

Programmers
capture fourth.

See page 2

Liability becomes
big concern.

See page 4

Faust adds Alma to
responsibilities.

See page 6

Super Bowler
viewers snooze.

See page 9

JFK confuses fact
and fantasy.

See page 10



The Almanian

Jan. 21, 1992

Serving Alma College since 1907

Issue 14

Raw sewage floods residence hall rooms Untreated waste poses possible health risk for students in Carey

By Jane Brown
Staff Reporter

At 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 12, one of the Alma College sewer lines backed up, overflowing into Carey residence hall rooms through the showers. Three student's rooms were damaged: one room completely flooded; another room's carpet was dampened by the overflow; and a third student's room had standing water covering the floor. The students' rooms immediately affected by the overflow were Alexandra Rancont (124 Carey) and Kim Tobin (123 Carey).

The students whose rooms were involved were initially told that the sewage was the city's responsibility, and that the problem had been taken care of. However, the line turned out to be one of the school's private sewer lines, and the sewage was not treated. This untreated sewage is known as grey water, meaning that it is the lightest sewage which has not yet sunk to the bottom of the tanks.

Students were not informed of the true nature of the backup, and the Alma City Public Service Department was unable to provide students with any information.

One student whose room was flooded said that she did not even know that the mess was sewage:

"No one called me or informed me that it was sewage. I thought it was water."

Another student, who wished to remain anonymous, said, "The school has not told the students anything. This is negligence."

After the backup occurred, it is said that it took the students three hours to get security and one hour after that before housekeepers came through the rooms with a wet vacuum. Though the students had to move out of their rooms because of the odor, President Alan

Works reported in a statement that "the flooding of your room at Alma College which occurred on January 11, 1992, was a result of a sewer blockage in a line owned by Alma College." Public Services Director Kenneth Feldt "called Duane Knecht, director of the Physical Plant, with the College and confirmed this."

Knecht "assured Feldt that the College will take full responsibility for the damages occurred to your personal belongings, as well as appropriate cleaning of your

and parents' minds as to whether or not the rooms are really safe to move into. When one parent was discussing the mishap with the Health Department she was told that any furniture or food (except for canned items, which would need to be soaked in a disinfectant) struck with the water should be thrown away. Many of the students' personal belongings have had to be thrown away, but the College has agreed to pay for these items.

Some students are still angry over the mishap. One said, "It's not the school's fault, but it's their responsibility.... Things could have been saved, but that cannot be accomplished unless notice is given to the students of the problem."

However, the College maintains that the rooms have been thoroughly disinfected and the mess is under control now. Yet, students and parents who felt there was a delay on the school's part in taking any action are angered as they have had to disinfect and clean on their own.

One student's parent said, "The school's lack of response is the problem; i.e., they did not notify the students it was sewage so that they could disinfect the rooms.... Also, the school never did clean the bathrooms. Eight days later I cleaned the bathroom. Parents should not have to clean sewage out of a bathroom."

"The school's lack of response is the problem, i.e., they did not notify the students it was sewage so that they could disinfect the rooms..."
-anonymous parent

J. Stone offered them rooms in his house until their rooms could be put back to rights. One student took Stone up on this offer.

Nelson Hayes, a spokesperson for the Oakland County Health Department, said the backup could be dangerous as the untreated sewage can offer numerous diseases to those things which come into contact with the sewage. "Any carpet that is wet for more than 48 hours should be removed, and any sewage odor in the room is not safe," Hayes said.

The City denies any responsibility in this matter. Alma Public

room."

Nevertheless, Knecht stated that the school would not have been liable had the City owned the line. However, since the line belongs to the school, Stone said that "a refund will be worked out."

The lines have been cleared now, and all the sewage is safely flowing away to be treated in the sewer plant.

Though most of the students returned to their rooms, one has moved as the room is still damp and an unpleasant odor still lingers. However, questions still persist in some of the students'

Massanari compares Christianity and Buddhism

By Tracey Antcliff
Staff Writer

Ron Massanari, professor of religion and philosophy, spent a sabbatical in Japan seeking a better understanding of the eastern views of the relationship between humans, nature, and the ultimate reality. As a product of western perspectives, his anthropocentric vision was increasingly dislocated by the shock of experience and by subsequently seeing things differently. During his experience, he has been reminded of the difference of knowing something intellectually and knowing it experientially. The Buddhist "temple gardens" were the "catalyst" for shifting his attention and his topic for last Friday's Faculty Forum.

Massanari explained that, as a student of history, he is convinced that much of our world view and value frame, both individually and socially, is inherited and often accepted tacitly rather than consciously. He does believe it is possible to make such world views and value frames conscious, arguing "this is what most of the educational enterprise is about." He even argues that it is possible to change them although usually accompanied by some pain and disruption.

As a student of religions, Massanari wants to deal with this "bringing to consciousness by comparing the Christian traditions and those of Buddhism in terms of their visualization of space, and thus nature, as well as their conceptual interpretation of these experiences."

Massanari demonstrated this by showing slides of different cathedrals, pointing out the interesting fact that sacred space exists only within these structures. One must enter into a cathedral to enter sacred space. Speaking once more of the "garden," he said it has no place within our sacred space; therefore, "the space within is not representative of nature, but rather a depiction of the supernatural realm of heaven. Even the people of God are not natural, but are the result of a second birth, making them somehow, beyond nature, members of the kingdom of heaven rather than of the earth."

From the vantage point that within

See "faculty forum" on p. 3

Polish professor examines failure of communism

Filar disseminates economic, political and social realities of former Eastern bloc

By Stacie L. Herriman
News Editor

"The real failure of Communism was the internal inability to develop and create new structure and adopt itself to real challenges," said Dariusz Filar, associate professor of social economics at the University of Gdansk, Poland, in his presentation entitled "The Post-Communist Transformation in East-Central Europe" Wednesday, Jan. 15.

"It's hard to overcome the passivity of the last four decades and become more flexible and mobile," he continued. "Now it's go East

instead of West." Nevertheless, economic stability is "coming alive again" in Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary.

In his presentation on the economic, political and social realities of these three countries, Filar showed both the legacy of four decades of totalitarian rule and the building of pluralistic democracy and market economy.

"One of the challenges of 1992 is the freedom of mobility of labor within united Europe," said Filar.

He also discussed the growing middle class and its role in the transformation process. With the abolition of price controls in Poland, middle class citizens suffered from inflation rates as high as 2,000 percent per year as prices were set

by the market. However, "Poland has passed this process of price adjustments to real market prices," Filar said. "We are approaching the common unity in a spiritual sense despite the fact that full convertibility of currency remains a prerequisite for joining the EC."

Filar, a Gdansk faculty member since 1981 and head of the Department of Social Economics since 1990, concentrates his research interests on patterns of income distribution and interpretations of social justice under different political systems. He earned his degree in economics at Gdansk in 1973 and his Ph.D. in 1976.

He spent three months in Bonn in 1990 studying the economic and social effects of Germany's reuni-

fication process. Earlier he had been a visiting scholar at universities in Scotland, England and West Germany. A member of Solidarity since 1980, he is a founder member of the Liberal Democratic Congress (the party of the prime minister Jan Krzysztof).

Filar's visit to Alma is an outgrowth of a U.S. Department of Education-funded seminar and tour last June, in which presidents and provosts from 11 Midwestern colleges and universities visited Polish university centers. The program's purpose was to explore opportunities for exchanges between American and Polish colleges. Alma College, represented by President Alan J. Stone, was among the schools included.

Greek Life Manual okayed

New policy guide implements reward program

By Jason Ricks
Staff Reporter

While some colleges across the nation are considering abolishing their Greek organizations, Alma College is striving to strengthen its relationship with its Greeks. One attempt at this effort is through the recently approved Alma College Greek Life Manual, in which the relationship between the College and the Greek system is outlined and explained.

The purpose of the manual is to establish relations between the College and Greeks, to implement an awards program—giving recognition to chapters for achievement of specified goals—and to be used as an information source for the College's Greek policies.

According to the manual, "Six general areas have been identified as having relevance and value for the Greek system, as well as for the College. These are scholarship, societal awareness, individual development, volunteerism and service, risk management, and college citizenship." Under each of these six areas, there are three divisions: mandatory, recommended and optional.

ommended and optional.

The first division under each area is a list of things, such as a G.P.A. of 2.0 to continue pledging, that are mandatory requirements of the College for all Greeks. The second division is a list of things that are "recommended" by the College that each chapter do, such as sponsor or co-sponsor meetings or workshops. Finally, there is the optional division of each area which is a smaller list of things that chapters can do for extra points to win awards.

Another purpose of the manual is to implement a program that rewards chapters for participating in recommended and optional events. Near the end of each winter term, every Greek organization will have to complete an evaluation of what it did as a chapter in the six different areas. The Greek Life Committee, a future subdivision of the Student Life Committee, will also evaluate each chapter and add up the points to determine the recipients of Chapter of Distinction awards.

The purpose of this awards system is to give publicity and recognition to Greeks. "We want to give recognition, because Greeks are often seen as the bad guys on

campus and we want to promote all the good things about Greeks," said Assistant Dean of Students and Greek Advisor Emily Perl, chairperson of the committee that developed the manual.

The committee, formed in January 1991, consisted of Perl, two faculty, two administrators, and three students. The reason that a committee was formed last year was "to establish how congruent the Greek system is with the mission of Alma College." The committee found that Greeks are actually supportive of the College's mission.

The concept of the manual, and the manual itself, met with no impediments to its progress. Once it was written, it had to be accepted and voted on by three different groups: the InterFraternity and Panhellenic Councils, the Student Life Committee, and the executive staff of the College (President Alan Stone and the three vice-presidents).

Perl said, "All of these bodies passed it with only minor changes from each group and everybody felt it was a positive thing. Our next step will be to present it to the faculty." The presentation of the manual to the faculty will be for their information only; they have no vote in the matter.



Julie Hakken, new Service Learning field experience coordinator, takes a break. Photo by C. Bryant.

Hakken hired as field experience coordinator

By Kristine Lovasz
Managing Editor

political science Burnet Davis and chaplain Jesse Perry.

Specific objectives stated in a letter to the Kellogg Foundation include the development of alternative forms of service-related experiences, each of which combines a quality of academic experience with experiential learning practica, courses within individual departments across the curriculum, and a lecture series.

The four-year pilot program is already into its second year, and will move toward the planned full academic program during the 1992-93 academic year. Course development for teaching new service learning courses are diverse.

Associate professor of English William Palmer is supervising poetry workshops for the elderly conducted by English students at the Michigan Masonic Home and other senior citizen centers. A spring term course, "Video Taping to Find Meaning," will be taught by Jane Keon, instructor of English. Luke is adding a module to the existing HSS 202 course which includes work with public schools focusing on the issues of alcohol and drug abuse. Luke also plans to teach two new courses. One is entitled Recreation on the Pine River and the other is a study of the theology of aging.

Furthermore, Lorenz is sponsoring a research project concerning the history and the policy of the Michigan Chemical Company in regard to the PBB incident. He will also be including a module in the political science course Public Management. Students will be placed in public and private non-profit agencies in the Detroit area. Ronald Massanari, professor of religion and philosophy, will teach Environmental Ethics. Roseanne Hoefel, assistant professor of English, will add a letter writing module to English composition classes. Walser will teach Biblical Ethics and Community Service (REL 210). Melissa Strait, assistant professor of chemistry, will teach a practicum in chemical analysis of the Pine River. Root will include a child advocacy module in EDC 320.

Alma beats UCLA and Stanford teams

Programmers finish fourth nationwide in postponed contest

By Stacie L. Herriman
News Editor

Alma College was the only MIAA school to compete in the IEEE CS National Programming Contest (NPC), a new form of computer programming contest geared towards undergraduate students. This year's NPC was held at the University of Texas at Austin in the Alumni Center on Nov. 30, 1991. Alma's team consisted of seniors Phil Haar, Paul Kassal and David Martinelli.

The tournament was postponed due to several uncorrected bugs in the game server. However, it was conducted again, with a new set of matchups, two weeks later on Dec. 14, after having removed all remaining bugs.

"We spent eight to nine hours that Saturday (Nov. 30) writing all our programs," Kassal said. "They started running our programs that

evening, but realized their program had too many bugs so they kept what we wrote and ran it at that later date."

