



The Almanian

January 16, 1996

Serving Alma College since 1907

Issue 13

Pride week encourages education

By Julie Wilson
Staff Reporter

sors Pride Week.

This week is Pride Week.

For some students, these words mean nothing. For others, it is a week to encourage a lifestyle and viewpoint that goes against a conservative, "family-values" norm. For others, Pride Week is an occasion to celebrate and encourage tolerance and differences among people.

Alma College has been active for the past three years in sponsoring Pride Week events.

"The first year was great; we had a lot of support from students and a very involved faculty," said senior Bonnie Palmer, co-chair of Alma Pride, which annually spon-

Past years programs have exhibited much controversy, with occurrences of both vocal and silent protest against the tolerance Pride Week is designed to encourage.

"This year should be better because of all of the controversy we have seen this year. People are more opinionated, and I think we will see much more discussion of the events," said Palmer.

Monday night, no events specifically pertaining to gay, lesbian, or bisexual issues were addressed, as Alma Pride encouraged the campus to support remembrance and reflection of civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr.

"We wanted to support the other minority students on campus and

make people aware of King's birthday," said Palmer.

Author Lev Raphael will speak about "Coming Out in Michigan" Tuesday night at 8 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge.

Wednesday's activities, including "Blue Jeans Day," are expected to be eventful. In past years, campus support of Blue Jeans day has been mixed. One common misconception about the theme is the meaning of participation. Wearing jeans does not imply homosexuality, but rather the support of social justice for all.

"It is always kind of funny, seeing people who do not normally dress up dressed up. That is fine if that is their view, but it is just kind of curious to note," said Palmer.

"Ultimately I would like to see a

time when tolerance is accepted so we do not need an event like Jeans Day to swat opinion and encourage support of tolerance for all," said sophomore Dan Scripps, co-chair of Alma Pride. "Sadly, I think we have a long way to go to attain this goal on this campus."

Wednesday night, alumnus Alan Otis will speak at a forum where open discourse is encouraged. Added Scripps, "We know there are a lot of differing opinions out there, and we want to hear what everyone has to say. If you think tolerance of such lifestyles is wrong, come say it; if you want to support social justice for all, we want to hear that, too."

The final program scheduled for Pride Week is a video presentation entitled, "Always My Kid," which

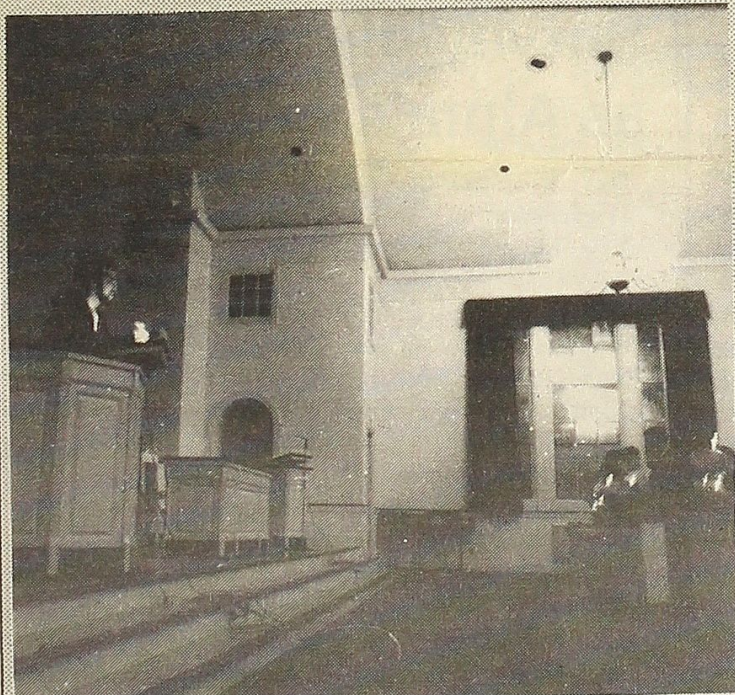
addresses issues of family acceptance of homosexual relatives, attempting to convert homosexuals and other topics pertaining to families and homosexuality.

All in all, Pride Week has shown itself to be a politically charged time. Many students both actively and passively express their view on gay, lesbian, and bisexual beliefs. Alma Pride encourages all sorts of discussion, both for and against the tolerance Pride Week is designed to promote.

In summary, Scripps paraphrases Martin Luther King, Jr., in suggesting, "Judge people not by sexual orientation, but by the content of their character."

See **PRIDE WEEK Schedule** page 3...

Alma Celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day



Senior Shannon McNeal sings during the Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday vigil in the Dunning Memorial Chapel Sunday night. The vigil was held to commemorate the birthday of the civil rights leader. Speakers included President Alan J. Stone, Chaplain Reverend Jesse Perry, and senior Bryant Martin. photo by Brent Oeschger.

RA Selection Process Begins

By Phil Allmen
Staff Reporter

The beginning of each Winter term marks the beginning of the resident assistant (RA) selection for the following term.

Last Wednesday, an informational meeting was held for all those interested in being an RA; 85 students were in attendance. Applications for positions became available the following day in the student affairs office.

Caroline Schneider, Bruske Hall Director, is in charge of the RA selection process this year.

"It's hard to say on paper what an RA does. There are so many different things an RA does, from counseling and being a receptive listener to setting up corridor meetings," said Schneider.

The RA selection process has two parts to it. The first part, the carousel, is comprised of four sections.

Four applicants, led by a current RA, will participate in group processes to facilitate discussions and problem solving techniques. Each applicant will be interviewed by current RAs and by the administration. Finally, current RAs will role play various scenarios to see how the applicants deal with the situa-

tion.

Current RAs will then evaluate each of the applicants on how well she or he performs.

The second part of the selection process consists of formal interviews with the Dean of Students James Kridler and the hall directors.

This selection process will start on January 28 and will conclude by the end of February. Those selected will be notified before the mid-term break.

Sophomore Dan Scripps, current RA, feels the selection process enables the decision makers to effectively evaluate RA candidates and choose those best suited for the position.

"It is a good process with a mix of practical situations and opportunities for problem solving and team building. It's fairly thorough, which I think leads to a competent staff," said Scripps.

Going through the interview process is a good learning opportunity for those who are thinking about becoming RAs, but may not want a position next term.

"It's good experience to go through the process even if you do not plan on being an RA the following year. It is a good way to see

what an RA does and whether you want to be one at some point," said Schneider.

The application includes a cover letter, personal information and short essays dealing with various roles an RA is required to know.

The applicant must also secure three recommendations: from a job supervisor or faculty member, a student campus leader and a current RA or house manager.

The only student requirements for applying for the position is a minimum 2.25 GPA and that applicants must be current students. Those who are student teaching cannot be RAs during the term they are student teaching, and presidents of Greek organizations cannot be RAs during their terms of office.

"One popular misconception is that you have to be involved in 101 different things to be an RA. We are looking for individuals who are motivated, have good common sense and possess time-management skills," said Schneider.

There have already been 68 applications turned in for the RA positions; 18 current RAs will graduate in the spring. More positions may become available, but that number will not be determined until later in the term.

Land purchased for athletic purpose

By Christopher Wiederman
News Editor

The sound of tractors and combines could soon be replaced by the shouts of sports fans on a plot of land north of campus.

Alma College recently purchased land located a few miles north of the campus with intentions of using it for athletic fields when current facilities become insufficient. The college purchased the \$29,000 property through plant funds in the college budget.

Located on the west side of Charles Road in Pine River Town-

ship, the plot is currently being rented out by the college for agricultural use.

The acquisition of the land is part of a plan for the college that includes the building of a recreational facility and an expansion of athletic offerings.

Plans for the land will not go into affect until it is deemed necessary, most likely when a recreational facility is built.

"The current baseball or soccer fields are the most likely locations for the recreation building," said President Alan Stone.

The building, which is tentatively

scheduled to be built within the next five years, will have three or four basketball/tennis courts and an indoor track, in addition to other athletics-related amenities.

"We are currently in the process of looking for donors for the recreation building," said Stone. The school is currently working with architects to find out the cost as well as get an idea of the building's appearance and structure.

The need for the recreation building stems from both the lack of indoor tennis facilities and the growing interest in intramural sports.

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Colina Wing offers many features

By Dan Scripps
Freelance Writer

As Alma College students returned to campus last week, they had their first opportunity to use the newly constructed Colina wing of the Monteith Library.

According to Library Director Peter Dollard, the new wing will easily accommodate an additional 50,000 volumes and will be adequate for the next 12 to 15 years.

Some of the features of the new addition, made possible by a contribution from Alma College Trustee John Colina and his wife, include two new study rooms and several small study lounges. A computer classroom will also become available.

"It's exciting because it will give us the opportunity to instruct students not only in the current system of Infotrac and the like, but also in areas such as the Internet," Dollard said.

This classroom will be wired and have new furniture by the end of the month and should be operational by the time the class of 2000 is enrolled.

It's exciting because it will give us the opportunity to instruct students not only in the current system of Infotrac and the like, but also in areas such as the Internet

**-Peter Dollard
Library Director**

In addition to the new wing, the older part of the library was also renovated with new paint and carpet so that it would match both the style and color of the Colina Wing.

"We wanted to make the main level consistent with the quality of the wing, as far as furniture and paint, among other things," said Dollard.

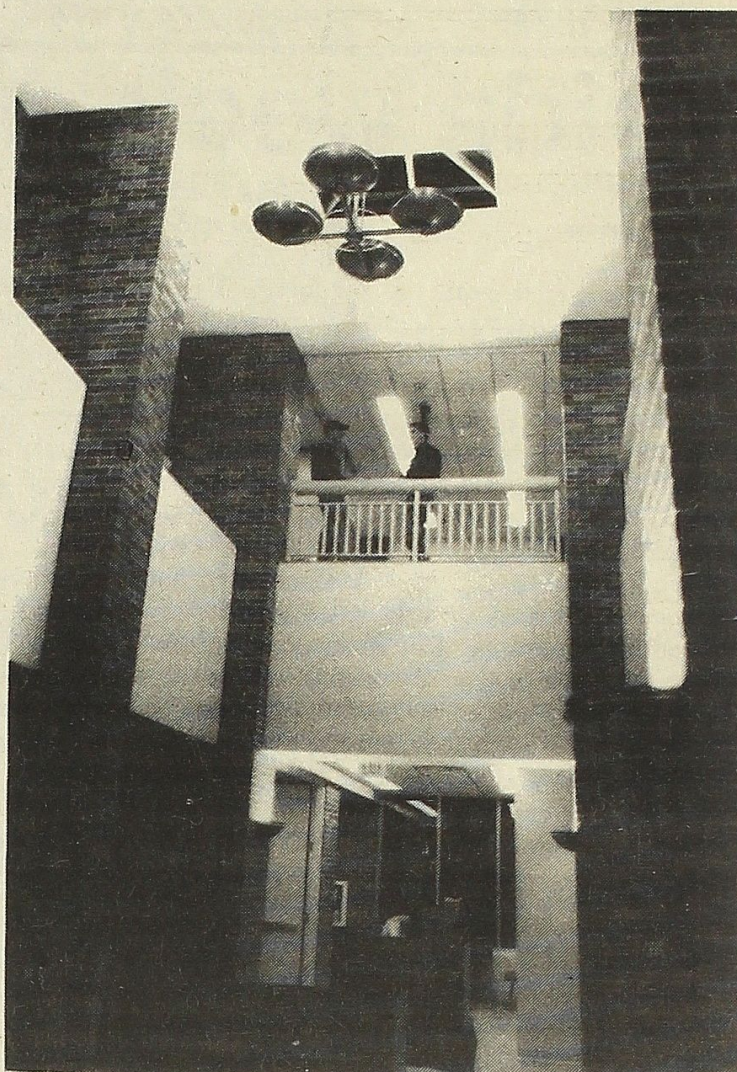
Students will also notice other changes, such as a more open lobby, a larger circulation desk, the new magazine shelves and a new reading chair setup.

