

The Almanian

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Serving Alma College since 1907

Issue 18

Yearbook title proves prickly issue

By Trisha A. Warner
Special Projects Reporter

Student opposition to the proposed name change of the *Scotsman* has led to the development and circulation of a petition.

The petition states that the "members of the Alma College community wish to express our dissatisfaction with and opposition to the planned name change of the *Scotsman* to the *Thistle*. We wish to recommend that the plans for the change be aborted and that the *Scotsman* retain its title."

First-year student Dan Mawby conceptualized the plan, wrote the petition and has been circulating it for approximately a week and a half. First-year students Chris Gayer, Julian Pike, Tim Black and Oren Jenkins have been circulating copies of the request as well.

Mawby's main reason for the petition is to prevent what he considers "political correctness striking down one of the most time honored traditions at Alma."

"I and many people I know on campus feel that the gender-sensitivity issue has been taken too far," he explained. "We feel that the political correctness of the administration is getting ridiculously out of proportion."

Their goal is to obtain at least 800 signatures before sending the petition to President Alan Stone, Dean of Students James Kridler and Yearbook Editor senior Sarah Gornicki.

If the administrators realize students are against the change, said Mawby, they may be able to prevent it.

Gornicki claims the petition and the motivation for it are misguided.

Gender-neutrality in journalism is the basis for their decision.

The change will only appear on the book's spine, cover and title page, and maintains Alma's policy on gender-neutrality in publishing.

In keeping with standard journalistic practice, copy within the *Scotsman* does not contain any gender-biased language.

"The name is the only thing that is gender-biased in the book," Gornicki explained. "We want to be gender-neutral in every way. We are making a history book, and to do that well we need to stay in line with what journalists do today."

"The real issue for us as a body of journalists is that gender neutrality is what journalists do today," said Gornicki.

Kridler agreed, citing current trends in language usage.

"Gender neutrality is the college's

policy on publications. The point of the institution trying to use gender-neutral language in all its publications is that it's the right thing to do," he explained. "If you are going to write something today, you should adhere to today's standards. It's about education."

Gornicki also stated that the article in the Jan. 30, 1996, edition of the *Almanian* was meant to inform students that the yearbook staff was open to suggestions about a new name—not bent on changing it to the *Thistle*.

"All we wanted was a good discussion on what a good Scottish title would be," she said.

Although it has come up against harsh criticism as just a thorny flower, the thistle was actually pivotal to the Scottish victory over the English in the 1400s. According to the legend, the English soldiers had

removed their shoes and were sneaking up on Scotsmen as they slept. One English soldier stepped on a thorn of the thistle and let out a cry of pain, alerting the Scottish soldiers of the attack.

Because of the incident, they were able to defeat the English, and the thistle became the national flower.

Kridler supports the yearbook staff's pursuit of a new name.

"This isn't the first time it was brought up," he said. "This year's staff has just pursued it further."

Kridler does, however, disagree with the belief that students should have a voice in the new name. Instead, he said the students who are most involved with the publication should have a say in the decision.

"It was not a student decision with the naming of the radio station," he concluded.

Alma choirs decide to stay home for tour

By Jaime Campbell
Freelance Writer

The Alma College Choir is on the move. This year their annual Spring Break tour entails all areas of lower Michigan.

According to Choir Director Will Nichols, the choir chose a tour of the state because of the choir's strong reputation in Michigan, where they seldom have the opportunity to perform.

Nichols sees this as a "chance to get to many areas and develop friendships for the college." This local tour means current students and many alumni in the area will be able to see the choir perform.

The program this year consists of traditional classical music as well as gospel and folk songs. Highlighted in the performance are talented soloists, seniors Shannon McNeal, Matt Robertson, Becky Shelley, Laura Rice and Sarah Loftus; junior Brian Martin; sopho-

more Matt Robertson; and first-year student, Scott Harman. Also sharing the spotlight is accompanist Tony Patterson.

The choir will perform in area Presbyterian churches, where their performances are open to the public.

While the tour does not take students as far from home as last year's trip to Florida, choir members are looking forward to representing the college around the state.

"Choir tour for us is a time when we can be ambassadors for Alma College and share our music with people throughout the state," said soprano sophomore Melinda Towns.

Some members are eager to not only represent the college but build relationships on its behalf.

"Choir tour is always a special time of year for us. In Alma, when we perform, the audience is always the same, but on tour we reach new people and build relationships with

alumni. That is why it is so important that we make this year's tour in Michigan; we need to work on those relationships closer to home," said senior Gordon Meyers.

Although this sounds like a lot of fun, the choir puts forth much effort to master the difficult music they sing by memory and to perfect their program.

The students practice six hours a week in addition to giving up their Spring Break.

For sophomore Amanda Scott, the effort is worth it.

"The choir has been practicing extremely hard this year in order to sound our absolute best. Because our tour is around Michigan this year we have many hometown supporters waiting to listen to the Alma Choir carry on its tradition of excellence."

Nichols attributes the success of the choir to the hard work and dedication of the members.

"These are wonderful students,

I'd adopt any one of them!" said Nichols.

The choir performs in Birmingham Feb. 24, Grand Rapids Feb.

25, Harbor Springs Feb. 26, East Lansing Feb. 27, Midland Feb. 28, and Traverse City Feb. 29.



The Alma College Choirs will be performing a series of concerts on tour in Michigan over Spring Break. Photo courtesy of Alma College Public Relations.

Hoeft, Murphy selected to be OC co-chairs

By Jaime Campbell
Freelance Writer

At first, they are just familiar faces in maroon shirts. But incoming first-year students soon see the members of the Orientation Committee as helpful guides and friends in their new collegiate journey.

This year Monica Hoeft and Michelle Murphy will be co-chairs in charge of the organization of pre-term.

Hoeft and Murphy were chosen through an application process that was reviewed by seniors Jason Gray and Laura Rice, last year's co-chairs, and Bill Arnold, assistant dean of students.

The selection process entailed interviews in which the interview-

ers looked for the charisma co-chairs will need to make direct contact with students and parents. OC co-chairs must also have motivation to not only effectively coordinate pre-term, but to motivate other members of the committee.

Another important quality Arnold pointed out is the ability to "think on your feet to handle emergencies with students and parents during pre-term."

In addition, applicants had to have been on the committee this year in order to be eligible for the position.

As co-chairs, Hoeft and Murphy will have to come back to Alma three days before the rest of the committee, which is about one week before the first-year students

arrive. In these extra days, they will finalize details and reservations for the upcoming events.

While some have forgotten the overwhelming feelings of a first-year student's first week at Alma, the Orientation Committee has remained dedicated to making the transition from home to college much smoother with academic and social activities.

The Orientation Committee organizes many of the events during pre-term such as the Traditions Dinner, Alma College A to Z, the diversity workshop, the alcohol abuse and acquaintance rape workshop and a dance. Due to the great amount of planning that goes into these events, co-chairs were selected to lead the committee.

Having an Orientation Committee member, or OC as they are commonly referred, assigned to a first-year student gives the student someone to guide them in an unfamiliar place as well as someone to talk to about concerns or problems during their first week.

While the co-chair positions are filled, applications are still being taken for positions on the Orientation Committee. These applications can be picked up at the Student Affairs Office. The only requirement to apply is that you have strong leadership skills, ability to work well with a diverse group of people and a commitment to the educational experience of first year students. The application deadline is Friday, Feb. 23.

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Students plan to celebrate Women's Month

By Jaime Campbell
Freelance Writer

During the month of March, National Women's Month, a quest for activism and awareness of women's issues is being called to the public's attention.

On the Alma College campus, the Women's Month Planning Committee is working hard to achieve awareness by organizing events honoring women throughout the month of March.

"The activities planned are designed to make people more aware of women's issues," said sophomore

Kim Krajniak, chair of the committee.

Events planned for the month include a candlelight march on Monday, March 4, that starts at the chapel and ends at Max and Emily's. There, a women's writer's harvest will take place. Anyone can participate in the march and all are welcome to bring poems to read.

On March 5 "Out of Africa" will be shown at the MacCurdy House. The movie is to coordinate with speaker Linda Donelson, who wrote the biography of Isak Dinesen, the author of the book.

On March 6, the committee will collect patches to be incorporated into a giant quilt. Patches must be 6 inches by 6 inches in size and the background must be out of some kind of material.

"Anyone can contribute a patch to celebrate a particularly strong woman they admire," said senior Gwen Downs. The quilt will be shown at the library and then will be stored at the MacCurdy House.

At 5 p.m. on March 6, the Women's Advisory Board will be hosting a "Girl's Night Out," a potluck at which women faculty members and students can gather.

Students interested in attending need only to bring a two-litre bottle of pop.

In addition to these events, there will be two "Brown Bag Lunches" in Fireside Lounge from noon to 1 p.m. March 14 and March 28. Provost Leslie Brown will speak March 14, and Charlotte Mitchell, a member of the Board of Trustees will speak March 28.

There will be a women's month workshop from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 16 that will spotlight speakers and presentations, including Assistant Professor of Exercise and Health Science Robyn Anderson

and Assistant Professor of Communication Joanne Gilbert.

Women's month T-shirts will be available; profits will be donated to Child Advocacy and the Women's Issues Advisory Board travel grant.

This is the first time that women's month will be celebrated as an entire month. In the past three years only a week was designated for this celebration.

"I hope that this month will give a broader view of what feminism is about and that men and women can be activists on the Alma College campus," said Downs.

Students get Singled Out, win dates on Valentine's Day

By Julie Wilson
Staff Reporter

Valentine's Day was, for some, a time to spend with loved ones. For others, it was a chance to join a music and hormone-filled dating pool in Jones Auditorium Wednesday evening.

"Singled Out," a program sponsored by Newberry Hall, gave students an opportunity to spend their Valentine's night not on a date, but rather, trying to win one.

The program was based on the MTV show of the same name. Senior Kevin McKinley, who helped organize the program with Junior Kelsey Tyner, said inspiration struck last summer.

"I watched the show a lot and thought it would be a fun idea to try at school," he said.

Tyner had thought the same thing. "I was thinking that it would be a fun all-campus event and in talking to Kevin, we had thought of the same idea," said Tyner, a Resident Assistant in Newberry.

The pair had organized a previous "Singled Out" last term and after its success, decided to do another one, which brought about last week's festivities.

Planning for the program was extensive for both events.

"It was a lot of work to get this going," said Tyner. "We had to reserve the rooms, find a sound system we could use and people who could help with the spotlight and working the video camera," she added.

"We pretty much just watched the show a lot to get ideas for the first round categories, and for that we took a lot from the show," said McKinley.

For the first show, Tyner took many of the questions from the original show. The second time, she made up most of the final questions.

"I made up 67 of the questions for the Valentine's Day program and I tried to make them more interesting by applying them to Alma," said Tyner.

McKinley was pleased with this aspect of the program. "I think Kelsey did a great job with all of the questions for the final round," he said.

There were a few problems that plagued the otherwise successful program. Unlike the first time, McKinley

and Tyner, who also served as hosts of the show, had only one microphone to pass between the two of them. "I felt that this made it seem unorganized, having to share one microphone," said Tyner.

Space created a problem as well. Over 200 people attended the first show; the second interested over 250 students.

"There were so many people there that some 30 other people came and left after they saw how crowded it was," said Tyner. "Some people suggested we use the gym, but there are sports practices in there until midnight; and the small theater in the Heritage Center only holds 190 people."

If future programs are planned, Tyner said that they could possibly install monitors so people could sit in the Rotunda and watch from there.

The contestants and members of the Dating Pool were also concerns. The first time, students who wanted to participate as the "Dating Pool" were told to arrive just before the show.

"I was really nervous last time," said McKinley. "I really did not know if people would show up to be in it."

This time was slightly less stressful, as students signed up the week before to fill out their statistical information and express interest in participating.

And then there was the problem of who the main contestants would be. Two women and two men were chosen to be the "mystery dates."

"We just tried to think of people who would be good at it—who are comfortable in front of a crowd, who would just do a good job," said McKinley.

Junior Loren Baidas and sophomore Jeff Curtis were the two men who managed to "single out" dates from a pool of about forty women.

It was more difficult to secure female contestants, however.