Alma fared well, beating UCLA and Stanford Universities. The lost to Oberlin College and MIT, who eventually finished in second place. Rice University prevailed as the 1991 NPC winner.

"If you look at the elimination tree, the University of Texas was third, and Alma was fourth out of 16 teams," Kassal said. "That is great for our first year of competing in this contest against very strong competition—six of the teams are among the top 20 in computer science in the country."

The contest consisted of 16 teams with three contestants per team. Each team was from a different university. Each university was selected by an anonymous group of five distinguished members of the IEEE CS. Some teams not selected by that group were selected on the basis of their university's history of

similar computer contests and the skill of their proposed entrants.

"We had to submit an application with our member's computer history," Kassal said. "We were probably chosen on the basis of our ACM first-place win, despite the fact that we were relatively unknown."

The contestants' goal was to play the game as best they could. "The catch was that we were not allowed to play the games ourselves," said Kassal. "We had to write programs to control our players for us."

The game contestants had to create players for what was called "Gobble," basically a capture-the-flag game. "The object was to get one of our players to the middle of the screen, pick up the turkey, and return it to our side," Kassal said.

On each team were three players: Ma, Pa and Squirt. There was no way to kill another player permanently, and the turkey could not be killed. Furthermore, the person carrying the turkey cannot shoot and moves at half-speed.

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Keeping you informed

EPC approves Women's Studies Minor

The Educational Policies Committee (EPC) approved the proposed Women's Studies Minor at its Friday, Jan. 10, meeting.

The minor will consist of 28 credits, including the following core classes: Introduction to Women's Studies, Sex and Gender Roles and Relationships, Feminist Philosophy and Religion, and Women's Literature. An additional 8-10 specified elective credits will be required in addition to a practicum and independent study.

Political Science Department continues applicant search

The Political Science Department resumed its search to fill the open international relations position. The department brought prospective candidates Meredith Reid Sarkees and Derick "Sandy" Hulme, Jr. to campus Thursday, Jan. 9, and Friday, Jan. 17, respectively, for an interview and tour of the facilities. Sarkees delivered a presentation for faculty and students entitled "Realism and the New World Order," while Hulme's was entitled "The U.S.-Israel Relationship: Is it the End of a Special Relationship?"

Sarkees said the New World Order, "according to the United States President George Bush, is the world that is emerging after the collapse of the bipolar world." She continued with an explanation of realism which she defined with two key elements: anarchy—"the absence of an overarching government,"; and structure—"Who has power in the system?" Tying it all together, she said, "According to realists, what is going to become important to American foreign policy in the 1990s are alliances as new power centers arise."

Currently, Sarkees is Assistant Professor of Political Science at Niagara University in New York. Her major area of interest is international relations, but, "in particular, international relations theory."

Hulme defined a special relationship as "a mutual consistent policy of preference by one state to another over a broad range of issues." Hulme expanded on his theory of special relationships explaining its requirements, the factors that can lead to its demise, and its usefulness as a theory. He then used the United States-Israeli relationship to illustrate his theory concluding that it is "more important for Israel to maintain a special relationship with the United States than vice-versa" as "Israel still needs U.S. money and diplomacy." However, "because of the dissolution of the Soviet Union," said Hulme, "the U.S. no longer needs Israel as a bulwark against Communism."

Currently, Hulme is a research associate and professor at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University in Medford, Mass.

Student Affairs starts new RA selection

By Stacie L. Herriman
News Editor

The Student Affairs Office hired four new Resident Assistants (RAs) this term to fill openings created by graduating seniors and those studying overseas.

"We have one former RA, one alternate, and two brand-new RAs on staff this term," said Dean of Students James Kridler. The new RAs are seniors Curtis Bryant and Karen McDonald, and juniors Michelle Soper and Stacie Herriman.

Furthermore, Student Affairs is beginning its search for RAs to fill positions for the 1992-93 academic year. Kridler said, "We expect to hire at least 26 people—12 men and 14 women—with four to six alternates on top of that." Kridler continued, "We picked up a number of alternates this fall. We never know what's going to happen with it so we always carry alternates just in case."

The selection process will remain much

the same this year with a few minor changes.

"We moved the entire process up so that it occurred early in the term," said Kridler. "It worked well last year so we will keep with it. Students will be notified of whether or not they have been appointed to an RA position on or before Friday, March 6. We will also conduct the group experience, added last year, before the first round of interviews."

"After people are hired this year we'll have a group training exercise in mid-March," Kridler said. This change occurs because of the tremendous workload "in the two weeks prior to the start of the academic year." Furthermore, the training will provide "more continuity" as new RAs will be provided with the handbook before they leave so that they can read the articles over the summer. When they return the training will be based on those articles, hence making the training both more thorough and efficient.

RAs at Alma College are members of the Student Affairs staff. RAs, along with the Hall Director, have responsibility for the

entire residence program with specific emphasis given to the students with whom the RA lives. Moreover, RAs must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.25 and give priority to this position over other areas of activity except for academic work.

Each RA is contracted for the fall and winter terms of a school year with the opportunity of retention for the following year pending personal job satisfaction and favorable job performance evaluation. RAs for the 1992-93 academic year will be compensated as follows for their services: first-year RAs will receive a salary equal to 75 percent of the room rate; second year, 85 percent; and third year 90 percent. An additional stipend equal to one month will be paid if the RA is appointed for spring term.

"A copy of the RA manual, reorganized last summer, is on reserve in the library for people to look at if they would like more information about the position and its responsibilities," said Kridler.

College encourages off-campus studies with exchanges

By Jane Brown
Staff Reporter

Alma College's exchange program with Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama remains relatively unknown. Since the program's beginning two years ago, only two Alma College students have taken advantage of the opportunity to study at Stillman for a semester. The program was to be an educational tool for the students of both schools, as those who attend Stillman experience a predominantly black school whereas, those who attend Alma experience the opposite in a predominantly white school.

Since the beginning there have been faculty exchanges and a band and choir exchange. Four Stillman students traveled to Alma to conduct biology research last summer, Will Nichols, music department, is

expected to go to Stillman.

Vice President for Enrollment and Student Affairs John Seveland, organizing director of this program, said that it is an "exciting opportunity to take part in the exchange.... This is an exchange of ideas and people."

Stillman opened in 1876 and has always been a predominantly black school. The school was founded with the teaching of Presbyterian leadership in mind, but has expanded itself to include all facets of a liberal education, much like Alma. Those students who partake in the exchange are given the opportunity to experience a whole different understanding of the world around them. Seveland said that, though Alma and Stillman are very different, "the people embraced them [Alma College students]."

To be eligible for the program, students must go through a screening group of directors. The exchange costs the same amount as attending Alma, and the air fare to and from

Alabama is paid by the school. Seveland said he believes this exchange to be "a great opportunity, and the students who choose to try this exchange will see their semester as not only productive educationally, but educational in concern to the school history, as well as the area of the country in which it is located."

Also unbeknownst to many, the College offers an exchange with the University of Puerto Rico. Although students are required to speak Spanish as a condition of the program, the opportunities are just as great as education is given a new light. Seveland said he believes that "the occasion to travel to Puerto Rico would be stimulating and exciting for any student." At the present, there is a student attending Alma from Puerto Rico.

Both programs are accepting applications. Though they are in their early stages, they have exciting potential for those who choose to take advantage of the exchanges.

Faculty Forum

Massanari contemplates two traditions

Cont'd from p. 1

the traditional Christian world view the ultimate reality—God, humans, and nature—are different and separate, no interdependence is possible. "It is evident that those who live within this world view and value frame have difficulty in developing an environmental ethic. In western secular traditions nature remains profane matter without meaning or value. Environmental ethics in this context remains anthropocentric," said Massanari.

"If we consider ourselves separate and different from nature, then it appears human self-interest is the only viable, ethical base," he continued. "It is only recently, however, that ecological studies and environmental crises are teaching us that humans are more interconnected to nature than the Christian traditions and western secularism typically have assumed."

In the eastern view, humans and nature are different, but in reality they are not separate. "Humans came from nature in order to see nature in themselves, just as nature came to itself in order to see itself in humans," Massanari said.

As nature conscious of itself, humans have

a special capacity and responsibility. One aspect of this responsibility is that humans can create disharmony in and disruption of nature, especially due to ignorance—thinking and acting as if they were not only different, but separate from nature. Ethical questions within this perspective are intimately tied to knowledge or awareness of self as interconnected with nature and ultimate reality.

Because of the assumed interdependence, nature is part of sacred space and has ethical value in and of itself. The garden is naturally included in the temple compounds. Humans are naturally interrelated with nature. To paraphrase, Massanari said, "When I began, gardens were gardens. When I thought I understood, gardens were no longer gardens. When I became aware, gardens were gardens again."

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Melatonin linked to *snooze...*

By Heather Osterman
Staff Writer

Have you found yourself more tired than usual, even after you've gotten a full night's sleep? Does every day seem like another blah Monday? Well, you can blame it on a hormone.

Melatonin is a hormone produced by the pineal gland of the brain. Scientists have found that this hormone plays a significant role in the regulation of the human clock, more specifically, your sleep-wake cycle. During the day or light hours melatonin production is suppressed. As the evening hours set in and things outside get darker the production and circulation of melatonin is significantly greater. Melatonin does not cause sleep—it is not a sleep substance. It more or less sets the time for sleep. For example, if you have been up 24 hours straight and you finally have a chance to sleep at noon when the sun is shining brightly, you for the most part will have no trouble falling into a deep sleep. Melatonin isn't being produced but you still can sleep. However, when melatonin had been administered to subjects in past experiments, the typical time for falling asleep was significantly moved up. This hormone, in a sense, lowers the threshold of sleep which facilitates the onset of sleep. So when the winter months are upon us and the daylight hours are much shorter the earlier darkness kicks in our melatonin production and it is easier for us to doze off.

Melatonin is also being studied in connection with depression, especially winter depression or Seasonal Affective Disorders Syndrome (SADS). There is a consensus that light therapy is effective in treating this winter depression. It has been found when winter depressive patients are subjected to bright light, especially in the morning, there is a significant elevation in mood ratings. Unfortunately, sticking your head under a lamp isn't going to put you in a better mood. Scientific studies show that light needs to have an intensity equal to or greater than outdoor sunlight to be effective, but being in a brightly lit room can't hurt. So pull back the curtains and enjoy the sun when it peaks out. It will perk you up and wake you up.

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Alcohol, Alma and you: Liability causes concern

By Erin Fenner
Staff Writer

Anyone who's ever seen a Sam Bernstein advertisement on TV knows that America is becoming an increasingly litigious society. We will sue at the slightest hint of negligence. As reasonable men and women, however, we may find ourselves wondering where it all will end. In other words, to what extent can an individual hold others responsible for his or her own actions?

Liability for any injury is determined by establishing negligence. In the case of Alma College, liability exists when a person is injured as a result of the College's failure to perform a promised task, or because of a gross oversight on the part of the College. As long as a well-insured institution like Alma College can be considered negligent in any way, people will sue in the hopes of winning a multi-million dollar award from a sympathetic jury, or perhaps settling for a few hundred thousand in an out-of-court deal with an insurance com-

pany. According to Dean of Students James Kridler, "It's the 'deep-pockets' theory."

Within the past six years, there have been two liability suits against the College. Both of these involved students who were killed in alcohol-related car accidents. The parents of both victims sued the College because they maintained that the College had neglected its duty to protect their children from the over-consumption of alcohol, even though in one of the cases, the consumption of the alcohol occurred in Traverse City.

Kridler calls this an *in loco parentis* ideology, and links it to the prevailing attitudes of the 1940s and 1950s when parents expected colleges to assume a parental role. The changing social trends of the 1960s and 1970s allowed for a more contractual relationship to develop between students and colleges, but Kridler says, "the trend is swinging in the other direction again."

As a result, the College has been forced to initiate a new policy which requires all fraternities and sororities to purchase liability insurance if they wish to host alcohol-related events. This allows the insurance company to assume some respon-

sibility for injuries resulting from alcohol consumption at a Greek event. Kridler said, however, "The insurance companies may then try to establish a risk-free environment, for instance demanding that no alcohol be served." This will take responsibility off both the College and its Greek organizations. "That is the reason that we have gone to the BYO events over the past few years—it puts the responsibility on the individual who brought the alcohol."

Kridler admitted while it will be easy for Greek organizations with national chapters to get liability insurance, "local groups will have a more difficult time." Because of this, the College has worked with one local Greek organization to help them establish some liability plan.

