

FEATURE

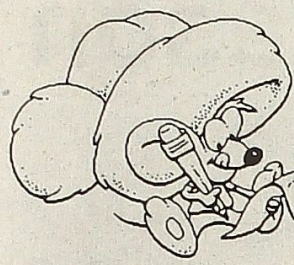
- Choir Performs Annual Christmas Concert, p. 2

SPORTS

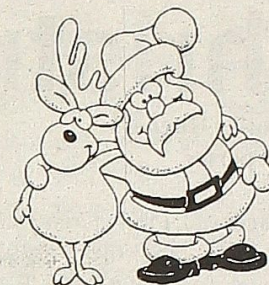
- MIAA Adds Two Teams, p. 3
- Men's and Women's Basketball, p. 3

OPINION

- Staff Editorial, p. 4
- Letters to the Editors, p. 4



The Almanian



December 10, 1996

Serving Alma College since 1907

Issue 12

20-year-old distributive requirements set to change

By Staci Hill
News Editor

Part of the Alma College education is on the brink of changing: the distributive requirements (DR) that have existed for over 20 years.

Last week students were bustling around campus to drop/add "distributives" that they were not scheduled for, yet needed to graduate. Students often fail to see the benefit of disciplines beyond their major or minor. The Educational Policy Committee (EPC) hopes to change that.

Although changes to the DR program would apply to this year's or next year's incoming first-year students, the results will affect the general education at Alma College.

Last April the EPC presented a 19-page General Education Report consisting of six sections: statement of design, purpose, and assumptions; an assessment of the general education at Alma; increasing coherence; enhancing literacies; other possibilities considered by the committee; and a survey sheet.

The proposal states that its purpose is to "facilitate faculty discussion about Alma's program of general education. It does not

contain a single set of proposals designed for an up-or-down vote. Instead, EPC attempts in this document to put before a set of issues and choices." Faculty were able to fill out the survey sheet in response to the proposal.

"Historically every ten years the college reconstructs this; it is simply part of the college's reconsideration of what we're doing."

Historically every ten years the college reconstructs this; it is simply part of the college's reconsideration of what we're doing.

• Michael Selmon, EPC chair and associate professor of English

doing," said EPC chair Michael Selmon, associate professor of English. "The process of entering and engaging with an institution is thinking about what it is doing and the educational values we as a faculty believe."

With the feedback they received, EPC presented a second 7-page proposal in November. This summary consists of three sections: coherence, literacies and a presentation of the general

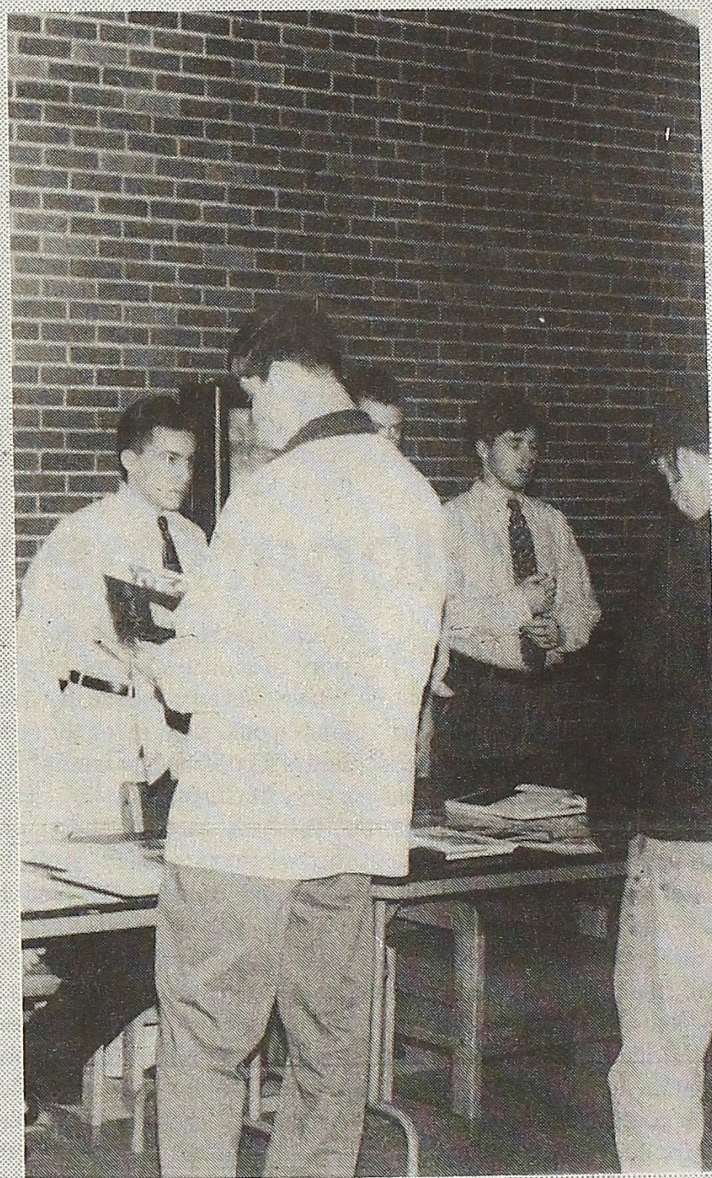
education requirements.

