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The Almanian

November 17, 1992

Serving Alma College since 1907

Issue 9

Rumors puts First Amendment in spotlight

By William S. Hull
News Editor

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." The first amendment to the United States Constitution, something many people think nothing about, but as of late it has become a bed of hot coals about Alma College.

The past week has brought controversy over the use of foul language in the Alma College Players rendition of Neil Simon's *Rumors*. Gratiot County Players Board asked the Alma players on Monday, Nov. 9 to remove three uses of the word "fuck" from the play. The Alma Players have denied the request, but the controversy has not ended.

Their request came after a board member, leaving the playhouse, overheard the language during a practice session by the Alma Players. This member contacted Jane Keon president of the board of Gratiot County Players. The board met the next day and decided as a whole and request the Alma Players

to remove the language.

No clause exists in the contract between the two parties which gives reason for the Gratiot Players to read the script at anytime. Including a clause like this is backed by Keon and opposed by Philip Griffiths, director of the Alma Players.

"Our contract with the college doesn't include a clause for us to approve the plays the college wants to use," said Keon.

"One would hesitate to enter a clause like that...it would allow censorship to take place," said Griffiths.

The Gratiot County Players and Keon gave many reasons for their request. A major reason for the Gratiot Players comes in an attempt to please their clientele.

"We have a clientele of more older than younger people that come here to watch our plays," said Keon.

The playhouse depends upon its clientele to remain in business. They receive no outside support. All of their financing comes from ticket sales and renting out of the playhouse to other groups, such as the Alma Players. Each one of these patrons brings in around \$250-\$300 a year.

"We can't afford to alienate them," said Keon. "All of us on the board are strong believers of first amend-

ment rights, but not on our stage in this situation, because we can't afford to lose the money," she added.

"Even though the Alma Players are guests, they are paying guests," said Keon. The Gratiot Players own the playhouse and feel they have a right to request changes in what goes on in their playhouse.

The Gratiot County Players' attempted censorship of the Alma Players presentation is justified through the eyes of people of the same side of the gate as the Gratiot County Players, but the gate swings both ways. Through the eyes of the Alma Players and students, the request of the playhouse is being viewed as attempted censorship.

Senior play member Jeremy Evans felt the request was a form of censorship.

"If you say it in the theater it is awful, but if you say it in a movie nothing is thought wrong with it," said Evans.

He did not feel the language should receive the emphasis of the audience, instead they should focus on the art of the play. "It (language) is such a minor part of the play," he said.

Evans understood why the Gratiot County Players made their request, but did not believe it was a suffi-

cient reason to make the request.

"It is pretty hard to tell what will be offensive to what people, what is offensive to A might not be offensive to B," said Griffiths. He continued "At the beginning of play production we removed what I felt were explicit remarks."

The play was written with nine uses of the word "fuck", after the cast and Griffiths went through only three remained.

"The remaining 'fucks' are necessary, they aren't in excess," said Evans.

Senior play member Fred Feleppa said "Their request came just a week before the opening performance. As designed the characters wouldn't work as well with the language removed."

"The words come at points where things have come to a point, the actors have reached a climactic point in which the language emphasizes their emotions," said Griffiths.

The decision to keep the language came from the cast and Griffiths, and they were backed by Provost Ann Stuart. "Theater is a collaboration," said Griffiths.

The two groups have worked well together trying to alleviate the problems, but because they are backing different sides no solution has arisen

from their work. They have agreed to both put out disclaimers warning the audience that some of the language in the play may be offensive to some people.

Both organizations feel they are in the right. Whether the request to remove the use of "fuck" is censorship or not falls in a grey area of the definition. Censorship does not have a distinct line of censorship and non-censorship. Most people feel censorship is allowable when the person or people have taken something too far. Presently, in California, a man is showing children how to commit suicide on cable T.V. The show is supposedly tongue and cheek, but has he gone too far. Communities in California have had no luck removing his show from the air because of his first amendment rights.

Each situation of censorship is different and must receive its own look. Censorship comes when a person or group has gone too far in the context of its doings. In this definition, the decision comes from each individual.

"If things were acceptable 20 years ago in New York City, it should be acceptable in Gratiot County now," said Evans.

New planning committee makes progress

By William S. Hull
News Editor

Four years from now Alma College will have reached a new height because of the decisions being made by the students, faculty/staff and administration. They must decide what paths to take the College along in the new four-year evergreen plan.

"It is a kind of bottoms-up approach to planning. Let the people who are going to have to carry out the plans work with the ideas that will be put into the plan," said Alma College President Alan J. Stone.

Each department, both academic and administrative, must submit a proposal to the stirring group. The stirring group is the President's advisory committee, which Stone heads. Other campus groups were asked to submit proposals if they wished.

Student Congress and the Student Long Range Planning Committee Board have taken on the challenge of determining what things the students feel need improvement over the next four years and beyond.

The student board sent out surveys to every student on campus through the mail, they mailed out surveys to transfer students as well.

"We just want everyone to have the chance to be heard," said Aaron

Howald president of Student Congress and the student board.

Some students around campus did not feel the way the survey was handled got a feel of how everyone feels around campus.

"They (student board) asked for money in Contingency and said this

"We just want everyone to have the chance to be heard,"

*--Aaron Howald
Student Congress
president*

survey would be unique to Alma College because it would be distributed to the resident assistants thus ensuring everyone would receive one and all of them would be returned. This obviously wasn't done because everyone received the surveys in the mail and the resident assistants really weren't involved," said Sophomore Kristin Kuhtic.

Students were to return these surveys to their resident assistants once they were filled out. Most of the surveys had come in by last Thursday, but results were not yet available.

The student board will then take the highest results from the first

survey and formulate a second survey. The second survey will consist of 10 or 12 items and students will rank them according to importance.

A forum to discuss the results of the second survey is planned for Dec. 10. The forum will also help the student board write its proposal to the stirring group.

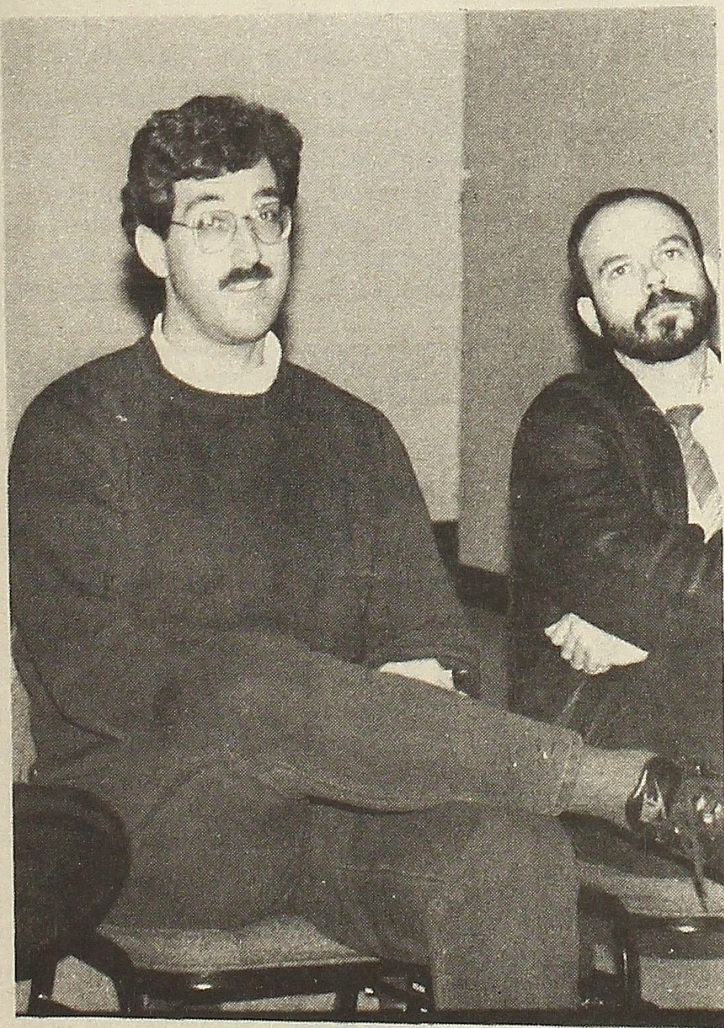
"I think they will use the student proposal, but many of the things we are getting in are little things which can be taken care of outside of the four-year plan. The things that are important on the proposal I think they will put into the four-year plan," said sophomore Board Member Mark Kay Ecken.

What the students want in the four-year plan is only one small part of the entire puzzle. All of the department proposals, the student proposals and any other proposals received by the stirring group will fall under consideration in the writing of the four-year plan.

The stirring committee will receive all the proposals and begin looking them over in December.

The Board of Trustees will look at the plan during its February meeting. They will offer suggestions and talk about problems they may have with any aspect of the plan.

The final date for the complete four-year plan falls in early May.



On Thursday, November 12, German professor at Central Michigan University, spoke on behalf of G.L.A.S.S.. G.L.A.S.S. stands for Gay and Lesbian Association for Student Support.
Photo by P. Sandberg

Nov. 17, 1992

Watson discusses history of environmental movement

By Supriya Saxena
Freelance Writer

"Everybody wanted to be an environmentalist, but nobody wanted to pay for it," said Paul Watson in his speech to students, faculty and community members in Dunning Memorial Chapel Wednesday evening.

Watson, one of the principle founders of Greenpeace, shared some of his experiences as an environmental crusader. Following the motto, "you make the rules, we play the game," Watson founded the Sea Shepherd Conservation group in 1978, after leaving Greenpeace eight years earlier.

Labeled by many critics as a radical, Watson targeted the media as the main source of controversy leading to the lack of environmental problems. He argued that unless a story had the elements of violence, sex, and scandal, it would have some difficulty attracting the attention of

the media, as is the case with many environmental causes. He illustrated this by pointing out how earlier this year, at the environmental conference in Rio De Janeiro, Shirley MacClaine and John Denver served as experts on a panel on bio-diversity rather than trained environmental scientists.

"I agreed completely with Watson," said junior Tracy Antcliffe. "I feel the credit should be given to the environmental scientists and not the people representing the cause on television."

Watson also shared real life stories with the audience about times when he risked his life saving the environment. For example, aboard an inflatable boat in 1975 Watson and his fellow crew members stationed themselves between a Soviet Harpoon boat and killer whales. Although a whale was shot, it never attacked Watson or any one of his crew members. Upon seeing the look

of understanding in the whale's eyes, Watson decided to continue to dedicate his life to protecting endangered animals like these.

"We did it for the whales," he said.

"It's rare to find people who care about nature in our throw-away society. It was very admirable of them to risk their lives to save what some would consider insignificant," said first-year student Kimberli Pittenger.

Through his various encounters with law enforcement authorities around the world, Watson has earned a reputation as an environmental policeman. As a result of his actions, he has been taken to court several times, but never fully prosecuted. Watson, however, wanted full prosecution. In a court of law, he would receive the opportunity to expose evidence of nations violating international regulations. By exposing information, opposing

nations are more readily expected to prosecute where they have not in the past. Watson recalled a time when he arrived in Iceland demanding to be prosecuted, and was deported back to the U.S. He is now charging Iceland with illegal deportation.

"I think his actions were very radical, but I give him credit for having so much conviction to give so much of himself for a cause," said first-year student Sarah Gornicki.

Through his efforts, Watson has saved over 76,000 seals and 200 whales within the last 20 years. Although animals are a primary concern for environmentalists, Watson argues that population may be one of the most staggering volatile problems the earth faces.

He advocates vegetarianism, pointing out that the world has the capacity to hold six billion individuals if everyone were to practice vegetarianism versus 3.2 billion with

a mixed diet of meat and vegetarian products.

"I think this is a good idea, but I seriously doubt that it will ever be taken seriously given the current meat consumption in the U.S.," said first year student Cassie Horak.

Watson also encouraged Alma College students to become involved by using their imagination and creativity to tackle an area of environmental degradation not being addressed. Although he conceded that a letter to a legislator from a college student may have little effect, an entire campus community could have quite an impact.

Regardless of the criticism he faces, Watson stressed his commitment was not only to humans, but also to other species and parts of the environment.

"We may be condemned for actions today," he said, "but we will be applauded for our actions tomorrow."

College holds service-learning workshop

By Cathy DeShano
Staff Reporter

For many people, the term "volunteering" masks an unattractive idea: giving up personal time without pay or benefits. But this idea has gradually changed over time. More and more people find themselves choosing to give up some of their own time so they can provide services to others. Some colleges, Alma College included, have decided to incorporate service learning as part of their curriculum.

On Friday, Nov. 13 and Saturday, Nov. 14, faculty members and several students attended a service learning workshop, "Expanding and Sustaining Service-Learning at Alma College," facilitated by Dwight Giles, director of internships at Vanderbilt University. The workshop provided a forum for those working with service learning to communicate ideas.

