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The Almanian

January 13, 1998

Serving Alma College since 1907

Issue 13

News Briefs

International News Briefs

Quake hits northern China

A powerful earthquake hit near the Great Wall in northern China, killing 35 people and leaving 20,000 homeless. More than 164 people were injured and hundreds of buildings were damaged by the quake, which measured 6.2 on the Richter scale.

Indonesian President faces defeat

Linking economic woes to government corruption, Megawati Sukarnoputri called for Indonesian President Suharto's election defeat and has declared herself as a possible candidate.

National News Briefs

Cher delivers Bono eulogy

Calling it the most important thing she's ever done in her life, Cher delivered a tearful good-bye to her former singing partner and husband, Sonny Bono, at his funeral in Palm Springs, California. Bono, the two-term Republican congressman died on January 5, 1998 when he skied into a tree at South Lake Tahoe. He was 62.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Wednesday, January 19 is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Upcoming Events

Alma College is hosting pianist **Yakov Kasman** who will perform on Wednesday at 8 p.m. in the Heritage Center Presbyterian Hall.

This Thursday is **Free Laundry Day** from 4-8 p.m. in all residence halls, compliments of Alma College.

The Alma College Dance Company will present their **Student Choreography Concert** in the Heritage Center Studio Theater on Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m.

Sorority **Bid Fest** will be held on Saturday, January 24, at 6:30 p.m. in the Gymnasium. Fraternity **Run Outs** will follow at 8 p.m.

Alma College will present poet **Patricia Smith** on Tuesday, January 20 at 8 p.m. in the Heritage Center Presbyterian Hall.

Gratiot County American Red Cross will be sponsoring a CPR and First Aid instructor training course on Friday from 6-10 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Dedication expresses gratitude

By Rhonda Smith
Staff Reporter

Growth in the exercise and health science (EHS) department and its emphasis on laboratory research resulted in the construction of the McIntyre Center for Exercise and Health Science building.

Last Friday's dedication of the new wing was attended by about 100 people, including alumni, students and local physicians. The event celebrated the opening of the new building.

In planning for two to three years, ground was broken for the McIntyre Center in March of 1997. The exercise and health science department moved into the new building in November.

According to EHS Professor and Chairperson John Davis, the dedication also served to recognize the donors of the project. All new equipment for the building came from outside donors through the Cherished Ever campaign.

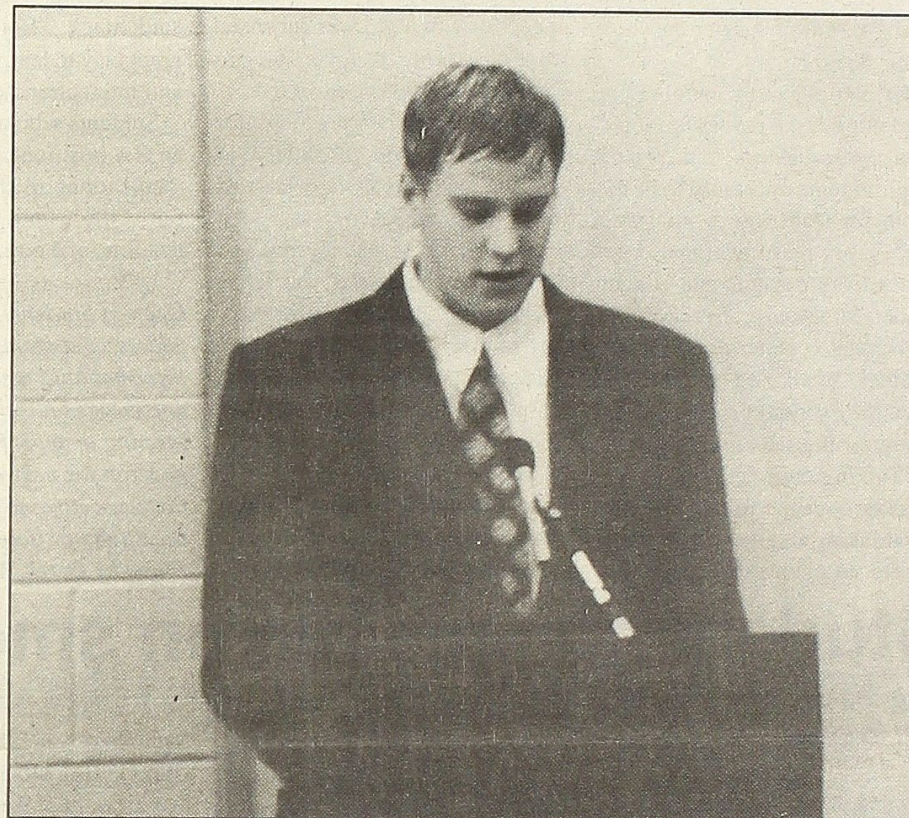
The primary donor for the facility was the McIntyre Family Foundation; hence the name of the building. Mr. and Mrs. C.S. McIntyre provided Alma with a \$500,000 gift. Other donors included John and Nancy Colina, Richard and JoAnne Heuschele and Rebecca Norris.

The dedication consisted of speeches prepared by various individuals and tours of the new facility. Junior Rick Brands presented a speech at the ceremony. Brands commented on the glories of the new facility.

He argued, however, that the facility was only as great as the students made it and that they must challenge one another to learn new things and perform new research, utilizing the facility to the fullest.