With coherence the EPC hopes to establish an interdisciplinary honors program, to require a liberal arts statement for graduation, to permit and encourage cross-disciplinary minors.

Two student members of the EPC like the benefits of this section. Colleen McGrath ('98) said of the statement, a five-page paper connecting four DR courses, "The paper makes you look at those [the DR courses] and see the connections." Brandon Peters ('99) stated that the paper "crosses departmental boundaries and links together different classes we take. It makes us realize the principles behind a liberal arts education."

Both students also liked the honors program leading up to a Interdisciplinary Honors Medallion to be awarded at Honors Convocation. "I'm also excited about the continuance of Freshman Honors Seminar," said McGrath.

Of course, those involved emphasize that this is a proposal that will be examined closely before decisions are made. As the original states, they do not "attempt a radical rethinking of Alma's general education requirements. We instead have tried to formulate proposals which build on the existing structure."



Sophomore Sean Babbitt and senior Steve Vance check out the displays of Sigma Chi and Sigma Alpha Epsilon on Thursday as senior Sigma Chi representative Loren Baidas and junior Sigma Alpha Epsilon representatives Chris Ahn, Matt Wandrie and Dan Scripps provide information and answer questions. All five social fraternities participated in the event which was sponsored by IFC. About forty-five non-Greek men attended the Open House. "It's about the turnout we were looking for," commented Assistant Dean of Students Bill Arnold, who also serves as IFC advisor. "We met our expectations." Photo by Derek Warner.

Stains to perform benefit for Women's Aid Shelter

By Chris Tapley
Assistant Sports Editor

Tonight students have the opportunity to hear Christmas music and help charity at the same time. The Stains will be performing a charity concert tonight at 9 p.m. in the Chapel. All proceeds from the concert will go to the Women's Aid Shelter of Alma. The Stains suggest a \$2 donation, but said they would appreciate any offerings, monetarily or simply by attending.

The Stains are a student organized a cappella group that was founded four years ago. The group currently consists of seniors Phil Allmen and Debbie MacDonald and sophomores Scott Harmon and Marcus Evans. The

group sings about a 50-50 mix of doo-wop and modern a cappella. According to Allmen, the group tries to sing music from the '60s, through the '90s in order to get a mix that will please all different types of audiences. The group has sung music in the past from groups such as Creedence Clearwater Revival, Culture Club and the Drifters.

"If it's different, we will do it," said Allmen.

The group was originally started when The Highlanders, a similar group run by the college, broke up. Several of the members wanted to

continue singing and the Stains were born. The original members of the Stains were alumni Rob Douglas, Tom Schweinhart and Becky Shelly, and Allmen. The Stains had their public debut at Songfest four years ago where they

their performances are private concerts. The Stains have sung for the City of Alma, company parties, open mike nights at Max and Emily's and church bazaars.

"The group is easy-going and laid back. It makes it easy to connect with the audience and sing for just about anything," said Allmen.

The Stains' Christmas benefit concert is an annual event for the Stains. Each year a different charity is picked to benefit from the money raised by the concert. This year's charity, The Women's Aid Shelter, is an organization that provides a safe haven for victims of

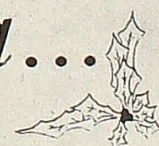
abuse. Men are not allowed to go to the shelter so it provides a safe house for the women. The shelter sponsors programs for victims of abuse and also for abusers. "We picked the Women's Aid Shelter because it was a program that helps others year round," said Allmen.

The Stains will be performing about half Christmas music and half of their normal selections. Possible selections for the concert include "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" by the Drifters, "Silhouettes" by the Moonglows along with Christmas classics such as "Jingle Bells," "Christmas at Ground Zero," and "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas."

"The concert should only be about an hour and will make an excellent study break," said Evans.



