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National observance promotes 'condom' sense

By David Engelman
Assistant News Editor

"Get smart this Valentine's season. Show your sweetheart that you love them. If you are sexually active, use a condom, every time."

This advice graces a wall of Wilcox Medical Center along with the dates for National Condom Week, Feb. 12-16.

Director of Health Services William Clark said the purpose is to inform people about safe sexual activity.

"The way to increase your effectiveness of preventing sexually transmitted diseases is to wear some type of latex barrier that's going to prevent that transmission. It increases the effectiveness, though, of course, nothing is ever 100% sure except abstinence," he said.

National Condom Week on Alma's Campus is the joint effort of Wilcox Medical Center and the Center for Counseling, Career Planning and Placement.

Clark said several activities are in the works for the week including a video tape of college students talking about safe sex and group discussions for interested students.

"We are going to get condoms out of the package and let people actually feel what a condom is like, because I wager that on our campus the majority of our people have never opened a condom package," Clark said.

Clark said educational sessions will be both informative and fun. "People will test their knowledge of safe sex. We'll also be testing condoms to see which are the strongest."

According to Clark, many students are naive when it comes to any knowledge about sexual activity. He offered street terms such as "rimming" and "water sports" as examples.

He added that a fear to ask questions about sexual activity inhibits students so much that all students do is find themselves in a

situation where they plunge headlong into sexual activity without any information at all.

"It just happens, which is when you have problems all the way from pregnancy to AIDS," Clark said.

But Wilcox and the Center do not wish to condone promiscuity through the campus wide National Condom Week. Clark listed the three steps to being safe about sex; abstinence, mutual monogamy and safe and responsible sexual activity. He emphasized that each student choose the one which best fits his life style.

"We decided here at Wilcox and at the Center that it was time that we start pushing safe sex on more of a campus-wide basis following more the national trends at other universities," Clark said.

Wilcox also offers birth control pills, diaphragm fittings and contraceptive sponges not to mention counseling on all forms of birth control.

"Don't be afraid to ask! We'll talk to anybody," Clark said.



Safe sex practices promoted during National Condom Week.

Photo by Stuart Tannehill.

40% decline in application stirs concern

Departmental expansions put on hold

By David Engelman
Assistant News Editor

The expansion of four academic departments for the 1990-91 school year has been put on hold, according to Interim Provost Joseph Walser.

Walser attributed the hold to a 40% drop in number of applications received as compared with January of 1989.

"Because of the down side of admissions, we had to make some contingency plans," he said.

Up in the air is a three year plan for the expansion of the Speech Department to include a Communications Department, and new faculty members for Chemistry, Economics and Political Science departments.

Six departments, including Art, Business Administration, English, French, Mathematics and Sociology will need replacements.

"There are six faculty searches going on right now, and those are continuing," said Walser. He said these departments would get replacements because they are positions which al-

ready existed.

"We made a decision that these new plans for academic expansion (in Speech, Chemistry, Economics and Political Science) would be put on hold until we can see what the enrollment picture looks like," he explained.

According to the Admissions Report for Fall 1990: Freshman and Transfer Activity for Jan. 22, 1990, total applications received to date were down from 791 and 865 in January of 1988 and 1989 to 498 by the end of this past January.

"Traditionally, Alma has received the largest number of applications between November and February," said Director of Admissions J. Leon Washington.

"Our hope is, if they continue to pick up (number of applications received) and they have picked up during the month of January, then they will catch up at some point (to numbers received in previous years)," he added.

According to Walser, the only factor causing the hold on academic expansion were the low number of applica-

tions being sent by prospective freshmen.

"At this point, we saw that there was going to be a shortage in the budget and the trustees, being responsible, said, 'Come up with a contingency plan that will make up for the short fall,'" said Walser.

"Admissions, of course, is the life blood of the school because each student represents a significant financial factor in everything. What you pay gets translated into faculty salaries, paper clips for the English Department and chalk for the Religion Department. If you reduce the number (of students), you reduce the scale."

"The enrollment picture will be monitored," Walser said, adding that it is on the agenda of every Tuesday morning Executive Staff Meeting.

Walser said it will be known for sure whether or not the academic expansion will take place by May 4. The Board of Trustees will then meet to approve the budget for 1990-91. He added that by that time, admissions for the class of 1994 will be set within 20.

Walser said if Admissions meets Washington's projected number of 340 freshmen for next fall, three of the four goals for expansion could be met.

When asked why applicants are down for this year, Washington spoke of a national trend.

He said other colleges are "playing their cards close to their chest. They won't tell you exactly how much they are down."

"You hear words like 'considerably' and 'flat'. Another catch phrase is, 'We're way off the mark from last year,'" he added.

Washington said contact with high school counselors has shown that students are applying to less places and that they are taking a longer time to make decisions.

"Also, demographically, there are just less students out there. So, we've beefed it up (recruiting efforts). We're doing a lot more this year than we've done in the past. We're getting a lot of help from faculty, students and alumni. Our hope is that collectively, we're going to be able to turn it around."



Joseph Walser, Interim Provost. Photo by Stuart Tannehill

Alma representatives return from Stillman

By Michele Myers
Staff Writer

Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama may soon be home to some Alma College students and faculty.

A group of five students and staff have returned from their Jan. 18 trip to Stillman College where they helped develop the later stages of an exchange plan.

Steve Scott, senior, said, "Students who are open-minded, outgoing and adventurous would adapt well to Stillman and have a good experience."

The campus is a small, Presbyterian, liberal arts college similar to Alma, located in a town with an approximate population of 100,000. The 800 member student body is 97% Black American, and the other 3% are international students.

The college is very diverse with students from the Caribbean to Washington D.C., and, very soon,

Alma.

Extracurricular activities at Stillman include sports, a Greek system and a choir that makes frequent trips around the country (soon to visit Alma). The campus is located near the University of Alabama which provides some of

different perspective.

Alma students and faculty will be met with the stereotypical southern hospitality. The staff at Stillman is outgoing and concerned about the students.

Technical Services Librarian Priscilla Perkins was especially

Stillman has a summer term similar to our spring term, and an exchange seems possible for a short term. This could even be the basis for joint research or teaching projects.

An exchange for a term is another possibility with either sophomores or juniors. Both colleges realize that

"Students who are open-minded, outgoing and adventurous would adapt well to Stillman and have a good experience."

-- Steve Scott

the social life for Stillman.

Scott attended a class at Stillman and was impressed with the instruction. He said he thought it was comparable to the curriculum that Alma offers.

Part of the experience of an exchange will be discovering differences in academic classes; for example, history courses may have a

impressed with the "walking administration" who knew most of the students and were eager to share all aspects of Stillman with the Alma representatives. Perkins said she found this same dedication in the professors at Stillman.

Stillman students were eager to learn more about the program, and were prepared with many questions.

the program may take some time to become successful, but both colleges also hope to diversify their campuses and have a better representation of the "real world."

The Alma College Kiltie Band will get a chance to see Stillman on their trip to the Easter Parade and the Stillman Choir will perform at Alma Monday, March 12.

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Task Force for Diversity works towards sensitising community

By Stacie Herriman
Staff Writer

The Task Force for Diversity is the one of the newer groups to be formed on the Alma College campus. The Force is composed of faculty, students, and administrators, with members on the committee including Ronald Massanari, John Seveland, Julie Arnold, Kevin O'Shaughnessey, Molly Castillon, Eunice Rowe, Leon Washington, Charlotte Schmidtk, Jesse Perry and Bill Potter.

"It's a kind of wide-scope group," said John Seveland, Vice-President of Enrollment and Student Affairs. "As we have been dealing with the issues, we have brought in other people, resource people."

For example, the Task Force has met with small groups of students and with the staffs of the Dean of Students, Student Affairs, and Counseling Center to discuss the things that they could be doing.

In the institutional long-range plan, the purpose of the Task Force is to increase the number of minority, international, and out-of-state students that are different than the typical Alma College students who are 95% from Michigan and 97% white.

As the college recruits more people who are different they need to, in turn, prepare the institution for people who are different.

The Task Force is preparing the

Alma College community for diversity in a number of ways. The first step is education of the campus and community. The Force is carrying out this measure through the Culture-ful series, beginning with "Toward the Beloved Community: Interpreting King's Dream," continuing with "Partisans of Vilna" and "Native American Cultural Values and Contemporary Issues."

