

The Almanian

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Issue 10

Songfest '96 exhibits students' musical talent

By Lisa Sherman
Staff Reporter

The Alma College Union Board (ACUB) sponsored its annual Songfest competition on Sunday at 8 p.m. in Dunning Memorial Chapel.

Students competed by singing solo or participating in the small and large group competitions. Performers sang in front of a packed house. In fact, students started lining up outside the chapel in the cold quite early in order to get a good seat. The doors did not open, however, until almost 7:45 p.m.

Masters of Ceremony for the evening were juniors Derek Boyer and Dan Scripps. The two emcees provided a bit of comedy. For instance they came dressed in shirts and ties, but also wearing shorts and flannel pants. They introduced the acts and at one point Scripps did an audience poll.

Sophomore Katy Bunker started the evening out in the solo competition, singing George and Ira Gershwin's "Someone to Watch Over Me." Eight soloists competed for the prize.

First place went to first-year student Ben Cable. He sang "Thief" by MacLowell.

Second place was awarded to senior Joe Johnston, who sang Neil Young's "Heart of Gold," accompanied by junior Marc Alderman on, as Boyer put it, "some sort of

tribal mechanism" (drum).

Following a brief intermission, the small groups sang. Five small groups performed at Songfest.

Senior Don Hoffman and the 304's were awarded second place. They sang an original piece by seniors Joe Herrera and Don Hoffman entitled "Bridge."

Sophomores Christine Mayers and Heather Koutz took first place. They performed "Sing" by Hamlisch.

The large groups, of which there were only two, competed last.

Theta Chi and Nash received second place. They sang Crosby, Stills, and Nash's "Teach Your Children."

First place was awarded to Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. They sang "Since You've Been Gone" by Weird Al Yankovic.

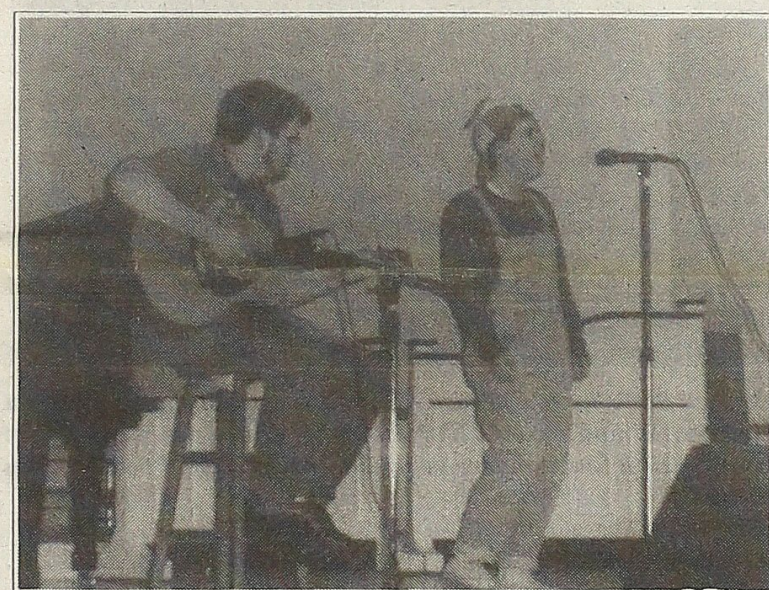
The judges for Songfest were Gina Petonito, assistant professor of sociology; Dave Wagner, Mitchell Hall director; Nancy Potter, assistant director of admissions; and Carolyn Schneider, assistant dean for student development.

While the judges collaborated on the winners, The Stains sang once again. They had competed with the small groups and performed "Kiss the Girl" from the movie *The Little Mermaid*.

ACUB's Songfest '96 provided all with an entertaining evening filled with student talent.

Above: The Stains, composed of sophomore Marcus Evans and seniors India Lovett, Debbie MacDonald and Phil Allmen sing during Songfest as ACUB members sophomore Micaela Merryweather and junior Holly Bailey join junior emcee Derek Boyer in watching from the side. Evans led The Stains in singing "Kiss the Girl," which ended, suprisingly enough, with a kiss.

Left: Backed by senior Joe Johnston on guitar, senior Phil Allmen sings his heart out to the Shel Silvestein poem "The Unicorn." Both photos by Rebecca Conboy.



Volunteers sought to help bring AIDS Memorial quilt to campus

By Jaime Campbell
Freelance Writer

The AIDS epidemic is an issue that is seldom talked about in such a small campus community. However, two organizations are making this issue the focus of Alma College for the Fall of 1997.

Newberry Hall Council and the Center for Student Development are leading the way in sponsoring the arrival of a portion of the famous AIDS Memorial Quilt and need volunteers to help with the project.

Alma College recently received preliminary approval for the display of 20 to 30 panels, an equivalent

of roughly 200 quilts. This display is tentatively scheduled to be shown in Van Dusen Commons in September 1997.

Expected to accompany the quilt are various activities, such as a guest speaker, an opening ceremony, a closing service and outreach to surrounding schools. Professors are also encouraged to incorporate AIDS and HIV related issues in their classes.

The project was initiated by Newberry Hall Council President junior Cindy Miller in January 1996. Miller's purpose was to heighten AIDS awareness on campus and in the community.

Commenting on the significance

of the Quilt, Miller feels, "The Quilt is a very powerful symbol of the AIDS epidemic. It is a great educational tool and a wonderful work of art."

Anyone interested in working to bring the AIDS Quilt to campus should attend a volunteer meeting on Wednesday, November 20, at 6:30 pm in Dow L1. Several committees that still need volunteers are education, ceremonies, logistics, media, panelmaking, display promotion, volunteer, merchandise and fundraising. All committees are co-chaired by a member of the faculty or staff. Anyone with questions should call Cindy Miller at #7519.



Forty-five students received CPR certification from the American Red Cross as part of a Sigma Chi event. Here, sophomore Aaron Mansfield practices his mouth to mouth techniques. Photo by Tony Falsetta.

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November 19, 1996

Vosejpka speaks on science, sex, society

By Staci Hill
News Editor

According to Laura Vosejpka, assistant professor of chemistry, one reason why women may not be choosing science as a career is that "science isn't sexy." The assumption is that being smart and feminine are mutually exclusive.

Vosejpka addressed general concerns regarding science and gender during her talk titled "Science, Sex and Society" given last Thursday as a part of The Last Lecture Series.

James Kridler, dean of students, explained the series with "If you had but one lecture to give, what would you say?" Future lectures will be given by Murray Borrello, instructor of geology; Carol Slater, chair and professor of psychology; and Michael Selmon, associate professor of English.

The lecture opened as Vosejpka explained that she would not pretend to be an expert on the issue, but this topic was something she took an interest in. This became apparent as she provided overheads of statistics on women in science in 1974 compared to 1990. Vosejpka asserted that the figures have not changed all that much, despite what progress has been made.

An area the audience seemed surprised to hear spoken of was the effect science had on marriage. The statistics show that marriage is not compatible with having a Ph.D. in science as 38% of women with doctorates are not married while

18% of men are single. Vosejpka attributed the correlation to the fact that the option to take a leave of absence to care for a family and then return to the same job is almost nonexistent.

After presenting the facts, Vosejpka focused on the problem by asking two questions: "why are women not starting to do science?" and "why are women not finishing science once they start?"

Several reasons for this have been proposed in published research articles, which Vosejpka emphasized that she would present but not side with. Some suggest that females do not fit the mold of a scientist. However, the characteristics of this mold could just as easily apply to men: white, middle-class, father supported family, etc.

Perhaps women are not prepared academically and math appears to be the "critical filter for science," according to Vosejpka, though she does not think that this is a problem at Alma College.

Other assumptions are that women are under prepared socially, mechanically, and are more attracted to applied careers. Vosejpka explained that, "girls are socialized to be nurturing, obedient, and responsible, while boys are achievement oriented and self-reliant." The bottom line for women is an overall lack of self-confidence.

Looking to history for strong female role models in science does not improve the situation. Vosejpka examined the book *The Double*

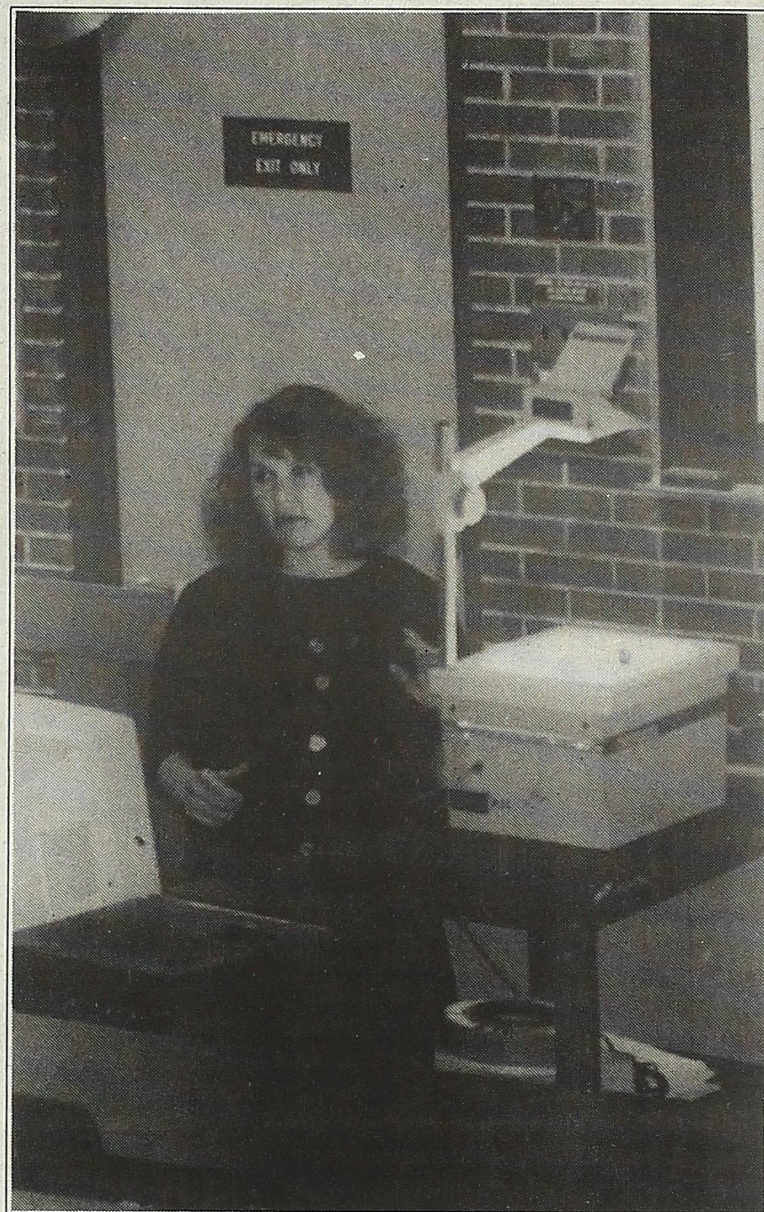
Helix, which describes from James Watson's point of view the discovery of DNA. The woman who contributed to this research, Rosalind Franklin, never received adequate attention for her work on x-ray crystallography. In the book, Watson refers to Franklin as a lab assistant who was unattractive, brash, and lacking in style. Vosejpka commented that she thought it was interesting that he would comment on that in a book written about DNA.

Vosejpka asserted that maybe science is the real problem.

"I think science has unreasonable expectations for its participants." Success in the profession depends on a large expenditure of energy, working long hours, high physical and psychological stamina, and creativity. Vosejpka also commented that scientists are not the only people who must be creative: "If everyone is thinking creatively, why does it take the scientists so long to do it?" said Vosejpka.

As a result of these constraints, science is not family-friendly. Vosejpka asked the audience for suggestions as to what the real problem is. Many agreed that the concept of "having it all" complicated the issue.

Vosejpka summarized by stating that "The idea is not to reopen the door [to have it all] but to reexamine the problem; ... People that do science have changed but the profession has not."



