

The Almanian

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Alma College, Alma Michigan, 48801

Issue 3

First year students select officers

By Cathy DeShano
Staff Writer

Monday, Sept. 17, 1990 was election day for the newest class at Alma College. Four first year students were elected as class officers. Chris Kukla from Schaumburg, IL won the presidency. Jennifer Smith from Bay City, MI, Jennifer Tremain from Ft. Lauderdale, FL, and Kelly Marino from Warren, MI were elected vice-president, treasurer, and secretary, respectively.

Campaigning of various sorts took place for the class officer candidates during the first two weeks of fall term. Candidates hung posters, handed out flyers, and hung door-knob signs on rooms. "Freshmen come here and don't know anybody. The only way for them to get to know me is to meet me," said Marino. "If they see I'm spending all this time on

promotional activities, they'll know I'm dedicated and that I'll do a good job."

Candidates did not offer campaign promises, but all four officers share common goals of student involvement and teamwork.

"I'd like suggestions from everybody about what they'd want to change," said Smith. "I'm hoping for involvement from everyone so that it's not just the four of us making decisions. Everybody needs to know what is going on."

"My goal is to get everybody involved because in high school you had to bet to get people involved," said Tremain. "I want people to see that it can be fun to work on a team."

"I'll listen (to others' suggestions)," said Kukla. "It's not fair for me to do things I'd like to see done, rather what others want done."



First year students cast ballots for class officers.

Photo by M. Mayer

Ties connect Alma and crisis

By Heather Laird
News Editor

Persian Gulf actions echo throughout the nation, and the Alma College community is no exception. Many students and staff members share personal interest in the crisis as friends and family are involved.

Kendra Parks, first year student, knows former Iraqi hostages. Elizabeth, Dawn and David Bazner have returned to the United States after being held captive, while Kevin Bazner remains in the Middle East. The family was on board a plane which was seized when it landed in Kuwait to refuel. Kevin, a vice president for A&W Restaurants, along with his wife, six year old daughter and six month old son, was returning to their home in Malaysia after a vacation in Michigan and Europe. The family is related to one of Parks' friends from home, and are native to Farmington.

Parks finds a lack of information is one of the toughest aspects of the hostage situation. "We didn't even know the wife and kids were coming back until they got here," she said. "It bothers me that (the media) doesn't talk about the people more. The only problem is that they don't know anything to tell us." She added, "When news reports came on, people would look at me weird because I'd yell, 'Shut up!'"

Parks recalled the gratitude that her friend's family felt at being able to take down three of

the yellow ribbons symbolizing captivity in the Middle East, but the fourth remains.

Parks' older sister, a medic recently returned to active duty, also stands a chance of being sent overseas.

Jason Gaffe, first year student, knows someone stationed in Saudi Arabia. Brad Hartz, with whom he attended high school, is in the army airborne division, and was sent over about one month ago. While Gaffe admits fear, he said, "I don't see where it's seriousness enough we should go to war, because is it worth the loss of lives?"

Shannon Hunt, sophomore, recently received a letter from Private Lorie Smith, a friend stationed in Germany. Smith reported preparation for combat, and wrote, "I really don't know what to say to Mother. After all, what do you say, 'Hey Mom I might be going to war!' She'd flip!"

Bill Schuette, Michigan's tenth district Congressman, said in a conference with secretary of defense Dick Cheney, "The ruthless aggression by Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein in the Middle East must be halted. The decision by President Bush to deploy our troops into the Persian Gulf region is a correct one, and one that I support. It is not one which I take lightly — if we are going to send our young men and women onto this region we must be committed to providing them the best possible equipment."

College sets diversity goals

By Tonya Frisbey
Staff Writer

Alma College has been battling to overcome its lack of diversification for several years. The admissions staff is continually looking for new ways in which to recruit minority students. Other groups, such as the newly formed United Minority Students (UMS), are working to retain the students already enrolled. The College intends to increase minority enrollment by ten percent by 1994.

Amara Henderson, a senior activist in UMS, believes there is great need to increase enrollment and retain students. "Everyone, not just myself and other minorities, would enjoy Alma much more if the campus was more diversified." Near the end of Henderson's first year at Alma, she had made plans to transfer to another school for two reasons: her roommate, also a minority student, was leaving, and the overall lack of minority enrollment.

The Admissions Office has employed several programs in order to introduce more minority students to the College. Last year, for example, the office sponsored a program that involved busing minority high school students from Detroit, Southfield, and Toledo to Alma for a campus visit. Students stressed that this program

worked well and should be repeated. According to Vice President of Student Enrollment, John Seveland, the busing program will involve the Saginaw, Grand Rapids, and Flint area schools.

The Admissions Office will also use a special minority search mailing again this year in order to gain the interests of more minority students. Through market research presently under way, Admissions intends to grasp an idea of what forms of minority recruitment have worked in the past and what will work well for the admissions staff now. Last year's programs proved quite effective. The percentage of minority enrollment increased from 3.7 percent in 1989 to five percent for the 1990-91 year. (7.8 percent of the Class of 1994 are minorities.)

Retention of minority students constitutes an important issue, and to encourage this, UMS was created. UMS goals include recruiting minority students, but also providing support for minorities already on campus. While Alma College's rate of minority retention (the survey only dealt with blacks as the College has not done much statistical work with other minorities) is far greater than the national average of 15 percent, the rate still is low. Over the past ten years, the average retention of African American

students from enrollment to graduation was 40 percent.

Minority students have diverse feelings regarding ways to retain students. "It would be much better if there were more minorities," said Martel Peguese. "It would be easier to have relationships."

Chanelle Wilson, however, feels it would not make a difference. "A more diversified student body would not make me enjoy Alma College any more than I already do. My high school did not even have as many blacks as Alma does, so it's not any different for me. I like Alma a lot the way it is, I've encountered no adversity from the other students."

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Vigil fights ignorance of hunger

By Heather Laird
News Editor

Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) and chapel staff combined to present a candlelight vigil to encourage awareness of world hunger Sunday, Sept. 23 at 8 p.m. in McIntyre Mall. The service, which incorporated sing-a-longs and brief statements by FCA co-presidents Kristin Kocon and Jerry Czarniecki, is part of a world-wide awareness program coordinated by the World Hunger Fund for Children.

Jesse Perry, Alma College chaplain, received notification of the project through the mail. Perry selected FCA to help organize the event because "FCA's a viable group, which was organized within the first week of classes so it was a logical choice." The number of members attending each meeting was also a factor in the decision. "The more people who know about it from the beginning, the more we can recruit," said Perry.

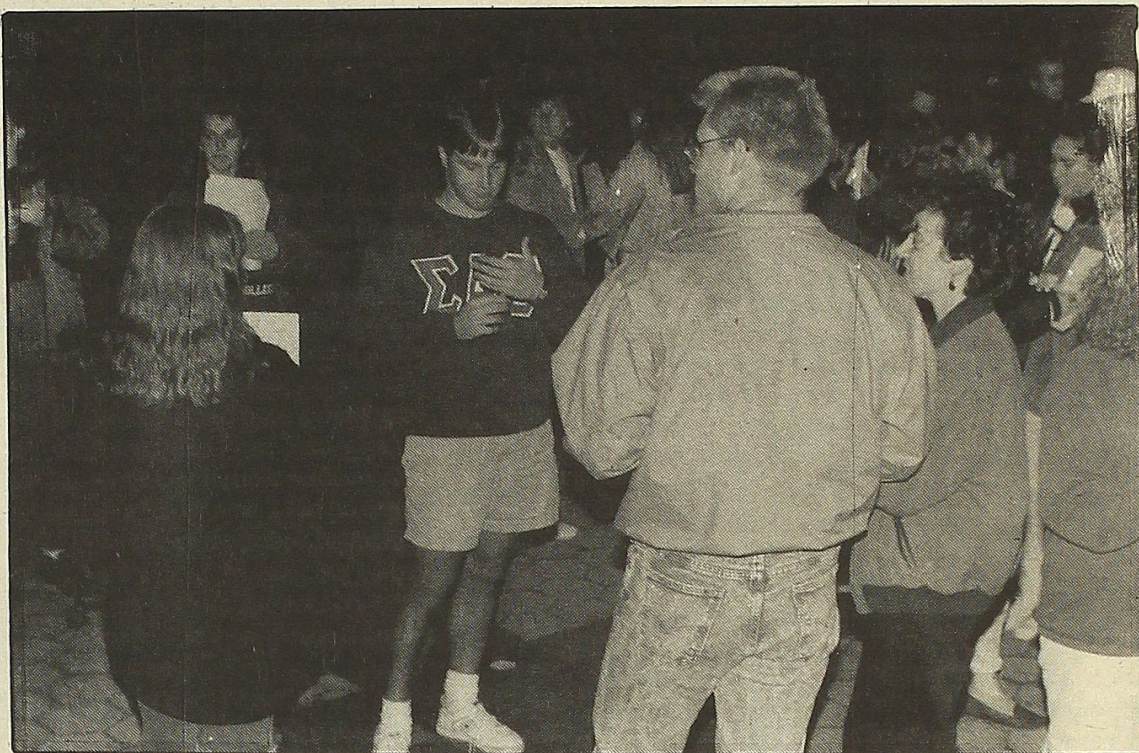
The vigil was open to members of the Alma community as well as students

and staff of Alma College. Area churches were notified of the ceremony beforehand in a publicity effort. No other organization was holding a similar event in the area.

Vigil attendees were asked to sign a petition expressing concern about the state of hunger, both in other nations and the United States. Copies of the petition were sent to President George Bush, Governor Jim Blanchard, and Alma's Mayor Nancy Gallagher. "It's an awareness event," said Kocon. "We give the petition to Bush and he relates that at the World Summit (held September 29-30). We want him to know that Americans are aware of the problem."

The petition sets three priorities involving hunger: saving 50 million children worldwide in this decade, eliminating child poverty in the United States within this decade, and ensuring U.S. ratification of the Convention on Rights of the Children.

The vigil is the first large-scale event coordinated by FCA.



Students during the candlelight vigil in McIntyre Mall.

Photo by J. Steffee

Officers and volunteers from the membership helped organize it. Czarniecki stressed that, because of the nature of the group, responsibility was shared by all.

Mitchell Hall resident assistants also assisted with the ceremony. As candle captains,

they lit their own candles from the central one, and then passed the flame among the different groups.

"Personally, I feel hunger is one of the things which has been in the world forever, and if students here become aware now

they will be more aware later... Even though the United States is rich, we're 19th among child deaths," said Perry. This ranking is above some third world countries. In the United States, 40,000 children die per day due to hunger and abuse.

Recycling centers open campus-wide

By Stacie Herriman
Assistant News Editor

Recycling is a program implemented into campus life, run by a joint committee of faculty and students. The program began last January with collection bins for corrugated cardboard, white paper, colored paper and newspaper placed in Swanson Academic Center, Reid-Knox and the Kehrl Library.

"Ruth Farrier, faculty secretary, was one of the main advocates who continually raised questions about this problem. But the people who really got it started made a change in their perspective as to what stewardship of the land was all about; they got away from the idea that we are a throw-away society," said John Arnold, German department chairperson and faculty member in charge of recycling.

