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# The Almanian

Sept. 15, 1992

Serving Alma College since 1907

Issue 1

## Convocation honors M.J.J. Smith

By Katie Novak  
Feature Editor

The Alma College 1992 Opening Convocation on September 10, marked the beginning of an important new tradition—the inauguration of the distinguished Reid-Knox Chair of American History and the installation of professor M.J.J. Smith into the Chair. Guests, including former College President Robert Swanson, attended.

Stone defined this chair as a gift “representing over one million dollars in stocks and bonds resting in the College’s endowment.” He also covered the background of Frank Knox and Anne Reid-Knox, the husband and wife responsible for the endowment. According to Stone, the earnings on the endowment this year will provide the salary of the professor in the chair and “purchase a collection of F.D.R. and Knox documents on microfilm” for Monteith Library.

Provost Ann Stuart installed Smith as the Reid-Knox Chair of Ameri-

can History, presenting him with a gold medallion. Smith, a professor of history at Alma for the past 26 years, has been honored for his excellence in teaching and research. He received the Barlow Award For Faculty Excellence and was named a Charles A. Dana Professor of History.

Smith was lauded by J. Tracy Luke, professor of religious studies and Chair of the Faculty, at convocation, for his “devotion to students, rigor for excellence in research and writing and tireless attention to detail.” Both George R. Thompson, an alumnus of the College, and D. Aaron Howald, president of Student Congress, echoed this praise.

According to Thompson, who participated in a research project with Smith in the seventies, “He has steadfastly demanded the pursuit of excellence” and encouraged his students “to see what has been and to search for what ought to be.”

Howald urged students to accept the challenge Smith presents.

Smith’s address outlined the qualities of a true hero. After removing the medallion and his faculty robe, Smith issued a series of strong messages to his audience. While referring to the faculty members as “Black Friars,” he urged students to become “disciples of outcome,” to “learn how to take the torch...and illuminate dark places.”

Smith warned students that “there is no Oz; there are no ruby slippers.” He told them to “forget yesterday [and] ignore tomorrow,” to take action today. Smith cited examples of such action that included planting trees and adopting and tutoring junior high students from the community.

Concluding his address, Smith thanked both Stone and Swanson for their leadership as well as his wife, Debbie, and daughter, Caroline, for their support. He recognized fellow professors Burnet Davis, Michael Yavenditti, James Schmidtke and Luke as the people “who made his life full and exciting.”



M.J.J. Smith urges students at Opening Convocation to meet the challenge. Photo by J. Dial

## Camp presents award

By Stacie L. Herriman  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Fourth Congressional District Representative Dave Camp and Robert B. Reinhardt, acting on behalf of Judge Donna Morris and her family, both of Midland presented junior Susie Kieffer, of Chesaning, with a \$1000 scholarship and certificate in memory of the late John “Chet” Morris, a 1981 Alma College graduate.

“I already created four scholarships from my \$4000 Congressional pay raise when I thought of the Morris family and the possibility of

financial need, variety of campus activities and demonstrated leadership qualities. Scholarship criteria included living in Camp’s 20-county, Tenth District; academic excellence and leadership, as well as demonstrated financial need.

“I am honored. It is a great honor and I appreciate it. It wasn’t so much (I won) the money, even though every little bit helps, but the fact I won the award,” said Kieffer, an exercise and health science major.

Morris was president of Alma’s Student Council—now Student Congress—and served as an Asso-

*“I am honored. It is a great honor and I appreciate it. It wasn’t so much (I won) the money, even though every little bit helps, but the fact I won the award,” said junior Susie Kieffer, an exercise and health science major.*

adding another one,” said Camp. “This scholarship, for a total of five, comes from my own personal salary, which is a result of being employed.”

“The College made the selection,” said Camp, with Director of Planned Giving Gerrie Paulson adding, “Kieffer was also partly selected for her leadership abilities.”

