

# The Almanian

January 30, 1996

Serving Alma College since 1907

Issue 15

## Fraternities hold new members high

By Phil Allmen  
Staff Reporter

The intensity was at a peak in the capacity crowd at Runouts '96. With 53 bids being accepted, the fraternities of Alma College have all increased in size.

"I love the feeling of power and emotion in the gym at Runouts. With the music and intensity of everything, everybody had a good time," commented senior Kevin Kopacz.

Once the festivities began, Tau Kappa Epsilon entered the gym. Their entrance was filled with energy as they ran around the gym with painted faces waving TKE shirts in front of the rushees.

They were followed by Sigma Alpha Epsilon, donned in their trademark blue blazers and carrying their giant stuffed gorilla.

Sigma Chi came in as the middle group with jerseys and hockey masks.

Theta Chi came next in their characteristic mellow, subdued manner.

Lastly, the Zeta Sigma fraternity came in wearing grim reaper costumes and carrying a coffin in a sobering demeanor, turning their backs to the crowd.

As the rushees were announced, they showed their new letters to the crowd and ran to the group they chose. These groups then proceeded to lift up the new members over their heads and let the rushees "swim."

As the groups were waiting to greet more new initiates, certain groups found it necessary to chant demeaning words and phrases at other groups.

By the end of the night, Sigma Chi took 16 new members, Theta Chi added 6, Zeta Sigma recruited 2, Tau Kappa Epsilon gained 16 and Sigma Alpha Epsilon took 17 new members.

Although there were no major problems, there were minor distractions from the overall fun of the night.

As chapters gained more and more new members, the groups tended to get more rowdy and

wanted to move closer to the bleachers.

Only after repeated reminders to move back to their own area would fraternities move, said members of the IFC security team.

"The night went off without a hitch. The crowd was helpful in

keeping control the entire night," said IFC President junior Don Light.

"In past years the crowd would become a problem by repeatedly trying to come out onto the gym floor," Light continued.

This weekend was important for

the Greek system at Alma College, marking the beginning of the pledge period for the fraternities and sororities.

*The brothers of Sigma Alpha Epsilon celebrate the arrival of a new member. Photo by Kori Crandall.*



## Sorority Bidfest replaces traditional wake-ups

By Phil Allmen  
Staff Reporter

As Cappaert Gymnasium started to fill on Friday night, the chants coming from the sororities as they began to enter the building could be heard across campus.

Bidfest '96 was a change from the past sorority wake-ups.

One of the reasons for the change from wake-ups to Bidfest was the idea that the rushee had the final say and would surprise their sorority when announcing their choice.

This did not work out extremely well because bids that were not accepted by rushees were turned in and given to the respective sororities. This unofficially told some

members of the sororities who accepted bids by telling them who did not.

"We're really, really happy with how the night went. It went better than we expected and I don't think it could have gone any better than it did," said Panhellenic Council President, senior Tammi Johnson.

The night began with the intro-

duction of Panhel's executive committee, the Rho Chis (neutral sorority members who answer questions concerning Greek life) and the Intrafraternity Council's executive committee.

Once the announcements were over, the Rho Chis began to escort the rushees in to announce their intentions. With 69 rushees accepting bids, Alpha Zeta Delta and Gamma Phi Beta took the majority of new members with 21 each. Kappa Iota and Alpha Gamma Delta gained 11 and 16 new members, respectively. Ten more women signed the rush list and bids this year than last year.

"For all the women [rushees] it is so exciting to see the group you choose ready and thrilled to accept you into their group. For both sides it's a thrilling, exhilarating time," commented Gamma Phi Beta sophomore Sarah Heyd.

When all of the rushees finished announcing their intentions, the Panhel executive committee and Rho Chis announced what sorority they were already a part of. During this final portion of Bidfest, a good number of those in the bleachers

began to leave the gym.

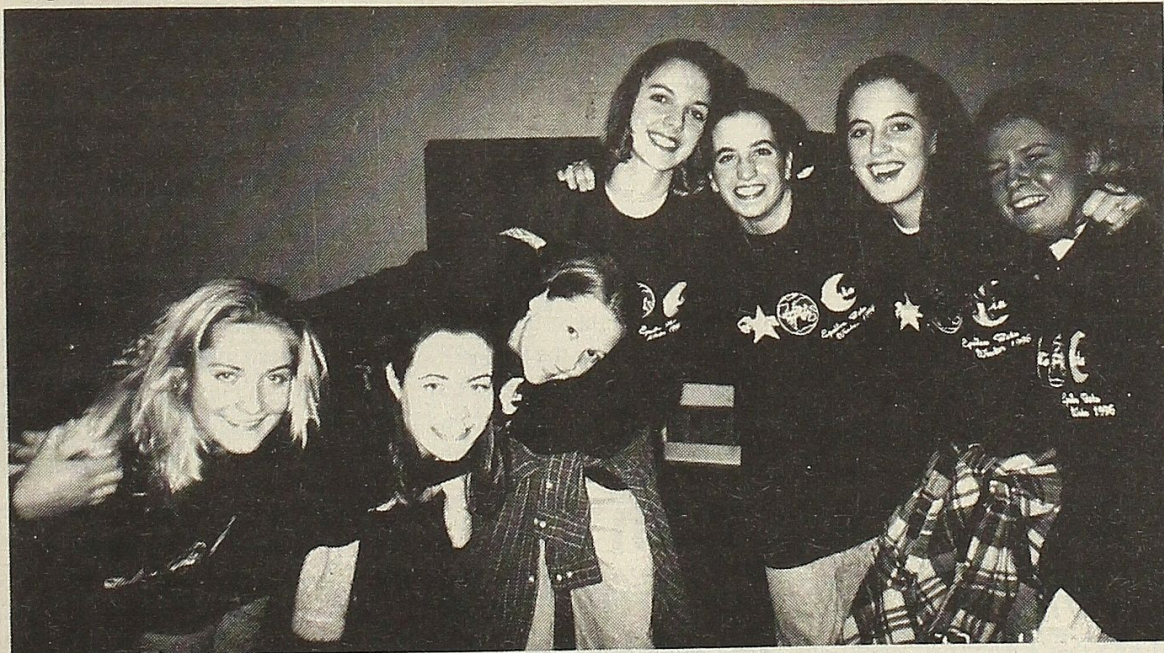
The gym was about three-quarters filled with anxious students waiting to see who would go to which group. While the crowd consisted mainly of members of the five fraternities wearing individual sorority letters, there was still a decent showing from non-Greek students.

"I am glad we got such strong support from both the fraternities and the non-Greeks. It makes us feel more confident having all of this support," said Johnson.

This change to Bidfest gives the sororities an ending to rush similar to that of the fraternities.

"I like how Bidfest was more like Runouts, but it did not feel the same. Everybody comes to Runouts, but most of the people at Bidfest were brothers. I wish there was more participation, but it was definitely better than wake-ups," commented KI member, senior Bonnie Palmer.

The changes made in the finale of sorority rush allows the entire campus an opportunity to watch. It also allows the sororities and rushees a more exciting time.



Gamma Phi Beta pre-actives pose for a picture following Bidfest. Photo by Kori Crandall.

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## Student killed in car collision

Junior Heather Hagaman was killed Friday afternoon after colliding with another car on Swan Creek Road.

Saginaw police blame the accident on bad weather and road conditions.

Hagaman was driving east on Swan Creek toward her hometown of Vassar when she hit an ice patch and lost control of her car. She was taken to Saginaw's St. Mary's

Hospital.

Funeral services are taking place at the Hanlon Funeral Home at 149 N. Main St. in Vassar. Visiting hours took place Monday from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. and will continue from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. today. The funeral will take place at 7 p.m. today.

Transportation will be provided for students or faculty who would like to attend the service. Vehicles

are scheduled to leave from the Reid-Knox parking lot at 5 p.m.

Hagaman, who was planning to major in business, was a resident of Gelston Hall. She was also involved in recycling programs in the residence halls, among other activities.

Contributions in memory of Hagaman can be made to the American Humane Society or to any public library.



Jan. 30, 1996

# Max and Emily's creates college night life

*Local business makes changes to gain student patrons*

By Julie Wilson  
Staff Reporter

Restricted to small cinemas, a bowling alley and a few bars and restaurants, students believe Alma does not have much to offer to college night life.

The local cafe, Max & Emily's, hopes to change that.

"We are trying to implement a lot of new ideas to get some more night college business," said Tim Gietzel, co-owner and manager of Max and Emily's.

New promotions include twice weekly "poverty nights" and student discounts after 4 p.m.

"During the day we get a lot of business people, but currently, we have little night business; we want to change that and hope to appeal to the college crowd more."

He added that when they first

opened, there was much college interest, but it has declined. Gietzel speculates that the initial popularity was because the business was new and different than other businesses in the area.

In order to appeal more to students, the staff of Max & Emily's, about three-quarters of which are college students, have been brainstorming ideas to make the atmosphere more youthful.

"We have added a jukebox and a pinball machine, and we have a full bar—including specials on mixed drinks—which many people were unaware of," added Gietzel.

Flyers were distributed to the residence halls as a way of possibly promoting the restaurant and increasing its volume of business.

James Kridler, dean of students, is supportive of the changes.

"They are clearly trying to appeal to students and we are supportive of this," said Kridler. "Many faculty and students like Max & Emily's, and if our support makes them more successful, then

we are supportive of this," Kridler continued.

"We really want to hear what the students want—it is their needs and wants that we are trying to accommodate," said Gietzel.

Students, in the past, have expressed interest in "open mic" nights, and bringing in musical acts on Friday nights.

"We have tried 'open mic' nights, and got a lot of interest, but then no one would show. Music nights are more popular, but we do not have any performers willing to come in right now," said Gietzel. "We are always looking for acts who would like to perform," he said.

In any case, with successful theme nights or not, it is evident that this particular business of Alma is trying to accommodate student needs. With the new changes at Max & Emily's it is possible that the city of Alma could offer a night life alternative.

*Junior Kelly Underwood entertains a group at Max & Emily's, located at 319 N. State. Photo by Jon Croff.*



# Park renovations are on drawing board

By Trisha A. Warner  
Special Projects Reporter

The City of Alma, in conjunction with Alma Public Schools Board of Education and Alma College, have recently updated their Community Parks and Recreation Plan to accommodate the changing needs of residents using the facilities.

"The reason we have to do this," explained Ken Feldt, director of public services for Alma, "is because if we want to apply for state grants, we have to have an updated park plan."

Although a portion of the funds for park renovations come from the city's budget, Feldt stated (and the plan corroborates) that federal, state and commercial grants are essential to help defray the project's costs.

Prepared by M. C. Smith Associates and Architectural Group, Inc., of Grand Rapids, the plan assesses land assets and uses, population changes,

age distribution and sex of residents and family income of both Alma and Gratiot county.

Through the assessments of the population and the present recreational facilities, M. C. Smith and the Citizen's Advisory Committee on Parks, Recreation and Community Education—comprised of citizens appointed from each of the aforementioned sponsors—plan specific additions and renovations which would best suit the growing needs of the community.

M. C. Smith identified two recreation types: active and passive.

According to their definition, "Active" recreation requires space and facilities capable of accommodating exertive activities. Such facilities include sports fields, play equipment areas, open area, special facilities such as pools and court areas and areas for organized activity."

Passive recreation requires only space and furniture for quiet activities with a limited number of people.