Friday night's program began with a dinner and was followed by a presentation by Giles. The presentation focused on the three main constituents of service learning: students, faculty and administration, and alumni. Among the topics covered, concerning students and service learning were how to provide students with social problem solving skills, providing education for citizenship, and linking student leadership with academic life.

"Students can talk about leadership in residence life but one of the things we need to do is link leadership with academic life," said Giles.

Saturday's workshop focused on types of model volunteer programs at other colleges, funding programs, and the positive and negative aspects of making vol-

unteering a graduation requirement. The school's current service learning program is funded by a Kellogg grant which will run out by the end of the year.

"The Service Learning Program, which includes all classes, grants to faculty, and lecture series, was funded by a Kellogg Grant which will run out at the end of 1993. The ideal thing would be to have Alma College support part of our programming and then get grants to cover the other parts," said Karen Gross, Service Learning Coordinator.

As those who attended the workshop discussed requiring volunteer work for graduation, they discovered both the advantages and disadvantages to such an addition. Required volunteering would help get

people involved and create well-rounded citizens, but may also be an invasion of privacy, to create a bitter attitude among students, would be difficult to grade students for volunteer work.

"I think those of us involved with the Service Learning Program believe it's a way of learning about humans and the way institutions work that haven't been used in academics. It's a way of learning by doing. When we started this program, part of our plan was to at least consider requiring four credits of that kind of activity as a distributive requirement. Most of us agree it would be a good idea but we aren't yet prepared to submit it to the faculty," said Tracy Luke, religion chair.



Faculty assembled on Friday, Nov. 13 and Saturday, Nov. 14 to discuss service learning at Alma College. Photo P. Sandberg

Keeping you informed

AIDS quilt comes to Central Michigan University

The AIDS quilt, which began in San Francisco in 1987, comes to C.M.U. Nov. 19-22. The quilt now has more than 25,000 panels devoted to people who have died from AIDS. In its entirety, the quilt covers 15 acres and weighs 26 tons. A portion which contains 36 panels, 12 feet by 12 feet, and represents 288 victims, will be viewed at C.M.U. While the quilt resides in Mt. Pleasant, eight families from the area will add panels to it, representing the ones they have lost to the disease. The viewing times are: Nov. 20 and 21 from 9 a.m. until 8 p.m. and Nov. 22 from noon until 6 p.m., with closing ceremonies beginning at 5 p.m.

United Way nears goal

Gratiot County has achieved 77 percent of its goal for 1993. The College has donated \$6,246, a figure near the College's goal for 1993, although the number of donors is down from last year by 12 people. Only one percent of this money leaves the county for national organizations, the rest remains here working for the community. The United Way volunteers urge College community members to help them reach their goal for 1993.

MINORITY COLLEGE STUDENTS & GRADS:

Your MBA Starts Here.

DESTINATION MBA

Detroit
Sat., Dec. 5 • 9 am-12 pm
Westin Hotel
Renaissance Center

What's it take to get your MBA? What programs are offered and what are the admissions requirements? Is financial aid available? What career opportunities exist for minority MBAs?

Attend this free seminar and get the answers right from the experts—including minority MBA graduates, grad students and grad school officers from various schools of business and management.

Admission is free. Registration begins at 8:30 am.

Followed by a job fair: Meet representatives of major corporations. 1-5pm. For a schedule of DMBA seminars in other cities, call 1-800-446-0807.

Destination MBA is sponsored by:
National Society of Hispanic MBAs

Bruske hall program shows self-defense options

By Denise Vittitow
Freelance Writer

Matt Schooley, an Alma Police Department officer, informally discussed self-defense with 24 students last Monday, Nov. 9. Schooley covered a number of situations which may require self-defense, including date rape, violent rape and abduction.

Junior Jennifer Jarrard said, "He covered all the situations a person would want to avoid."

Schooley feels that the situation of date rape needs to be dealt with differently than in the past. He said we must get male support on the issue. In fact, many men are not even aware of what is illegal under the current laws. On the other hand, women are well informed about date rape, and unfortunately this has not reduced the number of occurrences.

He informed students that a rape occurs once every nine minutes and is the single most unreported crime in the United States. Also, one out of every four college women will be a victim of some kind of sexual

assault.

Schooley offered several tips for avoiding potential date rape situations. First and most importantly, he warned, "Say no and mean it." He also stressed that a female should never apologize for not wanting to have sex. Apologizing could later backfire and make the victim appear as if she has done something wrong. Females may want to avoid males that routinely show hostility toward women and should be cautious of anyone that encourages excessive alcohol consumption.

Other situations that can be avoided include being abducted, mugged, murdered or raped by a stranger. Hazardous locations to avoid include laundry rooms, dark hallways, and elevators. If unavoidable, walk in pairs and stay in well lit areas. Schooley also advised "If your car breaks down on the expressway, do not accept help from anyone. If help is offered, ask him or her to call the State Police."

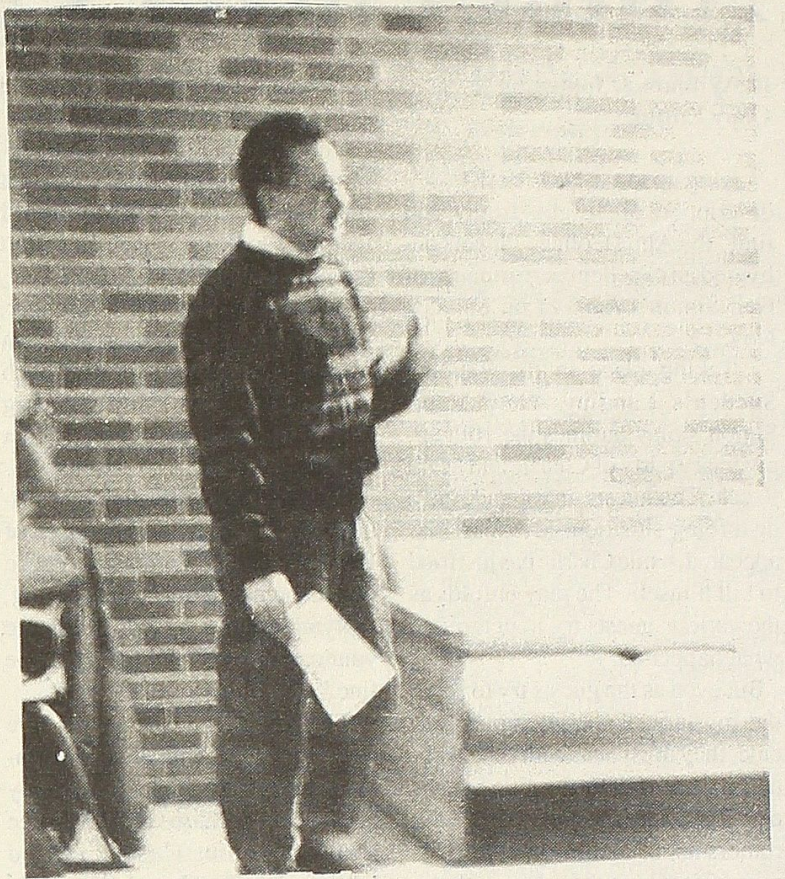
Even after taking all of the necessary precautions, people find themselves in life-threatening situations.

There are simple defense maneuvers that may allow you to have the split second you need to get away. Hitting the attacker in the ears or groin, poking eyes, and squeezing the attacker's throat are simple enough for anyone to master.

According to Schooley, "People need to plan ahead of time what they would do in a dangerous situation. If they have never thought about it, I can guarantee they won't be able to respond effectively in the situation."

Schooley hopes to see more events like this for students in the future. The students attending seemed to agree. Senior Stacie Herriman, one of the resident assistants responsible for organizing the event, said, "Officer Schooley did a good job increasing awareness."

Sophomore Amanda Stuart said, "I'm glad I came. I didn't expect him to talk so much about sexual assault, but I'm glad he did because it's a major problem when one out of every four college women is sexually assaulted."



Matt Schooley spoke to Alma College students about the many aspects of self-defense. Photo T. Campbell

Alma considers admission standards change

By Jane Brown
Staff Reporter

Alma College applications have risen 25 percent in comparison to the number received at this time last year. The Admissions Office hopes to attain an incoming class of 380 students, while maintaining past admissions standards and emphasizing out-of-state recruitment.

John Seveland, vice president for enrollment and student affairs, said, "We love (the increase in applications). It's hard to believe." But, he commented, "...there are only so many beds at Alma and that to maintain the kind of school climate that students and faculty wish to have, enrollment for 1993 must be kept to this maximum (of 380)."

The College is still attempting to recruit as many students as possible from within the state as well as out of state. Most of the College's current student body come from Michigan.

"When push comes to shove you go to find students where they come from. This is mostly Michigan," said Seveland.

This year, however, an extensive amount of recruiting is going on in Indiana and other places such as Toledo, Ohio. Recruiting brings most non-Michigan residents to Alma, but Seveland said that a large number of others come here through older siblings who have attended Alma or through alumni relatives.

Acceptance is expected to become more competitive, but at present the school is not worrying about raising its academic standards.

"We get great kids to come here, but then applications must be closed early," in order to allow fairness, said Seveland.

Alma has maintained a very high academic reputation, yet one of the great things about Alma is that it has a smattering of students, according to Seveland, from average to outstanding academic backgrounds.

If Alma were to change its standards, Seveland says, then Alma would not be the school that it is now. He cited the example of Kalamazoo College as an institution with much higher academic standards, demanding that applicants have a 25 on their ACT. Even though Alma and Kalamazoo may seem the same on paper, Alma's current student body composition gives it a different air than Kalamazoo. Changing admissions standards would assimilate Kalamazoo and Alma.

"We're excited about what's happening," said Seveland. "We really appreciate the support we get from the kids."

Students this year have been very active in giving tours. Overnight stays with Alma students allow perspectives to meet some of the student body here at Alma. Both have proved very successful in recruiting.

Low approval spurs changes in Marriott

By William S. Hull
News Editor

The food may look good, but eating it may kill you. A common saying referring to the food available for Alma College students. Many students have voiced complaints about the food provided by Marriott Food Service again this year.

Last year food in Hamilton Commons turned into a great medium for jokes and humor by the end of winter term. The commons received the nickname "Scroda" do to the amount of scrod served at each meal. This year has shown improvements, but not enough to quiet the students.

"I haven't seen any improvements by Marriott over last year," said Sophomore Sean Montgomery.

Improvements in the food and the commons are under consideration by Marriott. They are looking to see where they can go and where the students want to go over the next couple of years. To start off their research they will have a survey out next week asking the students questions about every aspect of Marriott, from the food, to the cleanliness of the walls.

"We will be looking at everything from meal times, to the current meal plans, to what we are serving," said Liz Beck, director of Marriott Food Service.

The research will help Marriott to write a proposal they will later turn into the administration. If they receive the backing of the administration for their proposal they will institute the requested measures.

"What we are looking to do is make the service customer driven, this is where we go to the students and ask what they want in the food service, then we see if we can do those things which they request," said Beck.

"When I went to school in Florida the food was bad and we wanted to get Marriott for our food service. Now I have Marriott here and I can't believe we wanted it in Florida, the food isn't any better," said Junior Cleigh Carson.

Marriott has worked to improve food options available to students, as well as the appearance of Hamilton Commons.

With the addition of Joe's as a option for breakfast and lunch many students restricted their derogatory on the food with the addition of the Joe's meal advantage. Most students find the quality of food at Joe's Place better than the food served in either of the commons. With the addition of this option students can get a burger and fries with a drink and it counts as a meal off their plan.

"I like the idea of the Joe's option, even though I haven't used it," said Montgomery.

Even though the meal advantage began awhile ago, many students still have not heard about it.

"It sounds like a good deal, but I think they should have better publicized the change," said Sophomore Steve Rummel.

Marriott publicized the Meal Advantage at Joe's in many ways. They sent out flyers, printed it in a brochure available to all students and listed the hours the meal advantage operates on their calendar.

"We sent out flyers to all the students. Once at the beginning of the year and again two or three weeks later," said Beck.

Marriott instituted more this year besides the Joe's meal advantage. They worked diligently to improve the appearance of Hamilton Commons. Major changes include a new deli bar, signs above all the food locations and a new computer.

"The deli bar looks nice, but just by making it look better doesn't

make anything taste better," said Rummel.

Many feel the same way as Rummel, even though most feel the deli bar offers one of the best food choices in Hamilton.

The signs around the commons don't offer much of an improvement in the eyes of the students.

"The signs may look nice, but the service they provide is unnecessary. We don't have enough visitors to warrant the need for signs to tell them where different food options are," said Rummel.