The committee started the recycling in Swanson Academic Center, Reid-Knox and Kehrl Library because they "wanted to make sure it would work" before taking it to the residence halls. The residence halls proved to be the most difficult because the places identified for recycling containers were not accessible, and there were not enough interested students to take care of collected material.

"Right now, we are in the process of putting together a

plan where we'll place containers near the switchboard in each residence hall, and have volunteers clear them on a daily basis and take it to a central point within the same building," said Arnold.

The College recycles a variety of items, including office paper, white and colored paper, corrugated cardboard, and newspaper. The residence halls will recycle office paper, white and colored paper and newspaper. In addition to these items, the French, Spanish and Alpha Xi Delta houses recycle steel cans, glass, plastic milk bottles, and boxboard (i.e. toothpaste, Kleenex and cereal boxes). The latter can collect these items because they have a curbside collection service.

The recycling process is simple and takes relatively little time and effort. Students take their recyclable material to the designated container. From there it is picked up daily by a designated recycler whose job is to carry it to the incinerator. Every Wednesday the maintenance people from the Physical Plant pick up the material from the incinerator and take the truckload to the Mid-Michigan Recycling Center in Alma.

The Mid-Michigan Recycling Center receives about four yards of material from the College each week. Half of it is office paper, and the rest consists of

corrugated cardboard and newspaper. From the Alma curbside, they receive just under 300 yards per month.

"The Mid-Michigan Recycling Center acts as a sorting and quality control center. We recycle paper — office, white and colored, boxboard, corrugated cardboard, newspaper and brown shopping bags; metal — tin and aluminum; three colors of glass bottles and jars; plastic jugs and bottles and clear plastic bags," said Karen Stearns, an employee.

The center condenses the material by either bailing or crushing, and prepares it for the various markets according to weight and size. The center then packages the material to ship and waits until a reprocessor calls for it.

There are various markets in Michigan for the recyclable materials.

"Paper goes to Battle Creek or Kalamazoo; tin and aluminum to Alma Iron & Metal Co.; clear glass to Charlotte, MI; colored glass to Detroit then south through Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky; and plastic, depending on the kind, to either Dundee or Ionia," said Stearns.

The Mid-Michigan Recycling Center doesn't pay the College for the recycled material that it brings. In fact, the College pays approximately \$3 (\$1 per yard) for every load that it takes over. However, there are some

"spiritual rewards."

"There is satisfaction in knowing that you are contributing less to throw-away material," said Arnold.

However, before these rewards can be achieved "we need more student support," said Emily Shaw, sophomore.

"First, students need to express an active interest in participating in one of these recycling groups to police the initial collection point. Four to five pairs of people in each residence hall will allow the job to pass around daily with only a limited amount of time and work. Secondly, students need to try to develop a perspective of recycling; they

need to think of the recyclable nature of all these things we throw away on the street. They need to make a choice between disposable and reusable products," said Arnold.

"Above all stop being lazy and recycle. Give ideas on how we can make the program better," urged Shaw.

"Recycling is beneficial to us all so we need to make this project work. All it takes is a little thought, some time, and not much effort (to recycle that piece of paper)," says Arnold.

Interested students can contact either Emily Shaw, sophomore, or John Arnold, chairperson of the German Department.

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Three students win writing prizes

By Carrie McCormack
Staff Writer

During winter term 1990, the Alma College English Department conducted its first Research Writing Contest. Students who had written research papers for either the fall or winter term classes were encouraged by professors to enter them in the contest. The only criteria for entering the contest was the paper must have been written for an Alma College course. The tri-

divisional panel of judges consisted of Alma College faculty Tracy Luke, James Mueller, and Harold Slater. The judges' decisions were based upon the fluency and quality of the paper instead of the topics since the research papers were originally written for the students' individual class.

First prize of the 1989-90 Research Writing Contest, with an award of \$100, went to Kelly Spalding for her essay, "Allies at Odds: Roosevelt, Churchill, and Decolonization of the Far East

on the Eve of the Yalta Conference, 1945." Kirsten Rummel placed second and received \$50 for with her essay, "Development Through Dialectical Interaction: A Contemporary Critical Analysis of the Theories of L.S. Vygotsky." Third prize and \$25 went to Pamela Dickman and her essay, "Managing the Panamanian Crisis."

"I heard from my English teacher not too many people had entered, so I decided to give it a try," said Dickman.

The contest was completely funded by anonymous donations, and will continue to be, according to Gene Pattison, English department chairperson. "We'd like to have a contest for each division," said Pattison, "But right now we aren't quite sure about the funding."

Announcements concerning the 1990-91 contest will be advertised in March or April.

"It's really no hard work," said Dickman. "You already have the paper written, and it pays off, literally."

NEWS BRIEFS

Minority job fair seeks diversity in employment

The Detroit News sponsors a minority job fair for October 11-13 at Cobo Conference/Exhibition Center. Recruiters from large and small papers will interview students for internships and full-time employment. The conference is targeted primarily at college juniors and seniors, graduate students and professionals from other fields.

Opportunities in reporting and editing, information systems, marketing and sales, finance and human resources are available. The conference is not restricted to journalism students.

"To insure that we are more reflective of the society we serve, we must make sure we have diverse staffs that include a full spectrum of perspectives and interests," said Marcia A. Hart, conference director.

The conference is held in response to a study by the American Newspaper Publishers Association which found that minorities comprise 22% of the work force, but are employed at only 18% within newspapers, the majority of these jobs being lower-level.

Registration fee of \$30 covers materials and three meals. Hotel packages are available for visitors, and a limited number of free rooms are available on a first come, first serve basis. Deadline is October 5, 1990.

For additional registration information, write Job Conference, The Detroit News, P.O. Box 950, Detroit MI 48231, or call 1-800-766-FAIR. A limited number of registration forms are also available in *The Almanian* office; contact Heather Laird or Stacie Herriman.

Stillman-Alma student exchange begins

By Troy Jaffe
Staff Writer

At a meeting of the Consortium for the Advancement of Private Higher Education last summer, Alma College President Alan J. Stone made a grant application aimed at increasing minority enrollment. Cordell Wynn, president of Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, made a similar proposal. At the end of the presentations, Stone nudged Wynn and joked, "Let's just swap students and keep the money."

As they talked further, the two presidents realized what a similarity exists between the respective colleges. Alma and Stillman are both small, private, liberal-arts institutions. There is one

big difference; Alma is 96% Caucasian, and Stillman is 97% African American.

The "swap" that Stone and Wynn envisioned has since blossomed into a comprehensive cultural exchange program that involves all aspects of college life. The Alma Kiltie Band, for example, performed a concert at Stillman College in February. The Stillman College choir traveled to Alma in April to perform in the Dunning Memorial Chapel.

Student, administration, and faculty exchanges are all part of the plan. Two Alma students, Chris Reinsma and Dan Maxim, are currently at Stillman.

Reinsma said, "Being a minority here makes me so much more aware of what

the minorities at Alma are going through. When I come back, I will really try to help them because I've been there on the other side." He added, "It really gives you such a broader view. The exchange is an education in itself."

Several Stillman students have already expressed interest in attending Alma.

Charlotte Schmidtke of Alma's public relations department will leave for Alabama on October 14 and stay for two weeks. She will work with the public relations department at Stillman on a brochure describing the exchange program.

"As far as I know," said Schmidtke, "this is the only exchange program of its kind." She hopes for national exposure.

Professors at both

colleges have plans to pursue joint research proposals, and a faculty exchange is probable. More cultural exchanges, such as the choir/band performances, are also being planned. Stone even jokingly mentioned the possibility of a president exchange.

The Presbyterian Church U.S.A., with which both colleges are affiliated, provides funding for the program. The exchange will become a permanent feature at Alma and Stillman. Stone pointed out, it is a win-win situation for both colleges. "Costs are covered by the church, so we lose no money," he said, "And we gain an invaluable cultural-exchange program that is hard to duplicate anywhere."

Student Congress Update Lunch program, book sale discussed

By Amy Peraino
Staff Writer

The Student Congress meeting convened on Sept. 18. The meeting was brief. Most committees were still in the process of getting started for the school year, or had little new information to convey.

Dean James Kridler spoke at the meeting and explained the "Take a Faculty Member to Lunch" program. The purpose of this program is to encourage faculty-student interaction "on the students' turf." Anyone

interested in participating in this program can pick up coupons for lunch in Kridler's office. The coupons are good in Hamilton Commons or in VanDusen Commons.

Mitchell Hall will be conducting a used textbook sale at the beginning of Winter Term; details are still being worked out.

Finally, the results of the Student Congress poll regarding priority of phone charges for local calls and various other student concerns will be known this week.

Fraternities cancel runouts; sororities take pledge classes

By Amy Peraino
Staff Writer

Runouts will not take place during fall term. The decision to cancel runouts came from the Interfraternity Council (IFC). Since the decision to cut runouts, the number of fraternities not taking pledge classes increased to four. Only Theta Chi took a four person pledge class.

IFC president Jeff Hyames said, "This year it was decided by IFC not to hold runouts because three out of five fraternities were not going to take a pledge class, thus leaving only two fraternities. IFC felt that since there was only going to be a small number of males participating in fall rush, that an alternative ceremony would be

bid-outs," said Hyames.

The bid-outs ceremony took place Jones Auditorium. The men received envelopes with or without bids, and then they were given the chance to sign the bids. The only people present at this ceremony were those rushing, Hyames, and Eric Cook, rush chair of the IFC.

Traditional runouts will take place in the gymnasium on January 26 for all men participating in Winter Rush.

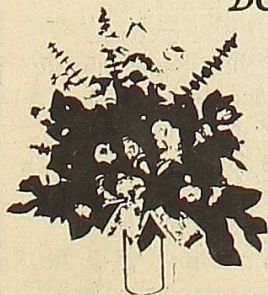
Sororities, on the other hand, began pledging. Three out of the four sororities offered open bids this fall. Alpha Gamma Delta gained five new members, Kappa Iota gained one new member, and Gamma Phi Beta gained seven new members.

Fellowship information available

Predoctoral fellowships are currently being offered through an international competition administered by the National Research Council in biological sciences. Fellowships, which offer stipends and cost-of-education allowances, are open to students who have completed less than one year of graduate study toward a master's degree or doctorate. Application deadline is November 9, 1990. More information is available from Steven Wietstock, biochemistry chairperson, as are applications.

Students interested in other fellowships or grant information should contact their advisers or departmental chairpersons.

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Staff Editorial

Book burdens caused by everyone

Every year the Alma College community goes through several ritualistic activities. The traditions dinner is put on for the first year students. Professors and students meet in order to make schedules work. Parents and students are getting the bills. Finally, there is the trip to the bookstore. The long lines, the heavy bags, and the financial burden are all compiled to turning the Scot Shoppe into a dreaded place. There is a definite problem when it comes to the purchasing and availability of books.