Although the question of liability may seem to lead to a conflict of interest between the College's legal duty to protect its students and the students' desires to exercise their own judgement, Kridler said that, "The policies are there to protect the College and the Greek organizations, as well as the students. We're not going to eliminate the risk [of injury] but we can manage it."

Commemorate Clean Your Desk Day

Can you find last week's issue of The Almanian on your desk? Perhaps you should read this.

By Sara Groves
Staff Reporter

Do you know what January 21 is? That's right! It's *National Clean Off Your Desk Day*. (I bet that was the first thing which crossed your mind.)

What an interesting day to declare. I guess it serves some sort of purpose. After all, as one of my high school teachers said, "A clean desk is a key to learning." I, personally, like to work in a cluttered and dirty area. I think I work better under these circumstances actually. It seems to me they could have declared a more productive day for everyone.

A *National Clean Your Eaves Troughs Day* might be a good idea. That's something which needs to be done on a regular basis, but nobody ever really thinks about. It's easy to see piles of books and folders and a few dustballs on your desk. But how many people actually examine their eaves troughs for these things every once in a while? (I have to admit though, books and folders are probably not going to be jamming your eaves, but you know what I mean.)

I hate the idea of some morons sitting around and thinking of things for people to do which may or may not be productive to them. Who are these people anyway? Was this a career goal for them throughout their lives? Did they tell people when they were eight years old, "When I grow up, I want to be the person in charge of naming dumb days."

And, if they did, did their parents encourage this behavior?

If I was in charge of naming days, I would name some cool days. I think I would have a *National Listen to Loud Music and Annoy Your Neighbor Day*. There would also be a *National Don't Go To Work, Go To The Beach Instead Day*. But I think I would have to have several *National Don't Go To Class And Don't Do Homework Because You Deserve To Have A Good Time More Than They're Allowing You To Day*.

But *National Clean Off Your Desk Day*? Come on...Who are we kidding here? Who is going to wake up on January 21 barely able to contain their excitement that *National Clean Off Your Desk Day* is finally here? I can't really compare it to waiting for Santa Claus.

National Clean Off Your Desk Day seems like an excuse for an awful lot of people to take some time out of their schedules (i.e. the normal work day) and do something that they probably say to themselves they should do a hundred times a day. And, now that it has finally been declared as a National Day, they can do it and get paid for it in the process.

So, on January 21, you may or may not want to clean off your desk. I, myself, am going to take a stand against stupid days and not do anything about mine. As a matter of fact, I may actually declare January 21 as my own personal *Don't Go To Class and Don't Do Homework Because I Deserve A Good Time And This Annoying Thing Called School Isn't Letting Me Have A Good Time 24 Hours A Day Day*. That sounds more my speed.

Environmentally Speaking by Emily Shaw

Shop smart, precycle, and save wasteful trips to the paper bins

The campus is recycling. Doesn't that give you warm fuzzies, knowing that you help make the world a cleaner, better place? But there is something we can do to make recycling even easier and more effective, precycle. Precycling is reducing waste by not buying something. What we buy has a direct correlation to what we throw away. The law of conservation of matter states that we can not create or destroy waste. So as we buy things for our pleasure, we destroy the Earth's natural habitat.

Recycling is great. We take paper, plastic, cardboard or glass, throw it into separate little bins, and then do not think about it

again. Sort of like "guilt free garbage." In order for the recyclables to be recycled they have to go through a processing plant. These procedures require much energy and many chemicals. Precycling eliminates these processes. When we are shopping we must make more conscientious choices in what we purchase. Precycling helps reduce the amount of waste we make, allowing fewer chemicals into the air and cutting costs.

According to *The Recycler's Handbook*, packaging makes up about one third of what we throw away. That is a lot of unnecessary waste. In order to prevent this flow of waste, keep the following ideas in mind. When you shop, be wary

of little things that have big packaging. Just remember, you are paying for the packaging of the product as well. What good is that little cardboard box going to do for you after you open your deodorant? Also try to avoid buying things that are individually packaged within another package, such as cheese slices.

There are some things for which packaging is absolutely necessary, products that are in containers, such as laundry detergent or shampoo. When purchasing these items always try to buy bulk quantities. The bigger the better. This typically gives you more for your money and definitely more product per package

creating less waste. Also, when purchasing these items try to buy products that can be recycled, this makes the best of a bad situation.

We have become such a disposable society in the last decade, a trend we need to end. Always attempt to buy things that will last longer. Disposable razors are bad. It is smarter and more cost efficient to buy a reusable razor. This creates less waste because you only throw away the blade every time instead of a whole razor. Many other items that we use every single day and probably never realize it can be more environmentally sound. How many disposable pens do you go through in one year? How many batteries? By making

these simple little changes, we can help preserve the earth for future generations.

Precycling can also occur in other parts of your life aside from shopping. When you take notes in class do you use both sides of the paper? You should. When you send out memos or letters if you can fit two copies on one piece of paper, then do it. Consider using the back of flyers and campus mail as scratch paper.

So continue taking advantage of the school's great recycling program, but start thinking about other things you can do. The less waste you create, the less you have to get rid of and the world will be that much better for it.

Jan. 21, 1992

Appalachian visit teaches environmental awareness

Fritsch speaks to Alma College students as part of Service Learning Colloquium

By Amy McGinnis
Staff Writer

Over 100 people, students, faculty and others, gathered together in the old Dow auditorium last Wednesday at 8 p.m. The purpose of their gathering was to hear Albert J. Fritsch discuss "Down to Earth Spirituality" as part of an Interdisciplinary Environmental Colloquium sponsored by Alma College.

The colloquium's focus, as part of a service learning program which aims to promote student involvement in learning and volunteering in the service sector, is to address environmental changes in the late 20th century. The college is bringing two other scholars, who also have shown an active interest in providing a commitment to solving many environmental challenges, to campus later in the term for the colloquium.

Edward Lorenz, associate professor of political science and history and a member of the Colloquium Advisory Board, introduced

Fritsch as "...a liberally educated person who combines experience and education with a variety of disciplines, not just from a narrow focus." Fritsch is an academically trained scientist (a former chemist at the University of Texas), a Roman Catholic priest and director of an organization known as Appalachia-Science in the Public Interest. He was at one time a consultant to the Center for the Study of Responsive Law, as well.

Fritsch began his lecture, in a partially full Dow lecture hall, by posing a question to the College. "Why can't the college do it themselves?" The "it" he referred to is an environmental audit. A restructuring of the ways and practices of daily life at the College is needed in order to help the suffering environment. Fritsch challenged the audience to make the difference and show the difference, with regard to the environment.

"If we are going to save this world we are going to have to pull together...And struggle in a core area of the world in order to move toward signs of hope."

Fritsch presented a slide show named *The Peril, The Promise* in

addition to speaking. The slides depicted Appalachia and the very fragile and delicate environment around the area. The library, office buildings and housing units of Appalachia, all built with great skill and with the awareness of how to save and help the environment, were quaintly displayed in the presentation. Most buildings had photovoltaic cells on the roof for solar heating and had capacities for solar water heating as well.

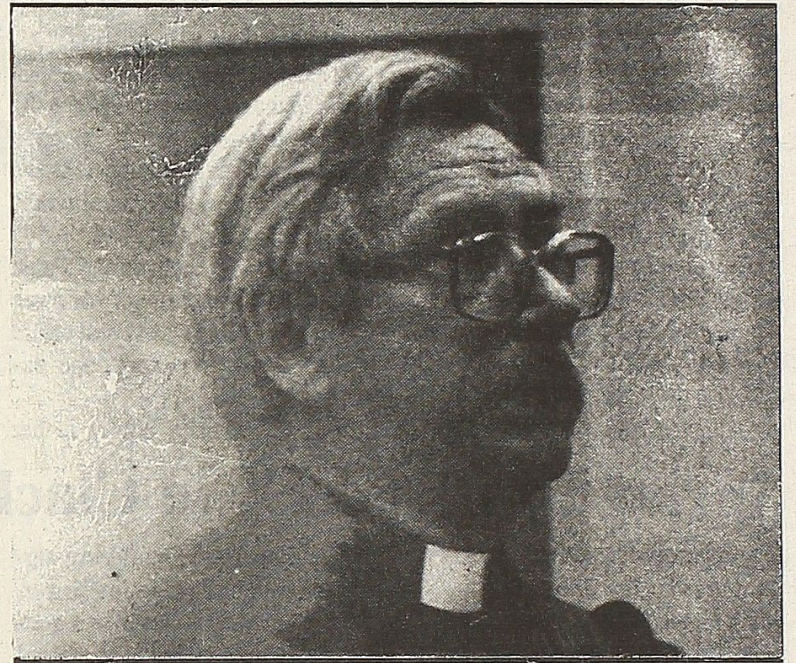
The slides vividly described the compost system of eliminating human waste materials, which Fritsch feels is better for the environment than the common sewage flush system, which combines waste materials with purified water and thus necessitates further purification. Fritsch commented upon the advantages of the ways of Appalachia, saying that these are benefits for the earth that poor people can afford and apply, not just the wealthier people of the world.

Fritsch then shifted his discussion to combine the aspects of the environment of which he had been speaking with the notion of spirituality. "Your spirituality develops

over time and it takes time to come into harmony with the earth," he said. He then described three elements of an eco-spirituality: 1. all creatures are independent, 2. creatures act in ways to conserve the environment and 3. variations and richness of diversity add to the health of the ecosystem. Fritsch

then remarked, "Our very redemption is the grand act of recycling."

The speaker ended his lecture by humbly adding that his time was used, and that he was going to be respectful of the clock. "Because we only have so much time to honor the earth, we should watch the clock carefully."



Albert J. Fritsch discussed "Down to Earth Spirituality," one of the first lectures in the Interdisciplinary Environmental Colloquium. Photo by C. Bryant.

GREEK WEEK

Upcoming events include community members

By Cami Carson
Staff Writer

With all of the excitement of rush going on, it seems an appropriate time to begin thinking about the upcoming Greek Week, called Greek Day for the past few years. "The goal of Greek Week is to bring all of the fraternities and sororities closer together," according to Chris Tracy, Co-chair of Greek Week. Greek Week will begin on Thursday, March 26, and end on Sunday, March 29. The theme for this year will be "Greek Fest 1992."

On March 26, there will be a Greek Awards Ceremony. This will involve a guest speaker, and Outstanding Greek Male and Female awards for individual members of Alma's Greek life. No definite plans have been made yet as to whom the speaker will be. The awards will go to the fraternities and sororities with the highest grade point average, for the pledge classes with the highest grade point average, and also for the outstanding Greek fraternities and sororities.

On March 27, there will be a Greek Olympics. These Olympics, or "Mock Olympics," will involve the Big Brothers and Big Sisters Organization. The children involved will compete along with the

fraternity and sorority members in the events for the day.

Saturday will involve a basketball tournament. The community, sororities and fraternities will be competing in this event. Later that evening, there will be a Greek Dance Party, sponsored by Greeks Advocating Mature Management of Alcohol (GAMMA). A community service project is scheduled for Sunday, no plans have been made as to what the project will be. All of the times and activities are subject to change as more planning continues.

One of the main goals of this activity is to promote an atmosphere where the sororities and fraternities can learn about each other and get to know one another. Bringing the fraternities and sororities

closer together, would bring the whole campus closer together. Tracy said that another purpose of Greek Week is to support the kids in the Big Brothers and Big Sisters Organization. Jennifer Clement, Co-chair of Greek Week said, "We hope to promote Greek unity and to get different organizations involved. We also hope to get the community involved."

With all of the happenings on our own campus, it is great to see our Greek organizations remember the community and the Big Brothers and Big Sisters. Greek Week should be a time for our campus to grow. Not in number, but in awareness our surroundings and those who could benefit from our time and support. Namely our community and its children.

