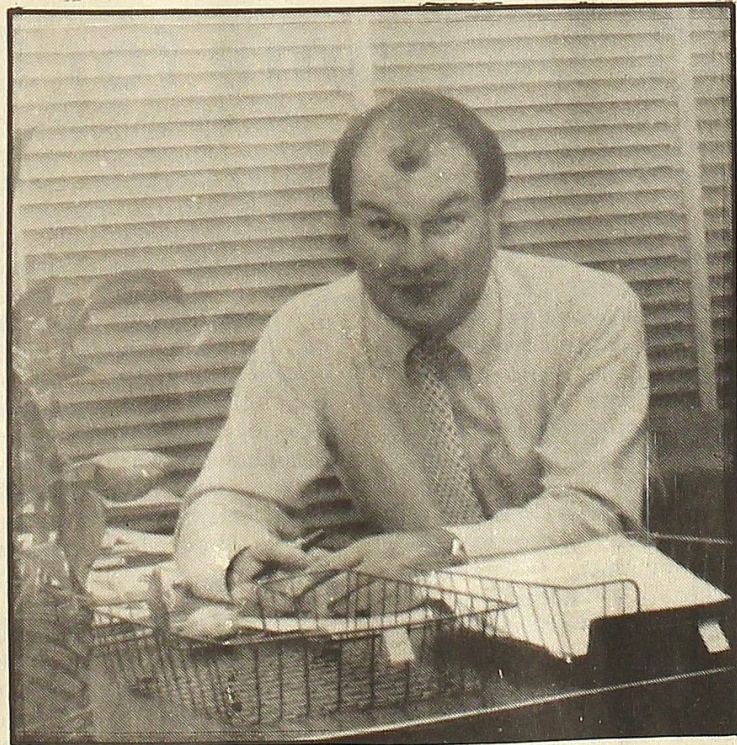
He owns a restaurant (the Piano Factory) in Grand Haven, and is the managing director of the Main Street Foundation of Pentwater, for which he advises non-profit in-

stitutions regarding their fund-raising and grant-making programs. Dr. Ferguson obtained a B.A. in American Civilization from Brown University, an

M.A. in history from Wayne State, and a Ph.D. in higher education, history, and economics from the University of Michigan. He is a member on the boards of the American Red Cross and the Oceana Intermediate School District, of which he was president.

However, Dr. Ferguson believes that his past achievements are not as important as his willingness to work with the rest of his staff and the Alma College community to raise the funds needed to make Alma a better and more exciting place to learn. Dr. Ferguson maintains "the excitement of being on a college campus is that something is always going on."

Regarding the importance of his new job, Dr. Ferguson said "I believe that if a campus isn't growing, its dead."



Art Rathjen

photo by John Rousseau

Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia
Presents

A
Christmas
Celebration

Friday, December 9

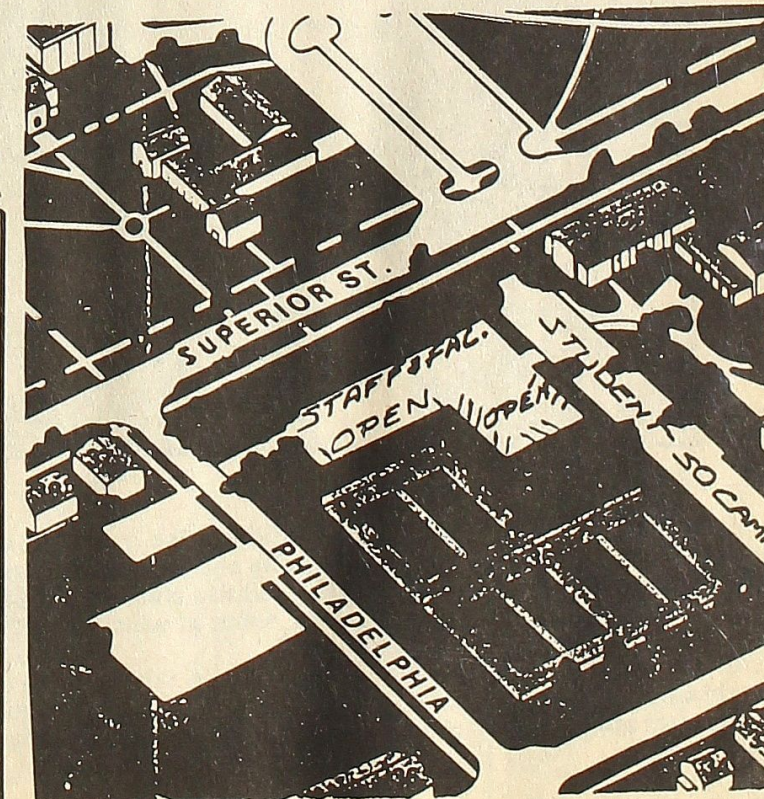
Tickets on sale at meals
this week in Saga.

New lot declared open

Work on the addition to the South Campus parking lot is completed for this fall. Another layer of asphalt and the yellow lines will be added in the spring. Until then, the parking lot may be used as follows:

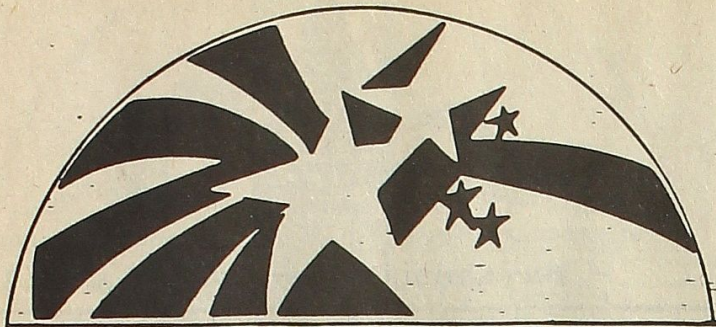
The row of parking spaces facing Superior Street is reserved for Faculty and Staff park-

ing, between the hours of 7 am and 6 pm, weekdays. The rest of the spaces in the new lot are designated open. Any vehicle with an Alma College parking decal, faculty/staff or student, may park in this area. The old part of the parking lot is still designated for vehicles with South Campus parking decals only.



LIBRARY'S END OF TERM HOURS

Sunday	12/4	1:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.
Mon-Thurs	12/5-12/8	8 a.m. - 1:00 a.m.
Friday	12/9	8 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Saturday	12/10	10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Sunday	12/11	1 p.m. - 1 a.m.
Mon-Thurs	12/12-12/15	8 a.m. - 1 a.m.
Friday	12/16	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday/Sun	12/17-12/18	Closed
Mon-Tues	12/19-12/20	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.



FEATURES

Orchesis adds extra matinee to annual performance

By Beverly Brown
Staff Writer

Are you looking for some weekend entertainment, but just don't feel like watching that same old movie at the Strand? If so, then go to the Orchesis dance concert this

weekend. Orchesis, which takes place this Friday and Saturday evening, is this year offering the added bonus of a first time Sunday matinee performance. According to Carol Fike, assistant professor of dance and director of the Orchesis performing dance group, the

Orchesis dance concerts traditionally pack in so many people on Friday and Saturday nights that an extra performance has been deemed necessary, and thus Sunday's matinee. Fike said she feels the reason for Orchesis' success is that there is something for

everyone at the concerts. Various dance styles such as tap, ballet, traditional Scottish, avant-garde, and jazz dances are all performed, usually accompanied by special effects and live musicians.