Many students feel as if they are getting taken advantage of during the purchasing and selling of books at the Scot Shoppe. However, with closer examination it becomes evident that the blame lies with more than one source. The Scot Shoppe is part of a corporation of bookstores based out of Chicago, and has no financial link to Alma College. During the selling of books a profit must be made to keep the store from

going bankrupt. Most of the profits from book sales, however, do not come from the sale of new books; the Scot Shoppe basically covers cost.

The profit is made from the sale of used books. According to a Scot Shoppe employee, the store has two ways of acquiring used books. First they can buy them wholesale from several different distributors. Or they can get them from buy-backs at the end of the term. Buy-backs are one of the most frustrating times for students. The bookstore alone does not determine the amount of money that one receives for any given book. Two factors determine the buy-back value. First, if the professor is going to use the book the following year, then one will receive half of the purchasing price. Second, if the professor does not plan on using the book, then a Bluebook wholesale price is assigned to the text. Then these books are sold at the wholesale price to a company that redistributes

them. The Scot Shoppe takes a loss on books that they have to send to the wholesalers because they pay for shipping and handling.

It is necessary to know months ahead of time which books to order. Most professors abide by these guidelines and there is generally no problem. But some professors wait well after book buy-backs to give their lists, and often some or all of the books are the same. This apathy and lack of communication gives the Scot Shoppe a bad image. The bookstore can try to purchase used books, but by the time the order is placed, more often than not, new books must be acquired.

Perhaps the most frustrating element for students is that at the beginning of every term there seems to be books that are not in adequate stock. Since the bookstore deals directly with the publishers, they must abide by the rules they the publishers set down. Generally they have six weeks to return any books that

they do not use. When the drop-add period here at Alma is figured into that, it leaves very little time to get overstocked books off the shelves.

Furthermore, the Scot Shoppe takes another loss on the shipping price back to the publisher. Overstocking could push the price of new books up. This year the Scot Shoppe did concede that there was a problem keeping books in stock because of enrollment and the amount of students that professors let into class.

In order to avoid this problem in the future, the whole Alma community must cooperate to take the financial burden off of the student. Students must expect to get shut out of classes more often. Professors must be more decisive about what materials they plan to require each year. Lastly, as humans we demand a source that we can place the blame on, but in this case it is clear that the Scot Shoppe is not the ultimate root of our textbook bitterness.

From the Editors

Karen lists the top 10

By Karen McDonald
Co-Editor-in-Chief

I always try to enter the year with a positive attitude. I even count on the fact that life will treat me with the kindness and generosity that I feel I deserve. This year wasn't any different. I started planning my successful year at Alma about half way through the summer. When things got to dull, I simply concentrated on the fact that soon I would be at Alma for a great year. After all, I had already spent two difficult years adjusting to the Alma way. By the third year it should be easy. Right?...Wrong.

It seems that regardless of your age or level of adjustment, there are bound to be downfalls. It was ignorant of me to assume that I could avoid the terrible things that happen to college students. In fact, after three weeks of classes, I'm convinced nothing else could possibly go wrong.

To make my adjustment easier in the future, I have compiled a list of 10 sure things, 10 mishaps that I can count on as a college student.

1. You can always count on the fact that the first day of classes you will sit in a class for twenty minutes before you realize that it is the wrong class.

2. Even if the sun is shining and it is 90 degrees outside, it will start to rain in the middle of class if you did not take your umbrella.

3. The only day a professor gives a pop quiz is the day that you have not done the reading.

4. If you wait until the last minute to type a paper, the computers will always fail ten minutes before your paper is due and lose your entire document.

5. The one day you have to sleep in during the week is the day the people next door to you decide to play Bon Jovi as loud as they possibly can at 8:00 in the morning.

6. You will lose your I.D., pay five dollars to get a new one, and find it immediately afterwards.

7. You will always have three tests on the same day, and a ten-page paper due the following day.

8. Your favorite cereal in Saga will always be out by the time you get there.

9. Whenever you need to make a long distance phone call the lines are always busy.

10. The day your roommate gets three letters and a package, you will not get any mail.

Because I have prepared myself for these things, my life will go much more smoothly. If I expect bad things to happen, then it is a happy occasion when they don't. After two years and three weeks at Alma, I am convinced that this may be the only way to get through a day.

Diversification important for Alma

By Leslee Bartrem
Staff Writer

It is the third Monday in January. Picture yourself peering out of your second story picture window onto a small town square—one of those typical four-street middle class shopping menageries engulfing a sturdy brick courthouse. In addition to the brisk traffic of shoppers, the atmosphere is normally punctuated with circles of weathered old men, spitting and whittling on the courthouse lawn. But not today. Today, the whole town is ablaze with the tension of a standing grenade. Crowds are gathering and milling sheepishly in expectation. County and state police are circling warily and denting the atmosphere with suspicious glances. The question is not whether there will be conflict, but when.

No sooner than you've looked out, you see the vibrant red of a Confederate flag, hear the heavy step of camouflaged men, and view what you'd been dreadfully curious even to imagine: a white hood. Within two more minutes you've seen more robed, hooded heads than you'd care to see in a lifetime. You've witnessed an event that the history books could never detail fully enough to smack you like the violent slap to naivete that it is. The place is Pulaski, Tennessee. The celebration is Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. And what confronts you from the insecurity of your own home is a

KKK rally.

I moved to Pulaski, Tennessee in December, 1985. Scarcely a month later, I watched the Ku Klux Klan screaming "Nazi's go home!" and distributing Klan newsletters in front of my apartment, just a half of a block from the law office wherein the KKK was founded years ago. That was the last complete march I ever witnessed; I never forced myself to stay at home for another. Hate doesn't take long

Diversification is a honey-dripping word that makes me think of eight hypocrites in a leather and oak office saying "hey, we've got to get more 'brothers and chinks' in here to improve our campus image! Let's put a picture of an African American student in every one of our campus brochures." All of us have eyed Alma's diversification plan suspiciously at some point. Are they accepting people of lower

experience people from different backgrounds, to regard the varying value systems and traditions of individuals. How may people have grown up in a downtown Detroit neighborhood, or really seen San Francisco, or witnessed a cross burning ceremony? Diversity gives every one of us an advantage in the classroom when someone can add first-hand information from a point of view entirely opposite to our own. After all, is it not in relating to our differences that we discover our strengths and goals?

So, yes, diversify. Recruit students from the ends of the earth as long as Alma's academic standards are never compromised in the process, and my money continues to go toward a quality education. Get some students from out of state while you're at it. We minorities could introduce you to plenty of eye-opening places. But do not be tempted to force something that is much more beautiful when it happens from its own discovery and motivation...like the bridging of minorities and cultures.

I am happy to say my last memory of the 1985 KKK march is not of fear and ridicule. It is the picture of a crowd of white and black young people who spontaneously banded together to march behind the Ku Klux Klan singing a piercing chorus: "Happy Birthday to you! Happy Birthday to you! Happy Birthday, Dr. King..."

Recruit students from the ends of the earth as long as Alma's academic standards are never compromised...

to drive people away, and the flood of Pulaskians leaving the area almost equaled the stream of eager news correspondents wheedling in. But I may never forget the feeling that day left.

Having experienced the clash and ebb of racial tensions in a racially mixed Southern community, I believe one thing vehemently: it takes a lot of guts to face diversity. Personally, I cannot picture myself as one of only a handful of white students attending a small, overwhelmingly black college—one which happens to be situated near an enormous, "rolling," predominantly white university in the racial-conscious South. But you can bet Dan Maxim and Chris Reinsma can.

academic standing? How will this affect our education? There really aren't many quotas or five year diversification/recruiting goals in the real world, so how does forced integration prepare us for life?

We cannot fully examine diversity without taking into consideration one more Alma fact. Very few people know that there were only 15 people, 1.2% of last year's students, from states outside of and not directly bordering Michigan. There were only sixty students total from out of state. So, the minority status of these first year students almost parallels that of racial and ethnic minorities. And how the big question...SO WHAT?

Diversity allows us to

FACULTY VOICE

Monshipouri clarifies Gulf crisis

By M. Monshipouri
Assistant Prof. Political Sci.

With each passing day, the odds of war in the Gulf venture take a different form and likelihood. Initially, the question was one of strategy of destabilizing the Iraqi president Saddam Hussein and of the defense of the Saudi Arabia. Then the focus for a while shifted to how well force can be utilized to dislodge Iraq from Kuwait. Now the concern is how long shall we wait before exercising effectively our "offensive option." Let us look at this crisis and examine the question of on whose side time is. Let us begin by fleshing out some arguments with military, economic, and political dimensions and substance.

In the military sense, the massive build up of forces in the desert has already reached a sufficient deterrent level. The Arab League and our allies' forces have assumed active role in beefing up the collective security concept. While maintenance of that sustainable

force in desert demands rotations of at least six-month duration, there is no question that time is on our side. And in the case of unraveling of embargo, the military option pops up to the forefront logically. This is even consistent with the UN measures and direction.

Economically, although UN Sanctions Committee has yet to iron out specific terms of embargo, our strategy in the long-run stands a decent chance of bringing Iraqi leadership into some kind of flexibility. If embargo holds, so does the hope of some compromise. If it does not, our so-called winning strategy will prove wrong with the attendant and ensuing uncertainties. Here again, playing for time is advisable for payoffs are more predictable.

Politically speaking, things are so fussy that even the most astute politicians of all have the faintest clue as to what might occur. It all depends on the public reaction and undeniably public opinion is going to be the key. If this crisis drags on, it may very well increase

isolationist movements in America. The polarization of American public opinion will soon be on the horizon and could cast a considerable doubt on the utility of our policy. The idea of projection of American force in the region thus far has fallen on fertile ground and has won widespread support because we are simply at earlier stages of this tension. Frankly, that consensus may gradually, if not quickly, wane.

The other side of the story is worth mentioning. Saddam Hussein has certain cards to play over time if he gets desperate. He has already inflamed the tortuous and bizarre configuration of nationalist sentiments in the area. The longer American troops encamp there, the easier will be to prompt feelings of anti-American kinds, and hence more possible to continue the stalemate. In a protracted crisis of this nature, it would be fundamentally naive and unwise to expect the pro-Western Arab countries to line up on our side. Further, Saddam can (and there

is no evidence that he won't) provoke more terroristic agitations both against hostages in Iraq and Kuwait and against Americans abroad.

Still more, over a long haul, he may be capable of radicalizing the region against outside solutions for the local crisis. One wonders that whether the post-Cold War era has just began or ended. Clearly, time does not seem to be on our side in this regard. If Saddam prevails, he may legitimize the Israeli occupation of West Bank and Gaza Strip. If he prevails or alters his position this crisis appears to have been resolved with the assistance of the Arab regional powers (Egypt, Syria, among others), then it is reasonable to expect that Americans owe their regional allies a favor to push in the future for the promotion of the Palestinian rights and the comprehensive solution for the Arab-Israeli dispute at large. In the midst of all this, one has to wonder what justifies the Palestinians support for Saddam. Does this defy reason? I do not pretend to know why. But given

the history of the Palestinians' plight and dependency for survival, such a reaction is less than shocking.

