

# The Almanian

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Serving Alma College since 1907

Issue 3

## Zeta Sigmas camp out for community

By Staci Hill  
News Editor

Despite cool fall temperatures, the brothers of Zeta Sigma, the local fraternity on campus, decided to camp out on their front lawn this past week. The group was holding their first annual can drive in conjunction with the Gratiot County Salvation Army.

Organized by member Scott Brade, the can drive will benefit needy families in the community. Throughout the week students donated non-perishable food items to the tent set up on the Zeta Sigma front lawn. At least four fraternity brothers slept in the tent each night to accept cans at all hours. The tent company Rent-Rite sponsored the can drive by donating the striped tent for the week.

In addition to asking students for donations, the brothers of Zeta Sigma sent e-mail to each professor on campus. Unfortunately, the response was minimal. However, the public response was outstanding, particularly due to the highly visible tent.

Local businesses and area households also contributed to the cause. The Zeta Sigmas traveled door-to-door for cans of non-perishable food or donations in the form of a check made payable to the Salvation Army.

To contact students who had not seen the tent, the brothers went door-to-door in the residence halls collecting pop cans. Zeta Sigma sisters also helped out with this. The pop can donations amounted to over \$175.

To end the week-long philanthropic event the fraternity held a "Party for Humanity" Friday night. To get in, students had to bring an invite, student ID, and at least one can of food.

The goal set by the fraternity was 2,000 cans in addition to monetary donations. Although they did not reach their goal this year, they hope to continue the event as an annual fall philanthropy to benefit the community.

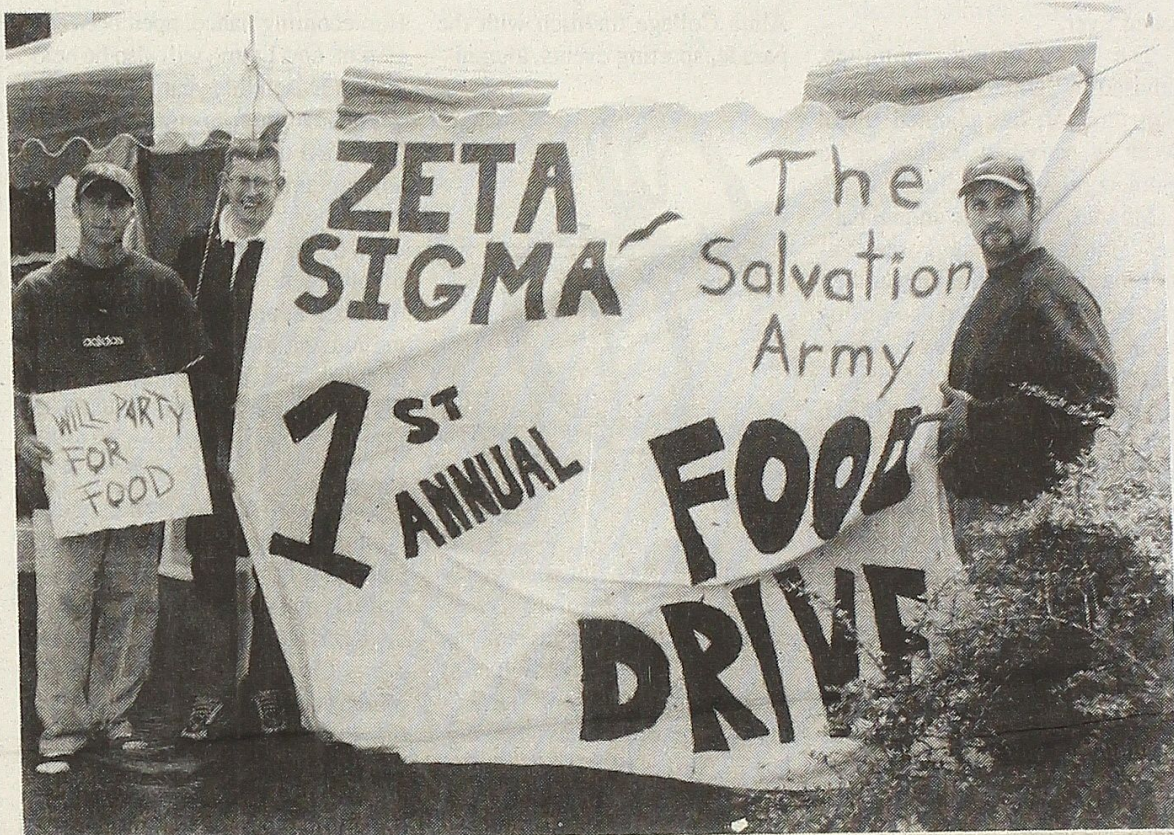
"Thanks to everyone for helping out with what they could. People don't think about it because they are away at school, but there are

needy families out there. We appreciate everyone who took time to help," stated Junior Warren Rojewski.

On Saturday the brothers dropped off the food items and checks to the

Salvation Army. The contributions will primarily go to those families in the Adopt-A-Family program sponsored by the Salvation Army of Gratiot County.

Senior Ian Schmidt is joined by two of his Zeta Sigma fraternity brothers as they attempt to raise can goods for the Salvation Army. Photo by Aaron Mansfield.



## Greeks welcome new members at Bid Bash

By Lisa Sherman  
Staff Reporter

Bid Bash, held on Saturday, September 21, provided the Greek community a chance to interact with other groups.

As junior Galina Martin, Bid Bash committee co-chairperson, emphasized, "Today was about unity."

In the past, Bid Bash has been known as Block Bash. The reason for this change was to give recognition to the new members in each group. Typically, fall pledge classes did not get the recognition that the winter classes do.

Informal rush was held last Saturday, Sept. 14. Fall rush is only open to those upperclassmen who have attended Alma College for at least one semester. Each of the four sororities held open houses for the rushees from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. on Saturday. The women were encouraged to attend any or all of the houses.

Originally, Bid Bash was scheduled to take place on President Alan Stone's lawn. A picnic and volleyball and horseshoe games had been

planned. However, due to rain, the event was moved to Hamilton Commons and started an hour later than planned.

The Greek community gathered in Hamilton Commons from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. The first 100 people in the door received Bid Bash cups. While everyone ate lunch, the Bid Bash committee organized games of Twister and relays for all the groups to participate in. Also, many items were donated for raffle by local businesses. People won anything from pizza at Little Caesars or Pizza Hut to free video rentals from Chart Hits Video and free

gasoline.

The highlight of the day was the announcement of each group's new members. Alpha Gamma Delta and Alpha Xi Delta each welcomes seven new women into their chapters, and Gamma Phi Beta and Kappa Iota each recognize five new members into their sisterhoods.

Theta Chi was the only fraternity to take on a fall pledge class. They welcoming four new men into their brotherhood.

The evening commenced with Greeks only parties at Sigma Alpha Epsilon and Zeta Sigma.



Haley Heath '97, Kurt Sutton '99 and Jenn Middleton '97 participate in a game of Twister during Bid Bash. Saturday's events included food, games, the welcoming of 28 new members into the Greek community and parties in the evening. Photo by Beth Knapp.

Alpha Gamma Delta	Alpha Xi Delta	Gamma Phi Beta
Dana Cole '99	Kelly Bannow '99	Sarah Abbey '99
Karen Heins '99	Jenny Cherniak '99	Katie Berry '99
Joanne Howd '98	Maya Mackowiak '99	Kate Follett '99
Jamie Raden '99	Tiffany Peters '99	Emily McDonnell '99
Jenny Souva '99	Carrie Reid '99	Amanda Schafer '99
Kari St. Bernard '99	Beth Schwalm '98	
Karen Steeno '99	Suzanne Semanson '99	
Kappa Iota	Theta Chi	
Jenn Cornell '98	Drew Downs '99	
Renee Goodwin '99	Oren Jenkins '99	
Ardeth Greene '99	Charles McKibben '99	
Laura Ringle '97	Julian Pike '99	
Jennie Zerges '99		

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# Homecoming: It's almost time!

By Staci Hill  
News Editor

Signs posted on campus tell students that "It's almost time."

They refer to Homecoming 1996, scheduled for the week of Sept. 30-Oct. 5. This year's theme is "Cherished Ever."

The Homecoming committee, advised by Jamie Hickey, Bruske hall director, has planned a full week of activities leading up to Homecoming day, October 5.

Monday will be the annual banner contest. Any campus organization may participate as long as their banner is displayed on campus by noon that day. Interested groups should contact Mary Serwick (x7917) or Alicia Sanchez (x7371). The winning banner receives \$25 and the campus organization will lead the parade. Monday night a movie will be shown in Jones Auditorium.

Tuesday, the popular game "Name That Tune" will take place in Jones Auditorium at 7 p.m. Students may also begin voting for Homecoming Court during meals at Hamilton Commons. Voting continues Wednesday and Thursday at lunch and dinner.

On Wednesday Alma College Union Board (ACUB) is sponsor-

ing a Coffee House at Joe's Place at 8:30 p.m..

For Friday the Homecoming committee has organized the annual Pep Rally as well as a bonfire on the soccer field starting at 8:30 p.m.

Homecoming day will follow Alma College tradition with the parade, sporting events, alumni



dinner, and all-campus dance. The parade, scheduled for 11 a.m., is open to all campus organizations. Those interested in participating should contact Jamie Hickey (x7147) before Friday, September 27. Prizes of \$100, \$75, \$50 will be awarded to the first, second and third-place floats.

Alma's football team will kick off at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday. Ad-

mission is free to Alma College students. The a cappella group The Stains will be singing the national anthem at the game. Homecoming King and Queen will also be announced.

The alumni dinner will take place in Van Dusen Saturday night. The Homecoming dance, open between 10 p.m. and 1 a.m., will also be held in Van Dusen this year.

The Homecoming co-chairs, Dawn DiPonio and Kim Irish, are hoping for a better turnout than last year.

"We're trying to get more campus involvement this year. All the activities that are planned will attract the interest of the students. Everybody on the [Homecoming] committee has put in a lot of work to increase participation," said DiPonio.

The advertising for Homecoming is based on this year's theme "Cherished Ever," also the title of the capital campaign for Alma College.

"Cherished Ever: A Campaign for Alma College" is underway. The public campaign will officially kick off with Homecoming. The interest and investment from the higher endowment will be used to stabilize tuition and make improvements on campus, including a new EHS wing and an intramural center.

## Schedule of events

### Monday

- Banner contest, noon
- Movie night, SAC 113, 8 p.m.

### Tuesday

- Name That Tune, Jones, 7 p.m.
- Vote for Homecoming Court, Hamilton Commons, lunch and dinner

### Wednesday

- ACUB Coffee House, Joe's Place, 8:30 p.m.
- Vote for Homecoming Court

### Thursday

- Vote for Homecoming Court

### Friday

- Pep Rally and Bonfire, Soccer Field, 8:30 p.m.