Joel Kimball will be playing the bagpipes, Scott Messing will be playing the piano, and Lisa Wendt will add to the live music by playing the flute.

This is Fike's fifth year at Alma College and this will be her ninth Orchesis concert. There are over 55 dancers in

the show this year--the largest group ever--and Fike said she is very pleased with the interest in Orchesis.

"One of my goals is to provide opportunity for students to choreograph dances of their own," she said.

This year's concert boasts a great deal of student choreography, including dances by Hope Waller, Mike Leary, Andrea Woods, Jenni Kanary, Julia Robinson, and Laura Vintevogel.

Tickets are \$3 for adults, \$2 for students and the show will

be held in Dow Auditorium. Advanced ticket sales are also available this year. Starting today, there will be people at the Box Office, phone 463-7306, to reserve tickets for any of the three performances. Showtimes are at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday evening, with the matinee starting at 3 p.m.

Following each performance will be a reception with refreshments as well as the opportunity to speak with dancers.



Orchesis dancers in rehearsal

photos by Todd Klesert

Life behind Iron Curtain

Spending a term in Budapest offered a chance for students to learn about Hungarian history, attitudes, and lifestyles.

By Kerry Radcliffe
Staff Writer

Alma College students learned of an interesting way to spend a winter term at last Thursday's Common Hour.

Titled "Budapest: Life behind the Iron Curtain," the program featured two Alma students, seniors Kimberly Schumaker and Sandra Speiser, who told of their experiences in Budapest, Hungary during winter term 1988.

While there, both women

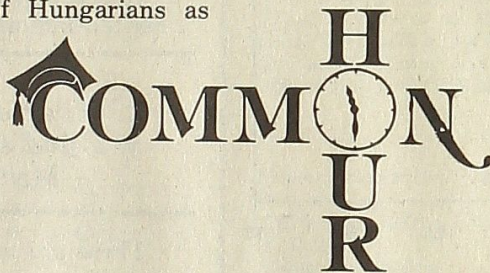
studied mathematics. Both are math and computer science majors.

The Common Hour program primarily offered a chance for students to learn about the history, attitudes and lifestyles of Hungarians as

seen through the eyes of Schumaker and Speiser.

A video tape and slides were also used during the presentation to better show what the country of Hungary actually is like.

The final Common Hour of the term will be Thursday, Dec. 8 in the chapel. Several music students will present end-of-term recitals.



Crow's for compassion



photo by Jenny Dine

Jazz guitarist Robin Crow performed Friday, Dec. 1 at the Alma College Union Board Coffee House in Jones Auditorium. The artist, who can be heard on Grand Rapids's WLAV Jazz Brunch and other local radio stations, has released five albums. "Midnight Rain," "Children's Dance," and "Helplessly" are among his works, some of which include guitar back-up from members of Toto and other well-known bands.

Crow plays "mostly colleges" in an effort to raise money for Compassion International, a worldwide organization that sponsors needy children. The audience was given an opportunity to sponsor any of over 50 children in India or Latin America who are in need of school fees, food and clothing.



One Orchesis dance revolves around beach balls, as shown.

Win \$25 for your resolutions!

The Almanian is collecting New Year's Resolutions. Send us yours, and we'll print them in the Jan. 9 issue!

Every resolution send in will be placed in a random drawing, with one lucky person winning the grand prize of \$25!

What is your New Year's Resolution? _____

What was your New Year's Resolution last year? _____

Did you keep it? _____

Send to The Almanian, Newberry Basement

I'll be home for Christmas

By Seth Twigs, Jr.
Staff Writer

Dear Heather,
I remember.

At our cabin, on the Grand River, in Eaton Rapids, when I was about five or so.

My sister and I made our way down to the river and sat on a big rock. My sister had a book, and she read to me. It was summertime, I was young, and like most kids in the summer, I was bored. There was no one around, nothing to do, and my sister was reading to me.

I remember.
I thought how lucky I was to have a sister like that.

A few years later, when I was just graduating from the Grrranimal school of matching blue elephants and yellow lions, it was my sister who went shopping with me for clothes and told me that all the things I picked out made me look weird. And then she would bring me whole armfuls of clothes. I always thought that the stuff she picked out was pretty outlandish too; but, trusting her, I would buy the outfits she liked. Invariably, when the first day of school came around, everyone would tell me how nice I looked in my new clothes.

Now that I'm in college, I have to do my own reading and pick out my own clothes. In fact, just over Thanksgiving break, I picked out a suit that brought no response more positive than a gasped ohmigosh from my sister. Being more independent now, I bought it anyway. I thought it would look good with my red bow tie. I still haven't worn either one of them, afraid that my sister might be right. Maybe they really do make me look weird.

As Christmas draws nearer though, I find my sister once more coming to my rescue. When my exams are all done, the headaches all over, it is my sister who will be picking me up and driving me the ten hours back to the Home Place. This will be the first time I've been home since Aug. 25, and I owe it all to my sister who is leaving work early to take me there.

When I get home, traipsing through the snow, my boots leaving tracks, a sign of my passing only to be covered over as the wind blows fresh snow filling in my footprints, drifting in against the house where candles shine in the windows, and the lights on the tree radiate red and green dots that dance on the snow.

When I get inside, where

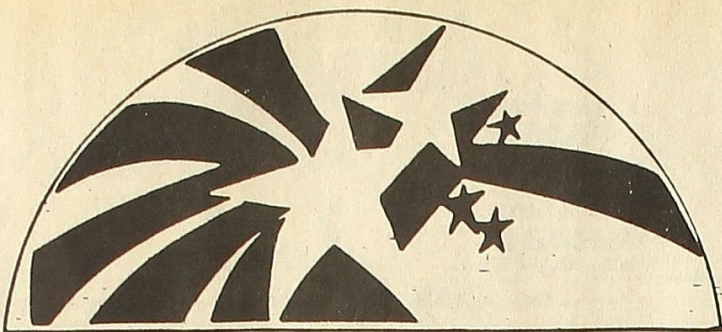
everyone is wearing brightly colored soft fuzzy sweaters, where everyone is warm, drinking hot chocolate with marshmallows from mugs with funny sayings on them, and eating cookies shaped and colored to look like Christmas wreaths or stained glass windows.

When a knock comes on the door, announcing the arrival of carollers, their noses red, eyes watery, lashes laced with snow, singing *Silent Night, Holy Night, all is calm, all is bright. Round yon virgin, mother and child, Holy Infant so tender and mild.*

When, the next morning, I wake up mom and dad at 5:30 (I am, after all, still a kid), journey to the living room, and rip into the wrapping paper, my sister will find that the best present, the one that most expresses the gratitude of a five year old boy who is happy and proud to have a sister like the one he has, the one that best shows the respect of an adolescent weirdo for a sister who tries to instill some fashion conscience in him, the gift that shows best and most the love of my sister,

will be the one from me.
*Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.*

Your Loving Brother,
Seth



FEATURES

Soviet dissident Bukovsky forsees fall of superpower

By Erica Soderholm
Staff Writer

At first glance, the man appears typical enough as he walks to the podium in his navy suit, burgundy tie and glasses.

Looking at him, no one would guess this man is a brain physiologist, and a Soviet political activist who has spent time in labor camps, prison camps and psychiatric hospitals.

His name is Vladimir Bukovsky and he spoke Dec. 1 to a full audience in North VanDusen on the prospects of the Soviet Union and the future of that country.

