

The Almanian

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Alma College's Student Newspaper

Issue 8

Alcohol cited as factor in sexual assaults

Sexual assault awareness encouraged

By Heather Laird
News Editor

One sexual assault has been reported on the Alma College campus this year. The student involved was suspended, but is eligible to reapply for winter term, if conditions set by the Student Affairs Office are met. These conditions include seeking counseling for alcohol abuse. One student has approached the Center for Career Counseling and Student Development for help regarding a sexual assault, while two have contacted the Wilcox Medical Center.

Four similar cases were reported to the Student Affairs Office last year. Six students sought aid at the medical center and thirteen at the counseling center. Alcohol is cited as the common denominator in all cases.

James Kridler, dean of students, said that, based on national and larger institution's studies, the College could expect 30-40 cases per year. He said, "As I said last year, we're no worse than any institution. The bad news is, we're no better."

National statistics report that four to six women out of every

ten can expect to be the victim of sexual assault. Forty percent of all college-aged women are the victims of sexual assault or attempts thereof.

"The law's very clear on criminal sexual conduct. If I even touch you in a 'private part' without your permission, I've broken a law. If I've taken advantage of you when you're incapacitated... I'm guilty," explained Kridler.

Cases reported to Student Affairs are investigated by Kridler, rather than the judicial committee. Pertinent policy regarding these cases can be found under the safety and harassment policies in the student handbook. Kridler emphasized that if the victim wished to litigate, the College would be as supportive as possible. Similar support services would be extended to the accused attacker.

"The first concern is for the woman's emotional and (physical) well being; secondly, to determine if she wants to file a complaint here or with the police," said Kridler. Reports to either the medical center or Student Affairs Office are

referred to the counseling center.

Victims should seek medical attention as soon as possible, whether at the medical center, the emergency room or a local doctor's office. Physical damage, such as vaginal mucosa tearing, irritation, bruises, dislocations or sexually transmitted diseases, merit immediate attention. Physical evidence, whether or not the victim intends to press charges at the time, should be gathered within 24 hours whenever possible. Psychological care is also essential.

Complications beyond minor physical injury, including sexually transmitted diseases, are extremely rare in campus cases, explained Bill Clark, director of health services.

Clark also stressed that the medical center adopts a non-judgemental position. "Our main concern is the physical condition. It's not our place to prove innocence or guilt..." Clark also cautioned that, while it is very encouraging that legal systems are now starting to back victims,

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TRICK-OR-TREAT



Trick-or-Treater in Newberry on Halloween. (See related story on Page 2.)
Photo by G. Wu

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Phone system switched for easier billing

By Stacie Herriman
Assistant News Editor

Duane Knecht, director of the Physical Plant, and Carol Merchant, group leader of the Maintenance Department, presented plans for a switch in phone systems to the Student Life Committee on Tuesday, Oct. 30 for discussion and approval. Alma College is in the process of changing their present phone system to provide direct dial local and long distance access from any student housing or lobby phone on campus. Students will begin using Forced Access Codes (FACs) for all local and long distance calls beginning Nov. 16. "We're changing the present system to make billing convenient for each student," said Knecht. "We want to get away from making one individual liable for the entire room bill."

Knecht said another reason for this switch was "to afford the Greek side of campus to enjoy the same phone privileges that students in the residence halls enjoy."

These codes may be used on any student phone as the codes are "class of service sensitive." However, students may not make calls from faculty/staff or

administrative phones.

All off-campus calls will now begin using a "9"; thus, eliminating the "8" calls. Both direct dial long distance and operator assistance (credit card, etc.) calls can be used by dialing "9+..." For example:

9+FAC code+1+number
—for direct dial long distance
9+FAC code+0 —for

more and is not paid by the twentieth of the month and the grace period expires, we will pull their code, terminating both local and long distance service," explained Knecht. "Before service can be reinstated and a new FAC code given, the entire balance (of the existing phone bill) plus a \$10 administrative re-connection fee must be paid. All balances must

will be issued.

"We won't issue their new FAC code over the phone. Students must come to the Physical Plant and show their picture identification," said Knecht.

Merchant said, "This problem (with the phone billing and service) arose last spring as a representative on campus spoke with administration and students about the problems with the phones."

This system switch will involve "very minimal cost to the College as it is just a software change," said Knecht. "This (switch) is something that needed to be done; this accounting system is one that's used at almost every college. We're actually behind in the game even though we've had the capabilities (for this new system) for years."

Students can pick up their FAC code in Hamilton Commons Nov. 13-14. After those two days they can come to the Physical Plant.

"We want to make this as easy as possible for the students. The first day we will be in Hamilton almost all day from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. The next day we will be there during lunch and dinner meals — an hour before and an hour after," concluded Knecht.

"We're changing the present system to make billing convenient for each student. We want to get away from making one individual liable for the entire room bill."

...Duane Knecht

operator assistance
9+FAC code+local
number —for local calls.

The student is responsible for the payment of all telephone calls made using his/her authorization code. If a student does not pay his/her phone bill, off-campus calling — both local and long distance — will be stopped; the student will be able to make campus calls.

"If a student's bill totals \$20 or

be paid at the end of each term.

"If your phone charges are less than \$20, you don't have to come in right away; you can wait until you reach the \$20 limit," he added.

Students are responsible for their code. Therefore, if it is lost or stolen, students should call extension #7250 and immediately report it. The code will then be taken out of the computer and, at the same time, a new FAC code

Residence Hall programming

Fitness testing available to students

By Maria Stephens
Assistant Feature Editor

Associate professor Doug Seelbach of the exercise and health science department and five members of his adult fitness class outlined for their audience the various free testing services available to students through the EHS department in a Newberry Nights program entitled "Healthy Habits," on Monday, Oct. 29, at 9 p.m. in the Newberry lobby.

Services available, according to Seelbach, include blood cholesterol testing, nutritional analysis, measurement of oxygen efficiency, and body composition measurements. Testing is conducted Wednesday afternoons from 3 to 5 p.m. Students can sign up for an appointment at the main desk in the Physical Education Center. Following testing, the

department will assist the student in interpreting his/her results and offer consultation in determining a fitness plan for the student to attain his/her desired level of fitness.

"Come to the P.E. Center to sign up!" Seelbach encouraged his audience.

Students Bill Walters and Chris Jonas supervise testing for blood cholesterol content, a process which they explained requires only a few drops of blood and a few minutes. The test also analyzes glucose level and triglyceride content, and will determine if one is anemic. Walters and Jonas explained that a cholesterol reading of less than 200 is favorable, while one of 250 or over is high. The department would recommend re-testing for readings above 200, and would

prescribe changes in exercise and diet to those individuals who show a similarly high reading on a re-test.

Students Tamara Holsinger and Janet Reinowski conduct nutritional analyses, a testing service which requires the student to record as accurately as possible the amounts and types of food he/she consumes over a period of about three days. From this, Holsinger and Reinowski can determine calorie intake, percentages of nutrient daily allowances, protein, fat and carbohydrate content of diet, as well as other nutritional information. Holsinger and Reinowski can also recommend methods of improving one's diet based on this nutritional data.

"There is so much different information out there about

nutrition that it can get very confusing," said Reinowski, commenting on the value of the analyses.

A treadmill test supervised by student Bill Arnold measures how efficiently one's body uses oxygen — in essence, how "fit" one is.

"This information can be used to determine the level of heart rate you should maintain during exercise to achieve the maximum benefit from your exercise program," said Arnold.

Finally, body composition tests, which measure the percent body fat of an individual, provide another way to measure fitness level.

"We can do two different tests to determine body composition," said Seelbach, "the skin-fold test and the hydrostatic test. We

usually only use the skin-fold method if someone really doesn't like getting in the water, because the hydrostatic method is a much more accurate measure of body composition."

The hydrostatic test, he explained, involves submerging the subject on a scale in a four-foot tank of water. By measuring the weight and, thus, the level of buoyancy of the individual, testers can determine percent body fat. The department can then assist the student in determining how to improve this percentage should he/she desire.

The program was organized by Newberry resident assistants Hanni Hollbacher, Julia Robinson and Julia Boldt, and was supervised by Newberry Hall director Lisa Batterbee.

Sexual assault awareness stressed

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"Don't automatically assume (the accused attackers) are guilty."

"In all the cases I've dealt with, it's been a case of clouded judgement due to the extent to which they'd been drinking," said Kridler.

"If (the women) weren't

"It's a touchy subject, but (it has) to be brought out in the open and discussed,"

...William Clark

intoxicated or impaired, it's clear they may have been able to avoid the situation, and this makes some women feel guilty," said Edie Sample, assistant director of student development. However, Sample stressed, just because a woman drinks doesn't mean she is responsible.

"The responsibility to know whether you can make a rational decision is my responsibility (as a male)," explained Kridler.

Male students, in the past, have contacted Clark regarding controlling sexual arousal while under the influence of an intoxicant. This, however, is rare; less than a dozen males in three years have contacted the medical center. "Most men are too egotistical to admit they have a problem like that," said Clark.

Males may also be the victims of sexual assault; however, none have reported to the Student Affairs Office or counseling center, while only one has come to the medical center.

Campus awareness is an ongoing process, including a combination of programs and literature. Past educational events included a program about date rape incorporating the medical center staff, local police and the counseling center staff; pamphlets; and a required preterm program. Further programming is anticipated, including a presentation involving the medical center, counseling center and Alpha Gamma Delta.

"A lot of people go to the programs and hear the information but don't think it's anything that would happen to them," said Sample.

"It's a touchy subject, but (it has) to be brought out in the open and discussed," said Clark.

Organizations sponsor Halloween activities

By Stacie Herriman
Assistant News Editor

Many Alma College organizations planned Halloween events. The Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Bruske Hall residents carved pumpkins, while both Newberry and Gelston Halls passed out candy to trick-or-treaters. Other events included the Sigma Chi (ΣΧ) haunted house sponsored the ΣΧ Sisters on Saturday, Oct. 27; the ACUB Halloween scavenger hunt; the Halloween Concert; and the Sigma Alpha Epsilon (ΣΑΕ) fraternity and Gamma Phi Beta (ΓΦΒ) sorority "Halloween Spook Patrol."