The "best" park would include features specific to both levels of activity, but Alma's parks tend to accommodate either one or the other. In an effort to reach middle ground, the plan includes a timeline for specific park improvements. It extends into 2001.

Although the renovations are necessary, the plan is a wish list according to Feldt.

Projects must be supplemented by grant money; having specifications set for renovation is the first step in gaining support.

Some of the projects will be completed in accordance with the timeline, said Feldt, but others may not. With over 10 parks in Alma, the need is great, but the funds may be few.

The 1996 Parks and Recreation budget is set for \$194,408. This alone could not begin to cover the costs of renovation.

The main project for 1996 is the River Walk Phase II addition. Currently, a sidewalk path extends east from the Pine River boat access.

Phase II will give pedestrians a path from the launch west to the conservation park. Although a portion of it contains steps, the walk will be handicap accessible by large, eight-foot wide sidewalks and alternate routes where necessary.

The addition will also feature two foot bridges and five look-out decks; the walk will be completely lit at night.

The total cost of the construction is estimated at \$200,000. A recreation bond grant sponsored by the State of Michigan pro-

vided \$139,000.

The City of Alma is currently advertising for construction bids. The project will be under way by March and completed by July.

The city has also received an \$80,000 grant from Alma Products in memory of their late founder E. E. Tracy and former employee Robert Hicks. The grant will be used for the addition of a picnic shelter, an ice rink, tennis courts and a band shell in Wright Park over the next several years.

Other projects scheduled for 1996 include work at Scotland Yard, Pine River and Hampton Parks as well as the Community Center.

The park improvements are important, said Feldt, because "they make the city a nicer place to live."

A priority in the renovations is handicap accessibility and lighting.

# Students learn to market themselves with resume building

*Workshops help start, improve resumes*

By Justin Gustafson  
Freelance Writer

Whether students are in their first or fourth year at Alma College, now is the time to prepare and perfect a resume.

This is the message Ginny Riser wants students to realize.

Riser, associate director for the Center for Student Development, will be hosted a resume writing workshop at 4 p.m. this afternoon in the basement of Hamilton Commons.

"It is a smart idea for someone to start thinking about their resume when they start college. This workshop helps students realize, whatever stage

they are in, what they need to do to improve their resume," said Riser.

The ideal resume should consist of what you have done, where you did it and what skills you used to do it. It is important to explain what was involved with every activity so the employer knows exactly what you can do.

The resume is not simply a piece of paper, but a marketing tool used to show yourself off to potential employers.

"The workshop will show students how to how to market them-

selves—that's what it is really all about," said Riser. "Everyone can use a little advice when they are designing their resume."

*It is a smart idea for someone to start thinking about their resume when they start college.*

*--Ginny Riser,  
associate director for the Center for Student Development*

She also mentioned that it is important to always be thinking about what goes on your resume, especially activities at Alma and sum-

mer employment.

Many jobs are being filled by people who have worked at that place before, which is why internships are extremely helpful.

"Internships let you prove yourself to the employer without cost, and internships are becoming more and more critical for getting a job," explained Riser.

She described the workshop as being very helpful to students because it will show "how you can take what you have done and

transfer that into what the employer needs. Your resume is for the reader, not for you."

Riser urged students to attend and to buy a resume making disk from the Center for \$15. This disk allows students to continually update resume information and can be put onto the data file in the Center so that when employers call, students' names and resumes can be found immediately.

Riser said, "Some students don't realize what skills they have, and this workshop will help them to realize their potential marketability."



## Dinner honors poet

By Christopher Wiederman  
News Editor

Alma College students and faculty celebrated the 7th annual Burns dinner Thursday.

The dinner, which is named for Scottish poet Robert Burns, is a way for the Alma community to celebrate its Scottish heritage.

About 80 people, primarily faculty, attended the event which combined Scottish banquet fare, bagpipes, Highland dancing, songs and poetry.

After an invocation by President Alan Stone, a couple of students assisted in the stabbing of the haggis.

Haggis, Scotland's national dish, consists of heart, liver, and lung of sheep or calf minced with onions, oatmeal and seasonings. It is then boiled in the stomach of the animal.

For the less adventurous diner,

Marriott food service also served roast turkey, pastries, and mashed potatoes in a typical Scottish manner. The evening concluded with fruit trifle and tea cakes, followed by entertainment.

The Kiltie Dancers entertained the crowd with Highland dancing. The dances, which symbolize the gracefulness of a deer or elk, included the traditional "Highland Fling" and a more contemporary "Blue Bonnets Over the Border."

Provost Leslie Ellen Brown read poetry by Robert Burns and recent poet-in-residence at Alma Christopher Rush.

Senior Becky Shelley, accompanied by Anthony Patterson, performed the songs "Comin' Through the Rye," "My Love's Like a Red, Red, Rose," and "Brigadoon."

"It's a chance to share in traditional Scottish activities," said Shelley, "though it's too bad that more students did not come."

## 1996 writing contest winners announced

### Essay:

1st: "Grampa's Greatest Gift" by Lora J. Bingham '97

2nd: "Drinking Dad's Wine" by Jaime Vendeville '98

3rd: "Sanctuary" by Matthew Deacon '96

### Poetry:

1st: "Lifestyle" by Julie Johnston '96

2nd: "Doctor" by Jennifer MacKillop '99

3rd: "Laide" by Julie Wilson '98

### Short Story:

1st: "The Crabapple Wars" by Eric B. Dixon '98

2nd and 3rd prizes were not awarded

## Keeping You Informed

Career placement agencies aid in job hunt

This year over 1,180,000 new college graduates will hit the streets looking for employment—up from 1,000,000 just two years ago. Unfortunately, there are usually more graduates than jobs, and over the next several years, it is projected that the number of college-graduating job-seekers will grow faster than the number of employment positions requiring a college degree. If these projections hold true, the prospects for finding the "right job" will become even more difficult.

A personnel consulting group found the average employer takes only 15 seconds to review a resume. With the daunting task of standing out among their peers and getting their prospective employer's maximum attention, many students are turning to more aggressive job search methods like career placement agencies rather than the traditional mass mailing of resumes.

Often, companies will contract with placement agencies to find qualified employees on their behalf. "In a sense, a good placement agency does half the work for you," said Mark Stevens, owner and manager of placement agency Snelling and Snelling, Inc. in Chicago. "We will have many, many more irons in the fire than the average job hunter. On a daily basis, we are dealing with many companies who are actively hiring. Since we know their requirements, we match prospects with the right companies. It is much more efficient and successful than any other job search method."

Snelling Personnel Services has an international network of more than 275 offices specializing in the career placement and temporary staffing industry, illustrating their commitment to job hunting success.

### Amtrak offers 15% discount for college students

Amtrak is making it easy for college students to travel to and from school for the 1995-96 school year. They will offer 15% off rail fares until August 31, 1996.

Amtrak is teaming up with Student Advantage, a paid-membership savings club exclusively for college students that saves them money on items they may need during the school year, as one of its national sponsors. Presenting the card along with their student identification at Amtrak ticket offices or travel agencies is sufficient for the discount. The card is valid for a 15% discount on all Amtrak rail fares except peak hour weekday Metroliners.

For more information, call Amtrak toll-free at 1-800-USA-RAIL or any travel agent. To receive the student discount, college student must purchase the card from Student Advantage for \$20. The card may be purchased either by mail sent to 321 Columbus Ave., Boston, Mass., 02116, or by calling 1-800-333-2920.

## Feminist lawyer to speak on reproductive rights

By Christopher Sienko  
Alma College Public Relations

Kathryn Kolbert, vice president of the Center for Reproductive Law and Policy, presents "Law and Women's Reproductive Rights in the '90s," a lecture for the Alma College campus tomorrow at 8 p.m. in the Heritage Center for the Performing Arts, Presbyterian Hall.

Kolbert was recognized in 1991 by the National Law Journal as one of the "100 Most Influential Lawyers in America."

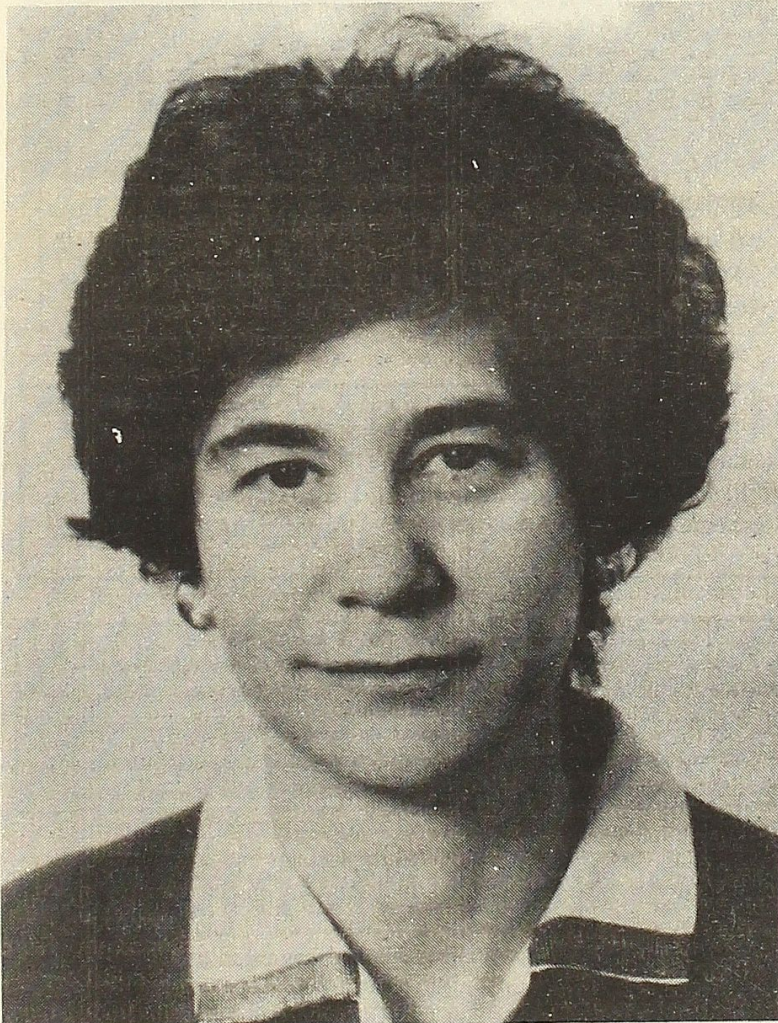
She and the Center were lead counsel in *Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey*, a Supreme Court case that tested the principles of *Roe v. Wade* in 1992. She is also co-counsel in the Center's legal challenges to Louisiana's ban on abortion and birth control and to abortion restrictions in Alaska, North Dakota and Tennessee.

Between 1979 and 1988, as an *Kathryn Kolbert, who has litigated major challenges to abortion laws, will speak on reproductive rights Wednesday. Photo courtesy of Alma College Public Relations.*

attorney for the Women's Law Project, Kolbert litigated major challenges to restrictive abortion laws in Pennsylvania. In 1984, she co-founded and served as the first director of Women's Agenda, a Pennsylvania advocacy organization for women and children. During her three-year tenure with the organization, Women's Agenda grew to represent 150 organizations and thousands of Pennsylvania activists, successfully increasing by \$75 million state appropriations for Pennsylvania women and children's programs.

