

Chapter of Distinction awards given.

See page 2

Environmentally Speaking...

See page 5

Orchestrates approaches.

See page 6

Baseball beats Kalamazoo.

See page 7

Domestic issues remain important.

See page 10



The Almanian

April 7, 1992

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Issue 23

Student leaders recognized at annual banquet

By Stacie L. Herriman
News Editor

"Leadership qualities don't leave you. You expand on them," said Larry Beck, chairperson of the Alma College Board of Trustees, last evening at the annual Alma College Leadership Banquet held in Van Dusen Commons.

Beck's quote more than adequately summarized the evening dedicated to honoring over 100 students from more than 30 different campus organizations for their leadership abilities.

The evening began with a melody of songs played by the Alma College Jazz Band and welcome by Mark Lauzon, President of the Class of 1993. Chaplain Jesse Perry delivered the invocation.

After dinner President Alan J. Stone introduced Beck as the Keynote Speaker saying he "brings a breath of experience that refreshes the Board of Trustees and Alma College."

Beck began his address stating his strengths and weaknesses. "My weaknesses are I am colorblind, bald-headed and left-handed. My strengths are that I was born in the U.S. in south-side Chicago in 1928, to immigrant parents from Denmark who instilled in their kids strong family ties and a strong work ethic," said Beck.

"I was raised in a different world. The whole society was immersed in the war; it was a total environment," he said. This background set the stage for the remainder of his talk as he shared the highlights of his 64 years from the time he served in the Army during W W II to 1953 when he bought his own truck and started hauling garbage to his one-year retirement in Harbor Springs, Mich.

"I had tremendous opportunities which I didn't realize before and during," Beck said. "Opportunity will knock and knock and knock; you have to recognize the opportunity. The crossroads are very exciting."

Quoting a friend from the old

country, he said, "The dog that walks the alley finds the bone" meaning "know your customers, look them in the eye, walk in the alley and see where the new business may be." He continued, "You'll never make it at 40 hours per week; you have to push and pull to get things done. But at the same time you need to be a team player as you can't get it done by yourselves."

Beck ended quoting Socrates: "Know thyself." "Count up who you are and what you're trying to get done. Find something you really enjoy doing. Be interested in what you do. If you have the proper attitude, talent, the willingness to work and to be flexible about this, you will prevail."

Beck told the audience not to be discouraged because "life is mathematics. You have to earn your stripes."

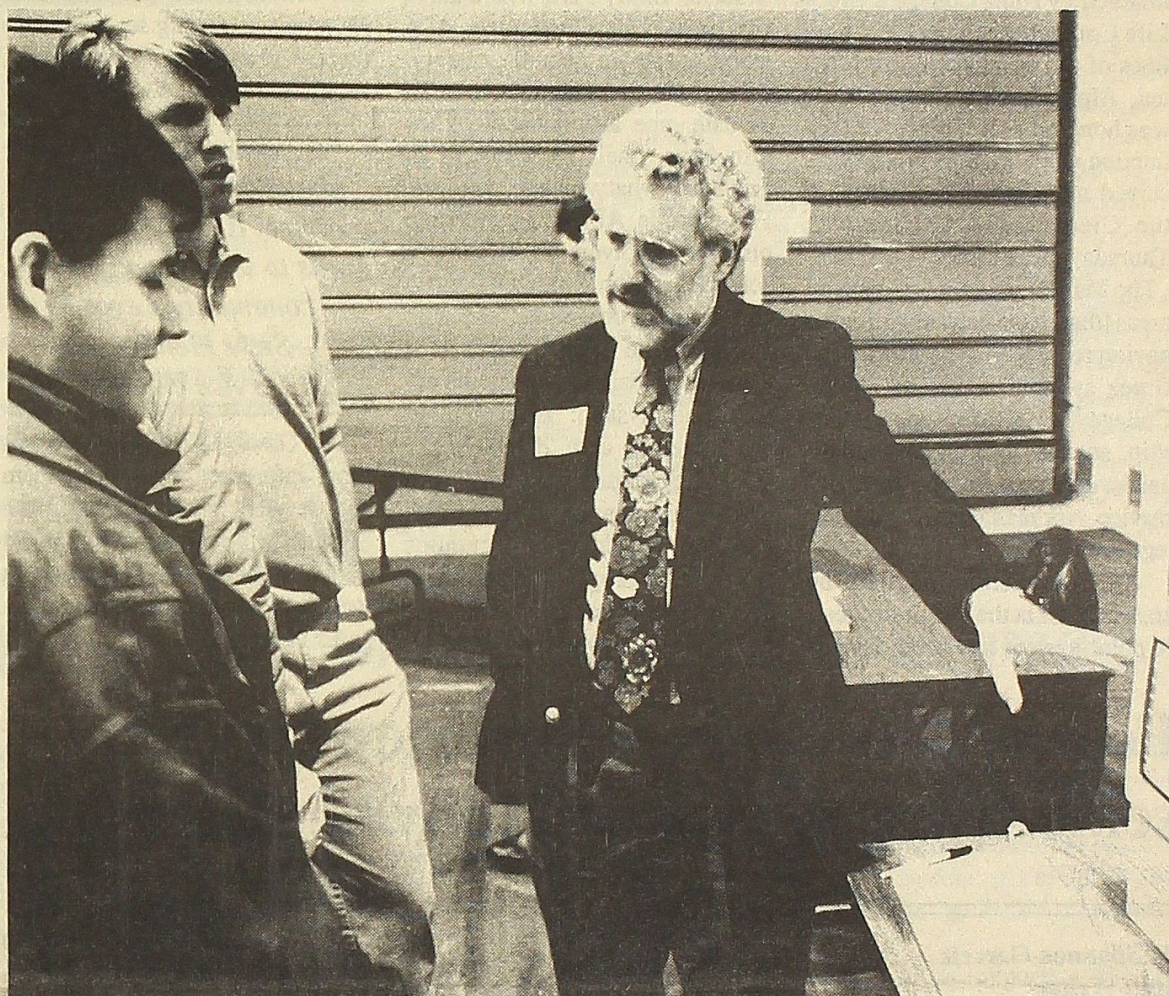
Vice-President of the Class of 1993 Mark Wassa then recognized the various student leaders who have begun "to earn their stripes." Women's basketball coach Charles Goffnet announced the Outstanding Senior Leader Athletes. Lisa McCarthy and Chris Murphy earned the honors as the female and male recipients.

Sara Lumm, president of the Alumni Student Association, presented certificates for the Outstanding Senior Leader to over 20 seniors. She then recognized and presented plaques to eight Outstanding Senior Campus Leaders: Dave Brown, Eric Cook, Rob Longstreet, Kris Lovasz, Karen McDonald, Tim Mullen, Heather Ruppel and Lisa Thauvette.

"The Outstanding Senior Leader will be chosen from these eight and announced at Honors Convocation on Thursday. A scholarship will be awarded in their name to an incoming first-year student exhibiting leadership qualities," said Lumm.

Associate Trustee for the Class of 1993 Scott Schoessel concluded the Leadership Banquet saying, "We are all leaders."

The Leadership Awards Banquet was sponsored by the Class of 1993.



James Hutchison, chemistry chairperson, explains chemistry computer applications with sophomore OC member Chad Briscoe and a prospective student. Photo by J. Reed.

Explo '92 draws 500 people

By Chris Kukla
Staff Writer

This past Saturday the Alma College campus hosted "Explo 1992," an informational program designed by the Admissions Office to allow incoming and interested students to become better acquainted with Alma.

Explo is a project currently headed by Associate Director Of Admissions Mindy Sargent. With the help of members of the Orientation Committee (OC), visiting students and their parents participated in a day of workshops, tours and question-and-answer sessions with faculty and students.

According to OC Co-Chair Aaron Howald, Explo 1992 was a success: "There was an excellent turnout. About 200 students and 500 people attended altogether, and the program went well. The OCs did an excellent job of answering questions and directing visitors around campus. The students were also impressed by Explo. They were pretty positive, and students seemed to gain a lot from this."

OC Co-Chair Jenn Johnson agreed, adding, "Overall, the turnout was positive. One promising factor was that a number of students had already paid their commitment deposit. I'm looking forward to interacting with the incom-

ing students in the fall."

OC Advisor Emily Perl had the same sentiments as both Howald and Johnson, but she also felt the students were really interested. "Everybody felt very comfortable, and everyone was appreciative of what was offered, like

the tours and the question-and-answer sessions," said Perl. "The faculty also felt the students were more interested in the preterm seminars than in past years."

Besides the OC and faculty conducted programs, the College sponsored a campus fair with tables for organizations to set up displays and for members to answer questions about the extra-curricular activities available on campus. This idea was also a success, according to Sigma Tau Delta (the English honorary society) President Meagan Karvonen. "I think the tables were a good idea," she said. "It gave students a chance to see what there is to offer, and to explore different organizations ahead of time."

Explo proved successful not only in terms of numbers, but in the sentiments expressed by incoming students to OC members as they



Michael Selmon, assistant professor of English, discusses his preterm class with a prospective student and parents. Photo by J. Reed.

proceeded throughout the day. OC member Carol Ostrom summed up the general feeling commenting, "I think the program went excellent because the incoming students got a chance to view the campus and to speak with faculty and students." As the incoming students and their parents left the gym with smiles on their faces, one could only agree.

Along with Howald, Johnson and Perl, the OCs for the 1992-93 academic year are: first-year students Keel Amundsen, Shana Case, Jennifer Ebeling, Amy Hoffman, Holly Little, Cathy Nickerson, Heather Smith and Kurt Stephenson; sophomores Chad Briscoe, Tomas Moore, Ostrom, Jason Paradowski and Channele Wilson; and juniors Amy Coles, Donna Harrier, Stephanie Hirschert, Michelle Judd, Christine Perez, Marcy Starck and Sally Wilhelm.

ΑΓΔ and ΣΧ earn Greek distinction awards

By Julie Boltman
Staff Writer

Two Greek chapters were recently honored by Alma College's Greek Life Committee. Under the guidelines of the new Greek Life Manual, Alpha Gamma Delta (ΑΓΔ) was honored as a Chapter of Distinction while Sigma Chi (ΣΧ) received an Honorable Mention at the Greek Awards Ceremony, Thursday, March 26.

The Manual outlines "six general areas [that] have been identified as having relevance and value for the Greek system, as well as for the College." These areas are scholarship, societal awareness, individual development, volunteerism and service, risk management and college citizenship.

An evaluation is filled out by each chapter at the end of the year. A point system has been devised

allowing Greek chapters to complete a certain number of recommended and optional standards in order to receive the award of Chapter of Distinction.

According to Assistant Dean of Students Emily Perl, who chaired the Greek Life Committee, ΑΓΔ stood out in its overall programming, which included such topics as date rape and nutrition. They also have "their own system of promoting what we want," said Perl. For example, ΑΓΔ has a system to promote involvement in campus activities and "in-depth scholarship and pledging programs," she said.

Sophomore Lynn O'Rear, ΑΓΔ Activities Chair, explained the activity point system: "Each member is required to earn 20 points per term. They get these points by being involved in campus organizations, working and attending campus activities." More points are awarded for those activities involving more time. "There have really been no

problems with this system," she said. "We hope this keeps members from only being involved in the sorority. It helps keep things balanced."

ΑΓΔ rewards both scholarship and activities at a tea each term. Members achieving set guidelines receive rewards such as flowers, candy or other gifts.

"We try to put ourselves ahead of others with our service. It is necessary for us to look good in the community's eyes."

-Steve Henderson
ΣΧ Service chairperson

The Greek Life Committee was most impressed by volunteerism and service when reviewing the Sigma Chi's evaluation. "They did a lot of direct hands-on service, as well as raising money [for charity]," Perl said.

Service projects have included Hillcrest Carnival, sponsoring an open swim for Boy Scouts and sponsoring campus Red Cross blood drives. ΣΧ Service Chair Steve Henderson, sophomore, said service is "most definitely" an important part of his fraternity's philosophy. "We try to put ourselves ahead of others with our service. It is necessary for us to look good in the community's eyes."