Newberry Hall council, in conjunction with the Gamma Sigma Sigma service sorority, organized a trick-or-treat party on Tuesday, Oct. 30, for the children of Big Brothers/Big Sisters, the Women's Aid Shelter and faculty members.

"It was a big group effort and everyone was really excited to be around the kids," said Leslee Bartrem, Newberry Hall council president.

In addition to the party, the children had an opportunity to participate in numerous other activities. On Second North Newberry, children could go

through the "Haunted Hall," decorated with ghosts, spider webs, popcorn on the floors and blood on the walls. The trick-or-treaters also went to different rooms where they were entertained with such novelties as fortune telling.

"The trick-or-treating and Halloween party in Newberry is a tradition which has been passed down from hall council. The kids got a kick out of us and so did we. The only change I'd make is to limit or group the ages so that the activities are geared to something each group would enjoy. I think we learned there is a kid in everybody no matter what age," said Bartrem.

Gelston Hall residents also decorated corridors and passed out candy to trick-or-treaters from the faculty and staff and the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program on Wednesday, Oct. 31. Turn out was low.

The Alma College Union Board (ACUB) hosted a Halloween scavenger hunt Tuesday, Oct. 30. Participants, equipped with six clues and taped to a partner, were to locate ACUB members, who would give them pieces of candy and initialed slips of paper. First place offered an \$80 prize, while second entailed \$40. First place

winners were Ice Washburn and Gretchen Katt. Heather Laird and Mark Osler were in second place.

On Wednesday, Oct. 31, the members of the ΣΑΕ fraternity and the ΓΦΒ sorority participated in the sixth annual "Halloween Spook Patrol" in the Alma community. The purpose of Spook Patrol was to be visible support to young children who are trick-or-treating in case they encounter any difficulties. The members of each group monitored the neighborhoods immediately surrounding the campus.

Rob Longstreet, ΣΑΕ, said, "We did not run into any serious problems. It was nice to see such a good turn out. I'm glad we could help."

Janet Devine, ΓΦΒ, echoed Longstreet's comments. "With

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Schmidtke reports on Stillman

By Troy Jaffe
Staff Writer

Alma College public relations officer Charlotte Schmidtke recently spent two weeks at Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, in an effort to promote the cross-cultural exchange program between the two schools. Schmidtke returned to the College Oct. 26, to present her report.

The program, which involves the exchange of students, faculty, and administrators, is designed to increase awareness of different cultures. Stillman, an all black college, sent its choir to Alma in the spring, and the Alma College Kiltie Band performed in

Alabama shortly thereafter. Students Dan Maxim and Chris Reinsma are currently studying at Stillman.

Schmidtke, the first administrator to participate in the exchange this year, was in Tuscaloosa from Oct. 14 to 26. She worked with the public relations department at Stillman on promoting the exchange; she prepared brochures, edited videotapes, and contacted several news organizations.

Due to Schmidtke's efforts, the Alma-Stillman exchange was featured on the television news program of the Birmingham, Alabama, CBS affiliate channel 42. Schmidtke said, "I hope this coverage is the first step towards national recognition (of the unique exchange)."

The exchange was also productive on a personal level. Schmidtke strengthened the administrative ties between the two colleges. She interviewed several Stillman faculty members,

contacted one student interested in coming to Alma, and spoke with both Maxim and Reinsma about their experiences.

Schmidtke discussed with the possibility of coming to Alma through the exchange with several Stillman students. There was interest among various members of the college community, but Schmidtke noticed one problem: climatic differences. She said, "The cold weather in Michigan just scares some people away."

Schmidtke hopes to be able to turn the cold weather issue to her advantage. "After all," she says, "there are some students there who would love to see snow."

Schmidtke did not feel in the minority at the all-black college. She conceded that this might be because she was at Stillman for only two weeks. Also, she spent most of her time with the administration and faculty. Schmidtke did notice several times that she was the only white person in the room, but because of



Alma senior Chris Reinsma and his lab partner get help from Dr. Charlotte Carter, Alabama's 1990 Professor of the Year. Photo by C. Schmidtke

the graciousness of her hosts, she did not feel out of place. She came back even more enthused about the program than she was before leaving, and would strongly encourage participation in the exchange. Interested students should contact vice president John Seveland.

Faculty members should contact provost Ann Stuart.

Schmidtke concluded that both her trip and the entire exchange program with Stillman represented a "valuable experience in terms of helping you relate to diverse people."

Activities promote Halloween 'spirit'

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our joining the ΣAEs we were able to expand the program to include a wider area. All in all, Spook Patrol went well as we encountered no real problems."

Alma College Men's and Women's Glee Clubs, along with The Highlanders, hosted its annual Halloween Concert, The Singing, in the Dunning Memorial Chapel at 11 p.m. Halloween night. The members dressed in costume and sang an array of songs, including "Riders in the Sky" by the Men's Glee Club and "Mack the Knife" by the Women's Glee Club.

Mike Thompson, senior, said, "It's fun for the choir to dress up like that. We actually sang better as it was more relaxed. We packed the chapel so we had a purpose to entertain."

Sister organizations scrutinized

By Caryn Knapp
Staff Writer

In 1988, a Nebraskan court ruled that a little sister of a local fraternity was both a member and entitled to all the usual benefits of a member such as voting privileges, living in the house, and attending chapter meetings.

Since then, the necessity of sister organizations has been questioned by colleges and fraternities alike. Many national and international fraternities are asking for an elimination of sisters in response to claims of sexism, increased liability and the

threat to the single-sex nature of the fraternities as confirmed in 1971 by the federal government. Little sisters represent over half of the litigation that is now facing fraternities through either alleged negligence causing unintentional damage or a direct suit filed by a female member.

The National Interfraternity Conference and the presidents of its member fraternities have resolved that "...little sister' groups are not desirable adjuncts to the collegiate chapters of men's fraternities..." They touched on several reasons in a recent

publication.

Little sisters were said to be "diverting resources of time, effort, and money which are needed for chapter operations and programing; distracting chapter members in the performance of essential duties, i.e. membership recruitment and membership education; inviting disharmony within the chapter by usurping the roles and responsibilities of initiated members; [and] weakening the bonds of brotherhood by adversely affecting interpersonal relationships within the chapter."

Presently, only the Sigma Chi fraternity has made a formal resolution to end their sister organization on this campus. The College has not taken any similar action, but this is subject to change.

"My feeling is that the College will be discouraging sister programs in the future," said Emily Perl, assistant dean of students. The College doesn't recognize them. They don't have constitutions on file, can't reserve rooms for functions, and though the College realizes they exist, are not formal student organizations.

Parent Day encourages visits

By Meagan Karvonen
Staff Writer

Parent Day, an annual event at Alma College, took place Saturday, Nov. 3. The event is organized by the Parent Board in conjunction with the Admissions Office, Student Development, and the Center. Approximately 270 parents returned registration forms for this year's events.

Activities are intended to further involve and inform parents about student life and campus activities. Each year, Parent Day is held during a different part of the season to determine when the most parents will attend.

"Parent Day gave us a chance to look around campus. It's very nice," said Dennis Judd, father of sophomores Melinda and Michelle Judd.

This year Parent Day began with registration and a welcome in the Dunning Memorial Chapel. At 10:30 a.m., there was a faculty reception in Swanson Academic Center, followed by a pre-game luncheon in Van Dusen Commons. After lunch, tours of the new Ronald O. Kapp Science Laboratory Center were available. The football game against Albion kicked off at 1:30 p.m. Alternatives to the football game

included a Spring Term Adventures presentation, and the Tenth Annual Print Show reception and awards presentation in the Clack Art Gallery.

At 3:30 p.m., the residence halls, fraternity and sorority houses, and independent housing were open for parents to tour. The day concluded with the President's Reception and dinner in Hamilton Commons.

First year student Leah Coleman said, "I think Parent Day is a very good idea. It gives parents a chance to see their children in their own environment and meet other parents."

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The Good Doctor promises hilarity

By Monica Tissue
Staff Writer

The cast of the upcoming Alma College production of *The Good Doctor* eagerly anticipates show night. This play, under the direction of John Kunik, instructor of theater and dance, is guaranteed to be a laugh-every-minute experience. Kunik stated that the script was a "departure from Neil Simon's usual efforts." The play, based on a series of loosely linked scenes derived from Chekov's short stories, is packed with extraordinary comedy.

"The most interesting part of the play is the sneeze," commented cast member Scott Bouldrey. The scene to which he referred is considered by much of the cast to be the high point of the play. In it, the character, Cherdyakov, who has worked so hard to get on his boss's good side, has just sneezed on his boss's head. Painfully, he replays the tragic error over and

over in his mind as the cast hilariously brings it to life in slow motion, while the audience strives to contain its gut-wrenching laughter. And that isn't the only funny scene! The play is packed with westernized comic depictions of the attitudes of the by-gone Russian upper crust.

The cast expressed enthusiasm about its work. Julia Boldt, a senior cast member, commented, "Working on this show has been very rewarding for me. There seems to be a real camaraderie between the cast and the director."

Kunik, who has directed over twenty productions in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area, stated that he anticipates a great show. "We have a solid cast who will do a nice job," he said. So grab a friend and come one, come all, to the hilarious Alma College Theater Company's production of *The Good Doctor* and treat yourself to a good laugh!



Members of the play (counter clockwise from front: N. Roister, K. Thornell, Julia Boldt, LaFonna Kananen, and Scott Boldrey) practice a humorous scene.

Photo by L. Neil

Movie Review

Marked for Death recommended for action-seekers

By Jennifer Bork
Staff Writer

Stephen Seagal has once again captivated movie goers with an hour and a half of intense, fist-clenching drama. In *Marked For Death*, Seagal portrays John Hatcher, a danger-loving, risk-taking DEA (Drug Enforcement Agent) officer, who is confronted by his conscience in the beginning of the show.

He is fed up with the immorality associated with his job. This conflict makes the character seem very "human" - not some larger-than-life superhero. However, when trouble brews, he takes matters into his own hands.

