

Student Congress elections near.

See page 2

Finding a roommate needs research.

See page 4

Lucille Clifton visit scheduled.

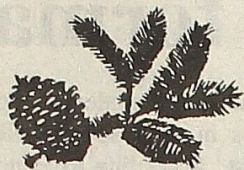
See page 6

Swimmers end season on up note.

See page 8

Political mud slinging underway.

See page 11



The Almanian

March 10, 1992

Serving Alma College since 1907

Issue 19

Women's Basketball Scots win amid controversy

By Barb McCarty
Staff Writer

"IT'S GOTTA BE THE FLOOR! IT'S GOTTA BE THE FLOOR!" echoed from the bleachers from what sounded like it should have been the home crowd but wasn't. Friday, March 6, the MIAA league-champion Alma College women's basketball team traveled to Adrian College, the second-place team in the league, to play the first game of the NCAA Division III playoffs. Although the Scots won by 15 points, the large margin was misleading as the game turned out to be an exciting rematch of the close game two weeks before.

Outstanding personal performances highlighted this marvelous team effort. Junior Colleen Wruble had a career-high, season-high and team season-high 30 points, followed by sophomore Katie Mans with 25 and junior co-captain Laurie LaBeau with 16.

The Scots played a solid first half, making 18 of 36 attempted shots, four-of-seven from three-point range, compared to Adrian's three-for-12. Alma also made 10-of-15 from the line to Adrian's four-of-six and grabbed 23 rebounds to the Bulldogs' 15.

Wruble had 18 of her 30 in the first half, and senior co-captain Amy Elbers hit three consecutive three-pointers to end the half, as the Scots entered Adrian's guest

locker room leading 50-35.

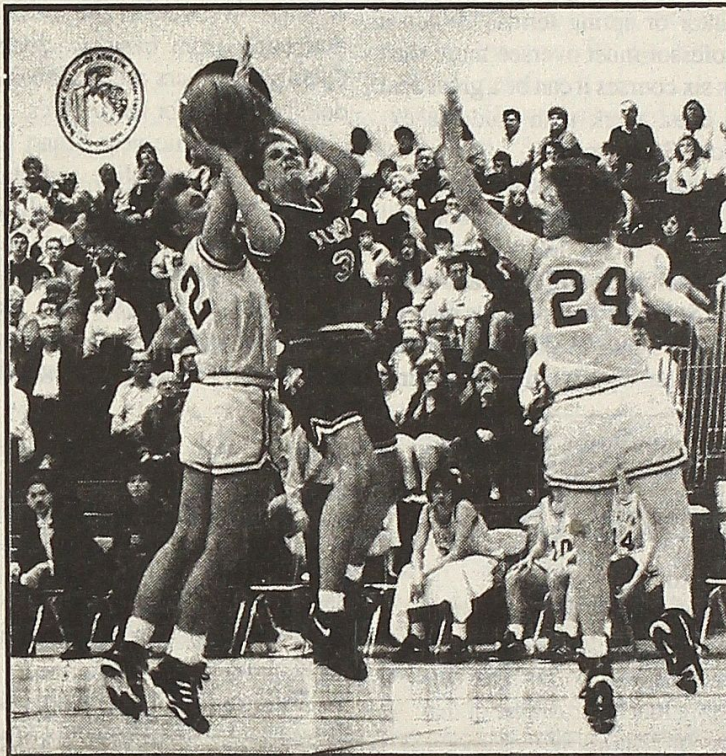
The second half was much more nerve-racking to the Scots and their fans. At one point, the Bulldogs pulled within four points; with 5:31 left in the game the score was 70-66. Sophomore Kelly Jaster, who scored all her nine points in the second half, hit some key shots like her three-pointer with 2:11 left to help put the finish off the Bulldogs.

Head coach Charles Goffnett had plenty to say about the game. "It was probably our best effort both defensively and offensively. We really put it together. Wruble had an outstanding all around game, LaBeau ran the club well and Elbers gave us a huge lift at the end of the first half."

Alma shot 72 percent from the free-throw line and had 39 attempts to Adrian's 11. Goffnett explained, "In big games, free throws determine the outcome." He credited the high number of attempts to the running game and "getting it [the ball] out in front."

"I think one of the things that fired us up was that we had to play there when we know that we earned the home-court advantage," Wruble said. "We beat them twice during the season and wanted to show them that we could do it one more time."

The large Alma crowd that made the long, foggy trip from Alma to Adrian did not go unnoticed by the coaches or players. "We had fantastic support from our stu-



Junior Colleen Wruble (32) goes for a shot against Adrian in their game Friday, March 6. Photo by J. Ricks.

dents," said Goffnett. "That was a real pick-up for me and our coaching staff. The team was really touched by it all week. It [the game] pulled not only our team, but the whole campus together. It was a great win and the most gratifying thing was to win in front of all those people who made the sacrifice to drive down there."

In spite of the controversy of playing sites, Goffnett said, "You could see it in our players' eyes. They were just not going to be denied."

As further proof of the worth of

this team, the MIAA released its all-conference teams and between first and second teams, Alma had three players selected, more than any other team in the league. Wruble made first team all-conference while LaBeau and Mans both made second team.

The Scots' next game is Friday, March 13 against Eau Claire in Wisconsin. The team will fly to Wisconsin Thursday morning. If they win, they'll play in Wisconsin again on Saturday, March 14; if they lose they will return home Saturday.

Plaxton converted to Women's Resource House

By Stacie L. Herriman
News Editor

Despite objections raised by some faculty and student members of the Student Life Committee, both the Alma College Executive Staff and Dean of Students James Kridler have decided to go ahead with the Women's Issues Advisory Board's (WIAB) proposal to convert the Plaxton House into a Women's Resource House. This new program house will commence operation beginning with the 1992-93 academic year.

According to a March 2 memo distributed to all Alma College students, "This decision was made in response to Alma College's support of women and their advancement, and its commitment to further affirm and develop awareness of women's contributions, concerns and perspectives."

WIAB co-coordinator Emily Perl said, "In the past we discussed the need for a resource place identifiable on campus for women's resources. Using a house for that came up this year as it would give women's issues a visible, tangible resource that demonstrates the College doesn't just support it in name only. While women's issues

See "Women's Resources" on p. 2

Surgeon/author visits campus

Selzer spellbinds audience with 'magical and eye-opening worlds'

By Theresa Miller
Staff Writer

Throughout the past week, the campus community buzzed with the name of Richard Selzer. The retired surgeon, originally from Troy, New York, shared his long-time writing obsession with faculty and students in various seminars and presentations.

Selzer was educated at Union College, Albany Medical College and Yale University. His father, who died when Selzer was 12, was a general practitioner. It was Selzer's goal to continue his father's profession that swayed him towards medicine. He wanted to know his father better and achieved this goal through becoming a doctor.

Selzer began writing about age 40 when he realized he had the gift of language usage. His idea of the word *language* expands much further than just English: "In my next life, I'm going to learn Persian," he explained.

Associate Professor of English John Ottenhoff said, "He is very attentive to words. It is very clear he loves language."

With his newly discovered talent, Selzer found that through the pen he could understand himself better and discover things about himself that he previously did not know. He described his discovery as the "opening of an unprotected, third eye that can never be shut." The opening of this third eye led to his retirement from surgery. "A surgeon can stop performing surgery, but a writer cannot stop writing."

In his books, Selzer probes his own thoughts. He also tries to "evoke experience, to amuse, to inform." The descriptive style that flows from his pen has been very insightful in his self-learning process. "When I write, at those times when my pen has burst into flame, I must tell the truth. I can no longer wear a mask." In his Wednesday night presentation, he explained, "ink has a mind of its own." Often, he returns to old works

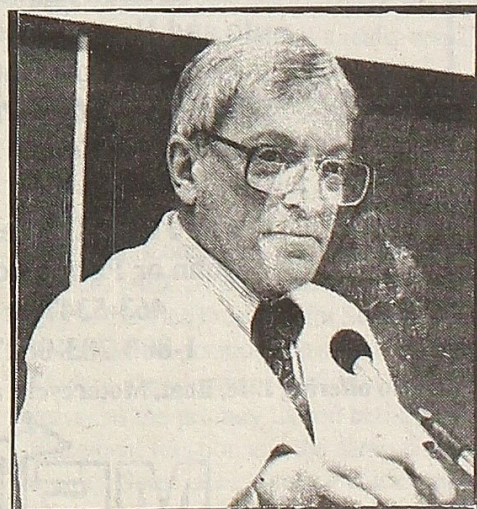
and, in re-reading them, discovers more of who he is.

The campus-wide presentation consisted of writing from many different periods of Selzer's life. His journal from a Sicilian monastery was openly shared along with an action-packed story of a fight between an elk and a coyote. Other topics included his life in Troy, a bout with head lice, a comical visit to the dentist and his ideas on religion. These vastly different topics still held the same quality of making the audience feel they were one with Selzer, that they were experiencing the event simultaneously.

Junior Julie Boltman was most impressed with Selzer's "ability to incorporate such a wide variety of students. His presentations included topics for interests ranging from English to biology."

Ottenhoff said he was "spellbound. Selzer creates worlds that are instructive, magical and eye-opening." Ottenhoff wanted to thank Associate Professor of English William

Palmer for "bringing such a generous, gracious and educational" speaker to campus. "He is a wonderful model for students," remarked Ottenhoff.



Richard Selzer presents his view of the world to Alma College students in one of his many lectures. Photo by M. Stargardt.

Stuart discusses revising independent study format

By Jane Brown
Staff Reporter

Recently, the College administration has taken steps to revise the present way independent studies are run.

At present, the College is trying to dissuade students from taking independent studies when the same class will be offered in the near future and the student would then be able to take it in a normal classroom setting. Provost Ann Stuart stressed that when staff members are requested to teach independent studies, "it takes away the dedication" they have, as well as making extra work for them.

"The College most certainly would not want to do away with independent studies as they do offer valuable insights and experiences for many students," said

Stuart.

When students wish to study a course that is very specific or will not be offered in time for them to take it before their graduation, they are encouraged to take the course of independent study. But it is "the College's position that we [faculty] all teach six courses, and I have always said that we would rather have students take courses than independent studies," Stuart said.

Each professor at Alma must teach six courses per year in either fall, winter or spring terms. "When a professor must oversee more than his six courses it can be a great deal of extra work than students expect," Stuart said.

"It isn't good to create a situation in which a faculty member will have five or six independent studies which will be offered naturally," said Stuart. When students wait on a course they will also not "miss the classroom opportunity of sharing

ideas," she continued.

"Faculty members are concerned," said Assistant Provost and Registrar William Potter, "about overextending their duties." They are expected to maintain a certain class load; independent studies go over and above this level. Along with these teaching responsibilities, faculty members also partake in advising, community service and other "extra-curricular" activities.

Despite rumors, Potter said Stuart is not the one saying faculty members are "overworked and stressed, detracting from basic teaching." Faculty members are the ones to determine this for themselves.

This academic year Stuart has attempted to formalize and standardize the teaching loads. In an attempt to assist professors in having more regular schedules, she is also trying to help students plan more thoroughly so the College will not have students taking inde-

pendent studies of courses that will ultimately be offered.

"If a student wants to study something not part of the regularly offered courses they are encouraged to do so," said Stuart.

Currently, independent studies are stronger than ever. In 1988 and 1989, 24 percent of Alma's students participated in independent studies; in 1990 and 1991 that number rose to 26 percent. In fact, 24-26 students participate in the independent studies program every year.

Stuart and the rest of faculty simply hope that with the new policy of set course loads, students will be more cognizant of when courses will be offered so they will not have to take them independently, unless they wish to take specialty courses and courses needed in order to graduate.

Many professors in departments such as English and religious stud-

ies encourage students to pursue studies in their specific field of interest. According to Potter, the departments with the most independent studies are biology, chemistry, English, EHS, history and religious studies. Included in these courses are various researches, reviews of literature, scholarly papers and hands-on experience.

Senior theses are also considered independent studies which allow students to earn honors in their major department. However, they include more research and a "higher quality of learning," said Potter.