### Saturday

- Parade, Superior Street, 11 a.m.
- Football Game, Stadium, 1:30 p.m.
- Homecoming Dance, VanDusen, 10 p.m. to 1 a.m.

## Who's that girl?



Hannah Selmon, daughter of Michael Selmon, associate professor of English, plays with the geese in MacIntyre Mall this past week. Even the cold weather and gray skies could not keep her from enjoying the beauty of Alma's campus. Photo by Derek Warner.

## History project emphasizes women's importance

By Jennifer Hughes  
Staff Reporter

Women have always been a vital part of Alma College. Without women, Alma would only be half of what it is today, which is why certain members of Alma College have come up with a project for Women's History Month celebrating the history of women throughout the years at Alma.

Headed by Karen Garner, assistant professor of history, an interested group of students and faculty is meeting to prepare a display for Women's History Month in March of 1997.

"We'd like to include in this project, the history of women who have been in all different types of jobs and activities on campus," said Garner.

"The primary goal of the project is to create the display cases for March," she commented, "but we're expecting also to donate documents to the college archives in case people want to do more research in the future."

The possibility of eventually creating a video history or other written documents of the institutional history of women at Alma has also been discussed.

The first organizational meeting

for the women's history project was held Wednesday, September 18. Those who attended set goals, planned out what they wanted to include in the project, and how they would obtain the information needed. They also came up with fund raising ideas for the project.

"The group decided to include teachers, students, administrators, clerical staff, and housekeeping in the project," said Garner. "We want to make it inclusive of all the different experiences women have had on the Alma campus and look at how their status has changed over time."

The group first plans on researching written documents in the college archives and gathering written documented histories of many of the sororities and women's organizations on campus by contacting the groups and researching old records.

The group also plans to conduct oral history interviews with "people who have either contributed or been involved in some memorable event or if they've just been on campus a long time ... and can tell us from their own personal experiences how women's roles on campus have changed," commented Garner.

Many of the people interviewed will be alumni of the college or

some of the long-standing staff and faculty of the school.

"We're really excited about this. I think it's going to be really interesting ... and help contribute to women's history," Garner stated.

The idea originally arose from Garner's desire to come up with something to get involved in Women's History Month. A few years ago, she said, she read an article about a project where Central Michigan University prepared a history of women on their campus for their Centennial celebration in 1992. That idea sparked this project.

Approximately 20 students and four faculty members are involved so far, and everyone on campus is invited to help.

For information about this project contact Karen Garner, Jenn Brown, chairperson of archival research, or Jennifer Ebnit-Brown, chairperson of alumni and organizational history for the group.

The next general meeting is October 9 at 7:00 p.m. in Swanson Academic Center (SAC), room 106. Any interested person is invited to attend in order to help Alma celebrate women on campus from the past to the present.





## Gratiot County Players take over Strand Theatre

By Matthew Singletary  
Staff Reporter

A one-movie theatre still stands in the city of Alma. This reminder of the past rarely fails to bring a smile or a laugh to the lips of people passing through this small town for the first time. However, all things change, and the Strand Theatre on Superior Street is no exception.

The Gratiot County Players, a non-profit community theatre group coming to Alma from St. Louis, has taken control of the Strand Theatre and plans to turn it into a playhouse. Reconstruction of the interior is to begin in December, and in January the first play is tentatively scheduled. Titled "Bits of Broadway" and directed by Kevin Fitzgibbon, this play is a combination of musical numbers from popular Broadway shows.

Unfortunately, funds are needed to allow for reconstruction and maintenance of the theatre. So the Strand Theatre continues to show second run movies in the hopes that this will generate the necessary money.

This week the theatre is showing "Courage Under Fire" starring Meg Ryan and Denzel Washington, and next week they will be showing Disney's "The Hunchback of Notre Dame." Show times are 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 7 and 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 5 and 7 p.m. on Sunday. Around Halloween the Strand also plans to show Rocky Horror movies.

"Our advantage is that admission to the movie is only \$2.50, and that for \$5 a person can get a ticket for the movie, a small popcorn, and a small pop," said Tina Beamish, public relations officer for the Gratiot County Players.

Also, Beamish mentioned that the Players are looking for people to volunteer to work at the theatre during movie times. These volunteers would arrive at the theatre forty-five minutes before the movie to help set up, and would stay 30 minutes afterwards to help clean up. In return these volunteers would receive free popcorn and pop, and would be able to see the movie for free.

If anybody is interested she asks that people contact the theatre at 463-2593.

## EHS program gains popularity, outgrows facilities

By Missy Crossnoe  
Freelance Writer

Exercise and Health Science (EHS) has become very popular at Alma College.

"The number of majors and people taking EHS courses has dramatically increased over the last 10 years," said John Davis, chair and associate professor of EHS.

Due to this increase, the EHS department has outgrown its present facilities located in the Physical Education Center.

With the help of the "Cherished Ever" endowment campaign, an effort to collect money from outside donors, the college plans to build a more modern facility which will house its extra students.

The present EHS facilities were actually classrooms which have been converted into laboratory space. This new \$1 million addition, which has already received

approval from the Board of Trustees, will be constructed between the Kapp Science Center and the Physical Education Center. The new wing will contain two main laboratories, a human performance lab and a human anatomy lab. Davis stated that these labs will be designed from scratch and will contain, among other important things, running water and improved power. Also, the new addition will include improved faculty offices.

This addition is designed to benefit mainly EHS and other science majors. The new anatomy lab will help further educational opportunities for pre-med students as well as EHS majors.

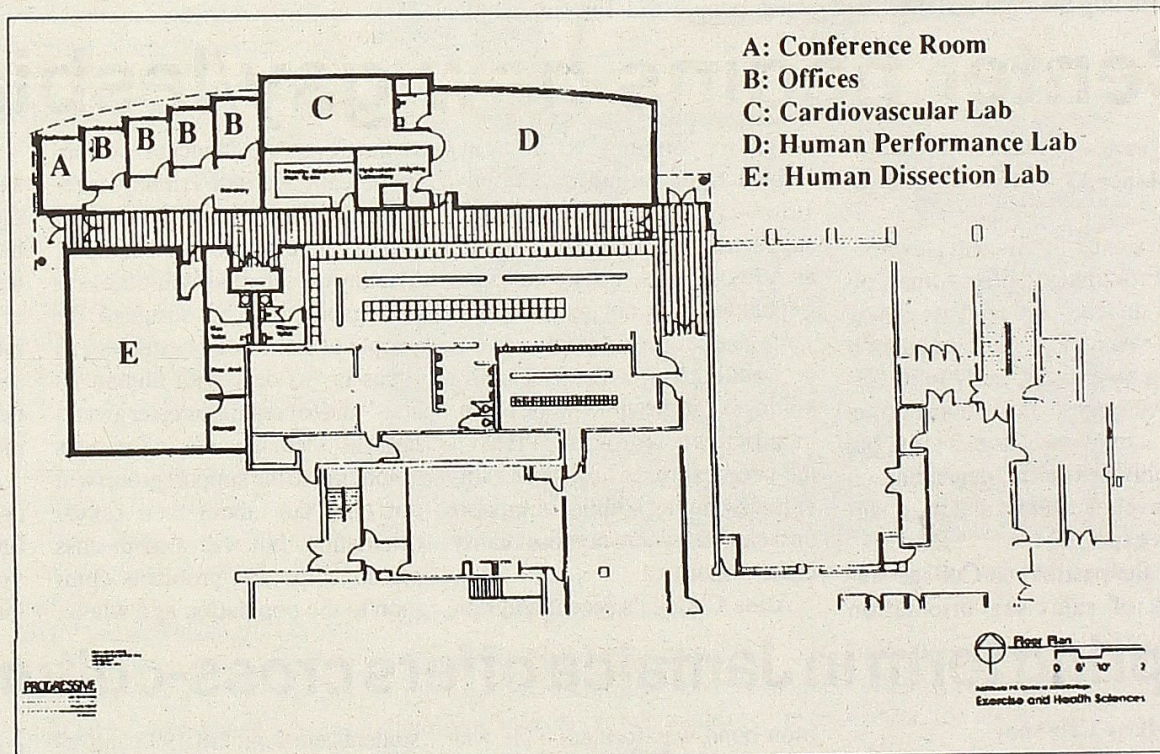
Hopes are high that ground breaking for the new addition will begin this spring, though, as of yet, the period of construction is unknown. It is thought to reach completion around October 1997. Davis states that the architectural design of the new building is extremely beautiful and will fit in very nicely with the

previously existing campus buildings.

The goal of the "Cherished Ever" endowment campaign is to raise

\$100 million for the campus of Alma College by the year 2000. This construction of the new EHS wing will be its' first contribution

*This diagram represents a floorplan of the new EHS wing, which will be located between the PE and Kapp Science Center.*



## Alma receives low ranking in U.S. News annual report

*Roeper outlines plan to improve college's national recognition*

By Mitzi Janukaitis  
Freelance Writer

In the September 16 edition of *U.S. News and World Report*, Alma College was ranked 101, in Tier Three, out of liberal arts colleges across the country.

This ranking is not what Alma College had expected or one which Alma College will accept.

"Alma College is good enough to be in Tier Two, but we have to become more nationally known," said President Alan Stone.

The rankings in *U.S. News and World Report* are voted on by the president, provost and admissions director from each of the 160 liberal arts colleges in the survey. Each college is ranked on

aspects such as acceptance rate, retention rate, predicted graduation rate and how well they are known nationally.

Gary Fenchuk, president of a Virginia marketing firm and a member of the Alma College Board of Trustees, believes Alma College needs to "beef up" its national image to move into Tier Two by the spring.

These improvements will be accomplished through a strategic plan devised by Karen Roeper, director of Alma College public relations and the college's marketing team.

This plan consists of a series of contacts aimed at the 480 people on the voting board to try to get them to

recognize Alma College as a quality institution. The first message will be Alma's new campaign view book detailing our fund-raising goals and a cover letter from Stone.

**Alma College is good enough to be in Tier Two, but we have to become more nationally known.**

• President Alan Stone

The next part of the plan is to send a small book of quotation compliments of Alma College to each voting board member.

The third item of the plan involves a telemarketing firm out of Chicago. The firm will conduct a

poll aimed randomly at members of the voting audience. The list of questions will involve how accurate the ranking is in guidebooks published about higher education.

This survey will show Alma College what quality is in the eyes of the voters so the college's message can be most effective.

The final portion of the plan includes advertisements that will appear in

*The Chronicle of Higher Education*, a popular weekly education publication.

Not only will the voters see this advertisement in January, February and March, but they will be receiving an Alma College bro-

chure. These measures will send the voters Alma's name more frequently, and hopefully prompt more people to recognize it.

The next voting period for *U.S. News*' 480 college officials will be in May, after Alma College's strategic plan has been instituted.