Assistant Professor of Chemistry Laura Vosejpka spoke Thursday on "Science, Sex and Society." She claims that women in science-related fields lose their femininity because of their occupations. Photo by Jason Paetz.

Zeta Sigma Hockey Night proves beneficial for charity

By Galina Martin
Freelance Writer

Ninety-two people attended Zeta Sigma's annual "Hockey Night" Saturday. This year the group traveled to the I.M.A. Arena in Flint to see the Saginaw Lumber Kings play the Flint Generals.

The day started out at 3 p.m. when friends, alumni and fraternity sisters joined the brothers for pizza at the house. The group chartered two tour buses for the excursion and they left Alma College at 5 p.m.

This is the first year that "Hockey Night" was held during the fall term. This enabled the group to get more participants for their philanthropic event. Brother Scott Brade, '97, stated, "Having this during fall term would allow more individuals to come on the trip. People have more money before Christmas so they can afford to have a good time."

The event was \$25 per person. The price included the bus trip to the game, ticket price and all the pizza one could eat. The

group received a better group rate from the I.M.A. so costs were significantly less than last year, also adding to their attendance. Zeta Sigma President Warren Rojewski, '98, said "This is the largest group that I have heard of in at least three years."

The event is a long standing tradition for the Zeta Sigma fraternity. It is designed to allow students to get to know one another away from campus in a setting that is new and different from anything else offered. Each year the group chooses a new team to go and support.

Robert MacLeod, '00, looked forward to the event stating, "I'm excited for it, I'm really gearing up for the fights." Although there were no hockey fights during the game, the group still had a great time.

Terri Cooper, '99, had a different angle on the evening. "The bus ride was the greatest, it was a good time for all those involved."

Roger Pattie, '98, echoed Terri by saying, "Rob, the bus driver, is one of the coolest guys I've met."

Besides the bus ride and the game

other events lent to the overall excitement. The arena hosted a type of "Ladies Night," and all women in attendance received roses. The Zeta Sigma group was seated in the right section during a third period power play and they all received certificates for a free Frosty at "Wendy's" when the Generals scored. The group joined in starting "the wave" at the arena.

Josh Pohill, '97, was celebrating his 21st birthday when he stated, "When it's time to rise up, we start the party." It was also the first time in at least three years that the group's team won the game. The fraternity traditionally cheers for the home team and this year Flint defeated Saginaw 5-4.

The brothers were very pleased with the turn-out because of the philanthropic side of the event. A portion of the proceeds from every "Hockey Night" goes to a charity of the fraternity's choosing. At this time the group has yet to select a charity but it is considering groups such as the United Way, Salvation Army or perhaps the Chamber of Commerce.

• NEWS BRIEFS •

• **Break the silence** and participate in The Clothesline Project, a visual display bearing witness to any violence against women. The first t-shirt making sessions will be held Wednesday, November 20 at 7 p.m. at the Wilcox Medical Center and Monday, November 25 at 7 p.m. at Newberry Hall. Contact Denise Bouchey, x7181, or J.J. Klimkiewicz, x7500, for more information. The Clothesline Project will be shown during Women's Month, March 1997.

• **Alma College Theatre** presents two series of one-act plays directed by upper-level students. Plays run today through Sunday, November 24, in the Heritage Center Theatre. Series A includes two plays, *The Stonewater Rapture* by Doug Wright and *Riches* by Lee Blessing, performed Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, November 19, 21, and 23, at 8 p.m. Series B includes three plays, *Identity Crisis* by Christopher Durang, *The Universal Language* by David Ives and *Hopscotch* by Israel Horowitz, performed on Wednesday and Fri-

day, November 20 and 22, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, November 24, at 3 p.m. The plays contain explicit language and adult situations. Tickets are available by calling the Heritage Center Box Office at ext. 7304.

• **The Alma Symphony Orchestra** will perform its second concert program on Friday, November 22, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, November 24, at 3 p.m. Tickets are available through the box office at ext. 7304.

• **The Jazz Ensemble** presents its annual Christmas concert Sunday, Nov. 24, at 8 p.m. in Presbyterian Hall. No ticket required.

• **The Los Angeles Guitar Quartet** visits Alma College on Monday, November 25, at 8 p.m. in Presbyterian Hall. Seating is reserved; call the box office at 7304 for ticket information.

• **Alma College Union Board (ACUB)** will show the movie *The Rock* Saturday, November 23 at 7 and 9:30 p.m. and Sunday, November 24, at 8 p.m.

Convocation expands to honor student achievement

By Mitzi Janukaitis
Freelance Writer

A tradition at Alma College is to have an Honors Convocation at the end of the winter term. The idea of Honors Convocation is to celebrate the academic accomplishments of Alma College students. This spring, however, brings a new twist to Honors Convocation: an Honors Day.

The Honors Convocation is planned for April 3 at 9:30 a.m. and will be the traditional Convocation. The Barlow award will be given out, a number of inductions into various honor societies will be held, and other awards will be given to students.

Currently, a committee consisting of various Alma College students and faculty members is in the process of putting the plans together for Honors Day. This committee is headed by John Davis,

chair and associate professor of exercise and health science.

This year's celebrations are scheduled to begin the Wednesday night before Honors Convocation, April 2. There will be a speaker, Richard Selzer, a medical doctor also involved in creative writing. He was on campus about two years ago and will be a returning visitor to Alma. Thursday's activities will begin with the traditional Honors Convocation and continue with a variety of things to see throughout the day. There will be no classes; instead, the whole day will be devoted to student presentations. These presentations give an opportunity for Alma College students to show off their personal accomplishments rather than just academic accomplishments. Artists will be able to show their work, those who are in the performing arts will be able to show their talents and those students involved in research will be

able to talk about their projects.

Davis commented, "Alma College students are involved in many research and other scholarly activities, and it would be fun to celebrate these activities."

He also explained that students interested in having their works shown will have to submit a short summary of their piece by March 1 in order to be included. A memo will also be sent out to each student within a few weeks telling them to start preparing their works and to not forget to include a summary for Honors Day.

A note should be made to all students that Honors Convocation is requirement and all should be in attendance. Also the school calendar has been changed and Honors Convocation is a week earlier than originally planned, as well as earlier in the morning. It will now be held on April 3 at 9:30 a.m. instead of April 10 at 11:00 a.m.



Sophomore RA Chris Tapley is covered with cream during a Mitchell Hall project to raise money for Adopt-A-Family. The Mitchell RAs earned \$65. Photo by Jason Paetz.

Admission's staff on schedule to fill incoming class Admissions office begins recruiting process for class of 2001

By Erin Freeland
Freelance Writer

The counselors in the office of admissions are currently hard at work recruiting next year's crop of first-year students. For the last eight weeks, they have been traveling around the state of Michigan visiting high schools and attending college nights in order to inform prospective students about Alma College.

Admissions counselors visit three to four schools each day. Each counselor has a designated

sector of the state which they visit, which also includes out-of-state territories in Indiana, Ohio, and Illinois. Not as many students come from these out-of-state territories, however. Currently only about 10 to 15 percent of Alma's students are not from Michigan.

"We're very attractive to Michigan students," said John Seveland, vice president for enrollment in student affairs.

After the counselors meet with the students and answer any questions they may have concerning Alma College, the students are put

on a computer list in the office so that they will receive more information about the college during the winter months. The admissions staff members are not gearing their presentations toward a specific type of student at this point; however, much interest in Alma College is being generated. In general, the students who are not interested in Alma will weed themselves out during the process.

One hundred and three students have already been accepted in the early decision program, and 450 applications have already been re-

ceived by the Admissions office, a figure which is a bit above the average for the to previous few years. Acceptance is based primarily on ACT scores and grade point average.

In the midst of the busiest part of the season, people in the admissions office are extremely busy. In one day 15 interviews and tours were conducted. The majority of the visiting students do not choose to stay overnight at Alma, but the ones who do have had a very positive reaction. Seveland stated that one prospective student inter-

viewed last week was raving about Alma after her overnight stay.

Alma has already hosted two Academic Open Houses this fall. In addition to familiarizing students with some of the faculty members, these functions help prospective students to get a better idea of what Alma College is all about and the college process in general through financial aid sessions, campus life sessions, and campus tours.

The admissions counselors will conclude their travels between the first and second weeks of December.

The Cutting Crew

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Douglas speaks tonight on women's role in the media

By Jennifer Hughes
Staff Reporter

How does the media portray women? Susan Douglas, professor of media and American studies at Hampshire College, will discuss this in her speech entitled "Growing Up Female With the Mass Media" tonight at 8 p.m. in the Heritage Center's Presbyterian Hall.

Douglas comes to Alma to speak about the media and its representations of women. In 1994, she wrote a book entitled *Where the Girls Are: Growing Up Female With the Mass Media*, which is also the title of her speech tonight.

This book tells of her own experiences and love/hate relationship with the media as well as what effects the media can

have on women of all ages.

She discusses how women are used in advertising and not only how the media stereotypes them, but how the media also stereotypes feminists, ignoring what they have to say. In fact, Douglas comments in the introduction to her book, "growing up female with the mass media helped make me a feminist."

Each chapter in her book caters to a different aspect of mass media and women because, as she says in her introduction to *Where the Girls Are*, "It's time to reclaim a past too frequently ignored, hooted at, and dismissed, because it is in these images of women that we find the roots of who we are now."

Where the Girls Are was chosen as one of the top ten books of 1994 by *National Public Radio*, *Entertainment Weekly*, and the *McLaughlin Group*.

Recently Douglas has been working on a history of radio listening in America in which she examines how the mass media has portrayed motherhood, and a book for parents entitled *How to Watch TV With Your Kids*.

In a 1995 *Boston Phoenix* interview, Douglas said that she'll "always feel like I'm simultaneously acquiescing to and rebelling against media imagery. On one hand, the media urge us to be pliant, cute, sexually available, thin, blonde, poreless, wrinkle-free On the other, they suggest we can be rebellious, tough, enterprising and shrewd."

Douglas will speak tonight on this subject and how media has affected women's images of themselves. No ticket is required to attend and the speech is open to the public.

Li-Young Lee visits Alma

By Larissa VanderZee
Feature Editor

Art, according to visiting poet Li-Young Lee, "is a way of practicing 'big heart,' practicing God; it is a way of remembering and exercising our true identity." A poet as well as a philosopher, Lee spent Monday and Tuesday of last week engaged in many discussions of poetic process and philosophic reasoning.

Having published two award-winning books of poetry, *Rose* and *The City in Which I Love You*, Lee has been referred to as "one of the finest young poets alive" by *The American Poetry Review*.

When asked if he enjoyed visiting schools and participating in readings, he responded with, "I enjoy meeting the students." He proved this to be true. If not having lunch or breakfast with a group of students, he was speaking with a class.

On Monday evening, many listening ears were present at Lee's poetry reading in the Heritage Center for Performing Arts. Lee began his reading with a poem titled "Braiding." As a preface to his reading, Lee told his audience that the act of braiding his wife's hair was the foundation of the poem. However, it was also about the "act of poetic making...about braiding time, eternity, action, and contem-

plation." For Lee, these entities intertwine in the act of living, writing and creating art. They are not separate.

Lee's poetry possessed an emphasis on clear, concrete language. Simple words took on new meaning in the context of his poetry and

We trust too much in the visible; the invisible is where all the secrets lie.

• Li-Young Lee

his own voice. Whether he read a poem in praise of persimmons, the birds or his mother, he expressed his idea through images.

He also created laughter. People chuckled as Lee said, "I did a lot of research for this poem; I ate a lot of peaches" in reference to the writing of "From Blossoms."

Many of Lee's poems concern his family: his relationships with his wife, sons, siblings and his parents. Yet he said he is not necessarily writing for himself.

Believing that every aspect of the universe is interconnected, during his talk on Tuesday afternoon,

Lee offered the idea that his writing, his creation of art was part of a connection to the "big heart" or "big heart/mind."

