

The Almanian

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Serving Alma College since 1907

Issue 14

Rush week to culminate with Bidfest, Runouts

By Phil Allmen
Staff Reporter

Anticipation is running high this week for many people involved in Rush '96.

Rush will culminate this weekend with the sororities' Bidfest on Friday at 9 p.m. and the fraternities' Runouts on Saturday at 8 p.m.

"I'm excited about this year. There is a good group of first-year students, many of them are looking at the Greek system," Intrafraternity Council Advisor Bill Arnold, assistant dean of students. "These individuals will greatly benefit any organization if they choose to join."

To help control "power rushing," a tactic sometimes used by organizations to try to get certain individuals to join one organization over another, rush, from the time anyone signs the rush list, is dry.

Dry rush is the prohibition of Greeks and rushees from consuming alcohol in each other's presence. This allows the rushees to see each organization as it is, not as "that group that always lets me drink with them."

No-talks, another deterrent to "power rushing," prevents Greeks from trying to convince rushees to join their organization. No-talks also prohibit rushees from trying

to get a bid from any particular Greek organization. This gives both the rushees and Greeks time to think about what is best for them.

No-talks begin Thursday at midnight for fraternities and began yesterday for sororities.

The number of rushees for fraternities has exceeded 110 this year.

"Over 60 guys signed the rush list on the first day. I really think people are more serious about the Greek system. One reason for this increase is all of the improvements each of the fraternities have made in areas from house improvement to changing attitudes towards others," said Arnold.

The numbers of rushees for the

sororities is also higher than normal, though not as drastic a difference as the men. About 100 women signed the rush list.

The sororities have made many changes in the past two years concerning rush. Last winter, the rush period was shortened into a one week period so the entire process would not drag out.

Additionally, this year the Panhellenic Council (Panhel) changed the format of rushees finding out bids. The old process for the sororities was "wake-ups," having the sororities wake up each rushee receiving a bid from that sorority.

The new format, Bidfest, allows the rushees to make their choice

public before anyone, including the sororities, knows of their choice.

"By changing our format, we are empowering the rushees to make the final choice," said Panhel President Tammi Johnson.

"The rushees will be the first to tell the Greek community what sorority they will be joining," Johnson continued.

Both sororities and non-Greeks alike have been big supporters of the fraternities at Runouts in years past.

"We hope for a lot of fraternity and non-Greek support. We hope to make this night as exciting as possible for the rushees and sororities," said Johnson.

Blood drive assists people far and near

By Julie Wilson
Staff Reporter

The thought of needles makes some people cringe, but last Wednesday's Red Cross Blood Drive was a success.

Dorothy Trgina of the local Red Cross office said she was pleased with the turnout, the amount of blood collected and the overall process.

"Working with Jamie (Hickey, Gelston Hall Director) and Carolyn (Schneider, Bruske Hall Director), was wonderful and the help offered by the student volunteers was great," said Trgina.

Sponsored by the resident assistant staffs of Bruske and Gelston Halls and run by student volunteers living in those buildings, the Red Cross blood drive collected 117 pints of blood from 125 donors.

Some potential donors were deferred due to illness or because they recently gave.

"I was pleased with the amount of blood collected," said Trgina, "especially considering the illness that is going around."

Added Hickey, "The goal was 150 pints, and we fell short of that. But the goal was not set by us and

we gave about as much as we did at the drive this time last year."

Trgina estimates that about three-quarters of the donations were from students; community donors contributed the rest.

Additionally, some members of the Alma community contributed in alternative ways. Corrinne Umphrey of the First Presbyterian Church coordinated a cookie-baking drive to provide homemade cookies for people to eat after their donations. The local McDonald's donated orange drink and coupons for free breakfast sandwiches. ACUB offered the use of their popcorn machine to help feed people after donating.

This generosity is especially important in light of the recent happenings on the east coast. With the powerful winter blizzards that have recently hit the coast, blood supply is extremely low.

"With such severe weather, blood drives could not be held and people could not get out of their homes to donate. Hospitals used blood up much faster to help those injured by the storm," said Trgina. The blood was being used, but not replaced."

The blood donated by the Alma blood drive could end up helping

in this shortage. The blood is first sent to regional headquarters in Lansing and could be sent east if they call and need it.

The blood drive was also an attempt at charity closer to home. The day after the Alma College drive, a special blood drive was held in Ashley for the 8-year-old grandson of Admissions Clerk Marsha Bertuleit, Michael, who was diagnosed with leukemia. Though the Alma College drive was not specifically designated for Michael, people did have the option of filling out a card stating that they were donating in his honor.

Said Bertuleit, "I think that people knowing that this blood helping someone they might know makes it much more personal; what you are doing really does help someone." Despite the success, Hickey would like to see some changes to make the turnout even better.

"I think that we will try to make the hours later, since students seem to be able to come during the later hours," Hickey added that there was a huge rush of people toward the end of the drive.

To help others in need, both far away and close to home, came through and gave a piece of themselves.



Senior Jason Darrow assists a Red Cross volunteer as she attends sophomore Julie Wilson, who donated blood at a blood drive sponsored by Bruske and Gelston Halls. Photo by Jon Croff.



The men's and women's swimming and diving teams recent victories over both Albion teams helped the Scots to rank in the middle of the conference. See stories on page 8. Photo by Derek Warner.

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Jan. 23, 1996

Development program acts to enhance downtown image

By Brandon Edward Miller
Staff Reporter

Alma's downtown district has not been spared from the economic hardships that are plaguing cities nationwide.

Empty storefronts, fewer shoppers and little interest in the area by Alma College students prompted community and business leaders to seek a solution to this challenge.

Several months of public hearings culminated in the establishment of a Downtown Development Authority (DDA).

"We realize the downtown has been

in a downward trend and we will be working very hard to change that," said Alison Jerome, executive director of the Gratiot Area Chamber of Commerce.

The DDA was officially voted into existence on January 11 by Alma City commissioners. The objective of the DDA is to aggressively enhance and promote the downtown area by pursuing economic growth and encouraging historic preservation of buildings in the downtown district.

Planning for the DDA has been ongoing for several months.

Many Alma College students see

the need for improvement. Junior Kathy Kasprzyk said that businesses downtown "...don't cater to the college atmosphere. We don't feel like we're a part of their community."

Senior Jodi Miller echoed her sentiment.

"What is there downtown that we would go to? Also, the stores aren't open late enough."

Jerome expressed optimism that changes instituted by the DDA will help change this sentiment.

"Establishments are in the works that will have an inviting atmosphere for college students, such as a new restaurant."

Kasprzyk and Miller also expressed that it is difficult to shop in downtown Alma on a college budget.

"Businesses downtown have a monopoly; there isn't any competition other than Wal-Mart—they can elevate prices and get away with it," said Kasprzyk.

Miller agreed.

"There needs to be something to draw us there. Offering discounts for students—even five percent—would make a difference."

Jerome responded, "Stores such as the Thistle have higher

prices because they are specialty stores that carry brands that are more expensive. These brands would sell for higher prices in other areas as well."

The DDA is concerned with student's opinions and perceptions.

"We're looking for student input; DDA meetings will be open to the public and we would like input from everybody, including students," said Jerome.

Those interested in attending the next DDA meeting should contact the Gratiot Area Chamber of Commerce for more information.

Landis fills international director position

By Justin Gustafson
Staff Reporter

After years of work in the United States Foreign Service, including places like Mexico and Bolivia, and directing a global Model United Nations program over the Internet at the University of Maryland, Patti Landis decided it was time for a change of pace and came to Alma College.

Landis is the new Alma College Director of International Studies.

Originating from Pittsburgh, Penn., Landis has been living in Washington, D.C., for the past few years. She received her bachelor's degree from Bucknell University and went on to graduate from the University of Maryland with a master's degree in international relations and political science.

Landis worked for U.S. Foreign Service for three years as a U.S. Consulate in Mexico and Bolivia.

"I issued U.S. passports and visas to foreigners. I also helped bail out Americans who got in trouble overseas," said Landis.

One of the most prevalent issues Landis had to deal with was custody

problems. Many times a mother would flee the U.S. to Bolivia with her children after our government had awarded custody to the father. The mother would then take her case before a court in Bolivia, where she would almost always be awarded custody instead.

"It was always a difficult situation," said Landis. "We would try to work out some sort of custody agreement between the two nations and resolve the problem."

After her work as a U.S. consulate, she helped place foreign students arriving in the states in academic institutions throughout the country. For the past five years, Landis has worked for the University of Maryland, directing a global Model United Nations program. This program involves many nations and schools who simulate the work of the U.N. through communication and negotiation over the Internet.

Landis discussed how she found the job at Alma and why she accepted it.

"The job was advertised in *The Chronicle for Higher Education* and

I found it on the Internet. I decided to come to Alma because I was looking for a small town to settle my family in as well as new professional challenges in international education."

Landis's family includes a five-year-old son, Scott, and a 17-month-old daughter, Krista. Her husband, Ray, worked for Pennsylvania Congressman John Murtha for nine years and is now searching for a new job. Meanwhile, he is enjoying a break and spending extra time with his children.

Concerning her duties at Alma, Landis explained, "I co-ordinate all the study abroad programs for Alma students. I also manage the five Alma centers overseas, and help other students from different schools who are living in these centers."

There are centers in Madrid and Segovia, Spain; Mexico City; Paris; and Kassel, Germany.

Landis also manages the Global Service Program, which is a fellowship for two students to travel to India. In India, these students teach English and other subjects at a school started by Bishop Makarios.

New stoplight proposed for Wright Avenue

MDOT hopes to increase safety, provide easier access to businesses

By Trisha A. Warner
Special Projects Reporter

Assistant City Manager Phillip Moore stated that work could begin as early as this summer for the next major road construction project in Alma.

For the past five years, city officials and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) have been investigating the problems created by the five lanes of undivided, two-way traffic along Wright Avenue north of the downtown district. They recently concluded that the addition of a stoplight between Ashcraft's and Kmart would greatly reduce the safety risk along the route. The proposed light will be equipped with pedestrian crossings to allow for safe crossing.

But adding a stoplight is not a simple task. Moore stated that many changes will occur in conjunction with the addition. Heather Lane, a privately owned road which provides access to a neighborhood behind JC Penney's and Ashcraft's, would have to be modified in order to correct traffic problems. Under the proposed plan, it will shift slightly north, so it will be aligned with a current Kmart exit.

The direct access to both sides of the street will be beneficial to businesses on each side, said Moore. Vehicles will not be stuck waiting for a break in traffic to cross; pedestrians will have safer access as well.

Furthermore, MDOT has suggested that numerous entries along Wright Avenue would have to be closed, directing traffic flow to the light. Some suggested closings include an entrance to Commercial National Bank, several entrances on the east of the Northtown Plaza and to Burger King and Kmart on the west.

Private property owners have not yet agreed to the modifications.

And then there is the cost. Negotiations are underway to distribute responsibility among the property owners, the city of Alma and MDOT. The cost of the changes could total nearly \$100,000.

Moore indicated that the changes would be beneficial to drivers, pedestrians and business owners.

"I think it is a very important project," he said. "It will be a real boost to all businesses and improve safety by reducing the number of collisions."

The additional light is not the only change planned for Wright Avenue. MDOT routinely rebuilds stoplights that have been in service for 20 years. The stoplight at Warwick Road just south of Northtown plaza is scheduled for rebuilding and Alma officials and MDOT are considering changes at that intersection as well.

The land west of Wright Avenue to Charles Road is largely undeveloped. Moore stated that interest has been expressed in building a road linking the two corridors to accommodate this interest.

Talks are underway and it appears that the light at the Warwick Road intersection will eventually be modified to a four-way light with pedestrian crossings, providing the opportunity for business or residential development. This plan would also allow for a service road to be installed behind the businesses on the west side of Wright Avenue, giving semi-trucks and consumers direct access to fast food restaurants.

