

# The Almanian

December 8, 1992

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Issue 11

## Candlelight vigil highlights societal AIDS ignorance

By Kari Gifford  
Freelance Writer

A small group gathered Tuesday in the chapel to mark the fifth annual World AIDS Day Observance and Candlelight Vigil. An HIV positive individual related his experiences with the disease in a personal testimony. Speaker emphasized the theme of compassion and community involvement.

More people were expected to attend the observance since the event received publicity for a week before the vigil was planned. Ann Barko, from the Mid-Michigan Health Department, hopes that with more fore-planning a greater number of people will attend next year.

Candles were lighted to remember those lost to AIDS. Rev. Richard McLane, from the St. Louis Assembly of God Church, offered a prayer for those with the deadly disease. Craig Zeese, a member of the Gratiot County AIDS Resource Team, said, "It may all seem like a small step to have a recognition like this, but it's all these small steps. They are all needed to make this community and other communities around the world realize that AIDS

is a universal concern which must be addressed."

To demonstrate AIDS ignorance, Barko opened her speech with the opinion of a person who had called Barko specifically about the vigil. "Her opinion happened to be a rather angry one. She believed we spend a lot of time wasting time educating people about AIDS because her opinion is that people who have AIDS deserve to have AIDS, that they've clearly done something in their life that has brought this upon themselves and she was quite angry that we're spending money and time when there are so many other diseases that people are dying from."

"She even went so far to say that people with AIDS should be quarantined, that that would solve the problem and we could stop wasting time with it," continued Barko. "Quite frankly, she said, 'I'm very sick of hearing about it and reading articles about this.' My first thought was clearly there's so much that needs to be said. We have to talk about AIDS until AIDS does not need to be talked about anymore. Our only cure for AIDS is education and prevention, until science can come up with a cure."

Over the past 12 years, Mark has tested positive for HIV. Every two weeks he has to refill the 30 to 40 bottles of pills that are required to get him through those two weeks, and he doesn't even have AIDS. He currently speaks at colleges and high schools about his condition.

"One of the things I would like to

correct is the referring of AIDS patients as AIDS victims," he said. "Anyone with HIV or full blown AIDS is not what you would call a victim. It sounds like and feels like you're lying down and letting it take you, usually quietly, and I know it's not going to take me quietly, nothing does."

Mark openly admits that he is gay. "Other than abstinence, you really have to talk to the people that you're going to sleep with," Mark said. "I certainly don't look like an AIDS patient and it surprised me, most of the people I've been asked out on dates by are married men. So I could be going out with your father or your husband and you'd never know. So you really have to have a line of communication open at all times and anytime someone says, 'are we going to have to have safe sex,' don't touch them. If they'll do it with you, they'll do it with anybody. I could go around and infect a lot of people and they'd never figure out who did it."

AIDS poses a danger because it destroys the body's ability to fight diseases and infections. It is spread most commonly through unprotected sex, sharing drug needles,

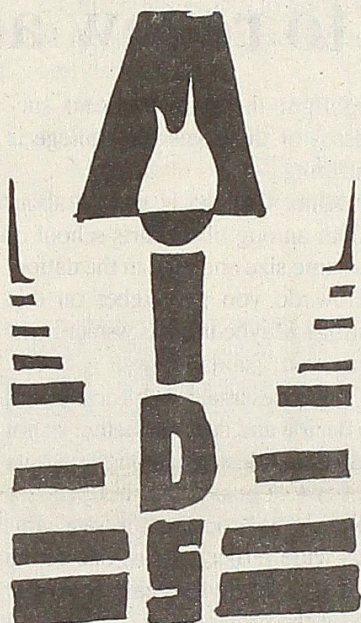
infected mothers to babies during pregnancy or childbirth, and by breast feeding.

"There are one to two million people in the U.S. that are HIV infected," Barko warned. "They don't look infected, there's nothing to tell you they're infected. When those two million people start to get sick, we are truly going to have an epidemic on our hands that, at this point in time, we can't even imagine."

"People just don't think it will happen to them," said Mark. "It's like, 'I'll never get a venereal disease, I'll never get this or that.' I never had a venereal disease in my life and I got HIV, and that's probably one of the hardest."

"Many people who are not afraid of AIDS should be afraid of it," said Barko. "Teenagers who are engaged in unprotected sex or experimenting with drugs. That's the largest group of people becoming infected."

Barko and Lisa Evans from the American Red Cross were co-chairs for the event, sponsored by the Gratiot County AIDS Resource Team in conjunction with Alma College and the American Red Cross of Gratiot County.



## Committee readies final proposal

### Student input to Evergreen Planning indicates areas of concern

By Michelle Kossa  
Freelance Writer

The Student Long Range Planning Committee released preliminary results from their two surveys; specific statistics will be available next week. The committee was formed to provide student input into the new Alma College Evergreen Plan.

The top three needs as seen by students in the class one category, indicating more expensive items, were: 1) installment of a new telephone switch providing cable and computer access for rooms; 2) improved parking availability; and 3) increased exterior lighting. The top three requests in the class two category, indicating less expensive items, were: 1) better dorm lighting; 2) more winter term introductory classes; and 3) the installation of ice machines in residence halls.

Approximately 90% of the surveys indicated that students would like to see Alma ranked as a national liberal arts college, but 45% thought that admission standards should not be increased in order to do so. Over 60% thought that Alma should stress diversity re-

cruiting.

"I'm very satisfied with the response rate of the surveys. We (the committee) really appreciate the time people took to fill them out," said junior Aaron Howald, committee chairperson.

"I thought it was a good idea. I had a lot of friends who took the opportunity to make their own additional comments, so I think they got a lot of good information through it," said sophomore Heather Smith.

The researching has required a great deal of extra effort from committee members, but has been rewarding at the same time. "I feel like I'm having an input to where the college will be going in the next four years whether I'm here or not," said senior committee member, Kimmer Popoff.

Next, the committee will transform survey results into a proposal to submit to the President's Advisory Council (PAC).

"We will attempt to keep in touch with the students during the next stages as we have done in the past. We will make the proposals available for students to read before we submit them to the President's Advisory Council, the steering group for the long range planning pro-

cess," said Howald.

The committee will also host an open forum on Thursday, Dec. 10 at 8 p.m. in Jones Auditorium to discuss students ideas and the proposal. President Alan J. Stone, Provost Ann Stuart and others will field questions.

PAC offers no guarantee that the student proposal will be adopted, but the input will be strongly considered in final decision making.

Committee members include: Howald; sophomores Mary Kay Ecken and Dana Grant; junior Jennifer D. Smith; and seniors Popoff, Heather Laird, and Dave Woodruff.

#### TOP CONCERNS

##### Class I

- 1) new telephone switch
- 2) improved parking availability
- 3) increased exterior lighting

##### Class II

- 1) better dorm lighting
- 2) more winter term introductory classes
- 3) ice machines in residence halls

## Singin' in the Season



Senior Jeff Spalding and sophomore Dave Miller perform a skit at Holly House. Holly House is an annual variety show put on by the Sigma Alpha Epsilon (ΣΑΕ) fraternity to celebrate the Christmas season. It was on Friday December 4, and was open to the entire campus. Photo by M. Stargardt



Dec. 8, 1992

# Missing Alma student found safe in Texas

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

A missing-persons case which shocked the Alma College community last week has been declared a "false alarm," according to Dean of Students James Kridler.

"Through investigative resources we were able to determine that Alma College fifth year senior Kim Kaczmarek was in the Waco, Texas area visiting a former Alma student and friend," said Sergeant Michael Vetter of the Gratiot County Sheriff's Office. "However, as of Friday, Dec. 4, 1992, Kaczmarek had not yet notified any family members. We are awaiting her return to

Michigan."

"We are assuming that she is coming back and will finish out the remainder of the term," said Kridler. In a memo circulated Wednesday, Dec. 2, he said, "We know that she is fine...We are all relieved and thankful about the outcome."

Kaczmarek was first reported missing by her mother Friday, Nov. 27. According to a memo circulated by Kridler Tuesday, Dec. 1, "Kim [had] not been seen since last Wednesday, Nov. 25. She did not go home for Thanksgiving nor did she attend her classes yesterday."

An intensive investigation began immediately, involving the state police post in Ithaca, the Alma Po-

lice and the sheriff's department.

"Rumors that Kaczmarek was allegedly being harassed by a male through her work at Petticoat Junction were checked out and found to have no bearing on the case at all," said Vetter. "It was strictly a student feeling the heavy pressures from exams, papers, holding down a full-time job and graduation."

Kaczmarek was under a heavy course load this term trying to get in everything she needed for graduation due to her "irregular college career," said her advisor Burnet Davis, political science chairperson. She studied a year in Poland and a semester in Washington, D.C., which put her behind schedule.

Police also investigated the possibility of an abduction since she was last seen in a shopping area.

Kaczmarek, 22, a Kalamazoo native who lives off-campus and is scheduled to graduate this month, "simply left town without notifying anyone of her leaving," said Vetter.

Kridler added, "She did it of her own free will."

Davis offered one plausible explanation for Kaczmarek's behavior. "When you get behind you become embarrassed. The further behind you get, the more embarrassed you become. It is easier just to leave the entire situation," he said.

Kridler and the Alma College faculty aided Vetter in his investiga-

tion. "The Dean of Students and faculty members were extremely helpful. They contacted students, checked her class schedules and provided personal background information and names of friends through the years she has been at the College," he said.

Davis said, "I don't know why she did it. I am glad she is O.K. and wasn't abducted, but I am just surprised she did it. She should be able to work things out even if it means coming back next term."

Vetter said, "I would like to talk with her upon her return. This (interview) is not required, but is something I would like to do."

## College committee works to renew accreditation

By Jane Brown  
Staff Reporter

A college diploma doesn't guarantee a post-graduation job. However, through Alma College's ongoing accreditation process, students can be assured that their education comes from a respected institution.

Alma is one of many Midwestern schools working toward accreditation through the North Central Association, a regional accrediting agency. Accreditation helps a college monitor its progress and also provides a benchmark for comparison with other colleges.

Schools must meet four criteria to receive accreditation: 1) have a clear and publicly stated purpose, 2) have adequate resources to meet its purpose, 3) be accomplishing its purpose, 4) continue to accomplish its purpose in the future. Though these appear to be easy requirements to meet, they are not, according to George Choksy, chairperson of the Outcomes Assessment Task Force (OATF) and of the economics de-

partment.

Accreditation takes place in 10-year cycles, with reevaluation from a team of evaluators occurring at the end of the cycle. This team consists of presidents, professors, and deans from colleges similar to Alma. The team includes five or six people. While visiting, the team interviews students and faculty, judging how well Alma meets the four criteria.

In addition to the visit, the school is also judged on a report from faculty members. In the report, the faculty make a case for a school to remain in good standing.

The first two requirements of the criteria are easy to meet, said Choksy, but the third proves to be "very slippery. It is very objective.... Our mission statement is very general; it is hard to pin down if we are actually doing it," he said.

During the eighties, the White House pushed to quantify the third goal. This made the accreditation an even more complicated process. To help complete the third goal, the College has formulated an Outcomes Assessment Committee to

highlight the problems and successes of the goals the College is fulfilling.

Alma College is ranked about 200th among liberal arts school of its same size and type in the nation. "How do you get higher on this rating? Maybe this assessment will answer it," said Choksy.

The assessment task force is left to decide and define whether or not Alma is following through with its mission. Choksy said his primary roles are as "coordinator for a campus wide project and as one of the primary knowledgeable people about the project."