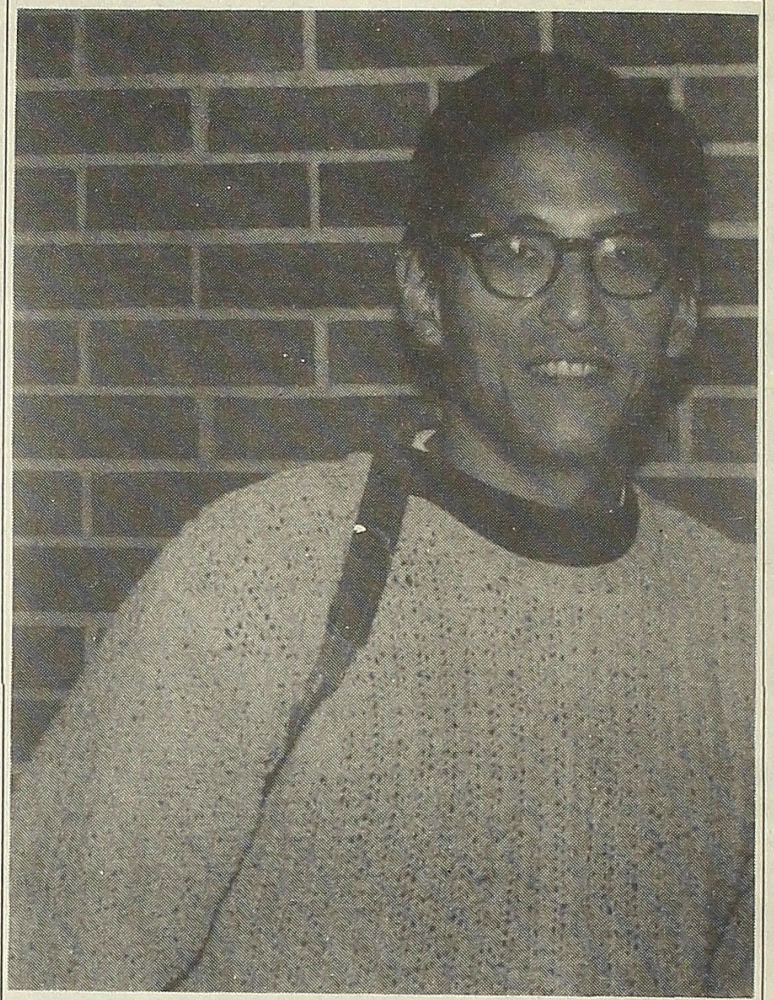
Lee expressed some frustration at attempting to explain the concept of the heart and mind being one in the same. Chinese language has its own word for this—*shin*; the English language and Western culture not only lack the word, but the entire concept. As Lee sees it, not realizing that the heart and mind function as one can be detrimental.

According to Lee, art allows us to connect with the "big heart/mind." By connecting to this we understand values, morals, and ethics. "Aesthetic value is the highest value; aesthetic mind and heart is ethical mind and heart," stated Lee. "The heart and mind [as one] is the secret to everything we do."

Lee further speculated that Western culture has a difficult time understanding this concept because it is too busy, too distracted.

The connection to the heart and mind as Lee described it develops in a "practice of inwardness."

Lee stated that only when one "quiets everything down" can the individual tap the resources of the invisible heart/mind. It is that space where infinite peace and joy can be found. As Lee said, "We trust too much in the visible; the invisible is where all the secrets lie."



Li-Young Lee talks with students over lunch on Tuesday. Lee also spoke Monday night at Presbyterian Hall in the Heritage Center for Performing Arts. Photo by Jason Paetz.

Gibb's first effort shows potential

By Daniel C. Scripps
Co-Editor-In-Chief

The son of jazz vibraphonist Terry Gibbs and the son of jazz saxophonist John Coltrane have teamed up on a new CD. The Gerry Gibbs Sextet featuring Ravi Coltrane is the result of this collaboration.

This disc swings from the get-go. The first track off *The Thrasher*, called "F Train to Bermuda," is an energetic calypso that grabs the ears of the listeners and pulls them in on a wild ride through eleven tunes lasting just over an hour. In "F Train to Bermuda" Gibbs and his sidekicks attempt to combine a blissful trip to the tropics with a not-so-blissful ride through the New York subway tunnels.

Following the catchy theme, Billy Childs throws his two-cents in on the piano in one of the best solos on the album. Childs trades tracks with the equally capable Uri Caine throughout the album on piano. Coltrane follows with a solo of his own, and it becomes clear through the tone and the driving force of his solo that he is indeed his father's son. Coltrane is followed by violinist Mark Feldman who, along with vibist Joe Locke, adds a twist of the unconventional to the album.

The disc moves on to a Latinesque ballad "Silence After the Earthquake," which was written following the 1987 California earthquake. Again Childs excels in his solo which precedes the har-

monic feud between Feldman and Coltrane, backed by the subtle foundation of Locke and Derek "Oles" Oleszkiewicz on bass. It is a testament to the percussive ability of Gibbs that he is able to evoke a Latin feeling without the benefit of equipment designed for that purpose.

Following "Silence" comes one

The first track off The Thrasher, called "F Train to Bermuda," is an energetic calypso that grabs the ears of the listeners and pulls them in on a wild ride through eleven tunes lasting just over an hour.

of only three borrowed songs on the album, Ellington's "Rockin' In Rhythm," which features the up-tempo piano work of Caine, his first appearance on the album. This is followed by a tune entitled "Love Letter to Dawna Bailey," written by Gibbs on the night he met his late wife in Greenwich Village.

Said Gibbs, "She was the most beautiful woman I'd ever seen in my life, and I knew I was going to marry her."

The tender piano of Childs and tenor of Coltrane recreate the mood, but it is the solo by Locke and the recap by Feldman which express

Gibbs' feelings of love far more eloquently than words alone.

The next tune, "Impressions," is again borrowed, this time from John Coltrane. The ghost of his father is found in the playing of Ravi Coltrane, though he still has much to learn before such a comparison is even credible.

The band follows with the title track off the album and "After the Dawn," dedicated to Gibbs' Godson Ryan Leak. "Miss Nedra Wheeler," another dedication, this time to the Cal Arts expatriate who shares with Gibbs the love for the music of the former John Coltrane Quartet pianist McCoy Tyner. The last dedication is "Another Adventure with Mr. Fick." The last ballad on the album, Ellington's "In A Sentimental Mood," is eerily reminiscent of the collaboration on the same tune between Ellington and John Coltrane years ago. The last tune, "The Band of Losers," was written for Gibbs' first East Coast band, which boasted a band of musicians who were forced to sustain themselves with "Stupid Day Jobs," as Wally Pleasant would say.

This is a very good album. Its use of nontraditional instrumentation and quality original writing gives hope that the sextet will not fall victim to the unimaginative technical music to which all too many modern jazz musicians have succumbed. However, it should be explicitly expressed that it lacks the greatness of a few of the albums of the elder Gibbs and virtually all of the albums of the elder Coltrane.

By Larissa VanderZee
Feature Editor

Those who enjoy the city of Chicago may be interested in the new spring-term course "Chicago Arts & Culture." The first informational meeting regarding this course will be held tonight at 8:30 in Eddy 102.

This first semi-off-campus spring term to be offered in Chicago will offer students 8 days of exploration, culture and learning in the country's third largest city.

Co-organized by Professor and Chair of Music Douglas Scripps and Professor of English John Ottenhoff, both of whom hope to offer students a cultural experience reaching beyond the Chicago Loop. This involves spending a majority of the time in the south and west sides of the city.

Scripps said the best way to find out about the real culture of Chicago is to go "where the people are." He described these experiences as the "backstage" culture.

While students will spend time at The Art Institute and The Goodman Theater, they will also spend time in different ethnic communities, various blues and jazz clubs, and of course, watching baseball.

Experience is the essence of the course. Students will read about the culture of Chicago through various literature before spending the eight days in the city. But the true learning will

occur through experience.

Ottenhoff, a native to the Chicago area, retains a certain connection with the city. Through this class he hopes to share his love for his hometown with his students, fostering a deeper understanding of art and culture and their relationship to politics, community, and government.

"It [the Chicago course] would give students exposure to cultures and viewpoints unlike those they are likely to encounter in Alma or small-town Michigan," said Ottenhoff, also stressing the experience of the "backstage" culture.

While in Chicago, five of the nights will be spent at the Chicago Urban Life Center's International Conference Center. It will be during this time that the students experience much of the "backstage" events. The other two nights will be spent in the Loop at the Palmer House Hotel.

Not only does this course offer a new option to the students, it offers a new teaching experience for Scripps and Ottenhoff. Scripps commented that he is excited to "teach something that I don't normally teach. I usually teach a symphony course for spring term—I can do that in my sleep." Similarly, Ottenhoff typically teaches a course on Shakespeare.

Although it has not officially been granted, the course is under review for approval to fill the 3D (humanities) distributive. Scripps said he could see no reason for it not being approved.

Kiltie Band ends season on a high note

By Matthew Singletary
Staff Reporter

The audience jumped in their seats as the Kiltie Band, ending its season of music for this year, opened their performance with a loud drum announcement. Presbyterian Hall shook as the band per-

formed some highlights from their marching season at 8 p.m. on Saturday, November 16.

Some of the selections for the evening included music from Earth, Wind, and Fire, as well as the "Moorside March", written by Gustav Holst and arranged by Jay Bocook.

Movement was largely incorporated into the festive show. The color guard performed interesting maneuvers at the front of the stage, and sometimes the band members themselves gave an amazing spectacle of coordinated movement. During a song entitled "Free", the band members broke into a chaos

of individual movement as they expressed themselves according to a personal rhythm.

The show concluded with the band marching to the side of the house, as well as above it, and performing "Moorside March". Laughter infected the audience as some of the trombones tossed pairs of boxer shorts off the side of the upper rail, hanging them with lengths of string.

The Kiltie Band has been performing at Alma College for seventy-four years, moving from its original pep band status to become a massive performing group of 110 students. They are directed by Kevin Smith, a professional trum-

The Kiltie Band marches off of the field during the fall season. Following the marching season the band performed an indoor concert which featured marching season highlights. File photo.

pet player and the director for the Alma High School band. The percussion instructor for the band is Bill Sommerfeldt, band director for St. Louis High School.

The two drum majors for the band are Brian Nielson, '97 and Melinda Towns, '98.

The Kiltie Band gave a spectacular performance, and the standing ovation they received was much

I thought the students did an excellent job.