However, the college will not stop there in getting better name recognition. Also underway is a long-term plan which includes an improvement of the college's new home page on the World Wide Web and the encouragement for Alma's 12,000 alumni to use their alma mater's name in speeches, articles and whenever else it is possible. Alma also plans to consider developing its own scholarly journals sometime in the future.



# Foreign students add diversity to campus

By Larissa VanderZee  
Feature Editor

Do most Alma College students fly across part of the ocean in order to reach Scotland, USA? No. For the majority of students a couple hours in a car gets them to campus easily; but not for Janitza Ocasio and Sally Texeira. A four hour plane flight and then a three hour drive brings these two first-year students to campus.

Ocasio and Texeira live in Ponce, Puerto Rico. They have been friends since their freshman year in high school. Both had plans to continue their education in a college environment. Had they stayed in Puerto Rico, they would have attended the University of Puerto Rico, but both felt an experience in the states could offer them different opportunities, more complete programs, and a chance to improve their English skills.

Working with the Interamerican University, they took the College Board Exam. Their scores were high enough to be offered a chance to study in the states. The next step was finding the right college.

Having graduated with a class of 12 students, Ocasio and Texeira felt more comfortable with the prospect of attending a smaller school. Alma was the first to send every bit of information needed in making that college decision. Shortly after that, Mark Nazario, director of admissions contacted Ocasio and Texeira. They applied, were accepted, and Nazario flew down with the paper work. Nazario plans to continue recruitment in Puerto Rico.

Unlike Texeira, who had lived in Arizona for eight years, Ocasio had not been in the states for a stay longer than visits. Both say they feel relatively at home; the adjustment has not been too tough.

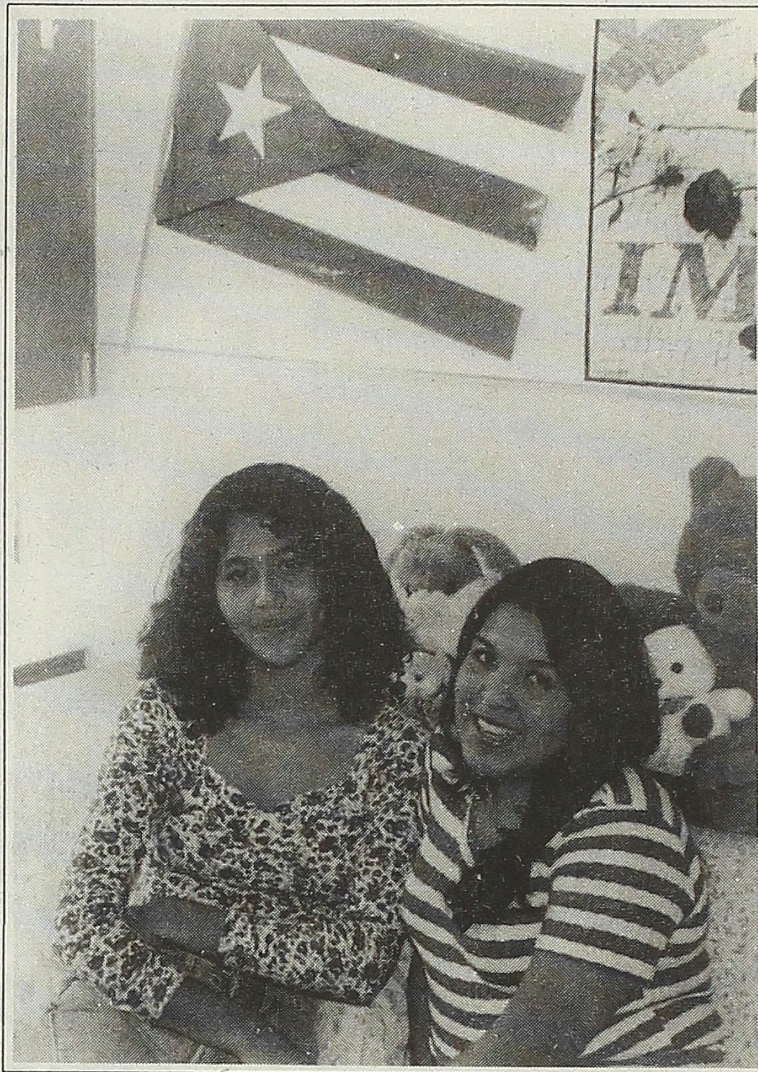
Coming from the second largest city in Puerto Rico, both enjoy the "peaceful campus, and lack of noise," said Ocasio and Texeira. They commented on the lack of traffic in the downtown district, the lack of "big" buildings, the lack of sirens, the lack of police horns—the typical differences between urban and rural areas. However, they did express some wonderment at what people did for fun on the

weekends.

They note dressing styles and the food as the two most distinct cultural differences. Ocasio said, "sometimes I just don't eat. If I can't tell what it is, I don't eat it." Texeira seeming slightly more daring said, "Sometimes the food looks weird, but I taste it. I'm getting used to it."

As for clothing, both had to invest in winter wardrobes. A couple sweatshirts were the most they needed in Puerto Rico. The promise of 30 degree weather for month upon month required one cultural transition almost immediately.

After three weeks into the term both feel their academic lives are under control. Only kind words were said about the professors and their consideration. Ocasio and Texeira said, "Our professors have been helpful with us, making sure we understand everything, since we don't speak English as a first language." Texeira plans to pursue a curriculum in pre-engineering, unsure of how she feels about all the math. Ocasio plans to study psychology.



Janitza Ocasio and Sally Texeira enjoy the confines of their new home away from home in Newberry Hall. They are both quickly adjusting to the college life in America. Photo by Jason Paetz

## Center begins new gay/lesbian support group

By Kendra Seybert  
Freelance Writer

The Center for Student Development continues to offer Alma College students aid with its newly born idea for a gay/lesbian support group on campus. Early in its formative stages, the support group may start as early as this term, but possibly next term, depending on the level of interest and need students express.

In the past, Alma College students of same-sex orientation

sought support from PRIDE, a gay/lesbian rights group on campus. However, because this group is supported by heterosexuals as well as homosexuals, the homosexual population was not receiving the same kind of peer support and understanding as it would in a totally homosexual group. The development of this new group results from the need expressed by those individuals wanting additional support on a campus where homosexuality is the minority.

Alma College's recent addition

to the Center for Student Development team, Kalindi Trietley, is responsible for coordinating the gay/lesbian support group on campus. Trietley explains that while the support group will be designed for people of same-sex orientation, its focus is "to deal with human issues" and to create a "greater awareness of themselves." Individuals belonging to the support group will not only talk about their sexual orientation, but will also discuss relationships and problems common to the population as a whole.

To become involved with this support group, students should call the Center for Student Development to schedule a preliminary interview with Trietley. The purpose of this interview is to ensure a genuine interest and need for support in order to protect those who really need the group from those who are merely curious.

Group members can be assured confidentiality from the Center for Student Development; however, Trietley explains it is not absolutely guaranteed due to the possi-

bility of group members discussing information with outside individuals.

The Center for Student Development recognizes the need for various support groups on campus, not limited solely for gays and lesbians; some other groups may be started on the basis of personal and academic support concerns. Trietley is always open to discuss possibilities of other support groups on campus where a need is expressed.

## Spring term in Jamaica offers cross-cultural experience to students

By Missy Crossnoe  
Freelance Writer

Fall is here. Alma College students know that fall term can be a very hectic time, followed soon after with winter term. Classes are demanding and schedules are crammed full. Will there ever be a change? Well, an overseas spring term could bring that change of pace to Alma students. Each of the numerous overseas spring term classes available grant many students educational learning opportunities, cross-cultural experiences, and tons of fun.

Junior Holly Bailey was one of the 20 Alma students who traveled to Jamaica for Spring Term 1996. She was ready for a change and gained a wonderful experience. She asserted that many of the students with whom she traveled to Jamaica did not know each other before hand. The trip itself and its opportunities inspired many new friendships among the students. A com-

mon bond was formed. This was also true with the professors who traveled to Jamaica, Nicholas Dixon, chair and assistant professor of philosophy and Eugene Deci, chair and professor of physics.

The students who traveled to Jamaica also gained many valuable learning opportunities. Dr. Dixon stated "one of the most valuable learning experiences is seeing what life is like in a third world country and seeing it first hand. You can read about it in books, but to be there is a totally different experience."

He states that no one returned the same person that left. "You look at the United States in a different, more positive way after experiencing what life is like in Jamaica."

Furthermore, the Jamaica trip, like other overseas and off-campus spring terms, fulfills the new designated "S" course which is required for graduation by Alma of

students entering fall 1995 and after. The Jamaica trip is not designed for any certain major or minor. There are no prerequisites and students are selected based on

*...You can learn about it in books, but to be there is a totally different experience*

*•Nicholas Dixon  
Chair of Philosophy*

the quality of their performance at Alma. Once students are selected, they can go through separate departments to satisfy individual needs.

On this past year's trip, many students chose the cross-cultural understanding experience in which they worked on a project for four hours a day, five days a week. The

completed project was an outhouse, which they mainly constructed themselves. This outhouse benefited the local secondary school in Savanna 'La 'Mar, the town in which the students stayed.

Also, students chose to do different practicums such as the health studies practicum which involved helping out at local clinics and even giving immunizations and diagnosing patients. Dixon stated that one of the most amazing cross-cultural experiences was gained by the health studies students when they acquired the chance to travel with visiting nurses into the mountains to treat patients who lived in one room shacks.

Further, some students chose to complete education practicums in which they were able to actively teach at the local secondary and elementary schools. No matter what practicum was chosen, all the students gained a true cross-cultural

experience in which they could never match at Alma.

Even with all the work and learning, students still managed to have fun while in Jamaica. During their free time the students and professors visited the town markets and did some sight-seeing. They even formed some organized trips to places such as the sugar cane plantation, waterfalls, and turquoise water springs—a definite change from the flat farm lands of Alma.

Taking into account the educational and cross-cultural experiences, plus the time of enjoyment gained from the Jamaica trip, as well as other overseas and off-campus spring terms, students may feel a sense of change coming their way.

For all interested, there will be an informational meeting and slide show depicting Jamaica as a spring term. The meeting will take place Thursday, September 26 in the Clack Art Center Auditorium at 7 p.m.



# Football team knocked off in a close one

By Chris Tapley  
Assistant Sports Editor

Size proved to be an obstacle this past Saturday as Alma suffered a loss to Olivet Nazarene.

"Our biggest problem was that they were very, very big on their offensive line and their fullback was 240 pounds, we only have one defensive player on the team that is that big," said head coach Jim Cole. Alma had some problems stopping Olivet's rushing game. Olivet rushed for 311 yards versus Alma's 74 yards.

Alma, however, started the scoring off with 11:36 left in the first quarter when senior quarterback

Bill Nietzke completed a 20 yard pass to senior receiver Matt Gordon for a touchdown. Later in the quarter Olivet responded with a 32 yard field goal bringing the score to 7-3 in favor of the Scots.