The second component, besides having the students on campus

community needs to be made aware that there is essentially a problem. The community is rather homogeneous, and people from the community are surprised that the things the Task Force is pointing out as problems."

The Task Force has two other ways to prepare the college for diversification. One option is the Stillman College project where students, faculty, and administrators

plished a lot. It has met with student groups and the different staffs on campus. Out of these meetings, Student Affairs and the Center have come up with a plan of activities on this topic for the spring. Furthermore, while sensitizing those around them, the Force is also sensitizing itself and learning as much as they can about these issues, and to aid in this pursuit are planned workshops for staff, faculty, and administrators. "The last thing we want to do is

However, the hopes and goals are big, involving a lot of people, and it is going to take time and energy to make these things happen. According to Seveland, if Alma is going to sensitize them, the college is going to have to provide the workshops.

Seveland summarized the events of the meeting.

"The more dialogue we can create, the better off we are. It was a great starting point as we found the

area. Seveland said he believes the Task Force will survive because it is right.

"It is in the best interest of everyone. Strong diversity will lead to a strong college. It is important, and it has appeal, that the College diversify to keep up with the times and to make the kind of place where the minority and international student can feel welcome and at home."

Hutchison agreed by saying that the Task Force's efforts are a "positive step. It is important that some strategies are developed for the College and the community that deal with making a more supportive environment for students and faculty of diverse natures. This is not an altogether easy problem to remedy; however, the solution will come with the passage of time."

It should be noted that the Task Force and its goals come from the Board of Trustees, the governing body of Alma College. The goal for diversity came from within—everyone was involved in the development of the Five-Year Plan. Rather than just dictating orders to the College and its members, the Board is leading by means of demonstration as it tries to diversify itself, which is proving to be a tough task. However, it is obvious that the Board supports and believes in what the Task Force is doing.

Seveland concluded saying, "It is important for all of us to help carry out this change."

"None of us are perfect. Through talking, we can become aware of our own feelings and apprehensions. Hopefully, in doing this, we'll realize that we're all just people and that because we have different skin colors doesn't mean that we don't have the same hopes, dreams, and expectations as everybody else."

--Vice President John Seveland

participating in diversification is to create as much dialogue as possible between students, faculty, and administrators who will be encouraged to talk with one another.

Seveland said, "None of us are perfect. Through talking, we can become aware of our own feelings and apprehensions. Hopefully, in doing this, we'll realize that we're all just people and that because we have different skin colors doesn't mean that we don't have the same hopes, dreams, and expectations as everybody else."

Dr. James Hutchison, Chairman of the Chemistry Department, echoed Seveland by saying, "Alma as a

have the opportunity to exchange one term with the college in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Another is by conducting workshops for everyone involved wherein the Task Force will help the various individuals to talk and to understand that it is not bad, and is actually healthy, for the institution to diversify.

Seveland pointed out the helpfulness of these workshops.

"When you go out into the work force, you'll have to deal with all kinds of people, so where better to learn (how to deal with them) than in a learning environment."

In attempting to meet these goals, the Task Force has already accom-

bring kids here that won't be happy," said Seveland.

On Fri. Jan. 26, as part of their diversification efforts, the Force met with various community leaders, including the city manager, school board members, the Superintendent of Schools, Chamber of Commerce members, and members from the County. The Force discussed their goals with these community members, stressing that the people who come here to be a part of Alma College are also members of the community, so the community needs to be sensitized to this fact. The Force found the community to be sensitive to the College's needs as they felt some warmth from them.

community willing to buy into our agenda. However, Alma College has some work to do; it is our task to bring them in."

A historical link exists between the college and the community, and it is very healthy both ways. The Task Force is linked to the College and community by the commitment of the College to enhance the diversity. However, it really deals with the Five-Year Plan to recruit more minorities, out-of-state, and international students. The link with the community is important because there have been some incidents involving some of our faculty and students, and the Task Force feels that the community can help in this

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Smith returns 'hale and hearty'

By Sharonne O'Shea
Staff Writer

There was a stillness around the History Department at Alma College with History Chairperson M.J.J. Smith gone for a week. He returned home from Gratiot County Hospital Jan. 24 after having been admitted due to respiratory ailments.

According to History Professor Michael Yavenditti, Smith was "hale and hearty, ready to fight the academic wars here at Alma College."

Certainly his students missed him. Leigh Pokora, sophomore, said, "It hasn't been Alma College with out him for a week." She added, however, that the break had been nice.

Numerous signs of relief over postponed quizzes could be heard in Swanson Academic Center, but as sophomore Genevieve Mleczo said, "We've had his voice on tape, but lecture is better. He's an effective professor and students are missing in-depth, enhanced learning that only a class with Smith presiding can give."

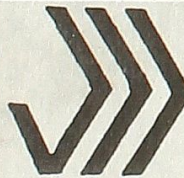


M.J.J. Smith returns to Alma after suffering from respiratory problems.

Photo by David Mengyan.

Correction

In the January 23, 1990 issue of *The Almanian* two Admissions officers were incorrectly identified. Mario Morrow, a Black American, and Mark Nazario, a Latino American, are currently Admissions counselors. We apologize to both for this mistake.



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PEOPLE UNCLEAR ON THE CONCEPT

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JEFF MARTIN

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Kempner, writer and director of *Partisans*, coming to Alma

By Sara Rowland
Feature Editor

Why should we study the Holocaust? Although a period of history to many of us, shouldn't we just realize that it happened and that we've learned from its madness?

Not so. It isn't just history, it's a period of time where a culture of human beings were torn apart by anti-semitic feelings and incidents, and that's putting it mildly. These anti-semitic feelings have left an impact on many people and it is only through talking and listening that we can fully understand what scars the Holocaust left to the

Jewish culture.

One such woman who can give us insight into the turbulent struggle of the Jewish, is Avina Kempner. Avina Kempner will be visiting Alma College on Tues., Feb. 6 as part of Alma's Cultural Understanding Program.

Kempner who is known for her script-writing, producing and directing, will show the feature-length documentary film, "Partisans of Vilna," which she co-wrote and produced. "Partisans of Vilna," is a film that tells the story of the Jewish Resistance during WW II.

"Enlightening; truthful, challeng-

ing, heartbreaking: "Partisans of Vilna" is one of the best and most eloquent documentaries on the suffering and dilemmas Jews faced during the darkest years in their history. Anyone wishing to learn why heroism in the ghettos was manifested on more than one level should see this film."

—Nobel Prize Winner, Prof. Elie Wiesel

Kempner's interest in the Jewish resistance can be traced back to her heritage. Kempner's mother was a survivor of the Holocaust, which wiped

out most of her family. Kempner had always been involved in films so to make a film that stemmed from her own roots was something natural. After many meetings and trips with director Josh Waletzky, who himself has made documentaries on the Jewish aspects of WW II, Kempner decided to concentrate on the Vilna Ghetto.

The film details forty interviews of how the Jewish youth of Vilna-ancient center of Jewish life-and surrounding towns, came together to fight the Nazis from within the ghetto. Survivors, that now live in such places as Israel, New York and California, talk about the

years they spent sabotaging the German war effort.

While here on the Alma College Campus, Kempner will also hold a lecture and discussion about the "Partisans of Vilna," in Dunning Memorial Chapel at 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday.

Anti-semiticism is not far from our world. In an article written by Denise Crittendon in the Detroit News, January 18, 1990, she reports of a growing increase in the number of anti-Semitic incidents nationwide. In Michigan alone, 39 incidents were reported in 1989, more than double the 16 in 1988.

Richard Lobenthal, regional director of the Anti-Defamation League, said Michigan is the fastest-growing state for neo-Nazi skinheads - who wear closely cropped hair and distribute literature condemning Jews and other ethnic groups. What does this tell us? It gives us a good indication of how discrimination towards the Jewish keeps going on, in one form or another. It is important for us to be come aware of the issues that will eventually shape our lives. Avina Kempner's visit to Alma will give us insight into what history has done in molding our opinions and shaping our present.

New challenges at Alma

by Sara Rowland
Feature Editor

Although a beginner at the sport of racquetball, Michelle Medalle is hitting the right walls that will hopefully turn her into an expert.

It was only four weeks ago that senior Medalle began her quest to learn the grueling sport of racquetball.

"I always wanted to learn how to play and I noticed that Alma college offered the facilities so I picked up the class to learn about it," she said.