The task force makes its assessment by testing seniors through their major departments. "Seniors test for the most part to find out whether the program is working in certain ways. We might need to reevaluate some of the things we are doing," said Choksy.

While Choksy coordinates putting the assessment together, he does not formulate the plan; the plan is supposed to include all of those on campus. The task force believes it

can come up with accurate information to meet the criteria in a variety of ways. The assessment must be complete and in writing, and must be in effect by June 1995.

Through this assessment, the College hopes to improve the installation of a standardized alumni tracking system. Departmental analyses would decide how the graduate was managing in society.

With more departments needing written analyses of the work they do, teaching will become more formalized and standardized. Though the accreditation process is a great deal to organize, Choksy says he believes that it is good.

"It is to schools' advantages to be accredited. It shows that they are accepted by their peers, professional educators.... The entire institution is legitimized," Choksy said. Choksy also said that self study and assessment do have their possible drawbacks.

"I think it is good as long as it doesn't turn into some relatively invisible busy work. Then it would become a bad thing," Choksy said.

### Abridged Student Congress Minutes (from December 1, 1992)

#### Executive reports

President: He will not be able to attend the next meeting due to a previous commitment with regards to the band, therefore our vice-president, Amy Hamann, will be running the next meeting.

#### Standing Committees

Long Range Planning Committee: Most of the second surveys were collected and reviewed. There will be an open forum with all four vice-presidents there along with President Stone, on Dec. 10 at 8 p.m. in Jones Auditorium. Free tacos from Taco Bell will be available afterwards.

EPC: Meeting times have changed from Friday afternoons to Tuesday mornings at 8:30 p.m.

WQAC: Next week there will be a presentation about the budget for the radio station and Student Congress will vote on the proposal.

#### Old Business

Outstanding faculty and outstanding administration members were chosen and will receive a \$50 donation to their favorite local charity, and a \$50 gift certificate to dinner. Each member will attend an upcoming meeting to receive their award.

#### New Business

EPIC is sponsoring a poetry reading on Dec. 10 at 9:00 p.m. in the Clack Art Center.

(Editor's note: Student Congress Minutes from the 12/1/92 meeting did not include the names of the winners of outstanding faculty member and outstanding administration member.)

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# Clifton completes writing fellow series at Alma

## Standing-room only crowd listens to poetry reading

By Denise C. Vittitow  
Freelance Writer

Lucille Clifton, the Lyla Wallace-Reader's Digest Writing Fellow, made her third and final visit to Alma College this past week. Clifton also traveled throughout the community.

Wednesday evening in Dunning Memorial Chapel, she read poems about slavery, her family, aging, abortion and abuse.

"What happened Wednesday night I have never seen before. Never have I seen a standing room only crowd in the chapel. Especially for a black woman reading poetry about her life," said senior J.C. Clarkson.

Professor of Religion Joseph Walser said, "I found this poetry reading even better than last spring. Lucille is really in tune with Alma in spite of all the obvious differences between us."

Clifton began the reading with

what she called a "universal" poem. By always beginning with "universal" poems she can show those who have never attended a poetry reading that they are fun.

Clifton writes about her personal experiences, especially about being female, African-American, and a mother. Throughout the reading, she shared many of her experiences that went into her writing.

She also read some poems she had recently written but never read at Alma before. She concluded the evening with two poems of celebration. The poems rejoiced about womanhood and her own life.

First-year student Becky Shelley said, "Although I didn't agree with all of Lucille's opinions, I enjoyed the reading and found her to be witty and funny."

"I didn't like reading her poems, but I really enjoyed listening to her read them," said first-year student Mark Richardson.

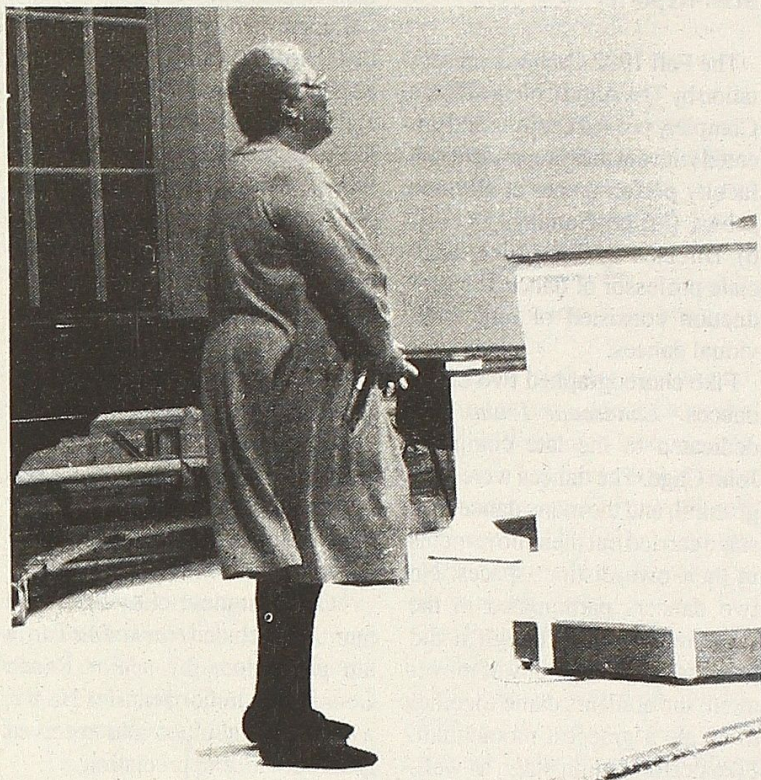
Clifton also visited classes, a women's shelter, and the geriatric home. She read poetry or talked about civil rights at all of these events. It was her attempt to make the Alma Community and Alma College more aware of blacks and the need to have them for true diversity here at Alma.

Clifton had originally wanted to schedule a reading at the St. Louis Correctional Facility, but was denied access. Officials apparently feared her poetry would agitate inmates due to its sensual nature. Inmates are allowed to receive *Playboy* subscriptions, however.

Clifton has grown to know some of the students and faculty during her visits.

"I feel like I'm coming home when I come back to Alma," said Clifton.

A reception hosted by Epic, the English club, followed the reading.



Lucille Clifton. Photo by P. Sandberg

## Clifton shares her personal thoughts

By Maria Stephens and  
William J. Johnston  
Freelance Writer and  
Copy Editor

The following is a portion of an interview conducted Friday, Dec. 4, Lucille Clifton's last day at Alma through the Lyla Wallace-Reader's Digest Writing Program.

**Almanian:** What were your impressions when you first came to Alma, and how have they changed over the three weeks you've spent here over the course of a year?

Lucille Clifton: When I first came, I didn't have any expectations other than that this is a small liberal arts college in a rural kind of place. But I had been to a lot of them, you know; I've been traveling and reading for 20 years, so I didn't have any expectations other than that this would be something like that. It was less diverse than I thought, both in the college and in the community. I had forgotten about communities where there weren't many black people, or I hadn't thought about them, particularly.

But since then I feel I've come to know at least the college fairly well. At least, I know students here; I feel like I know several, a slew of them, as well as faculty and staff. It becomes personal to me, which it wasn't before. I think that's the difference: that once it was not a personal identification that it tends to be now.

**A:** Do you feel that, from your impressions of Alma, enough is being done, at all levels, to provide a sense of community for the minority population at the col-

lege?

LC: I don't think so, really, but I think that's something that takes place on all kinds of fronts. I wouldn't like to say this is somebody's fault; it is perhaps the fault of history, if anything, you know?

Alma is in a community that doesn't have a lot of diversity. It's a faculty that doesn't have any diversity right now, I don't think.

What Alma might want to do is talk about it more, because I think students are interested.

Now when you talk about that Alma has to "make a place" for minority students, it's an interesting way to talk about it, because if Alma is a school open to all, then...it already has a place for everybody. If, whether spoken or not, Alma has been a place open to all white students—that's how language is so tricky—then somebody has to move over to make a space for the black community that comes to Alma.

From the beginning it would be good if places were founded with a space for all people already, so that no one would have to move over just if there were somebody there to fill that; it was still there. *Jet* magazine oughtn't be sold here only when black students come, and ought to be available for everybody; it's a magazine that everybody can buy.

But I think Alma has the desire to do other—the students have the desire—and if they don't have it they would if they knew about it, and I'm not sure that all is being done about that. But I believe in time, and I think that the plan will come when it will be of necessity, but it's good when things are done before they're necessary, not because they're necessary, but because they're right.

**A:** Within the limitations of a small liberal arts college, what more are some of the things that could be done?

LC: Well, this is a private college, but it still has an allegiance to all students who can come here. There could be a broader outreach, both in students and in faculty. There could be more exchanges, more student exchanges, faculty exchanges. There could be lectureships here that black people were invited to. And you don't have to make the lectureships for black people, you can just invite black people for lectureships that are already here...because that raises the awareness.

Now I know that there is a program where students went to Stillman College, but with the [Stillman] students, I think they came during the summertime and that's not when the students are here, that's not *real*, you know?

I'm always harping on the Chippewa reservation close to Alma which does not seem to have a lot of Alma connections. I have been told that that is because Central Michigan University connects with that—so they're *their* Indians? There could be Alma students who went out and talked to the elders there to develop some connections, so that Alma students as part of their liberal arts education became acquainted with people *unlike themselves*. Because that's one of the things that a liberal arts education ought to be, to acquaint people with a world unlike the one they grew up in, or unlike the one they live in.

## Russia and the Baltics Trip

All students interested in taking the ST012 Intercultural Comparison: Tour of Russia and the Baltics should submit a \$300 non-refundable deposit by December 15 to either Mel Nyman (AC 253) or to Bob Rozier (CAC 111).

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Dec. 8, 1992

## Review

## Strong choreography makes Orchesis a success

By Jane Brown  
Staff Reporter

The Fall 1992 Orchesis presentation by The Alma College Dance Company proved exciting and talented with outstanding student and faculty performances at all three shows (Friday-Sunday, Dec. 4-6). Directed by Carol Fike, associate professor of dance, the production consisted of nine individual dances.

Fike choreographed two of the dances—*Landscape I and II*—dedicated to the late composer John Cage. The dances were very gestural, and the many dancers on stage carried out their movements in their own distinct spaces. No two dancers participated in the same movement. Though it did prove to be a cacophony of movement, the students came together to create a graceful momentum. Fike performed on stage as well.

In *Landscape II*, Cage's music consisted of little more than a few drops of music in a very vast bucket. Junior Julianne Thomas said about the show and, in particular Fike's dances, "Overall it was a really good performance. It showed versatility in the performance. I did not like the John Cage pieces because I feel that they misinterpreted what Cage represented and the values he portrayed through his music. Cage felt that there were no bounds to music and the way in which Fike choreographed the dance seemed

restricting and confining to what dance could be."

Student-dancers also took part in the choreography. Sophomore Kristin Bender, who appeared in eight dances, choreographed a wonderfully spiritual dance, *Edge of the World*, with jazzy music by Faith No More. Bender choreographed another dance, *Doin' the Do*, performed by Bender and sophomore Andrea Lobbezoo. Lobbezoo choreographed a dance to the theme from *Wild Orchid*, and sophomore Dena Hughes choreographed *The Struggle Within*, a political dance performed by Hughes and sophomores Kathy Bailey and Stacey Weinrick, that included an editorial narration and music by Prince.

Other student-choreographed numbers included *Hooked on Tap*, a tap piece done by senior Renee George and junior Jennifer Hardy, which was fabulous and received great audience appreciation.

"The student-choreography is the other level of this exciting production...What an opportunity for a student to come to Alma College, choreograph a dance and have it produced...It's wonderful as an educator at a liberal arts college to allow students this opportunity," Fike said. "The students must audition to get their choreographed dances into the show. We pick the very best pieces."