Early in the second quarter Alma extended the lead to 13 when Nietzke completed a four yard pass to junior running back Ray Dawood. Olivet answered with two touchdowns on a one yard run with 6:27 left in the half and an 11 yard pass with 33 seconds left in the half. The score at half-time was 17-13 with Olivet Nazarene on top.

The second half opened with a pair of Olivet touchdowns in the third quarter. Alma responded late

in the third quarter when Nietzke completed a pass to Dawood to bring the score to 30-20 going into the final quarter of play. In the final quarter both teams picked up a pair

*We had some great plays and some great moments, but we just need to finish it.*

•Jorge Livingston '97

of touchdowns to bring the final score to 44-40.

After the game Cole told his players, "Be pleased with the work you did but don't be pleased with the results."

"We had some great plays and some great moments, but we just need to finish it," said senior Jorge Livingston.

Overall Alma's offense performed well accumulating 484 yards passing and 74 yards rushing. "Our offense played excellent. It's a cornerstone we are going to build upon," said Coach Cole. The team also hopes to improve upon their defensive play.

"If we have them down the defense needs to keep them down; we need to develop that killer instinct," said Livingston.

The Scots will get their chance to develop that killer instinct this Saturday in the home opener against

Elmhurst College. "We beat Elmhurst last year so they are going to come in here pretty hungry," said coach Cole. The Scots hope to be competitive against Elmhurst, which is closer in size to Alma. The home crowd figures to play a role in the game also.

"We are excited to be coming home for our first home game. The crowd will be on our side for once and hopefully we can build some enthusiasm," said senior captain Jason Couch. Coach Cole added, "It's important that this Saturday that the fans and student body come out and help us and give us that extra lift that only hometown fans can give you."

# Frisbee golf flies into the mainstream sports world

By Phil Allmen  
Sports Editor

Throwing a frisbee is not quite the same as it used to be. Instead of focusing on catching the frisbee on your finger, try tossing it four hundred feet.

A relatively new sport, frisbee golf has a following from all lifestyles. From aiming a frisbee at a tree to Professional Disk Golf Association (PDGA) tournament it is all the same, frisbee golf.

Frisbee golf is played like golf, using frisbees instead of golf balls and clubs. Special high density frisbees are made, ranging in 130 to 180 grams per disk. These disks are weighted to give the disk specific flight patterns—hooks, slices, or s-curves.

Frisbee golf players do not necessarily need a special disk to play. Any frisbee can be used, or specialty frisbees like an aerobie, although official frisbee golf disks are recommended. Official PDGA tournaments require the use of official disks.

Experienced players often own multiple disks, using each one like a golfer uses each club. In Flight of East Lansing is an excellent source

for frisbee golf disks.

There are over twenty official frisbee courses throughout the state of Michigan, including metro Detroit, Lansing, Grand Ledge, Grand Rapids and Ludington.

These courses consist of the same features as a normal golf course with a few exceptions. Instead of holes, the players aim for baskets. These baskets are four feet tall with the basket three feet off the ground. Chains surround the basket to facilitate putts.

PDGA courses use a standard par of 54 (three shots per hole), although locals often use alternate pars for the course.

Frisbee golf has many appeals. "The game is extremely laid-back and relaxed," said senior Jason Schultz.

According to Schultz, half the fun is hanging out with friends and having fun.

Playing frisbee golf is quite social, allowing the players to traverse the course and interact with others outdoors.

Frisbee golf also gives a feeling of power.

"I like the idea of throwing this little disk really really far at something," said senior Jason Walker.

Walker has been playing frisbee golf for over two years and learned the game from visiting Alma College alumnus Michael Wildner, who attended Alma over ten years ago.

"I learned to play at the Wild-Valdez school of frisbee golf," said Walker. "I have now moved past that point and have learned on my own."

Alma College hosts its own frisbee golf course, although baskets must be replaced with fire hydrants, trees, and flag poles.

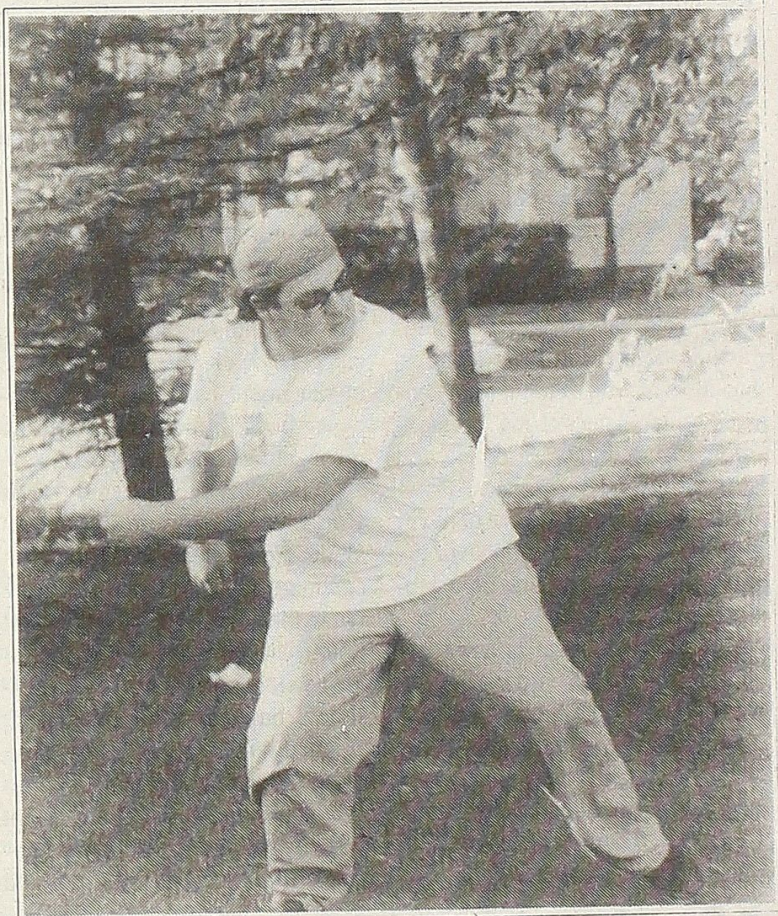
The course begins and ends on President Stone's backyard and travels around the Heritage Center for the Performing Arts, Hamilton Commons, and McIntyre Mall.

Local par is 69, although die hard athletes opt for the 54 par.

"I normally shoot about a 52," said Walker. "My course best is a 48."

Frisbee golf is a game for anyone, although it is harder than some may think. Most holes are 300 to 500 feet, a distance most golfers cannot drive.

According to Walker, the world's record for a drive is a little over five hundred feet, using an aerobie. An average disk can fly about 300 feet.



Avid frisbee golfer, Nathan Fite, '98 tees off outside President Stone's house. Photo by Phil Allmen

You do not need a course to play frisbee golf. Last summer, an unofficial nine hole course was made on Mackinac Island. Just pick a landmark for the hole, aim, and throw. While the weather is still warm,

look out for flying disks homing in on that fire plug you are sitting next to or that tree you are sitting under.

Get out, enjoy the outdoors, and play that round of frisbee golf.

# Cross country looks to catch up

By Phil Allmen  
Sports Editor

The men and women's cross country teams ran short of a winning match last Saturday at the first MIAA Jamboree at Hope College.

The men's team placed fifth while the women's team came in third.

"Despite the team's expectations to finish in the top two, the team finished a disappointing fifth," said senior co-captain Jon Makela.

Senior co-captain Jason Bandlow finished in tenth place individually and sophomore Peter Muccio placed well, giving him a good league start, according to Makela.

Bandlow explains the men's team loss.

"We have been training really hard lately, which took away from this match," said Bandlow. "The practice will help us at the end of

the season."

Sophomore Dana Cole placed fifth individually to help the women's team, despite Calvin and Hope's better times.

"We did O.K.," said sophomore Nicole Deja. "We could have done better, but placing third is not bad

*We have been training really hard lately, which took away from this match.*

•Jason Bandlow, '96

either."

The weather on Saturday was better in Holland than Alma.

"The weather was good," said sophomore Cheryl Lenard. "It was not too hot, and when we ran, it

began to mist, which is good running weather."

The women run a 5K (3.1 miles) race while the men run an 8K (5 mile) one.

"This race was a little bit hillier than the last two," said Lenard. "This course went off campus, while the others stayed close."

Cross country teams may enter as many runners for a match as they want, but only the top seven runners for each team is recorded.

This is the first of three Jamborees held this season. The first two constitute one half of the league championships. The final jamboree will count the other half.

"When we run faster at the end of the season, the rest of the teams will be surprised," said Bandlow.

The teams will travel back to Indiana this weekend to participate in the Earlham Invitational.



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# So much

## Time management a key to survival at Alma

By Mitzi Janukaitis  
Freelance Writer

The beginning of a new term means the start of a new schedule. For many Alma College student's this schedule involves less sleep, more work, and not enough hours in the day to complete all the given tasks.

There are a lot of demands put on a student in college. These demands include doing well in academics, but also having fun. A well balanced student needs time for relaxation, social contacts, exercise, and a variety of other interests. However, feelings always arise of never having enough time to do all of the things college requires of a student.

Time management is a way of making sure one can do everything and still have time for the fun stuff. A lot of time management deals with setting a list of priorities and creating a plan to accomplish them.

Kalindi Trietley, the associate dean for the Center for Student

Development, deals with time management for students here at Alma College. She said, "If a student can set their priorities, handle responsibilities, and have some fun, their lives would be more balanced and it doesn't give rise to so many problems."

According to Trietley every person manages time differently. Some students need and want to be structured minute to minute, but some can get by with a few basics of time management. Nevertheless, all students need to be aware of what time management means to them.

Alma College offers study skills workshops every term which include information about time management. Close to exam week there is a workshop specifically aimed at time management. Even if a student cannot make any of the workshops, but still feels distressed, Trietley will be happy to meet on an individual basis. She will go over the entire time management system, supplying forms that enable one to list responsibilities and

tentative plans. From this point a student can allocate time to make sure everything gets done.

Trietley also suggests four time management tips for the Alma College student.

Tip #1: Always get your due dates off the syllabi and onto a calendar so you can see what and when something is due.

Tip #2: Estimate at least two weeks ahead of time what will be required of you to prepare for a major test or paper.

Tip #3: Make sure you make a plan or schedule, especially at the busier times of the year. If nothing else, you can see where you went wrong.

Tip #4: Figure out some way to handle the tasks which did not get handled the way you planned instead of just ignoring them.

In her opinion, "Time management is not a should, or a way of being good, it is a way to make your own life more sane and even more comfortable."

## Mother juggles college schedule

By Larissa VanderZee  
Feature Editor

When we hear the term "time management" we think of classes, meetings, social events: anything pertaining to life on campus. Most of us do not think about cooking dinner, cleaning the house, or spending time with our family on a daily basis. Junior Debbie Mott, one of Alma's "non-traditional" students, not only thinks of such things, she does them.