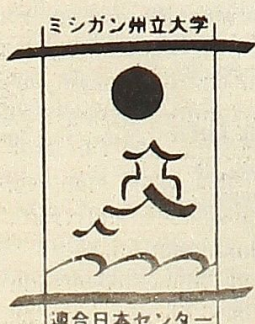
Presently, the Center is lead counsel in challenges to restrictive abortion laws in Guam, Utah and Mississippi. In addition, Center attorneys continue to bring legal challenges to punitive measures taken against women in the name of "fetal rights."

The lecture is sponsored by the Women's Issues Advisory Board and the Co-Curricular Affairs Committee. There will be a reception after the lecture in the Heritage Center Lobby.



## Study Abroad at the Japan Center for Michigan Universities

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## Financial aid forms for 1996-97 now available

Financial aid forms for the 1996-97 academic year have been received by the financial aid office.

Students who filed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the current year had a 1996-97 renewal FAFSA sent directly to their home address.

If a student's parents have not received the renewal FAFSA, he or she should stop by the financial aid office to get the form.

In addition, Alma College Aid/Scholarship renewal forms will

be sent to each returning student's campus address.

Even if a student has not yet filed a FAFSA for Federal and State aid, she or he must submit the Aid/Scholarship Renewal Form to be considered for renewal of any Alma College awards.

The FAFSA must be completed by March 15. The Alma College Renewal Form is due April 15. The financial aid office is located in the lower level of the Kehrl Building.



Jan. 30, 1996

# Yearbook title to become politically correct

*Scotsman attempts to remove sexist language from its name*

By Laura M. Paetz  
Editor-in-Chief

Students looking for their annual *Scotsman* next year may be surprised to learn that the book is no longer in production.

At least, not as the *Scotsman*.

In an effort to remain in line with Alma College's policy on sexism and to be more politically correct, the *Scotsman* will change its name to the *Thistle*.

The change was initiated by senior Sarah Gornicki, editor-in-

chief of the *Scotsman*, after attending the National College Media Convention in New York City in March.

According to sophomore Stacie Fishell, the yearbook has been trying to make the name change since last year.

"The whole college is going politically correct and trying to keep things from being sexist. The *Scotsman* is one of the worst. We started talking about changing it last year, but there were a lot of people against it," Fishell said.

Opponents of the change on last year's staff felt that changing the

name would be breaking tradition and that no one cared what the

have recently challenged the gendered language of the current name.

*The whole college is going politically correct and trying to keep things from being sexist. The Scotsman is one of the worst.*

-- Stacie Fishell '98

**Scotsman organization editor**

yearbook is called.

However, Gornicki believes these claims are invalid since the yearbook has not always been called the *Scotsman* and because students

continued.

The *Scotsman* staff also had problems with *The Piper*, which is the title of a public relations paper for parents, and *True Scot*, the name of an *Almanian* column written by senior Susan Elliott.

"It seemed that every name we liked copied something else that already existed on campus," said Gornicki.

Suggestions for a new name will still be considered by the staff.

"We're not super happy with the *Thistle*, but we like it better than the *Scotsman*," Gornicki said.

The name change will take place this year or next depending on yearbook cover production deadlines and pending approval of college officials.

## India Fellows sought for teaching program

By Dan Scripps  
Staff Reporter

Selection will soon take place for next year's Indain Fellows.

The program gives the opportunity for an Alma undergraduate student to spend a year as an adjunct faculty member in the English language program at the Mathen Mappilai Memorial Public School in Ayroor, Kerala, India.

The school teaches kindergarten through sixth grade and has an enrollment of approximately 175 co-educational, non-residential students.

Currently, alumna Nicole Purdue '95 and senior Ann Gibbs are serving as teachers through this program.

"The principal and governing board of the school have agreed that instructional participation in the English language program by Alma College students is most desirable and eagerly anticipated by the teaching staff and students,"

said Patricia Landis, director of international studies.

A grant has been created to cover the expenses associated with transportation to and from Ayroor. Participating students also receive an allowance to cover their board and travel while in India. Initial expenses such as immunization shots, visa applications and freight charges are also covered by the program.

While in India, the school provides the student with housing as well as extending all the privileges of faculty membership.

According to the Global Service Program Committee, there are three purposes and considerations which have led to the India Fellowship Program: "to provide a conscientious teacher for a foreign school; to provide a meaningful educational experience for the individual who is elected; and to provide an opportunity for cross-cultural enrichment of the Alma College campus."

Both male and female students in the current junior class are encouraged to apply. The Global Service Program Committee will make selections on the basis of "commitment to the purposes of the program, the apparent ability and willingness to teach, academic achievement over the past three years, particular skills and extra-curricular talents needed in India, demonstrated basic awareness and knowledge of India and its culture and personality factors associated with personal maturity—sensitivity to the needs and problems of others, patience in the face of exasperating and frustrating situations, empathy with people of a culture unlike America [and] resourcefulness in unfamiliar situations..."

Applications are now being accepted and are available from the International Office. The deadline for applications is February 14, 1996. Questions regarding the program should be directed to Landis in the Kirk International Office.

## Almanian, Scotsman, WQAC applications available

Applications are available for *Almanian* or *Scotsman* editor-in-chief and WQAC general manager positions. Co-editorships are allowed for both *Almanian* and *Scotsman* positions.

Interested students should pick up applications in the student affairs office. Applications are due Feb. 1. The communications committee will start the interviewing process Feb. 9. Applicants will be notified of their interview time and date.

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Who went where?

## Fraternities, sororities announce new members

### Sigma Alpha Epsilon

Paul Chittick '99  
Mason Converse '99  
Ryan Fahler '99  
Greg Follbaum '98  
Kevin Forbing '99  
Michael Heying '99  
Don Jess '98  
Jeff Joy '98  
Scott Mantyla '99  
Brandon Peters '99  
Micah Schärer '99  
Daniel Scripps '98  
Matthew Sherman '99  
Scott Thomas '99  
Randy U'Ren '99  
Steve Vance '97  
Bill Zeedyk '99

Aaron Mansfield '99  
Peter Muccio '99  
Jason Paetz '99  
Chris Tapley '99  
Craig Tollenaar '99  
Derek Warner '99  
Eric Wood '99

### Tau Kappa Epsilon

Tony Adams '99  
Deric Bilicki '99  
Mike Baszler '99  
Kevin Carter '99  
Tom Comer '99  
Ryan Cook '99  
Marcus Dukes '99  
Michael Durco '98  
Brian Lassey '99  
Tim McAleece '99  
Alex Nicander '99  
Kurt Sutton '99  
Jay Swan '98  
Joseph Toman '99  
Jason VanDerMaas '99  
Craig Wasen '99

### Theta Chi

Scott Harman '99  
Vince Massey (honorary)

Dan Mawby '99  
Andy Schmitz '99  
Rick Villarreal '99  
Steve Wilson '97

### Zeta Sigma

John Buessing '99  
Max Leonard '99

### Alpha Gamma Delta

Stacey Burdette '99  
Meredith Hiatt '99  
Melanie Higgins '99  
Kim Hunt '99  
Robin Johncheck '99  
Lindsey Keegstra '99  
Beth Ann Klingensmith '99  
Cheryl Lenard '99  
Christine Mayers '99  
Micaela Merryweather '99  
Sara Peel '99  
Leslie Russell '99  
Sarah Schick '99  
Sara Schrader '99  
Sarah Ternin '99  
Jennifer Wright '99

### Alpha Xi Delta

Geena Beebe '99  
Tori Biebuyck '99  
Anastacia Clapper '99  
Nicole Cummings '99  
Erin DeWard '99  
Keely Donley '99  
Joy Engblade '98  
Felicia Farr '98  
Jodi Gelina '99  
Jennifer Holly '99  
Sarah Hypio '98  
Stephanie Maust '99  
Laurie McGee '99  
Stepheni Meissner '99  
Angie Noll '97  
Amber Piesko '99  
Dana Reinke '99  
Karly Schultz '98  
Janette Snyder '99  
Amanda Vogel '99

### Gamma Phi Beta

Lori Carlson '99  
Maggie Czachor '99  
Jatel Driver '99  
Kristi Euler '99  
Liz Feltner '99

Hillary Firlik '99  
Bree Hall '99  
Holly Hammerle '99  
Melissa Heist '99  
Sarah Hoeft '99  
Sara Jefferson '98  
Heather Klepper '99  
Kristine Kuhna '98  
Erin LaCosse '99  
Colleen McGrath '99  
Cheyenne Phelps '99  
Kristin Randolph '99  
Beth Rosenow '99  
Martha Schaeffer '99  
Christie Semiak '99  
Mary Serwick '99

### Kappa Iota

Karen Barto '98  
Sarah Dempsey '99  
Jen Grutza '98  
Angela Jevince '98  
Sara Keinath '99  
Jen MacKillop '97  
Erin Saal '99  
Danielle Sullivan '97  
Lisa Tessmer '98  
Mali VanderBeek '99  
Jen Wood '98

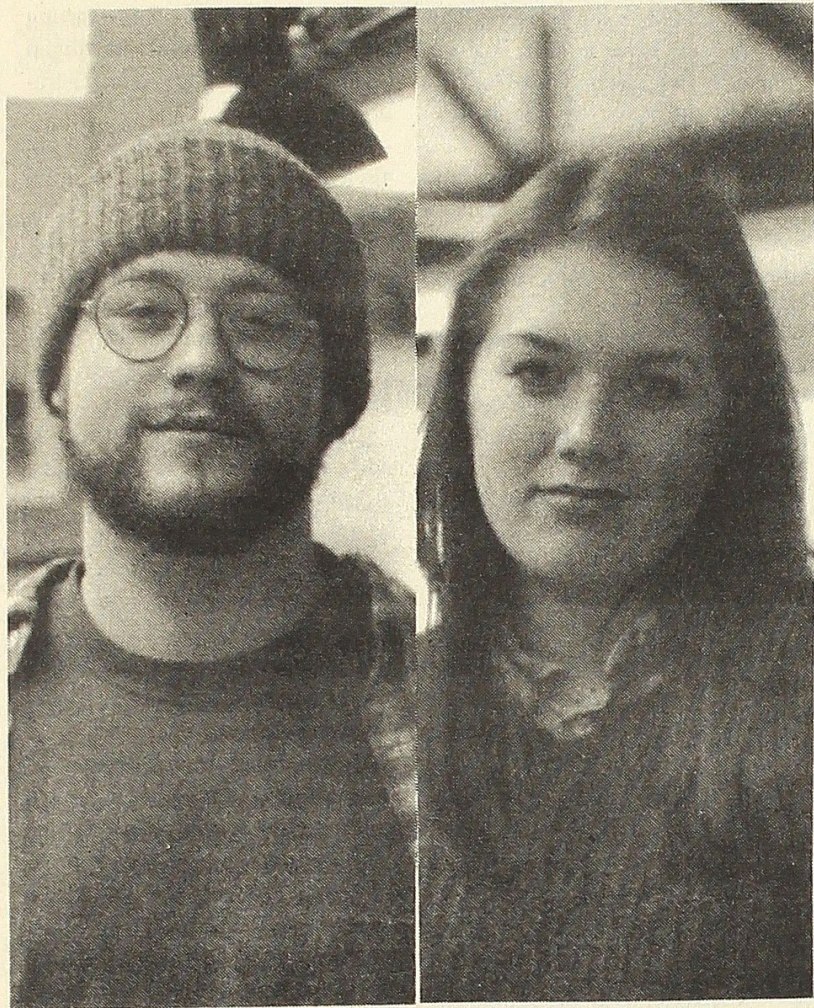
### Sigma Chi

Matt Allen '98  
Erik Cargill '98  
Troy Cox '99  
Brian Crum '99  
Chad Douglas '99  
Marcus Evans '99  
Tony Falsetta '99  
Jason Fischer '99  
Jerry Howard '98



## Art students honored

By Char Vandermeer  
Feature Editor



Senior Brent Oeschger and junior Tonya Bussema had their artwork recently accepted to the All-Michigan Student Art Show. Their artwork will be exhibited in the University of Arts gallery at CMU through Feb. 19. Photo by Char Vandermeer.