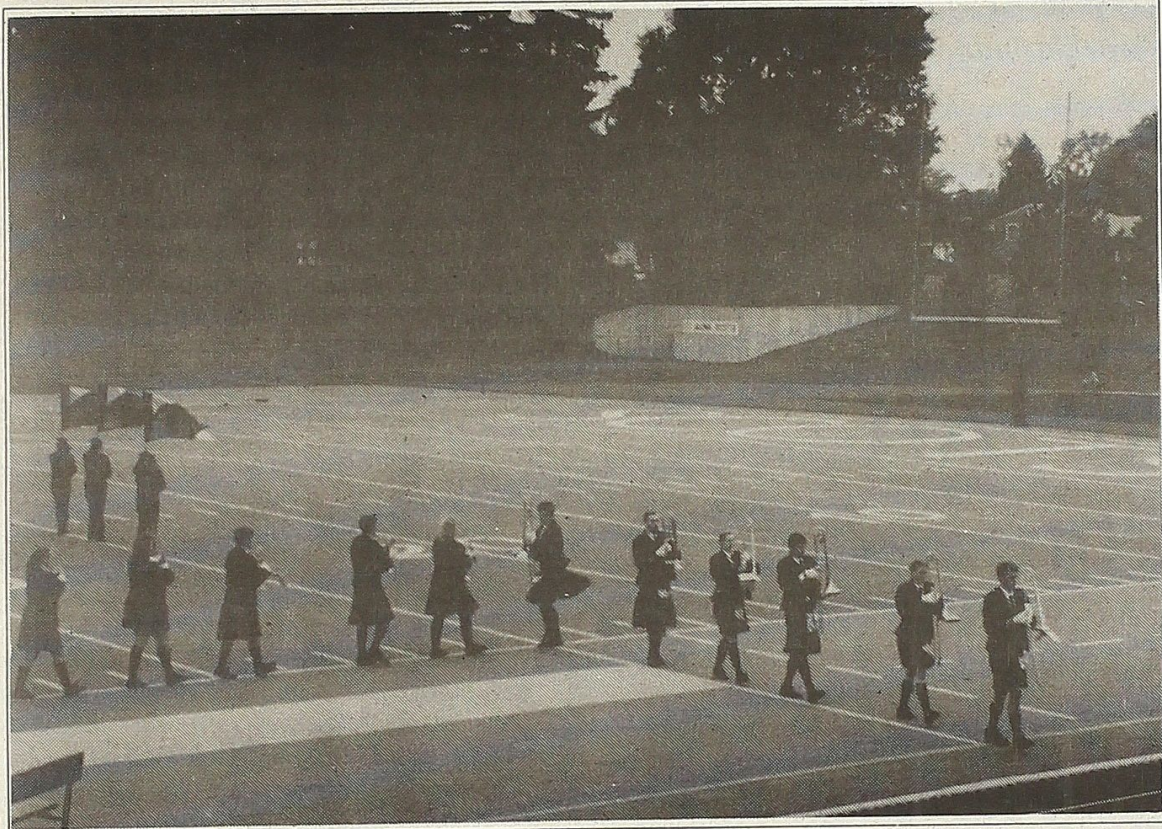
•Kevin Smith.
Kiltie Band Director

deserved.

"I was really happy with it," remarked Smith. "I thought the students did an excellent job."

"I enjoyed it a lot," said first-year student Kevin Kosch, a member of the percussion line. "I thought we accomplished a lot. We used a lot of teamwork and conscious effort to produce a quality band program."

First-year student Michael Slater commented, "It [this year] was pretty good. The people here really put out a lot of individual effort. It's the students that made it really good."



Sororities begin preparations for upcoming formals

By Missy Crossnoe
Freelance Writer

Formals (semiformal sorority dances) are a recurring part of sorority life. Each sorority on campus has a fall and a winter formal, one of which is open to the campus and the other which is closed for sorority members and their guests. All four of the sororities have been planning for their fall formals since the beginning of the term. Each individual sorority has selected a chair and developed various committees to carry out the responsibilities of planning and coordinat-

ing these events.

The single sorority which is having their fall formal open to the campus is Gamma Phi Beta (ΓΦΒ). This formal, titled "Tavern in Wonderland," will be held in the Tyler-VanDusen Campus Center. The date and time are set for November 23, at 9:00 p.m. Senior Kristi Wassa is the person responsible for planning this formal. She along with junior Heather Alverson, sophomore Colleen McGrath compose the Tavern committee.

Wassa stated, "freshmen are encouraged to attend, invites are sent to each woman and it is a great way

for them to get oriented with Gamma Phi Beta."

Christmas will be celebrated by the sisters of Kappa Iota (KI) during their traditional Christmas formal. This closed formal is only admissible to the sisters and brothers of KI, along with their guests. This Christmas formal will be held in Jones Auditorium on December 6, from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. Junior Jen Wood is chair of the committee.

The closed formal of Alpha Gamma Delta (ΑΓΔ) will be held in the Comfort Inn's ballroom in Mt. Pleasant this fall. The sisters of

Alpha Gamma Delta, along with their guests, will enjoy a sit-down dinner before they begin dancing the night away. Junior Lindsay Pennington is the ΑΓΔ's social chair and is therefore in charge of planning the event.

Pennington explained that the sisters began planning this dance by discussing what the sorority as a whole would like for formal.

The sisters of Alpha Xi Delta (ΑΞΔ) also will be having their closed formal this term. It is scheduled for November 22, at 8:00 p.m. The day before the formal, sorority

members can sign up for decoration committees to help their coordinator, senior Andrea Hill.

Each sorority encourages all its members to attend these formals. With all the hard work, planning and participation put into these events, they should prove successful.

Fall formals are a time for enjoyment and for spending quality time with other sorority sisters and friends. With all the added stress of exams, papers, and other events a fall formal offer a relaxing evening away from responsibility.

Award provides Pippin with opportunity to study in Mexico City

By Lisa Sherman
Staff Reporter

Studying overseas is an opportunity many Alma College students take advantage of. Alma College has programs all over the world, including Spain, France, Scotland, and Mexico.

Thanks to Fred Mauch of Valley Travel, junior Christina Pippin will take the opportunity to study in Mexico City next semester. She was selected to receive the 1996 Valley Travel of Alma Mexican Study Scholarship. Mauch, who once lived in Mexico, wanted to help others have the opportunity to experience a new culture as well. The scholarship provides Pippin with a round trip airfare ticket to Mexico.

A double major in Spanish and Exercise and Health Science, Pippin plans to pursue a career in physical therapy. She has studied Spanish for about six and a half years, since she was a freshman in high

school.

Pippin will study in Mexico from January 10 to May 15 of the upcoming year. While in Mexico City, she will live with a Mexican host family rather than in a residence hall. This will provide her with a more realistic experience, one in-

clusive class.

Pippin decided to go to Mexico rather than Spain primarily because Mexican Spanish is different than Spanish Spanish.

"I think that Mexican Spanish, overall, will have a greater benefit to dealing with Spanish speaking people in the U.S.," stated Pippin. Also, it was less costly for Pippin to study in Mexico for the semester.

In addition to the fact that as a foreign language major Pippin is required to study abroad for a term, she believes the experience will be useful. "It's a great way to test your own wings, with nobody there to hold your hand," she reflected. Pippin believes the opportunity of studying abroad will help her learn about Mexico and its culture. It will also offer an opportunity for personal growth.

To study overseas, students must first go through an application process. Based on Pippin's grades, recommendations and essays, she was accepted into the program.

It's a great way to test your own wings...

•Christina Pippin,
'98

cluding more than academic events.

Pippin will attend the Universidad Iberoamericana while in Mexico. There she will focus her studies on Spanish grammar, Mexican history, and literature. Also, upon arriving, Pippin will have the option of selecting one more elec-



Junior Christina Pippin receives her scholarship from Fred Mauch of Valley Travel. This award pays for Pippin's round-trip ticket to Mexico City. File photo.

Choir concert proves to be a success

By Kendra Seybert
Freelance Writer

On Friday, November 15, Saturday, November 16 and Sunday, November 17 the Alma College choir performed Mozart's *Solemn Vespers of the Confessor* in Alma, Bay City, and Saginaw.

The concerts began on Friday at 8:00 p.m. in the Heritage Center for the Performing Arts. The tour continued as the choir traveled to Bay City to perform the piece on Saturday. Concluding the tour on Sunday afternoon, the Alma College Choir traveled to Saginaw for their last performance.

Performing Mozart's *Solemn Ves-*

pers of the Confessor gave the choir the opportunity to work with a guest conductor and orchestra.

The choir members found this to be a rewarding experience.

"Accomplishing something that was difficult to read and put together as well as having the chance to sing with an experienced symphony and perform such a famous piece were very rewarding,"

commented junior Mary Hess.

Solemn Vespers of the Confessor, an extremely famous piece which

is entirely written and sung in Latin, required much effort and time to learn and perform. The choir spent

The audience seemed very pleased with our performance.

•Debbie MacDonald,
'97

many hours in practice and rehearsal in preparation for last weekend's performance. Practice

was not limited to Alma as the choir also rehearsed in Saginaw to better prepare them for their concert on Sunday.

"Practice makes perfect and as the days passed, the choir, as a whole, improved. Our best performance was Sunday afternoon in Saginaw. There was a great turnout and the audience was obviously pleased with our sound," said Mali Vanderbeek, '99, about the choir concert.

Senior Debbie MacDonald agreed, "The audience seemed very pleased with our performance. I think Sunday's was

definitely the best for both the audience and the choir."

Despite the difficulty of the piece, the performance, according to many members of the choir, seems to have been a success.

"It was a difficult piece, but I think we all came together to give a really good concert," commented sophomore Scott Harman.

The next choir concert will be the annual Christmas concert performed on December 6 and 7. Turnout is expected to be high as this concert is one of the most popular of all that the Alma College Choir performs. Those who wish to reserve tickets should call the Heritage Center box office.

Toledo Museum of Art enhances appreciation

By Heidi Grantham
Freelance Writer

On Friday, seventeen students from Art History 112 filled two Alma College vans for departure to the Toledo Museum of Art. Leading the caravan was part-time instructor of Art History Design Rhonda Pochert and printmaking instructor, Alma College alumni, Michael Barnes. This one day escape from classes was a worthwhile and educational experience for everyone who attended.

The Toledo Museum of Art has one of the most elaborate permanent exhibitions of any museum in the country. The museum accommodates a variety of artists and types of art in 35 separate galleries. It is considered one of the nation's finest museums.

Upon arrival at the museum the 17 students were anxious and excited to observe the many works of art by artists who were studied in class. Some of the different time periods included in the galleries were Renaissance, Middle Ages, Classic Court, European 1600s, European 1700s and Japanese art.

One of the first and foremost paintings observed that the class had studied was the *Oath of Horati* by Jacques-Louis David from the Neoclassicism period.

Other artists studied and included at the museum were from the French painter Nicolas Poussin, Dutch painter Rembrandt van Rijn and Flemish painter Peter Paul Rubens. It was a chilling experience to witness the real art

that had been studied in class. Actually seeing the true textures and colors of the paintings was an enlightening experience in itself.

The main attraction of the visit was the Fire of

Hephaistos, large classical bronzes from North American collections: one of the first exhibitions of its kind in the nation. This display included bronze casts and statues by ancient Greek and Roman artists. The artistic depiction

Everyone involved would agree that the trip to the Toledo Museum of Art was a worthwhile experience. It enhanced what was studied in class and offered exposure to famous art at one of the nation's top museums.

tion of many of the gods and goddesses was enough to evoke a sense of awe. The life-size structures depicted the beauty of Greek and Roman anatomy. Some of the bronze masterpieces were in separate pieces because of the delicate condition of the bronze and how they were found after such a length of time.

Although it was thrilling to see art from the time periods studied in class, the visit was also amplified by observing art from Africa, ancient Egypt, the Impressionistic period, 1700-1900

America, and 20th Century art.

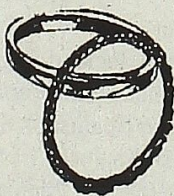
Also included was an exhibit of glass from the ancient time periods. This exhibit included original pieces from Pablo Picasso, Claude Monet and Henri Matisse. These magnificent works added diversity and unity throughout the exhibit to bring together the awe of various famous art.

Everyone involved would agree that the trip to the Toledo Museum of Art was a worthwhile experience. It enhanced what was studied in class and offered exposure to famous art at one of the nation's top museums.

This inspiring exhibition will be on display until January 5, 1997.

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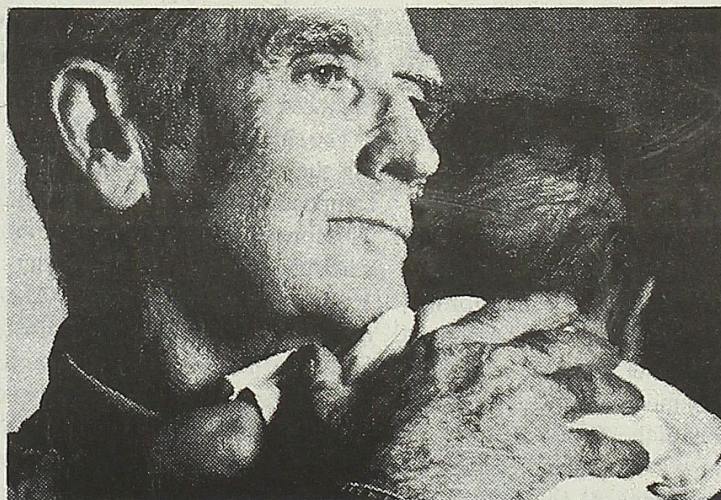
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Swim team dominates opening meets

By Phil Allmen
Sports Editor

After their first two preseason duels the Alma College men and women's swim teams have dominated the competition.