Sophomore Sharon Stiller commented, "I really like the circular setup of the chairs because, in addition to providing an ideal study climate, it also promotes social skills."

According to Dollard, all of these changes were made to enhance the appearance of both sections of the library.

Many of the current library employees, as well as some others specifically hired for the job, spent their vacation moving books to the new wing and rearranging the remaining books so that they are easy to locate.

The new Colina Wing of the Monteith Library was completed over the winter break. Photo by Brent Oeschger.



Changes occur on campus over break

By Christopher Wiederman
News Editor

Students returning from Winter break were greeted by several improvements to campus.

Physical Plant installed automatic doors at the west end of Swanson Academic Center and the ground level entrance of the Physical Education Center for easier access for handicapped students and faculty.

"Though the doors are not required by state regulations, we felt that they are difficult to enter for those with physical difficulties," said Physical

Plant Director Duane Knecht.

In addition to the new doors, the most noticeable additions are the white and maroon signs identifying facilities within campus buildings. The signs attempt to eliminate any confusion for people trying to locate different departments around campus.

"I think the signs have added a professional touch to campus, and the automatic doors are nice to have and are a needed improvement," said junior Steve Vance.

Several small improvements were made including new carpeting on

the first floor of Newberry Hall and the Sigma Chi fraternity house. Also, several stairwells were painted and bathrooms repaired and maintained.

Much of the efforts of Physical Plant went to the finishing touches on the library.

"When the students leave, we hit the ground running," said Knecht. It is difficult to do major repairs and additions while students are on campus, so physical plant plans a full schedule of improvements when students are on break.

Forestry an ecological priority for Alma

By Trisha A. Warner
Special Projects Reporter

The City of Alma is on track with the current ecologically-sound environmental trends.

The city's forestry program, under the direction of City Forester Dave Waldron and Tree Trimmers Tony Minser and Brenda Rohn, requires the maintenance of the city's tree population, provides safety to pedestrians and promotes overall beauty.

"The city has always had a forestry program, but it's been especially active in the last few years," said Ken Feldt, director of public services for Alma.

The program is not maintained simply through community interest. A city ordinance was established to keep forestry awareness and safety alive. It also regulates the activities of property owners by requiring permits for the planting or removal of trees in the public right-of-way, the area between the sidewalk and street curb.

Operating in a five-year cycle, the program calls for the removal of dead and dangerous trees, the planting of new trees and the maintenance of existing trees. This mission includes

only the trees on city property and the public right-of-way, and it specifies for certain tree qualities.

"There are a lot of differences between a street tree and a yard tree," Waldron said. "A street tree has to be shapely; it cannot be too low to the ground or branch out. We look for heartiness and size. We cannot use trees that are too tall or wide."

Each year, trees in a different section of the town undergo treatment. Tree growth is slow, and this plan incorporates the phenomenon. By the time the workers return to a section five years later, trimming and removal are again necessary. A variety of maple, ash and linden trees are used to replenish the tree population.

"I choose three different species so we are not caught with only one type of tree in a disease outbreak," explained Waldron.

Last year 57 trees were removed, 40 saplings were planted, and 411 trees were trimmed in the city's southeast side, from Total Refinery south. The cost of this service totaled \$91,586; the program is supported by the city's general fund of

levied tax dollars.

To help defer the cost, the forestry department offers a program for property owners who want a new tree on their property. If they purchase the tree—costing approximately \$70—the forestry department will plant it for them.

Tree trimming is an important job, said Waldron. All of his trimmers are certified to operate the machinery successfully. They continually attend seminars to update their certification.

Waldron also pointed out that tree trimming is not void of danger. The job requires workers to ascend as high as 55 feet in the air in order to trim adequately. Furthermore, the city's trimmers must constantly be aware of power line risks. Since they are not certified "line trimmers," they must remain 10 feet from all power lines.

According to Feldt, a forestry program of this nature is especially important for the safety of city residents and the environment. Trees must be trimmed, he said, to avoid excessive interference with electrical lines and to provide 8 1/2 feet of sidewalk clearance for pedestrians.

Survey places safety as Alma's top quality

By Christopher Wiederman
News Editor

Do you feel safe at Alma? A recent national survey found campus safety to be Alma College's key strength.

The National Survey of High School Guidance Counselors gave Kalamazoo College, University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and Michigan Technological University the highest ratings for overall quality of education in Michigan.

The guidance counselors were asked to rate each college or university from a list of over 800 schools throughout the country on the following characteristics, which are considered important to high school students: overall quality, leadership opportunities, financial aid, academic programs, athletic programs, social life, value, personal attention from faculty and campus safety.

"The competition for the best students increases every year, and that is why many colleges are borrowing marketing techniques

that are used by sophisticated consumer marketers," explained Richard Plank, associate professor of marketing at the Western Michigan Haworth School of Business and advisor to the research team that conducted the study, in a recent press release.

Plank continued, "Guidance counselors develop a substantial knowledge about the strengths and weaknesses of schools...The type of ratings developed in this study complement the marketing activities of schools to provide prospective students with a better sense of which schools are most appropriate for pursuing a college degree."

"I feel safe walking around campus, though I think that the academic quality of Alma is its most important characteristic," said sophomore Holly Bailey.

The second annual study of the opinions of the nation's high school guidance counselors was conducted by Collegiate Information Services, a research and communications consulting firm.

Although they do not meet their goal every year, the workers try to plant one tree to replace any tree removed.

In Feldt's opinion, the forestry program is a definite priority.

He cites Alma's honorary recognition as "Tree City USA" for over 10 years as a material benefit of the ecological plan.

The members of the Diversity Enhancement Team Climate and Curriculum Subcommittee encourage the Alma College Community to take advantage of the Learning opportunities presented by Pride Week. Pride Week will take place from January 15-19.

Dan Scripps, Class of '98

Gina Petonito, Asst. Professor of Sociology

Tony Rickard, Asst. Professor of Education

Jessy Perry, Chaplin

Jason Darrow, Class of '97

Schedule of Events

Monday, Jan 15:

Remembrance of Dr. King

Tuesday, Jan. 16:

**Keynote Speaker Lev Raphael
"Coming Out in Michigan"**

Wednesday, Jan. 17:

**Blue Jeans Day!
Forum with Alumni and
Gay Rights Activist
Alan Otis**

Thursday, Jan. 18:

**Video Presentation
"Always My Kid"**

Leadership opportunities available in '96

By Laura M. Paetz
Editor-in-Chief

Applications are becoming available to students interested in various paid leadership positions for the 1996-97 academic year.

These positions include resident assistants, Orientation Committee members, Homecoming Committee members, Alma College Union Board staff, WQAC general manager and Almanian and Scotsman editors-in-chief.

Resident assistant (RA) applications are now available in the student affairs office and are due by January 19. The student affairs staff will use a carousel process, which involves a variety of interview methods such as role plays, group discussions and problem solving, and formal interviews, to screen candidates. These carousels will take place January 28 and February 3. On February 7 applicants will be notified of second interviews, which will take place the week of February 12. Final selection and notification of new resident assistants will take place by February 23. Sixteen to

20 students will be needed to fill these positions.

Students who are or have been resident assistants qualify to become assistant hall directors. Students interested in these positions should send a letter of application and resume to Dean of Students James Kridler by January 24.

The Orientation Committee (OC) works primarily during pre-term but also participates in preorientation (formerly EXPLO!) in the spring. OCs develop programs such as "A to Z," the Traditions Dinner and a dance, which take place during pre-term. They also participate as student assistants for pre-term courses.

"We're not only looking for outgoing, extroverted people, but also people who may be more introverted who can relate to first-year students who are more introverted and shy," said Bill Arnold, associate dean of students.

Arnold further explained qualities sought in potential OCs.

"We look for people who are confident enough in themselves so that they can go out and help other people feel like a part of the campus...and those who are not afraid to take a

risk in the sense that they are not afraid to make the first step in getting to know someone."

Arnold also highlighted the fact that being an OC is good leadership experience, since OCs interact with many other students and administrators through this experience.

OC applications will be available Monday, Feb. 12, in the student affairs office and are due February 23. Interviews will start March 6 and final notification of OCs will take place by March 11. Students who have been OCs must reapply.

The Homecoming Committee needs students to be co-chairs of the committee as well as work on Homecoming court, special events, publicity, dance and parade committees.

"We need people who are outgoing, creative, willing to work as a team member and are committed. Anyone is welcome to apply—no previous experience is necessary," said Homecoming Advisor Jamie Hickey, Gelston Hall director. First-year students and sophomores are especially encouraged to apply.

Applications will soon be available and interviews for positions will take place in mid-February. The committee will meet in the spring to brainstorm theme possibilities and plan events.

Applications for the Alma College Union Board (ACUB) will be available February 12. Those who wish to apply for ACUB president must return their applications by February 16; interviews for this position will take place February 19-21. Those applying for other board positions must return their applications by February 23; interviews for these positions will take place March 6-8. ACUB board members for 1996-97 will be selected by March 11.

WQAC general manager or Almanian or Scotsman editor-in-chief applications will be available Friday, Jan. 19, and are due Thursday, Feb. 1, in the student affairs office.

Keeping You Informed

University of Texas summer research program

The University of Texas is offering a summer research program for undergraduate students interested in pursuing a graduate degree in biomedical sciences.

The emphasis of the program is to provide trainees with laboratory experience through specific research projects. This focus will include extensive background preparatory reading, experiment designs, data analyses and result summarization. Participants will submit a research abstract for publication and may be asked to present their data in a research forum.

The laboratory work will be supplemented with weekly seminars focusing on biomedical ethics, career development, scientific technique and clinical applications. Specialized training in laboratory and radiation safety, laboratory animal methodology and research technology are also provided.

College credit can be earned. Questions regarding the application process may be directed to the program director, Robin L. Hickman at (713) 792-5758 or hickman@dean.med.uthtmc.edu.

Free Mini-Grant Workshops offered

Groups interested in obtaining a Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs mini-grant for art programs or activities are invited to attend a free workshop at 9 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 17, at the Anderson Enrichment Center in Saginaw or at 7 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 18, at the Gladwin Arts Council in Gladwin.

A representative from the Saginaw Community Foundation, Regranting Agency for Region 7, will explain the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs

mini-grant program, eligible program expenditures, the application process and answer questions.

Mini-grants of up to \$2,000 are available on a matching basis for arts activities sponsored by arts groups, local government units, schools and nonprofit organizations. Grants are awarded three times per year in Arenac, Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Iosco, Isabella, Midland, Ogemaw, Roscommon, Saginaw and Tuscola counties by the Saginaw Community Foundation.

To register for the workshop, call Joann Chase at (517) 755-0545. For questions, call Michelle Niederstadt at the same number.

Glacier Park to hire 900 college students for summer jobs

College students from across the country are being sought for summer jobs at one of the nation's most spectacular national parks.

Glacier National Park, located in the northwest corner of Montana, is best known for its rugged mountain wilderness and its historic lodges. Glacier Park, Inc., is looking for students to fill more than 900 summer jobs in all segments of the hotel and hospitality areas.

Jobs include a large variety of hotel positions such as hotel front desk, room attendants, cooks, wait persons and bus drivers. Many students also participate in the guest entertainment, which includes American Cabaret Theater, another Glacier Park tradition. Employees are needed from mid-May to early October. The company is especially interested in students majoring in hotel/restaurant management, culinary arts, travel/tourism, accounting music and theater.

For details on jobs and salaries call Glacier Park, Inc., at (602) 207-2620, or write Glacier Park, Inc., Dial Tower, Phoenix, AZ, 85077-0924.

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ACUB sponsors comedian

By Phil Allmen
Staff Reporter

Rob Paravonian, a musical comedian sponsored by ACUB, entertained a packed Jones Auditorium last Saturday night using three chords and his wits.

