

The Almanian

September 20, 1994

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Issue 2

ACUB All-Nighter centers on comedian

By Amy Majestic
Staff Reporter

Due to a misplaced ferry boat and a cooperative comedian, Alma College Union Board's annual All-Nighter featured more comedy than usual this year.

Organized by ACUB's major events chair Julie Johnston, the expected lineup included comedian John Henson, a velcro wall, a foosball tournament and two new features: the bungee-run and sumo wrestling. About two hundred students flocked to Van Dusen for the

festivities.

By 9:00 p.m., however, it was apparent that Henson and senior Dan Baker, Henson's opening act, were ACUB's only entertainment. The company ACUB contracted to provide the additional events showed up more than eight hours late. The foosball tournament attracted little interest, for only two people signed up.

Junior Jennifer Victory, an ACUB representative, explained the absence of the entertainment. "One thing after another happened to them. They got sidetracked and

took the wrong way and didn't show up until too late. Since the comedian wasn't staying that long it wasn't worth them setting up."

According to Junior Sarah Barclay, "The company was from Wisconsin and their ferry didn't run the same route anymore, so they had to get here another way."

So the night started a little bit late. No problem since Baker and comedian Henson did arrive on schedule. Baker excited the crowd with a magic show; Jones Auditorium was filled by the time Henson performed.

Henson's act lasted almost double the time he was originally allotted. Beginning his act by covering local humor including the "how-can-you-eat-ranch-on-your-pizza?" jokes, Henson soon began to rely on audience participation.

After persuading first year student John Zielinski on stage to recreate a scene from *Top Gun*, Henson led his version of "The All-New Dating Game" accompanied by three women from the audience. Senior Mary Lou Ecken became the lucky winner; a proper Alma award of pizza with ranch dress-

ing, courtesy of Henson, was the grand prize.

More students enjoyed the performance of the comedian this year, thanks to innovations by ACUB. Senior Ray Kowalewski, a member of Union Board, commented on the changes. "This year we used live video feed from the comedian to other areas around Jones."

Monitors stationed in the Tyler Rotunda area broadcast the events happening in the crowded auditorium. This was convenient for late arrivers, who often have to stand in the doorway to peek at the show.

Medical Center hires replacements for resigned staff members: physician's assistant and nurse

By Brooke Hansen
Co-Editor-In-Chief

Following the resignation of William Clark, Director of Health Services for Wilcox Medical Center, a committee of six faculty members continues their search for a replacement for the college's physician's assistant.

Clark, monitored by Dr. W.C. Thiemkey, D.O., and Dr. G. Vanderlugt, D.O., of the St. Louis Family Clinic, catered to Alma College students, faculty and staff for seven years. He issued notice of leave during spring term and his resignation became effective at the outset of June.

Clark has moved to Indiana, returning to work for the clinic which employed him prior to his practice at Alma. Family proximity also figured into his choice to relocate.

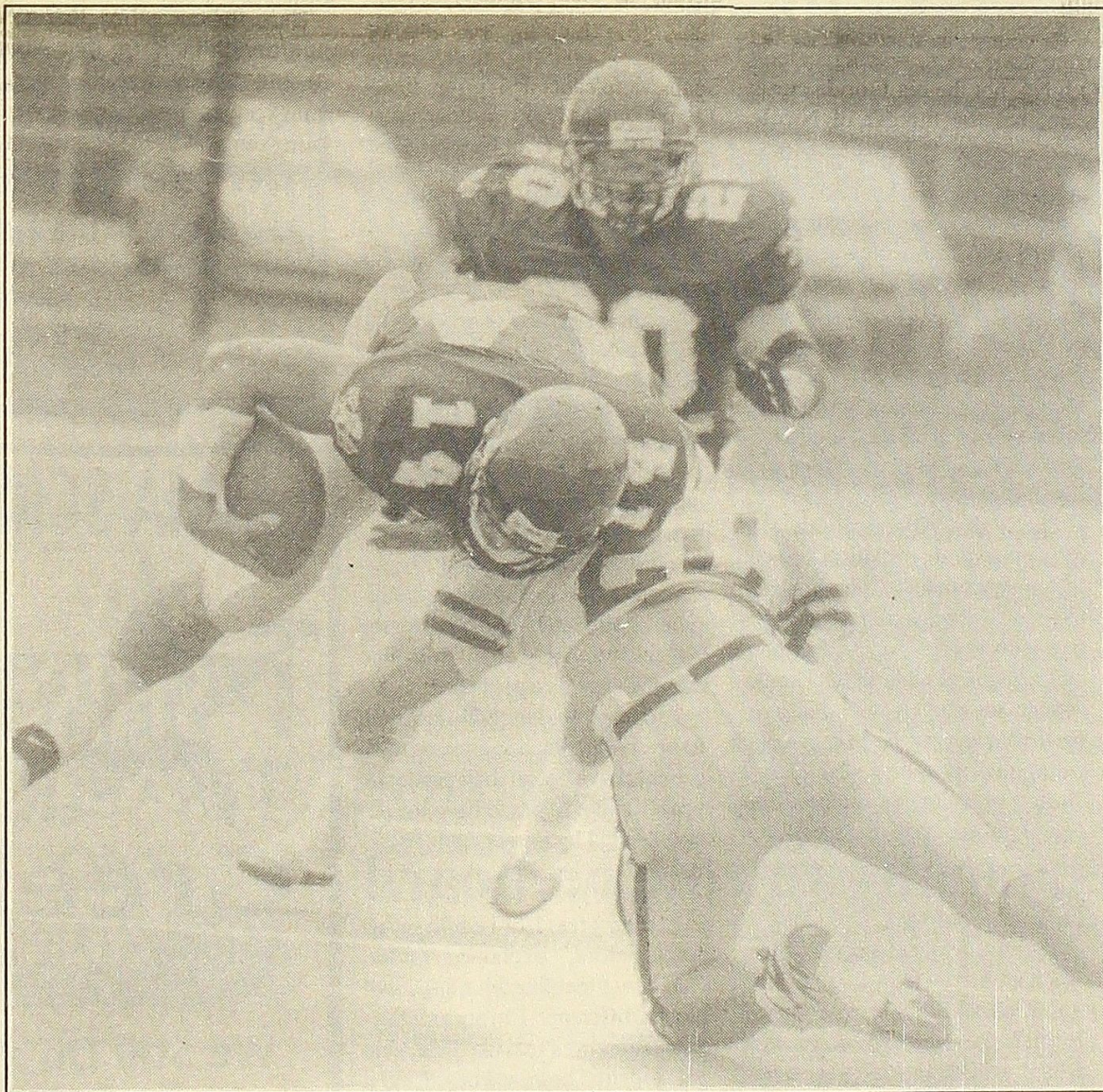
Immediate action was taken following his notification.

"The search started for a new director almost immediately. Ads were placed in all of the pertinent professional publications," said John Seveland, who acted as Clark's supervisor throughout his career at Alma.

Under the direction of James Kridler, Dean of Students, the search committee began their task.

Releases went out to Lansing, Saginaw, Grand Rapids and Mt. Pleasant newspapers; the Michigan Association of Physician's Assistants; Western Michigan University's physician's assistant program newsletter, which is sent to students and alumni of the institution; and various national publications for physician's assistants.

WMU was also contacted for advice on what paths to take considering placement of advertise-



The Scots opened their home season Saturday with a tantalizing defeat of the Elmhurst Bluejays. See page 8 for details of this.

ments. A follow-up effort went into effect, targeting Alma college graduates in the fields of physician's assistants and nurse practitioners.

The college received little response to the publicity. Four or five candidates were interviewed by phone and top choices for the posi-

tion were interviewed on campus. After narrowing the choices from two to a single candidate, Alma offered the job to an Alma College alumni who is currently practicing in the field of heart surgery. However, because of the salary difference, she did not accept the offer. A second applicant was also asked to

fill the slot, but did not wish to work full time.

Following a new search, a nurse practitioner secured the position. Two weeks after her selection, however, she declined the proposal. Her husband's reluctance to relocate was the deciding factor.

"It has been a frustrating situa-

tion," said Kridler.

"At this point, we are currently pursuing a hot lead," said Seveland.

Meanwhile, a rigorous search continues.

"Bill had a great reputation for caring. It takes a special character to work with 18-22 year-olds with the sensitivity which Bill had. Likewise, we are looking for a replacement who exemplifies these characteristics. We will miss him."

Clark's absence is not the only change in this year's medical center staff. Previously, Julie Thompson served as Wilcox's certified medical assistant (CMA). She, too, resigned during spring term. Thompson notified Alma in February, having accepted a job in Coldwater to be with her husband.

Registered nurse Denise Bouchee, a three-year veteran of the medical center, has assumed control over all the administrative duties since these alterations. Her work schedule has increased from part time (Tues., Thurs., and Fri.) to full time. From the first week of classes to the present, Bouchee has been treating between 35 and 40 patients a day, single-handedly.

"It is very time consuming," said Bouchee, "I'm looking forward to working with a new director."

As of Wed., Sept. 14, Thompson's replacement, CMA Kelly Stoneman, began her duration at Alma. Her presence, along with Bouchee's extended hours, should reduce complications. After October, Ginny White-Linn, a nurse practitioner, will be available every Mon. and Fri. Drs. Thiemkey and Vanderlugt visit the center every Tues. morning and remain on call. Wilcox Center hours are weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Disputes force negotiations

by Laura M. Paetz
News Editor

Both the masons who laid the bricks of the Heritage Center for the Performing Arts and the company which built the Alma College track are currently in negotiations with the college concerning the services they have, or have not, rendered.

Boettcher Mason Contractor, Inc., the subcontractor from Traverse City that supplied the bricklayers for the Heritage Center, is now claiming they performed more work than they were paid for.

"There were some changes made in the original design of the building, and there was an obvious misunderstanding between the bricklayer and [Helger Construction Company, Inc., the general contractor] about how the bricklayer was going to be paid for some additional brick work," explained President Alan J. Stone. "The contracts [between Boettcher and Helger] were not clear, and what they'll do now is go to an arbitrator."

Arbitrators are functionaries of the court system who intervene in

civil disputes and decide which party will have to pay. Currently, the arbitration is between only Boettcher and Helger. However, although the college is not presently involved in the situation, Helger is pushing for Alma's participation.

"Helger would like the college to be a part of the negotiations because if there was additional value built in, the college was a recipient of that," said Stone. "But we don't want to be a part of the arbitration. We may have to be involved in the end...but we're trying to stay out of it and will deal with Helger one-to-one later if we have to."

Boettcher alleges they are entitled to an additional \$40,000 for the Heritage Center. "It's not an extravagant amount, but nonetheless significant," added Stone.

In a separate situation, Balsam America, who built Alma's track eight years ago, is not responding to letters or phone calls to repair the track's cracking surface.

"The track started pulling apart about two or three years ago," said Stone, who maintains the track is not dangerous now, but could be in

time if it is not fixed.

The company was contacted two years ago about the condition of the track, and having acknowledged they were at fault in the situation, brought over the necessary equipment to fix it.

"Two years ago, the contractor said that, indeed, they would come back and fix it...they brought in the barrels that you've seen down there, perhaps, and the stacks of track material. They set them there and then never came back to actually do the work," Stone charged.

According to John Groteluschen, Vice President for Finance, Balsam America is a subsidiary of the German-based Balsam AG, which has filed for bankruptcy. As a result, Balsam America has filed for bankruptcy protection.

"If they have filed bankruptcy subsequently, we do not know," said Groteluschen. "We are trying to get information together so that if we need to, we can make a claim."

Stone suspects that the college will find another contractor to repair the track and then seek some kind of compensation from the original contractors.