How these dimensions will be played out in the end is not clear now and perhaps it is too soon to tell. Nonetheless, it is reasonable to make the argument that in the long-run Saddam may find himself on the compromising end of the oil-for-peace deal in the Middle East. What is uncertain, however, is whether the burden of crisis is too much for us or whether President Bush's position epitomizes the Cold War or post-Cold War political thinking. In the words of Richard J. Cattani (Sept. 13, 1990), the editor of *The Christian Science Monitor*, "the high of assuming of a special world role can for a time avoid domestic diversions. At home civic decay, violence, and educational decline will reassert their presence. Inevitably, it is a nation's human capital, not its supply of oil, that a leader must husband." This makes sense without even giving a political science lecture. Doesn't it?

Human rights ignored

By Steve Gardner
Staff Writer

I found, hidden in the back pages of the *Detroit Free Press* an article entitled "Executions on the Increase in China." It declared that over 1,100 people have been executed in the last 12 months alone. Besides criminals, many of those being executed were people who took part in last year's pro-democracy protests (people whom the whole world cheered on as they fought for freedom, and then abandoned them in their hour of greatest need.)

As democracy storms into Eastern Europe and the world unites to crush Saddam Hussein in the Gulf, the vicious attacks on human rights in countries such as China are being ignored. How quickly the world returns to business as usual in dealing with a country whose military forcers murdered thousands of people in Tianamen Square and is still executing those it has taken prisoner-1,100 people in China in the last 12 months alone (*Detroit Free Press*, Sept. 13, 1990) The major economic powers in the world seem to be more concerned about how they can turn a profit in China than how they can convince the Chinese government to stop imprisoning, torturing, and executing people for exercising their basic rights to freedom of speech.

But at least the human rights violations in China are well known to the world at large even if they are ignored. Most of the human rights violations in the world don't even make it into the newspapers (if so, they are just briefly mentioned on the last page). Children are slain by death squads in Brazil. Members of opposition parties are imprisoned and tortured in Morocco and Bangladesh. An opposition leader in Guatemala is killed by Government Security Forces and others are threatened. Innocent people are murdered by right wing death squads in El Salvador. These are the crimes that nobody hears about.

Even in the "western" world, people's basic human rights are still being denied. An example of this can be found in Greece where abandoned children and handicapped people are shipped off to an island institution to die in isolation and neglect. And even in Eastern Europe the reality of the state of human rights is much less glossy than the pictures in the newspapers portray.

The whole point of this article is that there are still today large numbers of people in the world who do not possess the basic human rights that we take for granted. As the world community becomes more interdependent, we have to realize that none of us live in a vacuum. Human nature will

continue to cause the powerful to want to dominate the weak and the majority to want to repress the minority. We must as a nation and as individuals support those who are struggling for their basic human rights. We have to put people ahead of ideology, politics, and economics. As long as anyone's human rights are threatened, our rights are threatened as well.

Most of the information for this article was taken from *Amnesty International*, an independent worldwide movement working impartially for the release of all prisoners of conscience- people imprisoned anywhere for their belief's, origin, race, religion, or political ideas. The Alma College Chapter will be holding a meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 26 at 7:30 p.m. in the basement of the Swanson Academic Center.

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 and address, it must be pertinent to the Alma College community as a whole and relate to the ALMANIAN in some manner, and it must be received by 5 PM the Friday before requested publication.

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Benefits of exercise not given much weight

By Sara Groves
Staff Writer

I am not exactly what you could call the picture of physical fitness. I think walking to my car is enough exercise to last me for an entire day. And, the only way I'd ever do toe touches is if there were diamonds on the floor. Yet, in today's society, torturing yourself with weights and wearing day-glo spandex in public places seems to be all the rage. Every day my roommate and two of our good friends trot happily off to aerobics.

"Are you coming, Sara? You should really come! Aerobics are so much FUN!" they all inform me.

It's that word FUN that really bothers me. I do not see how crawling and jumping around in a rank gymnasium and sweating profusely while contorting your body into positions yet to be discovered by Dr. Ruth can be defined as FUN.

Yet, there are people who actually do get a kick out of physical fitness. Take Jane

Fonda for instance. This woman amazes me. She can do approximately 537 leg lifts and continue smiling throughout the entire process. But, my favorite thing about Jane is her overuse of the line: "Doesn't that feel gooooooood?"

This is the biggest mystery

favorite:

"BURN THEM MOTHERS JANE!"

Burn is a good word here, mainly because I associate burning with pain. Burning is good because halfway through Jane's workout I feel as if somebody has taken a blow

contemplating why I performed self torture. I lay around, not because I'm a lazy and dull person with nothing better to do; but because after exercising, moving becomes very difficult for me. My legs feel like jello (probably due to that burning sensation.) If I need anything in

takes us 10 minutes to get to Saga from Gelston because she walks funny now. And why is she in so much pain? I personally set all of the blame of this exercising craze on Jane Fonda. No matter what people say, it is extremely disconcerting to be faced with a 50 year old woman who has a better body than you do at age 20. Therefore, women all over the world are torturing themselves so they can have bodies that just were NOT meant to be theirs in the first place.

There is only one thing left to do to save this country from a sure death. Rip those skin hugging leotards off! Boycott Richard Simmons and Sweatin' To The Oldies! Burn your calorie counting books in protest! If everybody in America got out of shape and kind of fat, then being skinny wouldn't be popular anymore! Having a body like Roseanne Barr would be all the rage. This is the answer. This is, in my opinion, the way life should be.

Yet, as I writhe around on the floor in pain, flipping off Jane And Company, they manage to keep on jumping and pulling and stretching...

surrounding exercising gurus. Somehow, they are all under the mistaken impression that stretching your muscles out as if they were salt water taffy feels gooooooood. Yet, when Jane asks the question, "Doesn't that feel goooooood?" all of her little aerobicizing pals moan in ecstasy.

"YES JANE!"

"GO with it BABY!"

"Bring it on HOOOOOOME to me!"

But, here is my personal

torch and set it against exposed nerve endings in my thighs and stomach muscles. Yet, as I writhe around on the floor in pain, flipping off Jane And Company, they manage to keep on jumping and pulling and stretching. And through it all, I have to wonder: What kind of drugs are these people on?

They say that after exercising, you should feel a renewed sense of energy. Maybe it's just me, but after exercising I like to lay around for a good three hours

my house I have to do the stomach crawl or grip onto the walls as I stagger madly about. My lungs feel as if somebody tied strings around them and tried to remove them by dragging them out of my throat. The feelings that I encounter after exercising are a far cry from a renewed sense of energy.

I'm not alone on this either. My roommate is currently in so much pain (due to lifting weights) that she can hardly sit down to go to the bathroom. It

Tupper finds housefly a great role model

By Tupper Lysaght
Staff Writer

Insects both frighten and annoy many people. They seem to show up most often where they are unwanted and uninvited. I doubt that I am the only person on this campus that has noticed the vast amount flies in Saga. Firstly, let me tell you a little bit about the fly. It is a dipteran insect with unclean sucking mouthparts. Maggots (which resemble rice) are the insect larva of the housefly. Those of you that are planning on a future career in garbage handling and managing will experience many encounters with maggots, so you have that going for you.

Anyway, I decided to do a little undercover work to find out why there is an abundance of flies swarming around Saga and the rest of the campus area. After several late night investigations, I found out that many of these flies are escaping and/or being set free by the students in the genetics lab. Their lab work consists of mating and counting flies, and when they are through accumulating their data they set the flies free instead of killing them. Some believe that the students should slit the flies' throats when they are through with their experimentation, but most believe in the love of life and freedom so the flies are set free to lead their own lives. When they are set free, they are

drawn to the daily aroma of Saga like the students. I am writing this article because I thought that many of the non-science people may be curious as to why there are so many flies fluttering about.

I never had a great deal of respect for the fly because it is an unclean germ-carrying beast that eats feces along with various other distasteful things. But I suppose that is an unfair opinion because I have failed to look at things from the perspective of the fly. For instance, they are filled with naive courage. No matter how many times you attempt to swat them they keep coming back for more. So, they have a tough mental attitude that many humans lack.

We also cannot overlook their obvious participation in the food chain. To many frogs and birds they are a delicacy. They provide sustenance which is a noble lot in life. It would be a neat thing to be able to say that you live for the life of others and a fly can legitimately say this.

Some person out there made probably millions with the invention of the fly swatter. I think most people use magazines, newspapers, or their hands more than they use a fly swatter. I do not care for the fly swatter because when you are going to drive a fly into the ground or the wall, a flimsy,

plastic piece (which comes in a variety of colors) will not do justice to your planned destruction of the small annoying enemy. If a fly is sitting on your lap watching television chances are you will nail it with your

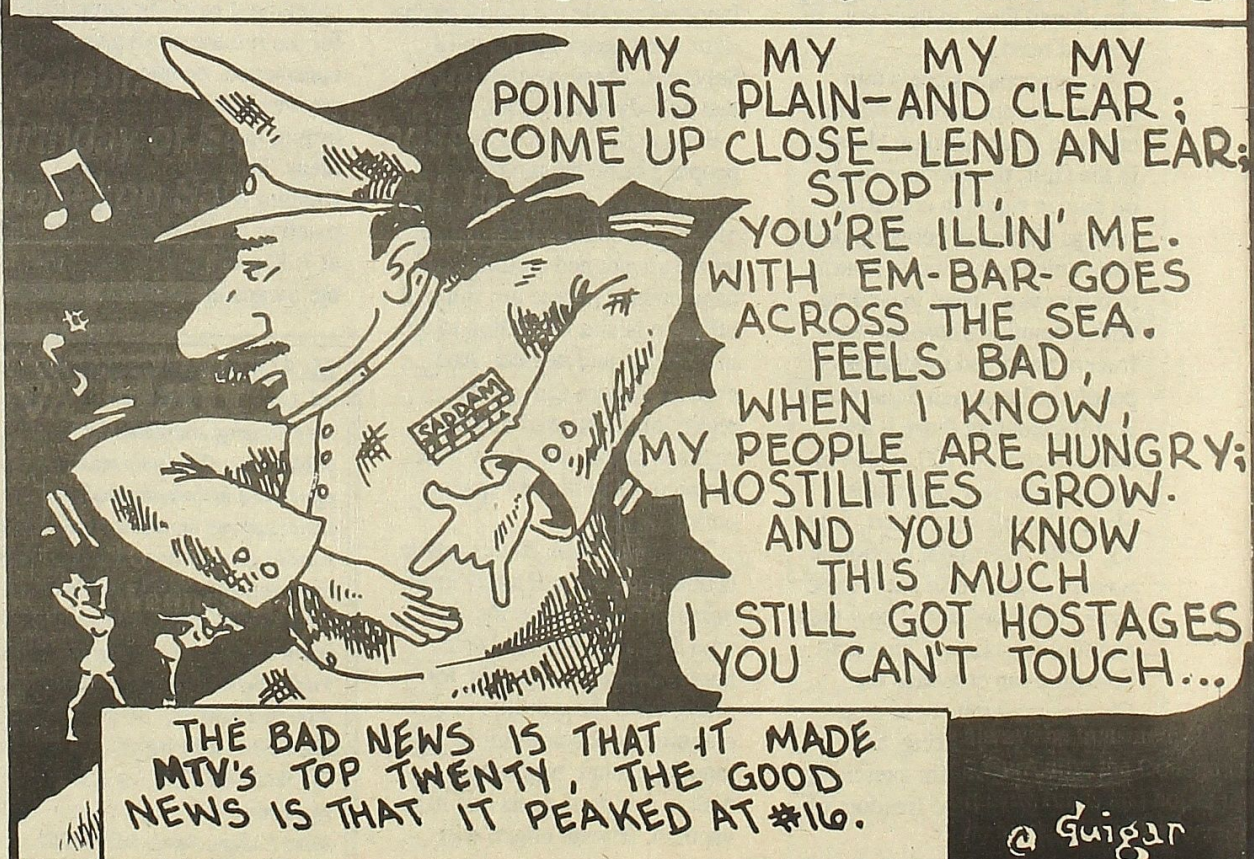
hand before you would bother getting up and trying to remember where you put the fly swatter. The inventor of the fly swatter has made fools of us all and is probably laughing at us right at this moment. I am in no

way trying to embarrass any of the faithful fly swatter users on this campus, but you know who you are, and I think you should be aware of the fact that you have been a victim of an inventive prank.

