

Facts about
alcohol.

See page 2

Highland Festival
approaches.

See page 2

Coaches recruit
top athletes.

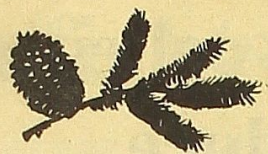
See page 3

Sluggers beat
Calvin.

See page 3

Greek stereotypes
ravage the system.

See page 4



The Almanian

April 14, 1991

Serving Alma College since 1907

Issue 24

Cubba wins Barlow Trophy

Convo recognizes student, faculty achievements

By Stacie L. Herriman
News Editor

As the Honors Convocation procession of faculty and seniors filed into Cappaert Gymnasium Thursday, April 9, the audience rose to its feet, more out of curiosity to view the creatively decorated caps with an array of farewell messages than of honor and respect. An air of excitement and suspense hung over the crowd as they wondered and predicted who would win the prestigious Barlow Trophy Award.

After an invocation by Chaplain Jesse Perry, Provost Ann Stuart, presiding, delivered opening remarks, saying, "Progress is moving forward. Time doesn't stand still. It is time to anticipate great new beginnings."

With that cue, events turned to the recognition of honors. Junior Cara Sell received confirmation as the Jerry G. Smith Africa Fellow while Stuart awarded the Alden W. Hansen Memorial Award to junior Kerrie Kemperman for her poetry. Twenty-eight students received their cane and membership into Omicron Delta Kappa, the National Leadership Honor Society, while over 20 others were recognized for their induction into Phi Beta Kappa, the National Honor Society, by religion professor Joseph Walser. Dave Brown won the Outstand-

ing Senior Leadership Award given by the Alumni Student Association (ASA). "Chosen by the senior class, a scholarship funded by ASA will be given in his name to an incoming freshman exhibiting strong leadership qualities," said Sara Lumm, president of ASA.

The senior class then presented awards of their own to recognize the professors and faculty that have helped them through their four years here at Alma. Outstanding Faculty Awards were presented to Carol Bender for the Humanities, Greg Baleja for the Social Sciences and Murray Borrello for the Natural Sciences.

With the most prestigious award yet to be announced, the Barlow Trophy winner, retiring professor and chairperson of speech communications Robert Smith presented the Honors Address entitled "Three Marks of the Educated Graduate." The three marks are "(1) the educated graduate should look behind to what brought them here, (2) the educated graduate should look around to see what's happening, and (3) the educated graduate should look ahead to what is to come," said Smith.

"Knowledge, like percolated coffee, begins from the bottom up. The inquiring mind is an indispensable tool for a first-rate education," continued Smith. As such, he encouraged seniors, as well as all the other students in the audience, to "ask probing ques-

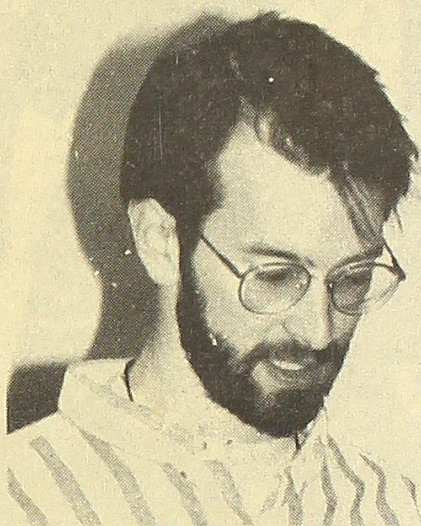
tions, play the devil's advocate and debate the hard issues in and out of the classroom because you need to know both sides so you can make wiser decisions."

This double farewell address ended with some personal advice from Smith to the seniors as they leave Alma and embark on new adventures. "Some things you can control,...but often times you will need to subordinate your outside activities to your family and husband or wife," he said.

Dragging out the suspense even more, President Alan J. Stone commenced with presenting other special recognitions. He recognized the women's basketball team and senior Amy Elbers for their accomplishments, thanked the Student Congress and the Associate Trustees for "all their hard work and representing the student body well to the Board of Trustees" and congratulated everyone on a "good year all around."

"Alma students have really distinguished themselves this year with their independent studies, research, publications and presentations," said Stone.

He then presented the President's Cups, "a tradition started in 1968 by President Robert Swanson to recognize those individuals with the highest



Senior Louis Cubba, Barlow Trophy recipient, reads his poetry at the Pine River Anthology reception. Photo by M. Stargardt.

GPA in the freshman, sophomore and junior classes," to 15 juniors, sophomores and first-year students, all with a 4.0 GPA.