Junior Ty Parent, ΣΧ President, said the fraternity intends to improve on this year's Honorable Mention by "adding more on-campus involvement." Sigma Chi is considering choosing a campus organization to support, probably Students United for Nature (SUN). "Encouraging members to join SUN and attend speakers and events would improve chapter education," Parent said. Another area they plan to address next year is a problem with noise violations.

Regarding winning the award, Parent said, "It was nice, but it's good that we got an Honorable Mention. That is all the better when compared to ΑΓΔ. It's nice to know that we have been honored and are doing a good job." He also commented that the Greek Life Manual is a "well-written program, focusing on important areas."

The Greek Life Committee was composed this year of faculty Priscilla Perkins, director of the Library's Technical Services and Edward Lorenz, associate professor of history and political science, and administrators Chris Brown, assistant director of Admissions and Greg Baadte, swim coach and sports information director. Also on the committee were three students: Panhellenic representative Jennifer Clement, Interfraternity Council representative Dave Brown and Student Congress representative Emily Shaw. Perl chaired the committee.

Federal law requires interviews with seniors to discuss loan repayment options

By Shannon Garrett
Staff Writer

Attention all seniors! If you have a Stafford or Perkins loan, it is a federal requirement that you meet with the Financial Aid Office to discuss the details of your loan.

"The federal government requires schools to make students aware they have a federal loan and that they must pay them back," said Tom Freeland, director of Financial Aid at Alma College. "We refer to these meetings as 'exit interviews.'"

In these meetings, the Financial Aid Office discusses the various repayment options available and helps students set up a tentative payment plan.

Students with the Perkins Loan are contacted by the office to per-

sonally discuss the loan. Those who have not yet been called for an interview should call the Financial Aid Office. The Perkins interviews will be run through the next week.

The Stafford Loans are discussed in group interviews. These groups will meet on Thursday, April 9, at two different times. Seniors with the Stafford Loan may attend either the 10:30 a.m. or the 3:30 p.m. meetings in SAC 108. All students who now have or have in the past had a Stafford Loan are encouraged to attend.

"These seniors really should come to the meeting," said Freeland. "They are not in any violation if they do not. The interviews can be conducted through the mail, but the group meetings are convenient and helpful." Freeland also added that these meetings may be mandatory in the future.

Both interview processes together

affect more than half of the senior class, so students are encouraged to sign up early for any personal interviews they may need. Students with any questions should call the Financial Aid Office.

"This interview process is typically for federal loans only," said Freeland. "Students with Alma College Long-Term loans will be contacted by the Business Office."

Most seniors find this process very beneficial.

"I think it will help me explore my options and decide on an appropriate payment plan considering my future intentions," said Todd Kulawiak.

Michelle Smith agreed. "I think it is a good idea to contact students about their loans," she said. "Some students may have had the loan for only one year and may have forgotten about it, so a reminder is worthwhile."

Math department tries to upgrade major

By Theresa Miller
Staff Writer

The recently proposed math department changes created quite a bit of discussion among faculty and Educational Policy Committee (EPC) members. The new proposed requirements, as presented to EPC, are listed below.

(1) Thirty-six credits which must include: (a) Mathematics 121, 122, 210, 223, 310, 421 or 431. (This deletes the 120 requirement which is replaced by a statistics course later outlined.); (b) Eight other upper-level mathematics credits; and (c) in addition to the courses in parts a and b, either Mathematics 341 (which will count towards the major) or Mathematics 116 and another four-credit math course (Math 099, 101, 112, 113, 116, 191 and 202 do not count towards the major.).

(2) Two cognate courses: (a) Computer Science 141 and (b) a course, other than a mathematics course, approved by the department, with a mathematics prerequisite numbered 113 or higher. Approved cognates include CHM 331, ECN 317, ECN 416, MCS 335, MCS 350 and PHY 121.

(3) Completion of the Graduate Record Advanced Examination in Mathematics, the Major Field Achievement Test in Mathematics or Part One of the actuarial examination administered by the Society of Actuaries.

EPC originally passed these proposed changes, but when presented to the faculty, some questions and needs for clarification arose. Consequently, the proposal has been returned to EPC for re-

vision and rewording.

According to Faculty Chairperson Steve Wietstock, EPC intends to finish "the clarification of current policies and re-submit them to faculty by April 13." He is hopeful the changes will be adequate for approval and that they can be implemented by fall: "I think there's a good possibility; there are other programs that have the same types of requirements that the mathematics department is asking."

The expansion and need for change stemmed from "a recommended curriculum from the Mathematical Association of America (MAA)," said Associate Professor of Math/Computer Science John Putz, the primary author of the proposal. "These changes just bring us closer to the requirements already held by many other schools. A curriculum needs to be changed as changes in the field are made."

Senior math major Stefani Farhat approved the proposed changes, especially the new requirements. "The addition of a computer science course is a really good change," she said. "I really wish I would have somewhat of a computer science background. Graduate schools and businesses want math and computers these days, not just math."

"Also," she continued, "requiring students to take the cognate course where math is a prerequisite is very beneficial. People should be aware of the application of math in other fields. Math majors don't often take classes outside their field, and this is an excellent way for them to 'broaden their horizons.'"

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New Community Governance committee members announced

Keeping you informed

Student Activity Fee to remain the same

Student Congress will hold a referendum vote Thursday to keep the Student Activity Fee at the same level as the 1991-92 academic year with a zero percent increase.

Student Congress Vice-president Chris Kukla said, "We had three new groups, but we tried to cut out as much waste as possible. Several groups cut their own budget requests."

One group cut its budget request by \$1,200 while another cut its by \$1,400. "We used this money to fund the new groups. We were able to fund both new and old groups," said Kukla.

In eliminating budgetary waste, the Student Budget and Finance Committee looked for justified reasons and concrete evidence from the group why they needed this particular amount of money.

Kukla said, "Groups can still go to the Contingency Fund at the beginning of next year if they realize they need more money to carry out their activities or for expansion."

Community Governance Screening Committee fills positions

The Community Governance Screening Committee filled all the positions for the 1992-93 academic year, despite low participation.

Chairperson Phil Haar said, "As of one week ago we did not have enough students to fill the available positions so we added more interview times and spread the word we were still looking for people... We just didn't get organized early enough this year."

Nevertheless, about as many people participated in this year's screening process as last year's. "I am relatively satisfied with the turnout and all the applicants," said Haar. "We had a tough time deciding who to put in what positions."

Decisions were made last Thursday. The committee may announce the filled positions at tonight's Student Congress meeting. Letters informing the students of which committee they will serve on will be sent out by the end of the week.

Haar looked for "seniors and upperclassmen who have been involved campus and have served on Community Governance committees before to serve on the Screening Committee." Members included: Fred Felappa, Haar, Rick Lantz, Brad Shafer and Patti Westphal.

March Employees of Month announced

Director of Personnel Ken Borgman announced March's Alma College's Employees of the Month at the President's meetings with support staff members. Susan Dinwoody and Zelma Parks were recognized for their service.

Dinwoody has been employed at Alma since 1977. After brief assignments as a temporary employee, she became a full-time secretary in the science division in August 1977. She performs such duties as typing and preparation of course materials, books, articles and other publications for the faculty.

Dinwoody described the individuals in the science division as "a wonderful group to work for."

Parks has been a custodian for the College for 13 years. She has worked in all of the campus buildings, and is currently assigned to Swanson Academic Center.

Reflecting on her work experiences, Parks said, "I love my job and I love the people." Parks particularly enjoys the opportunity to meet many interesting people.

IFC elects new officers for the 1992-93 year

The Interfraternity Council (IFC) elected its new officers this past Thursday. Officers for the 1992-93 academic year are: President Cary Strickler, Vice-president Brian Haara, Secretary Tony Catania, Treasurer Fred Felappa, Scholarship Chair Jason Watkins, Special Events Chair Doug Smith, Public Relations Chair Chris Mansur and Rush Chair Chad Briscoe.

Riley focuses on character pieces

Musician presents first performance-lecture in Faculty Forum series

By Kristine Lovasz
Managing Editor

April 3's Faculty Forum featured a performance-lecture on "The Nineteenth Century Character Piece: Romanticism in Miniature" by music professor Raymond Riley. The music performed included representative works of Schubert, Schumann, Mendelssohn, Chopin and Brahms.

Riley said, "In many ways, the romantic period was a period of great contrast and dualism." It was grandiose with great operas but at the same time contained much smaller scale miniature pieces.

The discussion focused specifically on miniature character pieces. He indicated that these pieces were typically

performed in the salon of the home and not in the concert hall. "It was meant for small circles of kindred spirits—the newly initiated people. Close friends," Riley said.

He described the character piece as the interpretation and expression of the effect of reality on the human mind and soul. "The character piece is determined not so much by form as by content." Often, only those close friends of the composer could understand the music.

"The term character, as defined by Robert Schumann in a dictionary article, states that 'Character, musical, is possessed by a composition when a disposition expresses itself predominantly, or so obtrudes itself that no other interpretation is possible—characteristic music is distinguished from pictorial in that it represents the states of the soul, while the other represents the circumstances of life; mostly we find the two

mixed..." Continuing, he said, "The character piece, therefore, occupies a borderline position, suspended between the two areas of absolute and program music."

"The whole collection of this small-scale music is distinguished by great diversity in the type of the individual pieces, or sets of pieces. Notwithstanding their tiny size, they exemplify nearly every kind of musical form and texture current during the century," said Riley.

Riley performed Schubert's *Moment Musical (No. 3 in F minor)* and *Impromptu (Op. 90, No. 1)*, Mendelssohn's *Songs without Words (Op. 102, No. 6)*, Chopin's *Prelude in D-flat major (Op. 28 No. 15)*, Schumann's *Dauidsbandler (Op. 6 No. 1 and No. 14)*, *Carnaval (Op. 9) Chiarina and Chopin*, and *Romanze in F# major (Op. 28, No. 2)* and Brahms's *Capriccio in F# (Op. 76, No. 1)*.

Write up may not mean Judicial hearing

By Sara Groves
Staff Reporter

"You are being written up."

These words, some of the most frightening in the typical college student's language, are more than familiar to a few of Alma College's students. However, many of the students here have never had a run-in with a Resident Assistant (RA) or, worse yet, with Student Judicial. For those of you who haven't, here is a handy guide to help you through the process.

Students are first written up by a RA. Typically, warnings are given before any action is taken. Then, if the student continues with the "illegal activity," the RA has the option of writing up that student. However, if the activity the student is participating in is especially serious, the RA may write that student up with no warning.

On the write up sheets, students must sign their names to acknowledge they are aware they are being written up and are aware of the reasons why. RAs must obtain the student-in-question's signature within a 24-hour period of the incident.

"Most students are written up for alcohol-related problems, as well as excessive noise," said Gelston Hall RA Robin Grieve.

According to Grieve, student attitudes can affect whether or not they are writ-

ten up.

"If I come down to warn them and they are very snotty about it, then I am more likely to write them up than if they were very pleasant and apologize [for the incident]," said Grieve.

After being written up, the student's case may be sent to Student Judicial.

"Just because a student is written up doesn't necessarily mean they will have to go to Student Judicial," said Emily Perl, Bruske Hall head resident.

If a student's case is sent to Student Judicial, they are notified by Gelston Hall Head Resident Jim Norton, this year's Student Judicial coordinator. In these letters, he refers the student in question to the appropriate places in the Student Handbook. This information allows the student to review the possible punishments that may be given to them.

Student Judicial is comprised of eight students. One representative is elected from both the Interfraternity and Panhellenic Councils, South Complex and North Complex. Four students are also elected from Student Congress.

At the hearing, the accused student(s) remains throughout the entire proceedings. The accusing party may or may not be present. The trial begins and both sides are heard. Witnesses may or may not be called.

The final outcome of the case is left totally up to the student members of Judicial. Norton plays no role in the deci-

sion-making process.

