

The Almanian

February 6, 1996

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Issue 16

ACUB expects full house for Mock Rock

By Julie Wilson
Staff Reporter

In terms of Alma College Union Board success, the annual lip-synching competition Mock Rock ranks right up there with the best of them.

"It ranks right up there with Irish Pub and Songfest, as far as participation is concerned; the gym is almost always full," said junior Kathy Taylor, ACUB major events chair.

The format will remain the same as past years.

There will be two divisions of competitors: large groups containing five to 10 people and small groups consisting of one to four students will compete for cash prizes.

First place in each division will be awarded \$150 and second place will win \$100. A \$1 spectator admission charge will be collected as a way of covering prize money for the performers.

ACUB expects to have somewhere between five and seven groups compete throughout the two divisions.

A comedienne, who is responsible for doing an act and for introducing the college performers, is scheduled to host the event.

This year's comedienne is Renee Hicks, winner of the 1995 National Association of College Activities performer award. The NACA is a

group that evaluates and works with programming for college campuses.

In addition to the amusement provided by the comedian, the per-

"And unlike Songfest, it is a perfect opportunity for people who do not have strong vocal ability to perform and have fun," Taylor continued.

Performers are already lined up for the competition, which will take place on Feb. 9 at 9 p.m.

Many are members of campus organizations, such as Greeks. "It is a perfect opportunity for them to publicize their organizations," commented Taylor of the performers.

One such participant is first-year student Meredith Hiatt, a pre-active member of Alpha Gamma Delta.

Sisters of this sorority are scheduled to perform a number to a song made famous by the Brady Bunch.

"I think it is going to be really fun; I love to perform and I am a musical person," said Hiatt.

Hiatt added, "I thought this would be a great chance to do something with my sisters and make fun of the Brady Bunch as well."

If Mock Rock holds true to its successful tradition, Friday should be an entertaining time for all.

An award-winning comedienne, some undoubtedly creative choreography and a chance to observe peers dance and sing in front of a crowd: all elements that should make an interesting—if not profitable, for some—evening.

It ranks right up there with Irish Pub and Songfest, as far as participation is concerned; the gym is almost always full.

Junior Kathy Taylor

formers are sure to entertain the crowd.

"It is a great way for people to cut loose and have a good time," said Taylor.

Alma programs earn top honors

By Trisha A. Warner
Special Projects Reporter

A major publisher of college guidebooks has identified Alma College as one of the top 190 colleges nationwide for science and mathematics programs.

Peterson's Guides of Princeton, New Jersey, will release its newest publication, *Top Colleges for Science—Leading Programs in the Biological, Chemical, Geological, Mathematical, and Physical Science*, early in 1996.

David Davis-Van Atta, director of institutional research at Carleton College, analyzed the science and mathematics programs of 1,500 colleges and universities before choosing the 190 finalists. He identified the percentage of undergraduates who earned their baccalaureate degrees and the alumni who earned doctorate degrees from 1988 through 1992.

He also researched the percentage of alumni who were awarded National Science Foundation Fellowships from 1990-1994.

"Alma College offers one of the

nation's strongest programs in undergraduate science and mathematics," said Stephanie Ardito, development editor at Peterson's Guides.

In Alma's exceptional programs, Alma students explore science as practicing scientists, not just students.

Provost Leslie Ellen Brown said inclusion in the guidebook denotes the significance of the college's programs.

"Potential students and their parents really pay attention to the guides," she said. "Peterson's is well-known, and this [guidebook] is very good because it is quite select. It highlights something very specific and it is based on good pieces of information."

Brown cited the quality of independent studies students pursue, fine laboratory facilities and research commitment and close work with professors as program strengths.

"The main thing is that students present their work at conferences with their professors," she said. "The quality that the undergradu-

ates get even in their very first courses here is quite special."

Each college entry features a campus profile with extensive descriptions of the science departments.

A general profile describes the campus setting, student population, application deadline, tuition process, and scholarship and financial aid options.

The emphasis of each college's entry is on the science programs; each department is highlighted separately, including information on class size, research opportunities and specialized equipment, and study abroad.

Information on alumni is supplied as well, including the percentage who went on to graduate school and employment possibilities in the field. A brief statement from each of the science departments highlights individual program features such as faculty-student relationships, internship programs and a speaker series.

The entries are "very personalized toward the colleges," said Ardito.

College Republicans sponsor political speaker

By Laura M. Paetz
Editor-in-Chief

Ronna Romney, a candidate for the Republican nomination for the U.S. Senate, will speak at a lecture sponsored by the College Republicans (CR) Saturday.

"I think this event is important for both the college and community because it's not very often that many political candidates or anyone in that kind of leadership role stop by because we do have such a small population," said CR Treasurer junior Brian Zollweg.

Zollweg said that CR has written many letters to political figures, such as Phil Graham and Ross Perot, inviting them to campus.

Romney graduated from Michi-

gan State University at Oakland in 1967 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in education and has been involved as chairperson and co-chairperson for various presidential and other campaigns.

She was chairperson and finance chairperson for Dick Headlee for Governor in 1982, when Ronald Reagan appointed her as the commissioner to the National Advisory Council on Adult Education.

In 1984, Romney was co-chairperson of finance for the Reagan-Bush presidential campaign. During this campaign, she was elected National Committeewoman from the state of Michigan.

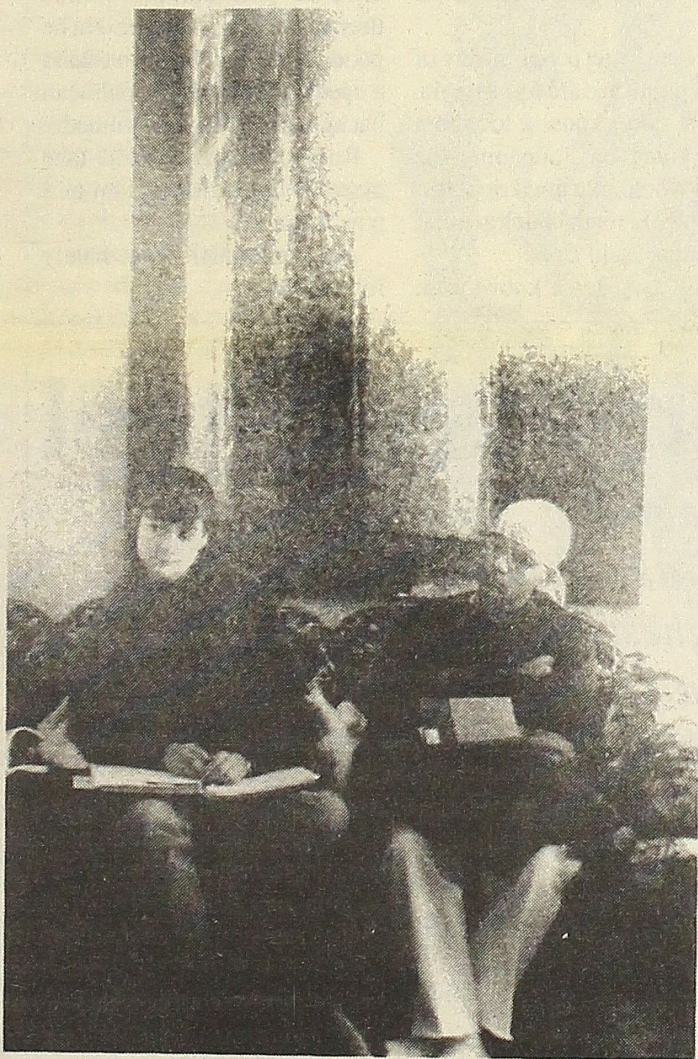
Romney acted as Michigan co-chairperson for George Bush for President in 1988 and 1992. Bush

appointed her Chairperson to his Commission on White House Fellowships following the 1988 election.

Romney has also spoken her mind as host of a radio talk show on WJR-AM radio, as a regular commentator on CNN and as a political analyst for WXYZ-TV. She has published two books, *Giving Time a Chance* in 1984 and *Momentum: Women in American Politics Now* in 1988.

According to Romney's campaign literature, she "supports complete free trade between international bodies, the elimination of costly and unnecessary business regulations, and federal tax reform, favoring the flat tax. She also advocates..."

See ROMNEY, page 2...



Senior Jenice Cardinal and sophomore Atul Patel participate in an African-American History Month program sponsored by the Multicultural House Monday. Photo by Brent Oeschger.

INSIDE

News

College Bowl. 2
Western Jazz
Quartet. 3

Feature

ACUB Coffeehouse . . . 4
Music Review 5
Pledging Process. . . 6

Sports

Women's
Basketball. 7
League Leaders. 9

Opinion

Senior Comment. . . 10
Day by Day 11
Staff Editorial. 12

Feb. 6, 1996

'Trebek' attributes College Bowl success to Jeopardy

By Julie Wilson
Staff Reporter

Which American President never resided at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue?

If you happened to know that the answer was George Washington, then College Bowl, "The Varsity Sport of the Mind," might have been a competition that interested you.

The Alma College Union Board sponsored event is designed to test the knowledge of college students in a wide variety of subjects.

"The questions are really hard," said sophomore Julie Bond, special events chair for ACUB and coordinator of the competition.

"Anyone who does not study a lot of different things would have no clue," said Bond.

Ranging from characters on Star

Trek to the Bible, from Latin roots to political issues, the questions cover a wide spectrum of topics.

"This year we used actual College Bowl questions, which allows us to send a team to regional competition," added Bond.

This year's winners called themselves "Trebek," after the host of the mainstream television brain test, Jeopardy.

Led by captain junior Brian Nielsen, the other members included sophomores Mike McHugh and James Hintz and juniors Tammy Adams and Terri Powers.

"Brian lives down the hall from me and asked if I would like to join a team," said McHugh of Trebek's formation. "I was on a team last

different teams participated. The matches were played in two seven minute halves. Toss-up questions are also played, with a two point

bonus for the team that answers the toss-up question correctly.

The team with the most points at the end of the game wins that match and progresses into the next round,

until the final round is narrowed down to two teams.

In the final round, Trebek beat out members of Phi Mu Alpha Symphonia to take the Alma Col-

lege spot at the regional competition, which will take place on Feb. 24 and 25 at the University of Michigan.

To prepare, said McHugh, "we got together and watched Jeopardy almost every night and just tried to work through questions that way."

Adams was proud of their win in the final competition. "I think that the competition was very good and the final match against the Phi Mu Alphas was fair," she said.

All in all, with 13 teams vying for the College Bowl title, the competition was dense; we will soon see if Alma's best can prove themselves against the strongest brains in the region.

The questions are really hard. Anyone who does not study a lot of different things would have no clue.

Sophomore Julie Bond

ROMNEY

ates term limits in order to help return government to the people."

Additionally, she believes in balancing the federal budget.