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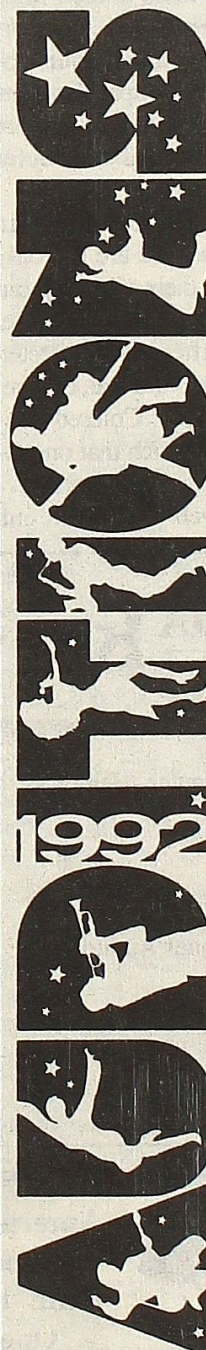
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Faust 'drawn' back to Alma

By Erica Drews
Staff Writer

"It's fun to turn kids on to the world of art," said Heidi Faust, art instructor for Alma College. "And with today's school improvement plans, art is definitely included as part of a well-rounded education."

Faust's knowledge of art education goes beyond books. A full-time art teacher for the Alma Public Schools, Faust relies upon first-hand experience to bring life to a course. Jennifer Clement, a junior in Faust's Education 345 class, said, "She uses her experience in the classroom to provide us with the best resources and skills in teaching elementary students."

Faust graduated from Alma College with a dual degree in Art and Political Science. She received her teaching certificate from Central

Michigan University and taught in Holly, Michigan before joining the Peace Corps. "We reap so many experiences just from where we happen to be born," explained Faust. "We do a lot of taking, and I wanted to give something back." Faust taught art to natives in Belize, Central America for three years. "I always wanted an overseas teaching experience. The best way to know a culture is to live within one. I just loved it." Faust hopes to rejoin the corps after retiring.

On teaching elementary art, Faust believes that the set schedule is the most difficult aspect. "You have fifty minutes, once a week with the kids to have a good art experience. You're constantly on your feet." To further complicate things, Faust is shared as art instructor for three different buildings. "My real office is the back of my car," she explained.

Faust's favorite hobby is her

twenty-two month-old daughter. "She's first in my life. I've put a lot of things on hold." Faust also enjoys traveling and writing letters to the many people she has met through the Peace Corps. This summer she plans to return to Central America and visit either Guatemala or Mexico. "I want my daughter to be exposed to all the places of the world, too. I can just see her as a teenager saying, 'Oh Mom, not another ruin. I want to go to the beach.'"

Currently, Faust is working on her master's degree at Central Michigan University. "I'm really looking forward to spending more time in the studio. Right now I'm more involved in the theory of art."

Faust encourages others not to disregard a major in art. Although she did not originally plan upon entering a career in teaching, Faust credits great instructors as inspiring her to make her choice.

Spring blooms early in Clack Art Center

By Jane Brown
Staff Reporter

Alma College's art center once again brings work to campus unequaled in originality and style. Clack Art Center's newest display is delightful as well. Deborah Stromsdorfer is featured in the gallery until February 5, 1992.

The work shown by Stromsdorfer is very singular as the artist uses symmetrical diamonds as the core element of her art. The diamonds serve as a base for her to then extract other designs from the art. Many of the large scale designs are done with what appear to be flowers, and according to the titles of the works are to be specifically called irises. Titles range from things such as *Argyle Iris I-III* to *Exploding Argyle I-III* and the

names given to the works are significant in their descriptive power. "Argyle" is used to describe a geometric knitting pattern of varied colored diamonds in shapes outlined and in solid on a single colored background. The color pencil drawings were fitted to their titles as in *Exploding Argyle I*, for instance, the colored diamonds appear to have broken apart from the core of their connection and were "exploding" toward the outer realms of the work.

Colors implemented in Stromsdorfer's work are not only significant for their vibrancy but also for their exciting, unique use. The colors most frequently reflected upon in her works are teal, orange, yellow, and purple. Colored pencils lend depth so rich that one almost believes these colors are covering a deep well into which one

might plunge. Stromsdorfer has adapted each of her symmetrical designs so that the color will seem significant in the way it is placed as well as in compliment to each other. In works such as this, it is imperative for the color to be strong, as design is simple, and the way in which Stromsdorfer manipulates the colors makes the design of the Irises stand out in a curving form of light and color.

Though Stromsdorfer's art must compete with the another display, the Design Michigan Program, it is well worth the time to go and see her work as she displays strong color and shape usage within her works. In addition to an extremely unique quality of the light played upon the works, the simple and natural way in which they are displayed make this a visual experience worth a few moments.

Regency: Tunes to live by

By Jessica Murray
Staff Writer

An enticing performance by Regency in Hamilton during dinner proved effective as Jones Auditorium was full to overflowing with not even standing room Friday night, Jan. 17. Regency, a five part a cappella group from Baltimore, Maryland, was in town for a repeat performance.

The group performed a wide variety of tunes, ranging from an autobiographical "Lookin' for an Echo," to the crowd pleasing "Shout." The majority of the songs were do-wop hits from the fifties and sixties, such as numbers by Elvis Presley and other popular performers of that time, but also included were a couple of well known country songs.

The audience was encouraged to participate in several numbers, through impromptu solo acts. Members of the audience were given the microphone to sing various verses of "My Girl" and "Day-O."

Regency also introduced a revised "Name That Tune," in which a Regency t-shirt was offered as the grand prize. Damen Peterson, class of '94, won the contest with three notes from "Sugar Pie, Honey Bun" as given by Tony G., the bass for the group.

Rob Douglas, class of '94, was also able to experience first hand what it would be like to be a member of the group when Regency put one of their jackets

on him and invited him to sing "You've lost that Loving Feeling." He later commented, "It was wonderful to sing with them."

Other positive things were said of the group and the performance after the show. Lisa Buesing, class of '93, remarked, "They were excellent, excellent, excellent. I haven't had so much fun in a long, long time." Becky Clemmer, class of '95, agreed, stating, "The quality of the singing, combined with the light-hearted theatrics of both the performers and the audience, made for a great stress-relieving and fun filled evening."

Also included in the act were two serenades to members of the audience. Milton Ames, second tenor for the group, sang "Earth Angel" and Duane MacNeal, first tenor, sang "Stand By Me", both with antics that delighted the entire crowd as the singers fawned over the objects of their numbers.

As a final farewell, each individual member of Regency presented a strong social message to the audience. The importance of striving to eliminate discrimination of any form was stressed by all of the singers, as well as a musical and powerful warning against drunk driving.

All in all, the Regency performance was a huge success, expressed by the audience throughout the show with enthusiastic applause and cat calls, and at the end with a heartfelt standing ovation.

EVENTS CALENDAR

Jan. 21-27

On Campus

January 22

Jimmy Baca, Poet

8 p.m., Dunning Memorial Chapel

January 23

Applying to Graduate/Professional School

4 p.m., The Center--Hamilton Basement

January 24

Mobsters - ACUB film

7 & 9 p.m., Jones Auditorium

January 25

Sorority Wake-ups

Fraternity Run-outs

January 26

Mandatory Pledge Rights Meeting

2 p.m., Dunning Memorial Chapel

Robert Burns Day Dinner

6 p.m., Van Dusen

Mobsters - ACUB film

9 p.m., Jones Auditorium

January 28

Red Cross Blood Drive

Jones Auditorium

Study Skills Workshop

6:30 p.m., The Center--Hamilton Basement

Clinton Township

January 24

Jett Williams and the Drifting Cowboys

8 p.m., Macomb Center for the Performing Arts

M-59 at Garfield

Sterling Heights

January 21 & 22

The Secret Leopard-Nature Film

7:30 p.m., Nature Center

42700 Utica

Warren

January 21

"Using Thermography for Non-Invasive Diagnosis"

Philip Hoeksta III

Melby Community Education Center

13900 Masonic

Ann Arbor

January 21

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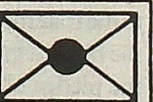
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Women's Basketball

Relentless Scots trounce K-Zoo, 78-37

By Barb McCarty
Staff Writer

Saturday, in its third MIAA match-up of the season, the Alma College women's basketball team (3-0 MIAA, 9-2 overall, ranked 15th nationally in NCAA Division III) crushed Kalamazoo College 78-37.

Sophomore Katie Mans led the Scots with 14, followed by first-year student Andrea Balliet and senior co-captain Amy Elbers with nine each. Wruble led the team in assists, dishing out five. First-year student Jaime McCallister was two-for-three from three-point range, while the team as a whole sank seven of ten tries.

The game was rather physical as Alma went to the line 19 times, making nine free throws, including 2 from Mans on a technical foul called late in the second half because the referee said junior co-captain Lauri LaBeau received a shove from a Kalamazoo player.

The Scots held the Hornets to only 20 points in the first half going into the locker room leading by 13. The second half proved worse for the Hornets, however; Kalamazoo scored only 17 points to Alma's 45 as the Scots dominated in all aspects of the game.

"Defensively," said head coach Charlie Goffnett, "we came out with more intensity in the second half. We got out on the break and did things we wanted to. I think our 2-2-1 defense was effective in the second half and caused some turnovers. They played hard [in the second half]. We thought we could wear them down physically. We just put the pedal down and went past them."

The Scots played an outstanding offensive game. "We played the inside game well," said Elbers. "When they would center in on the post we would take advantage of the outside game, and then when they centered in on the outside game our post would capitalize on that."

Every player contributed to the victory. Sophomore Susie Kiefer's three-point basket with six seconds to go helped to put an exclamation point to a rather lopsided victory.

"I give the girls a lot of credit after coming off an emotional high [Adrian] and really coming to play today," said Goffnett.

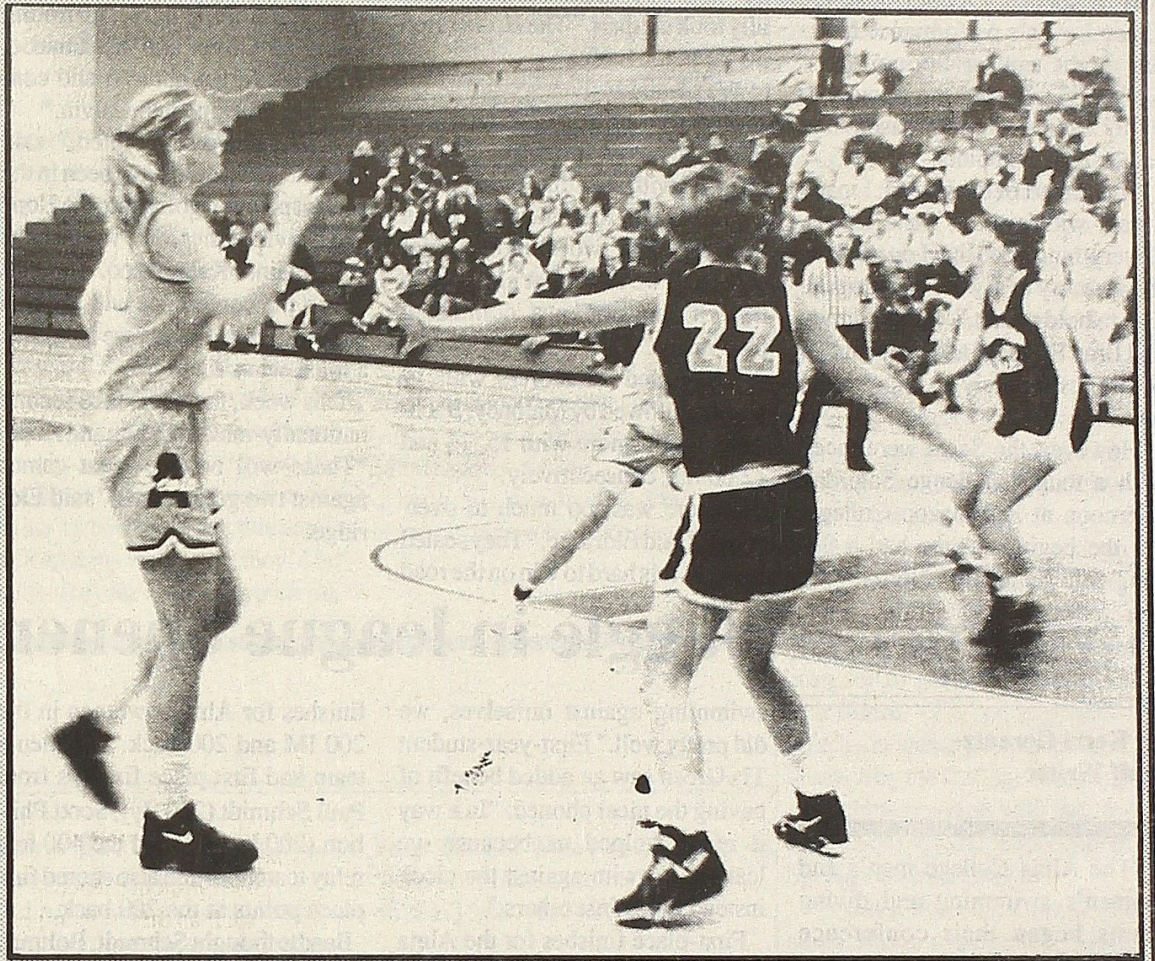
In individual league standings for games this week Alma is well represented by Wruble. She is second in scoring and free-throw shooting, fourth in overall field goal shooting and rebounds, and fifth in assists, earning her MIAA player of the week honors.