Students who have been to Student Judicial generally feel that it is a good idea no faculty decide their fate. "I believe that it makes it a more fair process because the students get to decide the outcome of the case," said sophomore Mike Shehab.

Because of the important role the student members play in deciding the outcome of the case, the accused may ask that a certain member of Student Judicial not hear the case, if they feel that member may be biased against them.

"If the accused student believes a member of Student Judicial holds something personal against them, then they are allowed to challenge the right of that student to be there," said Dean of Students James Kridler.

Student Judicial hears cases on anything and everything up to what a student can be suspended or expelled for from the College.

Some typical punishments handed out include warnings, fines paid to the College and placed in the General Fund, and/or community service. If the student does not follow through with these sanctions, they must return to Student Judicial.

"I think it's a good organization in its purpose," said Shehab. "But it seems like there are some people on Student Judicial who are just out to kill everyone, no matter what."

Seniors present research at national conference

Five senior chemistry majors—Kendra Bunge, John Chisholm, Tim Church, Kris Lovasz and Matt O'Dell—and chemistry professor Scott Hill attended the Sixth National Conference on Undergraduate Research at University of Minnesota March 26 through March 28.

Chisholm and Lovasz gave oral presentations, while the other three Alma participants prepared posters for peer and professorial review.

Participants reported positive experiences at the conference.



Alma students' sexual views revealed in survey

By Chris Kukla
Staff Writer

The results of *The Almanian's* survey of students' sexual activity are in. They were, for the most part, no surprise. Of the student body, 126 people filled out the survey; out of the 53 male respondents, 33 were Greek and 20 were non-Greek, and out of the 73 female respondents, 44 were Greek and 29 were non-Greek. The majority of those surveyed had not been tested for AIDS and did not feel that they needed to be tested for the disease. Also, most of those surveyed did not know anyone who had contracted the AIDS virus, although the females surveyed had a higher percentage of this knowledge than did the males.

Most of the respondents surveyed do not have unprotected sex on a regular basis, with all divisions of respondents having low occurrences of this. When asked if the respondents used condoms to stop the transmission of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) despite using other forms of birth control, most non-greek males did so (65 percent; yes, 30 percent; no, 5 percent; no response). Male Greeks were fairly divided (54 percent, yes; 42 percent, no; 4 percent, no response) as were Greek females (45 percent, yes; 45 percent, no; 10 percent, no response), but a majority of non-Greek females did not use condoms to stop transmission of STDs (34 percent, yes; 59 percent, no; 7 percent, no response).

A resounding majority of females surveyed did not have sex with someone they hardly knew (79 percent of females did not, 20 percent did), and those who did, (16 percent) said it was not a regular occurrence. However, while most non-Greek males did not have casual sex with an acquaintance, over 50 percent of Greek males did have casual sex (54 percent did and of

these, 48 percent said it was not a regular occurrence while 45 percent said they did not). Females on the whole had sex with 1.3 people in the last year, while men had sex on the average with 2.1 people in the last year. Greeks and non-Greeks were both near the over-all average. Also, those involved in a monogamous relationship were evenly divided.

There was only one person of the 126 respondents that had an STD; the rest did not. Of those surveyed, 92 percent also felt they had a good knowledge of STDs. In reference to birth control, 72 percent of those surveyed felt that both partners should be responsible (this answer was written in), but of those that did choose females or males, most chose the female partner (16 percent said female, 10 percent said male). And when asked their opinion on the new female condom, 65 percent of the respondents didn't know about it, 26 percent thought it was good, and 6 percent said it was bad.

Overall, the survey was slanted towards people who have had sex; there was no question that asked if the respondent had sex or not. This did not allow for making any analysis on the level of promiscuity of the campus. Also, there should have been a "both" response to the question of who should be primarily responsible for birth control. Although that answer was written in on most surveys, the question could have elicited a biased response. Most people surveyed did not have any STDs and felt they possessed good knowledge of STDs. Also, most people did not have sex with more than two people. Most people used birth control, and felt that both partners should be responsible for birth control. The survey, however, would have been more effective if the respondents had been asked if they had sex or not. Overall, the survey gave a good general indication of campus views on birth-control and safe-sex.

SEXUAL ISSUES

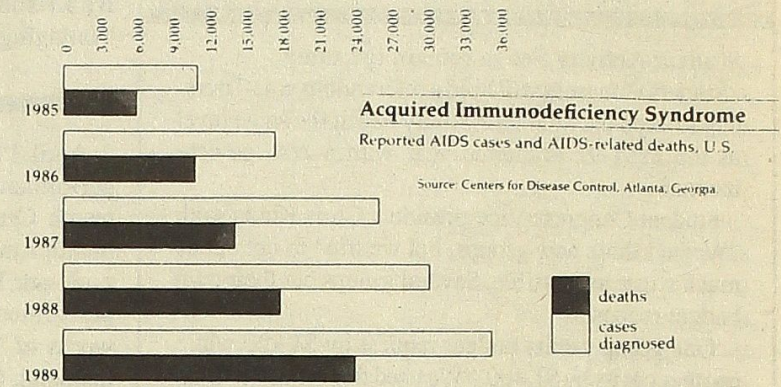
AIDS: How much do you really know?

By Erica Drews
Staff Writer

Many believe AIDS is only contracted by drug addicts and homosexuals. Wrong. It is impossible to live in today's society and not know the phrase "safe sex." Multimillion dollar advertising campaigns scream out that AIDS can happen to anyone, that it is one of the most indiscriminate diseases that exists. And yet, thousands of well-educated, politically aware Americans reserve a cemetery plot each year, simply because of their own ignorance.

Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) is an epidemic disease caused by a retrovirus, human immunodeficiency virus or HIV. HIV attacks T-cells, certain white blood cells which are an important part of the body's defense system. Eventually, the immune system becomes so damaged that a person is no longer capable of fighting off infection.

Originally, AIDS did begin as a disease occurring primarily among homosexual and bisexual men with multiple sexual partners. These men still make up the majority of AIDS patients; however, AIDS is increasing most rapidly among women, particularly among those who abuse intravenous drugs or whose partners do. Heterosexual transmission of the virus is not only becoming more frequent, but it appears to be easier for an HIV-positive man to



transmit the infection to a female partner than for an HIV-positive woman to transmit it to her male partner.

Of children affected with AIDS, more than 80 percent acquired it from HIV-positive mothers during pregnancy or birth.

The risk of being exposed to the AIDS virus through blood transfusions or health-care professionals has become increasingly minute as stricter laws now regulate the medical community.

The most frustrating aspect of AIDS is the difficulty in identifying the infection at its onset. The disease progresses very slowly and many victims appear perfectly well for five or more years. During this period of apparent good health, the AIDS infection is contagious to others.

Typical symptoms of AIDS include persistent fever, rashes, diarrhea, progressive muscle weakness, night sweats, swollen lymph nodes and progressive memory loss.

AIDS is a fatal disease with no known cure. The only treatments which exist simply reduce the

symptoms and slow the progress of the disease; however, such treatments are most effective when started early. Therefore, it is important to be tested if in the high-risk category even before symptoms occur.

In most cases, AIDS could easily have been avoided through simple, precautionary actions. Of course, the best way to avoid AIDS is through abstinence from casual sex and intravenous drug use. But, if sexually active, one should keep the following guidelines in mind:

1. Limit your sexual partners. The greater the number of partners, the greater the risk of contracting AIDS or any other sexually transmitted disease.
2. Use condoms or diaphragms with spermicides. They help to provide a barrier against infection.
3. Question and inspect potential sex partners concerning any STDs. It may be embarrassing, but it may also save lives, including your own.
4. Have no sexual contact with persons who have an STD or those undergoing treatment.

STDs: Often overlooked but still a danger

By Jane Brown
Staff Reporter

Though not frequently discussed, and often overshadowed by AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) make-up a large amount of sexual diseases today. Though most are not fatal as AIDS, they nonetheless can be harmful and damaging for life.

Some of the most commonly known STDs are herpes and syphilis, while others such as gonorrhea and chlamydia are less known but still prevalent. According to a *Newsweek* article, each year 12 million cases of STDs appear in America. Cases of syphilis and gonorrhea are on the increase and run rampant in communities where drug use, especially cocaine, is at a high. The great amount of unchecked sex in the crack houses helps these diseases get passed.

Many STDs carry side effects, such as infertility through chlamydia and cancer of the cervix through genital warts. Though today AIDS is much more highly publicized than these diseases that are considered relatively minor, many of these diseases are on the rise and the community that shows

the highest rate of increase is middle class homosexual males. Although AIDS has begun to level off, STDs continue to rise in numbers of cases each year.

Once STDs are contracted, they can be treatable if discovered in time and medication is taken to prevent their spread. Though treatment is available the diseases may be prevented through the use of a condom or the always fool-proof method of abstinence.

Anal sex also constitutes one of the easiest ways in which the diseases may be passed as the blood vessels are easily ruptured during sex and give the disease a clear path directly to the bloodstream.

Another ways to prevent sexually transmitted diseases from being passed is by using spermicides with condoms (as this will kill the diseases if the condom should break).

Being monogamous also is a very important facet to performing safe sex. Studies show an indirect correlation between the care a person takes in disease prevention and the number of partners. That is, the more partners one has, the less careful you are about practicing safe sex. People such as these are perfect candidates for passing dis-

eases. Though some feel discussing their sexual history with their partners is a good way to tell if you are at risk, this is a myth. Most doctors and medical experts will agree this is not a safe way in which to practice sex, as most lie and make less of their sexual histories than they should.

To avoid sexually transmitted diseases the only clear cut method is to be abstinent. If sex must occur a condom with spermicide should be used. The Wilcox Medical Center offers condoms for free and will also test confidentially for STDs. William Clark, Director of Health Services, stresses although Alma students often take for granted that they will be safe from STDs, they are not and so should still practice safety measures and avoid relationships with those they no nothing about. STDs are easily spread and students should be aware of how quickly the diseases may be passed.

Though at times people feel that it is embarrassing to discuss sex and condom use with your partner, one must do so in order to protect against potentially life-threatening sexually transmitted diseases. For more information on STDs call 1-800-227-8922.

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Applications available in *The Almanian* office Wednesday, April 8.

April 7, 1992

Environmentally Speaking by Amy Hough

Refinery emissions pose threat to Alma community

Following my previous article on the chemicals of the Gratiot county Total Refinery, I heard again from Alex Sagady, Director of Environmental and Occupational Health of the American Lung Association, Lansing Division. He had found new information on the refinery's chemical emissions which had not been included in the 1989 Sara Title III Emission Inventory.

Two weeks ago I included a charted copy of that inventory in this column, along with an overview on the chemicals with the highest emission rate, their properties and what they are used for. Sagady gave me new information on chemicals that were not listed on the Sara Title III inventory: hydrogen sulfide and methyl mercaptan. He stressed that there are currently no air quality standards for methyl mercaptan. With his letter, he enclosed a Material Safety Data Sheet, which specifically focuses on methyl mercaptan and its occupational risk in exposure. I have included relevant information from that report (from Occupational Health Serv-

ices, Inc., New York, New York); see table.

Occupational exposures are much higher in magnitude than community exposures; data for such exposures are not readily available. Still, it is worthwhile to be informed on what exactly is at stake in the use of these chemicals. Citizens have a right to know, so they can question anything that makes them unsure or suspicious.

Sagady directed me to the District Engineer of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and I talked to Mary Charley, who is substituting for Mike Koryto, the actual engineer. She is part of an observation team that has been monitoring the odors from the refinery periodically for six to eight months. They verify changes that the plant will be making throughout the next year and a half.

Charley was pleased to report that the refinery will be upgrading its equipment during that time. This process will lead into November 1993. Her contact person from the refinery is Ben White, Director of Environmental Control. He also confirmed to me the plans for

improvement that are to take place.