Bukovsky began his presentation with what he said he feels are the three main problem areas for the Soviet government. The first area is the Soviet economy, for Bukovsky explained how the U.S.S.R. currently has structural restraints within their base of equality. The mass of people work on a low productivity job level, and this is done by building the businesses out instead of up. Unfortunately this way, according to Bukovsky, much money is spent without much return.

Since the Soviet economy is built on this structure, the economy is struggling. In addition, Bukovsky said loyalty is rewarded more in the Soviet Union than is productivity, so this factor also takes away from the economy.

The second area of difficulty, according to Bukovsky, lies in the massive amount of central control in the Soviet Union. Bukovsky explained that the government believes the more control they possess, the more power. But Bukovsky explained that government officials are so wrapped up in the control that they don't really know what is actually going on. An example of this is the Soviet farmers who cultivate the public lands.

A small amount of land

(three percent in total) is given to the farmers to produce their own food. Some of their excess food they trade in towns. The government decides to increase their wages to promote more work. In actuality, the amount of work decreased. Soviet officials were baffled. According to Bukovsky, what the officials didn't realize was that, in reality, the farmers calculated how much work they had to do to get the same amount of money as before and spent the extra time on their own land.

The final problem Bukovsky spoke about in his presentation dealt with the government and propaganda. The Soviets had a tight central control on all newspapers. According to Bukovsky, 50,000 newspapers printed exactly the same stories. However, big events most citizens saw happening weren't reported. Through television from different countries, rumors and word of mouth the Russian people could piece together a story, and thus the newspapers were never trusted.

"If you read about a terrible man and his crimes in the newspapers, then you knew he was pretty reliable," Bukovsky explained.

As a result of these major problems in the economy, loss of control, and no trust from the citizens, Bukovsky said the government decided to make a change. So a campaign was devised called glasnik which gave some freedom to the people in the form of speech.

The Soviet people are now allowed to verbally attack the government. It also allowed the people more autonomy by sharing some management and property with them. The philosophy of the government was to share its property and some power so the people would take part in the country.

According to Bukovsky, the West sees hope in glasnik. Unfortunately, however, Bukov-

sky said the Soviet people do not share these positive feelings. Their response is very low, with only 800,000 people getting involved in a population of three million. Bukovsky said he believes the lack of involvement is due primarily to the Russian people not

trusting their government.

Bukovsky explained that, likewise, the Soviet people see their country in terrible shape, and so blame the government. The life expectancy has dropped to 63-65 years of age. Similarly there is also a high infant mortality rate, 40,000

alcoholics and terrible pollution.

In addition, south Russia is currently suffering from a shortage of fresh water. The industrial destruction of land alone, Bukovsky estimated, equals the size of Western Europe. Thus Bukovsky

asserted that after major harm such as that, small adjustments by the government is not going to change the minds of the Soviet people.

So what does all this mean for the future of the Soviet Union? Bukovsky predicted first the subsidizing of the economy. In about a year and a half, Bukovsky said he believes the government will formally announce to its people a price formation of increases of 60-70 percent, thus resulting in raging inflation.

In his summary, Bukovsky described the Soviet government as operating in phases: cold war repression, peace time privileges, cold war, peace time. He said he sees the cycles getting progressively shorter, with more independent states pulling away with each turn.

At the end of his presentation, Bukovsky predicted that within 15 years, the Soviet government will no longer exist and many new, small independent Soviet nations will be in its place.

Students and faculty were given the opportunity to speak to Bukovsky one-on-one in a reception following the speech in South VanDusen.



photo by Jenny Dine

Vladimir Bukovsky speaks with junior Karen Suber and senior Lisa Symons.

Choir presents holiday Messiah concert

By Elizabeth Burchill
Feature Editor

The house was packed Dec. 3 and 4 for performances of Handel's "Messiah" by the Alma College Choir, Choral Union, soloists and the Alma Symphony Orchestra in Dunning Memorial Chapel.

Soloists were soprano Jackie Benn-Seigworth, mezzo-soprano Martha J. Hart, tenor Mark Puchala, and bass Jeffrey Foote.

Saturday evening's concert drew an audience of about 200 listeners and singers, while extra chairs were brought in for the Sunday performance. Will Nichols, choir director, said both performances went exceptionally well, noting that the singers handled the somewhat difficult concerts very professionally.

According to Nichols, the "Messiah," written by Handel in the mid-eighteenth century, is not only one of the most well-known classical pieces of music to sing, but is also a challenge for the singers.

The Messiah is essentially the story of Christ divided into three main storylines: the first section deals with advent and the birth of baby Jesus; the second with the crucifixion of Christ, while the third and final section of the concert deals with his resurrection and victory.

The entire concert normally lasts about three hours, but Nichols said he cut his version of the story down to about 2 hours and 15 minutes.

A new twist to this year's



photo by Todd Klesert

Alma choir sings holiday Messiah

concert was the availability of 150 extra music scores for rent to audience members who wanted to sing along with the choir members at Saturday night's performance.

The "sing-a-long," has become very popular as of late and is done nation-wide.

Nichols said he felt the sing-a-long worked well, with many audience members participating in the concert.

"Most people don't have time to be in a choir, so sing-alongs have sprung up around the country, thus allowing those people to sing for once," Nichols explained.

"Everyone involved had a great deal of fun with the concert, and I felt the choir did a fine job" he said.

This upcoming Sunday, the Alma choir is teaming up with Joseph Walser, professor of

religious studies, to present a program entitled "Festival of Carols and Lessons."

The program, which occurs at the chapel at 7 p.m., is taking the place of the traditional Christmas chapel service, and will feature a combination of scripture lessons, read by various faculty members and administration, and traditional Christmas carols sung by the Alma choir.

Merry Christmas, Joyeux Noel.....

By Kris Kyle
Staff Writer

"Merry Christmas" doesn't always mean the same thing, depending on what country or culture you're from.

In Italy, for example, a traditional American turkey dinner is unheard of; they much prefer salmon and eel. And the children there receive their gifts from the good witch on the eve of Ephiny, a feast on January 6 in celebration of the baptism of Christ.

Closer to home, some black Americans combine Christmas with the Afro-American holiday Kwanzaa, which takes place from December 26 to January 1. Each day the family lights a different candle symbolizing seven principles: unity, self-determination, responsibility, purpose, creativity, faith and cooperative economics.

The popular American tradition of having a Christmas tree in the home came from England after Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's husband, trimmed a tree for Windsor Castle in 1841. A typical English feast would include goose, mince pie and wassail, a hot punch made from

roasted apples, ale, eggs, sugar and spice.

In Australia and New Zealand, where Christmas falls during the middle of their summer, many families go to the beach. School children have a six-week summer vacation then!

On December 13 in Sweden it is tradition that the oldest daughter of a family dresses in white and wears a wreath of seven lighted candles on her head. Then she has to serve breakfast in bed to the rest of the family members.

Many Germans put real candles on their Christmas trees. On December 6 children receive candy from St. Nicholas, who then collects a list of what they would like from the Christ Child, who sends the Christmas Man on Christmas Eve.

If you don't like turkey stuffing, and mashed potatoes, the traditional Polish Christmas dinner may be more appetizing. It consists of fish, sauerkraut, potato pancakes and beet soup.

So while countries around the world celebrate Christmas in their own distinctive ways, the Almanian hopes you and yours have a safe and happy holiday season.

By Elizabeth Burchill
Feature Editor

A new face will be seen around Alma's campus next term when visiting international scholar Saleem Peeradina arrives to teach.

Peeradina, originally from India, is currently at Adrian College. While at Alma, Peeradina plans on teaching English 180: Indian Literature, and English 190: BLOOM COUNTY

Creative Writing.