Brands remarked on the success of Alma College's EHS department. "It's really growing. It is the most rapidly growing department, from what I hear. I have been told by alumni that the facility here is better than a lot of graduate schools," he said.

The facility primarily consists of three large laboratories—human performance,



Junior Rick Brands addresses the audience at the dedication ceremony for the new McIntyre Center for Exercise and Health Science. The ceremony celebrated the opening of the new building and also thanked the generous donors who made the facility's existence possible. The ceremony included speeches from students and faculty. Following the ceremony tours of the new facility were given by students. Photo by Sean Babbitt.

human anatomy and cardiovascular physiology.

The new building also contains four faculty offices and a conference room.

Students such as senior Matt Allen gave tours of the new building to lend a different perspective to attendees on how the equipment and labs are utilized.

"[The dedication] made me realize how special Alma is to offer its students facilities that are better than many graduate schools," Allen remarked. He also commented on the appreciation of seeing alumni return to support the department.

According to Davis, the creation of the McIntyre Center stemmed from the growth of the EHS department over the last several years. Additionally, the department began to stress more of a laboratory com-

ponent to the major and had to spruce up the facilities to compensate.

Davis commented on his excitement for the new building. "I think the dedication went great. The building is a wonderful structure and is a great design. It provides space for students to use for I don't know how many years to come. It was a great day," he said.

Brands and Allen both commented on their gratitude to the donors for endorsing the department. Allen said, "It was a very nice ceremony bringing around all the donors and people who worked on the building."

"It's a blessing for us to have donors to offer money for this. It helped the department; it will really explode now," said Brands.

Library to host Dutch auction book sale

By Ryan Gall
Freelance Writer

This year the Alma College library will sponsor a Dutch auction book sale. The sale will be held Wednesday and Thursday in the lower level of the library's Colina Wing. There will be two sales each day from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and from 1-4 p.m.

At a Dutch auction, as time passes, the bargains become greater. On Wednesday, from 9-12, hard cover books will sell for \$2 and paperbacks for \$1. Then at 1 p.m. the prices will drop; hard covers at \$1 and paperbacks for \$.50. On Thursday the prices will continue to decrease.

"It should be a good investment and an excellent opportunity to explore the won-

derful world of books," said first-year student Dede Frey about the upcoming book sale.

The books for the sale come primarily from donations, while some are old or duplicate copies of books the library already owns. Book donations came mainly from former professors or other faculty looking to clear space in their homes or offices.

There are about fifteen to twenty patrons who brought generous donations to the library. One of the primary donors was Tracy Luke, former religion professor at Alma, who passed away in 1995.

The books donated are comprised of a wide range of reading interest. The library will be selling everything from reference

works to fictional and nonfictional books. This being the biggest sale ever, there should be something for everyone.

According to Peter Dollard, director/professor at the library, this should be the most successful book sale the school has ever sponsored. Dollard expects to bring in anywhere from \$500-\$1,000 from the sale. The money raised from the book sale will go to the library's fund, which is used to purchase new books.

"I believe that the fund-raiser is a great way for the library to bring additional funds in, and also a chance for the students to pick up incredible deals on some great books," said first-year student Elizabeth Butcher.

Resident Assistant selection underway

By Missy Crossnoe
News Editor

Alma College's Resident Assistant (RA) selection process for next year's RA's is underway.

The procedure began last week with an informational meeting led by James Kridler, dean of students, and Martin Stack, Gelston Hall director and coordinator of the RA selection process.

A panel of current RA's was also present to answer questions about the job.

Kridler began by encouraging students to take part in the selection process. He also outlined the requirements necessary to be eligible for selection; a minimum 2.25 grade point average, references from campus and student leaders, along with an essay about work related experiences.

Stack explained to students what they should be doing to get ready for the selection process.

"Talking with current RA's, reading over the job description and thinking about what they have to offer to the position are a few

ways students can prepare themselves for the carousels and interviews," he said.

Kridler and Stack's comments seemed to lead students in the right direction. "I enjoyed the meeting," said sophomore Lonna Lutze. "They gave us a lot of helpful information about becoming an RA," she added.

First-year student Briget Paulsen added, "I thought they gave us a good idea of what we need to be doing. I was surprised though at how much you have to go through to become an RA."

Current Newberry RA senior Michelle Colville explained to students what she has learned from being an RA.

"Watching students grow and develop through the years has been a great experience for me," she said. "I enjoy knowing that I have helped others grow, and by doing that I have grown myself," she added.

The selection process will continue throughout the term with carousels, role-play situations acted out by current RA's, and

interviews with the Student Affairs staff.