I asked him what exactly causes the foul smells that come from the plant, and if they have many complaints from citizens. He said that there are naturally low concentrations of sulfides and mercaptans in the crude oil and those are kept in check. They cannot do much about the smells, and yes, there have been complaints from citizens in the past, although the number is decreasing. During this year they have had maybe three or four citizen calls.

In 1990 a community survey was conducted on the irritating smells from the refinery, and White gave me the approximate results. Out of about 96 people, 50 percent attributed the smells as coming from the Total Refinery, and about 25 percent of the half actually defined it as a real problem.

In pinpointing a potential environmental hazard, the first place people usually notice a problem is the air, by smelling and/or seeing. It is important to know that citizens are usually very ill-in-

formed on chemical contamination in their communities. Information on chemicals from local factories and business should be

accessible to all who question their safety, whether or not the place in question is "safe" or not.

Material Safety Data for Methyl mercaptan

COMPONENTS AND CONTAMINANTS: may contain traces of hydrogen sulfide and dimethyl sulfide.

FIRE AND EXPLOSION DATA: dangerous fire hazard when exposed to heat or flame; vapors are heavier than air and may travel a considerable distance to a source of ignition and flash back.

HEALTH EFFECTS: 400 PPM (parts per million) immediately dangerous to life or health.

Acute exposure—inhale of four PPM for several hours caused headache and nausea, reversible in 24 hours. Other effects from low levels may include dizziness, staggering gait, vomiting, sore throat, coughing, and shortness of breath.

High concentrations may affect the central nervous system, causing restlessness, increased respiration, fever, muscular weakness, tremors, narcosis, convulsions, un-

consciousness, paralysis of respiratory center and locomotor muscles, cyanosis, coma, irreversible depression of cerebral functions, and death.

Chronic exposure—low level exposures produced functional disorders in female workers.

SKIN CONTACT: Irritant. Due to rapid evaporation, the liquid may cause frostbite with redness, tingling, and pain or numbness.

Chronic exposure—repeated or prolonged contact with liquid may result in dermatitis.

CONDITIONS TO AVOID: Avoid contact with heat, sparks, flames, or other ignition sources. Vapors may be explosive. Material is extremely poisonous; avoid inhalation of vapors or contact with skin. Do not allow material to contaminate water sources.

Humanities professors compile prolific independent achievements

By Theresa Miller
Staff Writer

The third and final week of our recognized publishing professors focuses on the Humanities.

According to the manual professors follow, faculty members are required to "contribute to teaching, scholarship and service." One of the ways most professors fulfill this is by publishing and staying active in their fields. Provost Ann Stuart explained the importance of participation, "when faculty stays involved within their field, it provides a link between the professors and the students because it's what teachers are constantly asking students to do. It makes communication between the College community stronger." She expressed her admiration by commenting, "the faculty is to be commended for their activeness in their own research and, more importantly, in the student and faculty research."

An overwhelming amount of literature has been written by the humanities professors at Alma College. Below is a partial list of conferences attended, speeches given, papers written and research acknowledged. Assistant Professor of English Carol Bender and Associate Professor of English Bill Palmer had an article published as a chapter in the book *Beyond Bindings and Boundaries*, recently re-

leased by the NCTE (National Council of Teachers of English). Their chapter, entitled "A Bridge Between Generations: Students Writing Elders," began as a conference presentation and then was published in the *Language Arts Journal of Michigan*. This topic, as are most according to Bender, first stemmed from a classroom experiment. Summing up her philosophy, Bender said, "Most of the important scholarly research is that which immediately impacts on the classroom," therefore, she gets her publication ideas from that setting. Currently she and Palmer are working on another experiment they hope to publish, "Gender in Writing." They decided to teach their winter term classes to benefit this research and divided their classes into one male, one female and one mixed group of students. Their initial hope was to become better teachers by learning the differences between male and female writers and how to more effectively serve their needs.

Professor of English Gene Pattison's essay "Who is Blennerhassett? Three Twentieth-Century Novels Give Answers" has been accepted for publication in *The Old Northwest*, and was expected to appear early this year. The essay analyzes portrayals of a backer of Aaron Burr's alleged conspiracy in 1806 to divide the Union and form a western empire from Ohio to Mexico.

In the political sciences, Chairperson Burnet Davis and Associate Professor Edward Lorenz attended

the annual meeting of the Michigan Conference of Political Scientists at Calvin College on October 3 to 4, 1991. Davis presented a paper entitled "Paradoxes of Judging: A Philosophical-Legal Perspective." Lorenz authored a paper singly as well, "Voting Behavior in School Finance Elections." Lorenz described the publishing process as "making you prepare your ideas for the general public. It keeps you in touch with a wide group of people in your field. If one does not publish, they are in danger of becoming isolated. It is human nature to be busy with teaching and grading and to let publishing fall to the side, but it is important to stay active in your field and know the current thinking that is going on. More importantly, it is important to present your own ideas and have them critiqued by an expert in that field."

On October 12, Ute Stargardt, Professor of English, presented a program entitled "The Impact of Illiteracy on the Art of the Middle Ages" at the Alma Masonic Home.

Roseanne Hoefel, Assistant Professor of English, presented a paper entitled "Intergenerational Conflicts in Feminist Theories and Critical Practice" at the Midwest Popular Culture Conference in Cleveland, Ohio, the weekend of October 18. She presented a second paper, "Feminist Strategies for Dealing with Racism in the Classroom," at the Midwest Modern Language Association Conference in Chicago on November 14 to 16.

Mahmood Monshipouri's article "The Islamic World's Reaction to

the Satanic Verses: Cultural Relativism Revisited" was published in the *Journal of Third World Studies*.

Professor of Religious Studies Ron Massanari's article "Sexual Imagery and Religion: An Intercultural Exploration" was published in the *Journal of Gender in World Religions*. He explained the origin of his studies by saying "there is an interaction between what I teach

and scholarship I work on. They are interrelated. Some things seem to come up in class that are worth further exploration, and, hopefully, after that further exploration, the information will end up back in the classroom." Publishing is "a way of staying alive, to keep things interesting and vital. It is an on-going effort, art and skill to understand more, to explore."

Professors' Publications

- Assistant Professor of English Carol Bender and Associate Professor of English Bill Palmer: "A Bridge Between Generations: Students Writing Elders"
- Professor of English Gene Pattison: "Who is Blennerhassett? Three Twentieth-Century Novels Give Answers"
- Political science chairperson Burnet Davis: "Paradoxes of Judging: A Philosophical-Legal Perspective"
- Associate professor of political science Edward Lorenz: "Voting Behavior in School Finance Elections"
- English chairperson Ute

Stargardt: "The Impact of Illiteracy on the Art of the Middle Ages"

• Assistant professor of English Roseanne Hoefel: "Intergenerational Conflicts in Feminist Theories and Critical Practice" and "Feminist Strategies for Dealing with Racism in the Classroom"

• Assistant professor of political science Mahmood Monshipouri: "The Islamic World's Reaction to the Satanic Verses: Cultural Relativism Revisited"

• Professor of Religion Ron Massanari: "Sexual Imagery and Religion: An Intercultural Exploration"

Students bring ideas to life in upcoming Orchesis

By Kim Tobin
Staff Writer

This year's Orchesis easily describes the word's true definition, "to come together and work as a group." With Carol Fike, co-coordinator of the traditional Alma dance event, on sabbatical, this term's dancers had to work extra hard under the direction and supervision of senior dancer James Bovan, and visiting ballet instructor Thomas Morris.

This term's performance will

showcase many dancers with strong talent. Due to the visiting ballet instructor, there will be more dances with ballet included than in the past. Michael Rooney, a sophomore dancer said, "It is good to see more ballet in the program. Jazz, tap, modern dance, and ballet are all important to a quality program, but there needs to be a balance between the four."

Many of the dances are choreographed by dance students, enabling them to be readily involved in the dance process. First-year student Kathy Bailey has been dancing for 12 years. When she first decided to come to Alma, she did not know quite what to expect of Orchesis due to the lack of information about the dance program. As a strong and talented dancer, Bailey is one of the many first-year students that have "stepped up and accepted the challenges of dancing at a college level."

When Bailey spoke about her dance experiences at Alma thus far, she said, "I did not really expect any major parts, especially my freshman year. I feel very special to have such good parts and dancing with such talented performers."

According to Kay Mathers, a showcased senior dancer who has danced for nearly her entire life, "This term's performance shows a lot of maturity. All the pieces are

polished and show the strengths of the dancers. It seems the trend here at Alma is moving towards the classical dance style and this style is one of the many that will be expressed."

Senior dancer James Bovan has taken on the role of co-coordinator of the dance program here at Alma. This lead and support has been instrumental to many of the dance students here at the College. He suggested this term's dance pieces will "change from being suggestive, like they have been in the past, to sensual. Sex is a driving force in the body, and dancing is just one form of expressing the body."

The dancers expressed their grati-

tude to the technical staff. Without this crew, their program could not be performed.

This term's performance will take place at Alma High School on Friday, April 10 and Saturday, April 11 at 8 p.m., and on Sunday, April 12 at 3 p.m. Tickets will be available if you call the box office in advance and at the door and will cost students \$2.50 and adults \$3.50.

Dena Hughes, a first-year student, said, "So far Orchesis has been fun and interesting. We are all very proud of the upcoming performance. Come see the show - it is going to be very dynamic with lots of exciting performances."

New World String Quartet entices campus audience

By Elizabeth Rule
Staff Writer

One violin, two violins, a cello, and then a viola--members of the New World String Quartet took their places on the Dunning Memorial Chapel stage last Tuesday evening and presented what all musicians strive for: elegance and mastery of technically difficult music.

Deviating from the stereotypical sound of a string quartet, the group presented an invigorating two hour program that ranged from Mozart to Zupco, a contemporary composer from Kalamazoo. The quartet opened with a contemporary piece by H. Villa-Lobos' Quartet #17. This, like the second piece by Zupco woke up the audience with abrupt rhythmic changes and unique chords that are uncommon to string pieces. "We wanted to stir up some energy from our audience," cellist Ross Harbaugh commented.

"Too often people think that string quartets only play romantic, melodic music."

Before playing Zupco's *Noosphere* (1980), Harbaugh explained that it was written to represent different world cultures. Slow, eerie slides on the strings, along with pizzicato, mismatched rhythms, and muted strings all helped relate Zupco's modern vision.

"They did things on string instruments that I've never heard before," said sophomore Rich Gray. For many people this was a different, yet welcome sound. Audry Williams, music department secretary, "enjoyed it very much, especially the modern music."



New World String Quartet performs in the Dunning Memorial Chapel. Photo by K. Barry.

Dvorak's Quartet in C major, Opus 61 closed the program, bringing back the melodic sound that characterizes string quartets. In response to overwhelming applause, the quartet performed Mozart's Divertimento No. 3 as an encore. "The Mozart left people with a good feeling," summed up violinist Ben Simon. Indeed the delicate, yet commanding style that the quartet possesses draws in anyone--musician or not.

Senior Art Exhibit showcases Alma talent

By Cami Carson
Staff Writer

If you take a minute to visit the Clack Art Center in the upcoming weeks, you may discover that you've been going to school with the next Picasso. This year's Senior Art Show gives much-deserved recognition to five artists: Kristina Edgerly, Sara Kapp, Jennifer Kuhn, Karl Leas and Andrea Richmond.

The exhibition began March 16 and closes April 18, in the Clack Art Center gallery with art instructor Jan White Arvanetes directing the show. "The five of us, with the help of the professors, worked together to put up the show," said Edgerly. "It was a lot different for the seniors to

show," said Kapp.

Added Kuhn, "You can really tell whose work is whose."

Edgerly has hand-made paper sculptures, etchings and an artists-made book in the show. An artist-made book is one that is made by hand and not from a printing press. She has five pieces of work in the book, printed by hand as opposed to hand-set type.

Kapp's works include photographs, oil paintings, ceramics, a copper piece and charcoal drawings.

The work of Kuhn includes some flat graphics and drawings. However, her primary contribution to the show is her paintings.

