

The Almanian

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Serving Alma College since 1907

Issue 2

ACUB plays in dark at annual all-nighter

By Mitzi Janukaitis
Freelance Writer

Where were you on Friday the 13th? Well, about 350 to 400 Alma College students were at the Alma College Union Board's (ACUB) first event of the 1996-1997 academic year.

Friday marked the anniversary of a long standing tradition at Alma College, the All-Nighter. With the theme, "Come Play in the Dark," it was an evening full of a variety of events lasting from 7 p.m. until about 1 a.m. in Tyler-VanDusen Commons.

The night's activities included a diverse collection of entertainment that was sure to please anyone. There was a velcro wall for those interested in clinging to a wall in mid air and a moon walk bouncy boxing ring for those who wanted to relieve their stress with a friend.

For the people interested in a game of volleyball with a twist

there was a glow in the dark knee volleyball game. There was even a dart tournament for the serious dart players.

If those activities weren't satisfying enough there were a few ways to show off dancing talents and good looks. Students had the opportunity to be "star struck," make a lip-sync video to their favorite song, or have a caricature drawn of themselves.

Students could also have their pictures superimposed on a tiger, with President Clinton, in front of the Taj Mahal, on a magic carpet, in a jet ski or with many other computer-generated pictures at the "Hot Shots" booth.

ACUB's event also brought a few laughs to campus with comedian Mark Anthony appearing on stage at 10:30 p.m..

First-year student Mike Stoneback said, "I thought Mark Anthony was hilarious, but I wish there were more seats available

because the place was packed."

Not only did the students get a free night of great entertainment, but they did not walk away empty-handed. Everyone received a free glow-in-the-dark cup, compliments of the ACUB.

Friday night's successful events were coordinated by junior Chris Ahn, the major events coordinator of ACUB and senior Cookie Swieczski, ACUB's concert chair. A lot of hard work went into a night that people seemed to thoroughly enjoy.

As junior Chris Ahn stated, "It was a huge success—a better turnout than expected. It was a great way to show people what ACUB is all about."

Right: Senior Derrick Veale tries out the velcro wall at ACUB's All-Nighter. Photo by Jason Paetz.

Below: Seniors Christian Wiley and Kathy Taylor pound on each other in the moonwalk boxing ring. Photo by Jason Paetz.



Urban Life Center internships available

The Urban Life Center, an off-campus study program in Chicago, is currently accepting applications for the spring semester. Two representatives will be on campus to visit with students Wednesday, September 18, at Hamilton Commons over lunch. Interested students should call Dr. Bob Perkins, dean of student development, at extension 7225.

The program, now in its 27th year, challenges students to use what they learn in the classroom in the real world. Students have the opportunity to work in the arts, business, health, social services, and

education. They also take urban studies experiential-learning classes designed to explore social issues including race, gender, economics, politics, culture, and the arts. Students apply their experience to an independent research project focused on a particular interest or major.

The expense of the experience and the number of credits is approximately the same as staying on campus for the term.

Students may contact the Urban Life Center with questions. The student phone number is: 1-800-747-6059.

By Staci Hill
News Editor

Does the mere thought of interviewing for a job scare you? Have you considered taking on an internship yet do not know how to find one in your field? If so, the Chicago Interview Trip, taking place this fall, may take you a step in the right direction.

For over 20 years the Center for Student Development has sponsored the Chicago Interview Trip, a career preparation program for juniors and seniors at Alma College. The biannual event, held in the fall and winter terms, began in the 1970s when Alma received a Kellogg Grant for Career Preparatory Programs. Alma's program is considered a model for other schools because of its unique features and opportunities for students.

The fall term trip to Chicago is scheduled for November 13-15. Approximately 30 students will travel with Dr. Bob Perkins, dean of student development, Mindy Sargent, associate director of student development, and Carolyn Schneider, assistant director of student development. An informa-

tional meeting about the trip will be held this Wednesday, September 18, at 4 p.m. in the Center for Student Development.

Although only three days are spent in Chicago, the students are quite busy, according to Mindy Sargent. Wednesday is primarily a day to travel to the windy city. The group will leave from the Reid Knox parking lot at noon with transportation provided by the college.

Wednesday evening students will have the opportunity to meet Alma College alumni working in the Chicago area. Both older and younger alumni gather with students to share their experiences of living in a large, metropolitan city. Interviews take place all day Thursday and Friday morning. Students return to campus late Friday night.

A second trip will take place February 5-7. Some students participate in both programs to gain further exposure. Although typically more seniors than juniors fill the 30 openings for the trip, juniors are encouraged to go. Besides interviewing for employment after graduation, interviews are available for internships and student teaching positions.

The range of companies offering interviews has been broad in past years. Students have sought positions in environmental technology, insurance, consulting, retail, communication, advertising, and broadcasting. Also, exercise and health science majors have interviewed at fitness centers while science majors have interviewed at pharmaceutical companies.

Students should be aware that a company holding an interview does not necessarily have an immediate job opening available. The interviews held during the trip may be for current job openings, anticipated openings, or for informational purposes without an available job. Sargent stated that the latter is vital for "learning the etiquette for that field." Sargent emphasized that the trip provides much more than interview skills. Taking students from Alma College to a big city can be a great experience in itself, boosting self-confidence and independence.

Any juniors or seniors interested in participating in the trip that cannot attend the meeting on Wednesday should contact Carolyn Schneider at extension 7356.

Center offers interview trip

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Newberry sponsors second assault awareness program

By Matthew Singletary
Staff Reporter

"Girls, want to learn to defend yourself against those yucky boys?"

Emblazoned in bright multi-color marker, this statement has caught the eye of every student walking through Newberry Hall for the past week. The poster screaming this question also happens to mention that if you're interested you should talk to your R.A.

On Saturday, September 14, from 12 to 3 p.m., approximately one hundred women gathered to learn self-defense techniques from a group called Innovative Martial Arts.

This is the second year that this group, led by John and Chuck Pippin, taught women here at Alma College to defend themselves against possible assailants. The three-hour program, staged in Jones Auditorium, began with John Pippin giving a short talk on the uses of the techniques they were about to

teach. The message was emphasized by these words:

"I'm telling you point blank, some of the moves you learn today can do permanent physical damage and can kill. You're going to have to remember this, and you're going to have to live with it. Your body is your own, and nobody has a right to invade your private space."

Pippin next gave the group advice on keeping themselves safe. This included creating a safe room within your house if at all possible, with a phone, a door that locked from the inside, and a golf club to be used in case of defense. He also suggested that the women carry pepper spray at all times, and he informed the group that though it is legal to sell different kinds of pepper spray and tear gas in Michigan, the only kind legal to use is one of two-percent oleoresin capsiuin, derived from Cayenne pepper.

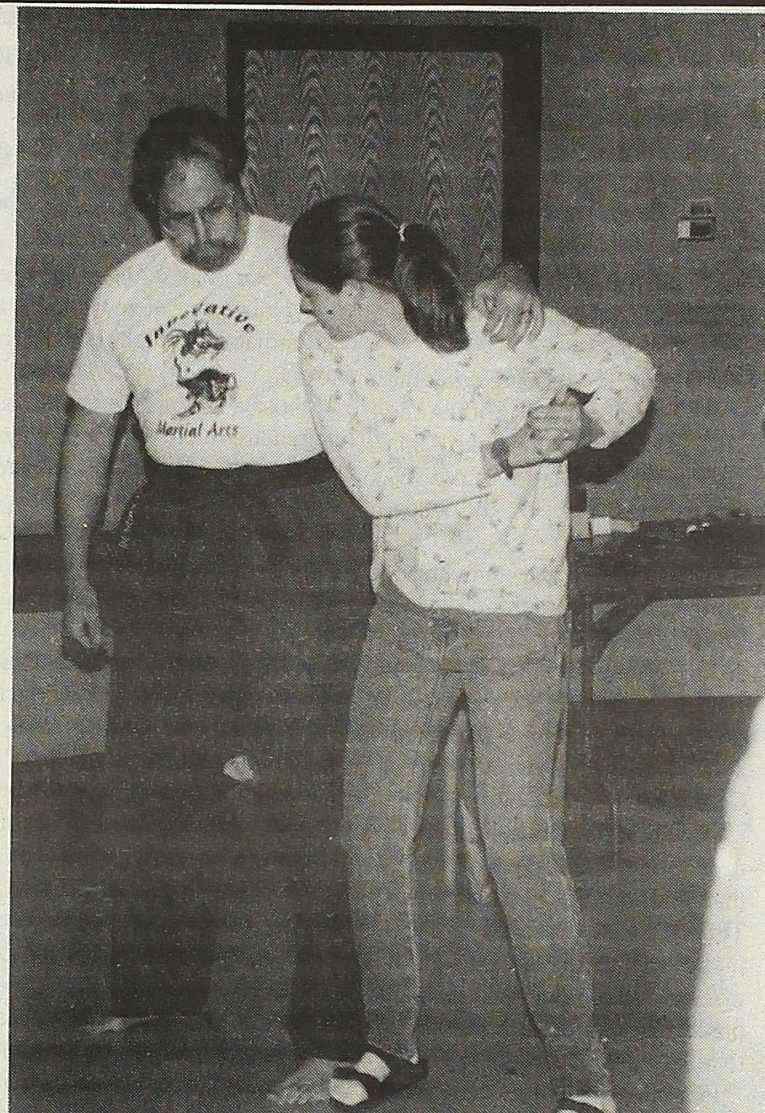
Then began a hands-on physi-

cal exercise where women learned throws, punches, practical means of avoiding a conflict and how to defend themselves against an attacker with a knife. All the while the instructors laced the lessons with humor and other advice which kept the program interesting and fun.

Innovative Martial Arts, located outside Grand Rapids, has also taught classes not just for women. Their philosophy is that what they teach is practical defense for every person, and that anybody who wishes to learn should be able to do so. They are currently adapting the program for both high school education and an awareness program for children of elementary school age.

When the program ended, the women left laughing, joking, and with a confidence that spoke in every part of their bearing.

Instructor John Pippin teaches first-year student Carrie Thomas how to defend herself against unwanted advances. Photo by Jason Paetz.



Parent Day focuses on student activities

By Tom Glegola
Staff Reporter

"Parent Day is an opportunity for parents to come back to campus to see their kids," said John Seveland, vice president of enrollment and student affairs. Parents will return to campus on Saturday, September 28, for Parent Day '96 entitled "Your Student Beyond the Classroom."

For first-year students, this may be the first time they will see their parents since preterm.

"We encourage them [parents] to stay away from campus until Parent Day," said Seveland. "We try to hold it so it is five to six weeks after preterm," reasoned Seveland, "it gives their students a chance to adjust to Alma."

In contrast to years past, students will now run the workshops, rather than parents, administrators, and professors.

This year's workshops, which constitute only a part of the program, will attempt to show parents several aspects of student life. The workshops will be on the performing arts, Students Offering Service (S.O.S.), Student Congress, Greek philanthropy, athletics, MEGA mentoring, residence hall life and other campus organizations.