Paravonian explained to the audience his desire to play guitar, so after getting his new acoustic guitar for Christmas, he managed to learn three chords. He then proceeded to astound the audience with a medley of pop songs using only three chords.

"I can play the same three chords as he can, so maybe some day I will become a comedian too," said senior Becky Shelley.

Paravonian lives in Chicago and is a regular at the Chicago Improv. He was a grand prize winner on ABC's America's Funniest People

and has performed comedy professionally for three years.

"I mainly perform in the Midwest, from Colorado to Pennsylvania to Minnesota. My goal as a comedian is to hit the water in each direction," remarked Paravonian.

During the school year, Paravonian prefers to perform on college campuses.

"Playing for a college crowd is much better than the club scene. It's more fun to get reactions from college-aged students compared to some drunks you find in the clubs," said Paravonian.

The Alma crowd of over 100 was about average for Paravonian, who has performed for crowds as large as 400 people to gatherings as small as 12.

Paravonian's repertoire consisted primarily of musical comedy, but he addressed a number of different

issues in his lyrics. After opening with his three chord medley, he sang about his Toyota Tercel econobox, dead music singers, his failed SAT and Scooby Doo.

"I loved him. He was my type of comedian. His using music as a gimmick gave us the opportunity to relate to what he was talking about," said senior Kevin Kopacz.

One song, *Let's Just Be Friends*, dealt with the problem of how to tell someone you just want to be friends. Although the song does not offer the most sensitive way to break off a relationship, almost everyone in the room could relate.

Paravonian's easy-going style of comedy was pleasant for all.

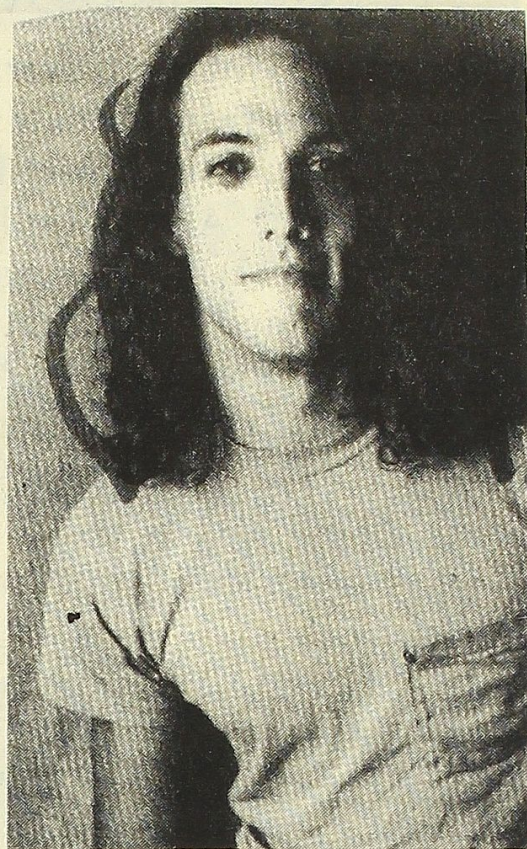
"It was good, clean fun," commented ACUB member junior Kathy Taylor.

Paravonian's 90-minute performance was a nice alternative way

to spend a Saturday evening. ACUB's ability to find talented individuals is commendable, for it brings the Alma College community new ways to be social and have fun.

Comedian Rob Paravonian, sponsored by the Alma College Union Board, performed Saturday night in Jones Auditorium.

About 100 students enjoyed his act. Photo courtesy of the Alma College Public Relations Office.



Twelve Monkeys offers new slant on old idea

By Char Vandermeer
and Mark Andrews
Feature and Opinion Editors

While *Twelve Monkeys* may have been a sort of *Bladerunner* meets *Die Hard With a Vengeance*, the flick was a fun one.

Not exactly fans of science fiction or hard-core action fluff, we weren't sure what to expect. However, director Terry Gilliam (*Brazil*) created a well-made and interesting film.

Unlike typical sci-fi thrillers, *Twelve Monkeys* was not nearly as predictable as many of its counterparts in the genre. The plot twisted and turned at an amazing rate although it was at times a bit tedious—the flashback scenario was repeated about five times too many, and believe us, the point was well-taken after the second repetition.

At times the movie seemed incomprehensible, but Gilliam tracked and re-tracked vital portions using a number of interesting historical links, flashbacks and seeming inadvertent slips-of-the-tongue to make the plot and action understandable and fun.

Dealing with time-travel is an overused gimmick in cinema, but Gilliam made the ploy appear original. Bruce Willis's character, James Cole, was forced to see the his life from the perspective of past, present and future simultaneously, calling into question the certainty of our plane of existence and intellect. Are things really as they appear?

Other characters are also forced to perceive themselves in different points of reality. Katherine Reilly, (Madeline Stowe) a successful psychiatrist, serves as a nice hold on reality as we perceive it. However,

she too begins to question what is real and what is not.

Willis, well-known for his painful attempts at serious film-making (*Hudson Hawke*, *Die Hard* and *The Color of Night*) actually turns in an impressive performance as a convict from the future who "volunteers" to travel back to 1996 and trace a deadly virus that has wiped

out nearly the entire population, leaving a sanitized and impersonal future.

Brad Pitt, as the psychotic Jeffrey Gaines, once again proves that he really can act and is not just the pretty boy from *Thelma and Louise*.

His memorable portrayal of a deranged and delusional mental patient is a shocking and successful

departure from his latest role as the tough cop/sensitive family man in *Seven*. Playing the role with energy and humor he pulls off the mentally impaired character as successfully as Dustin Hoffman's well-known performance of an autistic man in *Rainman*.

Thankfully, *Twelve Monkeys* does not have a happy, sunny and

no-strings-attached Hollywood ending. Although plenty of room is left for such an ending, the expected and anticipated "cheese-covered" conclusion never occurs.

Twelve Monkeys is certainly not without its faults, but it is a striking and enjoyable movie breaking up a string of unimaginative Hollywood money-making drivel.

Hoefel brings Jamaican experience back to Alma

By Elizabeth Edwards
Freelance Writer

Professor of English Roseanne Hoefel returned to Alma College with many souvenirs of her trip to Jamaica.

However, the trip wasn't your average tourist excursion.

Hoefel spent fall term teaching at the University of the West Indies (UWI) as a Fulbright Lecturer.

UWI is the only university in the Caribbean, and has three campuses located around the Caribbean. Hoefel taught on the Mona campus in Kingston, Jamaica, which accommodates 9,000 students. She instructed two classes: Modern American Novel with 57 students and African American Literature with 28 students.

Modern American Literature is the equivalent to the modern American novel class taught by Hoefel at Alma, although it incorporates other materials, including poetry. Although some of the classes are similar, there are a lot of differences between Alma College and UWI.

"One of the most noticeable differences was the title of the department itself—Department of Literatures in English," said Hoefel.

The primary area of study in the

Caribbean is West Indian Literature so this was the first time in ten years that a class on modern American novels was taught.

Hoefel noted another difference between Alma and UWI: the attitudes of the students. Because the university is shared among the other Caribbean countries, only three percent of the Jamaican population has university access and students are very aware and thankful of the opportunities.

"The students are extremely appreciative and studious. They also have to accept what UWI has to offer," said Hoefel.

Hoefel also had to adjust to a different type of class schedule.

Unlike the typical Monday, Wednesday and Friday or Tuesday and Thursday class schedules that professors follow at Alma, professors at UWI would teach the same class three times a week at different times each day.

The UWI class schedule is based on a British system which requires two instructional hours a week and tutorials for a third hour. Tutorials break the large classes into smaller groups that meet once a week and provide an opportunity for more one-on-one attention from the professor. The maximum number of

students in a tutorial is 12.

When asked if this experience had changed her approach to teaching, Hoefel responded, "It has changed my worldview—changed everything. I would highly recommend studying overseas for Alma students."

Hoefel returned from her experience in Jamaica with not only many wonderful memories, but also several special souvenirs—internationally known Blue Mountain coffee, beautiful batik cloth, sculpture and pottery.

However, when asked to describe the most valuable thing she brought back, she said, "The grace and stamina and good humor of the Jamaican people."

Professor of English Roseanne Hoefel recently returned to campus after spending a year teaching at the University of West Indies, Jamaica. She is pictured here with souvenirs she brought back: Blue Mountain coffee, a batik cloth, sculpture and pottery. Photo by Char Vandermeer.



**Look
What's
Happening!**

THEATRE / DANCE

Wharton Center, Lansing, (517) 432-2000

*Forever Plaid — Jan. 24-25

*State Fair — Feb. 2-4

Midland Center for the Arts, (517) 631-8250

The Curious Savage — Jan. 18-

20 & Jan. 26-27

MSU Mainstage Productions, (517) 355-0148

*Dance Concert — Feb. 15-18

Breslin Center, East Lansing (517) 432-5000

*Jesus Christ Superstar — Jan. 17

Boarshead Theatre, Lansing

(517) 484-7805

*Escanaba in da Moonlight —

Jan. 11 - Feb. 3

*Dark Night Theatre — Jan. 22

HISTORY / ARTS

Alma College, Flora Kirsch Beck Gallery

*Print Exhibit, Bruce Thayer —

Jan. 15 - Feb. 8

Midland Center for the Arts, (517) 631-3250

*Stitched, Layered, Pieced:

Michigan Artists and the Quilt — Jan. 13 - Mar 17

*Sculptural Forms-Contemporary

Thayer's art exhibits political appeal

By Emily Damstra
Freelance Writer

Artist Bruce Thayer of Mason, Michigan, presents a politically-energized exhibit in the Flora Kirsch-Beck Gallery through Feb-

ruary 8. His work is sure to grab the attention of both art enthusiasts and political buffs.

Thayer utilizes very broad spectrums of size, media and content. The dimensions range from the postcard-size "Pig and a Pork" to

the huge piece covering an entire wall in the center of the gallery.

Printmaking processes, rubber stamps and handwriting are among the various styles involved in the show. Utilizing these techniques, Thayer covers relevant political issues.

"Our society has been in a transition from a manufacturing to a service economy," begins Thayer's artist's statement. "My work investigates both the psychological and physical state of the human condition resulting from these changes. When a society is under stress certain questions arise concerning environmental and domes-

tic situations. I use the element of satire to bring these issues to the surface. My work relates to historical and current conditions."

The garish, cartoon-like art reminds Associate Professor of Art Robert Rozier of the Hairy Who and Chicago Monster School movements, which also involve a brash, rebellious, independent spirit. Both movements originated in the area of the Art Institute of Chicago, where Thayer earned his Master of Fine Arts degree. Indeed, the art certainly has an urban look.

Rozier said the repetition, flow of words and incorrect grammar support the aesthetic of the caricaturish figures. In one piece, the artist pokes fun at Senator Jesse Helms, but "I think he loves America," said Rozier.

The candid political commentary prompted Rozier to compare Thayer with conservative Rush Limbaugh, though the two are at opposite ends of the political spectrum.

Some of Thayer's work deals with

"the dehumanizing effect of machinery on people," said Rozier, which might have something to do with the fact that the artist works for General Motors.

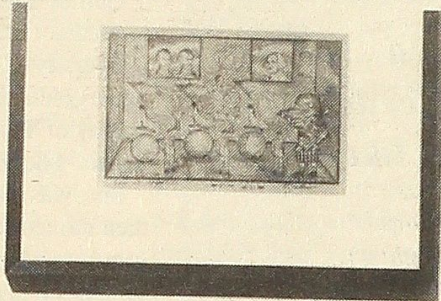
"As chaotic as [the art seems], Thayer knows formal structure," said Rozier. "He is not restricted by style. I envy his freedom."

Senior art major Brent Oeschger found it "refreshing to see work come to Alma College that has an awareness of political events in the world."