Fa la la la la...



won the small group contest with "Share a Load" by the Bobs.

"If we hadn't won we probably wouldn't have ever sang again," said Allmen.

The group puts on one concert on campus per term. The rest of

December 10, 1996

Christmas concert ushers in season

By Jennifer Hughes
Staff Reporter

This weekend, Presbyterian Hall, was home to the music department's presentation of "Festival of Carols," Alma's annual Christmas concert. The weekend concert entertained students, faculty, alumni and community members with spirited carols.

Three concerts were performed: one on Friday night, one Saturday afternoon and one Saturday evening, all conducted by Will Nichols, professor of music and choir director.

A piano solo began the evening and served as the processional for the Men's Glee Club, Women's Glee Club and Alma College Choir who filed into the auditorium, decorating the tree with lights. As they stood in their places, the evening of song began with "O Come All Ye Faithful".

Since Homecoming, choir and glee club members have been preparing for this performance. Rehearsals became more intense and more time consuming this past week, but the work paid off.

"This is the biggest performance of the fall term," said sophomore choir member Lori Romeyne. "We've really been concentrating on it for the past few weeks."

Many traditional religious carols were sung at the event as well as several carols from other countries. Songs from England, Germany, Mexico, Scotland and Sweden were sung alongside traditional American Christmas carols.

While many of the songs were slower and carried more traditional tunes, some of the songs were more upbeat and featured musical accompaniment. "Run to the Manger," in which sophomore Joseph Martin and first-year student Ben Cable had solos, was one of the

songs that started people tapping their feet.

Many other talented Alma students were offered the opportunity to entertain the audience with their singing voices, not only in the group, but in solos as well.

The Women's Glee Club and Choir members performed several solos, as did the Men's Glee Club and Men's Choir.

"I really enjoyed the evening," commented senior Melanie Terrian, who attended the concert with her little sister from Big Brothers/Big Sisters. "My little sister really did too, her eyes got really big during parts when their voices would soar. We were really impressed with the show and thought the whole evening was great."

The show ended with the classic carol "Silent Night, Holy Night" with senior Jorge Livingston's voice accompanying the group.



The choir and glee clubs, under the direction of Will Nichols, rehearse for the annual Christmas concert. Photo by Aaron Mansfield.

Music department presents Christmas opera

By Lisa Sherman
Staff Reporter

The Alma College music department presented two performances of Gian Carlo Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors* Sunday at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. in the Heritage Center for Performing Arts. Despite *Amahl's* apparent poor timing, falling on the weekend before final exams, the 50-minute production provided a much needed study break without taking away too much time for studying.

The opera had two casts, one each for the 3 p.m. and the 8 p.m. performance.

Amahl and the Night Visitors is a story of miracles and of wonder. Who would ever believe that three kings would show up on the doorstep of a poor, beggar family? It is a story of Christmas.

The Christmas opera opened with the mother, played first by Katherine Bunker ('99) and by Melinda Towns ('98) in the second performance, calling the crippled boy, Amahl, played by Wilson Nichols (son of Music Professor and Choir Director Will Nichols), to bed. A notorious storyteller, Amahl told his mother of seeing a huge, bright star with a tail in the sky. Because of his habit of lying,

she thought he was just telling a story.

A short while after going to bed, Amahl and his mother were awakened by a knock at the door. Amahl answers the door to three kings—Kaspar, performed by Nick Paul (00) and Marcus Evans (99); Melchior, performed by Matt Robertson (98) and Mark Petrocelli (97); and Balthazar, performed by Aaron Kerr (00). Disbelieving Amahl's report, his mother is surprised to find the night visitors.

The three kings explained to Amahl and his mother that they had already traveled quite far and still had a long journey ahead. They

were following a bright star in order to find a child to deliver gifts to.

Before returning to bed, Amahl asked King Kaspar if he had a magic stone to cure a crippled boy.

Amahl later offers his crutch to the kings, so that they may take it to the child under the star. The boy thought that this child too may be crippled and would need the crutch. Amahl then discovered that he could walk without the aid of his crutch. He had been miraculously cured! The kings said it was a sign from God and, in the end, Amahl left with the three kings to bid good tidings to the child.

The opera was not only serious,

but also provided a bit of comedy courtesy of King Kaspar. He was hard of hearing, making it comical to hear him engage in conversation. His behavior was also sort of wacky.

Overall, the actors performed well and produced an enjoyable evening.

This opera combined singing and acting to portray the message that Christmas is a time of miracles and giving.

