

The Almanian

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Provost speaks on Davenport controversy

By Christopher J. Wiederman
News Editor

Provost Leslie Brown met with about a dozen students to 'openly' discuss the dismissal of Dr. Davenport and the campus climate on women's issues at the MacCurdy House on the evening of March 25. The campus community was not informed of the meeting, and only those who live in the house or those who heard about the meeting attended.

In light of rumors surrounding the case filed by Davenport against Dr. William Palmer and the Board of Trustees, Brown said she believes it is preferable to have the information available. However, there are strict guidelines prohibiting speaking publicly about the specifics of the issue that are associated with the Michigan Privacy Act.

Brown could not disclose the reason for Davenport's dismissal, but assured students that the decision was not taken lightly.

Several students saw Alma College's actions as being contradictory to the school's quest for high quality, since many perceive Dr. Davenport to be an exemplary pro-

fessor. "It is a contradiction, but we have to weigh the benefits," said Brown.

"I thought the meeting was helpful in that it was a personnel issue and not an issue of [Davenport's] competency, but it leaves more questions," said senior Gwen Downs, "It still doesn't make the situation any easier."

"By having the meeting secretive only heightened the assumptions and rumors that people have been circling," said senior Leslie Malzahn. "Maybe [Brown] thought that we would be the most interested group, but there are probably students of Davenport that would also have liked to have been there."

To senior Julie Johnston's suggestion that sexism may have played a role in Davenport's dismissal, Brown responded by saying, "I am not an old man and I am involved." She then added that about 30% of the teaching faculty is female and many are getting promoted and are on a tenure track.

Several of the students said they felt unempowered by the petition process and the question was raised about how much student evaluations are considered. Brown as-

sured the students that their feedback is important and is considered. "We listen to what students say to their advisors and faculty members," said Brown.

Not all of the students in attendance were satisfied with Brown's discussion.

"I think Brown was incredibly condescending, especially to Julie Johnston, and I have a problem with Dr. Davenport not knowing why she was being dismissed," said sophomore Lydia Nichols.

Brown ended the informal discussion by encouraging students to voice concerns and take advantage of all possible sources. "If you feel someone needs to hear something, make sure that they do," said Brown.

In response to a question on the status of the complaint filed by Davenport, Brown said, "everything is being handled by attorneys and it is in process."

Provost Leslie Ellen Brown discusses the dismissal of Dr. Randi Davenport before a MacCurdy house crowd, including senior residents Gwen Downs and Julie McKinstry. Photo by Char Vandermeer.



Students stage protest over Davenport issues

By Christopher J. Wiederman
News Editor

About a dozen students protested the dismissal of Dr. Davenport

during Preorientation last Saturday.

The students started their peaceful protest, with flyers and posters, at 11:30 in McIntyre mall in time to

intercept potential students and parents visiting the campus. They then moved to areas outside of Hamilton Commons and Van Dusen. They then moved to the Physical Education Center.

"People have been rather receptive, saying stuff like, 'we used to do stuff like this in the 60s,'" said protester junior Sarah Goecke.

Most people grabbed the flyers—stating the reasons for the students protest—and proceeded to walk into the events scheduled throughout the day.

The flyer stated that the "students are concerned and dismayed with the wrongful dismissal of Randi Davenport." It went on to describe Davenport as an "excellent professor" and a "boon to our education."

Besides the flyer, the protesters also handed out copies of the Alma College's and the American Association of University Professors' (AAUP) policies on sexual harassment. The flyer had insinuated that Alma College's policy may not be in accordance with the AAUP's.

Some students expressed disgust with the protesters for using Preorientation to air their concerns. Traditionally it is a day meant to present the campus in a favorable light to prospective students and their parents.

Sophomore Danielle Damen and juniors Jenna MacKillop and Sarah Goecke prepare to intercept incoming students and their families during Saturday's preorientation protest. Photo by Char Vandermeer.



Vote provides new name

By Julie Wilson
Staff Reporter

The verdict is in. After weeks of argument and petitions, the yearbook name has been changed from *The Scotsman* to *The Scot*. The change was instigated in an effort to comply with college policies on gender neutrality in language.

When the decision was made this year to change, many students voice opposition to the new name. The yearbook staff had voted to change it to *The Thistle*, but after heated opposition, the change was put to a vote.

The decision to allow a vote on the new yearbook name was the choice of the Communications Committee, a group comprised of faculty and students

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Greek Week promotes celebration, unity

By Julie Wilson
Staff Reporter

Greek Week activities, which took place throughout last week, were designed to celebrate and unite the Greek community on the Alma College campus. But with the division into three teams of three groups to compete against each other, the atmosphere was competitive.

The week began with the Greek Awards ceremony, where the community recognizes outstanding aspects of each group, honoring different members of each chapter, and outstanding contributions made by whole chapters and individual Greeks that have helped the Alma community as a whole. Also, the evening is a way for the teams to get points, as the team with the highest percent attendance gets the most points toward the final Greek Week trophy. The evening began with a brief speech delivered by Cathy Early, who works with the National Interfraternity Council, and who spoke of taking risks that can be beneficial in the end.

Following her address, awards were given out and recognitions made. Each chapter gave out its individual awards to recognize chapter members for their work. The Panhellenic and Interfraternity Councils awarded recognition to groups showing outstanding scholastic achievement, where Sigma Chi and Theta Chi Fraternities, and Alpha Gamma Delta, Kappa Iota, and Gamma Phi Beta sororities were honored. Order of Omega followed, proudly acknowledging new initiates to the Greek Honor Society.

New to the awards this year were the accolades for Outstanding

Greek Woman and Man. junior Tiffany Hodge, President of Kappa Iota, and Junior Don Light, President of the Interfraternity Council, were honored. Jason Gray and Cathy Curley were given the wards for Outstanding Greek Senior Man and Woman, respectively. Gamma Phi Beta was acknowledged for Outstanding Philanthropy and Outstanding New Member Philanthropy for their efforts with Tavern and King of the Scots.

Finally, Chapter of Distinction awards were given out to chapters showing excellence in all areas of Greek Development. Honorable mentions were given to Tau Kappa Epsilon and Theta Chi, while Alpha Gamma Delta and Gamma Phi Beta were given recognition as Chapters of Distinction.

The evening culminated with a random-drawing selection of the Greek Week teams. Paired up as a team were Kappa Iota (KI), Theta Chi (TC), and Zeta Sigma (ZS). The second team was Alpha Xi Delta (AZD), Sigma Chi (SC), and Alpha Gamma Delta (AGD), and Gamma Phi Beta (GPB), Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE), and Sigma Alpha Epsilon (SAE) made up the third team.

Monday's activity was the team mixer, where each group got together at a social function to create banners to be hung on sorority houses to commemorate the week. The AZD/AGD/SC banner won first place in the banner contest.

Tuesday was a day dedicated solely to philanthropic activities. The groups were each supposed to go out and collect change to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association. In a new twist this year, the team that had the least amount of



The banner competition is a time-honored Greek Week tradition. This banner attempted to combine the symbols of three organizations--KI's coyote, TC's ox, and ZS's pickle. Photo by Char Vandermeer.

change won the points for the event—the objective was to collect the most money and then “punish” the other teams by giving your team’s collected funds. In addition, individuals were chosen to be a figurehead for their group, and the individuals with the greatest success got a pie in their face on Wednesday.

Sophomore Galina Martin, one of the Greek Week representatives responsible for the week’s philanthropy said, “this year there was a stronger spirit of fun, I think having a visible reward system made it more entertaining. I would like to see the people who work on it next year work out some confusing parts, but I think the change was definitely a good one.” The winners, the team with the least amount of

money, was the KI, TC, ZS combination.

Wednesday was banner judging day and Greek Olympics, where the teams competed in traditional events like Tug-of War, but also saw the results of the philanthropy. First-year student Brian Crum of SC, sophomore Bob Mabbitt of SAE, were both pied, and due to the absence of intended pie recipient junior Craig Fritts, TKE brother, sophomore Joboo Livingston accepted the pie on Fritts’ behalf. The team of GPB, SAE and TKE were the final, declared winners of the Greek Olympics.

Thursday night was the final event—a bowling competition at the 300 Bowl in Alma. Each team

picked their best four bowlers, at least one from each group within the team. The team of TKE, SAE, and GPB won the bowl-off.

Said sophomore Holly Bailey, who worked on the planning of the final event, “I think that the bowling was the best attended event of the week—there were a lot of people out there bowling.” Bailey added, “I think that this was the least competitive event as well. A lot of the other activities get very competitive.”

Awarded that night was the fruit of the Greek Week prizes—the coveted trophy. And at the end of the week, having won two events, the winners were clear. Walking away triumphant were SAE, TKE, GPB.

Sun celebrates Earth Week

By Jennifer Cornell
Freelance Writer

This week is Earth Week at Alma. Students United For Nature (SUN) is working overtime this week to raise awareness about all of the little things that we can do to help keep the Earth a clean and happy place to live.

SUN kicked off Earth Week on Saturday, March 30. SUN and various other volunteers left Reid-Knox at 9:30 a.m. and headed out to Riverside Park. There, they planted a tree as a memorial to Dr. Tracy Luke. After the tree planting, SUN cleaned up the Pine River along Riverside Park.

Monday, SUN members erected a trash sculpture in MacIntyre Mall and designed a chalking for Earth Week. Although the event was for SUN members only, its purpose was to share with the rest of campus the importance of taking care of the Earth.

Tuesday and Wednesday

SUN is hosting two Earth Week events for the campus. Tonight at 8 p.m. in SAC 304, SUN is showing *Medicine Man*. The second event is speaker Dave Dempsey, who is head of the Michigan Conservation Society. Dempsey, who is a political environmentalist, is going to speak tomorrow at 7 p.m. in SAC 113.

SUN is planning on ending Earth Week with an Adopt-a-Highway clean up. SUN is responsible for a stretch of M-57 and invites volunteers who wish to come help them clean it up to join them. The bus will leave Reid-Knox at 4 p.m. All are invited.

SUN member junior Karen Gordon, said of Earth Week, “People should be aware of what’s going on in their own environment. We (SUN) hope that people come because they want to, not just because it is for extra credit or something. People need to realize that every little bit really does help.”

Tartan Club gather alumni in reception Choir entertains the club’s biggest dinner ever

By Phil Allmen
Staff Reporter

Once we graduate, what do we have to look forward to? Are you worried that your only contact to the college will include questions of donating money?

Another opportunity to see others is through the Alma College Tartan Club, an annual alumni club get together for Alma College graduates, family and friends living in a certain area.

Last Thursday, March 21, the Dearborn Tartan Club met at the Dearborn Inn just outside of Detroit. Marriot Food Services sponsored the event.

“Marriot offers to pay for one get together a year. The Dearborn Tartan Club is the biggest one. Marriot sponsored the night by paying for the food and by having the event at a Marriot hotel,” said President Alan Stone.

These annual events are held throughout the country for Alma grads. Most of the events are either dinners, luncheons or small recep-

tions. These receptions are not direct fund-raisers. The events ultimately hope to draw in money for upcoming projects and fund-raisers, but a large focus is on having fun together.

Over the weekend, President Stone attended similar receptions in Denver and Phoenix.

“The Dearborn reception had about 200 guests, although most of these receptions draw about thirty guests. They are a lot of fun. People get up and talk about their favorite professors or other memories and everyone has a good time,” said Stone.

At the Dearborn reception, the Alma community received an added treat with the performance of the Alma College Choir. The choir added more entertainment for the guests and allowed them to see where some of Alma’s money goes.

The choir performed a variety of pieces from merry arrangement of “I’ve Been Working on the Railroad” to the crowd-pleasing gospel piece, “He never Failed Me

Yet.” The choir also sang the “Alma Mater” with the help of the majority of the guests.

“The choir sang extremely well,” said Stone, “They put on a tremendous concert that everyone really enjoyed. As the concert ended, Bill Biebuyck jokingly made a comment on where to find a collection plate to pass around.”

