

# The Almanian

October 11, 1994

Serving Alma College since 1907

Issue 5

## Homecoming '94 encourages love of nature

By Alexandra Orr  
Staff Reporter

"The Great Outdoors," the theme for this year's homecoming event, proved successful for the campus and hundreds of alumni who returned this weekend to join in the spirited celebration.

Homecoming week events began in Jones Auditorium on Tuesday with an ACUB sponsored game show called Blizzard of Bucks. Contestants consisted of randomly selected students in attendance who submitted their names before the show began.

Three rounds of competition pitted four students against each other in a variety of crazy stunts including a baby bottle suck, a chubby bunny contest and a race where contestants had to run across the stage with balloons between their legs.

The fourth and final round of competition had winners from the other rounds compete to become the grand prize winner.

Senior Ryan Kimbirauskas defeated all of his opponents, thus earning himself the opportunity to enter the Blizzard of Bucks tank to win up to \$500.

Kimbirauskas had two 30-second chances to grab as much cash as he could from the swirling bills which flew around him. When the final counting was finished, this lucky winner walked away with cash and prizes totaling over \$135.

Kimbirauskas was not the only student to leave the stage with some extra spending money. The winners from each round won \$25 and free T-shirts.

Senior Erin Emery, although not a contestant, also ended the evening with some extra cash. She won the final contest to determine the most obnoxious audience member by yelling "money, money, money, money." In addition to the prestigious title, she won \$20.

On Wednesday, Students United for Nature (SUN) helped sponsor bulb planting that took place in McIntyre Mall.

Mitchell Hall's weekly movie night featured the animated movie *Ferngully* to aid in the environmental tone of this year's homecoming theme.

During Friday night's pep rally, the Alma College Kiltie Band and cheerleading squad helped fire up the Scots to perpetuate its undefeated season.

Also, throughout the week, the class of 1995 nominated ten seniors to participate on the homecoming court.

Nominees for Homecoming Queen were Mary Kay Ecken, Heather Heydenberk, Dana Grant,



The Alma College Kiltie Band, led by drum majors junior Shannon Cole and senior Kristen Bricker, marched with pride in the Homecoming parade. The annual event, which began at 11 a.m. kicked off the day's events. Photo by Ben Kirkby



Seniors Tim Spedoske and Heather Heydenberk enjoyed Saturday evening festivities at Cappaert Gymnasium. The couple, who were announced during half-time as the 1994 Homecoming King and Queen, were among the many students present at the dance. Photo by Lisa Lyn Christensen

Amy Hoffman and Kristin Kuitic. Homecoming King nominees included Keel Amundsen, Jason Watkins, Tim Spedoske, David Miller and Mark Gorczyca.

Throughout the week the entire student body had the opportunity to vote for the couple they thought should win. Meanwhile, members of the court were busy having pictures taken, enjoying a court dinner and participating in relay games during the pep rally.

President Alan J. Stone announced the winners during half-time of the Alma Scots versus Olivet Comets football game. Escorted by

their parents, members of the court entered the field to hear the long-awaited results.

The 1993 Homecoming King Felix Papillon and Queen Julie Thomas awarded the crowns to the 1994 winning couple Tim Spedoske and Heather Heydenberk.

Heydenberk commented, "I was very surprised to have been chosen. But the highlight for me was having my parents [Richard and Diana Heydenberk of Cadillac], who are a big part of my life, be there to share my special moment."

Spedoske, whose parents are Ron and Marie Spedoske of Lansing,

said, "We are both very proud to have been chosen as the Homecoming King and Queen. Being engaged, it just makes the honor more special."

Homecoming events on Saturday began with a complimentary breakfast for members of the Order of the Golden Thistle, which consists of alumni from the class of 1944, who attended their fiftieth reunion at Alma.

Provost Leslie Ellen Brown commented, "What I like best about homecoming is the return of our most senior alumni, especially those fifty-year graduates who will be

inducted into the Order of the Golden Thistle. These people remind us of our heritage, our traditions and our obligations."

The traditional Homecoming parade began at 11 a.m., with the Kappa Iota (KI) sorority winners of the banner competition leading the procession. This year, a banner contest was held to determine which Greek organization would lead the parade.

Many organizations on campus and throughout the community were represented including United Coalition of Students (UCS), Students United for Nature (SUN), BACCHUS and the Softball team. The Zeta Sigma (ZE) fraternity was awarded the best float followed by the Alpha Xi Delta (AZA) sorority and the class of 1997.

Throughout the afternoon, returning visitors had a variety of activities to choose from. Many enjoyed the football game and the men's soccer match against Saginaw Valley. Others enjoyed visiting former professors and colleagues at the department receptions.

Additionally, Potter Park provided an endangered species zoo exhibit in Jones Auditorium.

Evening events included the Alma College Alumni Choir and Alma College Choirs concert in the Heritage Center for the Performing Arts. Alumni ranging in graduation years from 1941 to 1994 combined their voices with current choir members to put on a memorable performance. Former Alma choir directors Eugene Grove and Ernest Sullivan joined current director Will Nichols to conduct the choirs.

Junior Nikolina Glamoclija commented, "It was a nice to be conducted by the former choir directors and to have the opportunity to meet and sing with choir alumni."

The Homecoming dance in Cappaert Gymnasium concluded the festivities. BACCHUS supplied "mocktails" and a DJ provided music for the event.

"I enjoyed seeing all the people at the dance. I especially enjoyed the court dance; it rounded off the week we spent together. It was very obvious that a lot of time and energy went into making it a special night," commented Queen Heydenberk.

Meimei Tieu, a member of the Homecoming Committee, said, "I was very pleased with the turnout at the activities. The pep rally went well thanks to the help from the cheerleaders. The dance also went well. There was a very good response. It was nice to see how many alumni returned for the festivities. They added to the spirit of the day. It's encouraging to see that alumni continue to support the college."



Oct. 11, 1994

## Recent Alumni site pros, cons of college

By Wade Renando  
Staff Reporter

Ever wonder what happens to people who graduate from Alma College? At President Alan J. and Jonicia Stone's reception for recent alumni-alumni who graduated from 1990 to 1994-*The Almanian* had the opportunity to find out what is happening to these aspiring graduates.

Aaron Howald, who graduated last spring with a major in business administration, currently works for an accounting firm in Saginaw. His job requires him to visit businesses and help prepare quarterly financial statements. Howald loves his job but has to work 50 to 70 hours a week during tax season.

Howald feels that Alma's personalized atmosphere has helped him the most.

"There is so much you can do at Alma that you can get involved with that helps build your character as a person," he said.

Howald believes that Professors Jacques and Trebesh were great mentors and encourages students

to work on their communications skills while in school.

Caryn Moreau, also a 1994 graduate, majored in business administration and accounting. She now works for the large accounting firm Ernst and Young, in the auditing department. Moreau thought that her intermediate accounting course was very beneficial and enjoyed Alma's small class size.

Education was a popular career choice among these alumni.

Sandy Martins graduated in 1992 with a major in history. She is now studying library and information science at Wayne State University and plans to become a librarian. However, before she went back to school, she was employed as a substitute teacher. Martins said that she found it difficult to find permanent jobs teaching history.

"It's too narrow of a major," Martins warned.

Despite her difficulties in finding permanent employment, Martins spoke highly of Alma. "It's a wonderful place to learn to deal with people...I never regretted my decision of going to Alma."

Class of 1993 graduate Heather Blaesing majored in French and also taught as a substitute teacher. She is currently studying Spanish, among other subjects, at Macomb Community College and is looking for a permanent teaching position.

Blaesing suggested that students use the resources in the Center for Student Development to get a head start on job hunting.

"Don't waste a minute," she advised. Blaesing said she misses Alma and encourages students to enjoy college while it lasts.

Heather May was also a graduate in 1994 and has found success as a kindergarten teacher. She works at Gier Elementary School in Hillsdale, Michigan.

"It's a lot of work, but I love to see the kids," May remarked. May thinks Alma prepared her well for the world of teaching but thinks the college needs to offer more child education programs.

Science and math majors were also plentiful at the reception.

Charles Moreau, a graduate of 1994 who earned his Bachelors of Science at Alma, is now studying

physics at Michigan State University. He plans to teach physics or conduct scientific research for an industrial company.

Moreau thinks that he is slightly behind in his knowledge of science compared to students who went to technical schools, but believes that having a liberal arts education is important.

"Practical experience is the best thing," Moreau stated. He encourages all students to participate in internships and gain as much experience before graduation as possible.

Alma's recent alumni were glad to visit their alma mater. They were very satisfied with the education Alma provided them with and are optimistic about their futures.

They advise current students to prepare for their life out of college as soon as possible by gaining as much experience in their educational fields as possible and planning for their futures after graduation. According to the alumni, the real world is much different than life at Alma; it is less restrictive and less appreciative. It is as good or bad as you make it.

## Explo provides career insight

By Tera Biebuyck  
Staff Reporter

Friday's Career Explo, a program arranged by the Center for Student Development allowed students the opportunity to talk with over 50 alumni from Michigan and beyond, representing various companies and trades.

As each student entered VanDusen, they were given a list of all the representatives, the companies they work for, their majors and year of graduation from Alma. Students also received a list of questions which they could ask the alumni in order to produce more meaningful conversations.

Numerous career fields were represented, including art, business, consulting, education, engineering, finance, government, human services, law, medicine, and ministry.

Career Explo is designed for students to meet and talk with alumni, investigate careers, and network with professionals. As many students took full advantage of this opportunity, other students felt awkward introducing themselves and asking questions.

"It's a great opportunity," said senior Michelle Tucker, "but you have to make it work for you."

First-year student Dee Housner added, "I think it's letting me know what I need to start doing as far as practicing interview skills and networking with people."

Patrice Hoffman, graduate of the class of 1975, was surprised by the large number of students who participated in the event.

"Under the circumstances, I am surprised to see the number of students that are here. Sometimes you have to encourage the students to come and talk with you. But that's okay; that is part of our jobs as alumni," said Hoffman.

Career Explo was not only beneficial to students; the participating alumni and friends of the college were able to mingle with other professionals and expand their network of relationships.

"Career exploration is a very important opportunity for students, whether they want to learn more about their academic studies, possible practicums, or interrelation of different careers," said 1978 graduate Deborah Smith. "This has been beneficial to me in that I am meeting people I have never met."

Class of 1994 graduate Jennifer Hardy represented General Mills at the Explo.

"This is a great opportunity for students to learn more about a possible career in a relaxed environment," said Hardy.

Andrew Larson, class of 1993, is currently a desktop publisher for Ross Roy Communications. He believes that Career Explo is a great program because "it's important for students to get an understanding of what the real world is like and how business runs outside of Alma College."

## Five male juniors move to help alleviate housing problem

By Emily Damstra  
Staff Reporter

Five junior men moved into an Alma College-owned house at 523 Wright Avenue on Sept. 28 to help ease housing problems caused by increased enrollment.

