

The Almanian

Tuesday, November 13, 1990

Alma College's Student Newspaper

Issue 9

Brooks removed as head coach

By Kristine Lovasz
Co-Editor-in-Chief

As students walked to class on Friday morning, chalk messages written across McIntyre Mall revealed the news. After 20 years, Phil Brooks had been released from his duties as head football coach of Alma College.

The decision was made by President Alan Stone. According to Stone, the decision to release Brooks was made upon the recommendations of Vice President of Finance Jon Groteluschen and Deb Mapes, athletic director.

"We thought the football program needed to be strengthened, that starts with the head coach," said Stone. "We want to strengthen recruitment of the program, it is significant to the

College. One out of six men here are playing football," he said.

"The fact that we lost is not the coach's fault," said senior player Pat Pinkerton, "I think the coach designs the play to win, if it is not done correctly, it is because the team did not work well together."

Groteluschen said, "The program is not as competitive as it should be. A change is needed."

According to Junior Jay VanDuzen, "A lot of players have thought it was time for a change, but the manner in which the change took place was not acceptable."

Stone also stated that he would like stronger support from alumni and students. He said, "I'd like to see the fans stay for the whole game."

According to Groteluschen,

Brooks was offered a position as head men's track coach with other responsibilities yet to be determined.

Mapes refused comment.

Bryan Byrnes, local columnist for *The Morning Sun*, stated in the Nov. 11 issue that the Scots have failed to live up to their potential as a team. Last season they were picked for the MIAA champions and ended up a disappointing fourth. This season the Scots lost all league games.

Brooks, head football coach for 20 years, called a special meeting of the 1990 football team on Thursday, Nov. 8 to inform them of the administrative decision. In a press release, Brooks wrote, "It hurts to realize you will never coach football again at Alma College, but it is more painful to

know you will not be working with the young men recruited to become Alma College Scots. The relationship is developed with the excitement of working together for four years. This opportunity has been taken away." He continued, "I am especially proud of the last 20 (years) at Alma College because of the relationships developed with players, their parents, the coaching staff, the faculty, the students and friends at Alma College."

The general consensus of the team was surprise, dismay and sadness. Senior Fred Camaj said, "I never thought he could even get fired." Mike Yard, junior, said, "It was a surprise." Player comments elucidated the affection for Brooks. Steve Kinne, senior

quarterback, said, "He was a father-figure. You could go to him with personal problems." Matt Pifer, junior, said, "He is a good coach; a caring and hardworking man. He was good to his players."

When asked about the dissatisfaction of the players, Stone replied, "If all 95 members stand up and say they want him to return, I'll certainly look at the decision." Although some team members supported the decision, none were willing to comment on the record.

From the messages in chalk, the anger of some players is obvious. "Fire Stone, not Brooks," "Recall Stone," and "Alma College is not ...Please see

'Coach Removed...'
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Ribbon activists seek common ground

By Heather Laird
News Editor

Ribbon controversy continues and spreads as students tear down sanctioned white ribbons. White

and yellow ribbon committees met to discuss common concerns in reaction to this vandalism. The committees scheduled an open forum and candlelight vigil for Wednesday, Nov. 14.

One person admitted taking the white ribbons down, unaware that the ribbons had been approved by President Alan J. Stone.

Jim Kridler, Dean of Students, is currently investigating other possibilities to curtail the tearing down of the ribbons.

"We're simply trying to get the word out — don't do that. It's not a disciplinary matter (at this point)," said Kridler. "I chose to do it this way because I wanted people to see the point and not just deal with the ribbon."

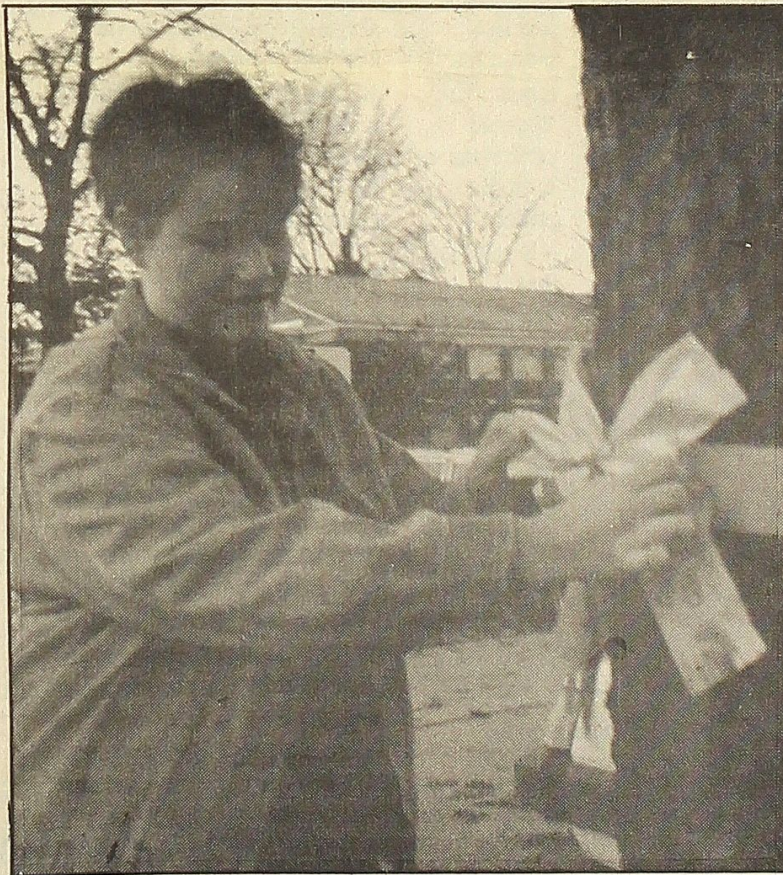
Kridler stated that individuals, not an organization, were responsible.

Fifty white ribbons, put up Monday, Nov. 5, have since been taken down three times. Cost to replace the ribbons has totalled approximately \$47. This amount is comparable to that spent on the yellow ribbons.

"It's inappropriate for people to just take down others' property," said Kridler. "It's cost (Student Affairs) twice as much as it should have."

The two ribbon committees met to discuss common concerns regarding taking down of ribbons. A memo for all students was drafted, and will be sent early the week of Nov. 12.

An open forum, scheduled for Nov. 14, will be moderated by Verne Bechill, sociology professor, during the weekly Student Congress meeting at 7 p.m. in AC 113. Critical issues



Jenn Johnson, sophomore, adjusts a yellow ribbon.

Photo by A. Mull

will center around the yellow and white ribbons as well as the Middle East crisis. The committees will host a candlelight vigil in McIntyre Mall following this discussion to celebrate the idea of world peace. This effort does not imply, by any means, that the two groups have resolved their differences.

Kridler stressed that both ribbons are symbols; free to interpretation as every individual has a different perspective.

"It's sort of gotten people to think about the issues... Unfortunately, it's polarized some people," said Kridler.

Kridler repudiated the idea that

funds were being used without student input. "From the very beginning, there were students coming to Kathy (Finch), asking 'What can we do?'" he said.

Money for the ribbons comes out of the Students Affairs budget, which funds other student-oriented activities such as speakers.

Kridler also reported that, contrary to popular belief, staples do not hurt trees.

The Detroit News ran a front page article on the controversy Friday, Nov. 9; Student Affairs was contacted by Michigan Public Radio that afternoon concerning a possible broadcast.

Fraternities move to enforce required invitations

By Heather Laird
News Editor

Intrafraternity Council, in its meeting Thursday, Nov. 8, proposed a more strict approach to collecting invites to fraternity parties. The new rule, brought forward by the Executive Committee, presents a less strict approach than that found in the student handbook, but would require much more attention to collecting invites and to the sign-in sheets than is now enforced. This rule goes into effect Jan. 1, 1991.

Sisters would be required to have some form of an invite for parties as well as a separate sign-in sheet; brothers would still not be required to have an invite. Above and beyond this number, each fraternity would then be able to print 150 invites for the campus in general. Emphasis on signing in at the door would be increased. The sister requirement is primarily to show consistency, and could take many forms including a check list at the door or "permanent" invites.

At this time, the administration's guidelines read that 150 invites total may be distributed, this number includes brothers and sisters. Collected invites and sign-in sheets are due to Emily Perl, assistant dean of students, on the Monday following the party.

"There are some groups that bring their invite lists in, and their

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Head football coach removed from position

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a football factory," are fingerprints of the overall message. The pressbox bore a sign that said, "The house that Brooks built." However, the chalk was being removed by Physical Plant staff by approximately 9:30 a.m. on Friday. Groteluschen indicated that he authorized the clean-up. He said, "These remarks attacked. It wasn't appropriate to leave them there."

In reference to the chalk, Stone stated that he does not listen to anything anonymous. Stone also expressed concern regarding

vandalism. It has been reported that students purchased paint in a local store with the intent of vandalism. Threats have been reported to Stone concerning the vandalism of the football field, his car and his home.

Some team members do not believe that the situation was handled appropriately. Kinne said, "(They) went about it wrong. He spent 20 years here, you just don't say good-bye." He continued, "We are going in to talk to Stone as a team... We're not trying to get his job back, we're just trying to make a statement."

IFC makes statement regarding open alcohol

To the Campus Community,

It is an administrative policy and a Fraternity policy that no one can leave a Fraternity house with open alcohol. A Fraternity becomes liable when a person leaves their house with open alcohol. When a Fraternity member asks you to not leave his house with open alcohol he is

would like to avoid. The Interfraternity Council sends a party patrol consisting of five people (one from each Fraternity) to each Fraternity party on a given weekend. We do this so we can police ourselves without any intervention by the Alma police. The Interfraternity Council would like to avoid any Fraternity confrontations with the police —

just as we would like any student to avoid confrontations with the police.

It is a fact that Fraternities play an important role in the social life of Alma College students but it is also a fact that if certain rules are violated,

Fraternity parties could be a thing of the past. So when you are asked not to leave a Fraternity party with open alcohol, please do so or it will be confiscated.

Brian Haara
I.F.C. Public Relations Chair

It is a fact that Fraternities play an important role in the social life of Alma College students but it is also a fact that if certain rules are violated, Fraternity parties could be a thing of the past...

...IFC Public Statement

This is what the Fraternities

Vehicle vandalism handled by police

By Brad Shafer
Staff Writer

The Alma College campus has been the target of increased car vandalism. On Thursday, Nov. 8, sophomore Holli Lisac's convertible was vandalized with slashes. One cut straight across the roof while a series of small cuts were made along the sides. Some gashes are estimated to be two feet long.

"I parked the car in the lot by the P.E. building on Wednesday. Someone from security called me Friday morning asking if I drove a red convertible with a hole in the roof," said Lisac.

A report was filed with both Alma College security and the police department on Friday. Lisac said that the thing that upset her the most was that she "thought Alma had a safe campus and didn't believe something like this could happen."

At this time there are no suspects for this crime.

"At first, the police thought that whoever did this was after the tape deck in the car, but nothing was taken out of the car and it didn't look like anyone was in it. I think this was just an act of pure vandalism," said Lisac.