"She is a strong fiscal conservative, who advocates a meaningful reduction in the size and scope of the government by reducing spend-

ing and cutting taxes," states Romney's campaign literature.

Zollweg also believes that government must be reduced, but is unsure that cutting taxes is the right way to do it.

"Our government is too huge—there's too much bureaucracy—and I think one of the only ways we're going to get through that is

to reduce spending," said Zollweg.

"I'm not too sure about cutting taxes because although it may be good for the economy and taxpayers would support it, if we cut taxes too much we're never going to be able to repay our debt," Zollweg continued.

First-year student Dana Cole, a member of CR, believes it is im-

portant for students to attend the event.

"We want to get people aware of what Republicans are trying to do. If people don't know a lot about what's going on, [attending the lecture] would be a good opportunity to get some background knowledge," said Cole.

"If students don't know what

kind of political preference they're seeking, then it might be good for them to hear first-hand a speaker from the Republican background," Cole continued.

Romney's lecture will take place in Jones Auditorium at 2 p.m. Saturday.

A reception will immediately follow.

Epidemiologist to discuss "war on preventable diseases"

By Justin Gustafson
Staff Reporter

He has traveled the world, seen the devastation that war and disease can cause and worked to improve the health of thousands of Africans living in poverty.

Epidemiologist Bruce Dull's next excursion will be to the Heritage

Center for the Performing Arts to speak about his own war, "The War on Preventable Disease: An African Case Study."

Dull, a so-called "disease detective," will lecture about his work combating disease in Africa tonight at 8 p.m.

The event is sponsored by the Craig-Thorn Lecture Series, the

Co-Curricular Affairs Committee and the Service Learning Program.

Dull has an impressive background in many areas of medicine.

He received his M.D. from Case-Western Reserve University School of Medicine in 1950 and his S.M. in Health Services Administration-Legal Medicine from Harvard in 1970.

Dull is also a former assistant director of the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta.

His research has been mostly concentrated in the area of epidemic diseases.

Throughout his career he has researched infamous diseases and health hazards such as swine flu, Legionnaires, toxic shock syndrome and herpes.

Dull has also delved into recent medical discoveries in AIDS research.

He is currently the associate editor of the American Journal of Preventative Medicine and teaches as a clinical associate professor at Morehouse School of Medicine and Emory University School of Medicine.

Dull is also continuing work with the Carter Center in Atlanta, where he has been working in West Africa to design a program that will eradicate preventable diseases such as river blindness.

Dull has focused on the topics of disease control and prevention aspects throughout his life.

Brains of steel

Incoming students achieve highest first term grades in 15 years

By Phil Allmen
Staff Reporter

The future of Alma College relies on the continuation of outstanding students coming to the school.

This year's first-year students have continued this tradition, having achieved better first term grade point averages than all other entering classes at Alma in over 15 years.

The mean fall term grade point average for this year's first-year students was a 3.04. This is the first term in over 15 years that the mean GPA has surpassed the 3.0 mark.

While the mean high school

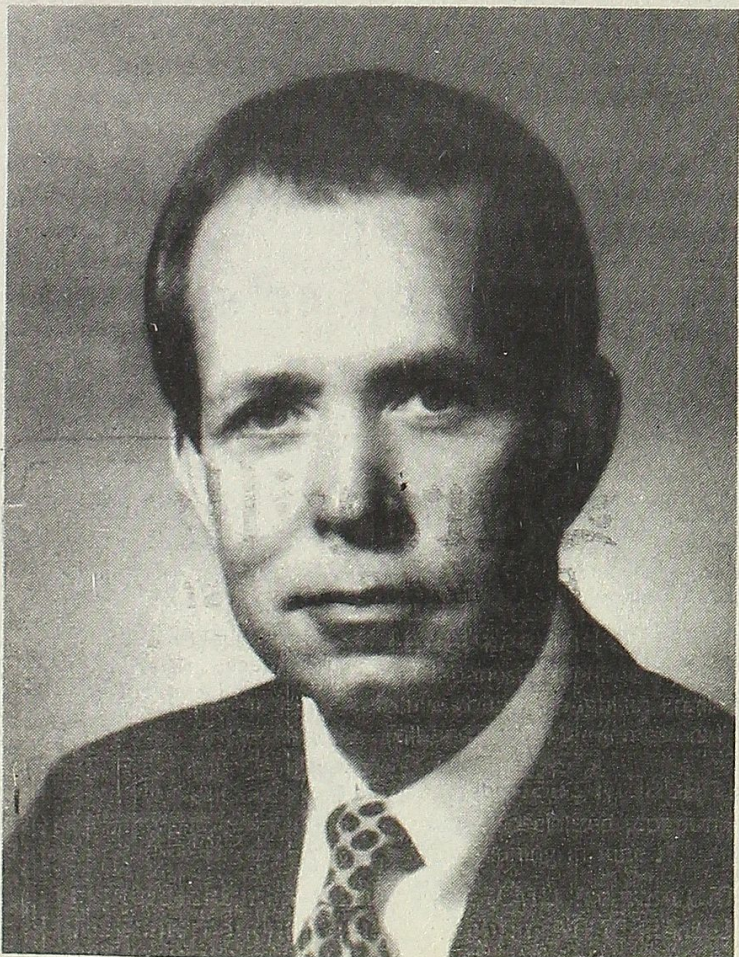
grade point averages and ACT scores almost identical, the mean grade point average has continually been increasing with each class.

Statistics also show that grades increase during the second seven weeks of the term.

"I liked receiving midterm grades. They made me realize where I was at so I knew how hard I had to work to get to where I wanted to be academically," said first-year student Jeff Chowning.

Another possible reason for the upward trend in academics may involve the use of faculty as references and guides in studies.

"I find that the professors are a lot more helpful than those in high school. They are willing to go out of their way to make themselves available outside of class for any questions or problems that may come up," said first-year student Katy Bunker.



Dr. Bruce Dull will speak on preventable disease on Tuesday. Photo courtesy of the Alma College Public Relations Office.

Students sought for Indian Fellowship

The selection process for the Global Service Program will begin soon. The Global Service Program sponsors the annual Indian Fellowship, which provides the opportunity for an Alma undergraduate student to spend a year in Ayoor, Kerala, India teaching English at the Mathen Mappilai Memorial Public School.

Current students with junior class standing are encouraged to apply for

the fellowship. Selections will be made on the basis of commitment to the program, willingness to teach, academic and extracurricular achievement, basic knowledge of India and maturity.

Applications are available in the International Office; the deadline for all applications is Feb. 14. Questions regarding the program can be directed to Patricia Landis in the Kirk International Office.

Jazz group dedicated to teaching

By Christopher Sienko
Alma College Public Relations

The Heritage Center for the Performing Arts will be hopping and bopping with Western Jazz Quartet music at 8 p.m. Saturday.

The ensemble consists of Western Michigan University faculty members.

Formed in 1974, the Quartet combines its love of jazz with a dedication to music education. The Quartet performs for school children of all ages and is actively involved in a variety of workshops, clinics, tours and concerts. Highlights of a recent international performance tour include: a stop in Brazil, a week-long engagement at La Villa in Paris, the du Maurier Festival in Toronto and the International Festival of the Arts in Costa Rica.

With sponsorship by the Arts America Program of the U.S. Information Agency, the Quartet performed three weeks of concerts in Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay. The group's two CDs, *Firebird* (1992) and *Blue Harts* (1995), received five-star reviews in *Down Beat* magazine.

The concert program, drawn from a repertoire encompassing a number of jazz eras, will be determined the evening of the concert. Song candidates include Dave Brubeck's "Blue Rondo a la Turk," Pat Metheny's "Always and Forever" and Antonio Carlos Jobim's "Felicidade." Trent Kynaston, the Quartet's saxophonist, contributes four songs: "Bricolage," "Freepaly," "You Gotta Believe" and "Blue Harts."

Quartet members have had careers as musicians and teachers. Drummer Tim Froncek has performed with Woody Herman and other big band greats, as well as contributing to *Percussion Notes* magazine.

Kynaston holds a gold Medal of Honor from the French National Conservatory in Bordeaux and is a regular contributing author in *Down Beat*.

Pianist Stephen Zegree directs the vocal ensemble Gold Company and

publishes choral arrangements of songs.

Trained as both a classical and jazz bassist, Tom Knific has been a featured clinician at the International Society of Bassists Conference and also has done extensive radio and television studio work.

Tickets are \$5 for adults and free to Alma College students.

The Western Jazz Quartet shares its love for music with students everywhere. Photo courtesy of Alma College Public Relations.



Author to speak on assisted suicide

By Justin Gustafson
Staff Reporter

With Jack Kevorkian appearing in the news at least once at month, people are constantly

faced with the ethical question of doctor-assisted suicide.

Writer Nicholas Delbanco addresses this issue in his new novel, *In the Name of Mercy*.

Delbanco will be reading from his

book as well as other works of his in a presentation in the Heritage Center for the Performing Arts Thursday at 8 p.m.

In the Name of Mercy, Delbanco's ninth novel, covers all sides of the hotly debated issue.

"The novel centers on Dr. Peter Julius, a young doctor who, having watched his wife struggle with melanoma, accepts an offer to direct a hospice for critically ill patients. A Dr. Kevorkian-esque character soon opens a practice not far away from Julius, bringing hordes of protesters, many of whom attack the hospice, thinking Julius is collaborating with the suicide doctor," said Christopher Sienko in an Alma College Public Relations press release about Delbanco.

A column in *The Chicago Tribune* written by James Idema described the novel as "a swift, white knuckle thriller, with a cast of compelling characters and a theme direct from today's news pages."

Delbanco has also written eight other novels, as well as a few short story collections and nonfiction works.

To further his work, Delbanco has received grants from the Guggenheim foundation as well as the National Endowment for the



Author Nicholas Delbanco deals with the ethics of doctor-assisted suicide in *In the Name of Mercy*. Photo courtesy of Alma College

Keeping You Informed

Queen of Scots Pageant announced

The Alma Highland Festival is seeking applicants for the 1996 Queen of Scots.

To be eligible, a candidate must be between the ages of 17 and 22 or a high school senior. The Queen of Scots is a very important part of the festival, as hostess of the games and as an ambassador of Alma throughout the year. The winner will receive a \$1,000 scholarship to the college of her choice.

Entry packets are available at the Alma College Student Affairs Office, the Gratiot Area Chamber of Commerce and local high school offices. A maximum of 20 contestants will be allowed. Application deadline is Feb. 24, 1996. The Queen and her court will be crowned at the Queen of Scots Pageant Sat., April 20, 1996 in the Heritage Center for the Performing Arts.

For more information, please contact Kathy Johnston at 463-2488 (day) or 463-8494 (evening).

Financial aid forms for 1996-97 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 can stop by the Financial Aid Office to

get the form. The office is located in the lower level of the Kehrl Building.