Leas' collection includes stone and plaster sculptures, litho-prints, pen and ink drawings and photographs. "It was really a lot of work, and I am glad that it is over," he said. "I really didn't know if my art work was worthy, but when everything was all put together it looked really great."

Richmond's work is primarily photography. She also included some ceramics and graphic design. These pieces will be going into her portfolio.

Each of these five seniors plans on pursuing a career in art. Edgerly will attend graduate school and either work in a studio or teach at the college level. Kapp, a double major in art and elementary education, also plans on either teaching art in school, or just incorporating art into her daily classes. Kuhn plans on attending graduate school in an Arts Management program, with a focus on museum studies. Self-employment following graduate school in any type of art field is Leas' goal for the future. Richmond intends to find work in graphic design.

"The five of us were able to work together as a team and not as individuals..."

-Andrea Richmond, senior

put up the show; we had to do all of the planning and all of the work. It was a whole different experience for me."

"The art show turned out really well," said Richmond. "The five of us were able to work together as a team and not as individuals. The diversity of all of the work made the show really interesting."

Exhibits in the art center often show works of one or two artists, making the style of the exhibit very cohesive; however, the Senior Art exhibition shows multiple styles of art work, ranging from paper sculptures to litho-prints. "There is a lot of variety which makes this a really great

EVENTS CALENDAR

April 7-13

On Campus

Wednesday, April 8
ACUB Coffee House

Saturday, April 11
International Film - *Miracle in Milan*
SAC 113, 7 p.m.

Alma

Friday, April 10, Saturday, April 11 & Sunday April 12
Orchesis
Alma High School, 8 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Mt. Pleasant

Friday, April 10
Women's Studies Film Series
- *Babette's Feast*
Multicultural Center, 126

Pearce
Central Michigan University,
7 p.m.

Midland

Saturday, April 11
Midland Symphony Orchestra
- "By George, It's Gershwin"
Midland Center for the Arts
1801 West St. Andrews

Detroit

Tuesday, April 7
Chris Whitley/Toad the Wild Sprocket
St. Andrews Hall

Thursday, April 9 - Sunday, April 12
David Copperfield
Fox Theatre

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Scots annihilate Kalamazoo

By Jason Ricks
Sports Editor

The Alma College baseball team scored big this weekend with 39 runs in three games. The Scots held on to their second place position in the MIAA standings with three wins over Kalamazoo College.

On Friday, with senior Tom Harris on the mound, the Scots defeated the Hornets in what ended up being the closest game of the series, 9-5. Harris gave up five runs (only two of which were earned) on seven hits. Alma errors directly or eventually led to three of Kalamazoo's runs. He also had nine strikeouts, nine walks, and hit two batters. He now has a record of 1-1 in the conference and 2-2 overall.

Senior Kris Murphy led all

two games in the conference and three games overall. Spedoske gave up three runs on eight hits, had six strike-outs and threw two walks. "He pitched a very fine ballgame and held them to one run in six innings until he gave up two in the seventh," said Klenk.

First-year student Matt Essian was the key hitter for the Scots in game one. He had three hits in four at bats, which were a single, a double and a home run. He also batted in three runs, and stole two bases.

Alma completely annihilated the Hornets in the second game on Saturday in what Klenk called "a score keeper's nightmare", winning 21-3. The Scots scored all of their runs on 15 hits. Alma scored four runs in the first inning, one in the second, three in the sixth and ten in the seventh.

Senior Dan Brown pitched the game to bring his record to 1-0

"We struggled in the first game until we broke it open in the fifth inning. Then we played very good baseball," said head coach Bill Klenk.

Alma batters with two hits.

It was a close game until the fifth inning when senior Ritchie Feyes hit a grand slam home run to put the Scots up by four with a score of 6-2. Alma scored three more runs to close out the inning, and the Hornets never caught up. "We struggled in the first game until we broke it open in the fifth inning. Then we played very good baseball," said head coach Bill Klenk.

The teams played a double header on Saturday, also a victorious day for the Scots. Alma won the first game 9-3 with undefeated first-year student Tim Spedoske pitching. He has won

in the league and 2-2 overall.

Brown threw four strike-outs and walks. He pitched the first six innings until senior Darren Kalina relieved him in the seventh inning to get the last three outs.

Leading hitters included Murphy with three hits and four RBIs, junior Brandon Kalina also with three, and first-year student Brent Neubecker had two hits, one of which was a home run and the other a single.

Alma's next series will be against the Knights of Calvin College next Friday, April 10 at Calvin. They will play one game on Friday and two on Saturday.

Alma track prepares for MIAA league meets

By Jason Ricks
Sports Editor

The Alma College track teams had to fight off the elements as they officially started their seasons with wins in their first conference meets last Wednesday and at an invitational this weekend.

On Wednesday, April 1, both the men's and women's teams competed against Adrian and Albion Colleges at Adrian. It was the first outdoor meet and first conference meet for the Scots. "The women won very easily [against Adrian and Albion]," said head coach Dan Gibson, while the men easily defeated Adrian and lost to Albion by six. "We haven't beaten Albion in a long time," Gibson continued. "We went after them with everything we could and we just came up a little short."

When asked about the meet, fifth-year senior Todd Kulawiak said, "It was cold and windy. It was a terrible day but everyone tried hard and ran well."

Senior Sarah Braunreiter said, "Wednesday's meet was pretty laid back. We just wanted to see where we are right now at the beginning of the season. I think we were pretty happy with the way it went. Right now our team is kind of small there are a lot of holes in the line up."

Friday afternoon the teams traveled to Manchester, Indiana, for an invitational meet against several Division III NCAA and Division II NAIA teams. Again, both the men's and women's teams braved the cold and wind to return with victory.

First-place finishes for the women were: juniors Julie White, long jump (16'3/4") and Mandy Paul, high jump (5'4"); seniors Braunreiter, 5,000M (18:49), Michelle Snyder, 3,000M (10:51), Kerry Radcliffe, 1 mile (5:58) and 800M (2:25); sophomore Helen Greene, 200M (:26.1) and 100M (:12.9).

First-place finishes for the men included: juniors J.C. Clarkson, shot put (48'5"), Jim Demarest, triple jump (42'10.5") and senior All-American Jay Burmeister, 400M hurdles (54:17) as well as the mile relay.

"We used the Manchester meet to try and firm up our line-up," said Gibson about the women's team. "We aren't that deep; we don't have a lot of people and we're trying to find out where everyone fits in."

The women won the meet easily, scoring 160 points while the next closest score was only 106. The men won by a closer margin of eight, edging out Taylor College 130 to 122. There were 10 other women's teams competing in the invitational and 11 other men's teams.

"We used the Manchester meet to

try and firm up our line-up," said Gibson about the women's team. "We aren't that deep; we don't have a lot of people and we're trying to find out where everyone fits in."

"Our men have good depth," he continued. "We're pretty solid, except we don't have a pole vaulter and that's hurting us."

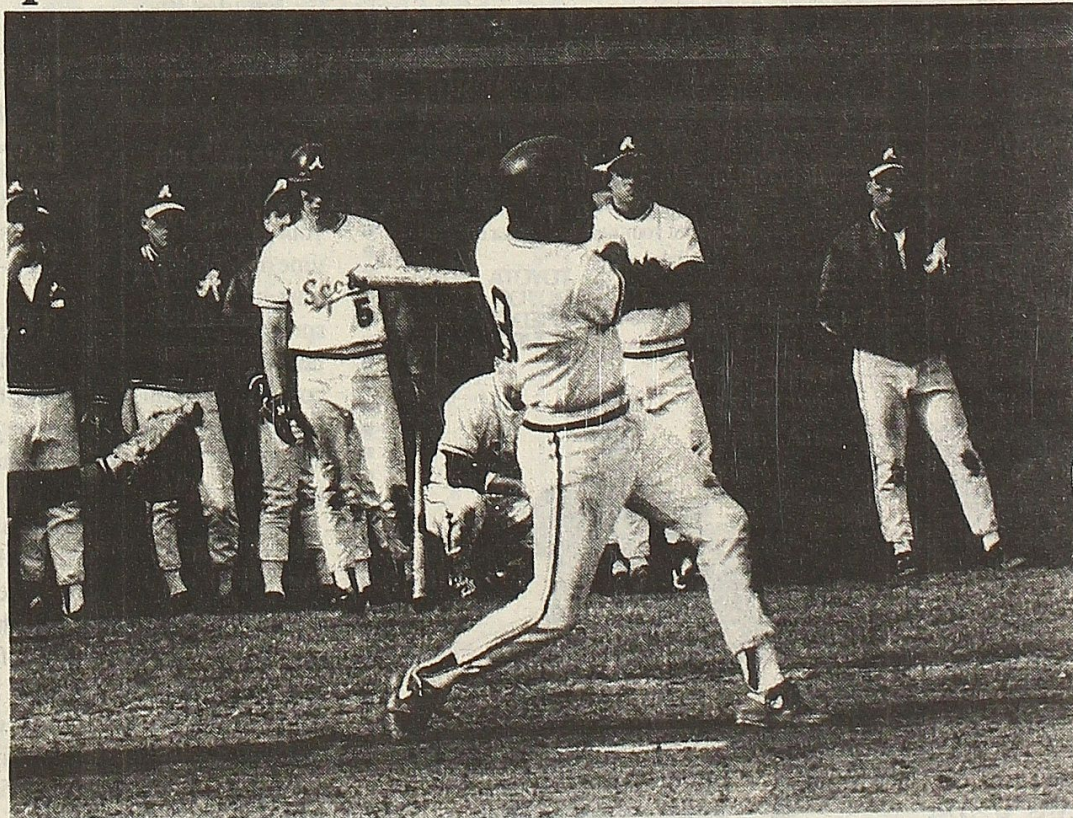
"Saturday's meet was really fun since we won by so much," said Braunreiter. "It was nice to get away and run against people we don't normally compete with. We had good team bonding; a lot of people were out cheering even when it was really cold. I think we really pulled together."

Tomorrow at 2:30 p.m. the Scots will run in a home meet against the defending MIAA champion Calvin Knight. Last year the women shared the MIAA title with the Knights and the men finished second to Calvin.

"The women and Calvin are probably co-favorites [to win the conference]," said Gibson. "The last few years Calvin has beaten us in the dual meet and we've beaten them at the conference meet to tie for the league championship. So we'd really like to beat them in the dual meet this year so we wouldn't have that extra pressure on us at the league meet."

Braunreiter echoed Gibson, saying, "We're nervous for the Calvin meet. We'd like to win and go into the conference meet on top of them. We're nervous because it's still early in the season and a lot of people are just trying out events. As long as we're in the right frame of mind by then, I think we can really do a good job."

Sports Feature Photo



First year student Matt Essian takes a swing in a game last week. Photo by M. Stargardt.

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April 7, 1992

Athlete Profile

Norris tops MIAA in rebounds

By Barb McCarty
Staff Writer

Another class of seniors is leaving Alma College sports and the members will be missed not only for their athletic contributions, but their personal contributions as well. High on the list from the men's basketball team is senior Bob Norris. A double major in biology and chemistry from the Traverse City area, his future plans point toward a career in medicine.

Norris' basketball career has been long and successful. He started periodically at the varsity level his sophomore year in high school, and started consistently his junior and senior years. Norris' statistics from his senior year are most impressive. He averaged 28 points and 14 rebounds and was named All-State in every paper but the *Detroit News*. He scored his 1,000th career point in his last home game of high school, but his team's season ended by losing the first game of districts to the eventual state champs. In all his years of school basketball, Norris said he has never won a post-season tournament game in his career.

Norris described his career here at Alma as "sporadic." He called his first year, when he made varsity, personally good. Although he didn't start his first year, he played every game and gained valuable experience.

After his first season, Norris had the opportunity to follow his coach to William and Mary College but decided to stay here and has not regretted his decision. His only

regret is that, from a player's perspective, "choosing the new coach didn't have any player input."