Financial Aid Director Thomas Freeland selected Kieffer as the recipient on the basis of her grades,

ciate Trustee on the Board of Trustees his senior year. As a 1981 Alma graduate who majored in business administration, he moved to New York in 1982 and became an interior designer with Robert Metzger Interior. Morris, 32, died May 1, 1992, at the Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York. He was the son of Judge Donna T. Morris of Midland and the late Judge John C. Morris.

## Women's resource house relocated

By Jane Brown  
Staff Reporter

Last year’s goal of a women’s issues house, promoted by the Women’s Issues Advisory Board (WIAB), has come to life this year in the form of the MacCurdy house.

WIAB originated the idea of a house dedicated to the women’s movement. The board envisioned a house stocked with literature by authors in the movement and feminist journals, and accommodating seven students selected for their interest in women’s issues. According to a March 2 memo, students “interested in this new housing option must demonstrate an awareness and concern for women’s issues as well as a willingness to play an active role in women’s programming and activities.”

Students living in the house now are seniors Heather Cummings, Jessie Mlotha and Maria Stephens; juniors Jennifer Farkas and Bethany Marshke; and sophomore Angela Jawors. No males currently live in the house, although they were encouraged to apply.

“I hope this house and the library will promote awareness and understanding of gender issues in

our society. We want it to be a place where people feel comfortable to explore and discuss these topics,” said Stephens.

When WIAB initially presented the idea for the house and it was approved by Dean of Students James Kridler, Plaxton house was going to be converted. However, during the summer Helen MacCurdy passed away, willing her house to the College. Her family supported the idea to dedicate the building to women’s studies.

*“I am looking forward to all the learning that I can gain from living here,” said senior Heather Cummings.*

The Women’s Resource House will include a conference room, library and common room for the use of women’s programming. Like all other small housing units, the house has a manager acting as liaison with the Student Affairs Office, as well as one house member to arrange programming.

English professors Carol Bender and Roseanne Hoefel are both work-

ing closely with WIAB and the house members in order to help promote women in the college community and help launch the women’s studies minor. Though former Assistant Dean of Students Emily Perl, a strong advocate of the program, left Alma this summer, the program is still driving full force to help make a significant difference on this campus in awareness of women and their contributions.

At present, the house is relying on book donations from private sources to build its library, as Alma College has funded all the renovations in the house. A large donation of books has already been given by the director of the Michigan State University women’s program. House members will serve as librarians each week so people can check out books.

“I am looking forward to all the learning that I can gain from living here,” said Cummings. “We still have a lot of organizing to do, but we hope to soon start planning programs. Our library is a wonderful start.”

The first WIAB meeting will be held on September 17, in the house. An open house is also scheduled for Homecoming weekend.



Sept. 15, 1992

# Additional housing alleviates problem

By Jane Brown  
Staff Reporter

Alma College found itself with overcrowded housing in need of an immediate remedy with the arrival of the 1992-93 academic year and a large incoming class. The College's solution: new housing in the basements of Newberry, Gelston and Mitchell halls, a new small housing unit and the acquisition of an apartment with a variety of rooming options.

With over 430 new students—413 first-year students and 25 transfers—the College's regular housing of eight residence halls, nine fraternity and sorority houses, two language houses, the Plaxton non-Greek women's house and Kirk International house, could not accommodate the numbers.

The administration, counting on this increased enrollment, bought

an apartment building on the edge of campus at the beginning of the summer and renovated basement rooms in three dorms. Another small housing unit, willed to the College over the summer, became the women's resource house.

Because the school has this increased enrollment, many more students are living off-campus and commuting this year.

In the all-male Mitchell Hall, new rooms were constructed to accommodate many first-year students. Although these rooms have new furniture, carpeting and paint, the men must travel to the first floor to use the showers. According to Dean of Students James Kridler, they will soon be accommodated with one. For all-female Newberry Hall, new rooms were added and furnished with carpeting and fresh paint, although some basement rooms have been used previously.

In Gelston, rooms were also opened for incoming students. The rooms, which haven't been used since the early seventies, were repainted and refurnished.