No timetable has been set for the changes to the Warwick Road and Wright Avenue intersection, but construction will likely begin this summer on the light addition.

Center offers internship seminar

By Carol M. Tabaka
Freelance Writer

On Tuesday, Jan. 23, the Center for Student Development is offering an internship and summer job workshop that aims to provide information on how to research and apply for various internship opportunities.

Mindy Sargent, associate director for the Center said she cannot stress enough the importance of internships.

"The important part of the internship process," she said, "is the experience." She explained that not only does one gain valuable professional experience, but beyond that, self-knowledge.

"Some might discover that they really don't like that kind of work," Sargent explained, "and that is important to know, too."

The workshop will focus on various topics: benefits to both the student and employer, strategies for locating an internship or summer job and opportunities gained from being in a professional atmosphere.

valuable skill.

Lastly, Sargent stressed the importance of networking, of keeping your eyes open and taking advantage of the "formal" resources available at the Center and also utilizing "informal" contact resources, which might include friends, family or any other business connections.

Internships and summer jobs, in general, can be a successful means to direct career goals, to gain practical working experience, to develop a useful understanding of the various responsibilities in a particular career and to develop sources for recommendations that can be used for future employment needs.

The internship workshop will take place at the Center at 4 p.m. on January 23.

The important part of the internship process is the experience.

-Mindy Sargent, associate director for the Center for Student Development

Also, Sargent articulated several skills that are useful when locating or applying for an internship.

First, initiative or self-motivation is essential in securing a position.

Second, being able to clearly communicate what you would like to get out of the internship and what you can offer to an employer is a

Total monitors waste

By Trisha A. Warner
Special Projects Reporter

Total Petroleum has spent over \$100 million in the past five years to update its technological watch over environmental polluters.

Ben White, environmental engineer for Total's Alma refinery, stated that limiting pollution is a top priority for the company, which ships gasoline statewide via trucks and underground pipelines.

The refinery was built in Alma in 1936 and has continued to grow by leaps and bounds since its development. Total also has refineries located in Bay City and Lansing; Alma was chosen for its central location to oil fields in Mt. Pleasant and one near Crystal Lake (west of Alma).

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Natural Resources's (DNR) Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) are the chief regulators of pollution control, enforcing standards of the federal government. The DEQ visits regularly to ensure compliance with federal regulations. To comply with their regulations, Total has recently upgraded its monitoring of air emissions and their waste water treatment system.

In 1993 Total spent approximately \$100 million to monitor the emission of air pollutants including carbon monoxide and sulfur dioxide. Stations were established throughout the refinery

to evaluate the emissions released. According to White, it is a full-time job to correctly evaluate the monitor's readings.

If gas levels exceed federal regulations, immediate action is taken.

"We may have to cut production back or stop completely until we find out why," said White. The source must be identified and fixed before operations continue at regular levels.

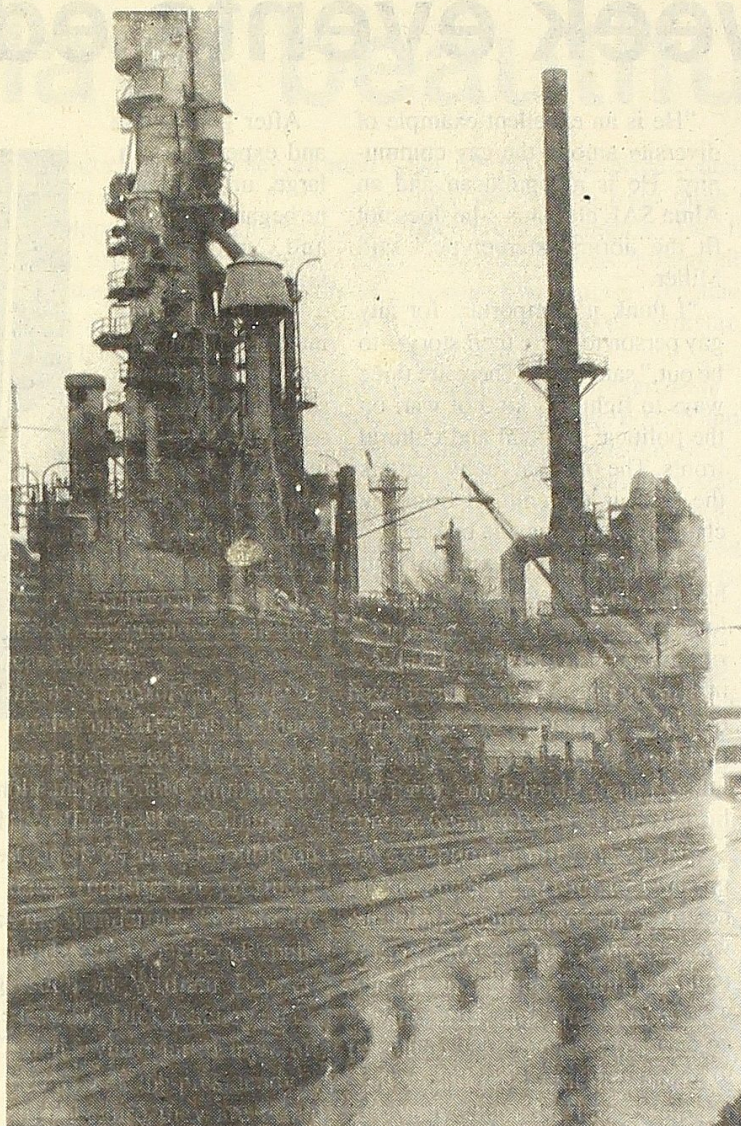
In 1994, Total upgraded its waste water treatment system to the tune of approximately \$10 million. Although they have always had a treatment system, the upgrade was implemented in compliance with state and federal laws.

The new system involves a series of ponds that have been pre-treated to "eat" up any pollutants, said White. It is a biological aeration treatment.

Samples are monitored daily or three times weekly, depending on the specific type of pollutant workers are looking for. The tests are elaborate, some taking up to five days to complete.

White stated because these operations decrease both air and water pollution, they are also directly related to the recent decline in the "gas" scent in the air. The storage tanks on Total's property also attempt to reduce the "gas" smell. Because gasoline evaporates rapidly, the storage tanks have "floating" roofs edged with rubber seal inside (besides the tank's lid) as an attempt at keeping gasoline from escaping into the environment.

Regardless of the measures, White



Total Petroleum has been working to monitor the emission of air pollutants in accordance with federal and state requirements. Photo by Jon Croff.

reminds that refineries are inevitably "odor sources."

Total is planning a \$500,000 modification to its drain system that would eventually empty its waste water into the Pine River.

Although Total is fighting pollution with rigor, White points out that the upgrades are federal and

state requirements. No studies, says White, have shown an increase in the occurrences of human deformities or disease in Gratiot county linked to air pollution by the refinery.

The EPA was contacted, but employees would neither support nor deny White's claims.

Keeping You Informed

Levin on the Net

Senator Carl Levin has recently added a personal home page to the Netscape files. His page, which includes a professional photo and his e-mail address, senator@levin.senate.gov, allows access to his biography and information regarding office locations. Legislation from the 103rd and 104th Congress can be searched there as well.

Furthermore, Levin features his Michigan connection through "Michigan on the Internet" and encourages users to browse the Michigan section on the Yahoo guide to the World Wide Web.

Chicago Advertising Career Day

The Chicago Advertising Federation will host their 14th Annual Career Day on Friday, Mar. 1, at the Chicago Marriott Downtown. The Career Day program consists of a series of formal presentations by industry leaders, informal panel discussions hosted by young professionals and on-site advertising agency and company visits.

Career day will offer students a chance to learn firsthand about which fields will offer growth opportunities throughout the 90s, as well as the job outlook in the Chicago advertising media and communications industries.

For more information on attending, contact Renae Bluit at (312) 654-5000.

Lighting survey gets results

By Bethany King
Freelance Writer

At various times throughout the past few years, Student Congress has received complaints regarding the safety of the lighting conditions on campus.

In response to these concerns the student affairs committee conducted a campus-wide survey last term which encompassed residence hall and small housing residents as well as a small group of commuters.

Questions asked on the survey included inquiries as to what areas of campus students visit often and where they felt more lighting is needed.

The committee also included a question regarding the size of the respondent's hometown, in an effort to determine if a correlation could be found between the lighting conditions students are accustomed to at home and their individual perceptions of the lighting conditions on campus. This last question proved to have inconclusive results.

Of the students returning the survey, 74 percent were female and nearly 90 percent of those

polled agreed that some change should be made regarding campus lighting. Male response was more tentative with just over 50 percent agreeing on the need for change.

Specific "dark" areas cited by respondents include the sidewalk between the library and Newberry Hall, the footpath between the P.E. Center and Dow Science Center, the area in front of the Hood Building and the walkway between Eddy Music Building and Swanson Academic Center.

The current chair of the committee, sophomore Tom Glegola, is scheduled to meet with Dean of Students James Kridler this Wednesday to discuss specific areas for change and devise a basic plan to remedy the problem.

The issue will then be open to comments from the campus community at a Student Congress meeting.

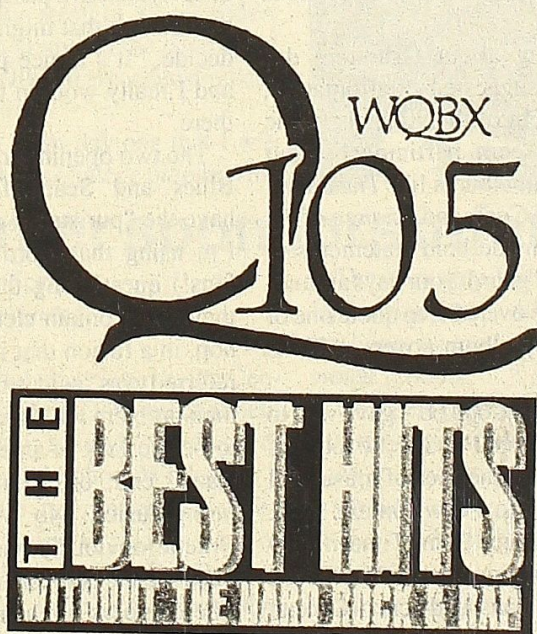
On Tuesday, Feb. 13, Student Congress President senior Julie Braun, with Glegola, will present the results of the survey to the President's Advisory Committee for review.

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Additional improvements recognized

In addition to the handicap doors on Swanson Academic Center and the maroon and white signs identifying offices and classrooms within buildings on campus, each residence hall on the north side of campus received new lounge furniture.

According to Duane Knecht, physical plant director, new carpeting was installed on the first floor of Newberry, a couple rooms in south complex and in the Sigma Chi fraternity house.

Physical plant also refinished the floor of Cappaert Gymnasium, a job that is not easily accomplished when there are students on campus.

Pride week events educate campus

By Char Vandermeer
Feature Editor

Last week Alma Pride sponsored its annual Pride Week, encouraging education and understanding of gay issues.

Speakers, discussions and videos were some of the highlights of the week, which served to enlighten and encourage students to be proud of who they are—both as gay or straight advocates.

Pride Week has been met with varying degrees of support over the years, but this year's events were met with perhaps the best participation this campus has experienced.

"I think it [Pride Week] is educational and it presents Alma College students with very important perspectives that they may not have previously encountered," said junior Pride member Brandon Miller.

Wednesday evening, 1971 Alma alumnus Alan Otis, a Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity member, spoke to an audience of approximately 20 students recruiting them to listen, make a difference and encourage acceptance.

"He is an excellent example of diversity among the gay community. He is a republican and an Alma SAE alumnus—he does not fit the normal stereotype," said Miller.

"I think it's important for any gay person to share their story—to be out," said Otis. "There are three ways to fight this kind of war: on the political, judicial and cultural fronts. The one that really matters the most is the cultural front, by changing opinions one by one."