A wellness computer provides the students to see what is in what they are eating. However, many students do not know how to use the wellness computer. They look at it and once in awhile someone plays with the keys, but few use it for the purpose it was put there for.

Even in the students do not care for the food, many appreciate the friendliness of the people serving it.

"The people working are usually friendly, if I have ask for something a little more than what they gave me, they never say no, they just dish it up," said Pokela.

An extension of the hours by Marriott has made people happy. Many times in years before people would miss meals because of the short time the different places were open. The hours were extended this year in an attempt to feed all of the people wanting to eat. The task was harder do to the increase in students over last year.

Students do see an attempt being made, but most feel the attempt has done nothing for them. Marriott is however working towards their new goal with the students in mind.

"We want to involve as many students as possible in the surveying and service groups as possible. We want their input," said Beck.

In the Nov. 10 issue of *The Almanian* the quote "I believe people are ready for a change. People identify more with Clinton's economic plan because they like to hear the rich are going to be taxed more than the middle class. I believe that is why he was elected—he got the middle class vote," was incorrectly stated as being said by Bumet Davis. The quote was said by Junior Mira Hardy.

Nov. 17, 1992

Alma Players get laughs with *Rumors*

By William J. Johnston
Copy Editor

Living up to the New York Post's description of "Light, frothy and fun!" the Alma College Players delivered an excellent performance of Neil Simon's *Rumors* on Sunday, Nov. 15.

Taking place in the fictional Sneden's Landing, New York, Simon's play outlines the 10th anniversary party of Charlie and Myra Brock. The guests arrive and find a disturbing situation: Myra has disappeared, while Charlie has just tried to kill himself. The play unfolds as the various guests try to determine what happened.

But even as the guests try to solve the mystery of the attempted suicide, they must deal with other subplots—the rumors the title speaks of. Each couple has to deal with rumors about affairs, and these rumors affect how they deal with the other couples.

While none of the characters were likable, each of the actors and actresses gave competent performances. Delivery can be the difference between an okay and excellent performance, and the cast members of *Rumors* certainly delivered. Junior Rob Douglas and senior Jeremy Evans gave the most outstanding

performances as Lenny Ganz and Ken Gorman, respectively.

Douglas filled Lenny's shoes admirably. He included just the right touch of sarcasm in lines such as "I can only look up; I sure hope tall people are coming to this party!", "We didn't come here to live longer, Ernie; just to have a good time!" (in response to the comment "too much cholesterol") and "You're running for the State Senate. I wouldn't let you run for chineese!"

Evans, meanwhile, had the difficult task of performing the lines of Ken, deafened by a gunshot. Yet he pulled them off with perfect timing, replying to lines such as "How are your ears?" with "A beer would be fine."

The rest of the cast gave a fine performance. Other characters included Chris Gorman (played by Erin Emery), Claire Ganz (Sharilee Hines), Ernie Cusack (Fred Feleppa), Cookie Cusack (Kimberly Whitson), Glenn Cooper (Ty Parent). The play included performances from three newcomers to the Alma College Players—Sarah James (as Cassie Cooper), Stephen Sobieski (Officer Welch) and Julie Johnston (Officer Pudney).

"It's a fun cast to work with," said Feleppa. "We work well together, and we've done some sort of 'cast

bonding' every night."

"We really get along good," Douglas said. "We haven't had any problems."

The only major problem came when Feleppa sat down in a chair and accidentally tipped back, causing glasses to fall and cast members to laugh.

"It was really hard today when Fred fell down and everyone started laughing," said Douglas. "I looked at Jeremy and couldn't help myself."

Sunday's performance was the third of sixth. "Opening night was really good," Douglas said. "We were really energetic. We've kind of dropped off after that...we weren't as crisp as on opening night."

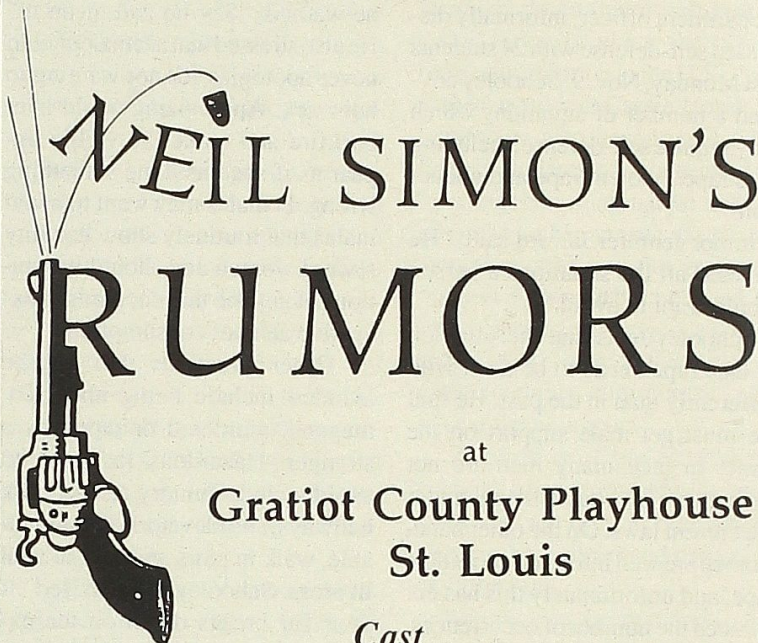
The cast hopes to recapture some of that intensity during the final performances, as well as avoid the problems of cast members coming out of character (such as Feleppa's on-stage accident in the chair).

Overall, however, these 10 actors and actresses should be proud of what they've accomplished. *Rumors* proved delightful, funny and interesting.

The play continues this Thursday, Friday and Saturday (Nov. 19-21) at 8 p.m. at the Gratiot County Playhouse in St. Louis.

THE ALMA PLAYERS

Present



Chris Gorman.....	Erin E. Emery
Ken Gorman.....	Jeremy John Evans
Claire Ganz.....	Sharilee Hines
Lenny Ganz.....	Rob Douglas
Ernie Cusack.....	Fred Feleppa
Cookie Cusack.....	Kimberly Whitson
Glenn Cooper.....	Tyler Parent
Cassie Cooper.....	Sarah H. James
Officer Welch.....	Stephen Sobieski
Officer Pudney.....	Julie Johnston

FAMOUS LAST WORDS FROM FRIENDS TO FRIENDS.

"Are you OK to drive?"

"What's a few beers?"

"Did you have too much to drink?"

"I'm perfectly fine."

"Are you in any shape to drive?"

"I've never felt better."

"I think you've had a few too many."

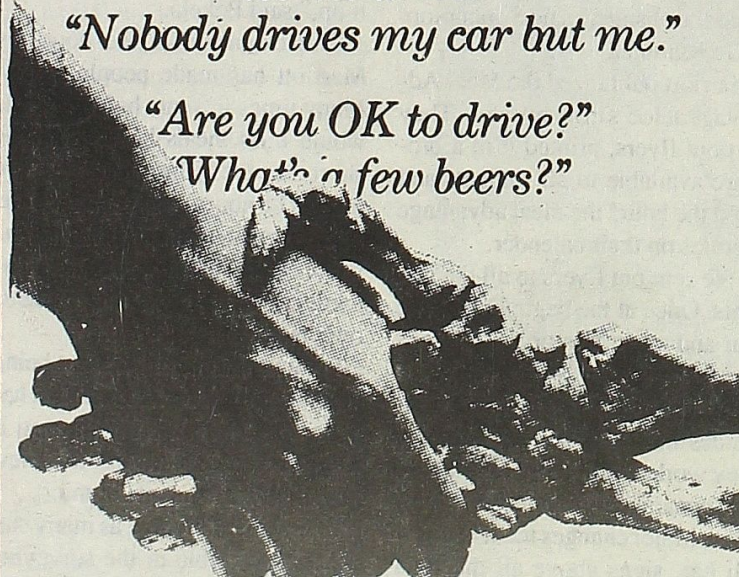
"You kiddin, I can drive
with my eyes closed."

"You've had too much to drink,
let me drive."

"Nobody drives my car but me."

"Are you OK to drive?"

"What's a few beers?"



**DRINKING AND DRIVING
CAN KILL A FRIENDSHIP**

Groves breaks the bubble

By Jane Brown
Staff Reporter

Part of a well-rounded education should be practical experience in the field of choice. Junior Sara Groves is getting just that as the first Alma College student to attend the Philadelphia Center, a program sponsored by the Great Lakes College Association.

The 25-year-old program hosts approximately 75 students each academic term, placing them into internship positions and conducting classes on the campus as well. "The Philadelphia Center is an off-campus field study program which offers you the opportunity to live in and explore the city, to be involved in the world of work through a field placement and to learn about a variety of academic subjects through your seminars," states *The Philadelphia Center Resource Book*.

"It offers students from midwestern colleges the opportunity to go to Philadelphia and get a good internship," said John Ottenhoff, associate professor of English at Alma College. Ottenhoff first introduced Groves to the idea of placement in the program.

As a communication and English major, Groves must do an internship to complete her communication requirements. Though Alma offers on-campus and community internships, Groves wanted to experience something new. "Alma is nice, but it is a small town, and there are not many opportunities avail-

able to do cultural things. I love the big city. There is so much to do. The only thing that I really miss about Alma are my friends," said Groves.

Groves is an assistant to the producing artistic director as an intern at the Arden Theater in Philadelphia. Her duties include researching future shows and working in marketing.

The internship is much better than Groves anticipated because she gets exposure to many different views on facets of the theater world. "I have gotten to work with advertising and writing, which is interesting and something I am sure will be applicable in the future," she said.

She also attends classes at the Philadelphia Center—one in writing and one concentrating on the different genres of performing arts. "The performing arts class is neat because we have been to the ballet, dances and plays, all of which were very intriguing," said Groves.

The Arden Theater is currently preparing to present a world premier play on Nov. 24. The comedy, *Change Partners and Dance*, by Dennis Raymond Smeal, will not only draw a large Philadelphia crowd, but will also be visited by the cast of *Melrose Place*, a Fox network television show. Though she may feel a bit out of her league as she hangs around with actors and drinks champagne, Groves said, "This is unforgettable, and I know that all I have learned here will influence the rest of my life. The big city is a huge change for me, but I

think I like it, and Philadelphia is a great city to live in. There is so much to do and the people are very nice—especially those at the theater."

The Philadelphia Center places students in other internship settings as well. These include hospitals, university departments, radio stations, accounting firms, law offices and investment companies.

In addition to their internships, students must participate in a City Seminar and elective courses. "In City Seminars, students join with their faculty instructor and occasional guests from organizations, institutions, and businesses around Philadelphia to explore discipline-based issues in ways that are both accessible and challenging," according to the resource book. Such seminars include "Ethics in Professional Life: Current Controversies over Freedom and Fairness" and "Power and Authority in Texts and Institutions: Discourses of Education, Business, Ethics/Religion, Science, Law and Art."

"Not only does the Philadelphia Center offer the big city experience to Alma students, but it also provides a meaningful internship, a great academic community...as well as a program integrating work and studies," Ottenhoff said.

Student-interns come to the Philadelphia Center from colleges such as Hope, Kalamazoo, Hanover, Kenyon, Oberlin, Earlham, Albion and Denison.

Resume Tips

Resumes and credentials are more than just words

By Cathy DeShano
Staff Reporter

We come to school to make friends, have fun and steer clear of responsibility. But get a job? The thought often falls on people's lists of four-lettered words. Sad as it makes many, college is that period during which we must be weaned away from our parents' money and be forced to consider how we're going to make some of our own. So how can you insure that you make enough to eat every day and have heat and electricity? Here are some tips toward building credentials and a resume which will have your phone ringing off the hook with job offers.

1. Read, read, read! Employers are looking for well-rounded people. Subscribe to a newspaper to keep up with current events. Although having a 4.0 GPA im-

presses employers, if you can't tell them about the bill passing through Congress which increases taxes on corporate businesses, they might not keep an interest.

2. Build a network. What you know can crack the door, but who you know can shove it wide open. Get to know people in the field you're pursuing. Attend conferences if possible, see guest speakers and ask questions. Go up and talk to them afterward and introduce yourself.

3. Encourage professors to invite people in your field to speak on campus. The more people you meet, the better your chances are of getting an edge on the competition. In addition, if you know more about your field than most others looking for a job, you're at a distinct advantage.

4. If there are several companies in

your field you really want to work for, find out as much as possible about them. Employers like to see people in interviews who have taken the time to find out what their business is about.

5. Take a variety of courses during college. If you're a philosophy major who has also taken courses in environmental studies, math and history, it shows employers that you have mental agility and interests in all aspects of the world.

6. When you're writing a cover letter, don't use a lot of political jargon—be straight-forward. Be clear about why you're pursuing the field you've been studying.

7. Decide what you have to offer and make that stand out. Your resume and cover letter are probably the first things an employer will see. Make sure he realizes the things you

do well. If you have qualities not many other people have, such as fluent foreign language or even computer language skills, let them know.