Their first match was the Grand Valley Relays. The women were victorious, winning five relays and earning a total 174 points. Grand Valley was close behind with 170. Following were Albion, 156; Hillsdale, 94; Calvin, 80; Wayne State, 72; St. Mary's, 54; and Olivet, 12. The men came in third place with 132 points. Grand Valley won the men's competition with 162. Other scores were Wayne State, 156; Albion, 118; and Calvin, 76.

"This is the first time the women have won the tournament in the college's history," said head swim coach Greg Baadte. "The men's placing is the best they've done ever at the meet."

The men placed second in a few relays, but were unable to clinch any victories. The women won five relays. Jennifer Bondy ('96), Dani Sullivan ('97) and Laura Camann ('00) won the 300 butterfly relay. Katie Zellen ('00), Sullivan, Bondy and Renee DeGraaf ('98) placed first in the 400 free relay. Also winning the 800 free relay were Sullivan, Bondy, DeGraaf and Andra Barker ('00). Bondy and Sullivan, along with Jen Rocco ('98) won the 3 by 500 free relay.

Zellen and Sullivan won the 500 crescendo relay with help from Katie Kanitz ('00) and Sarah Abbey ('99).

The teams' second dual was against Ohio Northern. Both the men and women came out victors with the women winning 180-54 and the men 156-74.

"Both teams just dominated the pool," said Baadte.

The men won eleven of thirteen matches. Mark Oberman ('99) won both the 100 and 200 freestyle races. Steve Taylor ('98) won the 50 free, while Josh Peterson triumphed in the 1,000 free. Mike Cox ('00) won the 100 backstroke as Bill James ('99) defeated the opposition in the 500 free and 200 individual medley. Winning the 200 medley relay were Cox, Peter Straub ('00), James, and Mike Heyd ('00). Mead's dives won earned him first place in both the 1 and 3 meter diving matches.

The women won twelve of their thirteen matches. DeGraaf beat out the other sprinters as she won both the 50 and 100 freestyle races. Bondy handled the longer races easily as she won the 500 and 1,000 free races. Bondy stroked her way into first for the 100 backstroke and Sullivan won both the 200 free and 100 butterfly races.

"She just missed the team record for the 100 fly," said Baadte. "That is so unreal to see this soon in the season."

The women also won two relays. The 200 free relay was awarded to Alma swimmers Sarah Weddle ('00), Abbey, Kanitz and Zellen. Cari Thomas ('00), Barker Camaan and Kanitz won the 200 medley. Interestingly, the medley relay was won by a team first-year students.

Both teams are rather young, but according to Baadte, the team will hold their own:

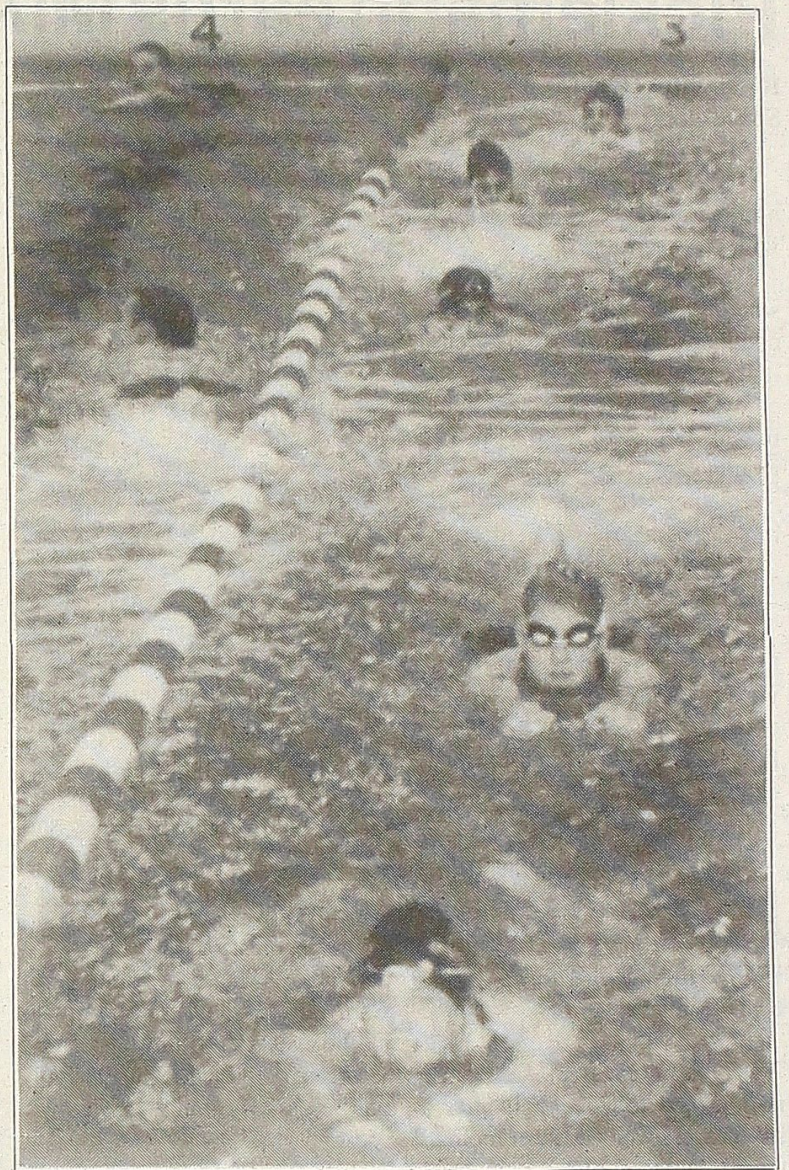
"The first-year students have really come through for us," said Baadte. "They are performing really well and much more quickly than anticipated."

According to Baadte, this is one of the toughest conferences in the league. With teams like Calvin, a team that has remained in the top five throughout the nation for the past three years, the conference can not be easy.

The team's next match is a double dual against Hope and Grand Valley. Each of the three teams is playing against one another with both men's and women's competitions.

"Essentially their are six different matches going on at once," said Baadte. "We will play against Hope and also against Grand Valley, while they will also play against each other. All of this will be going on at the same time and is the first time we have held one here."

The diving competitions will begin at 10:30 a.m. this Saturday and swimming races start at 1:00 p.m.



The swim team preparation for their next double dual meet against Hope College and Grand Valley State University. Both teams won their first meet at Ohio Northern. Photo by Jason Paetz.

Race for NCAA championship approaches finish line

Excitement heightens as the bowl games approach

By Tom Glegola
Staff Reporter

With a possibility of two teams remaining undefeated including bowl games, sports fans are once again reminded that until the Rose Bowl joins the new Bowl Coalition, controversy as to who to award the college football national championship to will remain.

The University of Florida, Ohio State University, Florida State University and Arizona State University all have perfect records. Only Florida and Florida State will play each other in the regular season.

Unless a major upset occurs, like the Michigan Wolverines defeating Ohio State, the Rose Bowl will feature the Buckeyes against Arizona State.

Depending on the outcome of the Florida-Florida State game, the other major bowl game will place the two teams against each other for a rematch, or the winning team will face the University of Ne-

braska, whose only defeat this season came at the hands of the Arizona State Wild Cats.

The Gators will have an extra week to prepare for their match against the Seminoles, which gives them an extra advantage.

Arizona State will have an extra week to prepare for inter-state rival, Arizona, but since the game will be at Arizona, an upset is possible.

The next few weeks of college football should prove exciting, as will the bowl games. An exciting conclusion will not occur, however, until the top two teams, the most evenly-matched teams, face-off against each other, to decided one and for all, who the better team is.

Nebraska's remaining game also could be a challenge. On Thanksgiving, Nebraska will travel to the University of Colorado to play the Buffaloes. The Buffaloes aren't in contention for a major bowl game, or even the conference title, but Nebraska is not as strong as it was last year, and because of the tre-

mendous rivalry between the two teams, an upset is possible.

The Michigan-Ohio State game in Columbus this weekend also has the potential for upset. On several occasions, these teams have prevented each other from Rose Bowl appearances, or even national title hopes. Because of the tremendous rivalry, this game possesses the greatest chance for an upset.

If there are no upsets, then there will be controversy surrounding the national championship.

Until the Rose Bowl joins the Bowl Coalition, this possibility for controversy will remain.

Some have suggested a playoff format, similar to what Division III uses. The only problem with this format is that the addition of several more games, to a schedule that already includes 10 to 12 games, would be even more difficult on players who already have limited time for studies.

Once the Rose Bowl does join the Bowl Coalition, controversy will decrease, simply because the top teams in the nation will face off against each other.

The next few weeks of college football should prove exciting, as will the bowl games. An exciting conclusion will not occur, however, until the top two teams, the most evenly-matched teams, face-off against each other, to decided one and for all, who the better team is.

AP Poll

Through November 9th

| | Team | Record | Old Rank |
|-----|----------------------|--------|----------|
| 1. | Florida | 9-0 | 1 |
| 2. | Ohio State | 9-0 | 2 |
| 3. | Florida State | 8-0 | 3 |
| 4. | Arizona State | 10-0 | 4 |
| 5. | Nebraska | 8-1 | 5 |
| 6. | Colorado | 8-1 | 7 |
| 7. | North Carolina | 8-1 | 8 |
| 8. | Alabama | 8-1 | 10 |
| 9. | Kansas State | 8-1 | 13 |
| 10. | Brigham Young | 10-1 | 12 |
| 11. | Penn State | 8-2 | 14 |
| 12. | Tennessee | 6-2 | 6 |
| 13. | Northwestern | 8-2 | 18 |
| 14. | Notre Dame | 6-2 | 17 |
| 15. | Washington | 7-2 | 19 |
| 16. | Michigan | 7-2 | 9 |
| 17. | LSU | 6-2 | 11 |
| 18. | Miami (Florida) | 6-2 | 18 |
| 19. | Syracuse | 6-2 | 24 |
| 20. | Auburn | 7-2 | 22 |
| 21. | Virginia Tech | 7-1 | 25 |
| 22. | Army | 9-0 | NR |
| 23. | Wyoming | 9-1 | 16 |
| 24. | Virginia | 6-3 | 15 |
| 25. | Southern Mississippi | 8-2 | 20 |

Athlete Profile

Picklemann earns MIAA honors

By Jennifer Hughes
Staff Reporter

Junior Amy Picklemann likes nothing better than stepping on the volleyball court.

She has been playing volleyball since seventh grade, and decided to continue playing at Alma, because it was a sport she really loved. She enjoys not only the sport itself, but the teamwork put forth by all the members.

This year she was selected as a member of the All-MIAA first team in volleyball and was excited by the announcement.

"I thought we had a really good team this year, but we're still really young," said Picklemann. "I think coming back next year we'll have a little better season and a little more experience."

Coach Penny Allen-Cook "pushed us really hard. She helped

us set goals for the season," Picklemann commented.

Outside of sports, Picklemann volunteers through the Commission on Aging. She visits an elderly woman, often attending reli-

I thought we had a really good team this year...

•Amy Picklemann,
'98

gious services or having lunch with her. She was also active in MEGA for two years, but couldn't find enough time to fit it in her schedule this year.