The choir received much acclamation after the concert for something they do well together, sing. “I’m glad we got to help the school out the best we can, by singing. It was a good experience, both for us and the alumni, when we sang in Dearborn. The crowd really enjoyed us, and we were able to meet alumni, people we knew who recently graduated and older ones too,” said junior Debbie Macdonald.

The purpose of these events is to help get alumni involved and to allow them to remember the good times in their college days. Through receptions like this, the alumni get that chance.

Hypnotist Deluca to provide entertainment

By Trisha A. Warner
Special Projects Reporter

Internationally recognized hypnotist Tom Deluca will tantalize the audience and participants alike tonight at 8 p.m. in Jones Auditorium. Sponsored by the Alma College Union Board (ACUB), the event will be entertaining and a good stress reliever before exams.

ACUB commissioned Deluca to perform after they attended the National Associations of Campus Activities (NACA) regional conference last fall. They saw a variety of performers including bands, comedians and speakers, and Deluca is one of the gold mines they dis-

covered.

"He's great," said Jennifer Victory, president of ACUB. "He's similar to the hypnotist we had here a couple of years ago."

Publicist Cookie Swieczkowski agreed.

"He's an amazing hypnotist," she exclaimed. "He does a really good show."

Deluca has been recognized internationally for his hypnotist art. He was awarded the NACA Entertainer of the Year prize and has been featured in *People Magazine*.

Deluca does not practice the stereotypical version of hypnotism. That is, he probably will not bring

out a watch on a chain and swing it in front of our eyes like the professor did on *Gilligan's Island*. Instead, he focuses his attention on large groups. His style relies on talking the participants into what Swieczkowski calls a "trance."

And what happens next is really miraculous, said Victory. He may command individuals to speak in foreign languages, see or hear things that do not exist or have them acting out different scenarios. The show is completely spontaneous, and there is no telling what might happen.

Swieczkowski cautions that most, but not all participants will be hyp-

notized completely. That is not stopping her interest though.

"I want to get hypnotized," she said.

Although it is a hectic time of the school year, Victory cautioned students not to let their schedules stand in the way of attending Deluca's presentation. They should take a study break and utilize the event for relaxation before the stress of exams hits. She reminds that hypnotism itself is a form of deep relaxation and is very entertaining.

"We picked the date earlier this year," she explained. "Hypnotism helps people relax, and it's comically entertaining."

Nominees announced for Barlow Trophy

By Dan Scripps
Staff Reporter

Fitting into the criteria of being in the top ten percent of their class, active participation in college activities and making a real contribution to the life of the college, as established by 1929 alum Joel Barlow for the prestigious student award which shares his name, seniors Kristina Markstrom, Chris Elder and Ken Fenchel were recently nominated for this year's student Barlow Trophy.

According to Leslie Ellen Brown, Provost and Vice-president for Academic Affairs, the nominees are determined by the faculty and voted upon by the faculty and Student Congress. The winner is announced at the Honors Convocation and gives an address at commencement. She said the award is different from the faculty Barlow, which each year is presented to two outstanding members of the faculty.

Kristina Markstrom, who will leave Alma with a perfect 4.0 grade point average, immediately got involved upon her arrival on campus four years ago. She has been involved with the Association for Intercultural Understanding for all of her four years, including serving as the group's president for the last three. "When I came back for my

sophomore year, we didn't have any members because all of the seniors had graduated. I had to go around begging people to join the group," she said with a laugh, characteristic of both her dedication and sense of humor. She also has been involved with the Student Alumni Association, holding the position of vice-president of the group for two years. Early in her college years she served on the Newberry Hall Council and has been involved with music during her entire college career, playing with the Kiltie Band and this year joining the newly formed wind ensemble. This year she also served as vice-president of the business club, which is helpful in her business major.

In addition to her on campus activities, she taught a craft class at the Masonic Home, an experience she describes as "incredible." After graduation she will go to work in the finance department at Dow Corning and after a couple of years move on to graduate school.

Markstrom cites Dr. Palmer and the entire business department as her major influences, although she says, "there have been tons." As for the business department, she says, "They've all inspired me in different ways." Upon hearing of her nomination, she said, "I was shocked. It's a huge honor, but I

never really thought I'd even have a chance. It's great to be honored for doing things you love."

Like Markstrom, Chris Elder will also leave Alma with a perfect grade point average. During her time here Elder has been a resident assistant, a teaching assistant, a member of the chemistry club, the Exercise and Health Science honor society and the Women's honor society. Also like Markstrom, she served on Newberry Hall Council during her first few years.

An EHS major, Elder plans on enrolling in the Osteopathic School at MSU on her way to reaching her goal of being a family practice physician. She named Dr. Chesin, an Alma physician who she has worked for the past two years, as her biggest influence.

Ken Fenchel has also become involved in virtually every aspect of campus life, which he credits to the college. "Alma provides a lot of opportunities to become involved,

and it's just a matter of taking advantage of it," he commented. Fenchel's record of involvement proves that he has definitely taken advantage of these opportunities. During his four years he has served on both the Orientation Committee and as a resident assistant. He is also a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity, and ran Cross Country during his first year. He said of his nomination, "It's an honor to be considered," and added that his both he and his parents were very excited.

He also credits the faculty for his success. "All of the professors here are helpful in that you can go to them to clear up anything you don't understand in class." Fenchel will leave here with a degree in Elementary Education.

Last year the award was given to Mary Kay Ecken and Mahmood Monshipouri and Kay Grimnes won the faculty Barlow.

Yearbook . . .

Continued from page 1

that discuss policy for Alma Colleges media forums—the radio station, the newspaper, and the yearbook. In accordance with protocol, this committee has the authority to have changed the name of the yearbook. But when they did, many students spoke out, complaining that they had no voice in the decision. The irony of this situation is that the Communications Committee has a seat for student involvement, only no one was interested in joining the group.

Then, the question was raised in Student Congress whether they had the right to sponsor an election. Said yearbook editor, senior Sarah

Laura Rice and Gordon Meyers will present a Senior Recital

Gershwin to Puccini

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April 6

8:00 p.m.

at the Heritage Center for the Performing Arts, Presbyterian Hall

Gornicki, "A bunch of us on the yearbook staff went to the meeting and argued for a really long time. But we were worried that this would become a habit—that any changes ever made on campus would have to put to a Student Congress vote." But within the Congress, all but two members supported the fact that the yearbook staff had followed policy in changing the name of the annual by themselves.

So the decision to take a general student vote was an individual choice made by the Communication Committee—they did not have to do it. Whether or not students took advantage of their say, the vote was a way for them to speak out on what proved itself to be a very volatile issue.

Voting on the change was held in Hamilton Commons last Thursday. Very close in votes to the winner, *The Scot*, was *The Tartan*. Also on the ballot was *The Thistle*. Eighteen students wrote in *The Scotsman* as their name of choice.

"We did not really care what was on the cover—we just wanted a name. The thing is, we are so careful to be neutral in our copy on the inside of the book, it seemed hypocritical not to have a gender-neutral name," said Gornicki.

Keeping You Informed

Free Health Check Brochure for Students Traveling Abroad

Before traveling abroad, it is worthwhile to take a close look at the many influences that may contribute to your physical and emotional well-being. With factors like stresses, language differences and diet, traveling may effect your health. Being aware of these factors, the Council on International Educational Exchange has published a free brochure with tips and suggestions on assessing and identifying your health needs.

Designed to help students be prepared, the brochure entitled *Health Check: For Study, Work, and Travel Abroad* offers tips on how to check health advisories, preparing your own medical kit, verifying medical insurance coverage and taking care of yourself while away. For a free brochure please contact the Council on International Educational Exchange, 205 East 42nd Street, New York, NY 10017-5706 or call (212) 661-1414. The Council can be reached via e-mail at Info@ciee.org.

Intercristo offers job search information

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Response filed in Davenport case

The Board of Trustees of Alma College and William Palmer filed a response to Assistant Professor of English Randi Davenport's civil complaint last week.

The response is on public record at the Gratiot County Courthouse.

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Comedy becomes theatrical commentary

"Classes are driving me crazy and I can't take it anymore! Give me succulent desserts and take me to the theatre darling!"

Last Tuesday evening at 7:30 faculty, staff and students gathered at VanDusen Commons to relieve their stresses and to enjoy a bit of culinary and dramatic entertainment. The Co Curricular Committee annually hosts the dessert theatre with the Alpha Omega Players of the Repertory Theatre of America. This year's selection included Mark Twain's "The Diary of Adam and Eve," from the Broadway musical "The Apple Tree," and "I'm Herbert," from the Broadway hit play "You Know I Can't Hear You When the Water's Running."

Faculty member Rose Tylawski said, "I like the theatre; I go every year. The dessert theatre is a good outlet for faculty, staff and students to be together, and the desserts are wonderful!"

By 8:00 people sat contentedly in their seats with friends, desserts and perhaps some coffee, waiting for the spectacle to begin. The lights dimmed as everyone in VanDusen commons journeyed to The Garden of Eden. Eve delighted the audience with her persistent optimism and her innocent wisdom.

The play began with all of the humor involved in being the first two people on earth—such as the world's first joke and the world's first temptation. However, it had a bittersweet ending which left Adam without his life-long companion and two sons, and left some members of the audience misty-eyed.

"The first play was symbolic, but it's meaning wasn't hidden so deeply that you couldn't find it. It discussed how Adam and Eve destroyed the holy part of their life and made things awful," said first-year student Lori Carlson.

Some found the play a struggle to understand on a deeper level.

Senior Bonnie Palmer noted, "It was feminist in nature because it changed the original story in which Adam named all of the animals, but it was not feminist because Eve was portrayed as a the stereotypical mindless female."

The play was also peppered with various sexist comments towards both Adam and Eve. Adam criticizes Eve because she talks incessantly, and he subsequently assumes her talking tendency is a result of her femininity. In the same spirit Eve decides that since Adam wants to fish and be lazy all day that he must be a man.

Many people favored the second play, "I'm Herbert," for its geriatric humor. The setting is a front porch where an elderly couple, Herbert and Muriel, spend the entire sketch trying to accurately remember the events and people of their lives. They call each other by their ex-spouses names, reminisce about people and then, in the very same sentence, claim that they didn't know any such person.

The audience laughed out loud for much of the performance and was drawn into the collective senility when Muriel asked Herbert, "What day of the week is it?" Many turned with pondering eyes to friends trying to remember the answer. Perhaps the biggest thrill for all was towards the end when a name dropped out of the blue and into the conversation, again bewildering the audience. Who's Ralph?!

Playwrights and actors often have a deeper purpose in mind than mere entertainment. Often they strive to portray reality in a means that is acceptable to the audience. Both plays presented us with familiar themes, yet offered more to those who mentally delved into the works.

"I'm Herbert" was the comic hit, but a serious note hidden within the humor.

"I liked the portrayal of the man and woman in 'I'm Herbert' but it's sad too. It reminds me of people with Alzheimer's disease who forget where they are," said Palmer.

The goal of the sketch is not to be depressing, but rather to give us a portrayal of life in a context that we are able to understand—comedy. Every year the plays and actors change, but the experience is always satisfying. If you missed this year's production, do not let the chance slip by you next year! Carpe diem!

Jazz Band has come a long way

By Trisha Winn
Freelance Writer

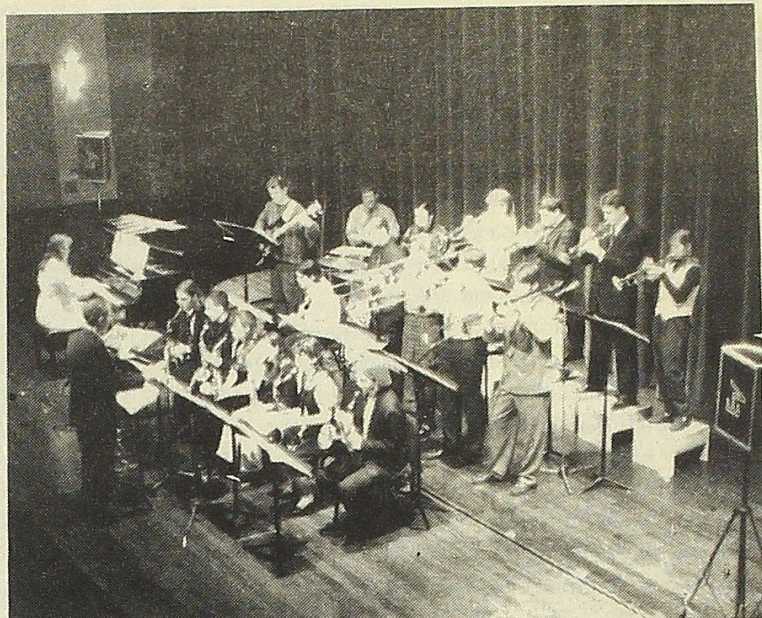
Last Sunday evening at the Heritage Center for Performing Arts (HCPA) 219 people lined up to hear the Alma College Jazz Ensemble play in Presbyterian Hall.