The character, John Hatcher, decides to retire after seriously evaluating his life with a priest and returns home to Chicago. After Hatcher witnesses and interferes in a public battle between two drug cartels, one of the groups seeks revenge on Hatcher and his family. Hatcher springs into action. With a little assistance from an old Vietnam buddy and another drug official, they manage to come out on top.

I thoroughly enjoyed this movie despite the amount of violence and the slight wave of nausea I experienced from the camera bouncing occasionally.

Marked For Death possesses an interesting plot that incorporates many different aspects, yet is not overly complex. The music and camera techniques nicely complement the story and contribute more suspense and eeriness.

But I noticed that the camera would close in on some scenes, making them seem very claustrophobic and adding anxiety to the situation.

An underlying theme of the movie deals with religion. The first couple of scenes foreshadow the importance of religion with a church in the background and people wearing thick, visible, gold crosses around their necks. Religion is brought into the picture when Hatcher goes to a confessional to evaluate his life, and also because the drug cartel sometimes participates in black magic. Many of their beliefs and alliances stem from this spooky religious affiliation, which makes the plot even more unusual.

This flick contained all the needed characteristics for a super production. It was full of fast-paced action that never allowed you to take your eyes off the screen. I would definitely recommend *Marked For Death*.

Epic Club sponsors successful poetry reading

By Heather Jelley
Staff Writer

Seven Alma College students shared their works of poetry with a captivated audience during the Halloween Poetry hosted by the English Club (EPIC) in Swanson Academic Center last Monday evening, Oct. 29.

The writers who volunteered to read their works at the informal event were Kay Dunker, Erin Fenner, Eric Richardson, Reid Sisson, Cathy Swender, RJ Webber, and Gang Wu.

Kay Dunker prefaced her reading saying, "I normally don't write poems, but every once in a while the urge strikes me."

The audience were impressed with the wide range of topics expressed in the students' works. These included a reaction to Aldous Huxley's book, *Brave New World*, a day at the office,

the changing seasons, love, the environmental indifference of Robert Frost, family relationships, and a humorous childhood remembrance of Halloween.

RJ Webber stated, "I like to see the varying styles - not just looking at the great poets."

department. Wu revealed, "I would like to express my feelings in the poetry, the feeling in my heart—my sadness, my happiness." He related his experience to a song by ABBA which says, "I have a dream, a song to sing."

At the small reception held afterward, complete with cider and donuts, Bill Johnston commented on the need for such event, "Students have as much to say as Maxine Kumin and this is a good way for students to show off what they have done."

This is the second reading sponsored by EPIC and member, Erin

Fenner, who was in charge of the event expressed, "I think it was a success and I hope we are able to do more in the future and I would encourage all students to participate."

"Students have as much to say as Maxine Kumin and this is a good way for students to show off what they have done."

...Bill Johnston

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Students relate off-campus joys, pains

By David D. Woodruff
Staff Writer

The books, the notes and the fellow students may all be familiar, but the living situation is not. Gone are the resident assistants closing doors, college employees cleaning in the bathroom every morning, and the stress of dealing with the hassles of the Alma College phone system. Students enjoy freedom from college bureaucracy rules and regulations. In a college where a majority of the students are kept under the watchful eye of the administration in the dormitories, a select few enjoy many of the comforts which most of us left behind in our hometowns. A small number of Alma College students are allowed to live off campus, enjoying many of the benefits, but also dealing with the drawbacks.

"It's a totally different world," said Kevin Pike, a sophomore who shares a two bedroom townhouse with his sister. "We wanted to learn how to take care of ourselves. We wanted to know what to expect in the real world. Everyone wants a place of their own and we had the opportunity to get one."

College students generally enjoy freedom from paying bills or encountering leaky roofs or landlords until after they have completed their schooling. The students who choose to live off-campus have plunged themselves into the real world while the rest continue to have Marriott Food Service cook their meals a day and clean the dishes afterwards.

"There's a lot more responsibility...you've got your bills, you have to buy utensils, toilet paper; you learn how to handle your money properly," said Chad Smith as he flipped through the channels of his cable TV. A sophomore, he shares a basement apartment a few steps east of the railroad tracks. His barcalounge is one of the few pieces of furniture that occupy the living room. The area is filled with furniture which appears to have been passed down through several households. Two lamps sit on simple tables at both ends of a sectional couch, while a large beanbag, strategically placed in front of the television, is the focal point of the room. Two deer head hang from the walls, one peering out from behind sunglasses, and the other sporting a bandana. The sink is filled with dishes waiting to be scrubbed.

"I can't stand doing dishes, I usually let 'em pile up," he said laughing.

JoAnna Beals and Amy Anderson do not think much about the added responsibility.

"Paying bills is no big deal. We just have to do our normal housework as we would do in the dorm," said Beals. The two live in a sparse apartment nestled between the Side Door Bar and

Dars Dinette. The walls are covered with Salvador Dali prints and construction paper with quotes from Nietzsche scrawled across them.

"It's a totally different place...not like anything else on campus. We don't have to worry about other people, no RA, no mother, no stupid rules. We've got a bar next door; we don't have to worry about noise!" said Beals.

Students give a variety of reasons for wanting to live off campus. Having their own financial reasons, or just a craving for independence are common reasons.

No matter how strong a student's desire to live off-campus, the administration would prefer that students live on-campus. The College requires students to live in the residence halls or in the small housing units run under the auspices of the college; however, there are a number of exceptions. Married students, those living with parents or carrying a class load of less than eight credits are automatically excused. Those who merely express a desire to find a place of their own must convince the school that they have special needs, whether physical, mental, or emotional, which cannot be met in the residence halls.

"People should be allowed to live on or off campus," said Beals, "You shouldn't be required to pay for your room and board."

Academically, the benefits of living off-campus are numerous.

"It's peaceful and quiet with less distractions," said Smith as he continued to flip through the channels.

But being removed from

campus can cause some drawbacks in one's social life. Friends who used to run down the hall to visit will think twice about a ten minute walk in the cold or in the rain if that friend now lives several blocks away.

"You're always with your friends in the dorms," said Pike. He added that in the dorm, he could study, take breaks, or just hang out with his friends. When one lives off campus, these social exchanges become less spontaneous events.

Nonetheless, almost all of the students would never want to go back into the residence halls. They have been spoiled by the benefits of living on their own.

"You get a more homey feeling," says Smith. "You don't feel like you're in the bubble; you can always escape and get away from it. There isn't any stuff falling from the ceiling," added Smith laughing, referring to the insulated ceilings. "I can sleep with my mouth open."

"It's so much more comfortable because it's yours," added Amy Anderson, echoing Smith's comments.

Students who live outside of the bubble of our eighty square acre campus will continue to enjoy the comforts and advantages, as well as the added responsibilities, which those of us living on campus are prevented from experiencing. In the future it is inevitable that we will all have to deal with bills, leaky roofs and landlords sometime in our lives. This limited group of students, for each of their own personal reasons, has chosen to deal with those now.

Students make a difference to 'at risk' students

By Troy Jaffe
Staff Writer

Alma College has launched a new mentor program which places its students in contact with at-risk youth. The program, which is coordinated on campus by Susan Root, professor of education, is one of several nationwide designed to "encourage at-risk youth to lead more productive lives."

Alma is working with inner-city Saginaw youth who have been identified as being at-risk. Mike Manley, coordinator for the entire Saginaw

Mentoring Program, explains that "factors placing students at-risk include poverty, drugs, teenage pregnancy, and crime."

The program began last spring when the youth, all of whom are in the fourth to eighth grade, visited the Alma campus. They attended several presentations, ate in the cafeteria, and were exposed to college life in general.

Alma students then volunteered this year to help the Saginaw children. Each college student is matched with an at-risk youth and can either tutor him or her academically or become a writing

buddy.

Ronnie Kledzik, a first-year student participating in the Writing Buddies Program, explains the program's purpose. "The youths need role models. If their parents haven't gone to school, they don't have anyone to encourage them to continue their education." She hopes to be able to provide the necessary encouragement to her new friend.

Root emphasizes that the program has advantages for both sides. "Not just the at-risk youth," she declares, "but also the college

students benefit. Alma students can develop tutoring and leadership skills through the mentor program." She adds that the program is an especially good experience for education majors. Junior Shannon Smith, a participant in the

program, agrees. "We don't see that many at-risk kids in Alma," the education major continues, "so this is a valuable experience for us, too."

Root estimates that over 60 Alma students are currently participating in the mentor program. Nonetheless, there are still many at-risk youth who have not yet been paired with a mentor. Says Root, "We want and need all the help we can get."

"The youths need role models. If their parents haven't gone to school, they don't have anyone to encourage them to continue their education."

