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Kiltie Band tour begins in bus accident

By Marti Amundsen
Staff Writer

The Alma College Kiltie Band toured for the first time in many years during winter recess, with Cincinnati, Louisville, Tuscaloosa, Naples and Orlando the scheduled performances for the tour. However, due to hazardous weather conditions and a severe accident on Sat., Feb. 25, members of the Kiltie Band performed an impromptu concert at the Van Buren United Methodist Church in Van Buren, Ohio.

In route to the first concert in Cincinnati, Alma's large passenger bus, carrying the majority of the band members, was involved in a 42 vehicle accident on Interstate 75. Due to the hazardous conditions produced by a snow storm outside of Toledo, a white semi truck jackknifed in the middle of the road. Because of "white out" conditions, icy roads and 50-60 feet visibility, motorists were unable to avoid

collisions causing a chain reaction of accidents. The Alma bus pulled into the median to avoid an accident, where it was soon pinned in by other vehicles unable to stop in time.

Music Professor Douglas Scripps' car was destroyed in the midst of this 99 car pile-up.

A church in the nearby town of Van Buren, Ohio was used to house the band and many of the others involved in the accident. To help ease the tensions in the crowded church, three students performed a mini-concert for all stranded by the accident. "We owe a lot to the church," said senior Jenny Balten, who assisted in planning the entire trip. "We also owe a lot to Frank (the bus driver)."

The remainder of the tour proceed without much difficulty. "Each performance got better and better," said Bill Summerfelt.

One musical highlight was the stop at Stillman College in Tuscaloosa.

"Stillman was great...(the band) enjoyed the stay there," said Balten.

A performance at Epcot Center in Florida was the highlight of the trip. "We jammed at Epcot," said John Wilson, percussionist. Another important factor which made the trip to Epcot a success was the opportunity for band members to have free time.

The band returned to Alma without any tour stops, but problems arose on the return trip also. Due to a seating mistake, one of the van drivers, John Wilson, was stuck driving from Atlanta to Alma. There was also a problem of a shortage of gas money because some of the vehicles got separated.

Overall, the members of the band said they felt the trip went well. Balten summed it up by saying, "The whole tour went well. We learned a lot. Now we have ideas of where to go from here—the strengths and weaknesses that occur in a tour."



Dancer performs at Stillman College photo by Sheri Mitchell

You may not be immune

Measles outbreak in Michigan

By Amy Reis
Managing Editor

After a 12-year old girl in the Ferris State University area died recently from complications of the measles, the issue of proper immunization of young adults is making headlines in Michigan.

Students at colleges and universities across the state have been advised by the Michigan Health Department to immediately check their immunization records to determine whether or not their bodies currently have the proper immunities to withstand exposure to the measles virus.

Measles is a serious disease if contracted in adulthood. Life-threatening complications include pneumonia, meningitis and encephalitis.

According to the Center For Disease Control, students should not panic, but should find out at what age they were given the measles vaccine. Anyone born after 1957 who was given the vaccine at 12 months of age or earlier does not have immunity and requires immunization as soon as possible. Anyone who received the vaccine between 12 and 15 months of age has an 85% probability of immunization. Anyone who was vaccinated after 15 months of age has a 95% chance of immunity. There is nothing that guarantees 100% immunity to measles.

The measles vaccine, called MMR for Measles, Mumps and Rubella, is currently in short supply due to the sudden volume of individuals who are requiring vaccination.

The shots are available at Wilcox Medical Center to high-risk students who either received the vaccination before 12 months of age or who have a history of related health problems. Due to the fact that Alma College is not a state-funded institution, the state is not providing Wilcox with free measles vaccines.

According to William Clark, Director of Health Services, the vaccine is very costly and students who wish to receive it from Wilcox will be required to pay \$30 at the time of the shot.

The Mid-Michigan Branch of the Gratiot County Health Department located in nearby Ithaca will also be offering the shots to Alma College students. If students wish to travel to Ithaca to receive the vaccination, they must first contact the Health Department at 875-2400 or contact Wilcox Medical Center at 7181.

It is also possible to receive the vaccination from one's family doctor.

Before the recent outbreak of measles occurred, the Center for Disease Control announced that the measles vaccines given to young infants were not effective. According to Clark, next year Alma College will require that all students, both returning current students and new students, present proof of immunity to the measles. Student will have three options. They may present immunization records showing that they received two measles vaccinations—one at 15 months of age and the second after Kindergarten or First Grade, show the results of a blood test which indicates immunity to measles, or present signed documentation that they have had the disease.

Those born prior to 1957 have passive immunity to measles and are not affected by the recent findings.

Siblings expected to turn campus to playground

By Karen Suber
Staff Writer

Are you ready to experience a campus full of energetic, cheerful, enthusiastic youngsters? Are you ready to see the Alma College campus transformed from its stable academic environment to a "playground" for girls and boys, young women and young men ranging in age from 6 to 18? You better be ready because the Gamma Sigma Sigma Sorority has scheduled its annual Little Siblings Weekend for March 16-18.

Gamma Sigma Sigma has scheduled many activities during Little Siblings Weekend to encourage siblings of Alma College students to

visit our campus. This year, with additional funding from the Student Congress Contingency Fund and the Dorm Councils of Newberry, Gelston, Bruske, and Mitchell, GSS has been able to expand the scope of the planned activities. Also, special arrangements have been made with other organizations on campus, such as Theater Company and Union Board, to accommodate siblings.

According to Dawn Berkey and Jessica Kirbitz, there will be fun-filled events for all siblings of all ages. Fri., March 16, includes a guided tour of the Planetarium by Professor Splitstone, "The Time of Your Life" musical comedy, as well as showings of both "Lethal Weapon I," and "Lethal Weapon II." Scheduled for Sat., March 17, is the musi-

cal comedy "Fair Means or Foul," free roller skating at the Towne and Country Rink of Ithaca, and "The Time of Your Life" musical comedy again. For Sun. March 18 swimming and racquetball in the AC Physical Education Center are planned.

Please contact a member of GSS if you and/or your siblings need additional information about these events. Members of the service sorority encourage all students and their siblings to join in the fun. In the words of one member, "The more participants, the merrier..."

And, what would a weekend at Alma College be without experiencing our unique, unequalled cuisine? GSS has made arrangements with Marriott Food Services to provide

tickets, which will be on sale Thurs., March 15 in the lobby of Bruske Hall, for weekend meals. Also, all siblings are invited to attend a continental breakfast, compliments of the Dorm Councils, on Saturday and Sunday. The breakfast will be available from 9:00 - 11:00 AM in the Games Room across from Joe's Place.

Little Siblings Weekend provides students and their siblings the opportunity to enhance relationships which are normally precluded by long distances and hectic schedules. In fact, last year there were over 200 siblings who attended. Troy Thompson and Rose Yorks are two Alma College students who have previously been involved in Little Siblings Weekend. Both agree that

the weekend provides an opportunity for all to "enjoy" a sibling or two. For the past two years Thompson, a junior from Mattawan, has invited his nine-year old sister, Nikki, to take part in Little Siblings Weekend. He said that "[Nikki] loves it!" Thompson said he considers this weekend "a chance to spend quality with Nikki," which may not otherwise be possible.

Rose Yorks, a junior from Metamora, echoes the same sentiment. Yorks and her teenage sister, Becki, were involved in the festivities two years ago. "We have a good time...we were able to do some things together which a 100-mile distance and everyday college responsibilities normally prevent," Yorks said.

Building campaign, admissions and North Coast Study

Stone addresses Student Congress

By Mike "Bernie" Collins
Staff Writer

In the last two meetings Student Congress has heard a report on the state of affairs of Alma College and has continued to work on modifications of Congress's constitution and guidelines for control of the contingency fund. President of Alma College Alan Stone's presentation of the state of affairs encompassed the science building, Performing Arts Center, Admissions and the North Coast Self-Study.

In regards to the science building, Stone reported that all was going as planned. He said, "The science building project is on time and will be finished this summer and open next fall." He also repeated the Trustee's decision to name the building in honor of Ronald Kapp.

The Performing Arts Center project has not progressed as well. The campaign is still in need of approximately \$6 million. Stone, however assured Congress that, "Money is coming in daily." Besides lacking funds, the project has also changed architectural firms. Citing high costs and general lack of confidence, Stone said they were forced to drop the Detroit firm and hire the Chicago firm of Clark and Cordigan. One of the first changes the new firm made was to move the Performing Arts Center back; it will now be adjacent to the Eddy Music Center. Stone described this move as a green space saving measure. A result of this move part of the PE parking lot will be destroyed, thus more parking spaces will be created across Superior where the College has recently purchased three houses.

Stone also reported on the Admissions shortage. He gave many possible reasons for the shortfall including students applying to fewer schools and later. He claimed, "This is a nationwide problem not only affecting Alma, in the Midwest it is a significant problem." To deal with the problem, Stone said the College will have to offer more financial aid in an effort to not lose many good students. Also, the College will have to improve yield, getting more students here that were accepted.

Stone also commented on the results of the North Coast Study committee findings that came on campus last term. The committee found Alma's strengths to be a dedicated faculty, lively student body, hard-working administration, strong financial position, fresh appearing campus and strong academic

programs. On the down side, the committee listed Alma's weaknesses as a lack of understanding the costs of diversifying the campus and of becoming a top college in the nation, uneven distribution of resources, lack of faculty and need to communicate better with the faculty on what is expected of them.

Stone responded to all of the weaknesses. He said the school realizes the cost of diversifying and attempting to be a top college in the nation. In the area of diversification he knows the costs may be high but, "It's the right thing to do."

In Congress's last meeting the revising of the Constitution was again on the agenda. Sara Amell, chairperson of the Constitutional Review Committee, introduced her committee's first changes. This involved the adoption of the line of

succession method in case of presidential vacancy. After a spirited debate, one major amendment to the committee's recommendation was approved. Three-fourth of the members in attendance at the designated meeting would be the majority required to approve the new president.

In the continuing attempt to update the contingency guidelines, Congress unanimously decided to add two lines to the guidelines that would further restrict who would get money. The two lines are: "Funding should be limited to events that do not occur regularly. Organizations with funding from other sources may be given less consideration."

Student Congress's next meeting will be Thursday, March 15 at 7 P.M. in AC 113.

Alma's first sorority brings alumni back

By Sharonne O'Shea
Staff Writer

In place of the annual Pink Carnation Ball held by the Gamma Phi Beta Sorority, the group will be sponsoring a free campus wide dance in honor of the Alpha Theta centennial on March 24 from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. The semi-formal event will be in Van Dusen. According to Centennial Chairperson Kelly Mitchell, a large turn-out is expected on the basis of past dance successes.