Students should contact instructors and the Provost with their request for an independent study to see if an understanding can be reached. If so, the student and faculty supervisor must then establish the criteria for satisfactory completion of the study, including spending 35-50 hours per credit in the planned and supervised activity.

WOMEN'S RESOURCE

Student Congress elections scheduled for March 16

By Stacie L. Herriman
News Editor

The Elections Committee of the Alma College Student Congress will soon be holding annual elections for various positions for the 1992-93 academic year. The elected positions are as follows: Student Congress Executive Council—President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary; Associate Trustees for the sophomore, junior and senior classes; and Class Officers for the Classes of '95, '94 and '93.

In order to be placed on the ballot, interested students must collect 25 signatures from the student body. Petitions for these signatures can be picked up outside the Student Congress Office located across from the Student Affairs Office in the Tyler VanDusen Student Center. Petitions are due Friday, March 13

at 5 p.m.

Elections will be held the following Monday, March 16. Students will be able to vote during lunch and dinner of that day in Hamilton Commons. Commuter students wishing to vote yet unable to enter Hamilton should contact either Dave Woodruff or Chris Kukla for details.

Results of the election will be announced at the regularly scheduled Student Congress meeting on Tuesday, March 17 at 7 p.m. in Swanson Academic Center room 113.

Traditionally, during this same election the student body has voted on the Student Activities Fee for the coming year. Since elections are being held earlier than in years past, the Student Budget and Finance Committee has yet to determine the fee. A special election will be held later to approve the fee.

College shows support for women's issues program

cont'd from p. 1

has been in the five-year plan, it wasn't until this year we did something about it."

Philosophy Chairperson Nick Dixon said, "The Women's Studies Minor was passed by all the faculty but one. The College is 55 percent female while the rest of the world is 51 percent female. Therefore, we should try this idea now while we have the support, as evidenced by the women's studies minor."

Both Dixon and Director of Technical Services Priscilla Perkins agreed that "it is administrative decision that would help support the College's stated mission."

Even though the WIAB is still investigating names for this new house, for now it will simply be called the Women's Resource House. "We will keep the Plaxton name...as we don't want to offend the Plaxton family by dropping the name," said Perl.

The Women's Resource House will continue to provide housing for up to seven students while additionally serving and promoting several functions. These include housing a collective "library" of literary and media materials along with various resources and information concerning women's issues, conferences, scholarships, and community organizations/activities/events. "The House will also provide a place for meetings, small group projects, studying and interactions among students or with faculty, staff, candidates and/or guest speakers," stated the March 2 memo. "Additionally, it would provide space for displays by artists from the campus community and for other special gatherings, such as receptions for visiting artists or lecturers, or programs offered during Women's History Month."

"This is a really good opportunity

for individuals who want to do something with women's issues," said Perl. "Since it will be the first year for the house, the individuals living there will have a lot of opportunity to shape what it will be in the future and determine what types of programs are important." She continued, "We will collaborate with the students living there to determine when the resource center will be open and other various guidelines."

"The Women's Resource House offers a unique and first-hand experience for seven individuals to live in a setting which promotes the awareness and understanding of women's issues, and which will allow them to make an important contribution to the community," stated the March 2 memo.

Of the residents, one will serve as house manager (a paid position selected by those living there) whose function will be to perform the duties assigned by the Student Affairs Office. Another student, also elected by house members, will work with the WIAB as the programming liaison to coordinate the programs and activities that go on there.

According to the WIAB's proposal to the Student Life Committee, conversion could be achieved with "little financial strain and would increase visibility of the College's commitment to diversity and enhancing the lot of women on the campus community."

Conversion will require some minor physical changes. At minimum, the following changes will be made: opening up the archway currently blocked off between the living room and bedroom one; converting bedroom one into a conference room; converting bedroom two into a library and resource center (bookshelves already exists here); and converting the basement living area into a living

room suitable for the use of the house residents. The main floor will become the "public" area for women's programming while the second floor and basement will be maintained as "private" areas for house residents.

"We are in the brainstorming stage of determining ways of asking donors to donate money to fix up the living room," said Perl.

Currently, the WIAB is also applying for a grant for programs and resources. "The College already has many women's issues resources on campus that can now be housed in one place," said Perl. "Not only will it provide programming, but we hope to develop services for the community for women-related issues, such as an escort service, working with the Women's Shelter or acting as a Big Sister."

According to the March 2 memo, "those interested in this new housing option must demonstrate an awareness and concern for women's issues as well as a willingness to play an active role in women's programming and activities." Selections will be based on a written application and, if need be, an interview conducted by a special committee comprised of WIAB.

"I encourage people to apply as [I don't anticipate] stiff competition," said Perl. "Males can apply and are encouraged to do so, but they must show an interest in women's issues, have some past experience and be willing to support the programming."

She continued, "If we can get at least five to six people, we will go ahead with it. If not, it will be turned back to those who want to live there with those originally displaced persons given first priority."

Applications may be obtained in the Student Affairs Office, and must be returned by Friday, March 13, in order to receive full consideration.

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March 10, 1992

College receives silver award in advertising contest

Keeping you informed

1992-93 new Resident Assistants announced

The following individuals were extended a letter offering them a position as a Resident Assistant for the 1992-93 academic year. Not all individuals have replied to this letter.

Lisa Brinn, Jennifer Clement, Leah Coleman, Jeff Deming, Cathy DeShano, Renee George, Katy Hamtak, Lara Hartman, Judy Kirkwood, Stephen Kirkwood, Lisa Knowles, Noreen Lyall, Heather May, Melanie Mayer, Martin Mazanec, Corey Messner, Tamara O'Bryant, Greg Oke, Zach Richter, Marianne Scheub, Doug Smith, Jeff Smith, Tim Spedoske, Cathy Stroia, Jon Tuttle and Ted Zettel.

Alternates are: Amy Gilmore, Jennifer Jourdan, Chris Kukla, Holly Markiecki, Teri McDowell, Jason Ricks and Matt Zayko.

Mid-term grades end pledging for some

Mid-term grade point averages cut pledging short and prevent initiation for 16 Greek individuals, 10 men and six women. Almost all 16 individuals appealed this ruling. However, of the appeals heard Friday afternoon, the five-member committee "only accepted one, possibly two, of the appeal(s)," said student member Julie Boltman.

Committee members are: Registrar William Potter, chair; students Boltman and Brain Haara, selected by the Panhellenic and Interfraternity Councils respectively; and faculty members George Choksy and Susan Root.

Individuals are required to stop all pledging activities if their mid-term grade point averages drop below a 2.0 or by 0.5 from their average last term.

Greek advisor Emily Perl said, "The 0.5 GPA drop is hard to monitor; it is only enforced if the case really stood out. More emphasis is placed on grades dropping below a 2.0. Nevertheless, students should be concerned about any drop in their grades, and should additionally be engaged in self-monitoring of their grades."

Alma College advertisements earn second place award

The series of advertisements placed in *Time*, *Newsweek* and *U.S. News & World Report* last fall recently received a silver award from the Admissions Marketing Report in its Seventh Annual Admissions Advertising Awards competition.

Two GREAT STUDENTS, GREAT OPPORTUNITIES advertisements featured a single student with seniors Brad Fosmore and Shannon Smith participating. In the third ad, they were joined by professor John Putz and a GREAT TEACHING, GREAT OPPORTUNITIES theme. These ads were placed in subscription copies of the magazines for the northwest and west Detroit suburbs.

Queen of Scots search underway

The Alma Highland Festival's Queen of Scots Pageant 1992 will be May 3. Already the Highland Festival Committee is hard at work in preparation for this year's activities, which mark the 25th anniversary of the Highland Festival.

Any female familiar with the Festival and interested in running for Alma Queen of Scots can pick up an application in the Student Affairs Office. Applications must be returned by March 20. Questions can be directed to Cathy Tloczynski, 1991-92 Queen of Scots.

Nile Valley provides history lesson

Desertification and drought cause African famine problems

By Julie Boltman
Staff Writer

William Stapp, professor of natural resources at the University of Michigan, spoke to the campus about "The History of Human Impact on the Nile Valley," Tuesday, Feb. 18 at 7:30 p.m. in Dow Auditorium.

Stapp stressed the importance of rivers as he explained that 80 to 85 percent of people worldwide live near a river and that most large cities build up around rivers. In Southern Africa, "one-fourth of all hospital beds are filled by people afflicted by water-borne diseases."

Stapp's presentation included slides taken along the Nile River. He showed slides describing some of "the tremendous vitality of animal life" in this area, unlike the animals we see in zoos.

He continued his presentation by explaining some of the ecology, population dynamics and politics of various regions and people along the Nile. He discussed the destruction of the rain forests that exist from the equator to thirty degrees north latitude, and the desertification of formerly fertile land. "It is okay to do some harvest-

ing as long as it is not disrupting plant and animal life," said Stapp.

The severe famine in parts of Africa, including Ethiopia and Sudan, during the mid-1980s was caused partly by desertification and partly by a low point in the rain cycles experienced by those countries. A possible solution to this starvation is to build dams like those in Egypt.

Stapp concluded that when visiting Africa and the Nile Valley, one feels a "richness in history of the area. People are drawn to the Nile's richness."

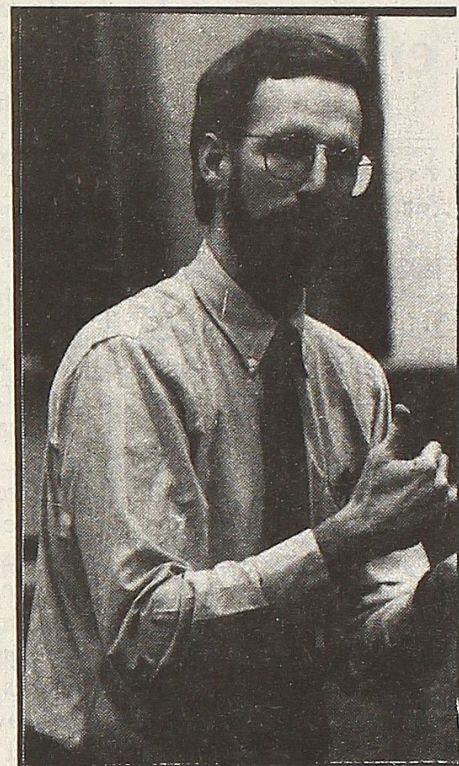
Sophomore Aaron Howald attended the presentation and said, "Stapp explored a very wide range of topics around the Nile Valley. It was interesting, especially the slides."

Jennifer Smith, sophomore, said she learned "a lot about the situations surrounding the Nile. The diversity of the problems being dealt with was interesting to learn about."

Stapp received his education from the University of Michigan. He is the director of the Global Rivers Environmental Education Network and is also involved in Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation and UNESCO, with special interest in the area of environmental education.

This program was one of three interdis-

ciplinary environmental colloquia organized by the College's Service Learning Program. The funding for this program came from the Kellogg Foundation Grant.



William Stapp explains human impact on the Nile Valley. Photo by C. Bryant.

Markham fosters cross-cultural understanding

International pen-pal system established by education chairperson

By Theresa Miller
Staff Writer

Who could have imagined that education department chairperson Lynda Markham's generosity would result in a cross-cultural learning experience for students in France and the United States? Markham's hosting of NACEL program chaperone Edith Charbonneaux has led to a pen-pal program between children in Alma and France.

Charbonneaux is a teacher of middle school children who came to the United States to chaperone French students as they experienced the United States and what it had to offer. This job sparked her to carry the learning into her own classroom.

"Charbonneaux expressed interest in finding her students some pen-pals in the United States," Markham said. The original purpose was to provide her students the opportunity to use the little English they had learned and to learn more about the American culture. Always wanting to fur-

ther cross-cultural understanding, Markham started thinking about a possible program.

After Charbonneaux returned to France, she returned Markham's hospitality as Markham travelled to Charbonneaux's home in Cholet. While there, she spoke to Charbonneaux's classroom. "The idea of pen-pals seemed to be an excellent one," said Markham.

Upon returning, she spoke with Barb Lowe, an Alma College alumnae who now teaches at Highland Elementary School. Lowe was very excited about the program as "it would provide a link between geography, learning about other cultures and an English lesson."