The new furniture in each of the rooms is movable, a positive alternative to the bolted-down pieces in older rooms. Kridler hopes that this new furniture, eventually to be placed in all rooms, will give students greater freedom in arranging rooms.

The administration and the staff at the Physical Plant are now tentatively planning to paint and refurnish all the rooms in Mitchell and Newberry. Over the summer, the College finished replacing the windows with more energy-efficient ones in Gelston, a project begun one year previously. Eventually the school hopes to replace the major electrical work in all of the buildings.

The downtown apartment building, near the corner of West Superior and Wright Avenue, houses 21 juniors and seniors. The rooms, which were readily requested soon after their acquisition was announced, allow students to experience living off-campus while still maintaining close ties to the campus.

"It offers another alternative to the housing systems," Kridler commented.

Students in each apartment have a choice of getting a meal plan or cooking for themselves. Though the apartments do not have either washers or dryers, they are furnished with new furniture similar to the basement rooms in campus dorms.

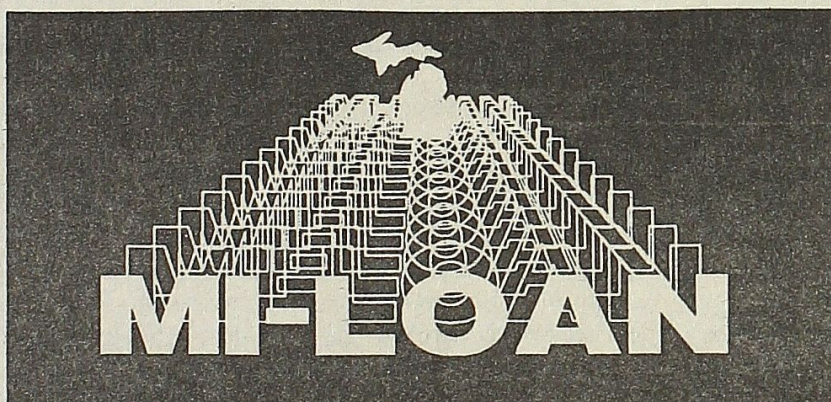
According to Kridler, "Living off-campus is a very different experience....Cooking and cleaning are not all they're cracked up to be. The off campus students give up something; they are off the normal

loop. They miss the regular ebb and flow of campus."

Though the students might feel isolated at times, they have reacted positively to living off-campus. Financially, most students find that living off-campus is not advantageous, so the choice to live in college-owned apartments costing the same as dorm rooms (and board, if meals are taken), gives many the opportunity.

Though the school has contended well with the housing stress, Kridler said, "There has never been a discussion of enrollment rising to the extent of a new building." The new rooms are an indication to the College of what the remodeled future rooms of Newberry, Gelston, and Mitchell Halls will look like.

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## New phone system for all Greek housing

By William S. Hull  
News Editor

Reassignment of Greek housing phone lines to accommodate increased residence hall rooms has created a campus-wide uproar. Lines, pulled due to increased admissions numbers and the subsequent demand for housing, were replaced with off-campus ones this summer.

Rooms renovated in the basements of Mitchell, Newberry and Gelston Halls required more phone lines for residence hall use. This increase exceeded the number of campus lines available to Alma College.

The College solved the problem by taking the nine campus lines from the Greek housing units, and nine campus lines from Physical Plant.

The College needed a certain number of lines, and Greek housing provided sufficient lines for its use.

Other small housing units were not affected, partly because there were not enough of them to account for the needed lines. In addition, Greek houses have escrow accounts from which they can pull extra money to cover the new charges.

Many people feel that this is another attack on the Greek system.

"It is our intention to place the campus lines back into the 'Greek' houses as soon as possible," said Dean of Students James Kridler.

The decision raising the \$500,000 to \$1 million dollars needed to purchase a new phone system lies in the hands of the Board of Trustees.

Until then, it costs everyone on campus—students, faculty and ad-

ministrators alike—eight cents to call the Greek houses. Many students have asked why the campus will not take the eight-cent charge off their phone bills, either through the computer or in the Business Office.