Otis began the discussion with his personal story detailing his life-long journey of coming-out. Married to his college sweetheart for nearly 20 years, Otis was forced to live a dual existence in which he played the role of the husband and father. He successfully repressed his true role as a gay man.

Growing up in a conservative mid-Michigan community in which heterosexuality was the rule, Otis was unaware of homosexuality as a reality. Stating he had no role model, no literature and in a sense, no curiosity, he remained "naive" to his homosexuality.

After graduating and experiences in large, urban areas, he began to educate and understand himself.

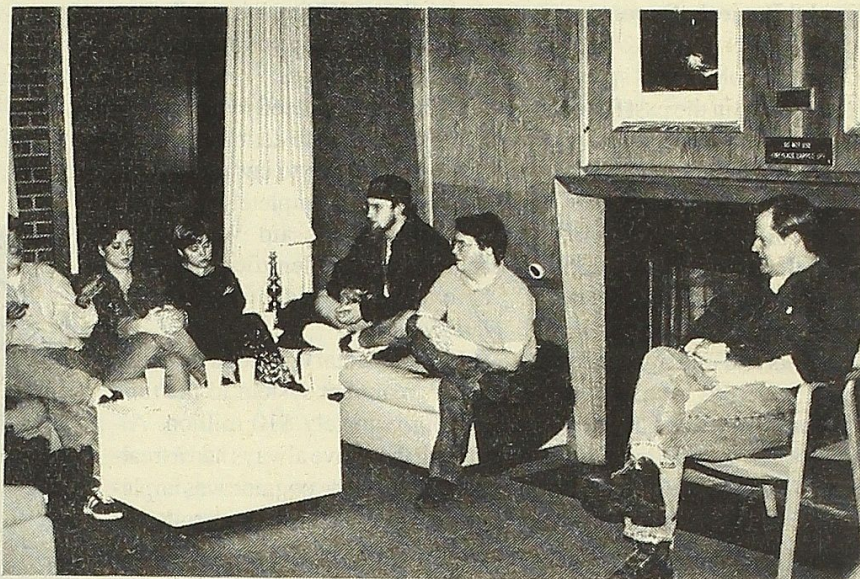
"Sexuality is so intertwined with our soul and our soul is so intertwined with our mind and being," observed Otis.

However, wanting to avoid all the negative stereotypes associated with homosexuality, he married and held the heterosexual facade.

Otis maintains he has no regrets regarding his marriage other than wishing he had come out to his wife 10 years earlier than he did.

After being "out" for three years, Otis cannot stress the need for awareness and education enough.

"Those of us who believe being gay is okay have to take a stand," he said.



Seniors Bonnie Palmer, Julie Johnston, Tammi Johnson, and juniors Geoff Guy and Brandon Miller attend Alma alumnus Alan Otis' Pride Week presentation. Photo by Char Vandermeer.

Members of Alma Pride worked diligently to promote awareness, education and acceptance throughout the week.

"I think Pride Week went very well—a lot of people wore blue jeans [on Blue Jeans Day]. How-

ever, it is disheartening when people who you consider your friend dress up," said senior Pride co-chair Bonnie Palmer. "You cannot ignore that one part of me. You have to accept me as a whole."

Mommy, what's Harmolodic?

Ornette shows "beauty is a rare thing"

By Chris Sienko
Hep Cat King

Harmolodics. No, it's not an over-the-counter decongestant.

For the past 35 years, saxophonist Ornette Coleman has been creating and recreating this system of musical expression, while seeming to keep a press lock on the ideas behind it. No one seems to have the slightest clue what Harmolodics is, and yet every hipper-than-thou jazz crit throws the phrase around like they were at the drawing board when it was first, like fire, brought down from Mt. Olympus to the rest of us mere mortals.

Ornette has been seen as everything from charlatan to savior by the jazz elite. Thelonious Monk, noted eccentric and genius who spent the last years of his life going stoically mad, said of him, "Man, that cat is nuts!"

His early 60's performances are riddled with anecdotes of irate crowds who booed him off the stage. One performance was put to an early halt when audience members ran on stage and smashed his brass saxophone. Being rather poor, Ornette bought the cheapest saxophone he could find—a white plastic alto sax. Realizing he preferred the resonances a plastic instrument brought, he continued to use this type of sax throughout his career.

With the assistance of his three early sidemen (Don Cherry, pocket trumpet; Charlie Haden, bass; Billy Higgins, drums), the Ornette Coleman Quartet quietly and systematically dismantled jazz convention, putting emphasis on emotion and spontaneity rather than chords and structure, creating a new chapter in music: free jazz.

Although Ornette would never achieve a technical or songwriting sophistication to equal jazz titans John Coltrane or Charles Mingus, his solos, deeply rooted in blues tradition, alternated between highly personal blasts of kinetic energy and engaging melodies with enough cultural allusion to make T.S. Eliot blush.

Nothing about Ornette's demeanor suggested confrontation, and in light of the 90's, his music doesn't seem particularly "out there," but albums like *The Shape of Jazz to Come* and *Change of the Century* made bold statements to jazz's old guard: your days as innovators are over. Or, to quote one of their early album covers, "this is our music."

As the chaotic 60's gave way to the resigned 80's, Ornette took his Harmolodic theories of music and put them into a new context: funk. Ornette formed Prime Time in 1979 from a rotating cast of New York funk musicians. Old-school Ornette

fans derided this as a move toward commerciality (it seems ironic that fans of a revolutionary musician like Ornette Coleman should criticize him for trying something new), but Prime Time moved on, issuing records of varying quality and critical acclaim.

However, 1995 marked the year Prime Time became an ensemble to challenge the brilliance of Ornette's classic Quartet. Their latest album, *Tone Dialing*, is a comforting reassurance that Ornette still has a good-sized sack of ideas and contexts to display his Harmolodic chops. Not quite a consistent album in terms of mood or quality, it is nevertheless a passport to planet number ten that might lead you to decide, "It's a nice place to visit and I really wouldn't mind living there."

The two opening tracks, "Street Blues" and "Search for Life" will have the "purists" (I can't believe I'm using that word for Ornette fans!) questioning the master, as they both contain elements of hip hop, in a fusion that is commonly referred to as "acid jazz." The common problem with acid jazz seems to be the lack of intensity on the "jazz" end, often amounting to funky fusion. No worries here; Ornette obviously has the goods. Even at the silliest moments, as when rappers Avenda "Khadijah"

Ali and Moishe Naim pontificate about helping your neighbor and working for utopia, we still have the Scary Man with the White Plastic Sax soaring in the background, saying infinitely more with his instrument about love and respect for others.

From here, the program only gets more confusing. The inclusion of a jazz version of "Bach Prelude" may come as a shock, but by the middle of the track, you'll forgive. A moment must be taken here to give immense kudos to Prime Time. As an on-and-off listener of Ornette's 80's and 90's work, this incarnation of Prime Time (which includes Ornette's son Denardo on drums) is one of the most compatible and like-minded ensembles since Cherry-Haden-Higgins. The twin guitar line up of Ken Wessel and Chris Rosenberg is surprising but effective, sounding like a cross-breed between John McLaughlin circa Miles Davis's *Bitches Brew* and a Link Wray-loving acid freak veering between musical support and mind-boggling explorations. The guitar interplay on tracks like "Family Reunion" and the instant classic "Miguel's Fortune" (easily my choice for best track on the album) are as complex and emotional as their leader. I haven't heard sidemen that could keep up with Ornette since the now-departed Don

Cherry.

Of course, the songs are brilliant as ever. From the percussion heavy "Badal" (named after the group's Tabla player, who works these Indian drums into a sweaty stupor) to the title track, which sounds like it could have been written during the classic 60's group, shimmer with love and a commitment to giving fans everything. The inclusion of distinctly Spyro Gyra-esque keyboard does not diminish the energy of the recording, but glazes it with a thin layer of humor, as the music coming from this cheesy sounding synth is unapologetically Harmolodic. The final track, "Yin Yang," starts out like something fusion idiot Lee Ritenour would have written, only to begin a sonic detonation at the 30-second mark, melting down into a gooey sonic ball that makes you want to start the disc all over again, which is what any ending track worth its salt should do. *Tone Dialing* is a jazz album that should have appeal to far more than just jazz fans. The solos are complex but easy to follow and provide as good an introduction as anything on *Change of the Century* to the excitement that this man can harness through his saxophone bell.

Ornette is a musical gift to treasure, because, to quote one of his older songs, "beauty is a rare thing."

Look
What's
Happening!

THEATRE / DANCE

Heritage Center for the Performing Arts

**The Crucible* — Feb. 15-18

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. 26-27

**The Wizard of Oz* — Feb. 15-18

MSU Mainstage Productions,
(517) 355-0148

*Dance Concert — Feb. 15-18

Boarshead Theatre, Lansing,
(517) 484-7805

**Escanaba in da Moonlight* —
Jan. 11 - Feb. 3

HISTORY / ARTS

Alma College, Flora Kirsch Beck
Gallery

*Bruce Thayer, prints — Jan. 8 -
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

Votapek displays beautiful touch

By Phil Allmen
Staff Reporter

Last Saturday, pianist Ralph Votapek astounded a Heritage Center crowd with his masterful ability

and gorgeous performance.

"We've just had work done on the piano, making it sound better than ever. Votapek's rich and full sound furthers the sound throughout the hall," commented Music

Professor Raymond Riley, a former student of Votapek.

Votapek began studying music at age nine and has performed all over the world. He is currently an artist-in-residence at Michigan State University.

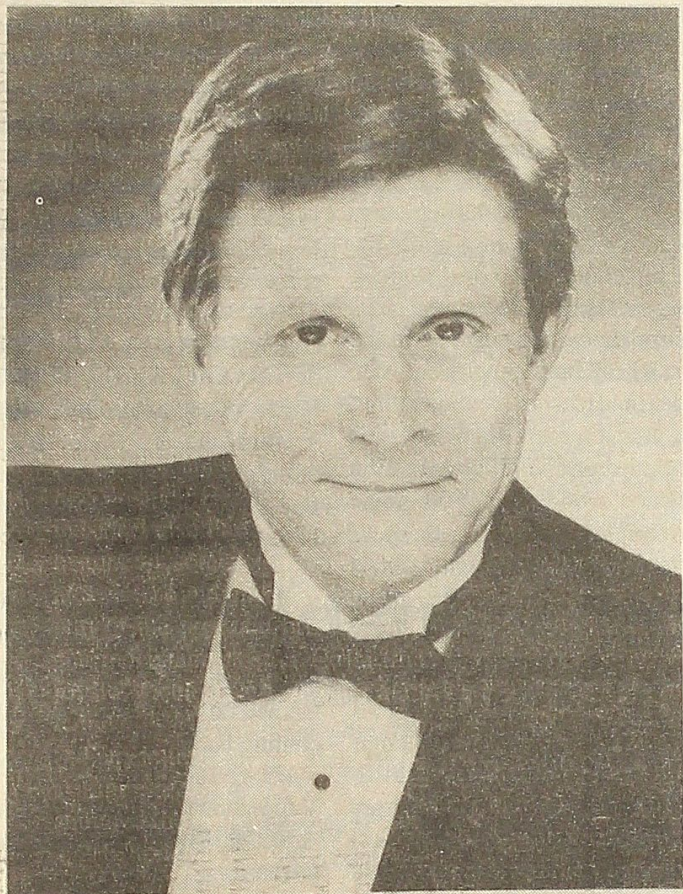
Votapek performed a varied selection including Schubert, Szymanowski, Poulenc and Chopin.

Schubert's *Sonata in A* contained a variety of styles from frantic scales in every octave to graceful transitions leading into beautiful, legato melodies.

"I am currently working on the Schubert piece he played. I knew the second movement was beautiful, but he showed me how exquisite it could be," said junior Curtis White.