In addition, Alma College Aid/Scholarship Renewal forms will be sent to each returning student's campus address. Even if one did not file a FAFSA form 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.

Career day to take place March 1

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

Career Day will offer students a chance to learn firsthand about which fields will offer growth opportunities throughout the 90s, as well as the job outlook in the Chicago advertising, media and communication industries. While not a job fair, Career Day has helped many young people begin careers by providing them with an accurate picture of the industry and by allowing them a chance to speak one-on-one with advertising professions.

The fee for students is \$50. Business attire is recommended, as is dressing for the Chicago weather. For more information on attending, contact Renae Bluit (312) 654-5000.

Arts.

Delbanco is being brought to Alma College as a Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow, a program that brings leading scholars to the campuses of liberal arts schools across the country.

Delbanco works at the University of Michigan, heading up its Master of Fine Arts program in creative writing.

Over the last decade, he has turned it into one of the best and most challenging programs in the nation.

Saravilla Bed and Breakfast

This century old home offers guests a comfortable relaxed atmosphere. The 6 rooms are spacious, quiet and contain private baths. Located just blocks from the Alma College campus, it is the perfect place for family and friends to spend a weekend.

633 N. State St., Alma, Mi 48801
(517) 463-4078

Feb. 6, 1996

ACUB offers coffee, fun

By Elizabeth Edwards
Freelance Writer

Although last Saturday proved to be frigid, Joe's coffeehouse, sponsored by the Alma College Union Board (ACUB), provided a cozy escape from the sub-zero temperatures—not to mention free coffee and entertainment. It was dubbed "Retro Night," but costumes were not required.

Candlelight and folk music created an ideal atmosphere for lively conversation, animated card playing and enjoyable music.

Sytek and Davies, a husband and wife team out of Paw Paw, performed for a moderate but enthusiastic crowd.

"It's a male/female version of John Denver," stated sophomore Amy Zell. "That's a good thing."

The duo's style ran the gamut from folk to new age. They covered tunes ranging from the Beatles to Jefferson Airplane and even a few purely instrumental pieces—ragtime and an Irish jig.

June Sytek and Rick Davies are both accomplished vocalists, during Saturday night's performance they added the ingenious use of the

flute, the hammered dulcimer and bongo drums to their unique sound.

"We [ACUB] like to find a unique variety of performers," said senior Julie Johnston, ACUB concert chair. "I think their sound and use of instruments—like the hammered dulcimer—enhances that variety."

This is not the first time Sytek and Davies have visited Alma College. Last year they performed in Jones Auditorium. During the duo's previous performance, junior Debbie Macdonald requested Peter, Paul and Mary's "Leaving on a Jet Plane." Unfortunately Sytek and Davies could not fulfill Macdonald's request. This year, however, they came prepared—much to the audience's delight.

"I was excited they learned my song," said Macdonald. "Hearing it made me happy."

ACUB's coffeehouse, which usually takes place twice throughout each term, is a unique and cost-free way for Alma students to spend an evening. This event is ordinarily scheduled on Saturday or Thursday nights.

ACUB strives to provide the campus with entertainment for times when the school has nothing for-

mally planned. The next ACUB coffeehouse will be held at 9 pm on Wed., March 20 in VanDusen and will feature music performed by Curnette and Maher. Unlike Sytek and Davies, their style is much more contemporary and follows in the grand rock and roll tradition.

Saturday's performance at Joe's coffeehouse wasn't without its complaints. However, for the most part, the audience appeared to appreciate the experience.

"It's really too loud. You can't have a normal conversation with the person next to you," stated sophomore Heather Myers. "But I like all their instruments. The coffeehouse is a good idea. It seems like everyone is enjoying it."

"I enjoy the change from normal weekend activities," said sophomore John Edwards. "I would definitely come again."

Joe's coffeehouse made for a great escape from the frigid temperatures. Singing along with the band, hanging out chatting with friends or playing a few hands of euchre—not to mention drinking lots of steaming hot coffee—was a great way to fight the winter chill.

Freeze 'em out!



Bryan Kittleson '96, Pete Pokela '96 and Jay Koepke '97 huddle for warmth at the Sigma Alpha Epsilon house. The SAEs found their house "iced over" after water pipes froze on Friday. The pipes remained in this condition for two days, leaving houses without warm water or heat. Photo by Brent Oeschger.

New communications professor sought for fall

By Dan Scripps
Staff Reporter

Students studying communication at Alma College will soon be greeted by a new face in the department.

In order to broaden the topics of study available within the major, the communications department is closing in on the end of a national search for someone to complement the specialties of the two current members of the staff, Communications Chair and Associate Professor Michael Vickery and Assistant Professor Joanne Gilbert.

According to Vickery, "the new position will permit us to more fully develop the three major concentrations in interpersonal, organizational and mass communications."

The position that is currently available is open to people with undergraduate teaching experiences and a Ph.D. The job posting also cites "commitments to productive scholarship and to the tradition of liberal arts education" as an additional requirement for the applicants.

The position is a full-time, tenure-track assistant professorship.

Teaching requirements, starting

in the fall of next year, include one or more introductory classes, such as understanding mass communication, communication theories and perspectives and fundamentals of speech communication.

In addition to teaching introductory courses, the new professor will be expected to teach advanced classes within communication major concentrations—which include

interpersonal, organizational and mass communication/journalism—and will be expected to develop classes within personal areas of expertise.

Vickery lists two goals of the new position.

The first is "developing interdisciplinary linkage between communications and other disciplines,"

and the second is to "enhance major concentrations with someone who has a strong interest in the applications and effects of new communication technologies in an international, organizational, or professional media context."

The communication department began reviewing applications on Jan. 8 and have received over 100

applications.

Vickery stressed the department's desire to add to the diversity agenda of the college, and strongly encouraged women and ethnic minorities to apply.

He also said that the department is very near the point of inviting professorial candidates to Alma for on-campus interviews.

Seasonal depression sets in as winter drags on

By Char Vandermeer
Feature Editor

Depression.

Each day we hear the word in some context. However, depression is a reality, and individuals should be aware of and understand their options for coping with its different forms.

Depression is not uncommon. In fact, millions of Americans suffer from some form of depression each year.

One of the most common types of depression is known as seasonal affective disorder (SAD). Seasonal affective disorder is especially prevalent throughout these dull, dark and dreary winter days. Signs of seasonal depression may and

often do creep up on individuals, taking them by surprise and leaving them at a loss.

Symptoms of SAD may include a lack of motivation or interest in the people and activities that once brought pleasure into a person's life. Feelings of sadness, ambivalence, irritability and fatigue may also occur. Irregular sleeping habits and lack of energy are also telling signs of depression.

SAD and depression in general is not uncommon. Many people experience depression in some form throughout their lives; it is a natural reaction to the stresses and the tension that people endure from day to day. Students are quite susceptible to the pressures that may lead to depression.

Those who suffer from SAD will observe that their symptoms are usually most noticeable as the seasons change. Typically, the symptoms of seasonal depression are most acute throughout shift between seasons—especially during the transitions between summer and fall and fall and winter.

However, if the symptoms are not merely a fleeting phenomenon and they do indeed recur and linger, there are several avenues individuals with SAD can take.

Often, light therapy has proven successful in treating seasonal depression. Patients are encouraged to spend three to seven minutes, several times a week, under an ultra-violet (UV) light source. Ultra-

violet light aids in counteracting the effects of SAD.

Sufferers are also encouraged to spend a majority of their waking hours in well-lit rooms.

Other, more intense treatments include psychotherapy and medication.

There are several places sufferers can go for assistance: psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, psychiatric nurses, psychotherapists, community mental health centers, hospitals, family service agencies and self-help groups.

Students can contact the Wilcox Medical Center for more information regarding depression and its treatment.

Look What's Happening!

THEATRE / DANCE

Heritage Center for the Performing Arts

*The Crucible — Feb. 15-18

Gratiot County Players, St. Louis

*Narnia — Feb. 9-11 and 15-17

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

*The Wizard of Oz — Feb. 15-18

Wharton Center, E. Lansing,

(517) 432-2000

*Halley's Comet — Feb. 9-10

*Bob Dawson's Americana Plus — Feb. 18

*Five Guys Named Moe — Feb. 20-21

*La Traviata — Feb. 25

MSU Mainstage Productions, (517) 355-0148

*Dance Concert — Feb. 15-18

Boarshead Theatre, Lansing,

(517) 484-7805

*Solidarity — Feb. 21

*Mrs. Warren's Profession — Feb. 29 - Mar. 23

HISTORY / ARTS

Alma College, Flora Kirsch Beck Gallery

*Bruce Thayer, prints — Jan. 8 -

Feb. 8

*Diego Rios, Printmaking — Feb. 12 - Mar. 14

*Steve Jensen, photography and sculpture — Feb. 12 - Mar. 14

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

*Stitched, Layered, Pieced: Michigan Artists and the Quilt — Jan. 13 - Mar. 17

Pile on that lip-smackin' special sauce

By Chris Sienko
Freelance Funk Lord

The life of the party. Sometimes it's a person armed with a lampshade and boundless stamina, sometimes it's a pleasant surprise that some passerby threw into the otherwise harmless punch and sometimes it's a rib-ticklin', finger poppin', make-you-wanna-sit-on-the-back-porch-with-your-buddies groove that raises the temperature of the dance floor by 10 degrees before anyone's even started dancing.

You've seen it happen.

You're at a party, and the dance floor is being bogged down by a constant stream of pop-radio hits. Just as you get ready to go find some punch and wait it out, someone slips a mickey of the best kind into the CD stack: a Motown record, or something by James Brown. Instantly, the mood changes, and everyone starts grinding their hips like Elvis, whether they're on the dance floor or in the corner trying to take someone they've never met home for the night.

A good groove can permeate a

party sight like incense; no one gets away.

Such is the groove of G. Love and Special Sauce, a wonderfully down-home group of groove-makers with a wholly unfortunate name. (Way back when, one member of the group wanted to call them G. Love and another wanted to call the group Special Sauce. They decided to use both, to the dismay of rational beings everywhere.)

Their debut, *Coast to Coast Motel*, seems to crossbreed every type of good groove to ever grace a sweaty dance floor into a rockin' good time that even those brought up to believe that "Smashing Pumpkins can really get a party started" will appreciate.

The back cover describes the sound as "the rag mop sounds with some Delta blues, Chicago too [sic] Philly and Motown a rock and roll stew and a hip hop beat to give it some leverage."

I think we need look no further than the label the band recorded this on: OKeh Records. Founded in the 50s, and considered to be one of

out for years on end, with bit of a funky rewrite for the uptight 90s. In short, just what the doctor ordered.

G Love and Special Sauce are like the best parts of 40 years of American music put in the spin cycle, and laid out to drip dry over your speakers, covering them in a thick, gooey funk syrup.