With Saturday's game against

Kalamazoo in the win column, Alma's league record now stands at 3-0 and 9-2 overall. Alma plays

its next two games Jan. 22 and 25 on the road at Hope and Calvin respectively. The next opportunity

to see the Scots at home is Wednesday, Jan. 29 against Albion at 8 p.m.



During a very physical game, the women's basketball team managed to crush the Hornets of Kalamazoo. Photos by L.Kuntzmyr

Athlete Profiles

Alma scores back to back

By Barb McCarty
Staff Writer

In the five years that head women's basketball coach Charlie Goffnett has been at Alma College, he has never had two players be named MIAA player of the week back-to-back. Until now. Sophomore Katie Mans and junior Colleen Wruble have accomplished just that this year.

Mans, from Trenton, and Wruble, an EHS major from Harbor Beach planning to go into the health field, have much in common concerning their individual basketball careers. Both have been playing on basketball teams since they were in the fourth grade. Also, among other awards, both were selected to play in the high school all-star game their senior year. At Alma last year Wruble was selected MVP of the Baldwin-Wallace tournament in Ohio, and this year Mans got the honor.

For Wruble, the best thing about basketball at Alma is "how well our team gets along, how unselfish we

are, and how everyone supports one another."

Similarly, Mans said, "I like the team atmosphere [and] how well we get along."

Wruble's favorite aspect of the game of basketball is "how unpredictable it is," while for Mans it is simply "the competition."

The worst part of the game for

Wruble is "making a mistake and then not being able to play above the mistakes."

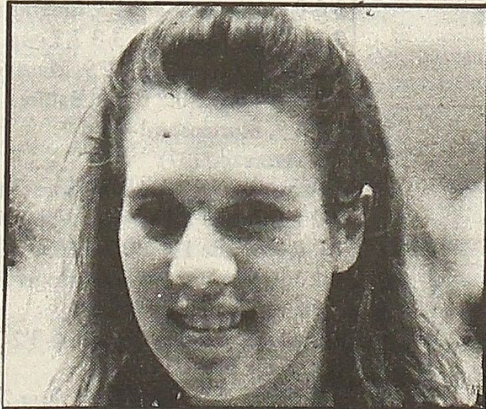
Mans described what she likes least about the game by saying, "It gets frustrating sometimes."

The man lucky enough to have both these outstanding players on his team is Goffnett. The two fill different roles on the squad. "Katie supplies us with inside scoring and rebounding and post defense," Goffnett said. "And she also runs the floor well."

Regarding Wruble, he said, "Colleen is our most athletic player. Defensively, she creates havoc. We generally put her on their best perimeter player because she's very quick."

Goffnett said he believes the greatest improvement for both players is that "Both of them are playing with a lot more confidence....Colleen has improved her playing under control. She's also one of our top in assists. She does a wonderful job of getting the ball in to the post players...Mans is the most athletic post player in our league."

"Neither of them like the limelight," he continued. "They're very unselfish players."



Junior Colleen Wruble and sophomore Katie Mans made Alma College history when they earned back-to-back MIAA player of the week honors. Photo by J.Reed.



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Men's basketball splits week

By Ann Marie Hribar
Staff Writer

"Unstoppable!" That was the only way a spectator could describe Colon Lewis's performance Monday night against Spring Arbor College. Lewis led the Scots to a 97-82 victory with his season- and career-high 38 points.

"At the start of the season, I made a pact with myself," said Lewis. "Everything good that I do is all for the memory of Ryan [Winner]. I try to hold to that." Tom Maloney and Brad Fosmore added 15 and 10 points respectively to capture the win.

However, the Scots were faced with a tough challenge Saturday afternoon at Kalamazoo College. "In the beginning, we had a 8-0 run," said senior Bob Norris. "We

were playing really well and had good defense. Then things started to fall apart. Kalamazoo worked the ball on offense and were extremely patient. They made open 17- and 18-footers which eventually took us apart." The Hornets led 50-32 at the half.

"We played an even second half," said head coach Bob Eldridge. "The team had a 20-4 run to cut the lead to 64-58 with six minutes left in the game. Then, Kalamazoo's Brian Witkowski hit two straight 3 point shots and we never got closer than that. Kalamazoo just dominated play inside."

Lewis led all scorers with 19 points, followed by Maloney, Bachman and Fosmore with 15, 13 and 12 points, consecutively.

"There was too much to overcome," said Eldridge. "They sealed our fate. It is hard to win on the road

in the MIAA."

"We did not play very well," said Bachman. "We dug ourselves into a hole that we just could not get ourselves out of."

"Offensively, we were not sharp," said Fosmore. "It is frustrating losing to Olivet and Kalamazoo. We must forget about it and concentrate on Hope and Calvin."

"We are disappointed," said Lewis. "We would have been in the perfect position going into the Hope and Calvin games if we would have won against Kalamazoo. We'd be 2-1 in the conference and riding a winning streak. Now, we are put in a must-win situation."

This week, the Scots face second nationally-ranked Calvin and Hope. "These will be two great games against two great teams," said Eldridge.

Swimmers struggle in league opener

By Kerri Gorentz
Staff Writer

The Alma College men's and women's swimming and diving teams began their conference competition last week with losses to Albion and Kalamazoo Colleges, bringing the women's record to 2-3 overall and the men's record to 0-3 overall.

On Tuesday, the teams were supposed to travel to Albion College for its meet, but due to bad weather and travelling conditions the meet had to be run over the phone. That meant that each team swam the events in its own pool and the results were compared and tallied over the phone.

First-year-student Scott Huffman thought that phoning the meet was difficult because the players didn't have the competition right next to them to swim against. "It was hard because we didn't swim against them," he said. "I thought it kind of hurt us." However, coach Greg Baadte thought that "for basically

swimming against ourselves, we did pretty well." First-year-student Tia Green saw an added benefit of having the meet phoned: "In a way it really helped us because we learned to swim against the clock instead of against others."

First-place finishes for the Alma College women included Salena Williams (1,000 freestyle and 500 freestyle) and Julie Boltman (100 breaststroke). Those with first places on the men's team were Paul Schmidt (100 freestyle) and Matt LaJune (100 backstroke).

On Saturday, the swim teams hosted the meet against Kalamazoo College. Kalamazoo's men are the defending conference champions and the women were the runner up in the conference. Going into the meet both teams knew that they would be defeated, but that did not stop them from swimming up to the best of their ability. Baadte said, "I think we swam incredibly well...there was a lot of team spirit and team spirit and team support even when they knew they were up against a superior team."

Jenny Turnbull had two first place

finishes for Alma's women in the 200 IM and 200 back. The men's team had first place finishes from Paul Schmidt (200 fly), Scott Phillion (200 breast), and the 400 free relay team. LaJune also scored first place points in the 200 back.

Baadte thought Schmidt, Boltman (who had a personal-best time in the 200 IM), and Turnbull (who broke the team records in the 200 backstroke and the 200 IM) had exceptional races. Radu Danca also had his best marks ever in the one meter diving event. Baadte was impressed with the fact that "most people are getting faster and we're getting a lot of personal best times."

Next Friday the teams will travel to Hope College, where they will finish out a string of meets against the best three teams in the conference. According to Baadte, Hope's men "will win conference, this team is far and away the best team." But he hopes that Alma will give a strong performance. "We usually swim against them very well," he said.

S PORTS STATS

Men's Basketball

1-13-92
Spring Arbor (82)
Lowder 2-10 0-0 5, Campbell 5-10 5-7 15, Redmen 1-1 0-0 2, Harrell 1-2 0-0 2, Elliot 4-9 0-0 11, Smith 7-12 3-4 18, McManus 1-3 0-1 2, Tylutki 2-8 3-3 7, Oprinski 2-2 2-3 6, Glanzman 6-10 2-4 14.

Alma (97)
Bachman 2-6 6-9 10, Fosmore 5-8 2-2 12, Maloney 4-8 6-8 15, Pennie 0-0 0-0 0, Blomquist 3-9 1-3 7, Lewis 12-23 10-15 38, Norris 2-4 3-3 7, Reagh 1-2 0-0 2, Reed 1-3 0-0 2, Blomquist 2-4 0-0 4.

Three-point goals-Lewis 4, Elliot 3, Lowder 1, Smith 1, Maloney 1.
Fouled out-none. Rebounds-Spring Arbor 39 (McManus 9) Alma (Lewis 10).

Assists-Spring Arbor 17 (Campbell 3, Glanzman 3), Alma 26 (Lewis 4).
Total Fouls Spring Arbor 27, Alma 22. Technical Fouls none. A-na 1-18-93

Alma (72)
Bachman 2-8 6-6 12, Fosmore 5-10 2-2 13, Maloney 3-12 7-10 15, Blomquist 3-6 0-0 6, Lotterman 0-0 0-0 0, Lewis 6-13 5-6 18, Norris 1-2 2-2 4, Reagh 0-1 0-0 0, Reed 1-3 0-0 3, Blomquist 0-0 1-3 1.

Kalamazoo (90)
Barnum 0-2 2-2 2, Njus 6-8 3-4 19, Foor 0-2 6-6 6, Witkowski 10-18 8-12 31, Hobik 3-8 0-2 7, Chappell 1-1 0-0 2, VanderWiere 2-4 1-2 5, Lyon 0-0 0-0 0, Scheel 0-0 0-0 0, Buss 0-0 0-1 0, Passage 5-7 8-9 18, Vanderstelt 0-0 0-0 0.

Three-point goals-Njus 4, Witkowski 3, Maloney 2, Bachman 2, Fosmore 1, Lewis 1, Reed 1 Hobik 1.

Fouled out-none. Rebounds-Alma 28 (Norris 5), Kalamazoo 37 (Passage 7).

Assists-Alma 14 (Bachman 3), Kalamazoo 17 (Witkowski 5, Barnum 4, Passage 4).

Total fouls-Alma 26, Kalamazoo 23. Technical fouls-1 (Alma-Norris): A-1000.

Women's Basketball

Alma (78)
McCallister 2-4 0-0 6, Doucette 3-3 0-0 6, LaBeau 1-6 0-0 2, Hogan 2-3 0-0 6, Kieffer 1-1 0-1 3, Sherman 2-2 1-2 5, Wruble 2-6 3-3 7, Long 2-5 0-0 4, Elbers 3-6 1-2 9, Mans 6-8 2-3 14, Jaster 0-2 0-0 0, Balliet 4-5 1-4 9, Mortensen 3-4 1-4 7.

Kalamazoo (37)
Arnsman 2-3 0-1 4, Vedmore 5-12 2-2 12, Fekete 2-13 0-0 4, Wujek 0-3 0-0 0, White 1-4 0-0 2, Chase 0-3 1-2 1, Beebe 2-4 0-0 4, Oelslager 2-3 4-5 8, Stommen 0-0 0-0 0, Oliphant 0-0 0-0 0, Siwajek 0-3 2-2 2, Corwin 0-0 0-0 0.

Three-point goals- McCallister 2, Hogan 2, Elbers 2, Kieffer. Fouled out- Vedmore. Rebounds- Kalamazoo 27 (Beebe 7), Alma 46.

Assists- Kalamazoo 11, Alma 25 (LaBeau 6).

Total Fouls- Kalamazoo 18, Alma 17. Technical fouls-Vedmore.