Votapek played the Polish composer Szymanowski's *Masques*,

Pianist Ralph Votapek wowed a Heritage Center audience Saturday night. The musician performed pieces from a variety of composers, including Chopin and Schubert, and won the accolades of students and faculty members in the audience. Photo courtesy of the Public Relations Office.



Op. 34 next. The piece contained three movements from three distinct musical periods. The first, *Scheherazade*, was influenced by Russian Romanticism. It contained ecstatic climaxes similar to Rachmaninof.

Following *Scheherazade* was *Tantris, the Clown*. French impressionism helped mold this piece containing frantic, jumping stanzas, fast-paced dissonant sounds and finally, slower, smoother passages.

"It [*Tantris, the Clown*] is the most grotesque piece I've ever played," remarked Votapek.

Don Juan's Serenade finished the piece. The influence of German and Austrian Expressionism could be heard in the hyper romantic and dynamic sounds created.

"In the Szymanowski piece, the technical clarity and crispness was brilliant. It was immensely enjoyable," said sophomore Neal Palmreuter.

After the brief intermission, Votapek performed Poulenc's *Eight Nocturnes*. The eight-movement piece was written in the 1930's over a 10-year period. The second movement, *Bal de jeunes filles*, or "Dance Of the Young Girls" was a quick, giddy piece that was especially enjoyable.

Votapek ended his 100-minute concert with Chopin's *Third Scherzo in C-sharp, Op. 39* and his *Fourth Ballade in F, Op. 52*. These final pieces were by far the best-played pieces of the night. The music was enthralling and mesmerizing. Votapek made the piano come alive.

"We were able to hear the full range of the piano and the abilities of the player. The soft music he played was so beautiful and melodious. The loud parts were filled with passion," said White.

"The way he paused was wonderful. Even the silence was beautiful," said Palmreuter.

The concert was truly wonderful in every aspect.

"Alma College is extremely lucky to be able to bring someone like Votapek. He is definitely a true master. I also like how he told the history of some of the pieces. It allowed the audience to feel more a part of the program because they can understand it better. He is a true joy to watch," said junior Laura Ringle.

Tony Patterson, professional accompanist for Alma College, summed the performance up well.

"His touch is beautiful."

Hines pursues life goals at Boston University

By Elizabeth Edwards
Freelance Writer

This is the time of year when seniors begin to wonder if their liberal arts education will be enough to get them into graduate school.

Sharilee Hines, a 1994 alumna, is proof that a degree from Alma College really can take you places.

Hines is pursuing her masters of science in occupational therapy at Boston University (BU) in Boston, Mass., as is fellow Alma alumna, Julee Leipprandt, class of 1993.

"Occupational therapy deals with the rehabilitation of a patient to a state where they are as independent in a job or in leisure activities as possible—functionally independent," explained Hines. "We do this through teaching the patient to adapt and do things in a modified way or use assistive devices."

The two-year program also requires six months of affiliations or internships. Hines plans to work for three months in Colorado to gain pediatric field experience.

During this internship she will be working at several different sites—a school, the pediatric ward of a hospital and a neonatal intensive care unit.

The second internship Hines

plans to undertake involves working for the rehabilitation ward at Harborview Hospital in downtown Seattle, Wash., where she will focus on physical dysfunction.

"From that experience I hope to go on to work with stroke victims, people recovering from reconstructive surgery, multiple sclerosis patients, head injury victims—basically, I hope to work in acute rehab," stated Hines.

To accommodate its large student body BU offers opportunities to work with faculty members who are very prominent in the field of occupational therapy, providing students with access to the newest research, the most effective treatment and policies regarding occupational therapy and the health care system.

The fact that BU is located in an urban area offers students opportunities to gain field experience in local hospitals as well as a good starting place to do networking and obtain references. Networking—meeting influential people within the field—led Leipprandt to the University of Columbia last summer to work as a volunteer at a facility for developmentally disabled children.

The city of Boston also provides

an active social atmosphere since several different universities thrive within the city. Also, the city's location in the heart of New England offers the chance to travel—biking in Martha's Vineyard, skiing in Vermont.

"I like the big city but I do miss Alma. The city [Boston] is very young," explains Hines. "It's more than just the Strand and the Pine Knot on a Saturday night."

Graduate school is by no means easy and BU is no exception. Very few people are accepted by the university straight from undergraduate study, so the benefits of having a liberal arts education can be countless.

"I felt from day one that I was ready. Alma College prepared me

very well, every class I go to I have a good background. Dr. Seelbach and Dr. Davis prepared me extremely well. Both the EHS and psychology departments should be commended for the preparation I received," said Hines. "Alma gave me the leadership and volunteer

experiences to develop the character it takes to survive in the big city."

Sharilee Hines, pictured here with Erin Emery '95, is pursuing a career in Occupational Therapy. Photo courtesy of Erin Emery.



Center sponsors informative workshops

By Dan Scripps
Staff Reporter

On Thursday, Jan. 18, the Center for Student Development held a program entitled "Graduate & Professional School Workshop."

Despite poor attendance, the workshop, moderated by Dean of Student Development Bob Perkins, turned out to be very informative for students who did attend.

The workshop dealt with the challenges associated with selecting and applying to graduate and professional schools.

Designed primarily for juniors, it offered suggestions such as when each step of the process should be completed, how to narrow your choices and who to ask to serve as references.

The program is part of a series of workshops sponsored by the Center

throughout the year. Workshops scheduled to be held in the near future include an internship/summer job workshop today, a resume writing workshop on January 30 and an interviewing skills workshop on February 1.

For more information on these or other career preparation programs, contact the staff at the Center, located in the lower level of Hamilton Commons.

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

*Nicholas Delbanco, author — Feb. 8

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

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

MUSIC / COMEDY

Heritage Center for the Performing Arts

*West End Chamber Ensemble — Jan. 25

Western Jazz Quartet — Feb. 10
Midland Center for the Arts, (517) 631-1072

Jan. 23, 1996

Dreyfuss excels in *Mr. Holland's Opus*

By Mark Andrews and
Elizabeth Edwards
Opinion Editor and
Freelance Writer

Making connections between music appreciation and life composes the theme of *Mr. Holland's Opus*.

Director Stephen Herek conducts the tempos and rhythms of this two and a half hour film as though it were a symphony orchestra.

Based on the structure of the opus—which is a musical composition or a set of numbered compositions placed in the order of their issue—Herek creates an elegant melody line through the life of music teacher Glenn Holland (Richard Dreyfuss).

Dreyfuss, known for his unfortunate roles in *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* and *What About Bob?*, plays the passionate music teacher who makes it his job to

make his students as passionate about music as he is.

The movie opens in 1965 with Dreyfuss as a 30-year-old struggling musician who takes a teaching position to create more time for his own composition. Teaching soon becomes the greater of his commitments, leaving little time for his family and musical creations.

Each opus of Holland's life is framed by historical footage and individual students struggling to find the joy, dedication, motivation and strength to follow a dream. With each new student's struggle, Holland rediscovers inspiration and passion for the power of music.

Dreyfuss handles the age changes ranging from 30 to 60 years old exceptionally well. His ability to portray an unsure and inexperienced 30-year-old and a

tired, well-respected 60-year-old, proves Dreyfuss has the dramatic range necessary to pull off a difficult role.

Supporting Holland in his battle to inspire passion within his students is principal Ellen Jacobs (Olympia Dukakis). Her feisty and no-nonsense attitude about education help point Holland in the right direction.

Dukakis portrays the character with the compassion, grace and wit required to make this small part one of the most notable roles in the film.

Tying the movie together is Holland's wife, Iris (Glenn Headly), who challenges his commitments to work over his commitments to his family—including the avoidance of his son's deafness. Headly does an adequate job of dealing with the emotions necessary for the role, but her transi-

tion from a youthful to an elderly wife lack credibility.

This transitional problem is also evident in the aging of Holland's deaf son Cole. The character was born in 1967, but the actor portraying Cole in 1980 appears to be at least 16 years old.

However, the plot benefits from the incorporation of Cole's disability by adding an interesting dimension to Holland's personal and professional life.

Other problems with the plot include the not-quite love affair between Holland and vocal student, Rowena. Herek develops the character of the young ingenue to the point where the chemistry between student and teacher is excruciating. Yet, this crucial character isn't mentioned after 1980, leaving the audience wondering, "Where is Rowena?"

The music throughout the film is

an engaging blend of popular tunes during each time period and the time-tested classics of composers like Bach and Beethoven. In the final moments of the movie the audience is treated to a long-awaited performance of Holland's composition.

Although Dreyfuss' portrayal is touching, the composition does not merit the built up the movie gives it.

For the most part, the two and a half hour film manages to tug at a few heart strings and jerk a few tears without being annoying.

Unfortunately, the Hollywood ending pushes the audience's endurance to the limit by crossing the line from heartwarming to cheesy.

Mr. Holland's Opus is a well orchestrated production, blending fine acting with a memorable storyline.

Students teach elementary children valuable lesson

By Justin Bauer
Editor-in-Chief

"Kaboom kabum kabibbly-mum, look out Bubba, don't bump your bum!"

One or two mornings a week, junior Mark Andrews will dress up as an alien and say these lines to a room full of elementary-school children.

Andrews plays Bub, the title character of *The Babylonian Encounter*, a play written and performed to teach elementary-aged children about sexual abuse.

The play concerns an alien without a sense of touch; Bub comes to Earth to experience his missing sense and meets Archie, played by senior Steve Sobieski, and Betty, played by senior Char Vandermeer. The two humans teach Bub about touching—especially about good touches and bad touches.

"I've been involved for two seasons playing Bub and I really enjoy working with people I've worked with in the past and seeing the results we can create with the show," said Andrews. "It's really plus a for us to see the interest from the children and the willingness to talk about these issues...even at such an early age."

"The show is very valuable because it teaches children in a fun and non-confrontational manner about the reality of sexual abuse," said Vandermeer.

Sobieski also stresses the value of the show.

"At this age, children might be confused about what's going on. Our show tells what the difference is between a good touch and a bad touch and what to do about it."

The show, sponsored by Child Advocacy of Gratiot County, travels to elementary schools in the area, and tours the state during breaks in Alma's schedule. Response to the show has been positive from parents, teachers and students.

Sobieski said, "It's nice to see the excitement the kids have for something like this. They're truly interested. Or to hear that you did a good job from a police officer or a teacher."

"Smaller groups and younger children take the show much more seriously and really listen to the message. I played Bub for three seasons and it was so enjoyable to see how real the kids thought I was," said Vandermeer.

The Alma players have been trained to deal with the problems the show sometimes raises. "We had to read lots of pamphlets, watch lots of videos," said Vandermeer. "We listened to the facilitator and learned how to deal with problems as they arose. A lot of it is just interpersonal skills and listening techniques."

"The bad part is always when a kid comes up and tells you that this is happening to them, or when you do a show in the next town and the cop that was at the last show tells us that we had one or two or however many kids confide in someone that this was happening to them," said Sobieski.

The issues raised by the show—child abuse and sexual abuse—are sensitive ones. However, the student actors involved in the play consider its message to be very important.

"I think it's something that needs

to be talked about," said Sobieski. "Parents are often embarrassed or reluctant to talk about this with their kids. In fact, northern Michigan has a large problem with child abuse. I think our show empowers children to talk about what's going on if someone's doing this to them."

"Kids have come to us with problems," said Vandermeer. "Fortunately it's not every show—it's the exception rather than the rule. It's very unfortunate when something's reported, but at the same time it proves we've done our job effectively."

MEGA helps students adjust to college

By Julie Wilson
Staff Reporter

For most first-year students, adjusting to college life can be a challenge, a triumph and an adventure.

To aid Alma College's new students, Mentoring Enhances Growth at Alma (MEGA), creates a support network to help students make a smooth transition to life at Alma.

This year 220 students are involved in the program. This figure includes both first-year mentees and upper-class mentors.

"In previous years, there were mostly sophomores as mentors; this year they seem to be pretty evenly distributed among the classes," said Downs.