Alma's students are constantly seeking to enrich themselves and excel within their areas of interest. Junior art major Tonya Bussema and senior major Brent Oeschger recently had pieces accepted into the All-Michigan Student Art Show.

The show, which surveys the "state of the arts in Michigan colleges and universities" is on display in the University of Arts Gallery on Central Michigan University's campus through Feb. 19.

Both Bussema and Oeschger were notified of the competition approximately three months ago and submitted

slides of work they had produced within the last year. Bussema's *Nesting* and *Sailing* and Oeschger's *Blind Contour* and *Observations #1* were both selected by a jury to be a part of the show.

Bussema's sculpture *Nesting* won third place honors in the state-wide competition.

"I really enjoyed making it [*Nesting*] because it was a really physical process of making the paper. It [paper-making] was something I'd never done before," Bussema said.

"It was really gratifying to see that all my hard work had paid off. I feel more qualified to call myself an artist now," said Bussema. "I

think this will give me more confidence to try different things. If I fail at something I'll always have this to prove to myself that I can succeed."

Bussema's *Nesting* consists of a series of 16 to 20 hand-made paper boxes filled with a variety of items including sea shells, semi-precious

*I think we forget what we have here at Alma within the art department...we can compete with schools that are well known for their art programs.*  
Senior Brent Oeschger

stones, ferns, feathers, twigs, pencil shavings and pennies.

"I see the boxes as people. On the outside they all look roughly the same, but on the inside there's something unique and individual about every one," commented Bussema.

*Sailing*, a sculpture of long, slender and bent wooden sticks connected with handmade paper, hangs from the ceiling of the CMU gallery.

Oeschger's oil painting *Observations #1* and Bussema's *Nesting* were on display earlier this year in Alma College's Student Art Exhibit.

In addition to *Observations #1*, which is the first in a series of four self-portraits exploring the relationship between the mind and body, *Blind Contour*, Oeschger's pen and ink drawing of a life model—which he drew without looking at the page—was chosen.

"Not a lot of students from Alma enter shows. It's good to see that two Alma College students got into the show. It says a lot about our program," said Oeschger. "I think we forget what we have here at Alma within the art department and that we can compete with schools that are well known for their art programs."

"It's a great thing for students to begin exhibiting their work. It's important to begin this process. It's a wonderful opportunity for their ideas and feeling and thoughts to be expressed. That is what visual arts are all about. A forum for that is public exhibition. I think it's a good example for all students," said Professor of Art and Design Bob Rozier.

"I went to the opening and I was really impressed with the quality of work there. There was a very wide range of work on display and I got the impression the work was a mix of graduate and undergraduate work...I was very happy to have my work there and I was pleased to be representing Alma," said Oeschger.

## The Bobs and their crazy throats offer inspiration

By Chris Sienko  
Freelance Yodeling Tutor

Ever heard The Bobs? Well, you've heard their four to five biggest fans if you've been on this campus for a while.

A couple of years ago, I lent out a videocassette of a Bobs performance to '95 alumnus Tom Schweinhart, figuring it might be right up his alley. He liked it so much that he revamped the existing cappella group he was in, The Highlanders, and debuted at Songfest under the now-famous title, The Stains. The Stains went so far in their admiration of The Bobs as to neatly pick up the small-group prize in Songfest '93 for their rendition of "The Laundry Song."

The Bobs are an a cappella group with tremendous talent and a wiggly sense of humor. In the past, they've covered such greats as the Talking Heads, the Beatles and Johnny Cash, along with their own instant faves such as "Through the Wall," "Food for Rent," "I Hate the Beach Boys" and "Slow Down Krishna."

Now, for the second time in their recording career, The Bobs have

brought out an entire album of covers, giving us both an entertaining bill of fare and a neat resume of the Bobs's presumed influences. *The Bobs Cover the Songs Of...* (Rounder Records) have given us 13 more covers and a silly good time.

The most notable change that the Bobs appear to be utilizing is the decision to electronically alter some of their vocals in an attempt to widen their sonic palette. Past Bobs albums have sounded like four extraordinary people showing off their tonsils to the mic, but such effects as wah-

wah and distortion have made this new outing that much more rich and faithful to the originals. This author's pick for best cover off the album is Cream's "White Room," which has female Bob Janie "Bob" Scott sing the lead while the other three nicely summarize the Clapton/

Bruce/Baker interaction. The real surprise is the killer "guitar solo," which makes great use of wah-wah on Matthew "Bob" Stull's voice, making him sound a heck of a lot like Clapton.

Other versions aren't quite so

*Past Bobs albums have sounded like four extraordinary people showing off their tonsils to the mic, but such effects as wah-wah and distortion have made this new outing that much more rich and faithful to the originals.*

faithful. Leonard Cohen gets a good deflating of ego when the lyrics to his "Bird on a Wire" get cross-pollinated with "Surfin' Bird," a move that will anger all three of the Leonard Cohen fans out there who also like the Bobs. The rest of us love it.

The Grateful Dead's "The Golden Road to Unlimited Devotion" gets a hand-clappin', good timin' performance that keeps the energy of the original quite nicely. And for those of you who love disco and hear it's making a comeback, their rendition of "Disco Inferno" will have you sticking your index finger in the air with mad aplomb.

Other tracks don't quite fare so well. Janie "Bob"'s performance of Peggy Lee's "Is That All Their Is?" is just a bit too campy, even by Peggy standards, and their long-hoped-for cover of They Might Be Giants's "Particle Man" isn't quite the winner it should be. And honestly, gang, you're great and all, but who gave you the green light to do Ray Charles's "Unchain My Heart"?!! There are certain perfect natural forces in nature that should not be tampered with. Ray Charles is *definitely* one of them.

Other tracks work at various levels. The plodding cover of Randy Newman's "Lonely at the Top" is excellent, but tends to slow the flow of the record a bit, the Tramps's "Searchin'" is given an almost techno-ish redo which is nice to listen to, but not all that nice to Leiber and Stoller (the songwriters), who would probably tear their hair out if they heard it. Thren again, that may be the point.

The lackluster cover of the Beatles's "Strawberry Fields Forever" ends the disc on a bit of a downer. The Bobs seemed to miss that song's intrinsically ominous tone, turning it into a mop-tappy hop along.

Did I like this disc? Absolutely; every Bobs disc is a delight and a must-have. However, when you are one of the only forward-thinking a cappella groups out there (yes, yes, I see you out there, Moxxy Frouvous!), the only people I can compare you to is yourselves; and by Bobs standards, this isn't your best. But it is a must-have for anyone who wants to hear a group that will make you go "Wow, I'd love to do that. Hey, let's start our own group!"

Look  
What's  
Happening!

### THEATRE / DANCE

Heritage Center for the Performing Arts

\**The Crucible* — Feb. 15-18

Wharton Center, Lansing,

(517) 432-2000

\**State Fair* — Feb. 2-4

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

*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 Tayer, prints — Jan. 8 - Feb. 8

\*Diego Rios Prints — through Mar. 14

Midland Center for the Arts, (517)

631-3250

\**Stitched, Layered, Pieced:*



# New hall directors add spice

By Julie Wilson  
Staff Reporter

Bowling, *Star Trek* and popcorn.

These three things represent the three distinct personalities that make up Alma College's "new" hall directors. Newberry Hall Director Jennifer Klimkiewicz, Gelston Hall Director Jamie Hickey and Mitchell Hall Director David Wagner comprise the new leaders in residence hall life.

Klimkiewicz graduated from Central Michigan University with a degree in interpersonal and public communications and was a resident assistant for two years before graduating and taking a teaching position at Houghton Lake High School. She then worked as a hall director and administrator at the University of Nebraska at Kearney for two years.

Her decision to return home to Michigan was logical.

"I really wanted to return to my home state. I missed the seasons, mostly. Fall is my favorite season, and Nebraska really does not

change colors very much; cottonwoods just do not change."

She is a native of Beaverton and is the oldest of nine children. She cites her family as a "bowling family" and she bowls in a women's league once a week, participating in various competitions.

Although bowling is her hobby, her work in student affairs has prepared her for her role here at Alma. Newberry has certainly offered her some challenges.

"Through my experience, I now know how to handle bat emergencies and to exterminate bugs," said Klimkiewicz. "And it is odd to run a residence hall that has more women in it than my entire graduating class."

Her duties, however, extend far beyond the realm of Newberry. She is an administrator in the Student Affairs Office and is also advisor to the Panhellenic Council.

"I think we have a good Greek system. As with any organization there is room for improvement, but we have our goals set and the determination to reach them."

Ann Arbor native Jamie Hickey,

a recent graduate of Indiana University, believes a small school offers her exactly what she is looking for: education, interpersonal working relationships and counseling.

Her role as student judicial chairperson gives her a unique perspective as well. "Judicial is a challenge; it is very different from the institution I attended. Here, we have fines and I think it is a lot stricter here, which is good."

This is but one difference Hickey had to overcome in her transition from IU, where she was a three-year resident assistant.

"I thought the change would be hard at first, but I love my staff. If it wasn't for them, I would have had a very hard time adjusting."

Hickey is a major fan of *Star Trek*, football and she loves to cook. "She makes a great lasagna," said junior Ryan Kidd, a resident assistant on Hickey's staff.

Hickey said she likes her role within the student affairs office and plans on pursuing a master's degree in educational administration at Michigan State University

next year.

Hickey may never be the stereotypical administrator, however. This "night owl" loves to golf, is learning to fly fish, owns all six Godzilla movies and loves Michigan football and Indiana basketball.

In addition to Klimkiewicz and Hickey is Wagner, a new face in Mitchell Hall who Klimkiewicz describes as "laid back, easy going and generally goofy."

He graduated last year from Bowling Green State University with a degree in communications. Alma, compared to his alma mater, is quite different.

"It is a lot smaller, fewer people. So it is definitely more personal—between students, students and administration and among colleagues," he said.

Wagner also sees far less bureaucracy in a small school.

"I can walk into any office on campus and know who I am talking to and who is working in the back. They are not strangers."

In addition to his role as hall director, Wagner also coordinates small housing on campus.

As far as the future here at Alma Wagner said, "I'll probably be here for another two years. I am starting a master's program at Michigan State in student affairs administration next year."

Surprisingly, student life has not always been his calling. Wagner has also worked at Yellowstone National Park and in a movie theater where he learned the invaluable skill of making popcorn.

"I can make better popcorn in the ACUB popcorn machine than anyone else," boasted Wagner.

The new batch of hall directors add a different flair to the Student Affairs Office.

"They are all doing very well. In the past, for administrators who came from a large university, there is always a period of shifting gears; they have all made the adjustment very well," said James Kridler, dean of students.

Kridler is optimistic about next year as well, since all three hall directors are returning. With these three on staff, one thing is for certain: there will never be a dull moment.

# Hohner tour a winner

By Dan Scripps  
Staff Reporter

Utilizing between four and 17 musicians, playing instruments such as the taiko drum, axatse and kagan, and of course, the traditional marimba and xylophone, the Robert Hohner Percussion Ensemble's newest CD, entitled *World Music Tour*, is as diverse an album as I have ever heard.