Juniors Bill Calhoun, Marty Engel, Marc Kaeckmeister, Greg Kolander and Mike Zahn now reside in a home usually used for Alma's faculty. According to James Kridler, dean of students, there were no faculty scheduled to live there during this fall or winter term.

The building, located next to the Physical Plant, is generally used for short-term faculty positions such as sabbatical replacements. However, because of the limited amount of housing space reserved for men this year, students are now able to live in the available house.

Kridler said the students can utilize the house "for this year only, unless we need space next year."

Conceivably, this space may be necessary due to an expected enrollment increase of 25 to 30 students.

"But we don't anticipate using it beyond next year," said Kridler. "This is an unusual situation. It is a nice place on the edge of campus that was vacant and available."

Currently, Japanese language instructor Jinko Oyake resides in the attached apartment.

Kridler would have preferred to have had five students from the

north side of campus move into the house, however, no one was interested.

Consequently, first-year students will occupy the rooms vacated in Carey and Nisbet Halls, allowing more Resident Assistants to live without roommates. This transfer helps bring the total number of R.A.s with roommates down to only two, compared to the 17 at the beginning of the year.

"We're part of the solution, not part of the problem," explained Kolander.

"We gave for the good of the college because we felt bad," added Engel.

The house came fully furnished, including a large television, a refrigerator, a microwave and an ironing board. It is also equipped with a porch, a garage, three bedrooms, and a mint-green kitchen reminiscent of *The Wonder Years*.

"It's a really cool kitchen," said Calhoun.

With an oven and space in the backyard for grills, the students are able to cook for themselves. According to Engel, a couple of them are "culinary masters."

Although they are not allowed to have parties, the guys love the house. They can watch television all day and are thinking about taking up pipe smoking now that they have a front porch.

As an added bonus, "We get to know the Physical Plant workers," said Calhoun.

## Keeping You Informed

Associate Trustees bring student ideas to board meeting

Students are encouraged to contact the Associate Trustees with any ideas or concerns that they would like brought up at the Board of Trustees meeting on Oct. 13.

Senior: Shana Case, 7644

Junior: Maggie Taylor, 7767

Sophomore: Samantha Loree, 7382

Wilcox offers immunization shots

On Monday, Oct. 17, Wilcox Medical Center will be offering flu immunization shots. The cost is \$7 per shot and will be given from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Odd Couple auditions announced

Open auditions for Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple* will take place on Sunday and Monday, Oct. 16 and 17, from 7:30 until 10 p.m. in the Lecture Room at the Midland Center for the Arts. For additional information, call (517) 631-7757.

Coal research internship opportunity for liberal arts science students

The U.S. Department of Energy's University Coal Research (UCR) Internship program is offering 10-week, hands-on summer research opportunities at universities conducting fossil energy-related research.

Participants will perform research under the guidance of faculty members, apply and practice theories and principles learned in the classroom and become aware of the educational background needed to participate in research and development activities. Advisors will encourage students to consider careers in fossil energy-related fields and to pursue graduate studies in science and engineering.

For application materials or more information, write to Kathy Ketner, University Coal Research Internship Program, Science/Engineering Education Division, Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education, 120 Badger Ave., P.O. Box 117, Oak Ridge, TN 37831-0117; or telephone (615) 576-3426.



## Representative Randall addresses students on political life

By Amy Majestic  
Staff Reporter

On Thursday evening, Republican Gary Randall of Michigan's House of Representatives' 93rd district met with the College Republicans. The focus of the meeting was to discuss Randall's views on life as a politician and the Republican party's future in the next few elections.

"I thought it was really nice of [Randall] to come in and talk to us because he is up for re-election and that is a really busy time for politicians," said junior Maggie Taylor, who participated in the lecture.

"We originally asked him to write up a little something for us to put in our newsletter *CR News*, but he said that he would prefer to come and talk to us," Taylor added.

Born and raised in Gratiot County, Randall earned his bachelor's degree at Michigan State University in television and radio. Later, he earned his masters degree in public relations.

As director of publicity at Central Michigan University, Randall received the opportunity to produce and host the political show *Off the Record*. The show was broadcast from Lansing and it was then that Randall got to meet many prominent politicians.

"I got to know John Engler at that time quite well...and he eventually asked me if I would be interested in filling his job as representative. I declined," commented Randall.

The year was 1978 when Randall decided to run, since he had the

blessing of the incumbent. He has since been elected as representative of the 93rd district eight times.

Throughout that time period, Randall's district has been altered with the new census redistricting.

"My district has changed dramatically but it has allowed me to serve a good portion of central Michigan in the process," explained Randall.

Randall not only covered how he entered politics during his time on campus. He also described the positive and negative aspects of being a politician. He explained the importance of money and sponsors in campaigning and spoke of his anger toward some people's perceptions of politicians.

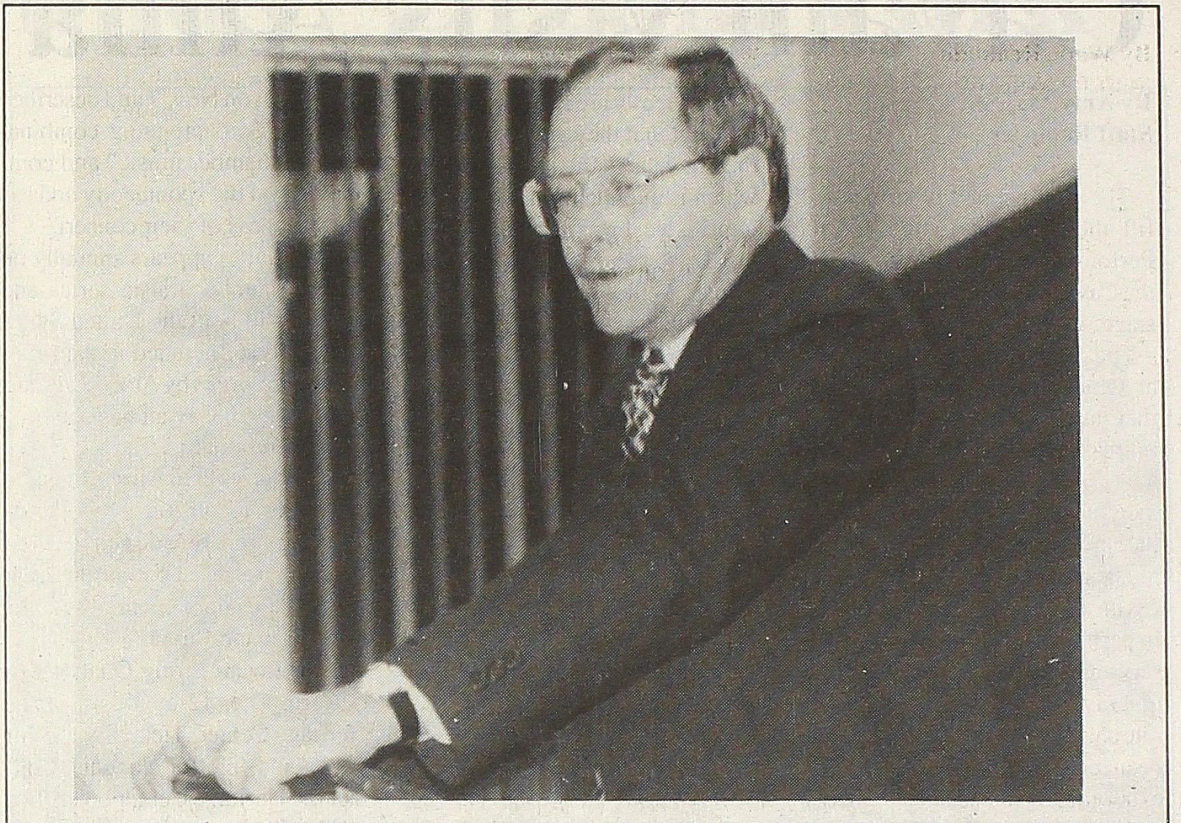
"Don't judge me by what some other jerk has done who was elected and abused his privileges," he stressed.

Randall also pointed out that there are some good people and some bad people in all professions.

Randall said that the next elections will show more and more Republican candidates focusing on environmental protection—something they have not delved into in the past. He feels the environment and businesses do not have to be enemies in this area and talked of passing laws that would profit both sides.

"I found the talk interesting and I left feeling really positive about politics," said Taylor. "I especially feel good that [Randall] is currently representing me."

At the close of his presentation, Randall answered questions about



Michigan's House of Representatives' 93rd district representative Republican Gary Randall met with students last week to discuss political issues. Photo by Jennifer Champion

his stand on the new Statute of Limitations laws and where he believes Engler and the Republican party is heading.

"He spent quite a bit of time talking about term limitations that are now placed on Michigan Representatives," said junior Anne Tobain, who thought it was interesting to hear Randall's views on how he believed term limitations would change the future of politics.

Randall feels the disenchantment with the Clinton administration will help the Republican party

immensely in the next elections and looks forward to running for congress in the future.

"The American dream is not

dead," he said emphatically, with a promise that this is a good time for us to be college graduates in the United States.

## Parking dilemma captures attention

By Laura M. Paetz  
News Editor

Every year, students complain about the parking predicament on campus. They mutter about how far from their residence halls they have to park and devise ingenious plans on how to alleviate the problem.

Previously, these student plights were not heard; but now, Student Congress has formed a task force to deal with the problem and hopes to have the dilemma solved by next fall.

"President Stone wanted student input on what we think should be done about the parking situation," said senior Dana Grant, Student Congress President, who will lead the parking committee.

"The task force is made up of a really diverse group of members of Student Congress who represent all different kinds of organizations and all different classes here on campus," Grant explained.

So far, the group is comprised of about six students.

Since only members of Student Congress are able to directly participate on the parking committee, students are encouraged to contact representatives of the task force with their ideas and concerns.

Grant said the committee will

focus on common complaints: the inadequate amount of parking spaces on the north side of campus, allowing people to park in the lot of the Heritage Center for the Performing Arts and the issue of prohibiting first-year students from bringing their cars to school.

Physical Plant Director Duane Knecht said that Student Congress might consider persuading students who do not use their cars very often to relocate them to more remote parking lots, such as those behind the Physical Plant and the Philadelphia Street lot, which is located behind the Kirk House.

However, Knecht believes that "we don't have a parking problem; we have a walking problem."

As an incentive to park their cars farther away from residence halls, Knecht suggested that the college implement prime lot decals.

"Students could pay a reduced fee of say, \$15 or \$20 instead of the regular \$30, for a parking decal that gets them into a more remote lot," he said.

Knecht explained that this plan of action could also be reversed.

"We could designate premium lots that students would have to pay extra money to park their cars in."

Knecht also mentioned that the college should look into prohibit-

ing first-year students to bring cars to school.

