

Poetry in the Creative Corner

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Serving Alma College since 1907

Guest faculty writer, Dr. John Ottenhoff

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## It's that time again: 'Rush, rush, rush'

By Sharonne O'Shea  
Staff Writer

As numerous door signs announce, Women's rush began Jan. 10 with the signing of the rush list by 138 women. Various activities have been sponsored by each sorority, AGD, AXD, GFB, GSS, and KI through out the last week to meet the rushees and introduce them to Greek life. These include teas, spreads, and desserts. These activities, combined with guidance from Rho Chi counselors and the Pan-Hellenic council, are designed to provide rushees with enough information to declare their

preference on January 26, 1990.

According to Emily Perl, advisor to the Inter-Fraternity Council, the rush list for men—available during meals last week—received 83 signatures. To introduce rushees to the fraternities on campus, ΣAE, ΣX, ΘX, TKE and ΖΣ, smokers are held. These began Jan. 21.

According to Perl, the new scholarship requirement of a 2.0 CPA does not pose any changes to rush. However, she does expect it to make a difference in pledging, suggesting

that fraternities will have a stronger academic emphasis. They will have to "keep a closer watch" over the pledges and their performance in classes. Kim Kaczmarek, a member of Pan-Hellenic council agrees with Perl adding, "it will mean more work for the scholarship chairs and the pledges."

The attitude of doing what is best for the students at Alma seems to have made a positive impression. Becky Boston, a freshman from Pennsylvania, commented on a

"greater separation between Greek life and school" at Penn State than she sees at Alma. She commented that Alma's academic emphasis is a good idea.

However, having fun and meeting new people were the most common reasons people have for wanting to rush. Boston adds that she "never had a sister, just a brother." The amount of time required and the money needed to join a Greek group were the two most prominent drawbacks. Kaczmarek pointed out that

joining a Greek group is a "big commitment." Another disagreeable aspect pointed out was the disagreeableness of "paying for friends." Although current active members—wishing to remain anonymous—consider membership in a Greek group is well worth it. Their expectations of Greek life were over exceeded. One commented that "I didn't think it'd be this wonderful."

There is much frequently given, but well-worth listening to, advice given to those considering Greek

life. One often hears, "rush even if you don't pledge", and "don't be afraid to go away from your friends." Scott Farwell, ΖΣ rush chair, suggested keeping "an open-mind, use your head and investigate all possibilities." He added, "be receptive to all because it's an important decision." Kaczmarek comments that rushees should "relax and attend all that you can because then you get a better understanding of the group, make the choice that's best for you and have fun."

## Four academic departments plan expansion

By Michele Myers  
Staff Writer

Four departments are currently under expansion for the 1990-91 year.

These include Communication, Chemistry, Economics, and Political Science departments.

According to interim provost Joseph Walser, this is a five-year plan to achieve a better degree of academic quality for students.

The opening of a Communication department will be an extension of the Speech department; building on the already available audio-visual equipment, until a separate department is formed in three years.

A director and chair of the department will be hired for next fall, then a second person will be hired within two years. Four to six new courses will be developed to begin program curriculum. A production room will also be installed upon completion of the Performing Arts Building.

In the new Communication department, the focus will be on educational experiences in written and oral communication. Since this is a vital part of any subject, it is certain that the Communication program will be able to be used in other departments such as English and Business.

The new science building, which is on schedule, will be completed July 1. The Advanced Organic Chemistry Class has begun its own renovation this year with the addition of new instruments such as a mass spectrometer and gas chromatograph. They also routinely use milligram-scale instruments with modern organic synthesis techniques.

Another class, Qualitative Analysis, will be replaced with Spectroscopic Methods Analysis next year, with focus being on instruments. Modern equipment such as a new spectrometer purchased by the National Science Foundation Instrument Grant, received by Scott Hill, assistant professor of Chemistry, will be installed when the new science building is finished.

Students will learn how to use this new equipment to explore organic structures and for other studies in areas of the Chemistry curriculum.

The new building will have most of this equipment right next to the

laboratories where it is needed. Three specialized rooms will be organized. There will be a Tissue Culture room (for cell cultures and growth of tissue samples), a cold room (at correct temperatures for storage and for carrying out lab experiments), and a Radioactive Lab (for working with radioactive materials).

These rooms will be placed adjacent to laboratories for easy access.

There will also be a new emphasis on research with rooms for student-faculty research. The Biology department already does this with students; co-publishing papers and giving presentations at the Michigan Academy of Arts and Science. The Chemistry department would like to follow suit with designated laboratory areas for research.

In addition carols will be set up for students to use as a new home according to James Hutchison, Chemistry department chairperson. These carols will be similar to the art majors' "homes" in Clack, and with the recent increase in Chemistry enrollment, new classrooms will be added.

A new faculty member in both Economics and Political Science will also be added. With the large increase in enrollment in these departments, the new staff members will make it possible for every staff member to devote more time to each class.

Bernie Davis, department chairperson of Political Science, said there will be more courses in international politics but not a new program.

Some classes only offered on a rotational basis can now become yearly offerings.

James Mueller, chairperson of the Economics department, said he hopes to expand the existing curriculum by the influence of the new faculty member.

Most of these developments will not be in new course offerings but rather in additional opportunities in laboratories, research and more classes.

With Alma's emphasis on student-teacher relations these developments will offer more opportunities for original research and publishing as an undergraduate students, and more chances for one-to-one communication with faculty and students.

## Washington reflects change in Alma

By Stacie Herriman  
Staff Writer

What has J. Leon Washington been doing? Students and staff do not see Washington, the new Admissions Officer, around the Alma College campus very often.

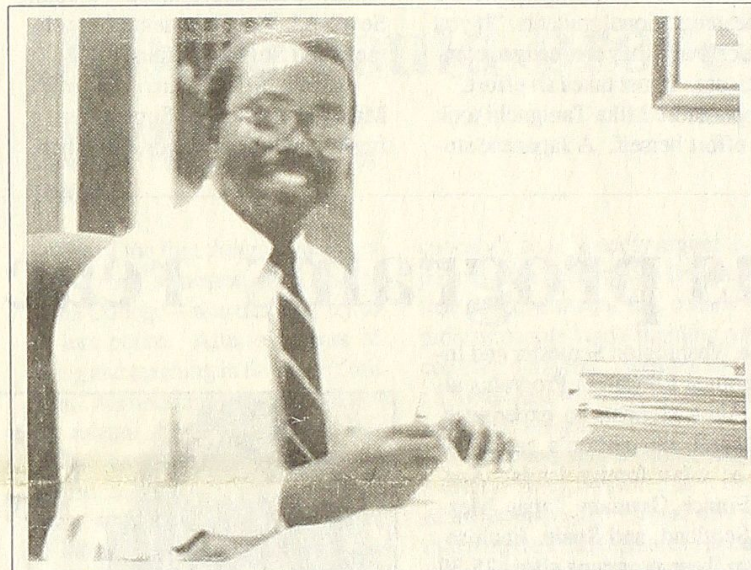
There are several reasons; it has been an unusual year with the Admissions staff finding itself involved in programming activities as well as working the bugs out of a new computer system. In addition, the staff has had to deal with a reduction of applicants. In comparison, the numbers are considerably lower than previous years. The Admissions staff has done extensive calling to other colleagues in the field around the country in order to determine the cause. The staff is still not sure, but it is a general trend around the country.

Regarding the situation Washington said, "It's beginning to catch up which signals us to believe that maybe students are applying later, thereby taking more care and time in making their decisions. It is my hope that applications will pick up and that we will be fine."

Besides settling into the duties of his new job, Washington and his family had to adjust to their new home. "The adjustment initially was quite difficult for me and my family, but as time passes it becomes much easier. Though we are used to small communities—we have lived in other areas of the Midwest in small communities—this has been one of the more difficult adjustments that we have had to make."

Therefore, it's no wonder that Washington "feels overworked right now." If he is not here until the early morning, then he goes home and relaxes in order to prepare for the next day. "I am on too many committees because of who I am and until we are able to get more people to help in this whole effort it will be like that. I would certainly much rather be more visible on campus; I want to be out there, but it's hard."

When Washington came to Alma College he felt "that the college, in its totality, had prepared itself for diversity, and that is one of the rea-



Admissions Director Leon Washington residing at his desk.

Photo by Melissa Misner.

sons they wanted a person like me coming here." The Admissions staff is concentrating on enhancing the diversity of Alma College, which is one of the five-year goals. "Probably a more appropriate term would be cultural pluralism—a concern for and an embracing of different peoples, different cultures, different backgrounds, and making us a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, pluralistic campus rather than the more homogeneous campus that we presently are," said Washington.

The diversity increase project came about as a response to the growing changes in the education field. In general, education of the 90's, or of the 21st century, needs a global approach. It is now known that by the end of the year 2005, of the college age going population, the majority of the students will be peoples of color. Therefore, campuses need to be prepared at some point to deal with the issue in a more global view. As a result, Alma College, as well as other colleges and universities, is concerned with different cultures, different ethnicities, different peoples, and different backgrounds. "The events of the past few months have changed the course of history, includ-

ing education, as we know it," said Washington.

In order to meet the changing trend in education, Alma College has taken several measures to increase the diversity of the college community. The Admissions staff took the first step by designing a minority and international student recruitment program. The two Admissions officers who play key roles in the venture are Mark Messario, a Latino from the Loraino, Ohio area, and Mario Maro, a Black from the Detroit area. "These two men have many connections with minority organizations, and they're building a good program that will put Alma on the map in terms of its other Michigan competitors," said Washington. In connection with this program, five buses are scheduled to bring minority students to campus. The first bus arrived last Saturday, January 20th, and the last is due to arrive by the end of March bringing a total of 400-500 minority students to look at Alma College and the campus. "My hope is that some of them will apply and, if accepted, will want to come to Alma," Washington remarked.

Besides the student recruitment program, a group called the Task Force on Diversity has been formed.

The Task Force is composed of administrators, students, and faculty, who met weekly during the fall and will continue to meet during the spring. The purpose of the Force is to look at what needs to be done as a campus in order to be more prepared for a more diverse student body; in terms of the faculty, the students, the staff personnel at the college, and the college community.

The College is trying to be proactive rather than reactive; Alma will try to anticipate problems and resolve them before they happen, rather than just waiting for them to happen and then taking action.

Washington stated that "so far that has been working well. As a result of the Task Force we have had Charles Moody, Assistant Provost for Minority Affairs at the University of Michigan, speak on campus regarding issues of that (minority) nature and concern."

In addition, the Alma is planning on bringing more minority resource people to campus in the spring to do lectures and workshops for students, staff and faculty. Furthermore, "the institution process" is making sure that more minorities are included in staff search pools.

The results of this diversity-increasing project are going to take time. The most the College can presently speak to is five minority peoples being included on the staff as of this year. The results are "not evident because we are still too few to really stand out," said Washington. "It will be incremental at first and it will probably take a good three years before there are large noticeable results, but maybe we'll see some before that."

Washington concluded the interview with these words: "There's a lot to be done, and, in a positive sense, many students are stopping by who are interested in working in any capacity to help bring the five-year goals and objectives to realization. As long as the whole campus participates in this process, it will be successful."

## Student Congress plagued over presidency

By Mike Collins  
Staff Writer

Issues involving constitutional interpretation and votes required to approve a successor have plagued Student Congress attempts to name a new president in the past weeks.

Problems began, when in the last meeting of fall term, Kim Driver, president, announced her resignation due to graduation from Alma College.