Participants in the organization are enthusiastic about its goals.

"I think that it is very productive; it is beneficial for the first-years and for the upperclassmen. For them it is nice to have someone who has been there, and for us it is nice to remember what it was like," said junior mentor Jill Oprea.

In matching mentors to mentees the coordinators take into account academic major, what different people are looking for in a match and common interests. This system creates compatibility in the new relationships.

"Some people have a strictly academic match, for help in schedules and such; others become very close, meeting for dinner every night. It is really up to the people involved," said Downs.

Ideally, each student will feel comfortable and happy with the pairing.

To help create activities for mentors and mentees MEGA plans numerous activities: trips to Uncle John's Cider Mill, canoe trips, coffee at Max and Emily's and movie all-nighters are popular events.

A newsletter from the group is published to maintain membership and encourage continued involvement.

"I have been to about half of the events, but I think that [the coordinators] do a really good job plan-

ning things so you can attend some things and miss others," said first-year student Chris Gayer. He also believes the group is to thank for having introduced him to a lot of different people.

However, not all students are in agreement.

First-year student Anna Pyzio holds a different view. "I think it is a good idea, but I think that it started too late in the year. By the time they got started, we already knew a lot of people and did not really have time anymore. I did not go to any events," she said.

MEGA is sponsored by the Center for Student Development. Applications for positions as next year's co-coordinators will be available soon.

Two of the three current coordinators, seniors Downs and Elizabeth Garber, are graduating, leaving positions open for two others to take control and make a difference in the lives of incoming first-year students.

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

MSU Music Building Auditorium, (517) 355-3345

*MSU Faculty Artist Recital — Jan. 28

Wharton Center, Lansing, (517) 532-2000

*MSU Symphony Orchestra — Jan. 27

Fairchild Auditorium, East Lansing, (517) 355-3345

*MSU Chamber Orchestra — Feb. 2

Cappuccino Cafe, E. Lansing, (517) 333-5961

*Dave Weatherwax — Jan. 25

*Bob McCloy — Jan. 26

*Vee Nash and Tia Hannah Duo — Jan. 27

The Ark, Ann Arbor, (313) 761-1451

*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

Scots suffer emotional loss

By Maria Toscano
Staff Reporter

If the game of basketball could be won with heart and emotion, then the Alma College Men's Basketball team would have a perfect record.

However, the Scots, who are 1-4 in the MIAA and 3-14 overall, came out with a tough loss Wednesday. The Scots were defeated by host Olivet by a score of 85-82.

"We were so close," commented Coach Kevin Skaggs. "It came down to 15 seconds and we ran our play too early and it became a free throw contest. It was a tough loss."

Leading the Scots in scoring were senior Jason Osborn and first-year student Eric Spielhaupter, each scoring 15. Chris Stacey followed with 12 points and senior J.T. Cleveland scored 11.

According to Skaggs, the team seems to be lacking those key elements that pull out a victory.

"We don't get those key stops and we have to learn how to win," said Skaggs. "We need to execute a

play and run the proper defense. We have to have all five guys working at once."

"At times we played with over experience and win or lose it doesn't reflect how we played," said Cleveland.

Skaggs is not at a complete loss with the defeat.

"We are not feeling devastated, but disappointed," said Skaggs. "We just couldn't quite finish it, but we did show that we could play anybody. We just have to get stronger to finish it."

On Saturday the Scots traveled to Kalamazoo. Alma was shot down on the inside by the Hornets, 78-61.

"They were a little bigger inside and it negates the inside game," said Skaggs.

According to Skaggs the loss was almost expected.

"We played five tough games in a row and we played them with so much emotion, eventually we were going to run out of gas. You can't always rely on emotion to carry you, skill and strength are also

needed."

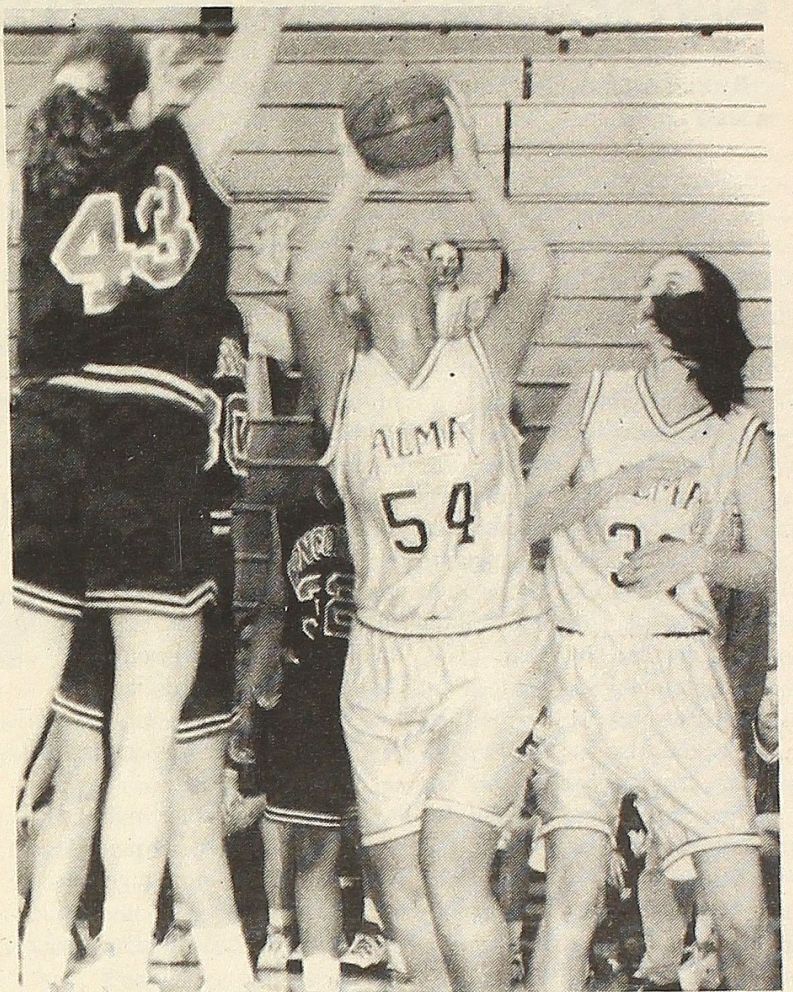
"It was not pretty," said Cleveland. "We didn't shoot well or rebound well. There were times when we were down by 20 or 21 and came back to be nine away, and then it ran away from us again."

"The defense was average and the offense was below average," said Skaggs. Alma's defense had only three guys with more than two rebounds. Stacey and Cleveland scored 12 points each and junior Nate Lounds finished with 10.

Skaggs still sees a hope for the Scots and is still looking to attain some goals. If the Scots can beat Adrian, they could be looking at a fifth place finish; however, they have been picked to finish last in the MIAA.

"We want to host a playoff game," said Skaggs. "That means we have to finish in the top four. We need to make that stride, and the attitudes are good."

Skaggs knows it has been a long journey, but the team is coming along. "They are taking those steps down a winning road," said Skaggs.



Senior Chris Stacey gets sat on by an opposing team member. Stacey scored 12 points in last Wednesday's game against Olivet. Photo by Derek Warner.

SCOT Spotlight

VanDamme team leads Scots

By Dan Scripps
Staff Reporter

Typical siblings seem to be constantly fighting, avoid each other at all costs and would never dream of sharing a room with one another any longer than they absolutely have to.

None of these characteristics describe the relationship between junior Missy and senior Michele VanDamme. Then again, these two are hardly your typical siblings.

The two VanDammes are in their last year playing together on the same basketball team. At the end of this season, their times of arguing, sharing and representing the same school on the court will draw to a close, after two years together in high school and three at Alma.

When asked what they will miss most about ending their shared career, Missy responds, "It's going to be weird. I'm always going to expect her to be running down one side of the court looking for the pass, and not having her there will be strange."

Michele added, "I'm going to miss it just because I will be done, but there is something extra because of my sister."

Though their time together in the college game will soon be up, they have no intention of hanging up their shoes. With two younger sisters both active in basketball at home in Cornell, the two of them see a lifetime of Gus Mackers ahead of them. "That is," joked Michele, "if I can still move."



Junior Melissa and senior Michele VanDamme will tie up their playing days together at Alma College at the end of this basketball season. Photo by Derek Warner.

Though their parents are the girls' biggest fans, both maintain that no one ever pushed them into sports. Coming from a town where Michele's eighth grade graduating class had three people, she comments that "there was nothing to do but sports."

Both also cite their aunt as being the most influential person in introducing the girls to sports.

Both Missy and Michele also agree that, unlike most siblings on the same team, there has never been any competition between them.

"We've always played different positions," explained Missy, "so there was never any competition between us."

Michele added, "It's not about

who has the most points or who has the better game, because we're on the same team."

However, the pair does get into heated debates about some of their games.

"We're very critical of one another and because we're sisters, we can be very honest with one another," said Michele.

Missy added, "We blow up at each other about once a year. Last year it was at Calvin and this year was last week against Olivet."

In their last year together, the team has shown that play with anybody.

Both women are near the top of the league at their positions, with one of them in the top five of virtually every statistical category.

Volleyball coach resigns

Alma College Public Relations
Press Release

Alma College volleyball coach John Chiodini has resigned, citing the desire to spend more time with his family. A search for a new coach is being conducted by Tammy Anderson, Alma's women's athletic director.

Chiodini coached Alma teams to Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association co-championships in 1982 and '83 and an out-

right title in 1984. His career coaching mark at Alma was 265-139 (.6560). This year, Chiodini coached Alma to a fourth-place finish in the conference with a 6-6 mark (13-14 overall).

A part-time coach at Alma, Chiodini works as an insurance sales representative in Mt. Pleasant. A graduate of Eastern Michigan University, he was a high school coach in Alma and Greenville prior to coaching Alma College volleyball.

Almanian job opportunities

- copy editor
- business manager

Students interested in working for the Almanian as a staff member or freelance writer or photographer, contact Justin Bauer or Laura Paetz at the Almanian office in Newberry Basement (7161).

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Coalition on Donation

Jan. 23, 1996

Women's basketball record shoots up to 12-3

By Phil Allmen
Staff Reporter

After beating Olivet 80-34, the women's basketball team played the Kalamazoo Hornets at home winning 70-51.

These two wins give the women a 12-3 record with a MIAA record of 4-1. The team is currently on a five-game winning streak.

At Saturday's game, the Hornets kept the game fairly close in the first half, down only 8 points. Once the action started again, the Scots had some trouble holding onto the ball on offense, although they managed to keep their lead through good defense.

"Defensively, we played fairly well, though we still need to pick it up better. Also, we made a few too many turnovers, though we know what to do now, and hopefully we'll play better," commented junior Michelle Olds.

Olds wasn't the only one showing concern about the team's of-

fensive game.

"We still need to work on our passing and decision-making in the game," said junior Kristi Kern.

The offense of the Scots did not have too much to worry about. Although the Hornets kept the game close for three quarters, in the last ten minutes they just could barely score despite the 19 points by their star guard, senior Sara Musser.

The Scots were led by junior Melissa Vandamme with 18 points and 10 rebounds.

Senior Ashley Reigh, juniors Jamie McClellan and Olds and first-year student Kristi Euler also helped the Scots to victory by scoring in the double digits each.

Despite concerns in the team's offense, the team is continuously improving.

"Every game, we improve. We are working harder in practice, and we are all banding together. We encourage one another more now that our games are getting harder,"

said Kern.

Olds agreed.