English 180 will deal primarily with Indian poetry from the earliest times to the present. Since this will involve looking at over 2,000 years of literary tradition, only a short time will be spent on some of India's past poets, with more emphasis on the contemporary period.

"A sizeable chunk of time" will also be spent on the Bhakti (devotional) poets of

India, with prose and short story also included, according to a memorandum released last month by Provost Ronald Kapp and English Department Chairman Samuel Cornelius.

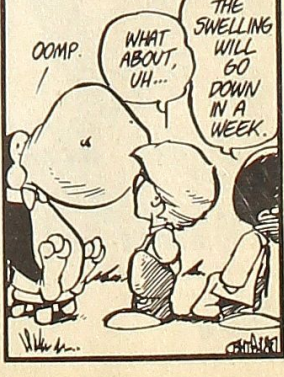
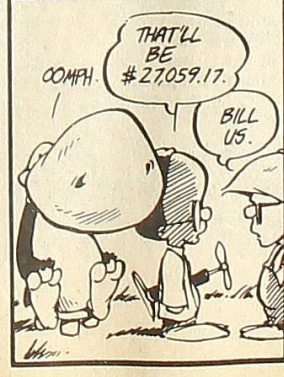
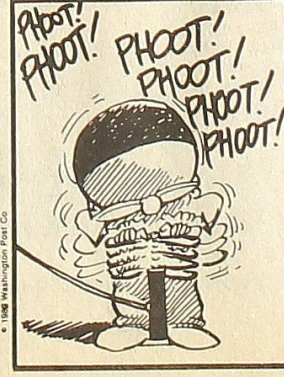
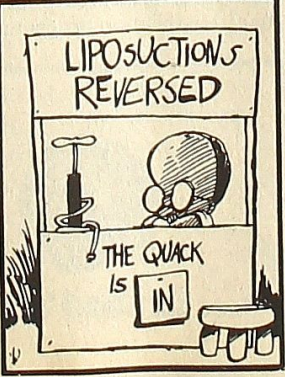
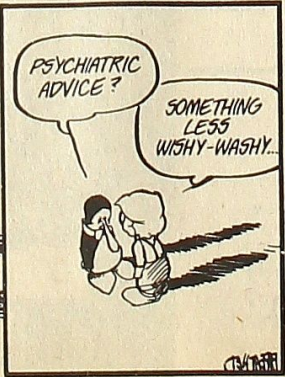
English 190 will emphasize the student's own writing skills and interests, as well as explore the different genres of writing. Illustrative material and related reading will also be examined to provide a critical

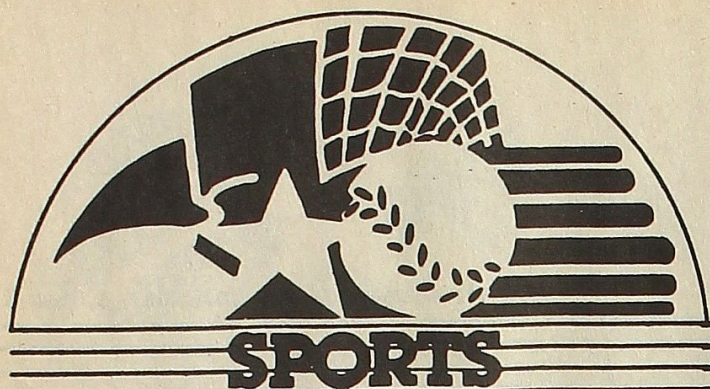
perspective.

This spring term Peeradina will teach a literature course emphasizing women.

Professor and Mrs. Peeradina expect to share Indian culture and food in their home with the students of Alma, as they currently are doing at Adrian.

by Berke Breathed





Cash and coercion in college athletics

(CPS)--Three sports agents and a professional football player were indicted for allegedly using lucrative but illegal payments and threats to coerce college athletes into signing representation contracts.

New York agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom are accused of offering student-athletes cash, cars, trips and clothing if they signed-in

"I am cooperating fully... and could only say that I regret my past mistakes."

Cris Carter

some cases post-dated--agreements allowing Walters Bloom to represent them in professional contract negotiations.

If the offers of cash or cars didn't work, U.S. Attorney Anton Valukas said, Walters and Bloom threatened to break their legs and harm their families.

"This is my life on the line... Now it's your life on the line... your reputation, your business, your family, your brother, your school, everything is going to be tainted and tainted bad. It's gonna be terrible for you," Walters allegedly told former University of Pittsburgh linebacker Tony Woods, now with the Seattle Seahawks.

Bloom and Walters are charged with racketeering, mail fraud, wire fraud and extortion. The payments and contracts violated National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) rules.

Also indicted was California agent Dave Lueddeke and Cris Carter of the National Football League's (NFL) Philadelphia Eagles.

The indictment named reputed mobster Michael Franzese as an unindicted co-conspirator. Franzese financed the agents' efforts, and Walters and Bloom used Franzese's reputation to coerce athletes into signing contracts, Falukas said. Franzese is serving a 10-year prison term in California for racketeering and tax

violations.

Walters also allegedly used threats to sign acts in the music business, including the Jackson Five, according to the indictment.

Prosecutors say Carter accepted \$5,000 from Lueddeke that both concealed from a federal grand jury investigating Walters and Bloom. Carter, a former Ohio State player, was charged with obstruction of justice and mail fraud. Lueddeke was charged with perjury and obstruction of justice.

"I am cooperating fully... and could only say that I regret my past mistakes," Carter said in a statement released by the Eagles.

Prosecutors say Walters and Bloom induced athletes to defraud their schools by accepting cash and signing contracts in violation of NCAA rules, and then signing affidavits saying they had not broken any rules.

Among the 35 schools defrauded were Michigan

Among the 35 schools defrauded were Michigan State...and Michigan.

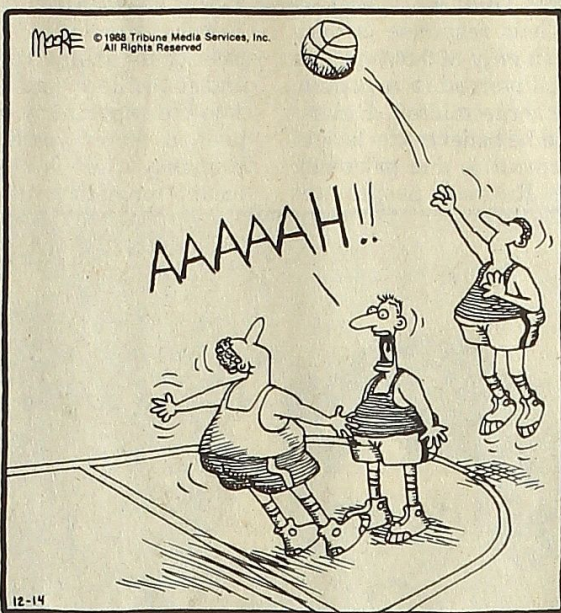
State, Notre Dame, Purdue and the universities of Michigan and Illinois.

Valukas said 43 college athletes who signed with Walters and Bloom avoided prosecution with pretrial agreements to perform community service and to reimburse portions of their scholarships to their universities.

That group includes NFL players such as Ron Morris of Chicago, Ronnie Harmon of Buffalo and Paul Palmer of Kansas City and Brad Sellers of the National Basketball Association Chicago Bulls. All have agreed to testify against Walters and Bloom, authorities said.