A single mother of three attending school full-time Mott said, "I am constantly organizing my time to use it as effectively as I can." Her oldest daughter no longer lives at home, but her 17 year old daughter and her 9 year old son live with her. Unlike most students, she plays two roles: mother and student simultaneously.

She said on a typical day she is a mom from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30, a student from 8:30 until about 3:00, a mom again after that until after dinner, a student until about 8:30 p.m. at which point she resumes the

role of mother in order to read to her son, and finally a student from 9 through 1 a.m. She keeps an organized, tight schedule—the only way to keep focused.

For Mott, prioritization makes up the most important part of time

thinks about what the future will bring. "It's tough, but worth it. Four years of sacrifice in this 'temporary life' for financial independence, security, and a career in the 'real world' in my 'real life' after graduation, are definitely worth it."

Consistently a Dean's List student, Mott says, "almost every moment spent alone is spent with a book." As an English/Education major, much of her studies center around reading. Her solution when things get busier than normal: combine tasks. She takes her son to the park and reads; she does laundry in between frustrating chapters; she has even read while out to dinner with her family (something her daughter did grumble about!).

Mott enjoys the busyness of her life. But she stresses the importance of being reasonable and taking time for oneself. In her last word and advice on the subject she said, "take as few steps as possible to get where you are going—not the lazy way—the most efficient way."

*Almost every moment  
spent alone is spent with a  
book.*

• Debbie Mott,  
'98

management. Her studies and her relationship with her children rank the highest on her priority list. Unlike many "traditional" students who rank their social life above all else, Mott spends little time and energy on that sector of life. Sure she spends time with her friends, but largely she said, "my social life involves my children."

In the overwhelming times Mott



## Helpful hints on overcoming stress

By Lisa Sherman  
Staff Reporter

Stress—we have all been plagued by it at some time or another. However, it can be controlled. The goal of stress management is to achieve a healthy balance in one's life.

The first step in managing stress is to recognize it. There are many physical signs of stress. Sleeplessness, headaches, and sweaty hands, as well as tight muscles, shortness of breath, and weak-

ness of the knees are the physical manifestations of stress. Other signs, such as defensive behavior, confusion, and memory loss, also point to stress.

Kalindi Trietley, associate dean at the Center for Student Development explains that "tension is a normal thing." However, if stress is not managed properly, it can lead to anxiety, depression, and fearfulness. "The earlier you can catch it, the better off

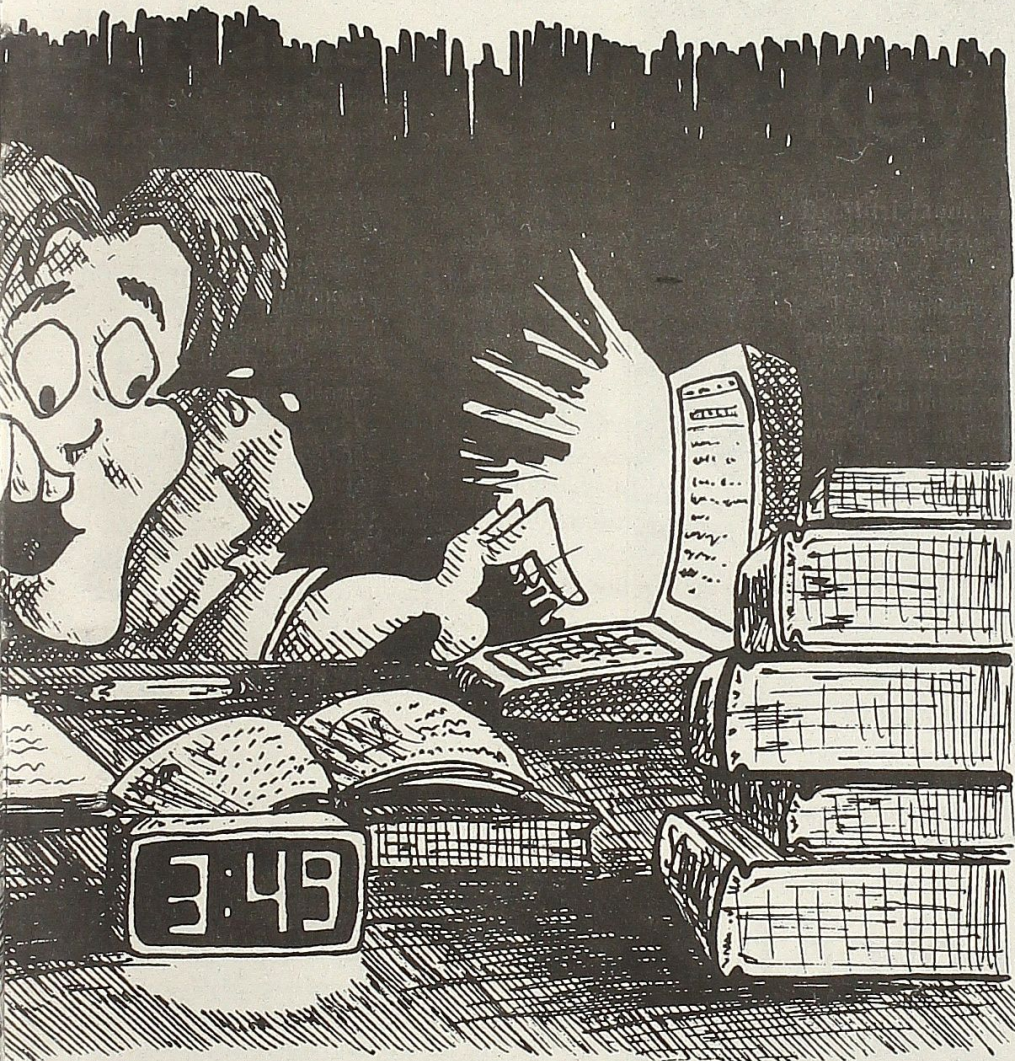
you are" said

There are ways to deal with stress in both the long and short run. In the long run, develop a balanced lifestyle. In the short run, important parts of your life can be under control. Relaxation and setting priorities can include taking time for yourself and setting priorities. Doing things well and doing them often rather than once creates time to relax and have fun.

# so little



# to do...



## Coming the the stress of college life

...riety. To deal with stress, run and the short run, people need to need life style. An of keeping stress time management orities. Priorities gs done for fun and well as school orities. By manag- and getting things an procrastinating, e for oneself to re- i. Obviously every- one needs to eat and sleep regularly as well. Cultivating support from friends and family is also essential. In the meantime, there are things students can do to manage stress right before a huge test or during daily studies. For example, shutting your eyes while you slow down and deepen your breath helps to clear the mind. Tensing the muscles in your arms, legs, and face and then slowly feeling them relax also helps. Listen to soothing music or as a break, take a shower or go for a quick walk. Do not waste a lot of time on these study breaks, however. It could lead to more stress. One part of dealing with stress is accepting things that are beyond one's control. Sometimes things happen unexpectedly or someone says something upsetting. One's own attitude and interpretation of these things is often what contributes to stress levels. People need to learn how to relax and reason with life. Sometimes people try to mask or chemically alter their stress by drinking or self-prescribing medi-

cation. This does not work. In fact, it can increase stress. If students are interested in attending stress-management workshops in the future, they should contact the Center for Student Development. Currently, there are study skills workshops available to attend which discuss time management. Also, Trietley will work with students on an individual basis if they set up an appointment.

# le time!

## Staying active keeps Brands ahead of game

By Jennifer Hughes  
Staff Reporter

As a very busy, hardworking student and athlete from Saginaw, sophomore Rick Brands has more things to do than there is time in the day.

"It's very important to get involved because it enhances the college experience," said Brands, "but try not to get caught up in too many activities because it's not worth it to sacrifice your academics — that's the main reason you're here."

Brands is an EHS major who hopes to find a job helping athletes with physical therapy after he graduates.

Brands is also a kicker for the Alma Scots football team, a resident assistant in Bruske Hall, and a participant in Fellowship for Christian Athletes (FCA), aside from maintaining his grades.

Furthermore, he volunteers his time at *PT Source* in Alma where he helps others with physical therapy and rehabilitation. During the winter, Brands enjoys playing intramural basketball.

Keeping up with everything means "a lot of late nights." Aside from that, it also takes a lot of hard work and dedication to stay on track, he said. "I know that at certain times I have to study, or that there are certain meetings I have to get to," Brands explained. "Football season helps to get me in a pattern because there's such limited time to get everything done."

Brands's academic advisor, John Davis, chair and associate professor of EHS, commented, "Looking at his academic performance and all the other activities he's involved with, Rick has an effective way of managing his time ... Rick's outgoing, friendly. He enjoys everything he's involved in. He doesn't find his activities chores, he finds them fun."

"I decided to be an RA," Brands said, "because I felt it would force

me to get to know more people since I'm so busy ... and it was just another thing to help me organize my time and make me a more well-rounded person."

A typical day for Brands involves class all day, three and a half hours of football practice (insert weight lifting or basketball here when it's not football season), then dinner,

homework, any meetings scheduled for that particular night, and finally sleep. "Whenever I have spare time, I'm usually sleeping," he commented with a smile.

When he does find awake time for

play, Brands enjoys watching *Sportscenter* on television, hanging out with friends, or reading. He reads *Sports Illustrated* cover-to-cover every week and also enjoys reading Mary Higgins Clark novels and sports autobiographies as stress breaks.

When the stress level builds too high, Brands likes to get away from everything for awhile: either by watching television, listening to music, or talking with friends. A small break is all he needs to get him back on track.

In the future, Brands plans on applying to physical therapy school, hopefully one out of state, he says. Washington University in St. Louis and Indianapolis University are his top choices right now even though as a sophomore, he still has a few years to decide.

"I think as a result of all the activities he's involved in, he'll be a good candidate for grad school in physical therapy," said Davis. "I think the grad schools will be looking for someone well-rounded like Rick."

As for the present, Brands will stay busy with his schoolwork and other activities at Alma. Time management is important in keeping everything in his life organized. Right now, he seems to have everything under control as he prepares for his next busy day—tomorrow.

*It's very important to get involved because it enhances the college experience.*

• Rick Brands, '99



# Men's soccer falls, 3-2

By Chris Tapley  
Assistant Sports Editor

The Alma men's soccer team continued a tough losing streak on Saturday with a 3-2 loss to Calvin College.

This game, which was supposed to be a turning point for the Scots, had the same disappointing outcome of many recent games. "It's finally the start of conference, we owe Calvin, it's payback, so we come out and we play a awesome but we still lose," said junior captain Tom Jewett. The Scots started the game by going up 1-0 on a goal scored by junior captain Jeff Bateson off a corner kick by junior Ben Hondorp. The Scots held Calvin scoreless through the first half of play.

"We were happy with our effort because we were doing everything we were supposed to except we could not really finish," said Jewett.