With the simple line-up and an equally uncomplicated group outlook, the disc isn't particularly conducive to intense study. Each of the 12 tracks sounds an awful lot like the others, but when they all sound this good, there's nothing wrong with a little homogeneity for the sake of consistent quality.

The upright bass is as slippery as a snake in a soap factory, the drums work about 50 percent harder than they need to, filling every second with funky rat-a-tats and shuffling brush beats, and the guitarist/harmonica player/singer sounds like he stepped out of the delta yesterday, took a trip to Haight Ashbury last night, took a tour around Motown this morning and just blew in from the local coffee shop a half hour ago

where everyone was beat-rhyming and mumblin' with Jack Kerouac and the Dignable Planets. How can you go wrong?

Songs like "Kiss and Tell," "Small Fish" and "Soda Pop" ought to be on every mix everywhere where there's a good party happening. They're catchy, easy to sing along with—well, at least the refrains; the rest is such a fuzzy mumble that you may never figure them out. A minute to learn, a lifetime to master, such as it were—and have a sound that just about anyone can relate to.

They don't favor one musical era over another. Hell, invite your parents. They'll probably be able to dance to this as easily as that certain he/she you've been wanting to dance with all night.

G. Love and Special Sauce are like the best parts of 40 years of American music put in the spin cycle, and laid out to drip dry over your speakers, covering them in a thick, gooey funk syrup. Just the thing for those late nights when the guy with the lampshade is passed out and the punchbowl got thrown out the window two hours ago.

Alumnus pursues writing through children

By Phil Allmen
Staff Reporter

Thomas Schweinhart, a 1995 alumnus, graduated from Alma College with a major in English but had no desire to teach. He graduated wondering what he could possibly do.

Currently, Schweinhart is living in Ann Arbor, working at the YMCA and Afterwords bookstore. He has also helped a friend who is a freelance writer creating brochures for the University of Michigan.

However, that is not all he is doing.

"I am doing a lot of writing on the side, mainly short stories. I am entering some of them in contests, so hopefully I will win a few. Working at Afterwords helps me get a lot of advice from my fellow employees and all of the writers who come in to the store," said Schweinhart.

Schweinhart decided that he needed to get away from school for a few years to write. He then plans on returning to graduate school to get his Master of Fine Arts in cre-

ative writing.

At the YMCA, Schweinhart is an assistant teacher to approximately 20 four-year-olds.

"It is essentially day care, although we treat it more like preschool. We plan activities like swimming, walks and field trips. I also play my guitar a lot for them. I really enjoy it because I create imaginary worlds for them to play

helped me find a lot of kids music. There are a lot crazy, twisted children's lyrics out there, and I have started writing some of my own kids' songs," Schweinhart added.

Continuing in the Stains tradition he started here at Alma, Schweinhart, 1994 alumnus Rob Douglas and 1995 alumna Erin Emery have started a new harmonizing singing group and plan on singing strictly children's music. They are considering adding a fourth part, although the new member would probably be an Ann Arbor local.

"It's fun to be able to do all the things [in Ann Arbor] that I really enjoyed doing at college. We have some gigs set up soon at local libraries and bookstores. It's great," said Schweinhart.

Although

Schweinhart hails from Ann Arbor, he decided that it would be for the best if he did not return to his parents' home after graduation.

Schweinhart resides in an inde-

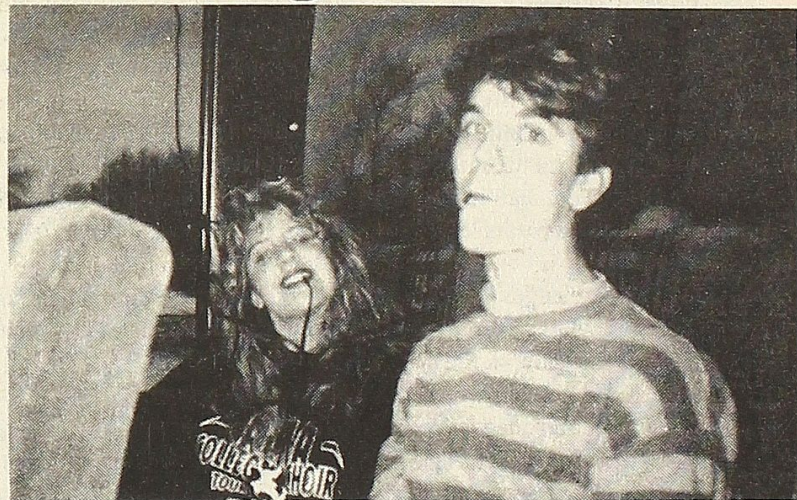
Playing guitar for children has helped me find a lot of kids music. There are a lot crazy, twisted children's lyrics out there, and I have started writing some of my own kids' songs.

Alumnus Tom Schweinhart

in," said Schweinhart.

Performing music for children has encouraged Schweinhart's creative writing.

"Playing guitar for children has



Alumnus Tom Schweinhart proves that he and senior Laura Rice are really just big kids themselves. Photo courtesy of Phil Allmen.

pendently owned co-operative with seven other people.

"The co-op is called the Hei-wa House, which is Japanese for peace. It's nice because we are have different walks of life and ideals. I am the youngest one living there [22] and the oldest is 55. Because we are all different, there's that whole mentoring idea going on," said Schweinhart.

The eight members of the co-op share all of the household duties ranging from cleaning to cooking. This way, they all know they will get a good home-cooked meal ev-

ery day.

"Living at Hei-wa is like living in a fraternity house except that it is clean, smells good and there is a lot less partying going on," commented Schweinhart.

Schweinhart thoroughly enjoys his current lifestyle, although he could not foresee singing melodies to five-year-olds while he attended Alma. If there are any English majors out there who are not sure of what you are going to do, let Schweinhart reassure you that things are never as bad as they may seem.

*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
Lansing Center, E. Lansing, (517) 483-7425

*Star Trek Show — Feb. 25
MSU Museum, Lansing, (517) 355-2370

*Dinosaurs: A Global View — ongoing

EVENTS

Heritage Center for the Performing Arts

*Dr. Bruce Dull, speaker

— Feb. 6

*Nicholas Delbanco, speaker — Feb. 8

*Dr. Linda Donelson, speaker — Feb. 12

*Donald York, speaker — Feb. 13

Center for Student Development

*Memory and Academic Enhancement Workshop — Feb. 7

Jones Auditorium

*ACUB movie, *Get Shorty* — Feb. 16-18

National Condom Week

*Feb. 12 - 16

MUSIC / COMEDY

Heritage Center for the Performing Arts

*Western Jazz Quartet — Feb. 10

*Alma College Kiltie Band — Feb. 17

Pledges get instruction, not paddling

By Phil Allmen
Staff Reporter

Paddles, drinking and self-humiliation?

These are things many people believe are an unfortunate component of any fraternity or sorority pledging program. Any of the Greeks on campus will tell you that this is simply not the case within Alma College's Greek system.

"Times have changed since the days of the 'frat' house. Hazing is just not fun. We would rather educate the pledge on our group," commented Sigma Alpha Epsilon (ΣΑΕ) Pledge Educator, junior Don Light.

"The purpose of the pledge program is to create bonds between the members and pledges. Hazing is contradictory to that," said Theta Chi (ΘΧ) Pledge Marshal, junior Chris Seybert.

While some groups may call the pre-active coordinator the New Member Educator or refer to the position as Pledge Master, these individuals serve the same function. They are the coordinators for the pledges and lead them through the pledge period, helping them become active members of the chapter.

"We teach the pledges the history of the chapter and its members so the pledges will know more about what kind of place they are coming into. The chapter also learns about the pledges and why they decided to pledge. This interactions help lead to a common bond," said Zeta Sigma

(ΖΣ) Pledge Master, junior Scott Brade.

The coordinator of pledging is not the only one in charge of these pledges. The fraternities and sororities are composed of "families," giving pre-actives additional close bonds within the group.

"Our pledging process helps our

pledges to become aware of the fraternity members and what we stand for,"

said Tau Kappa Epsilon (ΤΚΕ) Social Chair, senior Brian Balding.

"Family lines are a good way to carry on the group's history. It also gives the pre-active a support base. Even though the entire group is there to help out the pre-active, there is one person [mother or father] or family there to help make sure their newest family member makes it through the pledging process all right," said Kappa Iota (ΚΙ) Pledge Mom, senior Karen Heintz.

There are many things that the pledge class has to do together, from study hours to participating in the fraternity's or sorority's philanthropies.

Kappa Iota pre-actives Angie Javince, Mali Vanderbeek, Erin Saal, Dani Sullivan, Jen Grutza, active Kendra Seybert, Lisa Tessmer and Sara Keineth pose for a picture following Bidfest. Photo courtesy of Debbie MacDonald.

"We want the pledge class to work together to think of a philanthropy they want to do. They are in charge of figuring out how to raise money for it," commented Gamma Phi Beta (ΓΦΒ) New Member Educator Assistant, sophomore Kristi Didocha.

"With all of the activities involved with pledging, we must make sure we allocate enough time for the pledges to ensure that they keep up with their studies. Having mandatory study hours is a good way to make sure they get it done," added Sigma Chi (ΣΧ) Pledge Educator,

Alpha Gamma Delta pre-actives Lindsey Keegstra and Cheryl Lenard pose with actives Jennifer Olson and Beth Knapp following desserts. AGD actives dressed in flapper dresses for desserts in support of their rush theme "Roaring through the 20's Alpha Gam style." Both Keegstra and Lenard preferred Alpha Gamma Delta. Photo courtesy of Lindsey Keegstra.