Kridler said, "At this point I cannot tell you how big of a hassle that would be to try to figure that out. I don't think the computer can do that, and I don't think it makes any sense to have a rule, with 1,100 students tramping into the Business Office saying 'Don't charge me for these calls.' That would be an administrator's nightmare; there is just no way to deal with that."

Many students living in Greek houses voiced complaints about not fully understanding how to get their phone cards so they can make long distance calls from the houses. Kridler said he sent out information this past week to house managers with a phone number to call and get phone cards.

Students living in Greek housing may also go to Physical Plant and pick up a FAC code which they can use with campus lines to call off-campus.

The problems with the phone changes concern Kridler. In his upcoming meeting with President Alan J. Stone, he plans to voice all the concerns that have come to him regarding the phone changes. He wants everyone to know that if there are any other options available, he will look for them and try to incorporate them into the system to make it better for everyone.



Sept. 15, 1992

# Class of '96 makes the grade

By William J. Johnston  
Copy Editor

Increased scholarship benefits and other factors have given Alma College one of its largest incoming classes ever and certainly the largest in recent years. Four hundred thirteen first-year students began classes this fall, 114 more than last year.

"Our staff has been here a couple years; there wasn't any turnover last year," said Assistant Director of Admissions Stan Schneider, commenting on the increased enrollment. "Also, the College is using a new marketing technique, CMT [College Marketing Technologies] which targets students like the students at Alma."

The College boosted three of its biggest scholarships. The value of a Trustees Honor Scholarship increased from \$4,000 to \$6,500, while Presidential Scholarships rose from \$3,000 to \$5,000. In addition, the maximum value of the Tartan Award increased to \$4,000.

Outside the number of students, however, this year's incoming class bears a strong resemblance to those of years past. The ratio of females to males (58-42) is slightly larger than last year's (56-44). The average ACT score of the students is 25.2, while their average high school GPA was 3.47.

The College received 1195 ap-

plications this year, accepting 1006. Two hundred thirty-four applied under the Early Decision Program, a feature at Alma allowing students who know they want to come here to apply early and receive a special scholarship. Two hundred ten of the Early Decision applicants were accepted, and 143 enrolled under the Program's guidelines.

"The Early Decision Program is getting more well known," said Assistant Director of Admissions Stan Schneider. "We're getting more people to commit early."

Overall, 37 percent of the first-year students who applied enrolled, up from 33 percent last year.

Five percent of the incoming students graduated at the top of their high school class, while 30 percent were in the top 10 of their class and 37 percent were in the top 10 percent of their class.

The small campus of Alma seems to have attracted students used to similar locales. Sixty-one percent of the incoming students graduated with classes of less than 200 (and 27 percent came from classes of fewer than 100). Ninety-one percent of the students come from public high schools; the rest are split between parochial schools (8 percent) and private schools (1 percent).

The incoming students expressed a variety of academic interests. The top majors selected

for the new students were pre-med, business, pre-law, biology, psychology and undecided.

In keeping with previous years, the majority (94.1 percent) of the new students come from the state of Michigan, while 5.2 percent come from out of state and .7 percent from foreign countries. Out of state students represent Arizona, California, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oregon and Texas. Minority and international students make up 10.6 percent of the incoming class.

Although the class of 1996 is larger than normal for Alma College, the Admissions Office didn't experience many difficulties in processing the increased application load. "Our biggest problems," said Schneider, "came when we closed admissions. People who hadn't committed had to have their financial aid reworked. It was nice to have the class in early and not scramble to get students during the summer."

*Editor's note: The data used in this article were current as of August 1. The Admissions Office has not finished compiling the final enrollment statistics.*

Staff Editorial

## College's miscalculation costs students

As each new academic year is sure to bring with it a new set of controversies, this year's initial controversy concerns the change in telephone service to the Greek small housing units. As reported in the news article today, many of Alma College's Greeks have expressed concern over the change of their telephone lines—even to the extent of considering it discrimination against the Greek system.