The dance will be bringing together over one hundred alumni of

"We're really excited because we'll meet sisters we've never known and find out what Alma was like before we were here."

Renae Franz and Tammi Bruggema

Alma's first sorority, Alpha Theta, from all ages. Mitchell said there

will be alumni from the '50's to the '80's visiting Alma for the occasion. In addition to the dance's deejay and photographer, there will be plenty of Alpha Theta memorabilia such as composites and past yearbooks. "A lot of archives stuff," said Mitchell.

Gamma Phi Beta members Renae Franz and Tammi Bruggema commented on their anticipation of the event. "We're really excited because we'll meet sisters we've never known and find out what Alma was like before we were here."

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Phone telethon raises money for annual fund

By Stacie Herriman
Staff Writer

During the weeks of Feb. 4-8 and Feb. 11-15 from 6:30-9:30 each evening a group of 69 students participated in a phone telethon to raise money for the Annual Fund, a fund which helps support scholarships, faculty salaries, facilities, equipment, and programs.

The 69 student volunteers comprised 15 teams. Each five person team was selected by a captain chosen from previous telethon participants. Each student made approximately 60 calls soliciting a population total of approximately 4000 people while receiving over 1600 pledges. \$52,550 was raised in pledges, exceeding the \$48,000 telethon goal.

The teams and individuals competed against one another during the telethon period. Jeff Hyames' team, composed of Dan Cloutier, David Stuebe, Mike Arndt, and Stephen Herr, raised the highest amount of money, a total of \$3,755. Meanwhile, Chris Bresser's team—

composed of Renai Stansfield, Regina Selenke, Sarah Drake, and Juli Burch—had the highest average pledge per call, \$82.62.

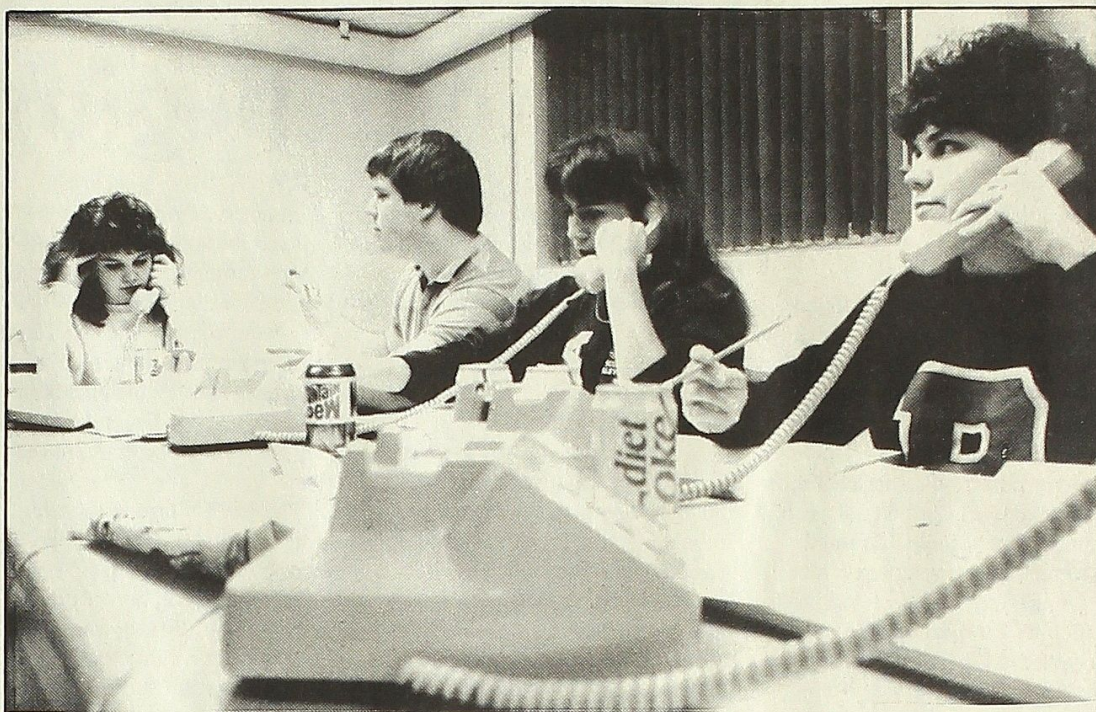
Chris Bresser won the individual highest average pledge per call of \$130.38.

Pam Eldridge, Associate Director of Annual Giving, said, "One of the competitions was not 'pizza-eating,' although they did consume 20 large pizzas over the duration (of the telethon)."

Telethons such as this one are essential to the running of the college as 30% of the college's total budget must be raised through public solicitation of funds. The remaining 70% of the total Alma College budget comes from what students pay in tuition to the school. The goal of the Annual Fund this year is to raise \$1,000,000.

Eldridge remarked that, "the student callers did an outstanding job for the Annual Fund effort. Their participation is greatly appreciated by everyone in the development offices."

The following students helped Alma College surpass its Winter Telethon goal this year: Sara Amell, Marti Amundsen, Michael Arndt, Bill Arnold, Mike Bachman, Jennifer Ball, Sue Bignall, Chris Bresser, Dave Brown, Juli Burch, Elizabeth Burchill, Dan Cloutier, Mike Collins, Louis Cubba, Jerry Czarniecki, Kathy Jo DeJonge, Laura Deller, Sarah Drake, Joyce Genord, Audrey Gillespie, Mike Goerge, Kymberly Goetz, Paul Grange, Stephen Herr, Beth Hinkson, Cyndi Hubbard, Martha Hubbard, Jeff Hyames, Amy Joseph, Sara Kapp, Katie Kinne, Judy Kirkwood, Matt Krusoe, Katharine Lawrence, Julie Leipprandt, Tom Maloney, Andy Mangin, Tim Miller, Angela Morris, Debbie Olsen, David Orlandini, Kevin O'Shaughnessey, Rick Parr, Luke Person, Brett Powers, Jim Reis, Carrie Roth, Gina Russell, Julie Russell-Porath, Regina Selenke, Jodi Shaw, Michelle Soper, Lisle Sorensen, Kristin Stahlbush, Renai Stansfield, Donna Strang, Catherine Stroia, David Stuebe,



A group of students phone for funds in annual telethon
Barb Swift, Cindy Thomas, Tracy Thompson, Karris True, Rachel Twining, Oona Velasquez, Kurt Watkins, Marcie Wittla, Matt

photo by Stuart Tannehill
the telethon. "Thanks to all those students who participated in the Telethon and helped make it a success."

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Monetary awards just a phone call away

Admissions turns enrollment campaign into contest

By Eric Caugh
Staff Writer

In an effort to increase enrollment, the Admissions Offices has developed a new incentive to its recruiting program. Monetary awards have been established to promote student involvement in a phone campaign camouflaged as a contest.

While the warming weather brings thoughts of spring to most, the Admissions staff is consumed with Fall 1990. With the number of applicants still exceedingly low, repercussions are evident around campus. Budget cuts and the "hold" on new faculty positions are among the most obvious.

To assure that Alma has a full freshman class in the fall and to assure funding for the college, the Admissions Office is calling on the student body to help raise the numbers. The recruiting campaign has been set up as a contest that students or student groups can enter. Contestants will be calling prospective students, with prizes going to the three groups who call the most students.

The purpose of the campaign is to contact those high school seniors who have shown an interest in Alma College in the past. The college students involved would answer

going to be lowered for the students targeted by this campaign. "Our Academic Standards Committee is just as stringent as they have always been about admissions," said Crawley.

"Our Academic Standards Committee is just as stringent as they have always been about admissions."

--Jim Crawley

questions that the seniors might have concerning Alma College. If the seniors express any doubts about attending Alma, the callers would dispel these doubts. The Alma students then make sure that the high school senior have an application.

Admissions Counselor Jim Crawley stresses, however, that because admissions are down does not mean that entrance standards are

Crawley added, "We are extremely optimistic, in the Admissions Office, that we will get our class next year." The campaign is designed to benefit all of those involved. For the high school seniors, it presents them with a chance to talk one-on-one with a college student and let them ask any questions concerning life at Alma College. The program helps to relieve the heavy work load that is congesting the Admissions Office and it gives the students a chance to get involved on campus while also giving them a chance to win cash prizes.

Any student or student group who is interested should contact the Admissions Office at 7139 at least one day in advance. Phoning takes place Monday through Thursday from 7 to 9 p.m. The campaign will run through the month of March. First prize is \$200; second prize is \$100; and third prize is \$50.

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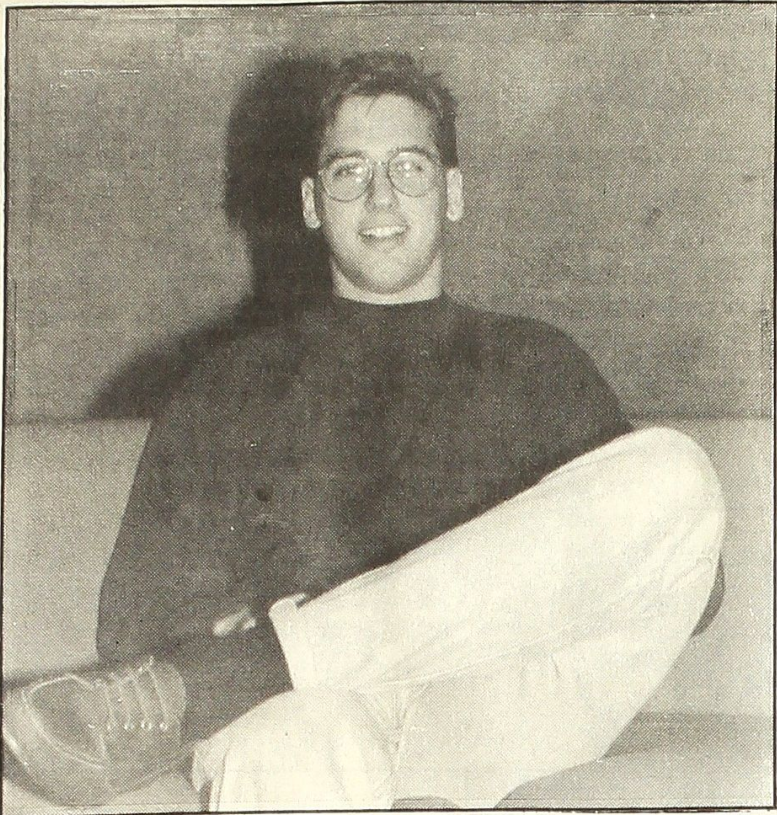
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Alan Zoltowski directs the Mitchell men



Mitchell Hall Director Alan Zoltowski photo by Stuart Tannehill

By Elizabeth Burchill
Editor-in-Chief

This week begins a series of profiles on Alma's various hall directors, with a new head resident to be spotlighted in *The Almanian* each week. The series kicks off with a focus on Alan Zoltowski, Alma's newest hall director.