Stone awarded Jacqueline Roberts the Senior Award. "This is my tradition," said Stone. "It goes to the senior with the highest GPA after seven terms. Roberts maintained a 4.0 GPA the entire time."

Finally, thinking the suspense would come to an end, Stone had the three Barlow Trophy nominees—Sarah Braunreiter, Louis Cubba and Kristine Lovasz—come to the front receive their certificate and then return to their seats for the announcement. He gave a brief background on this "most highly-prized senior award that is chosen by secret ballot by all the faculty and Student Congress" before announcing Cubba as this year's recipient. Once again the audience rose to its feet, but this time out of honor and respect.

Faculty and administrators wager on CROP Walk

By Jane Brown
Staff Reporter

Each year Gratiot County participates in the Church World Service fundraiser CROP walk. This year, to gain support from the community in raising funds, the faculty and administrators of Alma College have wagered a friendly bet of who will get more to walk for them.

The event will take place Sunday, May 3, 1992, at 1:45 p.m. The 10 kilometer (6.2 mile) walk begins at the Alma College Physical Education Center and continues on a route through Alma, with stops at the First Presbyterian Church and other religious establishments for refreshments.

"This year the Gratiot County group is hoping to raise \$8,000 to \$9,000," said Director of Computer Services Tanya Shire. "This slight rise in the goal amount is necessary because of the state and federal cutbacks being enacted now."

Shire predicted a good turnout this year, especially from College staff members.

History and political science professor Ed Lorenz, a two year participant, said he finds CROP to be "a good idea from all around the community to have a fund raiser to help make money for all the food-related needs. It is a great concept. It brings people together for a common goal."

The CROP walk raised approximately \$8,000 last year as over 200 people from Gratiot County participated. Twenty-five percent of the money raised is allocated for use by Gratiot County and organizations, such as the Salvation Army and the Commission on Aging, helping stop hunger here at home. The remaining 75 percent of the money is sent out of county for use in feeding the hungry through the Church World Service.

CROP has helped raise money to suppress world hunger and emphasize self-development in more than 70 countries. The program provides food and necessities (such as safe water, health care and sanitation, emergency aid and training people to care for themselves), and helps improve farming methods in underdeveloped areas. Furthermore, education on global issues is stressed.

Last year there were over 1,744 CROP Walks nationwide, involving some 3.23 million people as participants and sponsors.

Officers plan increased student awareness and participation

By Jane Brown
Staff Reporter

The election of the new Student Congress officers for the 1992-93 academic year—President D. Aaron Howald, Vice-President Amy Hamman, Treasurer Randy Thelen and Secretary Kim Tobin—brings with it the officers' hopes of making changes and improving on the body's effectiveness.

These students want to improve their positions as well as help the school improve its ability to serve the students. Although elected by only 12 percent of the Alma College student body, the officers will try and help bring the problems

facing students and administrators to everyone's attention.

The officers hope to act as liaisons between the students and administrators or, as Tobin said, "to be less like last year, and much more organized and disciplined...Next year all the students in Congress and the class officers will take more responsibility in getting information back to the the students, as well as implementing some new policies to facilitate the actions that the student officers decide to take."

As Secretary, Tobin said she will attempt to "make the meetings run more smoothly and in a more timely manner. The meetings will not be rushed through so that all student opinions and ideas will be able to be aired with complaints being heard so decisive action can be taken to help correct them."

The officers plan to motivate students to take more decisive action in the future in voting and airing their concerns, as well as bringing problems to the attention of their representatives.

Thelen intends to organize the accounts of the contingency funds. "The budgets for the contingency fund are not based on accounts, and with a running record of accounts kept we will be able to more accurately distribute money from the fund to campus organizations," he said. "By paying more accurate attention to the the budget proposals, Student Congress will be able to make better use of the money available for all campus organizations."

Howald said his first goal will be "to become orientated with the job so that the work in future will be able to get done with experience

and knowledge." Some of Howald's goals include achieving more open communication between students and Student Congress by making drop boxes available for suggestions in Hamilton, having phone numbers that students can call when they have problems and publishing meeting minutes in a form accessible to the student body.

"Voting must be standardized," Howald said. "Hopefully, the Student Congress will be able to promote some service projects helpful to the student body using the contingency fund."

The new officers feel they will work well together, and all of them hope next year they will be able to make improvements on the problems encountered this year, as well as adding significant ideas to the future running of the Student Congress.