...Ronnie Kledzik

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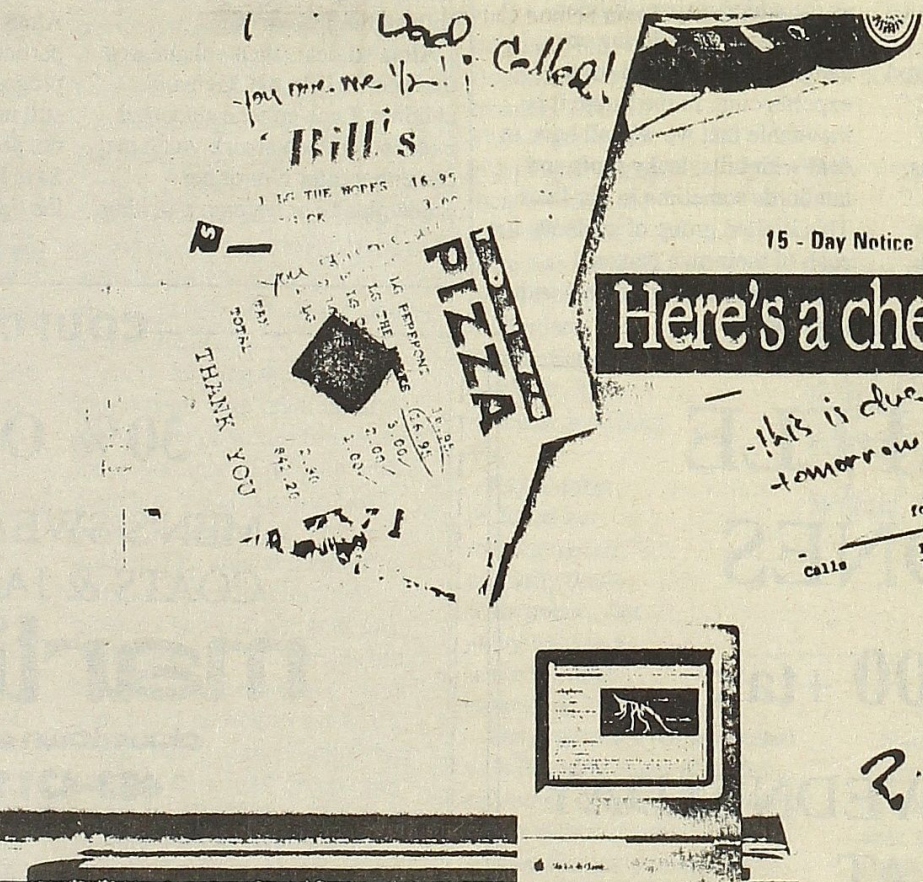
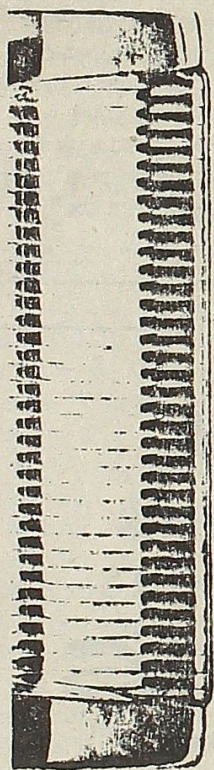
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Arnold follows in family tradition

By Shannon Nichols
Sports Editor

We have almost all at one time or another watched a sporting event, but how many of us have gone out of our way to watch a cross country race? For that matter how many of us think of cross country when we are discussing sport in general? Ask Bill Arnold's family and one may get a slightly different response than the norm. Arnold, a senior captain on the Alma College cross country team, comes from a family of runners. His three older brothers were all runners at Beaverton High School where Arnold attended high school.

"We all ran for the high school and each one of us broke each other's records. My older brothers were definitely my role models I saw them run all the time so I started and now it is an important part of my life," said Arnold.

As for what keeps him running, it is as much for the competition as it is for the pure enjoyment. He said, "I enjoy the competition and that is a big part of why I run on the team here, but I also run for the pure enjoyment. I feel like it relieves a lot of stress for me, it has become a major part of my daily routine I don't feel right if I don't run every day."

Arnold believes that running on a team adds to the experience of cross country running. "I look forward to the season, as much as

this sport can be individual it is also very team orientated. We push each other, it is not a negative competition, it is all friendly," said Arnold.

Not a cross country runner myself, in fact I would not even call myself a cross-the-street runner, I had a lot of questions about what pushes these rare athletes to keep going. When asked about this, Arnold admitted it was not always easy to understand. He said, "I think it takes a cross country runner to understand another cross country runner. Cross country is not just endless running, there is a lot of strategy that goes into a race that people just don't realize. It is a sport based on dedication and focus, you really have to love what you are doing."

Outside of running, Arnold concentrates on his academics, and his position as assistant hall director of South Complex. Arnold is an EHS major, and plans on going into corporate fitness when he graduates. Arnold's major reflects his feelings on exercise in general. He said, "I believe exercise is the best way to prevent illness. When I first started running it was for enjoyment and competitive reasons, but as I get older I look at its' health benefits. Since this is the last year I will compete with a team, I am looking at running as a way to stay in shape for the rest of

my life."

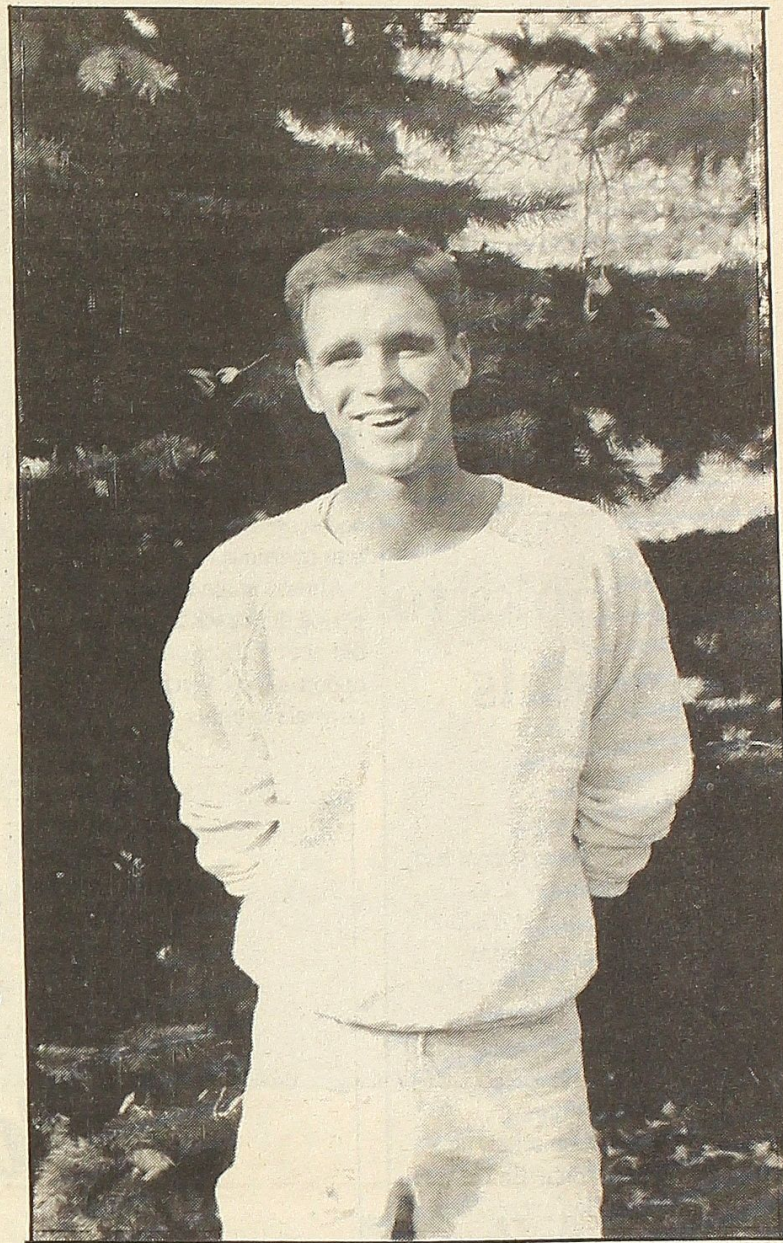
As Arnold reflected on what he wants in his future, he described his approach to life much like he would describe running in a race. "Success is obtaining the goals that you set for yourself and being happy in the things that you do."

Arnold, as senior captain of the team, has thought a lot about this being his last year and is both excited and hesitant. He said, "I am happy to be a senior, it has been a fun four years, but I will miss college life and I will miss the team a lot," commented Arnold.

Arnold has also given some thought about the team's future, "The team will be losing a lot of runners, but they will still be strong. There are some strong underclassmen, the biggest thing will be losing the depth and the experience of the graduating seniors."

As a whole, Arnold is very happy with his years on the Alma College cross country team. The team is competing for second place in the league, behind Calvin College, and will have a chance to prove themselves in league competition and regionals.

"We have our league match on Nov. 3, and regionals the following weekend. We are hoping to place second in regionals (again behind Calvin) and that would qualify us for nationals," said Arnold.



Athlete of the week, Bill Arnold.

Photo by R.J. Webber

Alma College football ends disappointing season

By Bill Johnston
Staff Writer

Alma College's offense failed to get on track and the defense allowed two early touchdowns as the Albion College Britons

clinched the MIAA football title. The Britons shut out the Scots 29-0.

Albion jumped to a 13-0 lead halfway through the first period. Junior tailback Hank Wineman

scored on a two yard run on Albion's first drive, and quarterback Mike Montico (15 of 26 for 237 yards and two touchdowns) connected with tight end Pat Ong for a 16-yard strike.

The Scots (3-6, 0-5 in the conference) accumulated a meager 141 yards total offense, compared to Albion's 423. The Scots managed only 8 first downs, five coming in the second half. Meanwhile, Wineman set the Albion record for yards rushing in a season, as he finished with 1200 yards, rushing for over 100 yards in every game he played.

"We had to stop their running game," said Alma head coach Phil Brooks. "They knew it and threw short control passes. That got us off balance, and they set up the run."

Alma's defense shut the Britons scoring off until late in the first half when Albion engineered a drive down to the Alma three. The Scots held for three downs, forcing the Britons to kick a field goal with 10 seconds remaining in the half. Commenting on the revitalized defense, senior linebacker Brooks Byam said, "It's just pride. When you're out there, you're playing football and you're going to win."

The Scots' offense failed to

produce any significant drives during the game. Their deepest penetration of Albion territory amounted to a mere five yards (to the Albion 45) and they only crossed midfield twice.

"It isn't that we didn't try," said Brooks. "We played hard, but we didn't do anything as a team. We had an inefficient offense, but the effort, intensity level and emotion were there."

The Albion defense kept the pressure on the Scots all day, pancaking Alma ball carriers three times during the second half. The usually reliable Steve Kinne completed only 9 of 26 passes for 23 yards. However, many of his passes were dropped or bounced off the receiver's fingertips. "They have an excellent defense and a speedy secondary," said Brooks.

The Scots' offense continued to falter in the second half. Albion picked up a touchdown in each period to pad their victory.

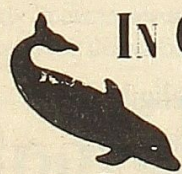
The final game of the season also marks the final game of the college careers of several fine seniors. "The seniors are disappointed they didn't have a better year," said Brooks, "but they grew a lot as individuals and left something that can be built upon."