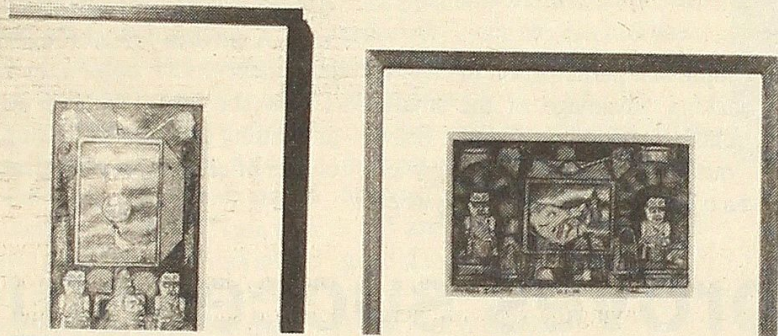
"I feel like his work is more in touch with our generation than some other [artists]," said Oeschger.

Thayer regularly submits work for the annual Alma College State-wide Print competition, and several of his pieces have won awards. Alma's permanent collection boasts six of his bright and flashy pieces.

Also on display in Clack Art Center are Robert Farber's small paintings of fruit which hang in the lounge gallery.



These works are typical pieces by Bruce Thayer, whose paintings are currently exhibited in the Flora Kirsh-Beck Gallery. Thayer's art, which is made with mixed media—including rubber stamps — carries political undertones. Photo by Char Vandermeer.



Zorn provides music for past generation

By Chris Sienko
Freelance Hep Cat

John Zorn's *Locus Solus* has been recently reissued after 12 years of near obscurity on the Tzadik label, a record label he himself created.

Zorn has been hanging around the lower east side of New York since the middle 70's, playing tricks on jazz, modern classical composition, and European Avant Garde, throwing them at each other in a frenzied aesthetic that he developed based on the principle of changing the channel on a TV.

Unlike my normal bombastic and epic-length reviews, this one is going to be a quick one, because *Locus Solus* (which is a Latin phrase meaning "a quiet place") is a quick record. Not in the sense of being a short disc, but in the sense that if you leave the room to make a sandwich while this disc is playing, you will miss six songs and at least 300 cool musical moments.

The disc consists of 38 separate tracks, divided into five groupings. Each group contains six to eight songs by a trio of musicians that varies from grouping to grouping. Names include drummers Mark Miller and Ikue Mori, guitarist Arto Lindsay, vocalist Peter Blegvad and turntable manipulators (!) Christian Marclay and Whiz Kid.

Each of these trio formats lends itself to a unique sound, as each musician has a unique palette of sounds that they are able to coax from their given instrument, and each of them has had a lot of expe-

rience in improvisation.

Uh oh, I just said the "i" word. Please, please don't let this distract you from reading on or prevent you from buying *Locus Solus*. I know that thoughts of improvisation conjures up images of pretentious jazzheads in Eurotrash garb, honking and bleating on an empty stage to a disaffected audience that strikes the proper pose of rapt attention that waffles between the

composition and their cappuccino. Well, my friends, it just ain't so.

The opening track, "Bass and the Treble," begins with some squawky birdcalls which is interrupted by Marclay's awesome turntable work. Those of you who only know turntable music as rap-styled scratching take note: Marclay's ability to blend big band with opera, and toss on a drunken round of "99 Bottles of Beer on the Wall"

for good measure is nothing short of inspiring.

As Blegvad begins reciting his poem over the sounds of honking cars and children singing "Jesus Loves Me," and while Zorn lowers his saxophone bell into a bucket of water, you begin to realize that this is going to be a harrowing but eye-opening ride into the land of pure expression.

With the exception of six tunes,

which use overdubbing, this entire disc was on-the-spot improvised. This is the land where talented musicians are able to express the sounds they hear in their head without going through all the rigmarole of putting them into a cliched verse-chorus-verse structure.

Daunting? Yes. Mildly inaccessible? Probably. Fascinating? Absolutely. Essential? Without a doubt.

Alumni enjoy working in Washington D.C.

By Char Vandermeer
Feature Editor

Alma students tend to develop close and lasting relationships extending far beyond the four years spent on Alma's campus.

Roommates Kerrie Kempermyn, a 1993 graduate, and Shannon Garrett, a 1994 graduate, are currently living in Washington, D.C., pursuing their individual career interests.

Kempermyn, an English and art double major, is now working at a small publishing firm as an editorial assistant and has found life after college rewarding and vastly different from her life at Alma.

Although working in D.C. is decidedly a departure from studying in the small-town community of Alma, Kempermyn enjoys the pressures, responsibilities and opportunities her position at the American Association for Higher Education offers.

"I put out a monthly twenty-

page magazine for our members," said Kempermyn. "I also edit and lay out publications and work with authors, printers and designers."

As an editor, she puts her English major to the test. However, she regrets that her passion for art and her love for creating has fallen by the wayside.

"Sometimes I feel like my talents aren't being used—they're just languishing. I would like to write creatively and do more art," commented Kempermyn.

Both Kempermyn and Garrett agree that the fast-paced city life is a vast departure from their years at Alma.

"It's hard to hole up—unlike at Alma. You feel like you have to see human faces," said Kempermyn.

"Living in the city brings out different parts of your character. Even coming back to Alma after living in D.C. is tough. I seem to struggle to remember what I did and who my friends were."

"A l m a spoiled me to the real world," said Garrett. "I really miss the

'bubble' and being out here is a lot more hard work and takes a lot more time. But it's kind of groovy to have your own place and life."

Garrett, who graduated with a degree in philosophy is now working

as a legislative correspondent for Michigan Senator Democrat Sander Levin. Garrett is responsible for replying to all constituent mail.

Currently, Garrett finds it frustrating working for the minority party, but she continues to advocate women's issues and enjoys working with ethical and moral issues and studying how they affect society and how people will benefit from changes.

"It's really stressful working for the minority party, seeing what the Republicans are doing to Medicare and the budget and [knowing] that we don't have the votes to stop them," said Garrett.

Both Kempermyn and Garrett agree that there is always something new and interesting in D.C. The city is full of art, politics, culture and change. They encourage current Alma students to check out the opportunities available and consider making the move from the quiet community of Alma to the city life of Washington, D.C.

I really miss the 'bubble' and being out here is a lot more hard work and takes a lot more time but it's kind of groovy to have your own place and life.

*-Shannon Garrett
1994 alumna*

baskets, Corinne Nelson — Jan 13 - Feb. 11

*Art From the Driver's Seat: Americans and their cars — Jan 20 - Mar. 10

Michigan Women's Historical Center and Hall of Fame, Lansing (517) 484-1880

*How the Suffragists Changed Michigan — ongoing

*Women at Work — ongoing
MSU Museum, Lansing (517) 355-2370

*Dinosaurs: A Global View

EVENTS

Heritage Center for the Performing Arts

*Kathryn Kolbert, speaker — Jan. 31

*Dr. Bruce Dull, speaker — Feb. 6

*Nicholas Delbanco, speaker — Feb. 8

Schuler Books, 2075 E. Grand River, Okemos (517) 349-8840

*Lev Raphael and Gershen Kaufman, authors — Jan. 25

ALMA PRIDE WEEK
VanDusen Fireside Lounge, 8 p.m.

*Lev Raphael, speaker/author — Jan. 16

*Open discussion forum on gay rights issues — Jan. 17

*Blue jeans day — Jan. 17

Bruske Hall Fireside, 8 p.m.
*Always My Kid, video presentation — Jan. 18

Jan. 16, 1995

Garner adds fresh perspective on history

New Professor sets high goals for coming term

By Jennifer Mounts
Staff Reporter

When the history department began searching for a professor who could teach United States Foreign Policy and Modern China and Japan, they found Karen Garner.

"It was a good coincidence of interests," said Garner, who also supplies the department with her knowledge of women's history.

Graduating with her doctorate from the University of Texas just last year, Garner had begun a nationwide job search. She eventually landed in Alma, bringing with her a wide variety of interests and experiences.

Her dissertation "Challenging the Consensus: Maud Muriel Russel's

Life and Political Activism," displays her interest in women's history. The dissertation was a starting point for a biography on Russel that Garner hopes to have published.

Russel was a left wing member of the communist party, intent on advocating relations with China during the McCarthy era. She was so politically unpopular that she was even investigated by our anti-communist government.

According to Garner, Russel spoke to "whoever was interested in hearing what she had to say. It was truly an individual effort."

In her U.S. Women's History course, Garner will be encouraging students to write their own mini-biography on a woman who

has made a significant contribution to our history. She also endorsed her course, China's Revolutionary History, as having spe-

excitement for her class load and a sincere interest in students' perspectives.

She hopes to increase student

from 150 to 300 students.

This variation in class size is a change she likes.

"Rather than just feeding them material," Garner said. "I would like to see more student interaction."

Garner spent most of her college career in Texas, attending the University of Texas, Dallas, as an undergraduate, and then the University of Texas at Austin for her master's degree.

She was born in Lansing and then moved to Wisconsin and returned to Michigan to attend high school in Kalamazoo. She then went on to pursue an archeological degree at the University of Colorado. A move to Texas brought her into history.

Now she finds herself at Alma and setting goals for a challenging cluster of classes for next term.

I am looking forward to the semester....Rather than just feeding [the students] material, I would like to see more student interaction.

-Karen Garner

cialized topics

"I'm looking forward to the semester," said Garner.

She spoke of her goals for the coming term, displaying a genuine

input and participation in class by taking advantage of the smaller class size at Alma. Garner previously taught at Texas A&M where a typical class contained anywhere

Bruske Hall pilot program proves successful

By Drew Pike
Freelance Writer

"It is an exciting step forward," said junior Brian Martin.

Referring to the Bruske Pilot Project, the newest use of computer technology on Alma's campus, Martin is impressed with Alma's willingness to experiment with the new options available.

Since the beginning of this year, some lucky students have had access into the world of computers without leaving the comforts of their rooms.

"They get hands-on experience from their rooms," said Donna Adams, user services coordinator.

All the hype revolves around the first floor in North Bruske Hall. The entire floor has been converted for the technological society of the '90s. Where cable and television connections spring from the wall, the hook-up to America Online and the World Wide Web are also accessible.

These students now have access to the Worldnet systems and other world-wide computer services that other students must travel to Swanson Academic Center to use.

"With their connection, they be-

come a node on Alma's campus," said Adams.

Students are assigned an Internet Protocol (IP) address after paying a fee for the term which allows them to plug into the world of interactive computers. Many have even produced their own homepages on the Internet.

Martin describes the amount of use these room provide as "extensive."

He also notes that approximately 20 percent of the Netscape use on Alma's campus comes from Bruske's computer quad. Considering the size of the school and the size of one quad, this is a considerable percentage.

Students are no longer merely accessing databases to find written sources for research papers—they share information and talk to

other students and professors they will probably never see. Students download research papers from professors and even ask professors from other campuses for input.

"I have conversations with professors at other colleges," said computer quad resident junior Lora Bingham.

The benefits of the Bruske Pilot Project are numerous. From the

comforts of a dorm room, anyone with the knowledge can bring the information of the world right back to their computer screen.

"I am so glad I don't have to go to the library two zillion times a day," said Bingham.

