

The Almanian

December 15, 1992

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Issue 12

Parking and lighting emerge as key issues at Forum

By Supriya Saxena
Freelance Writer

Better dorm lighting, the need for increased parking availability and better lighting on campus were the main issues addressed at an open forum, sponsored by the Student Long Range Planning Committee in Jones auditorium on Thursday night.

The forum gave students the opportunity to ask questions concerning areas of the College where they would like to see change. The questions were fielded by a panel of administrators including President Alan J. Stone, Vice President for Enrollment John Seveland, Provost Ann Stuart and Dean of Students James Kridler.

The issues discussed stemmed mainly from the results of surveys the Long Range Planning Committee distributed throughout campus. Student concerns over the

parking issue were shot down by Kridler and the panel. Kridler explained that parking is not a significant concern because the number of available spaces on campus is far more than the number of registered vehicles.

Kridler also felt eliminating first-year students from having cars on campus would not solve the issue. The majority of students on North campus are first-year students, and the lots around Gelston, Mitchell and Newberry Halls would sit half empty without first-year student cars in them because upperclassmen from South campus would not use them, and there are not enough upperclassmen on North campus to fill all of the lots.

The fight over campus lighting arose once more this year during the forum discussion. However, this time the panel suggested increased lighting around the P.E. Center may help to encourage

more students to use the Grant Street parking area. The student request incorporated campus-wide lighting, but lighting around the Grant Street lot received most of the emphasis.

The forum received a rather low turn-out, leaving many wondering whether the students actually had an interest in what they asked for on the survey. However, even with the low numbers in attendance, those who attended felt a good feeling about what had conspired over the course of the evening.

"I was really surprised more people didn't come," said first-year student Robyn Wingert. "If you want change to happen, you need to be informed," she added.

"I thought it was a good forum for students to air grievances towards administrators," said senior Fred Feleppa.

The following is a list of the results of the Long Range Planning Committee's survey. Students ranked items on a scale from one to 10 (one being the highest, 10 lowest). The scores represent averages.

Class I - More expensive items.

Rank	Item	Avg.
1.	New telephone switch	3.22
2.	Improved parking availability	3.36
3.	Renovation of residence halls	3.82
4.	Increased exterior lighting	3.95
5.	Improved/extended laundry facilities	4.00
6.	Handicap-Accessible facilities	5.68
7.	Extended weight room	5.85
8.	Intramural sports building	5.88

Class II - Less expensive items.

Rank	Item	Avg.
1.	Better residence hall room lighting	3.43
2.	More winter term intro. classes	4.33
3.	Improved study lounges	4.78
4.	Ice machines in residence halls	4.92
5.	More exercise equipment	5.44
6.	New curtains for residence hall rooms	5.55
7.	Increased storage space	5.74
8.	Munch money vending machines in SAC	6.09

Committees address campus diversity

By Maria Stephens
Freelance Writer

The Task Force to Enhance Diversity has been hard at work this term to address the issues of race and ethnicity, which are ongoing concerns, while broadening the diversity scope to include gay/lesbian/bisexual issues and disability concerns.

"We're definitely doing more this year than last," said junior Leah Coleman, who was on the task force last year. "This year one part of our job is to encourage those organizations that promote diversity programming—Women's Studies, UCS, AIU. We also encourage professors to incorporate diversity themes into classes, like National Hispanic Week, for instance."

The task force, which includes faculty, students, staff and administration, has formed four subcommittees: Education and Curriculum, Climate and Facilities, Hiring/Retention and Celebration.

The Education and Curriculum committee is in the process of assessing the curriculum and is exploring the possibility of another conference on multicultural education. The committee is also drafting a grant proposal, to be implemented similarly to the Service-Learning Grant, to provide monetary incentives to faculty to facilitate courses with diversity foci.

The Climate and Facilities Committee is working on a measurable survey to determine the "comfort level" for various groups on cam-

pus which represent the new, broader scope of diversity concerns.