The Ensemble opened with "Cherokee," a classic jazz tune that has been loved by musicians and listeners alike for decades. Junior Jackson Martin played a short but sweet tenor saxophone solo, and junior Dan Scripps, although he has performed better jazz solos, played a proficient trombone solo.

The soloists were well accompanied by an extremely capable rhythm section and the big band sound of from the hard-working horn sections. This first tune made it plain to see that Director Don Metcalf has succeeded in furthering this band's ability to learn and perform harder and better charts than it has in many years.

"The sounds coming from A.C. Jazz Band have continued to improve since my first year here. They are playing much more as a group and this concert showed it," said senior Phil Allmen.

Although the next few tunes were a little more sluggish than the first, the band and its various vocalists stayed together, for the most part, pleased the crowd. The rhythm section did a wonderful job of keeping time, and the vocals were beautiful, though at times, a few had a hard time being heard over the band. The two who had the most trouble



The Alma College Jazz Ensemble performs last Sunday at the Heritage Center. Photo by Char Vandermeer.

were first-year student, Christine Mayers performing "A Foggy Day" and senior Laura Rice who performed "The Glory of Love." However both soloists rang out loud and clear throughout their second pieces, "Stella by Starlight," "When You Wish Upon A Star."

The vocalists who had no trouble being heard were sophomore Matthew Robertson, who sang "When I Fall In Love" (yes, the tune used in *Sleepless In Seattle*), and junior Matt Groves, who wailed out "Hey Bartender" (yes, the tune used in *The Blues Brothers*). Grove's powerful vocals were aided considerably—though they needed no help—by his sun-glasses and blues harp player senior Jon Kapp.

As for other highlights, the trumpet section and soloist Kelly Ervans

gave the audience a potent dose of high notes and strong passages in "Blue Birdland" and "Cruisin' for a Bluisin'."

"A lot of 8:30 a.m. classes have paid off...Unfortunately for the trumpet players, we won't be able to kiss anyone for a week because our lips are so tired," joked senior trumpet player Josh Lincoln.

However, Josh's lips didn't seem too tired during his memorable solo in "The Jersey Bounce."

The Alma College Jazz Ensemble still has room for improvement, but overall they surprised me with their progress. If you would like to catch some of the musicians jamming this week, stop by Max and Emily's Wednesday night, and see for yourself how far they've come.

ASO ends season with strong showing

By Char Vandermeer
Feature Editor

Last Friday and Sunday, the Alma Symphony Orchestra (ASO) performed their final concert of the 1995-96 season at the Heritage Center for the Performing Arts (HPAC).

The program consisted of three pieces of varying lengths including *Adagio in G* by Tomaso Albinoni, *Vltava (Moldau)* from *Ma Vlast* by Fredrich Smetana and Friedrich Chopin's Concerto No. 1 in C, Op. 11.

Although well-performed, the *Adagio* was a rather dull piece, especially for the show's opening selection. The violin section, under concertmaster Wei-Tsun Chang, worked beautifully together, proving to be the most cohesive section of the orchestra.

Although unavoidable, the keyboard/pipe organ detracted from the beauty of the piece. Before the construction of the Heritage Cen-

ter, ASO performed in the chapel and utilized the beautiful-sounding pipe organ; unfortunately, the hollow, high-pitched mobile pipes that are used in HCPA do not add the same degree of elegance.

The second piece, *Vltava*, was much more upbeat and through music, told the story a river in the Czech Republic which runs to Prague where it then flows into the Elbe river.

Unfortunately, conductor Scripps felt it necessary to expand beyond the Program Notes, explaining the piece to the audience. Although interesting, by the time he had explained and the orchestra had played passages which exemplified each stage of the river, it seemed as though half of the piece had been performed in bits and pieces, leaving very little to the audience's imagination.

The short piece once again demonstrated the magnificence of the string section, but it also illumi-

nated weaknesses among the winds. Their tentative entrances made it sound as though they were struggling to keep up with the strings. Like the strings, the trombones and trumpets pulled off a glorious performance—especially throughout the more nationalistic passages.

The final piece, a concerto by Chopin, featured Associate Professor of Music Raymond Riley on piano. Although Riley's performance was a whirlwind of gorgeous sounds which blended beautifully with the orchestra, at times notes and portions of passages were muddled and imprecise.

Although there were some noticeable weaknesses, ASO's season finale was enjoyable and the growth that the orchestra has undergone is evident. Judging from the strong alum and community participation and the number of young players, the Alma community has great things to look for from ASO in the future.

Look What's Happening!

THEATRE / DANCE
Heritage Center for the Performing Arts
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*Fool For Love — April 11-14
Gratiot County Players
*The King and I — May 10-12 &

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*A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum — April 26-28 & May 3-4
*Heaven Can Wait — May 2-4, 10-11, & 17-18

MSU Mainstage Productions,
(517) 355-0148
*Department of Theatre,
"Anything Goes" by Cole Porter — April 18-20, 25-27 & 21
Boarshead Theatre, Lansing,
(517) 484-7805
*A Midsummer Night's Dream

— Mar. 28 - April 21
*Time Steps — May 2-26
Actors and Playwrights' Initiative, Kalamazoo
(616) 343-8090
*Hair — April 12-13, 18-20 & 25-27
WMU Multi-form Theatre,

For the love of God, bring back Dave!

Academy Awards lack humor, spice

By Jen Cornell
Freelance Writer

Okay, so I have to admit it. I went into this year's Academy Awards show bitter. As a self-proclaimed Dave Letterman freak, I cannot

fathom why the Academy did not ask Dave to host the Awards again this year. The Oscars were perfectly complete last year with the Top Ten List and Stupid Pet Tricks. So, I figured, what could Dave's replacement, Whoopi Goldberg,

possibly have to offer?

Rather than dive right into Whoopi's performance, allow me to backtrack. Before the awards presentation, ABC covered the entrance of the stars into the theater. Unfortunately, they had Oprah

Winfrey out on the sidewalk catching the celebrities and asking them questions as they walked in. Judging by her performance, I know the Academy did not hire Oprah on the basis of talent. As she attempted to interview the stars, Oprah looked nervous and unprepared. Her questions were horrible. For example, she addressed Australian native Nicole Kidman and hubby Tom Cruise with:

"What did you think of *Babe* the Australian pig?"

Wow. Next year, spare me Oprah's attempt at humor.

Next up, Whoopi. I'll confess—I had been waiting for her monologue just so I could say, "HA!

You are not funny. You are terrible. Bring back Letterman." Much to my chagrin, Whoopi's monologue was not all that bad. She had the most wonderful cynical tone in her voice and making me believe that she was not fooled by all the hoopla.

Nothing was safe from Whoopi's monologue. She was charmingly polite as she blasted everything, even the bombardment by ribbons: "Wear the white one—show you support the end of the Whitewater fiasco."

I am not afraid to admit it when I am wrong. I was pleasantly surprised by Whoopi's monologue. However, I draw the line there. Whoopi's performance went downhill from there. I did not find her conversation with Babe the pig the least bit amusing. (Was this her attempt to top Dave's Stupid Pet Tricks?) Moreover, I did not find her presence commanding.

Whoopi ended up being more of a nuisance than anything else. Rather than looking forward to the comic relief, I waited for Whoopi to leave the stage, leaving me to think, "Just get on with the awards already."

Sadly enough, I actually found myself wanting to hear Vanessa Williams sing rather than listen to more Whoopi.

Quincy Jones directed this year's Academy Awards, and what a difference his guidance made. Thank-

fully, Jones eliminated the silly introductory dance number of days gone by. An interesting element Jones incorporated into this year's show was a runway fashion show to display the nominees for best costuming. It was an interesting way to make the audience feel like an insider.

Now, the winners. *Braveheart*, *Braveheart*, and again, *Braveheart*. It was fantastic. If you have not seen the movie, go! It will be the best money you will spend on a rental. Best director, best film, even best make-up.

Maybe it was my predisposed bitterness for this year's show, maybe it was just Whoopi, but I thought the Academy Awards were missing something. It had all of the glitz and glamour of Hollywood. As in the past, futile attempts at humor were made on the part of the presenters and it even had musical numbers that I could have done without.

This year's Academy Awards lacked entertainment. The show was flashy and humorous at times, but it was long and boring, too. Perhaps next year the Awards will bring back the king of late night to spice things up.

For the love of God—bring back Dave! Let him show us why he has become "the most powerful man in broadcasting." Change something, or next year, I know I'll change the channel.

New wind ensemble performs



The Alma Winds, a group composed solely of wind instruments and percussion, performed last Saturday night in the Heritage Center. The ensemble, under the baton of ASO and Kiltie Band director Doug Scripps, was formed because of growth in the music program. Photo by Char Vandermeer.

Autechre provides a different kind of techno

By Chris Sienko
Freelance Techno Defender

As I picked up the latest Autechre (pronounced O-Tek-Er) disc on the day of its release, I had little information about it. Some people on the Internet who had been listening to copies in England (where it had been released for the last six months) had mixed reviews. Some said these electronic pioneers had refined their vision one step beyond, taking them into utterly new music. Others said it was a heap of hokey.

Looking at the CD case, which has no writing or artwork, only a slick olive gold-ish color, the only clue from which I could deduce its contents was the sticker on the shrink-wrap which declared "Autechre: Tri Repetae. Incomplete without surface noise. Disposable information."

I kept the disposable information in the CD case, because it says

something about the creation process behind this music.

Tri Repetae (Wax Trax!/TVT/Warp) is the third and most recent creation from London recluses Rob Booth and Sean Brown, who once said they only make music so they can have something decent to listen to. Presumptuous at best, I know, but a spin or two through this disc may quell some fears about exaggeration.

I've been trying to put off saying this through this review, but I have to tell you sooner or later: Autechre is a (shudder) Techno group. Eeek! But techno is so faceless and lifeless! It has no analogue instruments! But but but, *they're just pushing buttons!*

Button your but's and listen to me. Anyone who still slaps techno on these terms had better realize that, even if it's impossible to compare something like this to a three chord rock album, those buttons do a hell of a lot more than they used

to. *Tri Repetae* is like nothing so much as a ride. Much in the same way that we rode through the guitar line in the Stereolab review, every song on this disc (actually, two discs — the domestic issue of *Tri Repetae* comes with a bonus disc consisting of two very rare British-only EPs) has a multiplicity of sonic layers, each with a story to tell.

The shuddering THOOM that opens "Dael" sounds like something belched out of the analogue noisebox of 60's legend Morton Subotnik. The percussion clangs like a scrapyard, and slowly and gradually, squeaks, pops, and whooshes enter the mix.

As you can probably deduce, I've said little or nothing about how good the beat is on this album, even as I laughingly call it a techno album. Well, that's because this album is not meant for dancing. Like Aphex Twin, Autechre are working with electronic music that moves the ears rather than the feet,

creating shifting layers of sound that unsettle in the same way as minimalist compositions. Most songs go on for seven minutes or longer, letting a passage develop over several minutes, and that's one aspect of Autechre that takes some getting used to.

As a rabid follower, every album I've bought by them (1993's *Incunabula*, 1995's *Amber*, and now this) has been initially off-putting because it sounded so different from the last.

With each release, Autechre are getting better and better at creating perfect sound edifices that swoop, dive, shimmer and shake. And they all (at least on this release) have plenty of surface noise: "Clipper"'s main riff seems to be shortwave static, the drum line of "Rside" sounds like marbles being chucked at the monolith from 2001.