Student Affairs Office searches for new associate dean

by Tera Biebuyck
Staff Reporter

Upon the resignation of Associate Dean of Students Linda Harleston and Assistant Dean of Students Anne Lombard, the Student Affairs office is conducting a search to fill a new associate dean position. This position will combine the responsibilities of the assistant and the associate dean while placing additional responsibility on the hall directors. This new position will have the added dimension of directing the Heritage Center and coordinating cultural affairs.

"We've decided to reorganize the Student Affairs office," explained Dean of Students James Kridler. "Rather than have an associate dean of students and an assistant dean who lived in the residence halls, we've decided to create a fourth hall director position located in Bruske Hall."

Four students, faculty to vote on board

by Chele Pipin
Freelance Writer

Last spring, the Alma College Board of Trustees agreed to allow full voting privileges to four members of the college's faculty and four members of the student body. According to President Alan J. Stone's knowledge, Alma is the only college ever to grant this.

Having been selected by their peers in student government elections last May, representatives of the student population include seniors Dana Grant and Shana Case, junior Maggie Taylor and sophomore Samantha Loree. These students will be serving on the Board

With the combination of the two jobs, more responsibility is given to the hall directors, who will be compensated for this additional responsibility. The Panhellenic Council is now under the direction of Kristen Norton, Newberry Hall director, while the Interfraternity Council will be under the direction of Mitchell Hall Director William Arnold. Carolyn Kaczynski, formerly the assistant director for admissions, is now the director of Bruske Hall. Malorie Flemming remains Gelston Hall director.

The Student Affairs office is also assuming more responsibility for the management of the Heritage Center. "We are looking for someone with good time management and organizational skills. The associate dean's job will be comprised of chairing the co-curricular committee, managing the Heritage Center, organizing preterm activities, and supervising the hall direc-

tor who works with the Union Board," said Kridler.

"We need someone who has direct experience with the performing arts, especially with booking acts and speakers. This person needs to have an appreciation of the artist's work."

Kridler is unsure of whether the new associate dean will have an office in Student Affairs or in the Heritage Center, where many of the job's responsibilities lie.

The search for the new associate dean is being conducted nationally in two publications; *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, and *The Affirmative Action Registrar*. Qualifications include a master's degree and three to five years of full-time administrative experience.

Although this is an awkward time to be conducting a search, as most schools have begun their academic year, Kridler hopes to have the position filled by winter term.

"I didn't feel like I could say as much before," explained Taylor, "but now I feel like what I say will make a difference. I'm not a middleman anymore. I feel like I can help get students' opinions heard and it counts now."

The Board of Trustees, otherwise comprised of forty business professionals, parents of former students and alumni, makes decisions concerning faculty appointments, granting tenure, sabbaticals and promotions of professors. The board also handles financial aid standards and tuition increases. Until last May, the students and faculty were allowed to vote on only three or four board decisions.

Keeping You Informed

Graduate school fair scheduled

The 7th Annual Graduate School Fair in Science and Engineering will be offered by the Argonne National Laboratory and the Associated Colleges of the Chicago area. This seminar helps undergraduates with questions concerning graduate school and assists them in finding the graduate program that suits their needs.

The Graduate School Fair is to take place on Saturday, Oct. 1, at Argonne, IL. There is no registration fee. For additional information, write to Graduate School Fair, Argonne National Laboratory, Division of Educational Programs, 9700 S. Cass Ave., Argonne, IL 60439, or call (708) 252-3193.

Help SOS help CROP stop hunger

Students Offering Service will be among the various campus organizations to be participating in the 12th Annual CROP Walk and invites all interested people to join them.

The CROP Walk will begin at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 2, next to the Physical Education Center. The entire walk is 6.1 miles. 25% of all funds raised will be used within the Alma community.

Interested persons should contact Jeff Fosnaugh at the SOS office (7598).

French House fall activities

Students living in the French House are sponsoring weekly activities throughout the Fall Semester. All activities will begin at 7:30 pm on Wednesdays at the French House, 707 W. Center St.

Sept. 21: Movie *Babette's Feast*

Sept. 28: French Songs Evening

Oct. 5: Games Evening

Oct. 12: Sweetest Day Celebration

Oct. 19: Movie *Cyrano de Bergerac*, with Gerard Depardieu

Oct. 26: Cultural Evening Program: An introduction to the different French Provinces and its cuisine

Oct. 31: Halloween disguise party

Nov. 2: Dessert Evening

Nov. 9: Wine Fest with French wine tasting

Nov. 16: Pictionary party

Nov. 30: Alsatian Beer Fest: French Beer and Pretzel Tasting

Dec. 5: French Christmas Carols

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Library wing groundbreaking postponed until Spring

By Tera Biebuyck
Staff Reporter

Due to the expansion of the project in its planning phase, ground-breaking for the new library wing scheduled to begin last March has been postponed until next spring.

"When the bids came in from the contractors they came in for \$1.6 million rather than the \$1 million that the architects projected," explained President Alan J. Stone. "The Board of Trustees and I agreed

not to go ahead with the project until we had the \$1.6 million in hand."

Once the construction of the new wing begins, it will take about one year to complete. "We will probably start the library first thing this spring," said Stone, "and hopefully it will be done by Christmas."

Director of the library, Peter Dollard, is not surprised by the delay and is excited about the new wing.

"Our library was built in the early 1960s and wasn't designed for the

computer systems we have today. We basically have to reorganize," he said. "We are running out of space for books and we would like to add more periodicals. The addition will add more book space and more study areas for students."

The library wing will be an attractive addition including two floors and an unfinished basement. This basement will serve as a storage area until the need for more book space arises. Because close to 6,000 books are annually furnished to the library, this new

space will be utilized.

A wired classroom is also scheduled to be a part of the improved library. This classroom will be useful in teaching students how to use library computers. Instead of twenty people crowding around a small screen, one huge screen will be accessible and more convenient.

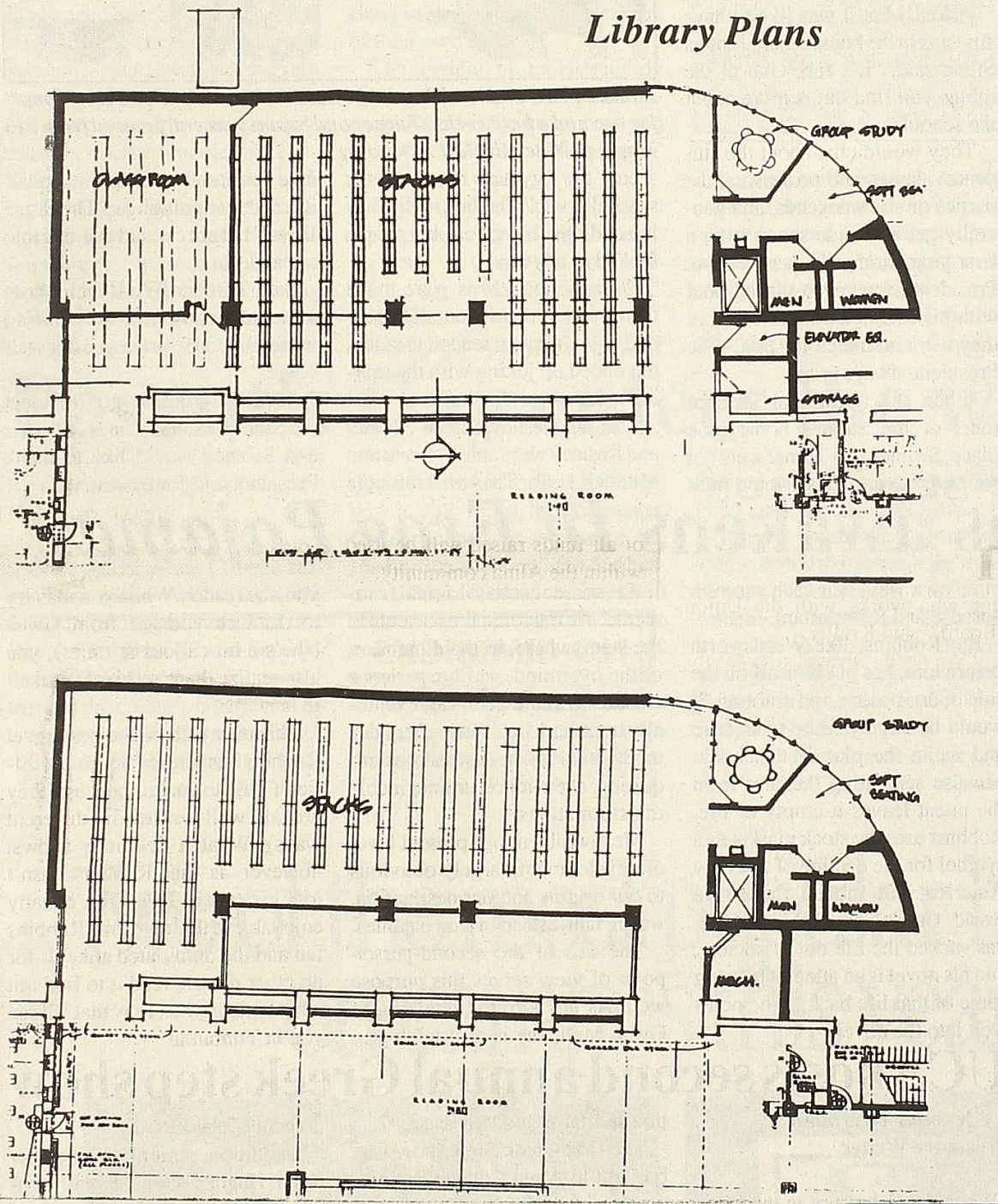
The area west of the library near Gelston Hall is the location of the new wing. This area, also known as the "electrical pit," contains phone lines, electrical lines and steam pipes. In order to begin construc-

tion, this area had to be dug up and the lines replaced and relocated.

"It was a two month summer project," said Stone. "Since they weren't up to code anyway, it had to be done. That's what all the mess is."

Students can look forward to using the new wing and additional resources in 1996. Besides more books, periodicals, and a new computer system, students can also anticipate luxuries such as more study areas, new furniture, a new circulation desk and elevator.

Library Plans



World News

By Wade Renando
Staff Reporter

lion by the year 2000.

USAir flight 427 crashed near Pittsburgh on Sept. 8, killing all 132 passengers on board. The cause of the crash is unknown. The Boeing 737 plane was approaching Pittsburgh International Airport when it rolled belly-up, banked and fell nose first 6,000 ft. to the ground. This is the fifth major crash for USAir in the past five years. National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) investigators stated it may take months before the cause of the crash is known. Still, the chance of eventually solving the mystery of flight 427 is good. The flight data recorder on board the plane was a new model capable of re-creating the last moments of the crash with great precision. NTSB will investigate all possible crash scenarios. The final report on the tragedy will take at least nine months.

Clinton said Haiti's military regime has agreed to step down peacefully and let U.S. troops enter without resistance. The President announced Sunday night that Haiti's Military leader Cedras would step down no later than Oct. 15 along with his top associates. The agreement will avert a U.S. invasion and pave the way for exiled President Aristide to return to power. U.S. led troops entered Haiti yesterday to ensure a peaceful transition. The agreement was reached after lengthy talks last weekend in Port-au-Prince with former President Carter, Gen. Powell and Georgia's Sen. Nunn. The U.S. delegation left Sunday night.

Despite the Vatican's strong opposition to abortion as a form of population control, the majority of United Nations representatives meeting in Cairo reached a consensus on a 113 page program to slow the escalating world population. The final draft should be approved by delegates this week. It includes increasing the amount of money spent on population control from the current amount of \$5 billion to \$17 bil-

The British government announced that in response to the Irish Republican Army's week-long cease-fire, security in Northern Ireland would be slightly reduced. Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds shook hands with the IRA's political chief Gerry Adams on the steps of Dublin's Government Buildings. The two leaders stated they were "absolutely committed to democratic and peaceful methods" of solving the province's political problems. A meeting between British Prime Minister John Major and Protestant leader Ian Paisly did not go as well: Paisly refused to say that he thought Major's government made no secret deals with the IRA and was forced to leave from the meeting immediately.