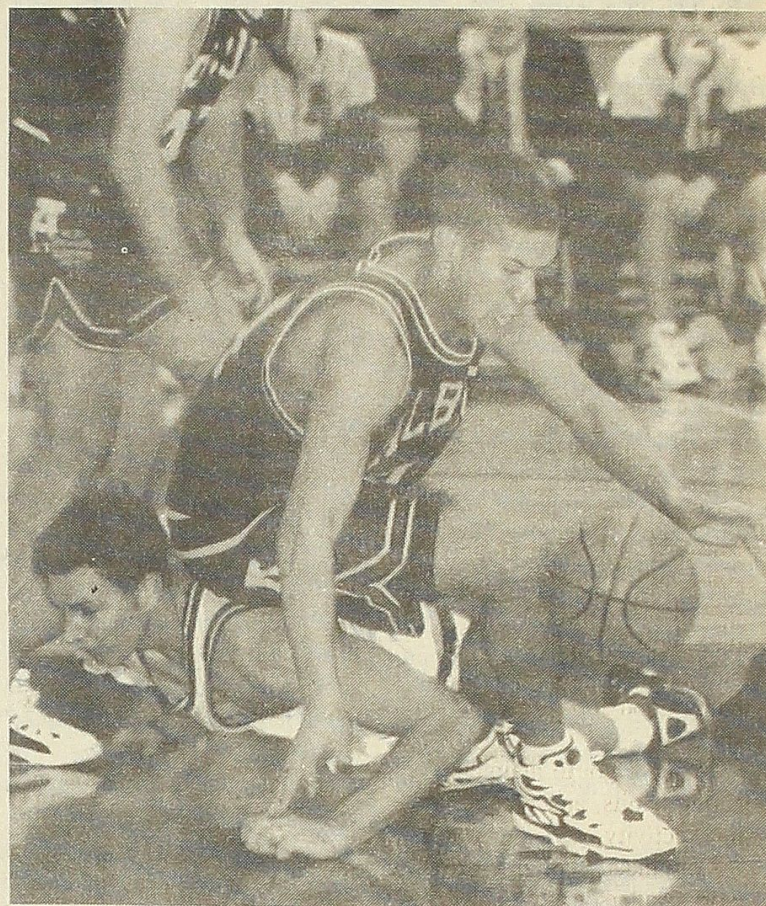
"As the season goes on, we are playing with more and more intensity," she said.

Although the team is currently on a five game winning streak, they have a tough week ahead of them, playing Adrian and Calvin away. Without the big, energetic crowd cheering the women on to victory, can the team make it?

"We really need to concentrate on defense," said senior Michelle Vandamme. "This coming week will probably be the biggest conference games for us. We just have to go into each game and work as hard as we can."

With the continual effort put forth by the team combined with a bit of Scot luck the team will return from Calvin with another two wins under their rim.

An Alma player dodges a block as another team member lends support. Photo by Derek Warner.



Men's swimming ends losing streak

By Dana Reinke
Sports Editor

A 15-year losing streak ended last Tuesday when Alma's men's swimming and diving team defeated conference opponent Albion 115-113, improving their season record to 1-2.

"It was just unbelievable," said Head Coach Greg Baadte. "It's our turn to have bragging rights for the next 365 days."

Earning victories over both Albion teams shows that Alma is starting to rank in the middle of the conference, said Baadte.

"The wins help to give us a little more respect in the conference," said Baadte. "We know we have swimmers on both teams who can

The men's swimming and diving teams are working hard to improve their times for Saturday's meet at Calvin College. Photo by Derek Warner.

beat other swimmers on teams in our conference."

For Alma's men, three first-year students led the way, each earning double victories in their respective events.

Bill James swam to victories in the 200 yard individual medley with a time 2:08.68 and a 2:10.47 in the 200 yard butterfly.

Keith Schall earned his two first place finishes in both the one meter and three meter diving events. Fellow first-year student Mark Oberman won the sprint freestyles with a 23.08 in the 50 yard freestyle and outtouched his opponent to finish in 50.60 in the 100 yard freestyle.

According to Baadte, Oberman winning the 100 yard freestyle was the pivotal race of the meet.

"I wasn't counting on first in that race, but when Oberman won it I felt pretty good about the rest of the meet," said Baadte.

In addition to the 100 yard

freestyle being an important race, senior Todd Lee added key points to the team's victory by entering into the one meter diving competition, placing second.

Other men who helped the Scots to victory were seniors Christian Betz and Lee with a 2-3 finish in the 200 yard freestyle with times of 1:51.47 and 2:09.29 respectively. First-year student Chad Wisniewski took second behind Oberman in the 50 yard freestyle with a time of 23.50 and third in the 100 yard freestyle with 52.60. Senior captain Eric Zettel swam a 2:32.37 to take second place in the 200 yard breaststroke. Senior captain Brett Martin swam the 500 yard freestyle in 5:24.71 to place second.

Hoping to improve on their record, the men head to Calvin next Saturday.

"We have got the diving, but there are going to be close races in the sprint freestyles and individual medley," he said.

Women's swimming defeats Albion by one

By Dana Reinke
Sports Editor

Alma's women's swimming and diving team did their part to complete a sweep of Albion, pulling out a one point victory 122-121 to give them a 1-2 record in MIAA conference.

The 400 yard freestyle relay team consisting of sophomore Renee DeGraaf, junior Melissa Merwin, senior Jennifer Bondy and sophomore Christin Waldron secured the women victory taking first in a time of 3:59.71 in the last race of the meet.

Because of the women's recent successes, the swimming and diving teams are starting to rank in the middle of the conference.

On the women's side, junior

Danielle Sullivan led the way earning victories in three events.

Sullivan won the 200 yard backstroke in 2:17.21, the 200 yard individual medley in a time of 2:20.04 and the 200 yard freestyle in 1:58.93.

DeGraaf followed her teammate earning victories in the 50 yard freestyle and the 100 yard freestyle in times of 25.89 and 57.40 respectively.

Senior Melissa Wuchte gave the team a first place in 200 yard butterfly, finishing in a time of 2:34.58.

Depth played a major role in Alma's women's victory, said Baadte.

"We knew our depth was better than theirs, we just had to make

sure we had the right people in the right spots," said Baadte.

"We have our DeGraaf's and Sullivan's, but the meet came down

Because of the women's recent successes, the swimming and diving teams are starting to rank in the middle of the conference.

to that our second and third swimmers beat their second swimmers," Baadte continued.

Baadte pointed out the performances of Waldron and first-year student Sarah Abbey as keys to the

women's victory.

According to Baadte, Abbey swam an unbelievable race in the 500 yard freestyle, placing second in a time of 5:53.59.

Waldron swam to a fifth place finish in the 200 yard butterfly, with the one point earned being the difference in the result of the meet.

"We have been training Waldron all season for the individual medley, but she was the only person we could put in the 200 yard butterfly and she came in and did the job," said Baadte. "If she's not there we don't win the meet."

Adding to the women's victory was a 2-3-4 finish in the 1000 yard freestyle by Bondy, sophomore Jennifer Rocco and junior Amy

Marklund in times of 11:57.31, 12:14.98 and 13:00.55 respectively.

Abbey and Rocco also went 2-3 in the 500 yard freestyle in times of 5:53.59 and 5:58.45.

First-year student Heather Klepper broke her own diving records this week, coming closer to the team records earning 193 points in the one meter and 206.20 points in the three meter diving competition.

Klepper placed third and second in those events.

Next Saturday the Scots head to Calvin to take on a team they beat last year.

"The meet is going to be close, you don't know who is going to show up for Calvin," said Baadte.

Health consciousness aids weight loss process

By Trisha A. Warner
Special Projects Reporter

Each new year thousands of people make resolutions to begin a weight loss program, but few meet their goals. Is it because they lack motivation?

Not necessarily, according to Robyn Anderson, assistant professor of exercise and health science. From her perspective as faculty supervisor for Alma's adult fitness program, success is more than the motivation to achieve; it is also an attitude.

She stresses that in trying to lose weight, people lose sight of something much more important: their health. By concentrating on the bigger issue of health, they can maintain active life-styles and still enjoy good food in moderation, she said.

"You've got to maintain good eating habits, and you've got to have activity."

Convinced that diets do not work, Anderson advises people to concentrate more on healthy eating habits than losing weight. She

recommends limiting fat intake to less than 30 percent of total calories and eating complex carbohydrates, fruits and vegetables as steps toward better health. She cautions being swept into the current "low fat" food frenzy, noting that altering the food to maintain its original flavor may double or triple the sugar content.

"There really is no benefit to those low fat foods if their calorie content remains the same regardless of fat. You've got to be a very smart consumer," she warned.

For Anderson, exercise is an essential ingredient that must accompany healthy eating.

"Eating and exercise are strongly interlocked," she says. But it is easy to be overwhelmed by the experts' recommendations of intense exercising for 20 minutes, at least three times each week. That intensity is

too difficult for the average person to maintain, said Anderson, and is a leading reason people quit exercising. Boredom is another.

Anderson's alternative plan is a health recipe that side-steps the

Anderson. By varying their types of exercise, people have a much better chance of maintaining their program.

"It's real easy for me to say, 'You should go out and jog every day.'

But if you don't like to jog and it bores you within three days, or you're finding that you're having injuries ... then you're not going to do that activity."

Still, her plan does not mean abandoning traditional exercises such as sit-ups, crunches and push-ups.

"Exercise has many components [for building and maintaining]

aerobics, strength and flexibility." While for complete health we need to be fit in each category, working the large muscle groups and building strength are especially important.

"Many aging problems are a direct function of disuse," says Anderson. "People just quit using what they have."

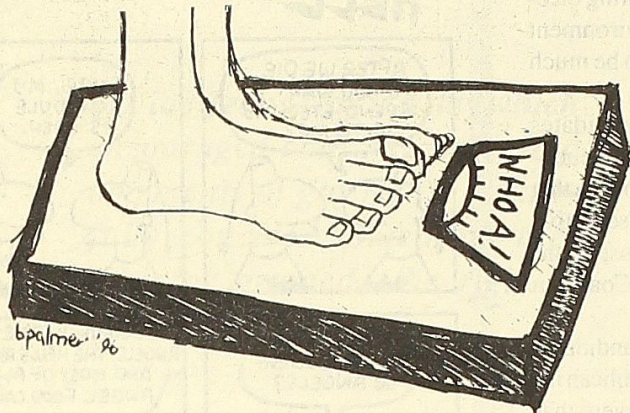
To keep people going, she also recommends finding an exercise partner or group to hold them accountable.

"People can become more committed," she said, "if they have somebody to keep them accountable." Consider joining a group aerobics class or walking with neighborhood friends, a great way to build social relationships.

In addition to facilitating weight loss and social relationships, exercise benefits the mind. Anderson notes that "runner's high" is a true phenomenon; once you get started doing something you really like, you will start experiencing a similar energy boost. Another notable exercise benefit is stress reduction.

Research has shown that exercising regularly can improve quality of life.

"If we can get it across to people that maintaining muscular integrity maintains the rest of the body functions and is so critical to the aging process, we could have significant changes as far as quality of life in our later years," Anderson concludes.



popular formula. Instead, she encourages people to pursue a variety of activities.

"Just do something," she advises. "Walk, jog, bike, enjoy nature, expend some energy."