This brings up a good point about Alma's sport classes. Many students take sports classes because they feel these classes, such as racquetball or golf will be easy, but this isn't necessarily true and Medalle proves this.

The racquetball class, which is taught by Denny Griffin, meets every Tuesday and Thursday from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon. The first week Medalle learned such things as positioning on

the court, racquet grips and serving.

"The first week we just learned the basic the strategies, said Medalle. They were tough at first, but now I feel comfortable and I really enjoy the game."

Medalle now plays in her spare time in addition to attending the classes. She has gotten down the basic rules of racquetball and now practices the game whenever she can.

"There are many different skill that you have to acquire in racquetball, such as watching the ball at all times, moving quickly, getting in the middle of court to control the center, and hit the ball away from your opponent."

Medalle has already won seventy-five percent of her matches; this includes singles and doubles.

"I have definitely improved since I've started," added Medalle.

She has always been active in sports. Some of the other sports she participates in are tennis, biking, and swim-

ming.

"I enjoy both the physical and mental benefits of being physically active. I feel better about myself and exercise gives me more energy during the day."

For Medalle, racquetball provides another challenge and lets her play with all sorts of people who are at various stages of developing the game.

"There are many good reason for taking up racquetball besides the fact that it is great exercise. It's very inexpensive because a person only needs a racquet and balls; plus I can continue playing after graduation because racquetball is usually offered at health clubs. It's a very social sport."

Being a beginner at a sport is obviously very exciting. Even though no one can be good at everything it's possible to take advantage of the many sport classes that Alma has to offer and really enjoy yourself. Medalle proves that taking up something new is both a challenge and an asset.

Senioritis hits hard

By Heather McPhillips
Staff Writer

As the fifth week of winter term begins, seniors face that common disease which seems to affect those of us faced with graduation: Senioritis. Symptoms seem to appear sometime during the final term of school and are especially prevalent following a job offer or graduate school admission. Common symptoms are lack of motivation to go to class or study, rapid increase in trips to the bar, apathetic attitude regarding organizations and campus life in general, and overall anxiety about life after the bubble.

Being a senior is a frightening and exciting time for many people. Responsibility is lurking out there in the shadows, just waiting for April 21 to come around. We are going to leave our friends and perhaps our families to venture out into the world of adulthood with nothing more than a degree

and some memories. Before that time, we are expected to write resumes, cover letters, apply to graduate school, interview, write thank you letters, write more cover letters, and generally spend half our time in the placement office tearing our hair out. It is no wonder that many seniors just want to forget class, forget the placement office and turn on the T.V. or go to the bar. For those lucky few who have jobs or places in graduate school, there is little motivation for study. Sure, knowledge should be motivation enough, but these are our last few weeks as irresponsible college students; shouldn't we live it up?

When asked what she felt about senioritis, Lillian Korbus stated, "I just want to enjoy the time I have." Beth Short is "too busy to think about it," and Laura Poyner said, "I would drop out now if I had a job."

Mike Skinner told me he was going to be productive, but not academi-

cally. He is "going to have a lot of fun." Carl Grant has not experienced any of the symptoms yet, but said, "When I get a job, I won't be doing anything."

Rob Gillette's philosophy is "C's get degrees. I feel no pressure." According to Drew McCurdy, graduation was more frightening as a freshman than as a senior. In fact, I had to remind him that this was the year we were graduating.

When asked if she was suffering from this terrible affliction, Kathleen Damell stated, "Yes, I really don't want to be here."

For those of seniors whom this disease has already affected, I do not believe they have yet found a cure (except graduation), and can only advise that they tough it out for ten more weeks. Those who are yet to experience this terrible affliction should be prepared, for I guarantee it will happen to you.

Zettel publishes work

By Cara Sell
Staff Writer

Dan Zettel, a self-described "B" English student, recently realized that writing can be more than putting words on paper to receive a grade. On Dec. 29, 1989, The Catholic Weekly published an article Zettel had written for English 100 with William Palmer, professor of English.

Zettel's paper was titled "The Fragility of Life." It described the experience of being involved in an automobile accident. Zettel was a passenger in his friend's car when they hit a biker.

"We were just driving along and everything was great. We were sitting at the intersection, waiting to make a left-hand turn, and all of a sudden this kid bounced off our windshield. I was all covered with glass and blood," said Zettel.

This opened his eyes to seeing that life is very fragile; everything can change in a split second.

Soon after the incident Zettel wrote everything down so that he could remember the details in case he had to go to court. When he received an assignment to write a descriptive paper, he said he remembered this.

"I never expected anything to come out of this. It was just a regular English paper," Zettel said. Then Palmer informed him the paper had great potential, and he encouraged Zettel to try and have it published.

"I really owe a lot to Dr. Palmer; he encouraged me in this," Zettel said. "I remember when I was in high school, a teacher said, 'Some of us just weren't made to be writers.'"

At the time Zettel said he took this to be directed toward himself, but now he feels much more confident about his writing abilities. Zettel doesn't write any more than he used to, but he said he knows that he can do a good job when he has to.

Zettel said he has several other experiences that are recorded in writing.

Writing winners are announced

By Ann Fuller
Staff Writer

The 1990 Alma College Writing Contest has taken place, the votes have been counted and the winners have been announced.

The writing contest, sponsored by the English Department, was open to the entire campus. There were three divisions: short story, essays, and poetry. Cash prizes of fifty, twenty-five and ten dollars were given out for first, second and third place in each division.

The winners of the short story division were: 1st place- Rusty Govitz, 2nd place- Robin Rummel and 3rd place- Nedret Emishe Avci. When asked about this victory, Govitz, a junior English major, replied; "I don't know about the circumstances or the competition involved in the judging, but I guess it shows a certain respect the English department has for somebody's work." Govitz sees himself as a future magazine or newspaper writer.

Winners of the essay division were: 1st place- Susan Kroeg, 2nd place- Emily Walker, 3rd place- Catherine Swender and honorable mentions to Susan Hoppe and Mary Loos. Kroeg, a sophomore English major, was very excited about her prizes, both first place in essays and second place in poetry.

"It's my first recognition as a writer," said Kroeg. "I've always wanted to write and it was very exciting to win." Kroeg would like to write as part of her career and also has thought about teaching.

The poetry division winners were: 1st place- Rebecca Turner, 2nd place- Susan Kroeg, 3rd place- Rebecca Bailey and Emily Walker and honorable mentions to Jodie Blankenburg, Sara Amell and Catherine Swender. Turner, a junior majoring in Psychology and English is overseas this term.

All winners are now candidates for the Pine River Anthology, the Alma College literary magazine that is published in the spring.

Generations are large part of Alma College

By Ann Fuller
Staff writer

Being a small liberal arts college, Alma tends to be a family college as well. Many students that attend Alma College are second or third generation Almanians.

Although students agree that it is nice knowing their parents went to Alma College, most say there was very little pressure for them to attend school at Alma, it was just a bond or link they shared with their parents.

Most parents were very supportive and open-minded when the time had come for their children to pick a college.

Carie Skinner, third generation Almanian, daughter of Dr. Charles E. Skinner II and Sharon Parker Skinner and granddaughter of Dr. Charles E. Skinner (former chemistry prof) and Alice Bronson Skinner, said that there was not much pressure for her to go to Alma. However, the fact that so many

of her relatives, including aunts and uncles, went to Alma College may have swayed her decision.

"It's cool to think of them being here before me, said Skinner. They have a lot of stories to tell and it makes it more interesting for me."

Kathy Darnell, third generation, daughter of James "Bud" Darnell and granddaughter of Donald Darnell said that she too has shared some links with her dad. They both had some of the same professors such as Dr. Earl Hayward and Dr. Frank Jackson. Her father was taught by Dr. Ronald Kapp as well.

Most students were not influenced by the activities that their parents participated in. Dave Rowland, third generation, son of John Rowland and Linda White Rowland and grandson of Leslie Rowland said in reply, "I may have been influenced to play sports, because my dad played football for four years at Alma, with Jim

Northrup."

Bob Orr, third generation, son of Jim Orr and grandson of Melvin Orr said that he did not get any pressure from his dad about organizations.

"My dad was a Delta Gamma Tau and my grandpa was a Zeta Sigma," said Orr, currently a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon. "There was never any influence over which greek organization I should join. My dad was just happy I went greek."


Several parents are still involved in Alma College. Most send donations,

many come back for homecoming and reunions and some are on parent board and in other Alumni groups.