The senior F-15 pilot involved with the downing of two U.S. Army helicopters over northern Iraq last April had 26 charges of negligent homicide and two charges of dereliction of duty brought against him by the Air Force. Five members of the Awacs radar plane crew were also charged with dereliction of duty.

A team of researchers at the University of Utah, working with the federal governments National Institute of Environmental Sciences, recently uncovered a gene which causes breast cancer. The breakthrough offers hope to those suffering from the deadly disease that killed more than 45,000 American women last year alone. The discovery came after four exhausting years of research involving about a dozen laboratories. Scientists say women who inherit a defective form of a gene called BRCA1 have an estimated 1 in 200 chance of developing breast cancer, making it one of the most common lethal, inherited diseases. Researchers warn it may take years of scientific research before the gene can be used to combat breast cancer.

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NOTE: In the September 13, 1994 issue of *The Almanian*, senior Beth Hughes, member of Phi Beta Kappa, was incorrectly identified as sophomore Mary Dahlberg. The staff regrets any problems this error may have caused.

The Cutting Crew

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Sept. 20, 1994

Houseguests bid farewell

By Emily Damstra
Staff Reporter

Ever wonder what it would be like to live with Alma College President Alan J. Stone? For two and a half weeks, first-year students Lance Turner and Paul Swaney of Traverse City experienced life at 313 Maple.

Because there were not enough spaces in the residence halls for incoming men, Vice President for Enrollment and Student Affairs John Seveland decided Resident Assistants would receive roommates. Turner and Swaney were unhappy because the two friends had planned to room together.

Turner recalled, "I was upset in the beginning, but John Seveland offered to put us with the President, and I kind of laughed at first, but then I thought that it would be a good idea because we were guaranteed to get a room eventually."

So they took over the third floor of the President's home on the first day of Preterm, Aug. 27.

"We didn't know if we would like it," said Swaney. "Once we started living here, and saw what nice people they are... really it's

not much different than living in the dorm."

With luxuries such as personal bathrooms, queen-size beds, free laundry machines, a pool table and two cats, both students soon acclimated to their unique living arrangement.

The Stones are "really nice, genuine people," said Turner. But the students were careful not to be disruptive. "We've been pretty quiet. I mean, it's the President of the college, you know."

Jonieta Stone said she hardly saw them because they always used the fire escape. Turner even had pizza delivered to "313 Maple, fire escape exit," and gave the pizza deliverer a \$2 tip. Actually, it turned out there was no need to tiptoe.

Turner and Swaney discovered that President and Jonieta Stone are normal people. Swaney explained, "We kinda put people on a pedestal, and when you see them in normal situations, it's weird."

What a great subject for conversation during Preterm, when one is frequently asked to introduce oneself and say something unique. Turner and Swaney's story was an instant attention-grabber. However,

they lamented that making friends took an extra effort since they lived relatively far away. "We had to become a little more social than we normally would," conceded Turner.

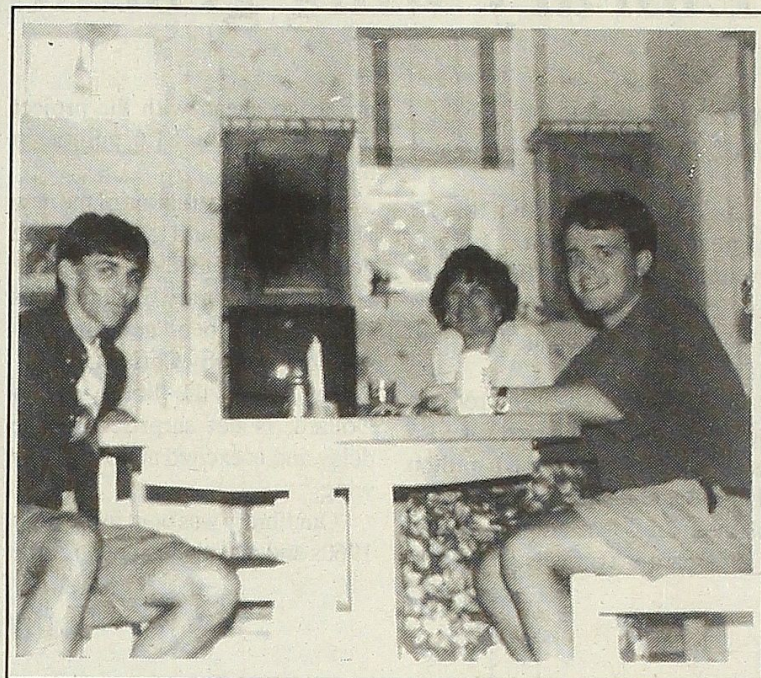
According to Swaney, it was, "not exactly the college experience."

Surprisingly, Swaney and Turner are not the first to have bunked in the President's home. In 1989, two seniors who could not find an apartment showed up on the Stone's doorstep and stayed for a few weeks.

Asked what it was like to have students in the house again, Jonieta Stone said, "It's fun. One of the things you find out is more about the school."

They would chat about the students' classes and professors, the parties on the weekends, and generally get an inside scoop from a first-year student's perspective. President Stone even played pool with his two new roommates, but they were no match for him. The President always won.

When the traditional Preterm tours of the Stone's home took place, Swaney and Turner were not sure how to act. Who would miss



Lance Turner and Paul Swaney called President Stone's house "home" for two and a half weeks. Turner and Swaney recently moved from 313 Maple to Mitchell Hall. Photo by

seeing the Egyptian room and the seashell room? The first night, they left and shut their doors, but people looked in anyway.

"I know their beds were made then," said Jonieta Stone. The second night, they pretended to study, but ended up joking with the touring students.

Last Wednesday, Sept. 14, Turner and Swaney were able to move into Mitchell Hall. They will miss the

nice furniture, excellent hospitality, and recognition as "The Stone Boys," but are excited to move into a real dorm.

Said Turner, "We'll feel a little more cramped, but [at the Stone's,] we felt like we overstayed our welcome."

"I'm real glad we got to meet the Stones," said Swaney. Turner and Swaney would like to thank President and Jonieta Stone.

Author Tom Robbins awakens In Frog Pajamas

By William J. Johnston
Freelance Writer

When an author produces books at the rate of, say, one every five years, every new novel becomes something to be savored and lingered over, like dinner at an upscale restaurant.

Yet (prepare yourself for the big cliché), from the moment I picked up Tom Robbins' most-recent effort, *Half Asleep in Frog Pajamas*, I found I couldn't put it down.

Robbins has that effect on people, particularly his die-hard fans. His rich, metaphor-laden prose, heavy with equal parts of history, religion, philosophy, and humor, screams to be devoured by the reader. Consider this description:

The creature is the size of a standard poodle. It has a body of crunchy armor, several more legs than good taste dictates; long, wiggly antennae that seem to be sorting through atmospheric molecules like old women buying tomatoes; and eyes that are all pupil and no expression, yet follow your every move as if heat-seeking scanners had been implanted in a pair of black golf balls. It's a repulsive, willy-giving thing...

Only Robbins could make you feel like you were reading a science fiction novel when in fact he is describing a pest-control business.

In *Half Asleep in Frog Pajamas*, Robbins branches off into prose different from his previous efforts (for the uninitiated, the titles are *Another Roadside Attraction*, *Even Cowgirls Get the Blues*, *Still Life with Woodpecker*, *Jitterbug Perfume*, *skinny legs and all*). As always, he structures the plot not around chapters, but rather around

time—in this case, mornings, afternoons, and evenings (further broken down by the actual time of day events in the novel occur at).

But instead of the third-person point of view he traditionally writes in, Robbins has written *Half Asleep in Frog Pajamas* in a sort of second-person limited omniscience. This has the disconcerting effect of putting you (the reader) in the shoes of Gwendolyn Mati (the main character), a stock broker in Seattle who, as the novel's opening line indicates, is having what she thinks is the worst day of her life.

The novel opens at 4 p.m. on Holy Thursday (for the non-Christian, this is the day before Good Friday, which is the Friday before Easter), and the Dow-Jones 30 Industrials have just taken a 900-point plummet. Gwen fears that, come Monday, her life will be totally ruined when it becomes apparent that her investment practices have been slightly unethical.

Lest you fear that this is a novel about stockbrokers, take heart. Like any good Robbins novel (and they are all good), there isn't one definite subject. *Half Asleep in Frog Pajamas* deals as much with stockbroking as it does with amphibians (frogs in particular), astronomy, bowling, cancer cures, Tarot, and weather in Seattle.

Robbins carries the spirit, if not the banner, of the Romantic tradition: "Passion isn't a path through the woods. Passion is the woods. It's the deepest, wildest part of the forest; the grove where the fairies still dance and obscene old vipers snooze in the boughs." Robbins recognizes the validity of the emotional and the rational, of art and science—he knows each is useful

in its own way, that each serves a purpose and is important.

But Robbins, like Wordsworth before him, has put himself on the side of art, poetry, and emotion. It would be largely futile to sit here and recite the plot of this book, because separating the plot from the intent leaves it empty of life. Robbins uses the stock market as a symbol for the decline of not only America, but indeed the entire world. Capitalism, Robbins feels, has sucked the life out of society, and his novel is an attempt to bring some of that life back, as he notes well into the novel.

UCS hosts second annual Greek step show

By Jennifer Herriman
Freelance Writer

When the lights dim in the Heritage Center for the Performing Arts on Saturday, Sept. 24, the audience will come alive with a unique combination of stepping, chanting, dancing and clapping as the second annual Greek Step Show kicks off.

For the second consecutive year, African-American fraternities from various universities will display their spirit to promote diversity and Greek unity. Each group incorporates music and dance to emphasize their stepping and clapping routine. The routine is performed in cadence or unison with an abundance of fun and energy. The audience will even find themselves actively participating as the performers bring members of the audience on stage to teach them steps.

Reverend Jesse Perry recalled last year's Greek Step Show, saying that, "it was choreographed well and (he) enjoyed watching the groups working together in a rou-

tine similar to modern dance."

The first Greek Step Show was brought to Alma College last November by the United Coalition of Students (UCS) and Stillman College exchange students Lawrence Potter and Takisha Thomas.

"There was a good campus response to the show, as students filled most of the bottom level of the Heritage Center," said Greek Step Show chairperson Kathy Bailey. "We hope to have a full house this year."

Although this will only be Alma's second Greek Step Show, the performances occur continuously throughout the United States. Greek Step Shows have been a tradition in African-American fraternities and sororities and help to unite members of national Greek organizations from different universities. Furthermore, Greek Step Shows build unity and spirit within each group.

"For UCS, the main goal of the Greek Step Show is trying to bring new things to campus to promote

you, the reader. While you may try to distance yourself from Gwen (she's a bit callous at times), you also realize there's a bit of yourself in her.

This may well be the best novel Robbins has written yet (it's a difficult call to make, because they are all well-written in different ways). What it definitely shows, however, is that Robbins hasn't lost his touch. It will be equally enjoyable to the long-time Robbins fan and the uninitiated alike. If for no other reason, read it to find out what I mean when I say that I'll see you in Timbuktu.

diversity," said Bailey.

In addition, senior UCS member Dena Hughes said, "I really enjoyed the purpose of the show, and I hope to get more groups and some sororities participating too."

Both Bailey and Hughes hope the Greek Step Show at Alma will become an annual event and that future members of UCS will continue to support the event.