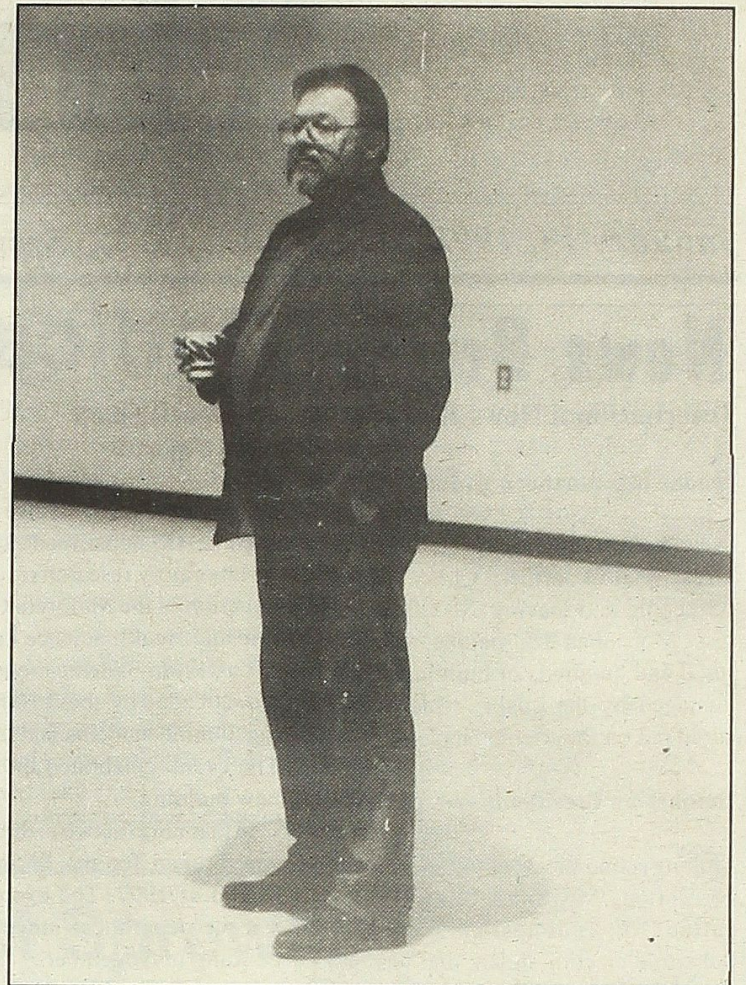
Carousels will take place in the Swanson Academic Center (SAC) on January 31 and February 1, and second round interviews will be conducted the week of February 9-13. Students who receive a position will be notified of their selection on February 20.

"I encourage all students who are interested in becoming an RA to go ahead with the process," said Stack. "Being an RA is a great way to learn about yourself and interactions with others."

Students who are interested in an RA position can still pick up applications in the Student Affairs Office until the submission deadline of 5 p.m. on January 23.

Dean of Students James Kridler addresses students at the RA informational meeting. Kridler encouraged all who attended the meeting to apply for an RA position for next year. Applications are currently available in the Student Affairs Office.

Photo by Derek Warner.



Student complaints on smoking policy spark review

By Karin Shrum
Staff Reporter

Rising concern about the effects of second-hand smoke and smoking have resulted in increased awareness of the habit to the public.

The recently passed law banning all public smoking in California clearly displays this rising awareness.

Recent increases in smoking on campus have brought many of these same concerns to Alma College.

"As a student studying public health, I've noticed an increase in student smoking since I've been here, specifically this year," com-

mented Anne Marie Hiltz (98).

Concerns about the smoking on campus have filtered up to Alma's executive staff and have sparked a review of the school's current smoking policy.

In response to this concern, during the winter term the Student Life Committee will be reviewing the campus smoking policy.

The committee, containing both smokers and non-smokers, is comprised of faculty members Robyn Anderson, professor of exercise and health science, Tom Morris, professor of theatre and dance and Gina Petonito, professor of sociology. Also serving on the committee are James Kridler,

dean of students, and students Sarah Isaacson (98), Dan Scripps (98), Colleen McGrath (99), Steve Sexton (99), Michaela Merryweather (99) and Ryan Gall (01).

"There's been over the past few years or so a variety of questions come up as to the smoking policy of the college from various faculty, staff and students," commented Kridler.

The existing campus policy was written in 1987 to comply with the Michigan Public Act 198.

In brief, the policy states that smoking is permitted in private offices, designated and well ventilated residence hall rooms and in designated smoking areas. The

full policy is located on pages 49 and 50 of the 1997 *Student Life Handbook*.

"I strongly believe as a person working in public health, that we need to consider the smoking policy because I've run into faculty and students who have problems," commented Anderson.

The most common complaints are of the smoking in Joe's and in front of the McIntyre Mall entrance to the Swanson Academic Center.

In order to fully assess the situation, the committee will be looking for information from the faculty and staff.

This feedback will be sought at various interdepartmental meet-

ings, such as the administrative, clerical and physical plant monthly meetings.

Student input will be solicited at the regular Student Congress and residence hall meetings. The committee wants to hear any concerns that students might have.

The committee has only met once on this topic thus far and has made no plans for changing the policy yet. For the present, the committee members are simply reviewing the policy.

"With more and more information coming out concerning society in general about the effects of second-hand smoke, should we [Alma] go further?" questioned Kridler.

Roe v. Wade: 25 years later

MSU plans silver anniversary for landmark abortion decision

By Missy Crossnoe
News Editor

For twenty-five years women in America have had the right to an abortion. On January 22, 1973 the Supreme Court ruling known as *Roe v. Wade* established this reproductive right for women.

To celebrate the upcoming silver anniversary of this historic court decision, several organizations at Michigan State University and in the Lansing area are sponsoring an event to be held on January 20, 1998 at 7 p.m. in the Natural Science Building, room 128, on MSU's campus.

Alma alumna Staci Hill (97), along with six other MSU medical students who compose the student organization Medical Students For Choice (MSFC), are

working with the co-sponsors to plan and organize this commemorative event, which will be open to the public.