"It seems that more and more first-year students are bringing cars to school. Usually, the parking lots are full for the first week of classes, but then the next weekend a lot of the cars are gone. This hasn't been happening lately," Knecht said.

"The idea has been jumping around about not allowing first-year students to keep their cars on campus," said Grant. However, Grant explained that this solution is not one that is likely to be explored because it is not consistent with Alma's small school character.

"That's a thing that big schools do," said Grant.

According to first-year student committee member Rebecca Conboy, one possible plan to help students find parking spaces will be officially announced soon.

"They are going to let students turn in their parking stickers and park in the Heritage Center parking lot if they want to park there in the wintertime," Conboy said. Students who return their parking stickers will receive a full refund.

"Our goal is to come up with some sort of proposal by the spring so that we can enact it for next fall," said Grant.

## World News



**The U.S. Senate** approved a resolution encouraging a quick and orderly withdrawal of American troops from Haiti by a margin of 91 to 8. No specific date was set. The statement also criticized Clinton for not getting Congressional approval for the mission. Meanwhile, Cedras, who is to step down this week to allow President Aristide to return, seems to be resisting pressure from the U.S. for him to leave Haiti.

**The Senate blocked** a lobby-reform bill which would have prevented law makers from accepting gifts, meals and recreational trips from lobbyists. The legislation is part of several White House-supported bills that failed in recent weeks. These failures are partly due to Republican efforts to prevent Democrats from earning any legislative victories before the November elections. Special interest groups are benefiting in the process.

**A helicopter crash** in South Korea killed five American soldiers last week. The U.S. military commander in Seoul stated the accident happened during a routine training mission. A news agency report said the helicopter hit a power line and crashed into a river.

**Analysts believe Kim Jong II** will take full control of North Korea after the period of mourn-

ing for his father ends at the end of this month. Meanwhile, South Korea has evidence that the 51 year old Jong is ill and probably won't survive more than a few years. Jong hasn't been seen in public since last July at his father's funeral.

**The bodies of 16 Serb soldiers** and four nurses were found by UN peacekeepers last week. Many of the bodies were mutilated after Bosnian Muslim forces ambushed them near Sarajevo. UN forces are fearful of retaliation for the attack and are bracing for the worst. A Serb attack on UN forces would threaten to undermine an agreement with the Bosnian Serbs to reopen Sarajevo's airport.

**The Census Bureau** reported that the nation's poverty level grew to 39 million—up 1.3 million from last year, in spite of an improving economy. The slight rise increased the poverty rate to 15%. Children make up the highest rate of any age group with 22.7% living below the poverty level.

**Retailers blame disappointing sales** in September on the lingering warm weather across the country, especially in the Midwest. Solomon Brothers said sales at stores open at least a year rose 3.9%. Clothing sales were particularly weak. In contrast, consumer electronics and hard goods sold well.



Oct. 11, 1994

# Cavani visits Alma

By Amy Majestic  
Staff Reporter

The warm sound of strings will fill the Heritage Center for the Performing Arts this Wednesday as the Cavani String Quartet takes the stage.

The quartet was formed in 1984 at Ohio State University, taking their name from 19th-century violin maker Vincenzo Cavani. They have since won many awards for their outstanding ability, including the prestigious 1989 Naumberg music award.

Known for their zest and vitality in performance of both contemporary and classical pieces, they have quickly become known as a first-rate chamber ensemble. Cavani has been critically acclaimed for its extraordinary musicianship, energy and technical brilliance.

"They really are a first rate group. The fact that they are connected to the Cleveland Institute of Music, which is a top ten school, is really impressive. I was very pleased that they were coming to Alma," commented Will Nichols, chair of the music department.

Cavani is in residence during the winter at the Cleveland Institute. Members of the quartet are violinists Annie Fullard and Susan Waterbury, violist Erika Eckert and cellist Merry Peckham. They have commissioned, premiered and recorded a worldwide array of living composers.

"Alma has a good tradition of getting wonderful chamber ensembles on campus," said Nichols.

Wonderful is what they seem to be, Travis Rivers, correspondent for *Reviews of Performances and Visual Arts*, reviewed their concert

at the Met on Nov. 7 and described them as "a captivating combination of chamber music" and commented on the spontaneity and expressiveness of their concert.

The quartet appears annually on major chamber music series and festivals in both the United States and Europe. Included in their repertoire are works by American composers which Cavani has commissioned and premiered.

The ensemble has been featured on major television networks as well as public broadcasting. Their first CD, released earlier this year on the Azica label, features works of Bartok and Ravel.

The Cavani String Quartet will perform Oct. 12 at 8 p.m. in the Heritage Center. Tickets are \$5 for adults and free for students. Contact the Heritage Center box office at 463-7304 to reserve seating.



The Cavani String Quartet, an all women chamber ensemble, is scheduled to perform at the Heritage Center on Wednesday. File photo

# Alumnus James King scheduled to deliver speech

Jennifer Herriman  
Freelance Writer

On Oct. 11, Alma College graduate and current director of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History James E. King will dazzle the audience in Presbyterian Hall with his lecture entitled, "A Naturalist's View of our Ever-Changing World."

The history of ice vegetation and climates in the United States and the relationship of prehistoric people and extinct animals to their environments are King's major research interests. Accordingly, he has researched these areas extensively and has written many scientific papers on geology, past vegetation and climate change.

King graduated from Alma College with a B.S. in biology in 1962. He then went on to earn a M.S. in botany from the University of New Mexico in 1964 and in 1972 received his Ph.D. in geosciences from the University of Arizona, Tucson.

After receiving his doctorate, King worked for 15 years as a curator and then as the assistant director for science at the Illinois State Museum. While at the museum, King developed a hypothesis concern-

ing the extinction of the American mastodon with fellow museum staff member Jeffrey J. Saunders. He was also an adjunct associate professor of geology at the University of Illinois.

When King was on sabbatical from the Illinois State Museum, he returned to Alma during the winter term of 1985.

The June 1985 issue of *Alma Accents* stated, "He returned to Alma in part because here he had

access to the personal scientific library of Dr. Kapp, whose research interests so closely parallel his own." (At this time, Dr. Kapp was Alma's provost and vice president for academic affairs, as well as a professor of biology).

While in Alma, King completed work on three National Science Foundation-funded projects.

In 1987, King became director of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. King has continued to

upgrade, strengthen and develop the museum, its research and its facilities, just as he did while at Illinois State Museum.

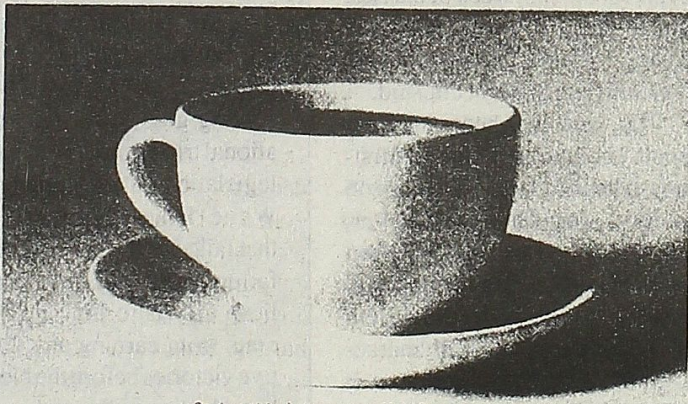
King's accomplishments have not gone unnoticed. King is the former treasurer of the American Quaternary Association, the current past-president of the Association of Systematics Collections and current president of the Association of Science Museum Directors.

In addition, King has served on numerous national and regional scientific advisory committees.

Professor of biology Richard Roeper said, "Carnegie is one of the most reputed and outstanding museums in the country. This is quite a feather in his career belt."

King will speak Oct. 11 at 8 p.m. in the Heritage Center for the Performing Arts. This event is free and no ticket is required.

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# Community builds "Dream Park"

By Jennifer Mounts  
Freelance Writer

Many Alma students are unaware there is a medieval castle only a short walk from campus. The new Dream Park, located next to St. Mary's School, is truly a creative wonder.

It all began when a group of mothers who had seen other such parks decided to look into the idea of one for Alma. The community response to their idea was "wonderful," said Mary Ellen Cassidy-Goffnett, one of the four general coordinators.

This park is unique due to the community children who were involved in the entire process. This is one of the special qualities of Leather's Incorporated, the Ithaca, NY based firm that designed the Dream Park.

There are over 1,000 Dream Parks across the country. However, according to Cassidy-Goffnett, "each park has its own signature." It isn't hard to discover Alma's signature: the colorful mural of a city adds to the atmosphere of a park that is out of a child's dream.

With its high-reaching turrets,

nooks and crannies, numerous slides (including a toothbrush slide), bridges, swings and even benches to relax on, the Dream Park is a dream come true for both young and old.

Upon seeing the park for the first time, sophomore Torree Stembol said, "I wish I was a kid again".

It took a lot of time and effort to make this dream a reality. Money was raised in many different ways.

According to Alison Jerome, head of fund-raising for the Dream Park, there was a "car wash, playhouse raffle, a pig raffle: billions of hot dogs were sold. Most of the over \$70,000 raised was from small donations."

Big and small businesses were also involved.

Involvement is the key to the Dream Park. Because of the exceptional community turnout during the construction, June 8-12, 1994, Alma's park has a lot of extras, one of which is the mural. Cassidy-Goffnett found that the community's support to do "something wonderful for the kids" really turned the building of the park into an event reminiscent of an "old-



The Almanian staff enjoys the playful atmosphere of the new Dream Park. The park is only a short stroll from campus, located next to St. Mary's School. Photo by Ben Kirkby

fashioned barn raising."

The college had a part in this as well. Groups helped raise money and when the time to build came, many of Alma's coaches were there to help.

The work is not yet complete; the park is an ongoing project. Those interested in helping with its maintenance can contact Jo Greenwood, chair of the Friends of the Park committee. There will be a fall

cleanup of the park sponsored by the United Way on Oct. 15, from 9 until noon.

If you have not yet visited the park, take a walk and find yourself in a fun-filled land of imagination.

## Veteran band members bring vitality to concert

By Joseph Johnston  
Freelance Writer

The lights were turned off and the crowd went crazy. The rhythmic beat this band is so known for began and everyone rose to their feet. Finally, a spotlight centered on the stage. Mick Jagger ran out from behind the drums, took a short bow and the rest of the band was lit. The show had finally begun.

I'm talking, of course, about the Rolling Stones and their sold-out show Friday, Sept. 9 at Spartan Stadium on the campus of Michigan State University. This near-ancient band entertained people of all-ages for nearly two and a half hours after a quick set by the much younger and better looking Lenny Kravitz. The Stones played a wide-array of songs from nearly all their albums, showcasing their thirty-year rock 'n roll career.