At the performing arts workshop, students share their experiences and discuss the opportunities students have in the various programs offered at Alma.

S.O.S. will offer a workshop on the six divisions of the orga-

nization and past projects of S.O.S.

Parents will also have the opportunity to learn about Student Congress, including the role Student Congress plays in representing students.

The five fraternities and four sororities on campus will give a presentation that highlights the various charities sponsored by each organization in the workshop on Greek Philanthropy.

The various records and achievements of Alma's Athletics program will be displayed. MEGA will give a presentation on the mentoring done by upper-class student volunteers throughout the year to first-year students.

Parents will then learn what residence hall life is like and how each residence hall offers various programs throughout the year.

Parents and students will also have the opportunity to watch the Scots play football against Elmhurst or a men's soccer game versus Albion.

Though all these events are offered, many parents and students do other activities instead. Parents will take their students to K-Mart, Walmart or Ashcraft's to shop for snacks or things to improve the student's room.

Finally, students may take their parents to the downtown area or back to the Wright Avenue shopping strip for lunch or dinner. "It is really a day of spending time with the student," said Seveland. "We do not see it as a time to be formal."

Alma stands on stable financial ground College sees another profitable year

By Dan Scripps
Co-Editor-In-Chief

Last year, Alma College's total assets grew from \$105.9 million to \$116.5 million, capping off a year which featured a large growth in the size of the endowment as well as a large budget surplus.

While this is very good news, none of it comes as a surprise to Jon Groteluschen, vice-president for finance. "This college has operated in the black now for eight consecutive years and for 20 out of the last 21," according to Groteluschen.

Of the increase in total assets, almost all of it can be attributed to the growth in the endowment. The endowment is money given to the college with the intent that the interest be spent but not the actual gift. These gifts come with a variety of purposes, including scholarships, the purchasing of library books and maintenance of the Reid-Knox building, to name a few. Groteluschen explained that most of these are estate gifts left to the college upon someone's death. This past year Alma received about \$850,000 in gifts. Groteluschen added that the endowment also performed well outside of the gifts, stating that "We ended the year with a market value of \$69.5 million. That's up from \$61.8 million the year before."

This increase is fairly typical of the growth in endowment over the past several years. "Our endowment has performed very well over the years," said Groteluschen. The National Association of College and University Business Offices (NACUBO) ranked Alma's endowment growth near the top in past

years, with Alma being in the 95th percentile nationally over the past ten years.

Other areas of financial strength of the college include relatively low amount of long term debt and the fact that new construction projects, such as the new Colina library wing, are primarily funded with new gifts. In fact, the long term debt of the college is only \$6.2 million, with \$4 million to \$4.5 million coming from the construction of the Heritage Center. The remaining debt stems from the construction of Bruske Hall, Hamilton Commons and South Complex, which were 30 and 35 year issues.

Groteluschen describes the only real weakness as the lack of huge

unrestricted reserves to fall back on in case of sudden unexpected expenses, such as a dramatic drop in enrollment. However, because the college budgets conservatively and lives within its means, these reserves have not been needed. This style of budgeting left the college with a budget surplus last year of \$980,000 before some of that money was spent on repairing the track and football field, completing the computer room in the library and completing the DYNIX computer system for the library.

Even after all of this, the college ended up with a total surplus of \$144,000, leading Groteluschen to say, "It was a very good year."

Hulme writes book on Olympic terrorism

By Matthew Singletary
Staff Reporter

"The scary thing about a book like this is that, while it is intended for analysis of terrorist actions, it could also be used by the terrorists themselves to improve what they do."

This is how Sandy Hulme, assistant professor of political science, replied when asked about his current project, a book on international terrorism.

His first book, *The Political Olympics*, was about the political power an event like the Olympics inherently contains. "I can remember being eleven and being outraged that the U.S. didn't attend the 1980 Olympics, all because Russia invaded Afghanistan," said Hulme. The idea behind this is that such a media event is wide open as a speaking ground for anyone with political ideas on their mind. As another example, Hulme used the 1972 Munich Olympics, during which Israeli athletes were taken hostage and later killed by

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Duck! WQAC returns to the airwaves

By Melissa Crossnoe
Freelance Writer

Things are really hectic as the new term swings into action at 91 FM WQAC The Duck, Alma College's campus radio station. Kisha Reid '97, the new General Manager for WQAC, said that once she learns the ropes and everything calms down, WQAC should have a really good year. Also new to the Duck scene this year is Zach Shipstead '98, the new technical director. Though there are new faces at the station, for the most part WQAC's programming will remain the same as previous years.

Some of the most popular WQAC shows of the past have been the classic rock and 80's music shows while many listeners enjoy the "Swing Your Pants Off" show by Derek Boyer '98, the station's new program director. These shows and many others are a part of WQAC's specialty programming. A new specialty show by Jim Coe '98 features an ambient/techno twist.

"The specialty programming which occurs between 6 p.m. and 2 a.m. contains a little something for everyone's liking" said Boyer. The regular programming hours are between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. This listening time is not as popular as others because many students are in class or busy studying. But, if you ever feel in need of a study break, turn on WQAC 91 FM in the afternoon and you will hear a variety of alternative music. Even though students often cannot tune in during the regular programming hours, Alma's community members enjoy them immensely.

High school students are known to listen to WQAC in the mornings before school and afternoons after school. It is even said that a certain art teacher at Alma High School has his radio tuned to WQAC all the time. As of now, there is only a tentative schedule for this year's morning show on WQAC. Galina Martin '98, WQAC's traffic and clerical director, said that it is hard to find disk jockeys who will come in that early and run a show. However, due to the morning show's

community popularity, WQAC's executive council is pushing for its success.

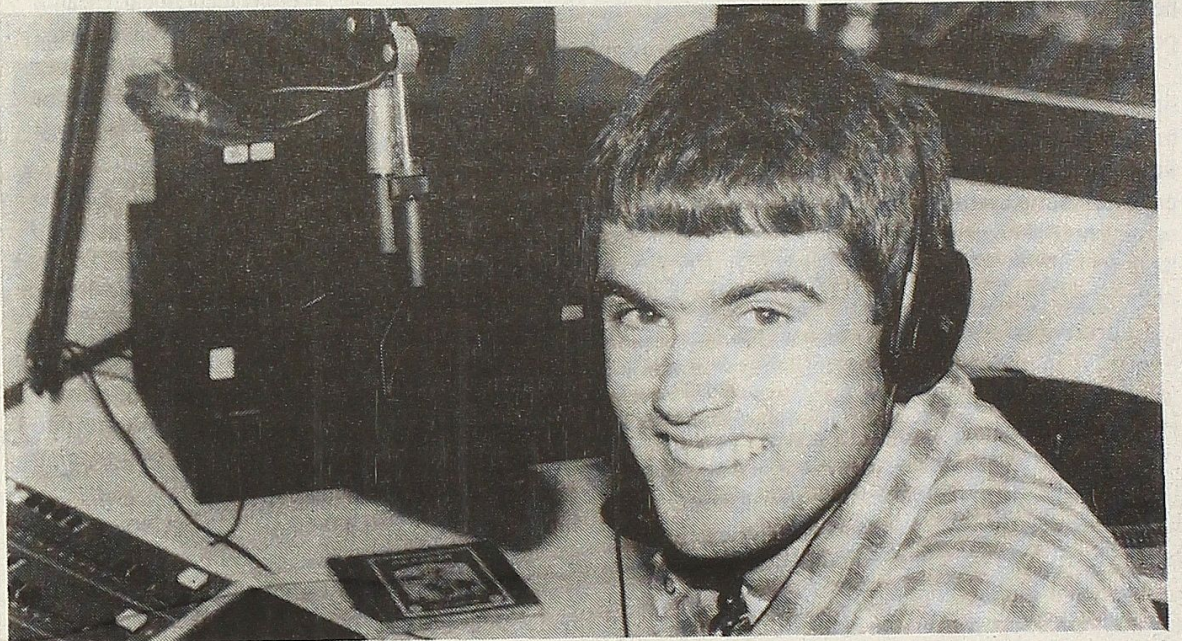
With the many accomplishments WQAC has made over the past few years, being a part of the campus radio station has become a favorite thing for students to do. Many new first year students have decided to jump in and learn the ropes of WQAC, along with its many tal-

ented and experienced upperclassmen. Boyer even commented that so many people were interested in becoming a part of WQAC that unfortunately some had to be turned down.

With WQAC's new executive council the station should be underway soon. A detailed schedule of programming times should be in student mailboxes in the near fu-

ture. Hopes are high that the combination of new faces along with some new programming will aid in the continuation of WQAC's popularity on and off campus.

Junior Derek Boyer, WQAC's program director, gets ready for his show "Swing Your Pants Off," which airs Thursdays from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Photo by Eric Mansfield.



Student Congress to sponsor voter registration drive

By Derek Zell
Freelance Writer

Beginning yesterday, the students of Alma College have a chance to take the first step towards making a difference.

The Alma College Student Congress is sponsoring a voter registration drive that makes registering to vote easier than ordering a pizza from Sam's.

The program is designed to save students the trouble of going home or writing a letter requesting an absentee ballot in order to vote in the November 5 Presidential election.

The registration table is located in Hamilton Commons from 5

p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Students aged 18 or over as of election day will be able to register in Gratiot County or obtain an absentee ballot from their previous place of registration. Students should bring their driver's licenses when registering.

"The college's large voting population (in comparison to Gratiot County's total voting population) can influence local elections that pertain to us," said junior Matt Wandrie, Student Congress President.

Wandrie is the force behind the registration drive. Wandrie cited the recent parking ordinances that the city of Alma passed as one such vote that the campus could have swayed

in the favor of the students.

A large campus turnout at the polls this November could also affect the college in other ways.

"Political candidates could see

Voter registration

- Hamilton Commons
- Monday — Thursday
- 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- Bring driver's license

Alma College as a powerful sector of the voting population and that could bring their campaigns to campus," said Wandrie.

Visits by political candidates would also increase campus awareness about key issues, create posi-

itive press for the college and create forums for campus debates.

The recent election for first-year class officers for Student Congress may be a good indication of the potential success of the voter registration drive.

"Hopefully, because of the large turnout at the first-year class elections, the class participation will follow through for the voter registration drive," said senior Stacy Silk, Student Congress treasurer.

Four people have been deputized to help with the registration process. Along with Wandrie, Mitchell Hall Director David Wagner, Dean of Students Jim Kridler and Assistant Dean of Students Bill Arnold have been deputized and are help-

ing with the drive.

In its first day the four registered or gave absentee ballot applications to between 25 and 30 students.

Those students currently registered to vote in their hometowns have the option of getting an absentee ballot so that they can continue to vote on issues of interest to their home areas or re-register in Alma, giving them the opportunity to voice their opinion on issues of local concern.

Any student interested in registering or picking up an absentee ballot application but unable to do so during the scheduled times should contact Wandrie for information.

Grant provides money for ballet

By Alyson Ferriss
Freelance Writer

The Alma College Dance Company is preparing for something special this year.