The normal course of events would have been approve Lisa Duetsch, vice president. In a surprise move, Duetsch urged the Congress members to hold their approval of her appointment. When asked to express reasons for not wanting to accept the presidency Duetsch responded, "I wanted to

make sure the Student Budget and Finance Committee had an experienced chairperson so the committee could operate efficient and effectively and use the Student Activity fee wisely."

After this turn of events Congress was unsure of its "next step." The Executive Council comprised of Driver, Duetsch, Kevin O'Shaughnessey, treasurer and Michelle Wemple, secretary, espoused the belief that it would be natural to use the line of succession method and nominate O'Shaughnessey.

This plan did pass by vote through Congress, but not without some violent objections. Those not supporting the plan claimed that Congress was acting in a secretive and manipulative manner. In response

O'Shaughnessey said, "Kim did not want to announce her resignation earlier so as to not affect the cohesiveness of the group. It is Lisa's business to decide not to take the presidency, and it was the belief of Student Congress that the line of succession method was the most logical method of filling the vacancy."

In order to follow the line of succession, Congress still had to approve O'Shaughnessey as president. This was never accomplished; some members of Congress did consider the method proposed by the Executive Council to adequate. Reid Siison, Student Congress member, said, "There is no provision in the Constitution for the chain of command argument; so it would be best to go to a general election."

In the end, Congress decided to resort to a general election. The election will be Jan. 24. O'Shaughnessey will be running against Kerry Radcliffe.

Despite problems with the presidency, Congress gave certificates of appreciation to Murray Borrello, instructor of Geology, and Doris Brandstetter, the Marriot employee who works in for their excellent service to the campus community.

Dean Kridler announced that the College had hired a consultant to help determine Alma's communication needs. One area looked into will be the feasibility of acquiring Cable TV for individual rooms.

Student Congress's next meeting will be Thursday, Jan. 25. The new president will be announced and preside over the meeting.

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## Out of the "Alma Bubble" and into the world of International Education

# News

## International students settle into campus

By David Engelman  
Staff Writer

Alma College students are a diverse group; some coming from as far away as Korea, Japan, France and even Malawi, Africa.

One new student, Young Hyo Son, studied English Literature at the Yonsei University in Seoul, Korea, but is now at Alma pursuing a Business major.

"When I first arrived I was surprised at the size," said Son, accustomed to his university of 20,000 students.

"I like the size now because I know the students, professors and secretaries."

Son did have some troubles adjusting to life at Alma. "Many more students wear formal suits (or sports coat) to class in Korea." He said it took him some time to get used to jeans and T-shirts.

"Whenever I have a problem, I visit my mentor and he gives me advice about being here."

James Kridler, Dean of Students, said each international student was provided with a mentor in addition to an academic advisor. The men-

tor, already an employee of Alma College, agreed to answer questions about campus rules and regulations or about where to find things they need in the local community.

Associate Director of Admissions, Jeff Hammer, already knew Son before deciding to become his mentor. Hammer and Son have eaten Korean food at Yun's Restaurant in Mt. Pleasant, gone to an Orchestis Dance Concert and shopped at the Fashion Square Mall in Saginaw.

"It's been great for me. I've never really known a Korean. I always have a lot of questions about his culture," said Hammer.

"I've gotten as much if not more benefit out of him being here. The different views (he has) are fascinating."

Hammer emphasized that students should take the time to ask questions to the international students. "If you speak slowly, they are ready to communicate. It just takes an effort."

Sophomore Mika Taniguchi took that effort herself. A Japanese stu-

dent, she arrived on campus in August of 1988 to study International Business and French.

Taniguchi was matched with a host family, Kenneth and Sharon Morgan both graduates of Alma College. They helped her open a bank account and choose classes among other things.

Now a member of the Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority, Taniguchi is kept busy.

"It helps me to socialize and make friends. But I didn't understand what it was when I was first rushing," she said.

Last term, international students who wished, were matched with host families in the local area—giving them a place to go over the holidays or on weekends. Kridler said the idea for having a mentor and host family were coordinated by John Seveland, Vice President of Enrollment and Student Affairs.

Jessie Mlotha arrived from Malawi, Africa in September, a freshman Biology major. She is here

on a government scholarship. She plans to study at Alma for all four years, and eventually become a gynecologist. Mlotha would like to finish her schooling in England; there are no medical schools in her country.

When asked how she won the scholarship, which pays for all her studies and expenses, Mlotha replied, "Hard work!" She was judged on her grades, discipline and intended major.

Mlotha said academic and job competition are tough in her country. She also spoke about stricter social codes. "Women don't wear short skirts or pants. It's against the law."

Mlotha's host family is Karen Smith of Alma. "She introduced me to the Red Cross. Next week, I'm going to talk with them about volunteering," said Mlotha.

"Also, when I wanted to send something, my host family helped me find the post office."

Mlotha recently joined the Association for Intercultural Understand-

ing (AIU). President, Emil Vos, said the local campus organization plans an annual International Week, this year to be held between March 12 and 16. In the works for this event are a Spanish Fiesta and a possible African Night and German Bier Garten.

AIU joined Alpha Mu Gamma, the foreign language honor society, in welcoming back overseas students on Wednesday, January 17 in a reception in the President's Dining Room.

Vos welcomed any international students to become members, also encouraging any other interested students to participate.

As part of the Five Year Plan, the number of international students are to be increased from 0.5% in the Fall of 1988 to 2% in the Fall of 1994. This means about 24 international students by 1994.

Senior, Kevin O'Shaughnessey, a student representative on the Task Force for Enhancing Diversity, said "(the change) will be so gradual that

there won't be a major effect."

"The goal of diversifying the campus is to benefit everyone; so that everyone involved will be able to learn from each other."

Anne DeCastel from LaBaule, France is another student struggling with adjustments to life in Alma.

DeCastel lives in the French House, managing job distribution and helping students speak better French.

She described her host family, Dennis and Gayla Phillips of St. Johns as, "very nice people."

"I've gone to eat at the Embers with them. Also, just before Christmas, I didn't know where I was going to go, so I stayed with them for a few days. They were really helpful."

Kridler summed up the effectiveness of the host family program. "It has worked out well and helps international students get to know someone not related to the college. It also helps others to get to know someone from another culture."

## Off campus programs reach beyond the 'Alma bubble'

By Karen Suber  
Staff Writer

Our college community has been described as the "Alma Bubble," offering students few opportunities to experience the "real world." Whether or not this label is justified, it is true that the Alma College environment is homogeneous; the average AC student comes from a Michigan middle to upper-middle class family which seemingly provides for little diversity among the student body. It can be difficult for students to gain a perspective on the attitudes of different peoples and the characteristics of various cultures and subcultures throughout the United States and the world. Add to this the difficulty of most college students, not just Almatians, encountering trying to relate national and international events to their own lives. The result is a community of isolated individuals.

For students who are willing to take the initiative, Alma College offers the occasion to reach beyond the confine of a small community through two off-campus programs—The Washington Semester Program and the International Education Program. Each program offers a panorama of positive experiences to which the participants will attest. Each student interviewed cited an extensive list of benefits ranging from communication skills acquired to the mastering of a foreign language to the new perspective gained on the United States and the world.

The Washington Semester and International Education Programs allow Alma students to experience, first hand, our nation's capital as well as seven foreign lands—Austria, France, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Scotland, and Spain. Each semester these programs allow 25-30 students to sample, among other things, the working of the U.S. political machine, the beauty of Austrian geography, the splendor of German castles, the age-old traditions of Scotland, the excitement of Spanish bullfights, and the delicacies of French cuisine.

The Washington Semester Program (WSP) is designed to allow participants to study the U.S. policy-making process and its relation to one of several areas—national government, economics, justice, journalism, foreign affairs, and peace and conflict resolution. Study is done at the American University. Students combine seminars given by some of Washington, D.C.'s "elite" with an internship of their choosing at powerful lobby organizations such as the American Association of Retired Persons, think tanks such as the Brookings Institution, or various branches of the federal government such as the Pentagon.

The office of International Education offers students a choice between English-speaking and non-English-speaking programs in France, Germany, Japan, Mexico, and Spain. Each program is created to provide



Windy Williams and Amara Henderson are two Alma students out of the many who spent Fall Term '89 overseas. Photo by Melissa Mlsner.

the participant with an intensive analysis of the country—its people, its history, its geography, and/or its language. While living with a host-family, students attend classes sponsored by the Midwest Consortium for Study Abroad (Austria), Alliance Francaise (France) Europa Kellog (Germany), Hokkaido International Foundation (Japan), International Center of Universidad Iberoamericana (Mexico), and Tandem Cultural Center (Spain). Students in Scotland typically live in a flat or dorm and attend the University of Aberdeen.

The WSP is coordinated by Bernie

Davis, professor of Political Science. The overseas programs are organized by James Buschmen, Director of the Office of International Education. Both Davis and Buschmen support their respective programs and encourage students to embark upon new experiences. Buschmen adds that Alma College's off-campus programs allow students to gain a "wider perspective on life."

The programs Alma offers boast a wide range of support among the student body. Of the students interviewed, all agreed that their off-campus experiences provided a realistic view of the world that both

challenged and reaffirmed previously held attitudes and beliefs. Also cultivated was an awareness of current events such as legislative actions by Congress and the breaking of the Berlin Wall. Heather McPhillips, senior and two-time participant in the International Education Program, said that the activities in which students can participate form "an educational experience that everyone should take advantage of." McPhillips credits experiences in Aberdeen, Scotland (Fall 1989) and Vienna, Austria (Winter 1988) with increasing her awareness of "interests that otherwise would not have developed."

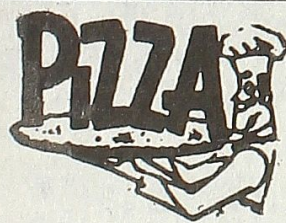
Jennifer Olschefska values her time in France for the independence she gained as well as the greater perspective on life her and around the world. Olschefska goes on to add, "It is easy to be cut-off from other cultures and international affairs...I am now more concerned about what's going on in the world."

Amara Henderson, a junior major, spent last fall in Madrid, Spain. Henderson echoed the remarks of her peers and also noted the "little things" that Americans all too often take for granted—a car, economic status, and education and employment opportunities. She also is very thankful to live in the United States and for the opportunity Alma provided to experience something new. Perhaps Henderson embodies best the enthusiasm of the off-campus participants: When asked if she would recommend this experience to another student, she replied, "Yes! Yes! Yes!"

Any off-campus experience can

enrich the studies and knowledge of a student, whether he/she goes several hundred miles away to Washington, D.C. or several thousand miles away to a foreign country. The author spent last term in "D.C.," the central forum for discussion on the major issues our nation must face, observing the fascinating interactions of politicians, economists, lobbyists, and constituents. The relative impact that each group has on our law-making process is incredible. As much as this article can put forth the benefits of an off-campus experience, it is ultimately the experience itself which will provide the student with benefits which go much beyond the scope of this article. Go ahead! Take the initiative and explore the opportunities Alma offers to sample the world. If you unknowingly miss out on such golden opportunities, it is you who is stuck in the "Alma Bubble." For more information about either program contact Professor B. Davis (SAC 353, X7269) or James Buschmen (Kirk International House, X7247).

Other students who participated in the programs during the fall term are: Dave Kinsworthy, Michael Wildner, Rebecca Dine, Theresa Johnson, Austria; Dawn Wilson, Deborah March, Jane Ferriby, France; Gayle Bowden, Germany; Christina Goodno, Kelley Hall, Kelly Hak, Windy Williams, Madrid; Carrie Howell, Dale Price, Jennifer Gilchrist, Lisa Kauffman, Matthew McGill, Steven Gibson, Steven Zemper, Segovia; Tracy Pitlanish,



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## Honor societies highlighted

By Stacie Herriman  
Staff Writer

On Thurs., Jan. 11, Omicron Delta Kappa sponsored an informational meeting entitled "Honor Societies at Alma."