A similar incident occurred about a week earlier on the evening of Friday, Nov. 2, as sophomore Barbara Swift's car was vandalized. Security was notified and a damage report was filed with the Alma Police Department.

"There were footprints on the top of the car and it looked like someone had stood up there and kicked the windshield. It was shattered, but (the glass) wasn't in the seat," said Swift.

The car was parked along the south side of Bruske Hall in the strip where the hall director parks. Swift said the police estimated the damage to be \$200.

According to Carol Merchant, head of security, these are the only acts of vandalism that have occurred in all of the College's parking lots this year.

"If we have vandalism, they don't always come to Physical Plant and make out a report, or go to Student Affairs and make out a report, so some of them we don't hear about," said Merchant.

When asked about suspects, Merchant replied that the police are the ones that look for the vandals. Once a suspect is caught, the Alma prosecuting attorney takes over and a court proceeding is scheduled.

To protect students and their cars, security officers patrol the campus. They do not have a set schedule of patrolling, but carry a time clock that punches out when they were in any particular area.

Several other incidents have occurred in the past without notification of the maintenance department.

Bill Stoneburner, a Marriott employee who works at Hamilton Commons, said that he had four tires slashed last year and one again this year. Stoneburner has spent an estimated \$125 (\$25 per tire) to replace them. Stoneburner parks in the spots reserved for Marriott workers in Bruske lot. He indicated that he believed the students were not responsible, but that it was a city resident.

Another incident involved sophomore Kirk Yodzevics. Yodzevics lives in the Theta Chi house and parks his car on West

Center Street. Sometime between midnight and 8 a.m. on Oct. 30, Yodzevics' car was egged, and someone tried to pry open the hood. Approximately half of the hood was bent upward. The car has never been in an accident. Yodzevics said that he did not report the incident to security because the eggs easily wiped off and he did not notice the bent hood until later. Yodzevics is still debating on whether or not to file a report.

On Nov. 6, president of the Student Congress Louis Cubba, said at the meeting, "I am going to urge those people that are on student judicial or campus judicial...to take a strong stance on anybody that comes before them on a case of vandalism."

Cubba added that "vandalism doesn't happen much at Alma and that's one of the reasons why when something like (Swift's smashed windshield) happens it really sticks out."

Cubba hopes that "as long as we show that this is an issue and make people aware of it, we can help to stop it."

Carol Merchant said that students can help curb vandalism by watching what's going on outside. Don't automatically assume that someone standing in the parking lot is a student. Another student's presence will usually scare away a prospective vandals. Merchant, however, discourages any students from chasing or following anyone suspicious.

A spokesman for the Alma Police Department refused to comment about whether or not there are any suspects regarding the vandalism of Swift's car.

InterFraternity Council invite rule reinforced

...continued from page 1

invites, and then there are others who aren't even trying," said Perl.

IFC plans to push for an increased number limit for next year if the new proposal is strictly enforced.

Past problems with unwanted

guests in part prompted this resolution. "We've got to start being more selective," said Jeff Hyames, IFC president. Hyames also stressed that fraternities are well within their limits in removing any undesired visitors.

Council members expressed some reservations. "We're trying to change something here and it's going to have to be run pretty strict," said Eric Cook. All details of the resolution have not been decided as yet.

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Greeks raise money for annual fund

By Stacie Herriman
Assistant News Editor

"Greek Week" occurred during the third week of the campus telethon to raise money for the Annual Fund. Nine Greek organizations, five fraternities and four sororities, raised \$26,722.50 for the week. The telethon total is now over \$59,000 with a week to go and a goal of \$75,000.

The winner of the week, with the highest number of monetary pledges in an evening, was the Sigma Chi fraternity with \$3932.50. Second place went to the Alpha Xi Delta sorority with \$3610. The winning team received Chamber of Commerce gift certificates worth \$10, which can be used at any participating business. All participants received a T-shirt, pop, pizza and a free 5-minute phone call anywhere in the continental United States.

"The reason (we had Greek Week) was to provide it as a service project for all the Greeks. We will be donating \$200 to Big Brothers/Big Sisters in the name of all the groups," said Pam Eldridge, associate director of Annual Giving.

Volunteers from various campus organizations donated their time to call Sunday through Thursday from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Oct. 21-Nov. 15. Ten callers per night, two teams of five people headed by a captain, contacted alumni, parents, parents of alumni and other friends of the College in hopes of obtaining donations for the Annual Fund. The Annual Fund supports scholarships, faculty salaries, facilities and equipment, and educational programming.

Jeff Hyames, Intrafraternity Council president, reported 100% attendance.

News Correction

In the article "Alpha Xi's win Derby Days," in the Oct. 30 issue, the Gamma Phi Beta sorority was incorrectly reported as taking third place in the overall competition; FCB placed second overall in the Derby Days competition with the AFDs placing third.

Programmers compete nationally

By Troy Jaffe
Staff Writer

Two teams from Alma College scored a major victory in a computer programming contest in Lexington, Kentucky on Nov. 3. The teams, advised by Kirk Sullivan, math/computer science assistant professor, placed fourth and fifth, respectively, in their division in the Association for Computing Machines Regional Scholastic Programming Contest.

The contest pitted schools from a five-state region against each other in a battle of programming skills.

Marc VanHeyningen, the

College's team captain, said, "The contest was a chance for us to show off our programming talent and compete against national universities."

Team member Phil Haar added, "It was great to be in a contest with the likes of such schools as Carnegie Mellon University and Case Western Reserve University."

Each team in the competition received six difficult programming assignments. A panel of judges evaluated the programs. The teams were ranked by the number of problems solved correctly, and in the case of a tie, by the time needed.

Both College teams managed to accurately write two problems.

Team one, consisting of VanHeyningen, Haar, Paul Kassal and Otis Viles, completed its work in 385 minutes, placing it fourth among schools without graduate computer science departments. Team two members Mark McCracken, Lisa Klusendorf and Marc Blackburn earned fifth place in the same division by finishing their programs in 477 minutes.

The teams were plagued by trifling mistakes. "We had written the program and saved it, but we handed in the wrong disk," illustrated VanHeyningen.

Errors like this hurt Alma in the rankings.

"All that work was done, and then it went down the drain," said Sullivan. "It just goes to show how easy it is to make small mistakes." He added, "It was just a lesson in life."

VanHeyningen believes the contest afforded an important opportunity "to break down the Alma bubble."

Sullivan agreed. He said, "There aren't too many opportunities like this to compete with other colleges. Even with the bubble this contest shows that we can successfully compete with big-name schools."

200 Detroit youths visit campus for mixer

By Matthew Pifer
Staff Writer

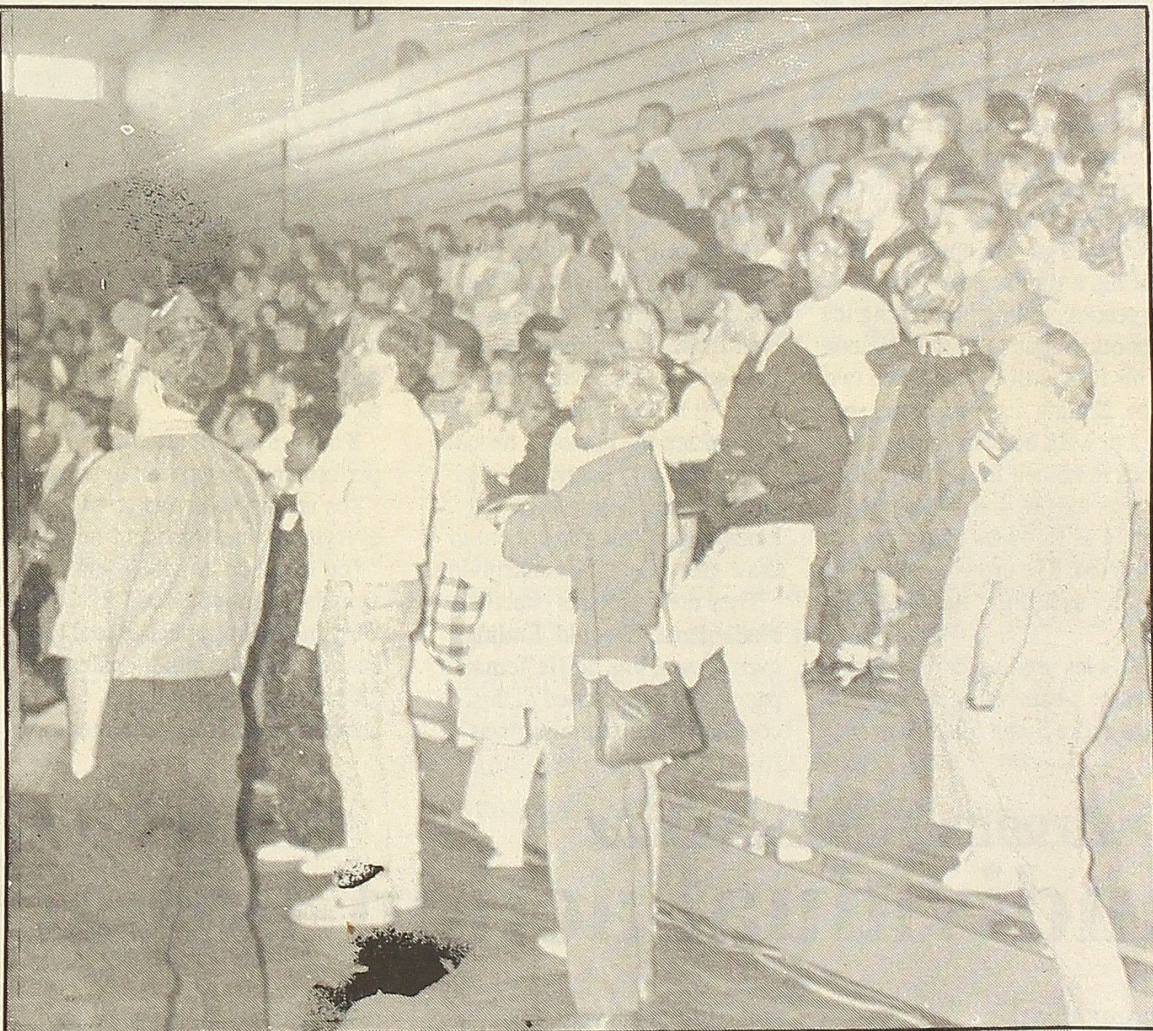
The annual Detroit Youth Mix took place on the Alma College campus Nov. 10-11. Two hundred students from the Metropolitan Detroit area, primarily 9-12 graders, attended.

Sponsored by the Presbyterian Youth Ministry, Area 3, and headed by Don McPhearson, the program set out to introduce teenagers to pertinent social, religious and interpersonal issues of the day. AIDS, sexuality, racial attitudes, college, career and finances, freedom, music, family, abortion, suicide, depression and self esteem were issues discussed during the program.

The scheduled keynote speaker Steve Price, was unable to attend. Jesse Perry, Alma College chaplain, and Tracy Luke, religion professor, did speak.