"One of the biggest concerns in terms of physical activity is the term 'compliance'—starting a program and sticking with it," explained

Alma College Winter Sports Standings

Women's Basketball

| | League | Overall |
|-----------|--------|---------|
| Calvin | 4-0 | 10-3 |
| Adrian | 3-0 | 6-7 |
| Alma | 2-1 | 10-3 |
| Hope | 2-1 | 3-11 |
| Kalamazoo | 1-2 | 3-12 |
| Albion | 0-4 | 1-12 |
| Olivet | 0-4 | 1-13 |

Men's Basketball

| | League | Overall |
|-----------|--------|---------|
| Hope | 3-0 | 12-3 |
| Albion | 3-1 | 11-4 |
| Olivet | 2-2 | 8-7 |
| Adrian | 1-2 | 7-4 |
| Alma | 1-2 | 3-12 |
| Kalamazoo | 1-2 | 7-7 |
| Calvin | 1-3 | 7-7 |

Women's Swimming and Diving

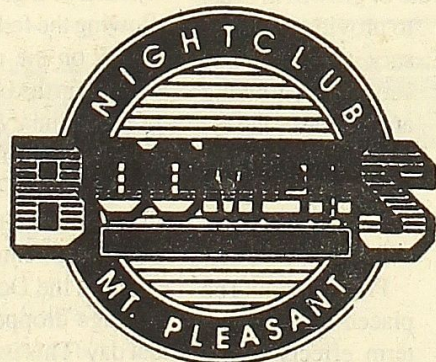
| | |
|-----------|-----|
| Hope | 2-0 |
| Kalamazoo | 2-0 |
| Alma | 1-2 |
| Albion | 0-1 |
| Calvin | 0-2 |

Men's Swimming and Diving

| | |
|-----------|-----|
| Hope | 2-0 |
| Kalamazoo | 2-0 |
| Alma | 1-2 |
| Albion | 0-1 |
| Calvin | 0-2 |

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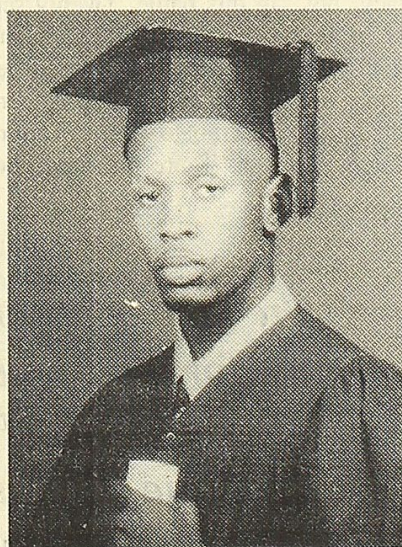
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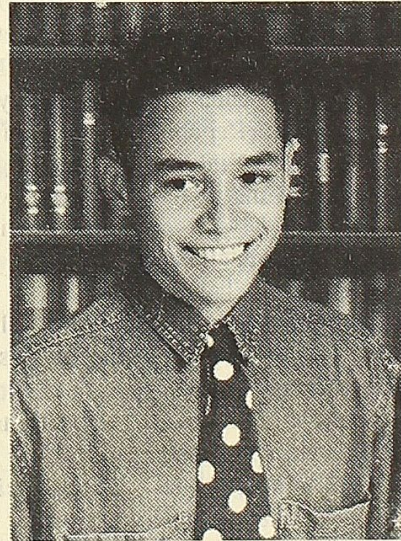
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U.S. Department of Transportation



Willie "Sunnie" Prevo
Graduating: June 4, 1992.
Killed: May 28, 1992
Cleveland, OH



Aaron Rodriguez
Ballplayer freshman year.
Little League Coach sophomore year.
Killed junior year.
December 28, 1993
San Antonio, TX

If you don't stop someone
from driving drunk, who will?
Do whatever it takes.

FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS DRIVE DRUNK.

If you don't stop someone
from driving drunk, who will?
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FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS DRIVE DRUNK.

Jan. 23, 1996

Republicans damage chances

By Brandon Edward Miller
Staff Reporter

Although the Presidential election is over eight months away, Republican candidates and President Clinton are already hot on the campaign trail.

Straw poles, debates and television ads are again a part of our lives. Anyone closely following the race knows how far each candidate lives from Washington and why he is more of an outsider than the other candidates.

While it is probably too early to make predictions, it seems like there is almost a concerted effort by the Republican National Committee to hand the office back to Clinton.

First, one look at the Republican candidates running for president leaves me wondering, "Where are the candidates?" Prominent Republicans such as William Bennett, Colin Powell, Dick Cheney, Jack Kemp and Lynn Martin have all declined to seek the presidency.

Is this because they are afraid that they cannot beat Clinton, a proven, highly successful campaigner? Or is it possible that these relatively reasonable, moderate Republicans do not want to be associated with the right-wing extremists who have somehow taken over Congress?

One of the main reasons that the Republican party is doing so poorly in the polls is that they are pandering to the Christian Coalition. This radical, fundamentalist group, which constitutes only 500,000 members of the Republican party, has set the agenda for campaigning Republicans.

The Christian Coalition is at-

tempting to make abortion, prayer in school and promotion of the nuclear family at all costs, the central themes for the upcoming election. Education, the environment and the economy seem to be much more important themes.

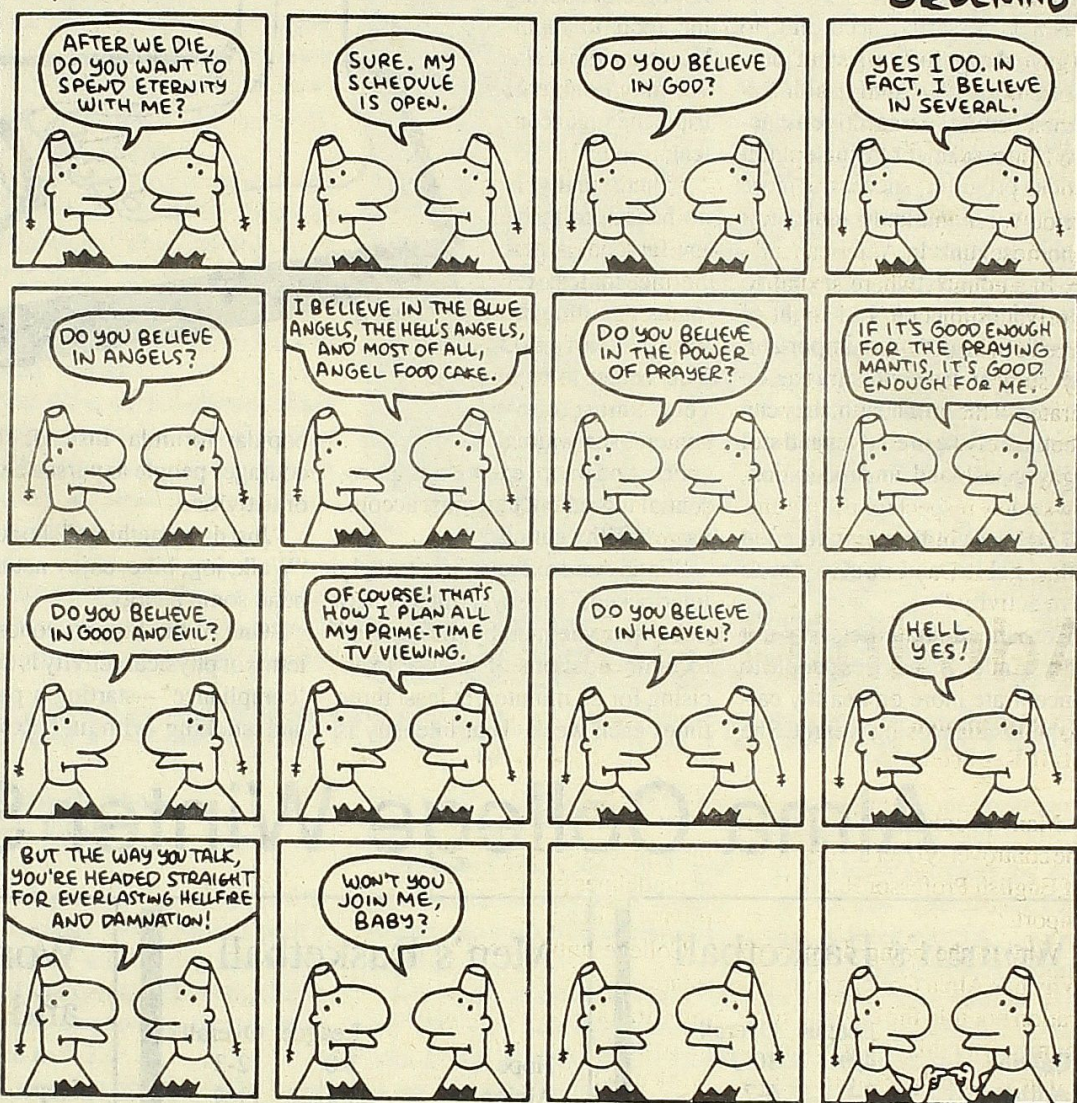
At one point, the candidates stooped to engaging in a pseudo-"pissing match" to try to prove that they were the most conservative candidate and had the most "family values," as defined by Coalition leadership.

While all fields of candidates have disagreements, Republican infighting seems to be so severe that it is only serving the right wing of the party and hurting their front-runner, Senator Robert Dole. With the exception of millionaire Steve Forbes and Senator Richard Lugar, candidates slam their front-runner calling him a "closet moderate" who is an "insider" working for Washington, not the American people.

It would seem that this country probably should be run by a moderate; that is why Clinton has been so successful. Also, don't you want some one in the White House who knows how Washington works? Four years of a lame duck does not seem, as President Bush would say, "prudent."

Clinton has been doing well on his own. The economy is growing, unemployment is shrinking and the budget talks are being framed by his moral principles. This, along with the recent string of success in helping Ireland, the Middle East, and Bosnia achieve steps toward peace seems to be leading toward a second term for the former governor of Arkansas.

LIFE IN HELL



Budget agreement must be reached before election

By Justin Gustafson
Staff Reporter

President Clinton opened his door to budget talks with Republicans last week, but Newt Gingrich and company refused the invitation.

The GOP claims to want a balanced budget agreement, but has not backed up its rhetoric with any action.

Both the President and Congressional Republicans have proposed plans that would balance the budget in seven years, and all that remains now is to work out the final differences. The President has indicated his willingness to sit down and negotiate personally with Republican leaders, but the GOP continues to pass up every opportunity to talk. A planned negotiating session scheduled for last Wednesday was canceled by Newt Gingrich. Why?

It seems that the Republicans are willing to throw America into complete chaos if they don't get their way. Our country was founded on

the principle of democracy, not authoritarianism. In order to accomplish things, our system was specifically designed so that no one person or party could control the entire government. However, Gingrich seems to think that it is his way or the highway.

Republicans have proposed over \$241 billion in unnecessary tax cuts that only make deeper cuts in other important programs necessary in order to balance the budget. It is important for the government to achieve a balanced budget now so the burden is not passed on to future generations.

This cannot be done without some compromises by both sides.

Neither Clinton nor the Republicans can get everything they want

in this battle. Twenty senators in Congress, 10 Republicans and 10 Democrats, have urged the two parties to come to an agreement this year, not to wait until after the election. There are hard choices for

fare, Medicare, Medicaid and even Social Security if these programs are to be saved from bankruptcy. However, these programs should not be decimated by overreaching cuts in their rate of growth in order to provide unnecessary tax cuts. Our economy is growing at good pace, and the deficit has been decreasing every year since Clinton took office.

Priority should be placed on the long-term effects of the government's policies. Eliminating the deficit, paying off the national debt, reforming the programs that support the elderly and poor, protecting our environment, providing affordable

higher education to students, and retaining our status as the world leader are all priorities that should be reflected in the final budget.

both sides to make, but it can't be put off any longer—the decisions must be made now.

Reforms must be made in wel-

The American people want a balanced budget, but not by playing political games. Shutting down the government and throwing over 800,000 people out of work is not my idea of a good strategy. Nor is allowing the federal government to default on the national debt. This would ruin the United States's credibility in the eyes of the world financial community.

When Newt Gingrich announced his feeling that there may be no budget agreement until after the election, the Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped over 100 points that day. This is a small example of what could happen without a budget agreement.

The games are over and it is time for the Republicans to sit down with President Clinton and hammer out an agreement. Both sides must compromise on their positions in order to reach a solution. Politicians must remember the American people, and we must remember who is responsible for the failure to agree on a balanced budget. Without negotiation, there can be no solution.

The games are over and it is time for the Republicans to sit down with President Clinton and hammer out an agreement. Both sides must compromise on their positions in order to reach a solution.

Blue jeans reflect awareness

By Mark Andrews
Opinion Editor

Last week symbolized a great achievement for individuals on Alma's campus and across the nation.