Walters and Bloom each face a maximum of 70 years in prison and \$2 million in fines if convicted. Carter faces 10 years and a \$500,000 fine, and Lueddeke faces 15 years in jail and \$750,000.

IN THE BLEACHERS



With perfect timing and execution, Leonard sets up a scream and frees his teammate for a jump shot.

by Steve Moore

Athletes and drugs, a matter of privacy

(CPS)--A U.S. Attorney in Florida realized drug testing opponents' greatest fear in July when he subpoenaed the results of drug tests of University of Florida athletes.

Opponents of drug testing have long argued that if colleges gathered data on drug use, it would be impossible to keep the information confidential from law enforcement officials trying to bust a cocaine ring in the Gainesville area.

UF officials are awaiting the results of a court hearing before deciding whether to give drug agents the results of drug tests of 30 former and current athletes.

The issue of whether campuses have to turn over the drug results to police hasn't come up before, observers say. "There hasn't been a flurry

of law-enforcement attempts to get the information," said Julia Hampton, an American Civil Liberties Union lawyer. "The Florida case puts this issue back on the agenda, and will help us add another privacy argument to our case."

Florida athletes sign a consent form at the start of each academic year agreeing to participate in UF's drug testing program. The form pledges school officials to keep the results secret.

But the U.S. Attorney in Tallahassee, Fla., working with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), has subpoenaed the results, saying they're necessary for the drug probe.

Some of the athletes hired a lawyer, Stephen Bernstein, who will argue in court this

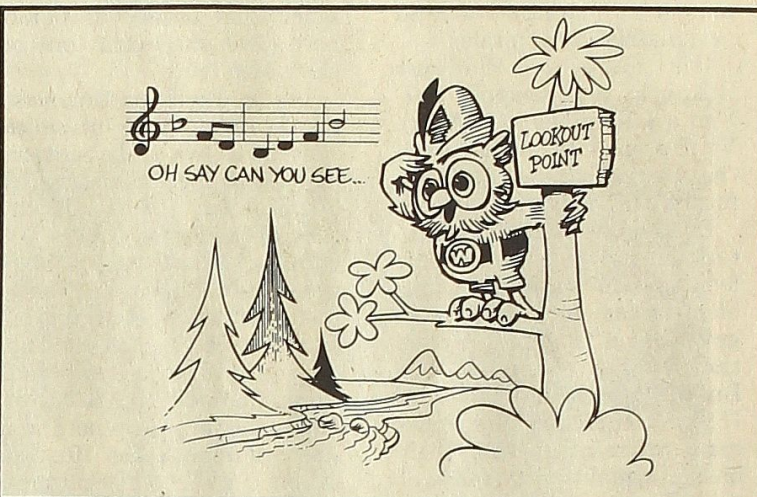
By Denise Coiner
Sports Editor

Sophomore Kevin Copes recently participated in the CMU Open Racquetball Tournament. Copes estimates the total number of participants in the tournament to equal 100 men and women.

Copes played in the CD divi-

sions, the beginners and novices. He states his division was the biggest, with 40-45 people. Copes made it to the semifinals where he lost to the eventual winner of his division.

"I decided to start playing in tournaments because I can't find anybody here who will play me," states Copes.



month that the subpoenas are improper. Bernstein will ask the court to quash them.

"When the government goes on a fishing expedition, without showing any articulable reason to think a particular student-athlete did

athlete or the school can keep the information from law enforcement officials," said John Scanlan, a professor of law at Indiana University.

UF officials are torn, said Alvin Alsobrock, Florida's

"Federal law tells us one thing, and a federal agency tells us another."

Alvin Alsobrock

Vice President University Relations
University of Florida

anything wrong, there is nothing that outweighs the privacy expectations of the athletes," he said.

Legal experts say they doubt that law enforcement agents will be stopped from getting what they want.

"I don't think there's a way in the world in which the

vice president for university relations. They do not want to oppose the U.S. Attorney's efforts or violate the privacy of their students.

"Federal law tells us one thing," he said, "and a federal agency tells us another."



Tom and Dick Smothers, the Smothers Brothers, are singing a new tune as Christmas Seal Chairmen for the American Lung Association -- the Christmas Seal People®. The legendary twosome, campaigning for healthy lungs, urges public support of Christmas Seals®.

Lung Disease Is No Joke

Split second timing and comic repartee are hallmarks of their routines, but when Tom and Dick Smothers, 1988 Christmas Seal Chairmen for the American Lung Association®, sound off on lung disease, it's no laughing matter.

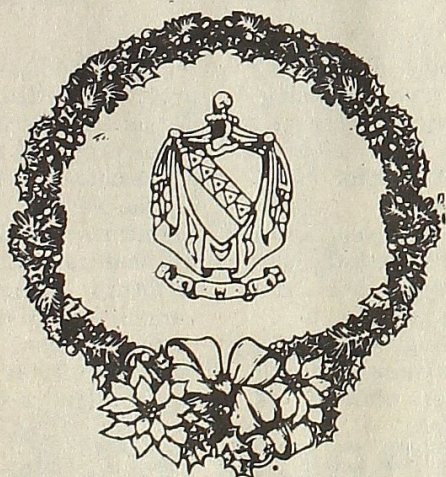
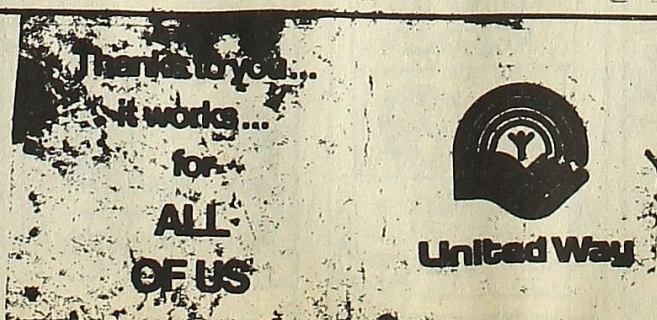
"I don't always take Tom seriously," says Dick, "and we don't always agree, but on the subject of lung disease we're in total accord. Respiratory disease is a major public health issue -- the fastest rising killer disease in the country. And anyone can get it, even babies."

The popular duo is taking their new role very seriously, delivering public health messages in radio and TV public service announcements. A former smoker, Tom knows the power of nicotine addiction and the difficulty of breaking the cigarette habit. He's committed to spreading

the word on the hazards of smoking, particularly to youngsters. "Kids are so vulnerable; they don't think they'll ever get hooked. What they don't realize is that it's the first cigarette that counts. Once they start it's not easy to stop."

Smoking isn't the only concern of the American Lung Association®. The Christmas Seal People® report that TB is on the rise in major metropolitan areas; lung cancer is surpassing breast cancer as the leading cancer killer of women; and neonatal respiratory distress syndrome (RDS) strikes thousands of infants each year.

Contributions to the American Lung Association's Christmas Seal Campaign® help in the conquest of all lung disease through research, self-help materials and public health education programs.