A representative from each academic honor society gave a short explanation of their group and the qualifications necessary for membership.

Alma College has 17 academic honor societies. The societies include: Alpha Mu Gamma—Foreign Language; Alpha Psi Omega—Theatre and Dance; Beta Beta Beta—Biology; Chi Epsilon Mu—Chemistry; Gamma Delta Alpha—senior honor women; Lambda Iota Tau—English; Omicron Delta Kappa—leadership; and Phi Alpha Theta—

History. The other societies are: Phi Beta Kappa—national academic; Phi Sigma Alpha—Political Science; Psi Chi—Psychology; Rho Chi Epsilon—Business; Omicron Delta Epsilon—Economics; Sigma Pi Sigma—Physics; Exercise and Health Science Honor Society—Physical Science; Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia—Music; and the Society of Physics Students—Physics.

Lambda Iota Tau, Omicron Delta Epsilon, and Sigma Pi Sigma are currently inactive on this campus.

However, if you are interested in joining these honor societies, or any of the others on campus, contact the respective department for more details and an application form.

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# Opinion

## Non-conformism is essential for everybody

By Jennifer Gilchrist  
Staff Writer

"Who so would be a man must be a non-conformist."

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Or woman. The other day at the post office I met a woman who nudged me to question my approach to life. At a first glance she didn't appear as though she could exert this level of influence. She was wearing a red, plastic parka with a hood, and she looked suspiciously like my grandmother except that one of her eyes is permanently crossed.

"I've never seen an ugly person in Alma all the years I've been here," she said loudly for the benefit of anyone who wanted to listen. "I've seen retarded children, over by the park with the large dome," she pointed towards Pine River, "and there was a group of big, healthy, teen-age boys who walked by, and

they were all smiling. It makes me so angry!" She was yelling now. "Just because people are born healthy they don't understand others' pain!"

I agreed. Crazy.

After the stamps were bought, I stood licking them onto my graduate school applications. The woman dropped eleven cents without realizing it. I picked them up for her, and noticed she was carrying a hoe for a cane. She grabbed my arm.

"Let me tell you something!" she whispered loudly. "People are so good! I want to kiss you!" She pulled me closer to her, then let go.

"Keep it!" she exclaimed, referring to the change. "I try to do what I can to help people. It's just a little, but it might help!" She walked off, talking to herself about Goldie

Hawn.

When I left I heard her dropping more change, but I didn't want to seem greedy.

This woman had no regard for constraining social controls. She felt completely free to express herself. Within one moment of entering the post office, everyone in the place knew at least a part of her personality. In a way, she also encouraged the rest of us to talk, to become human again. We became a slightly more loosened version of the silent, orderly line we had formed before.

The trip to the post office isn't simply a mundane errand for her; it is an opportunity to meet different people. She sees injustice for what it is, but her view of the world is a kind one. The people she meets are good

ones, because when it comes to people you usually find what you're looking for.

In fact, the woman in the red parka reminded me considerably of Maude of the "Harold and Maude" movie fame. Maude is a seventy-nine year old woman who befriends Harold, a manic-depressive, suicide-faking teenager who discovered in boarding school that he prefers being dead.

Harold is tormented by the emptiness of his shallow, rich boy's existence. Like many, he finds little meaning in life. He doesn't have any hope for himself. When Maude asks him what kind of flower he would like to be, he tells her one of a bunch of small, green plants because they are all the same. He's

alive, but he's opted out of living.

Within a week Maude is able to show Harold that there is a tremendous amount of good in life, and all he must do is reach out and take a big chunk of it, "otherwise you'll have nothing to talk about in the locker room."

"Harold and Maude" is powerful because it exposes what is wrong with society, yet it remains a hopeful, optimistic film. Maude, like the woman in the red parka, is a fighter. Neither is oblivious to the pessimistic, suppressive society she lives in, but each lives as if these absurd and detrimental social rules don't exist. They are both ultimately successful in defining their own reality. Thus, life for them is more rewarding than for those of us who let ourselves be

controlled by social opinion.

Almost every Alma professor would confirm that Alma's biggest weakness is its students complacency. Few question anything, and the common consensus is that those who do are bothers. It's easy for us to roll our eyes at non-conformists. We like people who don't shake our idea of how the world is constructed. For inspiration, we take few but capitalist tools like Lee Iacocca who become financially successful by using and being used by the system. Maybe this scope is too narrow, and it's time to search elsewhere for integrity. There is often much to be learned from those who least aspire to be inspirational.

And you don't even have to leave Alma to meet them.

#### Editorial:

## Student Congress act supported

A number of events have occurred recently which have acted to disrupt the efficient running of Alma College's Student Congress.

In essence, upon President Kim Driver's graduation last December, a vacancy was naturally left in that position—a position normally filled by the next in line, i.e. the vice-president. However, that individual felt she could be of greater service to the Congress in the vice-presidential office, thus allowing the presidency to go to the treasurer. Many Congress representatives agreed with this course of action in order to expedite the process and assure that Congress would not be interrupted at the beginning of Winter Term. Other members of the Congress, however,

felt that since no such line of succession exists in the current Student Congress Constitution, a general election should be called. It was eventually resolved that the matter must be put before the entire student body to vote on, thus allowing the actual students whom the Congress represents to have a voice in determining the new leader.

Quite simply, *The Almanian* applauds this action. Although the majority of students on campus may be unaware of the events playing Student Congress, it nevertheless still remains the students' right to take a part in determining the outcome of this debate as opposed to quietly letting the new successor slip into place. Thus, despite the lack of a

president, the heated debate which occurred concerning the replacement of that president and the threat of a complete freeze on all Student Congress activities until the position is filled are both worthy pay-offs in order for a responsible solution to occur.

Tomorrow students will be given the chance to vote on this matter and *The Almanian* believes it necessary to give credit to the student representatives who acted with great concern for Alma's student body in the midst of rather complicated circumstances.

As a result of those actions, appropriate measures will finally be taken in a matter which should never have even occurred.

## Debate could prove worthwhile

By John Ottenhoff  
Associate Professor, Dept. of English

One of the first things I asked my classes last semester—my first at Alma College—was that they try to be less polite. After six years of living and teaching in the New York area, I warned them I was experiencing culture shock: New York students, especially Brooklynites, voiced their opinions, argued, let me know what they thought. The quiet of Alma, the silence in the classroom, felt disconcerting.

By the end of the semester, one of my freshman writing students reminded me of that request and ventured that I must have regretted such an utterance. "Look what happened," he said, pointing to the somewhat rowdy turn the class had taken, and the occasionally rude statements of some classmates.

While he had a point—the class had found ways to move from politeness to boisterousness, even to obstreperousness at times—I didn't regret my words. I've repeated them again this semester.

Now don't get me wrong. I bear no great nostalgia for the daily insults that existence in New York guarantees. I hold no fond reminiscences for lack of graciousness, space, or trust. I'm extremely pleased to be part of an academic community that prides itself on friendliness, respect, and cohesiveness. I've even grown accustomed to living in a place where people look you in the eye and greet you as you pass—instead of scowling, or worse. All that is true; and I believe we should rightly be proud of the nurturing environment in which we learn together.

No, I don't want to substitute rudeness for politeness; I'm not trying to make my Michigan students into Brooklynites. But I would like to make a case for arguing, and I'd suggest that this community would be stronger if we had a better sense of how to argue.

We certainly don't have very good models for arguing these days. Sparky Anderson or his heated athletes "arguing" with umpires doesn't qualify; neither does one spokesperson "arguing" with another holder of an official viewpoint of "Nightline." Those sorts of displays merely offer a clash of fixed opinion, inflexible, self-contained, neatly packaged for consumption.

I'm looking instead for what John Milton sought in *Areopagitica*, his great statement about freedom of the press, written in 1644. The words from *Areopagitica* adorning our library entrance make a crucial point about the matter: "Give me the liberty to know, to utter, and to argue freely according to conscience, above all liberties." Milton is especially concerned with freedom to publish and to read books "promis-

cuously"; he repeatedly argues that people must be trusted to find truth, that no government can censor or prohibit people from struggling with contrary opinions. Arguing freely, all Americans would agree, is a basic right and freedom.

But Milton makes another claim earlier in *Areopagitica* that is even more to the point: "Where there is much desire to learn, there of necessity will be much arguing, much writing, many opinions; for opinion in good men is but knowledge in the making."

Disputatiousness is what I'm looking for—not necessarily the kind of polemical arguing that Milton was capable of in his pamphlets, but instead the testing of assumptions, the "trial" of ideas "by what is contrary." I'm seeking some of the disputatiousness that was at the center of university education as Milton knew it—an education that emphasized dialectical thinking from the beginning (Milton's "First Prolusion," for instance, exemplifies a typical undergraduate composition exercise; he argues that Day is more excellent than Night) to the end (elaborate, formal disputations were the major features of commencement ceremonies). Milton and his contemporaries were steeped in argument, and as a result seventeenth-century literature frequently offers an exciting argumentative, dialectical perspective.

From this Renaissance perspective on disputation, I'm disturbed by the lack of argument at Alma. Students who accept my reading of a text without question or challenge aren't just being polite but are missing something vital: the shaping of one's own interpretations, the establishing of one's own authority, the "knowledge in the making" Milton speaks of. A community that does not regularly debate its assumptions—intellectual, political, moral—loses its vitality. A curriculum that offers only isolated, separate, discrete subjects loses the uniquely valuable perspective of "contraries" on trial.

The testing of position—can you support that point? how can you defend that reading?—is at the center of what we do as a liberal arts college. But I fear that we've lost much of that perspective in our efforts to establish caring, nurturing education. We tend to see argument as negative and the testing of ideas as hostile. Instead, I'd argue, we must reestablish a sense of education—one no less nurturing—that values such free exchange of ideas. We must find away to challenge each other's ideas without threatening and without engendering hostility.

"Maybe we don't argue," offered

one of my students, "because we haven't learned how." That's a good point, one borne out by my education in primary and secondary schools, an education more obviously concerned with maintaining decorum, clean halls, and clean facts than disputation.

What models do schools provide? Have you ever heard in a single classroom two of your professors arguing about an interpretation or perspective, explaining why they disagree about an intellectual or curricular issue? How often do we professors actually demand that students try out opinions or defend contrary opinions in the classroom?

Even though opening faculty meetings about curricular and academic standards might be most instructive, such an education in argument seems impractical. But I'd guess that we could be considerably more imaginative than we are in building purposeful argument into the curriculum. I am sure that my students might learn considerably more about Wordsworth's "Tintern Abbey," for instance, if they heard my colleagues and me discussing our different interpretations—and then offered their own opinions—than they do in participating in the considerably neater presentations of individual classrooms. We might not restore disputation to the commencement ceremony, but we could think much more seriously about the ways our efforts to be pleasant have eroded our ability to make education challenging, purposefully confrontational, and ultimately liberating.

All of these musings are actually by way of introduction to my real purpose on this page. First, I write to call your attention to what the *Almanian* editors are initiating with this issue—two pages of opinion, representing a conscious effort to shape a more definite editorial voice and to elicit more views from the college community. We think that letters, answering opinions, and a free exchange of arguments should be abundant in a community that claims to seek wisdom. And I also write to reestablish what we hope will be a regular column of faculty opinion and comment. Comment about campus or world issues—disputatious or not—will be welcomed.