Lowe's students initiated the writing in November with generic letters explaining themselves and Alma. While waiting for replies, the students began to learn about the French culture. During Christmas, they discussed the French tradition of building a nativity scene, and as the Olympics approached, they discussed the different cit-

ies and providences in France.

"The replies finally arrived in January, and the children were extremely excited to continue their new friendships," Lowe said. Each child picked a letter and wrote a return note complete with lots of information about Michigan and the children's lives.

"The French students are very interested in our States—they want to know how they work," said Lowe.

Although Markham simply started the ball rolling, she believes it is "very important for children to learn about other cultures early; they get a better idea of the world."

Lowe is also excited about how much her students have learned: "We combine geography, English and social studies and have fun doing it! It gives the children something concrete to associate with Europe...They learn about it on a more personal level—it's not just a figure on a map. There are kids there who are just like my kids here; they think it's really neat."

Chovanec and Gallagher named Employees of the Month

By Stacie L. Herriman
News Editor

Phil Chovanec and Doris Gallagher were chosen as February's Employees of the Month.

Chovanec has been employed with the College since July 1983. As a supervisor in the electric department, he is responsible for the operation of all the electrical systems on campus. An important aspect of

Chovanec's work is energy conservation. He is involved in an ongoing process of identifying and implementing energy-saving techniques. Also included in his duties are certain campus arrangements for Highland Festival, conferences and other special events.

Chovanec approaches his work "with the philosophy of doing tasks right the first time, and places a high priority on responding to the needs of the students," said Ken Borgman, director of Personnel and Conferences.

Gallagher joined the clerical staff at

Alma College in August 1976. She has worked in the Business Office and the Advising, Counseling and Career Development (ACCD) area, and was the secretary to the Vice President for Student Life. In her current position as a secretary in the Student Development Office, Gallagher serves as the primary liaison between the Placement function and the campus community. Some of her duties include scheduling recruitment and interviewing activities, handling credential files, preparing placement bulletins, and ordering materials for the Career Information Center.

OAK recognizes Kukla's leadership efforts

By Jennifer Bork
Staff Writer

Omicron Delta Kappa, the Greek leadership organization, is recognizing Chris Kukla as the Leader of the Month. Kukla has exhibited leadership qualities through the various offices he holds on campus such as Vice-President of Student Congress, a chair for the Student Budget and Finance Committee, and Co-Chair for the Student United Way Campaign. He is also an Alma Ambassador and Rush Social Chairperson for the Sigma Chi fraternity. He displays many other talents as a cellist in the orchestra and through his role in the upcoming play.

Kukla is a sophomore with a double major in Political Science and French and his future plans include international law or foreign service. "There is a lot of potential [for leadership opportunities] on campus," Kukla said, "but you have to pursue it. There are many more opportunities than a larger university would have, especially with the administration." In his free time, he enjoys skiing, cycling, and athletic pursuits. When notified of this honor, Kukla explained, "I was very honored and I didn't feel like I did enough to warrant this."

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Nutrasweet

Are the facts as sweet as the hype?

By Erica Drews
Staff Writer

Up late for an exam and just can't stay awake? Sprint to the nearest pop machine and reach for the ultimate fix, a can of Diet Coke. Not only will the caffeine provide enough energy to maintain an efficient cramming pace, but the zero calories per serving will help to justify the massive quantities of soda about to be consumed throughout the night. Stop and think, however, before cracking open the next can. This simple act of college survival may present serious health risks.

NutraSweet, the tradename low-calorie sweetener found in products such as diet pop, has been linked to seizures, possible brain dysfunction and potentially dangerous effects on learning ability. Numerous studies and letters in medical journals have warned of possible neurological and behavioral effects in humans, especially in children. The FDA has received close to 4,000 consumer complaints ranging from headaches to mood alterations.

"It's a disaster waiting to hap-

pen," said Kay Grimnes, associate professor of biology. "NutraSweet is composed of two amino acids combined unnaturally—it's really a protein and not a sugar. It is very sweet in small quantities, but has several complications. In the body, NutraSweet breaks down into small amounts of methanol and formaldehyde."

Grimnes cautioned that for most people the product may have no immediate effect. "A normal person can often deal with it, but if something is wrong, it can be serious." Those suffering from an inherited condition called phenylketonuria are unable to properly digest NutraSweet, which may become toxic. Foods containing the sweetener now carry warnings against use by such people, but many consumers can be susceptible to the substance without realizing it.

The real danger may lie in the consumption of NutraSweet by children. Not enough testing has been done in this area to know what future consequences may be. Toxicity is measured in milligrams per kilogram, and so the size of a person will have a definite impact upon the effect of a chemical. Therefore, what may be considered a safe level

of exposure for an adult could be too high for a child's smaller body.

However, advocates of NutraSweet hail the sweetener as one of the most successful food additives in history. NutraSweet contains few calories, can safely be consumed by diabetics, and does not promote cavities. Over 5 million pounds of the sweetener enters the food supply each year, and can be found in everything from cocoa to children's vitamins and even over-the-counter drugs. NutraSweet has undergone extensive government testing and was proven safe in over 100 studies used for FDA approval.

But many special interest groups fighting the use of NutraSweet believe that the NutraSweet company, along with the food and bev-

erage industry, exert tremendous influence over scientific research and investigation. Diet foods containing the sweetener command over \$700 million in sales each year, and over 20 billion cans of diet soft drinks are sold annually. In other words, for the food and beverage industry, NutraSweet equals big profits.

Although no immediate answer exists regarding the true safety of the NutraSweet, consumers should moderate their consumption of products containing the sweetener until further studies are done. One possible solution may be people altering their tastes for sweets. However, the original diet beverage, water, might still be the "right choice, baby. Uh huh!"

NUTRASWEET

PROS

- few calories
- safe for diabetic consumption
- does not promote cavities

CONS

- linked to seizures, possible brain dysfunction and potentially dangerous effects on learning ability
- possible neurological and behavioral effects in humans, especially in children

How to pick a roommate:

Five critical facts to know before housing signup

By Sara Groves
Staff Columnist

Your first year was easy...The college picked your roommate for you. You had no choice in the matter. And, considering you knew probably no one, that was fine with you. But there were still apprehensions.

"What if they spit on the floor? What if they practice farting under their armpits while I'm trying to study? What if they cross stitch instead of party? What if they party all of the time? What if they say mean things about my mother to make me mad? Or worse yet, what if they say mean things about me?"

And as your first year progresses, more and more people begin to think, "I can't believe someone actually thought I was compatible with this slug."

But now you have the chance to pick your own roommates. You get to choose the person who will live

with you in a room which is smaller than some people's closets. This is the person who will be at the receiving end of your good moods and your bad moods. This is the person who will grate on your nerves until you wish you could legally grate off their face.

Therefore, you must be extremely cautious in selecting this person you are destined to hate. Here are some guidelines to follow.

1. **NOTICE THEIR PECULIAR HABITS:** Definitely take note of all peculiarities, because these habits are sure to annoy you in the not-so-distant future. If this person bites her nails and spits them out of the side of her mouth, remind yourself that you will be stepping on her ex-fingernails for an entire year. If this person pops zits and leaves the zit gunk on the mirror, ask yourself if you'll want to look at that every day. Remember, their parents put up with their children's annoying habits because they had to. You still have a choice.

2. **TAKE NOTE OF THEIR**

CLEANLINESS: If your potential roomie is a neat-freak and you're a bit disorderly (they'll call you a pig), chances are this will cause a lot of friction. So what if you haven't washed your clothes since you came to school last August? If you put enough deodorant on, they still smell clean. And so what if there's mold growing on the food that's been on your desk for ages? It's a long way to the waste basket. It's easy to be offended by people constantly telling you to pick up your stuff. Isn't that why you don't live at home anymore?

3. **SMELL THEM:** You heard me right. Get real close and take a whiff. All though it is now considered a major social faux pas not to shower regularly, there is still potential for odor. Smell their feet. And smell their breath. Okay, so odor may not be grounds for roommate dismissal, but don't say I didn't warn you when you start buying odor eaters and secretly slipping them in your roommate's shoes. And remember that the room is

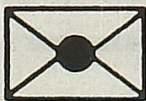
small and simple; chronic halitosis has a way of spreading out over a large area.

4. **MAKE THEM MAD:** That's right. When looking for a potential roommate, whatever you do, don't try to get on their good side. Because if you get on their good side, you'll only see *their* good side. And after you live with that person for, oh, say two weeks, you will be unpleasantly surprised. The girl who is nicknamed Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm can take a quick turn for the worse and become the bride of Frankenstein.

5. **GET IN A FIGHT:** This is the last step. After you really make a person mad, try to get them to scream at you. Screaming is good. Hitting and throwing things, especially hard, pointed objects that have potential maiming and/or killing abilities are not.

If a person passes all of the above tests on a majority of days, consider them a potential roommate. But remember the best roommate is no roommate. And then try for a single.

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March 10, 1992

VIRUS Michelangelo wreaks havoc on hard drives

By Nate Pawlicki
Staff Writer

Michelangelo, the Renaissance artist, has returned. This world-renowned painter has jumped off the canvas and into computers around the world. Has he visited your computer on his 517th birthday? If he has, that term paper of yours is gone forever along with everything else on your hard drive.

Michelangelo is merely another one of the many viruses which plague our high-tech computerized society. Michelangelo affects the boot sector (the very first thing the computer reads when it is turned on) of any disk inserted into the infected IBM-compatible computer. As soon as that little disk drive light goes on, your machine or disk has been infected. It only needs to happen once. Does that sound familiar?

Viruses such as Michelangelo are the AIDS of computers. Sealed factory disks have even contracted viruses. Even if your software is "virgin" you may not be safe. For the college student, contracting a virus may mean rewriting a term paper; for banks and other busi-

nesses, a virus may mean multi-million dollar damage.

Jim Olson, of Mainstream Computers in Alma, reports that they encountered Michelangelo as early as last summer. The virus had wreaked havoc with the boot sector in a customer's computer. Olson says that some problems caused by the virus can be fixed by software programs while others require replacement of parts in the computer. "People who write these programs are very intelligent, often times college students," Olson said. "Often times the companies who have been vandalized by the virus end up hiring the creator because they are so good."

What is the motivation for creating a virus? There is no constructive motivation. Perhaps the creators reap some sort of sick joy out of watching their creation destroy untold amounts of data and dollars.

Over 800 viruses are known to exist. While some are simply an annoyance, others such as Michelangelo are devastating. If Michelangelo didn't visit this year, he'll make the rounds next year. With so many viruses out there it might be a good idea to pick up an antiviral program. There are several on the

market with price tags of up to \$100. However, if you're smart you'll check with Dow Corning or Ford Motor Company. Both corporations are distributing antiviral programs for free.

More bad news. On Friday, March 13, there are two more viruses scheduled to hit the computing world. If your computer gets "Stoned," a message will appear on the screen saying "Legalize Marijuana." The Stoned virus is simply an annoyance, and is not expected to incur any extended damage. However, if your computer takes a trip to "Jerusalem," as the virus is named, you could be in dire straits. Jerusalem is not a new virus and therefore has had ample time to spread. On top of extended infection it is terribly destructive. It is triggered every Friday the 13th. Once detonation takes place, your hard drive will be erased, much like Michelangelo.

However, for Almanians, Philip Warsop of the Computer Center had a few reassuring words. "The virus [Michelangelo] in its current configuration does not affect the VAX. Not that we know of anyway." In addition, "The systems are backed up."

Buffenbarger joins sociology faculty

By Theresa Miller
Staff Reporter

This year has brought the addition of a new full-time visiting assistant professor to the sociology department of Alma College. Nancy Buffenbarger is currently teaching a class entitled "Aging: Sociological Views." After receiving her doctorate with a Medical Sociology Dissertation from Michigan State University, she began teaching at Central Michigan University. She has been there since 1987.