"The purpose of this event is to remind women of their reproductive choices," said Hill. "We want to start an ongoing discussion on the topic of abortion rights and to hopefully spark interest about the subject in the public."

The event will include the showing of the HBO movie "If These Walls Could Talk," a film trilogy of women's stories about abortion, starring Demi Moore, Sissy Spacek and Cher. After each section of the movie, speakers will talk about what life was like for women before *Roe v. Wade* and during the ruling of the case. Afterwards, Hill and the other members of MSFC will discuss

the lack of training medical students receive on the reproductive rights of women.

"We want to encourage students to become concerned with this lack of training. Currently we receive no training about reproductive rights through our second year of medical school," said Hill.

"We believe this is inadequate for the future of medical professionals."

Hill is depending on the media to promote the event. Alma alumna Cathy DeShano (94) is responsible for writing press releases about the celebration to be published in Lansing area newspapers.

We are hoping for a big turnout but we just don't know," said Hill. "Abortion is a sensitive is-

sue and medical students are afraid to step out and show their opinions because they could put themselves and their future career at risk if they support it," she added.

Hill has talked with several administrators at Alma, asking them to spread the word about the celebration. Karen Garner, assistant professor of history and chair of the women's studies program, is hoping to encourage some of her students to attend.

"It sounds like a really good program," said Garner. "*Roe v. Wade* was a landmark decision for women's rights and control over our own reproductive systems, I personally think it deserves celebration," she added.

Carol Bender, associate professor of English, also feels that

abortion is an issue of continuing concern for women. "We shouldn't become complacent and forget about the hard fought battles," she said. "I encourage all Alma women to attend and benefit from the questions and answers that will be offered."

The case of *Roe v. Wade* originated when Roe, a Texas woman, sought to terminate her pregnancy by abortion. However, Texas law prohibited her from doing so without medical advice. The case rose to the Supreme Court, which decided that a women's right to an abortion fell within her Fourth Amendment right to privacy. This decision gave women control over their reproductive systems through the first trimester of pregnancy.

January 13, 1998

FEATURE

3

Karges amazes, entertains

By Joey Mead
Staff Reporter

There's no explanation for it," junior Greg McQuillan said in amazement after seeing entertainer Craig Karges perform the impossible.

Last Thursday Karges baffled Alma College students with unbelievable table-moving, mind-reading and spoon-bending illusions.

Karges read the serial number off a Canadian two dollar bill, not by sight, but with the touch of his hand. Karges had two coins, five strips of tape and a blindfold over his eyes, when he astonished the audience--especially sophomore Ryan Webb who brought the bill up to Karges.

"Some guy I never saw before gave it [the Canadian two dollar bill] to me. I thought it was amazing. Way past my expectations," Webb said.

A well-known entertainer, Karges has made appearances on *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*, *Larry King Live*, *CNN Headline News* and *NBC's America's Talk-*

ing. Nevertheless, Karges says college students are still his favorite audience.

Karges said, "I love the Alma people here; they did a really good job. You've got good union people."

The "union people" Karges referred to are the members of the Alma College Union Board (ACUB) who made his trip to Alma possible.

ACUB members found Karges at the National Association for Campus Activities (NACA). NACA is a large convention for all colleges and universities to see comedians and entertainers like Karges show off their talent. Karges is one of the better-known performers at the convention. He has twice been named NACA's Campus Entertainer of the Year.

Karges was also named the Campus Entertainer of the Year in 1994 and 1995, as well as best performing arts act, solo act and male performer by *Campus Activities Today* magazine.

Karges learned most of the illusions and tricks at the age of 14

from his uncle. Karges says he does not possess supernatural powers, or perform as a psychic or magician. "I am just an entertainer," he stated.

For skeptics, Karges offers a standing offer of \$25,000, payable to charity, if anyone can prove he uses stooges or confederates from the audience to accomplish his demonstration.

Think that's gutsy? His last trick had first-year student Clare Arbic put Karges's check from Alma College in an envelope and mixed it with two other identical envelopes with slips of worthless paper inside. With Karges's back turned to Arbic, he asked Arbic to choose one of the three envelopes and hold on to it. Karges then burned the other two envelopes. Once the other two envelopes were in ashes, he then opened the last remaining envelope. Don't worry, Karges walked away with his money.

Arbic said, "I had no idea which envelope the check was in. I thought it was intriguing. It made you think."

Up for two!



Sophomore center Dave Hanley (40) lays up a shot in a recent junior varsity match against Calvin College. Hanley scored six points as the Scots lost in a close contest. Photo by Derek Warner.

ΓΔΑ works to increase funding, local involvement

By Karin Shrum
Staff Reporter

Gamma Delta Alpha (ΓΔΑ), the Women's Honorary Society, is a campus volunteer organization for junior and senior women who have achieved academic excellence.

This local organization was founded at Alma College in 1959. Joanne Gilbert, assistant professor of communication, and Elizabeth Cameron, associate professor of business administration, are the advisors of ΓΔΑ, which currently has 87 members.

Because they do not receive

funding from Student Congress, the organization is working on new fund-raising ideas to help pay for the speakers and other possible projects they would like to sponsor, such as Adopt-a-Highway and a tutoring program for the Alma High School.