"We tried not to make it seem like we were picking AXDs, specifically. We had already asked (sophomore) Marcy Reiber to do it, and then there were other women who said that they would like to do it. So we drew, and we picked out Joy (Engblade's) name," said

Tyner. She added, "It just happened that they were both AXDs."

"I guess I did it just because they needed single people who would be willing to do it," Engblade said.

The prizes were worth the risk. Each of the four couples was given a gift certificate for dinner at Max and Emily's and a movie at Alma Cinemas.

As for the dates, the contestants seemed pleased.

"I won a date with (first-year

student) Mark Oberman, but he is busy preparing for conferences since he is a swimmer, so we are going out after break," said Engblade. As a surprise, the hosts got a prize as well. Tyner and McKinley chose dates for each other from the Dating Pool.

Not all participants were so lucky, however. Many of the Dating Pool contestants were not as successful at procuring dates for themselves.

Said first-year student Kim Scheerer, "The first time, I only lasted one question, the second time I got booted because I am short." "I thought it was okay, but I expected it to be more like the show—they skipped some steps and asked a lot fewer questions," continued Scheerer.

So Valentine's Day was a mixed bag. Singled Out helped some earn dates, but still others are left waiting for another Singled Out.

Condom Week promotes safety

By Dan Scripps
Staff Reporter

Causing anything from fever and headaches to sterility and death, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are nothing to joke about, especially on college campuses.

STDs infect between 10 and 15 percent of students each year. While the only sure way to avoid becoming infected is to abstain from sexual contact altogether, condoms are a proven way to drastically reduce the risk.

That was the message behind last week's National Condom Week and one of the themes behind the staff of Wilcox Medical Center's program entitled "Sex Happens, Be Safe," last Tuesday in VanDusen.

Hosted by Physician's Assistant Joe Gelina and Registered Nurse Denise Bouchey, the program provided students

with information and resources for reducing their risk of becoming infected with an STD.

The highlight of the evening, according to sophomore Greg Follbaum, was the demonstration on the correct way to put on a condom, using senior audience member Jon Kapp and a six foot condom. Bouchey put the condom on Kapp and Gelina read the directions for proper use—the audience was both entertained and educated.

Another way Gelina and Bouchey reached their audience was through the distribution of condoms attached to Hershey's Kisses with a ribbon reading, "If it's more than a kiss, be safe." This pairing left quite an impression in the minds of many of the students.

The two presenters also modified a Forrest Gump statement into "Sex is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're going to get," to articulate the uncertainty that unprotected sexual intimacy carries with it, as well as the fact that for many STDs, the symp-

toms are often absent or very hidden. For this reason they encouraged testing during regular medical checkups for those who are sexually active or for those starting with a new partner.

Despite a silent question and answer period, students found the evening both entertaining and informative.

Follbaum commented, "I learned about the various STDs and their effect on the human body."

Gelina and Bouchey concluded their presentation by offering the students various brochures on STDs and letting them know that the medical center offers many forms of anonymous and confidential testing, often at little or no cost to the students.

They also reminded the students that condoms are always free from the medical center and that the staff is willing to answer any questions students might have, always on a confidential basis.

Warning! New drug causes blackouts

Students traveling to the south during spring break should be aware of a new drug called Rohypnol.

Rohypnol is a sedative 10 times stronger than Valium that causes the user to blackout. It is also known as "the forget pill."

According to Mark Minelli,

manager of Central Michigan University's health advocacy program, women in Florida and Texas have been sexually assaulted after someone slipped a Rohypnol pill into their food or drink.

Additionally, Rohypnol is reportedly used during gang initiations and date rapes.

Joe Gelina, physician's assistant for the Wilcox Medical Center, warns students traveling to these areas to take precautions against the unintentional use of this drug.

Gelina reminds students not to leave food or drinks unattended.

CNN: the real world wide web

By Brandon Edward Miller
Freelance Writer

Before you pack the car and head for home or start your last-minute cramming for that mid-term on Friday, take a break to participate in an interactive forum with CNN's Senior International Editor Stephen Cassidy.

He will present "CNN: the Real World Wide Web" on Thursday at 8 p.m. in Swanson Academic Center, room 113.

The political science and communication departments, the Provost's Office and the Co-Curricular Affairs Committee are sponsoring Cassidy's visit.

Senior Laura Rice said, "This is a must-see event. You should see this man's credentials. Wow!"

Cassidy's list of accomplishments is impressive. After spend-

ing many years in local news in positions ranging from news photographer to talk show host, he joined CNN in 1981.

CNN recruited Cassidy to design and launch CNN2, now called Headline News.

Between 1985 and 1988, he was CNN's Bureau Chief in New York where, under his direction, the bureau's coverage of the stock market crash and other events won numerous awards, including the National Headliner Award.

Before reaching his current post, Cassidy spent two years as CNN's Senior National Editor. He shared another National Headliner Award for coverage of the San Francisco Earthquake. In 1989, he was honored by the Television Critics' Association with the Outstanding Achievement in News and Information Programming Award.

After two years in this post,

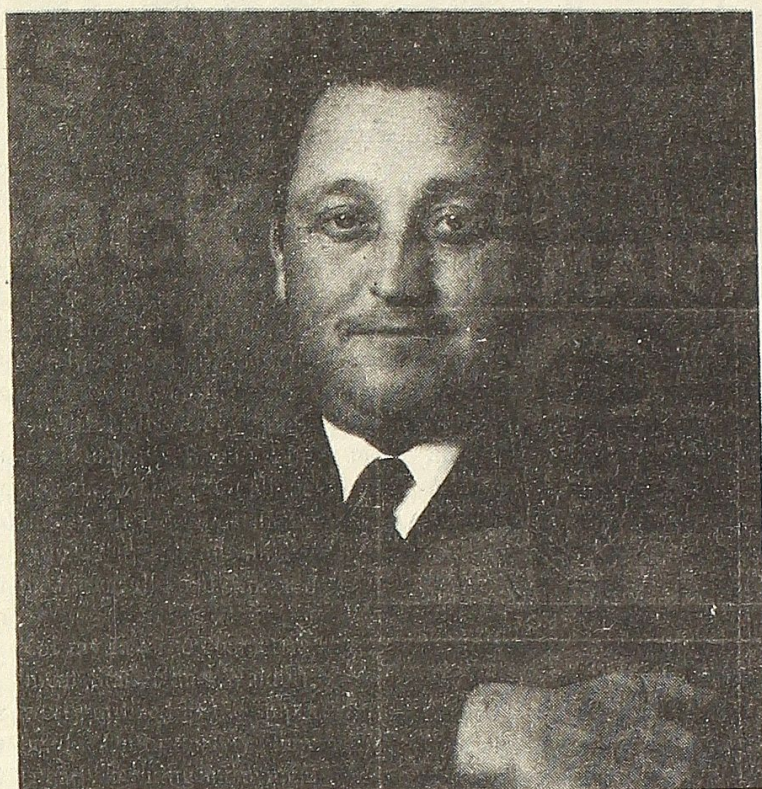
Cassidy became CNN's Senior International Editor. He handles futures and logistics for the network and directs news gathering among CNN's 20 international bureaus—from Amman to Tokyo.

During his first year as Senior International Editor, Cassidy coordinated CNN's coverage of the war in the Persian Gulf, the attempted coup in the Soviet Union and the collapse of the Communist Bloc in Europe.

He received the industry's highest honor, the Golden Ace Award, for his work on the Gulf War story.

Assistant Professor of Political Science Sandy Hulme, was instrumental in arranging Cassidy's visit.

"It's a tremendous opportunity to talk with someone who is involved in producing the most influential news broadcast in the world," said Hulme.



CNN's Stephen Cassidy will speak on Thursday. Photo courtesy of Alma College Public Relations.

ULC provides big-city education in Chicago

By Justin Gustafson
Freelance Writer

Alma College provides students with an excellent education and many extracurricular activities, but one thing it cannot provide is a true sense of life in a big city.

The Urban Life Center (ULC) in Chicago is open to all undergraduate students and offers them that diverse big-city experience.

On Wednesday, Valerie Wallace from the ULC will be visiting Alma College to answer questions about the Chicago program. The program is offered at a variety of times: fall and winter semester, spring term, and during the summer.

"Students have the opportunity to be placed in an internship of their choice. The internships are actually considered courses that Alma College will give credit for," explained Associate Director of

Student Development Mindy Sargent.

The opportunities provided by the ULC are numerous. They include experiencing life in ethnic neighborhoods, learning how to find your way around a big city, studying real-life topics and problems on location, meeting community leaders and organizers and making students think about their life goals.

Examples of available internships include placements at the Sherwood Music Conservatory, Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago Public Schools or the Cook County Public Defender's Office. ULC is networked with over 300 businesses, schools and other organizations around the city.

Senior Tera Biebuyck spent last summer in Chicago working in Hyde Park with the Adult Day Care Division. She organized daily programs and was able to explore many different parts of the city.

Biebuyck was very enthusiastic

about her experience in Chicago.

"It really exposed me to a lot of things you can never experience in Alma, especially life in a big city. I enjoyed being in the situation I was in. It really made me want to go back to the city," said Biebuyck.

For one semester, the cost is approximately the same as attending Alma. The tuition is still paid to the college, which in turn pays the ULC.

Other fees, ranging from \$200-\$550 depending on the length of stay, include mass transit tickets, trips to the theater and many more city experiences that ULC provides during the visit. Living quarters are also provided, as all students live together in a house-type setting, sharing the cooking, cleaning and other necessary household chores. The living experience builds independence and cooperation.

In addition to an internship, stu-

dents participate in a number of seminars designed to familiarize them with the city.

Said Sargent, "There are seminars that put students in touch with their neighborhood and community, as well as the city of Chicago."

Sargent also cautioned that students should know what they want out of college and the program, "You need to have a sense ac-

ademically of what you want to do. You need to have a solid life plan in front of you."

Besides having the excellent experience of an internship, this program gives students more than just an education.

"You learn the culture of the city as well as the independence factor. The kind of relationships you build with people while you are there are excellent," said Sargent.

New furniture enables decorating freedom

By Phil Allmen
Staff Reporter

If you liked playing with Legos as a kid, or just like the thought of a versatile room, you'll love the new furniture planned for the residence halls.

Bruske Hall will be getting new furniture for the rooms next year to replace the built-in furniture in the rooms now. One long-term plan of Alma College is to install this new furniture into all of the residence halls.

Dean of Students James Kridler said that one reason for this change is the lack of ability to personalize one's room.

"Built-in furniture lacks personalization. I know I did not like it. People build more lofts to personalize their rooms, creating a bigger storage problem and a lot of wear and tear on the furniture," said Kridler.

The new furniture comes in

separate pieces. Each set contains a desk, dresser, bookcase, organizer and bed. These individual pieces can then be combined in a number of ways.

"Roommates can combine these pieces of furniture in about 100 variations. It is somewhat like Legos," commented Kridler.

These five pieces all stand up 30 inches, allowing them to be easily stacked using pins to hold the pieces together.

"The beds can be bunked, trundled or set at differing heights solely by how you set them up. It's loftable furniture. It maximizes the floor space by allowing the roommates to arrange the furniture how they want to," said Kridler. Lofts will not be allowed anymore, because the new furniture is already loftable.

"(Physical Plant Director) Duane Knecht and I began looking around for new furniture a few years ago. This furniture was not the cheapest, but was not the most expensive ei-

ther. It was the best furniture for the price," said Kridler.

The manufacturer of this furniture is OEM, a company in Charlotte, Michigan. OEM handles much of the college furniture in Michigan, including most of the state schools and some private schools such as Calvin College.

Two quads in Bruske will feature this new furniture next year. Bruske will also have computer access in all of the rooms—one reason Alma is starting with Bruske for the new furniture.

"This furniture is very computer friendly. The desk is made for a keyboard to fit right inside and the space between the desk and the organizer was made for the back of a computer monitor to fit into," said Kridler.

Bruske's room 201 now has this new furniture. Anyone wishing to see it can ask the resident assistant to show it to you.

Keeping You Informed

**Video Production Contest
Seeks Talented College
Students**

The American College Health Association (ACHA) is scouting campuses nationwide for a budding Scorsese, Spielberg or Tarantino. College students are invited to participate in a contest to create and develop a television public service announcement that will educate young adults about genital herpes.