His sophomore year is where "sporadic" truly applies to his season. Norris said he had a "wonderful pre-season." When the season officially began, "I started a lot of games and then got sick." He did finally return to make his presence felt near the end of the season after a couple bouts of the flu. "The season ended too fast but on an up-swing."

Norris' junior year was one of disappointment and bad luck. During a practice in the second week of pre-season, he tore cartilage and had to have knee surgery. He sat out and rehabilitated it back to playing condition and then went ahead and severely sprained his ankle the first game back and was put in a cast. He sat out again to rehabilitate and came back to finish the season well.

For his senior year, Norris could only ask to stay healthy and uninjured, and he did. "Finally I got to show I could play in the league and against other schools."

And his stats show it. He made honorable mention All-MIAA and was given the Coach's Award. He soundly led the team in both offensive and especially defensive rebounds, was fourth this year on the team in overall scoring and had the highest field goal percentage at .595 which earned him a place in the Alma College record books.

As for career statistics, in 90 games played Norris has scored 473 points and grabbed 422 rebounds. His free throw percentage was .717 and his overall field goal

percentage was .579. Norris led the MIAA in rebounding this season.

While he feels his season this year was personally good, "team-wise, any time you don't win as many games as you thought you should, it's a disappointment." Also he "enjoyed this year due to the personalities more than any other year." For him, the members of the team were close and got along well, more so than past years.

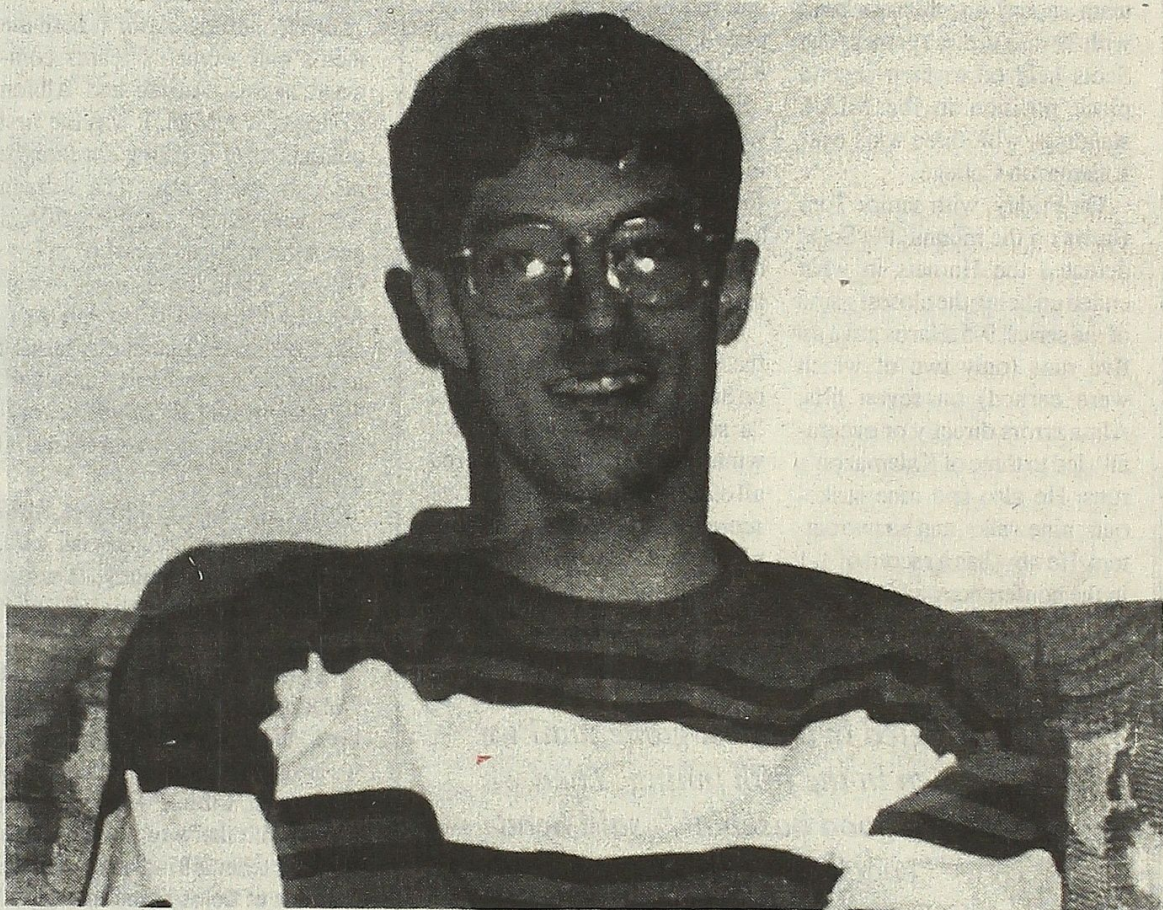
For life after basketball Norris realizes that this sport has given

him more than just four almost invisible scars on his knee. "It's taught me to do things as well as I possibly can and even if I don't always enjoy success, that gratification can be found in knowing I tried my hardest."

The best aspect of playing here at Alma, as Norris said, was that he "received an excellent education as well as being able to play all four years, which is why I came here...The two trips to Florida were the most fun."

"The biggest change was that he got more aggressive and this was just due to his confidence building over the years," said senior Tom Maloney, who has played with Norris for three years.

Norris' absence will be felt. As sophomore Colon Lewis said, "Bob Norris will be missed next season because of his strong inside play." Lewis went on to say, "Bob provided the team with many laughs and his sense of humor and senior leadership will also be missed."



Senior Bob Norris led the MIAA in rebounds for the 1991-92 season. Photo by M. Stargardt.

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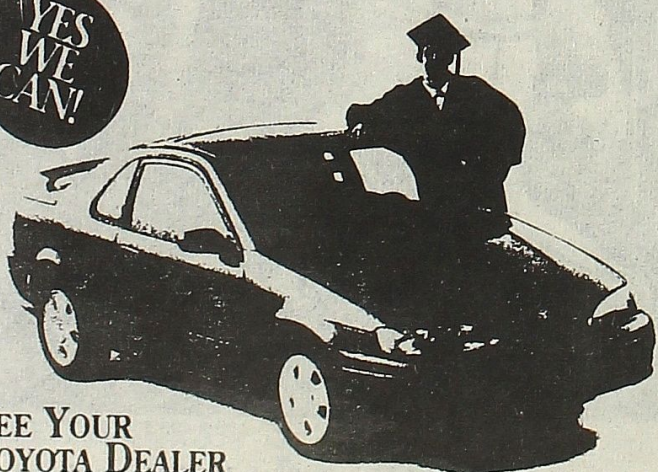
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IM softball considers expansion

Possibility of an expansion league is strong

By Jennifer Bork
Staff Writer

"Take me out to the ball game, take me out to the park." Gather up your bats and balls because it's that time of the year again. Yes it's—intramural (IM) softball, that fun, spring term athletic experience that fascinates the entire Alma College community. You do not have to be Babe Ruth to participate; anyone can do it. This may be your chance to shine.

The IM softball season begins the first week of spring term. However, there is a mandatory meeting for all interested teams on Thursday, April 9 in room 122 of the physical education building at 7 p.m. One representative from each team must attend this informational meeting accompanied with \$15 and the roster for his/her team.

For those of you unfamiliar with this league, it is co-ed: four women must be on your roster and three

women must be on the field at all times. It involves an underhand lob pitch and no stealing or bunting is allowed.

Senior Shane Peters, IM softball coordinator for the past three-and-a-half years, will be retiring this

"Take me out to the ball game, take me out to the park." Gather up your bats and balls because it's that time of the year again.

year. He foresees that one of the problems with which the new director will be confronted is the scarcity of field space. Both the softball and baseball teams need fields to practice on and this will definitely infringe upon the IM program.

Peters also predicts that there will

be more teams this year compared to the past due to the fact that spring term enrollment has increased. Although no definite decisions have been made, there most likely will be two leagues. Peters is very supportive of the program. "It's a good time; everyone has a lot of fun out there."

IM softball is a lot of laughs and can be a lot of work, depending on how you approach it. Veteran player, junior Judy Kirkwood, said, "IM is really cool and a lot of fun, but it tends to get too competitive. Keep in mind that you're only playing for a T-shirt."

Former IM umpire, junior Todd Albery, offered another view: "I wish people would take it more seriously and show up for their games. There shouldn't be so many forfeits."

IM softball offers a lot of fun, but it does require a minute amount of responsibility. There's no time to waste, so grab your gloves and start warming up the old arm and start practicing your swing. It's time to play ball.

April 7, 1992

Sports Commentary

Current events take back seat to sports

By Brad Engel
Staff Writer

This past weekend marked the conclusion of the NCAA Division I men's basketball tournament. With all the hoopla surrounding basketball the last few weeks, critics say that a few basketball games were more important to this country than wars in the Middle East or the race for the presidency of the United States. And, for the better part of the last month, no statement holds truer.

We as Americans have nothing to be ashamed of when someone makes the statement that we care more about sports than some uprising overseas involving fanatical activists. Going crazy over sporting events is something that seems to be inbred in all members of this country, no matter what your favorite sport is. It just seems natural

to get up and scream when Cecil Fielder crushes a 500-foot homer or when Barry Sanders catches an unsuspecting defender with his jock around his ankles. Heck, there are

They argue that the entire world would be better off if a few more people cared about rebuilding the eastern European community than who won the Daytona 500 this year.

woman who feels that sports are the greatest thing since the the domestication of beefalo. These citizens have simply decided that the world will go on regardless of whether they read the front page of the paper or the sports page first every morning. They know that while some knowledge of affairs in South Africa could be beneficial to party and water-cooler conversation, it won't offer a viable diversion to doing housework. Besides, it's a lot more fun to watch a good game on TV than it is to kick back and watch Dan Rather.

Sports are a lot more fun to watch on television than world news. I don't think that there is a man woman or child alive in this country today that doesn't enjoy a good televised sporting event once in a while. And I challenge someone to find me a person who would rather view Ted Koppel interview the Indonesian ambassador to Madagascar on issues concerning Antarctic exploration (save for his

mother).

Sporting events are also a lot more conducive to group gatherings. I don't ever recall inviting over a group of friends and buying a bag of chips to watch the nightly news. I've never seen people in mass buy replica military uniforms of their favorite fascist dictator, like fans purchase the replica jersey of their favorite player. And there is no known national newscast televised today that includes a half-time where its viewers can go out and play a short game of newsmen.

Don't get me wrong. I am not advocating that the citizens of this country completely ignore the world and its events. I am not saying that you should never watch the nightly news or read a paper. It just seems to me that, in the grand scheme of things, none of the news is really that important. Now who do the Lions open against this year?

Going crazy over sporting events is something that seems to be inbred in all members of this country, no matter what your favorite sport is.

people in this country who get excited when someone holes out a 30-footer or when Bigfoot destroys 11 old Subarus.

There are people in this country who want to end this trend of caring so much about sports, saying we should become more conscious of the entire globe and its population.

I tend to think along the lines that the sports fan does care about world issues and conflicts. Sports fans throughout this country have a burning desire to know the outcome of Sunday's game between Barcelona and London in the World Football League.

Nothing is wrong with the man or

SPORTS STATS

Baseball

Friday April 3

Alma 9
Kzoo 5

Saturday, April 4

first game

Alma 9
Kzoo 3

second game

Alma 21
Kzoo 3

Track

Manchester Invitational

Saturday, April 3

1st place finishes

Women:

White	Long jump	16'3/4"
Paul	High jump	5'4"
Vernard	Discus	122'
Braunreiter	5000M	18:49
Snyder	3000M	10:51
Radcliffe	1 Mile	4:58
	800M	2:25
Greene	200M	0: 26.1
	100M	0: 12.9

Men:

Mile Relay	3:22.7
Clarkston	Shot put 48'5"
Demarest	Triple jump 42'10.5"
Burmeister	400M hurdle 54:17

Classifieds

Education

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 \$5000 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.