Mick Jagger is definitely the showpiece of the band. I generally don't like a lot of posturing and posing by live bands. With Mick Jagger, however, I take a different stance. Although he is fifty-one years old, Jagger is in great shape. The most amazing aspect of the whole concert was Mick—I ex-

pected him to have his head in the clouds. But he was so nice! Jagger was bashful when Ron Wood introduced him; he was happy with the encore applause. Maybe it is just an act, but I took it as genuine.

Charlie Watts defines what Miles Davis first called "cool." He sits in the back behind his yellow drums and guides the band through all of their tunes. At this particular show, he received the most applause during the individual introductions. He received three encores! Mick and Keith didn't receive any. What a guy. He takes it all in stride, though. He is just Charlie Watts, the drummer for the greatest rock 'n roll

band in the world.

The music never became too boring at this show. Every time the Stones played a newer song, they followed it up with an older song. For instance, "Sad, sad, sad" off of *Steel Wheels* was followed by "Satisfaction." And of course, everyone knew all the words to every song, so there were many sing-alongs.

Their stage was a life-size rendition of the mythic "Voodoo Lounge" for which their most recent album was named. It included several inflatable balloons of people such as Elvis Presley and Tony Bennet, and many explosions. Also,

the whole concert appeared on a giant movie screen behind the band for those sitting far away (like me).

The Stones are now touring with a new bass player, Darryl Jones, since Bill Wyman quit last year. He is everything you never expected to see in a Rolling Stone. First, he is good-looking—and you can't be a Rolling Stone if you are good-looking. Second, he is only twenty-four—younger than half the age of everyone else. Third, he is American. No explanation needed. But, he still put on a good stage act. He was cool like all the rest of the Stones. Not "cool" in the modern MTV sense, but in the original

Miles Davis sense.

Well, all good things must come to an end, and at around midnight on that Friday night, the Rolling Stones left the stage. They encored with "Jumping Jack Flash," took one final bow and left the Voodoo Lounge for another show in Chicago. They are probably one of the most ingenious bands when it comes to playing live—the theatrical elements of the show simply add to the music. If you get a chance to see them when they come to the Silverdome in December, I highly recommend it. You will get your money's worth.

## Baker delivers intense show of performance art

By Elizabeth Bullmer  
Freelance Writer

Senior Dan Baker gave his first demonstration of "performance art" entitled "One Student Slice: Mind Body World Soul," on Sept. 30 in Jones Auditorium. Those who attended the display of symbolic theater soon found themselves tightly grasped in a scene of intense emotion and social commentary.

Performance art is a form of the-

atrical communication which uses objects to depict an idea or feeling through the creation of symbols. The goal is for the audience to relate to these symbols, thereby gaining the artist's message or possibly discovering a new insight of their own.

Baker developed the theme of Destruction vs. Beauty in his piece. The Artist bared himself to his own artistic creation, placing Beauty on a pedestal. Aside from his art, he

was faced with surrounding social evils, such as news headlines declaring "Small Children Abandoned in Dumpster," "Troops Enter Haiti" and other endless political garbage. It is enough to drive anyone insane. With each added burden, Baker was slowly forced to face his own outrage; he had to confront the seed of ugliness which the world can plant inside us all.

Baker systematically destroyed his collection of beautiful creations, violently smashing each fragile piece until the pedestal was as bare as his soul. The weary body finally collapsed, proclaiming, "It's no wonder that Beauty can be gone...". A single unshattered symbol was produced with an uplifted hand and the hopeful conclusion, "But then, the artist finds it!"

Junior Char Vandermeer, felt Baker's presentation showed that "it's okay to express anger, if we have to." She added, we should

"become comfortable with ourselves and our emotions, not ashamed of them."

The universal nature of the symbols developed in this type of piece is such that reactions are extremely individual. Sophomore Joe Johnston, said that he could "relate to the expression of inner torments that everyone faces."

My own emotional experience spanned over confusion, rage, tears, awe and hope for humanity.

"One Student" was a high quality, high intensity performance. I anxiously await Baker's next creative demonstration and sincerely hope his future efforts will reach and inspire an even larger portion of Alma's campus. If you missed this initial performance, be on the lookout for Dan Baker's next showing; not only will you witness an incredible artist at work, but you will no doubt encounter a broad spectrum of enlightening and provocative ideas.

Happy Sweetest Day!

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Oct. 11, 1994

# A Doll House opens this week

By Alexandra Orr  
Staff Reporter

The Alma College Theatre (ACT) is presenting its first play of the year earlier than usual. Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll House* will open at the Heritage Center on Thursday, Oct. 13. In the past productions presented by ACT have opened in December.

According to director Joseph Jezewski, having the play in mid-October has caused the cast and crew to work harder during the past four and a half weeks of rehearsal. "Everyone has been working their tails off to make this production a success," said Jezewski.

Ibsen's play is set in 1879 and

focuses on a married couple going through a climatic point in their lives. It centers around relationships among people and how they change when problems arise.

Jezewski commented, "For the past 15 years I have wanted to do this classic. The relationships between the characters are believable and relevant, despite the fact that this play was written in the late nineteenth century."

The main character Nora Helmer is played by Alma High School student Sarah Nelson, newcomer to ACT. Her husband Torvald Helmer is played by junior Stephen Sobieski, a five-time veteran of the stage. Junior Char Vandermeer plays Nora Helmer's best friend, Kristine Linde. Fellow junior Mark

Andrews portrays Dr. Rank, a childhood friend of Torvald Helmer. Sophomore Joe Johnston was cast in the role of Nilse Krogsted, a bill collector, who is the protagonist in this production. For Vandermeer, Andrews and Johnston this marks their second stage appearance.

Vandermeer said, "I am thrilled to be in my first big production outside of *Antigone*. This has been a fantastic experience."

Andrews agreed, "This is a great experience and everyone should come to see it. It has a lot to say."

Despite the shortened rehearsal period, the cast and crew are confident that they will be ready for opening night.

"It has been a very hectic week and we have a lot to pull together in

a short period of time, but the play should be very entertaining and I recommend everyone should see it," said junior stage manager Lisa Edwards.

Sobieski agreed, "We've come a long way, but we still have a ways to go. I think the show will be excellent."

*A Doll House* will be presented in the Heritage Center Theatre Oct. 13 through the 15 at 8 p.m. A matinee will be presented on October 16 at 4 p.m. The Heritage Center is now using a system of reserved seating. Tickets can be ordered through the box office during the week by calling 463-7304 from 8-12 p.m. and 1-5 p.m. For students and children 18 and under, the tickets are free; adult tickets are \$5.

# Greek block bash promises fun for all

By Tera Biebuyck  
Staff Reporter

The second annual all-Greek block bash will kick off this Saturday, Oct. 15 with a Greek-sponsored volleyball tournament. This four-on-four tournament will be open to the campus; participating teams signed up last week in Hamilton Commons.

Juniors Shelly Wulff and Jason Gray, coordinators of Block Bash '94, are excited about opening an event to non-Greeks.

"We have a great committee and have tried to make it a lot of fun. We are glad that it is open for the campus so that first-year students and other non-Greeks can see what Greek organizations are all about. We can celebrate as one organization and not nine," said Wulff.

"One of the goals of block bash is to unite all Greeks and to include non-Greeks in an activity that is not in a party atmosphere," added Gray.

The tournament will take place in the area often termed Newberry or Mitchell beach; the number of teams that sign up for the tournament will determine how long it will last that day.

The winning teams will be awarded prizes and the champions will receive a plaque with their names engraved on it. This plaque will

remain in the Student Affairs office.

*One of the goals of  
block bash is to unite  
all Greeks and to in-  
clude non-Greeks in  
an activity that is not  
in a party atmosphere.*

Junior Jason  
Gray

The all-Greek events will begin at 6 p.m. with a picnic located in the area between the football stadium and the baseball field. A dee-jay will be present for music and dancing and there will be a mock rock competition in

which prizes will be awarded to the best acts. A beer tent will also be set up in the area for Greek students 21 years of age, with a limit of three to

four beers per student. The events will wind down around 11 p.m. with two fraternities, Zeta Sigma (ZS) and Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE) opening their houses to the Greek community.

Bill Arnold, director of the Interfraternity Council, feels block bash is an important fall event for the Greek community.

"Block Bash gives Greeks the opportunity to unite by themselves and show the rest of the campus what it is like to be Greek at Alma College," said Arnold.

Susan Stewart, president of Panhellenic Council, added, "We are really excited for Block Bash '94. It was a success last year and the Panhellenic and Interfraternity Councils are working closely together to repeat that success."

# Musical twists prevalent in REM's latest release

By Chris Sienko  
Freelance Writer

Wow. For the tenth time in a row R.E.M. puts out a new album, and once again, the new album moves in a completely different direction, yet sounds exactly like every one of their other albums.

This new album, *Monster* (Warner Brothers), will probably follow the same cycle as each of their former albums did: it will be initially panned, as the cynical critics once again scream "they've sold out," and eventually, after all the hubbub dies down, people will once again start to listen to the disc and eventually place it in its proper position, alongside classics like *Fables of the Reconstruction*, *Reckoning*, and *Document*.

*Monster* follows many of the already well-worn paths trodden by our heroes from Athens, Ga., as is evident in the album's near perfect opener, "What's the Frequency, Kenneth?" (The band's first single off the album). The song kicks off with an unnaturally effects-laden

(unusual for Pete Buck, that is—most of us are accustomed to hearing him jangle along with no embellishments) guitar part, leading into the usual Stipe vocal, with the usual rhythm section in the background, tirelessly and thanklessly pounding away. Of course, the usual for these guys is brilliance. There's something about R.E.M. that just clicks, and after ten albums, the level of telepathy between the band is absolutely intense.

At the same time, over half of the album jumps off into directions your humble reviewer wouldn't have ever imagined R.E.M. trying in a hundred years. "Tongue" is the most incredible example. In a completely unprecedented move, Stipe shows his affinity, as well as abil-

ity, for Motown soul. The thought of Michael "ten years of mumbling and still going strong" Stipe attempting Smokey Robinson is one of the funniest thoughts imaginable. The fact that he pulls it off flawlessly is further proof that R.E.M. may well never run out of ideas.

"King of Comedy" is another unusual turn for the band: electronic dance music! This is the one that is really going to

have the dichards screaming sell-out. Taking a sound that approximates Big Audio Dynamite (Remember "Rush for a change of Atmosphere?") in its synthesis of guitars and programmed drum beats, our heroes carve out yet another new tunnel to explore with as much credibility as anything

*Taking the album as  
a whole, there is a  
feel that is completely  
different from anything pre-  
viously released by  
the band.*

they've tried (Remember how people groaned at the thought of the piano in "Nightswimming?" If you were one of the groaners, check your preconceptions at the door and give this one two listens before lettin' the opinions fly). Everything the band touches turns to gold on this album.