"I like the small college atmosphere Alma offers. I couldn't work just anywhere and I feel very comfortable here."

These words sound typical of any Alma College admissions brochure, but, in fact, were spoken by Alan Zoltowski on his current job as Mitchell Hall Director.

Zoltowski, 24, became hall director last year after former director Tom DeHorn's departure. Upon his Dec. 1988 graduation from Central Michigan University, Zoltowski said he was looking for a job where he could interact with

others as well as work towards his masters degree in counseling.

"I had spent two and a half years at CMU as a resident assistant and I wanted to work towards my degree and still receive an income so I decided to apply to be a resident hall director at several colleges," he explained.

He continued, "I had past experience dealing with a college community through being an R.A., and, besides, I find college campuses to be upbeat, fresh, and new. I really enjoy this job."

Born in Detroit, Zoltowski is the middle child between two sisters. At age 12 his family moved to Mt. Clemens where he subsequently spent his growing up years. After graduating from CMU with a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology and a minor in family life, he spent eight months working at a group home for emotionally impaired teens in New Baltimore.

Of this experience Zoltowski said it was difficult to deal with the teens

and their various problems, which could range anywhere from manic-depressive to suicidal, but the experience as a whole was educational.

"When I left the home I really missed it—I missed the unpredictability and the direct one-on-one contact with the kids. But I enjoy the job here at Alma more simply because at a job when you deal directly with mental health issues all the time you get burned out easily. Being a hall director is a bit less taxing, yet still challenging," he said.

Zoltowski is currently studying marriage and family therapy with anticipated graduation date from CMU in May 1991. Until that time, however, he said he is striving to make Mitchell Hall a comfortable place for all its residents.

"When a student pays tuition to go here, I think that entitles the student to have a nice living environment. If, for example, the shower's not working or the heat won't come on

in a room I really encourage the residents to come and talk to either me or an R.A. We're here for them."

In his spare time Zoltowski said he enjoys bowling and watching basketball. As an endurance athlete he's currently training for various triathlons taking place this summer, and he's also been a participant in seven or eight past marathons, including the Boston marathon.

Of course all this training takes a lot of energy, but, according to Zoltowski, it takes a similar amount of energy to hold the hall director position.

"This job isn't for everybody. Being a hall director you live where you work and so often times you can't separate personal time from work time," he said.

"I enjoy it, however, because Alma's smallness gives me a more direct link to other aspects of the college besides Mitchell Hall. Through my job I can also be exposed to sports and most importantly, to the students themselves."

A historical look at St. Patrick's Day

By Maria Stephens
Staff Writer

For one day each year, it seems everyone — whether in truth of Italian, German, or Hispanic descent — becomes Irish. We don the green, bring out the shamrocks, and watch the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade on television. St. Patrick's Day, which has become synonymous with "Irish Heritage Day," is generally regarded as a fun time for wild Irish-style parties and has become yet another profitable occasion for America's greeting card industry.

But wait a second, what's so special about being Irish? After all, we don't have a grand-scale national holiday glorifying German, Italian, or other immigrant descent. Perhaps it was the notorious affection of the Irish for unrestrained celebration which first promoted the extravagant observance of this originally Catholic and Episcopalian feast day.

Whatever the reason, St. Patrick's day has especially in recent years extended beyond Catholic and Irish circles to become, in our country, a universally observed occasion. Even in Ireland itself the festivities

have not traditionally matched the proportions of the ones in our country, where the mammoth New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade, dating back to 1762, is the largest annual parade held there. Even in Dublin, the celebration has only since 1968 grown to attract tourists as the "Irish Mardi Gras."

The day celebrates, of course, the feast day of St. Patrick, born originally in what is now Wales but was then part of the Roman Empire in 385 or 389 A.D. He was christened "Succat," but despite the Christian backgrounds of his parents, he grew up as a worldly boy who gave little thought to religion.

His life reached a turning point, however, when, at his age of sixteen, Irish pirates raided his village and carried him off with hundreds of other men and women to be a slave in Ireland. During his six years of slavery, Succat became increasingly aware of the presence of God in his life, as recorded in his *Confession*. He escaped slavery and returned to his homeland, but later heard a call to return to the place where he had found God to share his new faith with the Irish pagans.

To prepare for this endeavor, Succat traveled the European

continent, obtaining a religious education from monasteries in France and Italy. Church superiors at first ignored Succat's petition to return to Ireland and instead chose St. Palladius as the first bishop of Ireland. Only one or two years later, however, Palladius left for Scotland, and Succat took over the position in 431 or 432 A.D. At this time he was given the name "Patrick."

Patrick fought the opposition of Druid priests and succeeded in converting much of Ireland to Christianity, establishing numerous churches, schools, and monasteries. He even created controversies among his own clergymen by Christianizing the pagan spring bonfire rite, which is now a part of the Roman Catholic Easter Vigil liturgy.

His winning personality and commanding presence contribute to his historic accomplishment in missionary work. He died on or about 461 A.D., but legends about the "Father and Founder of the Church in Ireland" still persist to this day.

Pictures and statues of the saint show many of the symbols associated with his legendary missionary work, such as the shamrock (with which he supposedly taught the idea of the Holy Trinity), the cross, the harp, baptismal font (indicating his many converts), demons, serpents, and snakes, the latter of which he is said to have driven out of Ireland.

But despite the day's religious origin, many students see nonreligious benefits of the holiday. "I think it's nice that this one country's heritage is recognized by people around the world in ways like wearing green," said junior Jenn McCormick, who is half Irish.

"It makes me think about the problems in Ireland between Catholics and Protestants more than I would if there wasn't a St. Patrick's Day," said Kat Kelly, a sophomore who is also half Irish.

Freshman Julie Long voiced the opinion most frequently expressed by students about the day. "It's a good reason to celebrate," she said. "Green brings out the animal in me."

Students gear up for annual songfest

By Sarah Houghton
Staff Writer

On March 25th, Alma College will present one of its many longstanding traditions—Songfest. Songfest, an Alma College Union Board sponsored event, is a formal competition in song. For many years Songfest has given Alma College students a means of illustrating their diverse vocal talents. This event has three divisions of competition, including soloists, small groups and large groups.

Last year many changes were implemented in the competition. Its primary goal was to make the competition more formal and to showcase Alma College students' talent. Each year Songfest has produced many quality performances. Last year's winners included soloist Julia Bolt, small group winners Kappa Iotas, and large group winners Phi Mu.

Tia Brandel, Union Board's Major Events Chairperson, said she encourages the campus to attend this event. This year's Songfest will be held at Dunning Memorial Chapel, and it is open to everyone.

If anyone is still interested in applying for Songfest, contact Tia Brandel.

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Ad Council

Union Board sponsors Irish bash

By Ann Fuller
Staff Writer

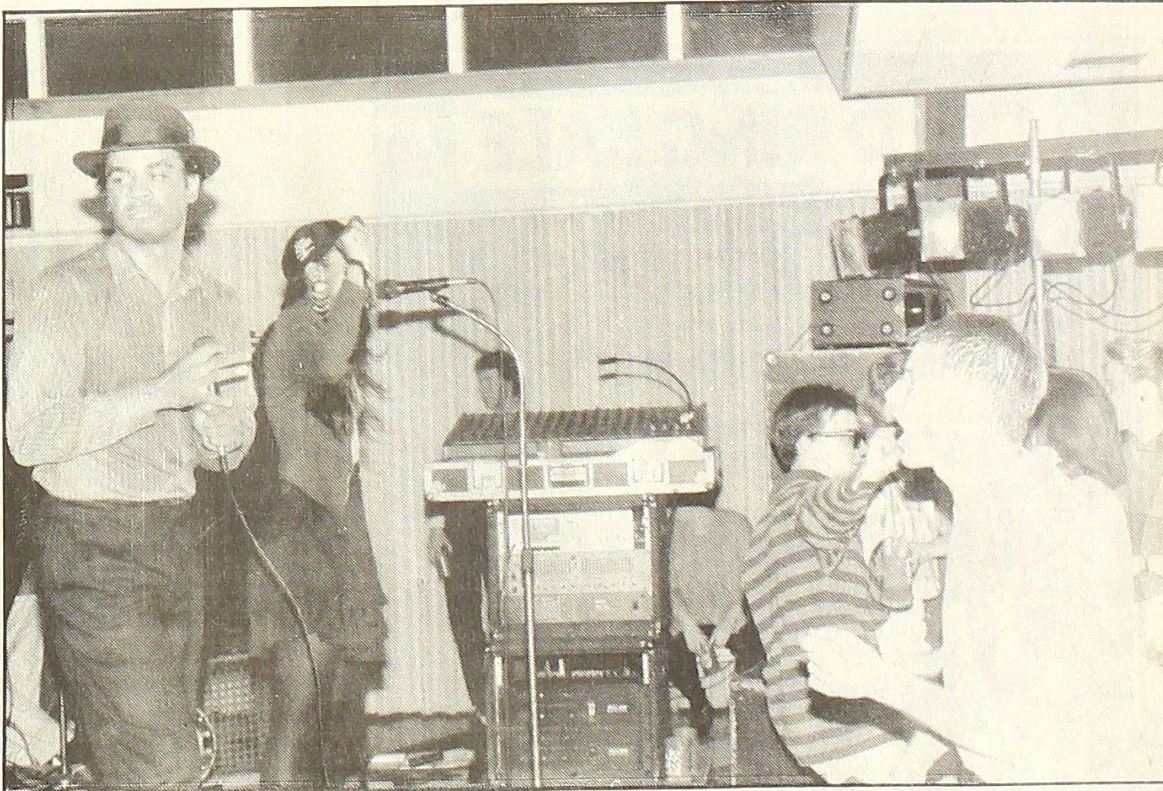
On Sat., March 10, the Alma College Union Board sponsored the annual event of Irish Pub.

This is a time for all Alma College students to get together and celebrate St. Patrick's Day the traditional way—with green beer and lots of dancing.

The dance took place in Van Dusen Commons beginning at 9 p.m. and continuing until 1 a.m. The event featured the band Jady Kurrent, who returned by popular demand from last year.

Free green mugs, with the Irish Pub logo on them, were handed out at the door to all who attended. For those who were of legal drinking age, these mugs could be filled with green beer from the four kegs.

Van Dusen was packed for most of the event. According to Tia Brandel, senior ACUB member and organizer of Irish Pub, "This is the most widely attended Union Board event."