8. Don't be too picky about your job. Be versatile. Let them know you're willing to work your way up from the bottom if necessary.

9. In your cover letter, focus on who you as a person are. Your resume lets them see your work experience and scholastic abilities; your cover letter should be an opportunity to explain how these things have helped you grow and mature.

10. Proofread your resume carefully. You would be amazed at how many people leave spelling errors on resumes. Have as many people as possible look over your resume.

Alma grad enlists in Peace Corp

By Brett Powers
Freelance Writer

Ever heard of Tanzania, Africa? Former Alma College student Eric Shaw, after joining the Peace Corp, now lives there.

Shaw departed Nov. 6, and will not return until he completes a two-year commitment. "Eric had a three day seminar in Chicago on what to expect once he is there, he then flew to London where he caught a connecting flight to Arusha Tanzania," said his mother, Eleanore Shaw.

"He will be teaching agriculture to secondary level (high school) students," said Dan Gilbert, a public affairs director for the Peace Corp.

Shaw grew up on a farm in the Traverse City area and has a lot of knowledge of agriculture. Additionally, he had been a substitute teacher for a local high school before he left. At Alma, Shaw majored in history.

Upon his arrival in Tanzania, Shaw will have an eleven-week training period in the history, culture and language—which is Swahili—of the nation. Shaw will also undergo additional training specific to his job.

"He really wanted to see something different, to experience another culture and live like they do," explained Eleanore Shaw. "I think that this is a wonderful time in his life for him to do this. He has nothing to tie him down, no responsibilities...If he didn't do this now, he very well may regret not doing it later."

Once Shaw has completed his training, he will reside in the city that he teaches in and become as much a member of that society as he can. Bradley Dick, a Peace Corp volunteer in Tanzania from 1989-1991, said, "He will probably be living in a house that has a tin roof, electricity and water, but it will be nothing like what we are used to here in the States."

To get accepted into the Peace Corp, Shaw had to go through an extensive application process. He had to fill out a thirteen-page application concerning his academic and work record, followed by six letters of recommendation. Shaw also had to have a physical as well as a personal interview. "We meet with the prospective members to assess whether they will be able to handle the new situation they will be in, and if they are mature enough to be a Peace Corp member," said Gilbert.

Only one out of every five applicants is accepted into the Peace Corp.

The Peace Corp was created in 1961 by President John Fitzgerald Kennedy. In the past 31 years, over 130,000 members have served in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Central Europe.

Restaurant Review

Pizza Chef offers more than just pizza

By Katie Novak
Feature Editor

Nouveau Italian cuisine in Alma? Yes, and you can find it at Pizza Chef Gourmet Pizza, on Superior next to Mainstream Computers. Opening only two months ago in the downtown area, the restaurant is one of over 200 Pizza Chef franchises.

The eatery's name definitely sums up its specialty—gourmet pizza. In fact, the extensive pizza selections make ordering quite difficult. For example, you can try the "Ciao Bella"—a specialty pizza that includes fresh basil, tomato and garlic on a bed of mozzarella cheese, as well as your choice of fresh tomato sauce or an olive oil glaze, "Italian style"; or the Poulet Resistance—olive oil glaze, smothered with barbecued chicken, red onion with fresh cilantro and mozzarella cheese. But, if you aren't into the gourmet scene, don't worry: You may create a custom pie from the long list of cheeses, meats, vegetables and specialty toppings and a choice of fresh white or whole wheat crust.

Not only do the pizzas come in a wide range of types and sizes (8, 12, 14 or 16 inch), but they are also quite reasonable in price. Gourmet pizzas range from \$3.50 - 5.50 (8") and from \$9.95-14.95 (16"), while custom traditional pizzas range from \$2.50-4.75 (8") and from \$7.95-11.85 (16"). The pizzas can even be purchased unbaked. According to the menu, "Each unbaked pizza is made with fresh dough and delivered with an 'ecko therm disc,' which gives your oven the magic cooking power of a professional brick oven..."

Gourmet pizza may be the main

focus, but Pizza Chef also offers an adequate array of salads and submarine sandwiches. Salad selections include the Fresh Garden, Caesar Salad, Deluxe Antipasto and Southwestern Chicken Salad. The antipasto contains crisp greens, Genoa salami, Italian pepperoni, cucumbers, carrots, tomatoes, red onions and more (\$3.50 sm./4.95 lg.). The chicken salad contains a unique combination of barbecue chicken, California garden greens, tomatoes and red raspberry vinaigrette dressing (\$3.50/4.95).

Submarine-lovers may choose from a fresh baked Hot Italian Sub (\$4.49) that includes salami, pepperoni, ham, hot peppers, lettuce, tomato, onion and provolone; a Ham and Cheese (\$3.49), Italian Cheese (\$2.99) or Veggie Sub (\$3.49).

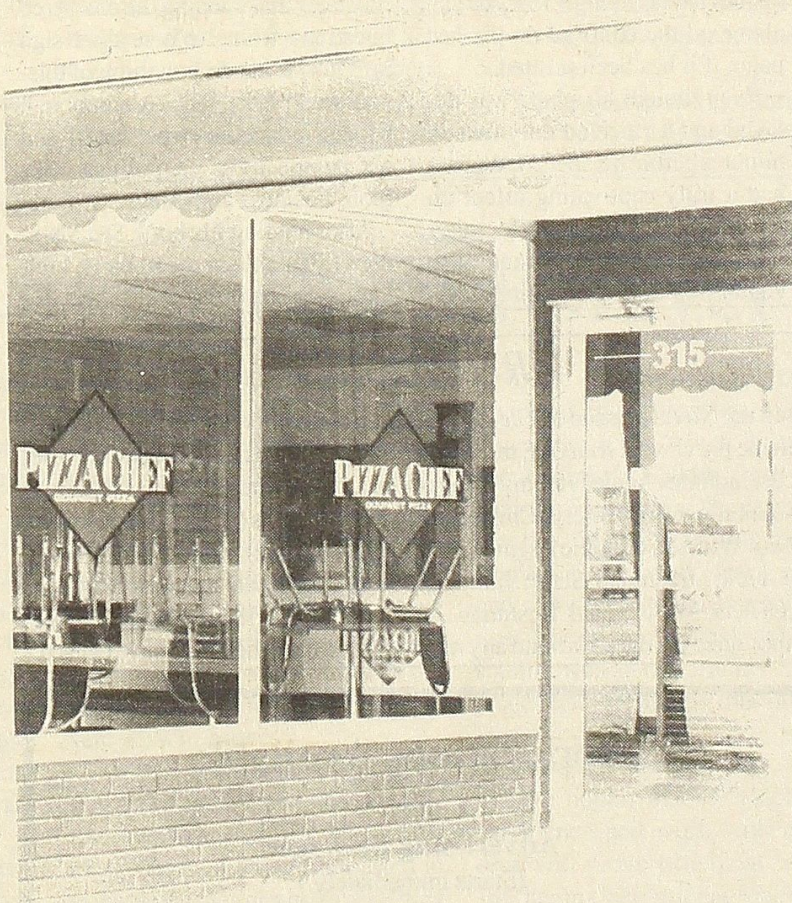
"It's a good alternative to the usual pizza options," said first-year student Bill Ballenger.

Pizza Chef has a unique atmosphere for dine-in patrons. White brick walls with rounded mirrors and artificial plants and a red and white diamond-patterned linoleum floor create a clean, inviting environment. The open kitchen arrangement gives diners an opportunity to watch pizza makers in action.

"Pizza Chef is definitely not your typical Alma restaurant...I liked the decor," said sophomore Holly Barnett.

The restaurant has friendly service as well. Though you must order at the counter, the food, along with sturdy black plastic plates and silverware and large red paper napkins, is delivered to the table. Most orders take about 20 minutes.

Take-out and delivery orders (\$5 minimum) are also welcome.



New pizza chain opens restaurant in Alma. Photo by J. Devine

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Nov. 17, 1992

Calendar of events

November 17-23

ON CAMPUS:

Tuesday, Nov. 17

Chemistry/Biochemistry Seminar Series

7 p.m., Dow L-2

ACUB Coffeehouse

8 p.m., Joe's Place

Wednesday, Nov. 18

Phi Mu Alpha Thanksgiving Concert

7 p.m., Dunning Memorial Chapel

Thursday, Nov. 19

AIDS Quilt Opening Ceremonies
6:30 p.m. Finch Field House-Central Michigan University
(Bus leaves Alma at 5:45 p.m.)

Co-Cur Event: *A Weekend Comedy*

presented by the Alpha Omega Players

7:30 p.m., Tyler VanDusen Student Center

Rumors Fall Term play by Alma College Players

8 p.m., Gratiot County Playhouse

Friday, Nov. 20

Faculty violin recital—Meredith Arksey

8 p.m., Dunning Memorial Chapel

Rumors

8 p.m., Gratiot County Playhouse

Saturday, Nov. 21

Rumors

8 p.m., Gratiot County Playhouse

Gamma Phi Beta Tick-Tock Tavern

9 p.m.-1 a.m., VanDusen Commons

IN LANSING:

Tuesday, Nov. 17, Wednesday, Nov. 18

David Copperfield's "Magic for the 90's"

5:30 & 8:30 p.m. shows

Wharton Center-Michigan State University

Thursday, Nov. 19

Bryan Adams in concert

"Waking Up the World" tour

with special guest Mr. Big

Breslin Student Events Center-Michigan State University

IN ANN ARBOR:

Thursday, Nov. 19

Babes in Toyland

9 p.m., The Blind Pig

203 South First St.

CMU displays AIDS Memorial Quilt panels

By Katie Novak
Feature Editor

A national tribute to the victims of AIDS—the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt—will be displayed at Central Michigan University's (CMU) Finch Field House this week. The event results from combined efforts of the Isabella County NAMES Project Host Committee, the United Way, the Isabella AIDS council and the CMU AIDS Core Council.

The quilt project began in 1985, when Cleave Jones, a San Francisco gay rights activist, wanted to promote AIDS education and awareness and to provide a memorial for victims. His idea spurred a national effort and the beginning of the NAMES Project Foundation.

In 1990, when 11,000 panels of the quilt were displayed on the U.S. Capitol's front lawn, *U.S. News and World Report* selected it as the artwork of greatest social impact. The Capitol hosted the quilt once again this year from Oct. 9-11.

Now displayed only in sections, the quilt has grown to over 25,000 panels—panels from each U.S. state, as well as 29 countries. CMU will show 288 of these, as well as ten panels added by local families and friends of victims.

In addition to promoting awareness of the disease and support for the victims and their families, the national NAMES Project Foundation raises money for AIDS programs. According to an article in the *Central Michigan Life* Friday, Nov. 13, "As of Aug. 5, 1992, the

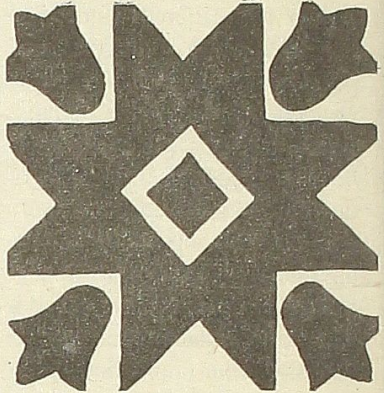
NAMES Project has raised \$1,169,800 in funds for direct services for people with AIDS."

CMU's memorial display kicks off with an opening ceremony Thursday, Nov. 19, at 6:30 p.m. Volunteers from the Mount Pleasant community and CMU will unfold the quilt and read the names of AIDS victims. Other events include the Candlelight March on Friday, Nov. 20, at 6:30 p.m. and "Heroes and the Quilt," a speech by Louis Lefebvre, Medical Center AIDS program coordinator of the Department of Veteran Affairs in Little Rock, Arkansas. Lefebvre's presentation begins at 8 p.m. in the University Center Auditorium at CMU.

Additional viewing times at Finch Field House include Nov. 20 and 21, 9 a.m.-8 p.m., and Nov. 22,

noon-6 p.m. with closing ceremonies at 5 p.m.

Alma College's Student Affairs Office will provide transportation to the opening ceremonies for interested students. Students may sign up at the Student Affairs Office by Monday, Nov. 16, at 5 p.m. The bus departs from the Reid-Knox parking lot on Nov. 19, at 5:45 p.m.



Environmentally Speaking

Environmentalism's words worth hearing

By Michael J. Arnold
Freelance Writer

Everyone who knows me, knows that I am an environmentalist. For the sake of objective journalism, please allow me to discard my eco-freak garb and give you an unbiased look at Paul Watson's visit to Alma College. But you can also read the editorial on the last page, if it has been printed.