In the past, the organization has brought speakers to campus in conjunction with the MacCurdy House, participated in the local CROP Walk and worked with Adopt-a-Family for the holidays.

T-shirt and cookie sales are currently being considered as options to help the organization raise money for their activities.

"We are an active group on campus and even though we're low-key we still do lots of volunteer programs and when a woman gets into the society it's a real honor," stated Martha Degen (98), last term's president.

To be asked to join the group, an Alma junior must have a 3.6 grade point average and a female, senior has to have a 3.4. The group encompasses all majors.

"It brings together all the women on campus that don't usually get together, people from every major or sorority," commented Degen.

Last Thursday the organiza-

tion voted in its new officers, electing Lenore Giannunzio (99) as president, Christina McGrain (99) as vice president, Katie Bunker (99) treasurer and Anne Galsterer (99) secretary.

"I would like to see more people involved. We have a very large group, but not all of them are able to make it to the meetings, so I would like to see a lot more people involved this year," commented Giannunzio.

However, getting more involvement may prove to be difficult right away, because the group is made up of women with high goals who are already very active

in campus and community life.

"We took information on the new initiates. We do that every year, [and] there wasn't one that wasn't involved in at least a few clubs and band or choir," commented Degen.

Nonetheless, with 87 members, if each member just worked on one committee or project then the projects would be successful.

Once the fund raising activities have been completed, the group hopes to bring in a speaker on Women's Health Issues and possibly work with the Women's Issues Advisory Board sometime this term.

New campus program to offer Friday night entertainment

By Charlotte Grant
Feature Editor

Starting this weekend, Alma College students will have one less reason to complain about lack of entertainment. Friday night at 8 p.m. The Hole will make its debut.

The Hole is the name of a new

program that will provide regular Friday night entertainment for Alma College. Held in the lounge area outside of Joe's, The Hole will be an opportunity for students to get together and relax.

Dave Wagner, Mitchell Hall director, is the project coordinator. He stated that the emphasis of The Hole would be on "environ-

ment rather than the activity." He said he hopes to create a coffee house type atmosphere in which students can relax and enjoy the week's end.

The Hole will feature free coffee as well as music provided by WQAC. Junior Peter Muccio, WQAC's representative for The Hole, said the radio station has assigned special disc jockeys for that time slot. Muccio also stated that WQAC would be giving away t-shirts and CDs. "Hopefully [we will also get] give-aways from businesses," Muccio said.

To provide food, Joe's will stay open until midnight in order to accommodate the gathering. The lounge area will be decorated and furnished with playing cards and reading material.

Wagner said he had the idea for the program when he "saw a need for more activities for students on weekends." He

stated that a survey conducted by the Registrar's office had also indicated this need. So he organized a student committee to develop The Hole.

“[I] saw a need for more activities for students on weekends.”

•Dave Wagner,
Mitchell Hall Director

Meetings started last term as Wagner and students sat down to determine exactly what kind of program was needed. According to Wagner, an informal survey was taken through resident assistants to ascertain what students wanted. "[We] found a lot of interest in a coffee shop atmosphere," Wagner said.

The Hole received its name

from the student committee. Wagner explained that they chose the name for a number of reasons, including that it was symbolic of its purpose: "punching a hole in the Alma bubble."

In the future, Wagner said he would like to have recreational gaming tables and maybe even open mike nights and faculty presentations.

The committee continues to meet to plan The Hole's future. The next meeting will be tonight at 5:30 p.m. in the President's Dining Room in Hamilton Commons. Students who are interested in attending this meeting or helping with The Hole in the future should contact Wagner.

Wagner has high hopes for The Hole's eventual success. Although he acknowledges that it may start out slowly, he said he "won't become discouraged if it doesn't become a popular activity this time."

The
Strand
Theater

presents:

**Boogie
Nights**

Showtimes:

Friday, January 16 @ 7:00, 9:45, 12:30
Saturday, January 17 @ 7:00, 9:45
Sunday, January 18 @ 4:00, 7:00



Located in downtown Alma 463-2585 Admission \$2.50

Legislator returns to campus

By Sara Bickler
Freelance Writer

When State Representative Terry Geiger was an Alma College student, there was not even a college Republican group to join. Things have changed, though.

This past Thursday, Geiger was the featured speaker at the Alma College Republicans (ACR) meeting.

Geiger came to speak about issues facing the state House and the state party. He also spoke on the opportunities available to college political groups, regardless of their political affiliation.

One of the issues that Geiger stressed was term limits. Approximately 65 members in the state house will be unable to run next year due to term limits. He said that the house majority is pretty much up for grabs, and the Republicans are hoping to take back the majority.

According to Geiger, taking

back the House majority would have major ramifications. "This election is so critically important because whoever controls the government in 1998 and 2000 sets the tone for the next decade," he stated.

He went on to explain that the leaders will be in charge of the district re-zoning that takes place along with every census. The Republicans' goals are to ensure an even distribution of districts in terms of size, or at least a distribution that they think is less biased.

The Republicans feel that in the past there has been a tendency for the majority party to create extra districts in areas that typically vote their way, while having fewer districts among communities that tend to vote the other way.

As an example, Geiger noted that Detroit area districts averaging approximately 60,000 people per district while those farther

north averaged 100,000 plus people per district. "We want the districts to be more fairly divided this year," he said.