The Hiring/Retention Committee has met with President Alan J. Stone who approved the funding of five campus visits per faculty hiring search, in order to assure that a diverse pool of finalists is brought to campus. This committee has also arranged for a workshop by the personnel director on hiring guidelines and to brainstorm on non-traditional ways of attracting other candidates. They have also revised the Recruitment Policy statement with regard to each search committee's efforts to attract and find at least one minority and one woman candidate.

The Celebration committee has made contacts with various campus groups to assess and recognize the diversity programs already underway and to suggest more. The committee has also contacted various Central Michigan University offices to suggest collaboration on programming, and is pursuing the possibility of a recognition banquet for those organizations whose programs and activities have reflected a commitment to diversity.

Several Co-Curricular speakers Winter Term will address diversity issues, including, Joe Steffan on gays in the military, Richard Lapchick on "Race and Sports in the 90s," Juan Williams on Civil Rights, and Janet Benshoof on "Women's Rights, Health, and the Law."

Changes improve Dance department

New arts center, faculty and classes should enrich the Alma College Dance major

By Cathy DeShano
Staff Reporter

Change: it's the name of the game. Clinton won the presidency by banking on it, and Alma College believes it will gain support with change too. The dance department expects change to catapult its program to the top of Michigan liberal arts colleges.

Over the past year, dance professor Carol Fike has implemented several significant changes hoping to enhance the program's credibility with prospective students across the state. These changes have occurred just in time for the 1993 opening of the Performing Arts Center.

"I think the influence of the new building is helping to raise the level of the acceptance of dance as a viable major that can stand alone against the other majors at liberal arts colleges, making it a dance major Alma College can be proud of," said Fike.

As a result of the expanded facilities the new center will bring with it, Fike has been able to add several technique classes, as well as other classes. Students wishing to take dance will be able to choose from three levels of ballet and tap, two levels of jazz and a new theory course in which students will determine what makes a dance good.

The name of 'Orchesis' has also been changed to the 'Alma College Dance Company' so that people clearly recognize what the

organization is and to give the organization added class and sophistication.

Several new faculty members have also been hired to help instruct new courses: Thomas Morris teaches ballet and Kathleen Francis will be

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-- Carol Fike
Assistant Professor
of Theater and
Dance

instructing jazz. These classes come as welcome additions for students wishing to major in dance.

"I'm glad to see the new classes because when I got here, the program didn't have a ballet class and I was disappointed because ballet is what I've been doing since I was