And yeah, as many naysayers of techno claim, there isn't a lot of blood in these grooves. But I'm not

using that as a critique of the album. There's not a lot of groove in Stravinsky's compositions either, but we don't critique him for it. Please don't think I'm comparing any techno group to Stravinsky; but both (within their own genre) create works of above average complexity, cultural reference, and inscrutability.

When Rob and Sean spray the speakers with crackling static in "Second Bad Vilbel," we hear Subotnik in the background, but we also hear a new set of structures at work, new ways to control sound, and alternate methods of music creation which are not necessarily better or worse than picking up a trusty old six-string and writing a song about love gone wrong, just different. Autechre is dance music to think to, and if you close your eyes and look real hard, you just might see a brave new world of rhythm and sound.

Kalamazoo, (616) 387-6222

*"The World Goes 'Round," musical revue — April 13

The Civic Auditorium, Kalamazoo, (616) 343-1313

*The Fantasticks — May 3-18

The New Vic Theatre, Kalamazoo, (616) 381-3328

*"Lies and Legends" the musical stories of Harry Chapin — May 3 through June 15

HISTORY / ARTS

Alma College, Flora Kirsch Beck Gallery

*Senior Art Show — Mar. 18 -

April 20

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

*How the Suffragists Changed Michigan — ongoing

Nokomis Learning Center, 5153 Marsh Rd, Okemos

(517) 349-5777

*Sisters of the Great Lakes: Art of American Indian Women — through May 31

MSU Museum, Lansing, (517) 355-2370

*Dinosaurs: A Global View — ongoing

CAMPUS EVENTS

Heritage Center for the Performing Arts

*Alma Queen of the Scots Pageant — April 20

Campus-wide

*Honors Convocation — gymnasium April 11

April 2, 1996

Talented tenor's performance disappoints

By Phil Allmen
Staff Reporter

Last Tuesday, tenor Kevin McKelvie performed at the Heritage Center for the Performing Arts. I was ready to be blown away. The program mentioned that he was "privileged to understudy for both Domingo and Pavarotti."

The program included both classical and folk songs, all sung beau-

tifully, but did not quite stand up to other guest musicians that have performed at Alma College.

When McKelvie and his accompanist, Associate Professor of Music Scott Messing, first walked on stage, the two were dressed in coat and tie, starting off the concert more informally than most performers, who wear tuxedos. I quickly overlooked this bit of informality, excited to listen to him perform.

As the first piece began, McKelvie noticed that the wrong piece was being played. Messing quickly called out to the audience asking what the first piece on the program was. As the audience chuckled at the error, the atmosphere was further relaxed.

Once again, I quickly looked past this ineagerness to hear McKelvie's voice. When he finally began his first piece, I was not disappointed.

The first piece, "Misero! O sogno, o son desto?", was beautiful. McKelvie's voice sang out purely—without a flaw. Those in the audience could tell that his voice was well trained and worth listening to.

"I just love his light, lyric voice," said Music Department Chair Will Nichols. "He has a voice I want my, and all, tenors to emulate." *Tenor Kevin McKelvie, along with accompanist Scott Messing, presented a recital last week.*

While it is hard to question the beauty of his voice, it was not without its flaws.

"He said in the program that he was the understudy of Pavarotti and Domingo, so I thought he would be better, having more power and range, especially the lower range," commented first-year student Katie Bunker.

After singing two pieces written by Mozart, McKelvie performed three songs by Richard Strauss. By far his strongest pieces, McKelvie was able to tell the story of the song, although the pieces were sung in a foreign language.

"I was particularly taken with the Strauss pieces. I have sung one of the pieces before, but when he sang them, it was extremely moving," said Nichols.

My personal favorite of the three songs was the second one, *Befreit* (Freed). In this song, he communicated to the audience his tenor ability by effortlessly singing and sustaining notes high enough to wonder whether or not he was really a male tenor or a cleverly dressed female alto.

After a brief intermission McKelvie came back on with a string quartet to sing a collection of pieces by Ralph Vaughan Williams.

These pieces both amazed and disappointed me. There were times when I would listen and think, wow, the interplay between his voice and the strings is magnificent, as in the short piece, "Oh, When I was in

Love with You." The echoing of lines sung by McKelvie by the strings enhanced the song.

Other times, like in the first piece, "On Wenlock Edge," it seemed as if the strings were trying to sabotage what he was singing.

His final two pieces were Scottish songs with familiar melodies. These two songs were quite enjoyable, for they were more upbeat than most of his concert. One piece also utilized the piano to create a bagpipe effect.

While these pieces gave the concert more vivacity, the overall concert failed to excite many people.

"He had a nice voice, but it wasn't a very exciting concert. His movement and body language did not seem to follow the emotion in the music, which made the whole thing seem disconnected," senior Karen Heintz said.

After singing "The Kerry Dance" McKelvie came out to sing his encore, "Street Where You Live." While once again singing beautifully, this song was not upbeat compared to his last two pieces and lessened the excitement of the audience.

McKelvie's performance was not the best Alma has seen. McKelvie's sole problem seemed to be the poor choice of pieces to perform. While he sang beautifully, the pieces were more suited to those who enjoy listening to beautiful voices and failed to capture those who enjoy a good performance as well as a beautiful voice.



Incompetent *Diabolique* proves bad is bad

By Justin Bauer
Editor-in-Chief

The best line in Jeremiah Chechik's *Diabolique* is an unimportant, offhand one. In a minor scene, a minor character flips past an old Alfred Hitchcock film on her television; she remarks offhandedly, "I'm waiting for that one to come out in color."

It seems like that was Chechik's attitude toward his film. *Diabolique* is a very modern, neo-noir rehash of the classic French thriller by the same name, made in 1954 by Henri-Georges Clouzot. Like a number of other directors, Chechik lifts a plotline from an old French story and recasts it with a much larger budget and much bigger names. And like other movies of this sort—most recently Mike Nichols' *The Birdcage*, the result is at best mixed.

The plot is simple enough: Guy (Chazz Palmintieri) runs an all-boys reform school. Guy is point-

edly brutal to his wife Mia (Isabelle Adjani), a shrinking-violet ex-nun, and his mistress Nicole (Sharon Stone); both women teach at the school, and both women have a very grim outlook on Guy's habits. Quite simply, the two band together and kill Guy, with a few hairpin plot twists thrown in. The story is familiar and faithfully rendered, a classic '50s thriller, except for the final throwdown—which owes far more to *Halloween* than to Hitchcock.

The focus on the movie is on the relationship between Mia and Nicole, and it carries that kind of Thelma-and-Louise-in-retro feel. Unfortunately, neither Adjani (who I can only remember from *Ishtar*) nor Stone (attempting to reprise her role from *Basic Instinct*

in a less obviously slummy script) are able to call forth more than monotone performances—Adjani's scaredy-cat keeps her eyes wide through the entire film, and Stone spits out her one liners like a queen cobra; both obviously count

(Jade) spends mercifully little time on the screen.

Stone's performance is by far the most surprisingly bad. This is her first project after winning the Best Actress Golden Globe award for her role in *Casino*, and reviewers

have made much of Stone coming into her own as an actress. Her performance, however, in this obviously calculated star vehicle, bears little resemblance to other neo-noir leading lady tours-de-force, like Linda Fiorentino's Wendy Kroy in *The Last Seduction*. Stone sleepwalks across the

screen, disregarding any opportunity for character development or—heaven forbid—acting.

Diabolique is not all bad. Chechik's cinematography is ex-

cellent; he captures a classic noirish tone down to the overused close-ups on faces period directors favored. Kathy Bates turns in her normal overcompetent and world-wise performance as the detective who cleans up after Nicole and Mia's final rampage. And overtly bad detailing—like Stone's awful, camped-up wardrobe—is redeemed by one-liners (my favorite minor character has another one when she tells Stone she looks more and more like her mother. From the back.).

However, recommending a movie on the merits of its cinematography is much like telling someone Graceland is a beautiful house because it has a well-crafted basement. Really, there needs to be more than that, and *Diabolique* fails to deliver.

And, if you were wondering—no, it's not even so bad it's good. Sometimes bad is just bad.

Stone sleepwalks across the screen, disregarding any opportunity for character development or—heaven forbid—acting.

"shrill" as their favorite tone. Palmintieri, who has proved that he can create both excellent (*Bullets Over Broadway*, *The Usual Suspects*) and awful characters

*Spring Term classes begin — April 28

ACUB

*movie night, "Dead Presidents" — April 5 & 7

MUSIC / COMEDY

Jones

*ACUB comedian Marty Putz, Jones -- April 2

Heritage Center for the

Performing Arts

*Ballet on Wheels — April 3

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*Alma College Glee Clubs Concert — April 12

*Alma College Choir Concert — April 14

*Grand Rapids Symphony — May 2

The Palace, Pontiac, (810) 377-0109

*Michael W. Smith, Jars of Clay, 3 Crosses — April 13

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

Softball

Scots smother tourney to capture a threepeat

By Maria Toscano
Sports Editor

Eight games in three days. Possible?

This feat was easily accomplished for Alma's softball team, which is used to the busy schedule. The team's record after this weekend went to 16-8 overall.

"It was a lot of softball," said Coach Denny Griffin.

"Our pitchers did a great job," stated senior Jenni Ludlum. "Playing eight games in three days took a big toll on them. Hill's every pitch hit the spot, and Mandy (Devereaux) did a great job for us in two games. Our offense was really strong, and everyone got up there with confidence and hit well."

The Scots faced Calvin in a double header on Thursday. The Scots defeated Calvin 1-0 the first game, but then fell to Calvin in the second game by a score of 4-3. The first game saw junior Andrea Hill winning another, taking her pitching record to 6-4 overall, and giving her her first win in the conference.

"Andrea pitched well," said Coach Denny Griffin. "She had good control and hit her spot well, and anytime you have a shut, it just shows how well the pitcher is doing."

The Scots were silent until the fourth inning, and then senior Bonnie Palmer was walked. First-year student Diana Wood stepped in for Palmer to pinch run. Jennifer Holly grounded out to third, but her hit moved Wood to second to be in a threatening position. Sophomore Carolyn Whyte hit a single that allowed Wood to score.

"I was really pleased with the way they performed," said Griffin. "Although they had a few errors, they played excellent defense."

Calvin was looking to threaten in the first, but Griffin brought in Hill, and Hill was able to put some of Calvin's players back in the dug-out, ending the threat.

Calvin pounced on the Scots from the word go in game two, looking for revenge. Senior Mandy Devereaux took the loss for the Scots. First-year student Sarah Lefke started it off with a double and then, with a passed ball, was able to move to third base on a wild pitch. Kristine Gardener moved to first and then moved to second with another wild pitch, but Lefke was thrown out at home and unable to capitalize for the Scots.

First-year student Heather Bruder came in with single to score Gardener. Bruder moved to second in a wild throw home. Then Holly hit a single to score Bruder. Holly came out to have another single and then moved to second on bad pitch. Senior Dancelle Volk stepped up and slammed a double to score Holly.

Calvin was not going to allow the Scots to walk all over them, and Calvin, with two outs, had runners on second and third. Calvin singled to score and Alma was only one pitch away from victory, but the

hope was short-lived. The Scots fell to Calvin when Calvin was able to come out and score two.

Friday started off Alma's invitational. The teams present included Lake Superior State, Sienna Heights, Baldwin Wallace, and Concordia.

The first of these games was against Concordia. The 4-3 victory left sophomore Karyn Tucker with a win in the book.

"Karyn did a great job, and I was happy with her performance," said Griffin. "She went six innings and then Hill came in to finish and got the save."

In the first inning the Gardener smacked a double and Palmer followed with an RBI single to bring Gardener home. Then the Scots scored two in the second inning with a walk that allowed Ludlum to get first. Then Devereaux slipped a single by Concordia. Lefke came in and chipped in a two-run double. Lefke walked, and then Gardener had a single RBI to bring the score to 4-0. Concordia didn't give up. They were able to score 1 in the fifth inning and two in the sixth inning.