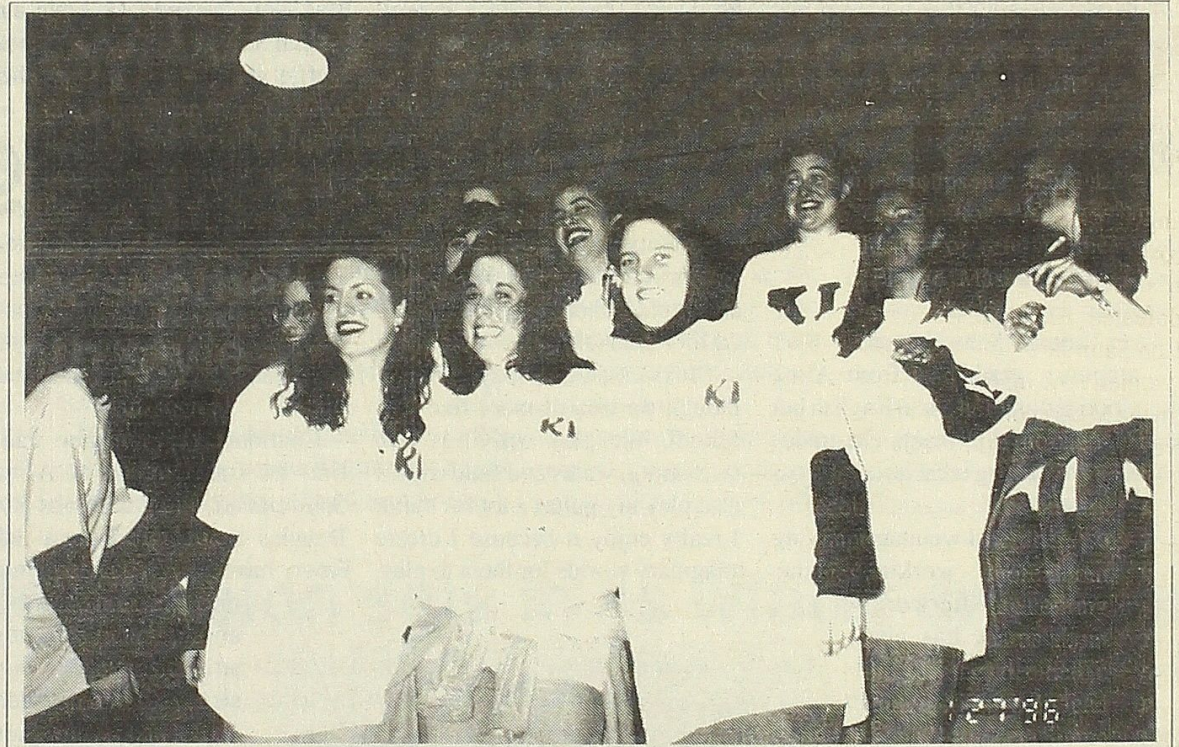
junior Derrick Veale.

The other chapter coordinators for pledging include: ΤΚΕ junior Ben Washabaugh, Alpha Xi Delta (ΑΞΔ) junior Angie Thompson, Alpha Gamma Delta (ΑΓΔ) junior Haley Heath and ΓΦΒ junior Autumn Garrett.

There are many different aspects

of pledging ranging from encouraging bonds between the members to organizational skills of planning a party or supporting a philanthropy.

Pledging is a time for these groups to add new dimensions to their chapter to make it a better place for everyone in it.



Kolbert endorses womens' right to choose

By Brandon Edward Miller
Freelance Writer

The Center for Reproductive Law and Policy's Vice President Kathryn Kolbert presented a convincing case for protecting women's reproductive rights last Wednesday in the Heritage Center for the Performing Arts, Presbyterian Hall.

The well-attended program, sponsored by the Co-Curricular Affairs Committee, was divided into three segments.

First, Kolbert outlined the history of reproductive law since the 1973 landmark Roe v. Wade case, which

has been used to make abortion legal and available to women.

Kolbert, a self-described activist, presented a video that the Center for Reproductive Law uses for lobbying Congress. This video was produced to counter legislation that would ban controversial "partial birth" abortion.

Two women were profiled; both of the women were pregnant and their health may have been in danger because their unborn children had severe damage and would not survive the pregnancy. Under new legislation, Kolbert contends, these women would not have been al-

lowed an abortion.

Following the video, Kolbert's presentation became much more interesting as it moved from historical profiles of cases to her vision of where the battle over women's reproductive rights is going in the future.

She perceives Congress's attempt to ban one type of abortion as being a devastating blow.

"A threat to one is a threat to all," Kolbert said. "If the courts let Congress ban this method, they can do this to other methods, one at a time."

According to Kolbert, so-called "pro-life" advocates have been suc-

cessful due to "... a well-orchestrated, well-funded political campaign..."

This campaign has been succeeding in eroding the woman's right to choose since the early 1980s.

Kolbert also stated that she believes much of the problem is "apathy," particularly by young women who believe that their reproductive rights are firmly protected, when this is not the case.

"I was really affected by her comment on apathy by young people. I feel it was a type of calling because I would like to work to protect women's rights in the future," said

senior Julie McKinstry.

Kolbert took several questions from the audience and masterfully answered them. Surprisingly, there were no tough questions asked from students or faculty with a strong anti-abortion stance, though many were in attendance.

The presentation ended with Kolbert challenging the audience to cease being silent and speak up and protect reproductive rights. She said that this could best be done by voting and encouraging others to vote for candidates who are supportive of women's rights.

*ACUB, Mock Rock — Feb. 9
Wharton Center, E. Lansing,
(517) 487-5001

*Barleycorn — Feb. 16
*Janina Fialkawska, pianist —
Feb. 17

*Natalie Merchant — Feb. 23
Cappuccino Cafe, Okemos,
(517) 349-3693

*Tia Hanna Duo — Feb. 9

*Carter and Wallace — Feb. 17
Blue Coyote, E. Lansing, (517)
485-BLUE

*The Mighty Blue Kings — Feb.
14
Hill Auditorium, Ann Arbor,
(313) 48-5656

*Patti LuPone — Feb. 17
*Alanis Morissette — Feb. 18
The Blind Pig, Ann Arbor,

(313) 484-5656

*Buckwheat Zydeco — Feb. 7
*19 Wheels — Feb. 8
Michigan Theatre, Ann Arbor,
(313) 484-5656

*Joan Baez — Feb. 24
*Dar Williams — Feb. 24
State Theatre, Detroit,
(313) 484-5656

*Branford and Ellis Marsalis —
Feb. 25

The Palace, Pontiac,
(810) 377-0100

*George Carlin — Feb. 8
*Bush, Goo Goo Dolls — Feb.
28

State Fair Coliseum, Detroit,
(313) 484-5656

*Pantera and Type O Negative
— Feb. 17

State Theatre, Kalamazoo, (616)
373-7000

*Reggae Fest '96 — Feb. 10

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

Women's basketball shines with a 15-4 record

Scot victories point toward NCAA Tournament bid

By Dan Scripps
Staff Reporter

With two victories in the past week, the women's basketball team improved its record to 15-4, including a win over conference foe Hope to improve their conference record to 6-2.

More important than the statistics of the games is the fact that the women came together and played as a team to realize their potential and leave behind the emotional loss to Calvin on Jan. 27.

On Wednesday, the Scots hosted Hope's Flying Dutch, dealing them a 59-52 loss.

"We went into the game knowing that we had to play well to get a win. It was a big win for us," said senior Michele VanDamme.

"The win against Hope secured us second place in the league," senior Michelle Meissner added.

In the victory, VanDamme led all scorers with 20 points—13 in the second half. She was joined in the

scoring column by junior Missy VanDamme, who added 18 points and 12 rebounds to the Scots' effort.

Earlier in the season the women beat the Flying Dutch by a score of 67-38.

Later in the week the Scots went on to destroy visiting St. Mary's College by a score of 80-51. After shooting 70 percent from the field in the first half, the Scots rolled to a 40-26 half-time lead in the non-league contest.

Meissner commented, "It felt good to come together as a team and win like that."

"Our team played differently for reasons that all of us know and only we know. It was one of our teams best games and it's just going to go uphill from here," added senior teammate Maggie Taylor.

Michele VanDamme again led in the scoring with 25 points, which she complemented with seven rebounds and a pair of steals. Adding six boards and 19 points was jun-

ior Jaami McClellan.

With these wins, the Scots put themselves in a good position to qualify for the NCAA national tournament. In their region, which is allowed to take eight teams to the tournament, the Scots are currently ranked fourth or fifth.

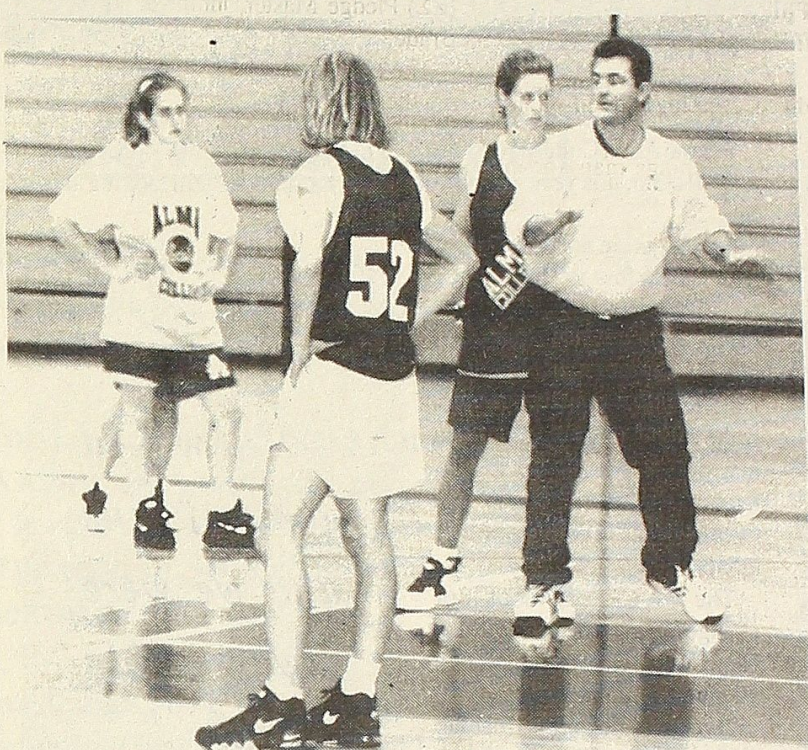
Before the Scots can advance, however, they have to play well for the rest of the year and through the MIAA tournament.

"We want to finish strong so that when we get to the league tournament we are playing our best," Meissner said.

Winning the MIAA tournament would automatically qualify the team for the national tournament.

However, as Michele VanDamme notes, "each game is big. We've got to really concentrate and continue to play like a team."

Taylor added, "It takes a team effort to win championships and we're playing like a team. We're ready for nationals."



Junior Kristi Kern and seniors Maggie Meissner and Maggie Taylor receive instructions from their coach at practice. Photo by Derek Warner.

Women defeat Hillsdale, men defeated by WSU

By Dana Reinke
Sports Editor

Adding a non-conference win to their overall record, Alma's women's swimming and diving team defeated Hillsdale College 137-81 on Saturday.

The women now maintain a 1-2 record in the MIAA conference and have evened their overall record to 2-2.

Leading the women to their victory were three swimmers each taking first in two events. Junior captain Danielle Sullivan continued to dominate her opposition winning both the 200 freestyle and the 100 yard freestyle events in times of 1:58.67 and 55.03 respectively. She also helped lead the 200 freestyle relay team to victory.

Sullivan and fellow relay members junior Missy Merwin and

sophomores Christin Waldron and Renee DeGraaf won the event in a time of 1:46.49.

DeGraaf swam to victory in both the 50 yard freestyle in a time of 26.25 and the 500 yard freestyle with a time of 5:34.00.

First-year student Heather Klepper brought in two more first places for the women, winning both the one meter and three meter diving events with scores of 176.05 and 210.39 in the respective events.