First-year student, Katy Hammack stated, "I didn't want to go at first, but it turned out to be very good. It was a great study break!"

Rowe assists with easing pain associated with athletics

By Larissa VanderZee
Feature Editor

Athletics are an important activity in many students' lives. But with athletics come injuries, injuries that need healing. Assistant Athletic Trainer Kris Rowe has been part of this healing process for the past three years.

Rowe is pleased with her career at Alma and plans to continue here for a while. "The coaches here are

fabulous and the athletes are friendly, which makes my job easier and a lot of fun," said Rowe.

Rowe and her 11 student interns see injured athletes, assess the problem and prescribe treatment that will hopefully get the athletes back in the game.

Senior Lori Kamasky has been a part of the student intern program for the past four years. Spending on the average about 30 hours per week in the training room, Kamasky said the interning has "taught me more

than I could have learned in my classes."

Kamasky, having been part of the intern program before Rowe was hired, said Rowe "has brought a lot of new ideas and different programming ideas" to the training world of Alma.

Sports medicine is meant to recondition and strengthen the athlete's area of injury, enabling that athlete to work through the injury without causing more damage. If not for this process many athletes would lose valuable practice and game time.

Denny Griffin, men's athletic director, stated, "Rowe and the interns did an exceptional job getting the players in condition to play when they otherwise would have had to remain on the bench. Rowe is an excellent asset to the program. She is a very caring individual and the athletes know they can depend on her."

A graduate of Northern Michigan University, Rowe attended Ball State University to obtain a masters in sports medicine. Rowe has been interested in a career in sports medicine since high school.

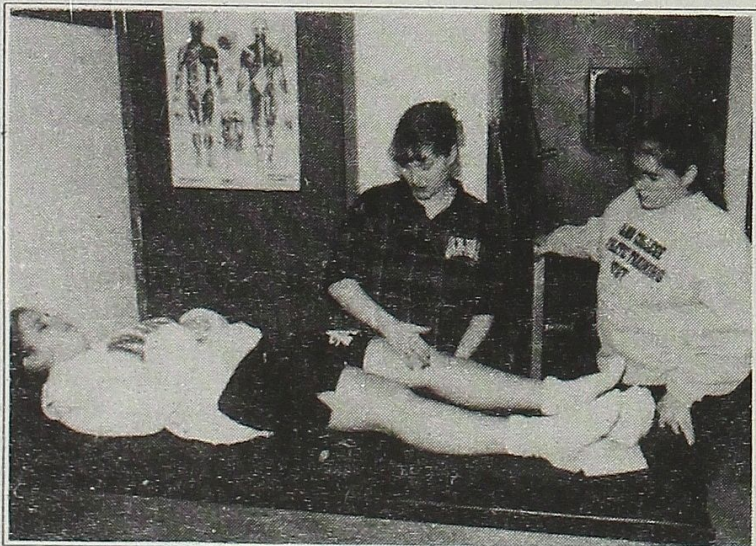
She said, "I was always interested in the field of nursing and

medicine; I was also a big fan of sports. I found out I could do both." She further said that the continued support from her coaches, friends and family helped her in her pursuit.

As it stands now, the athletic training program at Alma consists of two different concentrations. Rowe said that there is an internship oriented area of study in which the students work primarily in the training room. These students will then take a state exam in order to become a state certified athletic

trainer.

There is also a more curriculum-oriented area; these students spend less time in the training room. Rowe stated that the future of the training world at Alma is headed for more of a curriculum based program that integrates interning as part of this.



Assistant Athletic Trainer Kris Rowe treats an injured athlete with the assistance of senior Kelly Ervans. Rowe has served in this position for the past three years. Photo courtesy of the Public Relations Office.