The Scots faced softball nemesis Sienna Heights in game two if the tourney. Sienna Heights is a nationally ranked team. Alma scored in the fourth with a double by Volk. Archer was able to get on base by a wild pitch that hit her. Ludlum came up with a single, and then Whyte came up with single and an RBI. Palmer got an RBI with a fielder's choice. In the fifth Heather Bruder came up with a single and Volk had a double to score Bruder.

"Despite the score they played well," said Griffin. "We allowed for them to score too many in the first inning, and you really can't win games giving them a five run lead. After the second inning they settled down, but the damage was done."

Baldwin Wallace was the next challenge for the Scots. The Scots downed them 11-7 and sent them on a long ride home.

"They were second in the Ohio Athletic conference, and for us to come up and play well was great," said Griffin.

The Scots exploded grabbing six runs in the second inning. The in the fourth the Scots slammed in four more aided by a three-run homer by Holly. "That iced it," commented Griffin. "The key blast came from Holly's homerun, and the momentum shifted back to us. The darkness was starting to fall, but then Holly hit a shot. That definitely broke their back."

Lake Superior state was a breeze for the pumped up Scots. They sailed by Lake Superior State 9-1. "We hit the ball very very well," said Griffin.

Hitting well for the Scots in this competition were Volk 2-3 including a double with three RBI's. Palmer went 1-4 with two RBI's. Lefke went 2-4 with 2 RBI's. The winning Pitcher for the Scots was



Pitcher Jenni Ludlum prepares for a big weekend. Photo by Nick Phillips.

Devereaux.

"We only went five innings because of the Mercy Rule," stated Griffin. "The team hit hard at people and made things happen."

The Scots ended the round-robin as the number two seed, and then faced Concordia, the number five seed. Alma blanked the opposition 2-0. Devereaux stepped out again for the Scots and led the team to a win. "She was warm, and so we told her to do it again," added Griffin. Hill came in for the seventh and shut Concordia down.

Holly Bruder came in and hit a single in the third inning. Whyte added in a single. Gardener came up and RBI single. In the fourth Holly singled and with a sacrifice by Ludlum was able to advance to second. Bruder then stepped in to hit a single to score Holly.

"That last score was the key," stated Griffin. "I put us ahead by two and they would need three and my philosophy is for every one we

got they need to two to go ahead, and this put us in the championship game."

4-2 ended all hopes for—Sienna Heights. Alma college was able to defeat the team, and take home their third straight invitational championship.

"It was our tournament and our home and it was time to ante up, and the team was poised and focused," said Griffin.

Winning pitcher Hill was a force to be reckoned with. "Hill pitched a great game even though Sienna Heights out-hit us 12-9," said Griffin.

The team had six hits to score four in runs in the fourth. Heather Bruder led off with a single, and then pinch runner junior Lisa Meyer ran for Bruder. Volk then sacrificed Meyer to second. Holly stepped in to add a double with an RBI. Whyte was walked, but then got thrown out at home after a hit from Devereaux. With based

loaded again, Lefke came in to hit RBI single to score Ludlum.

Sienna Heights was able to score in the second inning, and one in the fifth. They threatened in the six, but the runner was thrown at home trying to score.

"I think we played well, and improved as a team," stated Ludlum. "We had a lot of focus and great intensity, and the bench was a big part of our win. This weekend showed us that we can play with the big teams despite how you we are."

All-Tournament team selections included were Devereaux, Ludlum, Volk, and Hill was named tourney most valuable player. "It was tough picking just those four because everybody did so well," said Griffin. "The bench was always ready to go in and that was a really big key to this weekend. They would stay warm and if I shouted their names they were ready to go in 30 seconds. They were always really focused and they did a fantastic job."

Women make strong showing at invitational

By Maria Toscano
Sports Editor

Is anybody going to be a challenge for the women's track team? With the looks of it lately, not likely. The team was able to take home another first place finish on Saturday.

The team traveled to Huntington, Indiana, to participate in the Huntington Relays. The team was able to dominate the relays due to its depth of talent.

Participating in the relays against Alma were Grand Valley State University, Marion, Indian Wesleyan, and Huntington.

"I was happy with the performance of the team," said junior Torree Stembol. "We were able to dominate because of the depth we

have compared to other teams. Most teams will have one good thrower, or one good hurdler, and that makes it hard to score points. They expect the teams at these events to have more, and our team has this depth."

In first place finish in the high jump were Joanne Brnjac and Sophomore Merideth White. Brnjac combined with junior Rainy Inman to take first in the shot-put.

In the shuttle hurdles junior Kristie Kern, first-year student Marie Huan, White, and Brnjac were able to combine for another first place. In the 4 X100 meter relay, sophomore Sara Pettee, junior Mindy Call, Kern, and junior Kristin Gilbert were able to take first for the Scots. The first place

finish in the 4 X 200 was owed to Pettee, Call, Phelps and Gilbert as well.

First-year student Dana Cole gave an impressive showing in the Distance Medley.

"She runs really fast," said Stembol. "A lot of freshmen come in and are intimidated and do not perform as they should. She did well and picked up a lot of slack. She is the backbone for our distance running."

"Our hurdlers just dominated," stated Stembol. "Kristie (Kern) is really good in the 400 hurdles. We really have a good team, and because of our depth the competition to place is much higher and harder. It makes people have to work that much more."

April 2, 1996

Baseball

Scots' series sweep against Olivet builds confidence

By Maria Toscano
Sports Editor

Alma College baseball was able to blank Olivet in three-game series this weekend. The Scots were able to post three shut-outs in a row, a feat that has not been done for some time.

Scots pitching staff for the weekend included junior Andy Jacobson, Joe Poot and sophomore Matt MacDonald. The trio were able to blank Olivet 2-0 in every game, and limited the Comets to just an average of 4.5 hits a game.

"During the whole series, the pitching was just excellent," commented Coach Bill Klenk.

"It was a testament to the way our ball club can play," said Assistant Coach John Leister. "They played hard, and they played smart baseball. They played the game like it was meant to be played."

Although the pitching was impressive, it was the performance of Derek Zell that highlighted the series against the Comets. "We had three pitchers post shut-outs, but the definite MVP of the series was Zell," stated Leister. "He had some of the most incredible plays that I have seen at any level, and really saved our butts."

"Zell's performance was a key difference in the games," said Klenk.

Jacobson agreed with the coach's sentiment toward Zell's performance. "It was the best series played by a short stop in a long time," stated Jacobson. "He did a great job."

The Scots, who had previously lost the last series to Adrian, bounced back with good attitudes.

"Surprisingly enough, they were not down about the series against Adrian," said Leister. "They could have been down, but they came back with a lot of confidence."

Jacobson, the winning pitcher for game one, walked away with eight strike outs, four walks and five hits.

"Andy (Jacobson) really stuck it in their ear," commented Leister.

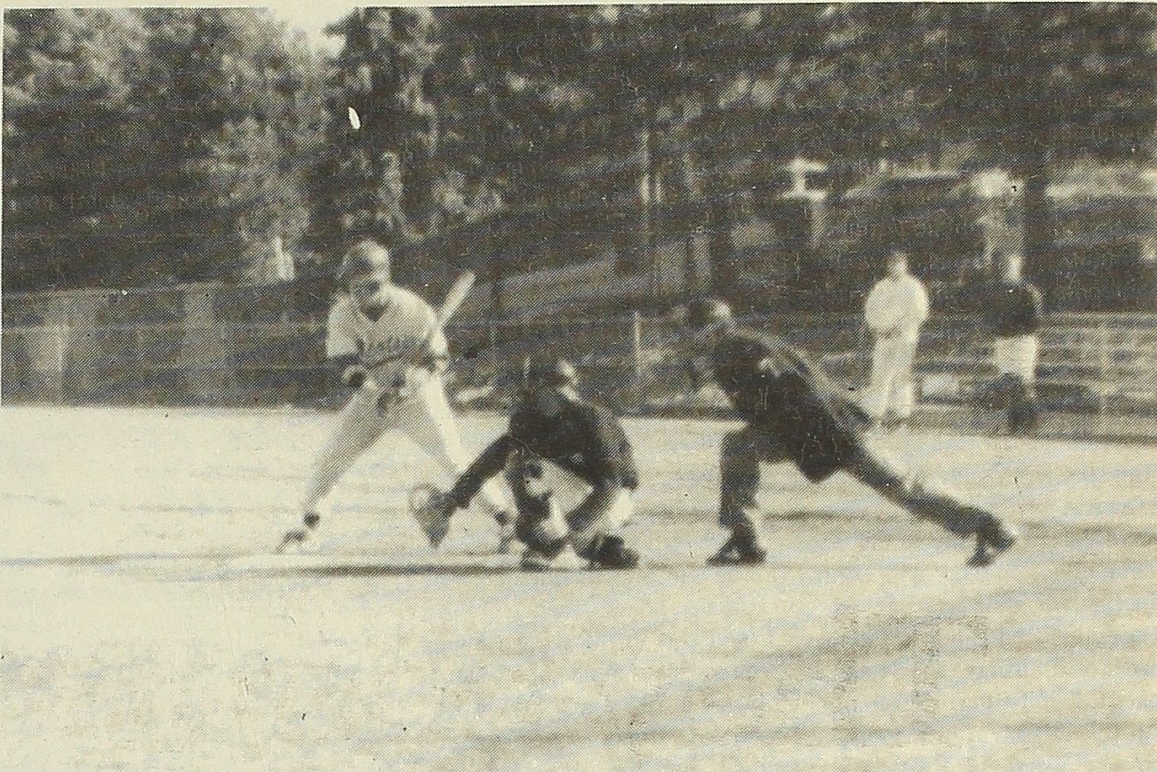
"I like to throw a complete game," said Jacobson. "It lets the relief pitchers have a day and off and lets me prove to the team that they can have confidence in me."

The Scots scored a run in the fourth and one in the fifth. In the fourth inning, Jason Proctor was able to grab a single, and then senior Mark Payne hit a double giving him the RBI. The fifth inning, junior Derek Zell was safe in fielder's choice, and an error allowed for Zell to move to second to threaten. Then junior Scott Menard was able to finish the job with a single and bring Zell home.

Payne was the key hitter for the Scots, going 2-3, including a double and with an RBI.

In game two of the series, Poot was the winning pitcher. Poot put five strike-outs in the book, with four base-on balls, and four hits. "Poot outpitched the best pitcher in the league," said Klenk. "It was a very key win for us."

The Scots struck in the first with Menard, and following were Jason Cotton and Proctor, both of whom singled. Payne stepped up with the bases loaded and hit a single for Alma. Senior Paul Heymoss walked Menard in, giving the Scots the 1-0 advantage. Then, in the third, Menard led off



The Alma College Baseball team shut out Olivet this weekend. Photo by Nick Phillips.

with a single, and advanced to second on a wild pitch. Steve Vance allowed Menard to move to third. A sacrifice by Proctor made it possible for Menard to score.

In game three MacDonald stepped up and faced the challenge for the Scots. MacDonald had six strike-outs, five hits, and two base-on balls. Zell lead off with a single, and then a sacrifice by Cotton moved Zell to second. Menard hit a fly to right, but an Olivet error allowed Menard to grab first and move Zell to third. Then the Olivet pitcher threw a wild pitch made way for Zell to score. Olivet tried to get Zell out, but it only allowed for Menard to move to third, and after three errors by the Comets the Scots were up by two.

"We matched each other in everything, but they just didn't score" said Leister. "The team offensively was able to manufacture runs. It was the ability of one player to get a hit when it was needed, and a better hitter sacrificing to advance the runner that allowed for the team to win."

The wins came as a big boost to the ego of the team after the loss to Adrian. In Florida, the Scots were able to down the Bulldogs, but unable to be successful at home last weekend and this Thursday.

"We had to win," said Jacobson. "It was a confidence booster to defeat Olivet. They are usually an excellent hitting team, but the pitching shut them out. We want to build on this sweep of Olivet. We are an

excellent team and if we play the way we are able to play than we should do really well."

"There were times when Olivet had the bases loaded, and our pitchers would strike them out or make them pop up," said Leister. "Someone would make a great play and when those things happen then team starts to gain the confidence. It keeps going, and the overall team performance is great."