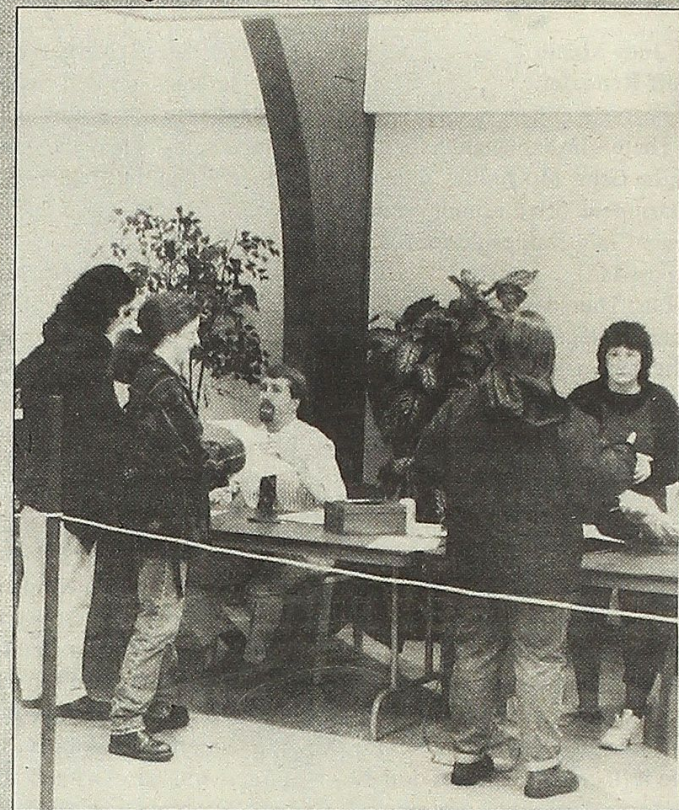
Geiger has a lot of confidence in the strength of Michigan's Republican Party. "There's talk of Michigan becoming the 'Crown Jewel' of the national Republicans, because not only were we able to win elections successfully, we were able to do something afterwards," he said.

Geiger went on to comment on the importance of involvement in college political groups, especially for those interested in pursuing a political career.

For would-be politicians, Geiger gave the following advice: "The only way to get there is to work hard here."

Impressed with Geiger's presentation, senior Tom Glegola said, "I thought he was very interesting. He came with a very straightforward and honest perspective."

There goes the bank account . . .



During last week's Winter Term registration, two students settle their bills with Controller's Office employees. Photo by Derek Warner.

Formal Rush gets underway for fraternities, sororities

By Sara Bickler
Freelance Writer

This week all students interested in Greek life have the opportunity to learn more about it through formal Rush. This an opportunity for students to meet people, and learn more about the Greek organizations.

On January 11-15, there will be a sign-up table in Hamilton for both men and women. On Monday an informal meeting was held to answer any questions the women had. On Thursday there will be a formal, mandatory meeting for the women in Jones Auditorium at 9 p.m. On Friday at 8 p.m. there will be an informa-

tional meeting for the men in the Swanson Academic Center (SAC) room 113. There is a \$5 fee for women to rush but no fee for men.

Formal rush for women consists of three rounds called teas, spreads, and desserts. Teas, the first round, will be held Saturday. For teas rushees are broken up into groups and visit each house.

The sororities will then invite some of the women back for spreads. Spreads will be held Sunday, January 18 and Monday, January 19.

After spreads, the sororities send out invites for desserts, the final round of rush. After the desserts, the women who want to

continue with the process will preference the groups they are interested in. The sororities then extend bids, which are invitations to join, and the women make their final decision.

This term Alma College added a new sorority, Phi Sigma Sigma ($\Phi\Sigma\Sigma$). According to senior Jen Corry, "Adding $\Phi\Sigma\Sigma$ will make things very different in the way we run things." Because $\Phi\Sigma\Sigma$ does not have a house, their teas will be held in the Heather Room.

In the past, rushees would go to all four sororities during teas, up to three during spreads and as many as two during desserts. Now the rushees go to all five during teas, up to three for spreads, and

up to two during desserts. In addition, the sororities now have to hold two sessions of spreads and desserts so that the rushees can visit all the sororities they want to.

Formal Rush for men consists of one round called smokers. The week of the January 16 a different fraternity will hold a smoker each evening from 6 to 8 p.m. Smokers are by invite only, but rushees may go to as many as they would like. At smokers, rushees talk to fraternity members and get to know them. Following smokers, the chapters will send out bids which the rushees may sign if they choose to join.

Participation in Rush does not

obligate rushees to join a fraternity or sorority.

According to Bill Arnold, IFC director, "Rush itself is a really good thing to do if you're interested in becoming involved on campus. I would encourage anyone to rush because there is no commitment. It gives you the opportunity to find out what the groups are like and whether or not you would like to join them."

Cool Internet Sites

In the increasing world of internet chat rooms, emoticons, typed constructs representing emotions, are becoming very popular. Almost everyone knows the basics. To show a smile type ":-)" To show a frown, type ":(:" But how would you show that a person was none too happy about giving birth to a squirrel? For emoticons describing that and other interesting circumstances, check out the Dave Barry list of emoticons at www.randomhouse.com/features/daveberry/emoticons.html. You'll learn things you never thought a keyboard could express.

www.mildred.com is a sight for those who would like to experiment with tattooing and piercing—just not on themselves. Log-on to Mildred and you will be given a name, password and your very own cartoon character to decorate as you please. (For tattoos, you can upload graphics and place them on your character's body.) The password assures that only you will be allowed to mutilate your image. It also allows your character to be saved and revisited. Prizes are given out weekly for the best decorated character.