Opening for the Greek Step Show will be senior Dan Baker, entertaining the audience with comedy and magic.

This year's Greek Step Show promises to be an exciting cultural experience for Alma College. Currently, fraternities from Northwood, Central Michigan, Ferris State and Michigan State are scheduled to perform. Similar to last year, cash prizes will be awarded to the participants.

UCS will host the Greek Step Show on Sept. 24 at 8 p.m. in the Heritage Center. The event is free to students and no tickets are required.

Home again!

Riser returns to Center after 15 years

By Kristin Allen
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Ginny Riser won't be using her privileged backstage passes to this year's Country Music Association Awards. Instead, she will be teaching networking skills, reviewing resumes and promoting Alma College seniors to hundreds of prospective employers around the country.

For Riser, Associate Director of Placement Services, returning to Alma after a fifteen year absence is just one aspect of the planning process she has used in making numerous decisions. Born in Chicago, raised in NJ, and schooled in Tenn., Riser relocated to Alma after residing in Austin, Texas for ten years.

Riser first came to Alma upon finishing her masters degree and worked in Advising, Counseling and Career Development—what has since become The Center for

Student Development.

This time around, Riser will use her understanding of industry and education to help Alma students focus on their future.

"Right now Alma graduates have a confidence level that is wonderful," explained Riser. "One of the things I hope they leave here understanding is that there is a certain process of making decisions about themselves—a process driven not by job titles, but by their own personal values and an understanding of their own skills."

The system of understanding these work-related skills has become Riser's own mission as part of a personal obligation to her father over the years.

"Years ago, my father charged me to come to the dinner table each night saying what I had done during the day to make a difference," said Riser.

"This was often difficult, but I

believe his purpose was to get me thinking about my response to myself and to the world in general, and to help me find a purpose in whatever I did."

Though I've possessed many different job titles, I've carried a certain set of values and a certain set of skills with me in all of my jobs.

Because her father was actively involved in the community, he recognized a need for company participation in the school system to produce trained employees.

"It is important for me to continue the work my dad did, and to

understand the work force and its need and provide some vehicle for skill training in that area."

This concentration on skill training and development has motivated Riser through various job titles including senior marketing representative, senior salesperson, ERA negotiator and national representative for the Educational Testing System. In addition to her work at The Center, Riser currently manages her own consulting business.

"I've worked primarily as a teacher, trainer, and marketing person, in a variety of settings. Though I've possessed many different job titles, I've carried a certain set of values and a certain set of skills with me in all of my jobs."

Just as Riser's father instilled these skills into her life and ensuing careers, Riser has incorporated these same values in the lives of her children.

"Every once in a while in your

lifetime, you have some kind of an influence on someone," said Riser, recalling one evening when she returned home to find her son watching a videotape of a speech she had given on how to find a job.

Eric, Riser's youngest child, works as a fire fighter, while daughter Christine is Assignments Manager for a television station in Austin. Eldest daughter Lara is in charge of membership for the Country Music Association—hence, the backstage passes.

Riser is proud of her children's accomplishments, proud of her own success as a trainer and motivator, and proud she has once again chosen Alma as her home.

"If you understand yourself, you can make yourself a home," concluded Riser. "Likewise, if you know yourself and know what motivates you, you can use that information to make any decision you need to make."

Parent's Day enters the world of computers

By Christine Ebert
Freelance Writer

Once again, Alma College students and parents will enjoy a fun-filled day of togetherness. Parent's Day 1994 will be held on Sept. 24 and is an excellent way for parents to view the college experience.

A new and exciting feature of this year's Parent's Day is the addi-

tion of seminars and workshops, which will focus on computers. Cheryl Kocon, President of the Parent Board, along with her husband, Ed, said these seminars will allow more parents and students to communicate on the same level about computers.

"The students use computers for papers, e-mail, and in other ways and are very familiar with them.

Parents should be just as familiar [with computers]," said Kocon.

There is another reason for parents to attend these seminars. It can be very difficult to get a hold of a student by telephone. If parents were able to talk to their children through e-mail, communication would be much easier for both parents and children.

Joanne Howd, a first-year stu-

dent, thought Parent's Day was an excellent way to go out to eat, but she also thought it would be a great way for her parents to learn about e-mail. Howd said, "My parents only live in St. Louis, but to be able to talk to them on e-mail would be great."

Another first year student, Jenny Reeder, felt the same. She said, "It is expensive to call home fre-

quently. E-mail would make everything easier."

Cheryl Kocon said that Parent's Day has taken this approach for two main reasons. First, it gives the parents an opportunity to learn something new and second, some parents do not enjoy football games. This will provide something new and different for them to do.

The topic for the seminars will change every year, but the seminars are something the Parent Board hopes to continue. The reason computers were chosen to be the focus for the new-and-improved Parent's Day is because there are many parents on the board who have computer experience and they knew what type of seminars would be good for other parents to attend.

Kocon said, "It is a good direction for Parent's Day and one that will be good for the parents and students of Alma College."

Parents will be able to attend their choice of seminars. The seminars will include: "Why a Computer?" to answer questions about buying computers for students and parents; "What Hardware?" for questions on how to make a parent's computer compatible with the Alma system; "E-Mail," to explain the e-mail system; "You've Plugged it in- Now What?" to alleviate fears about running and breaking computers; "Software Applications" on programs that will increase parent's computer efficiency; and "The Future of the Computer as a Tool" will discuss the possibilities of computers.

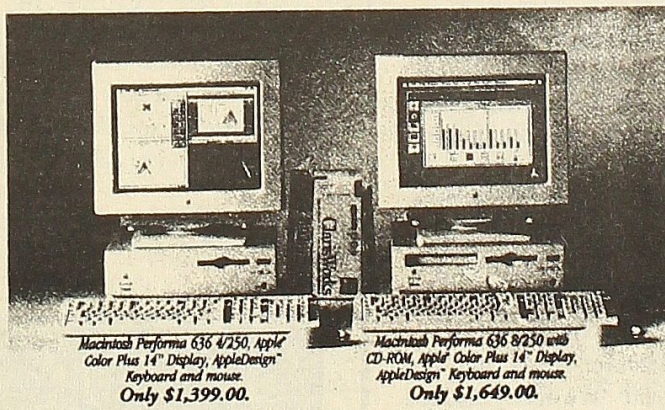
Other events planned for the day include a tailgate luncheon, and open houses at all campus residence buildings. Men's soccer and football games will provide fun for all spots fans. Topping off the afternoon will be a reception at President Stone's home.

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Sept. 20, 1994

¿No hablas Espanol?

Gemrich adds to faculty diversity

By Nicole DeBurton
Freelance Writer

One of the many women Alma College has added to the faculty this year is Anna Gemrich. Gemrich joins Carlos Mentley in the Foreign Language Department, making this the first time there have been two full-time Spanish professors at Alma.

During the past few years, enrollment in the Spanish program has risen substantially, hence the need for another full-time professor. The addition of Gemrich adds a good balance to the Spanish department.

Whereas Mentley specializes in Spanish Peninsular literature, Gemrich's main area of interest is Latin American literature. However, Gemrich said she did not always plan to study and teach Spanish. She originally considered studying science, but changed her mind after spending a year as an exchange student in Madrid.

"I hated high school and saw being an exchange student as a way

of getting out of high school. There was a spot in Spain and I took it," explained Gemrich.

After returning from Spain, Gemrich earned a B.A. in Spanish and economics from Kalamazoo College, where she once again studied overseas, this time in Colombia. But even then, she said, "Spanish was my fun major, and economics was how I was going to earn a living."

However, she went on to earn a masters degree in Spanish at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and finished her Ph.D. in Hispanic Literature at the University of Texas, Austin. She recently pre-

sented a paper related to her dissertation at the Mid-America Conference on Hispanic Literature in Kansas.

Gemrich's students have a favorable impression of her. Sophomore Spanish student Joe Bogan said, "She's been very patient with the students who are having a hard time speaking Spanish."

Although most stu-

dents don't know much about her yet, junior Karla McKinnon said Gemrich is "someone representative of Alma—energetic and committed. She has her own methods and won't be molded."

Mentley agreed that Gemrich's

different ideas and viewpoints are what makes her so valuable to the Spanish department.

"For years, perspectives have come from only one view—mine," he said. Mentley also said that "because of the way enrollments are, it's valuable to have a woman in the department teaching Spanish."

While busy settling into the Alma community and correcting homework, Gemrich also tries to find time to spend with her husband, Jim Shneberger, and their son, Cameron. Cameron, at almost two years old is already learning Spanish.

Gemrich said trying to speak Spanish to him often "is really hard, because Jim doesn't speak Spanish and he's in day care all day learning English."

Overall, Gemrich said she has felt very welcome at Alma, and added that "everyone has been friendly and eager to chat." Surely, the addition of Gemrich will strengthen and increase enrollment in Alma's already well-established Spanish program.

She's been very patient with the students who are having a hard time speaking Spanish.

-Joe Bogan (97)

Music department prepares for spectacular season

By Jessica L. VanSlooten
Feature Editor

If you wander into Eddy Music Building, you are likely to hear various strains of music through the warm autumn air. Alma music students and faculty are preparing for the plethora of musical events occurring in the months ahead.

Will Nichols, Associate Professor of Music, will begin the fall season with a vocal recital on Sept. 23. "All in the Family," as Nichol's recital is billed, will focus on songs which emphasize familial relations.

As for the rationale behind the theme, Nichol's explained "I needed a topic which I could hang my recital on. It needed to be something I am interested in."

Nichol's first considered the family theme while preparing for an audition this summer. Working on "Di Provenza," the father's aria from Verdi's opera *La Traviata*, he discovered the prevalence of family throughout music literature.

Although all the songs deal with family, many different aspects of family life are conveyed. "It is important not to pick music which only shows the good side of family life. The various songs also show the humor and difficulty of family life," said Nichols.

The recital program is broken into sections, including segments on marriage, children, brothers/sisters, and mothers/fathers. Each segment will include not only music, but verbal text as well. In keeping with the family theme, Nichols' son and mother will present the verbal portion of the concert.

Accompanying Nichols on the piano will be Anthony Patterson,

whom Nichols' has worked with for eight years at the Bayview Music Festival.

With such a unique program, the approximately one hour and ten minute concert should be enjoyable for all. Nichols stressed this concert will be unlike typical vocal recitals, and he plans on "having fun."

The performance is Friday, Sept. 23, at 8 p.m. in the Heritage Center for the Performing Arts. The recital is free. Therefore no tickets are required.

The coming months will also be exciting for members of the Kiltie marching and concert bands, the Alma Symphony Orchestra, and The Alma College Choir and Glee clubs.

With more members than ever before, the marching band will perform at four home football games this season. The approximately 100 member band will take to the field, donning the traditional Scottish attire.

Band members are excited about the acquisition of 30 new kilts, 45 jackets and 50 sporrins.

Junior Jennifer Brcka, uniform manager said "We really needed them because of the growth of the band. Also, some of the old kilts were really worn out." With the additions, nearly the entire band will be outfitted in kilts.

Senior Erik Janners, band manager, is excited about the marching and concert band seasons.

"The band department is getting more diverse; the December concert will include pieces for percussion ensemble, marching band and concert band. Everyone is really juiced and everything is going re-

ally well," said Janners.

After a spectacular season last year, the Alma Symphony Orchestra will settle into more serious work. The first concert will include Beethoven's *Egmont Overture* and Brahms' *German Requiem*. Douglas Scripps, professor of music, is excited to present the *Requiem*.

"The Brahms' *Requiem* lacks the fireworks of Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*; it is a very reflective piece. We are excited to work with the choral consortium we established last year," said Scripps.

Among the choirs joining the ASO will be the Alma choir and

glee clubs. Nichols is likewise enthused about performing the famous Brahms' *Requiem*.