In thinking disputatiously, I'm reminded of how thoroughly William Blake argues against my main source here, John Milton, lamenting Milton's distorted perspectives and offering a truly contrary perspective. But Blake also claims in *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell* that, "Without Contraries is no progression." He's right, and, Miltonist though I am, I must also agree with Blake that "Opposition is true Friendship."

*The editorial comment featured each week reflects the collective opinion of the Almanian editorial board. Accordingly, all opinions contained herein are those of the editorial board and do not necessarily reflect those of the administration, faculty, or student body of the college.*

## Candidate statements

Aware of the interests and goals of Congress, yet unbiased by other committees, I believe I could give the student government a chance to get ahead through offering a long range benefit and gaining immeasurable experience by working with the already established executive board.

Kerry Radcliffe

Why does a second-term senior want to be Student Congress President? Through

almost two years of experience as a Student Congress Executive Council member, I know the complex operation of Congress and the goals that we are trying to achieve. Also, through my involvement in numerous other committees and daily interaction with students, I am aware of campus concerns and interests. I would appreciate your consideration in the election on Wednesday.

Kevin O'Shaughnessey

## White reflects on cause for war

By Amy White  
Staff Writer

It was an era of misunderstanding. A cut on my unborn flesh that never healed, and indelible scar on the face of humanity. It was wrong and it was fought in vain - the Vietnam War - I can only say I feel as if I were born twenty years too late. I have missed so much. There were lives lost that I will never know and there were words said that I will never hear. I was refused and denied the experience of an era that has shaped the way I live today.

I often ponder the idea if there is such a thing as a just war. At the close of 1989 we have witnessed the demise of many communist countries. I have been fortunate to see the downfall of the Berlin Wall and the governmental destruction of Romania and Czechoslovakia. The cold is melting and that is pertinent news to me, but how did the boys feel in Panama? Some lost their lives while others spent their Christmas praying they would see tomorrow.

In the past it has been theorized that the U.S. or Russia will take the initiative in a nuclear war, but they will not. It would be some third

world nation with a crazy, hooligan dictator who has nothing to lose because he does not appreciate the value of life. I am only one person in this entire universe so what good am I? But I guess I can believe and I most certainly can hope. If my dreams are stolen and my beliefs are raped, and I allow these things to happen to me then I am no better than the soldiers who abandoned their beliefs for their country. Did they do the right thing? They let their true dreams and beliefs slip away. They were pumped full of American pride, "The communists are coming, go off and defend your country and prove you are a real man."

I do not know of one real man who can be proud of slaughtering helpless and innocent human beings. To kill without mercy, to me, is just unforgivable. I cannot begin to imagine what it would be like to be in actual combat and I am not sure if I would fight for the U.S. and go against what I believe in. I do not believe in war.

Daily, my heart goes out to na-

tions everywhere and I am sincerely happy for the European countries and their effective attempts at freedom. The world does not revolve around the U.S. and just because so far our governmental system has successfully prevailed that does mean that we have a right to be arrogant or to believe that we are "God's favorites." To me the world is housed under one roof.

I know the Vietnam war was a mistake but I do not disrespect those who fought in it. The fault lies with the government. I am sorry that at one time so many believed in it. Shouldn't we believe in the institution that governs us and provides our rights and freedoms? It is unfortunate that history tells us we cannot be that reliant upon them.

All I want to know is what is next? We as an informed society must stand firm in our hopes and dreams. We cannot let the mistake happen again. War is a destructive means to an end and there is no beginning in stupidity and destruction.



Tom Cruise and 'Born on the Fourth of July' gets two thumbs up in movie review

# Opinion

## King's true meaning not apparent today

By Mike Stargardt  
Staff Writer

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day was observed Monday, Jan. 15, by colleges and universities across the nation. Most of these schools commemorated the occasion by closing classes for the day. Unfortunately, what was intended to be a time for reflecting on the significance of King's "dream", has, in many cases, turned into an extended weekend. This is largely due to a lack of understanding of what took place in the sixties, and what contributions Dr. King made to society.

It is truly difficult for many of us to appreciate what transpired during these years of civil reform; we weren't there. We weren't witness to the violence. We didn't feel the political and social tensions. We didn't watch the incredible and

dynamic change take place within our country. And possibly most importantly, we cannot fully understand Dr. King's "dream".

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day should be more than a sentimental observance of old, dead, history. The "dream" has yet to become reality in many cases.

Without a complete understanding of the "dream", it is easy for our generation to give the civil rights issue priority today. American youth can't sense the immediate reality of our times as they are wrapped in apathy. How can closing schools and post offices create an understanding of Dr. King's ideas? Dr. King is often idolized for his accomplishments and the significance his

life has had on history. While he has become a part of "the American story", there is a failure to move towards reaching for what was more important—his "dream".

The older generation has a responsibility to relay to us what took place in the sixties. We also must make the effort to understand its significance and then attempt to use what we've learned in order that we can one day truly fulfill Dr. King's beloved dream.

Martin Luther King, Jr. day has been referred to as "a holiday in a vacuum of understanding." Hopefully steps will be taken so that we may gain the knowledge to truly grasp the "dream" and use it—to-day.

## On Campus Events

**Tuesday Jan. 23**  
College Bowl AC 113 7-10 p.m. (ACUB)

**Auditions—The Time of Your Life** by William Saroyan  
Dow Auditorium 7 p.m.

**Tuesday Jan. 25**  
Chemistry Seminar—"Gossypol: Aqueous Diel-Alder and Birch." by Dr. Ada Losares AC 108 7 p.m.

**Common Hour—"Sex, Sexuality and Religion: Images from and Reflections on the Temples at Khajuraho"** AC 113 11:30 a.m.

**Friday Jan. 26**  
"MOCK ROCK" Gym 4 p.m. Cost: \$1 (ACUB)

**Saturday Jan. 27**  
Sorority Wake-ups  
Fraternity Run-outs  
Gym opens 7p.m.

**Monday Jan. 29**  
Chemistry Seminar: "Synthesis of Antimetastatic Agents via Vinyl Sulfones and Other Studies" by Dr. Steven Hardinger  
AC 106 7 p.m.

## Panama used as popularity tactic

David Buchanan  
Staff writer

I wasn't too keen about writing about the U.S. invasion of Panama as my editor advised me I should, fearing that the invasion was 'old news'. However, she convinced me that no news is too old for this well informed campus.

President Bush's "Just Cause" operation occurred December 21, 1989, as 24,000 American soldiers marched into Panama in an effort to capture General Manuel Noriega, who "stole" the democratic election last May.

President Bush also reported that the purpose of the invasion was to secure the safety of American lives and to secure democracy in Panama.

Operation "Just Cause" was far from just. The invasion, while being militarily immaculate, was a flop diplomatically. President Bush used the invasion to increase his popular-

ity and to show the public the wimp image with which he had been labeled was gone.

Through the invasion, President Bush accomplished several things. Bush made sure that Manuel Noriega was captured, 238 Americans were wounded and 26 Americans were killed along with the death of 139 Panamanians. But that's OK, because Noriega is captured and Bush is definitely not a wimp any longer.

Bush also showed that any prior agreements the United States makes through the United Nations pertaining to non-intervention don't matter as long as the United States looks militarily strong. This has been a terribly important priority of recent Republican administrations.

The United States should not have sent soldiers to Panama. The same

goals could have been achieved with no military action and no dead Americans if the Bush administration would have pushed for different sanctions. If it was truly necessary to capture Noriega, economic aid to an opposition group would have sufficed and resulted in an ousted dictator.

Operation "Just Cause" resulted in the removal and arrest of the evil dictator General Manuel Noriega. If this would have been the only outcome, President Bush could have been heralded for a successful military operation. But with all the dead people and the violation of the non-intervention agreement signed in the United Nations, Operation "Just Cause" can only be acknowledged as nothing less than a mistake and a failure.

## Movie Review

## 'Fourth' provokes praise

By Tupper Lysaght  
Assistant Opinion Editor

There have been several Vietnam movies released in the last decade. These films have proven to be box office successes and one of the most successful of these was Oliver Stone's "Platoon."

Oliver Stone has announced that he intends to do three movies on the Vietnam experience. The first one was "Platoon" which was concerned with the actual combat and did not focus on the Vietnam veterans at all. Stone's new movie, starring Tom Cruise, "Born on the Fourth of July" focused on the true life story of Ron Kovic whose body was paralyzed in combat. The third movie that Stone intends to make I believe will be concerned with the present day veterans.

Tom Cruise did a fantastic job with this difficult role. I am not a huge Cruise fan and I was really impressed. If you are a Cruise fan then you will enjoy this movie. There is no doubt in my mind that he will receive an Academy Award for this performance.

The movie is about the depressing and frustrating life of a man who diligently signed up for the Marines to go into Vietnam to supposedly stop the spread of communism. Cruise gets shot while on the front line and his spinal cord is shattered. The movie realistically portrays the outrageous situation in Vietnam and what the U.S. military and the Vietnamese people experienced. The film was quite graphic!

The movie also graphically displays the environment in the Veterans hospitals and how poorly these war patients were cared for. The hospitals were unclean and rat-infested and some of the nurses prostituted themselves to the patients. The environment was conducive to mental breakdowns. This was a very effective part of the film.

A couple of years later, Cruise returns home with the desire to lead a normal life, only to be faced with major frustrations. Much of society looked down upon the war veterans because they believed America had no right to participate in that war.

This lack of sympathy caused Cruise to go slightly insane because society would not listen to him when he tried on numerous occasions to explain the hell he went through during and after the war.

The movie itself was very good but also very depressing and emotionally startling. It should not be missed due to its educational value. Oliver Stone did a superb job in relating his audience to the Vietnam situation. I believe this film would appeal to the masculine, the sensitive, the psychotic, the war history buff, and the regular Joe—so nobody has a legitimate excuse not to view it.

I was uncomfortable during much of the film because I stepped on a large piece of gum, and a blond couple sitting behind me would not stop talking. I also dropped my Goobers (chocolate covered peanuts) and they scattered loudly under the seats. As usual I sat behind very tall people with superb postures. However, none of this took away from the value of the film.

## TKE entertainment successful overall

By Heather McPhillips  
Staff Writer

TKE on the Town is an annual event which benefits Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Gratiot County. My expectation upon entering this event was to sit through two hours of tasteless slander against every other group on campus. (Sorry fellas, but after last year...) Emcee Evan Vlaeminck began the production by saying the Wide World of TKE was "The best and inevitably the worst that Alma has to offer." He was right.

The show was highlighted, or should I say dominated, by the outstanding musical performances of Jodi Hallas, Steve Manko, Aaron Fletcher, Steve Lauer, and Erika Powers. Chris Bishop, Eric Cook,

and Jay Van Duzen were hilarious in their comedy performances, which kept the show upbeat and entertaining. Earl Schafer proved it is possible to tell a funny joke without offending anyone, and the TKE sisters gave the audience tasteful and amusing performances. To the above mentioned, my sincerest congratulations.

Unfortunately, I felt the show was scarred by racial, religious, ethnic and sexual jokes I found to be tasteless, offensive, and only entertaining to the seriously insecure. The slurs against other groups on campus were also unnecessary and unentertaining. Is it really necessary to

reinforce the boundaries between the different Greek organizations on campus, especially at a charity event which could promote the Greek system as somewhat socially responsible? These jokes seriously detracted from the impressive talent showcased in the event.