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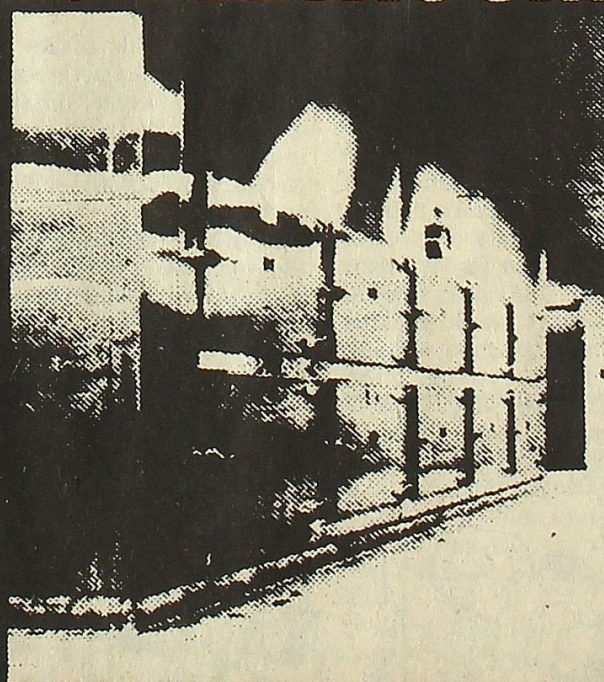
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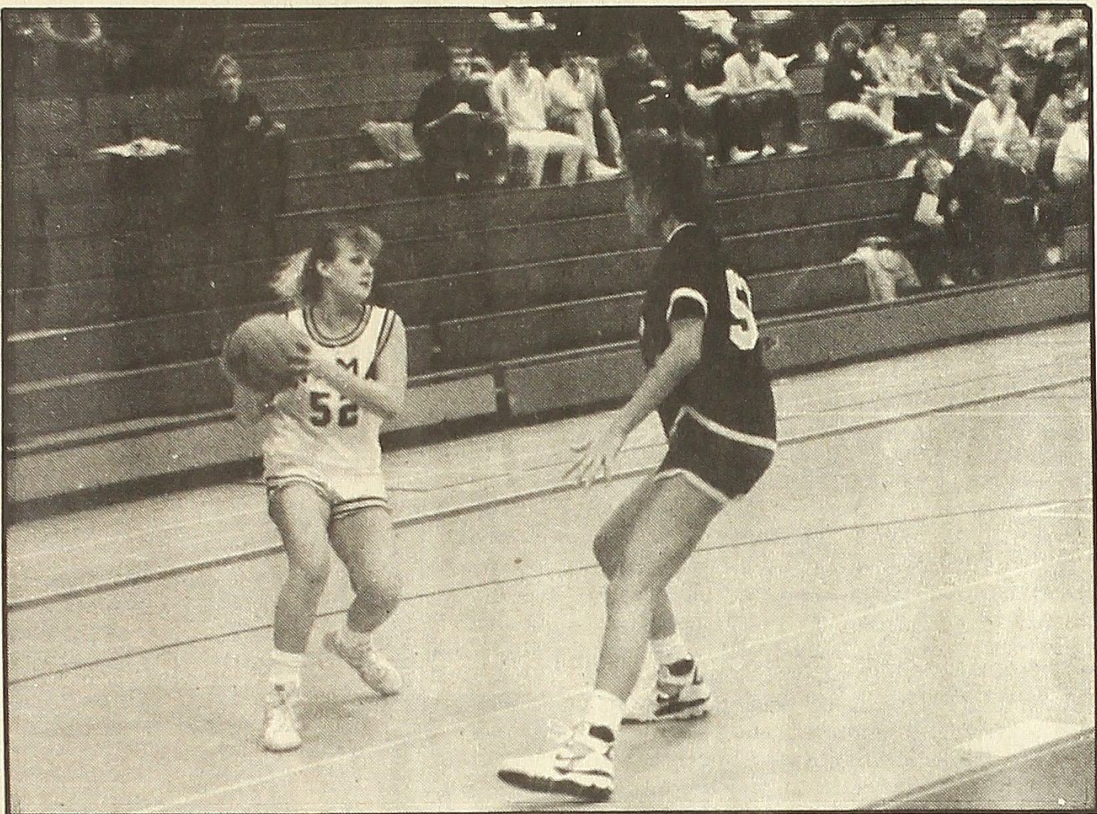


Please Don't Drink and Drive.

Women's basketball jumps to a 2-1 start

MIAA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL REPORT

	Overall				League			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Adrian	2	1	80.3	59.7	0	0	00.0	00.0
Albion	1	0	62.0	49.0	0	0	00.0	00.0
Alma	2	1	62.0	52.3	0	0	00.0	00.0
Calvin	2	2	54.0	58.8	0	0	00.0	00.0
Hope	1	0	45.0	44.0	0	0	00.0	00.0
Kalamazoo	1	0	69.0	55.0	0	0	00.0	00.0
Olivet	2	1	76.7	69.3	0	0	00.0	00.0



Alma player charges down court.

photo by John Rousseau

Game scores for MIAA teams

Adrian(2-1)
St. Norbert, WI 72, Adrian 64
Adrian 85, Mundelein, IL 58
Adrian 92, Concordia, MI 49

Albion(1-0)
Albion 62, Nazareth 49

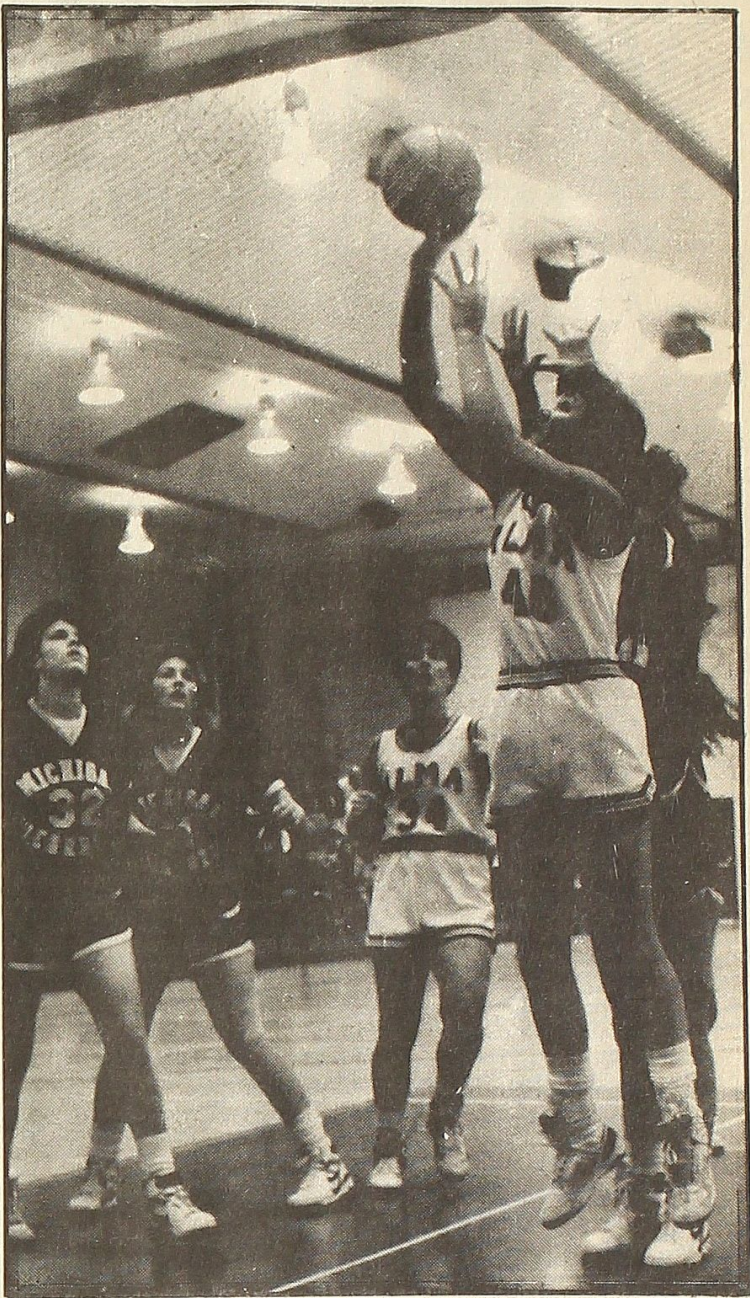
Alma(2-1)
Moravian, PA 62, Alma 61
Alma 59, Oberlin, OH 39
Alma 66, Northwood 56