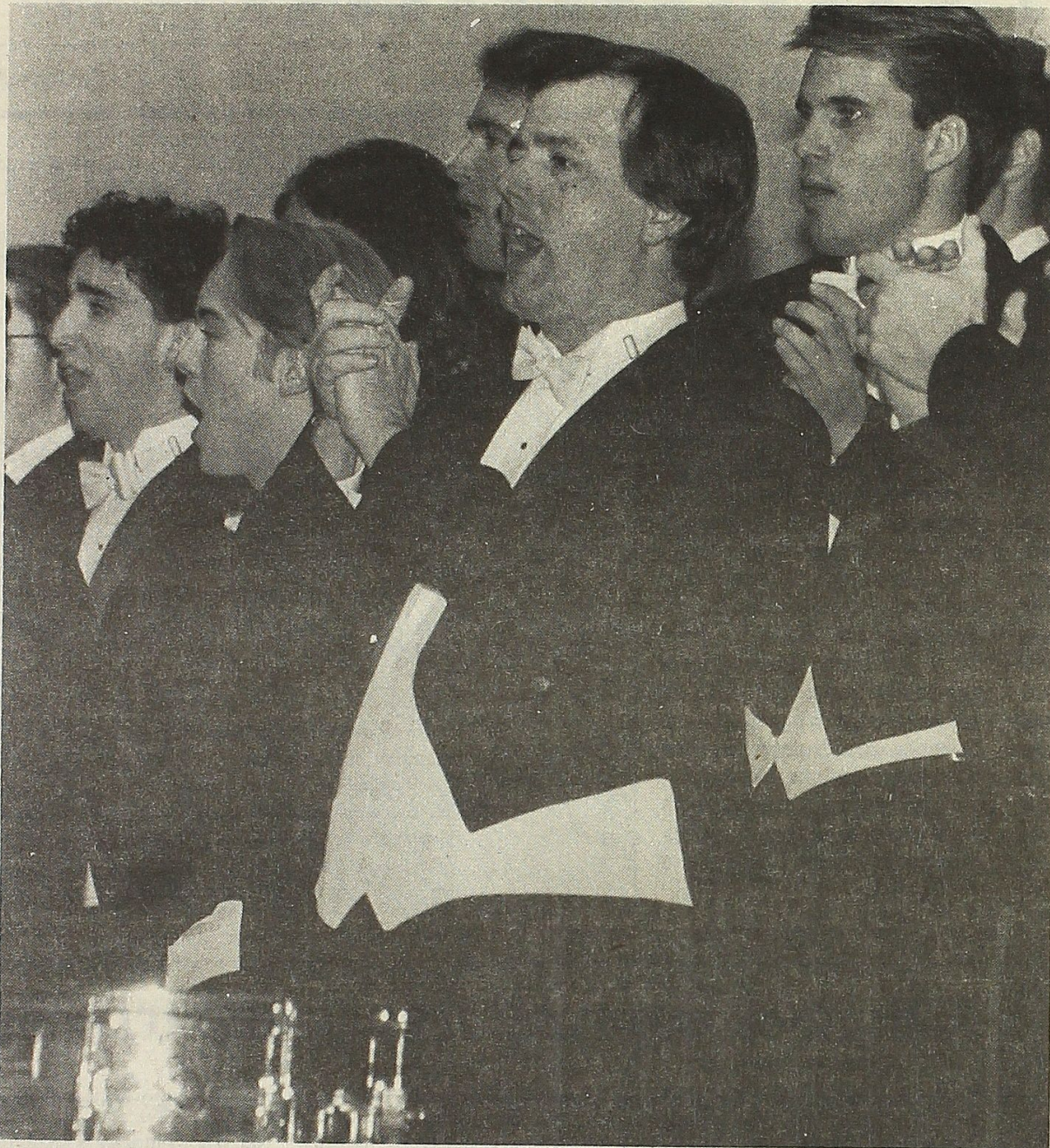
six. The company is changing a lot in the people it's pulling in as well. Now you have to audition and you must have had a technique class to be in the dance company. I think the new faculty members will also help the program because there will be different outlooks and more classes," said sophomore Kathy Bailey.

Thanks to these additions and the new building, Fike believes Alma now has a dance program that is competitive with all liberal arts colleges in Michigan, as well as larger universities such as Central Michigan University and Michigan State University. However, getting to this point hasn't been easy and Fike has worked to make the program a serious one for prospective students to consider.

"The dance program is really being enriched by all of these things: the added faculty, this new building to showcase the program we're building, the fact that I was able to get support to get all of these changes through. We're not done; there are more changes that I see. The foundation is being laid and it's being laid with good preparation. I've been here eight or nine years so I know what we need. I'm going through all the proper channels and talking to my colleagues. I'm getting wonderful support from the whole campus community," said Fike.

Dec. 15, 1992

Choirs sing the 'Carols of Christmas'



The Alma College Choirs, with over 80 members, presented their annual holiday concert—The Carols of Christmas—Saturday, Dec. 12 in Dunning Memorial Chapel. The choirs performed seasonal favorites including We'll Dress the House with Holly Bright, O Little Town of Bethlehem and Caroling, Caroling. Guest artists Ellen Grafius, assistant professor of biochemistry Steven Wietstock and Susan Frazer accompanied the singers. Photo by M. Stargardt.

Service Learning classes combine academic, volunteer work

By Brett Powers
Freelance Writer

The Service-Learning Program at Alma College gives students a chance to get involved in volunteer work in the surrounding communities, while gaining college credit.

A W.K. Kellogg grant to the college funds Service-Learning. "Susan Root (associate professor of education) and I wrote the grant; it is for about \$100,000," said J. Tracy Luke, professor and chair of the religious studies department.