Senior captain Melissa Wuchte gave the Scots a victory in the 200 individual medley, swimming in a time of 2:24.90. Others who contributed to Alma's women's victory were first-year student Sarah Abbey taking two second places in both the 1000 yard freestyle with a 12:11.14 and the 100 yard freestyle in a time of 1:00.87. Fellow first-year student Sarah Bourdo earned

second place in both the one meter and three meter diving events with scores of 167.35 and 147.35.

Another first-year student, Libby Bequette, added points to Alma's score with a second place in 100 yard backstroke in a time of 1:06.25 and a third in the 200 individual medley with a 2:34.03.

Senior Jennifer Bondy also added a second in the 200 yard freestyle and a third in the 500 yard freestyle in times of 2:09.81 and 5:41.05 to Alma's total.

While the women were victorious over Hillsdale on Saturday, the men were defeated by Wayne State University. The Division II school defeated Alma's men's swimming and diving team by a score of 143-85. The loss gives the men a 1-3 record overall, but does not change their record of 1-2 in the MIAA conference. They are tied for third in the conference with Calvin.

Senior Christian Betz earned Alma's men two victories in addition to swimming two lifetime bests against the WSU team on Saturday. Betz won the 200 yard freestyle in a personal best of 1:50.99 and the 100 yard freestyle in another personnel best of 50.37.

First year student Bill James gave Alma their only other victories for the day. James won both the 1000 yard freestyle and the 500 yard freestyle in times of 10:31.71 and 5:01.83 respectively.

Fellow first-year student Mark Oberman took a second in the 50 yard freestyle in a time of 23.40 and placed third in the 100 yard butterfly with a 1:00.38. Senior captain Brett Martin also took a second and third in the 100 yard backstroke and 1000 yard freestyle in times of 1:00.77 and 10:56.04. Senior captain Eric Zettel and first-year student Chad Wisnewski each took a third in their events, Zettel in the 100 yard breaststroke with a 1:08.47

and Wisnewski in the 100 yard freestyle with a 53.43.

Both Alma's teams take on league opponent Calvin College

this week. The meet against Calvin was rescheduled after cancellation due to inclement weather on Saturday, Jan. 27.

Women's basketball plays with style

By Maria Toscano
Staff Reporter

I have to give credit where credit is due. There are a lot of teams that play together and do it well, but Alma College's women's basketball team plays with more style and grace than I have seen from a lot of other teams.

I went to the game on Saturday to relax and watch some basketball with two of my friends. The Scots were slaughtering St. Mary's and I was sincerely impressed with the way our team played. Don't get me wrong, I knew that our women's team was good, but I was highly impressed with their abilities on the court.

It was uncanny the way the team played together—sure, they made a few mistakes, but all in all it was as if they could read each other's thoughts.

First of all, I have to commend junior Michelle Olds on her ability to get the pass inside. On a particular play, Olds burst down the lane—she could have shot it, but instead handed the ball off to her teammate, junior Melissa Vandamme. Within an instant, Vandamme was up for two.

The team always seemed to make that key rebound or shot. The shot clock had been winding down. The crowd was counting as the time was run-

ning out, then all of a sudden an Alma player swished in a three-pointer. It was like that particular player knew exactly what she had to do and did it—perfectly.

Those players who came off the bench played with amazing intensity. They just picked up and played were the other player had left off, and any fan could tell St. Mary's did not know what they were in for.

Last year Vandamme led the MIAA in scoring and field goal percentage (57 percent) and was fourth in rebounding. The way she played Saturday, no doubt she will top her previous standings.

Michelle Olds averaged 3.4 assists and was fourth in the league. Her ability and unselfishness on the court proved to be a valuable asset to her team on Saturday.

Alma finished third in the MIAA last year with a record of 9-3 in the conference, and 18-7 overall in the season. The Scots face Albion on Wednesday, Feb. 7 at home then take two on the road against Olivet and Kalamazoo. The Scots finish their season with Adrian at home, Feb. 17.

Alma won by about 29 points, sending St. Mary's home with a long ride home. In the end, the Scots walked out with one more win on their road to a successful season.



Alma's women's swimming and diving teams defeated Hillsdale 137-81 Saturday. File photo.

Feb. 6, 1996

Men suffer another loss

By Maria Toscano
Staff Reporter

Rebuilding years are never quite what teams hope them to be.

For the Alma College men's basketball team, this year is no exception.

The Scots are not down about their recent loss to Hope. They are still fighting to gain respect for the program and to keep an upbeat attitude. The Flying Dutchmen overcame the Scots in the last three minutes with the help of their All-American center Dwayne Bosma, who had twenty points in the second half alone.

The 89-67 loss does not change the attitude of the Scots. Hope is also riding high off of a 10 game winning streak.

"We were down by 15 at the half and it was a strange game," said senior Rich Katona. "It was a game of runs and we were always within reach. With seven minutes left we were only down by seven, then the rest of the game they hit some inside shots and three-pointers."

The Scots had strong play off the bench.

"[Seniors] Hedlun Walton, Jack DeGroot and Mark Kaeckmeister really gave us a lift and twice helped us get close," stated Katona.

"We just didn't play simply," said senior Jason Osborn. "We haven't been shooting well, but we are confident in our main shooters will come through. The team may go into some foul trouble too."

Alma is still looking for things to click just right and work from there. The team fell to 1-7 in the MIAA conference.

"The team is still searching for some consistencey," stated Katona.

"Its like one night someone comes out and shoots really well and then the next night someone else does," stated Osborn. "We need to be consistent and we all need to be shooting well."

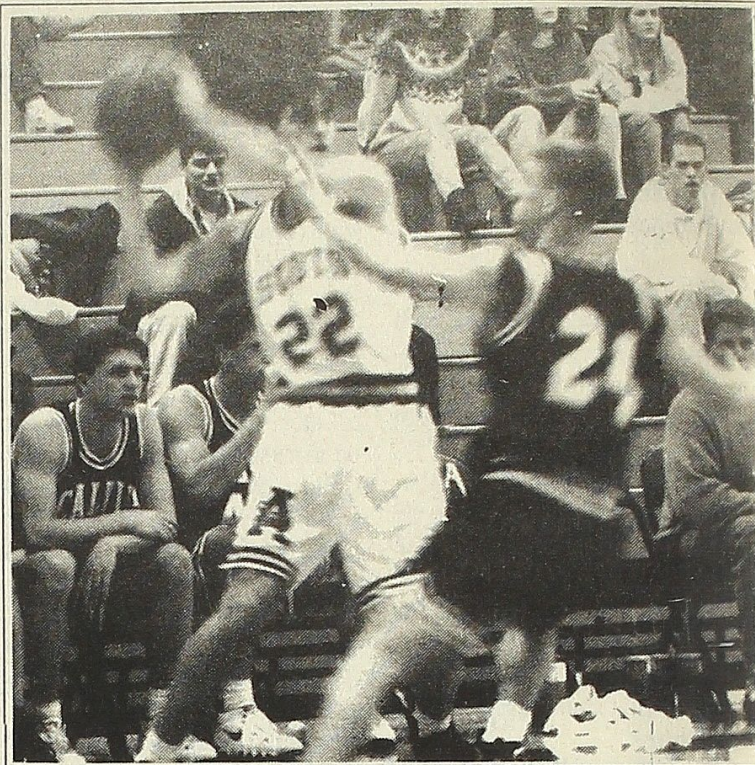
The Scots are still looking ahead

whole world."

The next game for the Scots is at Albion on Feb. 7. The next time the Scots play at home will be Feb. 10 against the Olivet Comets, who were only able to defeat the Scots by a narrow three-point margin. Alma faces Kalamazoo Feb. 14 at home and then goes on the road to challenge Adrian.

"Albion snuck one out the first time we played them," said Osborn. "We got two home games in a row that are easily attainable. We really hope people come out and watch."

Senior Jack DeGroot looks across court for an open teammate as his opponent attempts to block his view.
Photo by Brent Oeschger.



*It was a
game of runs
and we were
always within
reach.*

*Senior Rich
Katona*

to their last four games.

"We just keep looking forward," said Katona. "We have four games left and easily could be 5-7 in the conference. Some people think that it is far-fetched, but that is all we can do is to put the game behind us. We can dwell on it."

"We are still proud to be apart of the team," said Osborn. "We will never quit and embarrass the college. It is only one game and we play to have fun. The loss isn't the

Step into shape!

McGee leads step aerobics classes

By Phil Allmen
Staff Reporter

Feeling a bit run down in this bitter, cold weather?

Need a way to get your blood pumpin'?

Do you just want to meet new and interesting people?

Let first-year student Laurie McGee help you step into shape three hours a week on your way to a healthier body.

Every Tuesday and Thursday at 4:30 and on Wednesdays at 5:15, McGee leads the step aerobics for all who want to exercise.

Douglas Seelbach, professor of Exercise and Health Science, hired McGee to lead the step aerobics class (although it is not a class for credit) at the beginning of the academic school year.

For only \$.75 an hour, it is a great way to help get into better shape. Included in this exercise is the trip it takes from your room to the lower level racquetball courts in the P.E. Center.

"I love it. I have been teaching it for over a year. I also think it is a lot of fun. It's good exercise and everybody who comes has fun," said McGee.

On a normal day, about 10 people attend each session, although last term there were up to 20 people attending each workout session.

For less than it costs for a cup of coffee a day, you can work with Laurie McGee three days a week. You can get into better shape and get yourself a healthier body.

"It's only three hours a week, and it's a good time to see your friends," added McGee.

SEND A VALENTINE

- To your best bud
- To your schnookums
- To your favorite goldfish, Fred.
- To your favorite professor
- To your favorite Almanian staff person.
- To mum and pop

Send a message to anyone in the Almanian. Just fill out the form below and return by Friday, Feb. 9th at 5:00 p.m.

10 cents per word. Thirty word limit. Money due at time of order.

Message _____

Send to: Almanian, Newberry Basement or call 7161 and leave a message with your extension, address, and message.

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT

SUMMER RESIDENCE HALL SUPERVISORS: Students interested in living on campus this summer are invited to apply for Summer Residence Hall Supervisor openings. Housing is provided. Applicants with lifeguard certification and/or theater technician experience will be considered for additional employment to support summer conference activities. Applications are available at the Reid-Knox Building, and are due by February 23, 1996.

League Leaders

(through games played as of 1-27-96)

Women's Basketball

Junior **Melissa VanDamme** is second in the league with a 17.2 scoring average. VanDamme also ranks third in the league in both overall field goal shooting and free throw shooting with percentages of .486 and .871. She is also second in the league in rebounding averaging 8.8 rebounds a game.

Junior **Jaami McClellan** is tied for sixth in the league with a 13.6 scoring average. She is second in the MIAA in overall field goal shooting with a .539 percentage. McClellan ranks seventh in free throw shooting with a percentage of .780 and eighth in rebounding pulling down 6.5 boards per game.