Taking the album as a whole, there is a feel that is completely different from anything previously released by the band. The same feeling came at the time of *Document*, as well as *Automatic for the People*. These albums sounded like R.E.M. was on the precipice of going to a completely different plane of existence from previous releases. The fact that *Automatic* was the album just preceding *Monster* implies that R.E.M. is shooting off into new directions at a breakneck pace, leading me to believe that Michael, Mike, Bill and Pete may never run out of ideas. I mean, even the Rolling Stones put out a FEW bad albums here and there. When are you guys going to slip up? If we're lucky, maybe never.

## Events and Happenings

### On Campus:

#### Oct. 11:

Co-Cur speaker: James King, 8 p.m., Heritage Center, free, no ticket required.

#### EPIC English Club:

reception for Dr. Randi Davenport, 9:30 p.m., Fireside.

#### Oct. 12:

Co-Cur Event: Cavani string quartet, 8 p.m., Heritage Center, Adults \$5, Students free, reserved seating.

#### Oct. 13:

Alma College Theatre Production, *A Doll House*, 8 p.m., Heritage FFT, Adults \$5, Students free, reserved seating.

#### Oct. 14:

*A Doll House*, 8 p.m.

#### Oct. 15:

Greek Block Bash  
*A Doll House*, 8 p.m.

#### Oct. 16:

*A Doll House*, 4 p.m.

### Ann Arbor:

#### Oct. 11:

Ted Hawkins, 8 p.m., The Ark, Tickets: \$10 in advance.

### Detroit:

#### Oct. 13:

Blues Traveler with Sheryl Crow, 7:30 p.m., The State Theatre, Tickets: \$16 in advance.

#### Meat Puppets, 8 p.m., St.

Andrew's, Tickets: \$10 in advance.

#### Ani DiFranco, 8 p.m.,

Alvin's, Tickets: \$10 in advance.

#### Oct. 15:

Dick Dale with The Goldtones, 8:30 p.m., Majestic, Tickets: \$12.50 in advance.



# Homecoming victory over Olivet extends winning streak to six

By Tom Glegola  
Freelance Writer

Time was the Scot's ally in their 7-6 time-expiring victory over the Comets of Olivet last Saturday, bringing them to 5-0 for the season and 1-0 in the MIAA.

According to Scot head coach, Jim Cole, "If you like defense, our kids played well."

The Scot defense shut the Comet offense out for the first three quarters and made several impressive stands in the fourth to secure a Homecoming victory.

On the other hand, if you liked an offensive game, this game was, "scary," said Cole.

The Scot offense turned the ball over eight times throughout the course of the game, including six interceptions. "We discussed all week the fact that the team who turned the ball over was going to lose, and we almost did," said Cole.

The only Alma score came 15 minutes into the fourth quarter when junior quarterback Jason Falk passed to junior wide-receiver Christian Wiley, who then scrambled for seventy-five yards and the touchdown. The extra point was good with Mike Zahn kicking the ball through the uprights.

The Comets were given many chances to score, but the defense rose to the occasion. Only once was Olivet allowed into the end zone.

The Comet touchdown was set

up by an interception of Falk by Kevin Jackson on the Alma 15-yard line. Three plays later, Chris Lok ran two yards up the middle for the touchdown.

The extra point attempt was then blocked. Cole attributed the block to the fact that, "We work on blocks every day." The head coach also said, "It was an absolutely huge play."

The Comets were threatening again late in the fourth quarter with under a minute to go. An illegal block penalty cost the Comets ten yards and left them time for only three plays. With about 10 seconds remaining, Olivet quarterback Rob Tenyer handed off to Lok. This questionable call allowed for the last few seconds to tick off the clock because the Comet's had no time outs and not enough time to attempt a field goal.

Coach Cole was surprised by the fact that Olivet did not try for the field goal a play earlier.

"We were shocked. I told our guys they won't run another play, they have to stop the clock," said Cole.

Defensive standouts for the Scots were senior Mark Gorczyca, with 12 tackles and one fumble recovery, junior Wade Jenks with nine tackles and one sack, junior Jeff Beane with ten tackles and an interception, and senior Joel Reed with nine tackles. Junior James Compau also contributed a sack.

Next week, Alma travels to Hol-



An Alma Scot moves against rough Comet competition in Saturday's homecoming matchup. Tough defense proved to be a major contributor to the Scot's win, the sixth of the season. Photo by Ben Kirkby

land, Mich., to face the Flying Dutchmen of Hope College with aspirations of extending their winning streak to six.

## Curley hopes to repeat All-Conference Honors

By Emily Damstra  
Staff Reporter

Junior Cathy Curley enjoys a challenge.

Curley is finishing her third successful year on the Alma women's golf team. According to coach Charles Goffnet, Curley is "a solid anchor to build the team around. Cathy's been number one since she arrived on campus."

Curley took up golf at age 10, but was never serious about it until high school. At Lansing Waverly, she earned All-Conference honors for three years. She said the sport attracted her because "it looked like fun, and it looked like a challenge."

Since her beginning in the sport, Curley has improved continuously. This fall, she achieved a personal best of 81 at the Pine River Country Club. She is looking to qualify for Division III Nationals for the third consecutive year. Two years ago she finished 30th and last year she moved up to 15th in the nation.

This May she hopes to rank in the top eight among the All-American qualifiers. According to Goffnet, she will likely make All-Conference for the third time in her college career.

Curley is excited to see the team rise to the top of the conference, an impressive feat for a team established only four years ago. "It is a young team," said Goffnet, "but [Curley] is a positive role model." Curley insists her teammates keep her on her toes. "We are very competitive with each other." In terms of scores, she said, "we are extremely close."

Practicing throughout the year has helped Curley become a consistent golfer. She worked at a golf course last summer, which enabled her to play five or six days a week. In terms of average scores, she is currently third in the league.

"She keeps the team relaxed," explained Goffnet, "they can rely on her."

One of Curley's trademarks is marking her golf ball with the total

number of holes left to play in the season. This way she reminds herself to face one hole at a time, a tactic her coach encourages.

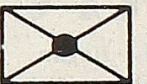
Another unfailing habit she practices is chewing gum during the match. Rather than swearing or throwing her club, it is her way of relieving frustration.

Originally, Curley intended to play basketball at Alma, with golf as a second thought. But she soon realized what a great opportunity it was to play golf here and it became a priority, apart from academics.

"I've really enjoyed the opportunities I've had here at Alma," she said. "It's terrific—the coaching, the teammates—I couldn't ask for anything more."

Curley is a business and psychology major who plans to get a job in the golf industry. More specifically, she hopes to have a career as manager of a golf course or pro shop. Eventually she would like to continue her education with graduate schooling for a Masters degree.

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Oct. 11, 1994

## Women's soccer

# Improvement continues during impressive season

By Wade Renando  
Staff Reporter

The women's soccer team is half-way through the season and going strong. With an impressive 7-4-1 record, the team has a good chance to make it to the play-offs. Conditioning, coaching, teamwork and positive attitudes have contributed to the team's best season in years.

To say they were due is an understatement. This is the first season in recent memory the women's soccer team has won more than four games.

The sudden success is largely due to the efforts of new Head Coach, Tammi Anderson and new Assistant Coach Bill Schicklin. A strong defense, deep bench and high spirits also add to the team's success.

Anderson, who played soccer for Michigan State, leads the Scots by holding practices two hours a day six days a week. These intense practices use interval train-

ing, where the players train for a brief period of time then take a short break before training again. Running, scrimmaging and conditioning exercises such as crab walking (where players place a soccer ball on their stomach and carry it while walking on all fours like a crab) make up the practices. These drills condition the players and help make practices more enjoyable.

Schicklin, a recent graduate of Alma, has been playing for 17 years and is happy with his new coaching position. He feels positive about the team's future. He's seen great improvement in their performance in the first half of the season and believes the Scots will make the play-offs if they stay focused.

In order to qualify, the Scots will have to defeat Calvin, Hope and Kalamazoo. The Scots lost to all three teams earlier in the season but all three games were close.

The team captains, senior Dana Grant and juniors Julie Braun and Kristen Snell are also confident in

the school's chances at qualifying. They believe that if the team continues to improve and work together they will emerge victorious.

Although all the captains believe the Scots are already a gifted and well-rounded team, they continue to work on making their offense better coordinated and more aggressive.

Defeating Calvin, Hope and Kalamazoo won't be easy. Fortunately the only away game is Kalamazoo and Alma's men's soccer team will be present to cheer them on.

The lady Scots have improved a great deal from earlier seasons and from the beginning of the year.

With wise coaching, a well-rounded team, high morale and a smart defense Alma looks forward to the challenging task of making the play-offs. If the team continues to improve and work together, this goal looks attainable.

## Men's soccer

# Victory over Saginaw strengthens attitudes

By Joe Bogan  
Freelance Writer

After a disappointing loss to Calvin, the Alma College men's soccer team took advantage of their win against Saginaw Valley, boosting their confidence and determination in order to perform well in the MIAA conference. With a 3-2 record in the MIAA and a 4-5 record overall, the Scots hosted Calvin, ranked fifth in the MIAA.

During a see-saw battle for field position throughout most of the first half, first-year student Dan Trevorow was able to score his third goal of the season before the half ended.

However, Calvin was able to bounce back and score early in the second half and then added another ten minutes later. Alma showed great poise and tied the score 2-2 with a goal by junior Kevin Sanchez. As time ran down, the Knights scored their third goal to win the game 3-2, and handed Alma their third loss in the MIAA this season.

Coach Scott Frey pondered on how the game went and the season as well.

"They have been showing great character and are playing well with resolve. Unfortunately, the results are not always what we desire. What we need to do now is regroup and sort out our problems defensively."

The suspensions of starting keeper Tim Helder and sweeper

Joe Oesterling enabled the Scots to play well even with the inexperience of four first-year students in the backfield. Trevorow reflected on their performance, as well as the rest of team.

"We had trouble controlling the ball at midfield, and the balls weren't long enough in the backfields. Our slide tackling could have been more aggressive. But everyone gained confidence as the game went on and didn't lose their composure when we were down 2-1."

With defense foremost on the minds of the soccer players, they set out to face Saginaw Valley at home last Saturday. The Scots clearly outmatched the Cardinals fundamentally and skillfully, attacking the goal from the start, and keeping the ball out of their own territory by controlling it at midfield.

Halfway through the first half, Trevorow scored the first goal with an assist from sophomore Gabriel Nguema. With the first half winding down, first-year student Jordan Mlotha scored his first goal of the season off a corner kick. Alma dominated the second half just as they did the first, with sophomore Jim Allen having two assists for goals made by senior Dave Miller and first-year student Jeff Bateson.

Allen was much happier with team's performance, especially on defense, where Alma allowed only

two shots on the goal the entire game.

"On the offensive side, we played the wings more efficiently, which created openings in the middle. The lackadaisical defense that we played against Calvin didn't show today. If we can stick to our defensive scheme successfully, then there won't be many teams that can stop us."

Senior captain Oesterling, who played well controlling the backfield, was content with the Scot's performance as a team.