In the second half Calvin scored a goal off of a deflection and then scored another goal to

put the Scots down 2-1. The Scots came back a minute later with a goal by Bateson to tie the game.

"Jeff's goal was a great goal, it was awesome," said Jewett.

The game remained tied, when with a minute left Calvin was able to put the ball into the net for the win.

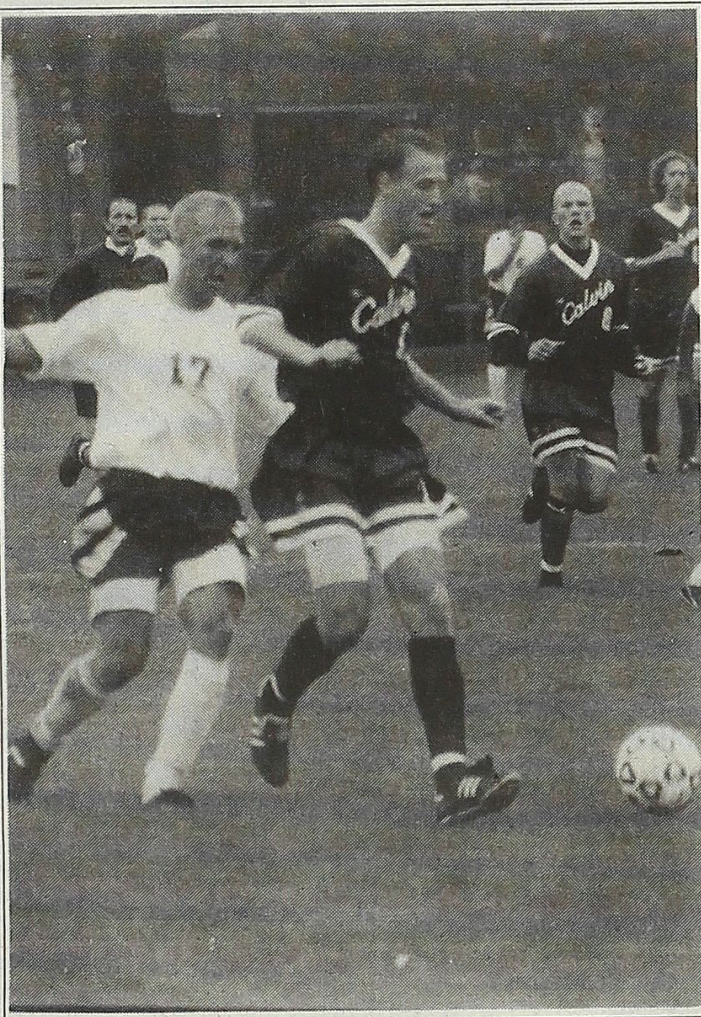
"Saturday's game was the best we've played offensively. We created some good chances we just didn't get the job done defensively," said head coach Scott Frey. The Scots know that they need to improve their defensive play if they are to be in the hunt for the conference championship.

"We have to really pick it up in our next several outings if we're going to stay competitive. We can't give up three goals and expect to win," said Frey.

The Scots play their next conference game today against Kalamazoo College. When asked about today's game Jewett said, "It will be a good challenge we are capable of winning and we are capable of straightening things out. We have to start playing better defense because if we don't we'll

lose." The loss was also disappointing to players for other reasons. "It was kind of disappointing to lose at home because we haven't lost

there this year and our fans were really doing a great job and they were excited and it was really disappointing to lose in front of them," said Jewett.



First-year student Matt Keller chases down a Calvin player. Despite the aggressive play by the Scots, a last minute goal by the Knights sealed a 3-2 Calvin victory. Photo by Aaron Mansfield.

## Women's Soccer

# Team finds more disappointment on field

By Jenn Cornell  
Opinion Editor

Disappointing.

That's how the women's soccer team players described this past week's play for them. The women met both Northwood and Calvin with tough play and effort, but was unable to capture the win that they went out to get.

On Wednesday afternoon, the team played Northwood at Alma. Ending regular play, the teams were tied 1-1. Scoring for Alma was first-year student Jaime Sutton. In the first overtime, Alma scored and brought the score to 2-1 with a goal by senior Katie Sauter.

The game was not sudden death, however, and the teams had to go into a second overtime. During that second overtime, Northwood scored, ending the game with a 2-2 tie.

Junior Lesley McDougall said of the Northwood tie.

"It was a rough, long game that we dominated," said McDougall. "It was tough to end in a tie."

One of the team's captains, junior Stephanie Craig said, "We had the opportunities to score, but we didn't. It was a disappointing tie because we could have won."

Echoing both ladies sentiments was senior team captain, Jen Mitchell who said, "Tying was disappointing. We certainly played well, but not consistent."

The team finished off their week with another disappointing loss. On Saturday, the Scots played at Calvin College and came away with a heartbreaking 6-0 loss.

On their loss to Calvin, McDougall said, "Calvin is a very good team and we played our hardest but still lost."

"We had another tough loss," added Craig. "We just didn't have the scoring opportunities that Calvin did."

The team needs to focus their efforts in the upcoming matches. "Everyone needs to dig down



Junior Katie Sauter dribbles the ball up the field in the women's game against Calvin College last Saturday. The Knights defeated the Scots by a score of 6-0. Photo by Jason Paetz.

deep and find what we need to win," said Craig. "Everyone always says that, but people really need to start doing it."

Mitchell added, "We need to start believing in ourselves, that we can win, and start to make it happen."

Alma played at home this afternoon at 4:00 p.m. against Kalamazoo.

The team travels to Albion on Saturday to play at 12:00 p.m.

## MIAA Report

### Football (through 9-21)

	W	L	T
Adrian	1	1	0
Albion	2	0	0
Alma	0	2	0
Hope	1	2	0
Kalamazoo	0	2	0
Olivet	0	2	0

### Women's Soccer (thru 9-16)

Adrian	0	4	0
Albion	0	2	0
Alma	0	5	0
Calvin	3	2	0
Hope	0	4	1
Kalamazoo	3	0	0
Olivet	3	1	0

### Men's Soccer (through 9-21)

Adrian	2	4	0
Albion	3	2	1
Alma	2	4	1
Calvin	6	1	0
Hope	6	0	1
Kalamazoo	3	1	0
Olivet	0	3	2

### Volleyball (through 9-16)

Adrian	3	5
Albion	3	4
Alma	2	8
Calvin	5	5
Hope	8	2
Kalamazoo	10	3
Olivet	4	4

### Women's Golf (through 9-16)

	Total	Average
Hope	675	337.5
Alma	698	349
Albion	722	361
Olivet	789	394.5
Calvin	801	400.5
Adrian	826	413
Kalamazoo	857	428.5

### Men's Golf (through 9-16)

Albion	388	388
Olivet	391	391
Calvin	395	395
Hope	396	396
Alma	416	416
Adrian	425	425
Kalamazoo	430	430

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# Women's golf team loses grip to Hope

By Tom Glegola  
Staff Reporter

The key for any athlete is to stay in their game, no matter what the odds.

Hope College's lead over Alma's Women's golf team increased from 23 strokes to 43 strokes at the Monday, September 16 MIAA match at the Grand Rapids Country Club. Hope beat Alma by twenty strokes shooting 341 to 361.

"It looks like they are going to be hard to catch," said Charlie Goffnet, Alma's head coach.

The women's team is averaging 353 through three MIAA matches, only three off of last year's pace, but Hope is averaging 339 strokes, which if they continue that pace will be an MIAA conference record.

"It is going to be hard to catch them now. We are going to have to beat them by about 10 strokes per match," said Goffnet, "they are really playing excellent golf."

Alma still has four of the top ten golfers in the MIAA, but the top three players are all on Hope's

team.

Leading Alma is first-year student Jennifer Peters, with a 85.7 average.

"She is really having an excel-

lent year, but anything can happen.

"You can not go into it [a match] with that type of thinking," said Goffnet, "you never know, Hope might have a bad match, or if we have an excellent night and they have an average night."

With the current standings, this afternoon's match at Tomac Woods Country Club in Albion is critical.

"This next match will be the key," said Goffnet, "if we do not cut it [Hope's lead] Tuesday [today]..."

Despite all this, Alma's game plan is still the same, they need to remain focused.

"We can not control what they do," said Goffnet, "we can control our game."

So the key is staying in their game.

Last Saturday's dual match with Aquinas College at Pine River Country Club was canceled to due rain, so the next match is today's MIAA league match at Tomac Woods Country Club. This weekend, Alma, along with 20 other teams, will participate in the Ferris State Invitational tournament.

Alma will then play another MIAA league match on Monday September 30, at Kalamazoo Country Club in Kalamazoo.

Alma has four MIAA matches left to make up their 43 stroke deficit to Hope, but they will make it up only by staying in their game.

*It looks like they are going to be hard to catch*

• **Charlie Goffnet,**  
**Head Coach**

lent year," said Goffnet.

Peters, fourth in the MIAA, was also the WLMN Athlete of the Week.

"She had a great week," said Goffnet.

Fifth in the MIAA is junior Mandy Bowler, with an average of 86.3 strokes and junior Carrie Hunt is seventh in the MIAA with an average of 91 strokes.

Tied for ninth with Hope senior, Anne Colenbrander, is Almasophomore Elizabeth Eby, who has averaged 92 strokes.

With four matches to go, it seems like Alma will place second this



Junior Mandy Bowler takes a practice swing. The women's golf team is currently second in the MIAA behind Hope College. Photo by Beth Rosenow.

## Recreational sports combine fun and competition

By Phil Allmen  
Sports Editor

Sports mentalities often differ between competition and recreation. If you play on a team, your expectations are increased, by both yourself and your team mates.

Recreational sports give you the opportunity to play the sport without fear, worry that you will screw up and hinder the team. Unfortunately, some have trouble distinguishing between recreation and competition.

Last week I shot a round of golf with one of my roommates and our landlord. This was my first round of the summer and I expected little. I went to have fun, recreation.

Golf is one of those sports where it is accepted, and often encouraged to drink alcoholic beverages while playing, adding to the recreation. These beverages almost force the player into recreation by hindering the player's abilities.

Driving around and drinking beers in a car, looking everywhere for my ball, taking a shot every ten or fifteen yards. This is my definition of recreational golf.

My landlord, John, follows a different mentality. Hurry up, you are taking too long, come on, hit the damn ball, you did not watch where it landed?

I heard these questions over and over as the day progressed. I did not mind, at first, after all, he is only being competitive.

As the round progressed I improved, lessening his remarks. Afterwards, I thought about the day and noticed something I have noticed often.

There is always one member of

the group who acts as the sports junkie. This one keeps score and strives to beat everyone else. He or she tries betting with the others and pushes the group along.

This person is a necessity for any sports outing, for better or for worse.

Without at least one, the group will fall to the wayside and forget what the hell they are doing, combining recreation with competition in a somewhat healthy fashion.

Competitive sports, like Alma College teams, are not reciprocated

like this.