For the annual fall concert held on November 8, 9, and 10, the company will perform *Giselle*—a full-length ballet love story.

The dance department has received a grant from the Saginaw Foundation to help fund this performance. This grant has enabled the dance company to invite two guest soloists and a guest stage designer. The company will also gain from the grant with full costume and stage set-up.

This performance is greatly anticipated, not only for the community, but also for the college. There have been efforts to start a ballet company at Alma College.

This full blown production will not only show that the dance company has the talent and desire, but also the money to support a ballet company.

Tom Morris, assistant professor of theatre and dance, compared the dance company to one at Indiana University and Iowa State Univer-

We are DOING Giselle, not just a version.

• Tom Morris, assistant professor of theatre and dance

sity. There is a great amount of talent in Alma's Dance Company and this performance will help to showcase that.

Giselle is the biggest performance put on by Alma College since the Heritage Center opened.

"We are DOING *Giselle*, not just a version," said Morris, who has put

in many hours of organization.

There will be a cast of over 50 students, plus the guest soloists, the guest stage designer, area children and a large backstage crew.

The community will also benefit from the production. Exposing both students and the community to a ballet helps to create support and increase the already strong interest in the Heritage Center events, which *Giselle* is expected to do.

Giselle has something for everyone. There will be character dancing, ballet, clogging, pantomime, acting—everything but modern and jazz. Plus, it is a story filled with love, hate, revenge and tragedy.

The production gives the dancers experience with professional dancers, the stage crew experience working with a professional set designer, and the audience a full blown ballet production.

HULME CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

a Palestinian terrorist faction. His newest project, temporarily titled *Palestinian Terrorism and American Foreign Policy: Nixon to Reagan*, is an attempt not only to interpret U.S. foreign policy concerning the Middle East but also to delve into the minds of terrorists and uncover what lurks within.

When asked why a terrorist chooses a particular target, Hulme cited a few factors affecting the decision. Are they a skillful terrorist group? What is their financial situation? What is the political condition of their target site? What kind of political system is the group interested in targeting? Do they have government sponsorship?

Hulme also mentioned that the greatest danger for any government is to respond too much to a terrorist action. "Sometimes the most effective response is less."

Researched for the last six years, Hulme believes he has another year and a half until the completion of this project. "I have about a hundred pages done," he said, explaining that his time is well stretched between teaching and his family, both of these being key elements in his life.

When asked whether or not his new book would be used in the classroom, he replied that he might decide to use it as supplemental reading for a senior seminar class, "...if it comes out in paperback."

Biochemistry professor emphasizes research

By Kristine Pintar
Freelance Writer

When Joe Beckmann, associate professor and chair of the biochemistry department, read that Alma College was looking for someone to fill a vacancy, he knew that he was the one for the position.

A native-born Nebraskan, Beckmann brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to Alma. After earning his Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, he went on to receive his

Ph.D. from the Medical College of Wisconsin in 1984. He attended Dartmouth Medical School where he was a postdoctoral fellow in biochemistry, did work in the field of molecular biology and also received grant support from the National Institute for Health.

In 1987, Beckmann returned to Nebraska to accept a position as an assistant professor at the Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha. He spent the next nine years involved in

teaching biochemistry to medical and allied health students, along with participating in an independent research program regarding lung cancer.

"I am so happy to be here," said

The huge asset at this college is the curiosity and energy that the students display.

•Joe Beckmann,
Associate Professor of Biochemistry

Beckmann, commenting on Alma and the general friendliness he has encountered in all the people here. "The huge asset at this college is the curiosity and energy that the students display." It is precisely this energetic curiosity that he hopes will lead more students to do group research.

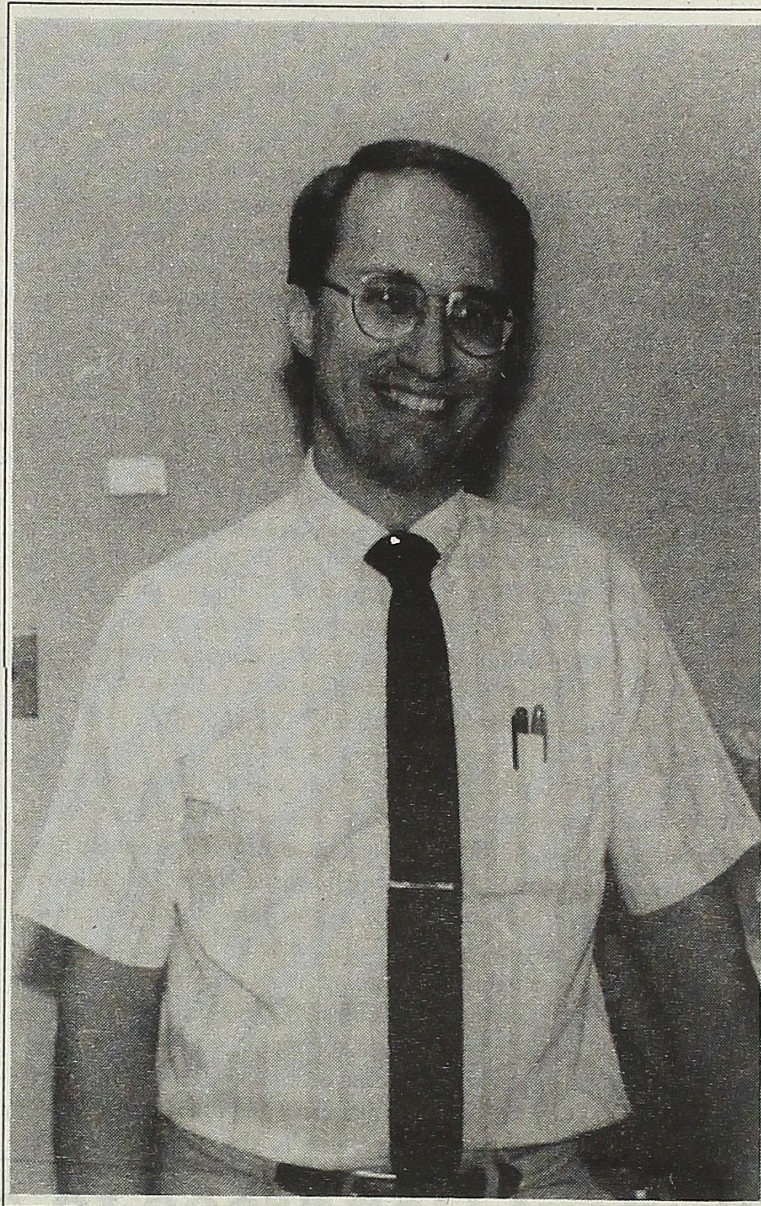
Beckmann has a few ambitions concerning Alma's biochemistry department. "My hopes are to broaden the biochemistry program

here through the inclusion of added courses and faculty, through lecture and research advisors." He also said that he would "like to make as many research opportunities available to students as possible." Because of his own experience and research in the field, this year student biochemical research groups will for the first time get added funding and support in the form of grants from the National Institute for Health.

When not busy on the second floor of the Kapp Science Center, Beckmann enjoys spending time with his wife and three daughters, ages six, eight, and 10. His outside interests also include

camping, fly fishing and playing the piano.

Overall, Beckmann is optimistic with the opportunities and facilities he has in the biochemistry department. He noted that the department at Alma has the proper space, infrastructure, funding and equipment to create a thriving environment for student researchers. He said with a smile, "It's just waiting to happen."



Joe Beckmann, associate professor of biochemistry, observes his biochemistry lab. Beckmann is new to Alma this fall, as he was hired to replace Steven Wietstock, former assistant chair of biochemistry. Photo by Aaron Mansfield.

For dinner tonight we will be having...

Marriott food service to address student concerns

By Lisa Sherman
Staff Reporter

It is that time of year again: back to school. And you know what that means... no more home cooked meals from Mom. It's back to Alma College and back to eating Marriott food at Hamilton Commons in the cafeteria.

Traditionally, that has meant that a lot of complaining from students. To remedy this perennial situation, Marriott has set up a task force to bring students, faculty, and themselves to the same level.

The Marriott Task Force has grown out of what was originally the food committee. This committee dealt with such issues as what type of food to serve and complaints. Becky Flowers, a Marriott

employee and task force member, said that what they wanted to do was to "take that idea and broaden it." As a result, the task force was started late last winter term.

"We want an open door policy," Flowers stated. The main goal of the task force is to encourage students to feel free to go to Marriott with their suggestions. Marriott, in response, will either incorporate the suggestion or explain why it cannot be done.

Marriott Food Services is a big part of college life. After all, most students eat two or three meals a

day courtesy of them. Therefore, Marriott would like to make the dining experience a pleasant one. The task force is planning to send a survey out this month to 30 ran-

domly selected students in order to get an idea of what they would like as far as entertainment and food. They tried this idea last spring term, but only a few surveys were re-

turned. Students who do receive a survey should return them to Becky Flowers and, in return, they will get a coupon good for something at Scotty's. Marriott plans to distribute the surveys again next month.

Overall, Marriott is planning lots of new additions for this year. For example, they hope to have their chef cook something flambé in the middle of the dining room. They plan to have Marriott Bingo as well. But they are always looking for new ideas. "The sky's the limit," stated Flowers. Marriott is willing to try new

things.

The task force meets monthly on the third Wednesday of each month. At their meetings, they discuss plans for the next month's activities and what did or did not work the month before.

Along with Becky Flowers, Mark Starkweather, director of Marriott, and other Marriott employees are involved in the task force. However, they do not have as many people involved with the task force as they would like. More employee involvement and student involvement is desired. Flowers explained that "we want to pull in students who want to be on it." If anyone is interested in contributing to the Marriott Task Force, they should contact one of its members.

The sky's the limit.

•Becky Flowers, Marriott Employee

Scottish folksinger scheduled to perform

By Tiffany Hodge
Freelance Writer

As we begin this new school year we are reminded of Alma College's Scottish foundation. First year students learn of these traditions during their preterm experience, and the notes of bagpipes are a familiar sound to the entire campus.

To enhance our Scottish heritage, Alma College is proud to invite Jean Redpath, a renowned musician of Scottish tradition, to our campus. A native of Scotland, Redpath attended the University of Edinburgh studying the oral tradi-

tions of her native land. After graduation, she came to the United States, and similar to many musicians had little in the means of finances—eleven dollars to be exact.

Redpath has come quite a distance from that first day. She has lived in Greenwich Village with such folk legends as Rambling Jack Elliot and Bob Dylan, appeared at the royal banquet at Edinburgh Castle as one of only four performers on behalf of Queen Elizabeth II, and has also been acknowledged by the Governor of Kentucky. In the following years Redpath has produced more than 30 recordings,

and has performed throughout Australia, Canada, South America, Hong Kong, and the United States.

Her experience with radio appearances, such as the popular *A Prairie Home Companion*, and her devotion to Scotland's national bard, Robert Burns, has enhanced her love of song and story. Redpath's informal performances create an entertaining and enlightening experience, offering a taste of Scottish heritage not present every day. Her vast repertoire of traditional and contemporary songs are guaranteed to be an enjoyable, as well as moving, experience. Redpath will perform tonight at 8 p.m. in Presbyterian Hall.