"You never end on a down note," said senior safety Rob Ronk. "No one's ever a loser unless they don't give all they have."

"I've had a real good time," said Byam. "With the Division III atmosphere, there's not a lot of pressure - it's fun football. I enjoyed Coach Brooks tremendously. I loved my four years here underneath him ..."

Senior linebacker Robert Wegener echoed Byam's comments. "This season's been a disappointment, but the reason you play Division III football is to have fun. As far as my career goes, I'm satisfied and proud of it. We had new defensive coaches this year, and they turned the defense around. We played a lot better with less talent than last year. The young guys they brought in were excellent coaches."

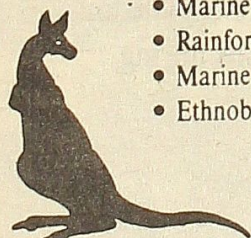
Brooks remains optimistic about next year's program. As Byam pointed out, this year was a "rebuilding year, a learning year." Said Brooks, "I'm excited about next year. We started seven freshmen this year, and we've got a lot of young kids. We need to beef up the offensive line and find a quarterback."



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Women's soccer wraps up an improved second year

By Scott Rea

Assistant Sports Editor

The MIAA women's soccer tournament drew to a close the Alma College women's soccer team's season. The Lady Scots finished with a 2-6-1 conference record (2-12-1 overall). The Lady Scots finished their season with a win against Olivet College and a loss to Albion College.

Olivet's match took the Lady Scots by surprise. After a 4-0 regular season win by Alma, an

easy win was expected. Once again, the injuries of senior Doreen Walter and senior Kathy Dunbar greatly hindered both the offense and defense. Although the play was kept in Olivet's end for most of the match, something was missing on offense. Alma battled for much of the first half, and in the closing minutes, Amy White connected to give the Lady Scot the first half lead. Alma kept the lead until midway through the second half when Olivet managed to catch Alma's defense off guard and scored and forced the match into overtime.

Alma dominated the overtime period, however the Lady Scots did not capitalize on scoring opportunities. Overtime yielded no goals to either squad, and as

the tournament rules state, the match was decided by a shoot-out.

In the shoot-out, sophomore Amy Gilmore, senior Janet Webster, and sophomore Emily Shaw all converted to give the Lady Scots the 3-2 shoot-out decision and the exciting 2-1 win. Sophomore goalie Tracy Ripper stopped two Olivet penalty kicks in the shoot out.

The following morning the Scots faced Albion for the battle of fifth place in the MIAA. It turned out to be one of the most unpredictable matches of the season. Senior captain Michelle Wemple opened up the scoring for the Lady Scots on a corner kick, deflecting it off one of Albion's defenders. Later in the

half, an attempt to clear the ball from Alma's defensive end, a fluke deflection between two Alma players, handed Albion an unforced goal and forced the game into overtime. For the second time in two days, the game ended in a shoot out. This time 3 out of 4 Alma players failed to convert, handing the win and fifth place in the MIAA to Albion.

Overall, it was an emotional end to a tough season for the Lady Scots. The Scots will be wishing farewell to seniors Nancy McIntyre, Kathy Dunbar, Doreen Walter, Janet Webster, and Michelle Wemple. Wemple's absence on next year's squad will be one of the biggest losses. One teammate said, "Michelle is the center of the team both on and off

the field." First year student Kelly McCoy said, "(She's) our team's most valuable player. She's a very well-rounded athlete, with speed, power, and ball control."

The statistics for the fall season do not reflect the attitude of the players. Junior Heather Ruppel commented, "The team worked hard despite all the injuries, and most of the games we lost were only by one or two goals."

The Lady Scots look to improve their record in their third season as a varsity sport. As sophomore Amy Gilmore said, "The season has been like a puzzle and we seem to be missing only one piece. Hopefully next year our existing talent and some recruits will fill the void."

CC looks to regionals

By Rob Longstreet

Staff Writer

Alma's cross-country team had another great Saturday, thus proving once again that it is one of the top running programs around. The men and women's teams both finished 2nd in Saturday's MIAA championship, ending an outstanding season of dual-meet competition.

Junior Sarah Braunreiter, the premier woman runner in the MIAA, finished in first place (19:23) in the women's division. Junior Michelle Snyder also had an exceptional race finishing 4th (19:55). Alma was backed by strong finishes from junior Lori Chura, 13th (20:50), first year student Angie Thomas, 17th (20:59), first year student Jackie Cullum, 18th (21:03), junior Jen Gradowski, 19th (21:16), and sophomore Leslie Dryer, 20th (21:21). Braunreiter and Snyder received first team all-MIAA honors, while Chura received 2nd team honors. The Scots are ranked 20th in the nation at this time.

Senior Matt Chovanec led Alma's men runners, finishing in 5th place with a great time of 26:56. Senior Chris Jonas, 11th (27:11), and junior Evan McGrath, 13th (27:15), also had outstanding races for Alma. They were followed by junior Bill Huddleston, 18th (27:51), senior Steve Cassar, 28th (28:40), first year student Rich Gray, 32nd (29:12), and junior Steve Gardner, 33rd (29:13). Junior Mike Holik had a great race in the men's J.V. division. Chovanec received first team all-MIAA honors, while Jonas and McGrath received second team honors.

The Scots' season now comes down to this weekend's all-important regional meet; an invitation to the national meet will be decided. Alma's women runners must win the meet to receive a national bid, while Alma's men must finish second. Coach Gray is confident his runners will be up for the challenge.

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Men's soccer loses final two matches

By Rob Longstreet
Staff Writer

Alma's men's soccer team finished a season of steady improvement with two discouraging losses last week to Albion College and the University of Michigan.

On Monday, the Scots were defeated by Albion 2-1. The Scots played hard and had control of the game up until the last five minutes, when the Brits scored two quick goals to steal the victory. Alma finished MIAA competition with a 4-8 record.

On Tuesday, the Scots hosted an impressive University of Michigan team and were defeated 5-2. First year student Jake Carney scored the first goal for Alma. Junior Karl Leas scored on a penalty kick for Alma's second goal.

Although the Scots finished the season with an overall 7-11-1 record, any fan will tell you the teams improvement and effort is not reflected in this statistics.

"We improved a lot," said sophomore Jerry Thompson, "our record doesn't really show that... I think next year we will continue to improve and move up in the MIAA."

Junior Karl Leas said, "It was basically a building year. Next year we will have a lot of experienced sophomore and juniors. Towards the end of this year we started to get more chances to score... we are very hopeful about next year."

Sophomore David Lee reiterated his teammates comments. He said, "We improved so much at the end of the season, I hope it will continue into next season."

Senior Keith Brodie, a four year team member, talked about the strides the team has made this year and in recent years. "Since Jim Chinery, Mark Leibel and I were freshmen, the program has changed a lot... new uniforms, fan support and team pride has helped move the whole program forward. Every year we have made constant and noticeable improvement."

"I think the team will be very good next year," continued Brodie, "Even though we weren't winning all of the games this year, we played with a lot of emotion. This team has a lot of heart. There is much anticipation for next season."



Jim Chinery evades defensive player.

Photo by R.J. Webber

Lady Scots take second in MIAA

By Scott Rea
Assistant Sports Editor

The Alma College women's volleyball team finished their 1990 season by defeating the Flying Dutchwomen of Hope College. The Lady Scots won the match in four games. The games were hard fought by each side, but in the end it was the Lady Scots who ended up on top. The win put the Lady Scots in second place in the league for the second

consecutive year. As this season ends, the team is already thinking about next season. Although the Lady Scots will be losing two seniors, captains Laura Holmes and Shannon Nichols, to graduation this year, they believe that the team will be competitive in the league next year.

"We had a good season and we faced a lot of strong competition. We took second in a very competitive league. I am looking

forward to next year, and though it will be very hard to fill the places of the graduating seniors, we will still be a tough team to beat," said Sophomore Laura Atkinson.

Mari Scheub the only first year player on this year's varsity team said, "It was both exciting and frustrating being a freshman, but I had a lot of support from the team. I think we have a lot of work to do if we want to beat

teams like Kalamazoo next year."

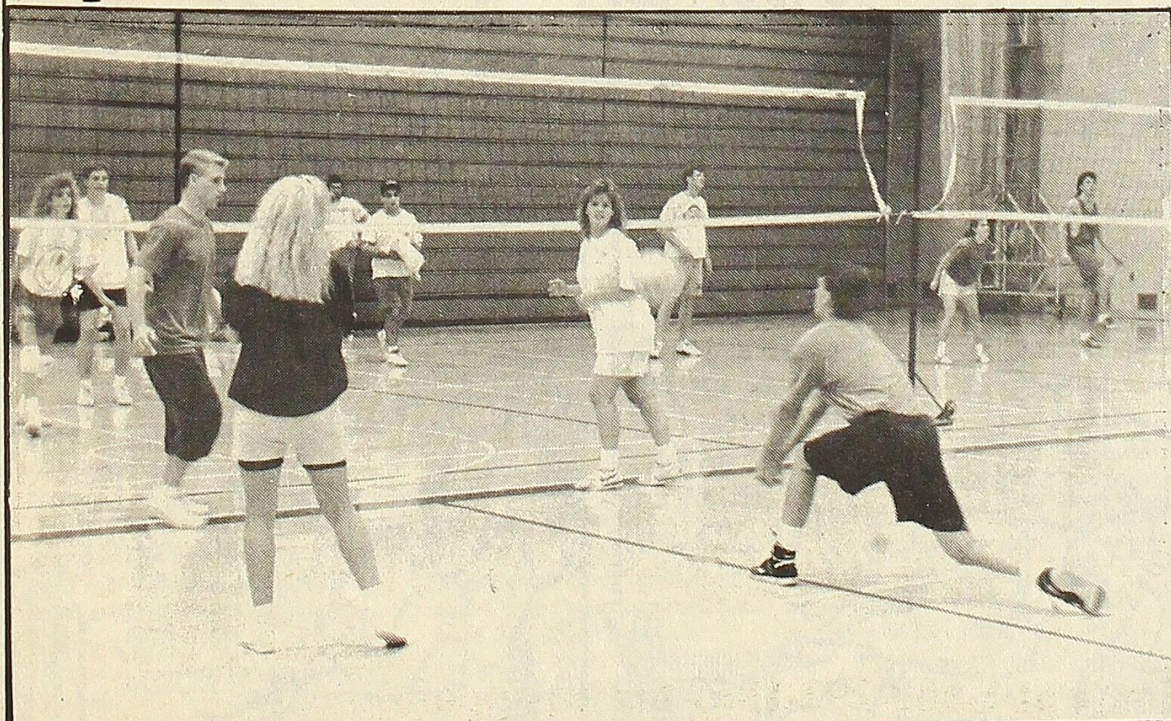
After taking second place for the second year, some members were disappointed. "It was kind of disappointing that we didn't reach our goal of winning the league, especially since we had the capability to do it. As for next year, I think it is too bad that we won't be returning with our whole team, the graduating seniors will be a big loss, but we still plan on being in the running for the

league championship," said junior Bev Brown.