Movie Review

Titanic's tale proves unsinkable at the box office

By Rhonda Smith
Staff Reporter

Lots of money and years of labor have successfully resurrected the R.M.S. Titanic. *Titanic*, directed by James Cameron (*Terminator I and II*) and starring Leonardo DiCaprio (*Basketball Diaries*, *Romeo and Juliet*) and Kate Winslet (*Hamlet*, *Sense and Sensibility*) arrived in theaters on December 19 and has been cruising ever since.

The film masterfully retells the sinking of the ship, yet also focuses on the fictional story of love between two young people. The relationship between Jack (DiCaprio) and Rose (Winslet) demonstrated the persistence of love in the face of tragedy. The couple struggled against social and class norms of 1912 to stay in love. A large part of the film is devoted to the blossoming relationship between Rose and Jack.

Rose is a debutante returning to America to announce her engagement to her fiancé, Cal, the heir to

a Pittsburgh steel fortune. Jack, on the other hand, is returning to America after winning the third class tickets through a lucky game of poker. The two meet as Rose hung off the back of the massive ship. From there they learn to cross space and time to maintain their love.

Cameron's film, through Jack and Rose, attempts to reinforce the loss Titanic's passengers incurred. The moment the ship struck the iceberg Rose and Jack exhibited strength and hope that most other passengers could not or would not feel. The couple's relationship also intensifies for the audience the realization of what was at stake as the ship went down. Husbands, wives, children and parents were separated as evacuation from the ocean liner to the life boats took place. Many of the separations were permanent. In essence, Rose and Jack served to personalize the 1,500 lives lost on April 15, 1912.

Cameron's large expenses successfully brought to life the Ti-

tanic and that era. Extensive research produced exact replicas of the Titanic and its property. To obtain footage connecting the present with the past, dives to the actual wreck of the Titanic were taken and used in the movie. Vintage clothing collected from survivors of the tragedy aided in the creation of period costuming.

The music from the film also produces the emotions evoked by the cinematography. Haunting Celtic tunes are combined with modern orchestral songs on the soundtrack. "The Heart Goes On," sung by Celine Dion, provides a moving love theme for the film. The sights and sounds of *Titanic* are breathtaking and fulfill all the senses.

Overall, the film is unbeatable. *Titanic* not only provides love and adventure, but also a peek at history and human nature. The story of the love between Jack and Rose was fictional, but aptly illustrated the degree of loss and suffering the survivors felt. The

story is told from the memory of a fictional survivor to researchers, which demonstrates the idea that not everyone feels the tragedy. The film asks the audience to see the wreck of the Titanic as a grave sight rather than a historical artifact to be dredged up. People in the 1990s could view the belongings of the ship and its passengers as items to be displayed in museums and bought. However, as the movie points out, it could be important to remember the tragedy and the lives lost.

The movie also illustrates the effects class and society had on the passengers. The audience witnesses how each class interacted with one another and the mistreatment and discrimination of lower class passengers. Issues such as class and social status contributed to many unnecessary deaths.

Titanic provides a deeply moving experience that will prove difficult to beat.

Women's basketball splits games, men drop two

By Sean Babbitt
Sports Editor

Despite opportunities to win, the men's basketball team dropped its last two MIAA contests, 62-51 against Kalamazoo, and 83-70 versus Calvin.

"We will have a good year despite the setbacks of these last two games," said Head Coach Kevin Skaggs.

At Kalamazoo, the team was down by 12 at half and 16 late in the game, but then went on a late run to pull within three points.

"We missed three consecutive

lay-ups and then they pulled away with free throws in the last few minutes of the game," commented Skaggs.

The team shot 36 percent from the field and only attempted 6 free throws the entire game.

When the Scots returned to Alma for a game against a tough Calvin team, they ran into some tough match-ups down low. "I was really pleased with the way the team played and almost pulled the upset off against Calvin. We hung in there," said Skaggs.

The team was paced by senior Eric Spielhaupeter with 16 points

and hitting on 4 of 7 three point attempts. Sophomore center Jeremy Hyler also chipped in with 13 points and 11 rebounds.

"Hyler played a very good game inside. I was pleased with his effort," said Skaggs.

Some Scot players are among the league leaders in the MIAA. Spielhaupeter is 4th in 3-point shooting race, hitting 5 out of 10 shots tried. Hyler is 3rd in the league in rebounding, pulling in 7.5 rebounds a game.

Alma's record after the two losses dropped to 4-6 overall and 0-2 in the conference. They have

games this week on Wednesday away at Bluffton College in Ohio and then are at home to face Adrian.

The women's basketball team split two league games last week by beating Kalamazoo 84-59 and losing at Calvin 59-47.

Against Kalamazoo, the Scots blasted the Hornets early with strong rebounding and pinpoint shooting.