Alma undergoes Memorial Day weekend change

By Jane Brown
Staff Reporter

As the end of the school year approaches, along with it comes the annual Alma Highland Festival. Each year the Festival draws people from around Michigan, the United States and even Canada. At the College, students are also making significant contributions to the Highland Festival by competing to become Queen of Scots and participating in the booths set up during the weekend-long festivities.

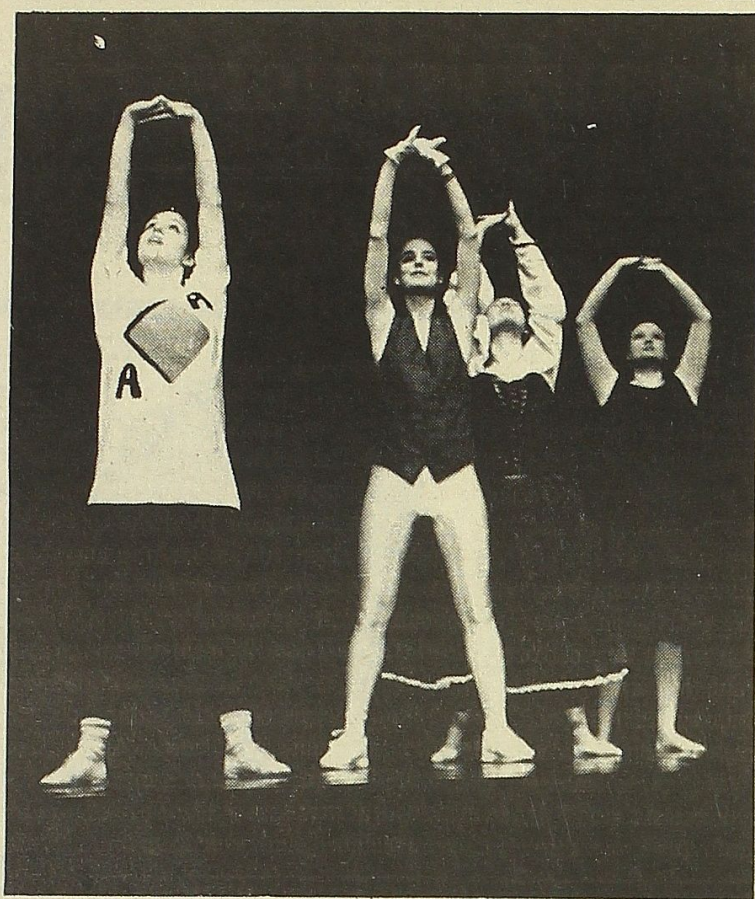
This year, three Alma students are running for the title of Queen of Scots. There are also two city residents running. The winner will represent Alma throughout the year in parades and other promotional measures for Scotland, USA.

Other student groups are also making their contributions toward the Highland Festival through sponsoring children's games. Kappa Iota sorority and Sigma Chi fraternity both help construct the games, including those which are traditionally Scottish, helping youngsters get in touch with this heritage. Other games are also offered, including a kite and bracelet making station.

Shannon Garret, children's games chairperson, said, "Since the games started last year, children have been able to have a way in which to get in touch with their Scottish heritage as well as have some fun. Before these games children did not really have any booths expressly for them. I think that parents are also grateful for the new way in which their children can participate on their own while they watch the bagpiping or dancing, something that many of the children do not enjoy."

Heather Heffernan, who also helps with the games, said, "The kids really enjoy the kites and bracelets. It gives them a memento of the occasion."

Through the College's efforts, the Highland Festival has become more diverse and open to all ages. The Highland Festival takes place Memorial Day weekend.



Orchesis dancers perform "In Wonderland." Photo by K. Barry.

Dancers' efforts pay off Orchesis proves to be outstanding

By Bethany Marshke
Staff Writer

"Diversity: that's what made this year's show more enjoyable than previous years," said sophomore Jennifer Hardy, a dancer in this semester's Orchesis concert. Featuring a variety of dances including tap, ballet, jazz and an African number, this semester's Orchesis dances were truly astonishing.

Despite the absence of Carol Fike, the usual Orchesis coordinator, the show went off without a hitch. Visiting ballet instructor Thomas Morris and senior James Bovan coordinated this semester's performance. Their hard work and dedication to the show was evident in the professional manner and polished performances given by the dancers.

The show opened with a modern dance number choreographed by first-year student Andrea Lobbezoo. Along with dancers Lori Abbott, Kathy Bailey, Bovan, Laura Hickman, Cindy Howell and Kay Mathers, this dance set the stage with its unique movements and dance steps for the excellent performances yet to come.