It has also been expressed that if the College had been prepared for the incoming first-year class and anticipated its immanent challenges, such as the telephone line shortage, a better alternative could have been introduced. As it is now, the College's miscalculation is costing the students, administrators and faculty each time a call is placed to a fraternity or sorority house.

The conversion of telephone lines in the Greek houses has not only affected current students, but also alumni ties and communications. The alumni of the Greek chapters were not notified of the change in phone numbers, and the administration did not even consider alerting alumni to the change until it was suggested by a sorority president. New numbers will now be printed in the next issue of the Alma Accents.

Many Greeks find that by virtue of charging students (as well as administrators and faculty) who call from within the campus telephone system \$.08 each time a call is placed to a Greek house—and not being charged the same fee to contact the Spanish House, the French House, Plaxton House or the McCurdy House—the Administration is treating the Greeks unfairly. Each Greek house is considered on-campus housing by the College, so why take away their campus lines when there are other possibilities?

What are these "other possibilities" that could have left the Greek houses with their campus extensions? One obvious alternative is that the College could have used lines from campus offices which aren't called frequently and by using extensions presently used for frivolous purposes that we could all live without—the "Saga Hotline," for example. Campus lines that are more expendable than Greek lines because they aren't called as frequently include the lobby telephones in Mitchell, Newberry, Bruske and Gelston; housekeeping lines in each residence hall; campus lines at the natatorium and the campus line in the United Parcel Service/receiving room, just to name a few.

These above mentioned lines are usually used to place calls, and these extensions are not called nearly as much as any given fraternity or sorority house. It makes more sense to replace campus lines that are not called frequently—thereby saving all who use FAC codes charges for each call. If some combination of these above mentioned lines had been replaced along with the nine lines replaced at the Physical Plant, the need for additional campus lines to serve the student population increase could still be met—without disrupting the service of nine frequently called Greek numbers.

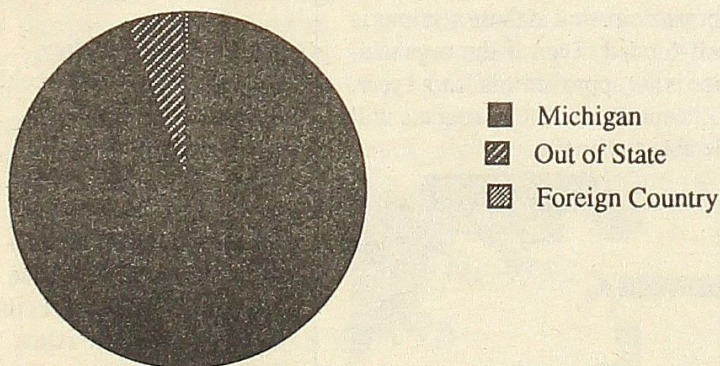
Since these alternatives were neither explored nor deemed feasible, and since the controversy rages on, we must find a solution for those who are concerned about the additional \$.08 charges to call their on-campus friends, who just happen to live in a fraternity or sorority house.

It has been suggested that the College reimburse or credit the accounts of students who place calls to the Greek houses—regardless of the number of calls made. This plan would be cumbersome and a hassle if a student makes only one call and demands an \$.08 refund.

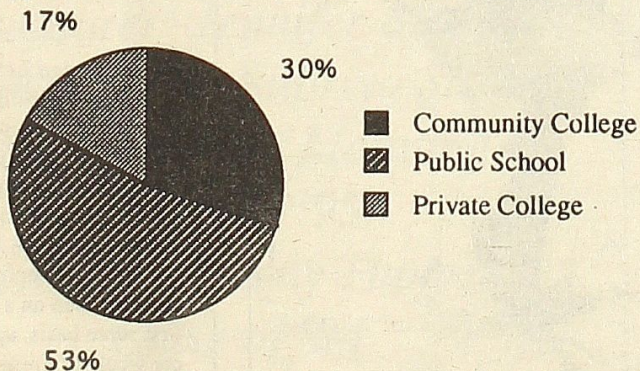
We suggest a variation of this where students can be reimbursed or credited for calls to the Greek houses if and only if they make over a certain number of calls. For example, if a particular student places over 25 calls to Greek houses, s/he will have the option of notifying the Business Office and receiving credit or a reimbursement. This minimum call requirement would alleviate the hassle of small claims and simultaneously provide recompense for those who would otherwise be charged \$20.00 or more for calling on-campus students in Greek houses.