Swimming

Women's Results

400 Medley Relay
1. K-zoo 4:41.23
2. K-zoo 5:35.74
3. Alma 5:48.53
1000 Freestyle
1. Grush (K-zoo) 11:27.56

2. Williams (Alma) 11:35.26
3. Green (Alma) 12:34.16

200 Freestyle
1. McCormack (K) 2:03.16
2. Welscott (K) 2:08.79

50 Freestyle
1. German (K) 27.52
2. Lomer (K) 28.08

3. Wasko (A) 28.27

200IM
1. Turnbull (A) 2:22.03
2. Williams (K) 2:28.57

3. Boltman (A) 2:29.90

1M Diving
1. Warner (K) 209.78
2. True (A) 159.30

3. Grieve (A) 153.01

200 Fly
1. Williams (K) 2:26.52
2. Green (A) 2:39.94

100 Freestyle
1. Welscott (K) 0:58.62
2. Williams (A) 1:00.92

200 Backstroke
1. Turnbull (A) 2:19.71
2. Michael (K) 2:24.45

3. Johnson (A) 3:14.83

500 Freestyle
1. McCormack (K) 5:24.02
2. Wasko (A) 5:49.74

3. Boltman (A) 5:59.97

3M Diving
1. Warner (K) 209.20
2. Grieve (A) 161.93

3. True (A) 148.36

200 Breaststroke
1. Greenman (K) 2:39.74
2. Houshyar (K) 2:56.16

3. Hamtak (A) 3:08.00

400 Freestyle Relay
1. Kalamazoo 4:00.47
2. Alma 4:03.97

Men's Results
400 Medley Relay
1. Kalamazoo 3:46.58
2. Alma 3:59.00

3. Kalamazoo 4:17.43

200 Freestyle
1. Walker (K) 1:48.02
2. Cosgrove (K) 1:51.40

3. Gleeson (K) 1:51.70

50 Freestyle
1. Blowers (K) 22.45
2. Dowd (K) 23.13

3. Mullin (K) 23.78

200IM
1. Phillion (K) 2:03.10
2. Harrison (K) 2:06.42

3. Schmidt (A) 2:06.57

1M Diving
1. Marks (K) 260.10
2. Danca (A) 209.55

3. Swirtz (K) 199.58

200 Fly
1. Schmidt (A) 2:14.16
2. Miotke (K) 2:39.74

100 Freestyle
1. Kemeny (K) 53.41
2. Davis (A) 53.92

200 Backstroke
1. LaJune (A) 2:18.64
2. Lin (K) 2:21.84

500 Freestyle
1. Davis (K) 4:51.94
2. Huffman (A) 5:18.30

3. Woodley (A) 5:37.66

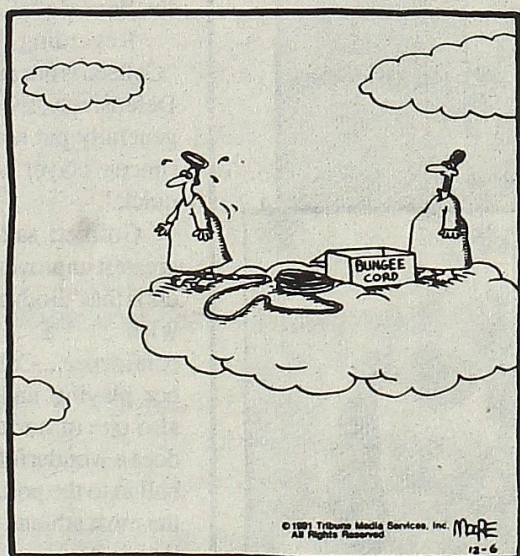
3M Diving
1. Swirtz (K) 257.78
2. Marks (K) 236.55

3. Danca (A) 209.41

200 breaststroke
1. Phillion (A) 2:24.61
2. Lin (K) 2:25.35

400 Freestyle Relay
1. Alma 3:34.49
2. Kalamazoo 3:35.23

In the Bleachers by Steve Moore



Jan. 21, 1992

Sports Commentary

Super Bowl looks to be Super Bore

By Brad Engle
Staff Writer

Ah, yes, Super Bowl time is upon us again. In just six days, the eyes of the world will be on Minneapolis, Minnesota to watch what is billed as sporting's biggest moment.

In my opinion, it should be billed as sporting's most boring moment. The games are never close, and aside from the two cities that have teams there, no one really cares about this game. I mean, it's not as if a national favorite like the Lions are playing. Which brings us to the two teams that will lull us to sleep on Sunday: the Buffalo Bills and the Washington Redskins.

First, the Bills. The Bills were

last year's Super Bowl losers when kicker Scott Norwood's field goal attempt, which would have put the Bills ahead, sailed wide in the game's waning moments. They were the pre-season pick to represent the AFC in the Super Bowl and had relatively no trouble making it back to the "Big Show."

However, while the Bills are a talented and tough bunch, they spend too much time whining. Star running back Thurman Thomas is the chief crybaby on this team. His persistent whining centers around Lion's back Barry Sanders, whom many experts regard as the finest running back in the league. Thomas is heavily preoccupied with attempting to prove to the press that he is a better player than Sanders. He cites that he started ahead

of Barry while both were at Oklahoma State (yet he always forgets to mention that he was a senior when Sanders was a freshman) and that he can do anything better than Sanders if just given a chance. Jim Kelly, the Bill's All-Pro quarterback, complains more about not getting enough coverage in *Sports Illustrated*, than worrying about his team. And Bruce Smith, the star defensive end, pouts in front of network cameras about how people in Buffalo don't understand his delicate psyche.

Now to the Redskins. This team is stacked better from top to bottom than a Dagwood sandwich and was also a pre-season pick to go to the Super Bowl. And for good reason; there isn't a bad player on this team. If the Redskins were a car, they'd be a Rolls Royce. Mark Rypien is,

without a doubt, the most underrated quarterback in the NFL, and heads what could be the best offensive team on the planet. The defense, led by Charles Mann and linebacker Wilbur Marshall, could stop the Iraqi army. There is no way this team can lose. If your still skeptical about the 'Skins, remember, they beat the Lions twice!

And a little prediction to help you in wagering: **Redskins 98, Bills 6.**

The Redskins will jump out to an easy 54-0 half-time lead when the Bills don't show up until halftime, after Thomas takes the wheel of the team bus and drives it around Minneapolis saying, "Can Barry drive a bus like that? I don't see Barry driving a bus like that!"

Coaches
look for
change

Alma College announced last week the departure of defensive coordinator and head men's tennis team coach Mike Cavanaugh and the leave of absence of defensive secondary coach Eric Jackson.

After a four-year stay at Alma, Cavanaugh left last week to take up the vacant spot at Murray State University in Kentucky. The offer was made to him early last week, and he departed Alma on Thursday morning.

"He got a good offer from a division I A program," said Athletic Director Deb Mapes. "He felt it would be a good move."

The hunt to replace Cavanaugh is on. No one is currently being interviewed by the athletic department and no deadlines have been set to get someone in the near future.

Jackson was granted a leave of absence by the College to take up a coaching position with the Nevada Aces of the Professional Spring Football League.

"It was a chance for him to get some more experience," said Mapes. "As a young coach it will only help him."

Jackson is planning to return to Alma in the fall to continue his position on the football team.

A the helm of the track squads will be Dan Gibson. Gibson was formerly assistant to former head cross country coach Charles Gray. This will be his first head coaching position at Alma College. Not only will Gibson be doing the actual coaching, but will also have to take on the recruiting for both track and cross country. Gibson will also be taking over as head cross country coach in the fall, with Gray as his assistant.

Assisting him this spring will be Jim Cole, Carlos Toro and Gray.

The consensus on Gibson as head coach for this season vary. Most agree that he has an excellent knowledge of training. There are sources that believe that he will not fill the shoes of Cole, who coached the women to seven consecutive conference championships.

Gibson was unavailable for comment.

"He has a really tough job," said junior Julie White, "For the women to keep the title he is going to have to motivate and coach us to fend off the upcoming programs like Calvin."

Junior Jim Demarest said "In order for him to be successful he is going to have to coach the whole team, not just the cross-country athletes. Although those of us who are not in cross country don't know him well, the feeling is that he will do a fine job."

-By S.Rea, Sports Editor

Classifieds

Activities

Writers...artists...photographers! *The Vespine* literary anthology is accepting submissions for its 1992 printing. Submissions are due Feb. 14th in the box outside Dr. Luke's office. Questions? Call Eric 7302 or Kerrie 7893

Employment

Earn \$10.50/hr. Part-time/flexible hours in sales. (ALMA AREA) Call: 201-408-5558.

Travel

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla.—The countdown to the 30th Anniversary of Spring Break in Daytona Beach has begun! From mid-February through mid-April, thousands of students from throughout the United States will converge on the "Spring Break Capital" for days of fun in the sun. Spring Break in Daytona Beach offers an endless supply of sports activities to choose from on virtually every day of your vacation. Whether you're a participant or a spectator, Daytona Beach has all the bases covered. For additional information on events and accommodations, contact Destination Daytona!, the Convention and Visitor's Bureau for the Daytona Beach Resort Area, at 1-800-854-1234.

Scholarships

1992 GM LIBERAL ARTS EXCELLENCE AWARDS PROGRAM

General Motors is again the sponsor of the "Liberal Arts Excellence Awards Program". This is a very prestigious award given to only ten students attending one of the fifteen Michigan Colleges Foundation member institutions. Since this is an award for the junior and senior years, sophomores students possessing at least a 3.5 GPA are invited to apply if they meet the following additional criteria:

1. Be enrolled full-time.
2. Have second-semester sophomore standing.
3. Be majoring or intending to major in a liberal arts or natural sciences program such as math, economics, religion, philosophy, history, languages, or physical sciences. (Does not include engineering, accounting, business administration.)
4. Be interested in pursuing a career in business or industry. This award is for up to \$5000 and the student's college receives a matching gift form GM. Completed applications and the required supporting materials are due in the Financial Aid Office by Wednesday, February 5, 1992.

FINANCIAL AID FORMS (FAF) FOR 1992-1993 Financial Aid Forms for the 1992-93 academic year are available and have been delivered to all the residence halls. If, by chance, you have not received the FAF or the Alma College Aid/Scholarship Renewal Form,

please stop by the Financial Aid Office in lower level Kehrl Building to pick up your form(s). Remember, even if you do not file the FAF, you must submit the Aid/Scholarship Renewal Form to be considered for renewal of any Alma College awards.

Programs

INDIANAPOLIS. The Indiana University Center on Philanthropy seeks qualified applicants for its Jane Addams Fellowships in Philanthropy program. Jane Addams, a noted late 19th-century social reformer, devoted her life to philanthropy and community service. Now in its second year, the fellowship program was created in the spirit of Jane Addams to help maintain the vitality and integrity of America's philanthropic tradition. The Jane Addams Fellowships in Philanthropy program consists of ten months of work and study at the Indiana University Center on Philanthropy. Fellows receive an introduction to the theory and practice of the philanthropic tradition which includes voluntary giving, voluntary service, and voluntary activities of the Center. Each Fellow will receive a \$15,000 salary and 12 graduate credits. Fellows are responsible for their own housing and living costs.

The application deadline is February 15, 1992. All applicants must be recent undergraduates who have not yet completed graduate degrees. For further information and application forms, please contact the Indiana University Center on Philanthropy, Jane Addams Fellowships

Program, 550 West North Street, Suite 301, Indianapolis, IN 46202-3162. (317) 274-4200.

Volunteers

IF YOU ENJOY SEEING PEOPLE WITH A SMILE ON THEIR FACE, HELP PUT ONE THERE. VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME AND TALENTS! HELP A STUDENT WITH HOMEWORK, SPEND SOME TIME WITH A SENIOR CITIZEN, GET INVOLVED IN THE COMMUNITY. IF INTERESTED, CONTACT RUTH CLENDENIN AT THE A.C.C.E.S.S. OFFICE, EXT. 7598, OR JESSE PERRY, EXT. 7231, FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Personals

ALPHA XI DELTA'S Composite pictures will be taken February 5th between 10 and 2: everyone must sign up at the house. Dessert practice is at 9 in Van Dusen on Tuesday (Jan. 21) and Wednesday (Jan. 22). Desserts is Thursday, January 23 from 8-10; please be there no later than 7. Also remember that all Alpha Xi's are expected at the house on Friday at 4:30; and, any members who can devote a portion of their Friday night for house decorating: contact Jennifer Hardy. Do not forget that there is another candlelight Wednesday at 8:30. Good luck this week to the alpha xi athletes!