Jean Redpath, a native of Scotland, is scheduled to sing in the Heritage Center tonight. Photo courtesy of the Alma College Public Relations Office.



Kaplan offers test prep courses at CMU

By Larissa VanderZee
Feature Editor

Ever since the days of grammar school, standardized assessment testing has been a reality. The California Assessment Test marked the first experience in which students used no. 2 lead pencils to fill in those tiny ovals. Today, the typical college student has survived either the ACT, the SAT, or both, only to be faced with the prospect of yet another standardized test.

The stakes are higher this time. For most students the mere mention of the GRE, MCAT, LSAT, DAT, or GMAT creates instantaneous stress, tension, and anxiety. The outcome of these examinations means much more than simple assessment. It means acceptance or rejection, financial aid or financial

debt, the school of choice or the one settled for. Although other aspects of a student's profile carry equal value in the eyes of admissions boards, test scores remain the most tangible means of comparative evaluation.

However, what students fail to realize is that these tests do not altruistically measure intelligence. On one level they can, but not without also evaluating a certain individual's ability to take that test. For this reason, preparation for such standardized tests acts as a means to eliminate variables that could effect performance.

Preparation can happen in various ways. The list includes individual study books, computer programs, group study sessions, and even actual courses designed to educate students on test-taking strategies. Kaplan, of-

fering courses for more than 20 standardized tests, is one such program.

Scott Sadeghian, manager of the East Lansing Kaplan Center, asserts that students must overcome

strengths and weaknesses through diagnostic testing and we develop individualized programs which include content review, test-taking strategies and practice," said Sadeghian.

By design, the course works as a coupled system of about 30 hours of class time and a plethora of study guides, practice tests, and other reading material. According to Sadeghian, a student will gain very little from the program if he/she fails to actively engage in both aspects of the course. Senior John Henry attributes his 4 point increase on the DAT

to the library of information Kaplan offered him. He said, "they provide the tools, but you must be self-motivated to study outside of class."

Michelle Murphy, a senior pre-law student, decided to take a

Kaplan prep course under advisement from friends who had taken the LSAT. As she walked into her actual LSAT examination she said she "wanted to throw up...I had a mini-anxiety attack, but Kaplan had prepared me to handle it. I wouldn't have been able to take the test had I not taken the course." Conquering the unexpected seems to be the key.

Previously, students from Alma wishing to enroll in Kaplan courses had to trek down to Lansing. However, now for its second year, Kaplan offers classes at Central Michigan University. This offers a substantially closer center for students in the upper and middle areas of the state. Typically featuring of smaller class sizes, the program continues to do well, according to Sadeghian.

Senior Monica Hoeft, currently enrolled in a Kaplan LSAT course at CMU says preparation is everything. When asked if she felt it was helping she said, "I hated the LSAT; I feared the LSAT. But after learning the correct approach, logic games are fun."

We help students master their anxiety..."

•Scott Sadeghian
Kaplan Center Manager

their anxiety and naiveté regarding standardized tests if they hope to excel. "We help students master their anxiety by learning how to master the tests. In our courses we identify student's individual

to the library of information Kaplan offered him. He said, "they provide the tools, but you must be self-motivated to study outside of class."

Michelle Murphy, a senior pre-law student, decided to take a

Internships provide valuable experience

internship is a valuable experience which teaches you that your classes are not just classes. They're the education that prepares you to be a responsible and independent individual. After my internship this

summer, I have learned to take my education more seriously. I loved what I did, and it gave me some perspective on my goals."

Some internships are paid positions; with others college credit

may be granted. It is a practical way to get experience, learn about a field that interests you, and perhaps get an edge on the competition. The difficulty lies in how and where to find one.

The Center for Student Development (CSD) can often help students in their search. Associate Director Mindy Sargent commented, "One of the things that we really encourage students to do is to look at a variety of options. There are many ways to obtain an internship. Our job is really to facilitate that."

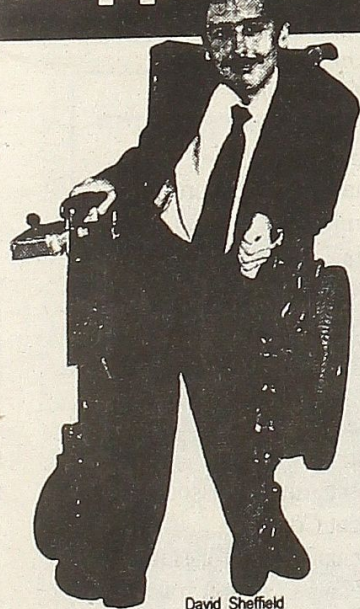
The CSD distributes a monthly newsletter, "Experiences," that lists some available opportunities na-

tion wide. The newsletter includes not only internship possibilities, but summer and part-time employment as well. The newsletter lists the duties to be performed, any necessary skills and if it offers pay.

Students also have the opportunity to search for internships via computer using the Career Consultant Network database available in the Career Information Center. The database includes alumni who maintain contact with the CSD and may be able to help students find an internship.

It is suggested that interested students consider the early deadlines of some businesses and begin their search as early as possible.

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David Sheffield
County Attorney

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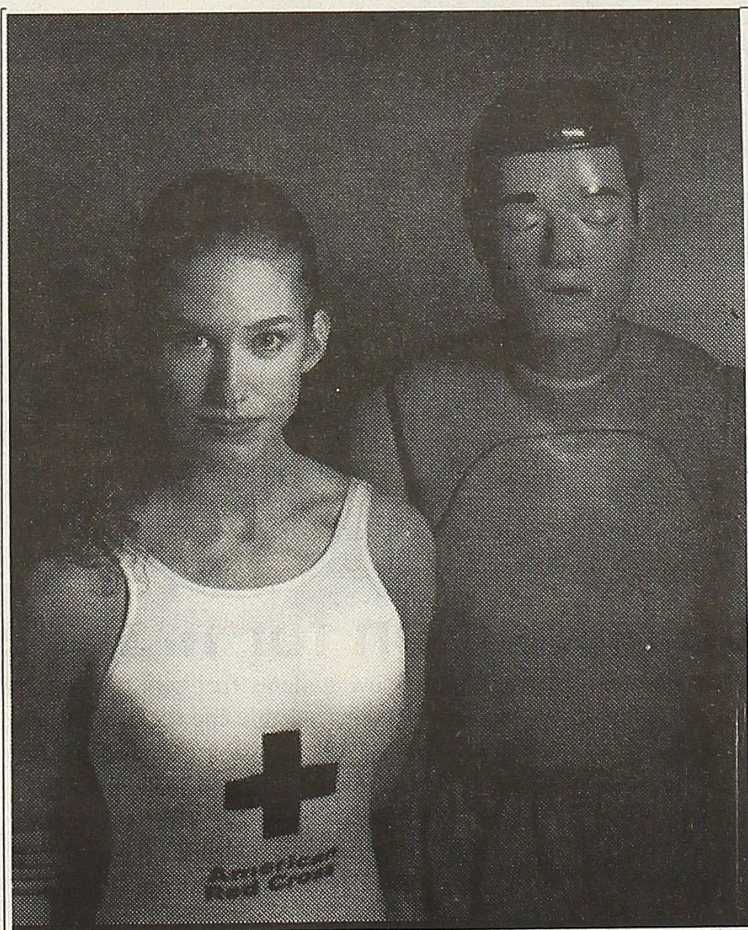
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LCC sponsors Japan adventure

By Larissa VanderZee
Feature Editor

If you have ever wanted to drop out of Alma College, talk to Senior Will Deeds or business professor Michael Trebesh. There is however, a catch. The name of this catch is a Lansing Community College international studies program called the Japan Adventure. In order to enter this program, one must withdraw from Alma, then enroll in LCC, planning to transfer those credits back to Alma. In January of 1995, Deeds did just that.

Deeds's class the Japan Horizon began in January, and ran through December. Students involved in

the program spend 9 months in Japan. Before they go overseas, they spend January and February attending intensive preparation classes at LCC. For 5 days a week, 6 hours a day, the students attend cram sessions in Japanese culture, language, society, as well as orientation classes informing them of their impending experience. Deeds said that the students range from those knowing no Japanese to avid speakers of the language. He said, "they teach you what you need to know to get by."

At the end of February, the class leaves for Japan. While in Japan, the students participate in a work/study program. Deeds lived in

Sakaide in the prefecture of Kagawa (equivalent to a state), but worked in a restaurant complex on the island of Shikoku. Deeds, as all students of the program, waited tables in a Japanese restaurant. He said they worked approximately nine days during a two week period, attending school just as often. In addition to this, Deeds said they helped the people of the city by teaching English classes. And every month the students received a paid vacation to one of the many surrounding historical sites.

Deeds described the experience as nothing short of amazing. He said, "everyday it was something

new. If I wasn't trying to manage my money, I was eating alone in a strange restaurant. I even slept in train stations when I had no money for a hotel." Each student had their own apartment, received about \$1500 a month, and learned to be completely self-sufficient.

Surprisingly, Deeds says his biggest challenge was returning home. "Everyone seemed rude here. In Japan, they were nothing but polite and considerate. I would be trying to figure something out in the train station, and someone would just ask me if I needed any help—in my language. That surprised me." Deeds enjoyed it so

much that he plans to go back after graduation. This time he hopes to be a supervisor of a student group.

At the heart of this program lies the Keihan Corporation. They have sponsored the Japan Adventure for 15 years and the Japan Horizon for 12 years. Originally established as a cross-cultural study to share learning, it has proven successful. In Deeds' overall summation of his experience he said, "It opened my eyes to how big the world is and how limited people's understanding can be." For anyone interested in the Japan Adventure there will be an informational meeting at 3 p.m. on September 27 in AC 106.

Student involvement stressed on campus

By Lisa Sherman
Staff Reporter

We have all heard it—get involved. Campus involvement provides students with a wealth of different experiences. Alma College offers a wide variety of campus organizations to become involved in. Indeed, Alma students are involved: from the Alma College Union Board (ACUB) and the Student Alumni Association (SAA), to sports and social groups, to band and honorary societies.

There are organizations on campus to fulfill anyone's interests.

ACUB, for example, works hard every year to bring a variety of entertainment to campus. Such campus hits as Mock Rock and Irish Pub are organized by ACUB. Another possibility is SAA.

Junior Jenny Reeder, president of SAA, commented that, "The Student Alumni Association provides services for alumni and students throughout the school year." Among other things, SAA members help to deliver birthday cakes and balloons to students and put together the exam survival kits each semester.

But why get involved? Everyone knows that Alma College students

are already too busy with their classes. As sophomore Jennifer Wright explains, "I feel so overwhelmed at times, like I have no time to do anything, but I know I need to involve myself in other activities." As if worrying about getting your reading done for your class the next day or studying for the GRE were not enough!