"We kept improving this year and we had a lot more fun as we got better, but we still have a lot to prove to ourselves and to the league. We are going to have a hard time filling the shoes of our two seniors," said junior Cindy Howell.

"I feel like I could have accomplished more, and the season went by too fast," said senior Holmes.

Sports Feature Photo

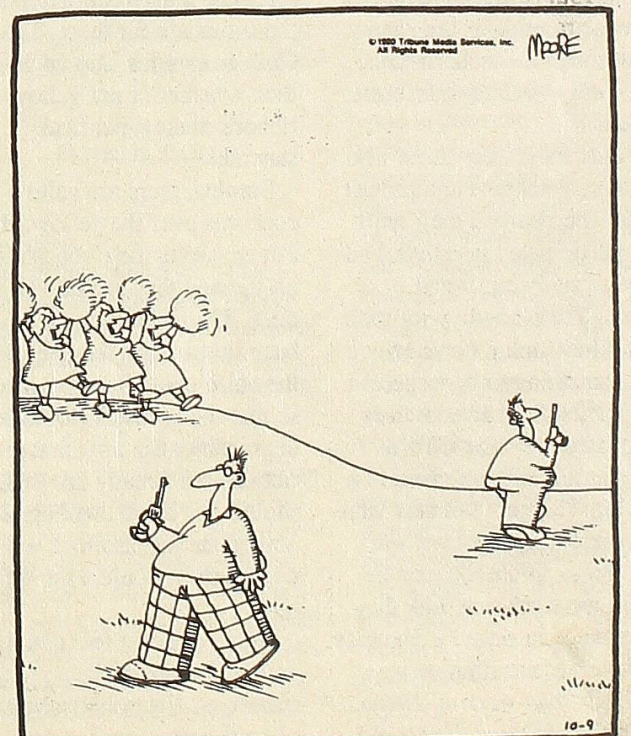


Jason Martin passes ball during intramural competition.

Photo by R.J. Webber

In the Bleachers

By Steve Moore



Booth displays rule of censorship

By Rebecca Murray
Staff Writer

You can be totally unfamiliar with how to use a computer and still find the delete key beckoning you from somewhere on the keyboard. Just by pressing this nifty key a few times, you can eliminate an entire word or sentence. Does our society today also have one of these delete keys? Somebody is pushing something that is eliminating certain things from our lives. Who is in control of this key? Where will this censorship stop? Will it stop? If we live in a country based on freedom, then why is someone else taking away our right to decide if we want to be exposed to certain things?

Phillip Booth's black and white print, *Hear No Evil, See No Evil*, was on display in the Clack Art Gallery last week. In this picture, he is protesting the increasing power of censorship. His message is that a line needs to be drawn where censorship's power should end. This is a statement I strongly agree with. It may seem that censorship is trivial now, but it

could lead to the eventual end of our freedom of choice.

The picture is a scene of a living room. In the center there is a man sleeping on a lazy-boy. Also in the room is a rough outline of a man. This figure is putting black hand prints on books, stereo speakers, a painting, alcohol, cigarettes, the American flag, and a television. Underneath the room is a large animal trap with the words, "Hear No Evil, See No Evil," on it. The teeth of the trap are coming up through the floor of the room.

Booth works a lot with color. This may come as a surprise since the picture is in black and white. However, black is commonly associated with evil and white with good. The only truly white object in this picture is the figure representing censorship. I think this figure represents all the people that have control over censorship. Obviously, these people must believe they know what is good for us. Therefore, this figure is white. The hand prints mark things that the figure believes to be evil or bad.

Therefore, they are black. The rest of the picture is gray. This could show that society is a mixture of good and evil. But with continued censorship, this picture should be a radiant white, right?

Booth has a lot of symbolism in his subject matter. Some of the books on the bookshelf are titled *Rap, Rock Music, Apathy, Art, Religion, 2 Live Crew, Speech, Phillip Booth, The Catcher in the Rye, Pure Trash, and Bull Shit*. These represent things that have been censored and may be censored in the future.

Booth has hand prints on a bottle of liquor and a pack of cigarettes. This shows that there could be a resurrection of the prohibition and laws made forbidding cigarette smoking. The hand prints on the TV illustrate the control censorship has on what we view. In the future there could be only one channel or show that the censors feel is appropriate for us to watch. Even if we do not want to smoke or drink or watch some television shows, the freedom to make those decisions should be very

important to us.

There are also hand prints on a painting on the wall and on the stereo speakers. This represents that censorship has already and will continue seeping its way into the fields of art and music, destroying some brilliant masterpieces from the past and the future.

I think the form with the most meaning is the American flag with the censorship hand prints on it. If we are to let censorship run its course, then this represents how the idea of freedom that flag holds will be censored also. We will live in a society of the censor's decisions, not in a society of the people's decisions. And isn't that what America is supposed to be all about? A land of people who have the freedom of choice.

Booth's picture also shows us how many people are sitting around with their "backs to censorship," oblivious to what is happening around them, kind of like the man in the chair. Many Americans may not realize what is happening until it is too late.

The man in the chair may not awake until his entire living room is covered with black hand prints. The trap is the largest object in the picture. This shows what a tight grip censorship has on our lives, tighter than we may realize. By having the man in the center of the picture, I believe Booth shows that the outcome of this situation revolves entirely around the actions of society. This picture is telling people to take a stand for what they believe in. And if they believe in their freedom of choice, then they must do something to control censorship. I believe this is good advice to listen to.

The powerful hand with the finger on society's delete button is starting to exercise their power more and more frequently. Americans need to use their freedoms while they still have them to speak up and drain the strength this hand has. Phillip Booth's picture, *Hear No Evil, See No Evil*, is a powerful statement that everyone should listen to. It screams, "Censor censorship before it's too late. It is affecting everyone, even you."

Making yellow ribbons an issue is ridiculous

By Sara Groves
Staff Writer

We are all too young to remember this country during the Vietnam War, but we have all seen its effects and its devastating aftermath. This country was torn in two during the 1960's and 1970's: those against the war and those for the war.

Thousands of men were drafted and sent to defend our interests. They went, often fresh out of high school, to fight and kill in a land they had only read about. People our age, sitting in jungles, covered by sweat and bugs, waiting...traipsing through villages where a single wrong move could mean the loss of a leg or even the loss of their life....hiding in rice paddies surrounded by human and animal excrement, waiting as the enemy pokes through the stalks nearest them...simply waiting-to kill-or to be killed.

And then there were those who chose to stay at home and protest the war. They burned their draft cards, participated in rallies, and questioned and challenged authority. They stood up for their beliefs. They took a stand, which is also something to be respected.

But, they rallied against their own countrymen. The United States was not only involved in a conflict in Vietnam, but they were also participating in a civil war here at home. Often the men in Vietnam were not sure why they were engaged in war. Maybe they were there because they were drafted. Or they were in Vietnam because they felt that they owed this country something for the

life it had given to them. All they knew was that they were there, and in order to survive, they had to fight.

But the people at home were against U.S. involvement in Vietnam, and often they were against the soldiers upon their return home. Some Vietnam veterans were ashamed to wear their uniforms or to admit that they had been a part of it.

I cannot imagine putting my life on the line for my country, perhaps losing a limb or many of my good friends, suffering through sheer torture for two years to come home, only to be ridiculed once I had finally returned.

And now, this campus is at a civil war. There are people who are against the yellow ribbons and those that are for them. The Alma College campus is in an upheaval over whether or not yellow ribbons make a political statement.

Granted, there are valid concerns over the yellow ribbons. For example, the ribbons are plastic and they are stapled to trees. The ribbons could have been tied around the trees, and they also could have been cotton, so that the material would be biodegradable. But now that the ribbons are already up, I think we should just leave them up. They will create just as much waste now as they would a month from now.

Finally, I don't feel that the yellow ribbons make a political statement. Historically, yellow ribbons have signified that someone you know is involved in

a conflict. I have a yellow ribbon up to show support for my best friend who is currently in Saudi Arabia. I don't consider myself a war monger because my name is on a yellow ribbon. I just feel that this is one more way that I can remember my best friend and show that I am thinking of him. It also shows to others that he is over there, and reminds them to think of the soldiers in Saudi Arabia. The yellow ribbons do not mean that I support our presence

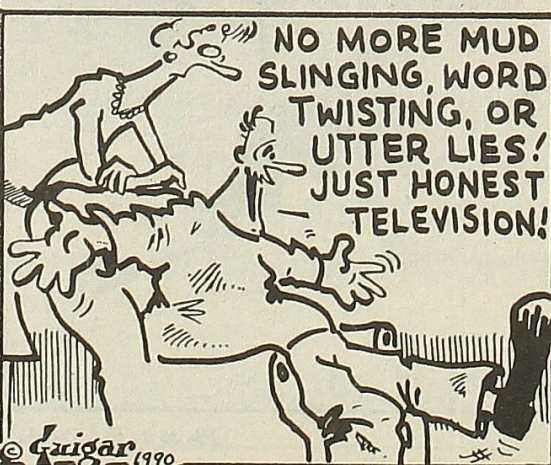
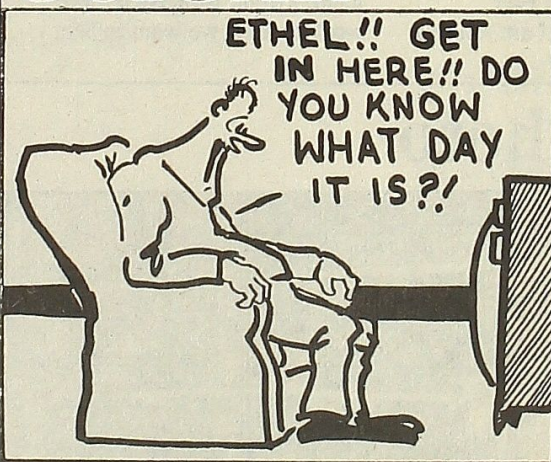
in Saudi Arabia. As a matter of fact, I am against it. I want a peaceful end to this conflict, just as many of the soldiers who are over there do, as well as their parents, their friends and most of the people of the United States.