It is also one of the best.

The Robert Hohner Percussion Ensemble has close ties to Central Michigan University and Alma College, as their CD was recorded in April in the Heritage Center for the Performing Arts and various members of the Alma faculty and administration are named in the album's credits. The ensemble also played here on Nov. 19, incorporating into their performance many of the tunes found on their *World Music Tour*.

Recording traditional Caribbean and African tunes, and even a pair of tunes recorded by the well-known rock group Santana, the members of the ensemble combine their musical gifts on an album that has something for everyone and surprises for all.

The disc begins with "Ji-Go-La-Ba," or as the members of the group call it, "Jingo." The tune was written by Nigerian master drummer Babatunde Olatunji and was once

recorded by Santana. It combines traditional percussion with a marimba and steel drum ensemble.

Steel drums are made from empty steel barrels which are beaten into a pattern of arranged notes and are played using rubber tipped mallets. The "Jingo" also showcases the vocal abilities of the group, following lyrics based on a traditional Nigerian proverb.

The third track on the disc is by far the most impressive. Entitled "Tsunami," this recent Seiichi Tonaka tune uses the ancient Japanese tradition of Taiko drumming to musically replicate the great tidal wave following an earthquake.

Using tempo changes as well as extreme changes in dynamics, "Tsunami" engulfs the audience at first listen and demands a second.

Following the energy of "Tsunami," Hohner's group shows off their simplistic side with "Omphalo-Centric Lecture," a Nigel Westlake tune named after a painting by Paul Klee. Using just four musicians, the tune has a calming effect on the listener with its repeated melodies and subtle phrases.

"Fire Down Below" is the sixth selection offered up by the ensemble, another tune for steel band. The tune won the first-place award for composition in the North Zone during the 1989 championships. The championships are held annu-

ally in Trinidad, the country in which the steel drum was invented. There are approximately 70 bands involved with memberships often numbering close to 100.

The last tune on the album is Tito Puente's "Oye Coma Va," which in 1971 was released and popularized by Santana. The cut uses elements of the steel band, as well as a variety of shakers and vocals to bring about a thrilling completion to the CD.

## 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).*

## New York Times Bestsellers

### HARDCOVER

1. *The Road Ahead* — By Bill Gates
2. *Emotional Intelligence* — By Daneil Goleman
3. *Charles Kuralt's America* — By Charles Kuralt
4. *Sisters* — By Carole Saline
5. *A Simple Path* — By Mother Teresa
6. *Miss America* — By Howard Stern
7. *David Brinkley* — By David Brinkley
8. *It Takes a Village* — By Hillary Clinton
9. *Longitude* — By Bava Sobel
10. *My Point and Do I Have One* — By Ellen Degeneres

### SOFTCOVER

1. *Intensity* — By Dean R. Koontz
2. *Five Days In Paris* — By Danielle Steele
3. *Horse Whisperer* — By Nicholas Evans
4. *Shock Wave* — By Clive Cussler
5. *The Web* — By Jonathan Kellerman
6. *Behind the Lines* — By W.E.B. Griffin
7. *The Judge* — By Steve Martini
8. *Celestine Prophecy* — By James Redfield
9. *The Lost World* — By Michael Crichton
10. *Hide and Seek* — By James Patterson

### CAMPUS BESTSELLERS

1. *The Calvin and Hobbes Tenth Anniversary Book* — By Bill Watterson
2. *Chicken Soup For the Soul* — By David Guterson
3. *Snow Falling On Cedars* — By David Guterson
4. *The Lottery Winner* — By Mary Higgins Clark
5. *Having Our Say* — By Sarah L. Delany and A. Elizabeth Delany

### RECOMMENDED

1. *The Wedding* — By Dorothy West
2. *In These Girls, Hope Is a Music* — By Madeleine Blais
3. *Felecia's Journey* — By William Trevor

Michigan Artists and the Quilt — Jan. 13 - Mar 17  
\*Sculptural Forms-Contemporary 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 — ongoing

### EVENTS

Heritage Center for the Perform-

ing Arts  
\*Kathryn Kolbert, speaker — Jan. 31  
\*Dr. Bruce Dull, speaker — Feb. 6  
\*Nicholas Delbanco, speaker — Feb. 8

\*Donald York, speaker — Feb. 13  
Center for Student Development  
\*Resume Writing Workshop — Jan 30  
\*Memory and Academic Enhancement Workshop — Feb. 7



# Ensemble displays skill

By Matt Groves  
Freelance Writer

Although Thursday evening was a cold, bone-chilling 12 degrees, the Heritage Center for the Performing Arts was as warm as a hot August night.

Music devotees from the area braved the cold temperatures to hear the West End Chamber Ensemble do their thing.

The diverse audience buzzed with anticipation—waiting to hear the soothing sounds of the artists. Although the house was less than half full, audience anticipation was easily observable.

"I really enjoyed it. I thought it was very good—they're unbelievable. They're really professionals," said senior cellist Christine Ebert.

Seanad Dunigan Chang, a former soloist with the North Carolina School of Arts International Music Program, played the viola, and her husband Wei Tsun Chang, former member of the Winston Salem and Charlotte Symphonies, played the violin. Both dazzled the audience with their fierce performance.

"I thought it was a very interesting program. It was a nice selection

of pieces. Wei Tsun Chang plays the violin and his wife, Seanad plays the viola and they play well together. It's good they're in the same quartet," said first-year-student violist Andrew West.

Carl Donakowski, a prize-win-

ners marveled at the talents of the artists.

After a roaring applause, the group exited the stage and prepared for the next piece. *Facade*, composed by Lawrence Dillon, featured a piano and flute duet which proved to be a strange and haunting number.

Staccato flute bursts blended with intense, forte piano interludes left the crowd spell-bound.

Composer Dillon, who enjoyed the arrangement from his seat, rose and took a much-deserved bow at the conclusion of the piece.

*Trio Op. 34* by Paul Hindemith featured the viola, violin and cello. The sudden plucking and dueling strings were riveting.

After a short intermission, the audience nestled into their seats to hear the final piece by Brahms, *Quartet in C, Op 60*. This piece proved to be an extremely well-chosen conclusion utilizing a more traditional chamber music sound.

"When I heard the group practice and seeing them perform it just seemed as though they were having so much fun," said senior violinist Kristin Swihart.

*I really enjoyed it. I thought it was very good—they're unbelievable. They're really professionals.*  
Senior Christine Ebert

ner at the Mendelssohn competition in Berlin, and Adrienne Kim, a soloist with the Central Philharmonic Orchestra in Beijing, added a touch of brilliance on the cello and piano.

Rounding out the quartet was flutist Elizabeth Holler Ransom, a soloist with the Mid-Atlantic Chamber Orchestra.

The group opened with a Mozart piece entitled *Quartet in C* (K. 285b). This provided an excellent start to the evening as audience



The West End Chamber Ensemble performed in the Heritage Center Thursday evening. Members of the ensemble are, from left, Elizabeth Holler Ransom, flute; Seanad Dunigan Chang, viola; and Carl Donakowski, cello. Violinist Wei-Tsun Chang and pianist Adrienne Kim are not pictured. Photo by Char Vandermeer.

# Food proves frightful for Alma College student

By Trisha A. Warner  
Special Projects Reporter

Imagine that your worst fears do not revolve around the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, fire or random acts of violence.

Instead, imagine "fearing" everyday foods like potatoes, vegetables

and nuts.

For Alma College senior Christopher Sienko, the fear of some foods is based on a life-threatening reality. Since childhood, Sienko has been plagued with intense food allergies; he shows "sensitivity" towards almonds, walnuts, soy beans, peas, celery, wa-

termelon, cantaloupe, coconut, carrots and string beans.

As a two-year-old, Sienko was diagnosed with asthma. Over the years, his allergies continued to fester, and at age 13 he choked on cookies made with finely ground potato chips. Five years later, he had to be transported to an emergency room after eating chocolate chip cookies with walnuts.

One bite is enough to do the damage. In fact, Sienko's allergies are so strong that he has trouble breathing and gets a sore throat if he is in the kitchen with his mother while she is cooking.

"When I was younger, I used to put on a surgeon's mask whenever she cooked. Now if my mom is fixing potatoes, I stay in my room,"

Senior Chris Sienko proudly displays the Saginaw News's story about his extensive food allergies. Sienko is intensely allergic to many nuts, beans and other foods. Photo courtesy of Chris Sienko.

he says.

Recently, Sienko has been curdling on dairy products.

"Within the past three years, I've been having trouble with milk," he said. "I get cramps and have trouble breathing when I drink it. I eat cereal dry."

"My world [used to] rotate on going to Mooney's for mint chocolate chip ice cream cones. If I do it now, I know I won't feel good."

Fortunately for Sienko, Marriott offers enough variety that he never feels left out in the cold at mealtime.

"I only take a few trips to the dessert bar," he commented, once again citing the nuts. "But I was never a real sweets-eater anyway."

A spring term class took him to Amherst and Martha's Vineyard two years ago. In what he labels "the Mecca of seafood," Sienko was unable to enjoy the sea delights his classmates raved about.

"It was a little depressing, but I'm not a foodaholic," said Sienko, shrugging it off.

To alleviate the severity of the symptoms, he carries a self-

administerable injection in his book bag and coat. The medication is the first step to treatment and provides time to seek medical attention.

Although experts say approximately one percent of the population is affected by food allergies, Sienko's allergies can be appreciated by a few of Alma's finest, including Registrar Karen Klumpp and Associate Professor of Education Susan Root.

Sienko's extreme allergies won him a spot on the front page of the *Saginaw News's* Metro section last Sunday. Media Relations Editor Charlotte Schmidtke points out the prominence of the position. Since many readers flip through the paper to find to their favorite section, it is likely that his feature was highly recognized.

Sienko has been inundated by copies of the article from friends and family; several faculty and staff have commented to him about it as well.

He lives up to the headline, "One diner's motto: Eat, drink, and be wary."



## MUSIC / COMEDY

Heritage Center for the Performing Arts

\*Youth Orchestra Concert — Feb. 3

\*Western Jazz Quartet — Feb.

10

\*Alma Symphony Orchestra Joe's Place

\*ACUB, Sytek and Davies — Feb. 3

Cappaert Gymnasium

\*ACUB, Mock Rock — Feb. 9

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

\*MSU Chamber Orchestra — Feb. 2

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

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



Jan. 30, 1996

# Vampires suck more than just blood

By Justin Bauer  
Editor-in-Chief

Robert Rodriguez's *From Dusk Till Dawn* climaxes with a very fitting image—vampires disintegrating under the rays of the morning sun reflected from a disco ball. Killed by hipness. The image serves as a solid illustration of everything wrong with the film—and believe me, there is an awful lot.

The reasoning—and the marketing strategy—behind *From Dusk Till Dawn* is transparent. The film is directed by Robert Rodriguez, who has gained a reputation as ultra-hip (and ultra-violent) from his previous films, the critically acclaimed *El Mariachi* and the universally panned *Desperado*. Completing the one-two punch is screenwriter Quentin Tarantino, who also has the good grace to act in the film. Throw in a hot television actor (*ER*'s George Clooney), Harvey Keitel and Juliette Lewis, and the film seems to have that kind of Generation-X how-can-we-go-wrong appeal.