The contest is designed to stimulate creative approaches to education on genital herpes, a sexually transmitted disease (STD) that has grown to epidemic proportions over the past decade. According to the program's sponsors, college-age individuals also constitute a significant segment of the population of men and women, ages 18-40 years, that is at high risk of contracting genital herpes and other STDs.

The contest is open to anyone age 18 or older who is enrolled at an accredited institution of higher learning. Cash prizes will be awarded. Students who wish to enter the contest can receive the Official Contest Rules, entry forms, contest flyers and information about genital herpes by writing Tuning in to Herpes PSA Contest, 111 East 14th

Street, Suite 385, New York, NY 10003, calling (212) 886-2250, or by e-mail at HerpesPSA@aol.com.

Get an Inside Look at Politics

The Summer Scholar Program at The Graduate School of Political Management (George Washington University) is offering a unique program allowing students an "inside" look into how the world of politics really works.

This seven-week, six to nine-credit intensive program in Washington, D.C. combines classroom training in political management with hands-on experience in all facets of an issue or candidate campaign. These skills are taught by the nation's leading political practitioners. Lecturers include Lowell Wicker, former Senator, Governor and Representative of Connecticut, Pat Choate, foreign trade expert and advisor to presidential candidate Ross Perot, Larry Sabato, distinguished author and professor at University of Virginia, and Jerald Horst, former Press Secretary to President Gerald Ford and Director of Nation Public Affairs for Ford Motor Company.

For more information call Program Director Dr. Michael Cornfield at (800) 367-4776 or (202) 994-7908.

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ACT shines in *Crucible* production

By Justin Bauer
Editor-in-Chief

Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* premiered on Broadway during the height of the Red Scare, and the play is redolent with subtle (and not-so-subtle) commentary on the issues of Miller's time. While the play is ostensibly about the Salem witch trials in colonial Massachusetts, the play and its playwright remain far more interested in witch hunts. The result is an impassioned, if rather confused, script—one which attempts to tell two stories at once and finds itself divided between a historical account and scathing social commentary.

The Alma College Theatre Company's (ACT) production of *The Crucible* finds itself in the same bind. The production is one of

ACT's finest; in many respects, it tops any play the company has produced in the past two years, and the performances of juniors Jason James Schultz and Elizabeth Bullmer are perhaps the best of their Alma stage careers. However, the production seems to have trouble discriminating between witch trials and witch hunts.

The director's notes in the program indicate that this production is universal—that rather than dealing with the narrow scope of historical realism and the drama of the Salem witch trials, the ACT production concerns itself with the loftier universal themes of truth and honesty; rather than dealing with the historical John Proctor (Schultz) it deals with one man's struggle with good and evil.

Many of the technical aspects of

the production bear this theme out beautifully. The staging and the sparse set (also perhaps the best in recent ACT history and certainly the best since *Our Country's Good* in the fall of 1993) support the stated intent; the simple, direct lighting and the spare use of props also contribute to the sense of a universalistic theme.

The costumes, however, belie the theme; they portray a very definite sense of time and place. While excellent and obviously well-researched, the very specific, time-bound costumes conflict with the open set, reinforcing the duality and hesitation of Miller's script.

Beyond the dissonance in the technical aspects of the production, the play is carried off wonderfully. The majority of the acting is superb—ACT has shown steady improvement over the past few years—and a new set of actors have

Left: Rev. Hale (junior Mark Andrews) pleads with Elizabeth Proctor (Bullmer). Below: Harman, senior Stephen J. Sobieski and junior Joseph Johnston stand in judgement as Schultz signs the confession sophomore Rob Thompson has recorded. Photos by Char Vandermeer.

grown into their leading roles. Likewise, the chemistry between members of the company on-stage is wonderful and also attests to the building and revitalizing ACT has undergone in the recent past.

Schultz and Bullmer, as John and Elizabeth Proctor, the play's central characters, give perhaps the best performances either has on Alma's stage.

Schultz, who played Clifford Bradshaw in last winter's *Cabaret*, displays a mastery of an actor's most important tools; he clearly had a firm grasp on his character and was able to make Proctor and his dilemmas on stage very real in the audience. Bullmer, as well, equals her performance as Roberta in *Danny and the Deep Blue Sea*. She is given more than pain and rage to play, and conveys the depth of her character quite simply and effectively.

Furthermore, the chemistry between the two actors is both very engaging and very real. As a husband and wife with strong differences and serious marital problems, their dialogue in the first half of the

second scene is the strongest point in the play.

First-year student Scott Harman also weighs in with a standout performance. As Judge Danforth, the play's chief antagonist, Harman manages to create such a palpable sense of singleminded vengeance and groundless authority that it is difficult to distinguish the actor from the character he plays—particularly impressive because Danforth is almost embarrassingly modeled on Senator Joseph McCarthy. Harman shows a surprising amount of maturity and a strong stage presence for a first-year actor.

Certainly, ACT's *Crucible* is a student production—it shares the weaknesses of amateur theatre, like the over-heavy, obviously book-learned "old-age" makeup and the sometimes spotty and inaudible acting that has characterized other ACT plays. *The Crucible*, however, remains the strongest ACT production since *Our Country's Good* and represents a significant step forward for the theatre company.



Alma student experiences life in the Big Apple

By Brooke Hansen
New York Correspondent

"Bring me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

Hundreds of years ago immigrants were welcomed with this encouraging phrase. They felt the inviting warmth rise from America's melting pot. They received an inspiring twinkle-wink from Lady Liberty.

"Police Line, Do Not Cross" strewn outside my residence-to-be, a housemate-turned-murder-witness and the worst blizzard to hit Manhattan in 89 years—the now

famous blizzard of 1996—New York City really rolled out the red carpet for my arrival. Believe me, some days the Big Apple is no where near Mom's good ol' apple pie.

In the hope of gaining writing and technological knowledge, networking for postgraduate occupations, exploring my areas of interest, deciding if they are right for me and determining if urban life is for me, I find myself living in the "city that never sleeps."

For the past five weeks, I have been studying with the Great Lakes Colleges Association's (GLCA) New York Arts Program. My time

here continues for the next five weeks.

This program, similar to the Philadelphia Center, focuses on gaining practical work experience through internship placements. On Dec. 4, I flew to the city for placement interviews. My only interview location is now my internship site—*Executive Female* magazine, a magazine distributed to the 200,000 members of the National Association for Female Executives.

My placement allows me to work for a publication dedicated to women's issues, simultaneously allowing me to learn the behind-the-scenes processes of magazine

publication.

Other students were placed within music, media, visual and performing arts and other art-related fields. Internships range from the Lee Strasberg Theatre to NBC sports, from *Interview* magazine to Columbia Pictures, from Marvel Comics to prominent artists.

Students also take two four-week area study courses during their 10-week (spring term) or 15-week (winter term) stay.

The first course, taught by the student's advisor, focuses on the student's area of interest. The second course, which meets the last four weeks, offers a choice of one

of four classes taught either by outside professors or GLCA advisors. I look forward to learning about immigrant writing from an immigrant writer as well as writing my own New York story.

Along with these program thrills, students receive perks such as free tickets to Broadway and off-Broadway productions, Saturday Night Live, concerts at Carnegie Hall, occasional brushes with crazy gun people, New Yorkers cross-country skiing through snowed-in Manhattan streets, drug busts, *haute couture*-lined windows and glimpses of fame and fortune—perks any human being would love.

Look
What's
Happening!

THEATRE / DANCE

Heritage Center for the Performing Arts

*Alma College Dance Company — Mar. 22-24

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

*Shadowlands—Mar. 15-16, 18-20 & 26-27

Wharton Center, E. Lansing,

(517) 432-2000

*Five Guys Named Moe — Feb. 20-21

*La Traviata — Feb. 25

MSU Mainstage Productions, (517) 355-0148

*The Diary of Anne Frank — Mar 14-17 & 21-24

Boarshead Theatre, Lansing, (517) 484-7805

*Solidarity — Feb. 21

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

Riverwalk Theater, Lansing, (517) 372-0945

*A Street Car Named Desire — Mar 7-10 & 14-17

Shaw Theatre, WMU, Kalamazoo, (616) 387-5830

*American College Dance

Festival — Feb. 29

Miller Auditorium, WMU, Kalamazoo, (616) 387-2300

*The Who's Tommy — Mar. 5-7

HISTORY / ARTS

Alma College, Flora Kirsch Beck Gallery

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

Alma bars offer variety

By Char Vandermeer
Feature Editor

By the time one's senior year rolls around, it is difficult to find much adventure in the town of Alma. However, a tour of local bars provides enough entertainment to build up a week's store of chuckles.

Most of-age students are aware of the popular Pine Knot (P.K.) and The Highlandaur, but how many students make regular stops at the Point, DG's or the 300 Bowl?

My friend and I decided that it was high time to review the area pubs and broaden our oh-so-limited horizons. The first stop on the *tour de la bière* was the Point Bar.

After staring at the intimidating gray metal door we made the plunge into the unknown.

Contrary to the horror stories we had heard, The Point (which, by the way, was as popular with students in the '60s as the P.K. is in the '90s) is clean, well-lit, well-ventilated and small.

The Point features three color televisions, two nice pool tables, some mighty fine pool players and, for a bar, a decent sound system. In addition to these luxuries, The Point also serves hot dogs, chili dogs and cheese dogs to accommodate the bar munchies. The bartender was conscientious and courteous.

Unfortunately, it is not an easy walk from campus. Luckily for the

designated drivers, there is a large selection of chilled soda.

Pool players will certainly enjoy The Point. However, pinball wizards, bulls-eye kings and queens and vidiots will be disappointed. Much to our chagrin, they have no draught beer and a bottle of Bud Light was a whoppin' buck and a half. It was certainly obvious that the bar is not often graced with the presence of college-age drinkers—conversation stopped as we walked in, and we are willing to bet there were quite a few chuckles after we left.

The Point was a great change of pace, but not where we would choose to spend our sacred bar night.

Next, we made a stop at DG's. Again, once we made it through the imposing facade, all was well with the world. DG's serves \$5 pitchers and has a fairly impressive selection of liquor. As an added bonus, they serve chicken and hamburger meal combos. They boast a pinball machine, live bands, two pool tables, darts, video games, three TVs and a juke box.

DG's was about twice the size of The Point but was cozy and we did not feel as though we were an exhibit at the local zoo. DG's is certainly an establishment where we would not mind spending one of our precious bar nights.

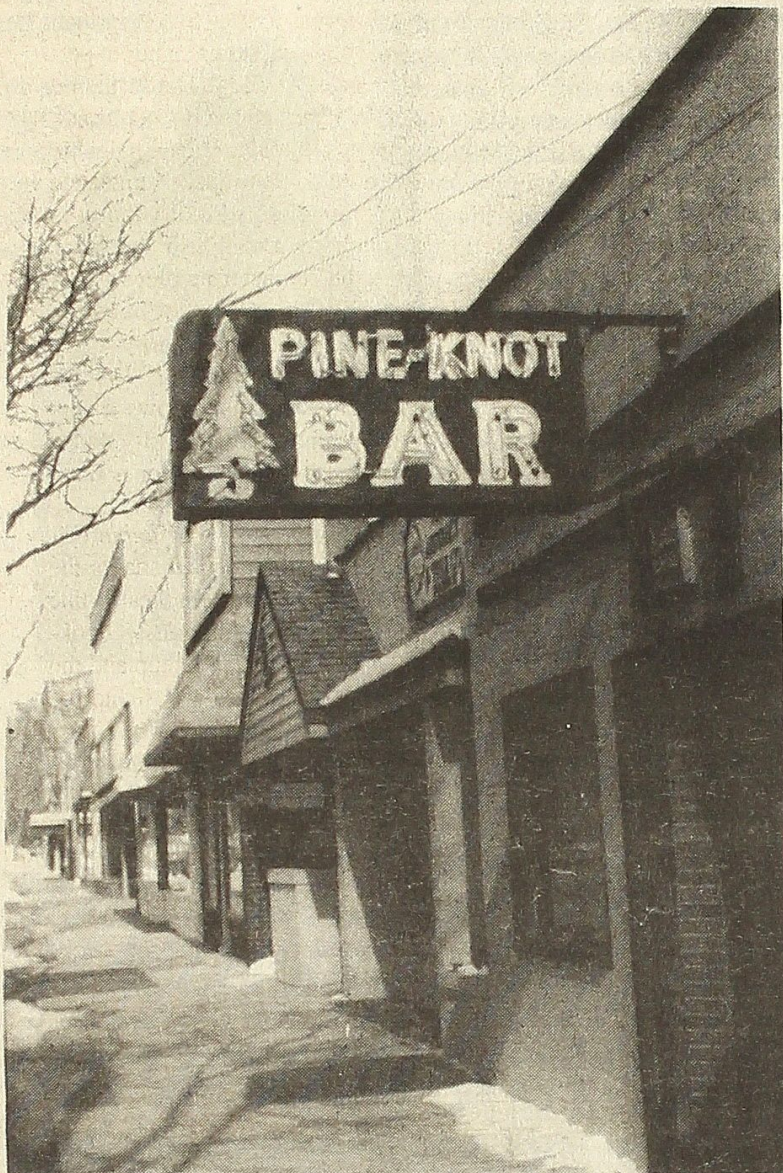
If you like large, loud and flashy bars, The Highlandaur is the place for you. The large dance floor (which

is at least three times the size of the P.K.), strobe and colored lights and an impressive sound system make The Highlandaur the closest thing to a Mt. Pleasant-type bar and it attracts many Alma College students. Of course, the bar offers several perks which could make the evening more enjoyable for the designated driver, including three pool tables, two dart boards, a carnival-style stuffed animal grabber and a \$.50 a pop breathalyzer. (If the cost is too steep, I'm sure the police will be happy to give you one for free).