Jan. 21, 1992

Editors' Forum by Brian Haara and Michael Stargardt

J.F.K. confuses fact with fantasy

The Kennedy conundrum: Don't believe everything you hear

By Brian Haara
Opinion Editor

A recent *Time/CNN* poll asked the question, "Have the American people been told the truth about the assassination of President John Kennedy?" A mere 16 percent answered "yes," while a whopping 72 percent answered "no." As for belief in a conspiracy versus Lee Harvey Oswald acting alone, the response was 11 percent believing Oswald acted alone and 73 percent believing there was a conspiracy.

Either these poll results reflect the inadequacy of our supposedly democratic government or a common misperception of events, supported by rumors and half-truths.

Oliver Stone's much-debated *JFK* advances many of these rumors and makes preposterous accusations. Although an excellent movie (provided one likes fiction) and entertaining, it could adversely influence the public with its onslaught of speculative claims.

Stone's varied assumptions and portrayal of "the truth" are far more one-sided and doubtful than any government report that he claims to already be distorted.

First, the portrayal of John Kennedy as the perfect president is simply naive. Kennedy and J. Edgar Hoover had nu-

merous mob connections; they had the bedrooms of Martin Luther King, Jr. bugged; Kennedy wasn't the true leader of the Civil Rights Movement (nor did he ever get the chance to confirm any civil rights); and Kennedy allegedly had affairs with a godfather's (Sam Giancana) girlfriend as well as Marilyn Monroe.

Secondly, Jim Garrison has also been distorted in Stone's movie. Stone admits that the "real" Garrison is only a model for the movie Garrison, a "flagpole" the events are tied around. *JFK* quickly glosses over the allegations that Garrison bullied and/or drugged witnesses to get testimony. Garrison is not the savior of truth and justice that the movie portrays him as being. *JFK* fails to explore his failure as a husband and stubborn egoistic convictions.

These two character analyses begin to show Stone's obsession with ultra-selective half-truths. If he is so bent on getting as close to the truth as possible, I would think he might offer a less one-sided picture—one that explores all of the allegations and doesn't rely on shaky testimony.

Stone blasts the government for alleged holes in its side of the story and its questionable sources, but at the same time he ignores conclusive information of the Warren Report and he himself uses sources that are at the very least questionable.

So what are these facts that Stone largely ignores?

While Stone focuses on the few people who claimed to have heard a shot from the grassy knoll, most

witnesses testified that there were only three shots. Stone theorizes that there were six shots fired in less than six seconds. Only parts of the Zapruder film are emphasized by Stone; he doesn't inform the audience that the same film, according to most investigators, shows that the shooting took almost eight seconds—enough time for Oswald the fire three shots.

Stone also emphasizes the backward movement of Kennedy's head in the Zapruder film, but what isn't explored is why in the same film (frame 313) the audience can clearly see brain matter flying forwards. In addition, the backward motion is easily explained as a neuromuscular reaction upon impact of the bullet.

The main part of Stone's conspiracy theory relies on Jack Ruby being part of the conspiracy, since he killed Oswald, "the patsy." Gerald R. Ford and David W. Belin make it clear that this is unfounded. In "Kennedy assassination: How about the truth?" a factual account is given of Ruby's activities on the day of Oswald's murder.

Postal Inspector Harry Holmes, a main interrogator gone unmentioned in *JFK*, decided at the last minute to help the Sunday morning interrogation of Oswald. His visit was unexpected but welcomed by Captain Fritz of the Dallas Police. After Fritz, the Secret Service, and the FBI were done with their interrogation, Fritz turned to Holmes for additional unplanned questioning—this lengthened the scheduled session by one half-hour. Mean-

while, Ruby was at a Western Union office at 11:17 am (as shown by a money order) and he killed Oswald at 11:21 a.m. If Holmes had not decided to show up at the last moment, Oswald would have been transferred a half-hour earlier and if Ruby was part of a conspiracy he would have been at the police station a half-hour earlier. In addition, why would a "conspiratorial hit man" kill Oswald in the middle of a police station?

Coincidentally, Stone doesn't believe that his audience needs to be informed of any of this.

By definition, a "conspiracy" requires that at least two people be involved. By this definition, I agree that there may have been a limited conspiracy—but to take that opinion and run with it to the extreme that so many conspiracy theorists have is absurd and stinks of unwarranted paranoia.

Even a cover up attempt is plausible. Indeed, the 1976-79 House Select Committee on Assassinations found that evidence was withheld from the Warren Commission. From the evidence it appears that our lonely, disturbed Oswald was a spy—perhaps even a double agent. The government could be embarrassed that its chief executive was assassinated by one of its own spies and attempt to cover up some of the facts. Once again, this doesn't mean we should reach the conclusion that everybody from the Vice-president Lyndon B. Johnson to the CIA and FBI was involved in an assassination plot or "public execution."

Most conspiracy theorists rely on

doubtful testimony and explain the accepted "facts" away through the mere cry of conspiracy. These conspiracy theorists accept all testimony that favors them, no matter how questionable but attempt to discount all evidence against them. Case in point: at one time Woody Harrelson's (from *Cheers*) father, hit-man Charles V. Harrelson, confessed to killing Kennedy. Before we knew it conspiracy theorists "positively" identified Harrelson as one of the bums who were arrested after the assassination. To the dismay of these theorists, Harrelson admitted that he had been lying.

Conspiracy theorists are notorious for jumping the gun and should be seriously doubted. Stone's accusations of conspiracy have the same faults. Due to the wide release of *JFK* and the persuasive power of movies, *JFK* could prove counter-productive without disclaimers or presentation of "the other side."

The evidence remains on the side of a very limited conspiracy (if there was one at all) and a cover up attempt of select information. The evidence continues to refute an all-inclusive conspiracy theory. Therefore, the American public has the right to all of the facts, not just the rumors Stone attempts to forward. Of course, *JFK* is already three hours long—I guess Stone just couldn't find the time to fit all of the facts in amidst all of his speculation and conjecture.

Central intelligence takes control

By Michael Stargardt
Photo Editor

Allegations of corruption and treason in our government have been recurrent themes throughout the past decade, creations of what *Newsweek* refers to as "conspiracy junkies."

The controversies which actually reach the mainstream media, however, have been routinely shot down with what we are led to believe to be the actual facts (e.g. October Surprise, J.F.K. assassination, CIA's involvement with BCCI scandal). After all, if *Time*, *Ted Koppel*, and *USA Today* maintain the same perspective, it must represent truth.

Why must the mainstream media continually comfort the general public by implying

that there are not, seldom have been, and never again will be (thanks to our "free" press) conspiracies carried out by our government?

In 1990, the government created about 6.8 million secrets, but it cannot be sure; they're all secret. This number is actually much lower

The problem is that a large number of unknown items are held by the very same, small number of individuals.

How does the media know we haven't been and aren't being lied to by the accused government? Or is it perhaps in their best interest to not validate any allegations brought against the very supplier of news?

Quite definitely, there are many things known by very few people. The problem is that a large number of unknown items are held by the very same, small number of individuals.

than the 1985 count, when the Reagan administration classified an all-time record of nearly 15 million items. The government continues to be proficient at keeping secrets from American citizens, as the budget for the U.S. spy conglomerate has quadrupled since 1980, presently consuming more than \$35 billion annually.

The entire Iran-contra affair clearly demonstrated that Congress

has no hand in controlling the intelligence community. During the 1987 Iran-contra hearings, the Congress tried despairingly to uncover the truth about activities it should have been regulating anyway, but they produced virtually nothing indicative. "The Congress is not in any way an equal branch of government," said David MacMichael, a 13-year CIA veteran who now lobbies for stricter agency controls.

Congress, in fact, seems helpless with ignorance under the influence of the CIA. "We'd go down [to Congress] and lie to them consistently," says ex-CIA officer Ralph McGehee. "In my 25 years, I have never seen the agency tell the truth to a congressional committee." The recent confirmation of CIA director Robert Gates, despite his admission that he lied both to his former CIA bosses and to Congress, further indicates that our intelligence agencies are operating

practically without control.

So, could the assassination of John F. Kennedy have been a conspiracy wrought by the CIA?

Why not? They've failed to reveal to the public information on a plethora of other operations. The media should pick up these inconsistencies rather than constantly—directly and indirectly—defending the government.

As the month of election steadily approaches, Marcus Raskin of the Institute for Policy Studies provides us with something to consider regarding the role of "covert" operations in our government:

"The United States has been fixing elections abroad for 40 years. People who undertake to fix elections abroad have no problem doing that at home." That's all we need: Bush again in '92.

Jan. 21, 1992

Lifting the Kilt by Sara Groves

How to shake those winter blues

January and February: two solid months of Mondays. Maybe it's just because I hate winter so much, but January and February seem like they are 90-days long a piece. And every day is a bad day.

It's the time of year when it's just too cold to do anything outside. So one must entertain oneself inside. This is not an easy task, especially when faced with the obstacle of small living quarters. Say, for example, a 12' by 12' dorm room.

Because of the extremely small space we have to work with, there just isn't as much to do as if we lived in a place that we might actually be able to take deep breaths in and not worry about running out of oxygen. There seems to be some popular wintertime activities on this campus. Unfortunately, the most popular ones I am unable to mention, at least tactfully enough so they could appear on these pages.

However, I have composed a list of some winter events that help pass the time of many residents on this campus.

SIT AROUND: This seems to be the most popular winter time activity, probably because it takes the least amount of energy (which is something we Alma College students don't possess because of all of the satisfying meals we are served at Marriott). When sitting around, it is best to just stare off into space and think of nothing. I'm telling you: Do nothing. Think nothing. Nothingness is good when sitting around. Because if you actually do something, it could result in the other winter time activities, which are not good.

TALK ABOUT GOING PLACES, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHICH ARE WARM: This is one of my favorite winter pastimes. I can only sit around and do and think absolutely nothing for so long. Eventually, instead of just staring blankly at the wall in front of me, I turn my head to the side, where I am promptly hit smack in the face with a billowing curtain, which is usually somehow half-frozen. Thus begins my train of thought. Why am I here? I hate Michigan. I hate snow. I hate billowing curtains in January. There must be a school like Alma in, say, the Nairobi desert.

I could have a great tan year round. There's a lot of sand. I could play beach volleyball minus the beach. Then, I wish I could stop sitting around, get off of my couch, and maybe start the transferring process. But that takes just too much energy. And besides sitting around isn't so bad. At least you get to...

GROW BODY HAIR: In the winter, I notice a vast amount of body hair on people that I have not noticed before. Not that I go around taking counts of people's body hair, mind you. There just seems to be a lot of guys who grow beards in the winter. Not to mention there is a large number of women who quit shaving their legs. I have to admit that the winter gives you a good excuse to be lazy. If anyone asks about your sudden excess winter body hair, you can simply tell them, "It helps keep me warm." No matter that the few extra wisps of hair on your legs doesn't do any good at all to warm you up; it does help make you look like a thinking adult, instead of someone who is lazy and just likes to sit around (see above).

STOP SHOWERING ON A REGULAR BASIS: The winter also gives people a great excuse to

be dirty. "It was just way too cold to take a shower this month," you may overhear in a class. "I'm waiting for March or April to come along before I bathe," someone else will reply. Showering in the winter is just a miserable experience. The last thing anybody wants to do as they jump out of their cozy beds is strip down and jump in an abnormally icy shower. Being dirty isn't so bad I guess. The royalty of England used to only shower once a year. This is a good line to tell someone who accidentally stood down wind of you.

GET FAT: Everybody gets fatter in the winter. (I personally like to attribute it to the fact that I may be washing and drying my jeans too often). It is simply far too easy to eat while sitting around. However, you can also blame your new fatness on the winter. Whale bodies are composed of a great deal of fat. Why is this, you ask. Because the fat keeps them warm in icy ocean temperatures! Therefore, being fat is good because you are warmer than those annoying skinny folk. (You can also tell yourself that you don't have to spend as much money on clothes as skinny people, since

you don't have to wear as many layers as they do).

WALLOW IN SELF PITY: This is a more popular activity the longer winter continues. As the weeks slide by and people still don't shower, and they just keep getting fatter and fatter, and their body hair becomes long enough to braid, and they keep thinking of all of the warm places they'd rather be, they begin to really feel sorry for themselves. After a few months of heavy activity in these winter sports, our participants are a little worse for the wear. They smell; they need to shave; and their body is just a jiggly glob of cellulite. They look bad, and they know it. And they really know it the first day it's warm enough to try and squeeze into last summer's shorts which are now two sizes too small.