The large first-year class has clearly necessitated a change in the College telephone system, but if no alternatives to converting the nine Greek lines is feasible, there should be some form of reimbursement for students who make frequent calls to the Greek houses.

### Residency of First-year Students



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# Scots fall to John Carroll in opener

By Lisa Shoemaker  
Sports Editor

The excitement of opening day was not enough to help the Scots in their 28-3 defeat at the hands of John Carroll University. The Scots turned in a lackluster performance that included four turnovers, a whopping ten penalties, and a second quarter collapse that put the Blue Streaks from Ohio in the driver's seat for the rest of the afternoon.

The Scots took command early when they marched down to the John Carroll 15-yard line on the opening drive. First-year student Mike Zahn, making his first collegiate attempt, then booted a 32-yard field goal to put the Scots up 3-0, representing the total Alma scoring output for the day.

The beginning of the Scots' demise began late in the first quarter when they fumbled on their own 10-yard line. John Carroll quickly capitalized with a 4-yard touchdown pass. The Blue Streaks' offensive

assault in the second quarter continued as they rambled into the endzone on runs of 14 and 27 yards to post a formidable 21-3 lead.

Alma managed to assemble an impressive 92-yard drive in the late minutes of the second quarter. As time expired in the half, however,

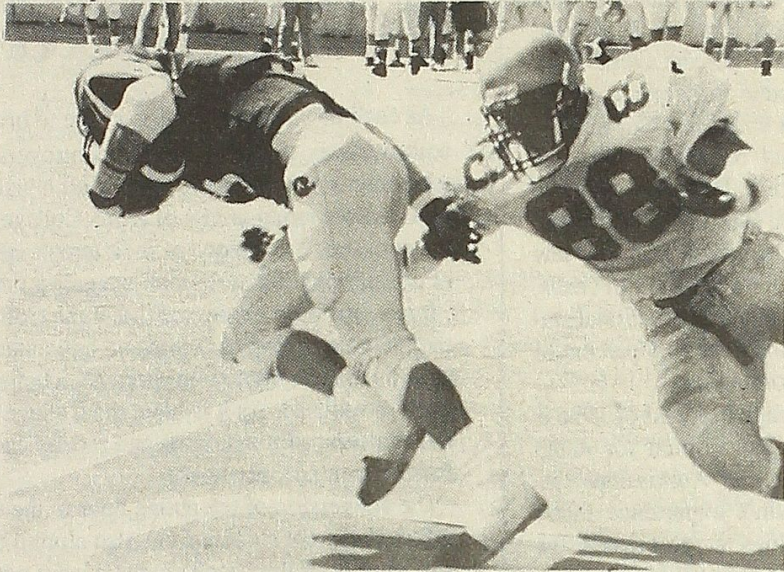
the Scots were unable to put the ball in the endzone when first-year student Matt Snyder was stuffed by a swarm of Blue Streak defenders on his attempted quarterback sneak from the 1-yard line. This goalline stand led to a key momentum shift in favor of John Carroll that virtu-

ally shattered any hopes Alma had of getting back into the game.

Contrary to the 28-3 final score, Alma won the statistical comparison. The Scots led in total yardage 241-209, first downs 16-11, and Snyder was solid in his debut completing 19 of 31 for 179 yards and 2 interceptions. Wide-out Kevin Pike, a senior, was a favorite target, hauling in 8 catches for 78 yards. Junior running back Calvin Woodard led the ground attack with 79 yards on 24 carries.