In addition to Fike, Thomas Morris, a part-time instructor of ballet at Alma, and Kathy Francis, guest choreographer, assisted in di-

recting the show. Morris choreographed a Tchaikovsky dance—"Waltz of the Flowers"—which featured Bailey who gave an absolutely outstanding performance. This dance was graceful, and, though the dancers seemed maybe slightly cramped on the stage, the performance was beautiful.

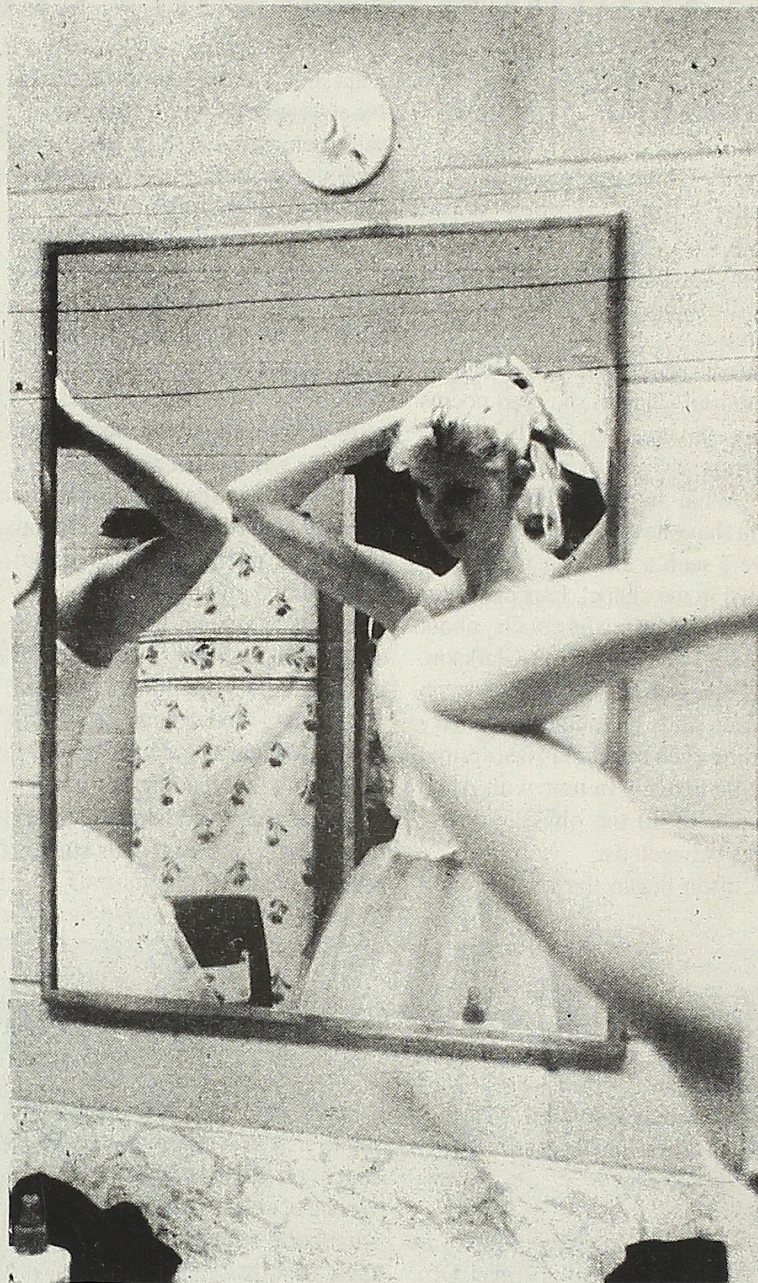
Francis choreographed the spirited jazz piece *Rhythm: Can You Feel It?*

Fike brought in freelance costume designer Kenn McJames. Sets were designed by technical director Ray Fike in the Landscape dances and included some stalactite-looking groups of shimmering streamers. These were the only dances with sets.

Audience response was positive. "I think that the performance went very well though I think it was distracting from the show how long the pauses were between each dance. The audience seemed greatly impressed with the talent on stage and were surprised that students such as Kristin Bender had the energy to participate in all the dances but one," said sophomore Melissa VanDyk.

Student-dancers were pleased with the performances. "I thought it went very well. It was a very diverse show. We worked really hard and it paid off in the end," said Weinrick.

"The choreography was really great. Thank you Tom, Carol and Kathy for everything, and all you put into the show," said Bailey.



First year student Shelly Wueff prepares for *Waltz of the Flowers*, a ballet performance of Orchesis. Photo by R.J. Webber.

## Orchestra performs Christmas Concert



The Alma Symphony Orchestra entertained its audience in Dunning Memorial Chapel Sunday, Dec. 6. Photo by R.J. Webber.

## Orchesis looks to change

By Katie Novak  
Feature Editor

Change and anticipation are buzzwords in the Alma College dance department this year. An upcoming name change of the dance company, crucial additions to the dance faculty and the completion of the Heritage Center for Performing Arts slated for the 1993 Fall Term excite dance students and especially Carol Fike, associate professor of dance and director of the dance program.

"The name of our company soon will change from Orchesis to the Alma College Dance Company," said Fike. She hopes the already approved change will make the company more visible and recognizable on campus and within the community.

The addition of faculty members and outside dance professionals Kathy Francis, Thomas Morris and Ken McJames provides another welcome change for the department.

Kathy Francis, a guest choreographer for the fall production (Orchesis) will begin teaching jazz dance courses winter term. A graduate of Alma High School,

the Lou Conte and Gus Giordano Dance Studios, Ruth Page Ballet Academy and New Jersey's Red Bank Dance Academy, Francis choreographed "an electrifying jazz

*"Their [Francis and Morris] influence is monumental. Students are experiencing the instruction of professional dancers."*

*--Carol Fike, associate professor of dance*

piece"—*Rhythm: Can You Feel It?*—for last weekend's performances.

Thomas Morris, adjunct instructor of dance, provides ballet expertise to Alma's program. Morris created *Waltz of Flowers* for the dance company performance, a ballet piece set to Tchaikovsky's music from the famed *Nutcracker Suite*. A graduate

of Michigan State University, Morris trained at Indiana University and the School of American Ballet Theatre and is pursuing a Master of Dance degree at the University of Michigan.

Fike credits Francis and Morris for many improvements in the dance department and company production. "Their influence is monumental. Students are experiencing the instruction of professional dancers," Fike said.

Along with the dance instructors, Kenn McJames of Mount Pleasant, freelance costume designer for Orchesis '92, adds a professional influence. "McJames is an experienced, wonderfully talented costume designer...He designed absolutely exquisite costumes for Morris' *Waltz of the Flowers*," said Fike. "I would like to see this relationship continue."

A new building, a new name and new instructors may help the program, but Fike also cites the importance of the students. "The dedication to the Alma College Dance Company is enormous. I could not do it without the students... My success is absolutely dependent on their participation and success," Fike said.



*Environmentally Speaking by Michael Arnold*

# Grand Island becomes area of controversy

By Michael Arnold  
Freelance Writer

How often does public opinion influence the outcome of a particular area? Not too often one might think, until now. During the past year-and-a-half, the Forest Service has been accumulating and considering over 5000 comments concerning the development of Grand Island in Munising, Michigan. Purchased by the Federal Government of the United States in 1990, the island was under the title of National Recreation Area. Since it has been in the hands of Michigan, from the Secretary of Agriculture, it is the site of intense debate concerning its use in recreation, environmental protection, economic growth, etc.

Paul Pedersen, a Michigan forest ranger whom I spoke with in Lansing last week, said the area is currently being used exclusively for hiking and ATV (all terrain vehicle) use. The island's 20 residents are free to roam the area, although they must abide by state regulation concerning living on public property. They have the use of the island but not owner-

ship. The debate over the island has reached many ears, even Students United for Nature (SUN), which provides the Forest Service with a hefty task.

The island is about seven miles long and four miles wide and possesses some magnificent cliffs and beaches. If you have ever seen the Pictured Rocks National

sense, a large, elaborate sandbar. There are also some threatened and endangered species living on the island, which, according to the mandate, the Forest Service must protect. This includes a hybrid dune grass that exists in only a few places. A concern of the Forest Service is that with certain developments, this grass will be forced out and possibly into

cause of soils, sewage and other issues. A backpacking group out of Lansing has been fighting for the Red alternative as well, maintaining that the area could not handle roads and high volumes of traffic.

Six additional options are also being considered before the final decision which will be determined by summer, 1993. Some comments call

public really wants and giving in to political influence that oversees the activities of the Forest Service. The man said that even the people of Munising do not want to see major developments, like a hotel for 200, an amphitheater or a store on the island. He also commented that such plans would hardly help the area economically, since it would create a "short term boom for a few construction jobs."

Another issue focuses around what public transportation on the island will entail. Some options consider a car ferry; others quiet vans and buses. Either way, not everyone will be happy, and the Forest Service is trying to keep this in mind.

The Forest Service has a reputation for not doing what is in the public interest, even with considerable public input. Their management styles have been questioned while their political ties are not well-liked.

Anyone may comment until the Jan. 15, 1993 deadline. SUN will continue its work on the issue and looks toward the student body for input as well.

*Very fragile, these 20- to 40-foot cliffs of sandstone are highly sensitive to disturbances. A person caught climbing the cliff could be asking for a rather frightening fine.*

Lakeshore, then you have a good idea of the beauty of these cliffs. Very fragile, these 20- to 40-foot cliffs of sandstone are highly sensitive to disturbances. A person caught climbing the cliff could be asking for a rather frightening fine, according to David Worel, a Michigan forest ranger.

The soils of Grand Island are very shallow and in many areas one could dig down only three feet to bedrock. This island is, in a

extinction.

Comments from citizens, legislators and rangers regarding the island were accumulated and arranged into colored options. Red, supported by SUN, leaves the island in a wilder state with only hiking/biking trails and a public transportation system (low noise, low impact). The Forest Service supports Teal, which includes a hotel, store, dock, amphitheater and roads. According to Pedersen, buildings are not site specific be-

for hiking and biking trails only, while others want a scenic byway around the island. In response Worel said, "The preferred option almost never goes through."

The Grand Island issue has brought to light a variety of debates and concerns. One debate centers around the following question: How much development should actually take place? An angry citizen present at the Open House accused the Forest Service of ignoring what the

## Calendar of events

### December 8-13

#### CAMPUS:

Tuesday, Dec. 8

Kiltie Band Christmas Concert  
Alma High School Auditorium, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 9

Jazz Band Christmas Concert  
Dunning Memorial Chapel, 8 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 10

Gelston Hall Pre-Exam Party  
Gelston Lounge, 7 p.m.

Student Honors Music Recital  
Dunning Memorial Chapel, 8 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 11

ACUB Film: *Far & Away*  
Louanna Baker Jones Auditorium, 7 & 9:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 12

Choir Concert: "The Carols of Christmas"  
Dunning Memorial Chapel, 4 & 8 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 13

Junior & Youth Orchestra Concert  
Dunning Memorial Chapel, 2 p.m.

South Complex Christmas Exam Study Breaks, 8 p.m.

ACUB Film: *Far & Away*  
Louanna Baker Jones Auditorium, 8 p.m.

## Movie review

# Costner, Houston make *Bodyguard* a hit

By Heather S. Laird  
Co-editor-in-chief

I must admit, *Bodyguard* took me by surprise. I was expecting some sappy movie with an untenable plot and undeveloped characters. I was even biased by the billing. Whitney Houston? Acting? In a movie? Yes, it's true, and the results were better than I had imagined. While *Bodyguard* isn't on my Top 10 list of all time favorites, it was worth the price.