Even students that are less computer literate than others really do not need to worry. Students from first North Bruske are happy to

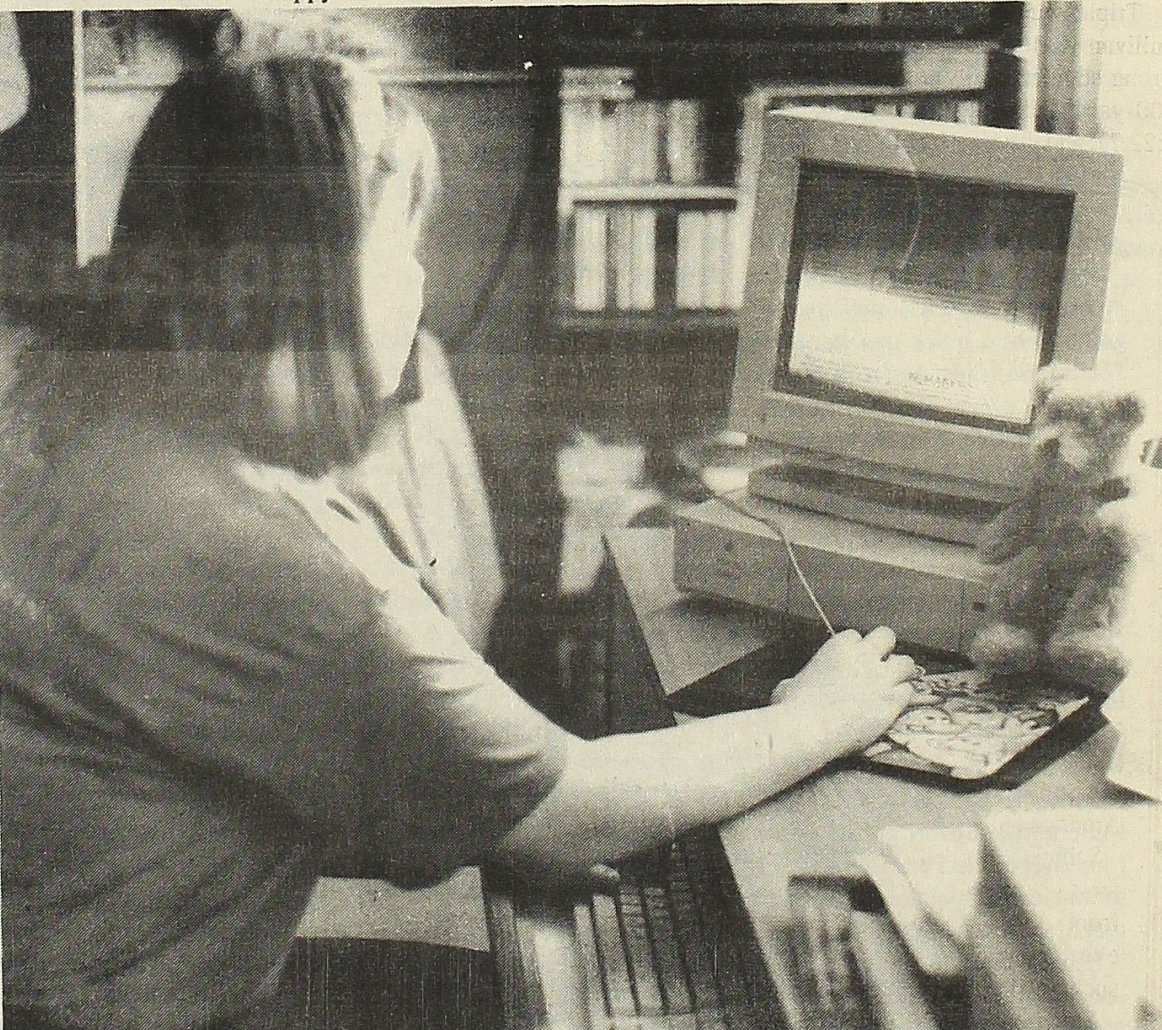
know they are helping other students and breaking ground in the computer world. As problems arise, these students are ready to help one another.

"It's a huge family," said Bingham. "Everybody helps each other."

"It's a good beginning and a good way for advancement in computer sciences," said Martin.

It's a good beginning and a good way for advancement in computer sciences.

-Brian Martin, '97



Junior Lora Bingham assembles a newsletter from the comfort of her Bruske Hall room. Bingham is a participant of the Bruske Pilot Project, located on the first floor of north Bruske. Photo by Char Vandermeer.

MUSIC / COMEDY

Heritage Center for the Performing Arts

*Ralph Botapek, pianist — Jan. 20

*West End Chamber Ensemble — Jan. 25

Western Jazz Quartet — Feb. 10

Midland Center for the Arts, (517) 631-1072

*From Belle to Broadway, Paige O'Hara — Jan. 26-28

Wharton Center, East Lansing (800) WHARTON

*Oak Ridge Boys — Jan. 19

Fairchild Auditorium, East Lansing (517) 355-3345

*MSU Faculty Artist Recital — Jan. 21

The Ark, Ann Arbor (313) 484-5656

*Mustard's Retreat — Jan. 19

*Ann Arbor Folk Festival — Jan.

27

Hill Auditorium, Ann Arbor (313) 48-5656

*Alanis Morissette — Feb. 18

The Palace, Pontiac (810) 377-0100

*Bush, Goo Goo Dolls — Feb. 28

State Fair Coliseum, Detroit (313)

484-5656

*Pantera and Type O Negative — Feb. 17

State Theatre, Detroit (313) 484-5656

*Tesla — Jan. 26

For more information, call the local Ticket Master outlet at (517) 773-3370.

Swimmers make strong team showing

By Dana Reinke
Sports Editor

Strong crowd support, two first-year student diving records and a near qualification for Nationals were not enough for Alma's men's and women's swimming and diving teams to come away victorious from their meet against Kalamazoo College.

The women were defeated by their conference opponents on Saturday 133-107. The men lost to Kalamazoo, ranked sixth in the nation last year, 141-84.

After not swimming a meet in almost five weeks, both teams had a lot of good swims, according to Head Coach Greg Baadte.

"I am very happy with our performances. Both Kalamazoo's men's and women's teams were ranked nationally last year and we held our own and did not get blown out of the water," said Baadte. "I am also thankful for the support from all the parents and students who took time to come over and watch our meet."

"The meet was a gauge—especially on the men's side of the meet—to let us know where we were after returning from Florida," said Assistant Coach Fred Parsons.

"There were a lot of good swims and our team had a lot of support for each other and from the strong showing of crowd support we received," said sophomore swimmer Jennifer Rocco.

Triple winner junior Danielle Sullivan lead the women to their strong showing. Sullivan won the 200-yard individual medley in 2:22.77, and the 500-yard freestyle

with a time of 5:28.53. In the 200-yard freestyle Sullivan nearly qualified for Nationals, missing the qualifying time by only six hundredths of a second, with a time of 1:58.25.

Baadte said he was not surprised by Sullivan's strong performances.

"It is nice to see her swimming that fast already. Now we just need to keep her on track for the rest of the season," he said.

First-year student Heather Klepper set two diving records. She was victorious in both the one-meter and three-meter events. Her point totals of 185.86 and 194.85 earned her Alma's school records.

Klepper said she was surprised, especially since she has had back problems that kept her from training in Florida.

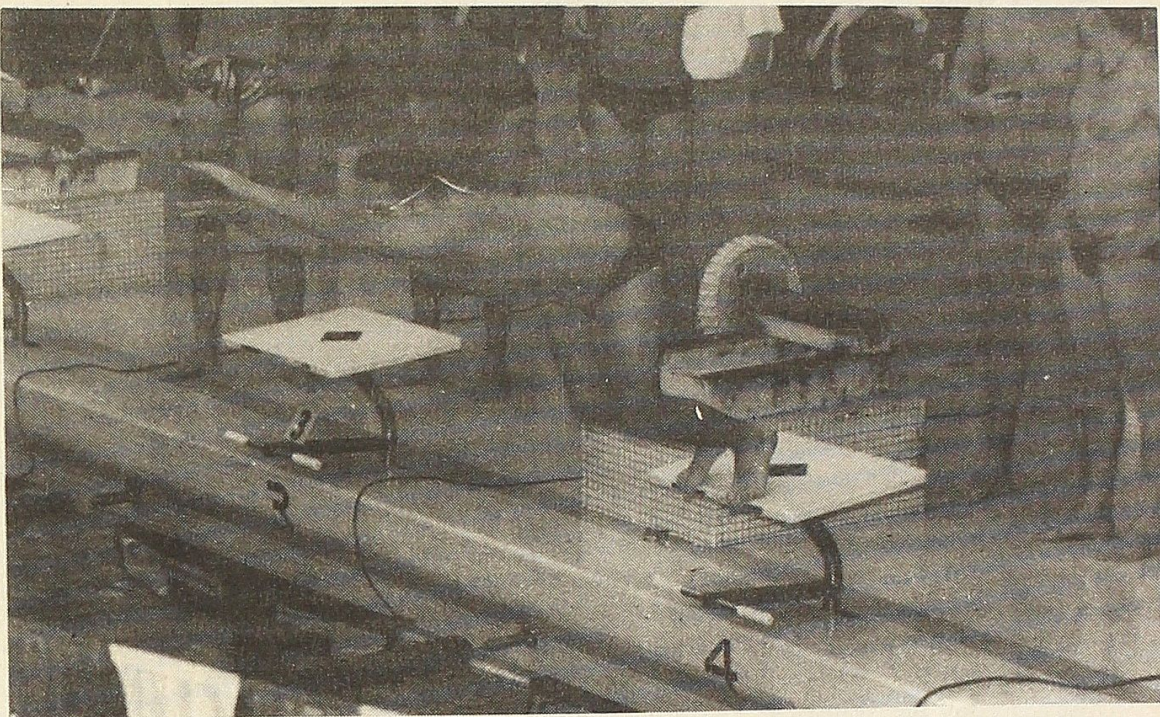
"I just went out and tried to do my best and let whatever happens happen," said Klepper.

"I knew she was going to be good. I think she has only reached about 60 percent of her potential so far," said Baadte.

Sophomore Renee DeGraaf earned the Scots a victory in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 26.07 and took second in the 100-yard freestyle with a time of 57.57. The swimmer DeGraaf beat in the 50-yard freestyle was the same one she lost to at the conference meet last year.

"Beating Juliette gives me a good indication to where I am now," said DeGraaf.

Fellow sophomore Jennifer Rocco had a strong day, swimming her lifetime bests in both the 500- and 1000-yard freestyle



An Alma swimmer springs off the board during the Saturday meet with Kalamazoo. Photo by Derek Warner.

events, said Baadte. With times of 5:57.77 and 12:10.47, she finished fourth and third respectively.

First-year student Libby Bequette swam to a second place in the 200-yard backstroke with a time of 12:20.55. Senior Melissa Wuchte outouched her nearest competitor at the wall for second place in the 200-yard butterfly, swimming a personal best of 2:34.69.

On the men's side of the meet, first-year student Bill James led the way with victories in both the 200-yard breaststroke and 200-yard butterfly with times of 2:33.71 and 2:07.21. Senior captain Brett Martin won the 100-yard freestyle with a time of 11:02.76. First-year stu-

dent Mark Oberman made up for a false start disqualification in the 200-yard freestyle with a win in the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 5:17.90.

After an internship in Washington D.C. during fall term, senior captain Eric Zettel returned to the men's team and took a third place in the 1000-yard freestyle with a time of 11:37.62 in his first meet back.

Zettel said he swam while in Washington, but did not train intensely.

"I didn't swim my typical events this meet, but overall I think I am doing well," said Zettel.

Senior Christian Betz helped the

Scots by scoring second place in the 100-yard freestyle with a 51.25. Martin, sophomore Matt Anderson and first-year student Keith Schall took third places in the 200-yard backstroke, 200-yard breaststroke and one-meter diving, respectively.

Alma's men's and women's swimming and diving teams continue their conference meet season at Albion on Tuesday. According to Baadte, both teams have a strong chance of winning.

"Since I have been coach, the men have never beaten Albion. We came close last year, but I think this is the first year we have a real chance," said Baadte.

SCOT Spotlight

Schiele earns career honors, makes history

By Julie Wilson
Staff Reporter

In the tradition of Alma College women's soccer, senior Juli Schiele is a champion.

The senior forward was recently named to the 1995 Division III All Midwest Regional Soccer Team by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America.

Schiele is the first woman from Alma to ever receive such honors.

She has been a starter for the Scots for four years, playing center and forward, and has been named to the MIAA first team three times.

Her final year has been her best, and final, year playing soccer, earning both national recognition and awards within the team. She was voted Most Valuable Player this year and

her sophomore year, was leading scorer for the Scots during her entire Alma College career and has set a record for career scoring.