Guigar

by Brad Guigar

IN ANSWER TO PRESIDENT BUSH'S VIDEOTAPED MESSAGE TO THE IRAQIS, SADDAM "DON'T CALL ME 'M.C.'" HUSSEIN SENDS A VIDEO RESPONSE...



Movie review

Lynch takes risks, results are intense

By Heather Cummings
Staff Writer

David Lynch has done it again. He has taken a simple story line, and turned it into a crazy trip at the brain.

Lynch's audience has seen his accomplished work in earlier films such as *Eraserhead* and *Blue Velvet*, but *Wild at Heart* pushes us further into the surreal world that Lynch inhabits. Last year, America was in awe of *Twin Peaks*, a new dimension in television. His name became a buzz word in the industry, so it is no wonder *Wild at Heart* has been getting so much public attention.

But not everyone that enjoys *Twin Peaks* will delight in *Wild at Heart*. Some of the content may be offensive to certain people. Violence, sex, and the

deranged slant the movie takes depicting this society may seem far too explicit and raw at certain moments. But this is the beauty of the movie. It takes a look at American life and enlarges it to unbelievable heights. The incredible use of music, dialogue and recurring themes create the mood for one of the most bizarre pieces of work the moviegoers will ever see on film.

The movie begins with Sailor (Nicholas Cage) smashing a man's skull. He does this to protect his love Lula, played by Laura Dern. The movie takes the audience on a journey through the turbulent times these two lovers have - trying to escape the law and more importantly, Lula's mother.

Lula's mother, Marretta (Diane Ladd), does not want her daughter to be with Sailor. She

believes Sailor is not good enough for her nymphomaniac offspring. The real truth is that Sailor knows something about Marretta's tainted past. Because of this, she wants to see Sailor die. In order to accomplish this, she hires a sleazy character to hunt Sailor and Lula down. This is the underlying plot of the whole movie.

The music in this movie is phenomenal.

In one of the early scenes, Lula and Sailor go to a club to dance. After a blow-out with another man, snakeskin clad Sailor sings like Elvis Presley amidst the leather and sweat to prove his love for Lula.

Another example where the music is powerful is during the sex scenes. The scenes are almost always accompanied by harsh heavy metal music, thus,

creating a somewhat disturbing mood.

The dialogue in this movie is quite thought-provoking.

When Sailor tells Lula that his mother died of lung cancer, Lula says, "Oh Sal, I'm sorry. What brand did she smoke?"

"Marlboros," he answers, as they both take long drags off their cigarettes.

When Lula finds out she is pregnant, her mood is altered immensely. She becomes disturbed: "The whole world is wild at heart and weird on top. Why won't you just sing 'Love Me Tender', Sailor?"

Recurring themes are the most important part of this movie. Throughout the whole movie the audience sees strong parallels to *The Wizard of Oz*. Lula's mother resembles the wicked witch, and the public is

reminded of it constantly. Lula clicks her heels after she finds herself in a situation she cannot deal with.

The audience will not walk out of this movie bored nor untouched. The public may feel a little violated, because at times it seems that Lynch is tainting the truth - making it seem larger than it really is.

This movie makes the public think about America, and what this country holds to be sacred and good. It makes you wonder if such people exist, and it frightens you to think that they do.

Lynch has taken many risks in this movie. The outcome is wonderful and intense. This movie reaffirms the fact that nothing can be done quite like it's done on film.



Photo by J. Jourdan

"Eleanor: A Celebration," a one woman play, celebrated the 100th birthday of Eleanor Roosevelt in the Dunning Memorial Chapel on Saturday, Sept 15.

Cultural events calender

POETRY: Maxine Kumin
Wednesday, September 26, 8 p.m.

Dunning Memorial Chapel
Accomplished poet and fiction writer Maxine Kumin shares work in open reading.

PERFORMING ARTS SERIES:
Special Consensus
Friday, September 28, 8 p.m.

Tyler-VanDusen Commons
In a pub-style atmosphere, this four-person acoustic band combines traditional blue grass with contemporary styles.

Selected Student Art Exhibit

continues through Friday, September 28, in Flora Kirsch Beck Lounge and Galleries, Clack Art Center.

Faculty Biennial Art Show opens Tuesday, October 2, in Flora Kirsch Beck Gallery, Clack Art Center. Works by Carrie Parks-Kirby, Robert Rozier, and Jan White Arvantes.

Exhibit of the works of Lynn Gareau, drawings; and Philip Booth, drawings and prints, opens Tuesday, Oct. 2, in Lounge Gallery of the Clack Art Center.

Alma College awaits performing arts center

By Jennifer Bork
Staff Writer

Lights, camera, action! Alma College is anxiously awaiting for the curtain to rise, and construction to begin on the new six million dollar Performing Arts Center.

This addition to Alma's campus will be located on the lawn between the Sarah Eddy Music Center and Superior Street, connected to the music building.

Hundreds of people have donated funds but Mr. Larry Beck, an Alma college trustee, has made a substantial contribution and has named the building the Heritage Center for the Performing Arts. Mr. Beck feels that the strength of our nation is based on the many different heritages of the citizens, and diversity should always be treasured.

Currently, the College is still raising funds and hopes to meet its mark by the October 19

Board of Trustees meeting. If so, a date to begin work will be set, with ground breaking occurring sometime in the early spring. However, if they are still lacking the finances, this decision will be postponed until the February meeting.

Construction will take approximately one and a quarter years, and the very earliest that the new facilities will be available is the fall of 1992. With an auditorium that seats 500, a green room, prop room, and modern production equipment, the Heritage Center will definitely enhance the Alma College community.

Dr. Will Nichols, Music Department Chairperson, noted that the new facility will greatly expand the variety of performers that the college can host. He also felt that it will act as a "magnet" for new students and is in a "league far beyond the performing arts schools of our liberal arts competitors."

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FREE PARKING IN REAR

Students examine draft possibilities

By David D. Woodruff
Staff Writer

"Well, take care of yourself over there." The RA smiled nervously not knowing exactly what to say to his friend who had essentially been handed a death sentence. He initialed the room inventory and gave it to his friend, receiving the keys to the room. Other students stood in the Mitchell hallway, looking on in muted awe. They would be returning after break to start a new term. He would start his new term in Quantico or Parris Island or Fort Bragg or some other place that he thought his college education would guard him against seeing. He was one of the unlucky ones. His number came up first. He was off to do his duty.

A Bruske resident held out his hand to his roommate for a final shake. A nervous smile appeared as neither knew what to say. He gave his friend the psychology books he had bought earlier in anticipation of returning in a few short weeks to use them. Such was not the case for the twenty year old - the United States Government had other plans for him in the weeks to come.

Not since 1973 has our country had a military draft. In the past years, the thought of a draft has occupied little time in the minds of most. Registering was seen as something to be done on your eighteenth birthday and then forgotten about. But with escalation of the crisis in the middle east and the

Twenty year olds are Priority One in the Selective Service selection process, according to Barbie Richardson, a Public Affair Specialist with the Selective Service System in Washington, D.C.

If the military deemed necessary, Congress could approve the reinstatement of the

twenty two year olds, and on up to twenty five. After twenty five, the nineteen and eighteen year olds are called upon.

Within thirteen days of reactivating the draft, the first recruits can be entering the Military Processing Stations. Within this period, the Selective Service System can mobilize

are opposed to this particular aspect of the draft.

"I'd serve this country a lot better being educated and going through medical school. They could use me more effectively then," says Daacon Schiller, a first year student.

"I think as students we should be exempt. You would be destroying the future of the country if you didn't," adds Chad Briscoe, another first year student.

Many students, though reluctant, would abide by the Selective Service legislation and report for duty.

"It's part of your commitment for living in the United States. If you've got to go, you've got to go," said nineteen year old junior, Tom Graybill.

"I feel it's my duty to support my country. If they called me I'd go," adds sophomore Bob May.

As the possibility of war looms ever larger on the horizon and more and more US service personnel are sent overseas, we must all realize that America is entering a period in its history when we might send Johnny off to war again—a thought that sends shivers down the backs of mothers, friends, and twenty year olds, alike.

"I'm faced with the reality that I could be drafted."

-Andy Torrence

deployment of American troops in the region, notions of the draft have come back into many minds. This is not to say that a draft is imminent, but the possibility of conscription is definitely greater than it was several months ago.

"I've been thinking about it more," says Andy Torrence, a nineteen year old first-year student from Grosse Pointe. "I'm faced with the reality that I could be drafted."

Actually, the possibility of nineteen year old, Andy Torrence getting drafted is slim, should a draft be initiated.

draft system. Within hours of the President's signature, the Selective Service System would start the process by which they identify capable young men and turn over their names to the various branches of the Armed Forces.

Selective Service employs a lottery based on birthdays and age. The first group of men to go would be those that are twenty years old and whose birthdays have been selected. After exhausting all the twenty year old birthdays, Selective Service would then repeat the process for twenty one year olds,

over one hundred thousand men from the almost fourteen million men that reside in the eighteen to twenty five age group.

Many college students live with the comfort that their college enrollment protects them from the draft. This has not been true since 1971 when the Selective Service System quietly eliminated many deferments. As college students, the only security we can hold on to is that the government allows students to finish out their current term and that seniors are allowed to finish their schooling.

As expected, many students

In this Marine Corps officer's program, you follow your major before you follow ours.

A college major leaves you little time to minor in anything else. So how do you become an officer in the United States Marine Corps, if you want to concentrate on your major before you devote your undivided attention to one of ours? Join the Marine Corps' PLC (Platoon Leaders Class) program, where all your training takes place in the summer. The kind of training that will really test your ability. If you want to become an officer in the Marine Corps, join the PLC program. And this summer you can change majors.