The grant is to stimulate service learning in the College's classes. "Academic learning is important, but there are some things it can't teach, and some of this can be learned through volunteer work done through the class," said Luke.

There are currently two types of Service-Learning. "We have Service-Learning classes that were created by the program, like my *Theology of Aging* course next term. It will be based on the volunteer work we do—the conversations that we will have with some of the elderly in the community. It will be inductive rather than deductive learning," said Luke. "We also have pre-existing classes that are incorporating Service-Learning projects into their general class structure."

The Service-Learning classes cover a diverse range of subjects. "There are at least a dozen different classes involved in this. Ronald Massanari (chair of the philosophy department) has an *Environment and Ethics* class, and Edward Lorenz (associate professor of history and political science) is doing some interesting things with political science. There is a wide variety of opportunities. It's not a revolution, but there is a lot going on," said Luke.

William Palmer, professor of English, had creative writing students teach poetry to inmates in the St. Louis Correctional Facility last spring term. "I wanted these students to come into contact with people who were different than themselves. Contrast brings about awareness. By teaching poetry to those inmates, the students learned about how, through being humans, we are all connected to each other, and how everyone can benefit from expression through poetry," said Palmer.

The Service-Learning classes not only help the students but also the community. "In both the work we did in the prison, and with the elderly, we showed those people that others care about them and their lives. Plus, they learned more about poetry," said Palmer.

Junior Sharilee Hines visits an elderly woman at the Masonic Home each week. "So much of college is me, me, me. Helping people out is so great. There are no strings attached, yet there you are; it feels good," said Hines.

Christmas means more than gifts

By Jane Brown
Staff Reporter

Though Christmas spurs a frenzy of zealous love and giving in late December, many don't connect the occasion with the birth of Christ some 2,000 years ago.

Families come together for the holidays, and most Alma students plan on returning home. We're glad that it's Christmas, glad that we are on break and have just finished exams. Conversations center on what to give Aunt Hilda in Wyoming. Yet, when it comes down to the nitty gritty, most of us are happy to go home, relax and enjoy Christmas—not only giving and getting, but just being.

Most Alma College students, Christians or not, have much to look forward to this Christmas. Though many have struggled financially, there is still hope for the new year.

Christmas in our home is pretty classic: a tree tall enough to reach the ceiling yet able to fit through the front door; decorations covering every square inch of the house in red and green; food we long for after months of school food; and in-

capable Christmas carols.

Although some don't enjoy this atmosphere, most of us are beginning to feel that twinge of excitement about going home to a roaring fire and smelling the smells of Christmas—turkey and cookies and

Most Alma College students, Christians or not, have much to look forward to this Christmas.

pine trees, smells that sometimes last throughout the year.

Santa Claus is also a part of Christmas. But the fact that there is no Santa, only a feeling personified by a big man in a red suit, is one of the greatest parts of the season. Though he is supposedly the bearer of gifts, his spirit does not live just when there is giving and receiving, but when there is hope and dreams for children and adults alike.

I learned Santa wasn't "real" when I was 10. In retrospect, it seems a bit late in life. My older sister slipped in haste and blurted out one of life's great disappointments. What was Christmas if there is no Santa?

For a few years I never quite felt the same about Christmas morning. I finally realized why my parents had been so tired every year on Christmas morning—they had stayed up all night making plans and wrapping presents. I think back now and I know that in a strange little way Christmas and Santa were the best things that ever happened to me. Each year as this time rolls around, there are those who celebrate the birth of Christ and others who just feel glad that the season has brought a certain amount of happiness to them and to their families, through the simple things such as a red berry on a holly bush.

Retraction

An Orchestras dancer in a photo was misidentified in the Dec. 8 issue of *The Almanian*. The student should have been identified as first-year student Marnie Mielke.

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Retraction

In the Dec. 8, issue of *The Almanian* senior J.C. Clarkson was misquoted in the story about Lucille Clifton's poetry reading in the Chapel. We apologize for this mistake and have agreed to run Clarkson's quote as he intended it.