Getting involved in campus activities provides students with a great way to meet new people and make new friends. As junior Christina Pippin said, "If you don't make an effort to get involved, you'll end up secluding yourself." Besides, what better way is there to gain new friendships than by spending time with others who share your interests?

Yes, it is true: Being involved does look good on a resume and graduate or professional school applications. That does not mean, however, that students should go out and join as many organizations as they can and just let their studies suffer as a result.

There is a competitive market out there for jobs and graduate/professional school openings. Employers, as well as graduate and professional schools, are looking for well-rounded individuals. Cam-

pus organizations provide a wonderful outlet to gain the leadership skills that are essential in today's world. Contribute to the activities

you are involved in.

Because Alma College has such a small campus, it is easy to get involved. All one has to do is make

the effort. There is something for everyone out there; you just need to find it.

Campus Organizations

Alma Area Chess Club
ACSMA (AC Sports Medicine Association)
Alma Choirs
Alma College Dance Company
Alma College Theater
Alma College Republican Club
Alma Pride
Almanian
Alpha Gamma Delta sorority
Alpha Mu Gamma
Alpha Psi Omega
Alpha Xi Delta sorority
Amnesty International
Association for Computing Machinery
Association for Intercultural Understanding (AIU)
BACCHUS
Beta Beta Beta
Bruske Hall Council
Business Club
Chapel Associates
Cheerleading
Chi Epsilon Mu

EPIC
Exercise and Health Science
Honor Society
Freshmen Class
Gamma Delta Alpha
Gamma Phi Beta sorority
Gelston Hall council
Interfraternity Council
International Business Club
Intramural Athletics
Junior Class
Kappa Iota sorority
Kiltie Band
Kiltie Dancers
MEGA
MacCurdy Women's Resource Center
Mitchell Hall Council
Model United Nations
Newberry Hall Council
Omicron Delta Epsilon
Omicron Delta Kappa
Omicron Psi Omega
Orientation Committee
Panhellenic Council
Phi Alpha Theta
Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia

Phi Beta Kappa
Pi Sigma Alpha
Pine River Anthology
Pom-Pon Squad
Psi Chi
Rho Chi Epsilon
Scot - Yearbook
Senior Class
Sigma Alpha Epsilon
fraternity
Sigma Chi fraternity
Sigma Pi Sigma
Sigma Tau Delta
SOAR (Students Organized Against Rape)
Society of Physics Students
Sophomore Class
Student Alumni Association
Student Congress
Students United for Nature
Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity
Theta Chi fraternity
Union Board
United Coalition of Students
WQAC
Zeta Sigma fraternity

MEGA helps to ease college transition for first-year students

By Becky Tansy
Staff Reporter

During the fall of 1991, the Center for Student Development organized Mentoring Enhances Growth at Alma (MEGA), a mentoring program for first year students. The program, funded by the college, is designed to help new students make the transition from home to Alma. Mentors are helpful to new students by sharing their knowledge and experiences - from registering for classes to the art of ordering a pizza from Sam's.

Dr. Robert Perkins, dean of student development, said, "The program was actually designed to help students make that adjustment to coming to college here. We have all kinds of professional support

services to help, but I think the best way for students to get that kind of assistance is through other students."

The backbone of the program consists of three student coordinators: Andy Goodman ('98), Jill Oprea ('97), and Amy Hoffman ('98), who act under the guidance of Perkins. The coordinators are responsible for training the mentors, planning events, and matching mentors with incoming students. They also send a monthly newsletter

to students involved with the program.

Ideally, upper-class mentors meet

new students feel comfortable in both academic and social settings.

"My mentor is great. It's nice to have someone who can answer my questions, and we're becoming good friends," said one first year student. Coordinator Andy Goodman commented "The mentors really do a good job. They're essentially the whole program."

This year MEGA consists of approximately 100 mentors and 125 mentees.

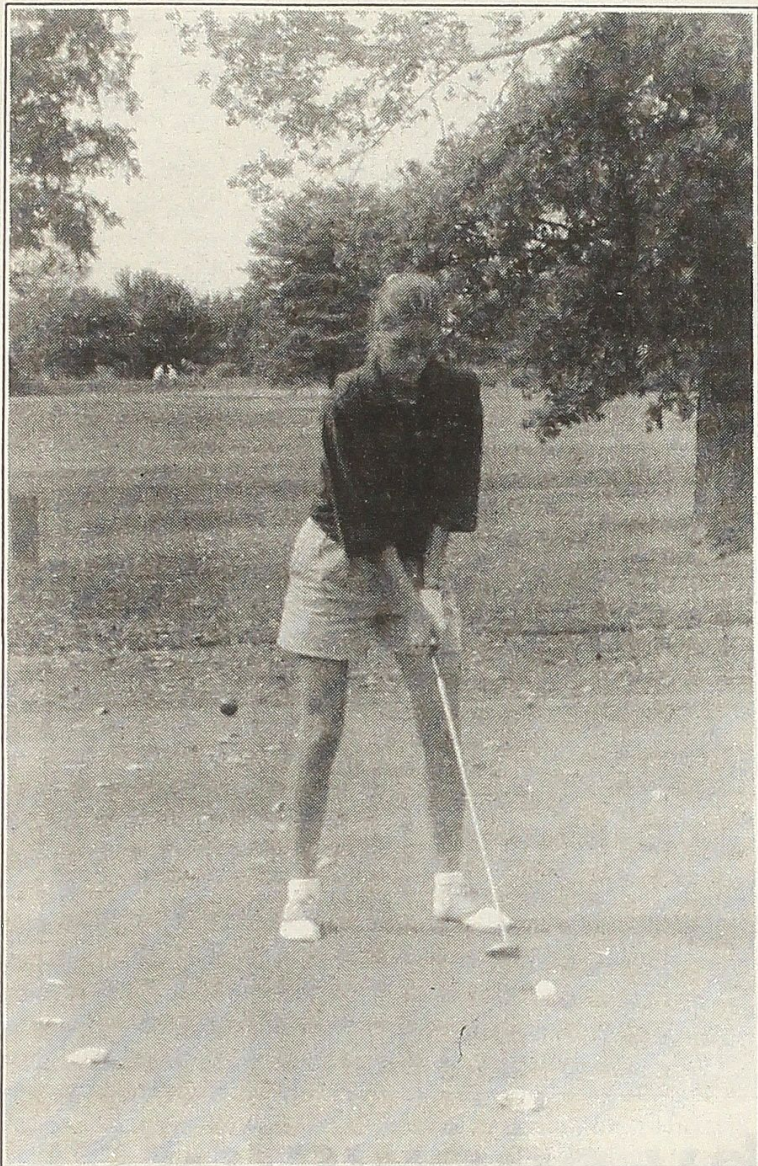
Mentees and mentors completed an application designed to help in the matching process. First year students indicate their reasons for participating in MEGA and provide background information to help the coordinators match them to an upperclassman with similar interests. Optimally, only one first year student would be assigned to one mentor, but there is currently a lack of interested upperclassmen.

One of MEGA's goals this year is to insure the program will continue to provide scheduled events throughout the year. MEGA started the 1996-97 school year with an opening picnic on September 7. Upcoming events include a canoe trip on the 22 and a "Games Day" later in the term.

My mentor is great. It's nice to have someone who can answer my questions...

*•Andy Goodman
First-year student coordinator*

with their mentees at least every other week. Mentors try to help



Junior Mandy Bowler prepares to tee off. Bowler is one of four Alma golfer's in the MIAA top ten. Photo by Beth Rosenow.

Women's golf team strives for consistency

By Tom Glegola
Staff Reporter

Consistency.

It's what every golfer strives for, including the Alma College women's golf team.

The women have been achieving just that.

After two matches, the team's average total score is 349, slightly better than the 350 average from last year's team.

"We have to consistently do that for the next five matches," said head coach Charlie Goffnet, "We are actually ahead of last year's (MIAA champion) pace, however, Hope has improved tremendously."

Alma is currently 23 strokes behind Hope, as a result of Hope's course record of 328 at Marshall Country Club in Olivet.

Alma was 25 strokes behind, but gained two on the Wednesday September 11 match at Pine River Country Club in Alma.

Alma shot a course record of 345, breaking their old record of 353.

"We can compete," said Goffnet. "I was pleased with Wednesday. It showed the kids we can compete

with Hope. It really gave us a shot in the arm.

"We just want to stay in our game. I'm not concerned about Hope as I am about us playing consistently. You can not worry about what other

*We just want to stay
in our game...
•Charlie Goffnet
Head Coach*

people are doing."

The team's goal is to approach each match and play consistently, said Goffnet.

The top score was turned in by first-year student, Jennifer Peters, shooting 83. Junior Mandy Bowler came in three strokes behind with 86. Sophomore Liz Eby and junior Carrie Hunt both shot 88.

With Maggie Taylor, Kathy Curly, and Rochelle Perkins all graduated, the team lacks any senior experience.

The three veterans of the team are Bowler, Hunt, and Eby. Also on the team are first-year students

Melissa Desjarlais, Peters, Caroline Swan and Jodi Taylor.

Having a team with no seniors does have some benefits, however, according to Goffnet.

"This team will be intact for another year," said Goffnet.

The first-year student talent will also benefit the team immediately.

Peters, from Davison, was a medalist in the All-Big 9 Class A tournament. Jodi Taylor is from Clio, who ranked second in the state last year. Swan, who was Holt's top golfer, placed First Team in her schools league.

Four of the top ten players in the MIAA play for Alma.

Through two tournaments, Peters is in fourth place with an average of 84.5, Bowler is currently in fifth place with an average of 85, Hunt is in seventh place with a 90.5 average, and Eby is in tenth place with a 92.

This week Alma has both a match and a tournament. The team played an MIAA tournament yesterday at Calvin and will play this Saturday against Aquinas at Pine River Country Club.

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Women's soccer team falls short of goal

By Jenn Cornell
Opinion Editor

With three tough games, last week was rather busy for the women's soccer team.

On Wednesday, Alma opened its home season with a disappointing loss against Aquinas. Saturday and Sunday, Alma participated in another tournament, facing Wooster and Ohio Wesleyan. Unfortunately, the lady Scots racked up two more tough losses, taking its overall record to 0-5.

The Scots began strongly against Aquinas winning at half-time 3-2. Scoring for the lady Scots were Lesley McDougall, Jill Braun, and Laura Keisoglou. Unfortunately, the second half favored Aquinas as they came from behind to score four more goals and bested Alma, 6-3.

In response to Alma's disappointing second half loss, Lesley

McDougall said, "We gave up more and more with every goal scored against us."

Team captain Jill Braun also added, "People backed down a lot in the second half and it really showed."

Traveling to Ohio for the weekend, Alma was hoping to fair better against regionally ranked Wooster College. Although playing a solid game, Alma lost 0-2.

When asked about the loss, McDougall said, "We played strong and Wooster's two goals game in the last minutes of play in each half."

Stephanie Craig, team co-captain, was quick to add, "We played as a team and it means so much more to stay strong as a team when you're losing than when you're winning."

Alma's weekend play continued Sunday afternoon, when the Scots met Ohio Wesleyan. Once

again they performed well, but the lady Scots came away with a 0-1 loss.