As a senior, Schiele has led the Scots through their best season yet, a 6-6 MIAA fifth-place finish and a 10-7 overall record. This year, the women also earned a 1-0 first

This is it. It is my last year, and I played my best, which was my goal for the season.

*-Juli Schiele '96
Soccer MVP*

ever win over rival Hope and defeated the 1994 conference champion, Kalamazoo.

Said Schiele of her many recent accolades, "This is it. It is my last year, and I played my best, which was my goal for the season. I was shocked when I found out that I had received regional honors, and was thrilled to receive the team honors at our banquet."

Women's soccer coach Tammi Anderson realizes the player she had in Schiele.

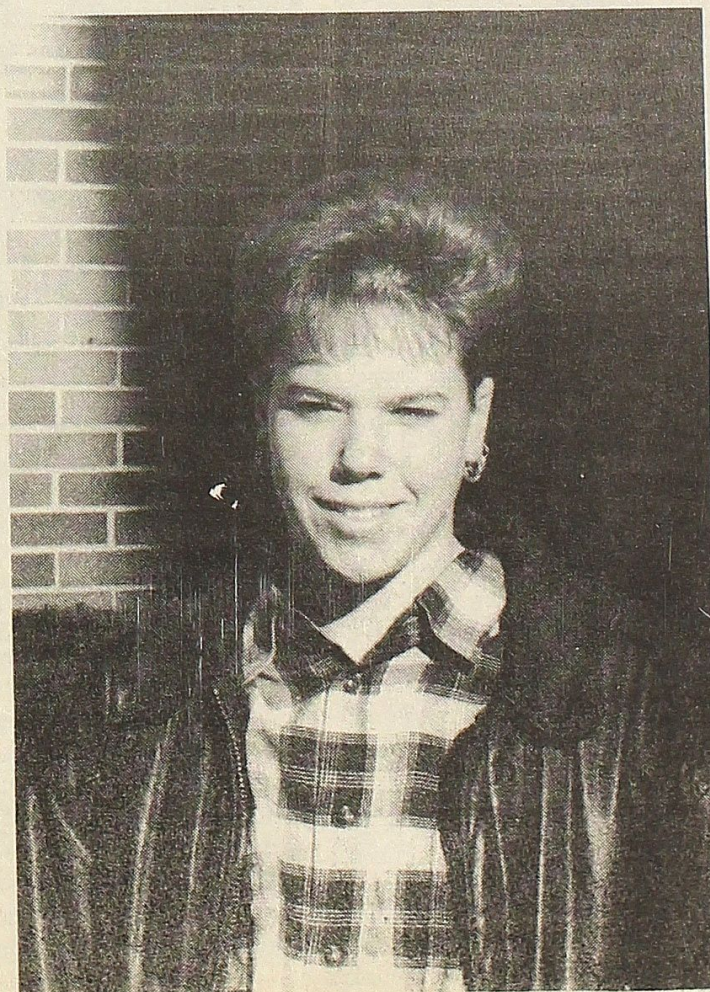
"She was one of those rare players—not a vocal motivator, but a role model for the younger players."

Anderson also commends Schiele for her intense work ethic, knowing that she always gave what she could to the sport and working to improve on any suggestions a coach might offer.

"It was also a pleasure working with her," added Anderson. "We will not be able to replace her as a player or as a teammate."

"This was a great way to finish my career at Alma. I will miss the team, but I am happy that I ended with my best performance," said Schiele.

Senior Juli Schiele earned historic honors in her last season playing soccer for Alma. Photo by Brent Oeschger.



Jan. 16, 1996

Alma, 10-3, rolls to a pair of victories

by Dan Scripps
Freelance Writer

With a pair of wins this past week, the Alma women's basketball team moved to 10-3 record, including a MIAA record of 2-1. With the wins, the Scots are enjoying a three game winning streak.

On Wednesday the Scots put on a show for the home crowd with an 81-55 victory over non-league foe Concordia College. The only thing more impressive than the final score was the Scots' 44-17 half-time lead. Coach Charlie Goffnet commented, "We probably played our best twenty minutes of the season there in the first half."

Junior Michelle Olds, who had seven assists in the win, added, "We went out and had fun. We just played basketball."

Also addressing the positives in the victory was junior Missy VanDamme, who said, "We moved the ball very well. I thought we played very well as a team." Along

with junior Jaami McClellan and first-year student Kristi Euler, Van Damme dominated the post, leading the Scots to a 55-31 rebounding advantage over the Cardinals.

Her sister, senior Michelle VanDamme, lit up the scoreboard with 17 points to lead all scorers, including five three-point shots. She also added eight rebounds to the Scots' effort.

The Cardinals were led by Lori Shingledecker with 14 points and Amy Wilson with 12.

Looking to Saturday's game at Albion, Michelle VanDamme commented, "We can not afford to take anyone lightly."

Her comments were echoed by Coach Goffnet, who added, "You've always got to be ready. You've got to play well or else anybody can beat you."

Despite these sentiments, the host Britons scared the Scots in the first-half on Saturday, going into the intermission with a 32-32 tie. After the break the Scots held the

Brits to twenty points as they moved to a 64-52 win. Leading the scorers was Missy VanDamme with 19 points and ten rebounds, followed by McClellan with 11 points and senior Ashley Reagh with 10. Coming off the bench, Euler added 7 points in twenty minutes of play. Michelle VanDamme and Michelle Olds each had six assists and three steals in the win.

The Brits were led by Darcey Durr with 17 points and Christie Cleveland with 9 points, 13 rebounds, and 10 assists.

Neither the Cardinals nor the Britons had a junior varsity team. Alma's junior varsity team will continue their season this Wednesday as they host Olivet for a 5:30 game. The varsity game begins at 7:30, also at home.

Goffnet states, "It's always nice to play in front of a good crowd. We really appreciate the support we get from the student body and faculty."



Senior Michelle VanDamme dribbles the ball toward the basket, escaping the defensive attack. Photo by Derek Warner.

Men's basketball suffers heartbreaking loss to Albion

by Dan Scripps
Freelance Writer

Going into the final ten minutes of the game against Albion Saturday, Alma's men's basketball team led by ten points. However, Albion hit six three-pointers in the final 11 minutes to walk away with an 88-80 victory in an MIAA contest.

The positive side of the loss for the Scots was earning respect. After beating Calvin for the first time since 1979 and playing a tough game against conference leader Hope, the Scots are gaining the respect of many teams in the league under the guidance of first-year coach Kevin Skaggs.

This respect was echoed by Albion coach Mike Turner, who

Senior Jason Osborn goes up for a layup in Saturday's game against Albion. The Scots' efforts proved insufficient, though, and the Scots lost 88-80.

said, "They completely dominated us for the first 29 minutes. They probably deserved to be ahead by more than they were."

Senior Chris Stacey, who led the team with 21 points and 18 rebounds, added, "It's disappointing after playing that hard and that smart for 30 minutes and not coming away with a win. We were switching defenses and doing everything that we did in the first half, they just really stepped up."

With the win, Albion moved to 3-1 in the MIAA and 11-4 overall, while the Scots fell to 3-12 overall and 1-2 in the MIAA.

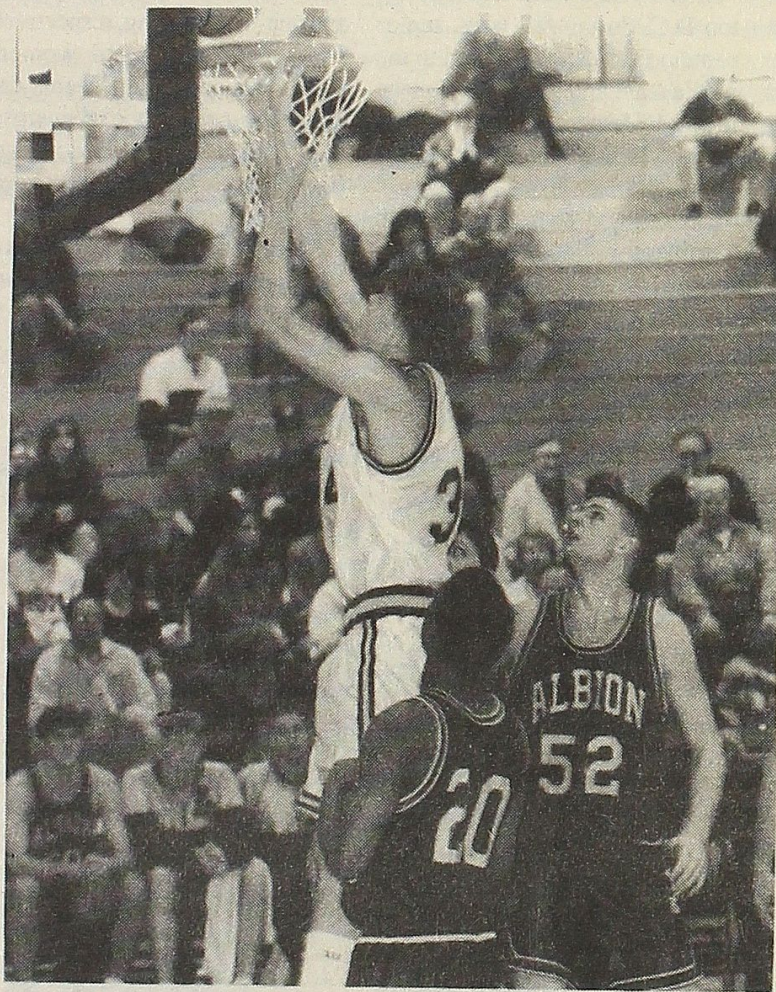
Despite the record, there is definitely cause for optimism. The improving Scots seem to play more and more as a team with each contest and now have the opportunity to play an easier schedule after completing games against the top teams in the conference.

This was summed up by Coach Skaggs, who said, "We're going to make some noise in the conference

before it's all over. We've played the top three teams in the league and now we have to play the middle three."

This goal of earning respect was also mentioned by first-year student Eric Spielhaupter, who added, "I think we've gained some respect from teams around the league. At the beginning of the season we were picked to finish dead last in the conference and I think people are realizing that we're not going to finish there."

Both Skaggs and Spielhaupter mentioned the team goal of hosting an MIAA tournament game, which would require a fourth place conference finish. A big part of this goal is the support the team receives here at home. Said Spielhaupter, "Fan support was great yesterday. It's so much easier to play in front of a good crowd." The Scots play Wednesday at Olivet and finish the week at Kalamazoo in a pair of conference games.



Students get ice time for skating at Alma pond

By Justin Bauer
Editor-in-Chief

Hockey has taken a place as a major sport nationally; the NHL has grown hugely in popularity over the last decade. With the rise in interest in major-league hockey has come greater interest in local hockey, and Alma College students prove no exception to this trend.

However, Alma lacks many of the seemingly necessary conditions for local play; there is no indoor rink, no leagues. The college cannot support a hockey

team, and there is no opportunity for organized play in Alma.

However, the City of Alma and the Alma Public Schools have for several years created and maintained the Alma Ice Pond over the tennis courts in Wright Avenue Park, allowing community members and students to play hockey and to skate on a maintained and supervised outdoor rink.

"It kind of speaks for small towns," said senior Steve Sobieski. "It seems like where I come from, in Livonia, nobody puts the effort into maintaining outdoor rinks."

Senior Jason Walker agrees. "It

is great to see that much effort in a town this small."

The Alma Ice Pond is divided in half; half of the pond is devoted to hockey, and the other half is set aside for ice skating.

"It is nice that it's separate," said Sobieski. "That lets people skate and play hockey without interfering with each other."

According to senior Nick Phillips, the pond provides a place for clean, competitive hockey. "The quality of play is good—it is primarily about playing. There is not a lot of checking or high-sticking, and people keep the puck on the ice."

The pond is located in a public park, and is open to the general public. Walker stated that the park does not only cater to high school and college students. "There is a nice range of ages, also a good spread of the sexes."