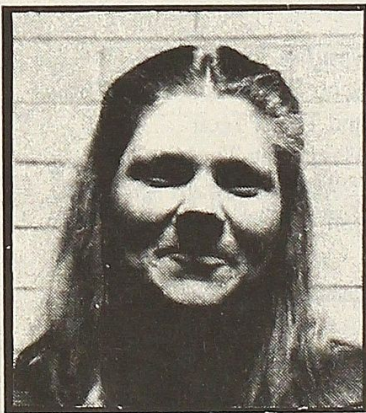
Because of her emphasis on medical sociology, she has become very aware of the government's involvement and its policies concerning health care. She brings these issues into the classroom. "The class is interesting because we learn not just about societal issues of aging people, but about the economic and political issues behind these social issues," explained sophomore Salena Williams. The students get a better idea of government involvement in regulating the aspects of health care due to her unique dissertation topic.

Her students explain the class as "interesting and laid-back." Jason Ricks, junior, said, "she takes what could be a very dry subject and makes it interesting." She asks questions that provoke students minds—questions they would not usually think of. Ricks also commented that "Buffenbarger shows how the topics discussed relate to our every day lives."

According to her students, the class is run very informally. Students are encouraged to ask questions and to probe issues. Buffenbarger utilizes the class time very efficiently. By using take-home exams, she is able to entertain more issues during the class periods. Take-home exams also encourage the students to think more seriously about the questions proposed. Both the aspects benefit the students—they learn more, and have more time to think about their reactions.

Buffenbarger commented that Alma College "students feel deeply involved, and they feel they can influence decisions." She was also impressed with the level of the questions asked in class. "The high

levels of preparation and thought show a great deal of commitment." She said she enjoys working with students who have so much compassion for worldly issues and who are so active in influencing these issues.



Nancy Buffenbarger serves as full-time visiting asst. professor. Photo by J. Reed.

Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss

By Jane Brown
Staff Reporter

On March 2, Theodore Seuss Kassel, the children's author and illustrator affectionately known as Dr. Seuss by the world, would have celebrated his 88th birthday. He made a lasting mark on the world of children's literature with works that delighted all ages. Lynda Markham, education department chairperson, paid tribute to the late, great author by organizing a reading of some of his more popular works.

Some of Markham's elementary education majors met in the chapel basement in order to have an informal reading as a way in which to memorialize Seuss's birthday. His 40 books provided an ample selection from which to choose.

Markham began the reading with *And to Think I Saw it on Mulberry Street*, the first book Seuss published. Other books that followed included *The Lorax*, *Green Eggs and Ham*, *The Butter Battle Book*, *The Cat in the Hat* and *Oh, the Places You'll Go*, read by five elementary education majors who are student teaching at present. As the students read the text they held up the books for the illustrations to be viewed by those listening to the text being read.

Seuss' stories are zany, witty and are often written in rhyme using words which are created in order to describe some of his crazier characters. Seuss is loved by many as he incorporates the fullest scope of word sounds into his writing with words which are difficult to say at times, but an enjoyable challenge nonetheless.

Though Seuss wrote 40 books in his career, he never received an award for his work. Seuss,

often considered simply an author for children, has not only written books for the amusement of children, but also written about old age and growing into an adult, for the older reading audience. For instance, in the book *Oh, the Places You'll Go*, Seuss discusses the limitless possibilities that beings can achieve. Books such as these have often given Seuss fame in an older crowd as they are often considered a great discussion of the difficulties that one encounters as adulthood approaches. Sophomore Cristin Moody said, "It is interesting to see students read stories in the same ways that they do in the classroom to their students. It gives one an idea of who the future generation of teacher's will be."

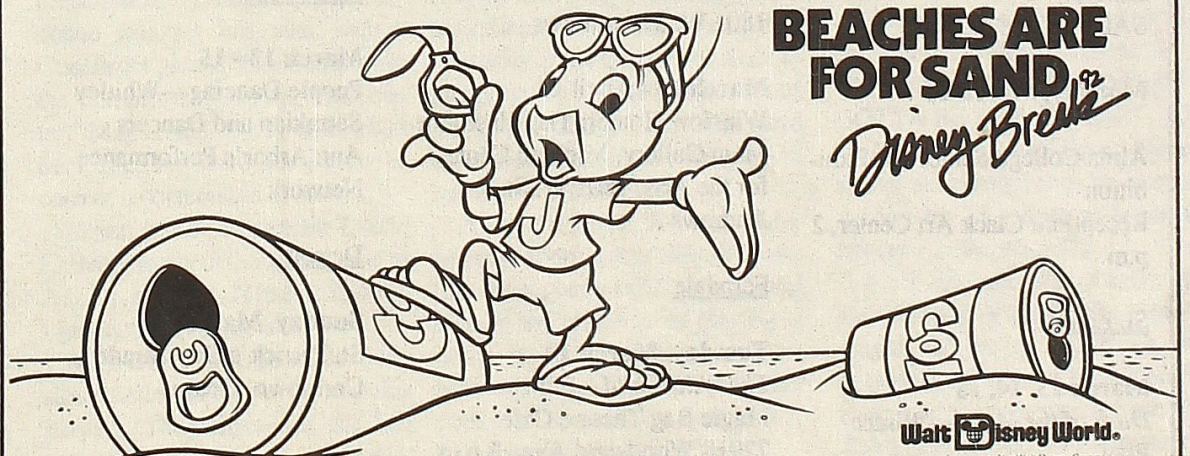
Dr. Seuss Favorites

- *The Lorax*
- *Green Eggs and Ham*
- *The Butter Battle Book*
- *The Cat in the Hat*
- *Oh, the Places You'll Go*
- *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*
- *And to Think I Saw it on Mulberry Street*

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Alma anticipates Clifton's arrival

By William J. Johnston
Copy Editor

Alma College's unique opportunities for interaction between students and visiting writers continue. If last week's visit from Richard Selzer wasn't enough, next week Lucille Clifton brings her many talents and experiences to campus for the first of three visits.

Clifton's works have garnered numerous awards throughout her career. She was runner-up for the Pulitzer Prize in 1980 and 1988. She has won the Juniper Prize and a fellowship from the NEA. In addition, she won an Emmy for the script of *Free to Be...You and Me* which she co-authored.

A black woman and the mother of six, much of her work deals with issues involving race, family, and women. To date she has written a wide variety of works, including seven poetry collections, one prose book, 19 children's books (many of which center on the life of the fictional Everett Anderson) and two television scripts, not to mention essays and recordings and appearances on television. Her most recent work is *Quilting*, a collection of poems, many of which deal with women's issues.

Clifton's experiences go beyond the writing field: she is Distinguished Scholar and Professor of Humanities at St. Mary's College in Maryland; Poet Laureate of

Maryland; Consultant to the U.S. Office of Education, Project Head Start, Project Follow Through, and Poetry in the Schools.

Clifton comes to Alma by way of the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Writing Fellowship. The Fellowship matches 15 schools with 15 writers. "Carol Bender wrote the grant to be a member of the fellowship program," said English professor Bill Palmer, "but she indi-

Clifton's Awards

- Pulitzer Prize runner-up, 1980 and 1988
- Juniper Prize winner
- NEA fellowship
- Emmy for co-authorship of the script of *Free to Be...You and Me*

cated that I would coordinate it."

Palmer seemed excited for Clifton's visit. "It's a rare opportunity to be with people [Selzer and Clifton] like this," he said. "Selzer was sort of like Kurt Vonnegut only less expensive."

Clifton's two-week visit will include a writing workshop with 15 students, dinners with minority students and those interested in women's studies, sessions with writing and literature classes, a poetry reading for senior citizens and a campus-wide poetry reading in the chapel. She will return for a week during spring term (spending

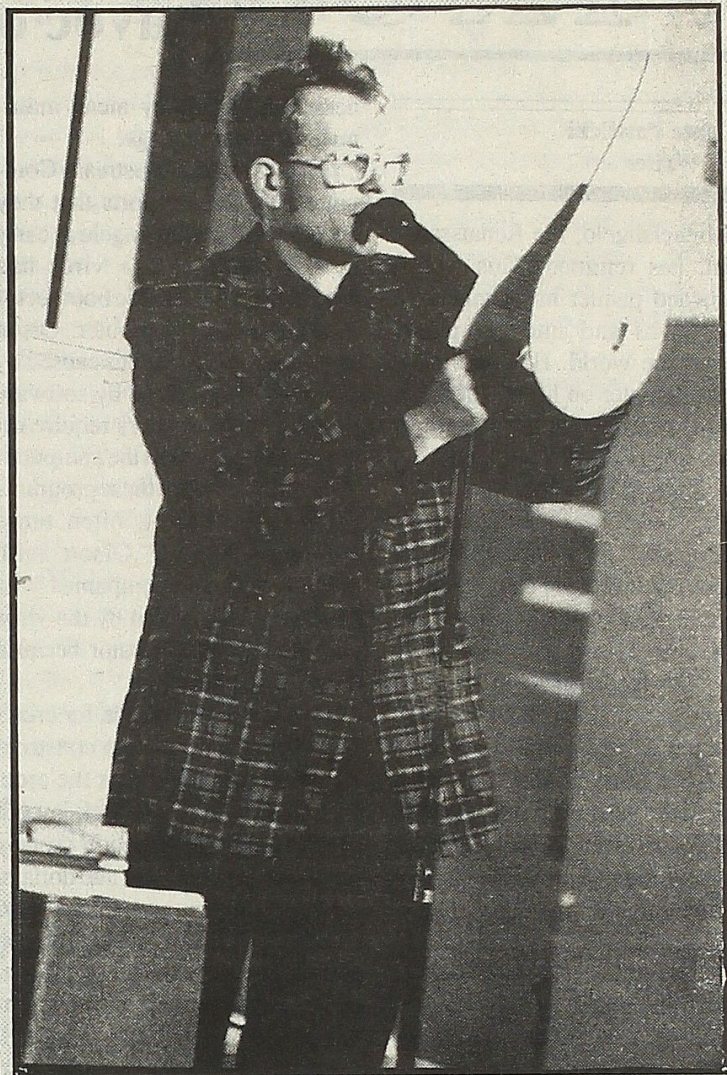
part of her time working with the advanced creative writing class), and that visit will be followed up by one more visit next fall.

Alma is one of the first institutions to participate in the program, which is made possible by the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund and administered by the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation. The program's intent is, according to the news release from the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, "to stimulate greater appreciation of the written word through interaction with the best of contemporary writers." During the next four years, the program will involve 58 colleges—"private liberal arts colleges that are cultural centers for their communities."

Of the 15 authors involved in the program this year, Clifton was one of Palmer's first choices. "We wanted more than a poet, since we have had several poets come to campus. That's part of the reason we wanted Selzer to come, and why we wanted Clifton as well." Other authors involved in the program include Maxine Kumin (who visited campus last year), Tim O'Brien and Grace Paley.

The College merely provides the forum and people to work with the writer in residence; the Woodrow Willson Foundation and the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest fund will pay for all travel expenses and honoraria, and in addition provides a \$500 stipend for activities such as receptions and books.

Crashland makes a splash



Brendan deVallance, performing artist, presented a medley of eclectic sketches involving singing and audience participation on Tuesday, March 3, 1992. Photo by M. Stargardt.

Innovative choir concert involves audience, too

By Kelly Marino
Staff Writer

On Sunday, March 8, the Alma College mixed choir and the men's and women's Glee Clubs performed in their first on-campus concert of the term. Jodi Kurkiewicz, senior, "thoroughly enjoyed it. I've never been to a choir concert before. It was a really neat experience. I'm glad I went."

The repertoire of music selected was quite unlike that of many previous concerts, and covered a wide variety of styles and subjects. The pieces ranged from chant-like songs, such as *Sicut Cervus*, to soft harmonious songs (*Orkney Lullaby*, *Sweet Hour of Prayer*), and lively, spirited songs such as *Goin' to Boston* and *Ching-a-Ring Chaw*.

Throughout the concert, several soloists performed. The first was Marcus Yamashiro, senior, who sang a baritone solo in *Blow the Man Down*. Next, junior Jeremy Evans, a tenor, soloed in *The Boatman's Dance*, and then senior Dawn Wilson (soprano) and first year student Pam Howell (alto) sang separate solos in the women's piece entitled *Waters Ripple and Flow*. This song, among others, was accompanied by first year student Sheri Tulloch.