The teens discussed issues in small groups of 10 to 12 people, allowing them to become acquainted with viewpoints motivated by different cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

"There are so many people from different cultures," said Christine Kammer, a German exchange student, who thought the youth's diversity was a positive attribute of the program. Likewise, Nomi Tsukamoto, a Japanese exchange



Youth Mix participants in the gymnasium.

Photo by L. Neil

student, thought the cultural experience was intellectually as well as spiritually uplifting.

The issues discussed "are pretty important for us [the youth]," stated Kate Duman. Duman would also like to see programs concerned with discussing the

logical and philosophical aspects of man's existence.

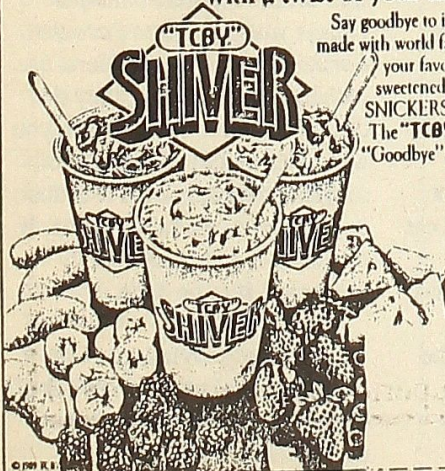
Cultural experience was one of the program's main objectives. Parrott stated, "I want my youth to meet other Presbyterians of different ethnic and cultural

backgrounds." Another leader believed that the Youth Mix was a "chance for some kids to meet culturally." This interaction was supported by a common Christian matrix, affording the youth a spiritual as well as an intellectual bond.

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Mitchell Hall Program

Knowles mesmerizes audience with hypnotism

By Troy Jaffe
Staff Writer

"One. You feel a warm sensation spreading down your back. Two. Your eyelids feel heavy. It's so relaxing. Three..."

Hypnotist Doc Knowles, counted slowly in the lobby of Mitchell Hall. The audience, packed into the room for the Nov. 6 performance, watched in anticipation as Knowles skillfully brought several volunteers into a hypnotic trance.

Jeremy Whan was one of the students Knowles hypnotized. While in the hypnotic trance, Whan was told that his hands were glued together and could not come apart until Knowles said "green."

"It was totally weird," said Whan. "After he got me out of the trance, I couldn't get my hands apart. I really tried, but I couldn't." When Knowles said the word "green," the sophomore separated his hands easily. Comments Whan, "It's really hard to explain it all."

Knowles gave sophomore, Paul Emling, a similar post-hypnotic suggestion, telling him during the hypnotic trance to keep his hands on his legs until he had taken two steps. Emling was awakened and tried to walk back to his seat. His hands remained firmly planted on his legs for the first two steps, exactly as Knowles had instructed. The crowd roared with laughter as Emling stumbled and fell.

Knowles used several students to create a carnival scene. Sophomore Sarah Slater was

hypnotized into believing that she was at a carnival carrying several balloons. Because the "balloons" were made of helium, her hands were lifted high in the air.

Two males were convinced that they had to pop the balloons. Another student thought he had to protect Slater. The resulting scene: the three men struggled together in a slow, comical fashion while Slater watched with her arm raised.

Kurt Watkins watched the battle. "They were only half-conscious while they pawed the air, but they were still pretty vicious."

Knowles began working with Heather Heffernan, another student who was very susceptible to hypnosis. He had her read a short passage from a book.

After she had started, Knowles told her that it was the funniest thing she had ever read. She laughed so hard she could hardly speak. He then said it was incredibly sad. She immediately began sobbing profusely.

Matt Kelly and Emling joined Heffernan in the hypnotic trance. Knowles instructed them to sign their names at various ages. Mark Lauzon was in the audience at the time. "It looked just like little kids had written the names," he said.

Knowles told the hypnotized students that they were in kindergarten. He asked them to draw greetings for Thanksgiving.

They drew pictures exactly as kindergartners would. Emling even drew a line on Heffernan's paper. Heffernan cried at this, complaining that Emling was "a



Dr. Knowles demonstrates hypnotic power, aided by audience volunteers.

Photo by L. Neil

meaney." Kelly, meanwhile declared that "pink is a yucky color" and chose to color his picture blue.

Knowles stayed after the performance to explain hypnosis. "You are 100% in charge of everything that happens," he says. "You won't do anything you wouldn't normally do."

Hypnosis, he says, is a tool that can increase the mind's potential. "It can help you with concentration, long-term memory,

and speed reading." He adds that if hypnosis were taught to all children since fourth grade, "everyone would be getting 100's on test."

He showed interested students how to use hypnosis to increase academic performance. "Hypnotize yourselves before studying, and I guarantee that you'll learn twice as much material in a quarter of the time it would normally take." The hypnotized learning also

supposedly makes the student remember the material better and longer.

First-year student Joel Tuoriniemi is convinced. Knowles hypnotized him, making him think he was in an airplane. On waking, Tuoriniemi could not stand until he unbuckled his "seat belt."

Tuoriniemi says, "Knowles took the gimmick out of hypnotism and showed us what the mind is capable of doing."

Environmentally speaking

Individual action impacts environment

By Amy Hough
Staff Writer

We can become so involved with large-scale environmental issues that we lose sight of the obvious ones - things that we can control. Each day, as individuals we face environmental issues, even when we are not thinking about them; for example, how long we choose to run the water, whether or not we leave the lights on, how long we allow our cars to idle, etc. In solving environmental problems, we must first be aware, and then we can proceed to do things about them. Many hidden solutions to problems lie within our reach; here are a few:

Junk mail - "The junk mail Americans receive in one day could produce enough energy to heat 250,000 homes," according to *50 Simple Things You Can Do to Save the Earth*. Something we all have in common - junk mail. All the junk mail that we receive amounts to approximately 100

million trees per year. Enough statistics; what you can do to stop junk mail is more important. Some of it can be recycled (newsprint, envelopes with no windows, quality paper), but if it is made from glossy paper (which most of it is) then it becomes a real problem. Most people do not

restricted from flying when the plastic rings become caught around their wings, (2) the rings are invisible under water so many marine animals catch the loops around their necks and strangle themselves, and (3) young seals get them caught around their necks and suffer a slow death as

pick up any that you may see just lying around and snip or tear those as well.

Helium-filled balloons - Balloons are lots of fun and make special events and parties look great, but many people let their balloons go. The problem is that many of these balloons end up in

about their hazards.

Batteries - Some grocery stores will take batteries to recycle, but you must ask. Batteries are extremely hazardous, as they contain mercury and cadmium, both highly toxic. When batteries break down in landfills, "they release these substances into the earth and into the air; the average annual use of mercury in batteries exceeds the federal limits on mercury allowed in garbage by four times" reports *50 Simple Things you Can Do to Save the Earth*. To solve the problem, use rechargeable batteries; they do cost more but in the long run you will save money. Support the recycling of batteries if it is done in your town, including Alma. If recycling is not practiced, encourage it to be done.

Little things do matter - the environmental crisis is not out of our hands if we make the right decisions.

"The junk mail Americans receive in one day could produce enough energy to heat 250,000 homes,"

... 50 Simple Things You Can Do to Save the Earth

even look at their junk mail. Write to: Mail Preference Service, Direct Marketing Assoc., 6 East 43rd St., New York, NY 10017. You must write to each source individually, but it will reduce junk mail up to 75%.

Six-pack rings - Several facts underlie this plastic item that holds beer and pop cans and oil cans: (1) marine birds are

they grow older. They are a real hazard for animals as well as for the earth, in that they do not biodegrade. Many six-pack rings are found on beaches; in fact, in 1988, 15,600 of them were found along a 300 mile Texas shoreline in 3 hours. Before you toss them away, think of these things, and snip the loops with a pair of scissors. Also, for the committed:

the ocean in a short period of time, as the wind is very powerful. Often they lose color and look like jellyfish. Whales eat them, but their bodies cannot digest them, so they starve. Many sea turtles die this way as well, and they are almost extinct. The best thing to do about this is to keep the balloon from escaping and to let other people know

Church acquires skills through research grant

By Kim Worzalla
Staff Writer

For students who are not involved in science, the field may seem like a bewildering array of facts and principles. But science is not just a book-learning process. It is about hands-on experimentation. At Alma College, students can learn by taking part in a student research project under the direction of a faculty member.

One student who took advantage of this opportunity is Tim Church, a junior and chemistry major. Church started conducting research under Chemistry Professor Scott Hill, during his sophomore year - earlier than most students begin.

"I wanted to get into research during my sophomore year so that I could probe the organic field in a simulation of what I would be doing for my career in industry," revealed Church. Church assisted Hill's in an on-going research, one which dealt with the synthetic design strategy of chemical compounds. Church became very interested in the experiments he was working on, and was even able to revise and significantly improve one of the processes.

In one experiment, Church and Hill observed an unexpected exchange of atoms. "Tim's work focuses on the scope of this underlying exchange process and attempts to elucidate the underlying mechanisms," said Hill. "This phenomenon is valuable for both its theoretical significance and its possible practical applications."

Because of the potential of this research, Church applied for a research grant to Sigma Xi, an honorary society for scientists. The benefaction was awarded as part of the Sigma Xi's Grants and Aid to Research Program; the aim supported the advancement of student scholarship in the sciences. Out of more than 700 graduate and undergraduate students nationwide who applied for the grant, approximately 300 were awarded, including the chemistry major.

"The opportunity for undergraduate research is a critical part of science education, providing an important link between classroom experience and the practical application of knowledge. I see research as a normal part of the teaching process; students are learning by the process of doing."

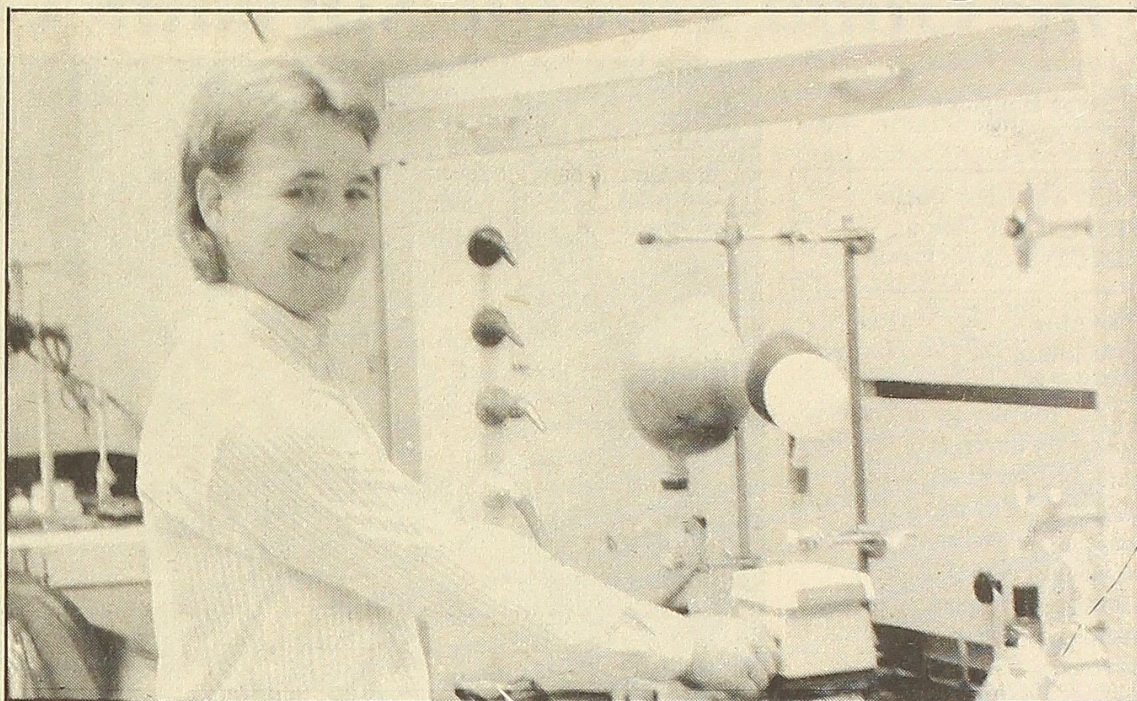
The allowance Church had received is currently being utilized for the advancement of his research project. He was the first Alma College student to be awarded one of these grants.