But they can take it. Because these people are survivors. They have survived countless Michigan winters with little damage (at least damage which can't be showered, shaved, or dieted off).

New strategy needed to rescue America

By Steve Gardner
Staff Writer

I didn't want to hear it. I closed my eyes and plugged my ears when the television news came on. I turned my head the other way when I walked out to get the newspaper. But it was impossible to escape. The television was on too loud, and the newsprint was too large. The picture was too clear: Our president was reducing himself to a beggar as he crawled down the long red carpet to the thrones of the great Japanese overlords, and the whole world was watching and smirking.

But it wasn't the fact that Bush was pleading for American jobs that disturbed me. I could understand his situation. It was clear that he was fighting for his political life. He was losing control of his section of the Tokyo Empire and his last hope for salvation lay in the hands of the emperor himself. With his inability to lead an inspired and creative path to prosperity, his faulty sense of intuition led him to appeal to those more clever than himself to aid in the recovery of his people. Considering his dilemma, Bush's path of action was logical.

But what wasn't logical was the pack of pigs he dragged with him off the plane and into the clean

streets of Tokyo. If the President would have traveled to Japan alone, he could have begged in private and pretended to be tough in public, and the world would have expected it because his domestic failures long before had flown on the winds of CNN into every grass hut

Peering through this cloud of noxious vapor, I sincerely have tried to understand Bush's logic in taking a jar full of America's wealthiest leeches on a quest for compassion for an America drowning in debt and poverty. But it seems rather obvious that if you are going to beg

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in the universe. But on the eve of an election year, our panic stricken president threw pride and dignity out of the cockpit of Air Force I, and with his herd of pigs, sloshed into Tokyo, dropping "dew dew" in every pressroom in which they stepped. Then, with the help of a few over-obnoxious reporters, the stink drifted around the world and onto our shores, filtering into every citizen's home on a current of "Good Morning America" cheer. Maybe Bush's trip to Japan passed into history a couple weeks ago, but the nauseating cloud that blanketed our nation has yet to clear.

on a street corner, you shouldn't wear nicer clothes than the people to whom you are begging.

Thinking of Bush Inc. begging in Japan reminds me of a Gypsy I sometimes would see begging on the streets of Segovia when I was studying in Spain. What makes the image of this particular Gypsy flare so brightly in my memory is his well-combed hair and his \$200 leather jacket. I don't know about you, but I would never give money to a beggar who is wearing better clothes than I am. If he wants money from me, he at least has to look a little ragged, maybe even have a

little dirt on his face. Looking back, I don't think that I ever saw a single coin in that Gypsy's bowl, and unless my memory deceives me, I don't think I ever heard the jangle of Japanese compassion filling our president's bowl above the patronizing slop aimed at the voters back in the United States and the ear-ringing jeers thrown at America's fattest pigs, warning them that they never would outrun the butcher's axe if they didn't go on a diet.

From the results of his trip to Japan, our president should realize that he really needs to change his approach to begging. Common sense should tell him that you don't go into a soup kitchen with a bag full of groceries and expect to receive a meal. He should know that you don't send to Japan on a mission of mercy (begging for mercy) a group of over-bloated corporate executives, telling the Japanese nothing more than the fact that any acts of mercy would do nothing more than fill the pockets of the men who were sitting across table from them. To get real action, you need to send a pack of starving unemployed auto workers, foaming at the mouth. People take note when a hungry dog is growling in their face. And the Japanese auto executives surely wouldn't insult so harshly 1/5 of America's work force if they were staring a large pack of them in the face. Then, if

begging doesn't work, you always could let the pack charge. I would guess that tearing to pieces the enemy himself probably would be much more satisfying to an unemployed auto worker than pulverizing an unresponsive mass of glass and metal with a sledge hammer; after all, a Japanese auto executive would cry in pain, but his cars wouldn't.

But contrary to my last few statements, I am not advocating begging or violence. I don't believe that we are yet a nation of beggars. As any homeless person would tell you, you don't prosper by begging. If we turn into a nation that has to beg our competitors for mercy, how are we to prosper in the future? Our destiny should be in our hands, not in the hands of some devouring force on the other side of the ocean. We should take charge of our own affairs as a nation and make ourselves prosper. If that means cutting off Japanese imports, so be it. If that means buying a car your neighbor made instead one made by someone across the ocean, so be it. If that means paying auto executives what they deserve instead of what they want, so be it. Whatever the solution, we should be the ones to implement it, not the overlords of Japanese industry. After all, they don't have to live here—but we do.

Staff Editorial

Phone billing inconveniences students

Most of us share a common concern that the FAC phone code system—dialing the extra “nine,” plus six digits, plus the phone number, and possibly plus a calling card number—is cumbersome. Many people have expressed their dissatisfaction with the system, but it seems that we’re all getting used to the system and accepting it.

However, now a new problem has arisen with our phone system that demands prompt attention.

Bill paying policy for our phone system states that all outstanding bills—regardless of the amount—must be paid at the end of each term prior to registration for the following term. This is a wise policy for the larger bills; it seems silly to create this much fuss over an eight-cent bill.

However, students have not been well-informed about having to pay at the end of the term; many students were under the impression that payments were not due unless at least \$20 was owed, be it the end of fall term or not.

Since many students were not aware of this policy, or were simply too busy at the end of this past fall term, these students were mailed a billing statement at their home address during winter break.

These bills included the notice that all bills must be paid prior to registration and that if accounts were not paid, the student’s FAC code would be disconnected and a \$10 reconnecting fee would be charged. This disconnection and reconnecting fee is, in essence, a \$10 fine for delinquency. This fine, aside from the other problems, is also absurd. Why should our phone system disconnect and fine us immediately for late payments when even major phone companies are more gracious?

However, the major inadequacy with the billing system became evident in our most recent phone bill. This last bill that was mailed to us over break was dated Dec. 24, 1991 and mailed third-class

bulk rate. Two blunders are apparent here: first, with something as important as a billing statement and with a threat of FAC disconnection accompanied with a fine, one would think the Christmas mailing rush season demands earlier mailing; secondly, why mail important bills at third-class bulk mail rates? Third-class bulk mail is the least prioritized mail; it tends to sit at the Post Office—sometimes for days—and it’s the mail most likely to be lost or misplaced. This, combined with the Christmas mailing backup, seems enough reason to send the bills earlier *and* to prioritize them higher.

The last chance to receive the bills before coming back to Alma was Saturday, Jan. 4. That leaves a mere 11 days for the least-prioritized mail to get through the already-bogged down Postal Service. Sure enough, the bills didn’t make it in time and students arrived to Alma in the dark.

The College realized this mishap and thankfully set another deadline for payment and did not disconnect any of those threatened. But once again we were all surprised to find a memo in campus mail on Jan. 15 informing us that payment was due—*on that very day*—with the same threat of FAC disconnection.

So the College spends money on a mass mailing that it never should have mailed in the first place (unless it was mailed much sooner), it doesn’t make important information like payment deadlines well-publicized, and we are continually threatened with a \$10 fee to press a few buttons. Order and practicality must come to the phone billing system.

Which makes more sense: paying 11 cents per piece of mail (not including envelopes and working time) during the biggest mailing rush of the year to notify students of even an eight cent phone bill, or to wait until the first day back at Alma and send the bill (minus envelopes) via campus mail with a clear payment due date?

scholarships for good students, beautiful and functional buildings, and great faculty with solid budget support. We all need to thank the many loyal alumni, parents, faculty and staff, and friends for responding quickly and generously to our need and our recent reminder.

Daniel Raleigh

Director of
Development
and Alumni
Relations

Utilize new recycling options
Dear Editor,

Old habits are hard to break, yet new ones are easy to form. So the slogan goes and so our attitude towards those efforts which are most worthy. I feel it is a great moment in our time here at Alma College, when the Recycling Task Force, an effort spearheaded by the faculty a little over two years ago, has succeeded in its expansion to glass and cardboard recycling in the dorms. Now the responsibility is left to the students.

In a culture and a society where convenience engulfs our daily lives, there is a tendency to overlook the most simple of practices. All too often, laziness overcomes our sense of duty, not only to the campus and our state, but to our nation and our world. Sometimes I am not so sure that we realize that Earth is our only home.

As Students United for Nature begins its second year at Alma College, we would like to encourage everyone to simply take a few extra minutes to walk to the recycling facilities nearest you and deposit your paper (any kind will do), your glass bottles (preferably empty), and your newspapers (it’s old news anyway). It probably is not realistic to aim at zero waste,

but we can cut our present figures considerable with conscious efforts and compassion.

Michael Arnold
SUN President
Class of 1993

Differing opinions appreciated
Dear Editor,

I would like to commend Brian Haara for alerting us all to a consistency problem in last week’s *Almanian* article “Women have double standards for sexism.” Quite a few women do think that they can be sexist while men should be severely condemned for the slightest sexist remark.

However, I would go a step further than Haara to say that if Alma College invites a somewhat radical feminist on campus to give a lecture (like Naomi Wolf), the College should also give us the other side of the coin and invite a man to speak on campus. “Male chauvinist” gives bad connotations, but for the lack of a better word, the College should invite a male chauvinist—somebody to clear up feminist rhetoric—on campus for a lecture.

Alma should do this in the name of fairness, to avoid favoritism, to avoid double standards, and to make sure that we students are not merely fed one side of the story. We are all mature enough to be trusted with the knowledge of both sides of an issue and to determine the worthiness of each side.

At least *The Almanian* Opinion section is not afraid to provide us with both sides of any issue from students with vastly differing opinions. Alma College should use *The Almanian* as an example and make a serious effort to offer us both sides of every issue.

Matt Jones

Class of 1994

Letters to the Editor

Recent College solicitation defended

Dear *Almanian* Editor,

While it is understandable that those who have never had to solicit funds and are uninformed about the development process may have misunderstood the mid-December postcard appeal, *The Almanian* Staff Editorial of last week does provide me an opportunity to give students some relevant facts about the College’s finances and fundraising.

The appeal was different from the usual appeal, but it was not “tasteless.” It was an honest appeal concerning the fact that the College had made scholarship commitments and we needed special help in the next few days to meet those and other budget needs. It was, in fact, very successful. Alumni, friends, and parents (past and present) responded generously. The College has now caught up with last year’s gift flow pace and will probably meet our annual budget target of \$1 million.

Alma College has always used the funding of scholarship needs as a major part of its annual fund appeal. Alumni were supported by giving while they were here, and now, we ask them to help present students. So, too, present students will be asked after graduation to help.

At Alma College, nearly 95 percent of the student body receives some form of scholarship or financial aid. Only about 5 percent pay the full price of \$14,525. Even those student do not pay the full cost of their education which is supplemented by \$2.1 million in endowment earnings which result from gifts given in the past. In addition,

all the buildings, except a few residence halls, were built with gift money. Total giving to Alma for all purposes needs to be about \$4 million per year.

To follow the suggestions of the January 14 editorial not to solicit in December, to solicit prospective donors other than this 12,000 constituent base, and to ignore scholarships as a theme would be devastating to this year’s fundraising effort and our budget. December is the largest single month for contributions, partly because of federal and state income tax provisions. The State of Michigan provides a tax credit for individuals making gifts to colleges and universities during the calendar year. Almost all colleges now solicit those who are connected to and receive mailings from the college. To suggest that we find new donors to answer a significant need during a brief window of time is impractical.

Because the development office tracks our contributions carefully, it was able to catch the downward trend of gifts and donors after Thanksgiving. Many colleges missed the opportunity of which Alma took advantage. Few colleges are as efficient and cost effective as Alma in their solicitation.

The response was great. One of the largest gifts this year, in fact, came from the parent of a current student. Many new gifts were received from donors who had not previously given. While we do not expect to develop this sort of short notice, need appeal every year, it worked well this year to tell people we had a problem and needed their help.

Giving to Alma has made the quality difference with regard to

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Opinions expressed in the weekly “Staff Editorial” reflect the views of *The Almanian* Editorial Board, which includes section editors, copy editors, and the editor-in-chief. These views in no way reflect the views of the entire Alma College community.

The Almanian Letter Policy

All Letters to the Editor must meet the following standards for publication: Letters must be signed and include the author’s campus phone number and address, and 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. They must be received by 5 p.m. the Friday before requested publication. Address letters to: The Editorial Board; *The Almanian*; Newberry Hall; Alma College; Alma, MI 48801.