Students jam at Irish Pub with repeat performers Jady Kurrent photo by Stuart Tannehill

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Map showing location of China Garden at the intersection of Mill St. and Main St. in St. Louis, near the intersection of M-46 and Saginaw.

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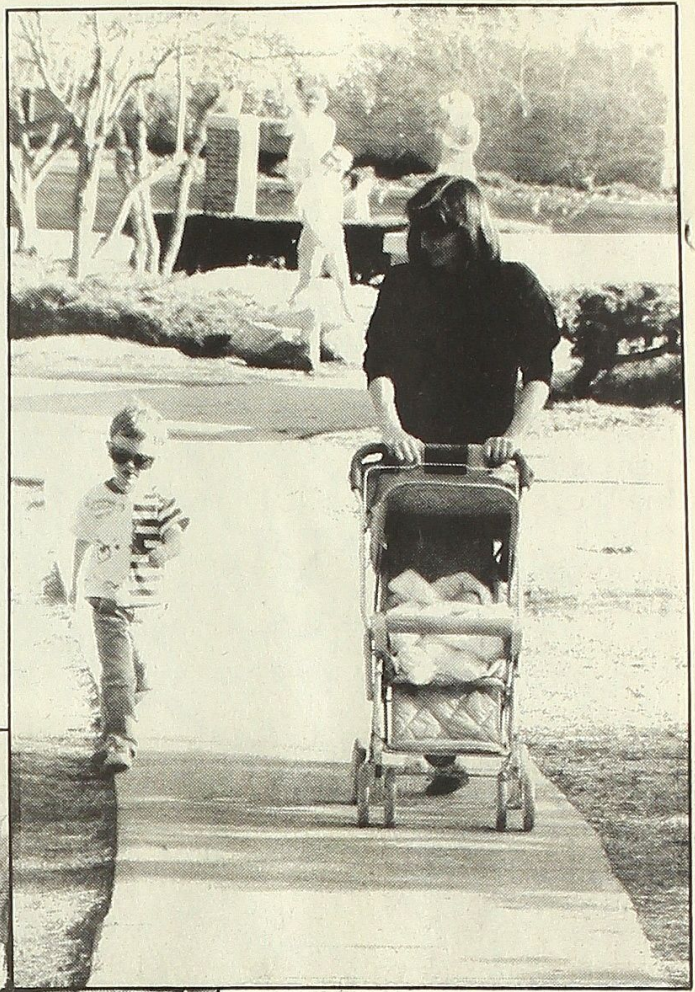
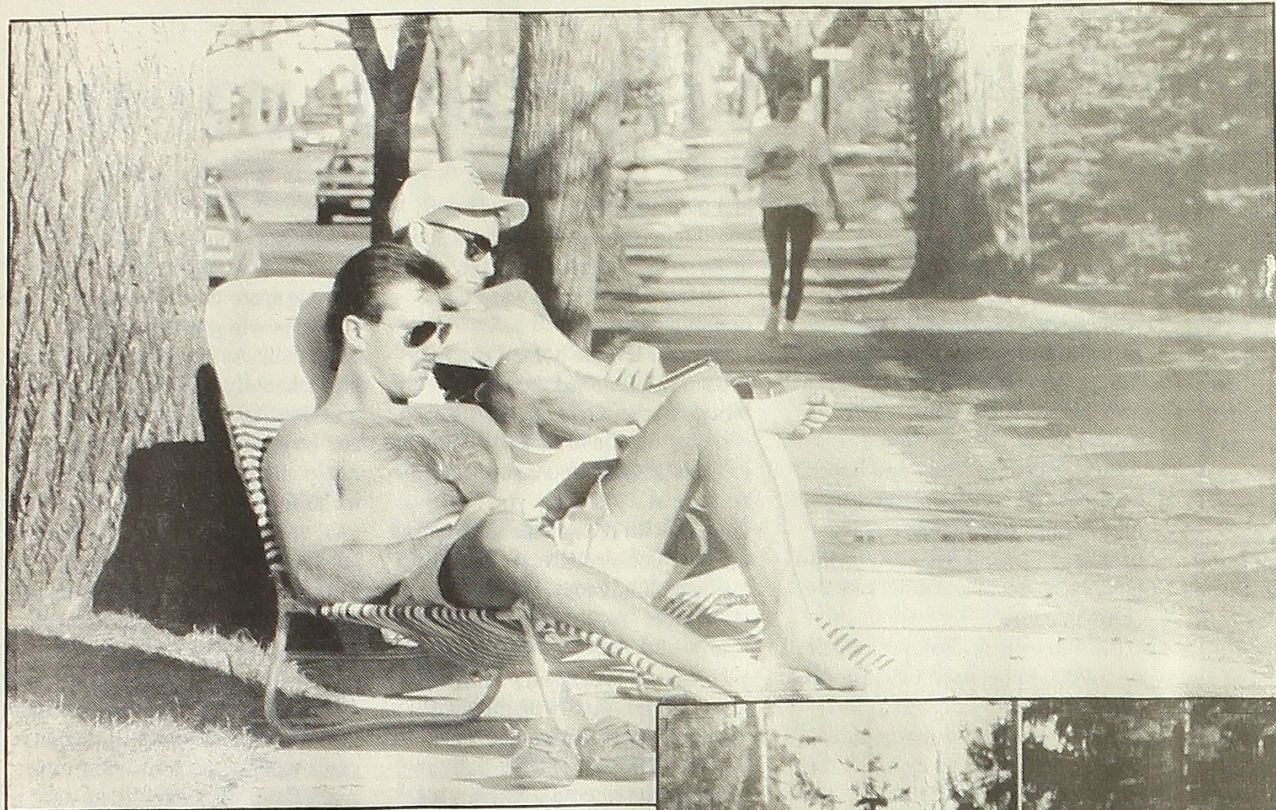
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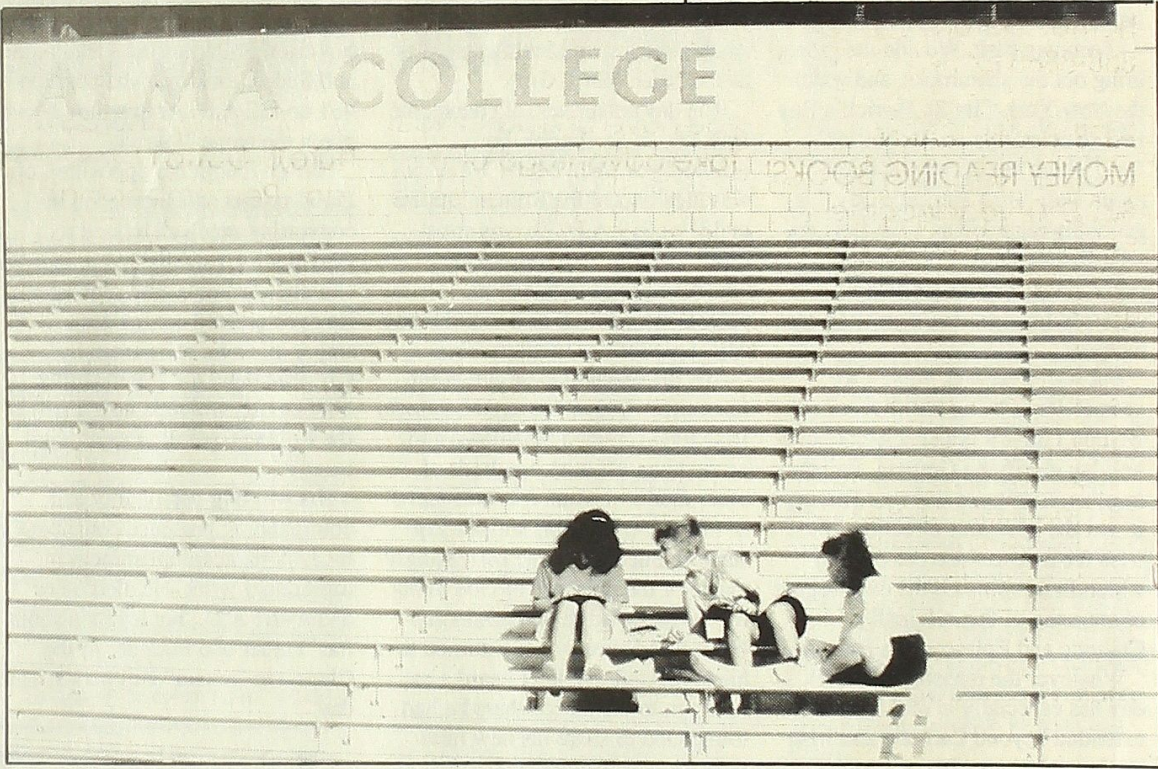
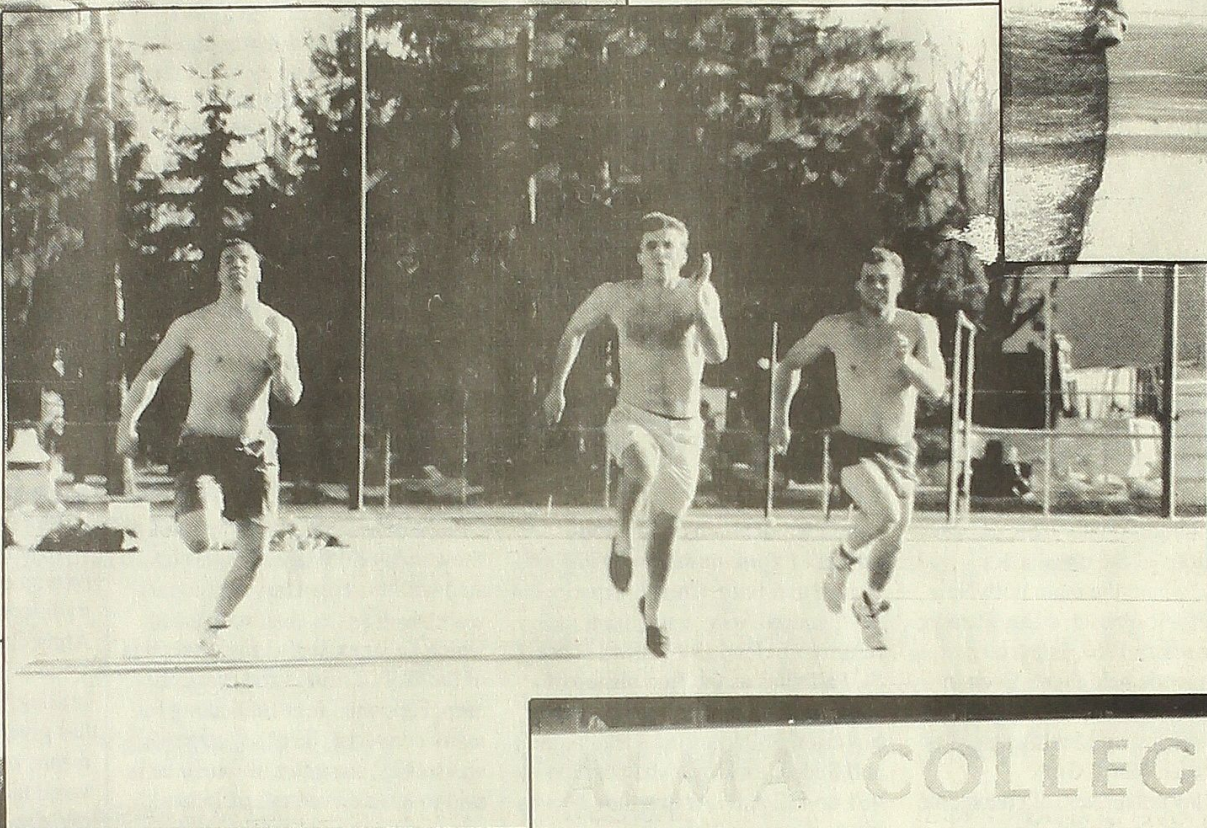
Feature

The Almanian
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Tuesday, March 13, 1990

Springy day reduces Winter blues



Catching some rays, taking a stroll, getting some exercise, blowing bubbles and studying (?) are just some of the ways people enjoyed the warm temperatures yesterday. It may still be Winter term, but these photos by Photography Editor Stuart Tannehill show that spring is not far away.