Christmas holiday
special coupon

10-30% off

regular priced merchandise
for all
Alma College students



Gold-n-Gems
Jewelers

110 E. Superior
Downtown Alma
463-5891 or 463-2420

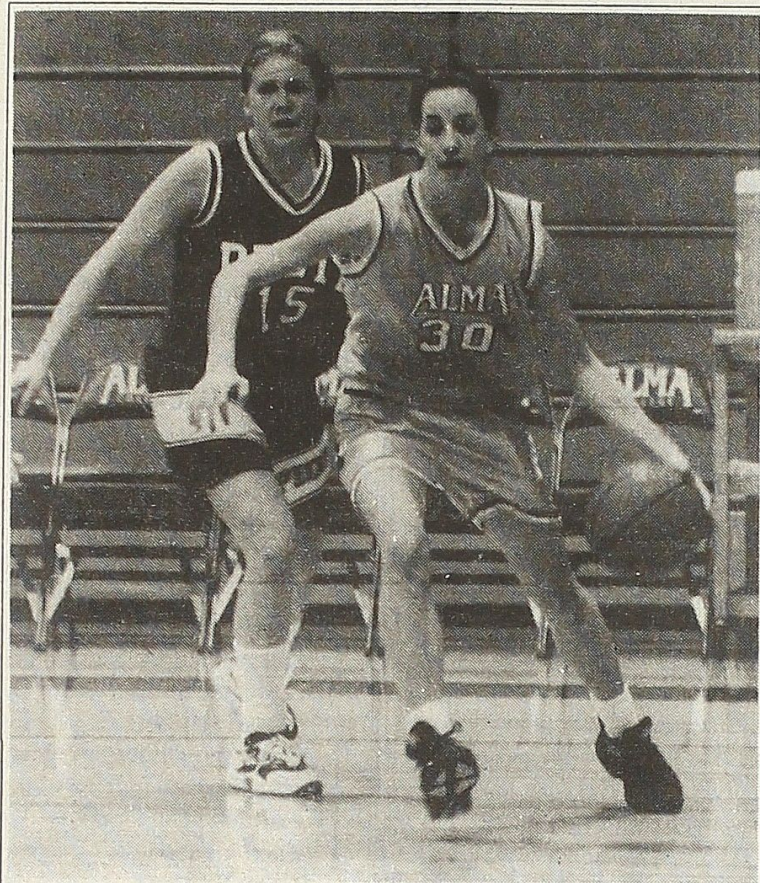
CRUISE JOBS

Students Needed!

Earn up to \$2,000+/month working for Cruise Ships or Land-Tour Companies. World Travel (Hawaii, Mexico, the Caribbean, etc.). Seasonal and Full-Time employment available. No exp. necessary. For more information call: Cruise Employment Services (206) 971-3550 ext.C5614

TRAVEL ABROAD & WORK!

Make up to \$25-\$45 per hour teaching basic conversational English abroad. Japan, Taiwan, and S. Korea. Many employers provide room & board + other benefits. No teaching background or Asian languages required. For more information call: (206) 971-3570 Ext. J56141



Sophomore Erin LaCrosse makes a move against her opponent. The women's basketball team netted two victories this week, bringing their record to 5-2. Photo by Aaron Mansfield.

Scots move to 5-2

By Kari St. Bernard
Freelance Writer

The women's varsity basketball team pulled off two wins this week against Aquinas and Cornerstone to improve their record to 5-2.

In previous action, the Scots defeated the Spring Arbor Cougars on the road last November 26, outscoring them 75-69. The team's only losses this season came November 29-30 in the Grand Rapids Press Tournament. The team lost to both Lake Superior State, 62-48 and Cornerstone College, 63-50.

"The team had a bad weekend, we had mental breakdown, and we didn't play like a team at all," said senior Jaami McClellan.

Last Tuesday Alma College hosted the Cornerstone Golden Eagles, but this time defeating them with a score of 56-45. The team's top scorers were seniors McClellan and Melissa VanDamme with 12 and 13 points, respectively.

Despite losing the tip-off, the Scots captured an early lead and thwarted the Golden Eagles' attempts to score for the first five minutes of the game. The Scots dominated the ball game.

Saturday, December 7, the women won an exciting game against the Aquinas Saints, 59-53.

The team struggled in the first half offensively, but turned it around after halftime.

"The key problem of the game was the first five or six minutes, we missed eight point-blank range lay-up, power shots," said Head Coach Charlie Goffnett. "We had a chance to knock-out punch 'em in the first part of the game, we got great shots, but we couldn't get them in. We are stopping ourselves right now on offense."

"The team struggled with offensive intensity in the first half," said McClellan.

Despite a slow first half, the second half of the game was full of

excitement as Alma stepped up to the challenge and claimed the game back from the Saints.

But encouragement from the coaching staff, a competitive edge, and high intensity led the Scots to a well-earned victory. "Coach told us it was up to us," said McClellan.

At half time, "we talked about being a competitor...and finding a way to win when you don't have your stuff together. We challenged them and found a way to reach down and find something inside, that we wanted it more than the other team. And that's what we did, we just came out and out competed [with] Aquinas in the second half," said Goffnett.

"The team has struggled with offensive intensity for the whole season. We have spurts of intensity, but we need to have it for the whole game," said McClellan.

The team will have a chance to capture that intensity, as they take on Concordia, December 21.