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Gibson demonstrates radio skills

By Fred Feleppa
Staff Writer

Tucked away on the third floor of Swanson Academic Center, sits Alma College's own Amateur Radio station, commonly known as ham radio. Run by John Gibson, professor of Physics, the facility is open to any student or faculty member with an FCC Radio License. The equipment used in the station was donated by William Goggin and remaining costs were covered by a matching grant by the Dow Corning foundation in 1985.

The station has two types of radio equipment. One type is VHF radio which allows communication in a 50 mile radius and operates in the same principle as an FM radio (the radio waves go out in a straight line). The VHF radio looks like a CB (Citizens Band) radio, but there is a big difference between the two. CB radio uses the AM radio concept of bouncing radio waves off the atmosphere, lacks extensive licensing requirements, uses five watts compared to VHF's 25 watts, and also has noticeably different in the quality of signal. The VHF radio sounds crisp, while CB radio is frequently impaired by static.

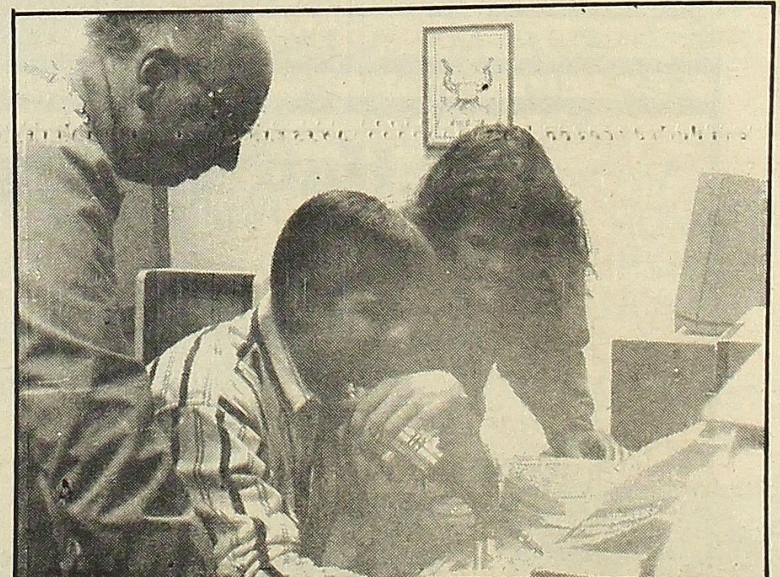
The second type of radio is the short wave radio. This radio

operates on the principle of having radio signals bounce off the ionosphere back towards earth all around the globe. This is done by using 15 to 20 meter wavelengths, depending on the atmospheric conditions of that day. Longer radio waves than that go through the atmosphere into space. By comparison, AM radio waves are 300 meters and FM radio waves are three meters in length.

Demonstrating the short wave radio, Gibson talked with an operator in Italy. It was a quick conversation, but quite understandable. Some of the practical uses of ham radio come from conversations of this nature. One can learn the

language talking to foreigners in their native tongue, start radio friendships, and get news from a country's citizen (and not through Dan Rather). In addition, hams are extremely helpful in the event of natural disasters. Aid of ham radio operators in disaster drills is quite frequent. Gibson said that recently, the Alma station, in conjunction with the Gratiot County ham radio club, participated in a disaster drill.

Other devices under development at the ham radio station are a satellite tracking link, and a radio Teletype set. Gibson invited anyone with an interest in ham radio to contact him for further information.



Whitbeck and Larson experiment with Ham radio

By C. Knapp

Hanada comments on cultural differences

By Tami O'Bryant
Staff Writer

First-year student Mariko Hanada faced an enormous challenge two years ago. She had to choose whether to stay in her home country, Japan, with her brother and grandmother, or move to the United States with her parents. She chose the United States, and went to H.H. Dow High School her junior and senior years of high school.

At the time, Hanada didn't speak a word of English, in spite of the English classes she had taken since seventh grade.

"The English teachers in Japan don't speak English. They teach English as a linguistic language, not a conversational one. Even a student who can read Shakespeare cannot speak English," she explained. "I wanted to study real English, and I had a chance to do it."

Originally, she had planned to stay for just one year. Then she decided one year of English wasn't enough.

"Actually, two years wasn't

enough, either," she laughed. For this reason, Hanada decided to go to college in the United States.

One of the main reasons she chose Alma College was because of its size.

"If I went to a big school, there'd be more Japanese people, and I'd speak more Japanese. If there were too many Japanese people, maybe I wouldn't practice my English," she said.

She also said, "I like it here. It's comfortable and cozy. And everyone says hi."

Hanada also commented on the Japanese culture. According to Hanada, Japan always maintains a balance between the old and the new.

"We have many technologies—it's very modernized, but we keep our traditions," she said. She explained that every house in Japan has Japanese style rooms, but they also have some Western style rooms.

Attitudes she has experienced since she came to the U.S. were not all what she expected.

"When students come to Japan,

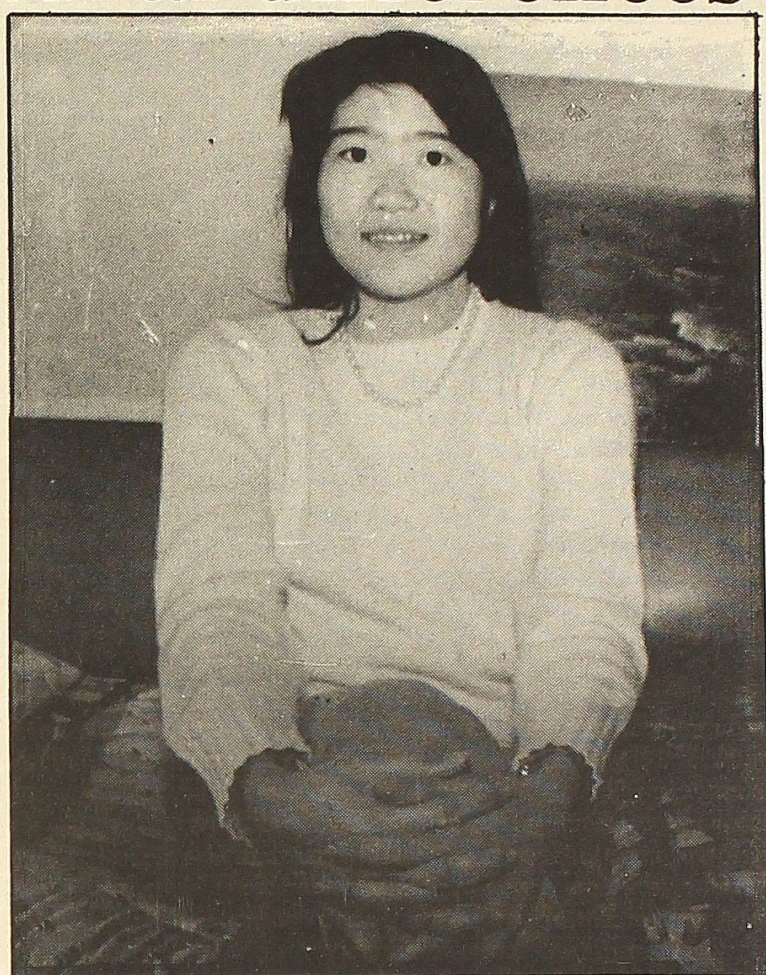
they (Japanese students) are very interested in them (the American students). But here when I told people I was from Japan, no one asked me any questions about Japan. They didn't seem to care about other countries," she said. She also said, however, that this attitude has changed now that she's in college, and now people do seem interested.

Her own attitudes have changed as well.

"I began to see my country from outside Japan, from a different point of view. I learned much more about Japan when I was out of Japan," she said with amazement.

Differences between the two countries surprised her as well. Hanada said she didn't understand why world geography and history were not required courses in the United States like they are in Japan.

"The United States is such a big country, and can influence other countries, but high school students aren't required to know about them (other countries)," she said.



International student, Mariko Hanada

By J. Steffee

Enrollment reflects increased diversity

By Karin Barry
Staff Writer

We have all listened to Dr. Stone's welcoming speech on the number of valedictorians, National Merit Finalists, Eagle Scouts, and how Alma College's Five-Year Plan is progressing well, and tried to stifle yawns. But after a very interesting conversation with Mr. John Seveland, the Vice-President of Enrollment and Student affairs, I realized how much Alma's enrollment and composition of the student body reflects us, the people who study here at Alma.

As a whole, Alma is becoming more and more diverse. Two years ago, only 3% of our student population were minorities, 5% international students and 6% out-of-state. This year's first year student class is composed of 7.5% minorities and international students and 10% out-of-state students. These people come from all over the United States and the world: Pakistan, Brazil, China, Japan, California, West Virginia, Texas, Ohio, Kansas, and the list goes on. This

diversity adds to our campus life; we can learn so much from these people with backgrounds different from ours. It also reflects the success of Alma's Five-Year Plan which is striving for 8% minority, 2% international and 10% out-of-state-student populations by 1993.

Last spring, some of the upperclassmen may have heard of the concern over a decline in applications. Even though Alma received only 777 applications for the 320 spots, down from the usual thousand, this is not a bad reflection on Alma and is due to many different factors. First of all, there are simply less high school seniors now than there were two or three years ago. Albion, Hope, Kalamazoo, CMU and Aquinas all suffered drops in applications. The enrollment process was also a bit slower last fall due to problems with the computer system, a required essay on the application, and lateness in sending out the actual applications.

But a few less people in the class of 1994 does not necessarily mean that enrollment

has diminished. On the contrary, we have had a surprising year with returning students and enough retention to keep enrollment up to normal standards.

Many of Alma's new recruiting techniques helped bring these numbers up. Some of these techniques include the busing of prospective students to campus to give those without transportation a chance to see the college and the people on it. Alma representatives have also stressed the College's exchange programs with Stillman, an all-African American college, and its foreign exchange programs.

Demographically speaking, the students at Alma come from relatively small high schools. Over 59% of this year's class are from graduating classes of 200 or less and 46% of these students were in the top ten percent of their classes.

This year's student body certainly has the makings of a great one, with all that Alma has going for it: diversity, strong academics, and a commitment to choosing the best incoming students.

Environmentally speaking

By Amy L. Hough
Staff Columnist

Earth Day 1990 is over. That day left us with this choice: do we live as we have in the past or can we find within ourselves the ability to change? How we decide to deal with that choice was and still is very personal. What are we going to do? What can we do?

Many other world problems trouble us right now, as well as personal problems, social problems, and academic problems. Our generation does not have only one major issue to focus on, as our parents and grandparents did (World War II and Vietnam), so we are often accused of being apathetic toward issues that plague our lives.

Frustration often prevents us from taking any action at all, because we are so overwhelmed at the number of issues—social, political, environmental—that surround us. We're now at a point in history where the future looks very questionable—more so than it has ever looked. It depends on us, whether we like it or not. Every choice we make in life somehow affects us personally, other people, and our environment.

I realize that the environment as a topic for discussion, comment, and advice is very common these days, but there are still very many people who do not fully understand the severity of the problem and how they can help to heal this planet. In this column, I will be

sharing my experiential and informed knowledge on environmental problems and how some of them can be solved, as well as reporting on environmental problems that are closer to home both geographically and socially. I will also gladly listen and respond to any comments, questions, and/or notions that you may have.