I should have known, of course, that Costner would never settle for a weak role, not after successes like *Dances With Wolves* and *Bull Durham*. He brings his screen savvy to *Bodyguard* as well, as the tightly self-controlled title character hired to protect a rock star (Houston) from her stalker. Costner has a natural self-awareness that lends itself easily to this ex-FBI agent character, who mesmerizes the audience and Houston.

And who better to play a rock star than a real one? Houston, despite her debatable talent as a pop artist, brings all the right stuff to her role. She runs the emotional gamut from playful-

ness to anger to fear to lust to sadness, and appears triumphant at the end. It seems all her work with music videos, the medium which helped launch her pop career, paid off.

*Media hype aside, Bodyguard packs a punch, providing audiences with laughs, edge-of-the-seat suspense and, if not tears, at least a wry grin of sympathy.*

Never for a moment did I, or the rest of the audience, question the sincerity of her character's emotions or actions.

But no matter how competent the performances, no movie can function without a decent script. *Bodyguard* has that, and more. Dialogue is directed, snappy and believable. Costner has one of the best lines I think I've ever heard in a movie...

but I won't ruin it for you.

The film is sprinkled tastefully with action, as well; what else would you expect from a movie with such a title? But *Bodyguard* skips the blood and gore a la Rambo; the central focus subtly but surely remains the relationship between Costner and Houston.

Any emotional involvement between these two characters would, on the surface, seem far-fetched at best: why would a young and beautiful rock star fall for someone so much older? But both the carefully structured script and Houston and Costner's performances lend the romance credibility. This is no fairy tale; instead, it's a relationship plagued with miscommunication, disappointment and suspense. Tension and attraction are readily apparent on both sides, and it's never obvious that there actually will be a happy ending.

Media hype aside, *Bodyguard* packs a punch, providing audiences with laughs, edge-of-the-seat suspense and, if not tears, at least a wry grin of sympathy. On a scale of one to 10, I give it an eight.

## Bob Moore Flowers



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Dec. 8, 1992

# Volunteerism

*Volunteerism has increased at Alma College in recent years as it has on campuses nationwide. Active campus volunteer groups include the 160-member SOS (Students Offering Service), Greek organizations as well as honor societies and individual students.*

## Campus projects help others

By Theresa Miller  
Freelance Writer

Volunteerism has become a large part of many students' lives. Whether they are members of a service organization such as SOS (Students Offering Service) or a fraternity or sorority, or involved in a course practicum, Alma students believe in helping others.

First-year students Cathy Conrad and Kori Crandall have become involved with the Latchkey program sponsored by the Alma Community Center. Through the education branch of SOS, they learned about the service and began participating.

"There is always a need for more help," said Conrad. "We don't just help ourselves; we help them, too, by being role models."

The experience has provided them the opportunity to affirm their career choice—education. "I believe that in almost every career you are looking into, there are things you can volunteer for that will help you make the decision," said Conrad.

Senior Todd Albery volunteers his time for the Alma United Methodist Church Youth Group. He became involved with the program

through a graduating friend who was looking for someone to fill his spot. He thought the job would be well-suited to him because of his previous work at a summer camp. Albery spends approximately three to four hours per week planning, organizing and running events with the youth.

"You really have to be organized and have events planned for the entire time or you lose the kids' attention," said Albery. Their current activities include swimming, caroling, making Christmas cards and a mural for a nursing home.

Albery finds the time he spends with the Youth very rewarding. "I've lived here four years and I can't imagine not being involved in the community; I want to leave here knowing I gave something back to it," he said.

In addition to individual volunteer projects, sororities and fraternities each have local philanthropies to which they donate time and money. The Alpha Xi Delta (ΑΞΔ) sorority helps the Alternative Choice Education (ACE) program in the area; Alpha Gamma Delta (ΑΓΔ) goes to the Masonic Home around Halloween and spends time visiting

with the elderly; Gamma Phi Beta (ΓΦΒ) supports the local Big Brother/Big Sisters chapter and each year organizes an Easter Egg Hunt and co-sponsors a Christmas Party with the Zeta Sigma (ΖΣ) fraternity; Kappa Iota (ΚΙ) donates to the Women's Aid Shelter and organizes the Highland Festival children's games.

Among the fraternities, Theta Chi (ΘΧ) has adopted a stretch of US-27 and organizes an annual can drive for Adopt-a-Family; Sigma Chi (ΣΧ) works with the Chamber of Commerce for the Fall Fest Car Show and the Salvation Army bell ringing; ΖΣ holds an annual Big Brothers/Big Sisters Christmas party with ΓΦΒ and a 3-on-3 basketball tournament in the spring; Sigma Alpha Epsilon (ΣΑΕ) sponsors its annual "Pumpkin Smash" event, providing donations for Big Brothers/Big Sisters, while proceeds from the annual Spring Cotillion serve as donations to the Charlie Brown Toy Drive; and Tau Kappa Epsilon (ΤΚΕ) has its annual "ΤΚΕ on the Town" variety show and a pool tournament, donating proceeds from both events to the local Big Brothers/Big Sisters organization.

## Students serve families in need during the holiday

By Cathy DeShano  
Staff Reporter

For most of us, Christmas means many things: a time of giving and receiving, a holiday during which the word 'diet' drops out of our vocabulary and we stuff ourselves with turkey and pumpkin pie, a season in which we bundle up to go outside and build snowpeople, engage in snowball fights, and hurl our bodies down the slopes. But for those less fortunate, Christmas can play a different role: it can mean frostbitten hands and feet, empty stomachs, and tears from listening to other children talking about their new toys. This year, several Alma College organizations worked to make Christmas a special time for everyone.

Throughout December, various groups became involved in the effort to aid needy families and children. Two groups, the Student Alumni Association (SAA) and Alpha Xi Delta sorority, combined forces to organize the Charlie Brown Toy Drive. The toy drive has taken place on campus for several years now and those wishing to participate were able to donate new or

used toys. If the toys were used, the man who developed the drive, Charlie Brown, repairs them, and these toys are then given to children the following season. The organizations felt this drive provided an opportunity to cater to children's wants during the holidays.

"I know there are a lot of kids who won't get presents. I think it's a good idea that we give them something without directly giving them money; I always have a problem with just giving them money. I like the toy drive because it's basically for kids, and I think they would prefer toys," said sophomore Kari Tousain, SAA member.

Bruske Hall resident assistants organized a canned food drive which took place Nov. 29-Dec. 4. Students donated items ranging from cake mixes to noodles which were taken to the Salvation Army to be distributed to area families.

Another program sponsored by Alma students was the Theta Chi can drive. The drive occurred Sunday, Dec. 5.

"The can drive is an annual project that we've been doing at least since I've been an active," said fifth-year senior Doug Smith. "What we do is

collect the cans and then cash them in at someplace like Ashcraft's and get the money. Then we go to Kmart or Wal-Mart to buy things the family needs. The Salvation Army in Ithaca sets us up with a family by telling us what they need."

On second north Bruske, residents have taken on a single-parent family with four female children. Resident assistant Renee George asked the Salvation Army to assist in matching her female residents with a family.

"I called the Salvation Army and told them we wanted to adopt a family. Over Thanksgiving break we brought back canned foods, feminine and sanitary products like toothbrushes, clothes, and a few toys—anything the family might need. We decided to focus on one family because we felt it was more personable than doing a wide range of families," said George.

Other groups are also taking efforts such as donations of food baskets, canned foods, and mittens. If students are interested in volunteering their time, the Salvation Army would appreciate help in processing applications for adopt-a-family and similar programs.

## Rewards

Volunteers also benefit from their actions. Here's how core members of SOS feel their experiences are rewarding:

"Volunteering definitely helps you grow as a person, doing things for others purely because you want to, purely because you know it will help someone's life are absolutely amazing feelings."

—sophomore Shana Case, co-chair of the organization's gerontology division

"I visit a woman in a nursing home. It's nice to get away from the stress and hard-drive of school and talk to someone who can appreciate the simple, more pleasant aspects of life. It has helped me value my own life."

—junior Sharlee Hines, coordinator of student volunteers for the Gratiot Community Hos-

pital

"Whenever you give of yourself, you receive ten-fold in the knowledge that you are making a difference."

—sophomore Michael Happel, SOS office assistant

"Volunteering is very fulfilling... I've met some very special people that have changed my life and the way I look at the world."

—sophomore Erin Emery, co-chair of the hunger-homeless division

"I enjoy working with other people and helping to achieve something. I've met some entertaining and wonderful people. It also gives me a chance to burst out of the Alma bubble."

—first-year Ann Gibbs, gerontology volunteer and SOS representative

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Registration: 2:30 - 4:30 PM

### Kalamazoo, Michigan:

Wednesday, January 13, Western Michigan University  
Dalton Center, School of Music  
Registration: 3:00 - 5:00 PM (Park at Miller Auditorium)

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# AUDITIONS



# Swimmers make waves at Gobbler Invitational

By Jennifer Cosbey  
Freelance Writer

Alma's women's swim team is making waves this year with its 3-1 record. This week the team beat Hillsdale on Tuesday and then took second place, along with the men's team, at the Gobbler Invitational.

In their meet at Hillsdale, Alma swimmers had an incredible showing as they took first in eight of the 12 events. In the 1000-free, junior Salena Williams took first place with a time of 11:36:67 and first-year student Jill Murany finished in second with 12:04:54.

Sophomore Jennifer Turnbull had an excellent day taking first in her two events. Turnbull finished the 200-free in 2:10:25, followed closely by sophomore Tia Green who came in second with 2:11:50. Turnbull also won the 100-fly clocking 2:04:96. Green again grabbed second for Alma with a time of

2:09:57.

It was also a good day for first-year student Jennifer Bondy who captured a share of points for Alma with her two first place finishes. Bondy won the 200-I.M. in 2:18:96 and the 100-free in 56:94.

The 400-free relay served as another strong race. Alma's team, consisting of sophomore Karie Bergin, Williams, first-year student Sandra Hansen and Murany, took another first place finish for the Scots with a time of 4:10:02.

In the Gobbler Invitational on Saturday, the women's team competed against Albion and again Hillsdale. The Scots' score sheet was filled with first, second and third place finishes. By far the most exciting race for Alma was the 200-back stroke, in which the Scots filled the first five places. Bondy took first, Turnbull second, first-year student Melissa Wuchte third, Hansen fourth and first-year student Lesley

Malzahn rounded out the top five taking fifth.

Coach Greg Baadte said, "I knew we had pretty good back stroke team, but we really outdid ourselves. I

had a fantastic meet finishing first in the 200-breast.

Turnbull commented, "The team, as a whole, is swimming much better this year. We have a lot more

*"The team, as a whole, is swimming much better this year. We have a lot more people on the team and a lot more talent with those people, both the men and the women."*

--Jennifer Turnbull

Sophomore

don't think any of the twelve teams in our conference are going to out-score us in the back."

Williams' first place finish in the 1650-free was another meet highlight. Turnbull and Wuchte tied for second in the 100-back, again showing Alma's strength in these events. Bondy finished third in the 400-I.M., setting a new school record with a time of 4:59:46. Murany also

people on the team and a lot more talent with those people, both the men and the women."

The men also had a strong meet finishing second to Albion and beating Wayne State. Their score was also filled with top three finishes. First-year student Christian Betz had a great day taking third in the 100-back and then first in the 100-free in which he beat one of the top confer-

ence swimmers by one-tenth of a second. The men also had a good showing in the 200-back with first-year student Brett Martin finishing second and junior Matt LaJune finishing third. Sophomore Paul Schmidt and first-year student Marc Richardson finished first and second, respectively in the 400-I.M.