Bailey and sophomore Michael Rooney danced an outstanding performance to the music of Leon Pinkus from the musical *Don Quixote*. The high flying leaps executed by Rooney and the continuous pirouettes done by Bailey brought much applause from the audience. Sophomore Shannon McNeal described Rooney's performance as "spectacular" and he also felt that Bailey and Rooney complimented each other well.

Seniors Rebecca Klinger and Bovan both performed solos in the Orchesis concert. Klinger danced a ballet on point to the music "Arabian Nights" from the *Nutcracker*. Bovan performed a modern dance piece to the music "Tomorrow's

Rain" by Sting.

Both Klinger and Bovan, along with other senior dancers Howell, Mathers, Robyn Grieve, Beth Piorkowski, Beverly Brown and Kerry Radcliff gave their last Orchesis performances this past weekend. Hickman said she felt that "the leadership and talent these seniors provide is going to be greatly missed by everyone involved in Orchesis."

The *Chikondwereo* number, choreographed by first-year student Dena Hughes, proved to be the most unexpected dance of the whole concert. This traditional African

"The leadership and talent these seniors provide is going to be greatly missed by everyone involved in Orchesis."

-Sophomore Laura Hickman

"celebration" depicted the dancers as bell-jingling natives. The dancers appeared to be enjoying themselves and the audience responded favorably to this number.

The show ended with "One Singular Sensation!" This tap routine featured much hat-waving and leg-kicking by the dancers. The finale also featured a kick line which provided an exciting ending to a fine performance.

All in all, this semester's concert was outstanding. The variety of dances performed was delightful and the whole show was very polished. Morris and Bovan, along with all of the dancers and technical staff should be commended for a job well done. Sophomore dancer Bridget Bodary summed up her experience with spring Orchesis as being "Lots of hard work, but definitely worth it in the end when the concert turns out as well as this one did."

Irresponsible college drinkers produce staggering statistics

By Cami Carson
Staff Writer

With spring term on its way, many college students are geared up for the biggest parties of the year. But keep in mind the overuse of alcohol and drugs at these huge bashes.

No, this is not another one of the annoying "Don't Drink" articles that we all hate and ignore. Rather, this contains some information that you might find interesting. All of this information has been taken from a packet put out in September, 1991 by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, called *Alcohol Practices, Policies, and Potentials of American Colleges and Universities*.

Yes, we are all aware that alcohol is a drug, but did you know that it can effect your memory, perception, judgement, and behavior? Young drinkers are more susceptible to drinking to the point of memory lapse than older drinkers. Among 18- to 25-year-old drinkers, 26 percent reported that they were unable to remember what had happened at least one time in the past year.

"The typical college student consumes over 54 gallons of alcoholic beverages per year. For the 12 million college students in the United States, this annual consumption totals well over a staggering 430 million gallons," according to the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services. The annual beer consumption of American college students is just short of 4 billion cans. To put that into perspective, if these cans were stacked end-to-end, the stack would reach the moon and go 70,000 miles beyond. Now that is a mountain of beer cans.

Does Alma College have a problem with alcohol consumption? Cleigh Carson, a sophomore, said "I haven't really seen much of a problem since I transferred here this term, but I do know that it exists here and in every college. The problem is really when a person drinks too much and stops thinking about other people. That is when someone gets hurt." Many campus problems that are linked to alcohol include: vandalism, date rape, row-

diness, missed classes, deteriorating relationships, fights, less studying, injuries, deaths, fires and dropouts. This year's first-year class, the Class of 1995, will have over 120,000 alcohol-related dropouts. That just proves that there is a negative relationship between grades and the amount of alcohol consumed.

Should there be a change on college campuses around the country that will help to prevent students from drinking? "It is okay to drink, as long as you drink responsibly. I do have a problem with people who drink irresponsibly and do stupid things such as drinking and driving, or doing something that they

"The typical college student consumes over 54 gallons of alcoholic beverages per year. For the 12 million college students in the United States, this annual consumption totals well over a staggering 430 million gallons."

will regret later," commented sophomore Jeff Kren. Some campuses are creating alternative activities and uses for campus facilities such as an on-campus restaurant that is open 24 hours a day.

The typical college campus is potentially hazardous to the health of its students. Drinking has been the principle hazard. Next time that you are out at a party, take a look around and see what everyone else is doing. You will probably find that almost everyone you see will be drinking or has been drinking. Do not get me wrong, I am far from the anti-drinking phase; just drink with responsibility. As the President of California State University at Chico, Robin Wilson, put it, "If this culture of alcohol abuse is not confronted, then what? If not now, when? If not us, by whom?"