Unfortunately, the film fails to deliver on its promises—or perhaps it delivers too well. The incredibly stylish pair of Rodriguez and Tarantino manage to smother the movie in the kind of B-movie turns and cheerful anachronisms that made *El Mariachi* and *Reservoir Dogs* and *Pulp Fiction* succeed. *From Dusk Till Dawn*, though, suffocates from a lack of anything but hipness. From the '40s-referenced window on a bound woman in the trunk of a car to the '70s horror-movie schlock, Rodriguez and Tarantino sacrifice

substance for smirking "ain't it cool to be retro" panache.

Giving credit where it is due, the film is not without redeeming characteristics. The camera work is excellent; Rodriguez picks up important details and interesting quirks. He zooms in on the heat from a burning corpse popping popcorn; he frames his scenes in doorways and car windows. The lighting is low, the soundtrack is appropriately dark and frenetic at turns. Rodriguez's technique as a filmmaker is sound, and it shows—he lines up all of the technical elements of the film nicely to create his mood.

Unfortunately, technical mastery can only go so far—it cannot work to correct the puerile script, mistaken casting decisions, or out-and-out bad acting. Good packaging cannot correct a lack of substance.

The plot of the movie is simple: two brothers, the Geckoes played by Clooney and Tarantino, are armed robbers on a killing spree and must make it to Mexico to evade the law. Once there, they must meet up with their Mexican connection and enter retirement. Complications arise, and the brothers take a minister (Keitel), his two children (Danny Liu and Juliette Lewis) and their RV hostage to pass the border checkpoint.

The characters reach the rendezvous, a topless truckers' bar, where

the dancers and bartenders turn into vampires and commence to feast on truckers and bikers. Our heroes

parts *Plan 9 from Outer Space* camp—with an awful lot of self-consciousness thrown in. You would be better off at the video store renting a triple-feature.

Perhaps the most frightening aspect of this camp-horror flick, however, is the acting. Between some really awful miscasts and a whole lot of wooden acting,

*From Dusk Till Dawn* goes from mediocre camp to pure, inexcusable refuse.

The greatest offense the film com-

mits is its misuse of Harvey Keitel—an actor who, like Dennis Hopper or Christopher Walken, has spent the past decade perfecting a single character—as a mild-mannered preacher and father instead of his customary badass. Keitel falls flat; unfortunately, his fellow actors do as well. It is a sad testament to a film when Juliette Lewis gives the best performance.

*From Dusk Till Dawn*, like its vampires, is killed by its hipness. While Rodriguez's camerawork, ambiance, and sense of style are excellent, the movie fails on a large scale—it promises more than just savvy Generation-X marketing and self-conscious camp and refuses to deliver.

*The script works out to one part Reservoir Dogs gore, one part Hellraiser wannabe, and two parts Plan 9 from Outer Space camp—with an awful lot of self-consciousness thrown in.*

are left to wreak havoc on the undead. The script works out to one part *Reservoir Dogs* gore, one part *Hellraiser* wannabe, and two

## Alum wills entire estate to Alma

By Dan Scripps  
Staff Reporter

In mid-October, the college received notification that Arthur L. Russell, a 1941 alumnus, had passed away and willed his entire estate to his alma mater.

Upon hearing of Russell's death, two representatives of the college, John Groteluschen, vice president for finance, and Bob Eldridge, development officer, flew to Russell's home in Harlington, TX, located about 18 miles north of the Mexican border, to appraise the estate.

According to Groteluschen, the college is "expecting the entire estate to come to somewhere around a half million dollars."

Russell, an avocado orchard owner and operator in his later years, remained single throughout his life and when making his will decided to leave everything to the school from which he graduated with a major in political science.

Russell worked for the government for most of his life, starting in the Air Force, then moving to the State Department and finishing his

career working for the CIA.

The estate, in addition to a late-model Buick, included "a lot of money, securities, assets, real estate, a stamp collection, a house and an immense collection of coins," said Groteluschen.

The money gained from the estate will be used in three ways.

First, an endowed professorship will be created in political science.

Second, political science majors will be eligible for new scholarship program.

Thirdly, scholarships will also be made available for music and biology majors, reflecting two of Russell's lifelong hobbies. His estate will also benefit the music department by adding his vast collection of recordings to the music library.

Though neither Groteluschen nor Eldridge personally knew Russell, he did leave behind several friends in the Alma area, including Ken Plaxton, a local attorney, and Guile Graham, who spent his entire career as an Alma College administrator and still resides in town.

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## Team suffers loss to Adrian

By Maria Toscano  
Staff Reporter

When all was said and done, a disappointed Alma men's basketball team lost to the Adrian Bulldogs 76-65.

The loss Wednesday drops the Scots to 1-5 in the conference. If the Scots would have won, the victory would have put the Scots in fifth place.

However, poor shooting during the first half of the game and many turnovers plagued the Scots, turning a potential win into another conference defeat.

The Scots came out and missed two easy shots early on and then turned the ball over twice in a row.

"We just shot badly in the first half," said senior player Jason Osborn. "It was a bad game, but the second half we scored over 50 points."

"The big thing was we missed easy shots," said senior Rich Katona. "We turned the ball over a lot too."

"We would play tough defense for 30 seconds and then let an easy shot in," said Osborn. "We didn't do the little things like make the big shots or get the bid rebound when we needed them."

Leading the Scots with (? points), (Assists ?), and (rebounds ?)

The team knows that miracles do not happen overnight nor do they happen over one season.

"That stuff only happens in the

movies," commented Coach Kevin Skaggs.

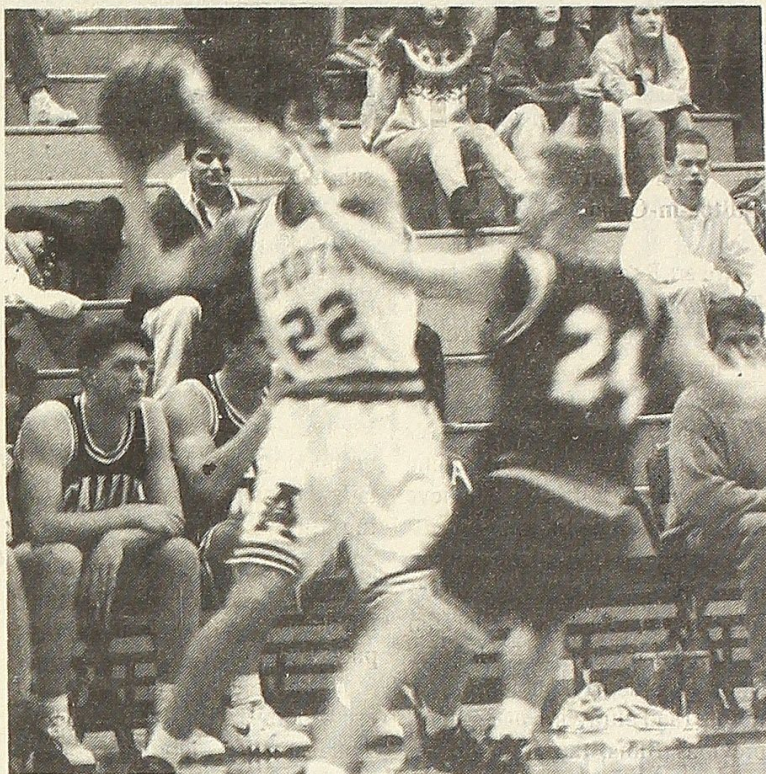
"It was a first-year program getting over the hump," said Osborn. "It is not going to be a winning program overnight."

"We are still positive about the season," said Osborn. "We have got to win the next four games to get where we want to be."

"We have got strong team unity," continued Osborn. "We don't start pointing fingers. We just look at each other and say 'oh well.'"

"It's like when students get a new teacher, they aren't going to learn overnight," said Katona.

*Senior Jack DeGroot attempts to pass across the court to an open teammate. Photo by Brent Oeschger.*



## Basketball duo remembers friendship over wins, losses

*Osborn and Katona are teammates on and off the court*

By Maria Toscano  
Staff Reporter

At first glance, one might think that seniors Jason Osborn and Rich Katona were brothers—even twins.

Where there is one of them, the other is only a few steps behind. At 6'6" and 6'5", Osborn and Katona are most visible together on Alma's men's basketball team.

The two met during as first-year students during a game of pick-up ball and have been friends ever since.

"We spend so much time together, people ask if we're brothers," said Osborn. "I went up to Negaunee where Rich is from, and someone asked me if I was a Katona. I don't know what we don't do together."

Osborn and Katona remained loyal to a rebuilding basketball program because they love the game and Alma College offered

*Seniors Jason Osborn and Rich Katona stand side by side on the basketball court and off. The duo has been friends since their first year at Alma College. Photo by Jon Croff.*



the two the playing atmosphere they were both looking for.

"I came to Alma because I like the way it was close-knit, with the teacher-to-student relationships, and I wanted to play college ball," said Katona. "Alma gave me the best opportunity."

Osborn did have the opportunity to play for Hope College, a program that has had great success in past seasons.

"My mom asked me if I had any regrets, and I do not have one," said Osborn. "If I would not have come here, I would not have met Rich."

"The game of basketball is about more than wins or losses," said Osborn. "It is about the relationships and memories we make here."

Although the two have stayed with the program, Osborn has had his doubts and wanted to even quit at times.

"There were times I wanted to quit, but Rich was one of the reasons I stayed with it," said Osborn. "Living with him was one of the strongest parts of my years here."

"In 10 to 15 years I am not going to remember how many games we won or lost, but I will always re-

member the alley-oop I threw to Jason in the Albion game," said Katona.

"I look past the wins and the losses and look back at the relationships I've built over our years here," said Katona.

Katona and Osborn both agreed that they would like to go back and be first-year students again.

"I wish we were freshmen again," said Katona. "Next year's program will be great."

"We look for each other in the game and Jason is there to rebound, but he is always looking to pass the ball. He is not a selfish player," said Katona.

"Rich is an excellent two-point shot. He doesn't have a lot of athletic ability, but he makes up for it with as much heart as he plays with," said Osborn. "We respect each other's abilities."

"When I look back, I will look back and say that I played with Katona and that we have a special bond," said Osborn. "We may have lost a lot but we always had fun playing the game, but the scores or who was all-conference will be forgotten and the only thing we will remember is each other."

## Baseball team builds new roster, gets in shape for season

By Maria Toscano  
Staff Reporter

Baseball Coach Bill Klenk does not set goals for his players.

He only asks one thing of his team and that is to improve.

"I don't set goals for the team," said Klenk. "I just want them to play as well as they are capable of playing. I would like to get them in the best shape both physically and mentally."

The Scots are trying to piece together a new infield as well as fill the holes that are in the outfield. Alma will be trying to replace Pat Brannan, last year's catcher, and pitcher Tim Spedoske. Spedoske was first team MIAA selection and

also lead the NCAA III ERA.

This season's pitching roster includes juniors Joe Poot, Andrew Jacobson, Brian Balding and Kevin Harkness, sophomore players Matt MacDonald and Jeremiah Peace and first-year student Dan Kinney.

"We have got a pretty good pitching staff," said assistant coach John Leister.

"The downside is we are used to having 10 pitchers and we only have eight, but I like our odds."

The 1996 baseball team will have to confront Albion and Olivet, the

MIAA favorites, who have many returning players.

"People are not counting on us to be contenders," said Leister. "We

*I don't set goals for the team. I just want them to play as well as they are capable of playing.*

*--Coach Bill Klenk*

can sneak up on them. We have a good sound club."