"We are really ahead of where I thought we would be," said Baadte.

The Scots also had an excellent showing in diving. In the one-meter, sophomore standout Radu Danca placed first for the men and first-year student Chris Hamacher and senior Karris True placed second and third, respectively.

Baadte said, "It was a fun meet, everyone signed up for what they wanted to swim. Next weekend is a big one, though, with the Christmas Invitational, we want some really good times here in our home pool. It's what we are really shooting for."

## Women's basketball suffers tough week

By Lisa Shoemaker  
Sports Editor

Squandered opportunities, turnovers and mental mistakes were the highlights of the weekend for the women's basketball team as they traveled to Rochester for the four-team Gus Macker Invitational. The Scots record dropped to 1-4 as they offset their Tuesday night victory over Concordia with two lopsided tournament losses to Indiana Tech and Oakland University.

The Scots were able to manage their first win of the season earlier in the week with a 80-66 victory over Concordia. The Scots played sluggish, however, after coming off a grueling road trip to Northern Michigan.

"Even though it was an ugly win, I was not displeased. We were tired both mentally and physically from the weekend," said Coach Charlie Goffnett.

"We were just happy to get out of there with a win," said junior Susie Kieffer.

The Scots did shoot an impressive 52% from the floor, and had four players in double figures. Junior Katie Mans led the scoring with 19 points followed by senior Lauri LaBeau with 17. Senior Colleen Wruble and sophomore Michele VanDamme also chipped in with 15 points apiece.

"Wruble had a great game," said Goffnett. "She had 9 assists and 5 steals. We haven't had a player have 9 assists in a long time."

The weekend told a different story for the Scots, and they dropped consecutive games to Indiana Tech 70-56, and Oakland University 101-61.

Against Indiana Tech on Friday, missed opportunities and a total of 23 turnovers accounted for the Scots demise.

"In the tapes, I counted 12 missed lay-ups," said Goffnett. "They were a good team, but we blew our op-

portunities."

The Scots were again led by Mans with 17 points. Junior Kelly Jaster hauled in a team-high 10 rebounds and dished off 4 assists.

In the consolation game on Saturday, an inspired Oakland University team handed the Scots their worse loss of the season 101-61. The score was deceiving, however, as Oakland shot a blistering 77% from the floor in the second half to widen the margin of victory.

"Oakland just flat out beat us," said Goffnett. "The way they were shooting they could have beat the Pistons. They came prepared to play and are an outstanding team."

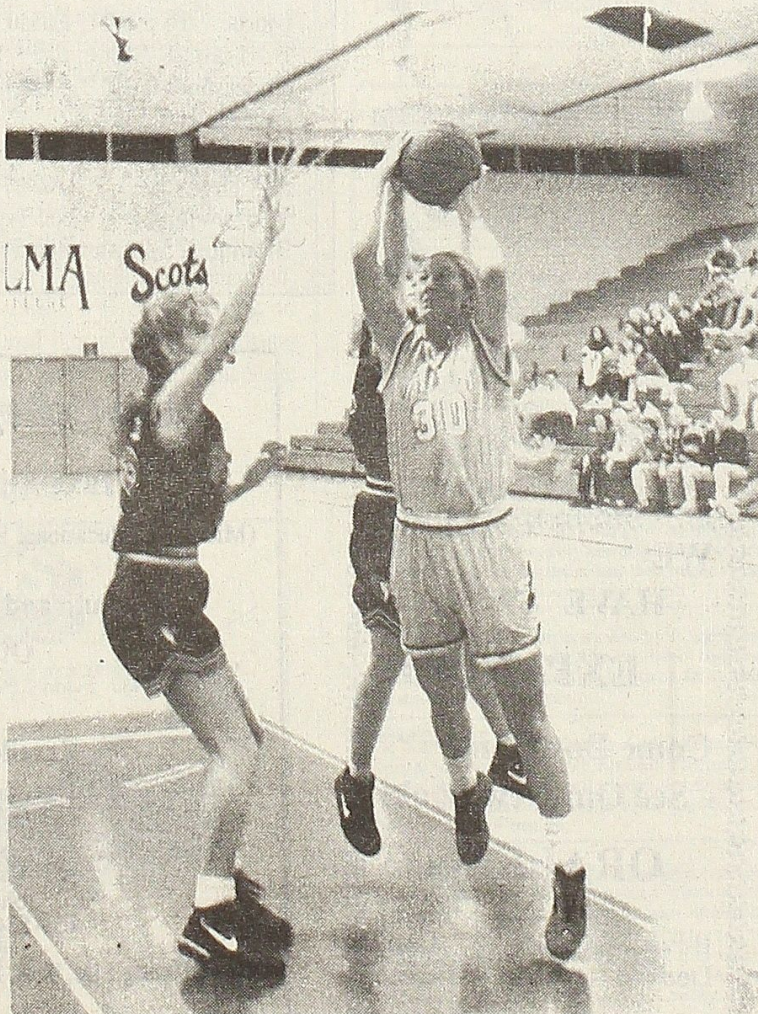
VanDamme, a transfer from Michigan Tech, was the one bright

spot for the Scots. She had a school record tying 7 three-pointers, a team leading 23 points, and was named to the All-Tournament Team.

"Michele had a good weekend," said Goffnett. "She is just starting to get familiar with our program. She is going to be an excellent offensive player for us."

Despite their current 1-4 start, the team is trying to remain positive. "We are having problems staying mentally focused as a team," said junior Tara Sherman. "But, we know that we haven't come close to playing up to our potential."

"We need to start playing like a veteran team and cut down on unforced errors," said Goffnett. "We need to play our own game."



Junior Tara Sherman shoots for two. Photo by P. Sandberg

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## Basketball sputters to 1-5 start

By Bill Ballenger  
Freelance Writer

The men's varsity basketball squad has been unable to match last year's outside-the-MIAA success. In 1991, the Scots compiled a 7-5 non-league record. Six games into this season, the Scots have already equaled last year's number of defeats.

Two weeks ago, Alma tipped-off the season with a 69-56 loss at Aquinas College. Over Thanksgiving weekend, the Scots travelled to Illinois, where they suffered 63-70 and 78-101 defeats to Monmouth College and Knox College, respectively. The Scots snapped their three game skid, behind sophomore Todd Blomquist's 20 points and 13 rebounds (both game highs), by upending Grand Rapids Baptist College on Tuesday night, 82-62.

This past weekend, the Scots hosted the second annual Alma Chamber of Commerce Roundball Classic. Aquinas, Lake Superior State and Indiana Wesleyan joined Alma for the two-day tournament.

Aquinas advanced to the championship match with a 79-74 victory over Lake Superior State in the first game. In the following game, Indiana Wesleyan hung on to its four point halftime edge for a narrow 76-73 escape over Alma.

Clutch free-throw shooting by

Indiana Wesleyan, along with a critical Alma turnover in the final seconds, sealed the victory and prevented an Alma-Aquinas rematch in the tournament final. The loss dimmed strong individual performances by Blomquist (18 points, 8 rebounds) and first-year player Mike Bjorne (17 points).

Lake Superior State exploded for 52 second-half points, breaking a 31-31 halftime stalemate, en route to an 83-71 consolation win over the Scots. Bjorne, the only player to score in double-digits all six games this season, led the attack with 21 points; Blomquist added 18.

Aquinas clinched the championship with a 67-65 decision over Indiana Wesleyan.

"It was tough losing both games, especially considering that we were in a position to win both of them," said first-year student Hedlun Walton. "It would have been nice to win at least one game for our crowd, but I think the key thing to remember with our team is that we are very young. I think that we will get better as the year goes on."

Sophomore center Matt Lotterman indicated that Alma's record should be more like 5-1, not 1-5. "There has been only one game that we should have lost, and that was the game against Knox. I think that we are better than all of the other teams."

Alma's performance hasn't damp-

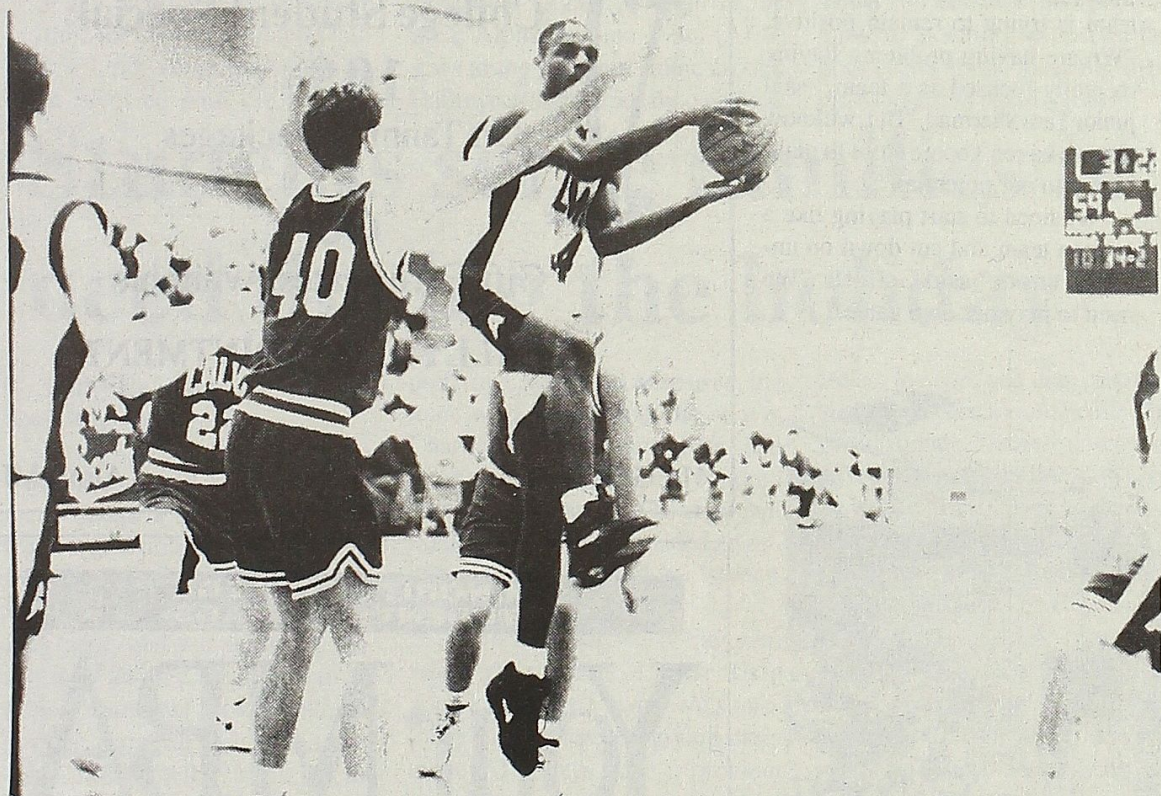
ened the morale of Coach Bob Eldridge. According to Eldridge, there are a number of bright spots on an otherwise disappointing start.

"We have a good defensive team," noted Eldridge. "We have held our opponents under 50 percent shooting from the field. Most of the time they have shot in the low 40s. Even Knox, who scored 101 points, shot less than 40 percent. We have also out-rebounded our opponents in every game."

"My biggest concern is on the offensive end," continued Eldridge. "We have gotten better each game, especially in the Grand Rapids Baptist game. Teams often struggle on offense in the beginning and get better as the season goes on."