Tim wants to complete his research project this year, and hopes to be able to present his work at a national or local meeting of the American Chemical Society. He also plans to co-author a paper with Hill

which would be published in a scientific journal.

After graduating from Alma, Tim plans "to attend graduate school and obtain a doctorate in organic chemistry," then to pursue a career as an organic chemist in the field of industry. He chose the organic field because, he said, "The organic field is where a lot of the new advances are coming from."

"Any science student who is seriously interested in doing undergraduate research here should have no difficulty finding an opportunity to do so." Hill continued, "The new Kapp Science Center includes a student research lab dedicated to each faculty member. All of this is just a part of Alma's teaching-oriented philosophy."



Tim Church, recipient of Sigma Xi chemistry research grant, displays laboratory skills.

Photo by J. Jourdan

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Play review

The Good Doctor spreads contagious laughter

By Sarah Houghton
Staff Writer

PLAY: The Good Doctor
WRITER: Neil Simon
DIRECTOR: John Kunik

The Alma College Players production of *The Good Doctor* by Neil Simon was a definite success. The play opened on Nov. 9, under the direction of visiting instructor John Kunik. It was a hilarious comedy that was interesting as well as very entertaining. Alma College's finest thespians appeared on stage with the addition of a few newcomers. John Kunik did an excellent job in directing this comedy despite the disadvantage of being a visiting professor.

Junior Scott Bouldrey did an impressive job showing great humor and versatility as an actor. His roles ranged from a bumbling, sneezing idiot to a serious priest with a toothache. All of his characters were vivid and convincing, and the audience responded accordingly.

Newcomer Chris Connely, a sophomore transfer student, gave a good performance despite some minor rough spots in his delivery. He managed to remain very consistent and strong throughout



Scott Bouldrey, Lafonna Kananen, Chris Conley, Kristina Thornell, and Nick Roster present a humorous scene in *The Good Doctor*.

Photo by J. Steffee

the entire show.

Lisa Thauvette was truly the bright spot in the whole production. From the moment she stomped on stage, she easily managed to keep the audience in stitches. She was consistently funny, uninhibited, and displayed

a natural talent for making people laugh. Unfortunately, we only saw her perform in one scene.

The first scene involving the "sneeze" illustrated the overall talent of the cast. Nick Roster, Scott Bouldrey, Kristina Thornell, and LaFonna Kananen all

mastered the comedy of the situation. The scene was flawless and quite memorable.

The one scene that seemed very inconsistent with the nature of the play was the one involving the man and the woman in the park. While the actors handled the

scene with professionalism, the dramatic tone of the scene did not contrast well with the previous slapstick dialogue. Thus it became the weak link in the whole performance leaving the play slightly unbalanced.

A great attribute to the production was its excellent sound effects. While the costumes and scenery were sparse and dark in color, they did not detract from the great humor in the play. In fact, the lack of color and props forced the audience to concentrate more on the characters, and it showed how well the characters created scenes without excessive props. For example, in the man/sailor/policeman scene, the lighting and sound created the very visible and realistic atmosphere of a port pier.

Overall, this play selection offered a refreshing change of pace for Alma College audiences. The variety of loosely connected scenes was related through the character of the narrator, a nineteenth century Russian writer who introduced the audience to the various characters and plots formulating in his mind. This unique selection provided an interesting diversion from traditional plots.

Alumnus poet reflects on student years

By Bill Johnston
Staff Writer

While others congregated in Joe's to watch election results, several students, faculty and community members gathered in Jones Auditorium to listen to Alma College alumnus Jim Daniels read selections of his poetry.

Currently a teacher at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Daniels graduated from Alma in 1978 with a degree in English and Spanish. In 1985, he received a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship and his poetry collection *Places/Everyone* won the 1985 Bittingham Prize for Poetry.

Daniels published works include four small collections, two full volumes and numerous works published in magazines. "I'm happy with what's happened to me," he said. "The NEA fellowship is encouraging to me."

Daniels read a wide variety of poetry from his collections, magazine publications and new works. His poems covered a wide range of topics and moods, including baseball, violence in Detroit, memories of family and working on the assembly line.

A good deal of his poetry to date reflects his experiences growing up in Detroit, where he

worked on automobile assembly lines during the summer. "I found when I started that the world I came from didn't seem well represented in the poetry I was reading," said Daniels. "The kinds of people I loved and cared about the most weren't being written about...I thought it was important and I wanted to write about it."

Daniels grew interested in attending Alma after participating in a workshop sponsored by English professors, Robert Wegner and the now-retired Tipton. "They impressed me and got me excited about coming here," said Daniels. "I had never heard of Alma before...after the workshop, I said 'I have to apply here'."

During his four-year stay at Alma, Daniels involved himself with every sort of writing activity possible, including four years of independent study in Creative Writing and four years on *The Almanian*. "He wrote," said English professor, Joe Sutfin, one of Daniels' mentors. "An awful lot of people want to be writers. He seriously pursued it more than any student I've ever known. He's the most committed student writer I've ever known. Ever. Anyplace."

Daniels still carries warm feelings towards Alma College and those who helped him along.

"I'm very grateful for the education I got here," said Daniels. "(Teaching) at a major research university makes me appreciate the personal attention I got here...personal attention I needed as a young writer."

Regarding Daniels' poetic nature, Sutfin commented, "I always thought he had one of the greatest eyes, because he saw so much. He was profound at times, better than most."

Sutfin feels Daniels has room to expand his writings. "I think he's likely to be a more and more famous poet the longer he continues to write," said Sutfin. "Alma College will have an inside track and that's very exciting. I think he'll want to come back on a regular basis. I'd be excited if he became a famous poet."

Daniels never stopped stressing the importance of his Alma career. "As a teacher, I try to emulate the teachers I had here," he said. "My success as a teacher results from my experiences here. There's no substitute for the attention I got here."

Hopefully, Daniels will continue to write and publish more of his unique and wonderful poetry. Sutfin summed it up best when he said, "He's a wonderfully nice person and a first-rate human being."

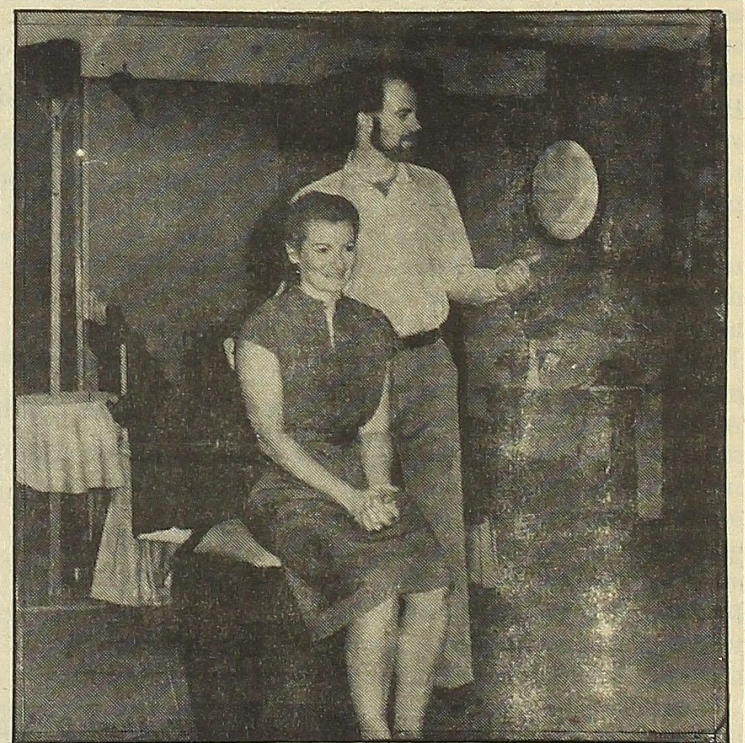


Photo by G. Wu

Same Time Next Year

Repertory Theatre of America's Alpha Omega Players presented Bernard Slade's *Same Time Next Year* in Van Dusen on Thursday, November 8th.

martin's

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CLOTHING

downtown alma 463-4311

I would like to announce that the New York Dance Trip Spring Term T & D 346 will not -I repeat- will not be offered this coming May. That's the bad news. The good news is that the reason it will not be offered is that I am going to have a baby in May and didn't think it would be wise to be walking the streets of New York in my ninth month. I will miss not going as it has been somewhat of a tradition, offering it every year for the past 5 years. Don't be too upset. I am sure I will be offering it again the following May. Thanks for your indulgence...Carol Fike.

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Only a few short days until Tombstone Tavern-RIP Real Intense Partying! Congratulations to all our new initiates, we love you. So much for nice warm, relaxing fires in the chapter room housies. Jo what exactly did you pull from the drain? Christine A the banner is awesome! Congratulations Chris N. and Lori W on keeping the flames glowing! Janet recycle recycle and Nancy vote vote! Between the two of you... Kerry and Renae, did you both forget to set your alarms for Sunday? Hello and we miss you to our Globe Trotting Gammies-see you soon! Fire up for a fantastic weekend.

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ED'S SERVICES
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All the young dudes, Rez, Happy Birthday. Too bad you had to spend your B-day money on carpet cleaner for the ΓΦΒ house. Dormie shots! Cecil, want some breath mints? Slouch, did you do you job this week, or does spinny have to yell again? All you sensitive guys, fire up for Tavern. Hope you get some! Fanorris, get that knee back in shape so we can see ya hoop it up soon. Hey guys, I heard about this great new 900 number, only \$25.00 a minute. L.C. is Bunzers' new supersig apprentice. Glaspie, Lauzon, Nester, how was that gay rights parade? Bart, where have you been latley? Still trying to catch that amazon babe or just slapping it? Jinx, Magna cum summie, summa cum magnie, the neighbors are too Loudy. Stoli, how many times this week? Garfunkel had an ugly case of stress relief last week. When the doors of perception are cleansed, man will see things as they truly are, Green and Gold.