Keeping you informed

Activity fee proposal passed

In a referendum vote Thursday, April 9, students passed the zero percent increase in the Student Activity Fee. The fee will be \$115 next year, the same amount students paid this year.

Alma fights to recruit top high school athletes

By William J. Johnston
Copy Editor

As an NCAA Division III school without athletic scholarships, Alma College finds itself in a difficult position to recruit high-quality athletes away from larger schools. And yet, Alma regularly fields some of the top teams in the MIAA in all sports.

"Alma College is a quality institution," said head women's basketball and golf coach Charlie Goffnett. "It's easy to recruit to as far as attracting quality student athletes."

"At Alma, you have to sell the quality of the education," said head swimming coach Greg Baadte. "Our placement rates are a big thing, as is the personalized education; you're not going to be a number here."

"Our most valuable asset is the education," said head football coach Jim Cole. "The liberal arts education is superior. We argue that and try to sell it."

Alma's sales pitch apparently works, as evidenced by the success of its athletic teams and the awards garnered by its athletes. Perhaps the most visible sign of this success is the recent national championship earned by the women's basketball team.

"That's a double-edged sword," said Goffnett. "Twelve of the 13

players are coming back, so recruiting took on a different tone. We selectively recruited in trying to bring in a couple good players for JV."

As the teams and individuals achieve success, however, Alma's programs become more visible and attractive to incoming students. Take first-year student Radu Danca's recent performance at the national swimming and diving meet for example. "Even with swimmers, that will help us," said Baadte. "He's our first national qualifier in 11 years. That shows the program is starting to turn around."

"Our tradition built upon itself," said Cole, referring to the successful track teams he coached during the 1980s. "Good athletes want to compete with good athletes."

Alma often loses top athletes to other institutions because of its academic standards. "They limit the amount of potential athletes that I can recruit," said Baadte. "I hate to tell them they'll do great on the team when I don't think they can make it academically."

All the coaches follow basically the same sort of formula for recruiting, first sending letters to coaches, schools and athletes, then taking those responses and weeding out potential recruits from there. But some sports differ from others.

"In swimming and track and field, you don't have to go see and evaluate like a football coach does," said Baadte. "You just have to look at the times."

Or, as Cole said, "The stopwatch doesn't lie."

One point Alma coaches use to draw people away from Division II schools is the fact that they can compete in more than one sport at Alma. "Division II schools won't allow that," said Cole.

"Division II schools say run track or play basketball," Goffnett said. "We encourage kids to play more than one sport, or to play basketball and participate in a sorority or dance or theater. It's all part of the liberal arts philosophy, as opposed to being a full-time basketball player."

"Our total package is superior to other MIAA schools," Cole said. "Our facilities give us a step up, as does our tradition and commitment to the student athlete. That's something we stress and believe, and something young people who come here do, too."