The addition of junior Colon Lewis into the starting lineup should provide an injection of offense. Lewis, who led the Scots in scoring last season (17.4), is currently in Japan as a member of Alma's overseas studies program. He will return later this month. Junior guard Mike Penny has also been sidelined this season with a broken foot, but is expected to return to the line-up later this month.

"I'm not concerned with our record," said Eldridge. "I just want to improve a little every game so that we will be strong by the end of the year."



Junior Colon Lewis is expected to make an immediate offensive impact for the Scots. Photo by M. Stargardt

## Sports Stats

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

\*\*\*\*on Tuesday, December 1  
Alma 82, Gr. Rap. Baptist 62

## GRBC (62)

Taylor 2-14 6-7 11, Washington 7-17 0-2 17, Smith 2-7 2-3 6, Kalio 4-6 0-1 8, Jansen 2-5 0-1 4, Pranger 3-11 2-4 10, Alan 3-3 0-0 6, Crandell 0-0 0-0 0, Burgess 0-1 0-0 0, Ver Borkmans 0-1 0-0 0.

## ALMA (82)

Bjorne 3-10 7-8 15, Elliot 2-2 3-3 7, Snell 0-0 0-0 0, Slack 0-0 0-0 0, Kren 0-1 0-0 0, Walton 3-6 7-7 13, T. Blomquist 9-15 2-6 20, Lotterman 1-4 2-2 4, Reagh 1-9 0-0 2, Lindell 0-0 0-2 0, E. Blomquist 1-5 2-2 4, Reed 5-10 2-2 15.

3-Point goals - GRBC 6-20, Alma 5-15 (Bjorne 2-4, Reed 3-8) Rebounds - GRBC 32, Alma 43 (T. Blomquist 13, Lotterman 8, Reed 8, E. Blomquist 6) Total Fouls - GRBC 26, Alma 20.

\*\*\*\*on Friday, December 4  
Indiana Wesleyan 76, Alma 73

## INDIANA WESLEYAN (76)

Jones 4-11 5-8 13, Burns 2-5 0-1 4, Anderson 1-5 6-6 8, Helfrich 1-2 0-0 3, Zent 2-3 0-0 5, Kolisz 1-1 0-0 3, Shade 6-9 11-14 23, Habenicht 1-2 3-4 5, Bloom 5-7 1-3 12.

## ALMA (73)

Bjorne 4-8 8-9 17, Elliott 0-2 0-0 0, Kren 2-5 0-0 6, Walton 2-3 0-0 4, T. Blomquist 6-12 6-8 18, Lotterman 1-1 0-0 2, Reagh 5-8 2-2 12, Reed 4-11 0-0 10, E. Blomquist 2-6 0-0 4.

3-Point goals - IW 4-10, Alma 5-13 (Bjorne 1-5, Kren 2-2, Reed 2-4) Rebounds - IW 28, Alma 38 (T. Blomquist 8, Reagh 8, Reed 5, E. Blomquist 5) Total Fouls - IW 19, Alma 26.

\*\*\*\*on Saturday, December 5  
Lake Superior 83, Alma 71

## LAKE SUPERIOR (83)

Duncan 2-2 1-2 5, Carlson 3-8 2-4 9, McNary 6-12 5-6 23, Kern 0-0 0-0 0, Owczarek 1-2 0-0 2, Jones 6-12 6-6 21, Menk 2-7 4-7 8, Graser 5-6 1-1 11, Jones 0-3 2-2 2, Bennett 1-3 0-0 2.

## ALMA (71)

Bjorne 7-14 5-6 21, Elliott 1-5 0-0 3, Kren 0-1 2-2 2, Walton 1-4 1-2 3, T. Blomquist 7-13 3-4 18, Lotterman 2-3 0-0 4, Anderson 0-0 0-0 0, Reagh 1-1 5-5 7, Reed 4-12 4-4 13, E. Blomquist 0-1 0-0 0.

3-Point goals - LS 10-24, Alma 5-20 (Bjorne 2-8, Elliott 1-5, T. Blomquist 1-1, Reed 1-5) Rebounds - LS 36, Alma 34 (T. Blomquist 5, Lotterman 5) Total Fouls - LS 22, Alma 20.



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Sports Commentary by Brad Engel

## Division III athletics focus on the right reasons

By Brad Engel  
Freelance Writer

The other day I was on the phone with a friend of mine who plays football at Michigan State. I hadn't talked to this guy in four or five months and we caught up on school, our hometown and our families. But, just like every other time we talk, the conversation turned to our college football careers.

Of course, we each went through the trials and tribulations of our respective football seasons and discussed how much better our teams would be in the future. The thing is, every time I talk to him or anybody else who plays Division I football, the conversation always turns to the question of why I decided to play at a Division III school. Inevitably, they make fun of the fact that there are only 1200 people here and how much better I would like playing Division I football.

Why is it that Division III schools such as Alma have the stigma of being inferior to larger institutions because of their attachment to athletic programs? Why do people think the athletes here and at other small schools are playing something that resembles touch football or the softball behind the local bar?

I guess I'm searching for respect for Division III athletes when dealing with this issue. It infuriates me when my friend and others insinuate that the sports we play in the MIAA are comparable to the varsity teams of some high schools. I really want people to understand that, while this isn't the Big 10 Conference, the competition is excellent and far above a high school varsity.

My friend always likes to use the argument Division I athletics are better because those athletes are the ones who play professionally in their respective sports. Sure, we don't have anyone at

Alma who has a chance of playing professionally in any sport. Now I know there are rare exceptions, but I don't think the environment lends itself well to those athletes with that aspiration because the emphasis here is on academics rather than athletics. There is no national media coverage of sports in Division III on a regular basis, and athletes that want to play professionally want as much exposure as possible so they stay away from schools like Alma.

Besides limited exposure, the coaching in Division III is different than at the large schools. Coaches here realize winning isn't the only redeeming quality of college sports. They place academics, character building and the team concept, before television contracts and bowl games. We don't have the best coaches here at Alma, we'll never get a Dean Smith or a Joe Paterno, but the coaches here have the security of knowing they won't get fired after a losing season. This translates into more time to work with the athletes and develop them into more than products to be bought and sold by professional sports franchises.

Personally, I like Division III athletics for everything they are not. They aren't money oriented, and the athletes aren't under scholarship obligation to do everything their coaches demand. Athletes here are able to devote their college career to learning rather than to their respective sports. I also like the fact that everybody has an equal opportunity to play, as opposed to walk-on's versus scholarship athletes.

I guess as a Division III athlete, I have to learn to live with people who feel that any high school jock can compete on this college level. Meanwhile, I'll enjoy going to class and being able to graduate on time, unlike my buddy at State who can't find the time.

### Senior Profile

## Wruble returns for banner year

By Lisa Shoemaker  
Sports Editor

Now that a new basketball season has begun, senior Colleen Wruble and her teammates are ready to put the National Championship plaque in the trophy case and begin a new challenging campaign. Wruble knows full well what a task a repeat will be.

"It can never happen the way it did before," she said. "First, we are not the underdogs anymore and second, every team has us circled on their calendars as the team to beat."

The Scots have already learned that lesson the hard way as they dropped four of their first five games in their tough non-conference schedule. "Losing the first two helped to take the pressure off," said Wruble. "We are just trying to be patient. We know we are a better team now than at this same time last year. We just have to work through the ups and downs."

Co-captain Wruble had quite literally a banner year in 1992. She was selected as the NCAA Regional MVP, first-team All-MIAA and the Scots MVP and Most Improved Player. In addition to her basketball credentials, Wruble is also a standout on the track, where she currently holds the MIAA record for the 800-meter run (2:15.50) set in 1991.

Wruble cited her competitiveness and hustling style of play out on the court as the driving forces behind her basketball success. "I always try to do what needs to be done," said Wruble. "I like to get a feel for the game, and if we need someone to rebound I will concentrate on re-

bouncing, if we need someone to score I will try to score."

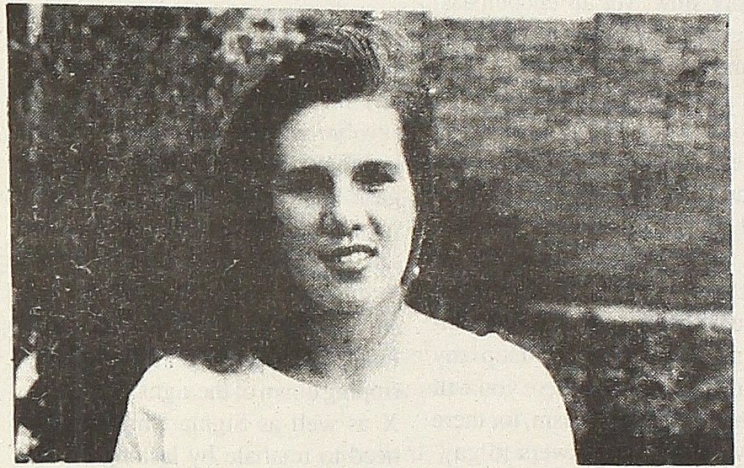
She adds, "Our team is unselfish, we look to see who is playing well and try to get them the ball. Everyone on the team is capable of having a big game. If one of us is having a bad game, someone else steps up to take charge."

Wruble, from Harbor Beach, learned her competitiveness playing on a boy's team for three years in middle school. "My dad was the coach and he did not have enough players so he begged me to go out. I went from being a cheerleader to being the only girl on the boy's

throws down the stretch, particularly with the 15 seconds to go, that sealed Alma's upset victory in last year's championship game over Moravian. "I did not realize the pressure," she said of standing on the line with a national title in the balance.

"I was so excited afterward. I just couldn't believe it," she said of the victory celebration. "All I remember is when our little crowd came running out on the floor screaming, and all the Moravian people stood in the stands in awe."

Wruble said that this year the team's goal is to simply win the



Colleen Wruble. Photo by T. Campbell

team," she said. "It made me a tougher player. I am not afraid of going inside and being physical because of it."

Wruble said that she likes to take the ball to the hoop, but discounts that she is as "smooth" with her drives as people like to describe. "I am out of control sometimes," she said. "I force the ball too much. Right now I think I am leading the team in turnovers."

No matter what she modestly contends, Wruble is still a pressure player for the Scots. It was her free-

MIAA. But on a personal note, she said that anything short of a national championship would be disappointing. "Once you get there and experience playing on that level you cannot be satisfied with anything less."

Wruble is an Exercise and Health Science major. She is undecided about her plans after graduation, but is hoping to continue her education. She is interested in working in the health field either as a dietician or a therapist.