Of special interest were the High-

landers, who performed *One Fine Day* and *Fire* during intermission. The audience was very receptive to the male quintet and welcomed this performance. Julie Kruse exclaimed, "Holy Cats! I couldn't believe Rick Wiltse! I want him for my guy!"

A piece entitled *Mary, Molly, and June*, sung by the mixed choir, featured sophomore Erik Janners on the bongo drums, and sophomore Kelly Marino on the triangles. Marino also accompanied two of the songs sung by the women's chorus.

The highlight of the afternoon was the closing piece sung by the women's chorus. In this piece, *Tales from the Vienna Woods*, eight members of the choir formed four couples and waltzed to the popular melody. Members of the audience also participated in the familiar, lively dance.

Will Nichols, director of the Glee Clubs and the choir, was very pleased with the performance. He remarked, "I thought it was great fun and I was proud of everyone. I think the audience had fun, which was the whole point of the concert."

Obviously, the audience did have fun. For Colleen Carmody and Dana Grant, two first-year students, the concert "makes us wish we could sing." They went back to their room and "jammed to the radio."

EVENTS CALENDAR

March 10-16

On Campus

Wednesday, March 11

ACUB College Bowl
Jones Auditorium, 7 p.m.

Friday, March 13

African Fellows Auction
Jones Auditorium, 6 p.m.

Little Siblings Weekend

Saturday, March 14

Jean Redpath--Scottish Folk-singer
Dunning Memorial Chapel, 8 p.m.

International Film: *Whiskey Galore*
SAC 113, 7 p.m.

Monday, March 16

Alma College Senior Art Exhibition
Reception: Clack Art Center, 2 p.m.

St. Louis

March 13, 14, 15
Dark of the Moon--Winter Play

Gratiot County Playhouse, 8 p.m. and Sunday 3 p.m.

East Lansing

Friday, March 13

American Gladiators Live Tour
Breslin Student Events Center, 7:30 p.m.

Midland

March 14-15

Family Science Weekend
Midland Center for the Arts, 1801 W. St. Andrews

March 15 - April 22

"Set Your Sights on Kites: The Art and Science of Kites"
Midland Center for the Arts, 1801 W. St. Andrews

March 15 - April 19

Winslow Homer: The Illustrator
Main Gallery, Midland Center for the Arts, 1801 W. St. Andrews

Ferndale

Tuesday, March 10

The Wild Child--Film
Magic Bag Theatre Cafe
22918 Woodward Ave., 8 p.m.

Sunday, March 15

Scott Henderson, Gary Willis and Tribal Tech
Magic Bag Theatre Cafe
22918 Woodward Ave., 7:30 p.m.

Farmington Hills

Tuesday, March 10

Rosemary Clooney and WSU Jazz Ensemble
Farmington Hills Mercy High School, 7 p.m.

Friday, March 13

The Leon Sisters Trio
Smith Theatre, Oakland Community College, 8 p.m.

Ann Arbor

March 12-15

People Dancing--Whitley Setrakian and Dancers
Ann Arbor's Performance Network

Detroit

Sunday, March 15

St. Patrick's Day Parade
Corktown, Detroit

Women's Basketball

Scots earn league championship

By Barb McCarty
Staff Writer

Saturday, February 22: it's the first day of spring break and the Alma College women's basketball team must play Adrian College for the MIAA championship. What better incentive to help produce a nail-biting 68-65 Scots victory over the Bulldogs?

Leading scorers for Alma were sophomore Katie Mans with 20 and senior co-captain Amy Elbers with 13. Wruble came close to a triple double with her team-leading nine rebounds and nine assists. Sophomores Tara Sherman and Mans each had 6 rebounds.

In every aspect, this was an incredibly close game. The scores from both halves never differed by more than two points. Alma made 28 of 62 shots attempted

and Adrian made 27 of 59 attempted. Both teams shot 45 percent for the game, but the key was in the three-point shots as Alma made five of nine, compared to Adrian's three-for-10. Jaster was three-for-three from downtown.

From the tip-off, control of the game jumped back and forth between the Bulldogs and the Scots. The two teams headed into the locker room at the half with the Scots leading, 34-32. Even in the second half, when Alma usually takes control, the game stayed close. Adrian scored 33 points and Alma 34 as time slowly elapsed.

As junior co-captain Lauri LaBeau said, "We really didn't play that well, but we played well enough to win."

This game brought the Scots' record to 18-4 overall and 11-1 in the MIAA. This win also gave Alma the MIAA league championship.



(Clockwise, from top) Sophomore Katie Mans pulls down a rebound, junior Laurie LaBeau fights off the Adrian defense, and junior Colleen Wruble looks to score. Photos by J. Ricks



Selection committee's choice sparks controversy

By Jason Ricks
Sports Editor

The MIAA women's basketball league champion, ninth-ranked Alma College played its first play-off game at second place Adrian College. Speculative controversy has most people believing that the game was moved to Adrian because its gym has a wood floor as opposed to the Tartan floor here at Alma. This, however, is not entirely the case.

Every year, a group of NCAA and MIAA officials called the National Women's Championship Committee meets to determine tournament game sites. The decision of game sites for Division III schools is based on four criteria: quality and availability of site, location, seeding in the tournament and revenue and attendance history.

The controversy, according to Alma Athletic Director Deb Mapes, is that the first criterion seems to

have been overlooked on the assumption that a wood floor is superior to a Tartan floor which is completely unproven. Attendance history is one of Alma's stronger points; "Alma has far surpassed anybody else's programs in the past 15 years," said Mapes. Alma is the number-one seed in this region while Adrian is the fourth. "We are the only Division III school in the nation that a higher seed is playing at a lower seed's home-court. We've earned the home-court advantage; we've fought to attain and hold national ranking all season. It is unfortunate that the Alma College students are being deprived from seeing their team play at home."

Alma's women's basketball coach Charlie Goffnett received the agenda of the Championship Committee's meeting last Thursday and found that the correct criteria for determining game sites for Division III schools was not even used. Instead, Goffnett speculated that the criteria for Divisions I and II schools were used for the Division III schools because, according to the agenda, seeding of teams was not a factor in determining sites.

Mapes was notified last Sunday by the NCAA that the game was against Adrian, at Adrian. The next day she filed a formal complaint based on Alma's seeding in the tournament, national ranking and seating capacity. There was a re-vote after the complaint was filed but the decision was not overturned on the basis that "it would set a precedence." However, a precedence was set last year with a Concordia game. "Not one excuse the committee gave me held water," Mapes said. "They made a bad decision...and were not willing to correct a correctable mistake."

When junior co-captain Laurie LaBeau learned the game was at Adrian, she said, "I had no feeling; I just couldn't believe it." After Goffnett realized the decision would stand, he met with his players. They discussed the fact and eventually turned a negative situation to their advantage. Goff-

nett said, "In an unfortunate circumstance...when life gives you lemons, make lemonade. We have no animosity; in fact it's pumped us up more for the game than anything else. We just hope it doesn't happen to anybody else."

The team felt discriminated against and thus considered themselves underdogs. "It's bonded our team, we're closer now than we have been all year," said Goffnett.

An article in last Wednesday's *Detroit News* by Bill Halls which hinted that the controversy stemmed primarily from the type of floor in the gyms. The last two sentences of the article said, "Alma does have an artificial basketball court. Adrian has a new wood court."

Although the NCAA has guidelines for tournament sites, it seems that the higher seeded team should receive the privilege of playing at home. That is how it is done in most professional sports and most other collegiate sports--like the Super Bowl and Division I NCAA Basketball Tournament.

Perhaps, in this type of situation, an arbitrary location should be found for the game to be played. Susan Sawacki, chairperson of the Division III Women's Basketball Committee, does not agree. She was quoted in the *Detroit News* as saying, "It's a popular misconception that the higher seed automatically gets home court." She had nothing to say about the floor controversy.

There was a large student faction from Alma at the game which kept the controversy alive by sporadically chanting things such as, "IT'S GOTTA BE THE FLOOR! IT'S GOTTA BE THE FLOOR!"

Fortunately, the Scots played above the controversy by beating Adrian by 15 points at home to advance in the playoffs.

We'll probably never know for sure whether or not the floor was a major deciding factor in the committee's decision, but hopefully from the many protests from the Alma College sports community it will not occur again in the future.

Swimming

Scots end season with improvement

By Kerri Gorenz
Staff Writer

The Alma College men's and women's swimming and diving teams finished their seasons February 20 through 22 at the conference meet held at Hope College. The conference meet was given a two-thirds weight in the final standings, while the dual meets counted for a weight of one-third.

The women finished with 246 points, 100 more than they scored last year and their best finish in 11 years. They finished the meet in fourth place after Hope, Kalamazoo and Albion. That was also the order of the final conference rankings. The women's biggest rival was Calvin College whom they lost to earlier in the season in a close dual meet. The Scots made a comeback and beat them by a narrow margin of 15 points.

First-year student Shelly Wasko was impressed with the team's performance. "My teammates swam amazingly well compared to years past...we're a small team but we did very well. Other teams had people flying out of the woodwork and qualifying for nationals." Wasko also thought it was a good experience for the team to swim against such tough competition. "It was a real experience to swim in a heat where there were people qualifying for the nationals...we're a Division III school and we were competing against people who could probably be swimming in Division I."

The men's team finished the meet and the season in fifth place behind Hope, Kalamazoo, Albion, and Calvin Colleges. They scored 154 points, 22 more than they scored last year. Earlier in the season the top three teams had each won one meet against each other and the Scots played a role in the other teams' final standings. According to sophomore Scott Phillion, "A lot of teams were worried about how well we were going to do because we would be taking fourth and fifth places away from other teams so we would be the deciding factor for other teams."

The team did exceptionally well at meeting personal and team goals. Of the 11 team records set this season, eight of them were set at conference. Those performances were given by Jenny Turnbull in the 100 back (1:04.19) and 200 back (2:18.99), Paul Schmidt in the 400 IM (4:23.94), and Phillion in the 100 breast (1:02.77) and 200 breast (2:19.15). The women's 400 medley relay team of Turnbull, Julie Boltman, Salena Williams and Wasko broke the oldest record on the books with a time of 4:28.07. The women's 800 free relay team of Turnbull, Boltman, Williams and Tia Green set a new time of 8:35.68. The men's 200 medley relay team of Matt LaJune, Scott Huffman, Ted Davis and Schmidt set a new record of 1:44.27.

Coach Greg Baadte said, "Performances were outstanding. In 10 years of coaching it was the best conference meet I've ever been associated with as a team. Eighty-five percent of the swims were personal best times. We had a ton

of great performances."

Since conference is such an important meet it can be a very high pressure situation for many of people. Phillion said, "Conference has always gotten a little pressure on everyone because everyone wants to do well and it's the last meet of the season...but the 85 percent personal best times show we obviously took the pressure well. We put the pressure behind us and just swam well."

Wasko thought that the team had a good attitude about the meet. "Coach had the best attitude about the meet. He told everyone to go out and swim their best and he had something good to say about everybody's race."

Overall the season went very well and the team is looking forward to coming back even stronger next year. At the beginning of the season the goal was set for 10 new team records and 40 new top-10 times. They surpassed those goals with the 11 new records and 59 new top-10 times. "It was a good season," Baadte said. "The men have a numbers problem and I think we might have that problem solved next season....For the women, the fourth place finish was our goal all season."

One member of the team, first-year student Radu Danca, is not finished with the season. On Wednesday, he will be in Buffalo, New York where he will compete in the pre-qualifying event for the nationals in diving. From there, he must finish within the top 26 divers if he is to go on and compete in the nationals on Thursday.

SPORTS STATS

Women's Basketball

2-22-92

Adrian (65)

Ruete 1-6 0-0 2, Seymour 8-10 1-2 17, Albert 0-3 0-0 0, Dutrieux 0-1 0-0 0, Pridgeon 0-0 1-2 0, Baird 3-9 1-2 8, McFarlane 3-9 0-2 6, Ruhl 0-1 0-0 0, Hiner 2-2 2-3 8, Brooks 6-12 2-2 14, Isaacson 4-6 2-2 10.