SPORTS STATS

Softball

April 7

	Game 1	Game 2
Alma	13	18
Kalamazoo	2	2

April 9

Alma	3	5
Calvin	2	6

April 11

Alma	2	4
Albion	1	3

Men's Tennis

April 6

	April 8
Alma	7
Olivet	2

Women's Tennis

April 6

	April 8
Alma	8
Olivet	1

April 11

Alma	5
Kalamazoo	4

Men's Track

April 8

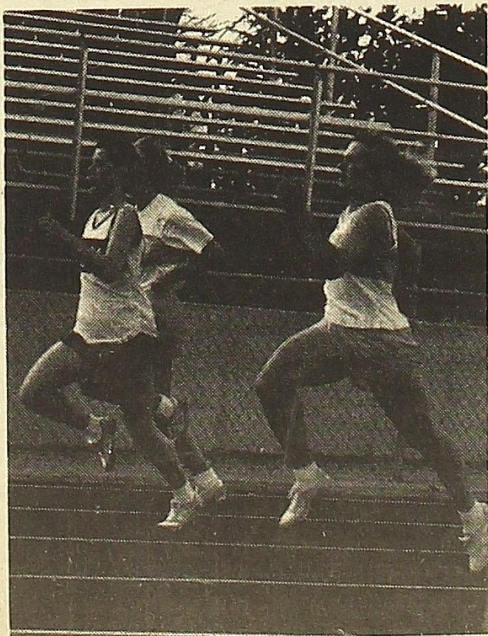
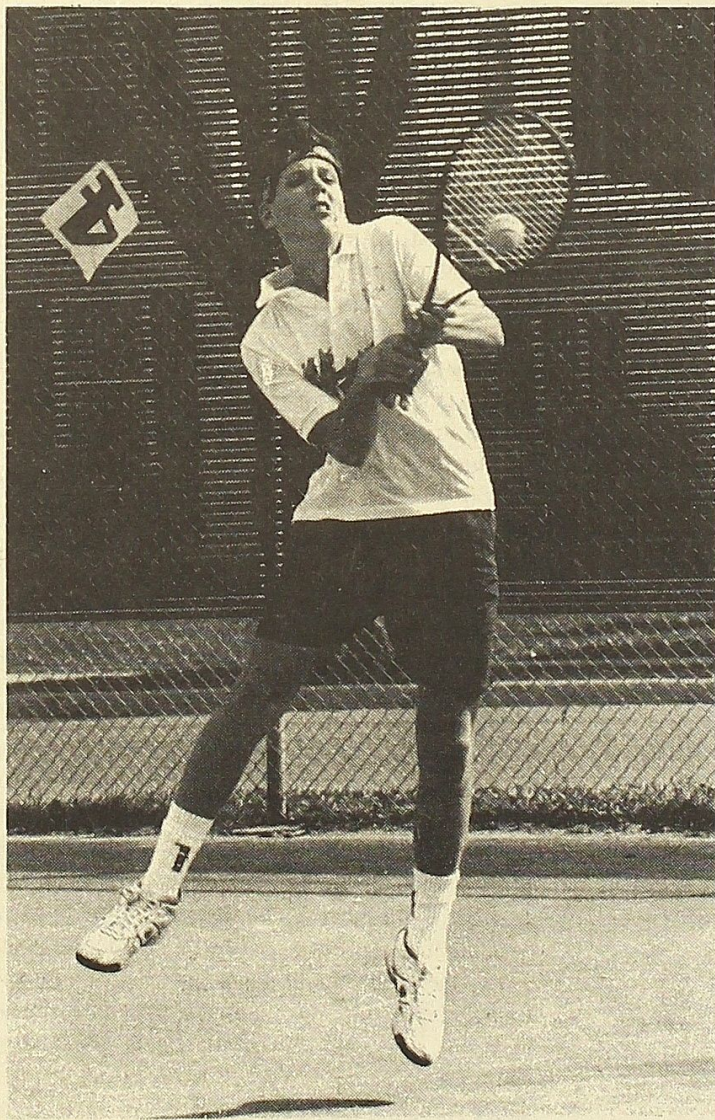
	April 11
Alma	67
Calvin	78
Allegheny	120
CWRU	122

Women's Track

April 8

	April 11
Alma	67
Calvin	78
Allegheny	81

Feature Photos: Spring competition continues



(Above) Sophomore Cliff Hodgman connects on a backhand in men's tennis competition. (Left) First-year student Rachel Kemble pulls ahead of her Calvin opponents during a track meet April 8. Photos by M. Stargardt.

Scot sluggers strive against visiting Calvin

By Barb McCarty
Staff Writer

On a beautiful day for a ballgame, both Alma and Calvin Colleges delivered two close games in their double-header Thursday, April 9. Alma barely grabbed the first one in seven innings, 3-2, but dropped the second game 6-5 in nine innings.

Senior Shannon Pingston got the win as she pitched all seven innings of the first game. She pitched a solid game, giving almost every batter a strike on the first pitch. She walked one, struck one, and gave up five hits. Pingston also pitched two innings where she retired the side one-two-three.

Snyder came up to bat and was promptly hit with the first pitch, forcing home the winning run and the game was over.

Fielding was outstanding for Alma. The Scots started four first-year students: Lacy Volz at first base, Deb Quackenbush at second base, Holly Barnett in left field and Julie Hoffman as designated hitter. The rest of the line-up was rounded out by senior Lisa McCarthy at shortstop, sophomores Chris Snyder at third base, Lisa Knowles in right field, Rachel Butler in center field and Julie Kirchoff behind the plate.

Batting was also consistent for the Scots in the first half of the double-header. Alma got its first run, unearned on a Calvin error, in the bottom of the first inning. Volz

was walked, stole second and went to third on an overthrow. Kirchoff was also walked after hanging in for nearly 15 pitches because she fouled off several balls. Volz then came home on a pick-off overthrow to third.

In the bottom of the second inning, Knowles started the Scots off with a single and advanced to second. Butler then laid down a bunt which Calvin proceeded to throw over the head of the third baseman and Knowles safely made it home for run number two for the Scots.

The game remained 2-0 until the top of the third inning. Calvin scored two runs from their strong hitting and help from two errors from the Scots.