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Classified

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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 the Alma College community.

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Gamma Phi,
Hey GooPhooBoos I think we're facing the quiet before the storm, you've all been so good...well, except for Lucy—girl, your beds getting cold! and Carlee, exactly who were you talking to? Pledges fire up for activation, we're so lucky to have all of you. Congrats Pledges for breaking the TKE/ΓΦΒ pledge exchange injury streak; running score for the last three years ΓΦΒ 2, TKE 1. Welcome C.C. to the proud and Happy Epsilon Beta Chapter. L.W. Watch out for the chapel steps!! Everyone fire up for Centennial! Click-ClickClick

Hey Alpha Gams!
Hope you all had a great break, and a sincere "welcome back!" to all of the band members. Congratulations to Jenny—we know she had an awesome break. Another congrats to all of our wonderful new initiates! We love you very much. We also hope that you have seen through our initiation week activities, how many wonderful times you have ahead of you. Take advantage of them! Remember, seize the moment everyone!
Loyally,
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Hey Perc Cats! What R doing? And now it's time for the Band Tour from Hell review. Hey you studs in the Rid'em hard—nice drug helmets. Cheez n'Rice! Are you having mechanical problems, or just personal ones? Sheri, what were you looking at through the telescope for so long? Must have been some show. We need to find uses for the extra rope and duct tape—any suggestions, Amy? Congratulations to Flounder, the Official Perc mascot of the Tour from Hell 1990. Special thanks to Zerb the Drac man for making our trip a total gas. Remember: Press in, feel out, and always be nice ta people....

ΘX—
Pledges, now you know that sleeping in late CAN be a good thing. Early morning pledge showers should be a regular event. The 'lighter-than-air' Award goes to Mengyan for his part in that early morning "event" in the basement. News Flash: Nintedo create new game based on Leethal...
ROBOBREW (the adventure)! Gotta go...Remember that famous quote by our even more illustrious brother, Dave Johnson, about the f(CENSORED)g.

Nice job, everyone, on all the performances, and special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Scripps, Jenny Balten, Frank Luneack, Dave Zerbe, and the band staff for making this tour possible. We all need a vacation—how soon is Spring Break?!

Only three more weeks until the annual Alpha Xi Delta Mardi Gras. this year Mardi Gras will be held on Saturday March 31. This dance is open to everyone on campus. Tickets are \$4 per person and \$8 per couple. These will be on sale in Saga beginning Monday March 26. Mardi Gras is held in VanDusen from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Alpha Xi's:
It's that time of year again. It's time to dig out the black books and pigbooks and search for that ideal Mardi Gras date. Fire up for Mardi Gras. It is the perfect event to share with friends and that perfect date. So girls get ready for Mardi Gras. it's right around the corner. And we're sure it is going to be the best dance ever!
TfJ

Band Van #81:
Hey all you B---smacks!! Let's do it again sometime!! But next time we'll avoid the snow. Bye, the ultimate F---knut!

ΣAE,
Congratulations to Box-cars!! You finally made it! At least now you know some of the alumni. Deano-Take a pill, it's only a presentation! **Snapper Report**, he says "Hi", he's doing fine and serving 23 years in Madrid. New sisters be ready for an exciting weekend. Guys, who's caught the goldfish? Don and Steve, how is the great white north treating you? Watch out for those snow cows! Hey, it's Bob Stahlick...Not!!! Remember to help Rick keep us educated!
ΦA, Lingus

Kiltie Band Tour Participants—
Congratulations on a "smashing" tour and safe trip home!!! Now that we're back in the great white North, there are a few details that need to be tied up . . Remember, the phrase of the year is "Band Bonding." But, do you think we could bond somewhere besides Ohio? Hey Topher, Ohio's road crews really are efficient—just like you said! Great driving, Ed, but do you think we can keep the doughnuts to the parking lot and not the interstate?! By the way, Ed, can you scrape off the windows—we can't see the wreckage!!! Let's not forget Amy, Andy, and Tim—our other winners of the "golden windshield wiper" awards! Remember, Frank, the median is NOT a parking lot! I thought that all Methodist churches came equipped with showers. Hey—who put all these little socks on my teeth? Anyone for euchre or spoons?! Ryder crew—remember that Alabama highway 10 is not the same as Interstate 10. By the way, Bill, nice "full moon" over Tuscaloosa! What's this about Lou's bathroom habits? Next time, use a Big Gulp! And J.C.'s shopping cart—maybe you'll graduate up to Tonka soon.

Alpha Xi's
Congratulations to the Eta Pledge Class! All of your hard work has paid off girls and now you're actives. We're so proud of all of you. And we welcome you into our AEA family with open arms. You're the best! Congrats Eta Pledge! We love you.
TfJ

PSG (Presidential Service Group) is a student service group for which individuals are selected to serve at various presidential functions (i.e., receptions, open houses, Board of Trustees functions). the service group offers good experience for those persons looking to develop public relations skills.

Specifically, PSG members help greet visitors in the President's home and make them feel welcomed. For many Alma visitors this is their only direct contact with students. This past December valet parking was provided for the first tie, a practice that will be continued during the community Christmas Receptions.

If you are interested in becoming a past of PSG, watch for applications that will soon appear in your mailbox, or you may pick one up from Jane Hall in the President's Office.

The events for PSG occur during the Fall semester, and although you wouldn't be expected to work each of the date it would be helpful if you could make three or four events. For 1990 the dates will include:

Sept. 12	5:30	receptions
Oct. 12		Reception for 50 year grads
Oct. 13		Reception for 25 year grads
Oct. 13		Open House for the Alumni
Nov. 3		Open House for parent Weekend
Nov. 7 & 8		Community Christmas Reception (Valet Parking)
Dec. 7 & 8		Alma College Christmas Receptions

If you have any questions please contact Mary Sweet (7790), Rick Warmbold (7786) or Jonieta Stone (7363).

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Madhouse

PG-13 ORION

Scot's baseball heads south for spring training

By Ann Fuller
Staff Writer

While most of us spent our Spring Break freezing in the cold Michigan air, the Alma College Baseball team headed to Ocala, Florida, to polish their skills for the upcoming season.

According to senior captain Darby Wiler, the trip was very beneficial to the team. "The trip helped us to know each other better. We worked out and got sharper and better."

The spring training trip was necessary in order for the team to get some practice time outside. The team's first game will be played in a few weeks and at this time of year, there is no way for the baseball team to get any work done outside.

With four coaches along for the ride, the team was able to divide up and practiced in small, specialized groups. The team worked for four to five hours every day, in beautiful, sunny weather.

Senior Mike "Norm" Nixon said that he felt the team "worked harder than they ever have in past Florida trips."

We can all imagine that a 24-hour bus ride would give a team plenty of time to get to know each other and this team was no different. In addition to sharpening their baseball skills, the men also did some team-building.

"You can't help but to get to know someone well when you ride with them on a bus to Florida," said senior Tom Rogala, center fielder.

The team spent a lot of time together, both on and off the field, which will make for good relations during the season.

For this season of baseball, it appears that good things will be in store. Said senior Rob Gillette, team manager, "We have a lot of spirit and outstanding athletes on the team."



Alma Scot baseball team gears up for 1990 season

photo by Stuart Tannehill

Women's track off to a running start

Tia J. Brandel
Staff Writer

The Women's track team started their season on a strong note by winning the Spring Arbor Indoor Invitational last Saturday. Grand Valley State University, Adrian College and Spring Arbor College completed the field for the meet.

"We had a ball!" said senior long jumper Deanna Anderson. "We did very well. It was really good for morale. Especially for the big freshmen class that we have."

Senior Amy Wolfgang echoed this comment and added that, "our strongest competition was ourselves. It was a good meet for everyone. A great way to start the season!"

Laura Atkinson, a freshman runner from Dexter High School, is excited about the season. "This team is a lot of fun and I think we're going to do very well."

Tupper Lysaght said she feels that the team is doing well for this early in the season. "I am really excited about the season. We'll have some strong competition, but I think it'll make us work harder."

The women will next compete on March 23, at the Aginas Indoor Invitational. The following places were earned by Alma tracksters at Saturday's meet:

- High Jump—Amanda Paul (1); Karris True (2); Theresa Wood (3)
- Long Jump—Deanna Anderson (2)
- Shot Put—DeeDee Grant (2); AnnMarie Baker (3)
- Hurdles—Wood (2)
- 50m Run—Laura Atkinson (2); Charlotte Sanders (3)
- 4X1 Lap Relay—(2) Sanders, Atkinson, Paul, Joelle Ayer
- 600m Run—Colleen Wrouble (1); Kerry Radcliff (2)
- 1000m Run—Kerry Radcliff (1)
- 400m Run—Lysaght (2)
- 2 Mile Run—Sarah Braunreiter (1)
- Mile Run—Wolfgang (1)
- 800m Run—Wolfgang (1)
- 300m Run—Wrouble (2)
- Mile Relay—(1) Connie Gulczynski, Radcliff, Wrouble, Lysaght

Softball gains playing experience

By Shannon Nichols
Sports Editor

When most of us were bundling up in our winter coats and digging our boots out of our closets, the Alma College women's softball team was busy playing ball in the beautiful sunshine state of Florida.