My sources range from my hometown newspaper (Grayling) to sections from the bestseller 50 Simple Things You Can Do to Save the Earth. I do not consider myself an authority on this subject; I am only an individual citizen and student who is very concerned and interested. When I worked for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources this summer, I learned that we cannot depend on just the government to cure environmental ills; it takes a conscious effort from each person, and it takes more than just to care.

If more people realize what exactly is happening to this whole planet, they will understand that "the need for more study" is too long to wait. Some topics that I will cover in this column are precycling/recycling, toxic products that we use often, like Liquid paper, environmental scams that mislead and confuse the consumer, like "degradable plastics" and "earth-friendly" Styrofoam, eating lower on the food chain, and many others, including suggestions from you. This column is for everyone.

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Congratulations to all our wonderful new pledges: Lisa Knoerr, Christa Hamilton, Erika Soderholm, Jennifer McCann, Stacie Herriman, Amy Coles and Heather Osterman! Welcome to Gamma Phi Beta! Fire up for pledging! click, click, click!! Hope everyone survived Bids Day '90!! Remember daughters...what comes around, goes around! Thanks to all you hot tips who helped us on Bids Day Morning! Renae and Missy glad to see you kept your bras on this year. So Laylie- what's "new" with you?! Renae, how's your crescent moon carpeting looking? Welcome back Kristina, Jenn, Julia, and Becca- it's great to have you back! Way to celebrate your birthday Em! Hope it was happy!. Hamann, have you done any dirty dancing this term? Elbs & Nofal -who's been knocking on doors in Gelston? Jez & Vog glad to see the construction zone is out of your room! So are you two getting haircuts or is it the weather again? It is true that they kiss only when they are "h"? woo hoo! Lynne- you are "booooteeful" so are you McG! Val-what season are we in anyway! Congrats Julia, Lisa, & Kristina on your parts in the play! Have a great week all you Goo Phoo Boos! click click click

To those who bleed green: Too bad you got caught "pink" handed! If you wanted our picture you could've simply asked us! Exactly what did you use our paddle for-you don't have pledges right now do you? Hits-are you so lonely you have to sleep with a teddy bear? Did a tornado hit the upstairs double or was that your creative redecorating job? Congratulations R.D. As for the upstairs triple-work on your clicking and maybe by your 21st birthdays you'll bleed pastels too! Fun was had by all!! From those who bleed brown and mode

Fire-up for Derby Days Sigma Chi! click click click
ΓΦΒ

To the Green and Gold:

Fire up, only three more "spontaneous" weeks left. Congratulations to the new house poops Rea and Haara. Sorry to hear you didn't get your open bid Dickey. Rusty is trying to re-live Happy Days by eating at Arnolds. What's her name again Bugs? Gumby is uncool. Fester is not just another common name. How was canoeing on the St. Lawrence, Schoessel? Crow, it's not apathetic, it's pathetic. Scooter, are you taking classes at Alma High? Karl, it's still early in the season, and you're already dealing with 3 cards. We know why you've been staying up so late Slouch; good luck with your Jane Fonda workout tape. Scooter's also buying up stock in Johnson & Johnson.

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Alpha Xi's Welcome Back!!!

Happy Birthday to all of our September Babies: Deller, Tanya, Howell, Amy J, Meredith, Mertz, Kristin and Treeter. Hey Zick, next time you go to the Highlandaur for your b-day, don't forget your backup. And Deller you had better invest in some Extra-Strength Tylenol for Friday because you are going down baby!! Chrissy, are you still rowland around? And Jill, what does it feel like to be first lady? Congratulations on the GREAT pre-rush function last week! A huge welcome back to Maga, Kris and Maga's new rock. AΞΔ #1 in flag football! Fire Up! the mgt.

Hey Alpha Gams!

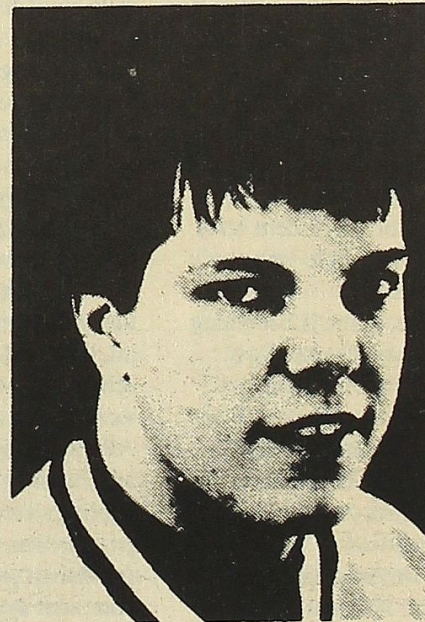
Welcome Pledges! You are wonderful and we love you lots! By the way, the rumor that fall pledge classes are really spoiled is definitely not true. No, we wouldn't do that to you, would we? To get back at us, don't forget to haze actives-we love it!! You are in for a really great time pledging. Get Ready! Hope everybody got things started the right way on bids day. Better watch out, though, pledges-we are watching you! Your nicknames depend on it. And guess what? We know who your mommies are! Get used to it because we won't let you forget it. Now let's have some fun! Get psyched for Jenny's wedding, too. Until next week, the Pub Crew is signing off.

Hello Gentlemen,

Great motorcycle bash last weekend - glad to hear everyone had fun. Grubby gets firefighter of the week as he put out his own fire() while the rest of us battled the alarms at the house. Babala-the-Hun, way to enforce our new policy. Everyone encourage Victor to run for risk management chair, he's got some great ideas. Sir Lance, a little? New Curtisey policy-do what he says or he'll get pissed(it was run through on the ECExpress) Flounder, can't believe you chased that guppy all the way across campus. Everyone be sure to catch Young Guns III: starring K-muv with the fastest gun on West Center. Love ya and ΦΑ, Puke.

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Kinne continues in leadership position

By Shannon Nichols
Sports Editor

I approached this interview as I have approached most of the "Athlete of the Week" interviews, looking to ask a few questions to find out why some athletes push themselves to be the best at what they do. I figured this interview would be no different.

As I prepared to interview Alma College's starting quarterback, I ran through some of the questions I was going to ask and for many of them I was pretty sure I knew the answers. After all, many athletes are very similar in their way of thinking; there is a definite commonality among athletes.

The answers I was expecting were not necessarily the ones I received.

Steve Kinne is the Alma College starting quarterback and has held that title for each of his four years on the team. As a first year student, Kinne did not expect to be a starter, but as circumstances would have it the starting spot opened up, due to an injury. Kinne was there to fill it.

"I came here not expecting to be a starter figuring that I would have to wait my turn, and in the beginning I thought I could deal with that, but about two weeks into the season I knew I wanted

to play right away. When I got the opportunity to step in and start, I decided the other guy wasn't going to walk right back in," said Kinne.

I questioned Kinne on difficulty of being in a leadership position as a first year student. He said, "It was hard to always say exactly what I was thinking. I had a hard time yelling at the upperclassmen, it wasn't the point of being scared it was just showing respect to guys that had been around a lot longer than I had. I am a lot more comfortable with my role as a leader now. I like having control of the action on the field, it's a lot of pressure, but I like it. I am not afraid to take control in the huddle I have earned respect in there."

Kinne may have earned respect as a team leader but he shows a great appreciation for his fellow teammates, both past and present. In the course of the interview he mentioned many players who he had tremendous respect for; particularly, a past Alma great Dan Stark.

"Dan was a senior when I was a freshman and he represents a lot of the qualities that I hope I have as a leader. I want to be remembered as someone who could be counted on, someone who would give you a kick in the ass if you needed it, but would also be there to encourage

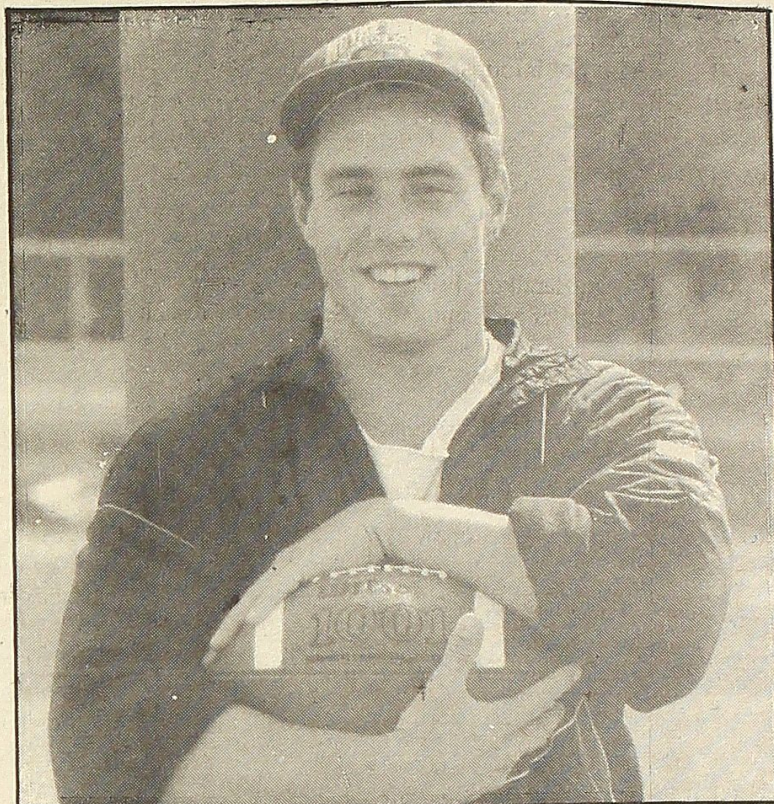
someone if they needed it," said Kinne.

The football field is not the first place that Kinne learned to respect his elders, his father has always had his respect.

"I never realized how hard my dad worked until I worked construction this summer. My dad has been working construction most of his life and he never complains about being too tired. He still has the energy left to devote to his kids. He has worked so hard and has put three kids through school. It really made me take a look at reality when I realized how hard my dad worked, and he does it every day."

The reality of the summer is nothing compared to the reality facing Kinne, or any senior, after graduation. Kinne admits that it is scary, but has a good idea of what he wants.

"I have to stay here (Alma) an extra term and I would really like to be a grad assistant for the football team, because some day I would definitely like to coach at some level. After graduation I would like to enter the field of corporate fitness. I am not looking to have the best of everything, I am not that materialistic. I want to be comfortable and successful. I want to be the best at anything that I decide to do," remarked Kinne.



Athlete of the week, Steve Kinne.

Photo by M. Mayer

Looking back at his four years at Alma there is really only one major thing that Kinne regrets. He said, "I wish I would have been more social, and gotten to know more people. I was always content to just hang around with my friends and not go out much and now I feel like I missed out on part of what college is about."

But before Kinne starts looking back he must first look forward to the remainder of his senior season. When asked about

the team as a whole, Kinne was positive. In the midst of being picked to finish fourth in the league Kinne maintains that the team could go all the way.