"What happened Wednesday night I have never seen before. I've never seen the chapel at standing room only, except for the two times Lucille (Clifton) was here. It was beautiful. That has to say something. All those people came to listen to a black woman read about her life. Maybe that will say something to the school. It shouldn't be her job to teach us about minority life. Maybe we should have more women and minority faculty to do this, because it's obvious

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Swimmers spread Christmas cheer with invitational victory

By Jennifer Cosbey
Freelance Writer

The Alma swimming and diving teams continue to "Deck the Halls" with blue ribbons this season as both the men's and women's teams captured first place at the Christmas Invitational held in our own pool this past Friday and Saturday.

"It was just an outstanding meet!" exclaimed third-year Coach Greg Baadte. "Every one of our relay teams won." Overall, the Scots took first in 26 of the total 40 events.

The men's team, with 633 points, beat the Wayne State Tartars, who came in second with 584 points, and the Lansing Community College Stars, who ended with 127 points. Friday got off to a good start. Early in the meet, first-year student Christian Betz set a new school record in the 200-back with 2:06:02. Betz took first in his own three individual races, the 200-back, the 100-free, and the 100-back, and then also joined his teammates in taking first in the four relays in which he swam.

"The men were only up by 27 going into Saturday's part of the meet," said Baadte, "so they knew they still had to work hard."

And work hard they did. First-year student Fred Parsons set his own new personal records in every event he swam, grabbing second, third and fourth place finishes for Alma in the 200-fly, the 50-free, and the 100-fly, respectively. Parsons also swam in one of the relays.

Sophomore Radu Danca got his first qualification for nationals in 3-meter diving. Danca only has to qualify one more time and then he will go to the national meet.

The women also had an excellent meet. They really splashed the competition out of the water scoring 704 points over the Hillsdale College Chargers, who took second with 346 points, and the Stars, who ended with 42 points. Another new school record was set, as the Scots won the 400-free relay, with the team of first-year student Jennifer Bondy, junior Salena Williams, and sophomores Jennifer Turnbull and Shelly

Wasko. They combined to beat the previous school record by nearly a second.

"Shelly Wasko and Karie Bergin both had an excellent meet," said Baadte. Wasko consistently took a close second in her three individual events, the 100-fly, the 200-free, and the 100-free, as well as swimming in four relay teams, including the one which set the new school record. Bergin, a sophomore, took second and third in the 50-free and the 100-free, respectively, and swam in one of the relays.

"Everyone is improving," commented Wasko. "Some swam absolutely phenomenal this weekend."

Now the swim team is off to sunny Clearwater, Florida for training during Christmas Break. "We train twice a day in a 50-meter pool, and also lift and do dry land training. During winter term after the trip, the whole team should be improved and swimming our best times," said Wasko. The next meet is on Jan. 13, at 6 p.m. in the Alma waters against Albion.

Women use defense to pick up win

By Lisa Shoemaker
Sports Editor

The women's basketball team picked up its second win of the season on Saturday afternoon by using tough defense to smother the outside shooting of visiting Madonna College 59-49. The win broke a two game losing streak and boosted the Scots' record to 2-4.

On a day when Coach Charlie Goffnett shuffled his line-up, the Scots were able to use defensive intensity to force Madonna to shoot only 34 percent (16-47) from the floor. Couple this with Madonna's 20 turnovers to Alma's 12 and the margin of victory becomes apparent.

"Everything was feeding off our defense," said senior Lauri LaBeau. "Offensively it wasn't a good game, but defensively we were stopping the ball."

The Scots shot only 39 percent (24-62) from the floor, but three-pointers again were a potent weapon in Alma's arsenal. The Scots were 7-21 from the three-point line, sparked by sophomore Michele VanDamme's blistering 4 of 8 shooting from behind the stripe. First-year player Ashley Reagh also provided a boost coming off the bench to contribute two three-pointers of her own.

"The three-pointers opened up the game with the offense executing its passing because Madonna's defense had collapsed in the middle," said Reagh.