"My parents are still quite active with Alma College, said Sara Rowland, a third generation Almanian. "In fact this year at our high school, my mother was a spokesperson for those students interested in Alma College."

Alma College has bred many good feelings among families.

"My parents are very pro-Alma," said Skinner, "and they are very happy I decided to come here."

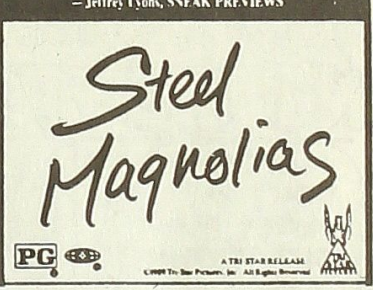


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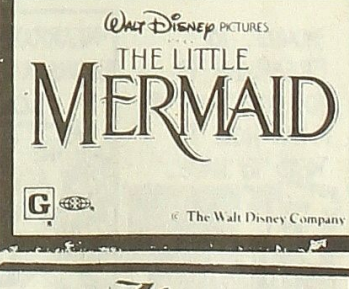
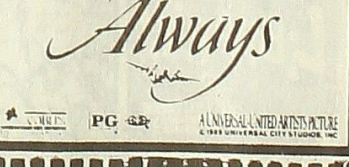

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Athlete of the Week

Emerson and Ledyard are senior leaders in and out the water

By Shannon Nichols
Sports Editor

We are told the importance of finding a job we love, we are told that it is the most important thing. If we find a job we love and we do our personal best we will be happy with our lives. This is what Todd Emerson and Jim Ledyard said they believe about their swimming and about their future plans.

Emerson and Ledyard are both senior members on the Alma College swim team. Neither of them has set their life plans in stone.

"Graduating is exciting, because I am ready to get out of the 'bubble', but it is also very scary. People may

complain, but they do not realize how comforting this place is. I have been in the real world (during a term off from school) and it is a scary place. Studying is nothing compared to working three jobs a day and paying bills," said Emerson when asked about his hesitations on entering the "real world".

Ledyard admits he is not sure about his future. "I do not have a clue about life after school. I plan on taking life as it comes. I believe that if I make no plans then I will not be disappointed with the outcome," said Ledyard.

Though Ledyard claims he has no plans he seems to have an idea of what he wants out of life. "I would like to go to grad school and earn a Masters of

Fine Arts. I have a real dedication to my artwork. The most important thing to me is that I am happy with my life," said Ledyard.

Emerson also claims no exact plans, but has some ideas, "I want to work with people in a job where I make a difference. I would love to work in a museum doing research and teaching others about history," said Emerson.

Both Ledyard and Emerson had more to say about the swim team than they did about themselves. Some of their comments reflected a hopeless feeling, but they basically had positive things to say.

With only four men on the Alma College Swimming team their is a

slight feeling of hopelessness. The team does not possess the numbers needed to put forth a strong showing. Yet, despite the odds the team continues to work hard, under the leadership of its two seniors, Emerson and Ledyard.

"With only four men on the team we each account for twenty five percent of our teams success and that leaves a lot of responsibility in each of our hands," said Emerson.

Ledyard claims his role on the team is one of support. "I am there to support the other members on the team. We may not be having the best season, but we support each other and because of the small size we are a close team."

When asked why their's is such a poor turnout for the swim team, Ledyard blamed it on apathy. "There are a lot of good swimmers on this campus who choose not to swim because of apathy," said Ledyard.

"Many people do not even know about our swimming program, and that also hurts our turnout," said Emerson.

Emerson claims that things are looking up for the swim team for next year, "Recruiting is going well for the Scots and both the women's and men's teams are showing great improvement and strength," said Emerson.

How do other teams in the league

view the Alma College swim team?

"There is a slight lack of respect for the team, not so much for its performances, but because of its small size. We swim hard and we have some strong individual showings, but we just lack team strength," said Ledyard.

Despite the win-loss record for the Scots, both Emerson and Ledyard claim that the attitude on the team is one of lightheartedness.

Ledyard closed the interview by saying, "Each swimmer is swimming toward their own personal bests, and meeting individual goals, when a swimmer breaks a personal best time it is a reason for celebration."

Swim team suffers a defeat to Calvin

By Todd Emerson
Staff Writer

After a fast-paced swimming and diving meet, neither Alma's women's nor men's team were able to overcome Calvin this past Saturday. Yet once again, both teams made strong showings in the pool.

Diver Robyn Grieve captured first place in both the 1 and 3 meter diving events. There were to be three other first places for the women this meet. Dawn Ingram won the 1000 Freestyle with a time of 12:41.97. Ingram also placed third that meet in the 200 Butterfly. Julie Boltman captured first in a strong 200 Breaststroke race with a personal best time of 2:47.25; she also took third in the 200 I.M. Finally, the

200 Freestyle Relay of Boltman, Heather McManus, Lise Eberly, and Jennifer Feyes also took first place.

Eberly also placed second in both the 200 Breaststroke and the 200 Freestyle. Feyes captured second in the 200 I.M. and the 200 Backstroke. Distance swimmer Melissa Sondej took third in both the 1000 and 500 Freestyle races. McManus grabbed third place in both the 100 and 50 Freestyle. The 400 Medley Relay of Lisa Hronec, Shannon Zamoyski, Kerry Jelenchick, and Ingram also swam to a third place during the meet.

Though all the women swam their best, they were still overcome by Calvin. The final score was Calvin 112, Alma 89.

The men also struggled during this meet, yet the small team size showed once again. The men's team did gain three first places at Calvin's expense. Captain Jim Ledyard captured first in a strong 200 Backstroke race with a time of 2:21.49; he also took third in the 50 Freestyle. Todd Emerson took first place in the 500 Freestyle as well as second place in the 200 Freestyle. The 400 Freestyle Relay of Kurt Watkins, Brett Powers, Emerson, and Ledyard also won first place in the meet.

Watkins took second place in this meet in both the 1000 Freestyle and the 200 Breaststroke. Powers finished the meet with a third in the 200 Freestyle.

ty and a fourth in the 100 Fly after a strong race.

Though they all swam hard, the Scots were unable to defeat Calvin and were beaten by a score of 126 to 49.

Coach Kathy Davis was not upset with the meet. She said that everyone "...swam strong today and once again a couple of personal bests were gained." She went on to reaffirm that she expects both teams to make a strong showing at the upcoming Conference meet here at Alma.

The Scots last two meets will be this week. Wednesday they will travel to Grand Rapids Junior College and on Saturday will host Adrian here at 1:00pm.

Women's basketball beat Calvin and move to second in MIAA

Tia J. Brandel
Staff Writer

The Women's Basketball team grabbed hold of second place in the MIAA race by conquering the Calvin Knights with a score of 56-48.

After being soundly defeated by the Knights earlier in the season, the Scots knew they'd have to play tough to come out on top and to stay in the race for a conference title. Head Coach Charlie Goffnet credits his seniors in this win for their strong leadership and abundant desire to win.

Excellent defense gave the Scots an edge in this MIAA match-up. Defensive pressure led to 25 Calvin turn-

overs and made it very difficult for the Knights to run their offense.

Balanced scoring was another asset in this victory. Freshman Laurie LaBeau scored 14 points while seniors Kelly Spalding and Chris Comtois each had 16. Spalding also led with 6 rebounds for Alma.

On Wednesday, the Scots defeated Kalamazoo by a score of 58-47. This makes their MIAA record 6-2 and overall 13-5. Alma is now in second place behind Hope College.

The women have two home games this week. Wednesday they will play Albion and Saturday Olivet will travel here.

Sports Opinion:

George Perles' position as AD questioned

By Scott Alexander
Assistant Sports Editor

There has been a lot of controversy surrounding the appointment of George Perles to the position of Athletic Director at Michigan State University, including several on-campus public demonstrations at MSU. Groups have charged that the board of trustees, in an emergency meeting on January 23, sold out academics for athletics in naming Perles as Athletic Director despite the objections of University President John DiBaggio. People have accused Perles of using the offer he received from the New York Jets of the NFL to become their new Head Coach as a bargaining tool to get Michigan State to offer him an inflated contract which includes life insurance policies, lifetime retirement benefits, and of course the A. D. job.

Most recently, Perles was accused of demanding the purchase of \$2,500 worth of advertising for his television show from a major financial supporter of the university in order for this man

to keep his seat on the team plane for travel to away games.