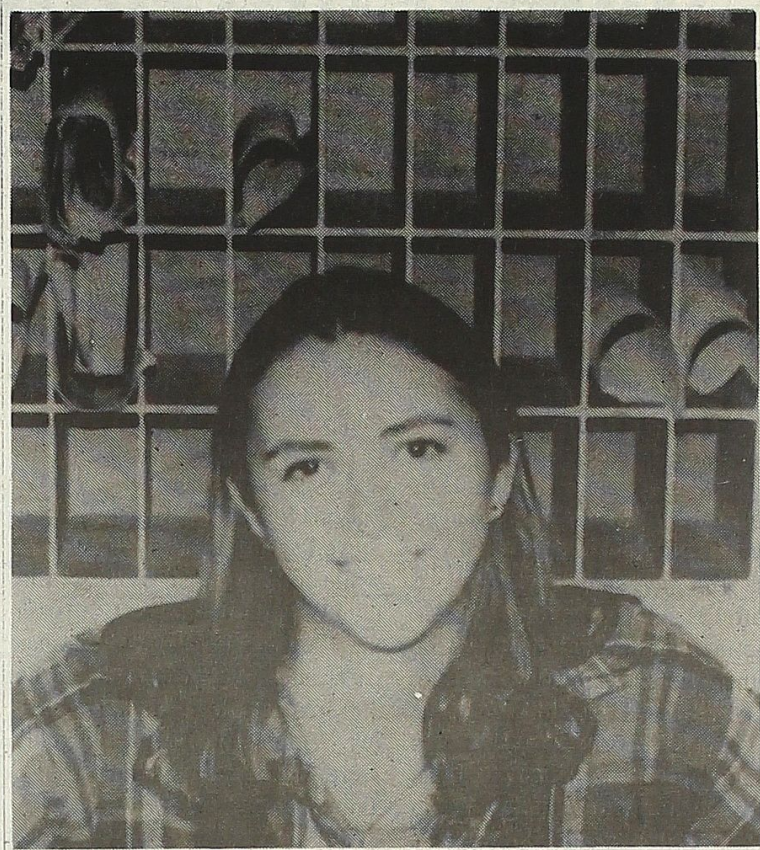
Picklemann's major is in business administration because she enjoys it.

When she finds spare time, which, like for any Alma student, is rare, she enjoys relaxing without worrying about homework. She also enjoys spending times with her friends. In the winter, she relaxes by downhill skiing.

Picklemann looks forward to next year's season where she hopes the score will better reflect the teams hard work.

Picklemann reminds everyone that the volleyball team loves support. "The more fans the better — we always like to have people cheering in the crowd. If they didn't come they sure missed out on some good half time prizes!"

Picklemann loves to be active on campus, through volleyball and activities and is looking forward to next year when she can once again step onto the court.



Intramural volleyball offers a chance to get involved

By Matthew Singletary
Staff Reporter

The intramural sports season has now turned to volleyball after a successful seven weeks of football that brought mud and pain back into the lives of many students.

Starting this week, fourteen co-ed teams will begin volleyball competitions that should last five weeks. All games will be played in the main gymnasium of the Physical Education Center.

"Intramural sports are a chance for people to get involved at Alma College," said junior Josh Pyle, student co-director of intramural

activities. Along with senior Keith Carey, the two students coordinate all the events that allow students to get involved with sports without necessarily joining a varsity sport.

This is the first year for both of them in this position, although Carey directed the intramural softball season last year. Their supervisor is IM Director Charlie Goffnett, who is also the womens' golf and basketball coach.

However, the intramural activities are mainly student run, with very little faculty involvement. Even the referees for the games are students.

Following the volleyball season will be an intramural basketball

Intramural sports are a chance for people to get involved at Alma College.

•Josh Pyle,
'98

season, which is speculated to last seven weeks.

"Basketball usually has the big-

gest following," said Pyle, citing the reason for the extended season run. "While during volleyball there will probably be games twice a week, during basketball season there are games at least three times a week, maybe more. That's because of the large number of teams involved."

The teams usually consist of ten players with a five player minimum for any given team. There will be three different leagues: mens, womens, or co-ed.

The basketball games will also be held in the PE Center.

Funding for the intramural sports

is through a budget provided by the college, but there is a fifteen dollar fee per team to play.

"This money goes for the championship t-shirts the winners of the league get," said Pyle, "as well as for things we need like whistles and stuff."

The administration also has tentative plans to build an intramural center for the students, which will be placed where the current baseball field is.

After the basketball season there will be intramural softball, which will take place during spring term.

Alma Scots MIAA award winners

Volleyball

First team:

Amy Picklemann ('98)

Second team:

Lori Swenson ('98)

Honorable Mention:

Kristin Randolph ('99)

Women's Soccer

First team:

Kathryn Sauter ('97)

Second team:

Stephanie Craig ('98)

Honorable Mention:

Stephanie Yatch ('98)

Women's Cross Country

Second Team:

Dana Cole ('99)

Anne Grimaldi ('00)

Men's Cross Country

First team:

Jason Bandlow ('97)

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Coaches' Corner**Skaggs shares his story**

By Chris Tapley
Assistant Sports Editor

This week's featured coach is men's head basketball coach Kevin Skaggs. Skaggs is starting his second year here at Alma. Along with coaching basketball Skaggs is also the assistant cross-country coach.

What got you into coaching?

Well, I really started coaching when I was 22. I was working in a juvenile detention facility and there was a real need for someone to step in and organize their PE department. I volunteered and ended up coaching basketball as well as track and field in a detention facility in Marshall, Michigan. I found that I had a lot of great athletes. I had a lot of kids that were very talented. In fact, one year I had three starters from Battle Creek Central who happened to be in detention at that time. But we were kind of the forerunner because from that point we moved into the city and two nights a week we ran open gym for the kids in the area. To begin coaching formally, I gave up a career in criminal justice after about twelve years full time as a juvenile court probation officer, and decided that coaching at a college is what I wanted to do. I was very fortunate to get in at Kalamazoo Valley at the junior college level. I worked there part time as the assistant athletic director and assistant basketball coach for six years then went back to finish my masters degree so I could have that background.

What prompted your choice to leave criminal justice?

Well criminal justice is based on a negative premise and I found that the negativity and the disillusionment of most of the court personnel from judges all the way down to child guidance workers was just to the point where I felt to be effective in that business I needed something positive. Basketball is something I've always enjoyed, and working with players who were striving to reach positive goals was really the catalyst for me to make that change. Once I made it I never looked back. Oddly enough in order to feed my family I end up having to work a federal grant position for six more years in probation work which allowed me to name my hours and work basically on my own. I could bend my basketball schedule around that and it worked very well for me.

What made you choose to come to Alma?

Well the biggest thing was they offered me a job. There are so many coaches looking for a position. I felt that it was a position that was very attractive because of the college community here. I have not met a nicer group of people in the college or in the community. My family got grounded in a church in this area right away and I've never met friendlier people who are more accommodating to help us make the adjustment from moving from a town like Kalamazoo, which is quite large, to Alma. Frankly, I don't miss all the negative things associated with the big city. People like to call this the Alma bubble, well I'm kind of glad to be in it because I've been outside of it and I know what the real world is all about.

What is your educational background?

I have a bachelors degree in social work from Western Michigan University and I have a masters degree in sports administration, also from Western. I found that criminal justice was not unlike coaching in some aspects because I was basically a glorified coach in criminal justice. You're always striving to help people in a very difficult circumstance overcome. You find that you are very much an encourager. I think that really made a difference for me when I got into coaching because the human element was still in it. The situations I ask my athletes to overcome typically weren't as horrendous as the ones I asked my probationers to overcome.

What do you enjoy most about coaching?

Well I think it's a lot of things. I love the challenge. I've always been motivated by the challenge. I love it when people kind of throw the gauntlet down and say you can't accomplish these goals or these things. It makes me work harder as a coach and I know that I have to motivate my players to get to the level that it takes to be on top. I've been both places, I've been number 1 in the nation, won thirty games in the season, won state championships and I also went through last year my first losing year ever at any level 4-21 ending up last place. So it's kind of the White House to the outhouse experience and I love the challenge. I really sincerely believe this with all my heart the relationships I build with my players and that they build with themselves are lifelong. Yesterday at the meeting, one of my former players who is an assistant coach in this conference walked up to me in the middle of the meeting and greeted me by giving me a big hug and asking how things were and that's the norm when I see my players. Even at Spring Arbor scrimmage their point guard played for me gave me a big hug before the game and that's the closeness that we have.

Racquetball popularity rises

By Chris Tapley
Assistant Sports Editor

As one descends into the basement of the Physical Education (PE) Center you might hear the thump of a basketball or the clanging of weights, but one sound one is sure to hear is that of a racquetball hitting a wall and the squeak of tennis shoes as someone pursues it. Racquetball is an increasingly popular sport on campus.

"It's a great stress relief. You can go play really hard for an hour and feel better," said sophomore Ryan Wilson.

Racquetball is played by two people on a court surrounded by four walls. These walls are usually some sort of cement or tile off which a ball will bounce. Each player has a racquet similar to a tennis racquet, but shorter and rounder. The ball used is a small, hollow rubber ball which is usually blue in color. The rules of the game are simple. One person, serves the ball from an area called the serving zone. This zone is located about a third of the way back from the front wall. The ball is hit towards the front wall and bounces back toward the two players. The ball must travel back and land between the service zone and back wall. At this point the other player attempts to hit the ball back toward the front wall and rallying begins.

That is the basic object of the game. There are, however, many rules to govern how exactly this play commences. The area affected

most by rules is the serving aspect of the game. As mentioned earlier, the server must serve from the service zone. The server drops the ball and must allow it to bounce once before hitting it toward the wall. The ball must hit the front wall and may hit one side wall before hitting the ground. If the ball hits the ceiling, the back wall, or two side walls before the ground the serve is con-

front wall in an attempt to make the other miss. Whoever is hitting the ball must do so before it bounces twice. The ball may be hit into any wall or the ceiling as long as it hits the front wall before hitting the ground. If one of the players touches the ball when it is the other player turn then that player loses the rally. If a player hits the other player with the ball the rally is played over.

Scoring for racquetball is similar to scoring for volleyball. The only player who may score is the server. In order to score, the server must win the rally. If the other player wins the rally they do not score but they do get to serve on the next rally. Play continues until one player reaches fifteen points.

People learn to play racquetball for many reasons.

"My dad played during lunch and he taught me how to play in high school," said Wilson.

"I first learned to play at Ferris State when I was in middle school. I wanted to learn to play because there was a tournament I wanted to play in," said sophomore Peter Muccio.

Whatever your reasons for wanting to play, the courts in the basement of the PE center are open to student use with reservations. To make reservations call 7268 and reserve a court. For those interested in learning to play racquetball a class is offered in the winter term.

You can go play really hard for an hour and feel better.

•Ryan Wilson,
'99

sidered a fault. As in tennis, if a server gets two faults they lose the serve.

Other single faults are short serves in which the ball fails to pass the service zone before hitting the ground and screened serves where the ball passes so close to the server that the other player could not see the ball. Several things may result in a double fault where the server instantly loses the serve. These include the server missing the ball when they swing at it, the ball not hitting the front wall first or if the ball hits the server on the way back.

Once the ball has been successfully served rallying may begin. During rallying both players take turns hitting the ball towards the

Cold winter weather brings ski season**Both cross country and downhill skiing offer winter fun, excitement**

By Chris Tapley
Assistant Sports Editor

As the first flakes of snow fell last week many peoples' minds turned to winter sports. For many the sport of skiing is the sport of choice for the winter months. All over Michigan people are waxing up their skis in preparation for the upcoming season. The ski season will start as soon as the weather gets cold enough for the various resorts to make and maintain snow.

There are two forms of snow skiing, downhill and cross-country. The two vary in the type of terrain covered, equipment, and fitness level needed. While downhill skiing, the skier is carried or pulled to the top of the hill. Once at the top the skier makes his or her way to the edge, and looks down the slope before giving a mighty push and sailing over the edge.

The skier hopefully uses just the right combination of balance, leg strength and a little bit of luck to keep him or herself upright. If any

of the three fail the skier falls. Sometimes the fall is graceful, but more often it's a full out head over heel roll down the mountain.