However, The Highlandaur's mixed drinks are weak—unlike DG's or the P.K.'s—and pitchers are \$5. Although some may enjoy the large bar and sizable dance floor, The Highlandaur was just a bit much for our taste.

Moving right on down the road I hit the 300 Bowl. Pitchers range between \$5 and \$5.50. If you like bowling, this is the place. 'Nuff said.

The P.K., like The Highlandaur, is a hot spot for many students. The P.K. is certainly the smallest of the local bars but it offers comfortable ambiance, \$3 pitchers, darts, pool, pinball, an obnoxious video game and a juke box. The quality of the beer leaves a little to be desired but for an evening of fun and relaxation, you just can't beat the P.K. For a change though, make a stop at DG's—try it, you'll like it.



The familiar sign of the Pine Knot bar marks the beginning of one reporter's bar tour. Photo by Char Vandermeer.

Let's Go Bowling releases second ska disc, *Mr. Twist*

By Chris Sienko
Freelance Bowling Shoe Renter

Hard as it is to believe, there are STILL some people who have never heard of ska music. I've met a few of them—they do exist. Let's try a little game, shall we? Try spinning a Reggae record (say, Bob Marley) on 45, or maybe 78. That's ska, sort of. Only with more horns.

Actually, if we want to get all technical about it, ska came first. Both styles of music came out of Jamaica in the 1950s and 1960s. Ska was originally known for its danceable, shuffling beats, group horn charts and party atmosphere. It's kind of like Jamaica's answer to big band jazz, built for people who really know how to get wild on the dance floor. Over the decade, groups began to tinker with the formula, slowing down the beat more and more, until you got Rock Steady, and finally, Reggae, the slowest of them all, best suited for bobbing up and down rather than dancing, per se.

Around the 1980s, Great

Britain's youth, influenced by the punk and reggae they were hearing on the streets every day, began looking into the roots of these great, revolutionary musics. Naturally, they found albums by groups like the Skatalites and the Maytals, the ska groups that started it all.

With these forefathers as inspiration, a whole generation of black and white British youth came together and created the next wave of ska: 2 Tone. The reliance on the black and white checkered pattern in their record cover art and black and white zoot suits gave the new ska a new image, as well as an updated sound. Groups like Madness and the English Beat brought ska to the radio, and for a short time, people were gettin' out of their seats, and rockin' to this brand new beat in droves.

Enter the '90s. Ska is still here, and it's gone through yet another mutation, not to mention another location change. This time, it's in suburban America and every kid with a guitar or a trombone who wanted to play a local punk show

but didn't want to play passé punk started a ska band. Thus, we get a third wave of ska, influenced by the punk and hard-core that came from SoCal and New York, not to mention the rackets that came out of suburban garages everywhere.

Ska was originally known for its danceable, shuffling beats, group horn charts and party atmosphere.

Groups like Operation Ivy, the Scofflaws and Michigan's own Mustard Plug (who used to play on this campus all the time! Ah, those were the days...) perfected this new form of ska, making sure the legacy stayed alive.

Unfortunately, hangers-on like

the Mighty Mighty Bosstones and hordes of other ska-posers tried to bring this music once again to the radio, but it just ain't the same (ska does NOT equal punk with horns!).

And now, firing out of the starting gate like they've been shot from a cannon, we find this week's main attraction, an innocuous little group calling themselves Let's Go Bowling, who looked like more of the usual ska fun that I expect from the third wave, punk tempered skanking (that's ska's style of dancing) fun.

Their second disc, *Mr. Twist* (Moon Records) is quite a bit more than that. Let's Go Bowling exists somewhere between first and second wave ska, a mix of old-style skank grooves and 2 Tone riffin', in a spicy stew that gets my vote for ska album of the year, and a group they runs pretty close to Operation Ivy and Mustard Plug (my other two fave ska groups) as best third wave ska band. Sound like hyperbole? Step inside...

Right from the opening vamp, "Grover's Harem," you can feel two things: one, these guys are the real

thing and they've studied their Skatalites records well; two, these guys can really play their instruments! In a genre where most horn sections sound like they've had about a year of lessons with the Mel Bay Book of Ska at the local music store, it's amazing to hear group interaction this tight. I mean, this is music, as in, your music teacher might even find it to be "not noise." Songs like "Cumbia del Sol," "Hot-Buttered" and "Sultan's Cross" have horn lines that would make James Brown say, "Hey! Good God y'all!" And yeah, that beat is there!

This is a dance album for the late night hours when nothing else will keep your tired bones moving. Because, quite frankly, you can't help but move as you listen to this. It's infectious like mono, and sticks with you just as long. In fact, I'm listening to *Mr. Twist* (as I have been all day), as I write this and it's all I can do to keep my fingers on the keys. In fact, I don't think I can type any longer; I gotta get up and dance!

*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

*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

*Women of Influence, Mixed
media — through Mar. 31

*How the Suffragists Changed
Michigan — ongoing
Lansing Center, E. Lansing,
(517) 483-7425

*Sue Tash, Feb. 25

MSU Museum, Lansing,
(517) 355-2370

*Dinosaurs: A Global View —
ongoing

CAMPUS EVENTS
Heritage Center for the Perform-
ing Arts

*Dr. Linda Donelson, speaker —
Mar. 12

Winter Term Recess

*Feb. 24 - Mar 2

Michigan Academy

*Mar. 1-2

MUSIC / COMEDY

Wharton Center, E. Lansing,
(517) 487-5001

*MSU Jazz Band — Feb. 22

*Natalie Merchant, Feb. 23

*MSU symphony orchestra —
Feb. 24

*MSU faculty artist recital, Mark
Doss bass vocalist — Feb. 25
Cappuccino Cafe, Okemos, (517)
349-3693

*Carter and Wallace — Feb. 17

*Tim Drackert Trio — Feb. 23

Michigan Theatre, Ann Arbor,
(517) 484-5656

Feb. 20, 1996

Science meets humanities

By Tiffany Hodge
Freelance Writer

Last Tuesday evening in Dow Science Center, guest lecturer Donald York provided a number of powerful insights that have not only affected astronomy, but also geology, biological evolution, technology and the humanities.

However, some students quickly learned that when discussing ideas that involve these sciences, it is difficult for a speaker not to resort to the dreaded overhead projector, endless transparencies and general lecturing.

"Dr. York, though knowledgeable and impressive, lectured above the students, especially those who are not aware of scientific matters," said junior Monica Hoeft.

"York's power and knowledge lies in the fact that he does something few scientists do: York steps away from his

world of astronomical knowledge and places himself as a person, other than a scientist," said Instructor of Geology Murray Borrello. "This allows him to question various methods, as well as view our progress compared to the past, but also understand our lack of knowledge compared to the future."

Even though York's attempt to explain cosmic static in the 30th magnitude made many feel as though they themselves were in the 30th magnitude, York impressed students by allowing the audience to see the important connection between astronomy and the humanities.

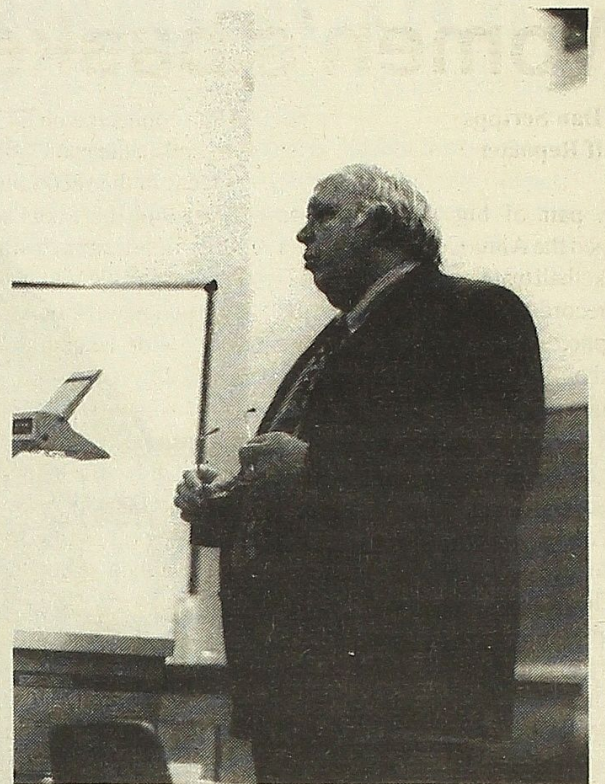
The effect of politics on science proves to be very strong. Controversial research done on the atomic bomb offered great knowledge of the universe and the astronomy system, as did our attempt and success in beating the Russians in the space race (after the Sputnik satellite).

York made the point that discoveries humans were unable to predict were brought about by politics, communication, sociology and other seemingly distant relatives to science.

York understands the importance of history and often compared our knowledge to the knowledge of Aristotle, Copernicus, Galileo, Newton and other scientific figures from the past. He stepped away from being a scientist and stepped into the shoes of a humanist.

Perhaps York summed up his presentation best by stating, "Fixed ideas lead to prejudice, and that is not education."

Dr. Donald York lectures on the connections between astronomy and the hard sciences and the humanities last Tuesday evening. Photo by Char Vandermeer.



Veteran professors reflect on Alma's history

By Trisha A. Warner and
Char Vandermeer
Special Projects Reporter and
Feature Editor

Imagine attending Alma College before Monteith Library, Swanson Academic Center, Van Dusen Commons and Gelston and Bruske Halls were constructed. Imagine teaching before Old Main burned.

Many changes have occurred on Alma's campus over the past few decades and Alma professors have witnessed these changes firsthand. Professor of Sociology Verne Bechill, Professor of Business George Gazmararian, Professor of English Eugene Pattison and Professor of Religious Studies Joseph Walser have been teaching at Alma

for over 30 years. During their careers at Alma, they have seen the development of both the campus and the academic setting.

"I enjoy seeing students grapple with ideas and grow," said Bechill.

Because Alma is such a small school, Bechill said he has the opportunity to see the progression of a student from his or her first year to senior year. Noticing this progression and watching a student discover him or herself is an exciting process.

Bechill has several memories that stand out in his mind as significant moments. He highly values the achievements of his students and believes that allowing students to experience life and learn practical lessons is very valuable.

able.

"In the spring term of 1976 I took a half dozen students to Philadelphia. We studied social and cultural change in Philadelphia," said Bechill. "We had a practical opportunity to apply the social change. It was an unbelievably rich experience."

Over the years he has noticed that, while the students are consistently bright and motivated, a creative sense of humor is lacking among the student body.

"I miss the pranks students played on the administration...I really miss that creative spirit. Often times we're far too serious with ourselves. The student body seems much more conformist now," said Bechill.

Bechill recalls that about 25 years ago students took the cornerstone of Bruske and hid it the night before the dedication ceremony. The students made the confiscation into a scavenger hunt and the stone was not located until after the dedication, when someone from the maintenance crew finally found it in a local farmer's field.