Some group demonstrators are calling for his removal from the position of Athletic Director, and some are calling for his termination as Head Football Coach as well.

We asked some Alma students their opinions on the whole George Perles issue, and what actions they think the university should take in order to resolve the issue. Here are some responses:

"I feel Perles should have gotten the job, but I think MSU went about it the wrong way. They should have had more support from President."

—Brad Fosmore

"I feel George Perles shouldn't be Athletic Director. That gives him more authority to push or get what he wants for his football team. I also think he is a horrible coach, his offense is to

conservative. Why should he get the A.D. job when his football team is 33-25 under him anyway"

—Steve Kinne

"I think it's terrible that athletics were given a higher priority than academics. Although there isn't much that can be done regarding the Perles situation, I think that MSU will benefit by the attention drawn to the academics/athletics controversy. Hopefully, future actions will be decided on a different basis."

—Kirk Miller

"I think Perles is too absent minded and irresponsible to take a job as important as Athletic Director for a major university. He has had a hard enough time controlling his players as a coach. Once he can keep his players out of jail and teach them a little discipline on and off the field, then maybe he can move up the ladder."

—Paul Grange

"I feel that Perles, in no way, shape, or form should be in the role of an Athletic Director. If a coach can't take care of his own team then how is he to be able to take care of MSU athletics?"

I thought incidents involving Blake Ezor should have sealed Perles' fate, yet the Board of Trustees of the university chose not to back the president and the controversy created here is going to have repercussions on future decisions of the university."

—Mike Cherry

"I believe that if the university has certain channels in which they are supposed to follow in order to elect an Athletic Director, and they are committed to these policies, then they should be followed. I believe Perles should be dismissed from his position as A.D., and as far as Perles using his NFL offer as a bargaining tool, the university should be aware of that."

—Kelly Long

AC cagers suffer setback

By Max Reck
Staff Writer

The Alma College Basketball team was handed two great setbacks last week in their quest to earn a berth to the Division three playoffs at the end of the season.

Wednesday at Kalamazoo, the Scots lost a heartbreaker to the Hornets 73-72 when Mike Bachman's layup was blocked at the buzzer.

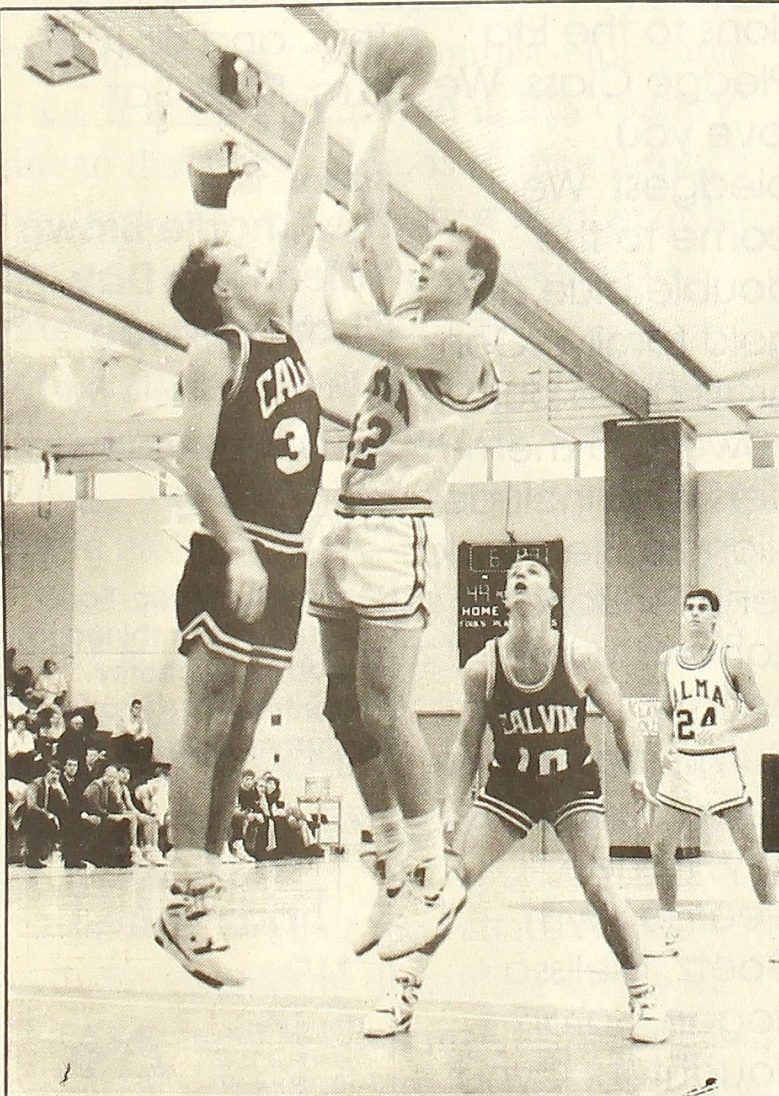
Saturday, on the other hand, was not nearly as exciting. The Calvin Knights,

led by last year's M.I.A.A. co-MVP Bill Sall's 19 points, destroyed the Scots at Alma College

When Alma starting forward Todd Kulawiak was asked about the game he simply stated, "It sucked."

Alma shot a horrid 31 percent from the field while Calvin shot 57 percent on the night.

The Scots will try to rebound Wednesday Night when they travel to Albion to meet the Brits.



Mike Miles playing hard against Calvin College during a men's Varsity basketball game.

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Up close and personal with IM athlete/star?

By Adam Dettman
Sports Writer

Being the dedicated sports writer that I am, I spend a great deal of my time at the gym looking for that special story.

Recently, I caught up with one of the premier and most publicized stars of the I.M. basketball league, Dave Gilkey. I wanted to get some insight on how this giant among men captivated the attention of the spectators night after night. Dave was more than willing to answer some questions so as to give the public a better idea as to just what makes this "Swiss time piece" of an athlete tick.

Q: Dave, may I call you Dave, or do you insist on Dr. G?

A: "Just Dave will suffice."

Q: Dave, just what is your motivation for your legendary I.M. performances?

A: "Well, I just like to say my fierce competitive nature drives me in the classroom as well as on the court. I think a great deal of my assets can be

attributed to my strong family background in the great sport of basketball."

Q: Dave, how did you get your start in hoops?

A: "As a child I lived in a shoe, size 22 Bob Lanier special. I could tell by the odor of Bob's feet that hoops were my true calling."

Q: What are your future plans for an athletic arena?

A: Well, besides football endeavors I'm looking forward to another intense season and more record setting performances.

Q: Dave, as a boy who was it that you idolized or patterned your life after?

A: Well, you might not believe this, but it was Conway Twitty.

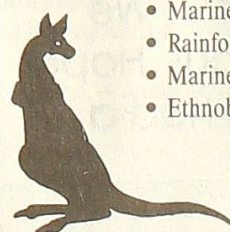
Q: Dave, how does it feel to be an over-achieving little man, in a big man's sport?

A: "Well it's quite an honor just to be allowed to play in "C" league; with such greats as Pat Pinkerton, Steve Watkins and Carl "Air" Grant."

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Classified

The *Almanian*
Page 6

All classified information must be submitted to the Almanian office, Newberry basement, by the Friday prior to the date of desired publication. All Classifieds are printed on a first come, first serve basis, and are free to members of Alma College community.

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.

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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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ΑΓΔ,
Hey there women of Zeta Nu! How about that awesome new pledge class? A warm welcome to Amy, Amy, Lisa, Lisa, Lori, Ann, Anne, Theresa, Kathy, Carol, Julie, Laura, Dana Brenda, Alisa, Acissia, Cathy, and Kim. We love you! Hope you all had a

wonderful kids day. Don't haze the actives too much, OK? Houses—watch out for Ann and Anne. They're at it already. Remember girls (this means you too, Julie P.) the actives are looking for nicknames so watch out! Anyone wanting to meet Elvis II in person, please contact Neumy. Fire up for pledging!! Hey you 18—WE KNOW WHO YOU'RE MOMMIES ARE!

AUDITIONS for the Spring Term production of Gilbert and Sullivan's operetta, RUDDIGORE, will be held on Saturday, February 10, at 10 a.m. in Eddy Music Rehearsal Hall. A list of audition materials is available at the music office, a copy of the score/recording is on reserve in the main library. Call 7215 (Dr. Messing) for more information. Students interested in doing technical or artistic work, see Dr. Messing during the week of pre-registration, February 12-17.