"The team played so much better this weekend," said Craig. "Things are really coming together".

When asked about how she felt the team as a whole was performing, McDougall commented, "Our play improved from last weekend and now we just need to fine tune some things to be ready for MIAA play."

"We have a really good team and we've been showing steady improvement since our first game," Braun added. "We are starting to come together and it will show in MIAA play."

Alma's next match will be this Wednesday at home against Northwood. Game time is 4 p.m.



Football team blanketed by snowstorm

By Joe Bogan
Freelance Writer

The Alma College football team opened its season like a small, rolling snowball as they played at Valparaiso University in the season opener.

The snowball started to roll down a hill with great speed growing as it rolled, steadily increasing in size. Unfortunately the snowball is being fumbled and tossed around more and more as it goes down the hill. This effect could describe the team's 66-21 loss.

"Things just started to go wrong, and snowballed from there," said head coach Jim Cole.

After the Scot's first drive was stuffed, they allowed Valparaiso to have good field position, scoring easily 29 yards away from the end zone. The second touchdown by Valparaiso occurred in the same

manner — starting its drive once more on the Alma 29 yard line.

The snowball effect.

Battling for field position most of the first half, Alma began to move the ball in the second quarter. However, they lost the ball near midfield off a fumble, allowing Valparaiso to take advantage of the turnover, scoring yet another touchdown and widening the lead to 31-0 at half-time.

Senior Ben Washabaugh sums up the team's problems of the game.

"Everything that could go wrong, did go wrong," said Washabaugh. "We had a lot of small, individual mental breakdowns that created big problems for the team."

Coach Cole described the first half.

"We were somewhat frustrated with the poor field position," said Cole. "It was tough to get on track."

Things just started to go wrong, and snowballed from there.

•Head Coach Jim Cole

The snowball effect.

The second half proved to be more successful for the Scots. After a Valparaiso rushing touchdown, the offense got in gear and scored an 18 yard touchdown with a throw from junior Bill Nietzsche to junior Leonard Warren.

Later on in the 3rd quarter, Valparaiso scored once again. However, Alma responded once more at the end of the quarter capping off an 80 yard drive with an 18 yard touchdown run by first-year student Raymond Dawood.

"When the offense clicked, we scored rather easily," said Cole. "That gave confidence to the team. When we execute, everything works well."

Everything the team needs to succeed was there in the game," added Washabaugh. "Whenever things started to work, some small mental breakdown would appear, hurting us."

But the snowball was already too big.

The Scots did score another touchdown with a Warren reception, but

Valparaiso scored on two punt returns, and intercepted the ball on the at the end of the game.

Despite the loss, the Scots did have some bright spots. Between the three running backs, Alma had 151 yards rushing. The run-and-shoot worked well for wide receiver Warren, who had 130 yards and 2 touchdowns during the game.

The team needs to refocus for their next game.

The team has a lot more to work on than originally thought, said Washabaugh. Everyone needs to redefine the team's focus and get ready for next week.

"We will respond by playing the type of football that everyone expects us to play, and just go out and have some fun next week," said a hopeful coach Cole.

Next Saturday, the Scot football team will travel to Kankakee, Illinois and take on Olivet-Nazarene.

Men's soccer team aims for the top in conference play

By Chris Tapley
Freelance Writer

The men's soccer team had a busy weekend as they faced two separate opponents in two days this past weekend. On Saturday the team faced Hiram. The team found themselves down by two goals at half-time. Despite dominating the second half and having scoring chances the team was unable to overcome the deficit. When the game ended the score stood at 2-0.

On Sunday the team faced Mount Union. The Scots went down by one goal early but a goal by sophomore Randy Uren near the end of the first half tied the score at

one apiece. Early in the second half junior captain Jeff Bateson found the net to put the Scots up 2-1. Alma was able to hold onto the lead until Mount Union scored

We want to win the MIAA championship this year...

•Head Coach Scott Frey

with 54 seconds left in the game. In overtime, despite numerous scoring opportunities neither team

was able to capitalize. The game ended after two overtime periods in a 2-2 tie.

This weekend's games brought the Scots record to 2-3-1 overall. The three losses the Scots have suffered have come at the hands of opponents ranked in the top five in the region.

Head coach Scott Frey commented, "We set up our early schedule to be very difficult on purpose." Coach Frey hopes that by doing so the Scots will be better prepared for conference play which starts Saturday against Calvin.

"It's a new season and we are going to get better every game," said junior captain Tom Jewett.

The Scots are looking forward to

the conference opener against Calvin, one of the three teams to beat them to date.

"It's payback time, it's personnel, we really have a score to settle they are the team that started our downward fall," said Jewett.

"It's going to be a great game, we are really going to put on a show," commented junior captain Jeff Bateson.

The Scots hope to contend for the MIAA championship this season. "We want to win the MIAA championship this year, and hopefully make it to the post-season," said junior captain Jeff Bateson.

"We'd like to make it into the national tournament, if we win the MIAA we have a realistic chance of doing that," said Coach Frey.

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Cross country team takes first

By Chris Tapley
Freelance Writer

The cool windy weather on Saturday did not stop the men's cross-country team from a first place team finish. The team finished first in the Indiana Purdue University at Fort Wayne Invitational on Saturday. Alma's top finisher was senior team captain Jason Bandlow.

The men felt that they ran especially well.

"As a team we ran excellent," said sophomore Peter Muccio. The time gap between first and fifth

place for the men's runners was only forty-eight seconds. The goals in previous years had been to have this time be just under a minute.

"If we can keep running at that level and improve upon it we will be contenders at the conference meet," said Muccio.

The men's team started their season a week and a half ago at the Saginaw Valley State University Invitational. The course the men ran at SVSU was only four miles instead of the normal course length of eight kilometers. The team ran

well finishing fourth as a team. Many members of the team however felt they didn't run up to their fullest potential according to Muccio.

The team holds high expectations for the rest of the season. The team's top six runners from last year are returning this year and are already in prime shape.

"Our top six returning runners put in a lot of miles this summer," said Muccio.

The team's top six runners this year are senior co-captain Jason Bandlow, senior co-captain Jon

Makela, junior Jerry Howard, Junior Ben Witte, Sophomore Peter Muccio and sophomore John Buesing.

The team's goal this year is to be in a position to be a contender in their conference.

"When other teams go to the conference meet then they're going to have to worry about Alma too," said Muccio. The team finished fourth in the conference last year and hopes to finish higher than that this year.

"We stand a chance of finishing in the top 3 at conference this year,"

said Muccio.

The team to beat at this point however is Calvin, the defending conference champs.

The team gets their first chance to prove themselves in the conference at the first conference jamboree at Hope on Saturday September 21.

Women's team keeps stride

By Chris Tapley
Freelance Writer

The women's cross-country team is combining a mixture of the old and the new into a winning combination.

The women's team finished first out of thirteen teams at the Indiana Purdue University at Fort Wayne Invitational on Saturday. The team overcame having some runners who were sick to win the overall placement.

Individually the team also did well with first year student Ann Girmaldi finishing sixth and sophomore Dana Cole finishing eighth. Three other Alma runners finished within the top twenty-five at the invitational.

The win at this week's invitational was a continuation to a good season started last week with a second place finish at the Saginaw Valley State University Invitational. The team was competing against many larger schools and still had a very successful day. Both the young runners and the experienced runners contributed to the win.

"We are really excited about this season, we have a lot of potential to do well and have a good year," said junior captain Sarah Kampf. Kampf stresses the importance of teamwork for the team to be successful. "No one runner can win a cross-country meet," stated Kampf.

The scoring of cross-country meets is done on a team basis. In order to win the whole team must run well together. "Anyone can make a difference on any particular day," said Kampf.

The team hopes to do well in the MIAA conference this year. Calvin and Hope promise to offer stiff competition. The Women get their first chance to compete against conference teams on Saturday at the first conference Jamboree to be held at Hope College.

Rollerblading takes center stage

By Kendra Seybert
Freelance Writer

They're everywhere.

Gliding down the chapel steps, soaring through the air as they jump potholes, passing the hockey puck on a late Monday night, they can be seen at any time, in almost any weather. They are roller bladers and enjoy one of the fastest growing sports in America.

Recognized for its excellent cardiovascular workout, rollerblading has steadily grown from fad to mainstream. It burns as many calories as running without the tremendous stress on the joints. This, in combination with the enjoyment that rollerblading provides, has made the sport popular among all ages.

The high demand for in-line hockey leagues as come with the growth of the rollerblading industry. Peter Abbott, program director of a roller-hockey minor league in Canada, explains why it's hard

to keep up with the demand for in-line hockey leagues, "We've gone from 160 players last year to 750 now. The growth rate is absolutely phenomenal."

Roller-hockey is also growing in popularity among some Alma College students. On any given night, roller-hockey enthusiasts can be seen passing the puck in the Heritage Center parking lot in a fiercely competitive, and sometimes bloody, hockey game.

Senior Jason Walker, sporting a cut on his knee from one of these such competitions, states, "The good thing with roller-hockey is you can play with two people, or you can play with twenty. It doesn't really matter."

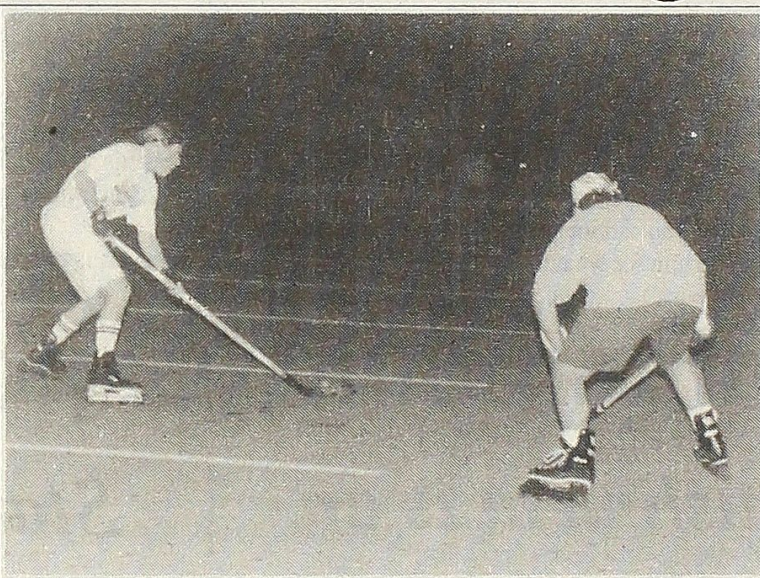
Junior Nathan Fite also participates in many of the nightly games.

Fite, having just recently purchased his pair of roller blades, comments, "It was money well spent."

How much does one have to pay for the enjoyment of this sport? Roller blades can cost anywhere from one hundred to over four hun-

feat against Albion, sophomore Mali Vanderbeek, commented, "We have so much potential with six of us on the floor, but we're in the process of connecting as a team effort. And when that happens, we'll be a power in the conference."