There was no change in the score until the seventh inning. After Pingston walked the leadoff batter, the field got the next three hitters out without any damage to the score. Now the Scots needed to score to avoid extra innings.

Knowles was walked on four straight pitches to begin the inning for the Scots. Then Barnett laid down an outstanding bunt, safely reaching first. Quackenbush then put down a sacrifice bunt to advance the runners to second and third with only one out. Butler stepped to the plate and laid down yet another good bunt for the Scots and was safe at first. Bases loaded, one out. McCarthy had a solid hit to short but Knowles was thrown out at home. So the Scots still had bases loaded but now they had two outs. Snyder came up to bat and was promptly hit with the first pitch, forcing home the winning run and the game was over.

Alma won two other league games against Kalamazoo College Tuesday, April 7. The Scots won with commanding scores of 13-2 and 18-2. Pingston picked up the win in the first game and first-year student Beth Aulerich was the winning pitcher in the second game.

BURN VICTIM.



ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT FOREST FIRES.
A Public Service of the USDA Forest Service and
your State Forester.

Nation's health care needs check up

By Michael Stargardt
Photo Editor

Her face was contorted with pain as the doctor examined her. The doctor was pressing on her abdomen with light pressure. At the completion of the questioning and physical examination, the doctor made his diagnosis. Although at this point her condition wasn't critical, she needed her gall bladder removed.

"Pero, no tengo ningún seguro, ni el dinero para la cirugía," she exclaimed.

"She doesn't have medical insurance, or money to cover the cost of the operation," I translated to the examining physician. "What should I tell her?"

As he was exiting the room to confront the waiting room already full of Hispanic patients, most without medical insurance, he said, frustrated, "Tell her if the pain is really intense, she should go to the emergency treatment center, where they'll have to perform the operation, insurance or not. Until then, tell her to ride it out."

How could I tell this woman in front of me to simply "ride it out" until her pain is completely unbearable?

Unfortunately, she was not the first person to whom I had to explain the unavailability of certain

medical treatment during my summer volunteer work at Cristo Rey Clinic in Lansing. Nor was she the only American turned away from receiving various forms of health care that summer.

Medical spending in the U.S. has become completely unrestrained. While large sums of money are being pumped into the expansive health care industry, the system fails to provide our society with adequate and equally distributed health care commensurate with dollar amount being spent. We spent

tients can all be avoided. The Canadians have provided themselves politically with the means to resolve the conflict between the health care providers and those who must pay for it. The U.S. has permitted the market forces to determine the result of this conflict. It is time for change.

We desperately need a national health care system. It could be funded through several mixed sources, but channeled specifically through the government. If all funds were channeled through the federal

by over 40 percent from 1971 to 1985. The physicians fear a change which could take an effect on their incomes and potentially cause an erosion of professional autonomy. Several critics of the Canadian system also point to the long waiting lists for some basic medical procedures. Regardless, at least the Canadian citizens have access to the treatment, and the physicians neither experience a complete lack of professional autonomy nor suffer from salary deprivation.

Arnold Relman, the editor of the influential *New England Journal of Medicine*, recognizes that "we urgently need a new and more comprehensive approach to health policy..." Only drastic measures can "repair or replace our present disastrously inadequate health care financing system."

I realize that creating a dramatically different health care system will continue to face great opposition, but we must begin to take some potentially drastic steps in order to provide the essential health care to all members of our society.

When I myself am a physician in the future, I hope to never have to ask a patient to "ride it out." If the system doesn't change, I don't think I could bear continually seeing the expressions of these unfortunate patients who can't obtain treatment; more importantly, I don't think they can continue wearing these expressions and experiencing the misery of an unjust system.

We spent approximately \$40 billion on health care in 1965; in 1986 approximately \$450 billion was spent. Yet we still have an infant mortality rate higher than that of 14 other countries.

approximately \$40 billion on health care in 1965; in 1986 approximately \$450 billion was spent. Yet we still have an infant mortality rate higher than that of 14 other countries.

Canada has developed a system with a vastly different approach to providing a means of covering health care costs. In the Canadian system, a portion of the national income is used to cover general health care costs and all citizens of Canada are covered free of charge. As a result, the problems of uncompensated care, raging costs of catastrophic illness and uninsured pa-

government, budgets could be set for all hospitals and nursing homes. Without a profit motive, physicians and health care institutions would be less likely to allocate care unequally. Long-term funding could be distributed to the hospitals and services that have the greatest need. Billing would be simplified. Everyone would have access to the health care each human deserves.