Unfortunately, the Scots were prone to self-destruction all afternoon. Not only did Snyder and his backup, first-year student Ron Mortensen, throw four interceptions, but the offense fumbled three times, only two of which Alma was able to recover. Ten penalties, including some key personal fouls, resulted in 89 yards lost. Snyder was sacked five times, and the offense was only able to muster 60 net yards rushing.

The Scots gear up for Parent's Day this Saturday as they host Franklin.



Penalties plagued the Scots as they lost to John Carroll University on Saturday's season opener. Photo by M. Stargardt

# Injuries keep trainers working overtime

By Lisa Shoemaker  
Sports Editor

Injuries are an inevitable consequence of athletic competition. Coaches fear them, players train to avoid them and it is the athletic trainers' duty to repair them. Now that the fall sports season is in full swing, the Alma College training room has become littered with sprained ankles, pulled muscles and some rather mysterious cases of spider bites.

Head trainer Denny Griffin reports that the flow of injuries has been "fairly typical" for a fall sports season. Aside from one arthroscopic knee surgery and a concussion, no other major injuries have occurred.

A peculiar and quite mysterious infection, however, has plagued 10 to 12 members of the football team. According to senior trainers Audrey Gillespie, Matt Kelly, Mike Seger and Kevin Ferguson, some players have developed very irritating cuts or bites on their arms and legs. These irritations have become infected to the extent that the victims have been placed on antibiotics. Speculation among the training staff is that these bites have been caused by spiders lurking in the equipment area. The exact source, however, is yet unknown. Oddly, it is only the football team who has experienced this problem, and the mystery continues.

For those who repair the injuries, treating athletes on the field is only one of a student trainer's responsibilities. Their work requires tremendous commitment and dedication, which often goes unnoticed except by those who require their services.

All of the Alma senior trainers on

Griffin's staff have already accumulated over 1,500 hours of practical training experience. This figure does not include the thousands of additional hours spent traveling to games or on trips; rather it reflects only that time spent actually administering aid. After graduation, these hours can be applied toward the individual's future certification.

To illustrate the time commitment, Tim Peterson, trainer for women's soccer, put in 47 hours during one week of pre-season. This time includes pre-practice preparation such as taping, stretching and applying various treatments, oversight at the practice and administering aid after practice. All totaled, one two-hour practice for an athlete translates into approximately a four-hour session for the student trainer. Kelly said his busiest time so far this season was during football three-a-days. Over the course of one week he logged 62 hours.

It is also not uncommon for the trainers to get calls in the evening from athletes and non-athletes who have been injured and would like their opinion or assistance.

"It doesn't bother me," Seger said of his evening calls.

Ferguson echoed this sentiment. "You get used to it—it is all part of the job."

In working with coaches and athletes, these trainers have to become professionals, even before they earn their degree. It was fairly unanimous among the trainers that they felt their judgments were respected by coaches and players. But, as in any situation, Kelly said, "You have to prove yourself and earn the [coaches', players'] respect." He

said that your first coach can "make or break you" in terms of establishing a good reputation with the coaching staff.

Many people are unaware that the trainers' work is predominantly volunteer. Unless they qualify for Federal Work Study, their time is gratuitous. Even if they do qualify, the allotted hours do not begin to account for the total time spent.

The student trainers are a very close-knit group. Not only are they bound by their time spent together, but also by the sense of pride that they take in their work. Ferguson said, "[We] are continually bring-

ing in new ideas and techniques in order to improve the rehabilitation process." They even admit to being a little competitive in this area.

Gillespie is currently leading an effort to have the training staff recognized as an official student organization. It is her hope that such an affiliation and the adjoining budget would allow members to attend sports medicine conferences and seminars. Currently the expenses for participation in these sessions is self-funded. Even if the organization is not approved this school year, Gillespie hopes future trainers will be able to benefit.



A trainer from Central Michigan University tapes senior John Ruggles. Photo by M. Stargardt

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