Jim Morrison Lives!

Alma College Diving Team is looking for anyone (male or female) who wants to dive. Especially for those with gymnastic experience. Anyone interested should call Greg Baadte at 7323.

A young lady left me an unsigned note after Sunday's Alma Symphony Concert, asking "Why doesn't Scripps wear a black tux like everyone else?" The answer is that a grey "swallowtail" coat, striped pants and tie, and grey "waistcoat" is the correct dress for afternoon affairs. (See Britain's House of Lords). Few men own this, and I can't expect them to buy all this for, essentially four concerts, so I wear it and they dress in tuxes. Besides, it's much more comfortable than white tie and tails. Thanks for the concern. I hope I don't sound like Miss Manners!

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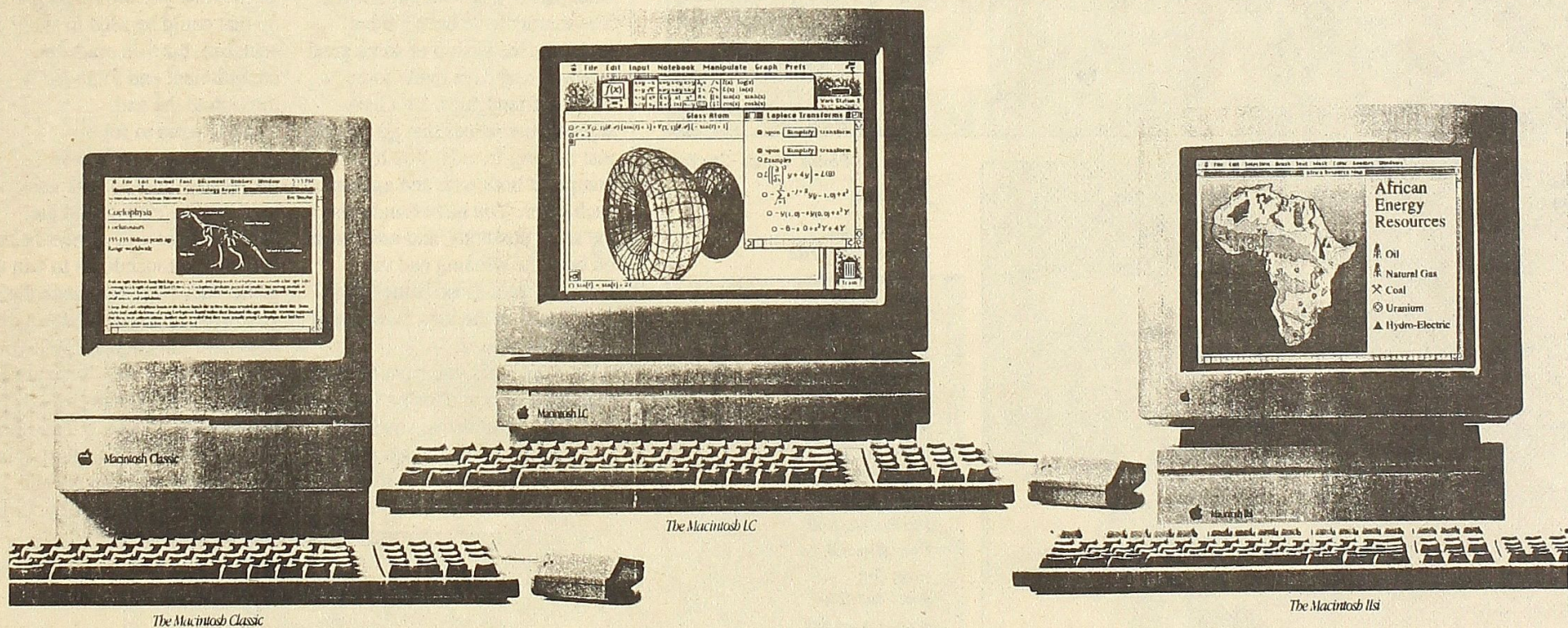
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ALPHA XI'S
The change of the throne is upon us. TFJ All Hail to President Skinner. We love you Dandy Sandy!!
About that Senior Rehab...Sprout is your thumb okay? Deb M. how is Bob doing? Congrats to the Great Hunter Thomas on her first doe. How about that Red Rum and damn mouse?
Thanks Cinderella for the use of the "home of retreats"!!
Thank god Paddy parties with the ΑΞΔ's!!!! Let us all comfort Roxanne Murphy in her time of need.
Remember applications for the official 1990 ΑΞΔ convent are due next week. Any questions ask Sister Mary Carrie.
Our latest pasta is desperately looking for a side dish in honor of the Christmas ho-down. Good luck Jello!!
The TallCoolone stands alone. If anyone needs a date, call 7992, ask for the Green Giant, let it ring though, she's probably sleeping.
A message to twin #1 of the Bobsies: We are aware of your fear of HEIGHTS, however, as evident of this weekend you can obviously keep your CHIN up.

Meet ya under the mistletoe,
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Volleyball players Laura Holmes and Shannon Nichols kick back after a long season.

Photo by R. Webber

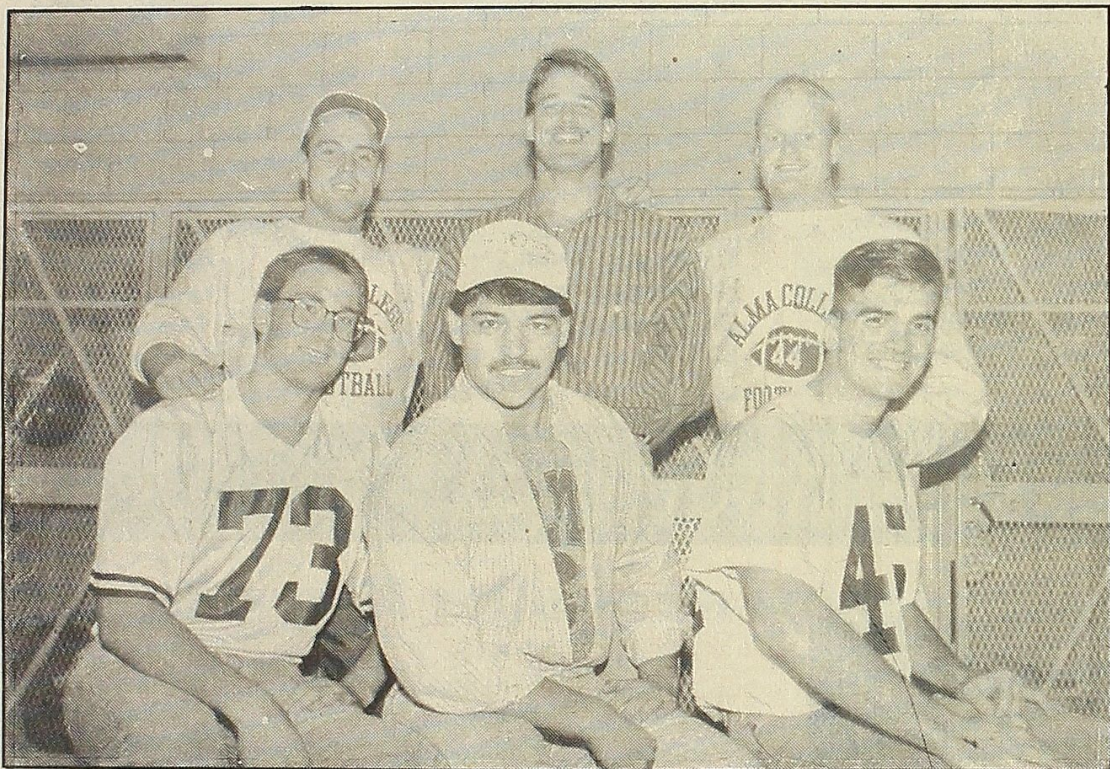


Photo by J. Steffee

from top:
Senior team captain Michelle Wemple drives past opponent. Senior football players (clockwise from top, left) Steve Kinne, Steve Clink, Jeff Appelt, Brooks Byam, Pat Pinkerton, and Paul Bussell leave the gridiron with great memories. Senior men's soccer player Keith Brodie commented, "The one thing I'll really miss is the guys on the squad."

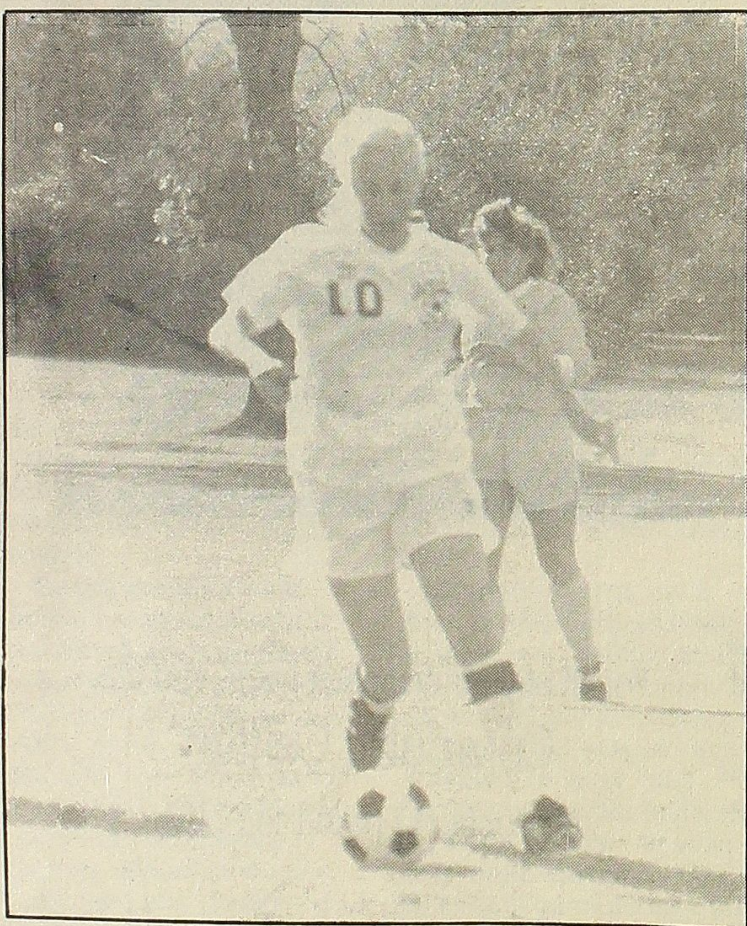


Photo by R. Webber



By Shannon Nichols
Sports Editor

Four years have passed for the seniors of Alma College. They have been years filled with both triumphs and defeats. As seniors, you have all experienced the joys along with the sorrows of college life. You have watched the other classes enter and have been able to gain more and more wisdom as every year passes. You have been through the newness of the first year and the chaos of looking for a job as seniors. You have witnessed a new era of leadership with the hiring of president Stone, as well as the loss of a great friend and leader in Ronald Kapp.