People downhill ski for many different reasons. Many do it for the rush of adrenaline accompanied by the trip down the mountain. Others do it because they enjoy inhaling the cold winter air as they fly down the mountain and still others do it because it's the closest they'll ever come to feeling like they are flying.

"It gets me outside during the winter and it is an adrenaline rush," said first year student David Vink.

When cross-country skiing the skier does exactly as the name implies, goes cross-country. Cross-country skiing is something like hiking in the winter. The skier follows trails through the woods, over golf courses and anywhere else people or nature will let them go. Cross-country skiers often ski in order to see the scenery around them, not to get a super adrenaline rush.

Another major benefit of cross-country skiing is the workout it gives the skier. While being primarily low impact, cross-country skiing has been described as one of the best full body workouts. While downhill skiing works primarily the leg muscles, cross-country works the entire body. Cross-coun-

try is also an excellent cardiovascular workout.

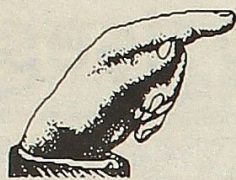
Michigan residents are blessed with approximately 43 ski resorts throughout Michigan. These resorts have anywhere from one run to 42. In the central lower peninsula there are seven resorts. Caberfae Peaks Ski Resort in Cadillac is one of these. Caberfae offers college nights on Wednesday and on some Fridays. On these nights skiing prices are reduced for college students with valid student ID's.

This year Michigan McDonald's restaurants and the Michigan Ski Industries Association (MSIA) are sponsoring a program called Discover Michigan Skiing. This program is designed to give people an easy and inexpensive way to learn the right way to ski.

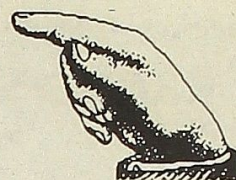
The program will run January 6-31 during which time adults may take either downhill or cross-country lessons for only \$25 at participating resorts.

Participants in the program receive a 90 minute lesson, an all day lift ticket or cross country trail pass and rental equipment. Participants will also receive several coupons for money off ski merchandise at participating ski shops. Anyone interested in the program may call any participating ski area.

November 19, 1996



Point/Counterpoint: Should marijuana be legal?



Cigarettes and alcohol are legal — pot should be too

By Jenn Cornell
Opinion Editor

Commercials aimed at discouraging the use of marijuana are abundant. The one with the teenager who tells his father that he smokes dope because he "learned it" from his father, the one with the older men who are smoking a joint in the middle of the day, discussing how pot smokers are not losers. Those are the images some people have concerning marijuana.

People who occasionally smoke marijuana are not losers, junkies, burnouts or brain dead human beings. They are people quite like you and me—some are nurses, some are our professors and some pot smokers are our next door neighbors.

The debate about legalizing marijuana has intensified recently with the passing of a proposition in California which legalized marijuana for medicinal use. The passing of this referendum has caused many people to rethink their position on marijuana, not just for medicinal use, but for recreational use as well.

Why do people want to smoke marijuana? The truth is, marijuana does give people a buzz, a high, that some enjoy. Some people choose to drink, even though for many it is illegal since they are underage, while others enjoy smoking pot. What is the difference?

They are both illegal in a very real sense. No more than some first-year students are able to go to MacKenzie's and buy liquor are pot smokers able to go out and purchase their vice either. Those people who say that marijuana should not be legal should not be drinking if they are underage either. It's the old "pot calling the kettle black" syndrome.

A recent study claims that smoking marijuana is actually less detrimental to the body than drinking alcohol. Whether or not this has been proven completely, it is a startling and thought provoking statement that those opposed to marijuana should consider. Alcohol may be more detrimental to one's health and yet it is legal. Tobacco products have been proven to kill the people who use it, and yet it is legal as well. Marijuana has yet to be proven as a killer, or that it may have long lasting serious side effects. If smoking marijuana is indeed a safer way to achieve a light headed buzz, maybe it is something that should be given a little more thought.

In a financial light, the government makes a mint through the heavy taxation and regulation of alcohol and tobacco products. If marijuana did become legalized, perhaps the government could profit financially from it as well.

Some opponents argue that if marijuana became legalized, its use would reach epidemic proportions due to its increased ease of availability. This statement is false and narrow minded. Just because it is easy to purchase alcohol when one turns 21 does not mean that people of this age become drunk on a daily basis. There are many other countries which allow marijuana use. When one thinks of Paris, do they think of a drug infested city,

full of junkies and losers? Perhaps lessons can be learned from these countries and cities which do not have laws forbidding the use of marijuana.

People who smoke marijuana will continue to smoke marijuana. Legislation and rules will do nothing to change the morals of our country. Instead of shouting out moralist views and pushing them off on everyone else, realize that what may be right for one person will never be right for another. Just remember, no one has the right to tell others what they should and should not do with their own bodies.

Think of it this way: if one is interested in exploring smoking marijuana, this person will find some and smoke it, regardless of laws forbidding it. Once people begin to open their minds and realize that marijuana will be used in our society regardless of actions taken to prevent it, they may also begin to realize that there may be benefits to legalizing this substance.

Pot is too harmful to be legalized

By Nathan Lane
Freelance Writer

The reasons why marijuana should not be legalized are many. As the law stands right now, possession of this leafy plant, or any of its intoxicating by-products, is a crime.

The degree of the criminal activity is directly proportional to the amount of mari-

juana that an individual, or group of individuals, possesses. The severity of the offense varies somewhat, but the end result is the same, at the very least, a notation on the individual's permanent record indicating possession of a controlled substance. The reasoning behind the law is that the active ingredient in marijuana, THC, is too strong for public consumption.

According to one source of medical evidence, there are many ill side effects of marijuana usage. Using marijuana has proven to cause many physical and psychological problems. Some examples of the side effects are low sperm count, loss or decrease of short term memory, chronic fatigue, etc. Long term use has the same risks as long term tobacco usage. While these side effects are not often life threatening, they are chronic and debilitating to the marijuana user.

Violent crime is inherent in the drug subculture. The individual under the influence of the intoxicating drug may not themselves be violent, however, the business of selling marijuana can be violent. Drug running is a serious problem in the United States and legalization is not going to prevent or alleviate that problem.

If marijuana were to be legalized, our society would not only have to worry about all of the ill occurrence brought on by alcohol use, but we would also have to worry about problems occurring from marijuana usage. The snack shops and corporations would probably be happy due to the dramatic increase in low cost snack foods purchase, but the problems marijuana usage brings with its manufacture, sale, and use outweigh the benefits of its legalization.

Students should decide to attend classes—or not

By Tom Glegola
Staff Reporter

According to Alma College guidelines, professors can essentially enforce any attendance policy they choose. The question is, which policies are effective, and which are not?

A policy which simply makes attendance mandatory is not effective. Neither are policies that subtract points from the student's grade. Students then feel forced into attending classes, and will most likely not learn as much as they would if they wanted to go.

Professors have to find some method to make students want to come to class.

Clearly, in a class that involves a

high level of student participation, student attendance is required to facilitate discussion. Professors usually grade participation in these situations, and if the student is not there, then logically, the student's participation grade is affected. That is reasonable.

If a class meets a limited number of times during the term, then student attendance is critical. That is also reasonable.

An attendance policy that makes attendance a portion of the student grades also works, because few students will deliberately miss a class and risk part of their grade.

At the college level, most students are responsible enough to decide whether or not they want to go to class. As long as they are

prepared to accept the consequences of their action, such as missing a pop quiz, there is no problem. After all, the student, or the parents of the student, has already paid the tuition fees. If a student chooses not to go to their class, it is that student's prerogative.

The potential lessons taught by this are many. The student learns from the experience.

If not attending a class does not hurt the student's performance on exams and quizzes, and if there is not a participation requirement, then why should a student be penalized for not attending the class?

To fail a student who receives exceptional grades because they do not attend a few classes is unrea-

sonable. If the student still demonstrates that they learned the material covered, is it really fair to that student?

On the other hand, what about those students who do not attend class, and this lack of attendance is reflected in their grades?

Those students will learn.

In no way am I advocating students not attending their classes, for I think that they should. But I believe that a student should be in a class because they want to learn rather than because of attendance requirements. Students have a vested interest in the classes, but they need to recognize it for themselves.

Most professors that I have dealt with have been extremely reason-

able about attendance. They too, realize that a student should be allowed to make choices about attending the class, provided the student recognizes his/her responsibility for their actions. That way, if a student receives a less than adequate grade, the student will hopefully realize the relationship between class attendance and grades.

If a student takes a class, the student should attend the class anxious to learn something from that class. If he/she does not attend class wanting to learn something, the students waste their time, the professor's time and the time of students who wanted to take the class but could not.

Winter time parking problems cause students stress

By Jen Mitchell
Freelance Writer

Well, I hate to bring up an old topic, but I will. Parking this year is a real issue for me. I have to worry about it everyday. I dread going to Walmart because I know that I have to walk a mile in the freezing cold to the parking lot for non-preferred (maybe it should be non privileged) sticker owners.

This dread increases when I re-

member that I have to cross the soccer fields, a place that I am familiar with in the daytime, but do not frequent at night. I do not deny that this "parking lot"—really a roped off field covered with gravel—has lighting, but I do not think that it is lit well. Imagine those students who work until one or two in the morning. If they cannot find a non-preferred spot, they will have to walk back to their rooms from behind the soccer

fields, which is a long and scary walk. In the winter, it will be even scarier because of all of the slippery ice.

To add to my parking blues, I got a ticket earlier this semester for parking in my sorority's driveway for a total of about ten minutes. The driveways attached to the sorority houses (not the fraternity houses, though) are for Physical Plant use only. Mind you, this was on a Sunday night. It is not like Physical

Plant was waiting in line behind me to get into the driveway.

I recently learned that the city of Alma is as liberal as Physical Plant in handing out parking tickets. I got a ticket when my kind friend allowed me to park in her driveway. The reason I got a ticket—my car was parked over a piece of sidewalk.

Ahhh! I just cannot win!

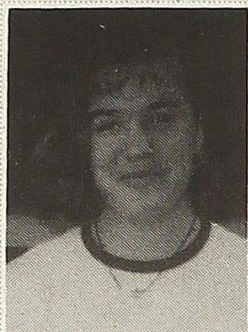
This is crazy. There are way too many cars on this campus. The fact

is that we either need more lots or less cars allowed on campus. I prefer the latter, otherwise, Physical Plant will decide to build another useless parking lot that will be another long trek to my car. Why not allowed non-preferred parking in the visitor's lot that is on the street to the Physical Education Center? This lot is consistently empty.

There are easier solutions to this problem than we think.

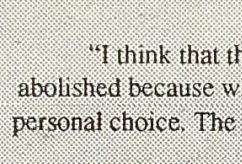
Do I sound bitter? Good!

Do you think that the drinking age should be raised, lowered, kept the same, or abolished and why?



Danielle Stoddard '00

"I think that the drinking age should be kept the same as it is now, but there should be stricter policies and laws to keep drinking under control and to protect those who really don't want to have any part of it. These are the people who seem to get hurt the most by underage drinking."



Zach Tomaszewski '00

"I think that the drinking age should be abolished because whether or not to drink is a personal choice. The government shouldn't be involved with it."



Missy Crossnoe '99

"I think that the drinking age should be kept the same. If they raise the drinking age, most people who are underage are going to drink anyway and it really wouldn't affect what people are doing now. If they lower the drinking age, they run the risk of people starting to drink at a younger age than what they do now."



Carrie Reid '99

"I don't think that it really matters too much. If people are going to drink, they are going to drink regardless of the laws."