The Scots enjoyed a comfortable lead throughout much of the first half. A late surge just before intermission extended the lead to 33-22, and placed Alma firmly in com-

mand as the two teams headed to the locker room.

In the second half, the Scots got a bit of a scare as the margin narrowed to as little as three points with 4:48 remaining. However, buckets down the stretch by juniors Kelly Jaster and Katie Mans helped to again extend the lead to eight points, 57-49. Mans then added two free-throws at 2:04 to complete the scoring, as the Scots relied upon a ball control weave to run out the remaining time on the clock.

"We let our defensive intensity down a bit in the second half," said VanDamme. "But we regrouped,

and were able to get back in control at the end."

The Scots were led in scoring by Mans and VanDamme who each had 12 points. Senior Colleen Wruble turned in an excellent all-around afternoon with 11 points, as well as game-highs in rebounds (13) and assists (8).

"We were satisfied with the win," said Jaster, "but we still have a lot to work on."

The Scots have a game scheduled for this Saturday against Spring Arbor, and then will be off for the holidays until Calvin's New Year's Classic on Dec. 30-31.



Senior Colleen Wruble goes up for a rebound against Madonna College last Saturday. Photo by P. Sandberg

Men's basketball wins squeaker over UofM-Dearborn

By Bill Ballenger
Freelance Writer

The men's varsity basketball squad split last week's matches, improving their non-league record to 2-6.

On Tuesday, a 17-footer as time expired gave Concordia a 99-97 overtime win over the visiting Scots. Alma trailed by as many as 24 points in the opening half, but a late rally cut the deficit to 49-35 at half-time.

After the intermission, the Scots continued to chisel the Concordia lead, until, four minutes into the half, Alma knotted the score. The two teams traded baskets for the remainder of the game. An Alma bucket in the closing seconds forced overtime.

"It's a game we could have and should have won," remarked Coach Bob Eldridge. "I can't fault our effort, though. I'm proud of our guys—we made a valiant comeback. We didn't just roll over and die."

"We are playing at the level of our competition," said sophomore Todd Blomquist, who leads all Scots in scoring and rebounding. "We could very easily be 6-1 instead of 1-6."

On Friday, the Scots ended their three game losing streak, dating back to the Alma Chamber of Commerce Tournament, and recorded their first home victory of the season with a 73-70 squeaker

over the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

U-M Dearborn extended its 40-31 half-time advantage to 48-35 at the start of the second half. But the Wolverine lead quickly evaporated as junior Jeff Kren and first-year player Jim Elliot, who drained a combined three shots from downtown, sparked a furious 11-2 rally to even the score at 65 points apiece.

The Wolverines converted on their next two possessions, but another three-pointer by Kren, who canned three three-pointers in as many shots, and clutch free-throw shooting by Todd Blomquist (26 points, 9 rebounds) provided the difference.

"It was a win that we needed," said Eldridge. "Not because of our record, but because we needed something to keep up our spirit."

"This was an important win because it also showed that we have a good bench," continued Eldridge. "Every good team needs a bench to succeed. We had three guys come off the bench to help us. Quibarai Liddell hit a key free-throw and made some nice plays, and Jeff and Jim were obviously great."

"It was an important win because some people were able to get in the game and contribute," said Elliot, who shot two for three from beyond the three-point stripe.

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Dec. 15, 1992

Staff Editorial

Almanian gives Santa its wish list

Christmas time is here once again and we at *The Almanian* have a few Christmas wishes to send Saint Nick for our holiday season. Our wishes pertain mostly to Alma College as a whole, but we will admit we did think of ourselves, too.

On the serious side, our first wish is for the **safe return of all of our students** from the holiday seasons and overseas and also for the safe departure for all those leaving to study overseas next term. May they all have safe journeys to their respective destinations.

We hope **all of the graduating seniors find jobs or receive acceptance into graduate schools**. To help all those underclassmen working toward graduation, we hope for a **better library** for a high-ranking liberal arts college. A good library brings so many possibilities to the students, possibilities that will make the difference on a GED, MCAT, or finding a job after graduation.