Calvin(2-2)
Oakland 63, Calvin 56
Calvin 51, Aquinas 48
Grand Valley 72, Calvin 51
Calvin 58, Hillsdale 52

Hope(1-0)
Hope 45, Wheaton, IL 44

Kalamazoo(1-0)
Kalamazoo 69, Concordia 55

Olivet(2-1)
Olivet 88, Manchester, IN 59
Olivet 82, Tri-State, IN 80
Wm. Penn, IA 69, Olivet 60



Scots shoot against Michigan Dearborn.

photo by John Rousseau

Swimmers lose to GRJC

Scots to train at Indianapolis

By Denise Coiner
Sports Editor

The men's and women's swim teams started their season with losses to Grand Rapids Junior College on Nov. 22.

"Our first meet got us going for the season. The times are basically what I expected, no real surprises," states Coach Kathy Davis.

The men lost by a score of 84-118 to GRJC. Tony Nellis won the 200 fly while Grand Walter topped the field in the 100 breaststroke. The 400 free relay team also grabbed top honors. The team was composed of Dennis Polsgrove, Perry

Gray, Mickey Homan, and Joel Buchanan.

The women's team were defeated 89-112. Some Scots had noteworthy achievements. Teresa Wood took first place in the 100 breaststroke. Coach Davis comments Wood "had a decent 50 free." Lise Eberly won the 100 breaststroke for Alma.

"The times are basically what I expected."

—Kathy Davis

Coach Davis states, "It was nice to have two divers on the women's team and one diver on the men's."

On Saturday, the Scots competed in the MIAA Relays at Albion. Davis comments the meet was "a fun meet that gives everyone a chance to swim at the place of the league championships." The teams do not keep score.

The swim team will be traveling to Indianapolis for seven days over Christmas break. The Scots will train for four hours a day with two workouts at Indiana University, the site of the Division I Nationals.

The pool is olympic size, over twice as big as Alma's. This pool will give the swimmers "better training for endurance," according to Davis.

Men's basketball team wins as players lead the league

Tom Van Sumeren was selected as co-player of the week according to the MIAA news service. Van Sumeren heads a undefeated (3-0) Scot team that is averaging 104 points a game.

Van Sumeren averaged 19.3 points in three games last week. He was voted the most valuable player in the Grand Rapids Baptist tournament as the Scots beat host GR Baptist 126-103 in the finals. Van

Sumeren had 31 points in the championship game including seven three-point baskets.

Todd Kulawiak and Van Sumeren lead the league in overall scoring, averaging 22.7

and 19.3 points per game respectively.

Steve Ernst tops the field with a perfect free throw percentage, making all of his 16 free throw attempts.

ALMA(3-0)
ALMA 97, GOSHEN, IND. 80
ALMA 89, NAZARETH 77
ALMA 126, GR. RAPIDS BAPTIST 103

MIAA MEN'S BASKETBALL REPORT

	Overall				League			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Adrian	1	0	60.0	45.0	0	0	00.0	00.0
Albion	3	0	71.0	55.7	0	0	00.0	00.0
Alma	3	0	104.0	86.7	0	0	00.0	00.0
Calvin	0	1	64.0	90.0	0	0	00.0	00.0
Hope	3	0	98.3	70.0	0	0	00.0	00.0
Kalamazoo	2	0	83.5	65.5	0	0	00.0	00.0
Olivet	1	2	83.0	81.0	0	0	00.0	00.0

Photo Editor Needed

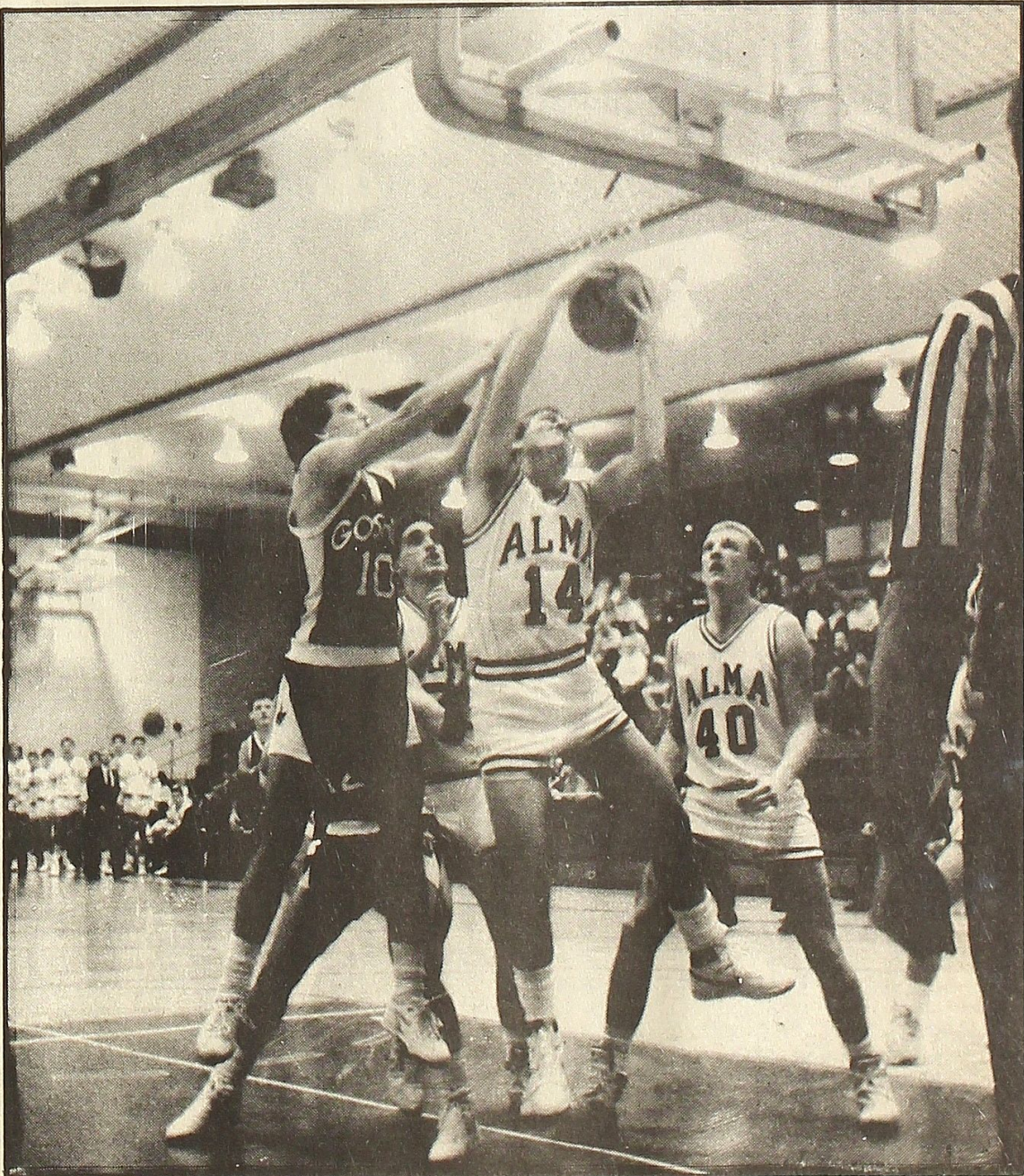
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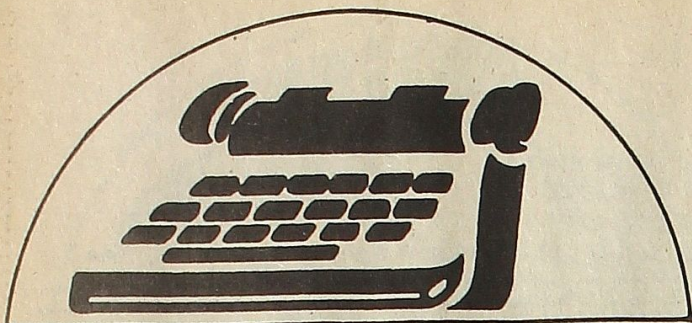
Call Jenny at 7161