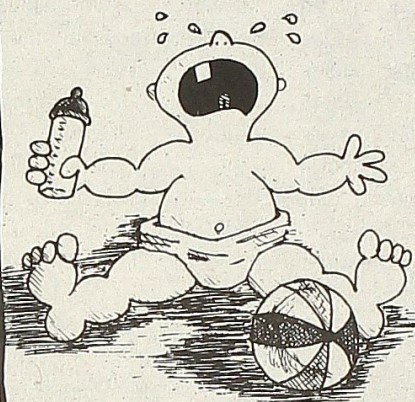
Alex Chung '98

"I think that the drinking age should be kept the same for purchasing alcohol. However, I think that in social environments, like bars, there should not be an age requirement to get in the door."



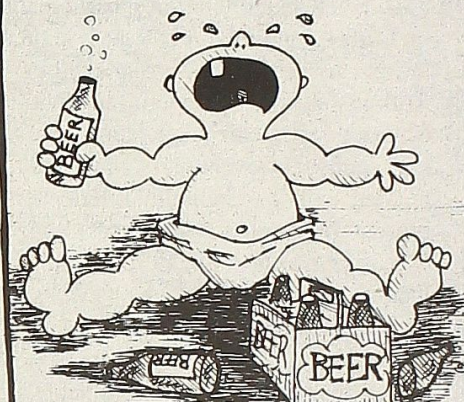
EXAMPLES OF WHINY LITTLE BRATS...

18 Months: baby wants more milk.



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18 Years: baby wants lowered drinking age.



Eighteen-year-olds should have the drinking privileges of adults

By Kendra Seybert
Freelance Writer

We can vote. We can die for our country. We serve adult sentences when we commit crimes, pay adult prices for movies, amusement parks and meals. We can buy cigarettes, rent, buy or subscribe to pornography and get married without parental consent.

We are adults.

Yet we cannot legally have a sip of beer or wine, cannot toast our friends at a wedding, cannot enter certain bars because we are not 21.

We are adults, with adult responsibilities and obligations, yet we are forbidden the right to lawfully buy or consume alcohol.

Why are we trusted with the future of our nation, why do we have the power to decide who our national leader will be and not have the power to order a beer?

Adulthood means adult privileges and disadvantages. We become adults on our 18th birthday and enter into the much anticipated world of adulthood. By then we are aware of the dangers and effects of alcohol, have probably seen someone we love hurt by those effects. In school we have taken alcohol awareness classes, read reports and studies on the abuse of alcohol. We know what alcohol is, know what it does and know that it can be a very dangerous substance if misused.

We have been prepared to make logical and responsible decisions concerning our personal welfare and lifestyles, and are expected to be more independent. Many migrate from the protective wings of their parents in search of adult independence and adult luxury, anxious to enter into their new roles as autonomous citizens. Soon, they are disheartened by the discrimination against them in the adult world. They find they are adult enough to pay their bills and taxes, to participate in the legislative process, to contribute to this country, but are not trusted with a bottle of wine or a glass of beer.

How can the government pick and choose which adult responsibilities we are to see **ALCOHOL**, p. 12

Winter approaches with new outdoor fun

By Jenn Cornell
Opinion Editor

Say this in your most whiny voice: "Ohmigod! There's snow on the ground. It's starting to get so cold outside. I hate winter, blah-blah-blah..."

Sounds familiar, doesn't it? Are you sick of hearing it too?

Winter is a wonderful and beautiful time of the year. Besides, there is nothing short of moving that you can do to change the seasons. Instead of going on and on about how much you hate the impending cold, snow, and ice, think of the endless possibilities.

First thing you need to do is go and purchase some warm hats, gloves, and boots, if you don't already own any. Any local all-purpose department store has all of these things that you need at a pretty

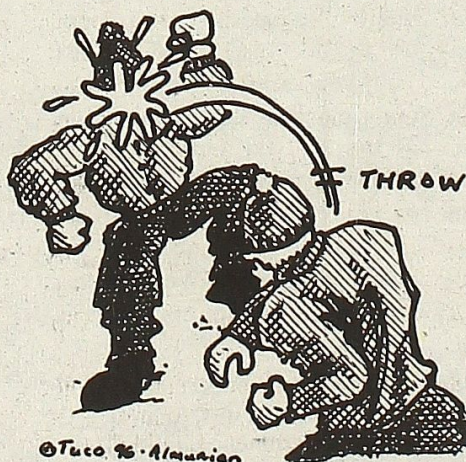
reasonable price. You should probably stock up now, too. Might as well get ahead, right?

Now is where the fun begins. Imagine all of the endless possibilities of a glistening, snowy evening. You can take your special someone outside for a midnight stroll on a cold and clear evening. Slip your hand in their coat pocket because your hand is cold. Walk extra close to keep warm...you get the picture. If you really aren't the outdoorsy type, you can build a nice fire and curl up in front of it. Don't have a fireplace? A thick blanket, big couch, and two cups of hot cocoa or coffee will do the trick, too.

Winter has a special way of bringing out the kid in all of us. Think of

how many times we've been tempted to throw a big wet snowball right in someone's face. We all have our own special snowball

making technique, too. My favorite was the Jimmy Storemski special. That kid could make an ice ball faster than anyone I've ever met in my whole life, just by hold-



©TUC 96 Almanian

ing his snowball tight in his hand for a few seconds. Take a walk with a few friends, let yourself lag behind a bit, pack some snow, and let the assault begin.

Another great winter activity is snowman making. You have to be pretty industrious for this one. Bonus point, this is an activity that you can do alone if you need to. This winter, try something new. Instead of making the traditional three consecutively larger snow mounds, try to actually make a snow person. Pile up some snow and get stick and start whittling away. Make your snow person as cute or perverse as you'd like. Now that you're older, so are your ideas, right? Be offensive if that is what's fun for you.

My final suggestion: go sledding. You don't really need to go far for this one either. If you don't have the time or transportation, there's a nice big hill right off the backside of Bruske, near the art building. Get a trash can lid or a garbage bag, hold on, and you are good to go. If you are able to get away, take the time to get a little sled and find an actual sledding hill to go to. Not only will this be a ton of fun, but it is a good cardiovascular workout, too.

Instead of complaining about winter all of the time, put your thinking cap on and use your imagination. Complaining will get you nowhere, and it sure as hell won't melt the snow. My suggestions are only the tip of the iceberg, so to speak. Make the most of this winter and you'll be happier, healthier, and more pleasant to be around because of it.

Staff Editorial

Theatre involvement prohibits campus involvement

Alma College boasts of its liberal arts background and the myriad of possibilities on the students' opportunities to become involved, particularly in the fine arts. Unfortunately, students are not warned that, often times, participation in one fine art usually prevents the ability to participate in others.

Concerts, performances and exhibits showcase the students' work at the close of the term. In addition to Alma sanctioned classes or extra-curricular events, individual campus organizations may sponsor an event particularly interesting to a liberal arts-minded student or individual students may perform, exhibit or present something for the student body's benefit.

In any case, the many different opportunities for students forces them to decide between which events to become involved in or what is most important to them. Many times it must be the class in the student's major.

Students perpetually face problems of departmental demands for total commitment in one of the fine arts over their ability and desire to participate in another fine arts' program.

This problem occurs a great deal at Alma with fine arts students involved in the theatre, dance and/or music. For example, when theatre students rehearse during the evenings, every day of the week, members of the cast or crew do not have much spare time left to join anything else. But as opening night of a play approaches, the students are told to also give up their weekends to finish preparing for the show. The dedication and commitment may be commendable, but is unfair to other fine art departments facing performance time.

This past weekend was one such working weekend for the theatre. Unfortunately, there was also other performances over the weekend: the symphony orchestra, Alma College choirs, Kiltie Band and the Alma College Union Board's Songfest. Four different groups, all of them a big part of our "liberal arts heritage" are automatically shut off to these students.

Over Homecoming this year, members of the play were in rehearsal for their upcoming play, *God's Country*. They could not attend the football game, pep rally, or alumni concert because they were in rehearsal that entire Saturday. Does participation in one fine art mean all other fine arts are shut off?

How are those in theatre supposed to listen to their classmates, friends singing, playing, and performing while they are stuck going over the various light cues in Act II? Just as bad, why must so many students interested in performing in Songfest be denied to showcase their talent, because the one and a half hour conflict was too much lost rehearsal time?

Cast and crew members of the upcoming one-act plays had an idea that they may not be able to perform in Songfest. Some were interested in solos, small group and large group, but were not allowed a break for even a half of an hour to sing one song. Some members tried to fight last week's decision, but to no avail. It appears the theatre department is interested in and demanding of their own fine arts, but are not sympathetic to the others.

Fine arts programs rely on students—in both participation and attendance. If the students are not able to be in both programs, those in charge of the various groups and performances should, at least, offer the students the opportunity to attend other group's performances. If one group constructs a rehearsal during another group's performance, how can the groups support one another? The theatre department cannot believe that the theatre is the most important fine art, necessitating extra privileges or rights concerning productions.

One of the apparent advantages of a liberal arts college is the ability to become involved in the fine arts, but limiting it to one. When the fine arts program becomes a controlling device to dictate what your liberally art-minded body can and can not do, the program's intention has lost its intended meaning—to open an opportunity of fine arts to those interested.

Letter to the Editors

Editorial Board:

I think the intention of the Spring Term 'S' course requirement is good; however I do find some serious faults with it. The largest problem with the requirement is knowing which course are 'S' courses.

The supplement to the academic catalog lists Spring Term classes which fill this requirement. These courses, however, were last year's Spring Term courses. I found that inquiring as to which courses offered this Spring Term fulfill the requirement does little good: even the registrar's office doesn't know for sure.

As a member of the Class of

1999, I am required to fulfill this recently established requirement. It is frustrating to plan future schedules without knowing which Spring Term courses will fulfill the 'S' course requirement.

One type of Spring Term 'S' course is easily recognizable: those crossing geographical boundaries. Spring Terms requiring travel are likely to meet the 'S' course requirement; however, some students feel they cannot afford the financial strain that accompanies enrollment in these courses.

As a foreign language major, I am required to spend a term abroad—not a Spring term, but a whole three month term. Students

already spending three months in a different country may not be able to afford traveling for an extra month. As a result of our department requirements, we do cross geographical and cultural boundaries. Therefore, it seems more appealing to fulfill the 'S' term requirement by choosing an 'S' course which crosses disciplinary—oreven cultural boundaries—without crossing geographical boundaries. The courses are less identifiable.

Foreign language students are not alone. I have heard many other students complain in frustration over how they will fulfill this requirement. Since no one seems to

know for sure which future courses fulfill the 'S' course requirement, how can we tentatively schedule future terms?

The 'S' course is a good idea. I agree that students should experience cultures other than those present in Alma. However, the lack of certainty as to which future courses will fulfill this requirement may cause more frustration with the 'S' term courses than the enlightenment that these courses offer.

Lynette J. Diag
Class of '99

ALCOHOL

have?

Either we are adults or we are minors, leaving no room for the gray area of semi-adulthood that presently exists.

Perhaps the government believes that some magical transformation occurs on one's 21st birthday that suddenly transforms the individual to a higher adult status. One becomes more adult, more responsible; when in fact there is little or no difference between a 19-year-old and a 21-year-old, both being college aged and legal adults. True, many 21-year-olds have abandoned their partying ways to pursue more academic purposes, but their future, in light of upcoming

graduation plans, is more imminent.

What difference do three years really make?

In addition, a good law is an enforceable one. How many underaged drinkers do we know? The argument that "everyone does it so it should be legal" is poor reasoning; however, when evaluating the validity of a law we must also examine its effectiveness. Eliminating drinking among the underaged will never occur no matter how much legal enforcement is used.

The law is unrealistic as well as unfair.

Deliberate discrimination of

particular age groups in itself is unlawful; that the government can and does discriminate against younger adults hints that our rights are not as important as those of the elder members of our society. If we are treated as adults and are expected to act like adults, we need to be recognized as such. We shouldn't need to demand for our rights as adults.

Evidently that is exactly what we must do.

Our government should do the adult thing and recognize us for what we are. We are adults who deserve and demand equal treatment.

We are adults.

• CLASSIFIEDS •

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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.