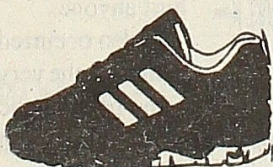
### AN EASY GUIDE TO THE MOST COMMON SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

DESCRIPTION	SYMPTOMS	TREATMENT
<b>AIDS:</b> Nature equipped you with an immune system to fight off infection and disease. The AIDS virus doesn't just attack your body, it destroys that immune system so that your body is more prone to develop diseases like pneumonia or cancer.	Swollen glands in neck, groin or armpit. Night sweats. Unexplained tiredness, and/or weight loss. Persistent diarrhea.	Symptoms can be treated, but to date no cure exists for the AIDS virus itself. At the present time, once AIDS is established, it is 100% fatal.
<b>CHLAMYDIA:</b> Chlamydia (an infection of the urinary tract and/or vagina) is the most common STD in U.S. This is because it has few or no symptoms. As a result, it's possible to have the disease for some time without knowing it.	<b>GENERAL SYMPTOMS</b>	Chlamydia can be cured with antibiotics from your doctor.
<b>GENITAL WARTS (HPV):</b> More than 60 different kinds of Genital Warts are associated with the Human Papilloma virus. (HPV). Since they can be passed on easily, and in some cases have been linked to cancers of the reproductive system, you should have them treated as soon as possible. Females should have yearly Pap tests.	Unusual amount, odor, or color of discharge from penis, vagina, or rectum.	Even though warts can be removed by chemicals, cryotherapy (freezing), or laser treatment, the virus can stay with you for life.
<b>HERPES:</b> Herpes is a virus which infects the surface of the skin and which can be a threat to babies born from infected mothers. Although symptoms can be treated, future outbreaks can be expected at times of stress.	Burning or pain when urinating.	Prescription drugs can treat the blisters, but Herpes cannot be cured.
<b>SYPHILIS:</b> This disease can affect any part of your body or your unborn child. Left untreated, it becomes a serious disease indeed: between 10 and 25 years after the initial infection, 25% of all sufferers can develop paralysis, heart diseases, severe brain damage... or even die.	Burning or itching around vagina, tip of penis, or rectum.	In its early stages, Syphilis can be cured with antibiotics from your doctor. If you think you are infected, get a blood test immediately (this being the only accurate way to diagnose Syphilis).
<b>GONORRHEA:</b> Left untreated, Gonorrhea can cause sterility in men, pelvic inflammatory disease in women, and arthritis in both. It can also settle in the heart, brain, or spinal cord.	Skin rash or sores on or around the sex organs or mouth.	Antibiotics usually cure the disease if diagnosed early.
<b>TRICHOMONIASIS:</b> Trichomoniasis is a disease which causes inflammation of the vagina. Although Trichomoniasis primarily affects women, it can also be carried and spread by men.	Swollen glands.	Trichomoniasis is cured with prescription drugs.
	Pain in lower abdomen.	

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Dec. 8, 1992

## MLK, Parks, Malcom X continue to speak

By J.C. Clarkson  
Freelance Writer

"We declare our right on this earth to be a man, to be a human being, to be respected as a human being, to be given the rights of a human being, in this society, on this earth, in this day, which we intend to bring into existence

**By any means necessary!"**  
(Malcolm X)

I am one lonely black man of age 21. I am tired and I am afraid...Afraid of what we have become, afraid of the disease-ridden ignorance that perplexes our every breath, afraid for our very lives, and the inconceivably slow, yet all encompassing destruction of them. Alma, I scream, I cry, I bleed out to you, please...oh please! Wake up!

It is happening. As we go day after indifferent day, drowning our souls in heartless, cold and empty texts, searching for the enlightening answers to the mysteries of life, we miss the numerous enlightenments that lie within the eyes of our brothers and sisters. Look deep my Almanian friends for there you will find the answers to racism, for there you will find the answers to gay-

bashing, date rape, drug abuse, women's oppression, crack babies...the list trickles on like a waterfall crashing at our feet.

I am declaring, just as our brother Malcolm did, my right on this earth to be a man, to be a human being, bewildered. I don't want to reach

the newspaper.

But hateful words and stabbing "you" statements aren't going to do anything in the newspaper except get recycled. The blame cannot be thrown onto any anonymous groups of individuals, alone. For these individuals, no matter how ignorant

a nation blushed."

**"One woman said one word and a world talked."**

That one woman was Rosa Parks. And for those who don't know, that one word was "NO!" On Dec. 1, 1955, that "NO!" was said to a bus driver in Montgomery, Alabama.

sial and bold young captain, and we will smile and we will answer and say unto them: 'Did you ever talk to Brother Malcolm? Did he ever touch you? Did you have him smile at you? Did you ever really listen to him?'...For if you did, you would know him and if you knew him, you would know why we must honor him."

There is enough anger and hatred in the world, our town and in our very own campus community. Why add to it? Let us not hide behind this paper, and use it as our individual soap boxes, rather, let us rally together before it's too late! Let our voices ring into each other's *concerned ears*. Let us hold each other's hands, as not to get lost on our search for understanding. Let a man speak. Let a woman speak. Let a white person speak. Let a black person speak. Let a homosexual speak. Let a homophobic speak. Let a racist speak. Let a chauvinist speak. Let a male-basher speak. Let a separatist speak. Let them speak **freely**...Let us all come together on common ground and speak, face to face and learn and yell and laugh and cry and ask each other gently...**Why?**

*Here is our challenge Alma College, if we have the courage to go through with it. Just as Martin Luther King Jr. did, we must embrace our enemies. Yes, embrace them!...if we ever hope to understand and change anything.*

the point of raising a gun to my brother's head. I don't want, "By any means necessary," to mean a *revolution*. But events must unfold and they must begin here! We must gaze into the nether regions of our own eyes, and subject ourselves to the lost reflection that bellows through the mirror. "Let ye without sin cast the first stone." Believe me, I understand the anger felt from the ripping down of the signs (Malcolm X as well as Sigma Chi) and the need to retaliate by lashing out in

and callous in their actions, were not begot of their own flesh, do not live on islands by themselves, but are educated in the same classroom as we are. We are all guilty for the levels of apathy, anger, frustration, hatred and ignorance that exist in our society today, and we all must take responsibility for **our** actions.

I can hear you saying it now, for every once in a while I place the same obstacle in my own path: "What can one person do?"

**"One woman said one word and**

Parks would not sit at the back of the bus. That "NO!" started a 17,000-person bus boycott.

Here is our challenge Alma College, if we have the courage to go through with it. Just as Martin Luther King Jr. did, we must embrace our enemies. Yes, embrace them!...if we ever hope to understand and change anything. This excerpt from Malcolm X's eulogy delivered by Ossie Davis may help you see: "Many will ask what Harlem finds to honor in this stormy, controver-

## Mellow out this Christmas season

By Ganesa Wegienka  
Graphics Editor

Well, it's December again and everyone knows what that means.

We have 17 shopping days until Christmas. We have 17 days to buy gifts for every relative on the face of the planet, plus presents for office parties, club parties and the mailman. We have 17 days in which to buy a tree and decorations, food for the family and social gatherings, and a new Christmas outfit with matching shoes and handbag. We have 17 days to address and mail Christmas cards to any human being we have spoken to in the last year—be careful not to forget anyone because they will hate you forever.

I hate holidays.

Over Thanksgiving break, I went to the mall with my mother and sister. I thought it would be nice to do a little shopping and get into the holiday spirit—maybe buy a present or two and soak up some of the atmosphere. We drove 15 minutes to the local mall and what ensued made my blood boil.

We drove around for 29 minutes looking for a parking space. During this time period, I saw people driving around like maniacs. People cut me off, flipped me off and essentially ticked me off. There was no peace on earth and good will toward men

(and women). It was people acting like obscene jerks because they wanted a space 10 feet closer to the mall.

Finally, we found a spot and went into the mall. I was pushed over the edge. People were everywhere and they were on the war path. I was pushed, prodded and run down. There were countless individuals running around with lit cigarettes—all seeming to converge toward me. People trampled one another so they could buy a pathetic 90210 Brenda doll for 50 cents less. The kind shoppers always seemed to drop stuff and never pick it up—maybe they thought that Santa's little elves would stop by and pick it up for them. I was

also physically mauled by perfume-spraying women wearing 60 pounds of makeup. Finally we left that hell on earth—I couldn't take it anymore. I wanted to die a quick death. Merry Christmas.

This whole incident set me think-

ing. Where was the meaning of Christmas? Could anyone really say they enjoy this holiday? Where was that "feeling" I was looking for? This is a very spiritual season, and I could only feel anger, disgust and animosity toward the human race.

fooled. They tell us that we can buy happiness in a package with a big red bow. The more something costs, the happier a person will be. As if this isn't enough, people are made to feel guilty and inadequate if they can't afford to buy their loved ones the most expensive items.

Christmas has turned into quite a superficial affair. People spend untold amounts of money on trees and lights just so their house will be the "prettiest" (tackiest) house on the block—and be the only house with the ability to drain all power sources within a 50-mile radius. I'm not saying that Christmas trees and house lights are the work of the devil or anything, but a little moderation would not hurt anyone.

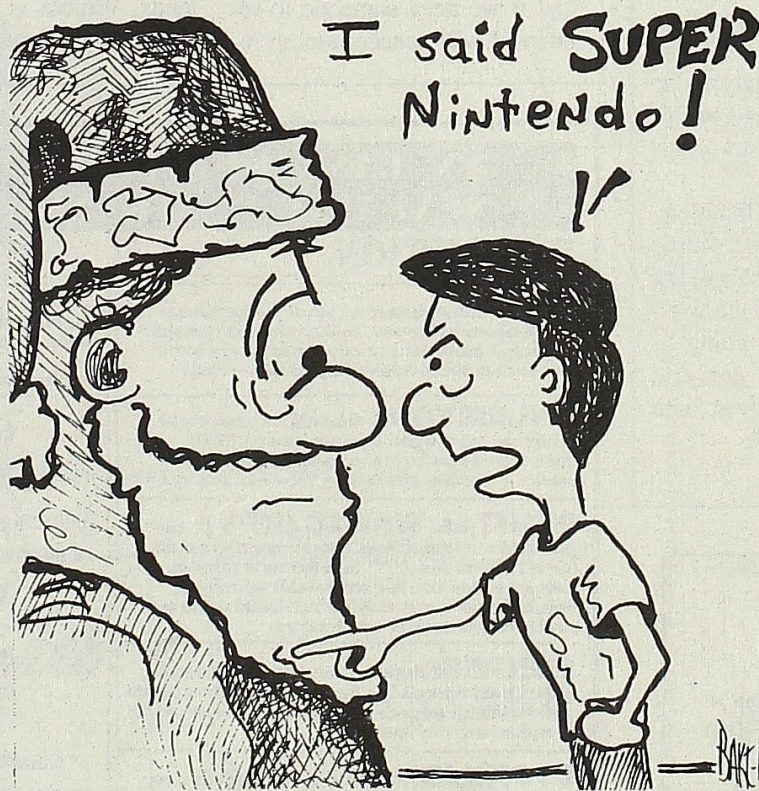
It also occurred to me that the very same people who

were acting like sadistic vultures in the mall will probably be the same people standing next to me at church on Christmas Day singing "Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright." I wish people could see they are living paradoxes.

I guess it's too much to expect change, but I wish there was a little more peace and gentility during the holiday season. Maybe people could let someone pull in front of them when they're out driving. Maybe people could shovel snow for that little old man down the street at no charge. Maybe people could actually give money to the Salvation Army volunteer who stands out in the cold ringing that bell for charity. A dollar from you may not mean much, but if a thousand people gave just one dollar, together they could make a big difference.

Don't overlook the little things that happen only during holidays. They're free and people remember them more than who gave whom which present. I can't remember who gave me the lovely mitten/hat/scarf ensemble, but I can remember the time my family squeezed onto the couch in order to take a timer-photo—I have that picture on my board here at school. I love telling people that every Christmas my family gathers at gram's house where we feast on kielbasa and potato salad—I don't tell them that she once bought me a velour jogging suit complete with bell bottoms.

Christmas has so much potential to be the greatest time of the year. What are you going to do this holiday? Whatever you choose have a peaceful, wondrous, sane and merry Christmas.





# Stone assumes students are ignorant

By Jeffery S. Spalding  
Opinion Editor

Perhaps some Alma College students have not read or heard about the statements made by President Alan J. Stone in the Nov. 23 issue of *U.S. News and World Report*. Worse yet, many Alma students may not care about such remarks. In short summary, Stone commented on the racial history knowledge of Alma College students by stating his students, "are surprised to learn that separate drinking fountains existed barely 25 years ago. They seem to think these things happened at the turn of the century."