The infield veterans include seniors Jason Proctor and Mark Payne. The only returning outfielder for

the Scots is junior Steve Vance, who will get a little time behind the plate as catcher.

"We are putting our better players all at positions to play," said Klenk.

The team will travel to Panama City in February where both Leister and Klenk will try to put the missing pieces together for Alma's roster. The week-long tournament consists of nine division III schools. The Scots will be participating in doubleheaders. "Our trip to Florida will be a big teller," commented Leister. "The trip is important to the

kids," said Klenk. "They will get to play and the pitchers will be able to get a lot of work."

Leister is impressed with the effort shown by the team so far.

"I am looking forward to getting the season started," said Leister.

"We have a good group of kids, and they are the best I have seen since I have been here. They are working hard and having fun. They enjoy playing baseball and it makes it enjoyable to coach."

"We have to work on fundamentals," added Klenk. "We are off to a good start and things are coming along. The key is getting the right people in the right positions. The kids are improving, attentive and coachable."



Jan. 30, 1996

## Senior reflects on the past

By Elizabeth Edwards  
Freelance Writer

Graduation day looms closer with no concrete plans for life after college.

I've arranged my life experiences onto a single sheet of paper, confident some theatre company somewhere will offer me a job. Each resume and cover letter turned over to the United States Postal Service reflects my hopes and dreams.

All this adult responsibility makes me long for a time when everything was simple and I didn't have a care in the world.

When I was 10 years old, summers were endless, I could ride my bike all day and never grow tired. It was a time in my life when no one could tell if I was a boy or girl and I didn't think to care. At 10, school was still the place you played kickball with your friends at recess and where you got chocolate milk for lunch. A time when the neighbor kids and I put on plays in my backyard and charged each parent a quarter to watch. Girls could spend time with boys without wondering if they "liked" you. When I was 10 years old my biggest fears were annual check-ups at the dentist and spelling bees.

I realize that not everyone had an ideal childhood—even mine wasn't as pretty as the picture I've painted of it. However, when I'm feeling insecure about the future it comes in handy to imagine a time without bills, resumes, grad school appli-

cations and homework.

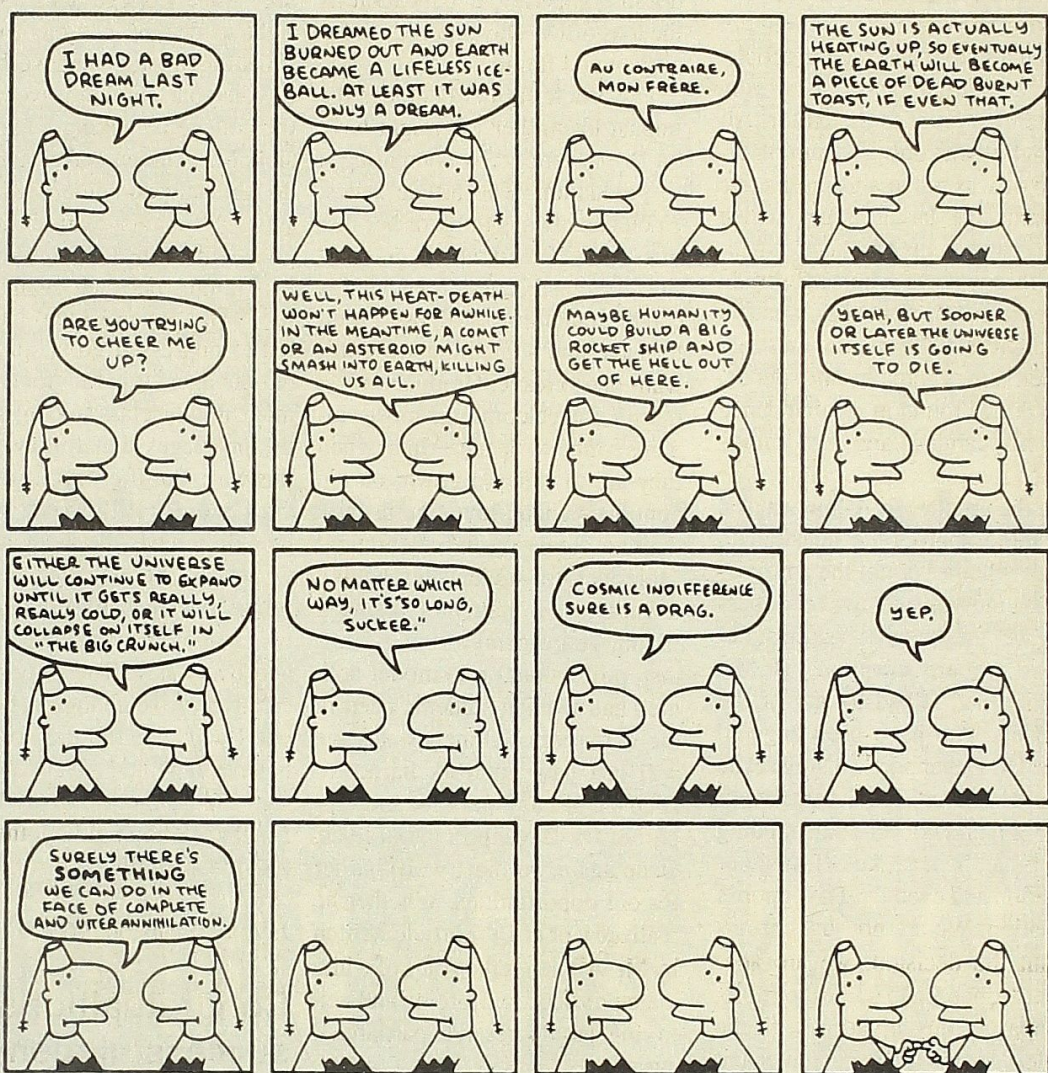
All the alumni I've talked to have told me to relish every last moment at Alma College because things change. So I've been making the time for crazy college memories. Unfortunately, Alma College does not offer a major in social activities and a minor in beer consumption, otherwise I'd have graduated long ago.

No one said this year would be easy and so far it has really been a balancing act—balancing school work and spending time with friends on top of preparation for the future and working to pay my bills. My dear friends who have already entered the real world assure me that the tightrope act is worth it.

Yet each and every one of them is happier now on whatever path they've chosen. They give me strength to know that every senior before me has hit the panic zone where the future isn't clear and lived to tell about it. Even better, some of them managed to get jobs after graduation.

As I continue to struggle through until graduation, I know that those before me survived and those beside me understand my concerns. For my own peace of mind I like to remember what it was like to be a 10-year-old, yet I realize that I wouldn't want to be a kid forever. One of benefits of adulthood I am looking forward to is not having to spend the rest of my life only performing plays in my back yard.

### LIFE IN HELL



©1995  
By MATT  
GROENING

## Clinton pulls weight, prevails over Republicans

By Brandon Edward Miller  
Staff Reporter

President Clinton encouraged American citizens and the Congress to embrace an "Age of Possibility." His fourth State of the Union address outlined his plan to take our country into the next century by improving education, reducing crime and cleaning up the environment.

Clinton's vision and leadership abilities are what this country needs to begin the next "American Century." His plan for the future focuses on improving our great land, not on accepting the status quo and reducing our standard of living.

In his speech, Clinton pushed for expanding and improving education. His call for access to computers by all teachers and students starkly contrasts with Republican plans to end student lunch programs.

Clinton's pledge to provide \$1,000 scholarships to the top 5% of high school students and expand work study programs so that higher education is available to more Americans seems more logical than drastically cutting student loan programs. If we want our country to

remain great—or to improve—we have to focus on more than just security from a military sense. Education, the environment and the economy are just as important.

While Clinton calls for more computers in the classroom, Republicans Senator Robert Dole and Speaker Newt Gingrich call for expensive defense programs such as the Strategic Defense Initiative that the Department of Defense does not even want.

The Republican-led Congress still has not ratified the START II treaty with Russia, which lowers nuclear stockpiles by 25%, or the Chemical Weapons Convention, which outlaws the use of poison gas.

Gingrich and Dole try to lead Americans to believe that our country is in decay. It is not. As President Clinton said, "The state of our union is strong." The economy is doing well and Clinton has been successful at promoting American interests abroad.

Just since the last state of the union address one year ago, the New York Stock Exchange index has risen from 3863 to 5185. Interest rates are low; the 30-year bond has gone from 7.92% to 5.97%.

The number of US-made cars being sold in Japan is the highest since the 1970's and the US has the lowest combination of unemployment and inflation in 27 years.

This could all change, and quickly, if the Republican-led Congress continues its path toward collision and defaults on US debt for the first time in the history of the union. Moody's investors say that this would lower the government's

premium credit rating.

Clinton has helped to bring peace to Bosnia and the Middle East, halt a nuclear program in North Korea, and restore democracy to Haiti.

Clinton's poll numbers are following his successes. ABC pollsters asked their viewers Tuesday night who was leading the country in the right direction, Clinton or the Republicans. Clinton won 51% to 28%; last year his victory was only

39% to 38% on the same question.

Dole's response after Clinton's speech indicates that he is still living in the past. "It's as though our government, our institutions, and our culture have been hijacked by liberals and are careening dangerously off course." No, Senator Dole, our government was briefly hijacked by extremist Republicans and American citizens are preparing to rescue it.

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## Letters to the Editor

### Davenport article irresponsible

I feel it necessary to respond to the article by Staff Reporter Phil Allmen about the dismissal of Dr. Randi Davenport. First, I feel it was irresponsible of *The Almanian* to run his story as a regular article. Allmen's article was only worthy of being a letter to the editor. Although it was only an opinion article, it was naive and insensitive towards the larger issues which concern students and lacked quality insight news reporting should strive to attain. Moreover, it had an ignorant and detrimental message which supports apathy and silence, two things found in an abundance on this campus and two things which reinforce oppression.

In the article Mr. Allmen states, "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." If Mr. Allmen had talked to any of the students who have been angered over Dr. Davenport's dismissal he would have realized the amount of emotion and concern surrounding the issue. Instead, he belittled our position and even Dr. Davenport's situation. We are not just curious about the decision, we are adamantly opposed to it. Furthermore, comparing this situation with the building of the Heritage Center and the library is absurd. The library wing and Heritage Center are great improvements to our campus and to our education, while losing Dr. Davenport is a detriment.

Not only is it an inaccurate comparison, it is completely insensi-

tive and degrading to Dr. Davenport's situation. He states, "When an entire section of campus was blocked off, no one complained." Having the simple inconvenience of walking around the construction of the new library wing doesn't impede our education as the loss of Dr. Davenport does for current and future students.

The article further degrades the impact losing her job might have on Dr. Davenport by comparing it to graduation. The article states, "You can always think of her dismissal as a friend who is graduating." We are discussing a woman's career, something she doesn't want to leave and something we don't want her to leave. Graduation is a reason for celebrating, most students want to leave Alma when they are in cap and gown; on the contrary, unemployment usually does not create joy and celebration. Moreover, for students left behind it isn't just a matter of losing a friend, we are losing a strong, feminist, professional role model both men and women students need in the classroom. Allmen states we will just have to work harder to keep the discussions with and support of Dr. Davenport in our lives. Once again we must work harder for our opportunities. Whether he realized it or not, the article written by Mr. Allmen is the voice of white male privilege reinforcing and justifying an oppressive patriarchal system.