The Lady Scots took off for Orlando, Florida, on Sat., Feb. 24, and returned to Alma on Sun., March 4. They returned not only with suntans and souvenirs, but also with eight wins under their belt.

"We went to Florida to have a good time and to play softball. We managed to do both," said Treeter Johnson, a junior pitcher.

The team stayed in the heart of Orlando, close to Disneyworld and Epcot, but the main focus was softball.

When the Scots first arrived, they had an opportunity to get used to practicing outside, and then it was off to the nearby colleges and universities.

Their first game was against Valdosta State from Georgia. The Scots were a little nervous at first, but not enough to stop them from defeating the Bulldogs in both games of the double header. Johnson and freshman Shannon Pingston were the two winning pitchers.

The next double header was against the University of Tampa, a Division II university.

The first game was a close one until the final innings when the Scots took charge and won. In the second game Alma allowed a few more runs to cross the plate, but the University of Tampa fell yet again to the Lady Scotsmen.

Nearing the end of the week the softball team travelled to Rollins College and was again victorious. Both games at Rollins ended in the fifth inning in the form of large scale victories for Alma.

The final game, according to Coach Griffin, was the toughest opponent in the spring training schedule, and as predicted both games were extremely close.

The first game was deadlocked for the majority of play, but due to the Johnson's pitching, and the consistent offensive and defensive play by the entire team, the Scots managed to end their trip south as positively as it had begun.

Overall the team appeared to be quite satisfied with their trip.

"As long as I have been making these trips south I have never had a better trip, and I imagine that I may never have a better one. The weather was great, and the whole team played very well," said Griffin

Creative parking may become a new intramural sport

By Adam Dettman
Staff Writer

I was told by my editor that if I wanted to continue to write for this fine paper I would have to be serious, to the point, and yet truthful. To say the least I was at a loss for words, so I began to ponder my thoughts as I walked through our seldom muddied and puddle-filled campus. How could I meet all these harsh requirements, and at the same time please you, my intelligent readers? Nothing, I could think of nothing.

I took a look back at some of my previous unprinted articles, and asked myself how I could make them fit the requirements that I had been asked to follow. I thought long and hard, and decided that although I would miss scouting the campus for interesting interviews, hearing all of the wonderful ideas of my fellow students, I would have to face this article alone.

After days of thought I finally

decided on a timely and important topic that needs to be discussed: an addition to the already amazing list of I.M. sports this college has to offer.

My proposal is for Intramural Car Parking:

I was told by a reliable source that just as soon as our tuition goes down, we will be getting information on the new I.M. Car Parking game...

-- Adam Dettman

I know. When the words "car parking" are discussed, your ears perk up like a rabbit being shot by an AK-47. Yes, there exists a problem with parking at Alma College. How many of you have walked miles across this crowded

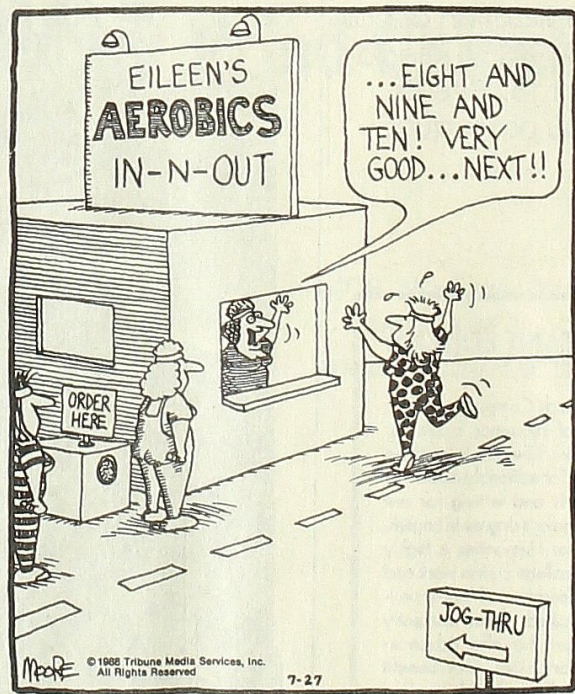
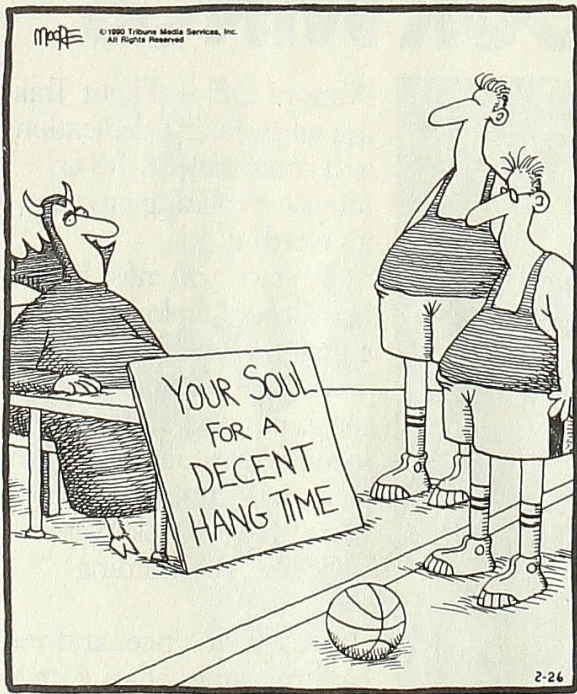
campus to get to your dorms, or driven around for hours with the hope that the next time you went around the aisle there would be a parking space awaiting you and your vehicle?

For any of you that have been in the aforementioned situation, boy do I have the game for you. My proposal entails a system for awarding points in accordance with the spot that you finally arrive at. For example Gelston Hall basement (not a very creative spot) 5 points. Third Floor Mitchell-10 points. Last, but not least 25 points for Dr. Stone's African room. (Now that's style!)

Of course, not all the kinks have been worked out of my proposal, and you may think this idea is just a dream, but I was told by a reliable source that just as soon as our tuition goes down, we will be getting information on the new I.M. Car Parking game, so you better start thinking of interesting spots.

IN THE BLEACHERS

by Steve Moore



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Opinion is essential to understanding

By Karen McDonald
Opinion Editor

As Opinion Editor, often I find myself grabbing a dictionary and looking up the literal meaning of the word *opinion*. Basically, the general consensus is that opinion is simply "what one thinks" or "personal judgement". This leaves the opinion page open to just about anything, which makes it difficult to establish a clear-cut structure for opinion articles. The main purpose then becomes to provide the college community with a well-rounded scope of opinions. Obviously, some have more expertise in formulating opinions than others. If recognized, then an avid opinion reader should put down the paper feeling relatively satisfied about what he/she has learned.

Keeping this in mind, the recent interests and efforts by certain

faculty members to contribute to The Almanian must be commended. It was a difficult task at first. Few faculty members were opposed to having a consistent weekly voice represented in *The Almanian*, however no one seemed to have

and so began a series of articles that have proved to be an effective addition to The Opinion Section. Articles have begun to appear on my desk without any pleading, coercing, or even effort on my part. One such article is that of Joseph

mentary." Napora said.

Granted, The Opinion Section is not a place to publicize your personal complaints about issues that are not significant to The Alma College Community. However, it is one of the few places where a voice of this community can be represented. From my experience, I have found that while there are a large number of opinionated individuals on this campus, few of them are willing to take advantage of the opportunity to express their opinions to the campus. Every one has something to say. The simple fact remains, however, that if no one wants to say it to the campus community, then The Opinion Editor is destined to fill his/her page with comics and crossword puzzles. While these are amusing at times, they lack a certain amount of effectiveness to inform.

Also in my search for a defini-

tion of opinion, I stumbled across something quite interesting. Opinion was stated as being "not so strong as knowledge." Perhaps this is relevant to our community when reading The Opinion Section. It is true that no opinion can be considered as strong as knowledge. Someone, somewhere, always has a different side to the story, or a better way of saying it. Nevertheless, it is possible to gain knowledge through the collaboration of several opinions on a specific issue, as certain faculty members have recently illustrated to us. Response and opinion, whether it be through an article or a Letter to the Editor, are priceless in our search for a higher level of understanding. Upon this realization, it is imperative that we commend those already taking part in this search as well as encouraging the remaining Alma College Community to follow suit.

Response and opinion, whether it be through an article or a Letter to the Editor, are priceless in our search for a higher level of understanding.

-- Karen McDonald

much interest in beginning this "dialogue". For some faculty members, even reading *The Almanian* was a bit too much to ask. Finally, John Ottenhoff, Assoc. English Prof., as well as an advisor for The Almanian, felt obligated to do something. Ottenhoff wrote one commentary on disputatiousness,

Napora, English Prof., who submitted a letter in response to several issues being dealt with in the paper. "I'd like to see every week students and faculty writing opinionated columns to engage in these kinds of issues. It's important for all of us, not just The English Department, to accumulate commentary after com-

The ALMANIAN Letter Policy

All letters to the Editor must meet the following standards for publication: The letter must be signed and include the Author's campus phone number, it must be pertinent to the Alma College campus as a whole and relate to the *ALMANIAN* in some way, and it must be received by 5 pm the Friday prior to requested publication. Address letters to; The Editorial Board, the *ALMANIAN*, Newberry Basement, Alma College, Alma, MI. 48801.

'TUPPER TALK'

Are you who you want to be?

By Tupper Lysaght
Assistant Opinion Editor

Confidence has proven to be a necessary ingredient in pursuing a successful life. Having confidence requires the ability to overcome doubts, fears, and insecurities one may have about oneself and one's capabilities.

Karen McDonald (Editor and friend) and I have become quite good at recognizing sincere confident people who will clearly lead very fulfilling lives. However, we have also recognized those that lack the appropriate level of self-confidence necessary in order to personally excel.

By often wandering around campus, Karen and I have come to the conclusion that squirrels lack confidence. Most of you know what a squirrel is. It is a rat-like, frantically nervous little busy-body that darts across the campus in diagonal-like directions gathering food, and running from people and loud noises.

I could not help but be concerned for these creatures that we all witness daily. After several days of spying on a couple of squirrels, we thought it would be alright to approach them with potential solutions with my I'm as Good as You Handbook.

We finally talked them into inviting us into their tree. We attempted to climb the tree by imitating the climbing form of the squirrels but were unable to do so. Karen almost slipped several times but luckily I was there to once again save her life.

The squirrels were very nervous about our presence and our prying into their lives. This made me feel very uncomfortable as well, so I began flipping through my handbook looking for suggestions. The first one I came across was coloring in coloring books. It has been proven that by coloring and shading things in you become relaxed and can acquire the appropriate frame of mind for believing in yourself. So Karen and I colored with the

squirrels for about twenty minutes until we all began to relax. Karen had difficulty coloring within the lines but that is a separate issue that through self-reflection, Karen can overcome.