When asked what he thought of the show, Manko stated "The whole show used to be a crude joke, but has metamorphosized into something entertaining." In general, I agree that this year's show was enjoyable and vastly improved. Congratulations to Jill Rutan and Todd Dillon on a job well done.

she gives you her trust  
on a golden inscribed platter  
with words saying:  
i will let you trust me.  
i will trust you back.  
i will never drop this platter.  
and gazing at the display  
of wealth and emotion she  
holds  
you put your trust on  
the platter next to hers  
and smile in satisfaction.

she drops the platter  
by accident  
and it shatters  
she forgot to tell you  
that it was glass.  
and she is clumsy.

but crazy glue is a  
powerful substance.  
so you bleed as you glue  
the words:  
i will let you trust me.  
i will trust you back.  
i will drop this platter.  
and you think theres a word  
missing  
but she says no.  
and you cant remember what  
it was  
anyway

so this time you  
reach to a wooden shelf  
and place the reconstruction  
up high  
so it cannot be dropped.  
trust on a shelf.

tender footed and bare  
and the shards of glass  
pierce and pinch  
your feet  
though you thought theyd  
become callous.

and they laugh  
laugh at your pain  
and blood  
as the last bit  
of red trust you possess  
drops to the glass  
reflecting their laughing  
faeces

they smile at the words you  
read,  
scattered on the floor, that  
you believe.

never  
will  
i  
trust

and you, at their feet  
cry not for yourself  
but for them  
that they can never taste your  
blood  
and that the platter  
will be broken  
again  
and  
again.

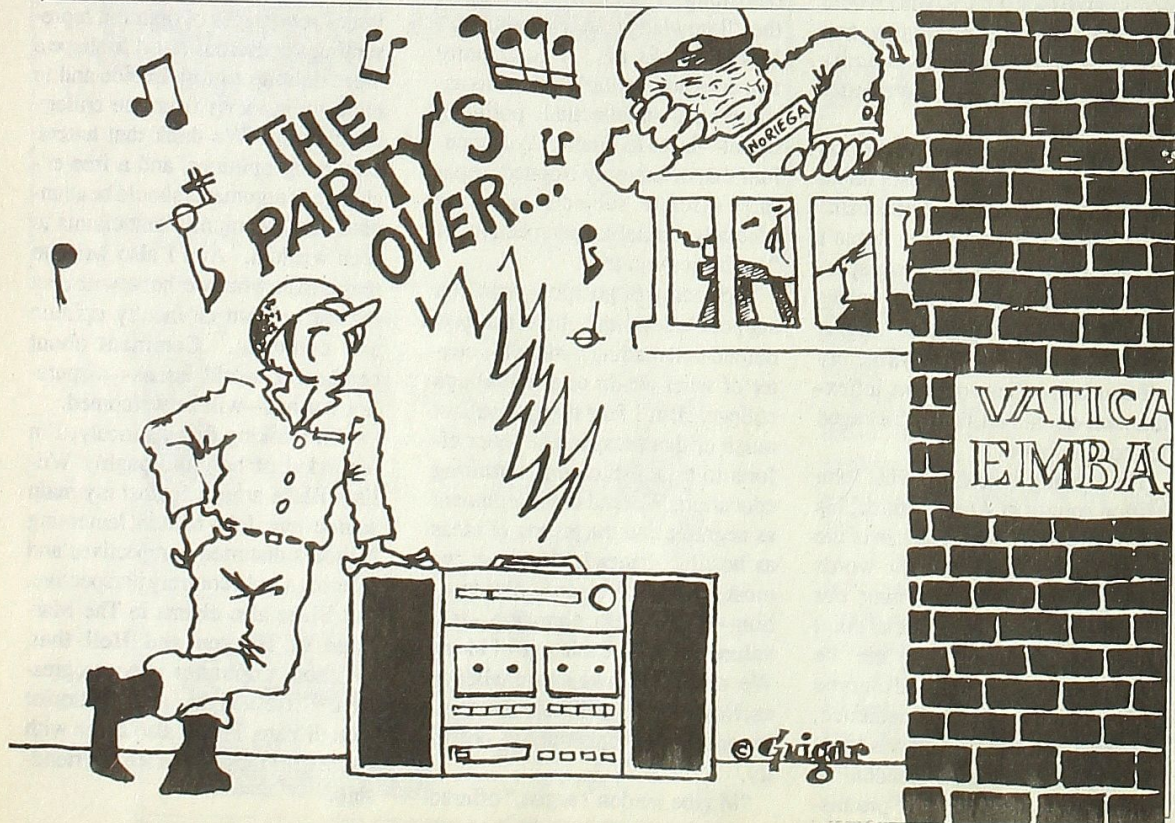
## CREATIVE CORNER

### 'To L.'

by Joanna Beales

one night she is drunk  
she removes the platter  
dancing in circles—spinning  
smiling lightly to her partner  
irresponsibility  
he takes the platter from her  
and gently places it on the  
floor  
and they dance for hours  
laughing  
on the words that were  
broken before.

but the glass doesnt cut them  
they have shoes on their feet  
they call your name  
and you walk into the room





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LONDON THEATRE TRIP SPRING TERM It is still possible to sign up for the London theatre trip for Spring Term, 1990. Contact Dr. Griffiths as soon as possible. The sooner the better to ensure making flight reservations and reserving theater tickets. See me or call. AC 227 7262

Nassau/Paradise Island, Cancun, Mexico. From \$299. Round trip air, round trip transfers, seven nights hotel, cruise, beach parties, free lunch, free admissions, hotel taxes and more. Organize small group, earn free trip. For more information call toll free (800) 344-8360.

To hell with classes To hell with school watch a movie and be cool... Students always receive two movie rentals for the price of one (Nintendo also available). MAIN STREET AUDIO VIDEO (formerly Alma Video World) located in the Heritage Town Square, 116 W. Superior. 463-5523.

African safari! July 17, 1990. Price for those under 21 is \$2700 and over 21 is \$2900. Includes

everything! Will be going to Nairobi, Samboru, Lulce Nakuiu, and Maasuimala. Includes two day camel trek. Call Susan Virenius at 681-5155 or after 4 p.m. at 681-3951.

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MOCK ROCK ACUB'S Annual Airband Event Friday Jan. 10 p.m. in the gym. Be there!

Any organization that hasn't received a budget from the Student Budget and Finance Committee in the past but would like to request one for the 1990-91 academic year, may contact LISA DEUTSCH, #7617, to be placed on the agenda.

Alpha Gams, Welcome back girls! Hope you all had a great break whether it was in Florida (yes, you Jenny!) or right here in Alma, MI. Congratulations to Beth on her second candlelight, wow! OK people, here's the bottom line: Fire up for Rush! Have an awesome week! Loyally, The Pub Crew

Looking for a female roommate for two bedroom apartment—open Jan. 1 (Winter Term). One mile from campus. If interested call 463-4930.

THANK YOU—ADOPT-A-FAMILY HELPERS!! THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE ADOPT-A-FAMILY FOR THE HOLIDAYS PROGRAM THIS YEAR. YOUR DONATIONS WERE GREATLY APPRECIATED BY THE FAMILIES SERVED. THANK YOU FOR HELPING THESE FAMILY MEMBERS EXPERIENCE A BRIGHTER HOLIDAY SEASON OF SHARING. BEST WISHES FOR 1990! Ruth Ann Farrier

Sigs I: Good Luck keeping the weight off this term Munz. Karl, you shouldn't throw stones at glass houses or darts at poop piles. Dibber and Deggie—happy to see you together again. Pad, do you need to borrow a wash cloth? Farwell, how are you and your book-o-fun? Dickie you are so thin it's like you're not here, are you? Oh Stoli, read me another poem...please! Welcome back Mungo & Chuck, again. Rusty, Rusty, Rusty. Fire-up for a great term Green-n-Gold!!! Z

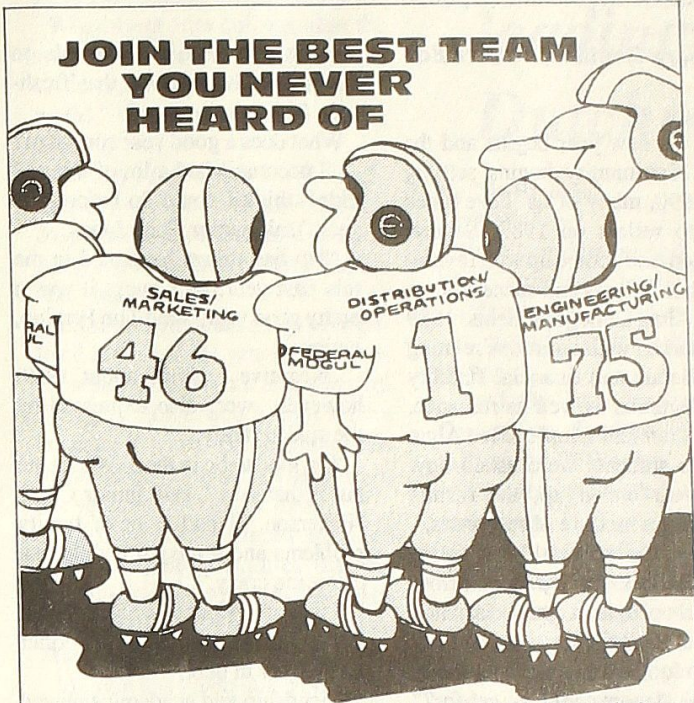
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Wednesday Night Mug Night  
Thursday Night Ladies Night  
Friday HAPPY HOUR 3-6:30

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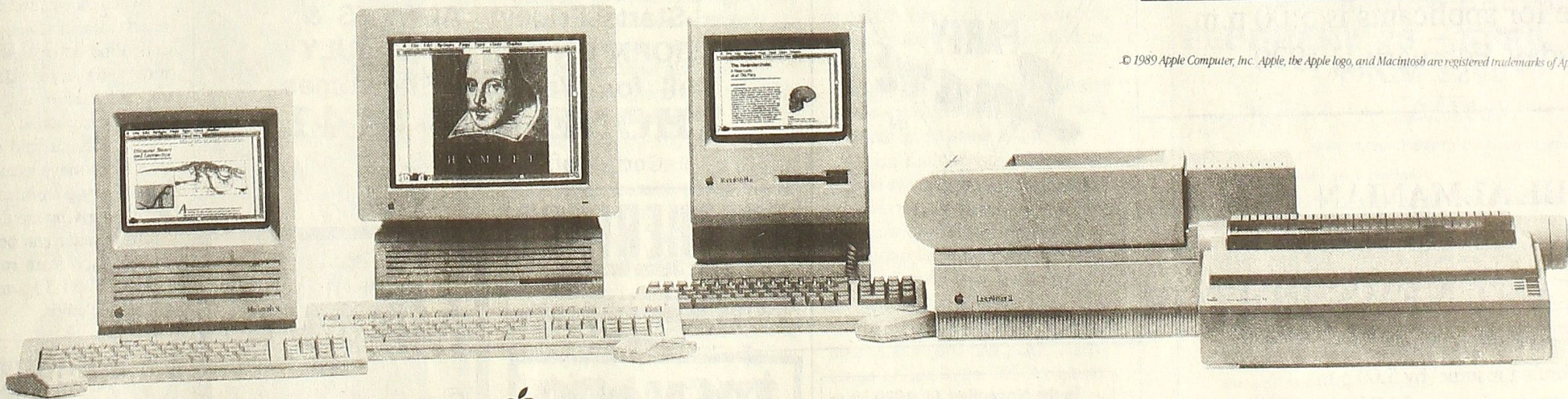
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A campus-wide review  
of 1989, and its affect  
on some of the students

# Feature

## 1989- A year of mixed reviews

By Karen McDonald, Opinion Editor  
and Sara Rowland, Feature Editor

As the new year begins and the Alma Community begins settling into 1990, many of us have taken time to reflect on 1989. Several questions may come up when evaluating our failures and successes.