Leslee, I'm so proud to be your mom! You'll make a great Gamma Phi! Fire

up for the rest of pledging!
Love ya in PKE, Mom

LOST DOG!
White Male Eskimo Dog lost in the college area. REWARD offered. Please call Jerry Owens at 463-6485 with any information.

Alpha Xi's
Rush is over and the hard work by everyone has paid off. A special thanks to Shannon who did a great job. Bid's Day was awesome. Congratulations to all the new mothers and their daughters. We love the Eta Pledge Class. Thanks to the Sigma Chi's for letting us invade your house. It was PARADISE. Bid's Day ended in the traditional way once again this year. Thanks to the pledges who redecored our blue carpeting to a bright red color. These lucky girls included Merideth, Dora, Katie, Renee, Tayne, Birt, Mike and Kams. What a day! It was great to see all

the alumni on Saturday. Fire up for four more week of pledging and Spring Break is right around the corner.
TfJ

Sigs I

A smoke gives a wise man time to think and a fool something to stick in his mouth. Why do you smoke guys? Rez, was that a late night or an early morning? And are you trying to be as secretive as W.A.C.? That that will not kill you makes you strong. ΖΣ keeps getting stronger!!!
Fire up!! Ζ

Alpha Xi's
Congratulations to the Eta Pledge Class. We love you, pledges! Welcome to the double blue and gold family. Congrats go to our newest 35 members who include Nichole Biebuyck, Jennifer Bork, Robin Crunbacher, Heather Cummings, Laura Deller, Tonya Frisbey, Renee George, Kym Goetz, Melissa Hogan, Sarah Houghton, Cyndi Hubbard, Amy

Joseph, Julie Karkosah, Michelle Kingsley, Katie Kinne, Judy Kirkwood, Meredith LaBrequette, Katherine Lawrence, Julee Leipprandt, Debi Mertz, Andrea Mull, Taeko Nishimoto, Robin Olson, Amy Rockwell, Carrie Roth, Aimee Schaefer, Michelle Soper, Donna Strang, Cathy Stroia, Karne True, Oona Velasquez and Amy Zvelke.

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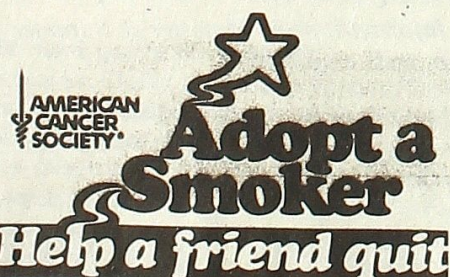
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Alma enviornmentalalist provokes awareness

By Amy Hough
Staff Writer

The environmental crisis. Within the past couple of years, people have been hearing about it, reading about it, and talking or debating about it. What exactly is the environmental crisis? We know that it involves you and me, as well as the soil, the oceans, the atmosphere, and the rainforests. The environment is what we live in; we are a part of it, and we have no choice. In order to take good care of ourselves, we must take good care of our home: planet earth.

The planet earth houses everything that is essential for life: sunlight, water, food, shelter. When one of these elements is threatened, everything is threatened.

Humans have begun to separate themselves from the natural world. As a result of technological advancement and industrial development, humans' connection with the earth is now largely limited because of mass industry, the power of money and the love of material wealth.

It is not easy to admit, but if we all sat down and truthfully prioritized what we love in life or what we want in a career, we would find that a great deal of importance lies in the material world.

We have depleted our natural resources as a result of public demand and population growth. The main energy source of the United States is petroleum. In the next fifteen years, we will become almost totally dependent on foreign countries for this resource as a result of the high rate at which we burn it (700,000,000 gallons of petroleum products a day). Our main source of petroleum in the United States at the present time is Alaska, and the resources are vanishing as swiftly as the rainforests in South America.

In northern Alaska, the Arctic coastal plain extends for 1100 miles. Nine hundred and seventy-five miles of wilderness have been cleared away in the last 20 years to use for oil drilling, which leaves 125 miles—the last pristine, fully functioning, untouched-by-man

ecosystem in the United States. The petroleum obtained from this remaining land would supply the U.S. with enough oil for six months.

Various members of Congress have declared it a "wasteland" and "lifeless." On the contrary, it houses many species, including caribou, oxen, oceanic fowl, wolverine, grizzly bears, polar bears, and many more. These animals have not been affected by humans in any form, unlike most wildlife within the states.

Although intact, almost all of the ecosystems existing today have somehow been affected by the human race, whether it be by chemically laced water and vegetation, urban development, or sound pollution from overpassing jets and military helicopters, which can severely damage animals' sensitive ears. When the situation gets to the extent where one certain species has dominated other forms of life to the point of extinction and destruction, it is not a question of politics anymore.

This is now a question of respect

for our planet and the compassion for the beings we share it with who are forced to suffer from the consequences that we are ultimately creating for ourselves.

Of course, there are many other significant issues with in the environmental crisis: the 100-acre clearing-by-the-minute of rain-forests, dolphins being slaughtered to extinction by the tuna packing industry, acid rain, global warming, landfills v. recycling, toxic waste dumping, nuclear testing in the oceans, and the list grows everyday. We are all overwhelmed and frustrated when we constantly hear of the earth's growing problems.

We certainly have our own personal problems and concerns, but the environmental crisis is a series of issues that will not disappear or solve itself. We have the power to do something about it. We are the earth's future policy makers, and if we do not care now, or even begin to care, who will?

Soon recycling will be a law. It is already in New York City,

because its landfills are full. In fact, some of the garbage from those landfills is being shipped to dump in Michigan's landfills, right in this general area. Recycling is much more economical and practical, because landfills will always get too full, and money is constantly needed to build new ones. What can we do as individuals to help save the planet? Plenty. The real question and challenge is this: ARE WE WILLING TO MAKE THE EFFORT?

Here are some ideas to assist in protecting the environment: WASTE REDUCTION: Use mugs or glasses instead of paper cups (although paper is better than non-biodegradable Styrofoam), use rags instead of paper towels, recycle newspapers and computer paper, buy paper products with the recycling symbol on them, brings bags to shop with instead of accepting non-biodegradable plastic bags, buy good quality items that last and are not disposable, recycle aluminum cans and glass bottles. SAVING ENERGY: do not buy

small, "easy-to-use" electric appliances when hand appliances work just as well, turn off the lights in rooms and bathrooms when not in use, turn off water when brushing teeth or washing hair, take shorter showers, put full loads in washing machines and in dryers, keep plants in room, buy biodegradable detergents and soaps.

TOXINS AND POLLUTANTS: avoid aerosols (hairsprays, dusting spray, etc.)

PRESERVATION OF LIFE AND ENVIRONMENT: do not buy products taken from endangered species (ivory, furs, leathers, etc.), plant trees in the spring and summer, buy products from companies that do not damage the environment or sell products made from endangered species.

AND "FINALLY": try to live more simply; decrease buying for want and increase buying for need. Be concerned for the world around you. Take a walk in the woods once. And value the dignity of other people, species, and nature.

Editorial

The right to our own opinions

Historically the United States has always been a nation which advocates personal freedom.

Freedom of expression, freedom of speech and freedom to assemble are merely a few of the constitutional rights we enjoy simply as a result of being born on U.S. soil.

On a similar note, freedom of opinion is also a right enjoyed in this country and *The Almanian* would like to stress to the Alma College campus the importance of this particular principle.

From the beginning of our nation's history, the primary factor that set our young country apart from our global neighbors was the right to individual freedom.

Clearly, this is not a right currently shared by Communist or Communist-bloc countries. It is a right enjoyed in this country due to the many millions of men throughout the years who lost their lives in order for individual freedom to continue to prosper within U.S. borders.

Essentially, freedom is the one thing everyone wants but which is, unfortunately, limited to only a handful of democratic nations today.

Thankfully, we live in such a democratic nation. Accordingly, *The Almanian* would like to point out that everyone is entitled to his/her own opinion and should not be discriminated against on the basis of personal beliefs.

In essence, rather than attacking individuals for holding dissenting views we should instead be glad that, as Americans, we possess the freedom to openly express our ideals.

'Little Mermaid' swims to success

By Tupper Lysaght
Assistant Opinion Editor

There are very few people that I know who truly dislike Walt Disney cartoon movies. I have personally seen most all of them and have yet to be disappointed. The most recent Walt Disney cartoon released is the movie "The Little Mermaid."