As we were nibbling on acorns, we came to the conclusion that the fear of the unknown is what is causing the squirrels to feel so intimidated in life. I explained that everyone has fears and insecurities, but the people that excel are the ones that make it a point to control their fears and insecurities instead of letting it control them. It is also true that some people are just born with the ability to overcome these things while others never seem to get it together and lead a lifetime of doubt. I know that we will never be completely doubt-free people, but it is possible to live in contentment with your doubts.

I advised the squirrels that they need to do a great deal of self-reflection because if one does not attempt to understand one's fears then one will never get over them. It is critical that they decide what kind of a individuals they want to be. This kind of a decision cannot be put off. It is the kind of decision that represents what one stands for as an individual and whether or not one is the kind of being that prefers hiding behind insecurities or prefers knowing oneself and acknowledging what it takes to acquire peace of mind.

The squirrels seemed to take our conversation seriously and scurried off in search of a quiet place where self-reflection could take place. Karen and I smiled at each other and separated to isolate ourselves to pursue our own self-reflection. I recommend a musical background while your indulging in your mental reflective exercise. It offers an inspirationalness that will relax you and possibly motivate you as well. Never lend your headphones to a squirrel.

Are you who you really want to be? Or are you merely a squirrel, desperately waiting for someone that will rescue you from your inhibitions?

Bork finds 'Blaze' unrealistic portrayal

By Jennifer Bork
Staff Writer

The only glimmer of hope in the predictable, unentertaining, incoherent movie *Blaze*, were some good examples of symbolism and a few impressive nature scenes. Hints of sexism and unrealistic occurrences contributed to my disdainful mood after wasting four dollars to view this film. I struggled to stay awake as this naive, country girl becomes a star and a pillar of strength in a supposedly loving relationship.

A young, large-busted girl, Lolita Davidovich, decides to leave her West Virginian home to search for a job and a man. She winds up as a stripper in New Orleans, named Blaze Starr, because of her flame-red hair.

After impressing the Governor, who frequents the club and pursues her, a crazy, semi-romantic affair begins. He, Paul Newman, is a scrawny, lustful, dirty politician that is quickly losing political favor. One positive quality is his support of Negro rights, but he is willing to hide his true feelings to maintain power. The two make quite an interesting couple as she promotes her unusual career and he schemes to retain office.

Bridges are a recurring aspect throughout the flick. A bridge scene is flashed when *Blaze* moves from her home to the city and when she and Governor Earl Long visit nearby black town. Also, the city lights dance below as the Governor and *Blaze* discuss their future together from what appears to be a bridge. All of these examples represent a change, or a crossing over from one kind of life to another. I think they are especially meaningful to the character Davidovich portrays. It is not the fact that she moved to a different location, but that she transformed into a worldly, confident, outgoing woman who was not about to be manipulated.

This is best illustrated when she is leaving the Governor, and one of his officials laid his coat over a mud puddle she was crossing-just like a bridge! Here, a lower class stripper was traipsing over the jacket of an affluent man. *Blaze* Starr had gained his respect and was in control. This inner growth of Davidovich's character was the movie's only redemption besides the photography. I thought the settings were believable and beautiful. They did a fine job of conveying the atmosphere to the audience.

I felt this picture was unrealistic,

although it was a true story. Elements just happened to fall into place too neatly.

In one instance, the couple was on an afternoon outing, visiting a cabin for the first time. *Blaze* just happened to reach for her guitar and it was there, although she hadn't brought it with her. Perhaps the producers wanted to add an air of magic to the film.

Also, when she confessed to her mother that she was a stripper and not a singer, her mother was not upset as long as she was "using the talent God gave her." Now, that is surely the reaction my mom would have.

My face was a sheet of disbelief when an intoxicated Newman stormed into a political convention, cursing and making obscene gestures, and was sent away without a slap on the hand. However, the frosting on the cake was when the Governor was captured by political enemies, and his miraculous rescue was put into effect in half an hour.

I found all of these instances to be so far-fetched my intelligence was insulted.

The storyline was confusing and discontinuous. I felt like I was on a rollercoaster, rushing from one point to another. They attempted to cover

all the facts, but in a haphazard manner. For one second we were downtown, then in a neighboring black community, then at the strip joint, and then I was lost. Instead of the plot flowing like a river, it skipped from creek to creek.

Predictability and sexism are the topics for my final few complaints. The movie was hardly a thriller since each scene alluded to the next. I detect a problem when the audience knows the ending half an hour before the movie is over. Every action was expected and simple, a little imagination could not have hurt.

The comments about Starr's bosom were tasteless, unamusing, and unnecessary. Personally, I felt her outfits could have displayed a bit more modesty, but I am not familiar with a stripper's wardrobe.

I was not anxious, frightened, humored, or saddened throughout this picture. Obviously, the real-life relationship between these two people must have been quite dynamic and interesting, but all of that was lost in the production of this movie. I would not recommend *Blaze* unless you are a glutton for punishment.

'NO EXIT'

by Erik Andresen



Perestroika Breeze

By Erin Fenner

The others were old, grouchy men in furry Russian winter hats. With knit-together eyebrows, they stood, on our TV sets, stout and unsmiling, watching parades of square, straight, goose-stepping soldiers, and tanks, and the towering face of Lenin, like God, on a commie-red banner.

they stomped and shouted and shook their solid fists and captured counterrevolutionaries and rewarded, with ribbons and medals, the KGB.

But now, those dead, brown, wrinkled, autumn leaves have been scattered into the grey past by Shelley's West Wind of Spring.

He is only a man who realizes that he cannot stop the wind.



Does a squirrel lack confidence? photo by Jen Remenek

CREATIVE CORNER

EDITORIAL

Pledge grade restriction benefits student body

Pledging for the 1989-90 school year is over for nearly the majority of on-campus Greek organizations and with the completion of the process comes the inevitable question concerning pledge grade policy.

The current procedure, adopted by Alma College faculty last April, calls for an immediate halt of all pledging activities on the part of the pledge if his/her midterm gradepoint is below 2.0. Similarly, if a pledge's midterm gradepoint has declined 0.5 or more from his/her cumulative gradepoint prior to pledging, an Academic Review Board shall review the case and may take action ranging from stopping pledging activities to dismissal of the case. Finally, if any student has a cumulative gradepoint average below 2.0 at the end of the term in which pledging occurred, that student's Greek membership shall be suspended/inactivated.

Quite simply, *The Almanian* supports this policy.

Firstly it should be pointed out that the only reason a Greek system exists at all on campus is because

Alma College allows for such a system to exist. Faculty and administrators do not derive pleasure or satisfaction from having a Greek system—the system exists for the students exclusively. Thus if the only requirement the college asks for in return for allowing the Greek system to exist on campus is to achieve a 2.0, then this request seems quite fair. The *Almanian* feels it is also important to bear in mind the reason why we, as students, are here. Students attend college to receive an education—not to become members of Greek letter fraternities. That is simply an “extra,” a purely social form of pleasure. If a pledge's gradepoint average falls below a 2.0 then pledging is clearly playing some role in the academic decline and so appropriate measures should be taken.

Admittedly, Alma is extremely tough academically, and because of this, a student, in attempting to juggle classes and a rigorous pledging period, may well experience a slight decline in gradepoint. For this reason *The Almanian* does

not agree with the policy regarding a review by an Academic Review Board if a pledge's midterm gradepoint has declined 0.5 or more from his/her cumulative gradepoint prior to pledging. This seems rather petty and a 0.5 drop should not constitute such severe action.

However, even with the strenuous academics Alma offers, if a pledge cannot make a 2.0, then there is clearly a problem somewhere and perhaps a halt of pledging activities would help the pledge to concentrate more fully on academics and thus work to bring the gradepoint up. In having such a pledging policy, the college is providing students with the incentive to keep grades up and *The Almanian* supports this. In adopting such measures the college is not trying to hinder the Greek system, but rather is simply holding academic standards by which all pledges are judged. Becoming a member of a Greek organization is a privilege. If a student wants to remain in the group then he/she will simply have to extend the efforts necessary in order to finally enjoy that privilege.

By James Reis
Layout Editor

Pledging hinders educational progress.

The preceding message has been a paternalistic warning from the Alma College Faculty. The evaluation of pledge gradepoints has been implemented once again in the hope that faculty intervention will save irresponsible students from themselves.

This may be the case, but I propose that the real issue at stake between the faculty and Greek organizations is not what will most benefit the pledge whose grades are being evaluated, but instead who will control the time and focus of that individual.

The competition between academics and social experience is age old, and the only way for academics to overcome the social aspect of the college experience is for it to be more interesting than social education. That is a difficult task, but it is a challenge that educators must face. It is understandable that the instructors that are employed by Alma College desire the undiverted attention of the entire student body. They do not want to compete for time or interest with anybody. Who would? There are better ways, however, to beat competition besides attempting to eliminate it.

The position that the Faculty stands behind is that students are here to learn. I agree. The point of advanced study is undeniably to become highly educated. The problem, however, is that learning is being defined by the Faculty as time spent preparing for class and the grade the individual earns in the process. It seems to me that this is an awfully narrow definition of what learning and education are about.

My position is that the Faculty is too involved in the conflict to objectively impose legislation upon the Greek community.

I pause briefly here to point out that the Greek letter organizations are the only social bodies that come under such scrutiny. This suggests that the fraternities and sororities are either the testing ground for Faculty interference in students' personal lives on a larger scale, or that other groups such as FCA, SPAN, and Amnesty International do not pose a serious threat to time spent on academics. Another option is that the Faculty simply does not like what they perceive fraternities and sororities stand for and wish to restrict them by putting specific conditions on what membership requires. That is a scary notion on a

campus that is trying to eliminate discrimination and prejudice.

Social organizations, especially those formed in the manner of Greek societies, are often misunderstood to be bastions of sophomoric behavior. As far as my experience goes, this is simply false. Greek societies produce leaders, as well as people who follow well. They provide an environment that allows people to learn how to work well with others. They also work hard to benefit the campus and surrounding communities. Aside from the obvious revelry that occurs in connection with fraternities and sororities, they do strive to benefit their members and others in a positive way. Even the parties that are often discounted allow for people to relax in order to better focus on the difficulties they face elsewhere. These are factors that are often glossed over.

Regardless, I return to the subject of objectivity. The Faculty has taken it upon themselves to regulate the ability of students to finish pledging after midterm grades. Not only does the Faculty create the scale and time frame for pledging eligibility, they also grade the students that they know are pledging. There seems to be a conflict of interest here in the fact that the program they have created gives them control over who finishes the pledge period.