"This is my last year of college football and I am taking it day by day. I am giving one hundred percent. After my injury I finally realized how important football is to me, I am playing this season for myself, and my teammates," said Kinne.

Lady Scots win war against Calvin Knights

By Shannon Nichols
Sports Editor

The Alma College Volleyball Team added two conference wins to its' record this week in victories against Albion and Calvin. The Scots defeated the Albion Britons in three straight

games.

"Albion does not play the same game that we do, they tried to come out and beat our blocks by tipping the ball, but once we picked that up we took away their entire game," said senior Laura Holmes.

"We definitely did not play our best, at times we started to forget

our game and play theirs, that is when we started to fall apart," said junior transfer Karin Love.

On Wednesday night, the Lady Scots got another chance to prove themselves against the defending conference champs Calvin College.

The Lady Scots started out strong only to be temporarily delayed by a glare caused by the sun coming through the gymnasium windows. This delay did nothing to halt the Scots who managed to take the first game

of the match 16-18. The war continued for five matches. The Calvin Knights took the second and the fourth games, while the Lady Scots took the first, third and last games of the match.

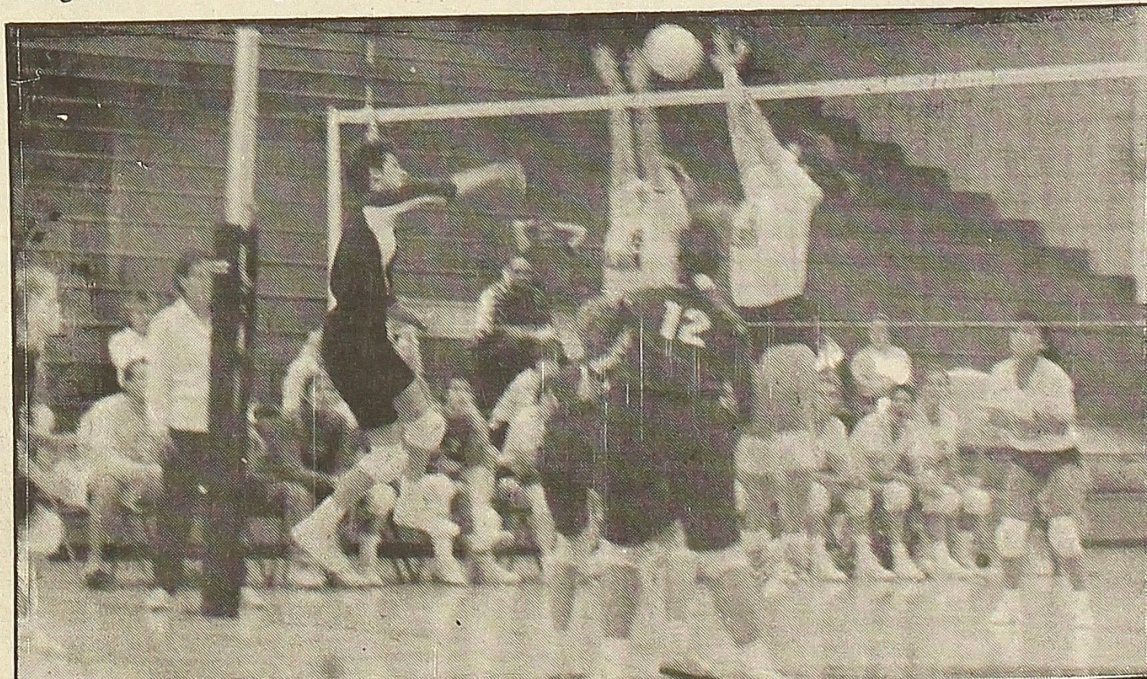
It was a war of defense. The net play of the Scots and their ability of the back row to dig the ball is what set them apart from Calvin. The Scots handed Calvin their first conference loss in two years.

The Alma College Volleyball team was not yet done

competing for the week. The Scots traveled to Nazareth College to compete in a Saturday tournament. Though the team ended up taking third place in the tournament, they were not satisfied with their play.

"We did not play with as much enthusiasm as we needed to. We were very lazy and we lacked the intensity that we had against Calvin," said junior Rosa Coronado.

The Lady Scots next match is at Olivet on Tuesday.



Lady Scots defeat Albion.

Photo by A. Mull

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Scots settle for a tie after rough week

By Scott Rea
Assistant Sports Editor

The men's soccer team is finished with a week that they would probably like to forget. The first conference matches included Kalamazoo College and Calvin College, both ranked in the top ten in NCAA Division III.

This week the Scots travelled to Calvin. After a strong showing in the first half, the team slowed down in the stretch. Sophomore Todd Alberry said, "We just didn't seem ready to play, and it showed on the field." The high point of the game came when Chris Tracy, a transfer from Michigan State University, put the Scots on the board. Calvin pulled away quickly handing the Scots a 4-1 loss.

On Saturday Alma got a rest from their road schedule with a

home match against Spring Arbor College. The Scots managed to control most of the game, but lacked the punch to put the ball in the net. Team Co-Captain Jim Chinery commented, "We played strong soccer, but we seemed to be just one touch away from scoring." Midway through the first half, first year student Jason Gilbert managed to connect on a dead ball play to give the Scots a 1-0 lead. The Scots held on until Spring Arbor's second half break-away. The 1-1 tie could not be broken through thirty minutes of overtime. The Scots settled for their first tie of the season.

The men's soccer team take its 3-4-1 record into Wednesday's home match with Olivet College at 4 p.m. Saturday, Alma will again be at home to take on league rival Adrian College.



Senior Jim Chinery drives down field.

Photo by J. Steffen

Womens soccer plays good defense

By Staff Writer

The women's soccer team suffered its second league defeat Saturday with a 3-0 loss against the Adrian Bulldogs.

"We played our hearts out," said midfielder Amy White, "but we still could not manage to light up our half of the scoreboard."

The Scots did outshoot the Bulldogs. Doreen Walters led the Scots with five shots on goal and Jill Gray followed close behind with three.

Michelle Wemple, sweeper, could not have played a better defensive game scrambling back

and upsetting the Adrian offense.

Coach Mapes made some lineup changes putting Heather Ruppel in at stopper instead of her usual fullback position.

Mapes started sophomore Tracey Ripper at goal, but due to an early injury, Ripper was replaced by usual starting goalie Jennifer Briggs.

The Scots are a stronger team than last year but are still lack the ability to score. "We aren't aggressive enough," said senior Janet Webster.

After playing tough teams like Wittenburg University and Kalamazoo College, the Scots seemed to have accepted a more

defensive position. The tough competition has improved the team.

Assistant coach Tim Peraino commented, "We've been getting better game by game. We played well enough Saturday to win the game, but we couldn't finish our shots, that was the difference in the game."

Senior Kathy Dunbar agreed, "We played to their level, but we're not offensive enough. We just can't get our shots in the goal," said Dunbar.

The women are back in action on Tuesday against Hope College and Thursday against Michigan State University.

Alma harriers run away with fourth place

By Rob Longstreet
Staff Writer

"Possibly the greatest day of Cross Country Alma has ever had." This was the remark of Alma's cross country coach, Charles Gray, who after returning over 600 miles from Grinnel, Iowa, believes his team had one of the biggest weekends in Alma's cross country history. Both men and women's teams finished fourth overall in the illustrious Grinnel College Invitational. The Grinnel is deemed the finest cross country invitational in the Midwest.

Alma's women finished 4th out of 23 women's teams; finishing right behind Simpson, Carlton and St. Olav Colleges, all of whom are ranked nationally in the top ten.

Alma's men finished 4th out of 24 teams, placing behind Augustana College (ranked 3rd

in the nation), North Central College (finished 2nd in the nation last year), and St. Thomas College of Minnesota (ranked nationally in the top ten).

Individually, junior Sarah Braunreiter finished 2nd overall in the women's division. She is placed in All-American status. In windy and hilly conditions, Braunreiter ran a brilliant 19:10 in the woman's 3 mile race.

Two other Alma women had impressive races and finished in the top twenty. Junior Michelle Snyder, 18th (19:52), and first year student Angie Thomas, 20th (19:55).

They were backed-up by junior Janet Renowski, 33rd (20:10), first year student Jackie Cullum, 38th (20:18), sophomore Pam Dickman, 42nd (20:24), and sophomore Connie Gulczinski, 60th (21:03).

Alma's men were led by outstanding races by seniors

Matt Chovanec, 16th (26:30), and Bill Arnold, 18th (26:33). They were followed with fine finishes from senior Chris Jonas, 29th (26:51), junior Bill Huddleston, 34th (27:02), senior Steve Cassar, 36th (27:03), first year student Rich Gray, 50th (27:17), and junior Evan McGrath, 52nd (27:18). The men's success can be contributed to a fantastic team effort. All of Alma's varsity runners finishing within 48 seconds of one another.

"We really came together as a team," remarked Jonas, "if we can do more of this, we are really going to go far."

Braunreiter adds, "It was a great trip for the team, I think it really brought us closer together. It was a great warm-up for nationals." And the way the Alma harriers are running, a spot in the national meet is looking very probable.

Johnson looks for change in gridiron tradition

By Bill Johnston
Staff Writer

As the college football season gains momentum, the question of whether or not to create a play-off system in NCAA Division I-A football once again becomes a discussed topic. The realignment of major conferences puts this subject in a different perspective.

Previously independent schools, such as Penn State and Florida State, join with major conferences, while others, such as Arkansas, switch conferences in an effort to gain security and make money. The basic argument comes down to tradition versus having an undisputed national champion.

Alma College knows tradition. It devotes an entire dinner to it. White pines, alma maters and bagpipes, all represent traditions at Alma College.

Fighting Irish fans know tradition too. There's a tradition in South Bend known, unofficially, as "Let Michigan think they've won the season opener, then pull off a big play and watch the Wolverines languish in defeat." Notre Dame loves tradition.

Bowl games represent the tradition in Division I-A whether it be the Rose Bowl or Raisin Bowl. Traditionalists argue, "You can't stop playing bowl games. They've been around for over 75 years. It's tradition!"

On the other side, there's the undisputed national championship view. The number one spot in the college poll gives no guarantee of being national champion. Just ask anyone from the University of Miami.

A college play-off would make everyone happy. There would be no arguments like last year's between Notre Dame and Miami. The play-offs would provide one, undisputed champion.

But with the championship view come problems. First, there is the question of time. People see the college football season as too long already. A 16-team play-off system would end the season no earlier than the first week of January, and perhaps later than that.

One answer to this entails removing a game or two from the schedule, but this would mean either getting rid of non-conference games or shortening the conference schedule; both undesirable to coaches (and boosters). A possible solution lies in dividing so-called superconferences into two divisions, and having teams only play the opponents in their divisions.

Another problem arises with who to pick for these play-offs. If you only include conference champions, which conferences do you pick them from? What independent schools do you pick? The selection of teams would fall prey to the ambiguities and arguments already plaguing the basketball tournament selection.

Of course, the NCAA would favor a play-off format, because the revenues would be distributed to every school, rather than to the schools in the bowl team's conference. Although the play-off format seems logical, the NCAA will have to plan carefully to make it viable.