ATTENTION STUDENTS INTERESTED IN TEACHING IN ELEMENTARY OR SECONDARY SCHOOL:

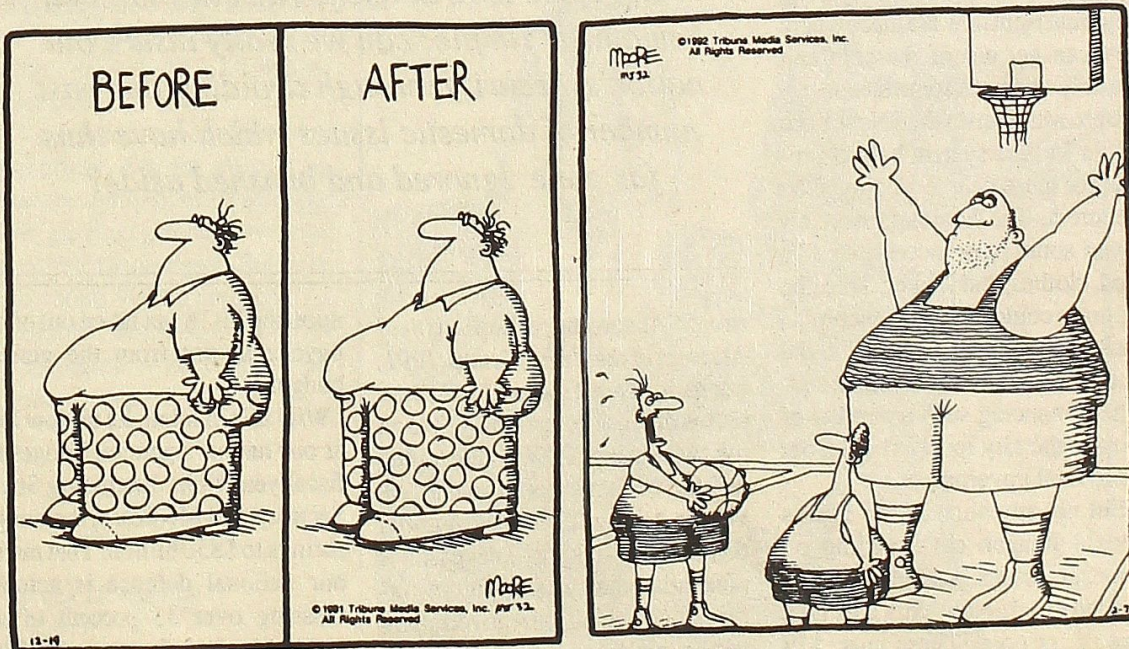
Registration materials for the Michigan Teacher Competency Testing Program are available in the Education Department. Registration deadlines and test dates for the Subject Area tests are listed in the registration materials. MICHIGAN TEST OBJECTIVES FOR EACH SUBJECT AREA TEST ARE NOW AVAILABLE IN THE

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND ON RESERVE AT THE LIBRARY CIRCULATION DESK. Please see Mrs. Farrier in AC 237 for registration materials or for information about what tests must be passed prior to being recommended for certification to teach. Deadlines and policies will be strictly enforce by the State Department of Education.

Personals

To Amy H. and Joanna,
Thank you for supporting my right to choose while in Washington, D.C.
-Erin

In the Bleachers by Steve Moore



Getting in shape with golf

"Oh, OK, Mr. Penetrator! You want to drive the lane against this guy? Well, here! Take the ball, Mr. Penetrator!!"

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Lifting the Kilt by Erin Fenner

Occasionally it's worth agreeing with Mom

Recently, I called home to tell my mother that I didn't think I would be going to graduate school next fall. I don't have enough money, so I need to find a job.

"I told you so," said my mother, as usual. "I told you that you should get a job. Why don't you type up a resume and see if you can find a job as a technical writer at the UpJohn Company? Or, I'll tell you what, I have a friend who writes the instruction manuals for an appliance company. With your writing skills, you could get a great job there! There are so many opportunities out there for English majors—you don't have to be a teacher."

What I tried, unsuccessfully, to tell my mother was that I think I want to be a teacher, or maybe even a college professor. I need to get a job for just one year, enough time to earn some money, but not too much money, or I may never want to go back to school. Oh, did I say that it has to be a *fun* job? The thought of a lifelong career (??) in instruction manual writing for an appliance company does not excite me in the least.

"Oh, but the job market is wide open for instruction manual writ-

ers!" my mother exclaimed. "You'll find an opening in no time. If I've told you once, I've told you a thousand times—there are thousands of English majors out there who want to be professors, but how many want to write appliance manuals?"

My point exactly. I don't want to

My mother doesn't know anything about my writing skills. She assumes that because I'm an English major, I love to write *anything*. Yeah, mom, I love writing so much that when I'm bored I copy *The Wall Street Journal* into my notebook. Wrong! I'm only good at

So there I was, stuck in my own catch-22. If I said "yes," I would be agreeing with my mother, something that, in 21 years, I have never done. How could I break a long-standing record like that? By saying "no," that's how, and in the process, cutting off my nose to spite my face. There was no easy way out of this one.

spend the rest of my life telling other people how to run their dishwashers or set their VCRs. I want to help people learn, expand their minds, create. And, I might add, the long summer vacation is simply an added bonus.

"Besides," she continued. "You might as well grow up and face the music, because from now on you're in the real world. Work isn't fun. You can't pick and choose. You've got to take what you can get. With your writing skills...."

writing what I want to write, and I'll tell you right now, appliance manuals are not it!

"Anyway, you've got to start earning some money, because your father and I are not going to support you forever, you know."

You're not? What? Oh dear, this really throws a monkey wrench into my plans. I was planning on moving back into my old room at home, complete with its vintage Duran Duran posters on the walls.

"Oh, and by the way, we've de-

cided to turn your room into a den. I took down those ridiculous posters, and moved the new computer in there, along with the hide-a-bed sofa, and the stereo. And the closets are full of the things we're planning to take to the Salvation Army. So, if you're planning to move back home, you'd better think again."

All right! That's about enough of this! Listen here, Mom and Dad—I am your daughter, not some stranger! Geez, the next thing I know, they'll be charging me....

"Rent. Yes, your father and I have decided to charge you rent when you're home over Easter. You're 21 years old, and it's about time you learned that you can't freeload your way through life. If you want my advice...."

Well I don't want it, thank you. You'll probably tell me to head on down to the YWCA for the night. You'll probably tell me to start selling my plasma. You'll probably tell me to....

"Go see about that appliance job. Here, I'll give you my friend's phone number, she'll be expecting your call. She said she could put in a good word for you. You're not going to get many offers that are better than this one. Did I tell you that the starting salary is almost

25,000 dollars?"

Look, mom, do I have to repeat myself? I SAID NO WAY! I am not writing any stupid instruction manual! I will not, I repeat, *will not*.... Wait a minute—what did you just say?

"Twenty-five thousand dollars. Plus health care and a dental plan. Erin, I'm not saying you have to make this your life work, but after a few years at this job, you'll be able to afford all of the graduate school you'll need. Will you at least think about it?"

So there I was, stuck in my own catch-22. If I said "yes," I would be agreeing with my mother, something that, in 21 years, I have never done. How could I break a long-standing record like that? By saying "no," that's how, and in the process, cutting off my nose to spite my face. There was no easy way out of this one.

"Okay, Mom, what's the number?" I guess I will have to grow up and learn that there are worse things in life than agreeing with my mother. Being a homeless bag lady is one of them. Watch for my by-line when you buy your next dishwasher.

Domestic issues remain prevelant in national security

Defense spending fails to relieve domestic strife

By David Ryder
Staff Writer

It's a cold winter eve in the over-run subways of New York City. The mood is somber and the smell of frozen urine engulfs the entire passageway. Hordes of people dressed in flannel now lay on the floor. No, they are not waiting for a bus or train; they are a much simpler crowd than that. The only thing they want right now is a place where they can get out of the cold and possibly even get some sleep.

There was a time when New York City's welfare system helped provide for these people who lived on the street. The homeless were allowed some basic necessities like food, clothes, and shelter. True, the program could not reach everyone, but it greatly helped those who did receive assistance. In order to subsidize financing such a number of people, the city received aid from the federal government.

But not anymore. In the 1980's Ronald Reagan cut spending on domestic issues, such as the aid allotted to help New York City take care of its poor. These cuts, \$15 billion from NYC alone (according to a hearing before the House Committee on the Budget), were a deliberate step by the president to

free up funds for his multi-billion dollar defense initiatives. "In the interests of national security..." was a prevalent quote of that era which is still used by politicians today.

"In the interests of national secu-

indeed skewed. By looking at a simple spreadsheet of the budget we can see that this figure includes a \$350 billion Social Security and Medicare program. In reality these programs receive funding based

Instead of insuring national security by looking to ward off potential threats from other world powers, our nation ought take a really close look at itself. The question that remains is simple: can we really insure our nation's security through avoiding this vast number of domestic issues which have thus far gone ignored and brushed aside?

ity...." According to the *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 1991*, our nation went from a \$134 billion nation defense budget in 1980 to an overwhelming \$296 billion-plus defense budget in fiscal year 1990. Why is it that citizens have ignored this issue for so long? The reason is none other than a fancy figure-fixing game which our government has been playing.

In 1990 the government recorded its expenditures at \$1.2 trillion, nearly one-quarter of which was national defense. These facts are

upon the FICA tax taken out of our paycheck, not from the general budget.

With this in mind, let us now look at our nation's general budget for fiscal year 1990. Excluding Social Security and Medicare, the budget shrinks to \$850 billion. That means our national defense is actually massing over 35 percent of the general budget. In any case, \$300 billion is \$300 billion, no matter how the pie is sliced.

"In the interests of national security..." indeed! Granted, national

defense spending plays an important, if not detrimental part to assure a nation's well-being, and we must be willing, at any cost, to preserve the existence of our State. Yet until now our national policy has been aimed strictly at deterring international forces from waging war against us by making sure that we have a larger stockpile of weapons than any other nation.

However in the process of protecting our nation from physical confrontation with another global power, this nation has made itself susceptible to yet another type of war, a type of war for which all the B-2 bombers, M1-A1s, Apache helicopters, F-16s, Stealth fighters and Strategic Defense Initiatives would be rendered virtually powerless. In fact, all the technology in the civilized world does not have the power to disengage, disable, or maim this enemy of the State. This enemy who, once provoked to the point of confrontation, will persistently seek retribution for the number of years it has suffered under the government's stranglehold.

Who is this enemy of the State? Who is this group who has the power to render our nation's entire stockpile of weapons utterly useless? It's not any leftist terrorist group seeking our nation's demise. It's not even any rightist group

planning a coup either. The group which even now poses the greatest potential threat to our national security remains the common everyday concerned citizen. The type of citizen who is fed-up with all the brouhaha in modern bureaucratic politics. The type of citizen who aspires to see our nation's domestic interest take priority over the games we play on the international scene. Domestic interests such as a national insurance program and economical housing for the poor. Interests such as improving our educational system and alleviating high unemployment. And interests such as energy conservation and reducing political corruption. These issues and many more could be better addressed if only the money allotted to our enormous defense budget is freed up.

Instead of insuring national security by looking to ward off potential threats from other world powers, our nation ought take a really close look at itself. The question that remains is simple: can we really insure our nation's security through avoiding this vast number of domestic issues which have thus far gone ignored and brushed aside? It is only a matter of time before it will be too late.

April 7, 1992

Men are not at fault for women's oppression

By Sara Groves
Staff Reporter

MEN SUCK!!!

I can't even count as high as the amount of times I have heard those two words. And from whom do I hear them most often? Feminists—or so they call themselves.

There seems to be a new feminist movement silently taking over this campus and the rest of the country. It's a man-hating feminist movement, going against all that feminism supposedly stands for.

When I think of feminism, I think of equal rights for everyone. After all, that is how it all began. But what happened to that idea? It has slowly moved away, unfortunately, making room for the idea that men are all evil, subversive creatures.