Men's basketball team splits contests

By Erik Cargill
Freelance Writer

The men's basketball team has played rather well lately, as they move their record to 3-1 after two tough matches last week.

The team suffered its first defeat of the year over Thanksgiving break. In their first home game, the Scots were defeated by Elmhurst College (Illinois).

The first loss of the season for the Scots may be attributed to their lack of efficiency from the free-

throw line. Although the team shot a respectable 54% from the floor, their 35% shooting from the charity stripe was the difference in the game. The key statistic of the game lies in the 8 front ends of one and ones that the team missed.

On the positive side, the Scots continued to out rebound their opposition, by capturing a 29-28 edge on the boards. This marks the third straight game that Alma has out rebounded their opponents.

The team was led by sophomore Jason VanDerMaas with 15 points.

A strong contribution was made by senior Chris Davis, who finished with 10 points.

The 71-60 loss to Elmhurst dropped the Scots' previously undefeated record to 2-1.

Last Saturday the Scots returned to their winning track with a road trip to Concordia-Ann Arbor. In an intense hard fought battle, Alma pulled out an 84-82 victory.

The Scots started the game slowly, falling behind 14 points to Concordia. They cut the lead down to only two at the half behind 20 first-half points by Davis. The second half showed the opposite as the Scots ran up to a 14 point lead before relinquishing it near the game's end.

The game came down to one defensive stand and one last possession for Alma. After a missed jump shot by Concordia, the Scots had 3 seconds to pull out the win. The winning shot came from the hands of first-year student Seth Stapleton.

This win was marked by an overall team effort as contributions were made by all 15 players. Again leading the way was Davis with 31 points and VanDerMaas close behind with 13 points. Junior Eric Spielhaupter threw in 15 points in the second half run that put the Scots on top.

Two trends continued in this game as the Scots out rebounded Concordia and shot poorly from

the free throw line. The rebounding edge was 38-34, 12 of those coming from VanDerMaas. The difficulties from the line netted the Scots only 9 points out of 24 shots.

"This was a great win for the entire program," said Coach Kevin Skaggs.

The victory over Concordia-Ann Arbor pushed the Scots' record to an impressive 3-1. This record is impressive due to the large number of new faces on this year's squad. "With all the new faces, we are finding ways to win," stated Coach Skaggs.

The Scots will be in action on Tuesday, December 17 as they go up against IUSB-South Bend at 7:30 p.m. in Cappaert Gymnasium.

Swim Results from The Depauw Invitational

	Women	Men
Team Finish	Second	Fifth
Last Years Finish	Fifth	Seventh
Teams competing	Ten Teams	Ten Teams

Women's First Place finishes

- 200 Free Relay (Dani Sullivan '97, Melissa Merwin '97, Kathleen Zellen '00 and Renee DeGraff '98)
- 50 Freestyle (DeGraff)
- 200 Freestyle (Sullivan)

Coaches Comments: "An excellent meet by both teams. We had so many incredible performances. It was a great way to end the semester," said head Swim Coach Greg Baadte.

MIAA increases to nine schools

By Phil Allmen
Sports Editor

Two colleges have recently been added to the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA). St. Mary's College and Defiance College were admitted after a vote by the presidents of the conference's schools.

At 108 years old, the MIAA is the nation's oldest athletic conference, being founded on March 24, 1888.

St. Mary's is an all-women's Catholic college with 1,400 students in Notre Dame, Indiana, adjacent to Notre Dame University. Defiance is a co-ed college affiliated with the United Church of Christ with about 800 students enrolled. Defiance is an Ohio school along the Michigan/Ohio border.

The additions raise the conference number to eight men's teams and nine women's teams.

Both schools are currently on a conditional membership until their schedules are merged into the conference. St. Mary's must partici-

pate in eight sports and Defiance, sixteen. Defiance already has sixteen MIAA sports, but St. Mary's only has seven sports able to compete in the conference. The school must add one sport to play in the league.

Another problem with St. Mary's is their lack of facilities—the school does not own a swimming pool or track. But according to Jan Travis, St. Mary's director of athletics, the school can make arrangements with Notre Dame to use their facilities when necessary.

There are some definite advantages to joining a conference.

"Conference teams set up their athletic schedules first," said Alma College President Alan Stone. "They then go to independent schools to fill the schedule."

The additions still make Alma the northernmost school, but St. Mary's and Defiance are the two southernmost schools. Alma will have to travel approximately four hours to play each team in matches.

Alma coaches will need to think about the new opponents in the

conference, but not necessarily right away.