I realize the huge opposition such legislation would receive, in particular by the health care industry itself. The share of the American GNP going to physicians has risen

Greek stereotypes facilitate fake impressions

By Jennifer Ebeling
Staff Writer

A devastating virus currently eats away at Alma College Greek life, infecting our individuality, our unity and our rights. Along with it the ideas of respect, friendliness and truth deteriorate. What name do the doctors give the disease? "Stereotypes."

Stereotypes dominate the Greek system, and we create them. We label people, categorizing them into artificial typecasts. When a person asks what people hate most about the Greek system, the reply usually consists of one word: "stereotypes." Yet Alma College students still contribute to it with jokes and cruel statements.

One night, I was sitting with a group of friends talking about how angry stereotypes make us. Two seconds later, the person who brought up the topic called another organization a demeaning nickname. Everyone has a hypocritical side, but what sense does it make to support something we all hate?

"One fraternity is all dumb football jocks, another is weird and a third even weirder. That sorority?

Total drunken sluts—but those others are pure and sweet while a third sorority's members are all stuck up. But if anyone wants some drugs, zoom on into that fourth

put on parties with skits that mock other organizations, contributing to the virus. From the moment we witness and understand the stereotypes, every person who wears

because the fun no longer exists, only a desire for glory. What good is glory if you lose everything else? People fight so hard to keep the Greek life on this campus but then turn around and become their own enemy by feeding the disease. What sense does it make to destroy what you are pledged to?

We need to take a hard look at the people inside and outside of the Greek organizations: they are all different individuals. The sluts, snobs, weirdos and druggies are found everywhere, but right next to them sit the friendly, caring and intelligent people. It seems ridiculous to categorize 20 to 50 people into one small word—but we still do it.

Greek organizations do not exist so that one can be considered better than the rest. They are meant to be support groups, a family, a bunch of people sharing a good time. The organizations are supposed to be fun, caring, dependable, and loyal; not a group of people competing for some artificial role of superiority. The only way to save the Greek life is to respect and learn from each other, to treat everyone as equals, and to meet people from a different fraternity or sorority. Only through understanding will we be able to end the stereotype virus.

Stereotypes dominate the Greek system, and we create them. We label people, categorizing them into artificial typecasts.

sorority house because they are all druggies."

These fallacious ideas dominate our lives. How often does someone say "Oh, he's in that fraternity" and the immediate concept of "egotistical and rich snob" becomes integrated into the conversation? All of a sudden in people's minds he no longer exists as himself but rather as a false image of a mega-ego even though he might actually be insecure and afraid.

Stereotypes steal an individual's personality and replace it with a lie, a labelled misconception of who they really are. The first thing I was taught as a student was the Greek stereotypes. Different fraternities

their letters is basically wearing a label on their heads. What person wants to be tattooed with "stuck up" or "spineless?" This is one reason why rush numbers are down. People do not want to be permanently branded with a scarlet letter. This fear produced by people's immaturity and disrespect ruins the Greek system and all it could be.

Greek organizations are institutions of peers to help us develop and build our self-confidence. This growth shouldn't be through tearing down another rather than building each other up, yet look at Derby Days and how competitive it has become. People are actually saying they no longer want to participate

The Almanian

Newberry Hall
Alma College
Alma, MI 48801
(517)463-7161

Staff

Karen McDonald
Editor in Chief
Kristine Lovasz
Managing Editor
William J. Johnston
Copy Editor
Heather Rice
Asst. Copy Editor
Brian Haara
Opinion Editor
Stacie Herriman
News Editor
Scott Rea
Sports Editor
Sharonne O'Shea
Feature Editor
Jane Brown
Staff Reporter
Sara Groves
Staff Reporter
Jason Ricks
Staff Reporter
Heather Laird
Graphics Editor
Ganesa Wegienka
Asst. Graphics Editor
Michael Stargardt
Photo Editor
Kerri Kempermyrn
Photo Coordinator
Leanne Dorflinger
Business Manager
Richard Lantz
Distribution Manager
Amy White
Advertising Manager
Lisa Thauvette
Advertising Manager
Jenn McCann
Office Manager
Eugene Pattison
Faculty Advisor
John Ottenhoff
Faculty Advisor

Staff Editorial Policy

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

The Almanian Letter Policy

All Letters to the Editor must meet the following standards for publication: Letters must be signed and include the author's campus phone number and address, and must be pertinent to the Alma College community. Letters will be published on a first-come, first-serve basis, and will be limited to three per week. We reserve the right to condense letters for layout purposes. They must be received by 5 p.m. the Friday before requested publication. Address letters to: The Editorial Board; *The Almanian*; Newberry Hall; Alma College; Alma, MI 48801.