For the seniors that were involved in Alma College, athletics have played a major role in your lives here. Athletics have been part of a special experience. The seniors have been guided under the leadership of some great coaches, and have made some lifelong friendships. You have shared experiences that go beyond just making friends. You have competed both with and against each other. You have fought for the same positions, and have been on both the winning and the losing ends of those battles. You have endured the long bus trips to unfamiliar places.

For four years you have been on winning teams and losing teams. As a class of athletes, you have watched the football team go from being MIAA champions to being bottom of the league. You have

witnessed the beginning of a women's soccer program and the end of a tradition of women's field hockey.

At the end of this fall season, it will be hard to look back so soon and think about what all the hours of dedication and commitment have done for you. You have given a lot of yourselves to play a sport you love, to better yourselves, and to represent our college. You have put up with coaches who are in bad moods, days when practices took a life time, games where nothing seemed to go right, and weeks in which you doubted your choice to play college sports.

When you arrived here four years ago, you weighed heavily the pros and cons of athletic involvement. You thought about all the time you would be giving up that could be used to study or socialize, but you made the commitment and followed it through to the end.

In the years to follow graduation, you will have something more to look back on than just the classes and the parties. There will always be that last minute touchdown to win the game, that awesome block that gave your team point fifteen, the defensive play that allowed your team to pull ahead. These are all things you'll remember.

You were given a gift and it is not one you have to return, it is one that you will cherish and remember for the rest of your life.



Photo by A. Mull

SENIOR ATHLETES



Photo by J. Steffee

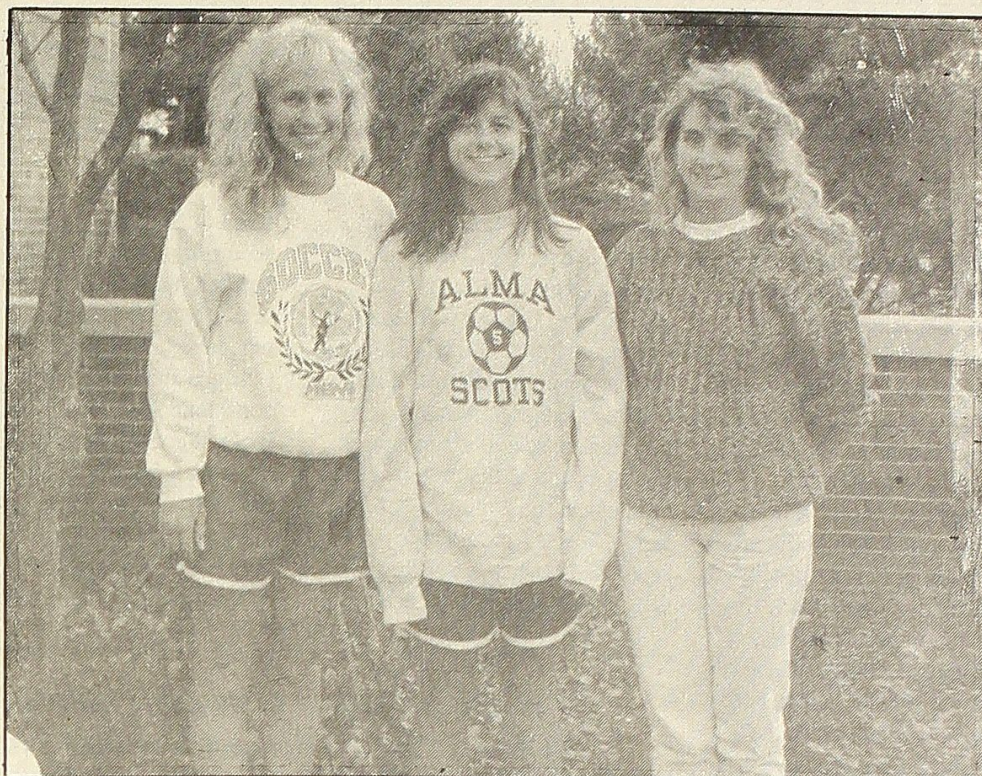


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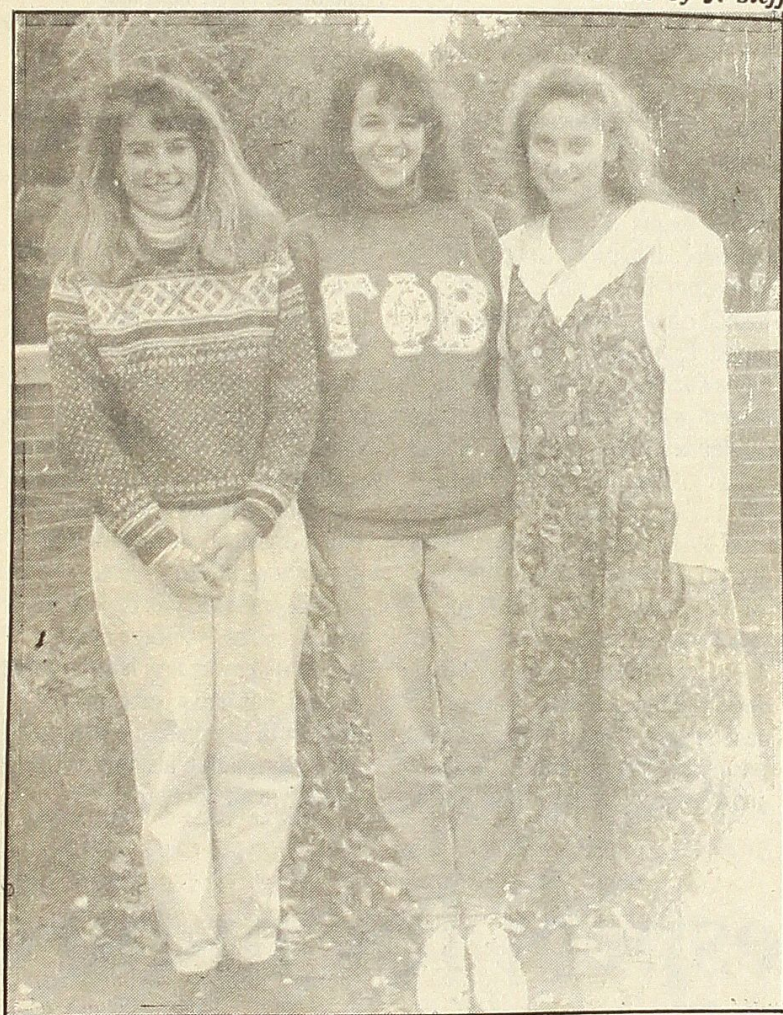


Photo by A. Mull

Going clockwise from football photo:

Seniors Joe Joeseph, 39, and Steve Clink, 77 break upfield against Kalamazoo.

Senior women's soccer players Michelle Wemple, Doreen Walter, and Kathy Dunbar look for improvement on future squads.

Senior captains Laura Holmes and Shannon Nichols show that even they make mistakes.

Senior Jim Chinery, team co-captain, breaks to sideline.

Senior Harriers relax after practice

Senior women's soccer players Nancy McIntyre, team manager Jennifer Laga, and Janet Webster finish college careers.



Photo by R. Webber



Photo by J. Steffee

RECOGNIZED

Sexual assault policy needs revision

By Maria Stephens
Assistant Feature Editor

The intense emotional quality and legal subtleties which characterize sexual assault cases contribute to the challenges which those developing and enforcing policies in this area face. On a small campus where many members of the community are personally acquainted with parties involved, the emotional quality of the issue is heightened, and concern for confidentiality is understandably great. Because of these special considerations and the controversial nature of the issue, judicial processes must be especially careful to develop clear, specific policies and systems in this area which ensure the most objective judgement of the case and just treatment of all parties involved.

On the Alma College campus, cases of sexual assault involving members of the student body are dealt with by one individual- the Dean of Students. To "deal with" these cases in practice means that the Dean hears the complaint, investigates the allegations, delivers the verdict of guilt or innocence, and determines the punishment, if any. Only if a student appeals a verdict within 48 hours of notification, in which case the Vice President of Enrollment and Student Affairs reviews the case, does any other individual enter into the judicial process in these cases.

No set guidelines exist for what

comprises this "investigation" or how it is executed, what justifies a verdict of guilt, or what punishment follows from such a verdict of guilt. The most specific information issued in print by the Office of Student Affairs concerning sexual assault cases can be found in the memo sent to students at the beginning of fall term: "Cases (of date rape) reported to the Dean of Students Office will be investigated for

Dean of Students." However, according to Dean of Students Jim Kridler, students involved in a sexual assault cases are unable to request a hearing with the Campus Judicial Committee, for confidentiality reasons. This same issue of confidentiality is the rationale offered for having only the Dean handle these cases.

A process by which the same individual investigates a case, decides guilt or innocence, and

While these hands may be, in fact, entirely capable, and the decisions issued from them wholly just, such a narrow system and unchecked power foster suspicion and distrust in the judicial process, and fail to guarantee the true objectivity. This lack of guaranteed objectivity hurts everyone: the alleged victim, the accused, and certainly the community at large. While the campus judicial

be investigated by one individual and then reviewed by another before any verdict would be determined. Surely a small group of administrative staff members could handle these cases without breaching confidentiality, and thereby ensure greater fairness for all. A student should not have to wait until appeals time before allowed objective consideration of his/her case. Such fairness should be assured before a verdict is ever reached.

I urge the Student Affairs office to review its policies in these cases and develop a system which more adequately ensures true objectivity. This could be accomplished through a system with more clearly defined guidelines for investigation and determination of guilt and which implicates more than one individual in the decision-making process. The administrators of campus judicial policy must not hide behind a shield of concern for confidentiality to justify a system which does not ensure fairness to the fullest extent possible. While such concerns are valid, they are no justification for a lack of complete guidelines and a system centered around only one individual. A system which does not aspire to fairness not only degrades ideals of justice which we, as members of a political democracy, hold in great esteem, but it also promotes distrust in the system and divides us in eliminating a social evil which we all condemn.

The administrators of campus judicial policy must not hide behind a shield of concern for confidentiality to justify a system which does not ensure fairness to the fullest extent possible...

disciplinary action. Students found guilty of sexual misconduct will be subject to immediate suspension or expulsion."

The student handbook states that the Campus Judicial Committee "will hear all disciplinary cases where the infractions are of such a serious nature that suspension or expulsion of the student or group is possible," except when a written request is made by the student for an administrative hearing (i.e. a hearing with the Dean of Students), and this request is granted by the Dean. In addition, the handbook states that "the committee is empowered to act on student infractions when such matters are referred to it by the students involved and/or the

appropriate punishment, without adherence to clearly defined policies, cannot ensure the objectivity and just treatment which is so vital for all parties in these cases.

Granted, confidentiality is certainly a legitimate concern. Sexual assault and acquaintance rape cases do differ from other cases which the campus judicial process handles, and therefore they must be treated with exception. For these reasons, the Campus Judicial Committee may not be the appropriate forum for a hearing of these delicate cases, but some alternative solution must be sought in which the powers of investigation, verdict, and punishment, do not rest solely in one individual's hands.

process of a private college is not a true court of law, and therefore is not bound by the same requirements of trial by jury or extensive due process, it should still aspire to the same ideals of justice on which our country is based, especially in controversial cases such as sexual assault. A system which follows few written guidelines and is executed by one individual alone clearly falls far short of emulating these ideals.