"We expect students to send us thank you notes 30 years from now thanking us for allowing them to perform the *Requiem*," said Nichols.

The Alma Choir is also looking forward to a busy year on the road. On Sept. 25, they will perform at Grosse Point Memorial Church. The Choir is the only college choir selected to sing at the Midwest Conference on School Music, which will be held in Ann Arbor in January. Over spring break, the

choir will journey even farther when they fly to Florida to perform in Presbyterian churches throughout the sunshine state.

Closer to home, the choir will be performing a number of concerts this year, the first of which will be on Oct. 31. As Nichols explained, "The infamous Halloween concert will be exhumed this year."

The myriad of concerts does not end here; this is merely a highlight of up-and-coming events. A promising and musically fulfilling year is in store for the Alma community and beyond, as all of the ensembles prepare for a spectacular season.

Alma Events

Wednesday Sept. 21

Co-Cur Speaker: Melor Sturua, 8 p.m., Heritage Center

Thursday Sept. 22

English Dept. GRE English review session, 4 p.m., SAC 309

Friday Sept. 23

ACUB movie, 7 & 9:30 p.m., Jones Faculty Recital, Will Nichols, 8 p.m., Heritage Center

Saturday Sept. 24

2nd Annual Greek Step Show, 8 p.m., Heritage Center

Sunday Sept. 25

ACUB movie, 8:30 p.m., Jones Auditorium

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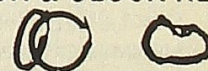
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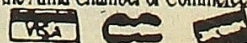
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The 1994 Alma Scots celebrate their regional reign at Illinois Benedictine College. The softball team finished fifth in the nation with a record of 36-8.

1994 Softball Team Wins Regional Title

By Alexandra Orr
Staff Reporter

Although the season is officially over, the feeling of being the fifth best team in the nation is likely to linger in the minds of the Alma College softball team.

Graduate Chris Snyder commented, "It is an incredible feeling knowing we are one of the best teams in the nation. It was a great way to end my softball career here at Alma. Going to the national tournament in Virginia was the best experience I ever had at Alma. Everyone contributed to our suc-

Illinois Benedictine, winning by a score of 4-3. The final game for the regional championship brought Alma up against Millikin once again.

In the seventh inning the Scots were in the field. Millikin had runners on first and third and needed only a base hit to win. The batter got two strikes and then hit a line drive. Graduate Lisa Knowles caught the ball and clinched Alma's title of Midwest Regional Champions.

With this win, Alma advanced to the Division III Softball World Series for the first time ever. The national tournament was held in Salem, Vir. May 19-22.

Griffin said, "After defeating Millikin we learned we were just as good as any team. Virginia was a lot of fun. No one expected at the beginning of the season that we would make it to the national tournament."

Central College in Iowa was the Scots first opponent in the tournament. The game lasted 16 innings—going down in the record books as the longest game. Senior Julie Hoffman pitched the entire game and now holds the national record for most innings pitched.

After a valiant effort put forth by the Scots, Central seized the win with a score of 4-3.

For their final game the Scots competed against Rowan College in New Jersey. Although they were again defeated (6-1), the Scots returned to Michigan knowing they held the title of fifth best team in the nation.

Although four of last year's players have graduated from Alma, the softball team already has its sights set on the upcoming season. The coaching staff of Griffin and assistant coaches Phil Hansen and James Farnum will remain.

Senior Julie Hoffman commented, "The coaches were more aggressive this past season. Each coach made great contributions to the team."

The Scots are already gearing up for the next season. With regional boundary changes Michigan is linked with Indiana and Ohio instead of Illinois and Wisconsin.

Griffin said, "With this new change, we are expecting to have an easier season. The team is confident it can do at least as well as we did last year."

Senior Beth Aulerich agreed, "Although we have lost some key people, we have some strong first-year additions to the team. With so many returning players we have high hopes for the upcoming season."

Beating Hope for the conference championship was the best moment in the season.

-Andrea Hill (97)

The Scots began last season with nine pre-season games in Fort Myers, Fla. Returning to Michigan with a record of 7-2, losing only to University of Villanova and Ohio Northern University, the Scots began the regular season with a victorious doubleheader against Grand Valley State University.

Although off to a powerful start, the Scots were defeated by long time rivals Hope College's Flying Dutchmen. Losing a doubleheader with scores of 9-4 and 5-4, the Scots were determined to look forward and not behind.

Going into the league tournament the Scots were tied with Calvin, each having 3 losses. The Scots needed to beat Adrian College in order to be in contention for the championship against Hope.

Sophomore Andrea Hill appropriately said, "Beating Hope for the conference championship was the best moment in the season. Having lost to them earlier in the season added to our satisfaction when we left the field knowing we had captured the championship."

Head coach Dennis Griffin agreed, "Beating Hope in the championship game set a precedent for how our season eventually ended. After that game we had proved to ourselves that we could do well."

This victory gave the Scots the league championship in softball for the first time in 8 years.

The Scots moved on to capture the Midwest Regional championship. Traveling to Illinois Benedictine College for the regional tournament, each team member knew the competition would become more difficult from here on.

The Scots began the tournament by competing against Millikin University. Although they started out slow, the Scots defeated Millikin by 4-2. Alma then competed against

Griffin appointed new Athletic Director

By Wade Renando
Staff Reporter

Alma College's newest Athletic Director is Denny Griffin. But Griffin is anything but new to Alma. He has been hired to take on the task of overseeing and managing Alma's athletic program.

Griffin replaces Bob Elderidge. His duties include hiring and supervising all of the college's coaches, overseeing its sports budget and managing the distribution of equipment. In addition to these responsibilities he is also Alma's

head athletic trainer and head coach of the men's softball team.

His tasks as athletic trainer are to condition Alma athletes so they are less prone to injury and to help rehabilitate them if they become injured. His assistant, Kris Rowe, helps with these duties, allowing Griffin more time to concentrate on other obligations.

As the men's softball coach last spring, Griffin led the team to their best season in Alma history winning 36 out of 44 games.

Griffin's impressive background started at Hope college where he

majoring in Biology. From there he went to Western Michigan University where he earned a masters degree in physical education. In 1983 he became Alma's assistant women's softball coach, becoming the head coach in 1986. His recent appointment to Athletic Director is his finest achievement to date.

Griffin is generally happy with the direction of the Alma sports program. He does not plan to make any drastic changes. His biggest task at the moment is finding permanent coaches for the men's and women's tennis team and women's soccer team.

Griffin enjoys his job. He finds trying to make time to meet his responsibilities difficult but appreciates the contact with students.

"I think the people at this place are special," Griffin said. He's proud the school has put their trust in him, allowing him to serve as an example to its athletes.

The largest drawback to his job is the enormous amount of time it requires. Griffin, a husband and father, would like to spend more time with his two year old son, Sean, and wife Tammy. He and his wife are expecting their second child in December.

In addition to being with his family and coaching, Griffin enjoys fishing, hunting and of course, softball. Fall is traditionally the busiest time of year for athletic directors. He is looking forward to the more laid back winter and spring seasons.

How are Alma's sports teams going to do this year? Griffin sees a bright future for all of them. He has confidence in the football team, and hopes to coach the softball team to another record-breaking year.

"The softball team has good pitching and a good first-year class," Griffin said.

Considering their impressive record last year and the loss of only four seniors, he has a right to be confident.

Despite the pitfalls and time commitments of being Alma's new Athletic Director, Griffin is happy with his success. If experience and a positive attitude are any indications of how well an athletic director will be, Denny Griffin holds promise.

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Sept. 20, 1994

Scots' victory against Jays marks second win

By Tom Glegola
Freelance Writer

Solid defense, two second-half touchdowns, and excellent special teams insured a victory this past Sat. as the Alma Scots defeated the Blue Jays of Elmhurst, Ill., 28-7.

The Scots were off to a good start as senior quarterback, Matt Snyder completed a third down pass to Jeff Lillie on Alma's first drive of the game.

The Scots began the second quarter in the same fashion, when Snyder scrambled for eleven yards into the end zone.

With 18 seconds remaining in the second quarter, the Blue Jays came back for their only score as Simeon Henderson completed an eight-yard pass by Kevin Greene.

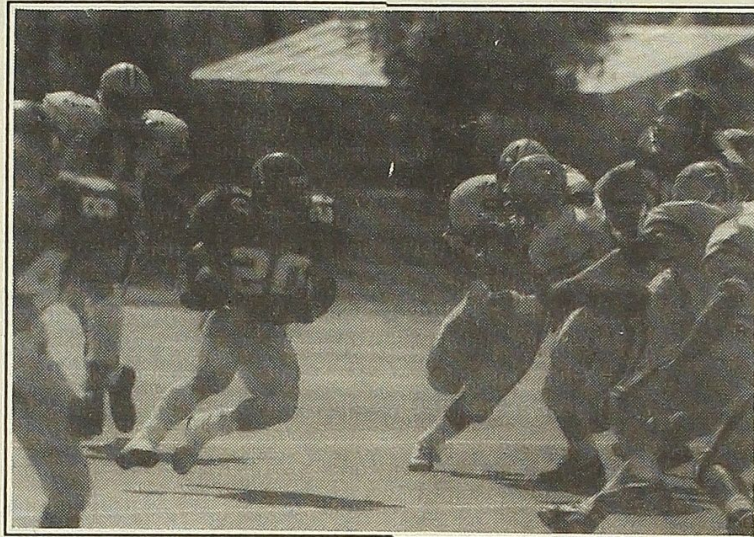
The big defensive play of the half came earlier in the second quarter. With Elmhurst on the Alma 33-yard line, Greene handed off to

Chuck Junirs. Junirs fumbled and junior defensive back, Jeff Beane recovered the ball, ending the threat.

The plays that head coach Jim Cole characterized as "the most important plays of the game," took place in the third quarter.

With fourth down and nine yards to go, Alma punted from its 43-yard line to the Elmhurst 43-yard line. Sophomore Brian Borkowski knocked the ball loose and Craig Kashata recovered the ball and ran to the 26-yard line. This set up the next play, a 26-yard pass up the middle from junior quarterback, Jason Falk to junior wide receiver Christian Wiley.

The final Alma score was set up by another turnover. Derek Walker of the Blue Jays fumbled the ball on the Elmhurst 39-yard line and senior defensive back Joel Reed recovered. Then, four plays later, after a touchdown that was called back because of offensive holding,



Falk completed a 29-yard pass to Lillie.

Cole was "very pleased" with what he called "aggressive defense."

"The seniors in the second half did a nice job of rallying one

another," said Cole. Plays like these were instrumental in maintaining the aggressive nature of the defense throughout the game. He added, "It's their year."

Cole said that the kicking team played a key part in the success of

special teams.

He also felt that there were areas where the team could improve. "The offense needs to improve against the blitz," was Cole's cure for Alma offense, which sputtered at times.

Cole also was very optimistic about the future of the Scots. "We're playing young people, so each time (they play) they will get better."

The Scot defense was led by Mark Gorczyca and Bill Seeley, with seven tackles apiece. Jeff Silk contributed six tackles. Bryant Martin provided a sack. Rex Foster broke up three passes and just missed catching an interception.

The Scot ground attack was led by senior, Ben Burk, who rushed for 91 yards on 14 carries.

Lillie led all receivers with 82 yards on six receptions.

Saturday the Scots face Franklin at home at 1:30 p.m.

Men's Golf takes second place

By Emily Damstra
Staff Reporter

The Alma College men's and women's cross country teams traveled to Kenosha, Wisc. Saturday, Sept. 17 and did well amidst "really good competition," according to Coach Dan Gibson.