For Alma College students, 1989 was marked with questions relating to academic and financial stability and downfalls as well as romance. When a random sample of ten Alma College students were asked how their year ended up, the results embodied a mixture of responses.

"It was the greatest!" said freshman J.C. Clarkson. "I graduated from high school with a great class and came to Alma College. Also, I lettered in football this year as a freshman. What more could you ask for?" "It was a really good year for me," said sophomore Peggy Dewey. "I

was introduced to more people on campus and I didn't have that 'freshmen feeling' anymore."

What does a good year consist of? "I accomplished a lot of things I didn't think I could do before this year," said junior Chris Jonas.

"No bad things happened to me this past year, so I guess it was a pretty good year," said Tim Peraino, junior.

Negative feelings about 1989, however, were also expressed by the student body.

"I'm glad to be in the 1990s let me put it that way," said junior Chere Nickerson. "I had a lot of family problems and a busy schedule that drove me crazy."

"I was an up and down year," said senior Jeff Martin. "I went further and further in debt."

Friendship and academics played major roles in the making of a good year.

"In some ways 1989 was a good year in other ways it wasn't," said Dawn Burke. "I made a lot of new friends, but grade wise it was bad."

"I enjoyed the myself during 1989 because I learned a lot about myself and other people," said sophomore Jay Ferguson. "I also met a special somebody."

"I got a boyfriend and my grade point finally went up," said senior Lucinda Tate.

"First of all, 1989 was the year I graduated from a great high school," said Nedret Avci, freshman. "Besides that, I spent the summer overseas and now I am experiencing college. Everything's new and different."

Now that 1990 is in full swing, it's hard to tell what kind of challenges the year will provide us with. In reality, all we can do is cross our fingers and hope for the best.

## The last of the Christmas lists

By Karen Pawlowicz  
Assistant Feature Editor

It's only been a month since Christmas, but it seems like ages since you opened that last gift.

Thanks to George Gazmararian, you can now have one more gift, if you are willing to take the risk.

Gazmararian, a business administration professor, has compiled a list of twenty "low priced" stocks for the last 17 years.

At the end of fall term, he prints a copy of his choices and distributes them to his classes.

The list tells the name of the stock, where it is traded, and the price of the stock as of November 30.

The stocks are introduced with the following words by Gazmararian:

"I consider the following twenty low priced stocks attractive for substantial appreciation, for those investors who are willing to assume

above average risks."

Last year, the Seventeenth Annual Christmas List included the following stocks: (in parentheses is the stock's exchange) ASK Computer Systems, Inc. (OTC), Applied Magnetics Corp. (NYSE), Brenco Inc. (OTC), Circon Corp. (OTC), Colorocs Corp. (OTC), Dallas Semiconductor (OTC), Dollar General Corp. (OTC), Integrated Device Technology, Inc. (OTC), Intellicorp (OTC), Interleaf (OTC), Jackpot Enterprises, Inc. (NYSE), Kimmins Environmental Service (OTC), Komag (OTC), LSI Logic Corp. (NYSE), LAM Research Corp. (OTC), Network Systems Corp. (OTC), Optical Coating Laboratory, Inc. (OTC), Sigma Design, Inc. (OTC), Silicon Valley Group, Inc. (OTC) and Tel-labs, Inc. (OTC).

A check of the January 19 *Wall Street Journal* had some of the stocks rising and some falling, but none with tremendous changes.

Among the losers were ASK Computer Systems, Inc., falling from 8.625 to 7.875. Other losers were Colorocs Corp. (10.00 to 8.625) and Integrated Device Technology, Inc. (8.125 to 6.00).

Gainers in the group after a month were: Applied Magnetics Corp. (8.75 to 9.00), Brenco Inc. (6.875 to 7.625), and Kimmins Environmental Service (10.50 to 11.375).

One has to be careful in the up and down world of investing. The gainers this month may turn out to be the losers of the year. Because of this, Gazmararian concludes his list with the following caution—"Investigate before you invest."

## Panel Enlightening

By Jason Pasko  
Staff Writer

On Wed., Jan. 11, RhoChi Epsilon Business Honor Society will be hosting a panel discussion.

The discussion will be held in Jones Auditorium beginning at 7:30 p.m.. The panel will consist of six Alma alumnae from the class of 1984 and 1989.

The panel will be discussing their individual experiences while attending Alma, the changes they have gone through since graduating, and their career paths.

In addition they will also be fielding questions about the importance of academics (both under- and post-graduate), future work prospects for graduates, and most importantly—"Life in the Real World".

The panel will consist of: Henry Ozeriter (1984), Supervisor of Capital Planning for Pepsi-Cola of Troy, MI. Ozeriter will also be recruiting on campus next term. Mark Seng (1984), Marketing Analyst for Federal-Mogul Corp., Birmingham, MI. Cheryl Pohlman (1984), Manager of Recruiting for White Communications. Dave Buhl (1979), District Manager for Michigan Bell, Detroit, MI. Cheryl Burmeister (1979), Senior Productivity Analyst for Comerica Bank, Detroit, MI. Kevin Scott (1979), Small Business Loan Officer for Comerica Bank,

Birmingham, MI.

Rho Chi Epsilon is a business honor society dedicated to being an active force on campus and in the classroom. Recently, Rho Chi sponsored an Ernst and Whinney panel for the discussion of the public accounting field.

Lesli Walsh, president of Rho Chi, said "We had a great turnout, over 80 students and faculty showed up, I think it was extremely informative for everyone involved."

Rho Chi Epsilon inducts members twice per year on the basis of G.P.A. and application. The current requirements are 3.4 overall GPA and 3.5 in business, consisting of at least 12 business administration credits. Current Seniors need a 3.2 overall and a 3.5 in business. Rho Chi Epsilon sponsors social and educational events.

"It's not just another honor society," said senior member Ted Suidgeest, "We have a lot of fun, and hopefully help some students reach their career objectives."

If you have any questions regarding Rho Chi, or the upcoming panel discussion, please feel free to contact one of the Rho Chi officers: Lesli Walsh, Ted Suidgeest, Deb Wroubel, and Lisa Deutsch.

## Bookstore always makes a killing

By Gray Robertson  
Staff Writer

\$189.43!!!

Need I say more?

Yes students, it's time to face the ever present, money-sucking book store.

With a new semester and all new classes it is inevitable that you will have to stand in line at the Scot Shop, one hand supporting fourteen weeks of mind expanding texts, while the other hand holds that huge wad of cash on your favorite check writing pen.

Which class it happens to be, it will soon make that hard earned money of yours disappear with one push of the dreaded "total" button on

the cash register.

\$194.76!!!

Ouch! Each year the prices seem to grow.

It is hard for students to imagine just how a book can cost so much. Prices on textbooks can range anywhere from \$7 all the way up to \$70, and that doesn't make for small totals once you purchase what your professors have required to buy.

\$178.52!!!!

Yes, you must buy your books, fellow students, but fortunately you can always sell them back at the end

of the term.

Those of you who have heard this statement before I expect should be laughing right now, for the totals you get back make you feel as if you're selling a completely different set of books!

Quite simply, students just don't win in the war of the wages with the Scot Shop.

But all in all you must be positive, for while the college gains profit, the students gain knowledge, and we all know which of those is the most important, don't we?

## Personality behind the convenience store

By Cara Sell  
Staff Writer

Bzzzz!

Most people find the sound of the buzzer at Scotty's to be annoying; some students do their best to leap over the mat to avoid setting it off.

To Doris Brondsetter, however, this sound signals that she will be seeing some of her favorite people: Alma College students.

It is not unusual for Brondsetter to strike up a conversation at the cash register or give the customers her words of wisdom. This is what keeps every day on the job exciting for her.

"I love working with the students," she said. "I feel like a mother to them."

In her free time Brondsetter also enjoys being with other people. She said she frequently spends time visiting nursing or foster homes and talking with the people there.

In addition, she said her family also plays a big part in her life. She has three daughters and four grandchildren: Steven, Debbie, Lisa, and Kristin.

"My favorite hobby is my youngest granddaughter, Kristin."

According to Brondsetter, traveling is another one of her hobbies, but she only has time for it in the summer.

Florida was the site of her favorite vacation.

Recently Brondsetter was presented the 1989 Appreciation Award from Student Congress.

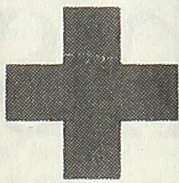
"When they called me over there I had no idea what was going on. They called me down to the front of the room and everyone clapped loudly. I still didn't know what was happening," she explained.

Brondsetter said she was overwhelmed to have received the award. "I am very grateful to all of the students for giving me this honor."

Brondsetter can be found in the convenience store most weekdays from 4:45 - 11:30 p.m. and on many of the weekends.

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donate blood when you're  
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& DO IT.



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When you party,  
remember to...



In the November 11, 1989 issue of the Almanian there was not proper credit given to the author of the poem titled "ejaculation." The actual author is a writer for Glamour magazine. We are sorry for this lack of information and will make sure that nothing like this ever happens again.

### THE ALMANIAN EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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Please Submit cover letter and resume'

along with application to:

Communications Comm.

c/o Student Affairs Office

Deadline for applicants is 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, February 1, 1990

### THE ALMANIAN ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

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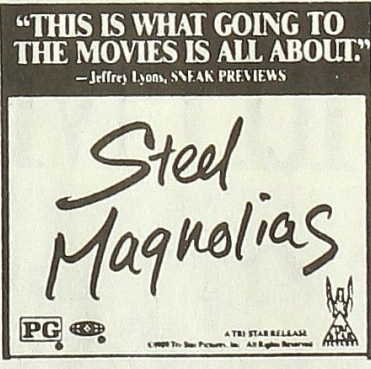
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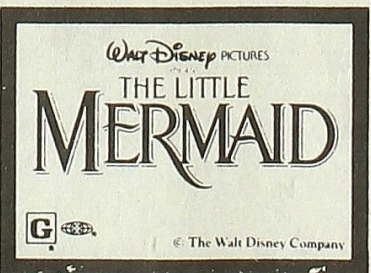
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*Athlete of the week,  
Andy Mangin, and  
his secret to success*

# Sports

## Athlete of the week:

## Andy Mangin is no stranger to success

By Shannon Nichols  
Sports Editor

There are many success stories on the Alma College campus. The stories are about students who participate in a variety of activities. One of these stories is about Andy Mangin.

Mangin is a junior guard and one of the driving forces behind the Alma College basketball teams success.

Mangin is no stranger to success. He had quite a taste of it in his high school years. He attended Flatrock High School and played three sports.

His ability to play basketball earned him All-League for three years, All-State his junior and senior years, and player of the year in his final season.

He also excelled in baseball, earning All-League honors for three years at shortstop and second base. To round out his senior year, he was ranked 12th in the state as a Cross Country runner.

To what does Mangin attribute his success? He gives credit to God and his family before all others.

As the youngest of six children, he said he feels family is of extreme importance. He said he thanks his parents for always being there.

"They are always there for

me no matter what the problem is," said Mangin.

He also said that his high school coach, Denny Sluder, has had an influence on his life. "He is like a best friend. He was guard oriented, and he had played in college so he understood how to work with us," Mangin said.

Andy claims that he has not changed much since high school. He said he has the same basic philosophy towards life. He said he enjoys having fun. "If basketball ever stopped being fun then I would stop playing," said Mangin.