A system should be developed by which more than one member of the Student Affairs staff (or other administrative staff member) would be involved in the investigation and decisions of these cases. Such a system would assure greater objectivity in the judicial process. The case could

Littering exemplifies disrespect for nature

By Leigh Walker
Staff Writer

One Sunday morning after I finally separated myself from my bed, my roommate and I ventured over to Hamilton Commons for breakfast. As we came from Gelston and passed the library, something turned my attention to the left. It was the flower bed recently planted between the library and Clack Art Center. It was not the bright yellow and purple blossoms that captured my interest; it was their arrangement. Instead of lying in their triangular bed, a large number of them had been yanked out and thrown across the dead leaves on the lawn. I could not understand why someone would do something so destructive. Such vandalism is senseless.

The dictionary defines a vandal as, "someone who maliciously damages or destroys property of beauty or value." Many people at Alma College are vandals and don't even know it. They don't break car windows or spray graffiti on walls; they litter. People who toss garbage on

Alma's campus are destroying its beauty and value, just as the person who killed the flowers. There are many disadvantages to littering, and I do not believe there is one legitimate argument

All you must do is 1) hold on to your garbage, 2) walk over to a trash can, and 3) drop your garbage into the container. One night as I was walking back from the library, a gentleman in front of

People who litter are taking that right away from others. Flushing the toilet after going to the bathroom is a common courtesy to others who must use it later. Depositing litter in its proper

Earth. According to a recent article in U.S. News & World Report, our production of garbage which is now 160 million tons per year, will rise to 193 million tons by the end of the century. One American produces an average of three and a half pounds of garbage each day. Therefore, we must begin to concern ourselves with reducing and recycling our garbage. If we do not take an interest in what's around us, what's around us may not remain for much longer. Pollution, nuclear weapons, and crime will soon dominate the world if we just kick back and let apathy wash over us.

The next time you are tempted to wad up a used gum wrapper and "plant" it on campus (or anywhere else), remember that littering is vandalism and resist your temptation. In the end, your actions will benefit more people than you may realize. I did pick up that gentleman's pop can, and not only did I help maintain the beauty and value of our campus...I also got the 10 cent deposit.

People who litter are apathetic. They litter because they don't care about nature or the world. It is attitudes like this that will lead to the eventual destruction of the Earth.

in its defense. So why does it happen?

The school has provided several trash cans that are stationed all over the campus. So a good excuse is not, "I couldn't find a place to put it." A student does not have to walk very far to properly deposit waste.

It takes very little energy to throw garbage away correctly.

me was drinking a Pepsi. When he was finished, he chucked the can onto the lawn. How much energy would it have taken him to hold onto that can for a few minutes until he found a trash can?

A group of over 1,000 people are in some way involved with this campus, and each has the right to a clean living space.

place is just as much a common courtesy. For our race to survive together peacefully and happily, we must use common courtesy. We must respect others, so they will have the same respect for us.

People who litter are apathetic. They litter because they don't care about nature or the world. It is attitudes like this that will lead to the eventual destruction of the

Letters to the Editors

Yellow ribbons defended

To the Editor:

Yesterday I came face to face with my own conservatism. What has happened? Haven't people always said I had that '60's mentality? Now I stand on the fringes of a political controversy, but I defend the faction of the right. Aren't I left-handed anymore? Has the radical in me died? I know I always had a conservative core of soft carmel, but what happened to my chocolate coating? Age has melted it.

This right-wing takeover came on gradually. From the onset I approved troop development in the Persian Gulf because I saw a grave danger and too much familiar history in Saddam Houssein. I even feel the government has moved too slowly. Go in, get him out, come home. I don't support the death of US men and women, soldier or civilian; I don't advocate the killing of Iraqis, but sometimes wars have to be fought.

As soon as I heard about the Yellow Ribbon Committee, a humanitarian group, I offered to sponser a soldier. After all, a soldier is only a messenger of his or her country's policy. "This isn't another Vietnam," the troops say—I say. I don't want to see men forfeit their lives, risk their futures, and come home with broken bodies and spirits to scorn and rejecting rallies.

Okay, so I'm a conservative in this instance. I feel strongly and will hold this stance proudly. My soldier's yellow ribbon is out there on a tree—I hope—and I want it to stay there. Put up white ribbons for peace, but don't rip down the yellow ones.

Kathy M. Austin '83

Sister Organizations find support

To the Editor:

I am responding to an article entitled "Sigma Chi public statement" that appeared in the October 30th issue of the Almanian. The article concerns the phasing out of the greek sister organizations and relates this to "the rights of women in our society." The issue I wish to discuss, however, has nothing to do with sister organizations but rather with an alarming quote found within this article.

The author speaks of the possible misunderstandings that accompany the role of being a sister to a fraternity. He goes on to say that "We must protect them (our sisters) and their name." What are the implications of this statement? First of all, it is assumed that anyone needing protection is not in an egalitarian relationship with the person

providing this protection. An example of a relationship of this nature might be seen as that of a parent-child relationship. The parent, having superior knowledge, strength, and ability determines what is in the child's best interest. It then follows that they (the parent) "protect" their child from those things that they have determined to be harmful.

The problem occurs when women are seen as children and men assume the role of the parent. Many heinous crimes have been justified within the "man as protector" niche. For instance, in the majority of domestic violence cases, the male sees the female as a child that needs to be taught to mind. It is okay that he hits her, because he knows best, and is "doing it for her own good." Likewise, in rape cases, men aren't seen as guilty for their actions because women are "only playing hard to get" and "really wanted it anyway." Men, it is implied, know what women really want, regardless of their actions. The logical question that arises from this who are women being protected from? If the majority of violent crimes against women are committed by men, then aren't men, in thier "protector" role only protecting women from other men? Isn't this a conflict of interest?

The point is this: the only person qualified to make my decisions based on my concepts of "right" and "wrong" is me! One of the first steps in creating gender equality is not ending the fraternity sister organizations. It is allowing women to actively pursue their roles as capable, knowing, responsible adults. Until women are allowed to make their own decisions and learn from their own mistakes, they will continue to be seen as inferior and the crimes committed against them will continue to be seen as justified.

Rosalie A. Yorks

White ribbons met with sarcasm

To the Editor:

It seems like the tiniest things create the biggest controversies in these here parts. I guess that's the advantage of living in the Alma Bubble—you get to play the ethical equivalent to Trivial Pursuit. The latest ruckus de jour is an example: The Right Honorable Keeper of Goodness, Morality, and Virtue of God's ribbons around Alma, Steven Western, took more than a passing objection to the yellow ribbons around the trees around the campus. So, he peacefully ripped them down, chanting his mantra and saying, "I don't believe in killing."

Are you really against all

killing? I'm not, but then again maybe I'm just a bloodthirsty redneck. I'm all for self-defense, for example; so shoot me (oops, I guess you can't). You see, there are actually situations which make killing morally justified, and I think that, if it comes down to it, violating another country's popular sovereignty, shooting innocent civilians, taking international citizens hostage, raping, looting, pillaging, making up imaginary works in Scrabble, and other basically Nazi-like actions are fairly good justifications for eliminating the agressor. Blame for any deaths that result from this incident should be placed squarely on Saddam Hussein's head, since it was his initial evil act of aggression which made defensive action necessary.

In any case, this is a moot point. No one has been killed yet. So how could one construe those yellow ribbons to mean simply that we don't want servicemen to feel alone—after all, they are mere pawns and don't deserve to be harangued because one doesn't like how their Commander-in-Chief is doing things.

Another beef about the ribbons was that they were paid for by the college, yet the students were not consulted. Even if the student body had been consulted, and it came down to a vote, I think those ribbons would have gone up. I've heard of only a handful of people who are gripping about the ribbons, but I know of many, many more who have signed up for the Yellow Ribbon Committee's programs.

In any case, Steve Western has

no right to destroy someone else's property—the First Admendment's freedom of expression does not go that far. By ripping those ribbons down, you are depriving someone else of the very freedom of expression you cherish; that's far from noble, Mr. Western.

I object to those white ribbons you propose (though luckily for you I won't rip them down). Your minority group exerted more than its democratic share of power, and you forced something on the majority that it didn't consent to—ironically, you seem to be playing the same power politics game you think the Committee is.

Those white ribbons are supposed to support world peace. I may be dense, but I can't see how cessation of Operation Desert Shield would bring about peace in any manner. The white ribbons are also supposed to show support for all soldiers, including the Iraqis. That's analogous to erecting a scale model of Dachau in memory of Nazi war criminals, and I hope it's obvious how horribly wrong that would be.

And now to get real nitpicky. The ribbons were (gasp!) stapled in! Now, I would estimate that a staple covers about 0.01% of a tree's surface area—those staples won't hurt a tree any more than air molecules bouncing off your skin will harm you. And the cloth ribbons you propose to replace those satanic plastic one are far from environmentally safe. The fibers come from plants (which to grow deplete the soil's nutrients, and require the use of harmful pesticides), they take more energy to spin, then weave (which means

their factories contribute more to acid rain), and they don't biodegrade in a landfill any faster than plastic. Plastic is even better than cloth, because it can be recycled

Don't get me wrong—America's action in Saudi Arabia is very serious and has severe consequences. But putting a ribbon around a tree in the middle of Michigan is simply a gesture; ripping them down isn't striking a blow for freedom or anything, and I doubt Desert Shield stands or falls on whether the College keeps its ribbons. So let me have my yellow ribbon and I'll let you have your white ribbon and we'll agree to disagree and we'll go on to more important moral battles. Okay?