The yellow ribbon-white ribbon conflict on this campus is just a demonstration of the selfishness here. I cannot believe that we are so divided on such a ridiculous issue. At a time such as this, we should pull together

and support all of the soldiers. We should hang up the white ribbons as well as the yellow ribbons. We need to pull together and be conscious objectors to our presence in Saudi Arabia. Perhaps if this country had not been divided in two, we would not have lost so many lives to the Vietnam War. We should ALL be praying for a peaceful resolution. We should ALL support peace because it is what we all need and desire.

GUIGAR

by Brad Guigar



Dear Editor:

On Alumni Day (October 13) I had a good time re-visiting Alma College even though I am not an "official" alumnus.

I spoke with faculty and staff, who remembered me as a student. It was also fun touring places I knew back in 1980.

One year after I enrolled, I left Alma College, for many different reasons that I cannot explain. But one thing in particular bothered me: the intolerant atmosphere on campus. There came a time when I said that I could take so much, so I decided to transfer.

Intolerance came in three forms: against people of color, women, and lesbians and gays. It was not just the time I heard of African American students who were confronted on campus and told to go back where they came from. There seemed to be a general atmosphere at Alma College that said: "For whites only."

In town I also found an atmosphere full of race and hatred and bigotry. For example, I visited Alma High School while researching an article I wanted to write. Touring the hallways, I heard a group of kids call an Asian student a "gook." Later the Assistant Principle claimed that the students were just trying to be friendly. That was a friendliness that I did not want to know about.

At Alma College women were also treated like second class citizens. I did not hear their comments or remarks treated with respect by students. During the Alumni Days, I heard one Alma College student approach a woman handing out yearbooks and call her "honey." It was clear that he did not say "honey" to endear himself to her or because he knew her, but because he was condescending. That kind of condescending attitude to women was all too familiar to me in my student days.

Hatred and fear of a lesbians and gays was particularly prevalent when I was enrolled at Alma College. I doubt that such homophobic feelings have changed much, especially with the AIDS crisis. Author Mike Lew has rightly labelled this irrational hatred "homophobia"—literally a "phobia" of homosexuality. At Alma College lesbians and gays were expected to remain "in the closet" and never tell anyone their true feelings. This is tragic when one considers that if current estimates are correct, ten percent of Alma College's population is probably lesbian or gay.

When I was a student, everyone assumed that everyone else was heterosexual. There seemed to be a clear threat to the established majority when on expressed or acted on one's homosexual feelings. This phenomenon is also tragic, since according to Urvashi Vaid of the National Gay Task Force, 78% of teenage suicides or suicide attempts are the result of a person's reaction to homophobic prejudice. Adolescent women and men fear what will happen to them if Mom or Dad find out that they are a lesbian or gay, or worry that their best friends will desert them, or the minister will exclude them, etc.

I would hope that the campus atmosphere at Alma College would change in ten years, but I doubt it. People of color still face uphill struggles against racism and racist thinking. Women must deal with the fact that our patriarchal society oppresses them. Lesbians and gays often have nowhere to turn, fearing backlash.

Books such as Chris Glaser's Uncommon Calling are absent from

the library's shelves. Students must struggle if they are to survive in an increasingly racist, sexist, homophobic, and SELFISH campus culture.

Let us change our beliefs if we can, just a bit. If not many of us be forced to change our surroundings. (Alma's attrition rate may, thus, be solved.)

Good luck to all of you in your studies.

Nick S. Thorndike ('84)

Dear Editor:

Recently I was disturbed by the mild scorn expressed by a student for what she called the "weird lyrics" of our Alma Mater. She was referring to the "Jungle, Grove and Campus fair." She took issue with the first two items. It struck me that perhaps the Jungle and Grove are only mentioned briefly at the annual Traditions dinner, and that therefore students have little or no understanding of what they praise in song at least twice yearly.

Because I grew up in this town, I remember both the college Jungle and the Grove. I would like to share with the campus community what these places meant to me as a child and also clarify what they may have meant to Alma College students in the 1960's and earlier.

The Grove was a thick stand of very old trees which lived out their quiet existence where the South Complex now squats. A few lucky survivors remain around the President's house. You've seen them: they are tall and stately. Imagine a grove of them with a canopy so thick that during the summer and early fall very little light penetrated. There was hardly any undergrowth, mostly spaces between wide trunks and a mystical, chapel-like ambience. Spirits lived in those trees, fairies and nymphs in hiding. When I was in elementary school, my friends and I had two choices. We could either walk on the north side of Superior St. in front Old Main (later replaced by S.A.C.), visit several buckeye trees, stuff our pockets to bulging with the shy, smooth "chestnuts" and be late for school; or we could walk on the south side of Superior, take a detour through the magical Grove, invoke the wizards to cast spells against all who might otherwise beat us at marbles, and be late for school. It was a difficult choice and frequent source of argument.

But the college Jungle was my favorite haven. It was a wooded area crisscrossed with paths, and I spent much of my childhood in the security of its verdant grasp. My friends and I road bikes up and down the paths. We climbed trees and in their branches ate Kool-Aid by dipping our indexes into the packets and licking off the delicious sugar (I had a much more colorful mouth those days). We gathered leaves and preserved them in wax paper. We brought our dogs and sack lunches. For the squirrels, we left bread. We built forts from logs "borrowed" from a pile on the Jungle's edge. These forts were elaborate castles with roofs and four or five chambers. When our feudal enemies destroyed them in our absence, we built them anew.

In 1966, when I was nine years old, I watched cranes and bulldozers raze the college Jungle to make way for Bruske Hall. The Grove met a similar demise several years later. In each case, only a few trees were left to stand sentinel over scores of memories.

Not just my own. Dr. Lester Eyer, Prof. Emeritus of Biology, tells me that when he was a student and young

professor at Alma during the 1930s and 40s, faculty and students held annual spring picnics in the Grove in celebration of "Campus Day." Classes were cancelled, and the whole community scoured and relieved the Campus of litter in her bushes, of the discarded blue books with which she had insulated herself against the cold. A Campus Day Queen presided over the activities, and there were tugs-of-war across the river. In the late 50s and 60s, canoe races replaced tugs-of-war. Dr. Eugene Pattison, chair of the English Department, recalls May Pole Dances in or near the Jungle when he was a student in the 50s.

Because I lorded over these wooded areas in the 60s, I don't remember the bird-banding station, nor do I recall peeking from the bushes at students frolicking around a May Pole. But I knew that many college students appreciated and gravitated towards the Grove and Jungle as I did. It's just that they were "old" and did boring things there. As a rule I never paid much attention to them. In the recesses of my mind, however, I carry images which make sense today because I now understand the academic and social realities of college life which would explain the students' presence. These are a few of the images I carry: three students sitting quietly in a glade with their books open and pencils bobbing; a young woman wrapped in a blanket and sitting against a tree, her head back, eyes closed; an athlete doing chin-ups in privacy on a horizontal branch; a black-bearded fellow gesticulating and talking to himself (an actor practicing his lines?); couples exchanging intimate words and caresses. There were lots of those.

Students, I entreat you: if ever you need mental space, seek refuge under one of the few remaining trees near South Complex or north of Bruske. Imagine how such natural enclosures might enhance the psychological distance you momentarily seek from intellectual challenges or from people with whom you're upset. On the other hand, think of how these wooded areas would be conducive to learning for a variety of reasons. Listen with your mind's ear for the busy chatter of kids who don't care or engaged in their own forms of learning. Put yourself in the picture: imagine yourself picnicking, and sharing quiet moments with a special friend.

Perhaps then you will understand why Prof. Roy Hamilton chose to include those "weird lyrics" when he composed the hymn of our school in the early 1920s. Memory holds a cherished picture: Jungle, Grove and Campus fair. We are a community because of the history we share. When we sing praise to our Alma Mater, our voices join those of all her children, all those who learned, laughed and loved before us and for whom it is our duty and pride to keep the picture, their picture is now ours, saturated with meaning and free of dust.

Julie Arnold
French Instructor

Dear Editor:

With regard to your thoughtful editorial of October 16 questioning housing opportunities: we also need to consider zoning ordinances and community relations, which complicate the College's ability to provide the housing you suggest.

There is no zoning problem for Sigma Chi or Zeta Sigma, which are fortunate to be in a block zoned in such a way that a zoning variance is

not required for students to live there. There is no problem for ΣAE, even on the single-family-residence side of Center Street, because they were there before the ordinance was adopted, and do not come under it. But for Theta Chi, TKE, Roach and Plaxton, the ordinance does apply, and the College must ask the City each year for permission to rent the students there.

In 1977, and in 1987, 1988, and 1990, neighbors expressed concerns or asked the City to deny one or more of the variances. It was charged in 1977 that they did so because the College had not offered to buy their homes and expand the campus. But surely, they also feared what students housing would do to the area, or what they later believed it had done.