Even though his plane was delayed and he arrived only twenty minutes before his speech, Watson had a truly captivating effect on his audience. I saw people, ranging from students and faculty to young and old community mem-

bers, and even to out-of-town guests. To put it simply, Watson packed them in. In the span of an hour, Watson revealed his life as the principle founder of the Greenpeace Foundation, his battle to save the largest fish in the sea, his legal defense and his reasons for being the activist we see today. At the reception later that evening, he answered questions from "Where do I sign up?" to "What do you think of this-and-that?" Like a cool professional, he discussed his experiences and his perspectives on politics, religion, business and ethics.

After reading his book *Sea Shepherd* (available in the library), I felt like I was on the ice with him. He

revealed the brutal side to human nature, skinning baby seals alive, their cries the last sounds. He made me touch the head of a gigantic whale that chose to save his life because it knew what Watson was doing.

Watson is like every other man. He puts his pants on the same way and does not wish to be some sort of god or cult figure. I think he prefers just being who he is, a man who had the courage to endanger himself for the preservation of another species. He does not long for fame and glory, nor does he want to be remembered as a vigilante.

I had plenty of time to spend with Watson and got to see a side of him

that few others were able to. He maintains the legality of his actions. Perhaps he does twist the laws to serve his own purposes, but he rights the wrongs that the Soviet, Japanese, Icelandic and Mexican governments condone. He really is a policeman, because no one else seems to want to do anything. Plus, he can do things that the United States government has been reluctant to do.

Watson is just like you and me, but he has chosen a life that has certainly caused him some pain. However, it is the life he has chosen for himself and the attitude that seems to get things done faster than any bureaucratic process.

Retraction

In the Nov. 10, issue of *The Almanian*, cast members were misidentified in the preview of *Rumors*, the Alma College Players fall production. The cast includes: senior Jeremy Evans (Ken), junior Sharilee Hines (Claire), sophomore Erin Emery (Chris), junior Rob Douglas (Lenny), sophomore Kim Whitson (Cookie), senior Fred Feleppa (Ernie), senior Tyler Parent (Glenn), freshman Sarah James (Cassie), freshman Stephen Sobieski (Officer Welch) and freshman Julie Johnston (Officer Pudney). We apologize for the errors and any misunderstanding they may have caused.

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National champs cope with high expectations

By Danielle Salgat
Freelance Writer

Just how easy is it to win a national championship in women's Division III basketball?

Well, last year at this time coach Charlie Goffnett and his young team may not have been able to answer this question. But as the Scots' women's basketball team bounces into another new and exciting season, it is returning ten players who know exactly what it takes to capture the ring.

It's no surprise that the 1992-93 NCAA Preview ranks Alma number one in the nation in its pre-season poll. With ten players returning from the championship team, including all five starters, it would seem that Goffnett couldn't ask for more. Not only do they have experience and depth, but their leadership and positive attitude makes the team unity even stronger.

"We have a family type attitude, and we need that attitude to be successful," said Goffnett. "You can't play with only five players, and we have depth."

Quickness and athletic ability are abundant on the 1992-93 squad, and no two players could be better examples than the senior guard tandem of Lauri LaBeau and Colleen Wruble.

"Our strengths will be in our senior leadership, especially from our excellent guards," said Goffnett.

"LaBeau and Wruble will play big leadership roles."

Wruble, from Harbor Beach was last year's team MVP, and LaBeau from New Boston, who averaged 12 points per game, was selected to the Division III All-Tournament Team, and chosen as the MVP of the NCAA Final Four.

If there are any weaknesses to be found in this seemingly flawless team, it is thought to be in the area of rebounding. This won't be the case if Katie Mans, Kelly Jaster and Tara Sherman have anything to say about it. This determined triad of juniors is preparing to make the Scots' inside rebounding as much of a threat as their outside shooting.

Mans, the returning center from Trenton, was the team's leading scorer averaging 16 points per game, and will be an essential player in Alma's scoring attack. The toughness of 5'10" forward Jaster from Midland and 6'0" forward Sherman from Alpena will also be significant.

"We can improve on our rebounding, but we really need to make an effort to get all five players going to the defensive board," said Goffnett. "If we do, we will have great inside and outside play."

"We're going to have to be able to get up emotionally because teams will be ready to knock us down," said Mans.

Last year's team started its season with a goal to be conference champs.

The players had no idea that their hard work would take them as far as the National Championship game in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. It was there that the Scots defeated Moravian College 79-75 to claim

ing first at a conference championship."

"We can only expect to do the best we can and be happy with what we do," said LaBeau.

This year the new system in the

Women's Basketball

1992 Record: 24-3, overall; 11-1 MIAA

Titles: 1992 NCAA National Champions
1992 MIAA Champions

Key Returners: Lauri LaBeau(Sr.-G),
Colleen Wruble(Sr.-G), Katie Mans(Jr.-C)
Kelly Jaster(Jr. - F), Tara Sherman(Jr.-F)

Coach: Charlie Goffnett,
81-36 career record

the title. They know that this dream could have never become a reality without goals, and if anything, the victorious season taught the women how to set their goals.

"We want to improve each game and do the best we can by working together," said Wruble.

The team has a similar pre-season goal as last year. "Our main goal is to repeat as conference champs because it has been six years since that has been done," said Goffnett. "People ask if we are going to repeat as national champs, but we are look-

MIAA allows the winner of the conference tournament a bye into the national tournament. Such an exemption would be a big boost for the Scots in their bid to repeat.

"If we can just get into the tournament again it will be a big accomplishment," said Goffnett. "You have to be good and lucky."

The competition will be as fierce as ever in the MIAA, and Alma is expecting the toughest opponent to be Adrian.

"The league is always hard and close. You can't always determine

who you can and can't play with," said LaBeau.

The Scots open the season in championship fashion on Saturday, Nov. 21. They will tip-off against Capital, a team from Ohio that is currently ranked fourth in the nation in pre-season polls. Capital, led by three-time All-American Sandy Buddelmeyer, will be a formidable opponent for the Scots and a true test of the team's determination.

"It really made us feel good when the student body got behind us last year," said Goffnett referring to the overwhelming student, administration, and community support the team received. Goffnett said he hopes that the team will have an even bigger following this season.

Through all the success, and looking past all the expectations, these women still understand that there really is more to being on the team than just winning. As Jaster said, "There are great expectations, but we are going to play hard, and try to have fun."

The team, as well as Goffnett and assistant Mark Guyette are very excited about their season, but realize that their biggest challenge may be handling their past success. As Goffnett said, "We climbed the mountain last year and made it all the way to the top, and now we are back at the base ready to climb again."

Senior Profile

Franssen operates as coach and player

By Lisa Shoemaker
Sports Editor

Senior Christine Franssen has the benefit of a dual perspective on the sport of volleyball. Not only is she a second team All-MIAA player on the court, but she also has experience from the bench as the varsity coach at Alma High School.

"I definitely think coaching has helped me as a player. It certainly has given me a new perspective on the sport," Franssen said. "I have a greater appreciation for what coaches try to do and the struggles they go through."

Franssen, who transferred from Kalamazoo Community College to begin her junior year here at Alma, has been an instrumental component in the volleyball team's successful 21-10 (10-2 in the MIAA) record. Versatility, coupled with consistent play and mental toughness, have been the hallmarks of her volleyball career.

"I am an outside hitter, but I have played just about every position," she said. "Physically, I am not that big (5'6") so I have to rely on my jumping ability and being able to 'place hit' around blocks."

"I really take pride in my defense," Franssen said. "I love to dig the ball when I am in the back row, and I always work on being consistent with my hitting and passing."

Surprisingly, Franssen says that volleyball is a mental game much more than physical. "Mentally you have to have the ability to stay focused out on the court," she said. "So much of the game is snap decisions, such as reading a hitter, that you have to be able to think on your feet. The techniques at this level are all mental."

Franssen describes herself as a very serious player and takes pride in the fact that she has never been on a losing team. Capturing two Class D State Championships in 1986 and 1987 for Concord High School have apparently instilled a winning attitude.

Franssen says that while she is happy with the unity that developed on the team, she is still somewhat disappointed in the team's overall performance. "There were games that we should have won," she said. "The two losses to Calvin were really disappointing." She adds, "In the second game against them I had the worst match of my entire life."

Now that her own season is complete, Franssen begins work coaching the varsity team at Alma High.

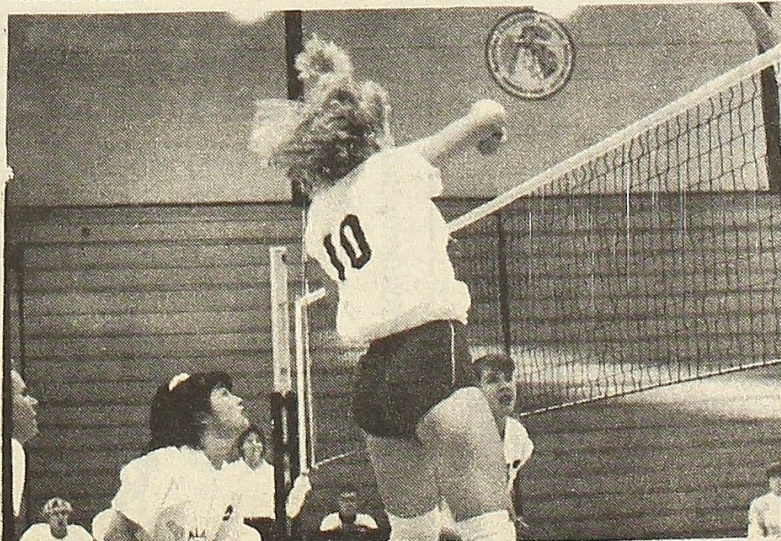
"It can be demanding trying to coach and go to school. But really it takes about the same amount of time as if I were still in season here."

"I am a pretty strict coach. The girls can't pull anything over on me because I am young enough to know all the tricks," said Franssen. "Last year we won the districts for the first time in school history. This year the team is pretty young and I am not sure what to expect."

Franssen is an elementary education major and is interested in teaching early five year-olds. "I just love kids," she said. "I am interested in teaching that age group because they want to learn."

In the summer, she has been involved in a program called Power For Kids, which is sponsored through a grant from the Kellogg Foundation. The program teaches 11-14-year-olds from small towns to work, learn, play and serve through various activities. "The program gives kids from small towns an opportunity to go places and see things that otherwise they would not have been exposed to," Franssen said.

She is hoping that her coaching experience and work with children will prove beneficial when she begins her student teaching next fall.



Christine Franssen. Photo by M. Stargardt

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Nov. 17, 1992

Young team aims to improve last year's mark

By Bill Ballenger
Freelance Writer

"Quicker, stronger, and more athletic."

Those are the words men's basketball Coach Bob Eldridge used to describe this season's squad.

Eldridge attributed lack of size to last season's disappointing record. The Scots finished 9-17 (2-10 MIAA) and placed last in the conference.

"We were out-muscled on many occasions last year," Eldridge said. "We had good players but the other teams could physically push us around. Rebounding and stopping our opponents' inside game was a problem for us all last year."

"That is why I had the players on an off-season weight program," Eldridge continued. "It seems like the weight program has really helped. A number of the players have put on weight and muscle; That is exactly what we need to keep up with powerhouses like

Calvin, Hope and Kalamazoo."

Eldridge also pointed out that last year's inability to rebound hampered the Scots' transition game. "We were never able to consistently run on the other teams. It was a shame because we had a lot of players who could run the floor really well. We needed to rebound better in order to get the fast-break going. The weight program ought to allow us to run more frequently than last year."

How quickly the players mature will be instrumental to this season's success. Although the Scots have eight returning players, few of them have varsity-level experience. Todd Blomquist, a 6'6" sophomore forward, and Colon Lewis, a 6'5" junior forward, are the only returning starters. Lewis will miss the Scots' first few games due to his overseas studies in Japan.

"We are basically a young team," Eldridge said. "We have a lot of very good players, but many of them are still young. We have only one

senior on the team [Eric Blomquist]."

"Right now, we're just one big family," said sophomore Quibarai Liddell. "We need to get acquainted with one another. We had a lot of seniors last year...Everyone of us really wants to win this year but a lot of our success depends on how well we get to know each other."

Sophomore Matt Lotterman made similar comments: "We lost a lot of players to graduation. Hopefully, we will be able to adjust and play as a team...We need to get to know each other."

The Scots' strong point is the guard position—arguably the strongest and deepest in the MIAA. Junior Mike Pennie and sophomore Mike Bjorn, a Michigan Tech transfer, provide the Scots with a solid point guard corps. Junior Jeff Kren and sophomore John Slack comprise the off-guard position. Junior Reggie Reed, who spent most of last season nursing a knee injury, should also see significant playing time.