In addition, the committee that initially reviews the pledges in question also hears the appeals of their decision. The logic of putting the same student and all the same information in front of an identical group of people and then asking them to come to a different conclusion escapes me. Unless the committee makes the original decision without knowing all of the facts, then the decision that they make in the appeal process should correspond precisely. In all other areas of behavioral review on campus there is a line of appeal that reaches to the President and ultimately the Board. This review committee is an exception, and the reason why it is excepted is not clear to me at all.

IFC and Panhellenic mandate that all people who wish to participate in rush with even the possibility of then pledging must have at least a 2.0 gradepoint. I commend IFC and Panhellenic for making this requirement. It may be something that they should consider making higher.

The Faculty has mandated that to finish pledging and initiate all pledges must maintain that 2.0 and/or not fall more than 0.5 from their cumulative gradepoint. Theoretically,

the Faculty could make the required grade a 4.0 and effectively restrict the future of fraternities and sororities on this campus. Granted, this is an extreme case, but it is not outside the realm of possibility that the requirement could be raised from a 2.0.

The point is, IFC and Panhellenic are legitimately entitled to make conditions for membership to the organization, and the Faculty has overridden that right in order to gain control over Greek organizations and the attention of the pledges.

IFC and Panhellenic recognize the value of academics, and it is not unreasonable to expect academicians to respect the value of social organizations in turn. Just as the Faculty is recognized for being the incredibly well-educated body that they are, the students need recognition of the fact that they are intelligent adults who are capable of making free decisions.

The point of education is help people prepare a course to follow through life. If the ability to make decisions regarding that life is taken from the student's control then it becomes improbable that the student will have the proper experience on which to base important decisions in the future. Along with good decisions come bad ones, and we learn from them, too. If a student makes the bad decision to “blow off” academics in favor of social experience, then he or she may learn the valuable, but expensive, lesson that can result from that choice. The Faculty simply does not have the right to interfere with this process.

The implied position of the Faculty is that membership in a fraternity or a sorority does not offer the educational opportunities that classroom learning does. I agree. Fraternities and sororities offer a completely different, but equally valuable education. The education that social organizations offer can not be compared to classroom learning, just as it can not be compared to the benefits of residence hall living. The educational contributions that are offered by each of these are different, one is not more beneficial than another, and they all combine to make a person well rounded and educated.

To restrict any aspect of this process is what really hinders educational progress. By restricting fraternity and sorority membership, the Faculty is limiting the educational experience of people who choose Greek organizations as their learning grounds. I find this action completely divergent from the real purpose of the educational process.

Palmer calls for creative thinking

By Dr. William Palmer
Assoc. Professor English

A common thread through recent faculty columns has been a focus on difference. Dr. Ottenhoff argued that students and faculty should engage in more disputatious thinking; Dr. Bender wondered why women's literature has not received equal recognition with men's; Dr. Monshipouri explained that as the Soviet Union becomes more democratic, it needs new and different thinkers like Gorbachev; Dr. Davis advocated that in our country we need to transcend the dichotomy between public and private domains; and Professor Napora hypothesized that narrative structure in fiction may be differentiated according to patterns of tension and release—such as male or female orgasms.

These professors found their opinions from seeing some difference or problem that made them curious enough to investigate it and to communicate it with us. What they did reflects a habit of mind that students need to develop and practice consciously and deliberately: seeing and examining differences.

Difference, in some form, motivates thought. Jean Piaget, a psychologist who studied relationships between mental growth and language, argued that difference is like conflict: it causes disequilibrium which induces us to find equilibrium. When we interact with others, for example, we confront different points of view, many of which puzzle us enough to think more about them. Students should often have this experience with professors and texts; professors should likewise have this experience with students: both parties should engage in frequent alternations of dissonance and harmony, puzzlement and clarity, uncertainty and certainty.

This dialectical movement stimulates intellectual growth. The process is natural. Margaret Donaldson, a student of Piaget's pointed out that the mind tries to restore equilibrium from cognitive conflict as the body tries to restore damaged tissues from a cut finger (Children's Minds 139). We naturally crave “mental dissatisfaction” because it activates inquiry, argued Michael Polanyi, a British philosopher (Personal Knowledge 196).

In their book *Rhetoric: Discovery and Change*, Young, Becker, and Pike expressed the importance of seeing differences: “The motive for

communication arises from an awareness of difference and a desire to eliminate it or at least modify it” (172). Being productive thinkers, Ottenhoff, Bender, Monshipouri, Davis, and Napora saw a difference that mattered to them; they examined it by using language. Writing helps us come to terms with differences.

Whether in the form of contrasts, problems, paradoxes, contradictions, incongruities, or changes—differences motivate thinking. This idea applies to small differences such as understanding the distinction between “affect” and “effect”; it applies to the profound disequilibrium we feel over Dr. Kapp's sudden illness and retirement; it applies to trying to understand the politics and ethics of apartheid (which means “apartness”). Effective thinkers know about the power of difference. They deliberately use it as a tool to generate and evaluate thought.

My colleague Dr. Ottenhoff wisely encourages students and faculty to argue disputatiously, that is, to challenge oppose each other's ideas. However, we also need to pay attention to ways we can freely and abundantly generate ideas—before we evaluate and criticize them.

In our culture we hear more calls for critical thinking skills like analysis, synthesis, and evaluation than for creative skills like metaphorical thinking. Critical thinking skills dominate education as much as men's literature dominates our literary canon. Robert Pirsig pointed out that we worship the “Church of Reason” in school, as if rationality and argumentation were holy. But to be well-balanced, we should worship the Church of Imagination as well. We lean one way too much, argued Pirsig. We are like a house divided against itself (Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance).

Creative thinking is the art of seeing similarities between differences. Like women's literature, creative thinking should not carry second-class citizenship. It should not be considered lower than critical thinking; it is not less cognitive. One course in the fine arts is not enough to develop it. All of us engaged in learning—students and professors alike—should try to develop our creative abilities as well as our critical ones. As creative thinkers we should embrace ambiguity, knowing that from its richness of possible meanings we can forge new combinations of thought. Perhaps learning itself should take more creative forms, at least occasionally.

Dr. Verne Bechill told a group of

us at a recent luncheon on teaching and learning that he sometimes requires male students to walk on the table-tops in AC 113 to pretend they are females in a beauty pageant. The women in the audience rate the men on their physical appearance. I bet these students never forget that experience and lesson. Perhaps we professors need to generate more methods like this—different methods—to help students experience important ideas like sexism. Inspired by Dr. Bechill, I asked students to see a different perspective by putting themselves in somebody else's shoes—literally. Students took off their shoes and tried on another pair. Dallas Kelsey could barely fit a third of his feet into Katy Hamtak's tennis shoes. We laughed at the absurdity, but maybe the demonstration was not so absurd after all if students remember the difficulty (disequilibrium) of trying to wear somebody else's shoes or perspectives.

Alfred North Whitehead, a mathematician and philosopher concerned with thinking and learning, argued that education should involve a “a natural sway” of creative and critical thinking. He labeled this “the Rhythm of Education” and emphasized that it characterizes all mental growth. When students study a subject, it should have a romantic appeal. It should be vivid and novel, holding “within itself unexplored connections with possibilities half-disclosed by glimpses and half-concealed by the wealth of material.”

After students experience the romance of a subject, they should experience the precision inherent within the subject—the “systematic procedures” and “exactness of formulation.” Students should analyze facts “bit by bit”; they should argue. Then students should reconcile the creative and critical stages of thought by generalizing beyond them. Generalization “is a return to romanticism with added advantage of classified ideas and relevant technique” (Aims of Education 28-29). Although Whitehead's idea is idealistic and linear, it is a goal all professors should strive to reach in some form. Every course, like every student's mind, should contain a mix of creative and critical thinking.

Difference motivates thought. Similarity does too. As members of this community of scholars, we need to see and value both. Such a way of seeing is ultimately paradoxical, requiring that we see similarities in differences and differences in similarities. But productive thinkers do this, and they do it deliberately.

Protesting a different kind of discrimination

By Sara Rowland
Feature Editor

“Dwarf”, “rug rat”, and “little bit” are the nicknames that support the reality of my shortness. Being short is just like any other birth defect. A short person must learn how to adjust to society, for society was made for the “average” individual.

In the 70's, a song was released entitled, “Short People”; this song brought discontent to those under 5'4". One of the lyrics of the song states, “short people have no reason to live.” I wouldn't go that far, but being short does have its disadvantages.

I always find myself caught in the lady with the big hat syndrome. This syndrome is defined as the inability to see over people. In such a class as art, the professor might tell us to move forward to get a closer look at the art projects. Usually, I get stuck in the back, bobbing my head from side to side. Not only do I feel as if I am watching a tennis match, but my neck is strained, causing physical injury. On an average day, I find myself performing the rituals of a short person: tippy toe standing, eye bulging,

shifting of body weight. The sad part is that there does not have to be a lady with a big hat in front of me to block my view; it is some person's waist, chest or head that obstruct my vision. It is too bad that most of my art assignments do not consist of sculpting the human anatomy.

Shopping for clothes leaves me with a feeling of grief and insecurity about my wardrobe and body. “You have short legs.” “You'll need those shortened.” Phrases such as these I have come to expect when shopping. Pulling a pair of pants off the rack, I head to the dressing room. I edge the pants on slowly, perhaps with the hope that when I have them securely around my waist, I won't find half of the pants drooping on the ground. I turn in front of the full length mirror, almost tripping over the extra material. I am left frustrated, knowing all the while that I must pay the full price for a pair of pants that will be hacked off to conform to my stubby legs. Reality sets in. Like many times before, I curse my mom for my inadequacy.

“Oh you're so cute.” The worst phrase a person could say to a petite

girl who is over eighteen years of age. I have been called “cute” since I can remember. Two summers ago, I was a waitress. One of my co-workers said that the reason I made good tips was because I was “so cute and small!” As she said “so cute and small,” she crunched up her shoulders and crinkled her nose. Was this her attempt to imitate me? The only thought that came to my mind was...Will I ever be pretty? or possibly sexy? “Cute” is a word associated with baby pigs or a teddy bear. I believe I will be stuck with this “cute” phantom for the rest of my life.

Every aspect of life has advantages and disadvantages. After weighing both of these extremes, I have found shortness to be more of a disadvantage. A short person's dilemma is never over. Physical pain caused by the inability to see, fashion horror stories, and being titled “cute” will eventually lead to the petites to seek revenge. Slowly but surely, society must learn how to conform to the small individual, but until then, I go through life with a step ladder in my hand and platform shoes on my feet.