"Even though Saginaw Valley is a weak team, we had a good show all around. This was our first shut out of the season, which was a great confidence booster."

Alma is currently in fourth place in the MIAA standings. However, they are only two games out of first place. The team is determined to finish in second or third place by the close of the season.

First-year student Tom Jewett commented on the Scot's hopes for the rest of the season.

"For a very young team we're doing pretty well. All we have to do is follow what the coach teaches us and get over the losing attitude that has been here for the last few years."

The team will begin the second half of MIAA action with two home games, facing Olivet on Tuesday, Oct. 11 and Adrian on Saturday, Oct. 15.

## Sports Stats

Skill and confidence abound in Alma's athletic teams as they push their way through the season. Records are being set and memories are being made. The following are the current records:

\* Women's Golf - 1st place in MIAA, 106 strokes ahead of 2nd-place Hope

\* Men's Golf - 4th place in the MIAA, a mere 5 strokes behind 3rd-place Hope

\* Football - 5-0 overall, 1-0 in MIAA — the undefeatable Scotsmen

\* Volleyball - 9-7 overall, a winning 3-2 in MIAA

\* Women's Cross Country - 1st place in Division III

\* Men's Cross Country - 2nd place in Division III

\* Women's Soccer - 7-4-1 overall, 3-3 in MIAA, a record-setting year

\* Men's Soccer - 4-6 overall, 3-3 in MIAA and staying strong

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# Record match at Hope boosts men's confidence

By Tim Ketel  
Sports Editor

Nearing the end of their season, the men's golf team is looking ahead, proud and undaunted. Ignoring their poor finish at Calvin College on Monday, the Scots tied for second on Thursday in MIAA competition at Hope College.

Monday's competition resulted in a 6th-place finish for the team, which moved their league ranking into a tie for fourth with Calvin. After Thursday's spectacular tie for second, the Scots left Calvin behind and moved within five strokes of third place, right behind Hope.

Not only did Thursday's play raise the team's standings, it marked a sort of record-breaking day. All five scored players shot in the 70s, a feat junior captain Brad Tate said is "a rare occurrence, even for the best teams."

The total of 384 is so good, in fact, it has renewed the team's confidence in itself.

"This is what we're going to shoot for every time, now that we know we can do it," said Tate.

Low score at the competition was junior captain Kevin McKinley, who ended with a 75. Behind him was Tate with a 76. First-year student Mike McHugh took third with his 77, followed by junior Jon Chambers and senior Ryan Rickabaugh, both with a 78. Sophomore Don Light, the extra, shot a whopping 75.

"Our team is doing great," said coach Brad Spathelf. "Our team average is significantly lower than in years past."

Spathelf sees the second place as more than a nice ranking.

"It was a victory for us to stay within three points of Hope at their home match. Monday is going to be our biggest match of the year—we are going to have to drop five points and beat Hope for third."

Though that final game of their season looms ahead, the Scots cannot put Thursday's game out of their minds. Tate explained that it was a very important day for the team.

"We played like we have been expecting to play all season. It doesn't matter that we tied for second, it's just satisfying to have ac-

complished the scores we wanted. That is what happens when we play with confidence."

The year has not been as good overall as this one day turned out to be, however.

"It's been an up and down year," said McKinley. "We have a good match, and we ruin it with a bad one. We're pretty confident we can make up the strokes for third place, though."

As Tate said, golf is like a lot of other sports—it has to do with confidence and mind set. This team not only has plenty of these positive qualities, but also something just as important: talent.

A young team, the golfers will be losing only one senior next year, and will be in an excellent position within the MIAA, judging by their impressive performance this year.

"Our playing has been a sign of good things in our future," explained Tate.

Coach Spathelf summarized that "this team is so unusual, they're almost like brothers. If someone is down, the team pulls them up. In this team, no one person is successful, we all are."

# Recent Invitationals produce mixed emotions

By Maria Toscano  
Freelance Writer

The Alma Cross Country team experienced mixed emotions over performances in their last two meets.

On Saturday, Oct. 1, the team traveled to Chicago, Ill. to compete in the Loyola Lake Front invitational. There, the men placed 11th out of 18 teams and the women placed 6th out of 13 teams.

First-year students Katie Rodgers, Kendra Edwardson and Sara Jefferson led the women runners.

"We had a lot of competition," said Jefferson. "We ran well as a team and met the team goal for every one to stay under 22 minutes. Five of us even managed to stay under 21 minutes."

"It was really close and I think everyone did well because we worked together," said sophomore Lori Childs. "That helped us perform well and encourage each other."

However, the men were not as pleased with their showing.

"We didn't do as well as we wanted to," said junior Grant Woodman. "It was decent, but we just weren't geared up. A couple of guys just had problems—everybody does."

Coach Dan Gibson agreed.

"The guys didn't run as well. They ran a normal race, but they

just weren't very inspired."

On Saturday, Oct. 8th the team ran in the Michigan Intercollegiate Championship which is usually comprised of all the teams in the state, including Division I and Division II schools.

The women finished in an astounding 9th place out of twenty-five teams, capturing the top finish out of the division III schools. Leading the pack of the women was Edwardson who placed 43rd, Rodgers who placed 47th and first-year student Becca Walla who placed 53rd. The team competed against 160 other runners.

"We did really well—we went up against top teams that were in the big ten," said Childs. "Everyone

did well and finished their personal best."

The men pulled out a seventh place finish, and were second only to Calvin in division III. The top finishers were sophomore Jason Bradlow, who finished 21st; sophomore Jon Makela, 39th; Woodman, 43rd and first-year student Ben Witte, who finished in 59th. Junior Ryan Donely, normally the team's top runner, finished 65th, running with a twisted ankle.

"It was a definite confidence buster," commented Woodman. "It was tough, but we ran well. Everyone had a good day, and we are really looking forward to league meets after this."

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# Sports breed greediness

By Anthony Siefker  
Freelance Writer

It is not whether you win or lose, but how much you get paid.

This mind set is invading our professional athletes and in turn is ruining the sports they represent.

Baseball is not hitting. Hockey is not fighting. Basketball is rumored to be the next to strike.

Professional athletes are more concerned with their individual performance and paycheck than they are with team unity.

They jump from team to team, following the biggest paycheck. They say they need this because their professional athletic careers are so short. What is that supposed to mean? If, by some stretch of the imagination, one of these athletes were to run out of money after leaving baseball or football or whatever sport, they would have to work. Well God forbid that, they had better ask for nine million dollars more so that unfortunate incident does not happen.

Maybe I am being a little harsh, but it is getting ridiculous. When players are losing 50 thousand dollars a day when they are out of work, they are getting paid too much when they do.

Some of these players make more in a day than I have my entire life to this point.

What kind of role models are these people? Do we want children growing up thinking that

fighting for money is the top priority in life? If those athletes would listen to me, and I know they won't, I would ask them to play for the love of the game, the feeling of a team victory, for the fans cheering them on and, yes, for a smaller paycheck.

I am willing to pay to watch them, but I won't be willing anymore—not when I know they are asking for more and more.

It is time to say no—for me, the fan, and for them. Their greed is getting the best of them and it is going to make them lose the fans that make their luxurious lives possible.

Yes, I claim some of the responsibility. I have been paying high ticket prices for them. I have helped fill the stadiums and allowed owners to pay them high salaries.

I thought that is what it cost to watch the best, but the price is getting too high.

Well, if they cannot stop their greed, I will help by not going to the games anymore.

I do not think I am alone, and I hope all of us stop letting professional athletes take advantage of us.

Take in a college or high school sport this weekend. Maybe you will find you like it just as much as the pros.

We did have a part in creating the greed out there, and we can have a part in stopping it.

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*Caught on tape!*

## Confessions of a junior

By Brooke Hansen  
Co-Editor-In-Chief

On a day not unlike today, I found myself embarking upon a series of revolutions, all spawning from a typical evening walk through campus.

As I traveled along the well-trodden path from the P.E. building to the "upperclassperson" realm of dormitory life, I suddenly remembered being a senior in high school.

I had visited Alma for the first time the summer prior to my senior year. I walked the same path I was strolling across now; I saw SAC and Monticelli Library and Eddy Music Building.

I was the same me, yet I felt strangely different. My life had unexpectedly turned from the outside inward and now I was a part of the world I recall as being so far from me.

Even in that pseudo-senior stature, Alma frightened me. The buildings, the people, calling teachers "Dr.," eating Ponderosa-like meals on a daily basis; every person and thing was immense. I felt I could never live up to the college's gigantic proportions.

But when you're on the outside looking in, things are, as Dr. Thorsen so succinctly puts it, "not always as they seem."

For the past month, I've felt like a new addition to the cast of *The Twilight Zone*. Memories of the Alma College admissions tape, the infamous video given to each and every incoming student, flock to my mind. I watched that video faithfully before coming here.

And with each viewing, my anticipation grew. It seemed as though I had just flipped my tassel when I

was there (which is now... here).

On that evening jaunt, I remembered this video well. Each step I took became slower and heavier, and I had the sneaking suspicion that I had been "caught on tape"—the Alma College Admissions' video tape, that is.

What was once beyond me, I had become. I was petrified. I felt suf-

*I wished I could just  
have a degree, or be  
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graduate school at  
that very second,  
without the hassle of  
the GRE or other  
various examina-  
tions.*

focated, trapped. I wanted to quit school right then. But then I realized, it wasn't an option.

I'm a junior, I have two more years to finish. I can't do a single thing with what I've got now. I can't drop out; it's not logical, it's not sensible. It's ridiculous.

I just felt this incredible urge to jump out of whatever I had plunged into. Provost Brown's "video-in-reverse" idea was sounding pretty

decent right about then. I wished I could just have a degree, or be able to go on to graduate school at that very second, without the hassle of the GRE or other various examinations. Or else, I greatly wanted to not be doing homework, but to be helping someone—to be teaching or working or speaking or something. Anything.

So now the notion of insanity comes to mind. Is this a universal feeling among juniors or seniors or anyone? Am I the only student alive who feels as though (s)he's been reverted back to the womb, unable to get out until her/his mother's good and ready?

Is college life literally a time of rebirth? Should I be committed? Should I take a few days off? A week, maybe? How about a year? Or should I just take an aspirin?