The Alma Ice Pond is maintained each year by the Alma Community Education and Recreation department, which is affiliated with the Alma Public Schools. It is one of a variety of recreational programs open to the Alma community. The department sponsors a variety of programs, including a volleyball league, youth leagues, and martial

arts programs.

However, according to Walker, the bottom line is that the department is making hockey in Alma possible. "I'm glad that the City of Alma and the Alma Public Schools are putting up the money for people to play hockey."

The Alma Ice Pond is open and supervised from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. on weekdays and from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. on weekends, as the weather permits.

Local ski resorts provide winter enjoyment

By Laura M. Paetz
Editor-in-Chief

The crisp breeze floats around you as you slowly ascend the mountain. Upon reaching the top, you adjust your goggles, secure a pole in each hand and prepare for flight.

Downhill skiing is one of the most popular sports practiced in not-so-popular temperatures.

Although many of the well-known ski resorts are located farther away from Alma, there are a few mountains located closer to campus, perfect for mini ski excursions.

• **Apple Mountain, Freeland** For ski conditions, call (517) 781-0170.

Open 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week.

Lift ticket prices:

\$15 for the 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. sessions

\$17 for the 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. session.

Ski rental prices:

\$14 from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

\$16 from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m.

• **Caberfae, Cadillac** Call (616) 862-3300 for ski conditions.

Lift ticket prices:

Monday through Thursday:

\$21 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

\$22 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

\$12 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Friday:

\$21 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

\$22 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

\$12 from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Saturday:

\$26 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

\$27 from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

\$16 from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m.

\$13 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

\$26 from 12 p.m. to 10 p.m.

\$24 for any four hours.

Sunday:

\$26 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

\$27 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

\$18 from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m.

\$15 from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.

and \$12 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Ski rental prices:

\$23 on Saturdays and Sundays

Same as the lift ticket on weekdays

• **Crystal Mountain** Call 1-800-YOUR-SKI for ski conditions.

Open Sunday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Lift ticket prices:

Monday through Friday:

all-day lift tickets cost \$26

four-hour tickets cost \$21

two-hour tickets cost \$14

Monday through Thursday:

\$14 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday:

all-day lift tickets cost \$35

four-hour tickets cost \$28

two-hour tickets cost \$21

Friday, Saturday and Sunday:

lift tickets cost \$20 from 5 p.m. to close

Sunday:

Lift tickets cost \$28 from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Ski rental prices:

\$24 for all-day sessions during the week and on the weekends.

Partial day rental rates are the same as the partial-day lift ticket price.

• **Jasper, Clare** Call (517) 588-2845 for ski conditions.

Lift ticket prices:

Monday through Friday:

\$10 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Saturday, Sunday and holidays:

\$15

Ski rental prices

\$14 for any session

• **Skyline, Grayling** Call (517) 275-5445 for ski conditions.

Open Friday through Monday only.

Lift ticket prices:

Friday:

\$18 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday:

\$22

Monday:

\$15

Ski rental prices:

Friday, Sunday and Monday:

\$12

Saturday:

\$15

There is night skiing Friday and Saturday only from 6:30 to 10, which costs \$10.

• **Snow Snake, Harrison** Call (517) 539-0583 for ski conditions.

Lift ticket prices:

Monday through Friday:

\$10 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday through Thursday:

\$10 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Friday, Saturday and holidays:

\$15 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

\$12 from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. on

Ski rental prices:

\$15 for any session.

• **Timber Ridge, Gobles** Call (616) 694-9449 for ski conditions.

Lift ticket prices:

Weekdays:

\$17 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Saturdays:

\$22 from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. and

ski rental costs \$16

\$16 from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. ski

rental costs \$13

\$12 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. each

Sundays:

\$19 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and ski

rental costs \$15.

\$12 after 4 p.m.

Ski rental prices:

Weekdays:

\$14

Saturdays:

\$16 from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

\$13 from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m.

\$12 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Sundays:

\$15 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

\$12 after 4 p.m.

Most ski resorts offer group rates provided the group makes reservations. Call ahead for more information.

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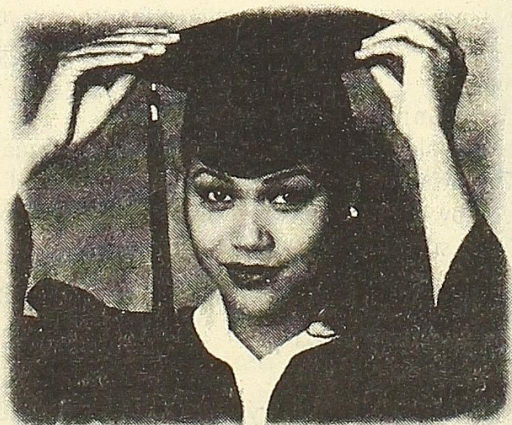
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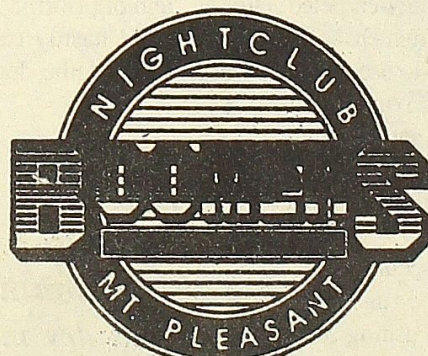
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Jan. 16, 1996

New wing prompts mixed feelings

By Phil Allmen
Staff Reporter

Alma College students no longer have to worry about avoiding the area between the library and Gelston Hall. The new addition to the library, the Colina Wing, was finished at the beginning of break.

The exterior of the new wing gives a different look to the Alma campus. It is adorned with tall tinted windows that give the interior of the wing some shade, but gives me an impression inconsistent with the rest of the campus.

These tinted windows make the building look closed off and separated from the rest of the buildings on campus. The large windows on every other building are clear and inviting. These dark windows don't fit in with the feel of the campus.

Why the sudden change in building design? Maybe Alma College wants to appear hip, modern or in with the times? I am not sure, but it takes away from the character of the campus.

The library's interior fares better, but not without its own drawbacks. Having all of the books spread out through this larger library makes it feel more spacious and accessible.

A noticeably larger circulation desk looks much nicer than the old one. With the additional space for the desk, area is more spread out making it easier to check out and return library materials.

Copy machines and other utilities are now located in a room at the front of the library. This has cut

down on the amount of traffic by the circulation desk and the entrance to the library.

The new office area behind the circulation desk allows those working in the library more room and solitude when needed.

The additional bathrooms installed in the wing also benefit the library. These bathrooms are smaller, but brighter than the dark bathrooms found in the back of the first floor.

There have been many new study carrels placed in the library, but there were plenty of these to begin with. The library needs more open tables to allow students to interact while studying. One of the benefits of studying with others is the ability of the students to share ideas. The library lacks in places for students can study in groups.

Two additional study rooms were created for this purpose. Unfortunately, these triangular rooms are about one half the size of old study rooms. There were three located in the basement, but one was closed in the fall for other purposes.

There is not enough room in these new study rooms for a table and no one has put chairs or chalk in these rooms to encourage their use. Why would anyone want to use one of these cramped rooms to study in while forced to sit on the floor?

With the additions made to the library last year, some areas have greatly improved, but there are also many things the library sorely lacks in promoting the sharing of knowledge in an open atmosphere.

LIFE IN
HELL

©1996
BY MATT
GROENING

FORBIDDEN WORDS 1996

ANGRY WHITE MALE
AWARD-WINNING
THE ARTIST FORMERLY KNOWN AS PRINCE
BIG GOVERNMENT
BUDGET IMPASSE
CELEB
THE CELESTINE PROPHECY
CHANNEL SURFING
CULTURAL ELITE
CUTTING EDGE
CYBER ANYTHING
THE DREAM TEAM
DWEEB
EDITED FOR TELEVISION
EDUTAINMENT
FAMILY VALUES
FAMOUS
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GRATUITOUS SEX
GRATUITOUS VIOLENCE
HAVING IT ALL
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INTERPERSONAL
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MORPHING
NERD
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NONFAT GRANDE MOCHA, NO WHIP
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RADIO PERSONALITY
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SUCKS
SURREAL
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VAMP
WORLD-CLASS
AND AGAIN :)

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OUR FAVORITE:
HOLLYWOOD'S
NIGHTMARE
OF DEPRIVITY!

AND
CYBERSMUT!

True Scot

Bathroom wars reinforce survival of the fittest

By Susan Elliott
Freelance Writer

Recently, as I was patiently awaiting my turn to use the ladies's room at a high-class establishment (Taco Bell), I started thinking back to my childhood.

Ah yes, those glorious days of after-school cartoons and two-ply toilet paper were filled with long bathroom lines.

Growing up with three brothers and two sisters, I learned early on in life to appreciate common practices like eating, sleeping and using the bathroom. Indeed, the extended bathroom line often viewed in busy restaurants was an everyday occurrence in our kid-saturated household.

As a result of my deprivation, I developed a strong bladder; in my prime, I could go about two days without having to relieve myself (note: artistic exaggeration employed here).

During that iron-bladder de-

cade, from 122 b.c. (before college), I learned that peeing is kinda' like yawning—the urge is catchy. When a sibling was spotted starting up the yellow-carpeted stairs, a race would often ensue.

If I wanted to use the bathroom, I found it was to my advantage to either sneak quietly up the stairs or make a mad dash toward the small blue temple of relief.

Trying to secure a place in line could be a dangerous experience. Pushing, pulling, clawing, yelling—those bathroom showdowns were more exciting than an American Gladiators match!

More than once, I've taken a tumble down those 14 stairs while engaged in a brutal battle to the top. Rug burns were a common ailment in those days, but in spite of the pain, I stayed focused on my goal.

Even after I reached the top, my struggle wasn't over. Legs crossed, back hunched, eyes squinted in pain, I'd do the characteristic bath-

room bounce while painfully awaiting my turn.

Occasionally, we felt democratic enough to utilize the bathroom system of priority. As if at an auction, we'd hastily call out numbers to indicate the degree of urgency—

Too many times, I was stranded on the pot with nothing to dry myself off with. Then I'd have to beg a brother or sister to retrieve some from downstairs.

#1, #2 or #3 (both).

More often than not, I would have to wait in agony for the delightful flush sound that meant my turn was next.

When I finally reached the blessed porcelain pot, a sigh of relief would escape my lips—and then

the harassment would begin...

"Who's in there?"

"Me."

"Who's me?"

"Susan (insert appropriate fame)"

"Hurry up!"

"Now I'm not gonna...I'm gonna be slower."

This would then be followed by threats from the waiting sibling. Often, he/she would say they were going to open the door or worse...that they were listening to me pee!!

Since I was in such a hurry to purge myself of the impatient, yellow liquid, I frequently forgot to check whether or not there was any toilet paper left on the roll.

Too many times, I was stranded on the pot with nothing to dry myself off with. Then I'd have to beg a brother or sister to retrieve some from downstairs.

Unfortunately, the toilet paper was not always just a yell away... I remember sitting patiently on

the "throne" while my mother ran to the grocery store to replenish our toilet paper supplies. When you grow up in a large family, you realize that t.p. can disappear very quickly—you just never have enough.

One day you may be high on a mountain of Northern freshness, the next you're looking frantically around for anything with a degree of absorbency.

This is when the empty cardboard roll can be helpful.

It got even more difficult to keep the valuable commodity in stock as we began to engage in the act of teepeeing. That sacred ritual of decorating someone's trees and yard with the paper product resulted in an increased number of bath tissue roll casualties.

I think that when Darwin developed his theory of survival of the fittest, he had my family's bathroom fights in mind. I wonder how the Brady Bunch did it.

Campus improvement aids college accessibility

By Mark Andrews
Opinion Editor

With the start of a new year, people are making new year's resolutions to change and improve their lives.

It seems Alma College is making some resolutions of its own—aided by the good elves from the physical plant. From new additions to small details, Alma is moving in a positive direction for 1996.