The excellent Parkside course at the University of Wisconsin was crowded with athletes. There were 345 women and 389 men from schools across the country. Among those present were Loyola University, Eastern Illinois University, Hillsdale College, North Central College and Central Michigan University. Ohio University won both the men's and women's events.

First-year student Kendra Edwardson led Alma's 18-member women's squad with a 69th place finish with a time of 19 minutes, 50 seconds. Close behind were first-year students Kate Rodgers and Sara Jefferson, who placed 81st and 85th with times of 20.00 and

20.03 respectively. Rebecca Walter placed 122nd in 20.27 and sophomore Lisa Wittenbach came in 138th at 20.50.

The young team had fantastic weather for their five kilometer race and ended up 20th out of 28 schools with 495 points. Wittenbach explained that most of the Alma women were pleased with their times. First-year student Laura Anderson said her first college meet was a "wonderful experience."

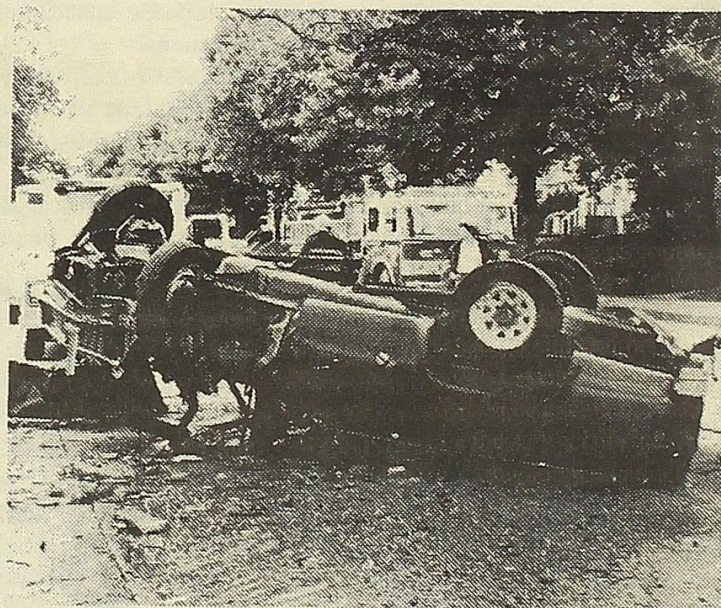
The men's team, comprised of twenty runners, took an impressive 16th place out of 33 schools with 532 points. Leading the squad was junior Ryan Donley who finished 75th with a time of 27 minutes, nine seconds. Sophomores Jason Bandlow and Grant Woodman were close behind, coming in 95th and 98th with times of 27.36 and 27.38 respectively. Rounding out the top five were sophomores John Mackela with 117th place in 27.58 and Jeremy O'Shea, who came in 147th in 28.34. The men's five-

mile race followed the women's race, and by then the perfect running weather had changed to a hotter, more uncomfortable temperature. But the experienced group handled it well.

After the grueling eight hour trip, Coach Gibson said both the men and women "had excellent races." They did not place as highly as they had hoped, but more large schools had shown up than were expected.

"This is the best competition we've had all year," explained Gibson. That competition included the top Division III school in the country - North Central College - and some Division I schools. It was great preparation for future competition against highly-rated MIAA schools like Calvin College and Hope College.

Both teams came off of a successful first meet at Central Michigan University on Sept. 9. Their next meet is Saturday, Sept. 24 at Hope in Holland, Mich. at 11 a.m.



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friendships."

Taking part in the closeness is coach Spathelf, who often finds extra time just to help the players with their game.

"His time spent with us really shows in the way we've been play-

ing," explained Tate.

Tate summed up his feelings on the season.

"What they taught us in fifth grade was right. We're going to end up with a winning season no matter what our record is."

Harriers fair well at Wisconsin meet

By Tera Biebuyck
Staff Reporter

The men's golf team began their season on a high note as they traveled to Albion college and succeeded in placing fourth in the tournament. The team shot 396, which marks the first time in two years that Alma has broken 400. Out of 50 rounds only seven teams succeeded in doing so last year.

Brad Tate had the best game of the team and emerged as Alma's only medalist, shooting a 72.

Brad Spathelf, the men's coach said, "We are off to a good start. Our scores are considerably better as a team and the guys have confidence that they can play steady golf."

Sophomore Don Light said, "It was our first match and you never really know what to expect. We played fairly well but we can and will play much better."

Two teams in the tournament edged Alma by one shot. "We could just as easily have come in third," explained Tate, "If we can keep our scores around 400 every match, we will be in contention for a championship."

On Saturday the Scots hosted a tournament in which they took a strong second place. The team combined to an excellent score of 397, right where they wanted to be.

Alma was defeated by Albion, who surprised everyone with an astounding low score of 390. The two schools were the only ones to

shoot under 400 at the tournament.

The Scots' leader for the day was senior Ryan Rickabaugh, shooting a 76. He was followed closely by juniors Tate and Kevin McKinley, each with a 78.

Junior Pete LeBaron and first-year student Ed Pilch both shot excellent games, aiding the team to their second-place finish.

For a team that may have been nearing extinction just a few years ago, these swinging Scotsmen are having a great time. The team has done a great job of coming together as more than teammates.

"We're really strong as a team, and on top of that we're all friends," said Tate, "more than just having a great season with one another, we're going to come out of it with lifetime

Simple suggestions to a healthier and happier self

By Tim Ketel
Sports Editor

Welcome back to Alma College, where the food is in constant supply, classes are only a short walk away and the possibilities of laziness abound. It is under these conditions that many students find themselves becoming physically weak and sick, and often a few pounds heavier than when they arrived. These circumstances can be easily avoided through self-discipline and utilization of several local resources.

One of the most common problems is that students become, to some extent, physically inactive throughout the year. Some arrive with hopes of staying fit, but dash those hopes when the work starts piling up and the deadlines arrive sooner than expected. Many have no such hopes, and go from poor physical shape to worse.

It is easy to fall into these ruts, but their easiness does not compensate for their harm. By letting one's body weaken, a person in turn weakens their immune system

and exposes themselves to the numerous viruses and illness which abound in college dorms. The step to a healthier college existence is an easy and few.

Most importantly, a person has to want to be healthy. Without desire, there is nothing to push the person through what can be a difficult change for the better.

There are many wellness opportunities here on campus that are seriously underused by the students. Among these resources are the often overlooked variety of aerobics classes offered to students.

Regular and step aerobics are offered every evening, Monday through Thursday from 5:15 to 6:15, and Friday from 3:30 to 4:30. These classes meet in the lower gym and are also held Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 7:15 to 8:15.

Water aerobics are held in the pool from 6 to 7 p.m., Monday through Thursday. All aerobics classes are led by Alma students.

Other resources include the fitness center and the free-weight room, both located in the PE center

and having regular hours at no charge to students.

The fitness center features Nautilus equipment and is excellent for general fitness and conditioning. Some of its most popular machines are the steppers, treadmills and exercise bikes, all of which can be programmed for various challenging workouts. The free weightroom is used primarily for strength training.

The school's track, pool, gymnasium and racquetball courts are easily accessible by all students and provide great opportunities to work up a healthy sweat.

Through the Exercise and Health Science department, several one-credit classes are offered which provide excellent fitness opportunities. These include Fitness for Life, Conditioning, Aerobics and Strength-Training.

Doug Seelbach, associate professor of Exercise and Health Science, had some great suggestions as to everyday changes we can make to improve our health.

Seelbach explained that any opportunity to do a little extra walk-

ing would be an ideal and easy health benefit.

"Parking far away is a benefit when it comes to calories expended. It should be thought of as a fitness advantage rather than a time disadvantage."

Among his suggestions were bicycle riding, rollerblading and running, all of which not only allow an individual to have a full cardiovascular workout, but give him or her a chance to take advantage of the beautiful season before a snowy winter sets in.

The dorm room itself provides an excellent setting for many beneficial exercises. Push-ups, sit-ups and workout videos easily fit into a college student's schedule. Students with a loft may consider pull-ups and climbing into bed without using the ladder. With an imagination, the possibilities are endless.

Doing these exercises with a friend is another of Seelbach's suggestions. If two friends with similar fitness interests worked together, they could do well to keep each other on track.

Something that cannot be over-

looked when discussing the road to personal health is the diet. A regular diet of Pizza Sam's is obviously not the healthiest, so Seelbach gave some tips on eating better.

Most important, he said, is watching fat intake. This can be done by getting to know which foods are high and low in fat, and leaning toward those on the low end. This would involve a move away from fatty red meats, high-fat milk, enriched bread and anything on the dessert cart.

There is posted information in Hamilton Commons on the nutritional aspects of many of the foods served there, and students are encouraged to take advantage of this service. There is always a plentiful supply of fresh fruits and vegetables, which are high in nutrients and low in fat.

The journey from lazy unhealthiness to a state of physical well-being may not be the easiest to get started on, but the resources are all around, waiting to be taken advantage of. It's time to want to be healthy, and to stand up and move, though sweatily, toward that goal!

Four new faces appear in Alma Athletic Department

By Maria Toscano
Freelance Writer

Athletic Director Dennis Griffin is pleased with the many new faces of Alma's athletic faculty. The Scots added two new coaches, an athletic trainer and an assistant

coach.

"I'm excited to have them aboard," commented Griffin. The four new members hired for Alma's staff were Kris Rowe, Tammi Anderson, Bill Schlickli, and Brett Hybole.

Kris Rowe came to Alma Col-

lege as one of two new people holding two positions. She is an assistant athletic trainer and is also an Exercise and Health Science lab coordinator. Rowe graduated from Northern Michigan with a bachelor's degree and received her master's at Ball State University.

Another newcomer is the women's soccer coach Tammi Anderson. Anderson received her Bachelor's degree from Michigan State University and played soccer there for four years. In her 1992 season, Anderson was the captain of the Spartan team.

"She's enthusiastic and the kids just love her," said Griffin. "She can still play with the rest of them."

Her players agree, "She's so experienced," added first-year student Jaime Thomas. "She really knows what she's doing."


Bill Schlicklin is not a new face at Alma, however, he is new to the coaching staff. Schlicklin will assist Anderson with the women's soccer team. Schlicklin has put four years into competing with Alma's men's soccer team. According to Griffin, the fifth-year senior "brings experience into the program, and that's what we like to see here."

Not only did the women's soccer team make an add to it's coaching staff, the football team did as well. Brett Hybole was a member of Central Michigan University's Championship team of 1979-1980 season and an All-Academic for two consecutive years.

Hybole, who is in charge of the linebackers, finds himself playing switch with his wife Carol. His wife, an alumni of Alma, is employed at Central Michigan University. She graduated in the late seventies, and while she works for the Chippewas, Hybole is here preparing the Scots' football team.

Rowe isn't the only newcomer facing double duty here at Alma. Hybole is not only the defensive coordinator, but also is in charge of strength and conditioning for Alma's entire athletic program. Hybole brings 11 years of coaching experience to the program.

"The program here at Alma is very positive. It has a long tradition of winning," stated Boyle. "The team is full of players committed to having a winning program."



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With College I.D.

Sept. 20, 1994

Woodstock returns

Three more days of peace, love and music

By Laura Paetz
News Editor

Call it a massive attempt to capitalize on an irreplaceable event, but I still had a good time.

Although Woodstock '94 may have seemed like the hippies attempt to cash in on all the money they were too stoned to make 25 years ago (as one performer put it), those who attended did their best to emulate the spirit of the 60's.

Yes, there were naked people, muddy people and people who never left the first Woodstock. Crowds totaling over half a million flocked to Winston Farm in Saugerties, NY to experience the peace, love and music characteristic of the first Woodstock.

However somewhere along the way, Woodstock II abandoned the notion of peace, love and music for sex, drugs and rock n' roll. Most of the security quit early on in the event, creating a chaotic camp of crazed concert-goers whose disre-

gard for rules ran rampant.