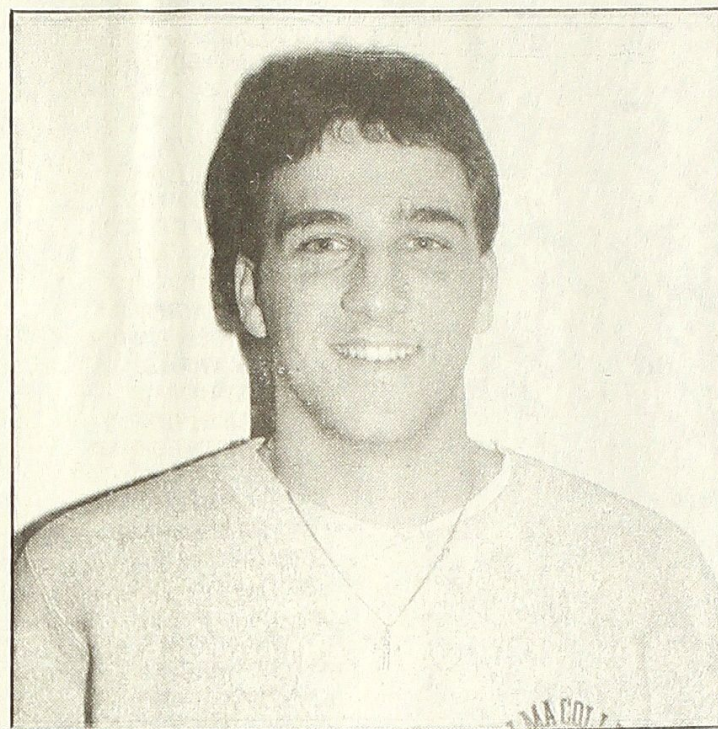
Why does a guy with all this talent pick a Division Three school?

"I like this school, I like the people, and the school came very highly recommended," said Mangin.

At this point in his career it seems as though he has made the right choices.

Though there were some changes in this year's basketball program, it has not seemed to shake Mangin's confidence in the team.

"We have a very good team. We have won some games this year that



Alma athlete of the week, Andy Mangin. Photo by Stuart Tannehill.

we would not have won with last year's less relaxed style of play. The games we are losing in the final minutes are the games we will be

winning next year," said Mangin.

Andy has two goals for this season, he wants to win the league and

go to the national tournament.

What about after college, after the seasons of success? Mangin admits some hesitance about the "real world," but also believes it will be exciting.

"When I leave here I will finally find out what I have learned. Not only what I have learned academically, but what I have learned about life," said Mangin.

His career goals are as sport oriented as his school years have been. He would like to work as a Physical Therapist and coach a high school basketball team. He attributes his desire to be a Physical Therapist to his years of physical activity.

"I have seen so many sprained ankles and other injuries that the rehabilitation of athletes seems to be a good direction for a career," said Mangin.

Mangin has given much of his life to athletics, but said it has all been worth it. "I am basically a happy person, and there is not a lot about my life that I would change," said Mangin.

## Scots defeat league leading Dutchmen

By Tia Brandel  
Staff Writer

Excellent defense and strong rebounding sparked the now 11-5 Scots to a dazzling victory over the nationally-ranked Flying Dutchmen from Hope.

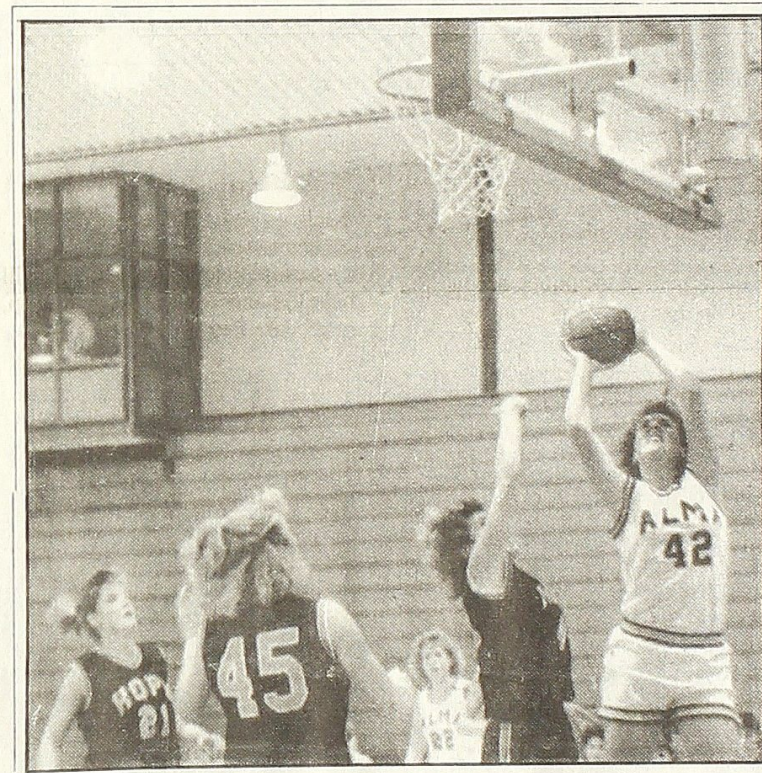
The Lady Dutch entered Cappaert Gymnasium Saturday ranked third in Division III Women's Basketball and undefeated with a 2-0 MIAA record and 11-0 overall. Alma entered with a 2-2 MIAA record, having suffered earlier losses to Calvin and Olivet Colleges and defeating Kalamazoo and Albion.

Despite being the expected underdogs, Alma played with an intensity and determination that left no doubts as to who controlled this game. The Scots won the opening tip-off and didn't stop fighting until the final buzzer sounded. Even when his team trailed, Coach Charlie Goffnet was proud of the poise and hustle his team displayed.

"We handled everything they threw at us. Everyone played well" said Goffnet. "We're a smaller team and that means we had to scrap and scrape for everything. But that's what we did. We concentrated on defense and rebounding and it paid off."

Senior Stephanie Mills led the rebounding effort with nine. She was closely followed by Captains Chris Comtois and Kelly Spalding who had seven each. Spalding led in scoring with 21 points for the day. Comtois also had 10 points and six steals while junior guard Jolene Kanary had eight points and three assists.

Both Spalding and Mills were selected by the MIAA coaches as players of the week. Spalding was chosen for the week of January 2, and Mills for the week of January 8.



Alma's women basketball players going up against Hope College rivals.

Photo by Dave Estrada.

## Intramural Basketball

By Adam Dettman  
Staff Writer

Intramural sports is truly an activity which all enjoy. Whether for exercise or just good old fashion clean fun, it is the thrill of competition that inspires many Alma College students to participate.

Presently, intramural basketball is in full stride. Men and women alike are pitted against each other to play 40 minutes of non-stop action. The four men's leagues—A, B and C—and the women's league are very competitive.

I caught up with a few of the participants and asked them a plethora of questions. What follows is a small sampling of the responses I received:

Q: Why is being an I.M. referee such an enjoyable occupation?

A: Kevin Lathwell: "I think it's because no one ever complains about the calls I make."

Q: What is it that you enjoy most about I.M. basketball?

A: Jill Rutan: "The jam-packed stands and the notoriety the women's league gets during our many breath-taking games."

A: Kirk Miller: "Watching Carl Grant imitate Michael Jordan."

Q: How has intramural basketball effected your life?

A: Jay 'Jean-Claude' Van Duzen: "I.M. Hoop gives me an opportunity to develop my inner spirit which is the underlying key to both my super human powers and my academic prowess. A man who can succeed in I.M. hoop will be a success in life. Just look at me! I see myself as a role model for all young p l a c e kickers everywhere."

Q: What does I.M. basketball represent to you?

A: Matt Denicola: "It gives me a reason to get up in the morning."

Q: What is it that makes you strive to do your best night in and night out on the court?

A: Evan Vlaeminck: "It's that notion that I have that someday an NBA expansion team will someday pick me up. I really look forward to playing. Why not? Mark Konecny did."

Q: What do you most thoroughly enjoy about watching intramural basketball?

A: Amy White & Gina Russell: "Sweaty bodies and bouncy balls."

Q: What sort of emotions does intramural basketball stir up for you?

A: Jay Burnmeister: "Intramural basketball. To some, it's an obsession. For me, it's a religion. My unrelenting drive on the I.M. courts carries over into my academic endeavors at Alma College. The reason I decided to attend Alma is the incredible I.M. package that they offer. Alma College boasts a veritable cornucopia of Intramural opportunities."

By Todd Emerson  
Staff Writer

Last Wednesday the Alma Swim Team travelled to Albion to take on the Brits. After a very competitive meet, both Alma's women's and men's teams lost. Yet both made strong showings during the meet.

On the women's team, distance swimmer Melissa Sondej powered her way to first place in both the 1000 and the 500 freestyle races. Utility swimmer Dawn Ingram placed third in both of these events as well as third in the 100 fly.

In the 200 I.M. race Jennifer Feyes took first place. The only other first place for the women that night came from Julie Boltman who won the 100 breaststroke with a time of 1:20.09. Boltman also managed to gather second place in the 200 I.M. and the 100 butterfly.

The women's 200 medley relay team, racing in a relay of all four legal strokes, consists of Lisa Hronec, Shannon Zamoyski, Heather McManus, and Kerry Jelencheck. This group managed to corner a second place.

The 200 freestyle relay of Zamoyski, Hronec, Jelencheck, and Sondej, also swam to a second place finish.

Lisa Eberly placed third for Alma in the 200 Freestyle. She injured her shoulder, but managed to finish the 200 Breaststroke and take fourth.

In diving, the women's diver, Robyn Grieve took second place on both the one and the three meter boards.

Though all the women swam tough,

the Brits were able to overcome the Scots with a score of 113 to 101.

The story was the same for the men's team. Outnumbered by the Brits, the Scot's four-man team went out and swam as strongly as possible.

Freshman sprinter Brett Powers swam for second place in the 200 Freestyle as well as the 100 Butterfly. Senior captain Jim Ledyard managed to place third in both the 50 Freestyle and the 100 Backstroke. In the 1000 Freestyle, Todd Emerson swam to first place, with Curt Watkins finishing a close second. In the 500 Freestyle Emerson and Watkins took second and third respectively.

Despite strong races, the small size of the team showed through, with the final score being 162 to 42.

Coach Kathy Davis said that everyone swam great and that judging by everyone's improvement this season will surely be a strong one.

This past Saturday the Alma Scots Swimming And Diving team took on the Kalamazoo Hornets.

Alma's women's team was only able to score one first place. Eberly swam to first in the 100 Breaststroke with a time of 1:18.41, with second place going to Boltman, and third to Jelencheck.

Diver Robyn Grieve, scored high this meet by taking second place on the three meter board with a score of 178.8.