Sports Writers Needed
Call Denise at 7161
or stop by the
Almanian Office,
Newberry Basement



Andy Mangin pulls down a rebound for the Scots.

photo by John Rousseau



EDITORIAL

CAMPUS COMMENT

By Patti Fields

What do you want for Christmas?

Chris Nixon

A 35mm camera.

Emil Vos

I want to be dipped in hot chocolate.

Diane Wagoner

I want to work in a soup kitchen so I can help those who are unfortunate.

Lynne Wiktor

Harrison Ford.

Troy Thompson

An 'A' from Dr. M.J.J. Smith in History 107.

Melissa Weber

I would like people to be able to celebrate Jesus every day of the year instead of just this time of year.

Dave Estrada

I would like some Red Wings tickets and some Pistons Tickets.

Scott Farwell

A three point.

Lisa Gibson

A trip to Hawaii.

Greg Keller

World peace or a used Yugo.

Todd Emerson

Real meals at Saga.

Campus life too comfortable

College is vital but limited reality

Robert Henry

Opinion Editor

Over the course of this fall term I have become very detached from the campus and the sense of belonging I have had since entering as a freshperson in 1985.

I began the term in the student teaching program in a local high school. I was teaching literature and composition, and for the most part I enjoyed working with the students and the other teachers in the building. I soon realized that teaching was not what I wanted to do with my life; however, my respect for teachers and their ability to persevere with the utmost patience while receiving little pay for their work overload or respect from those outside of education.

When I was student teaching, I had very little contact with the campus. I spent most of my time at the high school or at home preparing for the next day of classes. I only came to campus to write opinion columns and to attend a class required of all secondary education students. I found it difficult to find topics relevant to the campus community.

After leaving the student teaching program, I spent time catching up on campus events, but I soon became detached from that as well. I am now working full-time until next term when I hope I can be part of the student body again. As students we fail to realize the difficulty we have in being outside of the educational system. Sure, we always

want to go on vacation, but by July or August we are ready to be back with our friends in a role and environment with which we feel comfortable.

I have found myself feeling somewhat "empty" while not being a student, and perhaps this is the greatest challenge we all face upon completion of

our graduate or undergraduate degrees. We have a false sense of security in college. Our financial problems are generally not as severe as they may be when we are working, and we are treated most kindly by our professors and administrators compared to those in the workaday world. In just the short time I spent looking for a temporary job, I was ignored by potential employers, and when I continually called asking for a response, the employer never returned my

calls (during a three week period). I was finally told by a third party (who was not responsible for the problem) that the job was filled.

Needless to say, I was not happy, but I did find a job that I enjoy (although I am underpaid and have a very strange work schedule).

Because of my distance from the active campus community I have missed some important events and occurrences. The only information I have about the telephone harassments and the skirmish between local teens and the Theta Chi fraternity is from the letters sent out to the campus from the administration. I read these a week after they were written

because I seldom go to my commuter mail box. It bothers me to hear about these incidents happening on what has normally been a safe campus. I hope that we can put an end to senseless violence and harassment on the Alma Campus.

The point I wish to make is that we have all become too comfortable in our role as students. I suppose we would all like to postpone the inevitable future lurking ahead.

We will do ourselves justice if we make the most of our education to prepare us for the life outside Alma College when we graduate. I do not want to make our futures sound terrible and forboding, but don't let's start thinking we will have it as easy as we do now. The "Alma bubble" is a hindrance we need to understand; it is a reality we must manage.

My Christmas List

Since this is our last issue before Christmas, I decided to make out my Christmas list. My mother has been bugging me to get this finished so here it is:

1) I want world peace, not a state of perfection and bliss but a peaceful coexistence between all the territories of the world. If we disagree, then let us agree that we all do not think alike and work at maintaining a nonviolent world community.

2) I would like to see domestic problems taking on a greater meaning to the next administration. I hope this would focus on the starving and homeless citizens of our nation. Yes, this is a capitalistic and competitive nation, but we are all nothing if our fellow citizens are suffering for our good fortune.

3) I want to see an end to governmental waste and the ever-increasing deficit. This is always a concern, but I doubt that I will live to see this one under my Christmas tree.

4) I would like to see the next shuttle launch and a continual increase of support for the space program.

5) I want race relations to become more harmonious not because they should be but because we all want them to be.

6) I want Pee Wee Herman, Rush, Jimmy Stewart, Siskel and Ebert, and Ronald Reagan to be in a new NBC mini-series entitled "To Hell with the War."

7) I would like to see more constructive efforts by religious groups who seek to spread any message to humanity (this includes those who see fit to bomb abortion clinics).

8) Lastly, I would like to finish my four years here without any more violence or harassment on campus (or elsewhere I suppose).

I wish you all happy holidays and hope you have time to relax and prepare for round two of Alma College.

Letter Policy

The Almanian encourages letters to the editor. Signatures and phone numbers must accompany all letters.

WRITING CONTEST

Open to All Alma College Students

Four Divisions:

Essay: presenting a thesis most readers have not considered before; supporting the thesis with specific, concrete evidence; organizing the support; using clear, error-free sentences with variety in structure and punctuation; and showing attention to purpose and audience.

Research Paper: an essay or a report following the above criteria but also involving primary research (experiments and field work) and/or secondary research (library sources). This paper should follow a proper style of documentation such as the MLA or APA.

Short Story

Poetry

Prizes: \$50 First Prize in each category
\$25 Second Prize in each category
\$10 Third Prize in each category

All entries will be considered for publication in the Pine River Anthology.

Rules: No limit on length, form, style, or subject.

Each contestant may enter a maximum of one essay, one research paper, one story, and three poems.

All entries must be typed or letter-quality printed.

The English Department reserves the right not to award prizes if submissions lack quality.

Procedure: Print name and campus address on the back of each entry. Send submissions to Dr. William Palmer/ Writing Contest

Deadline: Thursday, January 5, 1989



Christmas Seals® A Holiday Tradition

A familiar holiday tradition - Christmas Seals® from the American Lung Association - was born in 1907 with the sale of the first 3,000 Seals to combat tuberculosis. Today Christmas Seals® are mailed to millions of households nationwide. Donations to this year's Christmas Seal featuring Candy Claus®, Santa's daughter, will help support the American Lung Association's research and public health education programs to prevent, cure and control all lung disease.

*CANDY CLAUS® © 1985 Santa's Family