This is a great movie. I think the best part about it is the music and the cheery feeling you have when you leave the film. The songs were a combination of love songs and calypso, up-beat music. The soundtrack of the movie is doing very well in the stores.

The animated characters are also wonderful. They are charming, funny and very unique. This is not a new story by Disney; the book "The Little Mermaid" has been around for a long time so the story may not be new to many of you. It's about a little sixteen year old mermaid, named Ariel, who has always had a passion and fascination for the humans on the land and all their interesting possessions. She secretly has desired to be a part of that world.

- "The Little Mermaid"
- Animated
- Rated G
- Critique: 8 on a scale of 1-10. A great movie with cheery feelings and an upbeat soundtrack that adds a terrific dimension. Overall tone that is uplifting and fun.

Well ultimately she runs into a human prince and falls madly in love with him and decides to take dangerous measures to be a part of his world. She consults the evil Sea Witch who has desperately been searching for a way to take over the sea from Ariel's father, Triton, who is the King of the Sea and all Mermen.

Ariel is forbidden by her father to associate with humans for they are viewed as evil and dangerous. The evil Sea Witch takes advantage of Ariel's naivety and passion to attempt to get what she desperately desires.

It is a simple and nice love story that of course has your typical Walt Disney ending which is always enjoyable to view regardless of it relationship to reality. I do not always go to a movie to see something that I can see or hear about in everyday life. Escaping to the

fantasy world is what Walt Disney is all about. I think it would be a mistake not to go see this cartoon movie. I cannot imagine someone disliking it.

Karen McDonald, my editor and friend, assisted me in my investigation of "under-sea life." We are very excited to say that Walt Disney did a fabulous job of realistically portraying Mermanhood. We secretly found a way to escape to the world of fantasy and become animated cartoon characters. We came across several underwater creatures that had at one time or another fallen in love with a human. They claimed that it was often very sad and frustrating. This was the same problem Ariel was faced with.

Of course it was really difficult for Karen and me to spend two pressured weeks under the sea over Christmas break trying to be a part

of the Mermen world. However, we did it courageously and successfully. We also spent some real quality time with Triton and Ariel as well as some other mermen. Ariel said that she felt good about the movie but is currently suffering from lung distress because of the many scenes she was required to do on land. However, we were pleased to hear that her health is not in jeopardy—after all, she is a "toon" and they are very durable.

Triton is very handsome and majestic in person. I think Karen had a crush on him but she will not admit it. He claimed that human life is so complicated and often quite stressful and believes that it would be a very positive experience for humans to visit his world. Karen and I agreed that this animated world we were becoming so fond of was an educational experience. Karen and I had a good time jumping off cliffs and surviving. A million pound boulder landed right on my head and I just shook it off, got up and easily pulled myself together. I also electrocuted myself which I found to be an over-rated experience.

Blaming the right person is the key

By Jennifer Gilchrist
Staff Writer

Like Tupper Lysaght, I am alarmed at the growing numbers of men and women cheating on their significant others. Her article in last week's *Almanian*, "Lysaght Takes Faithfulness Seriously", was excellent because it took a hilarious look at a serious issue: individual integrity is diminishing. But a mistake Lysaght makes is the seizure (as the villain) of the wrong participant in this triangle of conflicting interests.

Lysaght writes that while spying on an Alma campus couple she discovers the girlfriend being kissed by a "drunk hooligan". Lysaght succeeds at rectifying the situation by immobilizing the drunkard, and removing him from the scene of the crime. She then reunites the unsus-

pecting boyfriend with his adulterous girlfriend.

The problem with this is the slimy character in the story skates away unscathed. The girlfriend should have been tied up, and forced to watch "Sex, Lies and Videotape" until she had cultivated some sense of relationship responsibility and personal values.

The hooligan, on the other hand, was just doing his job. Hooligans, and drunk ones in particular, are supposed to kiss all the girls possible on the dance floors of parties. As he had never promised anything to either side of the couple, and had no loyalties which would dictate he act differently, he cannot be held responsible for the demise of the relationship.

But blaming the third party for the infidelity of a spouse or lover isn't Lysaght's misconception alone.

It is widespread, and prevalent in the common consciousness. "Home-wrecker" is a term used to describe a person caught up in the immoral dishonesty of a person committed to another. This is ridiculous. The true home-wrecker is the one who wandered. It is the wanderer who is betraying his or her loved ones.

This is why the movie "Fatal Attraction" is so bothersome. Here we have a man with a perfect marriage and family. He then risks it all for a senseless fling with a woman who happens to be a psychotic. The viewer, throughout the entire film, intensely hates the mistress. On the other hand, the husband is portrayed as a victim along with his family. Alright, he made a mistake, but how was he to know the woman was a dangerous lunatic?

Hmmm... Clearly, the cheating

husband is the one who should have been shown as a monster, or at least the scary man he is. We don't need movies that reinforce our delusions.

Not to say I respect people who knowingly get involved in others' shaky relationships. I don't. But we can't remove all temptation from life. The problem begins and ends with the cheater.

Lysaght simply wanted to improve a desperate situation, but in her rush she tackled the wrong culprit.

At the end of her article, Lysaght cuts to the truth: disloyalty is destructive. I, too, am frightened by what the infidelity statistics are revealing. But instead of blaming the temptation for being tempting, we should realize it is the infidel's mental and moral weakness as well as lack of respect that is inexcusable.

By Sue Bignall
Staff Writer

St. Louis vs. Chicago

I was a stranger to the land at the Gateway to the West. They would toss out a glance with a look of contempt that made me balk and want to slide home.

I was not disformed or disfigured, but discolored. I could be easily segregated in the sea of red as if Moses had held up his staff up to the crowd.

In my orange reserved seat row B, seat 23 I stood alone. Cheered alone. Gloated alone.

Glances became glares. Was my smile too big or are they envious of my cap of bright blue?

Victory is sweet, Cubs 9 Cards 2.

Creative Corner

The Confederate Flag: Tradition vs. Symbol of Racism

By Heather McPhillips
Staff Writer

Historically, the Confederate flag has always been the flag that represented the rebellious South during the period of the Civil War. Clearly, then, the flag can symbolize many things: Southern pride, rebellion, states' rights, and slavery. Personally, I have always associated the flag with racism. White supremacist groups such as skin-heads use the flag as a symbol of what they stand for: superiority of the white male.

On Jan. 27, members of the Zeta Sigma fraternity wore flags on their backs at "run outs." A few of these flags were Confederate flags—flags that are reportedly passed down in the fraternity and worn every year at run-outs as a tradition.

The showing of the Confederate flag is, in my opinion, offensive to minorities and people opposed to racism and the symbols of racism in our society. I did not, however, have any solid facts to use in backing up my opinion for this article, so I made a few phone calls.

According to Mr. Lobenthal, Director of the Anti-defamation League of the B'nai Brith in Detroit, the history of showing the Confederate flag in the last fifty years is attached to 'the South shall rise again' theme, which is usually perceived as anti-black and anti-civil

rights.

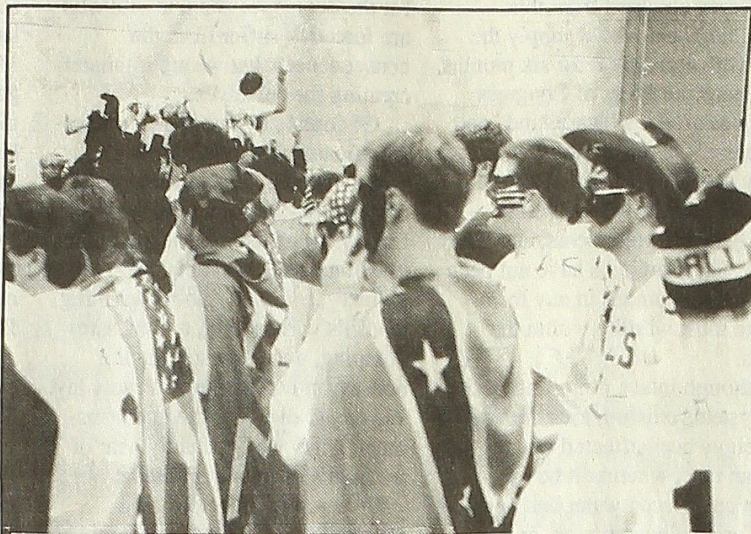
Lobenthal also said the Confederate flag is "almost universally perceived by blacks as an anti-black statement."