"We got key hits at key times, it was truly and overall team effort," said Klenk. "Every time they threatened our defense or our pitching would shut the door on them. It was one of the best consecutive three-game series we have had in a long time."

Men's tennis team captains prove valuable assets

By Dan Scripps
Staff Reporter

With a new coach and an unusually young team, the Alma men's tennis program seemed destined to have a rebuilding year, but with a near upset of traditionally dominant Aquinas, a win against Albion to start of conference play and the fact that the Scots have won two of their last three matches, this destiny seems to have altered its course. The people being credited by the entire team with this change in direction are the teams' two captains, junior Nathan Lounds and senior Chris Stacey.

Playing number two and number one singles, respectfully, and combining to form the number one doubles team, the pair are obviously a force on the courts. The message that was sent by the both their team-

mates and first-year coach Bob Harrison, however, was that the biggest thing they bring to the team is their individual leadership styles.

Another asset the two bring to the team is their experience. On a team where they are the only people with higher than a sophomore standing, this is especially important. "They have both been around the system for a while and so they really make it easier for the new people to get right into the team," commented sophomore Eric Gray. He continued by saying, "They are kind of looked up to as far as what to do." This point is especially important to Harrison, who commented that the whole team was comprised of real gentleman, and that you never heard any swearing or unsportsmanlike on or off the court, something that definitely

separated them from many of the teams they face. He went on to credit Stacey and Lounds for this positive attitude.

As much as the two stress team unity, they both have their indi-

vidual leadership styles. "Stacey is a natural leader," commented Harrison. Added first-year student Bill Zeedyk, "With Stacey on the team it's like having a second coach. The rest of the people I spoke with concurred on the fact that Stacey is the more vocal of the two. "Chris is really the spirit of this team. He stresses the importance of team wins and team losses and really turns an individual sport into a team sport," commented first-year student Josh Delbarker. Lounds agreed, saying, "Chris is more of the team leader, being a senior and more natural in that leadership position."

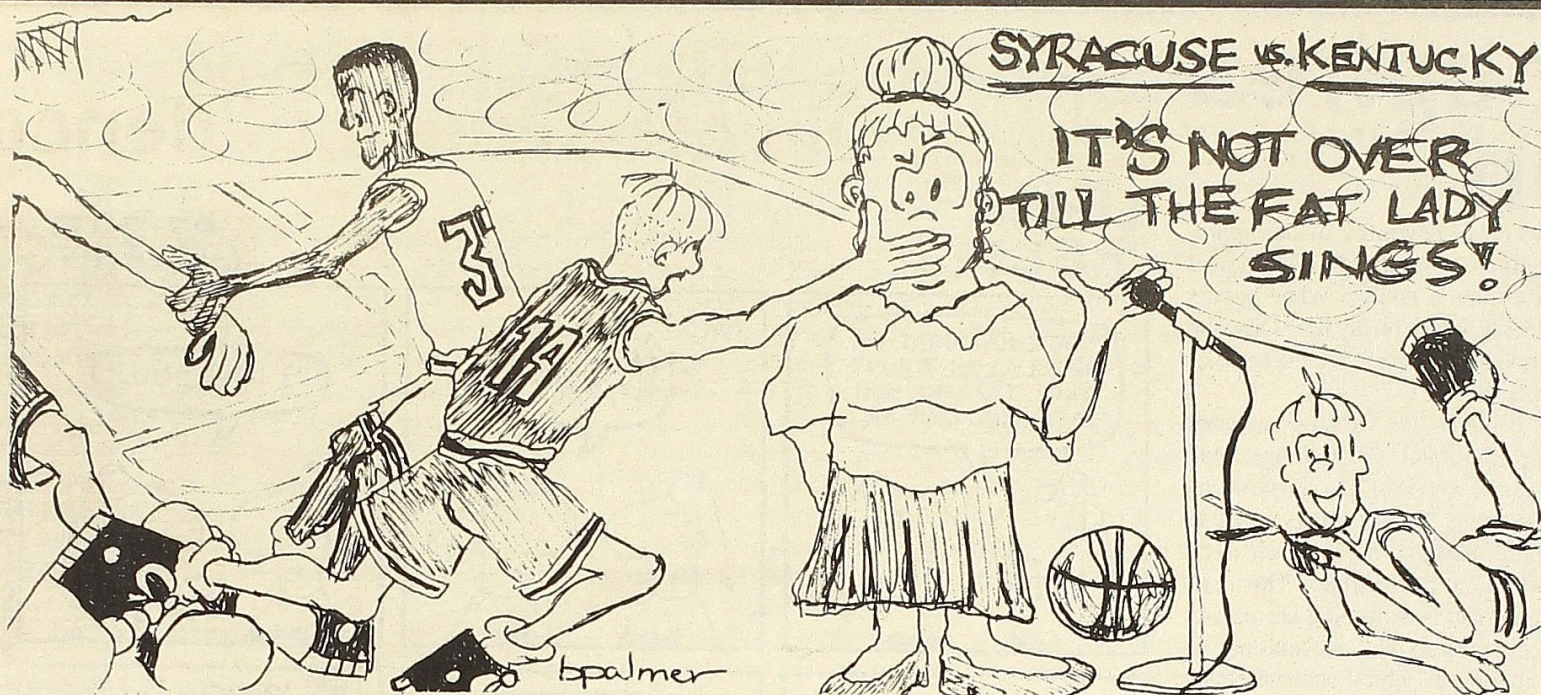
In contrast to Stacey's vocal style, Lounds adds kind of a quiet, reflective brand of leadership to the team. "Lounds is a quiet leader who leads by example," commented Zeedyk. He added that Lounds stresses the importance of sportsmanship and that he cared more about the teams success than he did his own, and that while most people think of him as a singles player, "Lounds is a good doubles player because of his superior net

game." Harrison commented, "Lounds is the real intellect of the bunch and everybody has a lot of respect for Nathan." Delbarker added, "His quietness really helps the team to focus on the match ahead."

This is exactly the role Lounds tries to play. "Stacey and I just try to get the rest of the team in the right state of mind before each match. We try and set the tone every time we play." He also sees himself being someone the rest of the team can depend on. "I try to be real supportive and be someone to come to if the guys have something either about their game or not."

Under the leadership of Lounds and Stacey, the Scots are a team that is overcoming some of the obstacles of such a young team, and in doing so, transforming the team into one that plays against anybody.

They are kind of looked up to as far as what to do.
Sophomore Eric Gray



Men's track builds up

By Torree Stembol
Freelance writer

Even though Alma's Men Track Team finished third at the Huntington Relay Invitational, Coach Dan Gibson feels they ran better this week. "We have improved a lot since last week even though we placed third this week as compared to second last week."

Many hurdles were placed in the team's path, with sickness still sapping the team and a couple of key runners leaving.

Gibson said, "this always hurts you, but as a whole we want to dwell on the positives. We have a lot of people stepping up."

Senior Christian Wiley said, "We lost key runners, but we are doing well for what we have. A lot of first year students are pulling through for us and picking up the slack. There are first-year students doing events they never have before."

Gibson would like improvement in field events to help the team's overall record. First-year students Brian Lassey, Drew Broaddus, and Ray Cochenour combined for a second place in the shot put and third place in the hammer. Broaddus says, "we are not at our potential yet. We throw better in practice, if only we could convert practice to the meet, we will be set."

Sophomore Otie McKinley, had an impressive day throwing the javelin 169 feet and 6.5 inches, to lead his teammates junior Keith Carey and first-year student, Jim Grady, to a second place finish. McKinley and Grady were also on the first-place high jump team along with senior John Black.

Black also did an excellent job with a vault of 14 feet to maintain a third place in the pole vault and helped the Alma hurdlers finish second in the shuttle hurdle relay. Black, who had not jumped in a long time, was named Track Athlete of the Week for his efforts at Huntington.

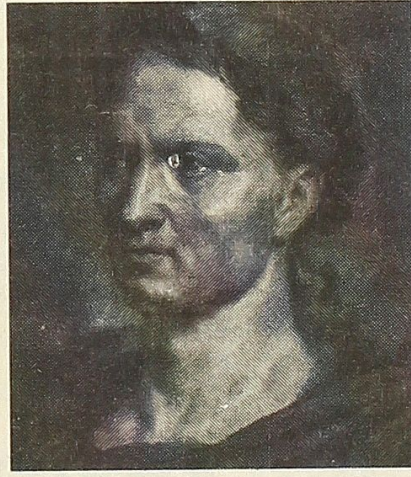
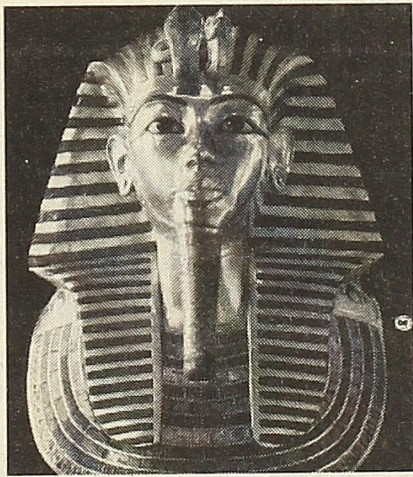
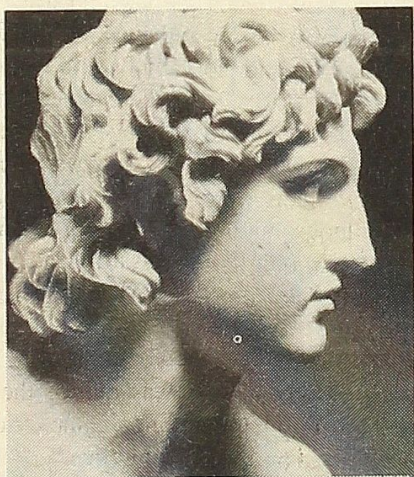
Senior Christian Wiley had a wonderful showing in the 400 hurdles with a second place finish with senior Chad Milletics following him in for a fifth place.

Alma's teamwork in the 4x200, 4x400, 4x800 and 4x100 were impressive, with first and second place finishes in these events for the day. Junior Josh Hicks, first year student Greg Knight, and sophomore John Hanson are the sprinters that make most of these relays and were mentioned by Gibson as having a great racing day.

In the 5000, junior Jason Bandlow ran his way to a third place. Senior Ryan Donley and junior John Makela finished third and fifth respectively in the steeplechase.

The Men's Track team still has a couple holes it must sew up. After clearing up the confusion of 'who should race where?' and conquering illness, Alma Track will be become the team to beat.

They conquered everything



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Kevin Skaggs
Head Coach
Men's Basketball

Tom Sprague
Assistant Professor
Math & Computer Sci.

April 2, 1996

Comet inspires reflection

By Dan Scripps
Staff Reporter

This past week students focused their collective gaze on the sky in hopes of catching a glimpse of Comet Hyakutake, or as it was more commonly called, the comet. Appearing brightest as the clouds parted Tuesday evening, and then growing dimmer as the week progressed, C/1996 B2, as the comet is known in scientific terms, was causing a great stir in astronomical circles. Yet the most commonly heard phrases as I walked across campus were "where is it?" and "that's it?!"

This reaction of disappointment to such a galactic wonder provides a sad commentary on our generation's sense of amazement. Looking to the sky this past week, we expected the heavenly equivalent of a massive laser light show; we expected to be entertained. What we got instead was a chunk of intergalactic material whizzing over our heads in what amounted to in astronomical terms, a very close encounter, all represented by a dim spot in the night sky about the size of the moon.

While this fuzzy object might not have been the most exciting thing to look at, it instilled a sense of awe in those who truly stop and think about it. The problem is, very few of us are willing to take the time to do this. Even here in Alma, we live in a hectic fast-paced world and in our precious free time, we seek out the quick fix. Anything which requires time in order to appreciate

we deem unworthy of our appreciation. After all, life is short, and it's only a comet. What impact does this have on my life? Or so the popular sentiment would have us believe.