Over the last few years students and professors have voiced their concerns about many college issues including handicap accessibility on campus, with the Heritage Center for the Performing Arts being the only fully accessible build-

ing and Swanson Academic Center (SAC) and the Dow Science Center (DOW) having elevators.

Last fall, a handicap ramp was added to the French House and over winter break, automatic doors were added to some of the buildings to aid the physically handicapped.

A wonderful addition, indeed, but a number of students who are not handicapped are pushing the neat new buttons to open the doors. This use will decrease the amount of time it takes for the doors to wear out, once again handicapping the campus.

The only solution I can offer reflects the accessibility of the elevators—create a key or use the eleva-

tor key for those students who need the assistance.

For those of us who still do not know where our classrooms are located and for people who are visiting the campus for the first time, new signs have been placed in a few buildings to explain classroom and office locations. Complete with maps, these signs are very easy to notice—written in the typical magenta "Alma" font.

Maybe staring at the magenta makes your eyes start to burn, so think blue.

At the beginning of the school year, many students were greeted by a long awaited improvement: new carpet in SAC classrooms. Granted only a few have been con-

verted, but the difference between calming blue and a nauseating yellow is well worth the wait.

And for those of you who are stuck in SAC 307 for more than one class, never fear, relief is on the way. I found myself in a nice blue haven this term.

The largest and most impressive campus improvement is undoubtedly the library expansion.

A much needed improvement, this new wing incorporates space, adequate lighting and a classic look for Monteith Library. The large windows lend the quality of openness and natural light as opposed to the original dark enclosed feeling of the library.

Adding to this feeling of open-

ness, a balcony on the second floor looking into the first floor expansion creates a grand size quality to the expansion. New lights on the brick pillars accentuate the sense of height and spaciousness in the building.

Overall, the new Colina Wing is a worthy addition to the library facility.

These new improvements say a lot about the direction Alma is headed. If this trend continues, Alma will be just as beautiful and desirable on the inside as on the outside.

And this also goes to prove that new year's resolutions are far from impossible. Hard work and patience creates positive results.

Graduation brings anxiety, exhilaration

By Char Vandermeer
Feature Editor

I always believed seniors were so organized, mentally prepared and ready for the future.

Now, I'm a senior and realize the error of my naive perceptions.

I'm graduating in just over three measly months—that is if everything goes as planned. Let me rephrase that. I *am* graduating in just over three measly months. Scary.

On paper—that is, on my resume—I look pretty impressive. I've written and revised my dear old resume so many times I think I've managed to commit the vile thing to memory. Even my computer groans when I select "future frights" from the menu.

All my friends say they'll hire me or admit me to the Arts Administration program of my choice. Well, at least that's reassuring. It's nice to know someone likes you.

Really, I'm very ready to leave Alma and begin the next segment of my life. However, that wide-open future is awfully intimidating.

My grad school applications are neatly arranged and are nearly ready to be sent. I've done the research, I've asked for letters of recommendation and I've written my name so many times the letters look like gibberish. Scantron ovals on repulsive puce-like orange or olive green paper have become the target of my hate and derision.

Soon, however, the easy and relatively painless process of licking the envelopes and pasting stamps will be over.

Oh, believe me, I realize nasty-tasting adhesive and the occasional paper cut to the lip are the least of my worries.

Unfortunately, it has taken me nearly four years at Alma and a term in Philadelphia to realize how important and vital my friends are to me. Yes, I'm going to get a bit sappy here, but I am sure I am not the only senior suffering from pending friend withdrawal and acute future phobia—nor am I the only senior that *has* suffered from these

indescribable emotions.

I'm not asking for a cure.

Okay, here comes the obligatory soapbox statement: I only hope that I and you can look beyond the immediate panic of leaving and appreciate what we have. I honestly believe the friends I have developed here are one of my biggest

assets as I enter the job market and/or begin my graduate studies.

Yes, this is a terrifying time. But it is also one of the most exciting periods I've experienced. Not only have I begun seeking out graduate programs but I also posted my first series of job applications.

What an exhilarating feeling to

realize that years of hard work through high school and college are about to come to fruition.

I find myself taking advantage of the camaraderie I share with my housemates, our shared hopes and concerns and most of all the crazy times we've spent together this year. Bad movie nights, Trivial

Pursuit, dirty scrabble and free-for-all Pictionary are memories that will be irreplaceable.

My senior year here at Alma has not been easy, but then again, why should it be? It is a graduation, a time to reflect, appreciate, enjoy and move on.



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Staff Editorial

Actions prove measure of commitment

For most of our student body's time at Alma College, the chief administrative buzzword had been "diversity."

We have residence hall projects to emphasize diversity; the word turns up in virtually all of Alma's admissions materials. Faculty admissions and new classes are framed as contributions to the "diverse character" of Alma's campus. Student and alumni publications bandy about new evidence of this diversity.

We live on a campus dedicated, at least outwardly, to the ideal of diversity.

This week provides a test case for Alma's commitment to diversity—both as an institution and as a collection of students, staff and faculty. This week is Pride Week, a week dedicated to raising awareness of gay/lesbian/bisexual issues on campus through a variety of means,

from speakers to slide shows to panels. Additionally, yesterday was a national holiday—Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday—a day set aside to commemorate the contributions of the civil rights leader.

Both events have drawn their share of controversy. King's birthday has been debated nationally; only a few years ago, one state's refusal to honor the national holiday prompted a national outcry, and the day is not universally commemorated.

Pride Week, likewise, springs from a national gay-rights movement, a movement that is both growing in prominence and encountering more opposition from the political right wing.

On this campus, the issue of gay rights has dominated serious, issue-based discussion; *The Almanian* has been a forum for a debate over gay rights throughout this school year.

Civil rights and gay rights.

Both of these issues are very real manifestations of diversity,

of the tolerance true diversity requires. Both of these issues are brought to the forefront this week and the response of Alma as both a campus and as an institution provides an indication of its commitment to the much-vaunted ideal of diversity.

Martin Luther King's birthday is a federal holiday; state schools did not operate yesterday, banks and shops were closed.

Alma, on the other hand, held classes. Alma, though, sponsored a vigil in honor of the civil rights leader's birthday—a step forward in the recognition of the holiday, and a step forward in Alma's commitment to diversity. As in many areas, Alma is making progress.

Likewise, Alma is making progress in acknowledging gay rights. Pride Week is a relatively new event, and the support much of the administration and faculty have given the event is admirable.

However, the amount of controversy on campus surround-

ing the event—brought to a head with the actions of a group called Students Against Gays (SAG) last year—sends a very different message regarding gay rights and diversity. Certainly, the institution and the student body cannot control all speech on campus, nor would that kind of curtailment of speech be desirable or constitutional.

However, the actions of SAG last year illustrated a kind of resistance to gay rights and the diversity gay rights symbolizes and advocates.

Certainly, this week is a week dedicated outwardly to expressions of diversity.

However, the measure of Alma's commitment to diversity cannot be measured by residence hall projects or admissions brochures.

The actions of the institution and of the student body provide a far more accurate and genuine measure of this commitment.

The Almanian

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All Letters to the Editors 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. Letters may not appear in full due to layout or editing 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, or e-mail ALMANIAN@alma.edu.

The Almanian is printed on recycled paper.

Letter to the editors

Administration denies student opinion

Alma College is an institution which should give students' interests priority in its decision making. Unfortunately, the Alma College administration has instead tried to hide its decisions from the students and as a result silence our voices. At the end of last term, the administration informed Dr. Randi Davenport, a junior English professor, that she was being dismissed from her position. Dr. Davenport was given no reason for this decision and the administration still refuses to comment. Fortunately for us, the students, Dr. Davenport is fighting this decision and remains at Alma on a temporary status. Had she not stood up for herself, Alma College would have forced her to abandon the students who are working with her on senior thesis projects, Michigan Academy presentations and those students who are taking her classes.

Why Alma College would enact such an atrocity has bewildered me. Dr. Davenport's record stands on its own. She is not only an excellent professor but an accomplished scholar. In the first week of her women's literature course, we have been engrossed in frank, open, intellectually challenging and humorous discussion. She is a dynamic professor with an uncanny ability to create engaging classes. It is evident that the students on this campus value her as a professor and her student evaluations reflect that fact.

Irregardless of student and faculty opinion, Alma College doesn't want Dr. Davenport at Alma next year. If she does not return it will be the students who suffer from the loss. Dr. Davenport is an

essential academic resource and an accomplished teacher. She is invaluable to students with the desire to write and publish their work as she does. Furthermore, she is one of the few female role models for women students. Women students are around 56% of the student body population while women faculty members comprise only around 25% to 30%. Moreover, Dr. Davenport is a strong feminist role model for all students, which is something desperately needed here.

After the nightmare Alma College put her and her family through (attempting to dismiss her over the holidays) it is amazing Dr. Davenport would want to stay. Her fight is evident of her dedication to students' needs. She refuses to abandon Alma's students. Because we value Dr. Davenport as a professor and because she is willing to fight for our benefit, many Alma College students are preparing to fight to keep her at Alma. A letter to the Board of Trustees has been written and already a massive number of students have signed it. If you would like to join the fight for Dr. Davenport, you can sign the letter by contacting any of the following students, Julie Johnston, Joy Resseguie, Rusty Jerome, Tammi Johnson, Danielle Damen, Joe Johnston or Chris Sienko. Also, a meeting will be held in the Tyler-VanDusen Rotunda, TOMORROW, Wed. Jan. 17 at 7 p.m. Please attend if you are interested in making a difference. Students must inform Alma College that we do have a voice and that we want Dr. Davenport as a professor.

Julie K. Johnston '96

Students studying abroad suffer "return syndrome"

By Brandon Edward Miller
Freelance Writer

"Welcome back!" "Where were you?" "How was it?" "Are you glad to be back?"

After spending several months trotting around the country and the world in exciting places, the time finally came for students studying abroad and doing internships to return to Alma to continue their formal education.

While I was excited to be with my friends again (and looking forward to a much lower phone bill), I knew that I would miss the many interesting people that I had met and the city life (New York City, most recently) that I had begun to become attached to.

My "return syndrome" feelings are shared with many other stu-

dents returning this term from abroad or internships around the country. While Alma is a great place to get an education, it is not exactly as interesting as places like Madrid, Atlanta, Glasgow, Washington and Philadelphia.

We were greeted by almost four hundred new, acclimated first-year faces that are unfamiliar, a new luncheon fare at Marriott, a new library wing and several useful new signs in SAC to help us recall what floor we're on.

Some things remain familiar. The books are still over-priced, the pizza still needs to be drenched with ranch dressing and it is still a major feat in skill and patience to find a parking spot within a mile of Gelston.

But skyscrapers have been replaced by towering pines, yellow

taxis by Dial-a-Ride busses and Korean delis by Scotty's and 7-11. A trip to Wal-Mart is once again a weekly highlight and the price of a movie has plummeted from \$8.50 to \$2.50. People on the sidewalks smile more frequently now and most speak with a familiar accent.

My runs in Central Park and down Fifth Avenue have been replaced by the Alma Loop and West Superior Street. Our chapel is not quite as grand as St. Patrick's Cathedral and the thrill of having *The Morning Sun* first thing in the morning does not match being able to read *The New York Times* the night before the rest of the country gets to see it.

After getting a taste of the "real world" in Atlanta with CNN and with the State Department at the United Nations, it is a bit challeng-

ing to fall into the role of student again. A long day at the office was always over by nine o'clock; I had forgotten how we are never "finished" here until finals are over.

I now attend Model UN and Alma Pride meetings instead of UN press conferences and US delegation briefings. But these experiences did show me the relevance and utility of the courses I am taking here. It is difficult to understand why a language course is important when your perspective is from the predominantly English-speaking 'Alma Bubble.'

Alma once again offers us the chance to withdraw from the "real world" and enhance our education so that when we're ready to venture out once again, we will be stronger and more prepared to do battle outside of the Bubble.