People with and without tickets streamed through concert gates and holes in fencing. Drugs and alco-

Crowds totaling over half a million flocked to Winston Farm in Saugerties, NY to experience the peace, love and music characteristic of the first Woodstock.

hol were abundant, but expensive. Then again, if you avoided paying the \$135 admission price, you could probably afford \$35 for a case of beer.

By the second day of Woodstock, the entire concert grounds were covered with mud. While I cau-

tiously walked around in my rubber pants and rain slicker, others were diving into the thick, murky pools that were impossible to avoid.

As I passed a bank of dilapidated port-a-johns, their occupants waved to me as they relieved themselves. The port-a-johns were in such bad shape that I wouldn't be surprised if mud wasn't the only thing the "muddy" people were covered with.

After weaving through a jungle of tents and ducking under a few body surfers, I finally reached my goal of getting close to the main stage. Blind Melon played first and, despite their song "No Rain," the sky failed to comply and it did rain. Cypress Hill performed next, eliciting screams from their fans for their songs glamorizing smoking pot and getting high.

It was this same mass of people who cried out their cheers of approval as Henry Rollins later advised them that doing drugs could only kill you. Talk about insane in the membrane.



Similar to the first Woodstock many participated in mud sliding. These concert-goers received a facial and heard great music. File photo.

I also found it ironic that during the song "Liar" by Rollins Band, a massive peace sign mounted on posterboard floated over the crowd towards the mosh pits, from which golf-carts-turned-ambulances carried off the wounded.

How could I possibly have had a good time, you ask? It was easy. I went to Woodstock to hear some great music and possibly experience another legend in the making.

Mission accomplished.

I also met some really great people, like our shuttle bus driver who took us back to our parking lot after a long day of concerts. She told us about the previous evening when she had to pull over because so many people were smoking pot on her bus that she got stoned.

Now, am I ready for Woodstock III? You bet, but this time I won't bother to reserve any tickets.

Home-bound summer proves to be better than early fall lectures

By Brandon Miller
Freelance Writer

Dreams of basking in the sun while listening to the radio filled my mind as I completed my last exam before the beginning of summer break. I envisioned curling up with a good book, one that I actually wanted to read. I pictured myself riding roller coaster after roller coaster freed of the headaches of studies.

I had had enough of academe for a few months. Instead of waking up for an enlightening 8:30 a.m. lecture on the mechanisms of cytokinesis, I planned on sleeping until noon, getting up just in time to catch Bob Barker on *The Price is Right*!

However, my fantasies quickly faded. In fact, all of my plans for a leisurely summer disappeared following the beginning of my summer job. I was employed at a small oil distributor. My job was quite simple.

I was given a clipboard every day entailing all of the orders which were being shipped out the next day; all that I had to do was set up the orders. I admit there was some thought involved. If an item was in stock, I had to put an "X" next to it; if not, I had to circle it.

Some skilled training was one of the fringe benefits of the job. I am quite proud to say that I am now a licensed forklift operator. Unfortunately, I never really got that good at it. Punctured barrels of anti freeze, crushed cases of various petroleum products, four broken hand carts and the danger of almost backing over the owner of the company

were the fruits of my labor.

In place of the beach, a large, metal-roofed pole barn filled with cases of Penzoil and Fix-A-Flat became my personal sauna. This sauna could reach 105 degrees on a hot day. Instead of sleeping for 12 hours a day, I found myself waking up well before the crack of dawn and getting to bed quite late.

The opportunity to meet some new and exotic people accompanied the job. First, there was the warehouse manager, Larry.

If you could remember what day of the week it was, you had a chance of getting along with him. He was in such a bad mood at the beginning of the week that he would talk to no one and only answered direct questions in guttural moans and grunts. But, by the end of the week his disposition was usually much better and I could get him to speak in complete sentences if I really worked at it.

Then, there was Miller. His real name was Gayle, but everyone was always so angry with him that they simply referred to him as Miller. For example, on one of his many idiotic escapades, Miller ran to get us lunch from our favorite dining establishment, The Bringer Inn. Miller finally returned an hour and a half later, without the food!

Miller also enjoyed drinking. About three out of five days a week, he came into work unkept and smelling like a combination of body odor, cigarettes and cheap wine. This was fine with us, though. On the days he actually decided to clean up, he reeked of cologne so intensely that we wished he had stuck with his Ode de B.O.

Returning home was also a difficult transition. I was used to coming and going as I pleased, playing my stereo late into the night and waking up whenever I wished. Instead of having professors urging me to work on homework late into the night, I had my family encouraging me to "get to bed at a decent hour."

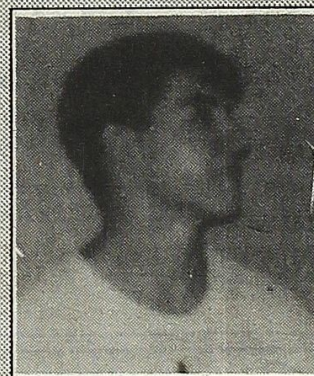
At 9 a.m. during my first weekend home, my dear mother came into my room, threw open my curtains and began singing "You are My Sunshine" at the top of her lungs. "We are going to have breakfast together as a family," she told me. I think I like Marriott's breakfast philosophy better, no food on the weekends until at least 11 a.m.

There was also the issue concerning keeping my closet clean and making my bed. We really did not see eye to eye on this one. I believed the purpose of a closet was to toss everything into it so that the rest of the room looked clean. However, my mother believed that my neighbors would request regular tours of our bathroom cabinets, attic and closets.

I suppose there is something to be learned from my experiences this summer. My grasp on college life is much better than that of my first year. Also, after one summer with the oil company, I am almost positive that I am not destined to be a forklift operator.

Sure, there is a great deal of studying to do and tests to take, but there is also the freedom that comes with life on your own. So maybe waking up for an 8:30 a.m. lecture on the origin of eukaryotes isn't so bad after all.

Campus Comment



Tim Nester, '96

"It's ludicrous because of the fact that last year they were promised a single occupancy and they kept enrolling people and don't have any where to put them."

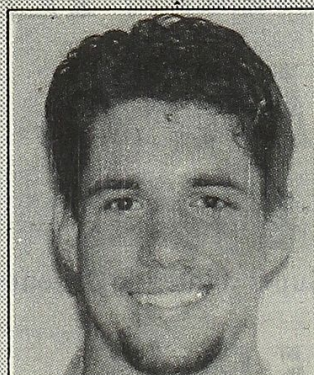


Mike Reid, RA's roommate, '98

"It didn't bother me at all. Having an RA for a roommate, I think I study more."

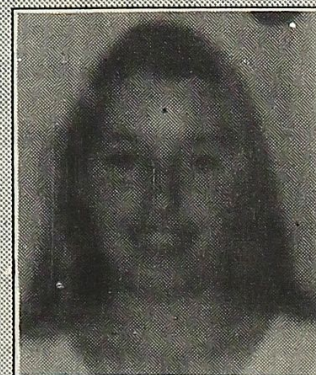
Todd Driver, '98

How do you feel about Resident Assistants having roommates?



Steve Vance, RA, '97

"It hasn't been that bad. It's hard for the job and it's not good for the rapport with residence."



Jade Sims, '97

"First of all, I would do it for \$200 a month. I think the whole enrollment situation is just ridiculous."

Whose rights are being violated?

Stigma surrounds smokers

Non-smokers gasp for fresh, clean air

By Alexandra Orr
Staff Reporter

When someone asks me if I smoke, I always feel like my affirmative answer will be an admittance to a serious crime.

Although it is legal for anyone over the age of eighteen to buy tobacco products, cigarette purchasers often have to hide from friends, relatives or complete strangers when buying them. The stigma is often as harsh as that of a purchaser of pornographic material.

Smoke-free restaurants, malls, hospitals and schools force smokers to dash outside to face the elements whether it be freezing rain or heat waves.

For the estimated 10% of the college community that smokes, Alma College only provides Joe's Place as an indoor public area to enjoy a cigarette. Otherwise, smoking is confined to dorm rooms or in small housing units where approved by the residents.

Even so, smokers face ridicule from neighbors and visitors who do not approve of their lifestyles.

Every time a smoker dares to light up a cigarette in Joe's, s/he risks hearing comments such as "Well, thanks a lot for ruining my appetite along with my lungs" or the ever-popular fake cough.

It is as if these acts of humiliation are in some way supposed to convince the smoker to quit, which contrary to what many people would like to believe, is not as easy as chewing Wrigley's spearmint gum as an alternative. Even for those individuals who have managed to quit smoking,

the urge to have a cigarette always exists. It is a constant daily battle to resist the temptation.

What has lead to the stigma surrounding smoking? Is it the fear of cancer caused by second-hand smoke or is it as simple as people needing a reason to frown upon others? Is it worth raising one's self-esteem by degrading others?

It is ironic that on a college campus of our size, where it is likely that everyone has passed each other in the dining hall or on the way to class at least once, smokers are considered to be on a lower level of the social scale than our peers.

Having been accepted to Alma, I daresay it disproves that we are ignorant. Admittedly we are probably less healthy than nonsmokers, but if we are conscious of our feelings when we avoid the non-smoking section or when we stand outside in the middle of a snow storm just to comply with non-smoking signs, wouldn't it seem polite to consider our feelings when we are merely enjoying a cigarette in a designated area?

For perpetrators of the rude comments and gestures, I suggest not smoking and avoiding areas where smoking is permitted. When it is impossible to avoid smokers, be reassured by the fact that it takes prolonged, continuous exposure to cause permanent damage. Your body's defense system can repair any damage that occurs from occasional contact with tobacco smoke.

If I am guilty of any crime, it is daring to exercise my right as a legal adult to enjoy a cigarette in designated smoking areas. Until the time that smoking is outlawed, I will continue to enjoy this freedom.

By Justin Gustafson
Freelance Writer

As the fall colors flourish on the Alma College campus, I walk to my 9:30 class invigorated by the crisp morning air. I cross McIntyre Mall ready to enter SAC when I suddenly encounter an annoying cloud of smoke.

It engulfs me and blurs my vision. I quickly try to make my way into the building and avoid the intake of approximately 30 deadly carcinogens. Alas, it is a hopeless cause. I inhale, filling my lungs with the remains of burnt tobacco.

Choking my way through the cloud, I finally reach the inside of SAC, gasping for clean air, but still alive. This is a typical morning at Alma College.

The exhilarating walk across campus is ruined by the smoke cloud generated by the smokers not two feet outside of SAC. Joe Kool has once again ruined the day. Alma must revise its smoking policy and our nation must do more to protect the rights of nonsmokers and discourage people from ever lighting up.

I can't even walk from SAC to the Dow Science Center without breathing in dirty smoke from a burning cigarette. After visiting restaurants, pool halls, bowling alleys and many other smoke-filled places, I come home with my eyes watering, my clothes reeking of smoke and my lungs as irritated as I am.

I happen to like playing pool, but as of yet I have seen no smoke-free pool halls in Grand Rapids. There are just some

places where, if you want to go, you have to put up with smoke.

I and 210 million other U.S. citizens should not have to put up with this blatant destruction of our lungs. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, three thousand people a year die from second-hand smoke. I don't want to be a number in that statistic.

Many smokers are considerate about where and when they smoke. However, it is unfortunate that not all of them are this way. I ask the group of smokers that stand outside SAC, why you must stand there? Why can't you go smoke away from the entrance? I am offended by the smoke and would hope that the smokers realize just how many other people they are offending.

I decided to look in the Student Life Handbook to see just what the college's policy is concerning smoking. I found that Alma is in violation of three regulations in Joe's Place alone! The college doesn't follow it's own policy, yet they expect the students to?