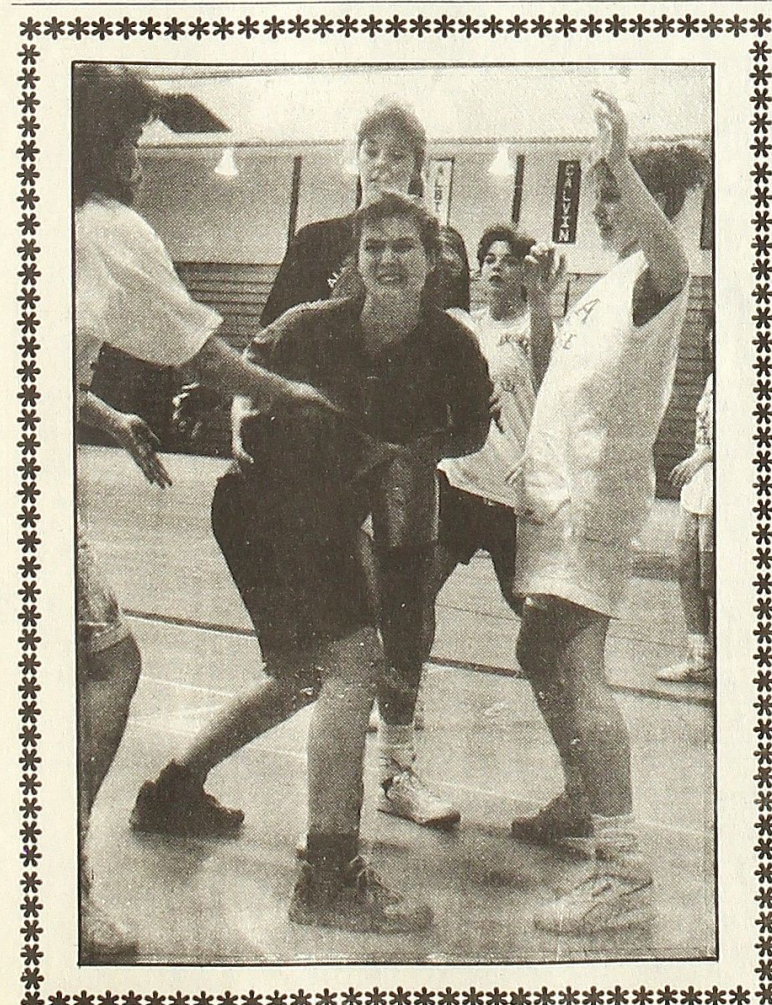
Melissa Sondej captured second place in the 1000 Freestyle. Heather

McManus managed to gather third place in the 50 Freestyle. Jennifer Feyes swam to third place in the 200 Medley. The final score was a disappointing 161 to 66.

The Men's team also suffered a disappointing defeat. The 200 Medley and the 800 Freestyle relay, made up of Watkins, Powers, Ledyard,

and Emerson, managed to score second place in both events. Ledyard swam to a second place in the 100 Backstroke with a time of 1:06.17. Watkins took second in the 100 Breaststroke. The men's team lost 162 to 37.

Alma's next swimming meet is next Friday at Hope.



Women's I.M. basketball playing hard on the court. Photo by Stuart Tannehill.

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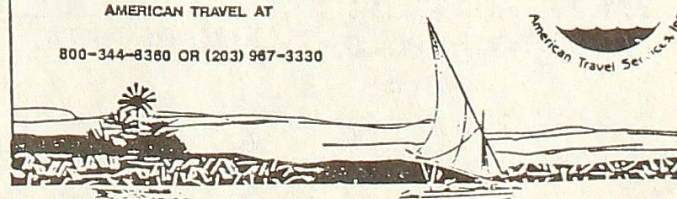
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# Sports

## Men's cagers find success in Florida

By Sue Bignall  
Staff Writer

Alma College men's basketball team has been successful on and off the road this season. They started off their holiday by playing in two tournaments. The first was the Citrus Hill Tournament held in Lake Wales, Florida.

The Scots "took it to them" and won the tournament. Mike Miles, a sophomore center was named most valuable player with his tremendous rebounding performance. Miles racked in 39 rebounds in the three games played.

The Scots came in second in the Convenient Food Mart Classic Tournament held at Oakland University. Alma College junior guard, Andy Mangin, was named all tournament player for both tournaments due to his exceptional offensive play.

Mangin averaged 22.4 points per game as the Scots won 4 out of 5 games while competing in the holiday tournaments. Mangin scored 71 points in the first in Florida and 41 in the second at Oakland University. He was selected Player of the Week by commissioner Al Deal.

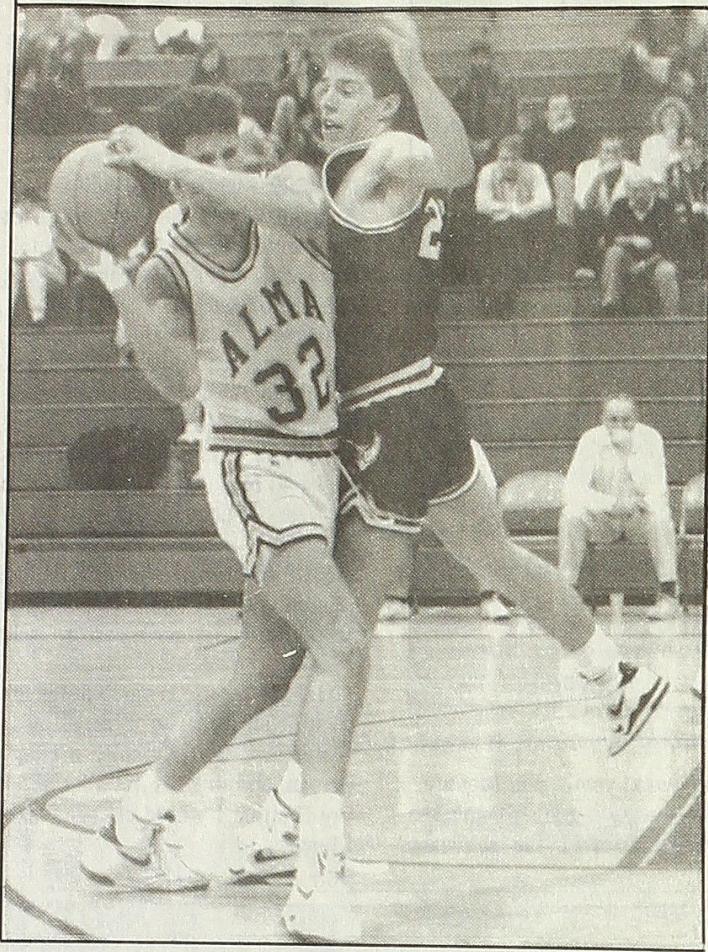
Alma lost a close game in a battle with Spring Arbor. Though the Scots played hard with super performances by Mangin, Todd Kulawiak, Paul Grange, and Miles, they fell short at the end by a score of 77-78.

The Scots split two conference games, losing to Calvin 68-79 but beating Albion 75-67.

The excitement was high in Capaert Gym on Wednesday night when the Scots took on the Comets of Olivet.

The JV team lost a tough one 70-78. Tammus Hileman led the Scots with 20 points and Max Reck chipped in 12. Eric Blomquist and Randy Lindquist dominated underneath with 12 and 10 rebounds respectively. At the end of the night Alma shot 39% from the floor to Olivet's 41% and 70% from the free throw line to the Comet's 78%.

The varsity game was equally ex-



Alma varsity basketball player passes around the defense.

Photo by Robin Roller.

citing. The game was intense, the crowd was wild, and the Comet's appeared frustrated and a little hostile. Alma got an early technical foul and the Comets soon followed with two of their own.

Unsportsmanlike conduct was called on a Comet player and he was ejected from the game. That angered Olivet coach Gary Morrison's, who also received a technical for unsportsmanlike conduct. When the buzzer sounded at the end of the game, the Alma Scots were victorious winning 93-75.

Todd Kulawiak was the scoring leader with 21 points. Mike Miles contributed 19, Andy Mangin 15, and Jerry Czarnecki had 11.

Underneath, Andy Mangin, Mike Miles, and J. Shriver each raked in 6 rebounds.

Overall from the floor, Alma shot 58%, 30% from the three point line, and 74% at the free throw line. Olivet shot 46% from the floor, 58% from the three point line, and 70% at the free throw line.

A happy Bob Eldridge, the head coach for the Scots said, "I am pleased with this team and the way these guys are playing. We need to be strong now with the toughest part of our season coming up!"

Five games out of the Scots' next six will be on the road. The Scots next home game is Saturday February, 3rd against Calvin.

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All opinions contained herein are those of the editorial board and do not necessarily reflect those of the administration, faculty or student body of the college.

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## Sports Opinion

By Scott Alexander  
Assistant Sports Editor

On Sunday January, 28, the San Francisco 49'ers will bang heads with the Denver Broncos in Super Bowl XXIV. We asked some Alma athletes who they were picking to win the coveted NFL Championship, and here are some of their responses:

"San Francisco, because of Joe Montana."

- Mike Nixon

"San Francisco, because they have

the best overall team depth."  
- Laura "Sparky" Holmes

"Denver, because John Elway is a stud."

- Paul Grange

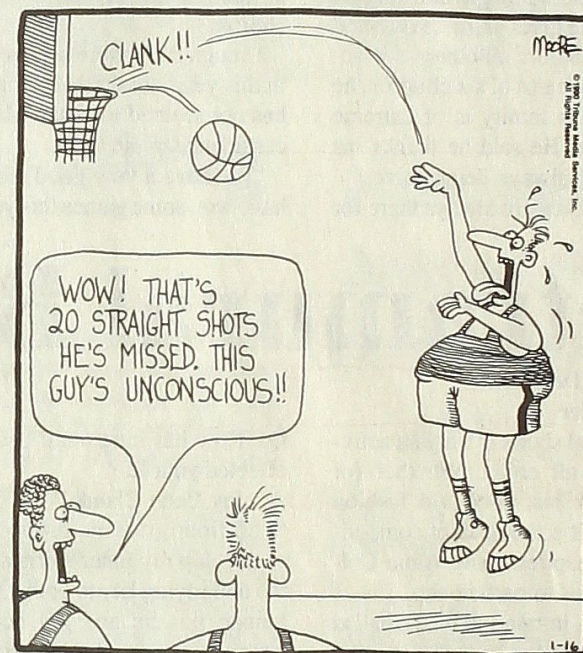
"Denver, because the law of averages is on their side."

- Darby Wiler

"San Francisco, because I think that they're really neat."

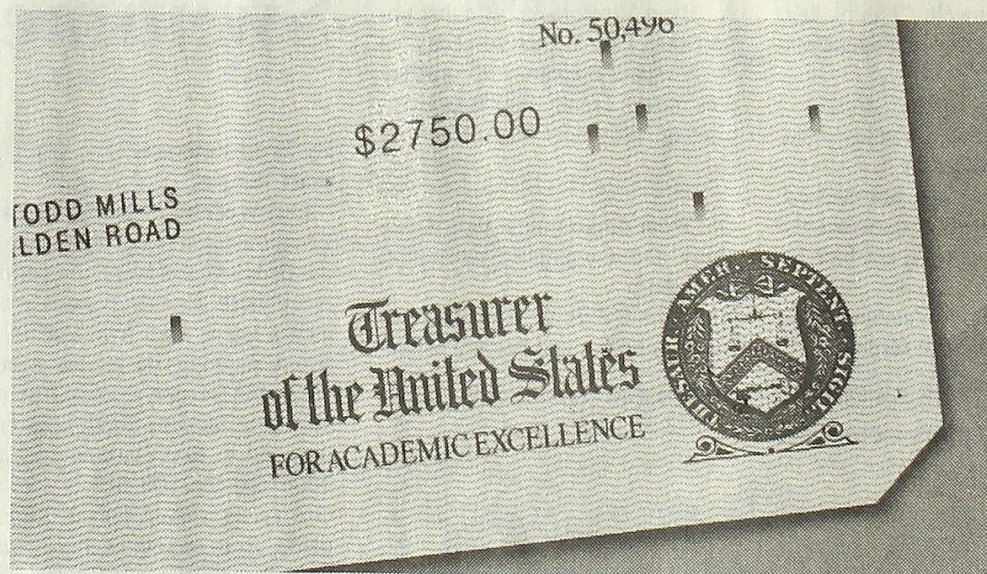
- Treeter Johnson

### In the Bleachers



When dweebs get hot

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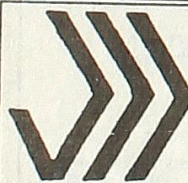
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