Todd Blomquist and Lewis head the forward position. Blomquist, last year's recipient of the MIAA Freshman of the Year Award, will continue to blossom. Lewis led the Scots in scoring a year ago (17.4).

Alma's interior play will be handled by three players: 6'6", 215-pound Eric Blomquist, 6'8", 220-

pound sophomore Chad Reagh and 6'5", 230-pound Liddell.

The Scots open their 1992-93 campaign one week from today at Aquinas College. Their home debut will not be until Dec. 4, when the Scots host the two-day Alma Chamber of Commerce Tourney.

Men's Basketball

1992 Record: 9-17 Overall, 2-10 MIAA

Standing: 7th Place (Last Place)

Key Returners: Colon Lewis (Jr. - F), Todd Blomquist (So. - F)

Coach: Bob Eldridge,
290-189 career record

Sports Chat with Brad Engel

Students lack enthusiasm for teams

By Brad Engel
Freelance Writer

Isn't it a wonder how a team can be one step away from perfection one year and be completely terrible the next? Never have I seen a team collapse so thoroughly as the '92 Lions. Who would ever have imagined this year's team would be so bad, especially with the same players. It seems to me there is a lot more to the situation than bad play.

While we're talking about the Detroit sports scene, what in the world is up with the Pistons' Dennis Rodman? A guy making over a million dollars a year playing a game wants to concentrate on his excavation business and says basketball just doesn't interest him anymore? I don't know about you, but I think I could at least fake interest if I were making that kind of money.

Is anybody excited about World

Cup soccer coming to Michigan for a reason other than the fact it is a major international event? Not that I'm against the sport, but the media seems to be more interested in whether natural grass can grow in the confines of the Silverdome than the games themselves. Maybe this says something about modern sports media and their preferential treatment of certain sports. Personally, I'm most interested in the possibilities of a major riot between the fans of some European teams. I think the riots would fit in real well with the negative image of Detroit. It should make for some good copy though.

It's hard to believe that it's been a year since our women's basketball team won the NCAA championship. With all but one of the key players back, the Scots are poised to make another championship run. Excitement on campus should be at a fevered pitch, but you'd be hard pressed to hear a thing about the upcoming season.

This is a sad commentary on the Alma students. It sure would be nice to see some people getting excited about our sports teams around here. For that matter, it would be nice to see some people just get excited around here. I'm not trying to make sports fans of everybody on campus, I'm just puzzled about why students don't attend our athletic contests in droves. You don't have to understand the game you're watching, just be obnoxious along with everybody else. It really is a good time, and don't knock it until you have given it a chance.

The College has a great new sports asset in our new FM station, WQAC. As programs and processes are developed, everybody has a say. I hope all students get involved to some degree. After all, this is an opportunity to bring Alma sports to new heights.

Dickman, Donley lead cross-country in regionals

By Jen Cosbey
Freelance Writer

Alma's cross country team ran out the last leg of its season this weekend at the NCAA regional meet in Albion. Competing against 32 other teams in the cold blistering weather, Alma turned in an impressive showing.

"It was an excellent showing for us," said junior Jackie Cullum. "It was a good way to end the season because we have done much better than expected."

The women's team placed eighth with 209 points to end its 1992 campaign on a high note. Senior Pam Dickman finished at the head of the Alma pack turning in a time of 19:30, putting her in 27th place overall. Not far behind Dickman was the rest of the Scots' pack. Senior Constance Gulezinski (37th) with 19:58, first-year student Tori Edwardson (48th) with 20:13, Cullum (60th) with 20:31 and first-year student Tammy Watson (66th) with 20:40 rounded out the top five scoring members for the team. Also not far behind were teammates Lesley Dryer, senior, and junior Terry McDowell finishing with times of 21:06 and 21:37, respectively.

"The conditions were a bit difficult," said Edwardson. "The ground was mushy under the snow and that made stepping hard."

The women ran in a pack to

strategically place the team among the large field of competitors. Their ploy proved successful as evidenced by their strong eighth place finish. The difference in times from the first Alma finisher to the last only stretched over a two minute span.

The purpose of the regionals is to qualify runners and teams for the national meet. In order to qualify, a runner had to place in the top five or be a member of the winning team. "We didn't expect anyone to qualify," said Cullum. "We are just happy with the team's performance."

The men's team did not fair quite as well as its female counterparts, but was still impressive with its 16th place finish based on 436 points.

First-year harrier Ryan Donley was the first Scot to cross the tape in a time of 27:55, which was good for 46th place overall. Donley was followed by sophomore Adam Burhans (81st) with 28:43, senior Mark Lauzon (98th) with 29:15, junior Rich Gray (115th) with 29:46, sophomore Kurt Stephenson (128th) with 30:11 and first-year student John Black (164th) with 31:46 completed the Alma entourage.

"We really ran well," said Gray. "Adam [Burhans] and Ryan [Donley] did a super job, and Mark Lauzon ran probably his best race all year."

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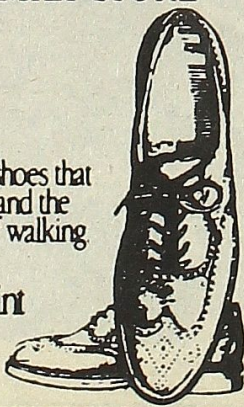
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New recruits add depth to swimming squad

By Doug Smith
Freelance Writer

If you haven't seen the Scots in the pool the last couple years, you may want to jump in this year.

The swimming and diving teams are full of excitement and energy. Coach Greg Baadte attributes this enthusiasm to the youth of the team. With 15 new faces on the men's and women's teams, it is understandable why Baadte is enthusiastic about this season.

Along with the youth of the team this year, the Scots also have depth, something the swimming program has lacked for a number of years. "This is the largest swimming and diving team in I don't know how many years," Baadte said. "It's been that long since we've been able to be competitive in every event."

Not only are the 20 women and 17 men on this year's team young, they are very talented. Look for big performances from sophomore diver

Radu Danca. He was the first National qualifier for Alma diving in 11 years. Last year, Danca finished 22nd in the nation on the 1-meter springboard and 25th in the 3-meter springboard competition.

"He's already way ahead of last year as far as dives go," said Baadte.

Baadte is also looking for great things from his swimmers. Junior Scott Phillion, conference breast-stroke winner, sophomore Paul Schmidt, 400 Individual Medley record holder and sophomore Ted Davis, butterfly expert, are all expected to perform strongly for the Scots. Add three key freshmen to that list — Christian Betz, Adam Neuman and Mark Richardson — and the Scots are a definite threat in the MIAA.

On the women's side, co-MVPs junior Salena Williams and sophomore Jenny Turnbull are making waves early this season. Turnbull and first-year tanker Jenn Bondy, both of whom are back-strokers, are

being pushed by three other newcomers, Sandra Hansen, Lesley Malzahn and Melissa Wuchte. On the springboard, Christine Hamacher will do more than pick up the slack for the graduated Robin Grieve.

This is a new look for the Scots' swimming and diving team. It is one of youth, talent and depth for both the men and the women. "Depth was our weakness last season, through recruiting, we've changed that," said Baadte. The women will be extremely competitive.

The team is versatile as well. The swimmers all have their own area of expertise, but when called upon, they can each fill in the gaps which gives Alma a big advantage.

"The league is tough this season. I wouldn't be surprised if Hope wins it," said Baadte. The Flying Dutchmen have nine All-Americans, five men and four women, returning this season. Equally impressive is the number of returning conference

champions. A total of 27 of the possible 32 MIAA winners will be in the starting blocks again this season.

But don't be discouraged, Baadte expects the Scots to be in the "dog-fight" for the top three spots.

The Scots will be competing in the MIAA Relays at Kalamazoo on Saturday, Nov. 21, and will host Grand Valley State University and Grand Rapids Community College Tuesday, Nov. 24.

Swimming 1992

Key Returners -- Men: Radu Danca(So.), Scott Phillion(Jr.), Paul Schmidt(So.), Ted Davis(So.)

Key Returners -- Women: Salena Williams(Jr.), Jennifer Turnbull(So.)

Coach: Greg Baadte

Facts: 20 men, 17 women; 15 team members are first year students

IM flag football champs crowned

By Jane Brown
Staff Reporter

Last week intramural sports ended its flag football season. The champions in each league stood as such: 'A' league - Misery II, 'B' league - TKE and Women's - The Protanators.

"The season in all was successful," said Racquel Huddleston, co-director of the program along with her husband Bill Huddleston. Though the season started off a week late because of a change in advisors, the Huddlestons felt the season ran smoothly.

The directors, however, hope that in the future there will be greater participation in the women's leagues and that more captains can assemble rosters. In the Men's 'A' league there were only four teams, and in the Men's 'B' league there were nine teams. The women's league had seven teams, although many games were forfeited because of a lack of players.

"IM's are a total riot. We made it fun by doing different things. We just go out and joke around and rip on each other," said senior Constance Gulczynski a member of the Protanators. "The women's

teams seem to have more fun in many ways because they were less competitive than the men's teams."

Gulczynski said there were many highlights during the season, but she noted "getting to see Katie Mans in a 'do' rag" was the most vivid.

Senior Dave Schmidt, a member of 'A' League runner-up Zeta Sigma said, "The season was a lot of fun, but the competition in 'A' league was weak due to a lack of participation. . . . There were a couple of 'B' league teams that should have played 'A' league, but they were too concerned with winning the T-shirt."

Senior Chris Butler echoed Schmidt's disappointment in the competition in the 'A' League. "Our team [Zeta Sigma] had a great time playing, but I wish more than four teams had played in 'A' league," he said.

On Thursday, Nov. 12, the Huddlestons had the organizational meeting for volleyball and were very impressed with the turnout which boasted a total of 34 teams registering for competition including men, women and co-ed teams. IM volleyball starts this week with a full slate of games.

Classifieds

Education

SPRING TERM 1993

NEW YORK DANCE TRIP: If you haven't received a packet yet explaining the details, and you are interested in going, please swing by my office AC 228 and sign your name. I will then send you a packet with all of the details. There are still a few openings left and I would like to afford the opportunity for as many of you who are interested in going to go. We will see four Broadway shows and one ballet. We have two backstage tours and there is much time to explore New York. Visit the museums and take in the sounds and sights of the Big Apple! Thanks.....Carol Fike

RUSSIA & THE BALTICS TRIP.

All students interested in taking the ST 012 travel/intercultural course to the former USSR and Finland should contact Mel Nyman, SAC 253 (#7264) or Bob Rozier CAC111(#7287) for more information. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to see some of the world's most interesting cities. This is your chance to experience the dramatic changes occurring there! See Moscow, ST. Petersburg, Riza, Tallinn, Helsinki, and more...

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Individuals and Student Organizations wanted to promote SPRING BREAK, call, the nation's leader. Inter-Campus Programs 1-800-327-6013.

BABYSITTING NEEDED! I am looking for baby-sitters to come in to my home, usually during the evening hours. I have two girls, Sarah is 5 years old and Rachel is 17 months. Interview and references are required. Swing by my office if you are inter-

ested and we can talk. Thanks.....Carol Fike AC 228

EVENTS

RECORDER WORKSHOP for music lovers, future teachers, and anyone wanting to learn to play the recorder. At Alma College AC 103 on Nov. 21, 1992 from 8:30 to 11:30am. DEADLINE: November 19, cost \$19. See Ms. Farrier AC 237; #7357.

THE MEDIA WORKSHOPS. The opportunity for students and faculty to go "behind the scenes" of the American mass media and to go "on location" to leading Hollywood movie studios, major T.V. networks, influential newspapers. During the summer of 1993 at UCLA campus. Contact *The Almanian* for more information.

CONTESTS

HEALTH PHYSICS RESEARCH AWARDS TO FACULTY MEMBERS. Faculty with interest in health physics—related areas may apply for the U.S. Department of Energy's health Physics Faculty Research Award. \$50,000 a year for three years. DEADLINE IS FEB. 28, 1993. For more information contact *The Almanian*.

PLAYBOY COLLEGE FICTION CONTEST: Open to all registered undergraduate and graduate college students. FIRST PRIZE is \$3,000 and having your story published in the October issue of *Playboy*. DEADLINE IS JANUARY 1, 1993. For more information contact *The Almanian*.

The Michael Schwerner Activist Award, an annual honor created to recognize college students who are providing themselves to be catalysts

of social change. Award honoree will each receive \$1,000. Nominations may be submitted by a nominee's fellow students, campus faculty and staff, alumni, and others. DEADLINE IS JANUARY 31, 1993. Contact *The Almanian* for more information.

HANSON MEMORIAL AWARD:

The Alden W. Hanson Memorial Award is a \$1,000 cash award applicable to tuition. This award was established to acknowledge student achievement in creative thinking, the development of new ideas, recognizing a new approach to an idea or a new way of looking at a familiar problem — especially problems that might benefit a great number of people. Any student who has not achieved senior status is eligible. Application forms and further information are available in the Provost's Office. Deadline for submissions is August 15, 1993.