Our next wish is for **more active students**. We want to see those students who have thought about contributing actually doing it, and those who have never thought about it, to at least give it a chance. New worlds may open in front of your eyes by joining a group around campus; you will never know until you try.

As Lucille Clifton pointed out in her visit here, we have few if any minority professors and we hope to see more in the future. Along those lines we would like to see **a woman hired as the new math professor** — a department clearly dominated by males.

Wrapping up the serious wishes for Christmas is the most

important of all: **please don't drink and drive**. We ask that everyone think when they drink this holiday season. No one wants to lose his/her best friend, especially when it is over a stupid matter of pride. Do yourself and others a favor: pass the keys.

To lighten the mood we would like to see some changes in Marriott. A **change from Pepsi to Coke** in the soda machines, and more of those tasty **green apples** they have once in a while are major requests.

Everyone knows the professors at Alma College receive some nice benefits for working at Alma, but not many students know how far these advantages go. The professors at Alma even receive softer toilet paper than the students. The toilet paper in the Student Academic Center (SAC) is a higher quality than the toilet paper in the residence halls. Come on, we know they are here to increase our knowledge, but do they really deserve better T.P.? We hope somewhere Saint Nick can find some **higher quality toilet paper** to put in the residence halls.

Scottie's has always provided the students with what they have wanted and answered any requests if they could, but we would like to ask for **more items** all of the time. A better variety year round, not just changing items when something different is requested by one student. Many others probably enjoyed the original more than its replacement, so why not just carry both? We think Scottie's should.

To complete our Christmas wish list, we would like to wish everyone a **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**.

The Almanian

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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.

Grab your Mountain Dew, it's finals week

By Brett Powers
Freelance Writer

Are you crammed with never ending papers, tests, and presentations? Are you full of deadlines, demands, pressures and stress? Exam week is the deepest level of Dante's Hell. Students are cast here once a term: they either forgo sleep and scramble for salvation by squeezing every bit of knowledge out of their textbooks, or they perish in roaring unforgiving academic flames.

Why do we do it? Some students are here for the freedoms of college life—no nagging parents, no rules, easy access to alcohol. Some students want the assurance of a well paying, relatively secure job. Some students are here to actually gain wisdom, knowledge, education and to be part of an intellectual community. And others, like me, are here simply because we have nothing better to do. Whatever the reason, we are all in college and must go through this ritual of torture—finals week.

Being a senior, this is my seventh go at it, and let me tell you, it still sucks. But there are a few tricks to it.

First you must have a good supply of caffeine, whether it is a case of Mountain Dew, or an industrial size coffee maker. The ability to maintain a supersaturated level of caffeine in your blood stream at all times is a must.

Second, do not flock to the library like it is your new mecca. No miracle books that give the answers to Biology 180, or History 325 or any other class is hidden within its walls. Believe me, I've looked. It is best to steer clear of the library finals week

because it is over-crowded with slackers looking for the short cut to salvation. The library is but a mirage in the desert to these people.

Thirdly, you must have some form of stress release. My freshman year I had none: I lost half the hair on my head and gained 20 pounds. Fortunately my hair grew back, regrettably I never lost the weight. I usually turn to a new form of release each term. One time it was painting. In the beginning of the week I painted Monet-like nature scenes. I then moved on to self portraits that looked like distorted Rembrants. By the end of the week I was finger