"We're improving every game," said senior Annie DeLind, co-captain of the team. This does seem to be the case. After losing to Albion



Rollerblading, including rollerblade hockey, has become increasingly popular among students. Photo by Phil Allmen.

dred dollars, not including the price of knee, elbow and wrist pads, which are highly recommended even for the occasional user.

More and more buyers of in-line skates are realizing the need for protective gear; approximately three years ago only twenty percent of customers purchased protective gear while, today, this figure has risen to nearly sixty percent.

Rollerblading looks as if it is here

to stay. A push for designated rollerblading paths and access to public areas where the sport can be practiced safely is occurring now that the popularity of the sport is on the rise.

Just watch out for the guy skating on the rail of the chapel steps, and look out behind you because roller bladers are everywhere.

Volleyball team holds high expectations

By Kendra Seybert
Freelance Writer

Optimism and hard work seems to be the key for the women's volleyball team this season.

Last week the team was defeated by Albion 9-15, 10-15, and 8-15 and by Calvin 5-15, 10-15, and 6-15.

Regarding the September 9th de-

and Calvin, the women competed in the Baldwin Wallace tournament in Ohio making it into the championship bracket, where, shortly after, they were knocked out of the competition.

Penny Cook, the women's volleyball coach, was encouraged by the September 13 and 14 tournament despite the loss.

"We did well this weekend,"

said Cook. "Things are starting to mesh and we're on an upswing."

The volleyball team will be playing at Olivet on September 19.

Team co-captain junior Amy Pickelmann hopes for improvement.

"We can do really good this year but we'll have to work more as a team and having the desire to win," said Pickelmann.

Men's golf team looks to rebound after loss

By Phil Allmen
Sports Editor

The men's golf team opened their season last Thursday at Albion, but they had a rough time.

Junior Mike McHugh led the team, shooting an 80. First-year student Nick Slocum and sophomore Tim Shunsky followed with an 82.

Alma's team score totaled 416.

Olivet won the match with a combined score of 388.

Each team consists of six players and the top five scores turned in are used for the team.

Sophomore Kevin DeGroot asks, "If everyone has a bad day at the same time, how can you expect to win?"

Shunsky points out that these scores will not be a trend.

"We can make up the twenty shots easily over the next six matches," said Shunsky. "This first match does not worry us at all."

Slocum adds, "Leads can change

really quickly. During tryouts everyone shot about two or three strokes better, on average."

On any given day the team or individuals can play great or terrible according to Slocum.

One possible reason for the slow start is the team's experience.

"We have a really young team," said DeGroot. "Don Light is the only senior on the team, and he is injured."

The team consists of one senior, one junior, four sophomores, and

Death row prisoner reaches out

By Jenn Cornell
Opinion Editor

The name Kevin A. Miles may not mean anything to you, but what he represents will undoubtedly stir some sort of emotion in each and every one of us.

Miles is an inmate on Arizona's Condemned Row. He is sentenced to die. The death sentence is only handed out to those people found guilty of first degree murder. Why should you care about Miles? Besides any sort of philosophical debate his situation may bring about, he wants you to.

I returned to *The Almanian* this year expecting to write everyday sort of stuff. Imagine my surprise when I found a letter from a death row inmate on my desk. I sat and thought about it for a long time. Why would he write to Alma? More importantly, is he for real?

I called the Arizona State Prison

and found out that Miles is real and has been incarcerated since July 1993. The warden told me that he wrote to several college newspapers hoping that someone, somewhere, would read his letter and respond to it.

The letter came addressed to "The Editor of the Campus Newspaper." It was just a plain white envelope. The letter inside was nothing fancy. It wasn't written on special paper and its style did not jump right out and grab my attention. What did grab me was what the letter said.

In its entirety, the letter is two pages long. I could print the whole thing, but there really is no need for it. At his wishes, I also will not print specifically what he is in jail for. The details do not really matter. If you cannot get past your hatred of him for what he has been

convicted then this article is not for you anyway.

It might be interesting to note that Miles says in his letter that he was not guilty of the crime for which he is being punished. That's

It is my social status, the uniqueness, the realistic oneness and loneliness of it that brings this request to you.

• Kevin A. Mills,
Arizona State Prisoner

what they all say, right? But does it really matter? I could also try to explain what he wrote and why it really made me think, but his words are more meaningful than mine could ever be.

Miles began the letter: "It is my

social status, the uniqueness, the realistic oneness and loneliness of it that brings this request to you." He goes on to say: "I was hoping you could help me in creating a way that I may come in contact with those who could extend me a general, if not compassionate, communication. More specifically, I am prayerful that you can assist me in developing a source of pen-friends."

Loneliness. Do we really know what it is? Few of us will ever be as lonely as Miles is. When I am having a bad day, say I got into a quarrel with my boyfriend, I have a need to turn to someone for comfort. I guess my personality type dictates that I can't handle everything on my own all of the time. I cannot even imagine knowing I was going to die and not having a single person on the earth

to talk to. To know that there are people outside my life who do not care about me, do not even know me, but want for me to die would be unbearable to me if I had to handle it all alone.

Think about it. Is it really so hard to understand why he wants someone to write to him? Human nature dictates for us to be creatures of need. We need to be loved, to feel accepted, to be happy. Although Miles was convicted of a terrible act, he is only human. He has needs just like you and me.

If you are at all interested in writing to Miles, his address is: Kevin A. Miles, ADC#98955, ASPC Florence, P.O. Box 8600, Florence, AZ 85232.

If, for whatever reason, you do not wish to print your real address, please feel free to have any correspondence with him sent directly to *The Almanian*. We will forward all letters accordingly.

Point/Counterpoint: Capital punishment

Capital punishment is an effective deterrent

By Tom Glegola
Staff Reporter

Those opposed to capital punishment have several arguments. These arguments range anywhere from stating that the death penalty is too arbitrary, to the assertion "thou shall not kill."

I cannot refute the commandment against killing, since it has no basis in empirical fact, but rather is opinion based on religious convictions.

My central argument is that capital punishment serves as a deterrent to committing capital offenses. Clearly if death is the punishment for committing heinous crimes such as rape or murder, rational people will not commit the crime. By rationale, one would suppose that a person will weigh the costs and benefits of committing the crime. Assuming the person is rational, I cannot find a logical reason as to why they would commit such an act.

A case in point is William George Bonin, a prisoner waiting his execution.

From 1979-80, Bonin kidnapped, raped, and murdered 14 teenaged boys. Clearly someone who commits such crimes against so many people is a menace to society and should be prevented from ever committing a similar crime.

Another clear case of where capital punishment could have been used but was not is a case heard by Federal Judge Harold Baer Jr., of the Southern District of New

York who turned loose a drug dealer. Baer has raised another controversy with his comment that it was understandable for someone to flee from the police in one upper Manhattan neighborhood.

Two responses come to mind. One, how can a judge make a comment that it is acceptable for a suspect to run from the law? Secondly, why was someone who was suspected of dealing drugs let go? Is there no justice? This same dealer could very easily

have distributed his drugs to anyone, including children. For the safety of children, drug dealers should be brought to justice—even if that means capital punishment.

Some make the case that there have been some prisoners who were executed yet were innocent. Those sentenced to death do have more than ample opportunity to appeal the decision. In fact they have too much time. For example, William Bonin is still awaiting execution from crimes committed 16 years ago.

Earlier this year, Bob Dole proposed a bill to limit the time death-row inmates

could have to appeal their cases to one year. President Clinton has vetoed limits on the right to appeal on three different occasions. Clearly Bill Clinton is taking a soft stance on crime.

What our society needs is a deterrent against offenses such as rape, murder, and even poisoning our children with drugs. That deterrent is capital punishment with limited time to appeal.

State authorized killing is still wrong

By Dan Scripps
Co-Editor-In-Chief

There are several reasons why capital punishment is wrong. One could argue from a religious angle, that since our country is rooted in the Judeo-Christian tradition contains the commandment "Thou shall not kill," clearly killing is wrong under any circumstances. Or one could argue from a financial angle, that since it takes more money to put somebody to death in this country than to keep them in jail for life, it is financially unwise to operate a "death row."

However, though both of these arguments are currently valid, their validity is weak in that we could legislate over them by allowing capital punishment and limiting the appeal process.

Even if we did that, it does not change the fact that we are doing the same thing as the people to whom we are punishing. Any way you look at it, capital punishment is killing people.

The arguments for capital punishment are as diverse as those against it. They range from those who argue that we need to kill these criminals to ensure that they are never allowed to commit these heinous crimes again, to those who argue that through our killing we are creating a strong enough deterrent, to those thinking about killing someone to those who argue that the only way to bring justice to the victims of these crimes is to kill the offenders.

What people forget in this debate is that

regardless of how wrong the crimes committed were, there are still people involved, and when you even kill the guilty, which is far from being true in far too many cases, you are still killing a person.

When a state or country legitimizes death in this way, it cannot expect cases to drop, but rather the reverse. When potential murderers see someone being killed, it is an easy jump to think "Killing can't be all wrong if the state or country does it."

As twisted as this thinking is, the capital punishment that inspires it is even more so. To argue that capital punishment can serve as an effective deterrent in a way that a life long jail term cannot is ludicrous.

Similarly, to argue that we need to kill these criminals to ensure that they do not have the opportunity to kill again is also wrong. How is taking someone's life going to keep them off of the streets any more than keeping them locked up? Obviously, it is not.

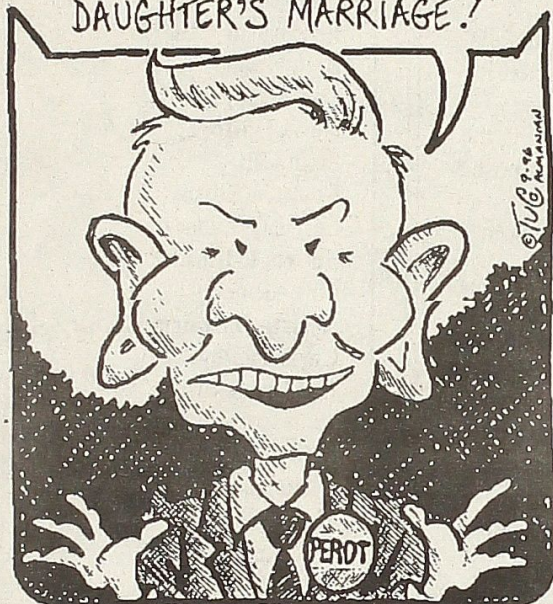
Lastly, to argue that these people need to die to bring justice to the victims is to bring back the old "eye for an eye" argument, and I certainly hope we have moved away from that.

We have to remember in this debate that we are debating whether the state has the legitimate right to kill. When we argue that it does we are allowing the state to commit the same acts as those whom we are killing.

To argue that capital punishment can serve as an effective deterrent in a way that a life long jail term cannot is ludicrous.

SCENES FROM PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGNS...

★1992:

THOSE DARN REPUBLICANS
TRIED BREAKING UP MAH
DAUGHTER'S MARRIAGE!