Part of the ongoing problem is the way many students regard neighbors, who have a right, from long residence, to late-night quiet, clean yards, etc. Students need to respect those rights when visiting the residences of fellow students, and not use any "thirty-brother-thirty-sister-family" unit or other as a crash pad for the dull roar of the stereos, or as a party hangout.

Otherwise, community opinion could further nibble away at existing small housing. One neighbor said last summer that the College "corrected" the problem at Roach House in 1988 by assigning a different group of residents to it. His most recent target, as we must know by now, was TKE alone. If he or others are given cause to complain, another nine vulnerable students could be back in residence halls.

Substantial alumni or prior student tenants of TKE might consider any reassignment of "their" house a breach of faith, since their contributions or rent paid nearly \$25,000 toward remodeling so they could have a residence and social center to lease. But that would not move the City if the community had reasons to complain.

It is not time to assail motives of the community or of any particular residents in such matters; why not start by trying to be good neighbors? Save the counter-charges for public hearings, and only if all other good-faith good-will efforts fail. It is not time to criticize the College for not offering a "permanent solution to the housing shortage," when the problem has so many complex "corners" to it. Bratty scapegoating or claims about student economic benefits to the city won't help either.

It IS time to keep the edges of campus as pleasant to neighbors ALL the time as I for one found them on Homecoming Friday afternoon when every house from TKE to Sigma Chi was cleaning the yard and preparing to welcome alumni and families the next day.

Eugene H. Pattison

Dear Editor:

I am writing in response to the recent article Ribbons Stir Campus Objections in the October 30th issue of the Almanian. I think this whole yellow ribbon crusade is stupid for a multitude of reasons.

First, I object to the initial organization of the committee. When this committee was formed, every student received a memo informing us of the plan to tie yellow ribbons around trees and to assist students who would like to sponsor individual US soldiers. To the latter goal, I have no objections because it involves individual students spending their time, their money, and expressing

their personal opinion. However, these "symbolic" yellow ribbons were purchased with college funds and were on the trees two days after I received the memo, hardly enough time to organize any opposition to the committee's action. The student body is indeed greatly divided on this issue, but this is how the administration decided to spend everyone's money. This money should have gone towards paying the controversial 8 cent local phone call charges, something the entire student body agrees on rather than buying yellow and soon white ribbons which only litter our environment.

Further, the whole purpose of the ribbons was to show the soldiers that this college community supports them. It is obvious by the outcry of opposition that this is not the case. With such opposition to the ribbons and what they represent, how can we say that this college community is united its support of the soldiers? We can't truthfully and to believe otherwise is to support an outright lie. Therefore, I think the Yellow Ribbon Committee should be separated from the college administration and should get its funding through private fund raising.

Also, these ribbons represent hypocrisy. Ask yourself, who are these ribbons really for? Are they for the soldiers? I think not. Tell me, how many soldiers are going to know what we're doing? Of that small number of soldiers, how many are going to give a damn? I think you could count on one hand the number of soldiers who would answer yes to both questions. In reality, this whole charade is really aimed at easing our consciences and not the welfare of the soldiers. I've encountered a number of students who just don't care one way or the other. There are those who do feel strongly about this issue namely, the Yellow Ribbon Committee who sponsored the yellow ribbons and SPAN (students for peace and nonviolence) who oppose the yellow ribbons and have successfully lobbied for white cloth ribbons to represent world peace. For these people I suggest the following: circulate petitions around the campus calling on our Congressional leaders and the President to bring our troops home and bring about a peaceful resolution to this crisis; then, used funds gained through private fund raising to purchase space in newspapers and if enough money is raised, to purchase radio and tv time to express your point of view. If you are really serious about helping the soldiers or bringing about a peaceful resolution to the crisis then abandon the empty symbolism behind this whole ribbon nonsense and do something meaningful with our resources.

Otherwise, don't waste the money of every student when it could be better spent to lower our living expenses, provide a needy family with a thanksgiving dinner, or be invested into the future of this college. If you are truly serious, ACT, if not, then at least be honest with yourself and put and end to this mendacity. Stop living the lie because right now all these yellow and white ribbons are doing is wasting our money, littering our environment, and worst of all perpetuating and outright lie.

In closing, I appeal to my fellow students to wake up and let out a resounding cry of—"BULLSHIT" and force the administration to notice our disgust with the wasteful management of our resources and the dictation of opinion lying behind these yellow ribbons.

Paul A. Keegstra

Staff Editorial

WABM should move cautiously

Recently great efforts have been put forth to revive the campus radio station WABM as an FM facility. While this notion could provide endless possibilities for the entire Alma community, it is not without doubt or uncertainty that *The Almanian* supports these efforts.

In the past, student participation for organizations has been inconsistent. Although the majority of students on campus are involved with some type of campus organization, few of them require the dedication that an FM

station would require. Initially, students would have to undergo extensive training in both the management and technical aspects of radio. Consequently, a mere interest in radio would not be enough to sustain its existence; a committed, competent, experienced staff is essential, thus leaving its possibility a question.

According to Station Manager David Woodruff, in addition to the Alma community, the station would be broadcasted to over 15,000 people, and possibly the communities of Ithaca, Shepherd,

and St. Louis. Due to the possibility of such a large audience, the development of such a station must be approached with caution. Clearly, the student body has the potential to accomplish this development with success. The question remains however, if there is a strong enough desire from the student body to ensure the station's survival.

The benefits of a strong FM station are numerous. It would replace the previously weak

station, with one of great substance. If executed effectively, the station could improve relations between the College and the Alma community, as well as providing entertainment and culture for its listeners. Overall, the endeavor would be a positive experience for Alma. However, its fate lies strictly at the hands of Alma students. With the proper determination and commitment, WABM has the potential to further Alma's liberal arts education, and become an asset to the College.

From the Editors College life breeds respect for parents

By Kristine Lovasz
Co-Editor-in-Chief

If a person walked through the corridors of a high school on any given day, one would probably hear, "My mom is so dumb," or "Can you believe I had to be home by midnight?" Complaints and criticism would far outweigh the compliments used to describe parents in a typical conversation between bee-boppers walking from gym to home economics.

The story changes dramatically when the observer moves from the high school corridor to the college residence hall. Instead the same person would hear, "My parents are the best," or "We get along so well." Obviously, the realization occurs because of the distance and separation. The support system that was so tightly woven into the person is now a phone call away. The student learns how much he or she depends on Mom and Dad. In general, attributes become more easily recognizable than faults.

On Parent Day, Saturday, Nov. 3, as I sat in the bleachers watching the football game, I realized that as a whole the Alma College parents are outstanding. There were hundreds of parents that made the effort to visit campus. However, the attendance at Parent Day was only a fingerprint of the support which our parents extend to the students. If anyone attends programs on campus from choir concerts to football games, it is obvious that our parents don't need a special invitation to become involved.

One can walk to the stadium and know that certain parents will *always* be there. One can depend on the fact that parents will comprise a large portion of the audience at a choir concert. One would miss the familiar voice of a mom yelling, "Good job, son!" at a men's soccer game.

The support and effort exhibited by our parents is extraordinary, and it is appreciated.

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Women deserve equality in Literature

By Heather Jelley
Staff Writer

In writing an article for the *Morning Sun* on the Gratiot County Reading Program, I was fortunate to talk with Larry, an adult student who is now learning to read. He was not ashamed to admit that he did not learn to read in school because there were always interruptions, he proudly stated, "I can get better and better and get a better job." It was through this short personal interview that I was able to understand the problem of illiteracy and the people it affects, I was able to break the stereotypes implanted by society of adults who cannot read, and I was able to see that Larry now has a way to communicate, to exchange ideas, and gain perspective. Larry now has a voice in society. Women also have a voice in society. They often use literature to break the stereotypes, share a different perspective, express an idea, and promote a better understanding. However, this voice is rarely heard. Unlike Larry, women writers are not often afforded the opportunity to have their voices heard by a large audience.

Women encounter this problem everyday. It was the young woman in Alice Munro's book, *The Lives of Girls and Women*, whose experience lead her to this discovery, "...I felt that it was not so different from all the other advice handed out to women, to girls, advice assumed being female made you damageable, that a certain amount of carefulness and solemn fuss and self-protection were called for, whereas men were supposed to be able to go out and take on all kinds of experiences and shuck off what they didn't want and come back proud. Without even thinking about it, I had decided to do the same."

It is time that we all decide to do the same. It is time that we

start to afford all students the opportunity to hear the voices of women writers with different perspectives. As a student throughout high school and now as a potential English major, my academic reading experience has been shaped by the canon of literature dominated by male authors and their limited perspectives. The standard text used in literature courses at Alma College is *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*. This three-

works of women writers is just that—the opportunity to hear a different voice.

It was not until recently that I was afforded the opportunity to read a number of works by women in my own academic study. Dr. Bender led me to the discovery of women authors an works that I never knew existed. And admittedly, it has been refreshing for me to read the works of Meridel LeSeur and Mary McCarthy, to be able to

relate so easily to the subject matter and language, and to find such familiarity in thought and description of detail. However, standardized academic study does not allow all students, men and women, to experience these voices.

The imposed silence of these voices extends beyond literature courses and Alma College. Virginia Woolf stated, "Indeed it will be a long time still, I think before a woman can sit down to write a book without finding a phantom to be slain, a rock to be dashed against. And if this is so in literature, the freest of all professions for women, how is it in the new professions which you are now for the first time entering?"

Ellen Goodman, a syndicated columnist and Pulitzer Prize winner, wrote in a recent column that even

successful women who are working their way toward the top, towards the center of power hear their voices bounce off the glass ceiling. She states, "This is also what it's like being a successful woman in America. You get to be treated as the second-sex by an ever-more elite class of men."

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inch thick book includes the works of few women writers, and the reading chosen by professors is generally representative of *The Norton's* emphasis. I do not argue that works written by women be included in anthologies or class reading simply because they are written by women. I believe they should be included because they most-often will introduce a unique perspective. *The Norton* does not include one author under the period of Eighteenth Century literature, it includes the works of several authors that are representative of a range of perspectives. The inclusion of the

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. Address letters to; The Editorial Board, The ALMANIAN, Newberry Hall, Alma College, Alma, MI 48801