It gave recognition to people who are often ridiculed and persecuted for their sexual orientation and allowed them to celebrate their place in society.

Pride Week marked a giant step for homosexuals in American culture. In a country where sexuality is a private subject talked about in secretive whispers—considered a dirty subject to most and barely tolerated—the implementation of a week purely for the advancement of gays, lesbians and bisexuals shows a new respect for people and their rights as individuals.

Blue Jeans Day is a day which

encouraged both advocates and opponents of gay rights to carefully consider something they take for granted—the right to wear blue jeans. Perhaps this form of support or opposition will allow individuals to see both sides of the equal rights issue.

Unfortunately, there is a large group of people who believe they must justify themselves and the fact that they wore jeans even though they do not support this issue.

I can accept that, but wearing the jeans is not purely a sign of support, it is a sign of awareness. And that is precisely the point of the week—to create awareness and educate our community.

It is disappointing to hear a stu-

dent turn to others and say, "I can't believe you wore blue jeans today." Out of aggravation I sarcasti-

But I also believe that everyone has a right to their own opinion. Agree to disagree.

There will always be disagreement in this world. Regardless of societal pressures, we should hold true to our beliefs and our convictions. But if someone should come along who disagrees with us, make them aware of these ideas and let them decide for themselves whether they will change or hold true to

make us aware, we go in kicking and screaming. We become irritated with the constant bombardment of terms for homosexuality and yet, we let heterosexism slap us in the face without blinking.

Think about it.

Everyday we see things that scream heterosexuality. Couples walking to classes together, wedding announcements and television—all geared towards heterosexuals and yet, they rarely produce a noticeable reaction concerning their frequency.

Why should homosexuality be any different?

These individuals are part of our community. We need to stop letting our differences come between us and learn an appreciation for the part they play in our education. Human is human and differences are a way of life.

Blue Jeans Day is a day which encouraged both advocates and opponents of gay rights to carefully consider something they take for granted—the right to wear blue jeans.

cally yelled, "Oh, my god, you shouldn't have done that. What were you thinking?" Perhaps I had an unwarranted response, but just as they were expressing their opinion, I expressed mine.

Personally, I support equal rights.

their own beliefs.

Tolerance is a powerful idea. We tolerate petty differences like hair color and Greek affiliation every day. It is inevitable.

But when a difference is brought to our attention to educate us and to

Administration retains right to decline comment

By Phil Allmen
Staff Reporter

Many people are talking about the controversy over the dismissal of English Professor Randi Davenport.

Why is she being dismissed? Why has Alma College administration not told the campus community why this is happening?

These are questions many people may be asking, but not all. While I neither applaud nor condemn the administration on their decision to dismiss Davenport, I accept it.

A more appropriate question to ask is whether or not the administration must answer to every question we, the students, ask, just because we are curious.

This is a private college. As a private college, the administration decides its own course of action. They do not have to follow guidelines placed on state-run colleges or guidelines implemented at other private colleges.

College tuition goes to pay the salaries of the professors and administrators. We, the students, pay these people to run the school, not to ask us what to do. If the decision-making was up to the students, there would be no need for these administrators.

Some may think that the students have a right to know of important decisions concerning the college. I think we have the right to know what is going on. I do not necessarily think we have the right to demand how or why these things are

going on.

When the Heritage Center and the addition to the library were begun, no one asked how these

Why not?

These decisions by the administration were positive. They benefited the campus community, giving

A more appropriate question to ask is whether or not the administration must answer to every question we, the students, ask, just because we are curious.

changes were going to affect us. When an entire section of campus was blocked off, no one complained about it. There were people grumbling under their breath that they had to walk around, but no one seriously complained.

ing us extended facilities for our use.

I wonder (just a thought), is it legal for the college to comment on the dismissal, as it can be seen as possibly damaging one's future career?

If this is true, then there is absolutely no reason for anyone to get upset over not knowing the reasons for Davenport's dismissal.

The dismissal of a professor is not popular, leading to demands to explain why and how the college could do this.

Should the college inform the students of everything they are doing that may cause people to get upset?

I think not.

The administration has their reasons for not informing the campus on their choices, yet we cannot accept this.

We must learn to take the good with the bad. Some may think this is unfair, but then again, that's life.

Anyone unwilling to see Davenport's departure has the right to discuss the issue with the administration, but should not insist on an answer or a reversal. If the college deems it better to withhold the reasons of Davenport's dismissal it is within their rights.

You can always think of her dismissal as a friend who is graduating. If you really are a friend her leaving won't end the discussions, help in publishing works or just being a positive female role-model.

As with friends who leave, you just have to work harder, but then if you truly want to seek out continued support, it isn't really hard at all.

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Staff Editorial

Agency tackles decline in downtown

Governor John Engler, in his latest State of the State address, declared the "rust belt" a thing of the past for Michigan. Looking around Alma's downtown business district, however, could give Engler pause.

Alma's downtown has been in a gradual decline. More and more businesses are closing their doors and moving out of Alma.

In the past four months, the business district has lost Alma Screen and Stitch and the Sound Depot—the first going out of business, the other leaving town to relocate in Mount Pleasant. Clothing shops and small businesses have been replaced by pawn shops and dollar stores.

Superior Street has an increasing number of empty storefronts and for-rent signs.

Alma College students perceive the Superior Street business district as unresponsive to their needs. It is seen as empty, not useful, essentially dead.

With the exception of Max & Emily's and a few of the bars, students do not patronize downtown business and downtown merchants fail to

attract arguably the largest group of consumers in the city—not to mention the group with the most disposable income.

Instead of a thriving downtown, Alma instead has a strip of fast-food restaurants, laundromats and gas stations along Wright Avenue.

The small-town downtown that once served as the center of Alma has been replaced by Business US 27, Wal-Mart and Ashcraft's. Increasingly, Alma's downtown businesses find themselves unable to compete with the bigger, cheaper stores along the road out of town and the stores in Mount Pleasant.

The decline of small-town downtowns is not restricted to Alma. It is a phenomenon that has happened across the country; business is gradually moving to the outskirts of small towns, to malls and fast-food strips, or even leaving small towns completely in favor of larger cities.

This widespread death of downtown areas is well-documented, and the negative effects are numerous.

The loss of a downtown robs a small town of its sense of community. It trades a distinctive character for plastic, strip-mall homogeneity. It cashes in

community-owned business for national conglomerates; it directs a town's income outside of the town.

The death of small-town downtowns is an event to be mourned.

The Gratiot Area Chamber of Commerce voted Jan. 11 to create a body to deal with the decline of Alma's downtown. The Downtown Development Agency (DDA) has the mission of stimulating economic growth in the downtown area and preserving historic buildings in the district.

The DDA has a large task ahead of it. It is faced with competition from the Wright Avenue strip—which, in addition to placing the city in the position of robbing Peter to pay Paul—will be growing more and more accessible with a new traffic light and a planned extension of the street to the north, which will allow for further development.

It also faces competition from Mount Pleasant and Lansing and while targeting college shopping is important, Alma—and Alma College—remain reasonably small markets.

Unfortunately, the factor that has most contributed to Alma's downtown decline is located

within the city; the Wright Avenue strip has pulled business away from the downtown district—and any resurgence of a downtown district will attract Wright Avenue business.

This presents a Catch-22 for the city—they must decide whether a new, attractive downtown will have a more positive effect on the city than continued Wright Avenue traffic.

Certainly, the Chamber of Commerce must be commended for its efforts to reverse the decline of Alma's downtown business district.

However, the job they have given to the DDA is huge, and while the agency has only begun its work, the difficult task of facilitating the growth of business in the downtown district, coupled with the competition from Wright Avenue, may prove to be a more difficult task than the agency can handle.

The DDA must be innovative enough to attract new business to the district, supportive enough to allow it to grow, and firm enough to commit to the benefits of a downtown at the expense of an already-established Wright Avenue district.

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

Campus journalism enforces stereotypes

An unfortunate travesty has overtaken the Alma College campus.

For sometime now, this campus's key opinion makers have been abusing their power. I am in no way insinuating that the *Almanian* staff is unskilled or untruthful, but they continually commit what PROFESSIONAL journalists consider a mortal sin—biased reporting.

Before I start, I fully expect this article to be changed from its original version, and I hope that, after the editors are through dissecting my words, they haven't totally changed my meanings or intentions. That is assuming I even make the paper.

Biased reporting.

Last term, a slight altercation occurred at the TKE house which didn't even involve any active TKE members. The altercation occurred between an invited party guest and a TKE alumni who had graduated two years ago. Phil Allmen's article boldly showcased the TKEs in his first page title, thereby, creating false implementations. What must have slipped his mind was that the TKEs were not involved, they handled the situation in perfect unison with campus policy and received the administration's full blessing for their efforts. The article portrayed the TKE house as a sleazy road house in Hickville USA, and painted

damaging, false images in its readers' minds.

Biased reporting.

My next point does not deal with something the *Almanian* has done, but what it has failed to do. Recently, Tau Kappa Epsilon volunteered its time and raised over \$290 for the Salvation Army, and, during its annual TKE on the Town variety show, raised nearly \$300 for the American Cancer Society. This type of activity is and has been characteristic of Tau Kappa Epsilon; yet, it seemed to slip the *Almanian's* mind. It was as if the *Almanian's* magic wand vanished these caring and considerate actions into thin air, and, because they did, the only image the campus has of Tau Kappa Epsilon is the false one portrayed in the first term article. Is this fair?

Biased reporting.

Over the years Tau Kappa Epsilon has worked very hard to become a positive influence on the campus and its surrounding community. The administration knows this, the faculty and staff know this, even the Alma City Council knows this. How come the *Almanian* doesn't know this, or are you just keeping this little secret to yourselves?

Biased reporting.

Derek J. Handzo '96

Forrest Gump offers optimistic little lesson

By Dan Scripps
Staff Reporter

While sitting around my house doing laundry I had the opportunity to watch *Forrest Gump* for the umpteenth time and was struck by Forrest's ability to continually look on the bright side of life.

Perhaps the reason for this focus on optimism grabbing my attention lies within the fact that we live in a society that always looks for the bad in everything and ignores the good.

This may also be the reason that the character Forrest Gump touched so many people and the movie *Forrest Gump* won so many awards.

There is a certain basis for looking at the negative. We live in a

nation that has crime rates that rival any nation on the planet, a world in which wars are continuously being waged and a society that has become callused to human suffering because it is easier to ignore it than it is to care. This makes the case for ignoring the bright side very strong. It is usually hidden behind all the anguish we are used to reading in the headlines.

However, as difficult as it may be to uncover, good still exists in this world, and its discovery makes the whole process of searching worthwhile. It has the power to restore hope in the goodness of humanity, the power to make anyone's day, the power to brighten even the darkest hour. Unfortunately, because of the difficulties in finding the good, far too many of us

are simply willing to don the traditional frown and discuss the shortcomings of the society in which we live. Because of the hurt we must face and deal with in our search for the positives, most prefer to remain apathetic towards the whole thing and go on with life caring only for themselves and blaming the victims for the hurt they must endure.

As tempting as it is to follow this pessimistic life of apathy, we as individuals—and especially as the young—have the obligation to remain open to the challenges of life and optimistic about the results of these challenges. If we don't, we propagate this spiral of discontent and pass the world on to our descendants no happier a place than the one that is currently being passed to us. This is also linked to

the suffering that continues as a result of our "one person can't change the world" attitude. If we as a society allow the suffering of individuals within the society to continue, ultimately we as a society are the ones who must bear the burdens of this suffering.

However, if we do indeed continue to look at the positive side of events, we play a role in improving our lives and the lives of others. Indeed, we play the only possible role in improving our society and forever separate ourselves from those who condemn it. The process starts within each of us, and though the effort must be collective for it to reach its potential, we must take the initiative and bear the responsibilities that go along with this course of action as individuals.