Alma (68)

Doucette 1-2 0-0 2, LaBeau 3-9 1-2 7, Hogan 0-1 0-1 0, Sherman 1-3 0-0 2, Wruble 5-13 1-2 13, Long 0-0 0-0 0, Elbers 5-11 1-2 13, Mans 8-11 4-4 20, Jaster 4-6 0-0 11, Balliet 1-5 0-4 2, Mortensen 0-1 0-0 0.

Assists: Adrian 22 (Baird 8), Alma 19 (Wruble 9).

Rebounds: Adrian 37, Alma 42 (Wruble 9).

Total Fouls: Adrian 19, Alma 14.

Technical Fouls: Alma 1.

Fouled Out: none.

Great Lakes Regional Tournament

First Round NCAA Division III

Alma (92)

McCallister 0-0 0-0 0, Doucette 0-1 0-0 0, LaBeau 4-11 7-12 16, Hogan 0-2 0-0 0, Kieffer 0-0 0-0 0, Sherman 0-5 2-3 2, Wruble 11-17 8-10 30, Long 0-0 0-0 0, Elbers 3-5 1-2 10, Mans 8-12 9-10 25, Jaster 3-5 1-2 9, Balliet 0-1 0-0 0, Mortensen 0-0 0-0 0.

Adrian (77)

Ruete 0-8 0-0 0, Seymour 5-6 2-3 12, Albert 4-5 0-1 9, Dutrieux 1-2 1-2 3, Pridgeon 1-1 0-0 2, Baird 3-13 1-2 9, McFarlane 5-8 0-0 10, Ruhl 1-2 0-0 2, Hiner 6-8 2-3 18, Ososkie 0-1 0-0 0, Brooks 3-4 0-0 6, Isaacson 3-5 0-0 6.

Assists: Alma 22, Adrian 25 (Baird 6)

Rebounds: Alma 39 (Sherman 12), Adrian 35

Total Fouls: Alma 15, Adrian 28

Technical Fouls: none

Fouled Out: Seymour

MIAA Swimming Finals Championship Meet

Hope	539
Kzoo	502
Albion	478
Alma	246
Calvin	231
Olivet	101
Adrian	0

1992 MIAA All-Conference

Basketball Teams

Alma College Participants

Men's Second Team

Colon Lewis

Honorable Mention

Bachman, Norris, Maloney

Women's First Team

Colleen Wruble

Women's Second Team

LaBeau, Mans

Classifieds

Education

ATTENTION STUDENTS INTERESTED IN TEACHING: If interested in Elementary Education, please contact Dr. Lynda Markham (AC 238; 7166). If interested in Secondary Education, please contact Dr. Susan Root (AC 239; 7202).

Sigma Tau Delta, the English Honor Society, is interested in promoting reading and the discussion of books for personal growth as well as enjoyment. In order to do so, we are asking that you tell us about your favorites. Pick up more information at your switch. Your responses will be included in a booklet that will be

distributed throughout campus. Thanks!

1992-93 Graduate and Professional School Financial Aid Service (GAPSFAS) forms have been received by the Financial Aid Office. Students seeking aid at a graduate or professional school may be required to file this form. A limited supply of the GAPSFAS forms are available in the Financial Aid Office.

Classifieds must be turned in to *The Almanian* office by 5 p.m. the Friday before the issue you want them to appear in. Classifieds will be published on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Scholarships

ATTENTION EDUCATION STUDENTS: Teacher Scholarship Program Again this year, the U.S. Department of Education is continuing their funding for the Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship Program. You must have graduated in the top 10 percent of your high school class to be eligible. The maximum award is \$5,000 each year. Stop by the Education Department for an application (Mrs. Farrier, AC 237). See Dr. Markham if you have questions. DEADLINE is April 15.

March 10, 1992

Athlete Profile

Maloney concludes successful career

By Jennifer Bork
Staff Writer

The 1991-92 men's basketball season has come to an end and Tom Maloney bids farewell to the maroon and white uniform, the roar of enthusiastic fans, and the shouts of opponents—all memories left behind in Cappaert Gymnasium. He has demonstrated great leadership and skill as a member of the Alma College men's basketball team and will be greatly missed.

Tom attended Lansing Catholic Central High School where he played basketball for four years and was voted All-League as a senior. Turning down basketball offers from both Carnegie Mellon University and Northwood, he chose Alma because, "I could play basketball at a school with a strong academic program and still be close enough to my family so they could watch my games." As a math and biology major, Maloney claims to have had some conflict between academics and athletics, especially with away games and afternoon laboratories. Some rearranging and extra work has helped him to

achieve success in both areas of his life.

As a first-year student at Alma, Maloney was the leading scorer on the junior varsity team. The next three years he competed at the varsity level, where he became a key factor in the team's success. His varsity career field goal percentage was .416, with his three-point percentage hovering close at .402. In these three years he ob-

tained 120 rebounds, 129 assists, 61 steals, and an impressive free-throw percentage of .782. His determination, positive attitude, and hours of intense practice all contributed to a dynamic 1991-92 season.

In his senior year alone, Maloney racked up 71 rebounds, 73 assists, and 37 steals as well as averaging 12.6 points per game compared to

his career average of 6.3. Senior Mike Bachman, teammate of Maloney, said, "Tom could always play defense, but offensively he has progressed a lot in the past three years. Maloney was a great asset to the Alma College basketball program and will be difficult to replace."

Senior teammate Brad Fosmore commented, "Tom is a great athlete; he's the kid who can score as well as guard the best offensive player."

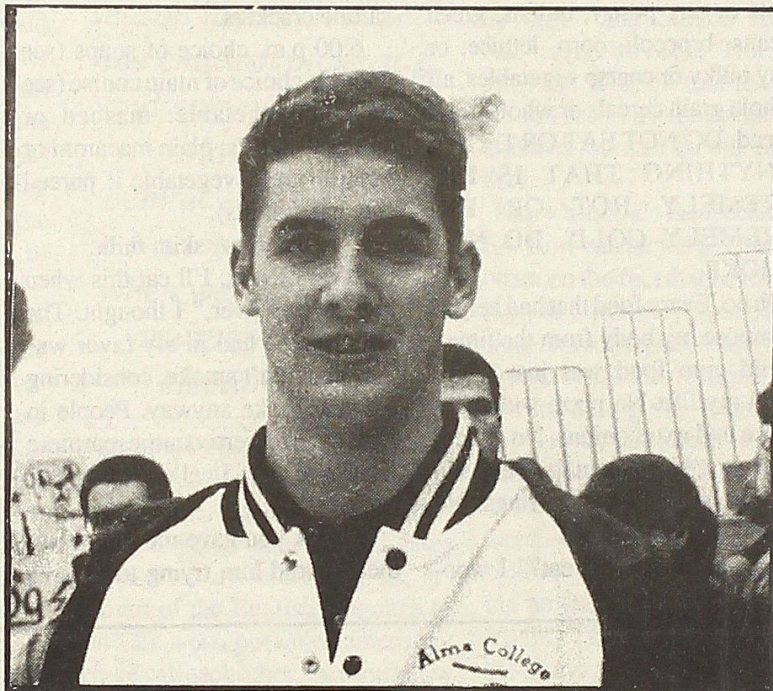
"Frustration" is the one word Maloney uses to describe the team's career due to its lack of success, but he feels that "they have really come together as a unit." As he looks back, the team's two tournaments in Florida during his sophomore and senior spring breaks are some of his favorite basketball memories. Although he is especially fond of the 1990 trip when they emerged victorious, both excursions were full of fun. Last year's one-point loss to Calvin at home has left a bitter taste in his mouth, although he tries to focus on how well the team played that night.

Maloney's passion for basketball extends further than Alma College. For the past two summers

he has worked as co-camp director at Camp Lansing, a city-wide basketball program available for kids ages 8-14. He was involved in organizing the camp as well as teaching some fundamentals and finer points of the sport.

"I really enjoy working with the kids and it doesn't cost much so almost everyone is able to participate—even underprivileged kids who can't afford much," he said. However, this is not just a summer job; Maloney offers these kids support all year long by attending their school basketball games when he is home on break and offering them some pointers. He admits that it makes his day when he sees one of them at a game or a Gus Macker tournament and they compare notes on their games. This way he is not just a camp director; he also becomes a friend.

Maloney admits that it is the competitiveness and camaraderie of the team that he will miss most. "It was so enjoyable, no matter what our record was," he said. Maloney does not plan to stray far from basketball in the future, as he aspires to teach in high school as well as coach.



Senior Tom Maloney. Photo by J. Ricks

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In the February 18 issue of The Almanian, new track coach Dan Gibson was incorrectly identified in the cutline under the picture that appeared in the article entitled "Gibson squeezes in time to coach track."

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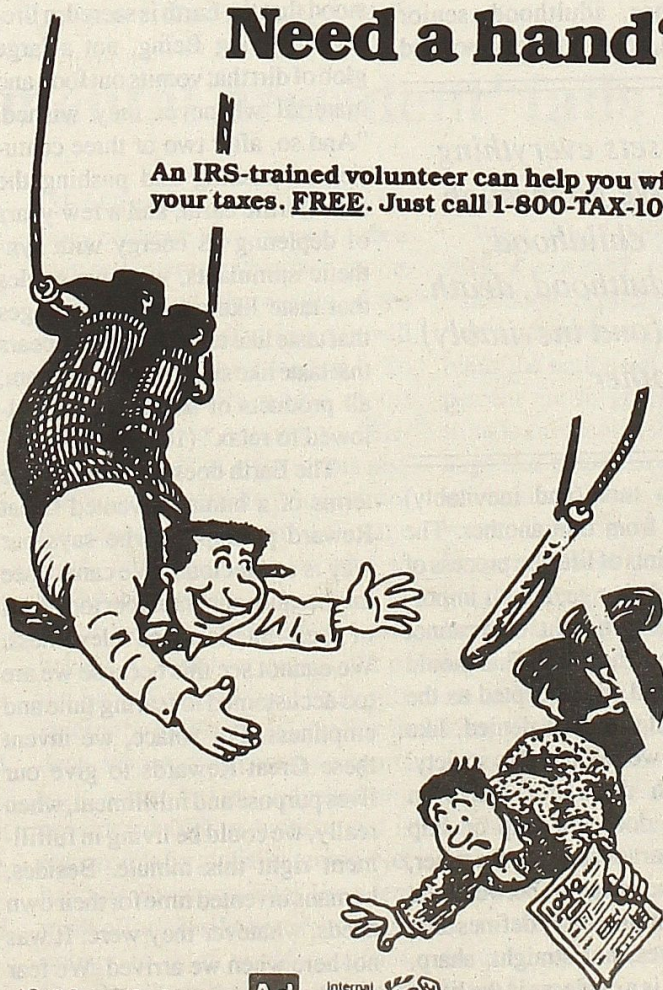
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John Paul Mitchell SystemsRESEARCH
WRITING
CONTEST

Prizes will be awarded for student research writing submitted for Alma College classes during the academic year 1991-1992.

Papers will be judged for quality of writing as well as for skills in synthesizing sources, for methods of investigation, for use of primary sources or data, and for documentation consistent with the standard style sheet in the academic discipline for which the paper is submitted. Length of paper must be commensurate with that of major research writing for undergraduate courses in the discipline for which it is submitted.

Students in all academic disciplines are encouraged to enter this contest. Judges will be drawn from all academic divisions.

FIRST PRIZE \$100

SECOND PRIZE \$50

THIRD PRIZE \$20

Deadline: April 10, 1992

Submit the writing to the Office of the Provost in a manila envelope. The writing should have a detachable title page; the contestant's name should appear on the title page but not in the text.

Awards announced May 22, 1992 or soon thereafter.

Lifting the Kilt by Sara Groves

At least ulcers will keep you from smoking

It all started almost six weeks ago. I had salsa with a few nachos. And about five minutes after I started eating, my stomach began to hurt. I didn't think anything about it until I was doubled over in pain.

"I think I'm dying," I told my roommate, Shannon.

"Shut up. You're not dying. Now, get ready to go."

So I staggered around the room doubled over for the next 40 minutes or so.