It is true that women make ap-

proximately 59 cents to man's every dollar. It is true that every 15 seconds a U.S. woman is battered. And every six minutes a woman is raped.

But who is at fault for this? Men? I definitely think not. Men are not the ones out there plotting and planning on how to become the gender that is ahead of the game.

It is almost impossible to say who actually is to blame, if there is anyone to blame at all. And if so, when did it begin? In the '30s? The '50s? Or did it start thousands of years ago, perhaps when the Bible claimed that women should submit themselves unto their husbands? So, maybe it is God, *the ultimate being*, who we should blame for women's menial place in society.

Yet men are still constantly put at fault. It makes me extremely upset when I hear men saying derogatory things about feminists. But who

can blame them? I know I would be angry too if I felt that an entire movement was out to get me. And that is how a majority of feminists that I have been hearing talk lately feel and come across.

Whenever there is a movie that is oppressive to women, such as the recent release *Basic Instinct*, I hear these women say, "Well, obviously a *man* directed this, because a woman would do no such thing." I personally know of many women who have no respect for their gender and would direct sexist films. It is not a matter of being a man or a woman; it is a matter of being an aware, socially responsible human being, something that I know men and women are both capable of.

At these films, I also hear derogatory comments about the actors. "What a jerk. All he does in this movie is dominate women. I think he's the biggest sexist in the world

for accepting this role." My question is, what about the women who accepted the roles in which they are dominated? Aren't they just as much at fault as male actors? They set just as poor of an example, at least in my eyes, as do the men.

These man-haters are also sexist. They have nothing positive to say about men. They generalize the shortcomings of the men they know into one large group. They justify these generalities as the reason why women are the superior gender. Isn't that what feminists have been working so hard against? They don't want to prove anyone's superiority. They want to prove the equality of human beings.

I am a feminist. I have been interested in the rights of women, as all humans—men and women—should be, for as long as I can remember. And I am sick and tired of being accused of being a man-

hater. I, personally, do not want to be associated with women who are full of hate and anger towards men.

It is not men who are the problem here. But who can tell where the problem is coming from? It is not a time to place blame, however. It is time for men and women to come and work together to further equality, so someday my daughter will earn \$1 to her brother's \$1, someday my daughter will be able to walk alone at night and not feel threatened. So that someday, women will make up more than 2 percent of the United States Senate. We need to quit trying to blame someone for our problems. We need to join with humans everywhere to fight for our goals—to fight for equality.

Letters to the Editor

The Wall defended

To the Editor,

I am writing in response to Teresa Kellogg's letter to the editor in the March 17 issue of *The Almanian* concerning the BACCHUS Wall project.

As an officer in BACCHUS and one of the main coordinators of The Wall, I feel that it is necessary to clarify some misunderstandings. The aim of BACCHUS is not to eliminate drug and alcohol use, but to eliminate drug and alcohol *abuse*. However, the messages conveyed on The Wall were not those of BACCHUS, but of you, the campus community. The bricks were sent out to Alma College students, faculty, and administrators and ANY that were sent back were put on The Wall. If any were too "preachy," it is not correct to point to BACCHUS. We did not write them.

The aim of The Wall is to inform people of the reality of drug and alcohol abuse. Too many people (myself included) suffer from the classic opinion that it is a problem "somewhere else" and that "it won't happen to me." Our reasons for using The Wall (which has been very successful and highly regarded at many other colleges) is to try to dispel that belief.

The messages on The Wall are true and written by people you probably know. They include cases of rape, several drunk driving related deaths, and physical, mental and sexual abuse by parents who are addicts. The people who suffered from these problems are not "somewhere else." They are here among us. It may have happened to the person sitting next to you in your class, one of your friends, or even your roommate.

The main purpose of The Wall was not to spread our message, but to let you give a voice and

share your concerns. Apparently you misunderstood the basic principles behind The Wall; hopefully I have been able to clarify them for you and anyone else unsure about it.

Ken Marable
BACCHUS secretary
Class of 1995

Computers not all fun and games

To the Editor,

How many of us have experienced the frustrating situation where, upon going to the computer center or one of the residence hall computer rooms to do last-minute changes on a paper, the computers are all taken by people either writing mail messages or playing computer games? How many have then asked one or more of the people playing games when they are going to log off so your assignment can be completed only to be ignored or receive rude answers? Just the other night this happened to me.

As a communications major, I always have a lot of papers to write. On this particular night I had two papers that needed revision and one I wanted to write. It was near midnight when I walked into the Nisbet computer room, where only two of the four computer terminals work. I was confronted with the sight of two students playing computer games.

I asked when they were going to be off the computers and one turned to me: "I'm not planning on getting off this computer anytime soon," he said quite rudely. As I furiously stomped off, I questioned why this should happen.

As far as I can remember, the Alma College campus has always had a certain number of students who use the computers for purposes other than writing papers or doing homework. However, up until last week I never had a problem with the use of the computers, or

had trouble getting a computer when I needed one. With 400-plus computers on a campus of about 1,200 students, gaining access to a computer should not be difficult. But with the recent advent of a new computer game accessed to the system, more and more students are having difficulty finding free computers.

Aside from the fact that with more people using the computers for games or otherwise there's more of a chance for the system to crash, I think it's rude to stay on when someone else needs to complete an assignment or write a paper. I have no problems with the games themselves, or with people playing them. But when students have papers to write, they should have priority over those who are filling their free time by playing on the computer.

Priority for campus computer use should be as follows: academic endeavors, computer mail messages, and finally—at the very end of the list—computer games. Maybe it's naive to assume that students are polite enough and could follow this simple prioritization, but I don't think that it is an impossible scenario.

All I ask is for some basic common courtesy. So, for all of you who use the computers for sending mail or playing games, have fun and continue to use them. But next time someone needs a computer to write a paper, think about what is more important—your game or their grade?

Michelle Judd
Class of 1993

Sex survey offending

To the Editor,

I was offended that the survey "College sexual activity trends," in the March 24 issue of *The Almanian* left some of us out.

One question read "Approx-

mately how many different people have you had sex with in the past year? 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 over 10." Although many students on this campus are probably sexually active, some of us aren't. The question didn't offer the option of having zero sexual partners. The lack of this option made it appear that the author assumed everyone who would be reading the survey is sexually active. It may also have

kept people who aren't sexually active from answering the survey. This will lead to a biased survey.

If the survey was specifically designed to be answered by sexually active students, then that should have been stated in the introduction.

Lisa Buege
Class of 1994

Weird in a Serious Way by Dan Baker

DIRT BURGERS ARE NOT FREE ANYMORE !!



Staff Editorial

Union Board deserves accolades

Society tends to look at the negative aspects of everything, being more pessimistic than optimistic. As such, people are quick to criticize. Furthermore, it seems like every group is attacked in one form or another by an individual or group not directly involved with it; it is easier to look at what they did wrong rather than what they did to benefit society.

Contrary to what most people think, Alma College is not immune from such quick, snap judgments. Every time you turn around you hear of another individual or group criticized for their efforts. One such campus group needlessly attacked despite all they do to enhance college life is the Alma College Union Board (ACUB).

ACUB is a student organization that provides campus-wide entertainment. Entertainment ranges from bi-weekly movies and the All-Night Party to Mock Rock, Songfest and Irish Pub. In all, ACUB sponsors 25 to 30 events annually for students, faculty and staff, administration and the greater Alma community. These events are free to students, faculty, staff and administration.

These events are not slipshod affairs. ACUB puts in a lot of time, effort and hard work to provide the campus with a variety of social/entertainment options. ACUB members spend months arranging and organizing these major productions and, when it comes down to the actual day of the event, they spend many hours both before and after setting and cleaning up. No other organization with fewer than 12 members could organize and carry out such large-scale

events with great success and few glitches on a strict budget.

Furthermore, their events are not unattended or disliked. ACUB has quite a following among students and faculty on campus supporting them and their programming efforts; they give the campus what they want while trying out new activities, such as the Suitcase Dance. As a matter of fact, attendance at their events has risen this past year. More than 400 people attended Mock Rock while over 600 crowded into VanDusen Commons for the annual Irish Pub. These numbers are incredible when compared to the total number of students on campus. So why are people quick to criticize them and their efforts?

We don't know the answer to this question, but we feel ACUB is unduly criticized for all they do and bring to campus. Sponsoring a variety of social/entertainment activities on a strict budget that appeals to all segments of the campus is no easy feat. When you look at what we receive, our portion of the Student Activity Fee that goes to ACUB is well-spent and worth every penny. In fact, you probably couldn't go out and buy a night's entertainment on what ACUB receives from the Student Activity Fee.

So, in the future, we urge you, along with us, to support ACUB for all they do; they deserve it, plus a pat-on-the-back and congratulations on a job well-done. So loosen up and give ACUB a break and maybe an extra hand or ounce of support.

Election spotlights environmental issues

By Michael J. Arnold
Staff Writer

Let's finally put aside the Bush-bashing and get down to business. It has come to my attention that the real focus right now is on the presidential elections and where each potential candidate stands on the issues. My first and most obvious question is where they stand on the issue of environmental security. Let's find out, shall we?

Republicans: George Bush appears to be the only Republican candidate who is aware of environmental problems. He won a fair amount of support back in 1988 when he prohibited drilling for oil off the coasts of Florida and in the New England region. That was a good thing. On the flip side, he vowed to veto the Energy Bill which did not allow for drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. Recently, Bush has tried to rewrite the National Wetlands Bill, which established benchmark water standards for an area to be considered a wetland. This would pave the way for more development and fewer restrictions which companies would have to abide by.

Democrats: Clinton has proposed that the scientists and laborers who have been displaced due to military cutbacks should be retrained in the arts of environmental clean-up. This would allow greater expansion of the job market and keep those creative minds at work.

There is one thing I should like to make perfectly clear: environmental issues are going to be a big priority for this election. With landfills increasing, the threat of global warming, the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit, nuclear and toxic clean-ups being initiated and military bases going under the gun to clean up their messes, the issues are all around us. There is an immense focus on jobs and job security in this election and what better way to increase the job market than to expand the environmental arena?

National Public Radio did a strange survey of the Democratic nominees last month which inquired into the recycling habits of the candidates. Clinton took his recyclables to the curb himself and recycled at the office. Tsongas, now out of the race, drove his to the local center, and Kerrey had his aides take care of it. What does this have to do with whether the man is capable of being a good president? Plenty.

Environmental groups are demanding the government establish some kind of environmental security bill, one where polluters would pay for their business dealings and be encouraged, financially, to find a better way of doing things. This bill would put new teeth in the Clear Air and Clean Water Acts and give renewed strength to the Endangered Species Act, the only bill which stands between absolute development and absolute destruction. As voters, we all have the obligation to find out where the candidates stand on these issues and hold them to their promises.

Campus Comment

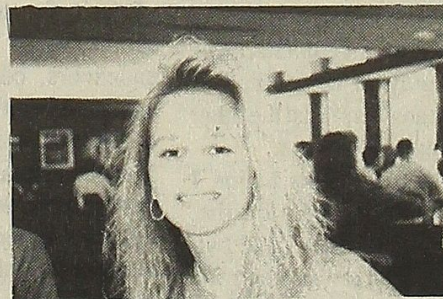
Q: Do you agree with the decision to convert the Plaxton House into the Women's Resource House?

Photos by B. Haara



Emily Shaw, Class of '93

"Theoretically, it's a good idea, but realistically, I don't see people actually using any of the resources enough to justify converting the Plaxton House."



Stacey Wright, Class of '92

"I agree with the Women's Resource House because it's important to show women's accomplishments and women need to get the recognition that we deserve."



Jeff Lynch, Class of '93

"I think that it's unfair because the Plaxton House was the only non-theme house on campus. Students need the opportunity to live in a house without being subject to the ludicrous restrictions of moving off campus. It's hard enough to get out of the dorms since the school is so cheap -- now each house has a theme."

The Almanian

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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.