The first violation was regulation two, page 56 which reads, "Smoking is prohibited in other common areas such as reception areas, dining rooms, lounges, and breakrooms... except in designated smoking areas." Joe's Place could probably be classified by any of those definitions. Therefore, smoking should be prohibited.

The second violation was regulation four, page 56: "Snack bar facilities on campus will provide clearly identified smoking area and nonsmoking area." I had to ask if there was smoking allowed and then I was told "this side of the

carpet." There is absolutely no separation of the two areas.

Finally the third violation is implementation one which reads, "Smoking areas will be designed in buildings where existing physical barriers and ventilation systems are adequate to minimize the effect of smoke in both the smoking and nonsmoking areas." It does not appear that Joe's Place has any "existing barriers" or an adequate ventilation system. The smoke drifts all over the restaurant and is unavoidable.

Smoking should be banned in McIntyre Mall and Joe's Place thereby eliminating the dirty smoke from penetrating the lungs of other students and members of the Alma community. Alma should ban smoking within 20-30 feet of any classroom of a school-owned building.

In 1992, Governor John Engler issued an Executive Order banning smoking within 25 feet of state owned buildings. Alma College should follow suit.

Nationally, the government is considering banning smoking within 20 feet of government buildings, a new tax on cigarettes and the consideration of nicotine as an addictive drug, thereby forcing cigarettes out of many gas stations and grocery stores.

I am strongly in favor of a huge excise tax on tobacco and cigarettes. Doubling the price of cigarettes to \$4.50 a pack would send many smokers back to buying Wrigley's Spearmint gum instead of Joe Kool.

True Scot by Susan Elliott

Childhood trauma revolves around rubber bands

Over the years, I have seen hundreds of unsuspecting victims fall prey to an evil class of citizens, labeled "Rubber Bandits." A Rubber Bandit is someone who shoots rubber bands at others for entertainment purposes.

I am certainly not a stranger to the wonderful stinging sensation that accompanies a successful blow to exposed skin. (It might interest you to know that there is no waiting period on rubber bands.)

Repeated exposure to such abuse causes one to develop a kind of Pavlovian response to the aforementioned weapon (a reflex I call "the rubber band flinch"). You squint your eyes, crinkle your nose, clench your teeth and pull your shoulders up and forward in response to the sight or sound of a rubber band.

A common variation includes bringing any free appendage up

to protect the neck and face.

Most of you have probably assumed this position at one time or another. I find that I respond in this fashion whenever anyone grabs a rubber band and stretches it between his/her fingers. The reasons behind this behavior are deeply rooted in the past....

My childhood. Ah yes, those happy days full of sunshine, Tang and sibling torture. Having been blessed with three brothers and two sisters, I lived in fear of surprise attacks taking on a variety of forms.

In particular, memories of rubber band fights are quite vivid. Frequently, I got to play "let's-dodge-the-big-rubber-band-coming-towards-me-at-the-speed-of-light" with my older brothers- guess who the target was.

My sister Brenda (another innocent victim) and I often formed a united front—a weak front, but united. We really didn't have a

chance; I couldn't shoot to save my life and more often than not would actually shoot myself.

Somehow, they were able to send a rubber band whizzing from their refuge in the living room, around the corner, down the hallway, around another corner and finally into the playroom where it would strike me...THWACK!

Indeed, I was the master of self-inflicted wounds.

Brenda was brave, but also very young and inexperienced; the two of us made a poor match for Larry

and Brian. Those sharp-shooters would fire off round after round of deadly ammunition like madmen. Not only were they fast and accurate, they had a practically unlimited amount of combat supplies.

Brenda and I, on the other hand, had to wait until after they had started firing from their highly-technological finger guns to collect the rubber bands off the floor and return fire. (Since the game characteristically began with an ambush, we would be caught defenseless while the brother force was ready with a large supply of anti-sister, pain-producing, welt-forming rubber bands—perfect for our tender flesh.)

I must admit, my brothers certainly had a lot of talent. Somehow, they were able to send a rubber band whizzing from their refuge in the living room, around the corner, down the hallway, around another corner and finally into the play-

room where it would strike me...THWACK!

Amazingly enough, this whole mission could be executed directly under Mother's nose without even a hint of maternal detection. The genius of it all...

Usually, the point of contact would be directly on my face or some similarly sensitive spot, thereby eliciting the expected "Owwwwww! I'm gonna tell!" response. Then I could look forward to hearing their fiendish laughter echo through the hallway.

Yes, those were the good ole' days. Eventually, I too developed the skill of loading quickly and shooting quite accurately. Unfortunately by that time, Larry and Brian had moved on to more advanced forms of pain inducement.

Now, if only I could learn that penny thing...

Sept. 20, 1994

Staff Editorial In Praise of Physical Plant

Giving credit where credit is due

As the Alma College community returns to the familiarity of campus life, students ultimately slide back into their old rituals: searching for something satisfying at Hamilton Commons, dreading another all-night study session, searching for a resident assistant to unlock their door and engaging themselves in a conversation regarding the classic Alma complaint—that the physical plant is the slowest thing since the O.J. Simpson highway chase.

As a campus organization which advocates the open expression of opinions, *The Almanian* recognizes the right of students and staff alike to voice their mind about the efficiency of this college service. However, we feel it unnecessary to dwell on the negative aspects of the matter.

First consider of all, the number of maintenance workers responding to your

daily complaints. Currently, the physical plant employs 20 individuals trained to reciprocate your mechanical, electrical and general maintenance concerns, as well as provide campus security and preserve the aesthetics of the campus grounds.

If you're wondering why, after placing a work order the first day of pre-term, your burnt out light bulb still hasn't been repaired, keep in mind the two electricians responsible for this and other more pertinent electrical problems all over campus.

Take into consideration also the separate housekeeping staff. A staff which returns to your hall or quad each weekday to tidy the mess of 20-30 people.

Students often take for granted their availability to clean a weekend's worth of overflowing garbage flowing down an entire hallway, as well as scrub the spilled beverages out of carpeting and stairwells. Rather, many complain that they vacuum

during prime afternoon TV hours or that they aren't available to dust or vacuum the students' own rooms.

If you wonder why the physical plant is taking so long to clean the hair out of your shower drain, take into account the 17,000 work orders which they receive annually, work orders which are prioritized according to emergency. While quick to complain about the slowness, rarely do we praise the good.

We seldom notice the responsiveness of security, whether it be to unlock a door in SAC or capture a rampant bat in small housing.

It is uncommon that people call or visit the physical plant unless there's a problem. The staff and student employees who respond to your complaints always show consideration and sympathy, while honestly informing you whether or not your complaint can be dealt with within the day or week.

This same set of personnel are responsible for organizing the thousands of campus keys dispersed to students and staff and listen to endless complaints about a mysterious phone charge or an accidental parking ticket.

We, *The Almanian* editorial staff, praise the physical plant for the hundreds of things they do which go unnoticed and urge the entire campus to do the same. Before you call the physical plant to put your closet door back on track, get a friend and try it yourself. Before you pour Ramen noodles down the bathroom sink, consider the more important things the maintenance workers have to do.

And before you complain for the thousandth time about the ground workers who mow the lawn before you're ready to get out of bed for class, put yourself in their work clothes for a day.

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The Almanian Letter Policy

All Letters to the Editor must meet the following standards for publication: 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.

Judge's decision alarms day cares, working parents

By Amy Majestic
Staff Reporter

We have all heard the story of Maranda Ireland-Smith on the news. She is the little girl that Macomb County Circuit Judge Raymond Cashen recently removed from her mother's custody.

When I first heard about the case, I thought, "So? Her mom was probably one of those girls who accidentally got pregnant too young and can't take care of her anymore or doesn't want the burden."

Then I heard the real story. I was enraged.

Maranda's mother had her at sixteen and remained a model student after the birth. Lindsey Calcaterra, an Alma first-year student and high school friend of the mother, stated, "She was an officer of the French Club and that's how I knew her. She was smart and popular. I thought she made a mistake, but she didn't walk away from it. I very much admired her for that."

Maranda was not mistreated. Maranda was not ignored or even allowed to sit in dirty diapers for too long. In fact, according to the

Detroit Free Press, Cashen actually ruled that "the child has a strong attachment to both parents and they share equally the ability to provide love, guidance and education."

The mother's great sin, Cashen felt, was putting her daughter in day care while she attended classes.

When Cashen made his decision, he disregarded the opinions of two respected child advocacy agents. He found the issue of "permanence of the family unit" most important.

"Under the future plans of the mother, the minor child will be in essence raised and supervised by strangers. Under the future plans of the father, the minor child will be raised and supervised by blood relatives," remarked Cashen.

In other words, if you aren't "Susie Homemaker" you are doing an injustice to your child. By Cashen's standards, sending your child to day care means releasing your child into the hands of "strangers" who will do who-knows-what to them, certainly not give them the necessary nurturing or education. Give me a break!

How many single or married professional parents do you know that

DON'T use day care? According to Cashen, these people are guilty of working against their child's best interest. Ridiculous. Although a blood relative is usually the preference, many people simply don't have that option.

As the daughter of a day care worker, I cannot help but get angry at Cashen's reference to my mother as a stranger to the children she watches.

"These kids are treated like they're my own. I feel like they are just as much a part of my family as they are in their own homes," my mother said.

Carol Rose, Director of the St. Louis Early Child Development Center, felt the Judge was very unfair in his ruling. "The judge can't be very well informed about child care. Excellent bonds are formed between our children and the workers. There is consistency in the care of the children."

The St. Louis day care workers attend child care workshops regularly. Many of them have Child Development Association credentials, meaning they specialize in learning about childhood develop-

ment. They also frequently take classes on environmental safety for children and participate in classes for special special needs children.

Since the big debate was spurred concerning Cashen's verdict, he has been a familiar face on our televisions. He has stated that the press misunderstood his main reasons for taking Maranda away from her mother. He now contends that she was mistreated and ignored.

If this is true, why does Maranda get to stay with her mother through the appeals process?

We are all career-minded people on this campus. Most of us, male and female, will eventually investigate the option of day care. Cashen's decision is just one example of the government's inability to keep up with modern social needs.

Mrs. G. Harris Robertson, President of the Tennessee Congress of Mothers in 1911, once said, "If our public mind is maternal, loving and generous, wanting to save and develop all, our government will express this sentiment."

After 83 years, we're still waiting.

Classified

REMINDER FOR EDUCATION STUDENTS: Please stop by the Education Department as soon as possible to update the information contained in the card file box.

ATTENTION STUDENTS INTERESTED IN TEACHING: If interested in Elementary Education, please contact Dr. Lynda Markham (AC 238; 7166). If interested in Secondary Education, please contact Dr.

Anthony Rickard (AC 236; 7209)

ATTENTION SECONDARY EDUCATION STUDENTS: If you plan to student teach during the 1995-96 school year, please confirm your plans by contacting Dr. Anthony Rickard (AC 236; 7209).

SPRING TERM 1995- NEW YORK DANCE TRIP: Come join us for an exciting trip to New York City. See the latest Broadway shows, experience the New

York City Ballet, Tour the Metropolitan Opera House and have a backstage tour of the NBC studios - plus all of the wonderful museums and of course the shopping. To find out more information come by my office in the Heritage Center and sign up. It's not too early to think about this particular spring term. From past experience, this course closes quickly and it is based on first come first serve. So stop by my office which is located by the dance studio in the Heritage Center

and sign up to receive your information packet detailing the trip. Thanks - Carol Fike

IT'S BACK!! The 1981 Western Flyer has returned; I found it Thursday morning in the rack from which it disappeared on Labor Day. I had a right to expect its return, though I did not expect, nor hope that it would be, and for the latter reasons I am appreciative and grateful. Eugene Pattison