Like Bechill, Gazmararian values the challenges of teaching and watching students succeed.

"I enjoy the challenge in terms of being involved with student thinking—seeing the students change and the challenge of increasing the knowledge and broaden their knowledge," said Gazmararian.

"A good student doesn't need any prodding, the challenge is being able to challenge average students to perform up to potential."

In cumulative years, Pattison, a

1956 alumnus, has probably been at Alma the longest. During his senior year as an undergraduate at Alma, he was nominated to receive a scholarship to study at the University of Michigan, where he earned his Masters and Ph.D. degrees in English. His interest in religion led him to pursue a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Harvard University.

He has had nearly a dozen critical literary articles published and often presents his papers at conferences. In his free time, he enjoys visiting cities of author's homes and historical gravesites, gardening and refurbishing household items.

Pattison cites two very specific changes in Alma over the past 30 years: the campus' physical modifications and academic growth.

His office walls are decorated with his diplomas, but not the originals. His office in Old Main, which burned in the spring of 1968, contained the treasured documents. He witnessed the construction of the Swanson Academic Center, Gelston and Bruske Halls and the Monteith Library.

Pattison remembers his roommate at the University of Michigan warning him not to speak of Alma because no one would know what he was talking about. Things have changed a great deal, he said. People now recognize Alma as a quality institution.

"We've consistently come along and been on the forefront of things," he said.

Walser, like Pattison, began his teaching career at Alma in 1964.

He graduated with a Bachelor's degree in economics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill before attending the University of Chicago Divinity School and the Union Theological Seminary for his Master of Divinity degree. At Duke University, he earned his Ph.D.

As an ordained Presbyterian minister, Walser is active as a pulpit supply minister and currently serves as Chair of the General Council of the Lake Huron Presbytery. His favorite hobby is gardening. He raises flowers and vegetables, but his true gardening passion lies with growing dahlias.

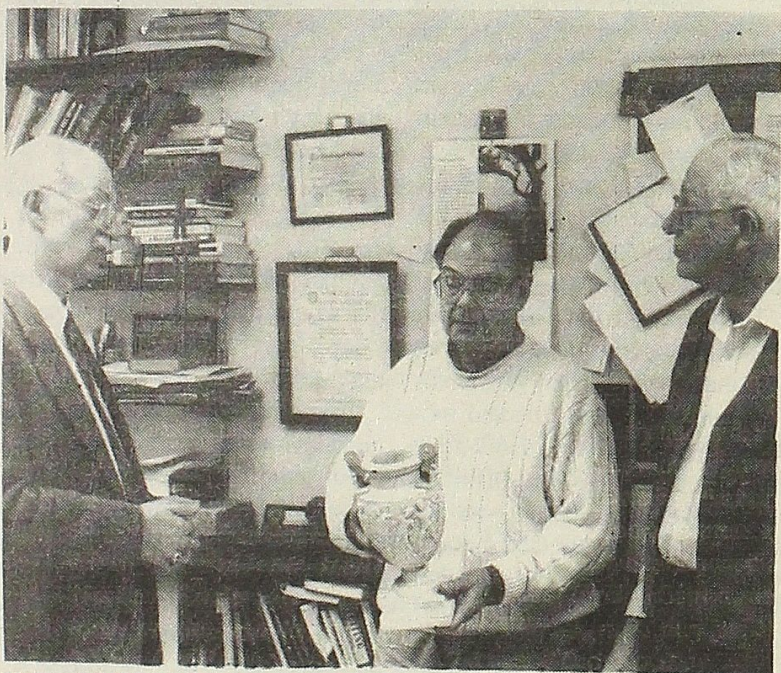
When he first began teaching, Alma was primarily a teacher's education school.

"The greatest change has been from that to pre-professional liberal arts education in addition to still offering education classes," he said.

Walser also points out that the quality of students attending Alma has increased as well as their interests. "The students are brighter. They understand their desires and want to help others," he said. "Yet, they also realize that they have to make a living."

Walser finds joy in the fact that many of the students coming to Alma are still the first in their families to graduate from college. On the other end of the spectrum, however, many of their parents attended Alma.

These professors have influenced many lives and continue to do so today.



Three of Alma's most senior professors, Professor of English Eugene Pattison, Professor of Religious Studies Joseph Walser, and Professor of Sociology Verne Bechill, engage in a little horseplay with a Grecian urn. Photo by Char Vandermeer.

Look What's Happening!

*Joan Baez — Feb. 24
*Dar Williams — Feb. 24
St. Andrews Hall, Detroit,
(517) 484-5656
*7 Mary 3, Poe — Feb. 29
State Theatre, Detroit,
(517) 484-5656
*Branford and Ellis Marsalis —
Feb. 25
*Ziggy Marley and the Melody

Makers — Mar. 10
Sisko's on the Boulevard, De-
troit, (313) 278-5340
*Larry McCray — Feb. 23-24
Magic Bag Theatre, Ferndale,
(810) 544-3030
*De La Sol — Feb. 21
The Palace, Pontiac,
(810) 377-0100
*Bush, Goo Goo Dolls — Feb.

28
*Red Hot Chili Peppers — Mar. 7
*DC Talk, Audio Adrenaline —
Mar. 16
*Rod Stewart — Mar. 18
State Fair Coliseum, Detroit,
(517) 484-5656
*Pantera and Type O Negative —
Feb. 17
Wings Stadium, Kalamazoo,

(616) 373-7000
*Bush, Goo Goo Dolls — Feb. 29
State Theatre, Kalamazoo,
(616) 345-6500
*Big Daddy Kinsey and the
Kinsey Report — Feb. 22

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

Women's basketball continues winning streak

By Dan Scripps
Staff Reporter

A pair of big second halves helped the Alma College women's basketball team improve their overall record to 19-4 as the Scots triumphed over Kalamazoo on the road on Wednesday and Adrian at home Saturday.

With the two conference wins, the Scots closed out the regular season with an impressive 10-2 MIAA record. Their only losses were to league-leading Calvin.

The Scots ended up second in the league going into the conference tournament.

The Scots led by just a single point Wednesday before scoring four straight before halftime.

However, it was after halftime that they really opened up the game.

Exploding with a 13-0 run following the break, the Scots rolled to a 78-63 win over the Hornets. The Scots won the game through a combination of tough defense and incredible offensive shooting.

Alma connected on 64 percent of its shots in the game, including 69 percent in the second half.

Leading the Scots was junior Missy VanDamme with 22 points. Senior Michele VanDamme added 12 points and senior Ashley Reagh and junior Michelle Olds each added 11.

The women continued their winning streak at home Saturday, again behind the leadership of the VanDamme sisters. With a combined 45 points, they led the Alma attack which resulted in a 77-66 win over the visiting Bulldogs.

Before the game Michele VanDamme was honored with the three other seniors before scoring 16 points and grabbing seven rebounds in her last regular season game.

The crowd at Cappaert Gymnasium had to wait only a short while before the action was stopped to honor junior Missy VanDamme, who received a well deserved congratulations for being the fifth Alma player to break the 1,000

point career mark.

She actually passed the mark two games earlier, but the college waited until her first basket of the game to celebrate her achievement. Missy finished the night with 29 points.

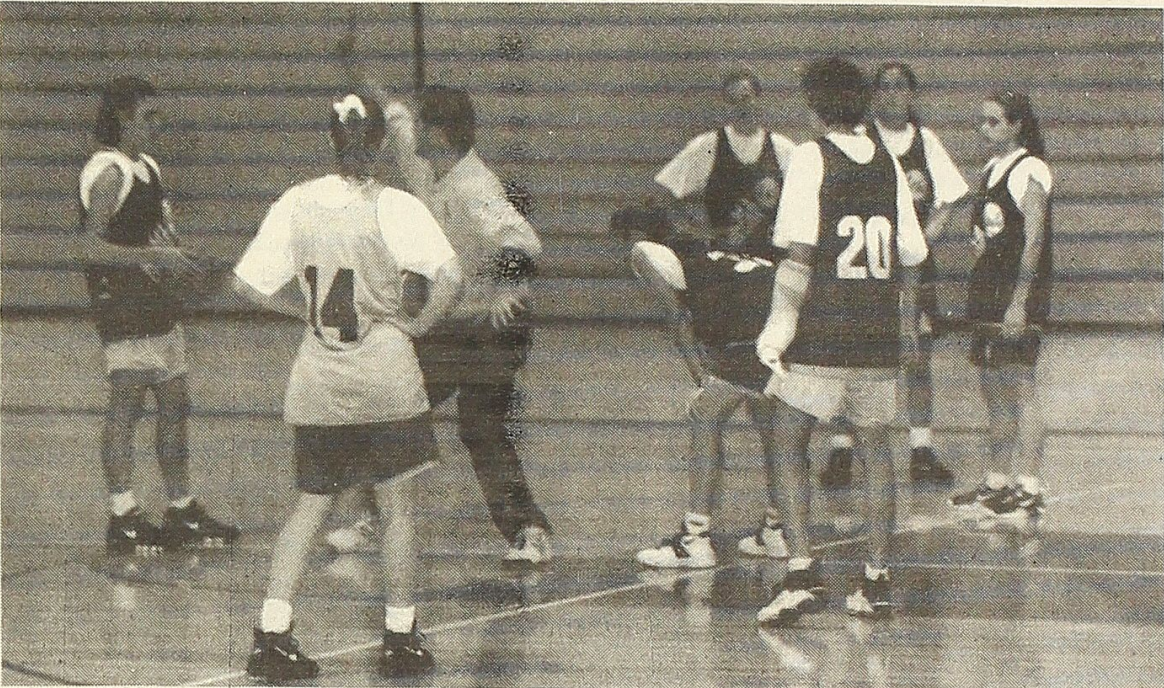
Adding to the effort for the Scots were Olds, who finished with eight points and five assists; first-year

student Kristi Eular, scoring seven points; and senior Ashley Reagh, who added nine rebounds.

The Scots now turn their attention to the MIAA conference tournament knowing that winning the tournament gives them an automatic bid in the NCAA national tournament.

However, winning the tournament means beating Calvin, the only team in the league to have beaten the Scots.

The women's basketball team has worked its way into the MIAA conference tournament. Their focus will be on beating Calvin College. File photo.



Scot spotlight

Bruders compete with, help each other



By Tony Adams
Freelance Writer

"We always have each other to work out with, to push each other. It's nice having another person just like you there, knowing exactly what you're going through...what you're thinking," said first-year student Holly Bruder.

Holly plays third base for the softball team and her twin sister Heather plays in the outfield.

"I think that being a twin is very competitive. Holly inspires me to do more," said Heather.

"As I watch them, they help each other out. They team up in drills. They push each other," said Denny Griffin, head softball coach.

"They have the desire to get better, they're competitors, they want to win," continued Griffin, who describes the players the "get dirty type" of athletes.

Phil Hansen, assistant softball coach, said, "They definitely push each other. They both always make *First-year students Holly and Heather Bruder are hard to tell apart on the softball field. Photo by Jon Croff.*

sure that one is doing at least as well as her sister."

"There are a lot of similarities in the way they play," Hansen continued. "They are both strong. They are in the weight room constantly. They both are aggressive at the plate and while running bases."

Being a twin, however, is not always easy.

"Sometimes its tough always having her with me...when she's trying to help me too much. But the good outweighs the bad," Heather said.

Holly added, "It's hard when the coaches don't know who you are. It's easy to get the twins mixed up."

Holly and Heather were both Class C all-state softball players in at Rodgers City High School last year.

"They are very talented, but they are raw. They don't have much experience. Both have strong arms, good speed and quickness, but they have a lack of experience at [the college] level," Griffin said.

Though raw, they will get a chance early to show what they

can do. Griffin added that they get by on their talent, and as they gain experience, they will be looking at making an impact early in their college playing careers.

Alma's women's softball team is short on outfielders. The starting center fielder plays basketball and can't make the trip to Florida over spring break.

"Heather will definitely get a chance in Florida," Hansen said.

"The starting third base player, [senior] Mandy Devereaux, will be pitching some," added Hansen. "Holly will play a little there. She also is versatile—she can also play the other infield spots. I think they both have a good chance to play."

"They are doing well. As freshmen, you've always got a lot to learn...playing for new coaches...playing in a new system. They've picked everything up well so far," Hansen said.