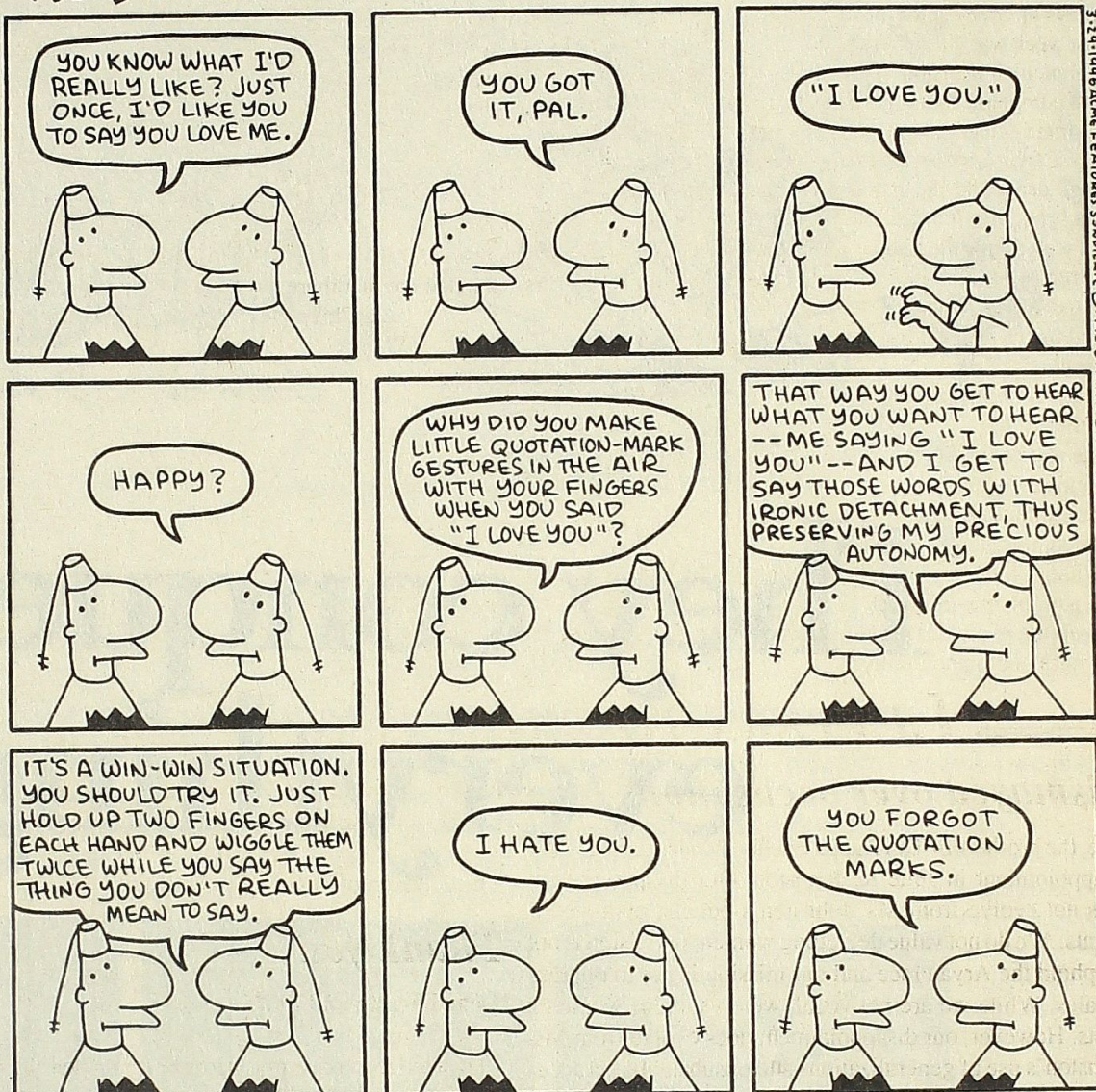
It seems that we have replaced the traditional "Good things come to those who wait" maxim with one that reads "Better things come to those who can do as much in as little time as possible." This constant rush is disturbing because in seeking to do it all, we miss out on experiences which become better and better the more time required.

While the comet did not light up the sky like some glitzy Hollywood special effect or a televised Gulf War bombing, it did serve to remind us of our place in this vast universe. As we stood searching the sky for something that would amaze our senses, the greatest amazement passed over our heads. This chunk of rock, propelled by forces we are just beginning to understand, had traveled far greater distances than any of our most well-traveled companions, passing through unknown solar systems and maybe even coasting past another planet like ours, where the masses ignored it in the bustle of daily life, just as we did.

It's just a comet. What impact does this have on my life?

The fact that it was ignored, that in the routine of daily life we couldn't take the time out to appreciate this wonder, that we compared it to Hollywood special effects--these say a lot.

LIFE IN HELL



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Women's Month searches for Truth in Equality

By Jason Walker
Freelance Writer

I live in an off-campus house with two other men and two women. Did I catch you by surprise? I know many people have been. When someone finds that this type of living situation occurs, he or she immediately jumps to the conclusion that we are sharing one another's bed each and every night. Whatever.

I must admit that not everyone jumps to this conclusion. I have met those open-minded enough to realize that we can live independently (and respectfully and even lovingly) and not have the women of the house worry about the threat of one of us "big strong men..." Whatever.

Sorry, the "big strong men" is just a little jab at a certain mindset. If you don't understand what I am talking about, see if this sounds familiar to you: "I'm gonna hit on/ have sex with/ screw so and so." I have heard this or something related from many male friends—even people that I have no clue who they are. Even some of the most apparently innocent and wholesome individuals have

expressed this type of thought. Those who claim to respect women have said this. I've even said this.

However, it is important to realize that you speak or think this way about women and figuratively smack yourself. Hell, do it more than once; it'll feel even better—I hope. It worked for me.

If you still don't know what the problem is, look at the answer to understand the problem. The answer delves into the essence of what Ms. Johnston was talking about. It delves into the essence of Feminism. It delves into the essence of equality.

When we have the chance to satisfy perhaps our deepest innate desire, something blocks the area of the brain that shows respect for women. Sex (and love?) becomes personal gain. I should also express the distinct air of a perceived male advantage in this innate interaction between man and woman. Sex can be a good thing, but only when love and therefore respect (e.g. no "objectifying") are present.

Anyway, I did not write this as a guide to egalitarian sex, but to show the essence of Ms. Johnston's argument on feminism and equality and therefore the purpose of Women's Week, Women's Month, the Year of

the Woman, and the (figurative) "Equality Period" (in terms of millennia).

Having time periods designated in honor of women tries to make up for the period of time for which men have had, and predominantly still have, superiority.

The feminist movement also tries to promote the equality that women, as a whole, cease to have. Feminism is just the deconstruction of what went wrong in the equality department; it is in favor of rebuilding a more unified, peaceful, respectful, loving and equal world.

The spirit of Women's Month, feminism, and the ideal of equality is, simply, the search for equality. This spirit is intended to penetrate every aspect of our common reality. This spirit is supposed to go into the idea of equal respect deserved by women in the workplace and into our showing love and respect while fulfilling our deepest, innate desire.

Ms. Johnston was expressing the first level of this spirit towards change. She got flak for this. Perhaps it was her harshness in trying to express what should be a basic message; but it's the spirit that is

important. The spirit of Women's Month is the same type of spirit.

The spirit of feminism covers all kinds of categories which attempt to deconstruct constructs of male superiority. My thoughts on sexual relations are perhaps even deeper than traditional areas feminists are involved in. No matter what context the spirit of equality is shown, I think we have a very long way to go.

My house mates and I are basically laughing at this campus. The "TKE is Tits" sign, the disrespectful and "objectified" rapes that probably do occur, the fact that Ms. Johnston had to write as spiritually general an article as she did—they're so absurd in the fact that this campus is stuck at this point in its search for equality.

Something Schopenhauer said comes to mind in relation to the disagreements expressed towards Women's Month, feminism, and in the search for equality:

"All Truth passes through three stages: first, it is ridiculed; second, it is violently opposed; and third, it's accepted as being self-evident."

If you try just a little, you can see that the truth of equality has passed

the first stage. Look at the former ridiculousness of the wife leaving housework in favor of the workplace. Look at the laughter at the idea of women voting. (Then again, maybe we are still in this first stage: look at the idea of a woman president.)

I think we, as a whole, are now in the second stage of violent opposition—especially on this campus. Look at the opposition to the need for Women's Month. It is present, as I have personally witnessed and heard about the oppositions. Look at the negative reactions to Ms. Johnston's article.

(You personally may not be a part of her disrespectful target audience, just realize that there are ever deepening levels to respect—even beyond the depth of our most innate desires.)

However, there are people who have achieved the third level. I think I live in a house where the Truth has become self-evident. The Truth is we are all equal; we just need to try, at all levels, to realize it. When the Truth is realized, it makes for a much nicer common reality. And don't say, "whatever." I wouldn't.

Greek Week: a case of pride over prejudice

By Phil Allmen
Staff Reporter

We see banners hung proudly on the sorority houses and we see a lot of Greeks wearing their letters, but what do these displays of Greek spirit mean?

Last week was Greek Week '96. This is a week for Greeks to celebrate their decision to join the Greek system.

One complaint about this week is that it flaunts to the rest of the Alma College campus that we can do things without them.

This is far from true. As I remember, there are events like the change drive and the blood drive that involve not only the Greeks, but also the campus community. How can anyone be upset with asking the campus to help others? The Greeks ran the blood drive in which students, faculty and community members donated blood. Without Greeks, the American Red Cross would not be able to handle the large number of donors.

The change drive helps the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). While the campus was asked to donate money, no one was forced to.

The rest of the events are created for the Greek chapters to participate and enjoy. These events do not interfere with the rest of the campus as in years past with events like the "Yell Like Hell" competition in Hamilton.

Without interfering with the campus, why should anyone have a problem with Greek Week?

Greek Week divides the Greeks into three separate teams, so how does this support unity?

Simple.

Without a healthy dose of competition, there would be no point to Greek Week. The Greeks can decide to partake in a joint philanthropy at any point, but there is no bonding involved. During all of the activities last week, I did not see one incident of people of opposing teams getting irate or testy with one another. There was friendly taunting between teams, but no one was serious about it. How can you get serious over events like throwing pies at Bill Arnold's face?

Second, dividing into teams helps to get to know members from the other organizations on your team. One example of this happened with my team. I do not think I have been to the Zeta Sigma house more than once since I pledged Theta Chi. By becoming teammates, I spent time at their house, which reminded me that there are other people I like to hang out with besides Theta Chis.

Greek Week focuses a majority of time on events like the philanthropy and the awards ceremony, recognizing those members of the Greek community who make a difference. Those who fail to see any point in the event only need to look at it further.

Through events like the blood drive, the Greeks try to make a difference. Through team mixers we try to realize that every fraternity and sorority is just another group of individuals with different opinions and ideals just like ourselves.

Those who are unwilling to try to see this are just perpetuating the stereotypes others try to remove.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Dismayed over accusations

We, the brothers of Tau Kappa Epsilon, wish to express our disappointment in Julie K. Johnston. Our disappointment does not evolve from Ms. Johnston's beliefs, opinions or morals. We do not value degrading women; our vision is not to uphold the Aryan race and our mission is not to oppress females. While we are not vocal, we do support women's rights. However, our disappointment does evolve from Ms. Johnston's use of generalizations and unsubstantiated accusations in an attempt to educate the campus.

In a recent conversation, Ms. Johnston stated her letter was not directed towards Tau Kappa Epsilon. Yet, her very first line, 'I am writing to express my disgust with the Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE) fraternity...' contradicts her own words. We are aware that Ms. Johnston may have not always held us in the highest regard, but if a letter is not directed at a certain group, then that group shouldn't even be mentioned.

Since most of her letter discussed our attitudes and values, we believe her credibility needs examining. In continuing her self defense, Ms. Johnston stated that she doesn't associate with us and never will. First, her letter assumed that our slogan is "TKE is Tits". Since she doesn't associate with us and admitted never hearing or seeing a Teke use this "slogan," we were curious as to what evidence she based her statement on? When confronted she answered, "I just know." She also stated that we are stupid. Tau Kappa Epsilon maintains a chapter CPA which is very near 3.0. We believe very few people would categorize this as stupid. Ms. Johnston, with no proof, stated we were responsible for the wall chalking. We viewed this incident as embarrassing and disrespectful. Since our letters were wrongfully used and we were concerned about this action's negative effects, we willingly cleaned the wall and attempted to apologize to the campus's prominent women's groups.