These teams do not have a member like myself to remind them that the game is fun. Place me on the golf team, and I will show them how funny golfing can be. Granted it will never happen, the golf team

would never win with me on it, but it would be fun.

As long as sports teams have members to remind them to have fun, recreational sports and competitive sports can be successfully combined.

## NFL Preview: Who's hot and who's not

By Joe Bogan  
Freelance Writer

After the startling upset against the San Francisco 49ers in the playoffs last year, heads—cheese heads that is—are turning towards Green Bay, favoring the Packers to win this year's Super Bowl. But this preview of the 1996-97 NFL season is somewhat tainted, with three weeks of games already gone by. Nevertheless, the competition between NFC (National Football Conference) and AFC (American Football Conference) divisions should be exciting to watch.

First, the NFC, which has dominated the AFC in Super Bowl contests for almost two decades will win the crown for the 14th straight year.

**NFC EAST.**

This division conquered the NFL during the early 90's, having at least one team win the Super Bowl the last 5 out of 6 seasons. But this year may be different. Having lost much of their defense to free agency, the offensive line to

injuries, and with wide receiver Michael Irvin on a drug suspension, the defending champion Dallas Cowboys will have their hands full. The Arizona Cardinals and New York Giants are in a hole right now, and need to start rebuilding. The Philadelphia Eagles and Washington Redskins have been restructured by coaches Ray Rhodes (Eagles) and Norv Turner (Redskins). Look for either of those two teams to snag the division title.

**NFC CENTRAL.**

This division has teams that make the playoffs, but never win the big one. That may change this year. With last year's MVP Brett Favre at the helm, and a great defense, the Packers should take the division. But the Chicago Bears and Minnesota Vikings, along with the Detroit Lions, will give the Packers trouble. Of course the Lions will be a threat in December, when the inexplicable phenomenon of Wayne Fontes receives his annual ultimatum from team owner Henry Ford. As usual, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers will stay in or be close to the cellar.

**NFC WEST.**

Once again, this division will be taken by the 49ers. However, the second year Carolina Panthers are

on the rise with an established defense and should provide a headache for San Francisco. As for the other three teams—St. Louis Rams, Atlanta Falcons, and New Orleans Saints—they probably will not give too many teams any kind of ills this season.

**AFC**

Even though it's a shame to talk about this year's Super Bowl loser, the AFC does have teams that are fun to watch. Some rookies and younger players show promise for the years to come, and the parity between teams allows football fans to enjoy each game to see who grabs the division.

**AFC EAST.**

This division has four potential title holders, but new head coach Jimmy Johnson of the Miami Dolphins knows how to win, and quarterback Dan Marino may finally have his running back help with UCLA rookie Kareem-Abdul Jabbar. Experience is the Buffalo Bills' forte, but Jim Kelly and Thurman Thomas are getting old. The Indianapolis Colts' QB Jim Harbaugh and running back Marshall Faulk have the potential to do some damage, and if QB Drew Bledsoe of the Patriots can get back on track, the Patriots will have a

dangerous air attack. These teams will all have fun beating up on the New York Jets.

**AFC CENTRAL.**

This division will be owned by last year's Super Bowl runner-up Pittsburgh Steelers, but they should look out for the new Baltimore Ravens (formerly the Cleveland Browns) and the Cincinnati Bengals, who have one of the most talented running back lineups in the NFL. Jacksonville is still an expansion team, and needs a little more work.

**AFC WEST.**

This division is a toss up every year. I pick the Kansas City Chiefs, who look balanced on both sides of the ball. Otherwise, there is no telling with the Denver Broncos, San Diego Chargers, and Oakland Raiders in the picture.

Interesting to watch, these divisions provide a competition among teams, but the big game is what counts. This NFL season will be a good one, with the Green Bay Packers winning the Super Bowl over the Dolphins or Steelers.



September 24, 1996

## Joe's workers share life behind the counter

By Jennifer Cornell  
Opinion Editor

We have all been to Joe's Place and heard the ladies behind the counter scream, "Order number 57, Joe's bread." To many of us, that's all we know about the people who work for Marriott.

I am lucky, I guess.

After spending the first two weeks here and never stepping foot inside of Hamilton, I grew quite familiar with two ladies who work at Joe's, Marcia Miller and Barbara (Chef Ole) Oliva. Intrigued by their friendly banter with one another and with the students, I asked them to give me a candid interview about their opinions.

First off, it's interesting to note that Barb and Marcia are sisters. Marcia is the older of the two. Barb has worked for the college for five years, Marcia has worked here for seven. They both have children. Barb has three adult children and four grandkids. However, she's quick to point out "I'm not a rocking chair grandma, I'm a rockin' grandma." On the other hand, Marcia has four kids (no grandkids), who range in age from mid-twenties to four years old. They are both life long Gratiot county residents and they are both currently single.

Here are the questions I asked them and their responses.

So, do you really like your job?

Barb (B): Yes, I really do love my job. I enjoy serving the faculty and students. The only part I don't like is trying to get along with everyone I work with all of the time.

Marcia (M): Yes. I really love the positive atmosphere here. What's your favorite job that you get to do here?

B: I love to be the chef at the sauté station in Van Dusen. It's like being in charge of your own area.

M: I like everything. I like to work as the cashier because then I get to talk to the students. I also like to cook and talk to everyone else, too.

Be honest. Do you really like the students?

B: Really, I do like the students. Except when they don't bus their own table.

M: Definitely. I am a people person. The students bring in a lot of positive energy. Also, by listening to the students, I can grow from their experiences. Believe or not, I actually miss the students over the summer.

How did you get started working here?

B: I was at the very bottom of the barrel. Barb worked here and told me to apply.

M: I went to college and got a degree as a medical secretary. Once out of school, I couldn't find a job. I've always known that I wanted to work with people. I had to do something to make money, so I applied here.

When you leave here at night, what do you do for fun?

B: I like to go bowling, go to the casino, and play bingo.

M: I take my four year old to the park in the evenings. Every Sunday, I take her roller skating. That's my date with her every week.

What would people be surprised to know about you?

B: I'm really not as wild as I act. If you can't joke and have fun on your job, you'll always be stressed out and miserable.

M: To see my educational background and know that I am happy where I'm at. Having a home, a family, a social life—that's what makes you truly happy.

Finish this sentence: If I could have one wish granted it would be...

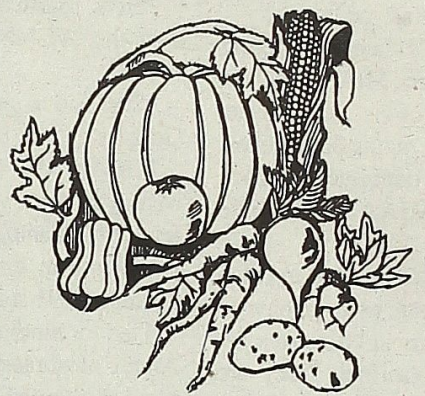
B: To win the lotto.

M: To make the right choices now to insure continued happiness for myself and family in the future.

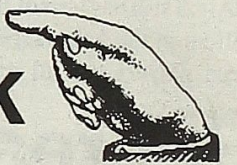
What's the best advice you can give someone?

B: The best thing I know is that lovers live longer. Love everything and everybody and live life up to its fullest.

M: Trust your heart and follow God. He's got the right road map for your life.



## Point/Counterpoint: Going Greek



### Greek life benefits self and community

By Kendra Seybert  
Freelance Writer

There's at least two sides to every story, to every argument, and to every justification. And there's always room to change your mind. That's exactly what I have done in the past two years.

When I arrived at Alma College, I was one of the many who criticized and stereotyped the Greeks on campus. I could never see myself as "one of them," as just another member of another sorority at another fraternity party. And that's all they did—party. I thought that becoming Greek was just an excuse to drink oneself into oblivion every weekend, being ensured admittance to every party simply because of the letters one wears on one's chest. I believed the Greeks deemed themselves superior to non-Greeks, always looking for a new face to pressure into joining their organization. We were their prey or we were no one.

So now, being one of those nasty Greeks that I used to so adamantly avoid, I understand all of the cutting remarks that the campus and the rest of the community fire in our direction. I've been there. I've fired my own complaints and sarcastic remarks.

Now I've seen the other side to the story; I argue from the other point of view. I can justify the need for Greek life on the Alma College campus.

I can honestly say that I would have transferred to another school had I not joined the sorority I am in now. My freshman year was one of inactivity, of limiting myself to the

people I met on my floor. I hadn't experienced any significant personal growth until I joined a sorority. I was the same girl that graduated from high school eight months before—nothing had changed except my location and my surroundings.

Then, as cheesy as this may sound, everything changed. I went Greek. Suddenly I looked at the world with older eyes; I saw different perspectives and met people of different backgrounds.

It occurred to me that Greek life doesn't merely equal party life, but includes helping where the community lacks help. If you had asked me what the philanthropy options were in Alma when I was a freshman, I would have had no clue. Maybe I was a particularly naive freshman, but I don't think so. It seems that the majority of the philanthropic activity which occurs is initiated and/or carried out by Greeks. The sororities and fraternities contribute a lot of time, energy and donation dollars to the March of Dimes, Women's Aid Shelter, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Adopt-a-School and other philanthropies in need of support.

And what about academics? Although the all-Greek G.P.A. is slightly lower than the all-campus G.P.A., academics are stressed during pledge periods through required study hours. Many new actives experience an increase in their grades while pledging.

I really am a different person. It's not because I was "accepted" into a group; it's because I accepted a group. It's because I stopped squinting and opened my eyes—and my mind.

### Individuality robbed by Greek life

By Dan Scripps  
Co-Editor-In-Chief

After waiting a year and a half before becoming a member of the Alma College Greek community, I have had the opportunity to see Greek life from both sides of the story. Even though there are many arguments to be made why Greek life is helpful both to the individual and the community, there are just as many, if not more, to be made why it is a negative in both areas.

First are the negative impacts Greek life has on the individual. Many Greeks will argue that their experiences in the Greek community have enabled them to grow as individuals. However, I have also heard many non-Greeks talk about their personal growth. From this it can only be concluded that it is not membership in a Greek organization that facilitates growth, but the exposure to the college environment we all share, regardless of affiliation.

Membership in a Greek organization also strips individuals of part of their individuality. How often have we heard someone described as a member of a sorority or fraternity as the first thing in the description? This is just one of the most obvious examples of how Greeks are looked at as members of a group, not as individuals. Many will argue with this, saying that they have kept their individuality despite the letters they wear. While they may remain individuals in their own mind or their own group, to many others they are nothing more than a member of an

exclusive group.

Even knowing these things, however, many will decide to go Greek anyway. After all, it is an individual decision and so even these arguments do not necessarily mean that Greek life is an altogether negative experience. However, this lifestyle also has a profoundly negative impact on this, or any, college community.

Now most Greeks will argue with this, pointing to all the philanthropies with which they are involved. While this argument is partially true, there are many other groups on this campus which are also involved in the community, not because their participation is mandated by some Greek governing board, but because it is the right thing to do.