"The team is helping all of us freshman out, we're doing great as a whole," Heather said.

Basketball Standings

Women's Basketball

	League	Overall
Calvin	11-0	18-3
Alma	8-2	17-4
Hope	7-3	9-13
Adrian	6-4	10-11
Albion	2-8	4-17
Kalamazoo	2-8	4-18
Olivet	0-11	1-20

Men's Basketball

	League	Overall
Hope	9-1	18-4
Calvin	7-4	14-8
Albion	6-4	14-7
Kalamazoo	6-4	13-9
Adrian	3-7	10-10
Olivet	3-8	9-14
Alma	2-8	4-18

Swimming and Diving Standings

Women's Swimming and Diving

Hope	4-0
Kalamazoo	3-1
Albion	1-3
Alma	1-3
Calvin	1-3

Men's Swimming and Diving

Kalamazoo	4-0
Hope	3-1
Calvin	2-2
Alma	1-3
Albion	0-4

Feb. 20, 1996

K-zoo Hornets sting Scots in final minutes

By Maria Toscano
Staff Reporter

The final score was 77-72 as the clock wound down. The Scots faced a surging Kalamazoo team and were unable to contain the Hornets in the closing minutes.

The Alma team played with aggressiveness and intensity but tended to lack the constancy needed to pull out a victory.

"Some of it was inexperience, and part of it was just getting the team to understand the different levels of the game," said Coach Kevin Skaggs. "The timing was real critical. Defensively we have to stop them and offensively put the ball up."

"We have to be able to control our emotions and keep the intensity high," he added.

"We would get even with them or just barely behind, and then we would let up and they would score a couple of easy baskets and then we were down by five," Skaggs said.

All season Skaggs said he has been looking for that go to player on the court when the team got into tough times.

"It is a difficult role to fill and so far we have not been able to find it," said Skaggs. "A few guys have tried to step up and take that challenge, but it is a hard position to fill."

Leading the scoring for the Scots

was sophomore Eric Spielhaupter with 18 baskets and four assists. Following Spielhaupter was senior Chris Stacey and junior Nathan Lounds with 17 points each.

Lounds and senior Jason Osborn both had nine boards for Alma. Senior J.T. Cleveland completed four assists.

"Eric and Nate had great games for us," said Skaggs. "The two guys came off the bench and gave us some outstanding play."

On Saturday the Scots came tumbling down when they went on the road to face Adrian. The team was defeated by the Bulldogs on what could have been an easy victory for Alma.

The Scots had almost 20 turn-

overs the first half.

"It was not enjoyable to watch," said Skaggs. "It was almost impossible to win with that many turnovers."

"We did not play nearly as well as we played against Kalamazoo," said Skaggs. "If we would have played like we did Wednesday, then that would have been an easy win for us."

Spielhaupter again led the team in scoring with 15. Sophomore Jeff Curtis had 12 while senior Jim Elliot had eight points and three assists. Cleveland had six assists for Alma.

Although the season has not been a triumph winning-wise, Skaggs said he is pleased with his team and their efforts. He said he believes that the

real battle for the team this year was getting them to believe in themselves.

"They discovered the value of relationships," said Skaggs. "I wanted them to go out feeling better about the season, but the key was the way they worked together."

The Scots final game will be against Kalamazoo on Wednesday. Skaggs said he feels that a win in the tournaments will be a huge step for the program.

"A tourney win would be huge," said Skaggs. "Everybody has to show up to play, but I think we can do it."

Tennis team to train in Orlando

By Dan Scripps
Staff Reporter

With three of their top four players from last year returning—including their top two singles players—the men's tennis team hopes to improve on last year's record.

With the addition of a new coach, as well as an upcoming trip to Florida over spring break, the tools seem to be in place for this improvement.

While many students are using their break for rest and relaxation, the Scots will be working toward meeting their goals in the hot Florida sun.

The team, which will be training at a complex in Orange Lake located just outside of Orlando, will have the opportunity to play outdoors—an opportunity most northern schools will not have for another month.

The team will also have the opportunity to play in a match setting against some of the top tennis schools in the nation.

For some, including sophomore Eric Gray, this will be the first opportunity at college varsity play.

"I'm looking forward to the opportunity to test my game to see where I'm at and to see how I will play in a match situation," said Gray. He added that this chance to play outdoors is essential for the team to have a chance in the league, with perennial powerhouses

Calvin, Hope and Kalamazoo always near the top of the league.

Added sophomore Chris Ahn, "Our goal for the season is to finish third in the league. It will be tough to finish higher than that because of the depth of Hope and Kalamazoo. If we really pull together as a team we can knock off Calvin."

Adding to this mix is first-year coach Bob Harrison, who after coaching in the area high school circuit for many years, brings a career of experience to the team. "He's a great guy. He's very knowledgeable and adds a lot of conditioning to our program," said Ahn.

However, the person Harrison cites as the biggest playing factor this year is senior Chris Stacey. Stacey, in addition to playing number one singles, will be taking on the responsibility of captain this year.

"Stacey is a natural leader. His experience takes a lot of the burden off of my shoulders," said Harrison. "It's Chris's last year and he really wants to see 100 percent from everybody all the time. Last year he really stepped up and he continues to be the leader of this team," said Ahn.

As much work as the Florida trip is, the team still manages to have some fun along the way.

"We practice a lot, but the whole trip is a lot of fun," says Ahn.

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VanDamme earns recognition

By Julie Wilson
Staff Reporter

In the world of Alma's women's basketball, junior Missy VanDamme is a recognized force to be reckoned with.

And she has the accolades to prove it.

Twice this season, VanDamme has been honored by the leagues as MIAA Player of the Week for her outstanding performance playing center for both the games against St. Mary's and Albion.

VanDamme has been playing basketball since third grade, and throughout her high school career at Gwinn High School, she

played all positions. It was at Alma College, where she has been a three year varsity starter, that her position became center—which she describes as her favorite and where VanDamme really shines.

According to Charlie Goffnett, women's basketball coach, "She is one of the best players we have ever had, and we have had some very good ones."

VanDamme is currently leading the conference in scoring and free-throw shooting with an average of 86 percent accuracy. She is also third in field goal percentage and in rebounding. She has a 36 percent accuracy in shooting from

the three-point line as well.

"She is definitely one of the top players in the conference. Her excellence in free throws also places VanDamme in the top 10 in the nation," said Goffnett. "The definite goal is to receive some national recognition this year."

Her excellence as a player has helped the team as well.

"She lends stability to the team," said Goffnett. "She is one of the most consistent players and is definitely a centerpiece of our team." He added that she can be relied on every game to deliver about 20 points and 10 rebounds.

But for VanDamme, the Alma team is much more than a chance

for her to show her athletic expertise.

"We are like a family," she said. "We spend so much time together, both in season and out; we have all become so close. I love my teammates. I could not have chosen better people to play with."

She said she feels the same way of the coaching staff.

"I love my coaches; they have helped me so much. They are very critical of everyone, but there is not anything they would not do for us. They are like part of the family," said VanDamme.

A family like the Alma women's team is important to a player like VanDamme. Her talent does not

go unrecognized by the opponent.

"She can run through a team, and if she can score, she will," said Goffnett.

"Very often, the opponent will double team her [align two defensive players against her offensive position] just to try to stop her, and this just opens up other players," Goffnett continued.

Even though her scoring numbers are very high, VanDamme often passes out the ball to her teammates because she is often ganged up on by the other players.

"Scoring is fun and everything, but I like it when I can pass out to my teammates. When there are two players against me, I know that there is someone else who is free and I just get the ball to them," said VanDamme.

With the defense upon her, the game gets physical.

"My favorite parts of the game is the physical and mental parts. I am a very intense and physical player, and I really like playing good defense," said VanDamme.

Although getting double teamed by the opponent creates a challenge for VanDamme, she said it gives her greater drive.

"When they defend me like that, it just gets me going even more. It can be frustrating, but it also shows me respect. And if I can score I will, but when I am defended like that, it just makes me more determined to get my teammates the ball," said VanDamme.

Saturday's game against Adrian was a particularly good memory for VanDamme.

"I think that that game will particularly stick out in my mind," she said. "They honored me for scoring over 1,000 points in my career. The fact that it was my sister's last regular season home game made it even more emotional."

In fact, it seems that the VanDamme sisters are very close. Her older sister, senior Michele VanDamme, was according to Missy, one of the reasons she decided to come to Alma.

"I knew that Alma had a great academic reputation and a strong basketball program, but the fact that my sister was here made me want to come to Alma," said Missy VanDamme.

VanDamme is an elementary education major who hopes to go on into teaching, as well as coaching.

"I am the coach of the girl's freshman team at Alma High School and I have helped Michele coach the junior varsity team, so I hope to continue with that," she said.

Between Alma basketball and coaching, there is little time for other activities, though she is involved with the Student Advisory Committee on Athletics.

Sports is very central to the life of Missy VanDamme. But with her talents as a player, a coach, and a teammate, VanDamme has truly found her niche—and her career at

Transfer student adds talent

By Maria Toscano
Staff Reporter

He once was an Albion Briton, but the Alma College men's basketball team doesn't hold that against transfer student sophomore player Eric Spielhaupter.

Spielhaupter will be a big boost for the program in the next couple of years. In the last four games, he has averaged almost 18 points a game for the Scots.

"He is going to be a big piece of the puzzle in helping to rebuild the program in the coming years," said Coach Skaggs. "He is going to have a couple more good years here at Alma."

Spielhaupter left Albion due to a difference in opinion with his previous coach.

"I quit playing before Christmas break," said Spielhaupter. "I just didn't want to play anymore because of a lot of misunderstandings."

Skaggs, upon hearing of Spielhaupter's decision to not play for Albion, contacted him to see if he would consider playing for Alma.

"Eric is from Bay City Central and was an All-state player," said Skaggs. "His high school coach was my coach and I went and watched Eric score 45 points in a game."

At the beginning of the season, Spielhaupter had talked to Skaggs about a few problems.

"I had some problems in eligibility, but I am here to do what ever I can for the team," said Spielhaupter.

"I never really had to come off of the bench, but I do what I can to fit in. I have got no problems coming in and helping out," Spielhaupter continued.

"Eric comes in and works hard everyday," said Skaggs. "He's invaluable coming off the bench. He has got a long range and he scores quickly and scores a lot."

Skaggs attributed a lot of Spielhaupter's fine qualities to his parents. Spielhaupter's father is also a basketball coach.

"He has a great mom and dad," said Skaggs. "The Spielhaupters are very nice people."

One thing that attracted Spielhaupter to Alma was, in fact, Skaggs.

"He is good coach and an honest person," said Spielhaupter.

"He is straightforward and easy to play for. He is not one of those coaches that jumps all over you when you make a mistake. He has faith in his players," Spielhaupter continued.

"I have played for different types of coaches," added Spielhaupter. "There are the ones that jump all over you if you make a mistake or

there are the ones that understand."

The team unity that Spielhaupter has with his teammates is another enjoyable aspect to him.

"The chemistry we have pretty much held us together through the bad times," said Spielhaupter. "There is no back stabbing or finger pointing. Its like a second family because we spend so much time together."

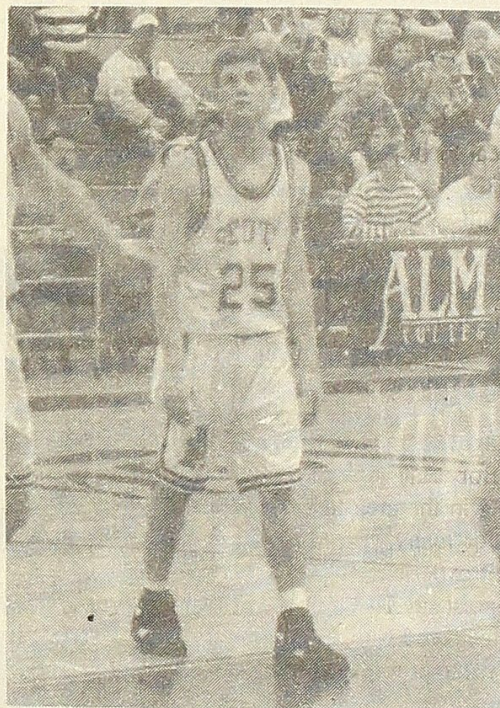
"He gives a

boost to the team when he gets hot in shooting," said Skaggs. "He gets out there and gets the rest of them going if he's shooting well."