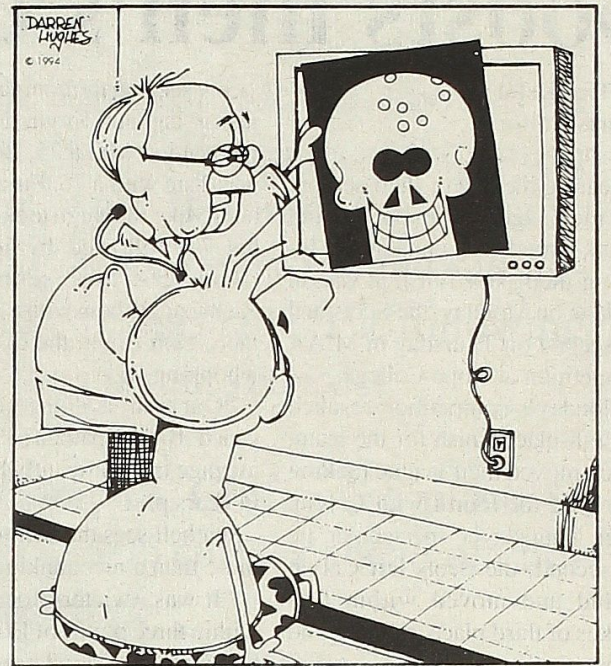
I wanted to scream "Help!" or "Ughh!" or some other four-letter word, but then I thought, "What if I really am being videotaped, would cursing really be good for Alma's reputation?"

While first-year students are entitled to a period of adaptation, sophomores get the yearly programs on "sophomore slump" and of course, seniors experience senioritis. Where does that leave us juniors?

What if we're all in a state of confusion, going crazy in the quiet corners of our dormitories and no one has a clue? Is it normal to feel like the Oscar award winner for "Best supporting role in a college production?"

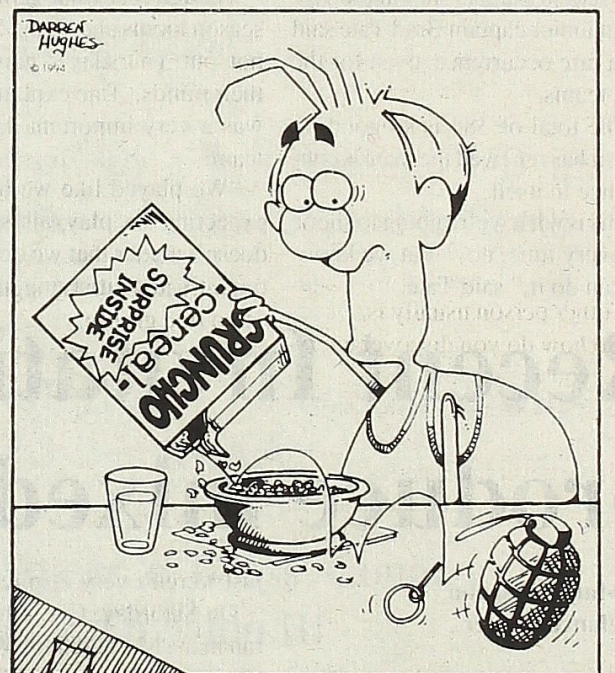
Alright, so if this is not an isolated incident, someone, anyone, let me in on the info. Please, give it a name. Label it. Let me know it isn't just a creation of craziness.

### Snorkin



I don't know what's causing your headaches...but I did find the contact lenses you've lost over the years.

### Snorkin



## Women continue to seek place within Christianity

By Anne Buyze  
Opinion Editor

Imagine a place where little girls dream of leading people to the light of God's word only to be told, "But, you're a girl."

Imagine a place where you have finally overcome this sexist obstacle and become an elder in the church.

Imagine the pain felt when you are told, "We've made a mistake. You're a woman."

Imagine a place where people like Detroit Archbishop Adam Maida said unapologetically in the *Detroit Free Press*, "All of the sudden in the last 25 years, we've seen a rise in feminism and we've gotten these tremendous pressures to change everything in the church. And all of these change aren't possible for us."

Today, we are living in that place.

A place where the Pope honors women who forgo operations that

could kill their unborn fetuses, but could save their own lives.

A place where Christian women are models of perfection when they endure years of physical and emotional abuse by their husbands.

This place where a male priest remains a pillar of the community even though he has molested children.

A place where the only role for women in the church is to have good Christian babies and to serve the male priest at mass by holding *The Bible* for him and holding the water in which he washes his fingers.

How can I worship in an environment where women are treated as ignorant people who can never lead, but must always follow?

How can I respect W. Robert Godfrey who said in the *Detroit Free Press*, "I hope we can all agree that feelings cannot be the ultimate authority in the life of church?"

Feelings may not be the ultimate

authority, but respect is.

In an attempt to gain the respect they deserved, women from 27 dif-

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creating this place  
themselves.*

ferent countries and various faiths joined together at the Re-Imagining Conference held in Minnesota.

The purpose of the conference was to celebrate the growing feminist movement in the patriarchal church and discuss their changing roles. At the conference, the women also found a sanctuary in which to share their discrimination stories and find hope for a future which includes equality.

The sole purpose of this conference was to celebrate a God who loves women and the women who attended were continually criticized. These women were deemed pagans, heretics and goddess worshippers. It also spouted the production of several essays discussing such topics as "How the Feminist Establishment Hurts Women."

The qualifications for becoming a priest should not be whether or not you possess a penis, but whether or not you possess outstanding moral fiber. Priests should be judged on their ability to work with people and help them follow God's word. This ability is not in any way related to the male

anatomy.

Is it such a horrible situation when women desire the ability to worship as equals?

Without women the church would have been abolished long ago. Who would have encouraged their young boys to become priests? Who would have sent their children to Sunday school? And who would have given birth to these girls and boys?

The church is supposed to provide its members with guidance, knowledge of religion and acceptance of all people. The church has completely failed women in this area.

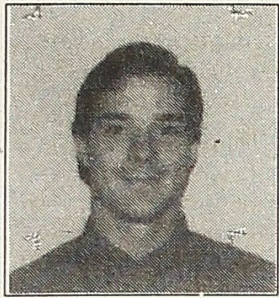
Unfortunately, women must take matters into their own hands. They want to worship in a place where God and other church members treat them as equals. Women are creating this place themselves.

As singer/pianist Tori Amos said, "God, sometimes you just don't come through. You need a woman to look after you."



*He said...She said*

# Ideal date revealed

*Great outdoors offers perfect date*

By N. Christopher Hayes  
Freelance Writer

Are you satisfied with your dating life?

Here on the Alma College campus, it is difficult to have the perfect date. What would be a good date—going to Mt. Pleasant, The Cinema or The Strand? How about enjoying a good old ACUB Movie.

Sure, these would suffice for the couple that wanted to talk, hold hands and get their hormones excited. But would it really tell you much about the person you think you want to get to know better?

Not really. Most of us are rather shy on first dates and if we're not, the other person usually is.

So how do you discover everything you want to know about your date? What would be your perfect date?

I have never had a perfect date. I have had many good dates, but never the perfect one. In fact, I have never even pictured what the perfect date would be.

On a date I want to get to know the other person. I want to find out what they think about and if their personality will work together with mine. Finally, I want to find out if I should spend more time with them.

I also get annoyed with the little details that come into effect when members of the opposite sex come together. Do I open her car door? Do I pull her chair out if we go eat? What kind of movie will she like?

With all the little things that lend a hand in ensuring that you won't have a great date, how do you have a great date and avoid the booby traps that modern society has loaded the dating game with?

Take them hunting!

I think this is a great way to discover your compatibility. It would allow you to get to know them quite well. The average rabbit hunt lasts several hours and if they leave before you get into the deep snow, you probably didn't want them around anyway.

It shows you their personality in a way that watching a movie could never do. You will discover if they are nimble in the woods. If they can handle a gun. If they crack under pressure. If they're afraid to get dirty and even their views about animals rights and whether or not they are a vegetarian.

Granted, not many women hunt on a regular basis (especially those at Alma), but it would be a great

test.

It covers all the important areas of a date. Actually, I think the biggest test would be if she actually agreed. Not many women would want to go hunting on a date, but if they did, you would learn a lot about her character.

I'm sure that many of you are questioning this whole idea and are probably asking yourself: "Has he ever done this?"

Yes, I have and it was a very successful date.

It wasn't the first date, but it was one of the first times we had a chance to get outside and explore our personalities in a way that going to dinner or a movie never would have allowed.

The entire day turned out perfect. We had spent some unsuccessful time jumping on brush piles, but were soon rewarded with the sight of two fine grouse.

They were sitting in a naked maple tree on a ridge along side a cedar swamp. She had never seen grouse before so watching them provided an interesting experience for both of us.

We also discovered the den of two huge porcupines. They each weighed about 35 pounds and were camped out in an old felt deer blind. After our sight-seeing, we did finally get a couple rabbits.

The day had been a success and despite the frozen fingers I acquired while trying to clean them, we did get a nice meal and two fine furs out of the day's hunt.

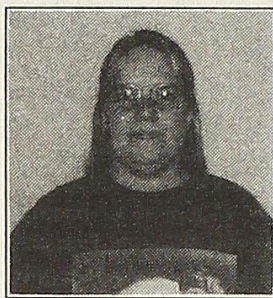
I ask you, what else will test your teamwork this way?

This was a great learning experience for her in many ways. She learned more about nature and how to use it to obtain food. She also learned that a hunter can respect the beauty of nature.

In fact, the date went so well that we are still together and getting buck fever.

I learned a considerable amount that day and it has definitely strengthened the bond between us. With that in mind, I suggest you take that special person on a hunt the next time you go.

It will tell you how much you are alike or how different you are. Either way it will be a great way to appreciate the outdoors and will be rewarding for both of you.

*A screwdriver and a hot Latino man would suit me just fine*

By Amanda Stuart  
Freelance Writer

She can ask him. He can ask her. He can even ask him. Or she could ask her. Anything goes when it comes to the fun-filled world of dating and who am I to say who should ask who?

I can say that asking implies certain things. The person who asks is the person who pays, unless otherwise specified at the time of the asking, as in:

"Pat, do you want to see a movie with me Friday night?"

"Sure, Chris. I'd love to. What were you thinking of seeing?"

"Well, we could rent a movie and watch it on my roommate's VCR or we could go halvesies and see the new Argentine film at the Alma SuperduperPlex."

Ok, no one would really say "halvesies" except me, but notice how Pat and Chris (our androgynous friends) resolve the money issue up front. This way, no one feels uncomfortable when it's time to pay. The person who asks also must propose some sort of activity

for the date. Chris asks Pat specifically to see a movie. That's the right way. Not:

"Hey, uh, you wanna go do somethin' together on Friday?"

That's the wrong way.

The asker has to give the asked some idea of what will happen on the date. Say Chris had asked Pat to a boxing match, but Pat hates boxing. If Chris hadn't stated what the date would be, Pat would have ended up sitting in a big, loud, sweaty arena wishing s/he were anywhere else with anyone else.

The person asked always has the opportunity to say "I'd rather not see two sweaty, toothless men beat each other senseless, but I'd be happy to do the dinner part." Or "I wouldn't be caught dead with someone who would want to watch boxing. Get stuffed."

Also an approximate time is an important part of the asking. As in, Saturday afternoon, because "We should do something sometime" isn't a request for a date—it's a brush off.