Stone seems to believe that Alma students are ignorant of the civil rights movement and the struggle for racial equality in the United States. Stone should investigate further before making irresponsible and blatantly wrong comments. Most Alma students are not as ignorant or unaware as Stone assumes. Stone would be surprised to learn that some Alma

*Most Alma students are not as ignorant or unaware as Stone assumes. Stone would be surprised to learn that some Alma students are probably more knowledgeable on the subject than he is.*

students are probably more knowledgeable on the subject than he is.

Stone failed to inform *U.S. News* that many Alma students spend a tremendous amount of time learning about, understanding and applying the historical gains of the civil rights movement. Readers of this magazine won't see Alma as an institution where extensive research and investigation into civil rights is available and pursued. Rather, Alma will be seen as an ignorant and unaware college whose students could care less about the history of racial equality or the value of learning in a diverse environment. This is the image that Stone promotes with his comments. This is not what the the students are about in reality.

It hurts me to think that the president of Alma College is ignorant of the work, attitudes and knowledge of the students that study here. I guess it does not matter to Stone that some students have made it a priority to learn and understand what went into the struggle for human rights in the 1960s. Stone doesn't know that diligent work has gone into the research of this period by Alma College students.

While working on history and political science majors at Alma, I have studied this crucial time frame in depth. Stone's remarks make me feel that my knowledge and research on segregation and civil rights means nothing. Does Stone know that I traveled to the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston, Massachusetts to research segregation and federal involvement in the civil rights movement for my history thesis? Probably not. Is he aware of other students doing similar work? His remarks indicate otherwise. Quite simply, our work on civil rights means nothing. As a corollary, our attempts at application of this knowledge and research on campus amount, also, to nothing.

Even worse than feeling that my work has gone unappreciated, I feel betrayed that Stone feels Alma students are stupid or even racist. Hopefully, most are not. The gains of the civil rights movement are known, appreciated and understood on the Alma College campus. I guess Stone doesn't realize this. Perhaps the next time Stone is interviewed by *U.S. News* he should tell them not that his students are ignorant and unaware, but rather that the College's president is dreadfully out of touch and oblivious of his own students.

**What are you thinking?** Let us know and write for the opinion section of *the Almanian*. See an editor or stop by the office, located in the basement of Newberry Hall, for more details. Or call Ext. 7161.

## AIDS Quilt provides inspiration

*Editor's Note: The following poem was received in the form of a letter to the editor.*

I wrote this poem while attending the opening ceremonies of the AIDS Quilt display at CMU on Nov. 19, and I thought I would share the experience with all the students who were unable to be there.

### Spreading Death On The Floor

eight people in white shirts  
stand in a circle  
around a folded square  
of the Quilt

Dorothy

one person  
pulls out a corner

James, John

more corners  
come out

David, Dean, David M.

a multitude of  
colors and borders

Jonathan, Joan, Keith, Gloria

all sewn together by AIDS

Eddie, Bill, John, Sonia, Steve

12 x 12 foot panels

Frank, Caesar, Wayne, Tony, James L.,  
Jim Z.

no one speaks  
but the people reading the Names

Michael, Uncle Ed, Hector, Justin, Baby,  
Gina

9 Quilt squares open on the floor

Clyde, Billy, J.H.P., Bill B., Chip, Duke,  
Al

lives cut short

David, Jack, Mort, Luis, Nick, Art, W.P.,  
Ray

the numbers grow

Ed, Tom, Dave, Bob, Joe, Ken, Jim, Glen,  
J.W.

still spreading

Milton, Joseph, Gray H. Steven, Debbie,  
Tim P.,  
Chester R., Rick, Big Tony, Little Tony

opening up like a butterfly from a cocoon

Salvatore, Curtis, Charlie, Uncle Gregg,  
Bobby,  
Ethel, Joey G., Fred, Carlos J., Betty P.,  
Guy

but this butterfly can't fly

Carol, Jeffery, George F., Brian, Oscar,  
Stan  
Ross N., Kevin, Sibrina, G.W., Willard,  
S.K.

a pin holds  
its body to Styrofoam

Dennis B., Marlene, Daniel, Terry,  
Wayne,  
Jerome, Dorian, Henry, Leland,  
Andrew, Mark,  
Dr. George, David K.

13 squares spread out

A.C., Michael T., H.V., Katherine T.,  
Alan,  
Ivan, R.H., Jack, Kandi, Scan, Roth,  
Brad

adjustment and lying of the last Quilt  
square

Ryan White

the people in white shirts walk off  
silently

Vince F., David, Robert

everyone links hands  
in a human border ground 15 panels

Richard, Fredrick, Joey "the Tramp"

live humans  
joining forces for life

Father Michael, Don, Jerry

each person has a 3 x 6 foot section  
made of  
old t-shirts, decorated with sequins,  
flags  
and a driver's license

Newton, Doug, Scott

Kleenex boxes at the corners

Paul, Roger S., Billy

A New York City skyline, an army  
jacket,  
broken sunglasses

Sherry's brother, Joe, Sandra

Ryan White's panel has a butterfly on it

Otis, Dennis, Bob

tombstones in fabric

Danny, Greg, Joseph

a pink piece — Kathy — with the sun's  
rays  
sewing form a broken heart

William, Ortez, Jeff

a pair of jeans, Paris and the Eiffel  
Tower,  
fresh roses laid by  
a mother and sister, a guy born in 1961

finally the names stop coming  
but there will be more

— Kathy M. Austin 1983



## Staff editorial

# We all have a voice in "The Vision"

Staff Editorial

Did you turn in your blue sheets? It was like a vote. A vote to change; a vote to make a difference. The Four Year Plan is underway, and everyone has a voice right now. Parents, teachers, administration and students have been asked to "have a vision." What do you want Alma College to be like in four years? Most of us will not be here, yet the notion that we care is a reality.

The "blue sheets" have not officially been tallied, but it has been approximated that 40 percent of the student body turned in their sheets. That is important. We can have a strong impact. There were some issues that students were more opinionated than others. Diversity was one of them. Out of the completed questionnaires it has been approximated that 60 percent believe diversity must be stressed.

Yet some negativity was also voiced on the questionnaires. "I do not feel we need to be so diverse that the budget is drained." Or, "Diversity yes, lowering standards no." Ninety percent felt we should be a nationally-ranked liberal arts college, yet 45 percent said we should not increase our standards of admission. These numbers present an obvious contradiction that will weaken our suggestion in this area as a group.

However, the faculty felt differently. In "Building on Success The Four-Year Plan: A Vision Statement," the faculty's contribution one of their specific goals deals with the "enhanced presence and valuing of diversity and global awareness—issues of gender, racial and ethnic minorities, and internationalism that should affect our curriculum, hiring practices and student recruitment." The faculty sees this in conjunction with continuing "to incrementally increase

enrollment standards while retaining our current recruitment patters."

A lot of students do not feel this can happen. Only time will tell.

The mission statement of the institution states Alma College is working toward: "...the liberation of people from ignorance, prejudice and parochialism, the preservation and perpetuation of the knowledge, skills and values appropriate for free men and women; and the preparation of students for useful vocations in a changing society." With this mission in mind we have to plan. We have to look ahead and think what is best. It is easy to get caught up in what we want now, but that is not what this is about. This is about what we want Alma College to be like in the future.

We feel it is important that such a diverse group was asked for their opinion. Whether or not all our voices will be listened to, the fact that we are all working together to plan for the future of Alma College is good; planning as a collaboration is crucial to making this college an institution where we can all find a place to grow, socially, academically, athletically and personally.

This is just the beginning. Even though some of the issues on the student questionnaire did not seem valid to some, (i.e. the question concerning the coaching staff), others found them important. There was no limit to what we could say. We are sure some students did not feel they had time, nor could be bothered.

But the fact is we are a major part of the vision. We are the meat of this College; we are the product of this College. When we get a chance to use our voices like this we should. It may be the only time during our careers here that we can be so outspoken in this manner.

## 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.

# Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

There were a couple of errors in my letter which you published in the Nov. 24 *Almanian*. The sentence at the end of point (3) should have begun "All freedom and no responsibility." And, at the end of point (4), the sentence should have read "One reason, lately, that state schools are losing students and private schools are gaining them, is that people do not believe state campuses are safe." A line was left out. I would appreciate it if you could note these errors.

Eugene Pattison, '56

Dear Editor:

Back in my day (Class of '91), the average student knew many things. She knew how to fill out party permits, how many students were allowed in a dorm room before it became an official party (8) and even many facts about segregation. I can remember many a night spent reading books for Dr. Yavenditti's Ethnic and Racial Minorities Spring Term, nights spent discussing the affirmative action lectures we had been receiving in Nick's Ethics class, days and nights discussing the wordlessness of dissent without civil disobedience and Dr. King's practices of nonviolent resistance. I can remember when Alma College was striving for diversity in

its student body, as well as in its staff.

Imagine then my surprise when I learned from President Alan J. Stone, via Nov. 23 *U.S. News and World Report*, that his students "are surprised to learn that separate drinking fountains existed barely 25 years ago. They seem to think these things happened at the turn of the century."

I found myself rereading this passage over and over, attempting to find some interpretation that I did not find insulting. Could my beloved College really have slipped so far in two short years? After all, friends of mine still attended Alma and I was even recommending Alma to my own students.

I decided to investigate. I called several of my friends at Alma and asked them if they knew segregation ended. They did. Surely, I thought, Stone had but recently taught them these facts. He hadn't.

This leaves me confused. How and why would the President of a college seeking to diversify make such a statement classifying his students as at best misinformed and at worst ignorant? I would suggest that those of you who understand what this letter is about seek the answer to this question. It may affect your education, or at least your self esteem.

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Class of 1991

# Language shapes our attitudes

By Heather S. Laird  
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Do words really affect the way we see the world? Does "politically correct language" actually make a difference in the way we see people? From everything I've been learning in my linguistics course, the answer is a resounding yes.

For example, in our society, women have the primary responsibility for birth control. Common contraceptives include the pill, IUD, diaphragm, and new technological advances like Norplant. These are all **female-oriented** products. Until recently, the only reliable **male-based** contraceptive was the condom, and even marketing strategies for it were frequently targeted toward females. Why?

Might this have something to do with the common term for contraception itself—"birth control"? Men don't have to worry about getting pregnant themselves, and our society has not historically placed legal responsibility on impregnators; just the women giving birth. Therefore, "birth control" is something alienated from men. Wouldn't a term like "conception control" or a variation thereof be just as descriptive, and encompass both participants in the act? If the actual term itself applied more directly to men, won't they, even subconsciously, feel more responsibility for the products' use?

And what about the word "femi-

nist"? Hmm...I see the wheels turning, the shadowy image emerging in some people's minds of a tall muscular woman, stringy hair falling down her back, her clothing army regulation khaki and boots. What about women like Naomi Wolf? Surely some of you remember her from her visit last year, or have seen pictures of her since. Does she fit this stereotype? Does this young, natural, pretty, articulate and extremely active woman fit your idea of a feminist? Connotations almost obscure the true meaning of the term.

And there is no corresponding term for males wishing to perpetuate their dominance of society, or even for followers of the men's movement begun by Robert Bly. The nonexistent term "masculist" does not evoke threatening images. There is no stereotype for this stance, because it is mainstream. Its supporters are our friends, neighbors and relatives, male and female, and they have societal norms on their side. And they have the power of language, of naming people and placing labels on them—"feminist, bitch, slut, girl, baby, chick."

Political correctness has evolved into a derogatory label. Detractors fail to acknowledge the importance of language and its impact upon our perceptions and actions.