Senior **Michelle VanDamme** is second in the conference in overall three point field goal shooting with a percentage of .440 while she is also ranked seventh in overall field goal shooting percentage with a .458. VanDamme also is averaging 3.2 assists a game placing her fifth in the conference.

Senior **Ashley Reagh** ranks fifth in the MIAA in three point field goal shooting with a .390 percentage.

Junior **Michelle Olds** is second in the league averaging 5.4 assists a game. Olds also ranks sixth in steals with 1.9 a game.

Men's Basketball

Sophomore **Eric Spielhaupter** is averaging 14.2 points a game placing him seventh in the league in individual scoring.

Senior **J.T. Cleveland** ranks thirteenth in the MIAA in scoring with 12.1 points a game. Cleveland leads the league in free throw shooting with a .830 percentage. He also is averaging 3.3 assists a game ranking him sixth.

Senior **Chris Stacey** is fifteenth in the conference in individual scoring averaging 11.2 points a game. Stacey is also tied for fourth in the league in rebounding with 6.4 boards a game.

Senior **Rich Katona** is seventh in the MIAA in three point field goal shooting with a .378 percentage while he is tenth in overall field goal shooting with a percentage of .478.

Senior **Jason Osborn** ranks third in the league averaging one blocked shot a game.

Alma College Winter Sports Schedules

Men's Basketball

2-7 Albion(a) 7:30
2-10 Olivet (h) 3:00
2-14 Kalamazoo(h) 7:30
2-17 Adrian(a) 3:00
2-21-24 MIAA Tournament

Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving

2-6 Calvin(a)
2-22-24 MIAA Championships at Hope College
3-14-16 NCAA Division III Women's Championships at Atlanta, GA
3-21-23 NCAA Division III Men's Championships at Atlanta, GA

Women's Basketball

2-7 Albion(h) 7:30
2-10 Olivet(a) 3:00
2-14 Kalamazoo(a) 7:30
2-17 Adrian(h) 3:00
2-20-24 MIAA Tournament

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Feb. 6, 1996

Signs of spring erase winter

By Char Vandermeer
Feature Editor

"It's zero degrees out there and the snot in my nose is frozen!" whined one of my winter-loving housemates.

Let's examine this.

He loves winter. I hate winter. Even he thinks the frozen snot is a little ridiculous. Hmm, how does that make *me* feel?

Tell me, what is pleasant about raw, burning, red cheeks? What is pleasant about toes so cold they are a pasty shade of purple/white? What is pleasant about skin so dry that taking a shower is an exercise in masochism because every stream of water feels as though it's piercing through dry, chapped layers of skin? What is pleasant about slathering on gooey layers of lotion, oh, eight to nine times a day? What is pleasant about sandpaper lips?

Okay, true confessions. I love cars. I love driving. And yes, this is connected to the cathartic rant against Evil Winter and its nasty sidekicks Icy Wind and Butt Biting Pavement.

Right, cars. They're fun. Fun to drive and fun to look at. However, I find no pleasure in scraping ice and snow off my windshield or buying new wipers every two months because the ice has ripped them into rubber strands of angel-hair pasta. Driving over roads covered with inches of ice and slush has absolutely, positively no appeal. Oooh, look...I can go from zero to 60 in exactly five minutes flat! Oooh, look...I can do a 180 without even trying! Oooh, look...isn't this ditch a fine one?

No, no, not fun.

Yeah, my car is pretty boring, but I still like to keep the mini Street Fighter clean. Well, in the summer that is. Nothing appeals to me less than cracked, bleeding and ice-covered hands—no thanks!

Excuse me, I take that back. I suppose there is one thing that appeals to me less. Clean car—rust-monster salt. Clean car—rust-monster salt. 'Nuff said.

Now that it's February, I like to think that the wonderful, rainy, mud-smelling days of spring are ready to knock on my door. Which, by the way, is firmly shut to lock out Evil Winter.

I know I have plenty of this winter stuff to endure—how can I forget? I have two housemates that remind me of the "wonders" of winter every day (usually as we're chucking icy snow-balls at one another). They've always got this evil glint in their eye too...I think they're in cohorts with winter. They've probably made a pact with the Devil or something.

Anyway...I suppose there is a good side to winter—looking forward to spring. See, Dad and I have this tradition that we call "the signs of spring" (original, eh?). So far we've already noticed a couple sure-fire signs: postal carriers are slipping on treacherous porch stoops to deliver the Burpee Seed Catalogues and the spring edition of the J. Crew magazine full of sexually clad dream men and women.

So, until the Daytona 500 rolls around—sign of spring number seven—I'll just sit tight and keep my doors closed.

LIFE IN HELL



©1996
BY MATT
GROENING

Alma breeds relationships, offers sense of community

By Julie McKinstry
Freelance Writer

A few weeks ago, I got a phone call at the MacCurdy House where I live. The voice said, "Hello, Julie! This is Carol. How are you doing?" It was Carol Bender, my advisor and English professor. We talked for a long while about her term on sabbatical, the new residents at the House, and how my classes are going this term.

I remember thinking, "Only at Alma College could this happen." A professor called me, basically, just to say hello. Moments like this one remind me why I chose to stay at Alma College.

I didn't always intend to stay here. When I first enrolled, it was with the idea that I could always transfer to someplace bigger and more exciting if I didn't like it here. Like a lot of my classmates, I had no idea what college was all about or what to look for in a good school when I was just 17 years old.

I remember my first official visit to Alma. My dad and I were treated

to meal advantage at Joe's Place with John Seveland [vice president for enrollment and student affairs]. I thought Hamilton Commons seemed huge, and the computer labs seemed so intimidating. I told a friend that Alma had 1,200 students and agreed with her when she said, "Wow, that's a big school!"

I was scared. But soon my dad had bought me one of those little felt Alma College banners and a key chain from the Scot Shop, and I had a letter in the mail from John Seveland congratulating me on acceptance. Since that preterm picnic back in August of 1992, I have never entertained any serious thoughts of transferring from Alma College. (I've often hoped beyond hope that certain others would, but I myself have never wanted to leave.)

What once felt like a huge campus to me soon felt familiar and sometimes even restricting and confining due to its size. Some days this campus seems too small for all of us; we all know each

other's business and we all get grouchy and need our space. But overall, I am learning to appreciate the very thing I find fault with: Alma College has been right for me precisely because of its small size and enrollment.

Some days, like the day Carol Bender called to say "hi," and the day [Chaplain] Jesse Perry asked me where I'd been on Sunday, I really appreciate the size of my school. I like that [Assistant Professor of English] Roseanne Hoefel takes time to send interesting informational material over for my housemates and me, and I like that Barb at Van Dusen makes a special point to tell me what's good for lunch each day. I like how Ed Lorenz [assistant professor of history and political science] gets so excited when he teaches the concepts of bureaucracy, and that [Assistant Professor of French] Julie Arnold offers to bake cookies for MacCurdy House projects. I have had a series of wonderful conversations with [Professor of Religious Studies] Joe Welton on everything

from a feminist interpretation of the Bible, to the meaning of life. Through the Women's Issues Advisory Board, I have had the chance to become friends with many strong women who have been great role models and mentors to me through the years. At the risk of sounding like an admissions catalogue, I feel that the relationship between faculty and students at Alma is one of the greatest things this school offers.

We have a special relationship to each other as students, too. It is inevitable that we get to know more people on a more intimate level simply because we all live together on campus, eat together in the same dining hall, study in the same library and party together on the weekends. For the most part, I really love the way we, as students, interact on campus. We really do say hi to others passing on the sidewalks and in the halls. We do have good relations between Greek and non-Greek, junior and senior students and younger students, too. I like that I can feel comfortable

enough to ask a guy in the computer lab how to spell bureaucracy and not be embarrassed, and I like that often I'll know most of the people at ACUB's functions.

There's a real sense of community here that shows up most clearly during rough times, like the passing away of [Professor of Religious Studies] Tracy Luke, and in sad times when we have lost classmates and friends.

I see this support at other times, too, like during exam weeks, when all over campus students are clustered together in study groups, drinking coffee and wearing sweat pants, but studying together instead of competing maliciously for grades.

The atmosphere of Alma College encourages lasting friendships because all get to know each other so well. I know that I have made lifelong friends here, and I know that this April, wherever I may go, I'll take with me the sense of community that Alma has generously given me in the past four years.

Nineteen means touch of grey

By Maria Toscano
Staff Reporter

When do we actually begin to feel our years: forty-five, sixty-one or fifty-three? For me, I feel old at the age of nineteen. When others are telling me I have not begun to live, I smirk and just think back on myself.

I feel as if I am walking with a cane while little freshmen bound about from class, to room, to party, to room.

What a wild year my freshman year was. All the new drinks, new people to explore. My year had gone by like a comet passing in and out of the night sky. Now I prefer to sit in the solace of my 12-by-12 room. Is it because I am growing up or growing old?

Last Friday I wandered through mixed groups of happy party goers at "Marriage and Divorce," a tradition with the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity at Alma. An unfamiliar face came up to me, spitting some alcoholic beverage everywhere, blurting "I am so drunk!" I then asked her if that was her mating call. I thought to myself, "Must be another stupid freshman." It was. Not too long after that, I retreated

to my room to open a Mountain Dew and relax. Work was calling to the responsible side of me and it was time to hang up the party side of me for the night which began only an hour before. I opened my windows and let the breeze cleanse my thoughts. I put in Garth Brooks. As the lyrics gave comfort, a song came on called, "Just Too Young for Feeling This Damn Old." Garth could say it all.

I started to reminisce about last year. My weekends started on Wednesday nights with a venture to Pop's. The following evening, I hit Wayside for a meat-market fest. Friday would fall and I was at one of the frat houses guzzling down Bud Ice. Almost every night, I would drink and dance my way to severe dehydration and a massive hangover.

Toward the middle of the year I attended a TKE party. At the party the room began to spin viciously like I was on a child's twisty toy from a cereal box. I was dancing with an alumnus and he tried to kiss me. I fought to keep it down but just

as his aged lips moved toward my burning hot face, Hot Damn and Vodka came spewing forth in all its grand manner. It adorned him like thick tinsel on a Christmas tree. Swearing, wiping and laughing he escorted me to the bathroom where

from the tile floor. Tired, nauseated, dehydrated, I went to my room and passed out on the light tan carpet that graced the floor. Anything could have happened to me that night. Stupid me.

It was easier then. I could blame it on being naive. Now, I could only blame myself for not having control. It was easy to say last year, "Well, I was just drunk." Instead there are no excuses for me to get stupid drunk and make an ass of myself—to get so wild that people stare and question my moral upbringing.

Now, I reluctantly crawl out of my nightly hibernation to face a freshman world. In their eyes it is all new, like a baby walking and talking for the first time. I feel like a mom that should slap their hands say, "No, no." I let them fall, touch and wonder. I sit back quietly waiting. I can not bring myself to say I told them so because I can not bring myself to interfere with tradition. They bring us life; we prey on them. Like vampires, we suck the marrow of their innocence from them as it has

been done to us. It is our way of surviving.