The next day I had a chocolate bar and before I was even halfway through it, I began to feel as if somebody was kicking in my stomach.

"Waaaahhhhh! Something is wrong with me!" I complained to Shannon.

"Nothing is wrong with you. You're such a hypochondriac."

And so it continued for the next three weeks. Every time I ate something or drank anything, I couldn't stand up straight. So I would scurry around the room, half my normal height, feeling like Tim Conway doing Dorf on

Golf.

Finally I went to the doctor. He poked and prodded and asked questions and poked and prodded some more. Then came the diagnosis.

"It is an ulcer."

"Oh boy!" I thought, excited that there was actually something wrong with me. "An ulcer!"

"You'll have to watch what you eat for awhile until it heals up. No caffeine. Nothing really spicy. And, follow this diet exactly."

"A diet?" I thought dismayed at the prospect.

"And one more thing. Your stomach should never be completely empty. So eat small meals every three or four hours or whenever you get hungry," the doctor told me.

"Cool! It's not a diet at all. I get to eat six times a day!" I thought to myself.

I got up to leave.

"Now whatever you do, don't go off this diet," were the doctor's parting words, as he handed me pills to ease the pain.

"No problem," were my famous last words.

As soon as I got home I studied the diet sheet my doctor had handed me. The first thing which caught my eye was the long list under the heading, "DO NOT CONSUME..."

DO NOT CONSUME: alcohol, tea, coffee, soda, salt, pepper, other spices, ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, relish or other condiments, highly seasoned food, smoked or preserved fish or meat, corned beef, pork, ham, bacon, red meat, fried food, crab, lobster, pie crust, doughnuts or any pastry, onions, green beans, broccoli, corn, lettuce, or any bulky or coarse vegetables, all whole grain cereals or whole grain bread. DO NOT EAT OR DRINK ANYTHING THAT IS EXTREMELY HOT OR EXTREMELY COLD. DO NOT SMOKE.

Oh no. Every food that had helped compose my body from the time I could gum food was just wiped from my life. No pizza with extra sauce and extra onions. No chocolate bars. No Mountain Dew. No french fries. No onion rings. No potato chips. No salsa.

"So what could I eat?" I won-

dered. I went on to read the nightmarish diet.

8:00 a.m. teacupful of cream of wheat or rice or strained oatmeal; one piece toast or zwieback (plain); 6 oz. milk.

10:30 a.m. one teacupful of jello.

12:30 p.m. 6 oz. plain broth or chicken (strained); one piece toast or zwieback; main course: sandwich using toasted white bread with cream cheese.

3:30 p.m. 6 oz. skim milk; three saltine crackers.

6:00 p.m. choice of soups (see above); choice of main course (see above); vegetable: mashed or strained carrots; plain macaroni or rice, or green vegetable if pureed (i.e. baby foods).

9:30 p.m. 6 oz. skim milk.

"Yeah. Right. I'll eat this when hell freezes over," I thought. The only thing I had in my favor was that I couldn't smoke, considering I don't smoke anyway. People in third world desert countries eat more food than this. I called my doctor back.

"I think you gave me the wrong diet," I told him trying to forgive

his mistake. "You told me to keep my stomach full. This isn't going to do it."

"I didn't say full. I said not empty," my doctor informed me.

"Full means not empty in my book," I muttered as I hung up the phone.

Convinced my doctor didn't have a clue what he was talking about, I made up my own diet.

"No caffeine, except once in a while. No fried foods, at least for the first week. Only one chocolate bar every three days. Eat everything else until your stomach hurts. Then quit. DO NOT SMOKE."

"There," I thought. "Much better."

And it has worked! Granted it's probably taking my stomach three times as long to heal as it would under the diet from hell. But at least I'm not suffering from malnutrition. And, I have yet to smoke a cigarette.

The Western myth of the 'Great Reward' warps reality

By Amy L. Hough
Staff Writer

"A Brain can do all kinds of things, but the things that it can do are not the most important things. Abstract cleverness of mind only separates the thinker from the world of reality, and that world, the Forest of Real Life, is in a desperate condition now because of too many who think too much and care too little." — from *The Tao of Pooh*

I have been reading this small book by Benjamin Hoff, and while I do not claim any absolute religious identity, I find applicable life lessons, simple truths and beautiful words of wisdom in varying teachings. The essence of simply Be-ing is a foreign concept in our society. We learn at an early age that we have certain roles to fill and certain expectations to live up to, for parents, teachers, peers, ourselves. We learn at an early age to allow others around us to define our being, our experience, and few of us consider the notion of inner voice, and if we do, it is often not trusted enough for us to be able to depend upon it.

Inner voice/inner peace is learned, but it is more difficult than achieving knowledge as we know how, because it is something that already lies within us. It is some-

thing we discover—or not. The problem it poses for us Westerners is that it is *effortless*. We are conditioned through society to believe that there is some Great Reward for everything we do, in order to keep us interested. In a little over a month many of us will graduate from this place and earn Bachelor's degrees. Meanwhile, I personally have to compose a senior thesis for my

happiness, rest, and peace are always things to be caught. We lose time looking for these things and never truly find them or experience them because they are beyond us.

The notion of the Great Reward sets everything into blocks or partitions of life. We go through life in isolated stations: birth, childhood, adolescence, adulthood, senior adulthood, death. These prescribed

The notion of the Great Reward sets everything into blocks or partitions of life. We go through life in isolated stations: birth, childhood, adolescence, adulthood, senior adulthood, death. These prescribed stations in turn (and inevitably) isolate us from one another.

English major. I could easily look at that experience as a Final Product—a token of my acquiring of knowledge during these four years. My Great Reward is the degree and a job or acceptance into graduate school. But after I achieve all this, there will be another Great Reward to chase. These Rewards are bitter-sweet, because they are "somehow always farther along than we are—just down the road, on the other side of the world, past the moon, beyond the stars..." (Hoff 98). In knowing this, we can never be truly happy because we have learned that

stations in turn (and inevitably) isolate us from one another. The turning points of life, the process of growth and change, are all important in their own right. One cannot exist without the other. This should be celebrated and accepted as the Earth should be, not denied, like old age, as we call it in this society. The Earth does not move in blocks—it does not leap or skip from one part of space to the other, ignoring the space in between. Its rotating motion clearly defines this; it has curves, not straight, sharp, dividers. It is a cycle, as is the life it

supports.

People once knew how to work with the Earth—they listened to its very rhythms: "Now you plant; now you relax. Now you work the soil; now you leave it alone" (100). The first Americans, the Puritans, who began the destruction on this land that we know today, never understood that the Earth is sacred, a life-giving, living Being, not a large glob of dirt that vomits out food and material whenever they wished. "And so, after two or three centuries of pushing and pushing the once-fertile earth, and a few years of depleting its energy with synthetic stimulants, we have apples that taste like cardboard, oranges that taste like tennis balls, and pears that taste like sweetened Styrofoam, all products of soil that is not allowed to relax" (101).

The Earth does not work on the terms of a human-invented Great Reward principle—who says our way is so precious? We cannot see this because our brains are too proud of their intellect and cleverness. We cannot see this because we are too accustomed to fearing time and emptiness. For solace, we invent these Great Rewards to give our lives purpose and fulfillment, when really, we could be living in fulfillment right this minute. Besides, humans invented time for their own needs, whatever they were. It was not here when we arrived. We fear emptiness because we equate it with

loneliness. "Everything has to be filled in, it seems—appointment books, hillsides, vacant lots—but when all the spaces are filled, the Loneliness *really* begins" (147).

Sure, we can achieve knowledge; we can learn how to do things, so we can learn how to impress other people, and make money and fill our own emptiness and live a tense life of deadlines, clocks and fast food. As long as we recognize that we have a choice; we can live fuller lives. So many of us enter these busy lives of really nothingness because we feel we have no choice. What good is a brain if it is separated from the reality of the Earth? We can only spend time, we cannot save it. The voice of wisdom and simplicity—being happy with our lives according to our own definition—is so often treated as an exception to the well-followed rule of knowledge and reason, rather than as an example of a different rule that can apply to anyone who chooses to use it. Anything that one chooses to do in life is honest if it comes from within. In wisdom there is compassion and patience. To recognize and use this power inside ourselves is worth so much more than merely imitating others and competing against them. The hardest thing to accept about the Great Reward—and the most wonderful, really—is that it lies within ourselves.

Campaign mudslinging in full force

Presidential candidates assume the roles of children at election time

By Steve Gardner
Staff Writer

Campaign '92: A Tour of the Playground

Well, the kids have been throwing mud at each other again down in the bayou. Little Kerry keeps telling the other children that Mom likes him better than brother Clinton. After all, he did wash his poor mother's Ho Chi Minh special, while bad Clinton hid behind the wood pile. But the other children weren't too impressed with the wash job when they saw that the car was an oil-burning hulk of rust that his mother desperately was trying to get rid of before it ignited on the highway and killed thousands of people.

But, of course, both Kerry and Clinton lost friends when they brutally attacked the nerd of the class, Tsongas. You know how children are. They love to tease and make fun of the nerd until a couple of insecure, overly-zealous, stuck-up snoots actually hit the poor misunderstood martyr. And who are we missing in this Norman Rockwell picture of childhood bliss? Why, the class clown, of course. There goes Brown, the class clown, again, and everybody is laughing. But he does have his pack of loyal jugglers. When one tries to predict the outcome of the vote for homecoming king, he must keep in mind that small, but loud voting block of zealots and rebels who scorn popularity and scoff nerdum.

But listen! What are those great slaps I hear echoing through the trees? Buchanan the moose is trying to pull up a green leafy Bush by the roots. Oh, how the moose loves to eat, roots and all. It's too bad that the poor

animal is too stupid to understand that when he eats the roots he makes it very difficult for the plants to grow back. If he continues at this pace, both he and his friend the elephant surely will starve by November.

Yes, the primary season has arrived and the childish bickering and name calling has followed close behind. While the voters desper-

Yes, the primary season has arrived and the childish bickering and name calling has followed close behind...Who needs a National Enquirer when we have a daily newspaper during election year?

ately are trying to understand and compare each candidate's plans for health care, education, and economic development, the candidates themselves are searching the archives of the English language to find the worst possible names they could call each other. Did you know that President Bush has been trying to make millions by selling pornography through the National Endowment for the Arts? Did you know that Paul Tsongas wants to build thousands upon thousands of nuclear power plants from coast to coast? Did you know that Buchanan prayed every day during the Gulf War that Iraq would win? Did you know that instead of killing commies, Clinton was trying to sell the entire United States out of his dorm room during the Vietnam War? Did you know that Brown ... ? Well,

that probably wouldn't be too surprising. But you get the point. Who needs a National Enquirer when we have a daily newspaper during election year?

Even though all of this monkey bar, name-calling magnifies the word absurdity to the point that a new word must be created, the dirty little tauntings of Kerry and Clinton make the Smothers Brothers look normal. While we want to know how they are going to fix the country, they comically slap each other around as Kerry sticks out his tongue and says, "I love my country best!" and Clinton sneers, "Na! Na!" and cries back, "Not so!" It disturbs me to think that these children who already have developed such bad attitudes want to be our future president.

Kerry's attitude is especially distressful. How can he judge Clinton's patriotism on the fact that he didn't want to fight in a war that most people didn't want and some people knew we had no right to be in? I do respect Kerry for his heroics during the Vietnam War, but his view of patriotism assumes that a person always must follow the demands of the executive branch of the government and not his conscience. Not that I believe that Kerry is wrong for thinking he was doing his country good in Vietnam, but there is the other side of the story.

But thank God the kids are getting tired and going home. Poor Kerry already has stumbled away crying from the trench his battered body has made in the sandbox. And hopefully the others soon will follow. Yes, how cruel children can be. And how cruel they will be. The crueler the better, I say. The sooner they will cry, the sooner they will leave and the sooner silence will come to the playground. Maybe someday they will all come back as adults and laugh at how stupidly they acted during their childhood.

The 'Environmental president' fails again

By Michael Arnold
Staff Writer

The United Nations Conference of Environment and Development (UNCED) could potentially be the most sweeping issue pressing the many nations of the world. Meeting in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 160 heads of state and over 1,200 country representatives will be on hand to discuss the future of planet Earth.