Inherent in Greek life is its exclusionary membership system. This means that of all the people who rush a particular organization, only a select few are deemed by the present membership to be worthy of joining the group. This process gives the members of any group a sense of superiority over others as well as a sense of entitlement. Both of these features found in every Greek organization make the abuse of outsiders easier and more acceptable to others within the group. This abuse takes on a number of forms, but none of them could even remotely be considered positive.

There are reasons to join a Greek organization, but on a campus where membership is seen as important as it is, reminders need to be given that there are also reasons not to join, both individually and collectively.



# Equality hindered by affirmative action



By Tom Glegola  
Staff Reporter

"There is no caste here. Our Constitution is color-blind, and neither knows nor tolerates classes among citizens... The law regards man as man, and takes no account of his surroundings or his color when his civil rights as guaranteed by the supreme law of the land are involved."

These were the words written by U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Harlan, in his dissenting opinion in the case of *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896).

Were these words true, there would be no affirmative action.

Although affirmative action programs that blatantly utilize race, gender, or heritage quotas for employment and admission standards have been found unconstitutional, the issue remains controversial.

Does the government have the right to regulate who should be hired for a job, or who should be admitted to a certain academic institution?

Is society morally correct in attempting to correct previous discriminations by enacting new ones?

The answer to both of these questions is no.

Race, gender, or heritage should not be a factor in whether or not a person receives a job. If I were hired for a job, and then told I received the job because I am a man, I would be offended that some

one did not hire the best person.

With affirmative action, merit is meaningless.

With affirmative action, academic institutions do not make their selections based on a student's academic and extra-circular achievement, but because of the color of their skin, their gender, or the place their forefathers immigrated from.

Diversity and culture are certainly important, but to hire solely on those requirements is inefficient.

Capitalism was founded on the principle of comparative advantage—which leaves room for only the best person for the given task.

John Staddon, professor of psychology at Duke University wrote, "Affirmative action erodes the concept of individual merit, and it cements Americans into divisive racial groups. Racial discrimination is repellent and wrong, but the idea that its effects can be ended by discriminating in the reverse direction is as bizarre as the idea that a cripple can be cured by breaking his other leg."

We discriminated legally in the past. It was, without question, wrong. But should future generations have to pay for it?

In order to create the "color-blind" society Justice Harlan wrote about, affirmative action must end. Reverse discrimination is not the answer to previous discriminations.

Then, without petty preferences, our society can evolve.

We will all just be people.

## Letter to the Editors:

# Student finds bookstore services unsatisfactory

This year, I have found the bookstore to hinder my college career rather than encourage it. Let me explain. As all of us know, each term new books are needed to coincide with new classes. With this knowledge we flock to the Scot Shop to buy all these texts so we may learn all we can in the next fourteen weeks. I too make my seasonal trip to the bookstore, hoping that I will not run into many problems in acquiring my sought after items. This year I encountered a rather serious problem: two of the books I needed were unavailable. Apparently all the texts for these classes had been sold already. This, I hoped, could be dealt with. I was handed a list to sign which professed my need for the books and assured that these would be delivered as soon as possible. Also, I would receive a phone call as soon as the books were in. I returned to my dorm room; I expected a call quite soon. I was mistaken.

Realizing that the ladies in the store were very likely much too busy to call everyone, I returned in search of my books. They were not on the shelves, so I asked a cashier if they had been delivered yet. The reply was not what I had wanted to hear: no shipments were to come in until tomorrow. Although the news was solemn, there remained hope that tomorrow would bring my texts. I left in tolerable spirits.

The next day the scene was replayed. Feeling a tinge of déjà vu, I escaped to my room. Since I had an assignment to complete, I called all the classmates I could think of and asked to borrow books. Unfortunately, each was either unavailable or using the book that night. I decided to go to the library in search of the poem I had been assigned to write about. I found the poem; I wrote my paper.

Positive that the next trip to the bookstore would prove more beneficial, I decided to try again the following day. Again I asked after my books, and again I was denied.

This time, though, there was a new twist to the play. One of my requested texts had simply not arrived yet, but the other had never been ordered. There must have been some mix-up, they said. I was presented the same list as before, wrote the same name and text down, and hoped for much different results. My mood had now changed to something far from complacency.

That weekend I sat in my room, stewing all the while, wishing my texts would be delivered, planning my actions if they were not. I ended the weekend hoping the books would brighten my Monday morning. Once again the same scenario. No books. I was becoming extremely angry by this time. Seeing my disposition, one professor even lent me his book so I could get the reading done for class. I appreciated the gesture but realized that it should not have been necessary in the first place.

The monotony continued on through the week until that fateful Thursday, when one of my books had actually made an appearance in the bookstore. I was giddy! Beaming, I took my borrowed book back to its owner, who was also very pleased with the breakthrough. Unfortunately, my pleasure was cut short by the realization that I still was lacking one book.

Friday, the next day, I returned to the store, eager to write yet another check. I went to the proper section with high hopes. All that faced me were bare shelves. A look of reluctance on my face, I asked the cashier once again if my book had been delivered yet. The reply caused my frown to turn from one of apprehension to one of confusion. I was informed that the book which had been ordered had indeed been delivered and had been picked up earlier that morning. I asked how it was possible that only one had been ordered when two people in the class needed them. Again a reply I wish I could forget: only one person had signed the order sheet and he had retrieved the text already. I was near tears. To make matters worse I

was asked whether more texts were needed now. Needed now? Thoroughly disgruntled, I relayed the information that I was the person who had ordered the infamous book, and I expected another to replace it soon. Still not understanding, they handed me yet another order sheet, which I signed almost illegibly in my fury. Expanding my explanation, hoping for comprehension, watching their facial expressions, I told them they had sold my book to someone else. They sold it to the person who had supposedly not ever signed the order sheet. Maybe he did; maybe he did not. By this time it was impossible to tell.

After relaying all my trials to my friends, they told me similar stories regarding trips to the bookstore. I had been unaware that these problems were occurring all over campus until then. This knowledge gave me the inspiration to write this letter in hopes of making more aware of the problems at hand. Aside from my own unhappy situation, my professors have also been feeling the effects of such lackadaisical behavior. It must make teaching more difficult when students have no materials to read.

The bookstore's inner workings have somehow gone amiss in the past year. I can no longer call it the "Bookstore" without feeling a sense of reluctance. The Scot Shop is a great place to buy gifts for the relatives, cards for the family, and notebooks for classes, but books become more and more difficult to come by. What has gone wrong? I am at no liberty to judge. I merely wish to say that I miss the old Bookstore, the one where I could find my texts, the one where the cashiers knew about my needs, the one where I was proud to spend my hard earned money. I ask that the alter ego Bookstore be cast down and the old favorite return. I cannot imagine this whole scene being replayed again next term. Please bring our old Bookstore back.

Kori Kocon '98



## Staff Editorial

# College-community relations good

Over the years the Alma community and the college have clashed on few issues, a rare example being last spring's "student parking on the city streets" situation. It is at times such as these that it is too easy to forget how much the college and the community support and serve each other.

From day one of preterm, Alma welcomes students into the community. Each student receives a coupon book at registration, courtesy of the Gratiot Area Chamber of Commerce, which helps students acquaint themselves with the town. The inside page of this book conveys the warmth of the community as it invites students to call the chamber of commerce with any questions about the area or just drop by to chat.

The businesses especially offer assistance to the students. For example, many of the downtown businesses serve as faithful advertisers in both *The Almanian* and *The Scot*, as well as on *WQAC*. Besides, only on the Alma College campus can you get a Sam's pizza, double crust, baked on a screen, delivered piping hot to your door at 2 a.m.

But, it is not just those who can make a profit off of the student body that cater to the college community's needs. For example, St. Mary's Catholic Church holds mass in the chapel two Sundays a month in order to address the religious needs of students.

The college and its students, in turn, give back to the community. For example, after hearing about the Byrd family, who lost

their home to arson, the college community raised \$500 through private donations to help. Bruske Hall residents also began a can drive. Many students are active as "bigs" for the local chapter of Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

Through philanthropic activities, many campus organizations also reach out. Panhellenic Council and Interfraternity Council, for instance, offer the Adopt-a-School program which provides after school tutoring services to middle schoolers. Other activities include volunteering at the Masonic home and participating in the Crop Walk. Another example is that of Students Offering Services, which uses the volunteerism of Alma students to help in the community.

Community members also utilize the college facilities, including the library resources and fitness center.

All of this is especially surprising when one looks at the comparative relations between the other schools of the MIAA and the towns in which they are located. Alma has far fewer occurrences of disagreement and there is also a noticeable lack in attitude of hostility among both students and community members.

The relationship between the Alma community and Alma College is mutually beneficial. The community succeeds in providing students with a "home away from home" while the college offers its services and facilities to community members.

## Opinion poll

# What's the dumbest law you've ever heard?



Mali VanderBeek '99

"That oral sex is illegal in some states."

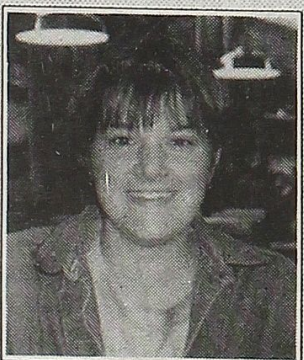
Mary Hess '98

"Having to wear a seat belt. Since we would only be hurting ourselves by not wearing one, it should be our choice whether or not we do. This also applies to motorcycle helmets."



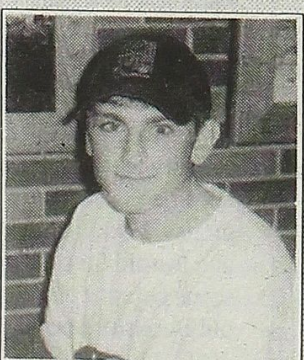
Debbie Macdonald '97

"I think it's dumb that employers can discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation."



Ben Hondorp '98

"It's dumb that you have to wear shoes when you are driving."



# Classifieds

The dance department is offering a London Trip for next spring term. 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 whet your appetite—we will be in London for approximately 10 days with a two day trip to Stratford—we will see 6 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.

\* \* \*

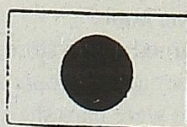
**Wanted:** Student for part time work. Mainly feeding, watering, and cleaning cages. Must be willing to work with different kinds of animals. Alma Tropical Fish Center 228 E. Superior St. Alma (517) 463-2364.

\* \* \*

**SPRING TERM IN JAMAICA, 1997.** All students who are interested in Alma College's Jamaica Program for Spring Term 1997 are invited to a slide presentation and informational meeting on Thursday, Sept. 26 at 7 p.m. in Clack Auditorium. To access the auditorium, go through the gallery in the art building. If you have any questions, please contact Nicholas Dixon (x7219).

# 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.

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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.