PERSONAL

FIGHT CENSORSHIP—Buy a Sigma Tau Delta T-shirt. Features "The Thinker" and banned book titles. \$10, sizes M-XXL. Contact Katie at #7795 to order.

Interested in starting a NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF WOMEN (NOW) Chapter here at Alma? If so, contact Heather at ext. 7780. Students, Faculty, staff and community members welcome.

SENIORS!!

We are asking you to join us and make our senior class gift a reality. We're proud of and excited about this project! Please support us. Any large or small amount will be appreciated.

REMEMBER:

"Participation is the key to the gateway!"

I.M. Flag Football Champions

'A' League - Misery II

'B' League - TKE

Women's - The Protanators

Nov. 17, 1992

Personal Essay

By Susan Wegener

I am having a dream. You are in the dream, Maggie. I am you in my dream. I feel the silky shirt you are wearing; the bright friendship beads you always wear are around my neck. I look through your eyes at the man before me. I am you.

My dream starts out at that club with that dumb exotic name. I am dancing to a song I have never heard before. It has a fast beat made with drum machines and very little musical depth—perfect dance music. A man dances next to me. He is tall and beautiful and built with rippling muscles. Song after song we dance together. The heat of the room and the attention the man gives me makes my head feel light; my pulse quickens. Dancing, gyrating with such a stellar man makes the night move quickly.

My dream changes directions. I am with the man from the bar. We sit on a hillside, drink champagne and chat about ourselves. As the night progresses we move closer and closer together. I am scared at first, but I like him so much that I don't resist his touches—his kisses. The warmth of his lips moves through the rest of my body. The city lights below add to the romantic air of the park. My excitement grows until he goes a little too far. He wants to have sex with me. I ask if he has a condom. We are in the middle of nowhere and I can't wake up from the dream. He pulls out a condom and I agree to have sex with him; I am terrified that he will hurt me if I say no. He is huge and strong. I don't enjoy this sex with him; I don't even really know him.

I sit straight up in my bed, soaked with sweat and shaking. I taste tears on my cheeks and the pillow is wet with salt water. The sobs subside. I am in my own room with my stuffed animals, the doll my grandmother made me when I was six, and the picture of you, Maggie. They all reassure me it was only a nightmare. The dream has past; it is all over. You smile out of your picture frame: white teeth catching the moonlight. I drift back to sleep slowly, praying that it is over.

He is with me again. We are in a restaurant, sharing a dutch apple sundae. We are friends. We talk and laugh; nothing bothers me. He doesn't scare me in the light of the room; I am having a good time.

He tells me that he won't try anything sexual unless I want to have sex also. I mean too much to him for sex to come between us, he tells me. When I drop him off at his apartment after our date, he kisses me good night and walks toward the apartment complex. The yellow glow pouring out of the door gives me a warm peaceful feeling; a symbol of accomplishment. I am safe from any misunderstanding that may arise. I smile in my sleep.

The dream shifts again. Darkness hovers outside of his apartment this time. The building looks foreboding, as if it is warning me of some danger within its walls. My stomach growls; hunger overcomes fear. I rush into the apartment building to pick him up for our supper date.

Before the doorbell stops chiming, a strange man opens the door of the apartment. He is a brother. He leers at me and points me to a room. I walk in and sit on my date's unmade bed; I do not worry about being alone with him. After all, we have an understanding. He puts on his bold, royal blue shirt. Then with ease, he pushes the solid oak dresser in front of the door. An excuse escapes his lips—something about not having his brother walk in while he is dressing. The dresser will stop anyone from getting in—or out.

He sits on the bed next to me and starts to kiss me lightly. I return his kisses. But the kisses get more passionate; my mind reels. Something is going wrong.

He lays me down on his bed; I feel like a rag doll under his two hundred pounds. I try to sit up, but can't. How do I get out of this? If I say no, what will his response be? Does he care that I don't want to have sex with him? I thought he understood me; I thought we had this settled. Oh god, what do I do? His hips are grinding into mine; the friction of the denim is rubbing a raw spot on my skin. He isn't stopping. He keeps getting rougher. You don't want to be a father, do you? He says he has condoms but makes no move to get them. If he did, I could try to move the dresser, scream, do something.

He lied. There are no condoms. I start to cry. The walls close in on me. I can't breathe. He takes my clothes off. I am terrified. I say no. I WON'T HAVE SEX WITH YOU! I DON'T WANT TO GET PREGNANT! He rolls me over onto my belly. I try to squirm, I try to scream. He holds me down. He enters me. I sob, "no no no." He does not hear me cry; he does not hear me say no. His grunts are louder than my screams.

I sit straight up in my bed. The room is dark: the clouds have covered the moon. My bed is soaked with tears and sweat. I am crying, I am shivering, I am awake. My stuffed animals look at me like I am evil; the doll on the shelf seems ashamed to belong to me. The covers are kicked off of my bed. I look through the blur at your picture, searching for some comfort. Your smile has faded to grey; your eyes have lost the luster.

I know you feel the same way I do, Maggie. I know you have cried these tears. You think it was your fault; you think that you provoked him. If you would have dressed differently, if you would have said no the first time you had sex with him, if you weren't so worried about getting hurt, if you hadn't told him he needed a condom he wouldn't have raped you. But it isn't your fault. Rape is never okay. If you say no and he doesn't stop, it is his fault. It is not your fault Maggie. I know; I was there.

First year students: first for money

By Stephanie Hirschert
Freelance Writer

Two weeks ago, President Alan J. Stone spoke on the eve of the election, urging us to use our vote as our chance to be heard. If we choose not to vote, we do not have a right to complain. As I sat there I realized I wanted to complain about something that had been bothering me since the middle of the summer. This was something which I was definitely not asked to vote on. That something was my financial aid package. The main problem was that there had been no change. Of course there was an increase in tuition, but not in my scholarship.

Over the past years I had received an increase totaling \$300. Although Alma's cost rose well beyond that, it was nice for someone who was struggling to pay for that increase in tuition with her summer job income. When I saw that I would be getting no increase, I was a little confused. My grades had actually gone up. I was involved in as many extra-curricular activities as I could manage, but somehow I had not made the cut. To justify this I hypothesized that Alma was experiencing great financial difficulty. Or maybe they wanted to surprise me later in the summer with a new improved package. The suspense was too great. My mom called only to find out that the trustees had made an executive decision not to increase any current student's scholarships.

The minutes and attendance list for that meeting were not available.

I could have understood this business decision had I felt it was justified. For the rest of the summer I only heard of the huge incoming class, and how that would ease the financial worries of the college. With the early closing of admissions, I was pretty impressed with Alma's ability to recruit one of its largest classes in such a tough economic time—especially considering the fact that Alma cost \$15,200, not including books, spring term and spending money. It did not take long to figure out that it had something to do with Alma's increased scholarships for incoming students. Sure I expect Alma to increase scholarships in relation to increasing costs. HOWEVER, what I discovered angered me. (See chart)

My scholarship covered about 20 percent of my costs in my first year. Since then, with a tuition increase of about \$3000 and scholarship increase of only \$300, this percentage has dropped, whereas, first year students getting my same scholarship three years later, have 32 percent of their tuition covered. These figures do not include other scholarship discrepancies. I can only write from my own experience. For those of you who are intrigued by these numbers, I invite you to investigate your own financial aid packages.

Do not get me wrong. I am very happy with my choice of Alma. I just have a hard time accepting that a college that prides itself on its friendly atmosphere could make such an unfriendly and unfair deci-

sion. I know many first year students decided to attend Alma because of their individual financial aid packages. I do not begrudge this. I am glad Alma can be more affordable for these students. I just wish I was included.

Some may wonder why I write this now, practically half way through my senior year. I did it for a number of reasons. First of all, I do not want my resentment to grow and be taken out next year on an unsuspecting student calling, asking for alumni contributions. Secondly, I want other students to understand that if it can happen once, it can happen again perhaps three years down the road. Finally, and most importantly, I wanted a chance to voice my opinion just as I did Nov. 3 in the hopes of CHANGE.

1989	Cost of Alma
Percentage (approx.)	
Presidential	\$2500
\$12,649	20%

Trustee	\$4000
\$12,649	31%

1992	Cost of Alma
Percentage (approx.)	
Presidential	\$5000
\$15,462	32%
Trustee	\$6500
\$15,462	43%

Watson put his life on the line for nature; you should too

By Michael J. Arnold
Freelance Writer

The arrival of Paul Watson on this campus is a day that will be remembered for a very long time. It was a day when we all came together to admit that we had an overwhelming concern for the environment. It was a day that some of us decided to take the next step, from admitting to being an environmentalist (eco-terrorist, tree hugger, etc.) to acting like an environmentalist. Watson is acting like the kind of person some people want to be, and I must admit that he stirred up an ocean within me.

As Watson said during the Earth Day celebrations last April, "We were all environmentalists." Big business suddenly transformed itself from the exploiter of wilderness and wildlife to the green-banner-toting-saviors. And everyone lived happily ever after. Well, at least until the next business day, when transactions in ivory were started up again, when toxic waste was buried next to the school yard again, when ancient homes of endangered spotted owls were tumbled

to the ground. Just another day.

So what did we learn from Earth Day and Watson? Well, we learned that there are a hell of a lot of people out there who are gravely concerned about tomorrow, and the next day,

If you only remember one thing from Watson's speech, remember this: "If you are fighting for the environment, you are right."

and the next day, and the... well you get the point. And maybe, just maybe, somewhere in a dark, back room of some executive office lurks another one of THEM. Yes, they are there, those executive eco-freaks who quietly go about their business, but who also have the Greenpeace calendar on the bathroom door, who have that box of recycled paper un-

der their desk.

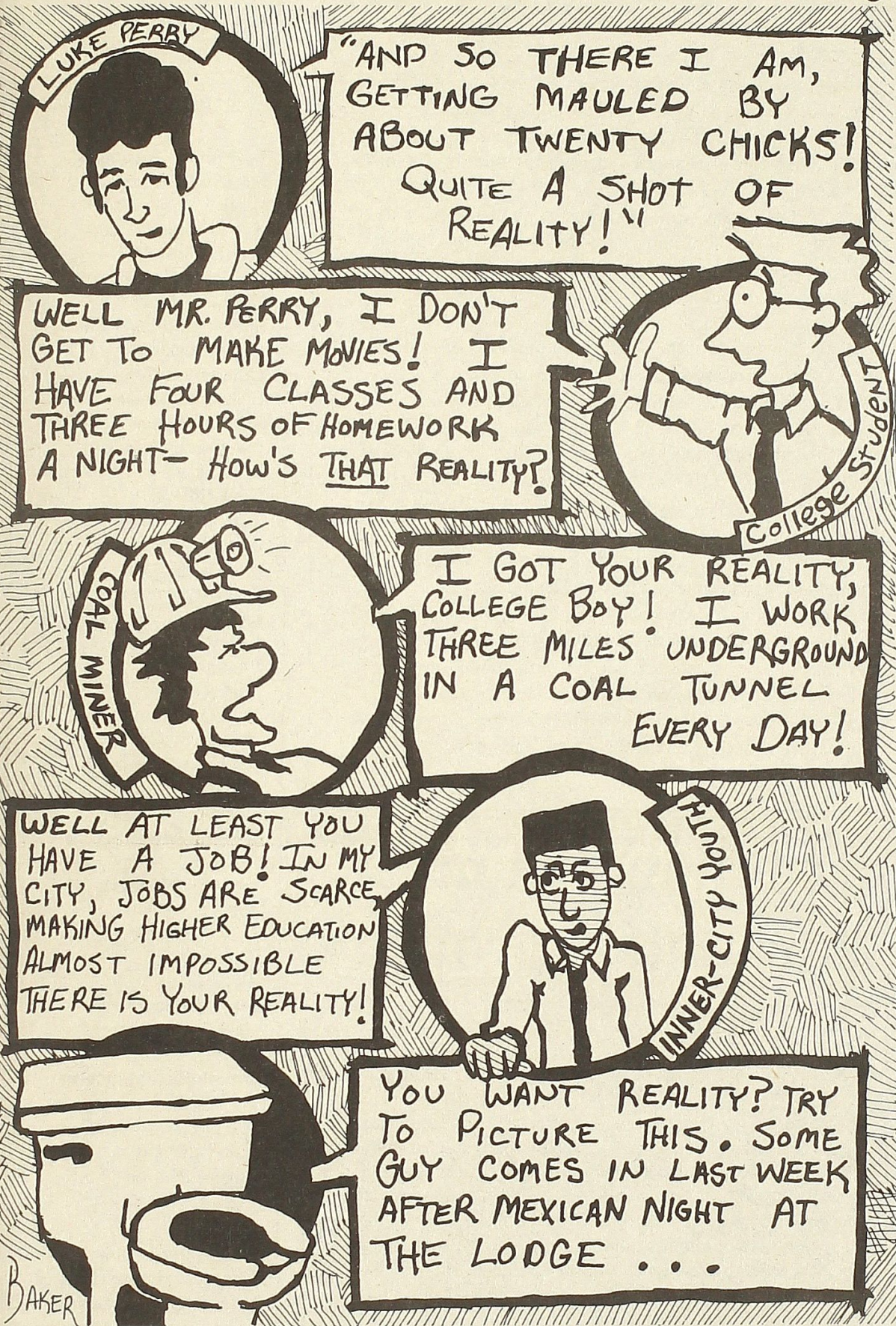
BE FREE!