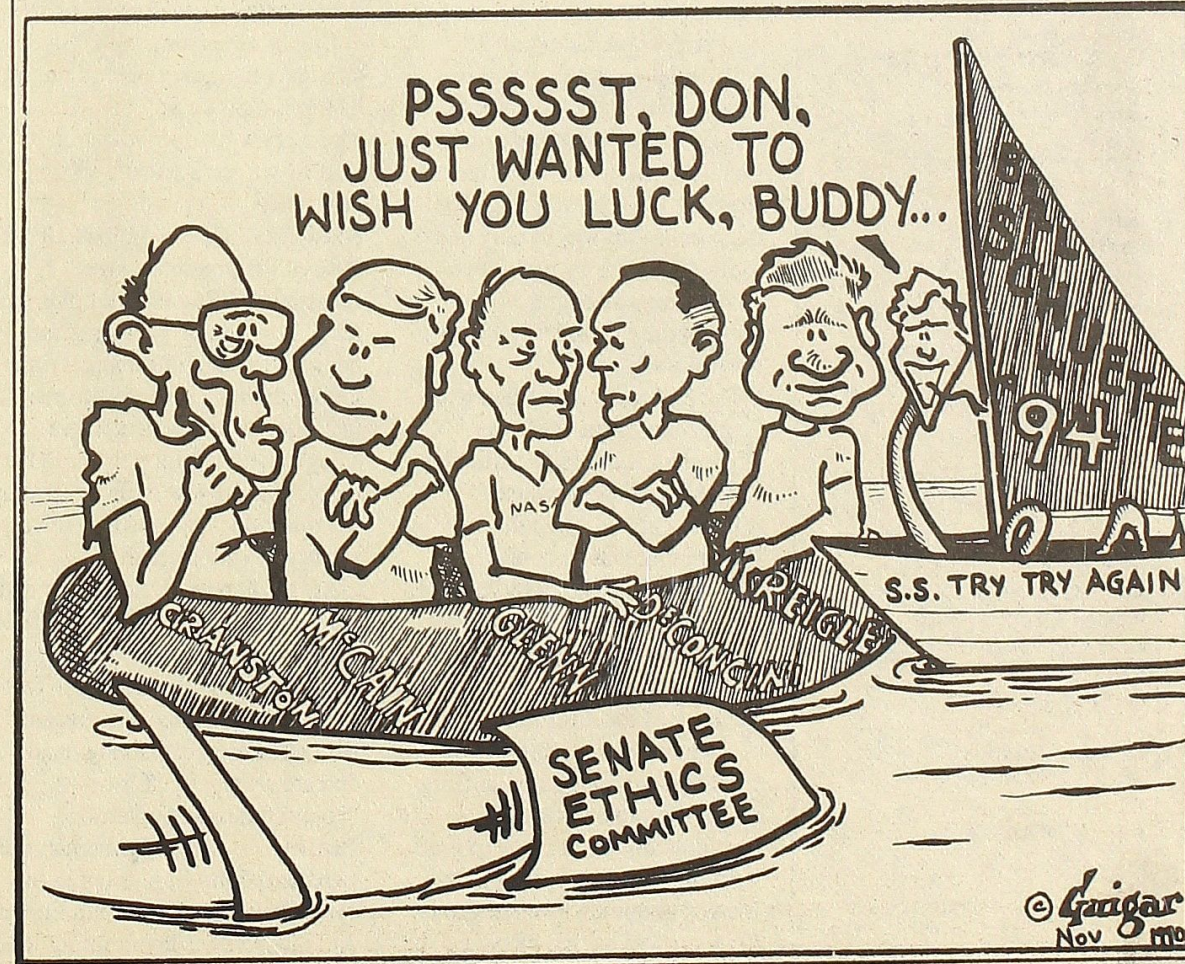
Brad Weidemann

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, and it must be pertinent to the Alma College community. Letters will be published on a first come, first serve basis, and will be limited to three per week. We reserve the right to condense letters for layout purposes. 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

Guigar

by Brad Guigar



Staff Editorial

Students miss yellow ribbon meaning

As one drives by Superior Street which passes through Alma College's campus, the bright yellow ribbons on the trees are quick to catch one's eye. Any informed person will at the same moment be reminded of the highly publicized "Ribbon Controversy." The conflict has risen from differences of interpretation concerning the meaning behind the yellow ribbons placed on trees around campus. The Yellow Ribbon Committee organized the placement of the ribbons in a symbolic gesture to "provide support for the soldiers in the

Middle East," said committee member Kathy Finch. On the assumption that these ribbons were symbolic of Alma's support of U.S. involvement in the Middle East, several individuals immediately objected. They claim, "You can't support individuals without supporting the war," a statement which appeared recently in *The Detroit News*, as our "campus civil war" received state-wide recognition.

From a historical point, yellow ribbons have always symbolized the *lives* of loved ones who are in danger. The earliest record of the yellow ribbon tradition can be

found in the 1830's American folk song, "Round Her Neck, She Wore a Yellow Ribbon." The lyrics express a woman's longing for the return of her "lover who was far, far away." More recently, yellow ribbons were tied on trees during the Iran hostage crisis to display desire for the safe return of the captured Americans. Because the symbol has always been in support of *life*, ribbons should not be seen as symbolizing support of a *cause*.

The purpose of these ribbons is not to cheer on the soldiers in their pursuit to kill and destroy the enemy, comparable to the

signs placed on football players' doors before a big game. They don't proclaim, "Go git 'em, troops! This one's for the Gipper!" There is no political support intended unless an individual wishes to interpret the ribbons that way. It is, indeed, possible to support the individuals without supporting their involvement in the Persian Gulf crisis. We just want them to come back *alive*. Everyone hopes for a peaceful resolution to the conflict in the Middle East, and that hope for peace can be expressed in the form of a yellow ribbon, the hope for individual life.

Controversial issues are important

By Karen McDonald
Co-Editor-in-Chief

In the recent Alma College Players production of *The Good Doctor* by Neil Simon, there is a scene between a girl and her employer. Throughout the course of their discussions about the girl's payment, the employer consistently cheats her of earnings that are rightfully hers. After intentionally cheating her, the employer asks the girl, "...Why don't you protest? Why don't you speak up?"

Even if you did not have the opportunity to see the show, it is still possible to recognize its message in this particular scene. The message is simple. It encourages question, thought, and wonder. It illustrates that in order to achieve and grasp the finer points in life, you must pay attention to what's going on around you.

Lately, there has been an unusual amount of protest and controversy for Alma College. The ribbon controversy has gained us state-wide publicity in *The Detroit News*, and Friday morning it was clear by the statements of protest written in chalk all over campus that the dismissal of Coach Phil Brooks did not go unnoticed. These incidents, along with a few others this year, have contributed to a more aware student body. It is refreshing to receive two or three letters to the editor a week. It says a lot for the people on this campus. It says that they are not willing to step back and accept things the way they are without questioning them, and if necessary—protesting.

Some have said that the ribbon controversy is becoming old, it is time to put it to rest. While this may be the easiest alternative, it does not solve the problem. There are individuals on this campus that feel that yellow ribbons are offensive. Despite their opposition, they have remained strong on their position; their actions should be commended. We must give them the respect and consideration that they rightfully deserve by recognizing their right to protest, their right to question and challenge the actions of others. Just as every person has a right to an opinion without ridicule and harassment from others that disagree, these individuals have a right to express their convictions.

If it seems silly to you, fine. However, individuals on this campus must have the right to speak their mind even if the majority of the campus doesn't feel it's worth arguing over. If not, then they all are victims, like the girl who is cheated out of what is rightfully hers simply because she was afraid to speak up or protest.

Engler takes on 'glorious burden'

By David D. Woodruff
Staff Writer

It was not supposed to happen this way. He was merely a token candidate; a sacrificial lamb in the 1990 elections. He would criss-cross the state touting his conservative platform to all who would listen. He would try to prove that the Michigan GOP could still produce a good Republican candidate, a feat that many felt could not be done.

Michigan Republicans have admittedly had dry seasons the past few campaigns, unable to unseat many Democrats who hold firm grips on several positions.

The candidate would concede defeat and go on living his political career. Meanwhile, our governor would return to Lansing for another four years, new wife in hand. Republicans would scratch their heads, analyzing the loss. Much would be said but little could be done except to start looking for a new candidate for the '94 gubernatorial race.

This idyllic scene has been played out many times before in American politics. Though the players, issues and setting may differ, the outcome is usually the same.

Last Tuesday however, Michigan voters threw a wrench in in this picture perfect plan; Engler won. Republicans across the state were scratching their head Wednesday morning not trying to figure out what went wrong, but with smiles across their faces, sharing their heads in a sort of elated disbelief.

The elation and celebration started early Tuesday night at the Radisson Hotel in downtown Lansing, not two or three blocks from the Capitol Building. The main ballroom was to play home to Engler's victory party, two words many Michiganders thought they would never hear in the same sentence.

The ball room was filled with Engler campaign workers, supporters, staffers and Michigan Republicans all nervously mingling about. The talk early in the evening was of confidence and an impending victory, yet most knew that Engler trailed Blanchard by as much as six points, a thought that lingered in the back of most minds.

Reporters from the major Michigan stations stood in front of the cameras, anxiously awaiting any bit of news to grab hold of. Three large televisions located about the room began to draw crowds as they played

CBS's election night coverage. The room fell quiet as Dan Rather began to rattle off the first gubernatorial results from across the country. At 8:20 p.m. Dan Rather's voice was drowned out by cheers as the first results trickled in. With only four percent of the precincts reporting, John Engler was in the lead 53% to Blanchard's 47%.

Maybe Engler could win. Maybe he could unseat Blanchard. Rumors began to make their way through the crowd.

"The highest turnout since '82," I over hear in conversation, "Wayne county's turnout is way down." The rainy weather also leans in Engler's favor, as well as good outstate turnout.

At 8:40 p.m., "Still too close to call in Michigan," says Rather. Again his voice is silenced by the cheers as the numbers on the screen tell of a continuing Engler lead by the smallest of margins. As the reports continue to come in every 20 minutes or so they continue to lean in Engler's favor.

Engler is winning, and winning strong, considering the hurdles he had to cross. The mood of the room begins to shift as we realize that a victory is now a very, very serious possibility. By ten o'clock almost 40% of the precincts have reported and Engler still holds the lead. A group of young staffers begin to shout and scream a little louder than the rest of us as the latest set of numbers come in. They appear to enjoy the cash bar more than the rest of us have. But the room does not seem to mind, victory is within reach.

At 11:00 p.m., John Engler and his running mate Connie Binsfield came down from their hotel suite to give the traditional speech for the late night news. He greeted the elated crowd, shaking hands and answering to calls of "congratulations Governor." He was no longer gubernatorial candidate John Engler but in our eyes, Governor-Elect John Engler. At 5:50 Wednesday morning it

was official. Four hours later Jim Blanchard officially conceded and waived his right to ask for a recount.

John Engler pulled off what may very well go down as one of the most memorable upsets in Michigan politics. In an election where the final tallies differed by only three votes per precinct, the margin of victory was the slimmest Michigan gubernatorial politics has seen since the fifties.

It is difficult to say what exactly caused the voters in Michigan to unseat Jim Blanchard. Theories abound; each with its own valid points and each with its own partisan slant. But one fact is proven, a relatively little known politician from middle Michigan defeated a two-term incumbent Governor, a feat rarely seen in nation whose elected officials are assured almost 90% job retention.

In all honesty, Blanchard was a good governor. His Michigan Education Trust and Michigan Youth Corps are highly successful and the state is doing fairly well. But Blanchard suffered from a case of bad timing. He was an incumbent up for re-election at a time in the country when many feel it is time to clean out the capitols and state-houses. It is difficult to say whether or not Engler would have won a year ago, for the mood of the country and the state was very different.

John Engler is now preparing to take on what he describes as a "glorious burden." As he makes his way to Lansing, we will not soon forget the miracle or fluke, depending on party alignment, that happened last Tuesday. Changes are already in store as Engler has hinted at doing away with the MET, as well as his campaign promise to sell the Governor's helicopter. Come January, our new governor will take the reigns of our state. He will become governor having never lost an election during his political career. A man who won by the skin of his teeth, he will run our state as Blanchard watches from the sidelines.

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