"I have not really thought about the announcement yet," said the men's basketball coach, Kevin Skaggs. "Since we are in the middle of the season, we have been too busy working on getting ready for our current opponents."

"The whole thing kind of snuck up on us," commented Charlie Goffnet, head coach of the women's basketball team. "They were looking at two schools, one with a strong basketball program and an all-women school."

"A big factor in accepting Defiance was their football program, I think. St. Mary's is a good fit both academically and philosophically. St. Mary's is a good addition," added Goffnet.

This addition to the MIAA is the first change since 1960. Hillsdale College, a charter member, dropped out of the league. Michigan State University was an original member of the MIAA but left in 1907. Eastern Michigan University belonged from 1892 until 1926.

Bob Moore Flowers



for all your floral needs

463-3333

Staff Editorial

Holidays provide opportunity to give

Every year about this time the phrase, "It is better to give than to receive" is heard. So much is said about all of the families who are less fortunate. How much thought is really given to these people during the holiday season? People who are not financially burdened allow their minds to race with the thought of the perfect gift for someone, but do the more fortunate people think that someone else may not have the means or opportunity to give even the smallest gift this holiday season?

All throughout this season, opportunities to give are within everyone's budget, but are they in the common person's heart? From the "Adopt-a-Family" program to the Salvation Army bell ringers, people are available to take our time and money and put it to good use. There seems to always be a reason not to give though. The reasons? Too busy with exams, having to go home and work over this holiday break, not having any extra money at all to spare.

The important thing to remember is that while some will be opening gifts on Christmas morning, there will be people who will not have anything—barely any food to eat, much less gifts to give their loved ones. Perhaps it is these people who understand the true beauty and meaning of this holiday season: the gift of someone else's love.

This holiday season is a time to give to the people in our lives who are truly loved and appreciated. With the smallest gestures, this

season allows everyone to let people know exactly how important their presence is and to thank them for their love throughout the year. Just because a person does not have any money, should they be robbed of this chance to give? Seeing the joy in a child's eyes as they see a present wrapped for them is not an opportunity that a person's financial situation should disallow.

These people who are too poor to afford gifts for their families are in everyone's neighborhood. These people are just like everyone else: in their hearts, they want to celebrate the traditional holidays, but cannot, just because they are poor. To think that someone else will give aid to the less fortunate is not the answer. Furthermore, ignoring this situation won't make the reality go away, but giving and helping will. Give a dollar to the Salvation Army, pick a family for "Adopt-a-Family," open your heart. Even if it is just long enough to have a happy holiday, through generosity, the problems of the less fortunate can be alleviated.

This holiday season is a time for people to open their hearts to others. If people give unselfishly their time, money, and caring, someone else may be allowed to have a wonderful holiday. Give a bit of yourself and allow someone else to have a happy holiday season as well. Only when through giving will everyone have the opportunity to realize the true beauty and joy of this holiday season.

Letters to the Editors

To The Editors:

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all those who participated in last year's giving goods for Christmas boxes. Our goal was to help one family, one couple, and one single person. Due to the generosity of the students and staff of the college, we were able to help three families, one widower, and a senior couple.

As we delivered the gift boxes, I wished that each one of you who participated could have been there to see the faces of the people your gift giving went to. The look of surprise that turned into happiness and warmth as we said, "Merry Christmas from the students and associates of Alma College and Marriott," was truly a heart touching sight.

One of the things that stands out in my mind is the children's eyes and smiles. They question, "Why did you bring this to us?" I said, "We are the happiness people and we come to share with you and with others." Their eyes lit up with happiness as they began the adventure of looking through the gift boxes. One grandparent had to take her grandchild due to a family hardship and was very appreciative. Even as we left, the children and adults were thanking us all the way to the car.

Your gifts of giving turned into gifts of relief and smiling faces that made twenty people's holidays and spirits brighter. Thank you to all who participated! Have a great holiday and give yourselves a big, big hug.

I have already started the drive for this year and I see that the boxes outside of Scotties and in Hamilton are filling up. Thanks for all who are participating. I will give you an update on this year's drive when we come back from Christmas break.

Have a great holiday and God bless you all.

With Love and Appreciation,
Marcia Miller
Your friendly Joe's person

...

To The Editors:

I'm writing in response to Lisa Sherman's editorial, "Lower Level Course Require Too Much Work," printed in the November 26 issue of *The Almanian*.