Give them a year and they will be as dry and dusty as our slumped souls feel.

They will regret the moments when the toilet took on a different look and a shot of vodka became a double-dare to the stomach. As they shift through their beer can memories they will sit and try to blot out mistakes; they will pray to some god to relieve them of the burden of remembering the bad times; they will ask him to lower their tolerance, now at the level of an alcoholic's.

They promenade back and forth like basset hounds in heat throughout the party scene—drinking themselves into oblivion. We walk three steps behind; we laugh at their stumbling. We pass by some fool wearing a Molson Ice t-shirt already passed out on one of the lawns. The Alma College book bag that hangs by one strap doesn't contain their studies, but an immense amount of some cheap beer like Busch. Their giddy little laughs and naive little smiles clamor out among us who have been there.

"Oh, they must be freshmen," someone mutters.

*It was easier then.
I could blame it on
being naive. Now, I
could only blame
myself for not hav-
ing control.*

I proceeded to get the rest of these beverages out of my stomach.

In a stupor, I crawled my way home. I finally made it and somehow I woke in the bathroom down the hall. I had been there so long there were squares on my face as if someone wanted to play tic-tac-toe

Day-to-day living: scarier than it sounds

By Mark Andrews
Opinion Editor

I am constantly receiving advice from my friends and family when I am having a problem. "Take each day as it comes," they say. And I ponder on that wisdom thinking it is something I do anyway. I mean we must always look at each day individually even when we look to the future.

But recently, I have considered this idea and discovered it isn't as easy as it sounds.

Worrying about everything is one of my strongest features. Rarely am I forced to focus only on today and think nothing of tomorrow until it takes its place as today. Under recent circumstances, I am beginning to understand a life consisting only of today's.

Just after Thanksgiving break, my

mother called to have a talk with me. I was working on gathering money from high school classmates to buy a memorial piece for a classmate who died in a car accident over the summer. It was hard, but not nearly as hard as the news I was about to receive. My mother broke the news to me in the most calm voice I have ever heard—some friends of the family were tested positive for HIV and the daughter of another friend was battling full-blown AIDS.

I tried to comprehend the horror of this destructive disease, for it not only takes the life of its carrier but also families and friends. It is a cold disease that destroys without regret. And who is to blame? The

victim? Did they choose to contract it?

It is a debate that will have no end. Plenty of carriers are ostracized because they contracted the disease. It was their choice. It was the lifestyle they chose. But that is not the case. No one chooses to have a blood transfusion because of birth complications. And no one chooses to have contaminated blood pumped into them. How can anyone say that these people are faulty and being punished for the life they chose?

I can only imagine what living life from day to day must be like, and I hope that I never find out first hand. Listening to the stories of those who have contracted HIV or

AIDS is close enough.

These people can teach us a lot about living. We push them away in fear as though the simple act of talking means we are inviting a deadly terror to take control of our lives. It is taking control of our lives the more we try to deny that it exists.

As humans, we need to discuss with and support people who have HIV and AIDS. Everyone knows the feeling of being alone when we are sick because no one wants to catch what they have. Now try to imagine that situation everyday of your life. Try to imagine the slow deterioration of life without anyone around to help you. Try to imagine being completely alone—you are the only person that exists and soon you will die.

It is a common fear, the fear of AIDS. I fear it just as much as anyone else. And even more, now that I know people who are in the early stages of it. It isn't like anything else I have ever known. I can only offer support and love while in my mind I know that it isn't enough. I know that there is no cure.

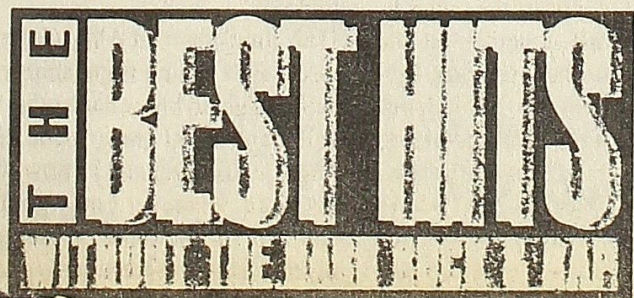
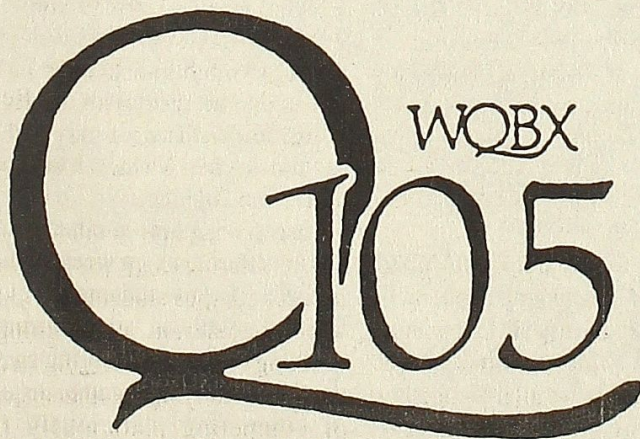
Miracles may happen. Sometimes they do. But I can not depend on miracles. So, I go from day to day—as much as someone like myself can. The future is always in my mind, yes, but I can't hold to it. Who knows what might happen at the instant I stop typing?

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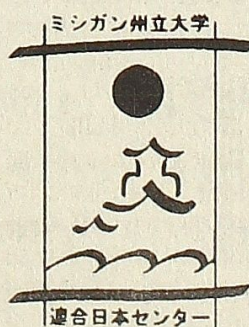
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Staff Editorial

Yearbook name change long overdue

Change from Scotsman to Thistle reflects proper policy

Admissions brochures in plaid. Marching bands in kilts. The Heather room. The *Scotsman*...er...the *Thistle*.

Over the last term, the staff of the yearbook has attempted to change the name of the *Scotsman* to a more politically-correct, gender-neutral title. The process has reached the Communications Committee, which approved the change of the *Scotsman's* name to *The Thistle* two Fridays ago.

The name change brings the publication firmly in line with Alma College's policies on sexism and gender-neutral language, as well as conforming with currently accepted journalistic practice. Both Alma College and the journalistic community have made significant moves toward establishing a gender-neutral norm in publication.

The change is far from surprising. In fact, the move the *Scotsman* has made toward gender-neutral language is long overdue; past staffs have avoided making the move because of tradition and because of an assumption that little notice would be taken of the change, and the move would have little effect—essentially, the masculine title of the yearbook does not matter.

The change, however, matters. It is important that the yearbook—one of the chief organs of journalism on this campus—reflects the policy of the college, the current standard of journalistic practice, and societal norms which demand a change from patriarchal, masculine language toward a more unbiased, gender-neutral terminology. To do anything less verges on injustice and hypocrisy.

What is surprising, then, about the change to a less biased title for the yearbook, is the extent of the backlash against the change. The

offices of the yearbook and its editor have been subject to questions from students that range from confused to incensed that the student publication would change its name.

Obviously, previous staffs were wrong—the change has been noticed, and is sparking some controversy. It is also obvious that the name of the yearbook does matter.

It seems strange that a student body that expresses opinion so infrequently and in such a restrained manner would take this kind of offense at this change. It seems even more strange that the students at a liberal-arts college, one that places such a premium on diversity and tolerance in its education and outward appearance, should protest so strongly against a decision made to acknowledge diversity and increase tolerance.

The chief argument against the change—the importance of “tradition”—rings false upon closer examination, as well. The *Scotsman* has not always been the name of the yearbook; the name has changed throughout Alma's history, and may certainly change again in another 20 years. *The Thistle* definitely pays more allegiance to the Scottish traditions Alma holds dear than the original title of the publication—the *Maroon and Cream*—had. Tradition, as an argument for perpetuating sexist language and stereotyping, becomes little more than a weak argument to maintain the status quo.

This name change should have happened years ago—it is a change that has come seemingly too late. Late, however, is better than not at all, and the kind of arguments and justifications that critics of the change have set forth hold little water. The staff of the yearbook should be commended for finally bringing their title, in addition to their copy, in line with the practices that govern Alma's house publications and have become accepted practice in the journalistic world.

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Challenger explosion unites generation

By Justin Bauer
Editor-in-Chief

When our parents talk about their youth, they invariably put on a serious face when they talk about one thing—the assassination of John F. Kennedy. That killing was an event, a defining moment of a generation. One of those things that brings up the question “where were you when...”

That assassination remains a fresh wound. It shows in baby-boomer reminiscences, it shows in Oliver Stone's preoccupations (like him or not, he knows how to hit the major nerves of his generation). It carries great weight, and in many ways it symbolizes the youth of the generation which precedes ours.

Little more than ten years ago—January 28, 1986—our generation had one of those “where were you when...” events. Little more

than 10 years ago, the space shuttle Challenger exploded, taking with it a full crew of astronauts and a middle-school social studies teacher, Christa McAuliffe, who was to conduct and broadcast science experiments as the first teacher in space.

The disaster dominated the news for months, and the investigation into the causes of the disaster spanned the rest of the decade. NASA scientists finally concluded that the explosion was caused by faulty equipment—an eroded O-ring, which, combined with the January cold, led to a fatal detonation of fuel.

The assassination of President Kennedy and the explosion of the Challenger space shuttle are, in many ways, similar events for our two generations. They are, first and foremost, tragedies that cut across all other divides within a generation. No matter the political views of a baby-boomer, the killing of Kennedy made an impact; he was the first president to share their youth

and their experiences, and he had been murdered. Likewise, our generation remembers the Challenger explosion almost universally.

The two tragedies also marked some sort of awareness of mortality, and a passing from one ideal into a very different reality. Kennedy's killing has been identified as the death of political idealism for our parents' generation, as the beginning of “the sixties,” as many other things. The Challenger explosion marked the end of the romantic idealization of the US space program—ironically, one of Kennedy's original programs—and ended a dream of space travel. Few children would respond “an astronaut” when asked what they wanted to be when they grew up.

The two tragedies, though, point out differences between the times in which they occurred and between the generations they touched. The Kennedy assassination was a very human fact—the Warren Commission

placed the blame on one lone gunman, and the act felled a man that personified dreams of the betterment of people—all Americans. The Challenger disaster, on the other hand, was a technological miscalculation—instead of a human act and a free choice, the emphasis shifted toward technology, “calculated risk” and machine error. The act merely questioned the hegemony of technology, rather than destroying dreams.

There may be a time when we turn grave in front of our children, talking about our past. We can tell our children and our peers where we were when we heard the space shuttle Challenger explode. Unlike our parents' generation, though, our disaster, our “where were you when...”, symbolizes a very different thing—not the fallibility of other people, but the role and the power technology has taken.

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