★1996:

SEE! THOSE PESKY
REPUBLICANS ARE OUT
BREAKING UP MARRIAGES AGAIN!

Miss America: Ideal woman or plastic image?

By Jenn Cornell
Opinion Editor

Anyone who has ever seen *Sesame Street* has heard the song, "One of these things is not like the others. One of these things just does not belong."

Think of this: What poise! What talent! She's so intelligent! She looks so great in a swimsuit! What doesn't belong in that series of sentences?

No one can dispute the fact that the American woman has come a long way on the road to defining herself as strong willed, capable, and independent. Today's American woman is no longer the good wife/good mother model of June Cleaver. In a country that embraces independent thinking and equality among all, why are we still embracing the idea of Miss America?

Last year, the directors of the

Miss America pageant held a phone-in vote to decide whether or not they should keep the swimsuit portion of the competition. Surprisingly, the public decided to keep the swimsuit competition. Among the reasons cited for keeping that portion of the program was that the model American woman should be physically fit.

Obviously looking good in a bathing suit means that someone is physically fit, right? I mean, if they really wanted to make sure that these women were physically fit why didn't they give them a strength test or some sort of difficult physical activity to perform? Better yet, why don't we just have the women mud wrestle it out for the crown after singing an opera and answering questions on world peace? Not only would that show how incredibly well rounded our Miss America is, I think it might even be more entertaining.

Sound ridiculous? Maybe that's because the real truth lies deep somewhere in our not so politically correct selves—that we really want Miss America to look good. I still wonder why it matters what she looks like. Hasn't anyone ever heard that it's what is inside that really counts?

I have no problem at all in recognizing a model American woman, but I do have a problem in recognizing Miss America. Maybe it is not the contestants' fault. Maybe they don't mind still being seen as an object of beauty, albeit a talented and intelligent one. Maybe they don't seem to see that by falling prey to the "perfect size 4" mentality they are indeed betraying the very women they are supposed to represent. I just hope one day we start to practice our equality for all attitude or just give the public what they really deserve—a mud wrestling pit.

Senate approves discrimination law

By Phil Allmen
Sports Editor

Last week two U.S. Senate votes pushed equal rights progress back thirty years, and President Bill Clinton has already stated he will sign the bill.

The Defense of Marriage Act defines marriage as the "legal union between one man and one woman" and allows states to "refuse to honor same-sex marriages performed in any other state." This bill won in a landslide in the Senate by a 85-14 vote including support from Michigan's two senators, Carl Levin, Democrat, and Spencer Abraham, Republican.

What purpose does this definition of marriage achieve?

Do proponents feel that same-sex marriages weaken family values?

As Senator Robert Byrd, Democrat from West Virginia stated, "To insist that male-male or female-female relationship must have the same status as the marriage relationship is more than unwise, it's patently absurd."

Offering equal rights to all citizens is never absurd. It is unfair and unconstitutional to give one long-term partner a different set of rules than another. These partners deserve the same special benefits that married heterosexual couples receive—health, pension, social security, veteran, and inheritance rights.

The battle rages in the courts of Hawaii over the issue of same-sex marriages, but with this new bill, other states can now legally refuse to honor the marriage.

The U.S. government has decided to legalize discrimination. How is this different from equal rights for African-Americans or women? Most people would laugh at the idea of these groups not voting.

Worse yet, the other vote defeated a bill forbidding employers from using sexual orientation as a basis for hiring, firing, promotions, or compensation by the vote 50-49. This law may both help and hinder homosexuals, but unfortunately can allow an employer to make excuses for not hiring someone.

First, how does one's sexual orientation affect performance in the workplace? And if an employer realizes an employer is homosexual, how will that affect his/her work performance? This bill invites homophobia to take over the workplace.

This is further evidence that our government feels that these citizens are not equal with the rest of the country.

While Levin was in support of this bill, once again, Spencer Abraham was against equal rights.

Discrimination and bigotry may abound in Washington over the rights of its citizens, but homosexuals are still forced to find their place in a society afraid of people being different.

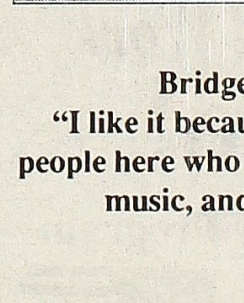
Opinion poll

What do you think of Alma College?



Kelly Corrigan '00

"I like the small campus because I can get around easily and not get lost."



Bridget Brown '00

"I like it because there are people here who like country music, and that's hard to find!"



Michelle Hribar '97

"My four years at Alma have helped me mature and learn more about myself and my goals. I have also made many special friends who I will remember for the rest of my life."



Classifieds

Och and hout mon! I'm a wee bit tardy tellin' ye about NARRATIVES AND NOVELS OF SCOTLAND ENG 183/*383 for next spring in SCOTLAND. See *Rob Roy* and *Braveheart* country, follow the track of R.L. Stevenson's David Balfour and so the walks of Miss Jean Brodie. Three days in Glasgow, five in Edinburgh, a four-day tour of Callender, the Tiossaxles, Fort William and Ghye, and time in Oban, Mull, and ancient Iona, with time in the Highlands and Inveraray. DR 3B will be sought for ENG 183. Interested? Call me, Eugene Pattison, SAC 338, ext. 7132. We have room for

14 and will start lining up arrangements soon.

...

The dance department is offering a London Trip for next spring term. A London theatre and dance trip to be exact.

If you are interested in finding out more about it please stop by my office in the Heritage Center and sign your name. I will then send you an informational packet describing the trip in detail and the costs involved.

Some details to wet your appetite—we will be in London for approximately 10 days with a two day trip to Stratford—we will see six performances which will include Broadway shows—

ballet and modern dance performances and theatre productions. Back stage tours and work shops will be included as well as guided tours and sightseeing of London—plus much, much more. The course meets IIIA distributive and receives 4 credits.

Hope you will all be able to join us for a very exciting trip. Carol Fike, x7242.

...

Wanted: Student for part time work. Mainly feeding, watering, and cleaning cages. Must be willing to work with different kinds of animals. Alma Tropical Fish Center 228 E. Superior St. Alma (517) 463-2364.

Staff Editorial

Mud slinging dirties credibility

Campaigns are run to present the voters with why he or she should vote for that particular candidate, right?

Oh wait, here's a commercial for candidate X.

What?

He voted to raise taxes three times, voted to destroy the rain forests, has two lovers, and is for infanticide? Why would he tell everyone that?

Unfortunately, this is a popular, and fairly successful, tactic when running for political office.

It allows people to make a choice on one or two major issues by presenting an unpopular action by the candidate. This mud slinging is a terrible way to run a campaign.

Last week GOP presidential nominee Bob Dole questioned President Bill Clinton's refusal to present his complete medical records, but only quotes from the report. Dole has revealed several medical reports on his health.

Dole's questioning on what Clinton has to hide insinuates that Clinton may be carrying a sexually transmitted disease.

So what?

Dole has no proof, and Clinton has every right to withhold personal medical records.

Both Clinton and Dole expressed their desire to run a clean campaign, but now both are crying that the other began mud slinging first.

Mud slinging is effective for uninformed voters. Those who follow the issues and candidates can make a well-informed decision while looking past the commercials attacking their opponents.

Where better to find informed political opinions and individuals above following cheap shots than an intellectual center.

A college, perhaps.

Unfortunately not even colleges are safe from this propaganda, as I have witnessed on the first day of classes this fall. Posted for all those waiting to register to see. Posters supporting Dole.

However, this poster showed three men. One was punching the second man, while the third man holds the second. Superimposed on the first man's head was one of Clinton.

Will those posters sway anyone's votes for Dole? How about against him?

Seeing that picture reminded me that politics are quite childish. It appears that individuals believe party power is more important than the best choice. If this trend continues, Clinton supporters will retaliate with signs against Dole, then both Republicans and Democrats will add more water to the dirt, slinging more and more mud.

Unfortunately the mudslinging has begun. The question is—will it ever end? As long as we grow up, we can make an informed choice on November 5.

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The Almanian Letter Policy

All Letters to the Editors must meet the following standards for publication: signed, include the author's phone number and address, and pertain to the Alma College community. Letters are published on a first come, first serve basis, up to three per week. We reserve the right to condense letters for layout purposes. Deadline for publication is 5 p.m. the Friday before requested publication. Address letters to: The Editorial Board, *The Almanian*, Newberry Hall, Alma College, Alma, MI 48801, or e-mail at ALMANIAN@alma.edu.

Independence offers new outlook on life

By Jenn Cornell
Opinion Goddess

Eating alone at Joe's. Sitting by myself each night, lonely, in my room. Drowning my depression with boxes upon boxes of Twinkies. This is the story of my life since my boyfriend transferred to the University of Michigan.

OK. So maybe I'm exaggerating. A lot. I would be lying if I didn't say that I missed him though. He was a big part of my life. He still is, but in a different sort of way. It seemed like every bit of free time I had last year I spent with him. It was by choice, of course. It's not like he forced me to be with him. That's what I really and honestly wanted to do.

Being away from him has taught me so much. I have grown to be more independent. It has really allowed me to spend more time with my friends. Yes, the same friends whom I neglected while he was

here. Now instead of going to a movie with him on Friday night, I go out with the girls. It's great.

Broadening your scope and doing things differently is good. Opening yourself up to new situations allows you to grow. Doing more things with my friends has allowed me to see the other side of things. I really feel like I am getting the best of both worlds. When my boyfriend comes to visit, I can be with him. When he is not here, I can be with my other friends.

On the flip side, it is also good to do things by yourself. Independent people are always so much more fun than people who are needy and clingy. Spending time with your friends and people you enjoy is important, but so is allowing yourself to do things alone every so often. Go to Joe's by yourself. Sit alone in MacIntyre Mall and watch the people go by. It's amazing the thoughts you will have when you are by yourself. Maybe you will

think of a new product and make a million dollars. Who know? Not the girl you hang out with everyday or your significant other. Only you can realize your own potential.

I know. It really sounds cheesy, but it is true. If you don't believe me, try it for yourself. It will seem weird at first, like people are looking at you like you are some kind of

loser who has no friends to do anything with. Don't care what other people think! Be independent. Be yourself.

If that doesn't work, just think—maybe you can invent a product to totally obliterate all of those people who snicker and stare if you just spent a little more time by yourself.



Get people to see things your way.

You've got your own views and values. As a Red Cross volunteer, you'll express them. You'll tell people you're out to change the world, and you know exactly how to do it. Perhaps you'll join your community's disaster response team. Or teach a kid to swim. Learn first aid or CPR. Or help people learn facts about HIV/AIDS. However you're involved, you'll be surrounded by young, motivated people like yourself. People who share your priorities and attitudes. So take on a new perspective. Check your White Pages and call your local American Red Cross chapter now.



Help Can't Wait

Live, Study, and Work in Japan!

Japanese Work Study Program



If you have a strong personal interest in acquiring knowledge of the Japanese language, society, and culture and have a sense of adventure- You should attend an informational meeting on September 27 at 3 p.m. in AC 106 or contact Professor Trebesh.

*Pizza and pop will be served.