I disagree with Lisa Sherman's opinion that professors at Alma College assign "too much" work for lower level classes. These entry level classes are designed as introductory classes, not as "weeder" classes. They are intended to introduce the students who take them to the discipline's analytical perspective and skills, and to a particular topic within the discipline. The entry level classes are designed to form a basis of fundamental proficiency in disciplinary thinking from which the student, if he or she chooses, can build on, and from which the student can move to a higher level of proficiency and expertise expected in the upper level courses.

Each professor at Alma College has been highly trained in their discipline. They can, from an informed perspective, determine the types of graded assignments, and the amount of "work", the reading, writing, lab work, or problem solving, that is necessary to reach the basic level of proficiency that introductory courses are designed to achieve. The professors who teach at Alma College have themselves progressed through the stages of training from an "entry" level to an "expert" level, and they know what amount of work is necessary at each stage of the student's training. Contrary to what Lisa Sherman suggests, professors do not "pile on work" arbitrarily.

I suggest that students at the undergraduate level have a less-informed perspective from which

to make determinations about the amounts and types of assignments that are required in 100 level classes, and that professors at Alma College do, in fact, assign "100 level work in 100 level classes."

Sincerely,
Dr. Karen Garner
Dept. of History

...

To The Editors:

Welcome to Alma College, a private, liberal arts institution that brags about ranking among the top seven percent of liberal arts colleges in the nation, and about having an exceptional academic reputation, amongst other things. What Alma College does not brag about, however, is that it cuts its students from first-preference classes.

I can remember when I was in high school, an admissions officer from Alma College came to speak with us. I specifically remember someone asking about how likely it was to get all the classes that you wanted for a particular term, because we had heard that was somewhat unlikely at big colleges and universities. She assured us

that since Alma was a small, private college, it was virtually impossible for you to be denied entrance into a class. Oh, really?!

I find it quite interesting that in Alma's academic catalog there is a sentence that states, "Alma has established a reputation for quality by offering programs designed to meet needs of its students." Reputation for quality? By whose standards is cutting students from classes considered "quality"? Let me pose this question: Does it seem right that a junior should be cut from a first-preference class in a subject which is his or her minor? Here's another thing to think about: I thought that by paying almost \$20,000 a year to attend Alma, it would be a college of distinction and first-class academic standards. I guess not.

I am not blaming any one person or group of persons for this inexcusable situation. However, I know that I am not alone in feeling so angry over this topic. I also know that the next time a prospective student with an impressionable mind asks me about Alma College, I will not hesitate to mention this catastrophe.

Melanie C. McCarty
Class of '98

• CLASSIFIEDS •

SPRING TERM IN JAMAICA 1997. We have a small number of open places left in both the cross-cultural program and the teaching practicum for education majors. Don't miss out on this unique opportunity! For more information, call Nicholas Dixon (x7219).

Men/Women earn \$480 weekly assembling circuit boards/electronic components at home. Experience unnecessary, will train. Immediate

openings in your area. Call 1-520-680-7891 ext. C200

Earn MONEY and FREE TRIPS! INDIVIDUALS and GROUPS wanted to promote SPRING BREAK!! Call INTER-CAMPUS PROGRAMS at 1-800-327-6013 or <http://www.icpt.com>

EARN EXTRA INCOME Earn \$200-\$500 weekly mailing phone cards. For information send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Inc., P.O. Box 0887, Miami, FL 33164

The Almanian

Newberry Hall
Alma College
Alma, Michigan
48801
(517) 463-7161
ALMANIAN@alma.edu

Editors-in-Chief:

Beth Knapp
Dan Scripps

News Editor:

Staci Hill

Feature Editor:

Larissa VanderZee

Sports Editor:

Phil Allmen

Assistant Sports Editor:

Chris Tapley

Opinion Editor:

Jenn Cornell

Editorial Cartoonist:

Tuco Jakubowski

Copy Editors:

Eric Reed
Julie Wilson

Staff Reporters:

Tom Glegola
Jennifer Hughes
Lisa Sherman
Matt Singletary

Photo Editors:

Jon Croff
Derek Warner

Graphics Editors:

Brian Crum
Laura Paetz

Business Manager:

Lesley McDougall
Office and Distribution
Manager:

Jenise Cardinal

Advertising

Manager:

Eric Reed
Assistant Advertising
Manager:

Kari St. Bernard

Faculty Advisor:

Eugene Pattison

Staff Editorial Policy

Opinions expressed weekly in the "Staff Editorial" reflect the views of *The Almanian* Editorial Board, which includes section editors and the editors-in-chief. These views in no way reflect the views of the entire Alma College community.

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.