Spielhaupter was unaware of the heated rivalry between Alma and Albion, but feels right at home as an Alma Scot.

"Everybody has made me feel really welcome," said Spielhaupter.

Despite the team's losses, Spielhaupter is happy with his decision to be at Alma and doesn't look



Eric Spielhaupter is a former Albion Brit, having transferred to Alma this year. File photo.

at the season with wins or losses in mind.

"It's not really right to measure success with wins or losses," said Spielhaupter. "We wanted to bring about team unity and work on defense to establish a foundation, and our steps to accomplish that is our success."

SUBMIT NEW NAMES FOR THE SCOTSMAN

THE SCOTSMAN IS INTERESTED IN HEARING STUDENTS' IDEAS ON A NEW NAME FOR THE YEARBOOK. THE SCOTSMAN STAFF HAS ASSEMBLED A LIST OF POSSIBILITIES, INCLUDING THE SCOT, THE HIGHLANDER, THE TARTAN, THE THISTLE, THE KILT, THE KLAN AND THE HIGHLANDS. ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS WILL BE REVIEWED BY THE YEARBOOK STAFF AND THE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE. SEND SUGGESTIONS TO YEARBOOK EDITOR SARAH GORNICKI AT THE SCOTSMAN OFFICE IN NEWBERRY BASEMENT BY FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23.

Feb. 20, 1996

Muppets strike back

By Char Vandermeer
Feature Editor

Finally, I decided to review a movie that students can take their little brothers and sisters to see.

Growing tired of bad action flicks and murder and mayhem, I thought it was time to enjoy the escapades of the Muppets in their latest tour de force, *Muppet Treasure Island*.

Directed by Brian Henson, the Muppets once again provide chuckles for eight to 22 to 90-year-olds.

Starring Tim Curry as Long John Silver and Kevin Bishop as Jim Hawkins, the movie, like most Muppet adventures, is fun to watch. Curry does an excellent job as the shifty pirate and plays off Bishop and the Muppets very well.

I was pleased to see Jennifer Saunders—who played Edina in the marvelous, but now defunct, British comedy *Absolutely Fabulous*—appear briefly as the nasty inn-keeper. Of course she seemed to be Edina in hag's garb, but she was a highlight, nonetheless.

Geena Davis also cameos in full pirate garb—catching the eye of Muppets and humans alike.

In true Muppet form, the humor often surpasses an eight-year-old's mentality as adults burst into laugh-

ter over Animal screaming "politics!" and Rizzo the Rat giving a perplexed look to Kissinger's *Diplomacy*, throwing it aside.

A wonderful Miss Piggy adaptation of Humphrey Bogart's famous *Casablanca* line, "Of all the gin joints in all the cities in the world, you had to walk into mine," made the movie all I had expected it to be.

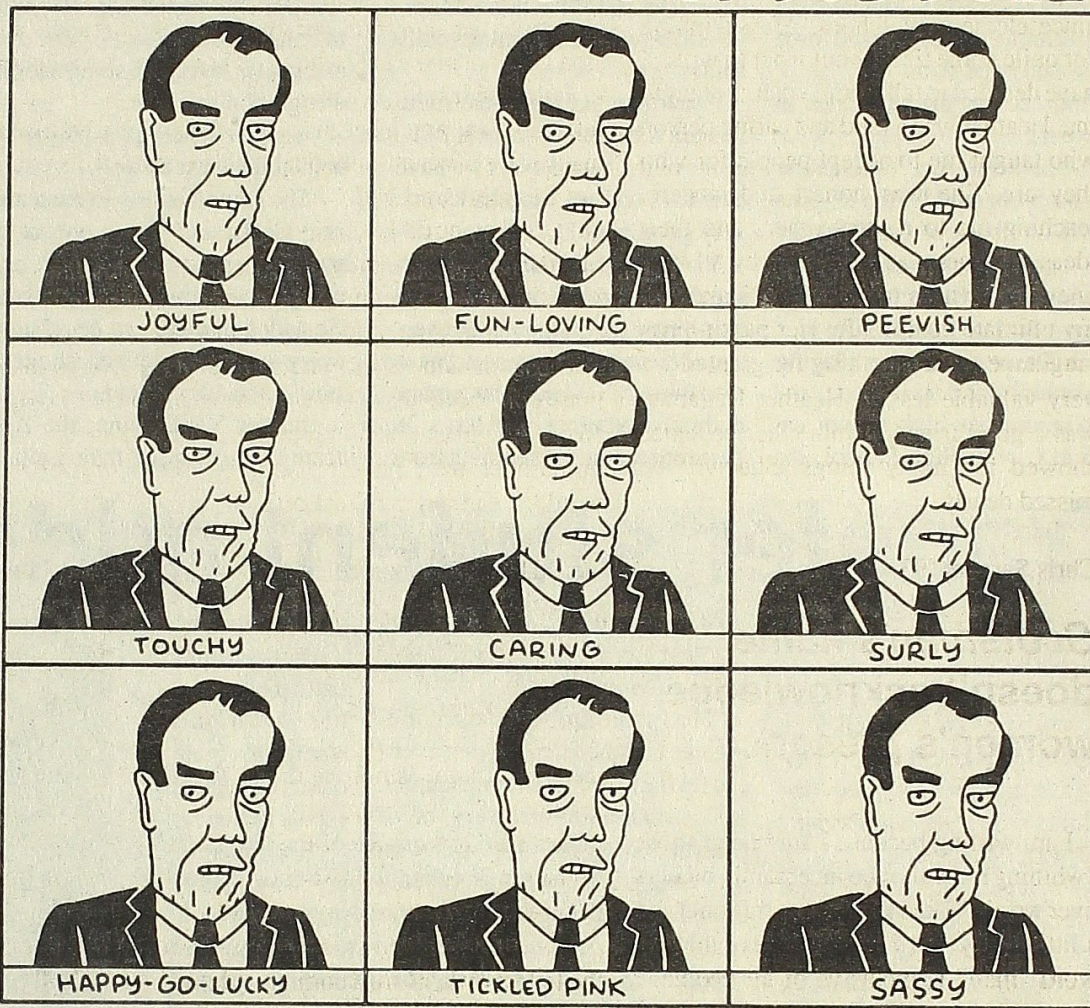
Two of my favorite characters, the cynical Statler and Waldorf, are cleverly utilized as the ship's figureheads. Unfortunately, they are not nearly as biting and cynical as they usually are. The Swedish Chef even manages to make an appearance (yay!).

Of course, when one goes to a Muppet movie, one should expect hoards of children—and, much to my dismay, I had forgotten about this little inconvenience. Unfortunately, *Muppet Treasure Island* runs nearly two hours and loses the attention of most the little squirming audience members after an hour and a half. Well, to be honest, I began to squirm a little myself.

If you are ready for a weekend of thrills and excitement but are as tired of cookie-cutter adventure flicks as I am, stop in and take a gander at *Muppet Treasure Island*.

LIFE IN
HELL

THE MANY MOODS OF BOB DOLE

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GROENING


Republicans fight for nomination in Iowa

By Brandon Edward Miller
Freelance Writer

The Iowa Caucuses are over and candidates are once again scouring New Hampshire vying for nomination by their party.

Clinton, of course, is unchallenged, so the only race that remains is among Republican contenders. The results of New Hampshire will be available later tonight, but as we're watching the results pour in, let's reflect on the findings that came out of Iowa.

Who won the primary? Everyone knew who was going to take first, Senator Bob Dole, so the fight was presumably for second, and even third. But, who *gained* the most from the Iowa caucuses? The answer, surprisingly, is that this was yet another victory for President Clinton.

A candidate-by-candidate examination will clarify this assertion:

Phil Gramm: Quit the race following his miserable fifth-place finish in Iowa. He had the best-organized campaign in Iowa, but his hate-filled messages laced with threats to impose the Christian Right's "values" on all of America did not wash well with moderate Iowans.

Steve Forbes: Found that money and a broken record, "Flat tax. Flat tax. Flat tax." are not enough. The magazine magnate does not have

the political savvy or a real platform to push him any farther than his millions will take him. Placed fourth.

Lamar Alexander: Surprisingly, the former Tennessee governor won third place. He is poorly financed, does not appear to most voters to be "presidential" and lacks any clear vision beyond the red and black checkered flannel shirts he

loves to hawk. Placed third.

Patrick Buchanan: Loved by ultra right-wing conservatives and poor Republicans who are receptive to his extremist-populist appeal. Clinton would like nothing better than to have this radical on the ballot. Buchanan has been linked to militia groups and white supremacists, but his stated views are enough to scare even the most conservative

voters away. Isolationism, demonizing corporate America, and blaming NAFTA for all labor ills are themes that will not get this candidate the White House. Placed Second.

Bob Dole: Won the caucus, but not doing well. He is the likely nominee of the Republican party and probably the best financed of the Republican candidates. His

thirty-point lead dwindled to three points. His message is not positive and voters are not reacting well. The candidate has resorted to name-calling and most Republicans agree he appears too old and too weak to beat Clinton.

With a field like this, Clinton appears to be getting stronger every week. Now, back to those New Hampshire results...

Alma traditions provide special memories

By Christopher Wiederman
News Editor

My first week at Alma I had a tremendous craving for pizza and my resident assistant was more than happy to initiate me into the Alma pizza eating ritual.

Without any ado, he quickly instructed me on how to order: "Get it double crust, baked on a screen, extra sauce, with spices on the side," he said. Then he recited the phone number from memory, having probably dialed the number sequence 4-6-3-3-8-8-1 a thousand times.

"Oh, and don't forget the ranch," he added.

"Ranch? It's a pizza, not a salad. That's just disgusting," I said.

He looked at me seriously, as if I had said something blasphemous.

"You will learn," he said ambiguously with a slight grin.

And I did learn. For the past

three years I have been drowning my pizza in that creamy ranch salad dressing. I even do it with pizza when I'm at home, much to the chagrin of my parents and friends. They just don't get it.

Pizza Sam's with ranch is just one of the things that makes Alma unique, and maybe you have to be here to appreciate it.

I have had some of the best times over Pizza Sam's, or as a friend refers to it, "The Best Bad Pizza You Have to Love." I have had dates, serious intellectual debates, arguments, and I have just collected my thoughts over the greasy slices.

When I first returned to Alma after a semester in Europe, a friend of mine took me immediately to Sam's. I recounted the previous four months of my life over a double crust screen-baked ham and pepperoni.

Maybe my R.A. was right when he said, "You will learn." I have—

I have learned the importance of creating memorable experiences and savoring the taste of the moment.

And as I get ready to leave Alma, I look back on the friends I have made, the crazy things we did and the personal growth I've had.

So a word to the young Alma student: Savor your moments here on campus. They are some of the best and most intense memories you will have. And, like Pizza Sam's with ranch, there are some memories that only Alma can provide.

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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.

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■ **LETTERS TO THE EDITORS****Tribute to Heather Hagaman**

This is written in memory of Heather Hagaman. She was a good friend of mine since elementary school. After thinking for quite some time about what to write, I have decided to talk about what she taught me. Heather was a kind and caring person who taught me to accept people for who they are. She was honest and sincere, teaching me to respect others and their ideas. Heather was well liked by all who knew her, which taught me to make that my ultimate goal in life. Her passing has taught me to take nothing for granted—a very valuable lesson. Heather Hagaman was a good friend of mine, her presence showed me many things. She will be missed dearly.

Chris Sargent '97

Scotsman's name doesn't acknowledge women's presence

I am writing because I am one of those "whining radicals who incessantly bickers over words." I know it seems irrational and a little crazy, but I do not believe that the word "man" is inclusive of all people. I wonder if it could be because I am not a man, and therefore cannot understand why people would insist I be comfortable with that name. I am a woman. If someone saw me on the street, would they look at me and say, "Hey, look at that man over there?" I doubt it.