Not many people really enjoy asking someone out because of fear of rejection. What's to lose? If rejected, just consider it practice for the next time.

Women, don't wait for him.

Lots of guys are socially retarded—and I'm not just talking about the "uncool" ones. I'm talking about any guy who can be referred to as dufus, dork or lunkhead. It's not their fault, they just weren't

socialized to deal with women.

They think the best way to talk to them is to get drunk and slobber all over them. Or to be a big, overconfident jerk. Or by showing them new technical gadgets (i.e. video games). The socially retarded may never ask in a way that's not repulsive, so if you find one attractive, take the initiative.

Even though they are few and far between, my ideal date would be a guy who is not socially retarded. He would be Latino, from Otavalo, Ecuador, beautiful, black hair, dark eyes, nice shoulders.

A friend of mine, a non-Alma one, says her wish list is "a boy, a bottle of rum, a lit candle and at least six condoms per night." Mine is a little less complicated.

On my ideal date, we would take a boat ride on an Andean lake in the afternoon. We would dine at a mostly-vegetarian restaurant called the Ali Shungu, which means "good heart" in Quichua, while listening to indigenous folk music played by a live band. After that we would go dancing at: a) the discotheque where they make screwdrivers with maraschino cherry juice and Curaçao or b) the peña bar that serves pitchers of guayusa, a hot herbal drink with lemon and cane sugar.

That's the ideal. Right now I'd settle for a walk and a cup of coffee, but I'm too chicken to ask. I console myself by remembering that usually when I'm on a date, I'd rather be home with a good book.

## New BAC law targets underage drinkers

By Justin Gustafson  
Freelance Writer

This is a warning to all underage drinkers: if you drink and drive, you may lose your license be fined, and required to do community service. A new law will soon go into effect on Nov. 1, 1994.

Named the "zero-tolerance" law, it imposes tough new consequences for those under age 21 who are caught drinking and driving. Supported by MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving), this new legislation should help keep underage drinkers off the road, making travel safer.

The law was sponsored by House Representative Frank Fitzgerald, Republican from Grand Ledge, and signed by Governor Engler on June 23, 1994. Specifically, the law lowers the illegal Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) to .02 percent for drivers under age 21. This means that if you have even one beer in your system, you may lose your license for an indefinite period.

Currently, minors are not charged with impaired driving until their BAC reaches .08 or .10,

the illegal level for adults. This is in direct conflict with the fact that minors are not supposed to be drinking. The mere fact that a minor had been drinking should be enough to prosecute him for drunk driving, which is exactly what this law does.

Evidence shows minors are impaired at lower BAC levels than adults. For a 16-19 year old driver, when their BAC level reaches .08, the crash risk is 40 times greater than that of an adult. At .10 BAC, the crash risk increases 400 times!

This evidence clearly shows that minors become impaired at an earlier stage than adults, making this law an important step in curbing the number of deaths caused by drunk driving. In 1991 in Michigan alone, 79 teens died in alcohol related accidents while thousands more were injured.

I firmly support this law. I believe that it is about time our government started cracking down on underage drunk drivers. Instead of treating them as legal adults, they should be treated as minors who are in violation of the law. Having a lower tolerance for alcohol, minors become impaired easier than adults, and therefore, could be be-

yond drunk with a BAC level of .08, making the roads that much more dangerous. These minors should not be on the road after they have been illegally drinking.

The "zero-tolerance" law makes sure that if you are caught driving under the influence, you will be off the road for an extended period of time, since your license will be taken away. Knowing how much teens value their "license to drive," this is a good incentive not to drink.

Also included as penalties are fines and community service, but the biggest consequence of drunk driving is the loss of a life. It could be you or a friend or it could be an innocent child whose life is taken by alcohol.

There are many underage drinkers on this campus who should be aware of this law and understand its implications. Drink one beer, meet one cop on the road, take one breathalyzer test, have just a .02 percent BAC and you will be ripe for prosecution. Kiss that license goodbye. In 20 days, you better find yourself a designated driver or you could lose your license, not to mention your life.



Oct. 11, 1994

## Staff Editorial

# Statistics reduce college to bare minimum

Alma College ranks among the top seven percent of liberal arts colleges in the U.S. and has recently enhanced its campus with structural additions like the Heritage Center for the Performing Arts, as well as new course offerings and faculty additions. Ninety percent of Alma graduates find employment within six months of graduation and 94% of those who apply to medical or law school are accepted.

However, according to the article "Searching for 'Passionate Learners'" in the Sept. 26 issue of *U.S. News and World Report*, this means virtually nothing.

The article recognized the 164 most highly-selective liberal arts institutions in the nation, ranking them categorically according to alumni satisfaction, percentage of first-year students who graduated in the top ten percent of their high school classes, percentage of faculty with doctorate degrees and graduation rate of its students. Alma ranked 81st in this

study, behind schools like Albion, Ohio Wesleyan University and Wofford College in South Carolina. The article organized its list of ratings into four tiers: tier one included schools rated between 26 and 40, tier two included schools rated between 41 to 80, tier three between 81 and 120, and tier four included unranked schools. Schools that earned rankings between 1 and 25 were included in a separate section.

While Alma remains in the third tier of liberal arts institutions, statistics place the previously mentioned schools in the second tier. According to statistics, Alma is deficient in categories including acceptance rate, student/faculty ratio and the percentage of faculty with Ph.D.s.

What are the consequences of this rating? Should Alma be categorized as a "middle of the pack" liberal arts institution?

From an alumni perspective, this rating may be discouraging. Alumni returned to their alma mater Homecoming weekend, greeting new faces and reuniting with past friends. Likely, reports

like that of *U.S. News and World Report* were far from their thoughts.

However, when they learn Alma still ranks among "third tier" liberal arts institutions, they could lose pride in their alma mater. Alma alumni in the work force may hesitate to praise the very institution that gave them their skills, for fear their colleagues will patronize Alma as a mediocre school.

Why should we be reduced to mere statistics?

From a student perspective, the rating appears discouraging as well—not because of the hindrance it places on Alma's reputation, but because students interact daily with the types of categories the study rates and know that a school cannot be judged solely on the basis of numbers and comparative data.

Consider, for instance, the relationship between students and faculty. Though *U.S. News and World Report* considers a student/faculty ratio of 14/1, below desirable, Alma prides itself on its personal relationships among faculty and students. As long as students feel they have

adequate access to their professors' help when they need it, this statistic should not count against us.

Although the information presented in the *U.S. News and World Report* is accurately based on the time period in which the study was done, Alma has demonstrated statistical improvement over the past year in nearly all areas of the study. Since Alma takes such strong measures to keep its students from feeling like just a number (like the situation at big universities) then why should it be subjected to the same kind of abuse by being judged on the basis of selected statistics?

Taken at face value, numbers are nothing more than qualifiers. Alma is not just another liberal arts school. It is a set of unique individuals: students, faculty and staff combined to create a conducive learning environment. What *U.S. News and World Report* cites as a mere statistic is a support network that no single figure could describe.

## Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

I was pleased to see that you printed my new colleague Randi Davenport's corrections of Christine Ebert's fine and enthusiastic article about Randi's arrival. It was good to know that other "literature experts" are "housed in the English department" (a fact that your headline on the letter still evaded).

I am glad for the strength that Professor Davenport brings to the study of eighteenth and nineteenth century British literature (old favorite fields of mine before my doctoral special-

izations) and to our growing fields of creative writing. I also value the work of my literature colleagues in medieval and Renaissance English studies and in contemporary British and American literature. And I do not lose self-esteem for my own field of American literary realism, with my critical edition of an American realist's novel, my five articles in the field, and my work on the writing of my "heroine," Annie Dillard.

It is good that you are welcoming new faculty, as you did last week with Joanne Gilbert. An older friend and colleague of mine at Denison University, now retired, makes welcoming of young new faculty almost a

ministry, in campus forums and in holiday hospitality. Though an invidious, controlling person might "hoot" at this, it can be a valuable boost to a sense of campus community.

It is difficult to maintain community, though, when heavy stress is laid on the link between "young and exciting" to the apparent exclusion of older faculty, as it is sometimes more explicitly, but also anonymously stated in such student evaluations as the one which went, "I'm only saying this because he's old." Though I do not presume to speak for such good and worthy contemporaries as Bechill, Gazmararian, Luke, and Walser, surely an undue stress on the

worthiness of what is "young and exciting" marginalizes many faculty who still have a great deal to give.

A lesson that our courses in aging and gerontology should offer us is that when one age group is discriminated against, all age groups suffer. The parallel with obstructionist, "Grab and get, and never give" politics should be obvious, and I would hope that *The Almanian* would not exacerbate the coming challenge of having to deal with an aging population.

Sincerely  
Eugene H. Pattison  
Professor of English, Dana  
referee, and Chair, 1989-1991

## Classified

**ATTENTION ELEMENTARY EDUCATION MAJORS:** A senior comprehensive exam is required for graduation from Alma College. To meet this requirement, Elementary Education majors should select ONE of the following options: 1) Elementary Education Test (required for certification in your teaching major), OR 2) National Teacher Examination (Specialty Area Exam in Elementary Education) OR 3) Graduate Record Examination (Advanced Test in Education). Elementary Education Test information about dates and registration is available in AC 237. NTE and GRE information about test dates and registration is available in the Center for

Student Development (lower level of Hamilton).

**ATTENTION STUDENTS INTERESTED IN TEACHING IN ELEMENTARY OR SECONDARY SCHOOL:** Registration materials for the Michigan Teacher Competency Testing Program are available in the Education Department. Registration for the Basic Skills and/or Subject Area tests must be postmarked PRIOR TO September 9, 1994 for the October 15, 1994 test date; December 2, 1994 for the January 14, 1995 test date. Additional dates are available in 1995. MICHIGAN TEST OBJECTIVES FOR THE BASIC SKILLS TESTS AND FOR EACH SUBJECT AREA TEST ARE AVAILABLE IN THE EDUCA-

TION DEPARTMENT AND ON RESERVE AT THE LIBRARY CIRCULATION DESK. Please see Mrs. Farrier in AC 237 for registration materials or for information about what tests must be passed prior to being recommended for certification to teach. Deadlines and policies will be strictly enforced by the State Department of Education.

**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).

**EVERYBODY DANCE NOW!** The Dance Experience Class will present their outside Dance/Video

event Tuesday-October 18 at 2:30 in McIntyre Mall. We invite all of you to come and watch. If that time is inconvenient for you, we will be having a dress rehearsal on Thursday, October 13. Same time. Same place. If it is too cold to stand outside and watch, you may find places by the windows in the SAC building on the second and third floors. See you then....Thanks, Carol Fike---Dance Department

**ATTENTION ELEMENTARY EDUCATION STUDENTS:** If you plan to enroll in EDC 242: Children's Literature, for Winter 1995, please confirm your plans by signing the sheet outside Dr. Markham's door (AC 238; 7166).

## The Almanian

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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.