Among the more pressing topics for discussion will be the following: 1) global warming with target dates set for CFC reduction or phase out, 2) exportation of toxic waste to third world countries, 3) deforestation, desertification, and general land degradation, 4) biodiversity, 5) examination of oceans and freshwater resources, 6) technology transfer, and 7) hazardous waste management.

It all sounds good, but as the Student Environmental Action Coalition

(SEAC) points out, "If a few nations continue to negotiate in their own self interest rather than for the common good, the results of the multi-million dollar summit will be disappointingly modest." To date, nearly every nation of the world plans on sending its delegates or heads of state to this pivotal meeting regarding the future of the planet, except one: George Bush. He does not even plan to attend the meeting.

Even with the nations of the world behind it, whatever comes out of the Earth Summit could be simply ignored by the Environmental President, whose own country exports toxic waste, has not indicated any considered CFC reduction, and is responsible for global warming. Nor has this Environmental President made efforts for the transfer of technology to third world countries, like Brazil, so they can use more environmentally safe methods of

agriculture and development.

What would the outcome be from such a summit? National Wildlife Federation President Jay Hair says, "An agreement on global warming that binds the nations of the world to a 20 percent cut in greenhouse gas emissions is an essential first step to curbing huge and potentially disastrous shifts in climate." When considering toxic waste, third world countries do not have regulations that exist here in the States, so multi-national corporations have no incentive to protect the people. Fortunately, some African countries are turning toxic waste bearing ships away from their ports and will not accept such hazardous material.

The first twelve days of June could be the most important time in the history of the Earth. It will be a time when every nation comes together to consider the problems which man has incurred upon himself. Are you out there George?

Women athletes need better media coverage

By William J. Johnston
Copy Editor

It's that time of year again. Pre-pubescent males rush home from school to snag the copy of *Sports Illustrated* before anyone else can and cut out pictures for their lockers at school. These are not pictures of Michael Jordan or Barry Sanders; rather, they are pictures of women modelling swimsuits. Why? It's *Sports Illustrated's* annual swimsuit issue.

Feminists have challenged this issue as sexist for probably as many years as *Sports Illustrated* has published a swimsuit issue. Ann Simonton, a one-time cover-model for a swimsuit issue, now campaigns against it as she speaks about feminist issues across the country.

While the swimsuit issue treats women as objects and perpetuates the beauty myth, it is interesting to note that more copies of it are sold than any other issue, and almost half of the additional copies are bought by women.

The swimsuit issue is only the tip of the iceberg, however. In fact, it seems to be a smokescreen for the real issue at hand; people expend all their energy on combatting the swimsuit issue and miss the real problem. What is the real problem?

Consider this. The week before the swimsuit issue came out, figure skater Kristi Yamaguchi appeared on the cover of *Sports Illustrated* following her gold-medal-winning performance at the Olympic Games in Albertville. Prior to her appearance, only *eighteen* women had appeared on the cover of *Sports Illustrated* since 1984.

At 51 issues a year for six years, that means that 306 issues of *Sports Illustrated* appeared between 1984 and the end of 1991; that number doesn't include the 10 or so issues published this year. That means that only 6 percent of those issues had cover stories featuring women. Subtract the six swimsuit issues published during that time (since every swimsuit issue has a woman on the cover) and you have only 12 issues—4 percent—with cover stories devoted to women's athletics.

There is something fundamentally wrong with these numbers, especially when you consider that during the same time frame pit bulls made the cover once. I would guess that more than 4 percent of women in this country are involved in some sort of athletic competition.

The swimsuit issue is only the tip of the iceberg, however. In fact, it seems to be a smokescreen for the real issue at hand; people expend all their energy on combatting the swimsuit issue and miss the real problem.

While I do not have the precise circulation figures, I do know that a majority of *Sports Illustrated's* readership is male. However, this is no reason to eliminate women's athletics from the content of the magazine.

To give them credit, *Sports Illustrated* has taken steps in the past to address this problem. The weekly "College Basketball" segment now lists both male and female players of the week, and usually one of the small stories in this section is devoted to women's basketball.

But is this enough? Is it too much to ask for the occasional feature story on women's basketball or track? Why are so few women athletes profiled? Admittedly, there aren't as many big-name female athletes as there are males, but could that be because "big-name" athletes are products of the media, and the media quite clearly doesn't focus on female athletes? Probably.

The swimsuit issue is a sidelight to the real problem here. Yes, it degrades women; however, if we focus all our energy on eliminating it, we are left with a magazine which will focus even less on women in athletics (though I hesitate to say that the swimsuit issue is devoted to women's athletics). The lack of stories about women is the real problem.

Staff Editorial

Student representatives fail to fulfill duties

At a small liberal arts college we have opportunities as students to participate in a wide range of events and organizations. These experiences allow us to enhance our education in other ways in addition to the classroom.

However, positions that require representation—that are developed and maintained in order to represent the students of Alma College—are perhaps more significant because of the impact they have on the student body. Student Congress members, associate trustees and members that serve on the countless other student committees designed to give students a voice are essential in maintaining open communication between the student body and the administration. These members represent their peers and have the power to make changes and speak out should there be an issue that will directly concern the student body.

What is unfortunate is that for the most part, these positions are not taken with the seriousness that they deserve. How often do we as a student body hear of the recent news being discussed at the Board of Trustees meeting? When and how often are we ever asked if there are issues we are concerned about? It is indeed an unfortunate occurrence when a student congress meeting is shortened because each representative replies “no report” when given their turn to speak. One has to wonder why, if students go to the trouble of running for a position that will require them to represent their student body in some capacity, they choose not to follow through with these responsibilities.

Perhaps some of these representatives have lost sight of what it is to serve as a voice for their student body. It seems that the majority of our representatives are more concerned with holding these positions in order to enhance their resumes than they are in making a positive effect on the campus.

Granted, serving on the Board of Trustees, for example, is a great opportunity for students to meet well-respected, influential individuals that may or may not aid them in their future plans. However, the reason for serving on this board should not be forgotten. It is not to simply listen and agree with what is being decided; it is to listen, speak out for the student body according to what is in its best interest and then communicate to their constituents what they have done.

As students, we need to make an effort to find out what our representatives are doing. Are they bringing controversial issues to the forefront or nodding their heads as policies are being made? It is our responsibility to assure that we choose effective leaders with the right intentions to represent us. The deadline for applications for Student Congress is March 13 and the student body will vote the following Monday. Before you vote for the same person that has been representing you in the past, talk to that individual and find out what they have done and why they want to do it. Unless the student body takes an active role in determining how it should be represented, the positions that exist are not only ineffective, but unnecessary.

The following students were elected by the student body for the 1991-92 academic year. Associate Trustees: Dave Woodruff (Student Congress), Rick Lantz ('92), Scott Schoessel ('93), Reggie Reed ('94); Class of 1992 student congress representatives: Heather Ruppel, Patti Westphal, Dave Gilkey, Amy White; Class of 1993: Mark Lauzon, Mark Wassa, Robin Olson, Jim Dial; Class of 1994: Darrell Howald, Jennifer Smith, Rebecca Murray, Randy Thelen; Class of 1995: Jason Watkins, Keenan Amundsen, Kristin Kuhtic, Dana Grant.

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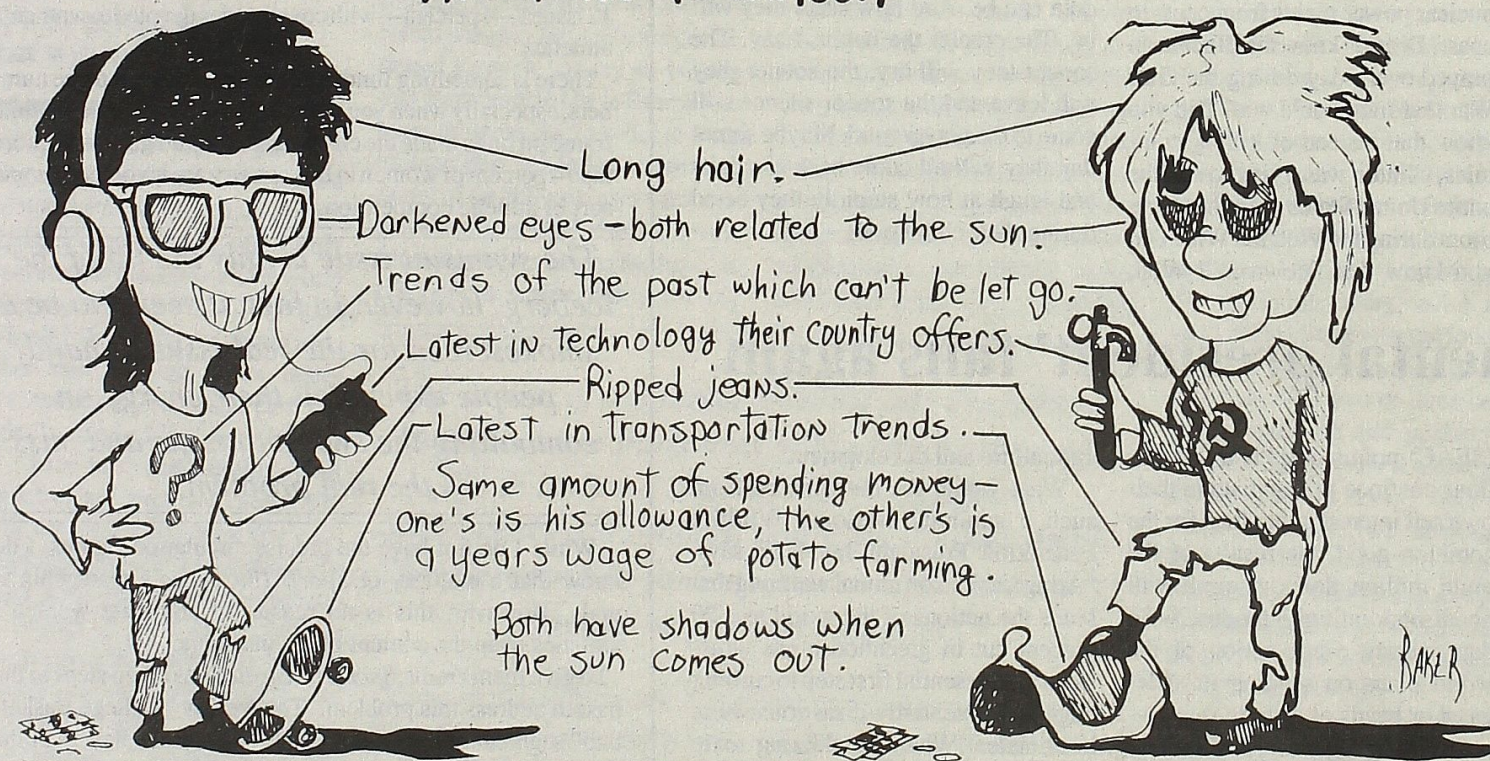
Opinions expressed in the weekly "Staff Editorial" reflect the views of *The Almanian* Editorial Board, which includes section editors, copy editors, and the editor-in-chief. These views in no way reflect the views of the entire Alma College community.

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.

Weird in a serious way by Dan Baker

WHY THE MIDDLE AGED RUSSIAN WORKER IS AS HIP AS THE AVERAGE AMERICAN TEENAGER



Letter to the Editor

Thanks for the support

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the Alma College Women's Varsity basketball team I would like to extend our appreciation to all those who supported our victorious journey to Adrian College on March 6. The posters and simple wishes of "good luck" inspired our efforts in triumphantly conquering the first game of Regionals. All year long we've

been grateful of your support but this last game was outstanding. Thanks again for all you've done and we hope the fantastic spirit continues as we travel to bring Alma a championship.

Julie Long
Class of 1993

The *Almanian* staff would like to clarify a point made in the opinion article "Men need more methods of birth control" in the Feb. 18 publication of *The Almanian*. It was misreported that the female condom was "now available to most Americans" when in fact it remains under testing in the United States and will not be available for a few years.