Sarcasm aside, I am offended by the letter submitted last week about the name change of the *Scotsman* for many reasons. First, I resent the assumption that this is "a change based on the *whim* of a few radicals." I am in total support of the name change of the *Scotsman* and that is a decision I did not make on a whim and I am not in favor of it only because I want to be difficult. I support it because I have studied many ways in which individuals and groups can be oppressed and I have found language to be one of those ways. I personally find the name *Scotsman* offensive because I am a woman attending this institution and the name simply does not include me. The current name of the yearbook tells me that it is about the men who are Scots. Now, as you accurately point out, women outnumber men on this campus. Why would a campus publication's name not acknowledge their presence? And why would I expect to not feel a reaction to that exclusion?

Secondly, the writers' logic behind claiming that because the word "Scotsman" is offensive we should also change words like "Almanian" because it contains the word "man" is not valid. Nor is it an argument I have heard any person ever make. The appearance of the letters /m/a/n/ within another word is not offensive because they do not always refer to a male person. As I learned studying linguistics, the letters /m/a/n/ are a common phoneme in our language. We find them in words such as "commandment," "manner," and "manifestation." I do not think that most feminists would advocate the elimination of the letters /m/a/n/ from these.

Third, they say that they support equal rights and that women in the workplace

should have equal opportunities to advance. Since they claim to be so supportive, I thought they might find it interesting that research has shown that they use of masculine language such as "man" as all-inclusive, is ambiguous and misleading to readers and can significantly lead to false conclusions. For example, women have felt that they should not apply for jobs advertised with such language. If a woman feels excluded from even applying for a job because of the language used in the advertisement, does that not have an effect on her equal opportunity? All people may not have this experience, but if they truly mean what they say, they would not be so insensitive to this issue.

Finally, I am curious to know about these "radical females on campus who are trying to promote their extremist agenda." Are these they same "radical females" who somehow brainwashed Alma College administrators, faculty and students into changing the term "freshman" to "first-year student?" If so, these are a powerful "few" individuals.

And if this position is so "radical," is that why we have seen similar changes in language in such mainstream places as the police force, fire department and postal service?

I do not think they should be so certain that this is "the whim of a few radicals." Neither should they assume that this is only the work of women. And they certainly should not assume that because the yearbook staff and editor "have been subject to questions from students that range from confused to incensed..." they have clearly indicated anything. There are many people, of both sexes and varying political orientations, who truly understand that

oppression occurs in many forms and that sex bias in language is one of them. If they truly support equality as they say they "certainly" do, maybe they would be less concerned about "tradition" and more concerned with language that is representative and inclusive of all people. I only wish I could agree that words are just words, but it seems to me that their actions and reactions prove quite the opposite.

Tammi Johnson, '96

"Communications" use deemed inappropriate

In response to the article on Feb. 6 entitled "New Communications professor sought for fall," we are very disappointed in the unprofessional use of the word "communications."

Let it be known that *communications* are technologies involved in communicating whereas *communication* is the field of study. Therefore, the repeated references to the "communications department" and "communications chair" in this article are improper.

We'd like to point out that the department of philosophies and the department of histories do not exist. Likewise, the department of *communications* does not exist.

Melanie S. Terrian '97

Lora J. Bingham '97
(Communication Majors)

A little madness could be a good thing

By Char Vandermeer
Feature Editor

Each day I sit in class, waiting for someone to say something funny, witty and (god forbid) *off-color*. Each day I go home feeling as though I had been run through my grandma's old wringer washer.

Most often (yes, there are a few, very few, notable exceptions) students sit in their straight little rows, nod appropriately and respond only when absolutely necessary.

Have we become so conformist, so societally aware and so boring that we cannot let loose and do something out of the ordinary? Is silence so valued?

This silence, this annoying and boring silence, is not only evident in the classroom. I see it on campus, I see it on campus posters and I see it in the quiet acquiesce students display toward their peers, professors and

the administration.

After all, we are only students, right? What power do we have to voice opinions and (god forbid) disagree with someone in a position of power.

As Alma students we are trained to succeed and excel in whatever we choose to do. My question though—and a very valid question, if I may say so myself—is how are we going to be able to

succeed if we cannot or do not express ourselves and our beliefs? Is the power structure here at Alma really so intimidating that stu-

dents feels as though humor and opinion are dead?

Students, albeit a very select few, attempt to share beliefs and opinions with the cam-

pus through benign, water-soluble chalkings. Of course, this raises a roar of controversy and before we know it, some higher-ups have designated a wall as the appropriate "chalking

area." If students should be so bold as to trespass against these edicts their opinions, their expression, their personalities will be

erased. Yes, this encourages free-thinking (note: insertion of sarcasm).

Posters can only be hung in designated area. Campus publications must carefully publish or air or create Alma-friendly material, shows or art. Students must censor themselves and their opinions. Yes, we all take ourselves very seriously, after all, life is serious. Whatever. Hey, live a little, have some fun.

I think it is fair to say that college-wide humor is dead. When is the last time a student pulled a stunt that caught campus-wide attention? Now, I'm not encouraging any stupid and harmful pranks—I am merely suggesting that a compromise between quiet passivity and brazen stupidity be struck.

Intelligent humor is possible. Perhaps students should draw from their book-knowledge and mix in a little old-fashioned fun to create some news...to make a stir.

I think it is fair to say that college-wide humor is dead. When is the last time a student pulled a stunt that caught campus-wide attention?

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SUMMER CONFERENCE MANAGERS: The Alma College Conference Office is now accepting applications for summer Conference Manager positions. Conference Managers are paid a salary and receive free on-campus housing, as well as meals when conference groups are being served. The job requires staying on campus throughout the summer, including most weekends, but hours will

vary. Good interpersonal, decision-making, and organizational skills are required. The ability to work with Word Perfect will be helpful. Applicants with lifeguard certification and/or theater technician experience will be considered for additional employment to support summer conference activities. Responsibilities will begin at the end of spring term. Applications are available at the Personnel and Conference Office in the Reid-

Knox Building and are due by February 23, 1996.

SUMMER RESIDENCE HALL SUPERVISORS: Students interesting in living on campus this summer are invited to apply for Summer Residence Hall Supervisor opening. Housing is provided. Applicants with lifeguard certification and/or theater technician experience will be considered for addi-

tional employment to support summer conference activities. Applications are available at the Personnel and Conference Office in the Reid-Knox Building, and are due by February 23, 1996.

COMPUTER FOR SALE: MacIntosh Classic II. Disk drive broken but fixable. Manuals and software included. \$350. Call ext. 7796 if interested.

Staff Editorial

Institution needs personalized testing

Saturday morning, well over a hundred Alma College seniors lined up to take the Major Field Assessment Test (MFAT) to fulfill their comprehensive examination exit requirement.

More seniors will go through the same process later in the term in Mt. Pleasant or East Lansing, taking the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) to satisfy the same requirement.

The scene is familiar—a passle of students awake too early on a weekend morning, ready in sweats and baseball caps, two number two pencils in hand, hurriedly scribbling to fill ovals on a form.

Standardized testing has been an educational constant for every student on this campus, from the grade school state assessment tests to the Scholastic Achievement Test (SAT) required for most undergraduate admissions. We get numbered, quantified, slotted in percentiles and judged very significantly by our performance on a few of these tests.

The MFAT (or, in some cases, the GRE) serves as the final requirement for graduation for most Alma College seniors. Departments are directed to administer a comprehensive exam or evaluation of their students upon completion of their major, and students with majors ranging from sociology to computer science, from biology to political science, must take the MFAT to graduate with an Alma College degree.

A comprehensive examination, a

cumulative evaluation, is a proper and necessary requirement. After all, it is only right that students should have to prove that they have learned *something* in their time at Alma.

However, a nationally-administered standardized test is a ridiculous measure of education.

In a situation like undergraduate or graduate admissions, a test like the SAT or the GRE is a necessary evil. With the sheer numbers of students applying to colleges and universities, standardized testing remains the only viable and reasonably fair measure of academic ability—certainly, the system is hugely flawed, but there are few, if any, alternatives.

However, Alma College prides itself—and, for that matter, markets itself—as both a demanding and serious educational institution and as a highly personalized one. The anonymity and imprecision of standardized testing, especially as a final measure of academic achievement, stands in sharp contrast with Alma's self-image.

Most departments acknowledge that their students lack the breadth of coursework to answer all of the test's questions correctly. Some departments require incongruously low percentages as passing grades and others simply require that a student show up and take the exam, paying no attention to the grade he or she receives. Essentially, many departments pay lip service to the comprehensive exam requirement while largely or even completely disregarding the substance of the exam. This is a completely understandable response to the standardized

tests administered to fulfill this requirement; however, these responses disregard the importance of the comprehensive evaluation.

Rumors have persisted for years that Alma College will abolish the requirement; this is one effective method of dealing with what has become another meaning-less formality and still another student fee. However, the kind of education Alma promises—both demanding and personalized—calls for a different response.

The education Alma students should expect and receive must follow a more substantial path than a standardized test or the cop-out of an abolished requirement. The kind of independent research entailed in many theses and seminars in the humanities, the experiments and studies certain students perform in the social sciences and the hard sciences, the real experiences of practica in professional fields like business and law and the recitals and performances required in the arts represent far more responsive, personal and meaningful cumulative experiences and allow for more applicable evaluations of students' work and learning.

Certainly, these alternatives prove more difficult than a Saturday-morning test for both departmental faculty and students. However, unlike the meaning-less formality tests like the MFAT represent, they are both practical applications of the learning students should acquire at an institution like Alma and appropriate summations of the personal education Alma advertises.

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All Letters to the Editors must meet the following standards for publication: signed, include the author's phone number and address, and pertain to the Alma College community. Letters are published on a first come, first serve basis, up to three per week. Letters may not appear in full due to layout or editing purposes. Deadline for publication is 5 p.m. the Friday before requested publication. Address letters to: The Editorial Board, *The Almanian*, Newberry Hall, Alma College, Alma, MI 48801, or e-mail ALMANIAN@alma.edu.

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Shoddy scheduling slights students

By Mark Andrews
Opinion Editor

Nothing breaks the element of reality in the theatre than the sound of a drum line or booming orchestral requiem leaking into the solitude of the scene. It becomes nearly impossible to transport the audience from their theatre seats to a different scene, and different setting, when they are constantly reminded of the marching band in the next room.

Unfortunately, this kind of intrusion is a common occurrence at Alma College.

For the past two Alma College Theatre (ACT) productions, the cast and crew has been forced to compete with the distracting kiltie band and orchestra performances in the concert hall. As an actor, I find it very difficult to emerge myself into a performance with the sound of a drum line pounding through the theatre. I can only imagine the audience reaction when the *Star Spangled Banner* begins to play during a scene in a seedy bar in the Bronx. And I am sure the audience in the concert hall must be distracted by the sound of a barge piercing through Beethoven.

The acoustics in the theatre are bad enough without the orchestral back-up. It is difficult to keep the natural feeling and reality of

a performance when the actor is having to yell lines in order for the audience to understand what is being said. And by the end of the run, it seems to be more of a competition of sound levels than an actual attempt to please an audience.

Every group should consider the needs of the other group in the next space. A certain

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amount of respect should be given and changes made accordingly. We are not competing. We are striving for the same goal—place the audience in a world other than the one they are currently existing in—cooperation, not competition.

This is not an attack on the band or the orchestra. They did not design the air duct system in the Heritage Center (HAC) to allow their sounds to filter into the fixed form theatre. And, certainly, it would not be feasible to tone down the *1812 Overture* to a quiet murmur.

However, the HAC scheduling committee is aware of the "soundproofing," such as it is, and should be considerate of the stu-

dents performing in these spaces.

Likewise, it seems silly that a school which does not permit any social functions during Union Board events to insure student attendance to allow for so many simultaneous performances. Not only are students forced to choose one performance or the other, this kind of practice essentially bars some students from the opportunity to see the band concert or the play.

It is curious that student artistic expression is not given the same kind of respect that speakers or college-sponsored social events receive. Are our efforts any less valuable than overhead projectors or green beer?

Too many times I have been told these events have to be scheduled on the same weekend because of breaks. Well, I don't think breaks have a lot to do with it. Why not schedule the events so the one occurs two weekends before break and the other the weekend before break? I understand this puts strain on one group or the other because it means one less week of rehearsal, but compromise is a wonderful thing. Have the orchestra and band perform in the early slot one term and ACT fill that slot in the second term.

Certainly, there will be a lot of kicking and screaming from one group or another, but when it finally becomes understood that this is the only way to ease the sound competition, everything will be fine--and everyone will get heard.