If you want to do something, do it! If there is an issue that ticks you off, address it! If there is a concern you have, voice it! There are too many people in this world who are all show and no go; there are too many people who join to better their resume, too many people who sit but do NOTHING!

If you only remember one thing from Watson's speech, remember this: "If you are fighting for the environment, you are right." If you have any doubts about something, do not get involved. If you doubt your commitment to the environment, do not get involved, because there are others waiting in line, some who just might want to cast their doubt aside and do what is right.

I keep telling people that they will thank me one day, and I know I am right. When the day comes that there are no more trees, no more wild things, no more soil or water, no more ozone (Ozone-man rules), no more anything...you will thank me and the thousands of others who are dedicated to the cause. No applause, no applause...just do something.

Weird in a serious way by Dan Baker



Like most of the free world, I enjoy watching late night talk shows. Therefore I will now describe to you my own personal writing process for this column. This is the third time I have entered written work in "Weird in a Serious Way" and I have noticed a pattern starting to form. There are three definite subdivisions in my writing. The first is simply a paragraph of non-sensical babbling in a cheap attempt to get your attention. The second section usually relates in a remote way to a

topic that affects college students at some point in their lives, and in the third part of my attempt at literary backwash, I revert back to the non-sensical babbling that so vividly reminds you of your grandfather Ed who continually spits up on himself at every family reunion you can remember.

Which brings us back to late-night talk shows. (Quite a segue, huh!) There are two kinds of guests on these shows. There are the guests on a mission (plugging a new book, a movie, or some other type of multi-million dollar project they are very proud of), and there are those guests who come just to chat with another big, important star. This, of course, excludes Robin Williams who's sole purpose is to fling himself around the set in five different characters at once and thus confuse the audience into laughter.

But I like to focus on the guests that take time out of their hectic schedules to have ten minutes of witty repartee with the host and smile at the audience for good P.R. However, witty repartee and insight-

ful reflection was not meant for use by everyone.....LUKE PERRY!

That's right Dillon-boy, I'm talking to you! Luke "dropped by" the Tonight Show in his casuals about two weeks ago and proceeded to tell Jay a story wherein he, Jason Priestly, and Tom Jones (a discrete crowd) went out to dinner together and were mobbed by women upon entering the restaurant. After they were tackled to the ground and their clothes were half ripped off, Luke puts his hand to his chin, looks at

This, of course, excludes Robin Williams who's sole purpose is to fling himself around the set in five different characters at once and thus confuse the audience into laughter.

Jay and, in a dry, sexy voice that only he possesses, says, "Kinda gave me a good shot of reality."

First of all, what do you expect to happen when three of the most famous sexual icons of the entertainment business go walking into Dennys during the dinner hour, and secondly, where is the gun that delivered that "shot" of reality because I'm just itchin for a good game of Russian Roulette.

This is not to say that Luke has lost touch, or that he does not deserve the success that he has experienced. I'm sure he has paid his dues. It's just that he said something a bit pompous in the public eye and thus, I found it my duty to blow it insanely out of proportion.

So, now that that is over, I would advise you to do like I do. Work on your non-sensical babbling and your witty repartee every chance you get because you never know when one of us might need a little boost to our P.R. rating.

Opinion Potpourri by J. Spalding

Scores affect our socialization habits

The weirdest phenomenon in the world occurs after pre-law seniors get their LSAT scores. People don't make eye contact, don't talk, and avoid each other because they're afraid someone will ask them their scores. It's ridiculous. We spend four years in class getting to know one another and one standardized test makes us go out of our way not to see each other.

Why do I get the feeling that professors here at Alma know a lot more about what goes on in classes and on-campus than they let on?

Here's a strange occurrence at the MacCurdy Women's Resource House. The residents are

allowed to watch T.V., eat, and socialize in the library and not in the front sitting room. This boggles my mind. The MacCurdy House is supposed to promote an academic environment and awareness of women's issues. Could someone please explain to me why the entrance/sitting room is more important than the library? Sometimes I think priorities get out of whack.

I absolutely hate it when people won't say hello or look at you when you are walking across campus. Lighten up, life's too short to be a grump.

By the way, I think it's rude to ask someone their score on the LSAT/GRE/MCAT, etc. First, it's none of your business. Second, if the per-

son wanted to tell you, s/he would.

Some administrators on this campus seem to have the idea that they're on a higher level than the students. It makes me really angry when someone is aloof because of the position they hold. I've got news for them; if it wasn't for the students, they'd be out of a job.

Couldn't something be done about the pool of water that occurs after every rain or melt off by the steps at the library? I guess I'm stubborn, because I just walk through it anyway.

The only really quiet place in the library is in the stacks. First floor is loud because of everyone coming and going. The second floor is a social hour and the basement door is

probably one of the top five loudest things in the world when it closes.

I think everyone should go to an MJJ Smith history course before s/he graduates.

It seems to be some amazing act of kismet that each time I get the irresistible urge for something to eat in the evening and I trudge all the way across campus to Scottie's (by this time, I have the perfect snack in mind that will satisfy me)...sure enough, they have closed for one of those 15-minute "breaks." With two people working every time I go in there, why can't they just take turns for breaks? If Marriott is really interested in improving food service, that would be a start. Also, the prices seem quite inflated.

Seems to me that there's a real cornucopia of good movies out right now. *Dracula* sure has received a lot of hype; I wonder if it will live up to expectations. Also there's *A River Runs Through It*, and *Of Mice and Men* *Glengarry Glen Ross*. And coming up this week, there's Spike Lee's *Malcolm X*. Perhaps that movie will change some public perceptions of the slain civil rights leader.

Was it my imagination, or did the sun not come out for about two weeks? Seemed like it was cloudy and overcast for a really extended period. Maybe that's why I've complained throughout this article.

Nov. 17, 1992

Staff editorial

Censorship ceases to prevail

Censorship is a disease. Regardless of the form or degree to which it is administered, censorship attacks, then weakens, our First Amendment freedoms. It leads to a slippery slope of limitations on our right to freely and openly speak, express, and exchange. But more importantly, it violates the central tenet of our United States Constitution by restricting our right as individuals to freely choose among alternative ideas.

Such is the case with the controversy surrounding the Alma College Players' production of Neil Simon's *Rumors*. Members of the Gratiot Community Players, owners of the performance venue, expressed objections to the use of the word "fuck" in the play. The community group was concerned that members of their patronage, particularly senior citizens and parents with young children, would find such language offensive and refuse to monetarily support future programming by their group. A compromise, in the form of a published disclaimer, was reached between the disputing parties and the play was allowed to open this past weekend as scheduled.

Much larger issues, of course, were at stake in this controversy. First, we must question the authority of the Gratiot Community Players to decide what is and what is not offensive. We argue that the Gratiot Community Players do not have the right or the ability to make such a distinction.

The Gratiot Community Players surely held the best of intentions by attempting to censor for their audience. But what of the Alma College audience, by and for whom the

play was produced? Did we as students, faculty, and friends not have the right to view this play in its unadulterated form as the author intended? The constitution guarantees the existence of this right based on the founding fathers' recognition that the free exchange of ideas is essential to a democratic society.

Rumors is a literary work, and as such qualifies as an art form. Art is itself undefinable. It takes its meaning from individual perceptions and interpretations. It seems absurd, therefore, that select members of a local community would define portions of this play as offensive and attempt to censor the language for the whole community. The issue here is not the supposed vulgarity of the word "fuck." Rather, the issue deals with our right to hear the word spoken. Neil Simon intended for the language to be included in the play, and only he can judge its vitality. The audience has the right to view *Rumors* in the context and fashion that Simon intended. The opportunity of individual interpretation cannot and should not be obscured.

To restrict our fundamental right to freely choose and interpret among alternative ideas can lead us to a state where individuality is no longer valued. Let each individual be the judge of what constitutes art. People do hold the power of censorship—they can choose not to listen, attend, or view. We are just glad that the people of the Alma community can still view Simon's *Rumors* in its purest and untampered form and are able to exercise their choice to attend.

The Almanian

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Opinions expressed weekly in the "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: must be signed, include the author's phone number and address, and pertain to the Alma College community. Letters are published on a first come, first serve basis, up to three per week. We reserve the right to condense letters for layout purposes. Deadline for publication is 5 p.m. the Friday before requested publication. Address letters to: The Editorial Board, The Almanian, Newberry Hall, Alma College, Alma, MI 48801.

Letter to the editors

Dear Editor,

Part of any college student's life is visiting friends on other campuses. This weekend we decided to take a leisurely drive to Alma College from the bustling town of the only true university in Michigan: Michigan State, home of the Spartans. Upon arrival, and getting a summation of the Alma College scene, we found out many similarities and differences.

Finding out that there are really no local hangouts off campus, and also finding out that everyone is accustomed to this, was culture shock to us. We come from a campus where, along with academics, there is also an opportunity to vent the frustrations of academic pressure. These opportunities include more than just going out and getting inebriated; it is a chance to meet different people outside of the academic atmosphere.

We did not come to Alma to judge and condemn; we came on the basis of spending time with our friend. However, we cannot help but feel that students cannot develop completely on an academic level without developing on a social level. The entire college experience includes exploring the entire being. We do not feel this is possible at Alma.

Some of the policies enforced by the administration seem to inhibit the student body. One, for example, was brought to our attention upon reading the sexual offender article found on the front page of the November 10, 1992

edition of The Almanian. We were appalled that an incident that happened on campus could be dealt with in such a half-heartedly manner. On a campus where off campus living is hardly heard of, and where Greeks have to jump through hoops to have social engagements, people who have clearly violated other people's bodies walk away with merely a slap on the wrist.

We feel these kinds of administrative actions add to the whole lack of social freedom that is enjoyed by us back at MSU. Granted, we have larger statistics due to our larger student body, but our administration clue in to the severity of the sexual assault issue. The punishment matches the crime.

You might assume that due to the population of MSU that that is in fact the reason for all the off campus hangouts. But at Alma your money is just as green. Economics cannot be the only reason. It is partially due to an administration that worries more about its' image rather than the welfare and fun that its' students can have. We enjoyed our visit, but look forward to coming back to a campus where the student body stands up to the administration for some basic inalienable student rights: the right to enjoy what other student bodies on campuses across the nation enjoy every day.

Anthony J. Cochran
Travis J. Cochran
Michigan State University

Telethon volunteer encounters grouchy alumni

By Brett Powers
Freelance Writer

Don't be a jerk.

Please do not become a jerk when you leave this college; believe me, some people do become jerks after Alma, and it is not a pretty thing. Maybe they were always jerks.

I have been a volunteer for the college's student telethon for the last month and a half, and in that time I have spoken with many alumni. The different types of conversations I have had has been amazing.

One woman and I spent fifteen minutes discussing the pros and cons of Ross Perot. Another time I talked with a man about his four children that he has had since he left Alma, and he only graduated in 1989.

But I also had graduates who hung up on me—quite a few graduates. These are just not random people I am calling; these are people who have eaten Pizza Sam's, been scared sitting through one of MJJ Smith's history classes, and in one case, a person I actually had a class with my first year.

I am not what you would call a pushy person. Many times I felt bad asking these people for money. When you see that they graduated in 1935, you are pretty sure that they do not have tons of extra cash around

to give to their *alma mater*, and yet, some of my best conversations were with these people. I had a wonderful chat with a 1948 graduate who is now living in Florida. This past spring she had visited the school for the first time since she graduated, so we talked about the changes that have occurred on campus over those years.

But many people were just plain jerks. It was as if I had just called their wife a witch, or their children a bunch of dirty, smelly rug rats. Money is a very touchy subject with people, and I understand that, but if they did not want to donate, I would understand, and I would never push the point any further. I was not out to badger these people. I was one Alma student talking to a former Alma student. There was no need to treat me like dirt.

So I ask you in the years to come, when you are sitting at home watching TV and the phone rings with Alma College on the line, remember that there are students on the other end, students that are taking tests, and partying at the Greek houses just like you used to do. If you do not want to donate, that is fine, that is your right—but do not be a jerk.