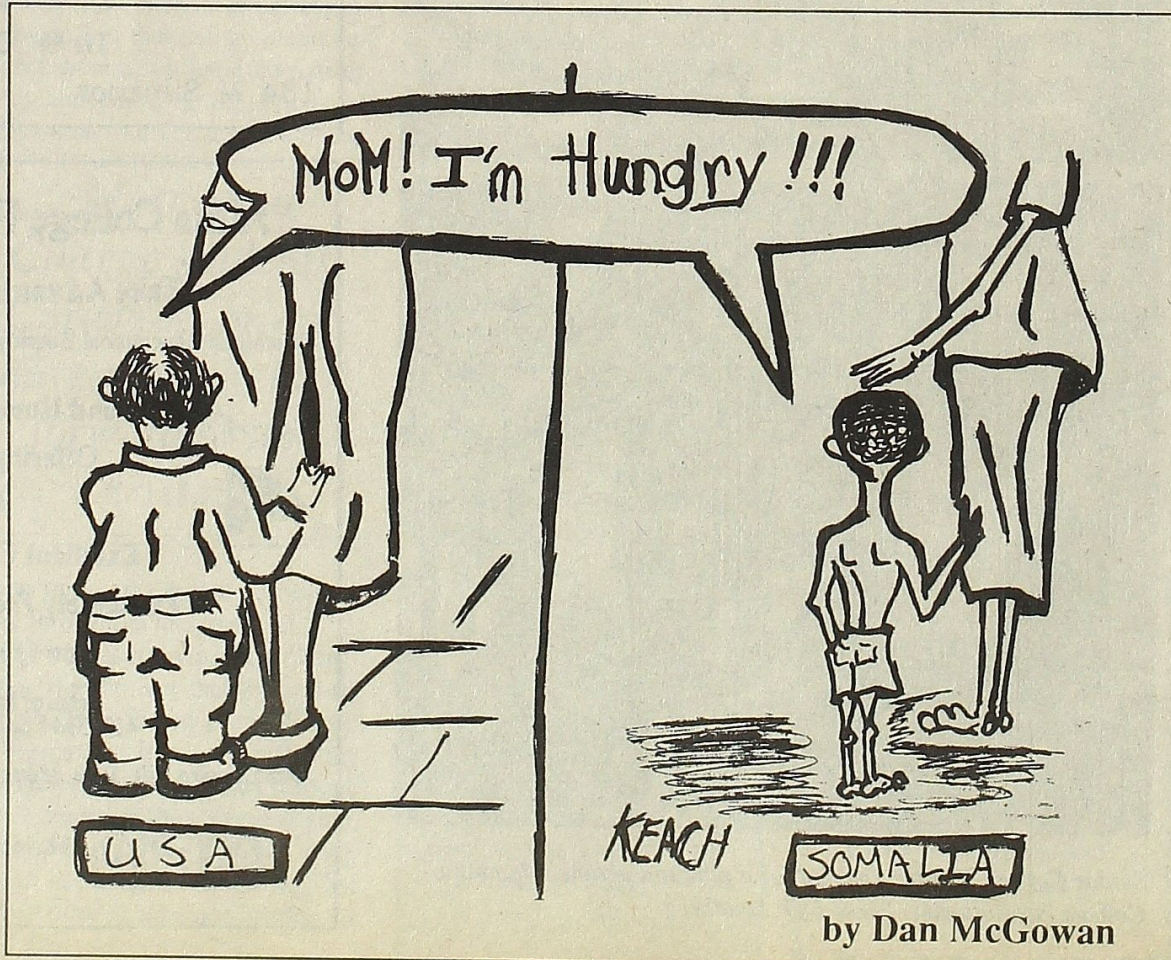
painting the back of my roommate's head.

This year I jump rope. Every time the words blur into a sea of Swahili or my fingers freeze up from writing page 23 of my political science paper, I grab my jump rope and jump. I pretend I am Rocky: I look like that overweight kid in your third grade gym class who had trouble getting the stupid cord past his feet without falling on his face.

But it does not matter that I suck at jumping rope—it takes my mind off my work for 10 minutes, and relieves my stress. You must have some form of outlet: walking, sculpting, running,

wrestling with your roommate, or whatever it takes to get away from your work physically and mentally. Even if for a few minutes, it is a necessity if you hope to make it through finals week without the little people in white coats coming to take you to a padded room somewhere.

Finals week is hell, but it is a necessary part of college—a rite of passage. Good luck to you on your exams and papers and keep these two age-old axioms in mind. Never give up without a fight, and more importantly, this too will pass.



by Dan McGowan