In theory, even Alma College disagrees with Mr. Allmen and believes students should have a voice. Of course, they state that only they, ultimately, see the long term needs of this institution. Yet, they contend that they are listening to stu-

dents. All we wanted is to be sure that Alma College heard our objection to their decision in hopes they would reconsider. It seems there are no good reasons for dismissing Dr. Davenport.

Mr. Allmen is correct on one issue: Alma College does have the right to decline comment on the situation. But students have the right to voice our opinion if we believe the college is making a bad decision. Mr. Allmen makes a tremendously naive comment when he states, "We must learn to take the good with the bad. Some may think it is unfair, but then again, that's life." This type of logic has been fed to oppressed groups throughout the ages. It is fine for a white, male, middle class student with all the privileges that follow to feel this way. But if everyone did, slavery would still exist, women wouldn't have the vote and we would still be a British colony. I refuse to silence myself in a world which attempts to silence me each and every day. The only way to create positive change is to speak out. I will keep fighting for what I believe in while I am at Alma College and for the rest of my life and I will keep hoping that others will find the strength to do so as well.

Julie K. Johnston '96

### Congratualtions on successful rush

Dear fellow Greeks:

On behalf of the Gamma Phi Beta sorority, we would like you congratulate you on a successful rush and welcome all of the pre-actives to the wonderful world of Greek life.

The Gamma Phi Betas are excited for the year ahead and look forward to spending time with all of you during Greek Week!

Sincerely,  
The sisters of Gamma Phi Beta.

### Republicans work toward agreement

We feel obligated to respond to Staff Reporter Justin Gustafson's half-truths and misguided statements in last week's *Almanian* article, "Budget Agreement must be reached before election." Gustafson's basic assumption is that Republicans are unwilling to compromise. We intend to provide evidence to the contrary.

"The GOP claims to want a balanced budget agreement, but has not backed up its rhetoric with any action," states Gustafson. In 1992, Clinton promised a balanced budget in five years but conveniently forgot his promise until Congress took the initiative to formulate and pass a balanced budget agreement. Clinton is the roadblock in this process, though Gustafson himself admits "In order to accomplish things, our system was specifically designed so that no one person or party could control the entire government."

Republicans are bending over backwards to meet Clinton more than half-way in an attempt to get an agreement signed. For example, Congress has moved closer to the President on Medicaid, offering an additional \$65 billion in spending for the program over seven years, while the President edged closer to the GOP proposal by only \$15 billion.

In addition, Congressional Republicans added \$26 billion to welfare spending and \$12 billion to the Earned Income Credit only to receive nothing in return from the White House. Gustafson claims nothing can be done without compromise on both sides. Republicans are doing their share; the President needs to stop worrying about the polls and worry about what is right for the American people.

As Gustafson suggests, we do need to save and reform Welfare, Medicare and student aid. Clinton promised to "reform welfare as we know it," yet he has offered no solution to the problem and has vetoed the only proposal brought to

him. Only Republicans have generated a plan to save the Medicare program while increasing spending from \$4,800 to \$6,700 per senior per year for seven years. Furthermore, Republicans are increasing student aid from \$24 billion to \$36 billion, a 50 percent increase.

The Republicans have indeed made great efforts to achieve what Americans want—a balanced budget. The Republicans can only go so far; further compromise would go against our principles and our commitment to the American people. Speaker Gingrich eloquently states, "We may lose next year, but if we lose, we will be able to look our children and our grandchildren in the face and say we did everything we could to save this country. We did it because we believe, as a matter of principle, that borrowing from your children and your grandchildren in peacetime is morally wrong, and dumping on your kids the burden of debt because you don't have the discipline to decide to set priorities is morally wrong, and we were never again in peacetime going to voluntarily participate in ripping off future generations so that current politicians could buy office with cheap, pandering deals."

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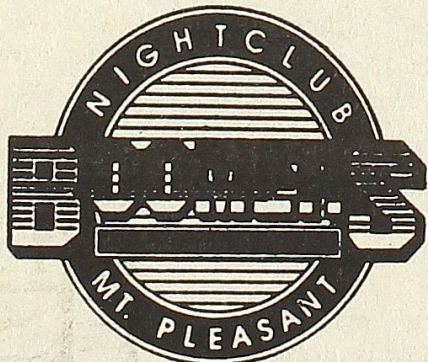
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## Staff Editorial

# Rumors invalidate discussion

Fact. Opinion. Rumor.

Journalists must discriminate among these three. The lines between them are finely drawn and often obvious only in retrospect. However, it is the job of a journalist to see each clearly, to know the difference between them, and to deal with each correctly.

Facts are verified; they are bits of information that can be willingly backed up. Facts are the business of a newspaper. As journalists, we deal in fact.

Opinions, while often drawn from facts, must not be taken as such. A reporter must maintain an objective stance when dealing with facts; however, newspapers do traffic in opinions—clearly labeled opinions, and freely submitted letters.

The third category—rumor—owes much to both fact and opinion. It can be unverified fact; it can be unaccounted-for opinion. It certainly is not the business of journalism to disseminate rumor; rather, journalists must

either verify rumor as fact or ignore it altogether.

Certainly, while these distinctions are vital, they are not always clear. Journalists make mistakes, newspapers print rumors; accidents will happen. By and large, though, journalism does not equal rumors—rather, it works to dispel them through verification.

However important, this article is not a defense or a self-indulgent sermon. It is, instead, a response to an issue that has been raised—and is being debated—in *The Almanian*. The situation surrounding Dr. Randi Davenport and the end of her tenure at Alma has sparked a great deal of talk and speculation among students and prompted both letters to the editor and an opinion article in *The Almanian*.

Opinions are seldom seen on this thoroughly homogenous campus, and voiced opinions are very rare. It shows in the silences in classroom discussions and the unwillingness of students to commit to and defend viewpoints. Few issues have raised any

prolonged discussion—the issues surrounding a student's chalking last term and the departure of Davenport this term have provided the only issues publicly debated on campus.

Free expression of opinion is good; discussion engendered by serious commitment to ideas and the willingness to express them is good. It is not good, however, when there are no facts, when the various opinions are based either on rumor or no information at all. And this is the situation surrounding Davenport's departure.

We, as Alma College students, know very little. It is clear that Davenport is a valued professor and that a number of her students are very committed to keeping her here. It is also clear that neither Davenport nor the administration have commented on the specifics of Davenport's departure—and without the two parties involved making any kind of comment, there are no facts—and there is no basis for opinion.

This is not to say that the actions of the principals in this matter is correct or incorrect;

rather, that we cannot influence it. That this is the way it is. Whether it is just or unjust, the administration has the power to deny comment—and by withholding facts, invalidate the issue. The vast difference in power in this situation cancels out intelligent discussion of the issue, and relegates the discussion into the realm of rumor and unfounded opinion.

Granted, it is fascinating—and even telling—that an administration as supposedly “open” as Alma's will not explain its actions. The issue is not one of rights, though; it is one of power.

And beyond that one fact, the debate over the actions Alma's administration has taken regarding Davenport founders. It has no basis in fact, and becomes simply propagandizing and empty soapbox oration. It is theory without application—truths may be self-evident, but there is no case with which to test them.

## The Almanian

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### The Almanian Letter Policy

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.

# Spousal abuse touches everyone

By Char Vandermeer  
Feature Editor

We like to think that the unfortunate occurrence of spousal abuse and neglect are merely flukes. We like to believe that men and women can persevere through their differences without resorting to violence. We like to believe that when violence *does* occur, justice is served. We like to believe.

Through the wafer-thin walls of my Philadelphia apartment, my roommates and I could hear the intoxicated shouts, terrified screams and slaps coming from the neighboring apartment. The verbal abuse and drunken slurs were so regular we could set our alarm clocks to coincide with Sleaze Bag's day-end “release” and her attempts at retaliation.

One particularly brutal night she knocked on our door looking for a safe haven. We let her in and promptly called several friends to provide us with some protection and back-up. During the course of the night I learned that this woman—who was only two months older than myself—had been involved in not one, not two, but three abusive relationships. She claimed that Sleaze Bag really wasn't that bad, he just needed some time to himself.

Whatever.

Of course, the fights continued and continued to escalate.

Yes, the police were called. No, nothing was accomplished.

“We've had a call regarding domestic violence. Is your wife home?” said the oh-so-concerned police officer.

“...No officer, I'm sorry, she's

not home—you must have the wrong apartment,” replied Sleaze Bag.

Since our doors were even thinner than our walls I could catch the gist of the conversation quite well—the moment the elevator doors closed on the officers we heard the kind words Sleaze Bag used to describe both his girlfriend and his four neighbors from the apartment next door.

Unfortunately, this was not an isolated incident. Spousal abuse is frighteningly common. So common

that we hear of only the most extreme incidents.

Recently, such an event met media attention in Michigan. A pregnant Vestaburg woman brought charges against her husband who had violently pushed and threw her to the ground.

As a punishment the judge asked the man to roll up his shirt sleeve and walloped him with a resounding three-finger slap to the wrist. He literally received a slap on the wrist for beating his pregnant wife.

In the sentencing, the judge stated

# Road trip provides freedom, spontaneity

By Maria Toscano  
Staff Reporter

Freedom. The get-up-and-go attitude without a care in the world.

Last Monday I soared with exhilaration of knowing that I have that little word—that I have that attitude.

At nine in the evening, the instigator of my little crowd said, “Screw it, let's go.” Earlier in the evening, two of my friends and I were lying around their apartment pondering the thoughts of the relentless pursuit of relationships—for that matter, why all ours have gone to hell. Then, just as our conversation seemed to weep and reek of responsibility, we got a phone call from a buddy of ours who was trapped in Alpena—trapped because he had a job.

We grabbed another friend to corrupt her for the evening and loaded up a little white Ford Escort to drive three hours to nowhere but a Best Western hotel. On the way there we were spilling out the most

sacred of secrets and laughing with every lit Marlboro Light. It was one of the perfect memories that movies are made of.

On the way there we passed a huge deer or elk. We pulled over and got a photo of we four foolish females. It was too funny to see a bunch of girls standing by an elk at 11 at night in sub-zero degree weather. It was just another moment to add to our evening's liberties.

Finally we arrived at the hotel. Our friend was in shock to see that we had actually drove all that way. We had to be back by 8:30 the next day so that two of the four musketeers could make it to an American literature class, but for a couple of hours we would forget where we had to be.

We sat around together. We laughed at each other. We talked about things that really didn't seem to matter nor have any importance to anybody but us. We teased each other and tried to tell jokes as we messed them up. Twisting the top

to the court, “In the laws of Israel...the question would not be, ‘Did you strike her?’ It would have been, ‘Well, are you ready to publicly be the first one to stone her?’”

Spousal abuse is something that tends to be glossed over except in the most extreme cases. Unfortunately, much of the glossing-over occurs because the victim is too fearful to report the abuse. The cycle continues and continues and continues.

Is justice served?

Of my Icehouse bottle, I feel in love with that night. For some reason I felt it slipping away silently with time. Not just the night, but the moments I have left to be sheltered and comforted.

I made a promise to myself to remember not to regret—to live. Simply, I will be like the smoke that came from our Marlboro Lights and go wherever I choose until I must come back and face the real world.

I may have only gotten two hours of sleep that night, but that next day I was full of new life. All the forgotten things about the past did not matter and tomorrow's promises will not be yesterday's failures—just that night seemed perfect.

How long do we have this freedom?

We sit in our rooms at night, hoping to pass that quiz, looking off into the distance and wondering what will become of our “freedom.” Even if it only lasts one day, use that one day to forget, to renew and resolve.