Playing the devil's advocate, I pointed out to him that, to some people, the Confederate flag symbolizes nationalism, freedom, rebellion or even pride in being from the southern United States. Lobenthal agreed that for some, the Confederate flag is, indeed, a symbol of southern heritage, but he also pointed out that this is the state of Michigan, not a Southern state, and that, in this part of the country, the flag is commonly associated with anti-black slogans and organizations. He said further that to show the flag is insensitive and defiant, with the only effect of such an act being offensive.

Next, I telephoned the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in Lansing to find out their position regarding the symbolism attached to the Confederate flag.

President Fred Porter said, "If in 1990, I have to explain to college students what wearing a Confederate flag in Alma, Michigan, means I am wasting my time and your parents are wasting their money."

He continued, "Waving a Confederate flag is not acceptable to black folks who see the flag as a symbol of having been kept in bondage for



The Zeta Sigma fraternity

Photo by Stuart Tannehill.

over 200 years."

I explained to him that many people in Alma do not see the flag as representing racist beliefs. In this particular instance, I explained, the fraternity has worn these flags as part of a long-standing tradition. Porter pointed out to me that thirty years ago it was tradition for whites and blacks to eat at different restaurants, use different drinking fountains, walk down different sides of the street, and attend different schools.

Just because something is traditional does not make it right.

Porter then asked me if I thought any of the young men who did not believe that the Confederate flag

was an offensive symbol to minorities would walk through downtown Detroit with these flags on their backs. I replied that, in my opinion, they would not survive ten minutes in a predominantly black setting showing the flag, and I believe they know that.

Porter pointed out to me that this symbol, regardless of what it means to the group or individual wearing it, is offensive to people sensitive to racism. The only reason the fraternity has been able to carry this tradition on is because we are in Alma and not in Detroit, Lansing, Chicago or any other metropolitan area where minorities are more equally represented.

"The president of Alma College has a moral obligation to stop this kind of action in a public assembly," said Porter.

President Stone was unavailable for comment.

Matt Gibb, president of the Zeta Sigma fraternity, told me that fraternity members wore the Confederate flag at runouts this year not out of ignorance of what the flag could represent to some people, but out of a desire of individuals to carry on their family traditions. Gibb said this was "an error in judgment." When asked what the flag represented to the fraternity, he said, "A piece of cloth that is a family tradition. It means nothing to us as a group."

He told me that members realized the flag carried negative connotations for some, but that Zeta Sigma "has a long tradition of non-conformity."

J. Leon Washington, Director of Admissions at Alma, said wearing the flag "showed great insensitivity." He said he believes there is a need for continued dialogue for the feelings and the needs of different cultures and ethnic groups on campus and what these types of offensive symbols mean to them to be heard.

Alma College is currently in the process of recruiting an increased

number of minority students. This is a positive step in the advancement of the education of all students. A large part of the importance of a college education is learning how to relate to and communicate with people from all different backgrounds. The campus community cannot, however, develop any cohesiveness if individuals or groups are so insensitive to the issue of racism and the symbols representing racist beliefs that they feel perfectly comfortable showing the Confederate flag or any other symbol which may be construed as anti-civil rights as part of their image.

President Bush, in his State of the Union Address last week said, "Each one of us must confront and condemn racism, anti-semitism, bigotry and hate." A first step in this is to stop using symbols such as the flag which will be interpreted by some as anti-black.

My hope is that groups on campus from this point forward will have the sensitivity to realize how offensive these flags can be, and will refrain from wearing them at campus-wide events.

Perhaps this article will also affect students who are unaware of what this flag can represent and have it hanging in their rooms.

This is not a plea for conformity, but a request to have some compassion for fellow students and members of society.

Zeta Sigma's position on racism

People are entitled to their opinions. Personal opinions do not necessarily describe reality. The Zeta Sigma Fraternity does not condone racist beliefs, attitudes or practices. The Zeta Sigma brotherhood has always and will always support this policy.

The Zeta Sigma brotherhood

Candidate's statement for Junior Class President:

As a transfer student from a somewhat larger state university, I believe I will have an unbiased approach to the Alma College Student Government system. As junior class President, I can combine my different experiences which could offer a broader spectrum of ideas to the campus community.

Deb Mertz

Bender discusses Women's role in literature

By Carol Bender, PhD.
Professor of English

In his recent essay, Dr. John Ottenhoff challenges students to seek dissonance, to call into question a single reading of the text, and to debate their assumptions. From a woman's perspective I find this challenge welcome and intriguing. As Dr. Ottenhoff points out, it is typical for American schools to reward students on the basis of their conformity. When teachers speak of the "best students" they seldom mean the most argumentative, outspoken, questioning or disputatious. The message that we—who are educators—convey is clear: the road to success in America requires an adherence to standards that have been established by earlier educators, for whom formal mastery and compliance were paramount. We have only to look at the recent hue and cry over standardized tests and literacy lists to confirm this

fact. The point here is that the notion of the good student reflects social and historical realities. Ironically, we have a similar situation in our own discipline of English.

I would maintain that if we look at the history of literature, there have been almost no major women's voices recognized as a product of universal experience. Just as we have rewarded the conformist student, we have chosen our authors on the basis of their conformity to a particularly masculine idea of what is truly important. When there has been disagreement among literary critics about the parameters of the canon of literature, the question of which authors, themes and stylistic strategies deserve to be recognized has been debated. For the most part, dissonant voices have been silenced. The canon speaks for itself. By and large it turns out—and not by accident points out critic Nina Baym—to be white, middle-class, male, of Anglo-Saxon derivation, the so-called 'mainstream,' which provides for itself, as Lionel Trilling concedes, a "consensus criticism of the consensus."

The canon plainly excludes many groups. How then can we encourage our students to engage in an honest dialectic, an expression of contradictions, when gender may prevent some of them from partaking in the criticism? By studying fiction that is inherently male, it is highly unlikely that women would be encouraged to debate the author's literary experience. For by their omission from the canon, women's voices have been seen as untrue or unimportant. Their struggle for

integrity continues today. This is why Dr. Ottenhoff's challenge is an important one. Perhaps for some students the challenge will center on identifying a myth of fiction, a myth which has little to do with chronicling people in recognizable social situations.

Just as we have rewarded the conformist student, we have chosen our authors on the basis of their conformity to a particularly masculine idea of what is truly important.

Carol Gilligan, Harvard psychologist and author of *In A Different Voice*, offers an insightful look at male/female roles and expectations in society. Nowhere on earth do individuals live apart from social groups. Females, Gilligan says, spend a significant amount of their energy creating networks and bonds. Yet in the literature of the canon it would seem that individuals come before society; they exist in some meaningful sense prior to and apart from society. Thus the characters spend a good deal of time trying to free themselves from society. Owing to the selective vision that has given use this myth, should we ask whether anything about it puts it outside women's reach, or outside women's interest, for that matter?

With all due respect to Conrad's Kurtz, Twain's Huck Finn, Kerouac's Moriarty, and Updike's Rabbit, I'm not surprised that some good women students find it less than rewarding to analyze the struggle of the individual against society, particularly when that society is represented as a restrictive female. Not that they cannot understand the myth in terms of the

male protagonist (although this does limit its applicability to women), but ultimately they must confront other characters in the story—the smothering, destroying society—in the figure of one or more women. As Baym says, such a portrayal of women is likely to be uncongenial, if not basically incomprehensible, to a woman. Further, as the protagonist escapes to nature, which is imbued with feminine qualities, he sets out to achieve mastery and control. Women readers are not likely to see themselves either as antagonists or as untamed territory. Women writers are not likely to construct such stories. Yet if they do not conform to the myth, are they seen to be writing unimportant literature?

Where then is the woman's place in this scheme? Should she be silent like nature? Or, recognizing the myth, should she be a spokesperson for her gender? Dr. Ottenhoff is right. It is time to debate old assumptions, to question "authority," a notion appropriately related to that of "the author." In thinking disputatiously, a woman may question why as late as 1977 the canon did not include any women novelists, although women authors have always been active. She may dare to give an alternate reading, a strong reading to existing texts. And eventually she may have something to say in response to Nathaniel Hawthorne who complained to his published about the "damn'd mob of scribbling women" whose writings, he imagined, were diverting attention from his own. Yes, it is a welcome invitation to make public our private discontents.