We are sorry the incident occurred, and, to whoever performed such a senseless act, congratulations—you found someone who perpetuated your cause.

Ms. Johnston's cruel attacks did not cease with the wall chalking. She stated that most men don't realize they're oppressing women because it is just a natural behavior, that putting women on a pedestal is the same as degrading them, and she wrote that women are oppressed because of "racist, sexist and heterosexist attitudes...." Through both her spoken and written words, she managed to equate Tau Kappa Epsilon wrongfully with these statements.

Contrary to these accusations, we commend women on their tremendous strides toward equal rights, and we agree they still may have a long struggle ahead of them. We don't agree the struggle may occur because of Tau Kappa Epsilon's actions or beliefs.

We at Tau Kappa Epsilon are very hurt by this letter; yet, we maintain faith in the campus community. We trust the community will examine these false accusations and form their own opinions. After all, we believe this campus'

educated population can tell the difference between facts and one person's unsubstantiated propaganda.

The Brothers of Tau Kappa Epsilon

Thank you

Dear Faculty and Staff,

I wanted to express my gratitude for presenting me with the employee of the month award. It was a very pleasant surprise. In fact, it is nice to know hard work is appreciated.

I enjoy working for Alma College and look forward to contributing to the college's continued success.

Once again, my sincere thanks.

Sincerely,
Midia Rodriguez

Concerned about hangovers

I was saddened to read Maria Toscano's piece entitled "Hangovers suck" (3/19/96). I think that it was supposed to be a series of funny observations, but, as she described the feelings, smells and appearances of her hangover, and her seeming confusion about what it is that urges her to drink too much, the "humor" rang hollow. I felt that I was a voyeur to someone's personal humiliation, and I felt so sad. But, the fact that she has raised questions in a public forum is a good thing, as she can perhaps get the help that she seems (behind the forced humor) to be asking for.

She wonders about the motivation behind her need to get "wasted." I would like to share with her, respectfully, my acquaintance with people who have sought oblivion in this fashion, perhaps even less often than her "every weekend and sometimes on weekdays." Each one of these people was depressed, some very deeply, about aspects of their life's experience, a full awareness of which was at that point hidden to them. As each has gotten help and come to understand the source of their depression, they have been able to move toward wellness. There are resources at the college to help a student in dealing with this possibility.

Ms. Toscano also questions her inability to limit her drinking, despite her attempts and resolve. She suggests that her mother's intervention in these episodes consists of well-honed advice on how to manage a hangover. Again, respectfully, I wonder if Ms. Toscano is aware of studies pointing to a genetic predisposition toward alcoholism. Many young people, empowered with this knowledge, are able to make thoughtful, long-range decisions about their drinking.

Ms. Toscano, I feel for you, and hope that you seek answers to your questions, and are able to move toward your freedom and peace.

Diana Hulme

Letter from the Editors:

Sexism does not equal democracy

Discussion surrounding the yearbook-naming controversy has run along two major lines, and has concerned two major issues. Opponents of the *Thistle*—or as it will be, after this past week's vote, the *Scot*—have objected to a disenfranchisement of the student body and to the drift toward gender-neutral, or "politically correct," language.

These are two separate issues, regardless of statements to the contrary. And as two separate issues, they should be treated separately.

The first issue, the issue of enfranchisement, was decided last Thursday. The student vote which was demanded was given; while the choices given for the vote were limited, the crushing apathy with which the student body greeted enfranchisement spoke far louder than the 500 signatures petitioners collected. Like it or not, the vote was a defeat. It proved how inconsequential an issue and how unimportant a concern the name of the yearbook indeed is to much of the student body.

The other issue, the linguistic issue of sexism and language—or, more properly, the enforcement of sexism through language—is the difficult issue; it is a still-unresolved issue, as evidenced by both the words and actions of first-year student Dan Mawby, the chief organizer of the petition.

This second issue has nothing to do with enfranchisement; voting merely provides one means to an end. Mingling the two arguments will prove little and resolve less. The reasons behind this viewpoint are several, ranging from an assertion that women already have enough rights (scary as it is, that argument is not uncommon on this campus) to a general distaste for the moniker "political correctness."

This position ignores some basic facts. Its supporters ignore them willfully—there is little defense in ignorance, because these facts have been explained both by *The Almanian* and by the Communications Committee.

The word "Scotsman" is currently a gender-specific term.

Alma College policies and its statement of purpose oppose discrimination on the basis of sex, and to that end advocate the use of gender-neutral language.

These two facts formed the basis for the Communication Committee's decision against retaining "Scotsman" as the name of the yearbook. It is politically correct; it does follow from a larger movement toward equality for women—and those are not sufficient reasons, or even debatable reasons, to oppose this change.

Prior to the vote, Mawby made a call to action, in the form of a much-circulated e-mail message, encouraging students to both write in the name "Scotsman" on Thursday's vote and to contact three of the four student members of the Communication Committee regarding their feelings on the issue. The inconsistencies inherent in contacting only three members of a ten-member committee to change opinions aside, this action bears more resemblance to harassment than to constructive debate. It looks like a last-ditch attempt.

And, from the perspective of Thursday's vote, it was. Of the 500-or-so signatories of Mawby's petition, only 18 wrote "Scotsman" on the ballot, even with his call to action.

And sometimes facts like that say more than any amount of rhetoric.

Justin Bauer and Laura M. Paetz, Editors-in-Chief

April 2, 1996

Staff Editorial

Davenport debate rekindled

Lewis Carroll's Alice, going through the looking-glass, may have said it best: things just keep getting curiouseer and curiouseer.

As last week's *Almanian* went to press, the issue of Associate Professor of English Randi Davenport's dismissal had faded from the campus forum. Students had resigned themselves to an inactive, unchangeable role after a student petition had been processed and shelved, and the administration had stood firm in refusing to comment on the issue. Debate had stagnated and disappeared.

Two events this week, however, changed that; Provost Leslie Ellen Brown's question-and answer session at the Macurdy House last Monday and a student protest at Preorientation Saturday brought the issue of Davenport's dismissal, students' rights, and administrative responsibility back into a very real, and very public, debate.

The first event, Brown's presentation, is the stranger of the two—or at least the more opaque. The Alma College administration has refused to make any comment on the Davenport issue for legal reasons; Brown appeared at the Macurdy house to discuss her dismissal in the context of Womens' Month—a discussion that seems to stand in direct

contradiction to the college's legal standing and stated course of action. While the meeting was unpublicized unlike every other Womens' Month activity, a factor which leads to more speculation about the Provost's intent, any statement would seem to stand in contradiction to the administrative policy of silence; whether the Provost presented before a friendly Macurdy house audience or a more hostile full-campus audience, any statement would compromise the college's legal assertions.

Beyond the odd character of her appearance, however, Brown made no compromise on the Davenport silence (except, perhaps, to assure students that the dismissal was merely a personnel matter). While she was prepared to answer questions about students' professional relations to Davenport after her dismissal—issues like changes of advisor—and emphasize that the dismissal did not reverse increasing numbers of women hired and promoted in the faculty, she was unprepared to answer questions about any controversial issues.

Brown's appearance, while unclear in intent, was definite in its effects: it transformed an essentially forgotten issue into a cause for student action.

This Saturday, at Preorientation, students staged a protest against the administration. The protest, while having only limited aims, marks a very significant action by students. Protests of this kind are virtually unthinkable

on this campus; while the student handbook allows picketing and protesting as acceptable forms of expression, student activism of this kind is unprecedented. After having exhausted the official process of petitioning, this weekend's protest provided the best recourse for a student voice—and in fact made a definite impact, if only through being the first student-organized student-run protest in several years. Students handed out approximately 300 flyers to families of incoming students.

The protesters stressed in their statement of intent that they were in no way passing judgment on either of the parties involved; instead, they voiced their discontent with college actions surrounding the issues. Citing the college's mission statement, they argued that Davenport's dismissal contradicted that statement and encouraged parochialism, ignorance, and prejudice.

Things get curiouseer and curiouseer. The administration single-handedly revived an issue that, by all expectations, it would rather have been forgotten; students staged an unprecedented protest, which definitely increased the visibility of student discontent. The aftermath of this week's actions remains to be seen; however, the administration has made what seems to be a serious misstep, and student activists have organized the most effective protest in recent college history.

And it can only get curiouseer.

The Almanian

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Partial abortions deemed inhumane act

By Brandon Marsee
Freelance Writer

What is a partial birth abortion? Sadly, it is exactly what it sounds like. In a partial birth abortion, a living baby is pulled feet-first out of the mother's womb, through the birth canal. The entire living baby enters the world, except for the head, which is deliberately kept just inside the mother. Then, the abortionist kills the baby by thrusting a long pair of surgical scissors or other medical tool through the back of the skull, and sucking out the brains with a suction machine.

Believe it or not, this type of abortion is still legal in the United States. The 104th Congress is working hard to ban partial birth abortions. Both the House and the Senate have passed bills outlawing partial birth abortions except in extreme cases where the life of the mother is in danger. As soon as both houses agree on a single version of the bill, they will send it to the president. And what will Bill Clinton do? With one stroke of his pen, the President will keep this gruesome type of murder legal.

On Dec. 9, 1995, President Clinton told a Catholic priest that he would veto the bill. On Jan. 12, 1996, Presidential spokesman Michael McCurry said the President will veto the bill. Clinton claims the bill contradicts a woman's right to make her own choice, in consultation with her doctors, her advisors and others. But what about the rights of the fetus? A defenseless and innocent human life deserves more than scissors in the back of the head.

Partial birth abortions should be outlawed. First and foremost, the procedure is inhumane. Partial birth abortions constitute cruel

and unusual fetal punishment. It is hard to contend that the fetus being aborted is not yet human. Roe vs. Wade defines a legal "person" upon emerging from the uterus. But a partial birth abortion kills a human being who is four-fifths across the "line-of-personhood" established by the Supreme Court. Even the American Medical Association (AMA) voted unanimously to recommend endorsement of the

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Congressional bill to outlaw partial birth abortions.

The fetus, 20 weeks and beyond, is fully capable of experiencing pain. In his 1992 paper explaining step-by-step how to perform this type of abortion, Dr. Martin Haskell of Dayton, OH wrote that he performs the procedure "under local anesthesia" (emphasis added), which would have no effect on the baby/fetus.

Brenda Shafer, a registered nurse, accepted assignment to Dr. Haskell's clinic because she was strongly "pro-choice." She quit after wit-

nessing, close up, three partial birth abortions. In a July 9, 1995 letter to Congressman Tony Hall, nurse Shafer described the end of life for one six-month-old "fetus":

"The doctor kept the baby's head just inside the uterus. The baby's little fingers were clasping and unclasping, and his feet were kicking. Then the doctor stuck the scissors through the back of his head, and the baby's arms jerked out in a flinch, a startle reaction, like a baby does when he thinks that he might fall. The doctor opened the scissors, stuck a high-powered suction tube into the opening and sucked the baby's brains out. Now the baby was completely limp."

The sad fact is that these gruesome murders are done, in most cases, electively. A 1993 internal memo written by the former Executive Director of the National Abortion Federation (NAF) explained that these abortions are done for "many reasons," including "social-psychological crisis [and] lack of knowledge about human reproduction."

Dr. Haskell adds, "In my particular case, probably 20% are for genetic reasons. And the other 80% are purely elective." "Depression" was sighted as the largest single "maternal indication: for such so-called "non-elective" abortions.

It is an insult and offense to humanity and justice to kill a kicking infant with scissors as it emerges from its mother.

Conrad Burns (R-Mt) called the procedure "absolutely inhumane," adding, "It makes me wonder, if they were doing this to dogs or horses, whether we would have more support to ban this procedure."

We need to look further than the rights of a woman; in a partial birth abortion, the rights of the fetus are being violated to the ultimate extreme.