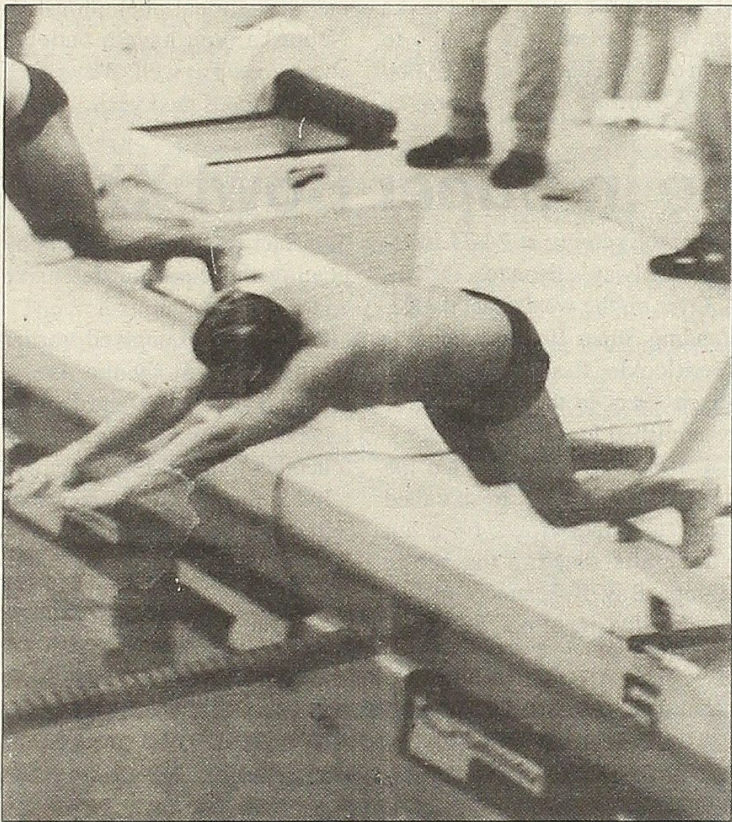
The Scots built a 10 point lead at the half even without the services of junior Ellen Bradbury, who picked up two quick fouls in the first half. The Scots continued

to pour it on in the second half to secure the victory.

It was a different story Saturday, as Calvin beat Alma on their home court. Bradbury led the way by pouring in 12 points and ripping down 11 rebounds. Sophomore Adrienne Fitzgerald also chipped in with 9 points and 3 rebounds in the win.

The Scots will next be in action on Wednesday at home in a non-conference game against St. Mary's College. They will travel to Adrian College to face the Bulldogs on Saturday.

Illness slows performances as swim teams get swamped



Junior sprinter Bill James takes off against the Kalamazoo Hornets in Saturday's meet. The men's team fell to the Hornets 157-72 while the women lost 135-108. The Scots travel to Adrian today for a dual meet. Photo by Derek Warner.

By Cheryl Lenard
Staff Reporter

The Kalamazoo Hornets stung the Scot swimmers hard in their first meet of the new year. "We were disappointed to say the least . . . The good thing is [that] we have another shot at them at conference," commented Men's and Women's Coach Greg Baadte.

Due to the eighth annual, nine day team trip to Orlando over break, many of the swimmers are ill or injured which, according to Baadte, had an influence on Saturday's performance. "I think that particularly on the guys' side we've got to get healthy," added Baadte.

Kalamazoo smoked the Scots in the men's contest 157-72. The women also fell to the Hornets, 135-108.

"We match up [with Kalamazoo] better in a conference meet than we do in a dual meet," commented Paul Griffin, men's and women's assistant swim coach.

This year's MIAA conference meet is scheduled for February 11-14 at Hope College.

Top performances for the women's team include first-year student Jenni Troyer's win in the 400 IM, senior Marisa Proctor's win on both the one and three meter diving events, and the medley relay consisting of Amanda Barker ('00), Sarah Vandermeer ('01), Nicole Gentry ('01) and senior Renee DeGraaf with a time of 4:15.

In addition, sophomore Carrie Thomas's 2:39.17 performance in the 200 breast and Barker's 2:17.12 performance in the 200 backstroke added valuable team points for the women.

"We had a lot of good swims to start off the term," commented DeGraaf. "Losing to Kalamazoo, [though], gives us motivation for conference," she added.

Rounding out winning Scots' performances were the men's 400 freelay team, consisting of first-year student Clare Arbic, sophomores Mike Cox and Josh

Peterson and junior Mark Oberman. Other notable finishes for the men include Peterson's 200 and 500 freestyle swims and sophomore Joey Mead's strong diving.

According to Oberman, "The guys just had a lot of fun with it [the meet] . . . Kalamazoo is just a powerhouse."

Although the Kalamazoo meet was the first meet for the team since classes resumed, the diving teams competed in one meet while in Orlando. Competing against NCAA Division I schools, including Florida State, Minnesota and James Madison University, the Alma divers placed comparatively well. Proctor took third and Mead placed fourth in the small competition.

The team travels to Albion today for a dual meet, and then returns home Saturday for a Parent's Day contest with Wayne State. "It [Albion] should be a really close meet. Hopefully everyone can step up," said Oberman.

Fund-raiser sponsored to subsidize scoreboard for Klenk Park

By Joey Mead
Staff Reporter

What could be one of the best college baseball facilities in the nation is currently under construction, made possible by fund-raising and the contributions of

alumni and friends of the college.

The idea to build the baseball facility came from a former Alma baseball player, who took the proposal to President Alan Stone. Construction is set for completion this year.

The baseball field will be named Klenk Park for long-time Alma baseball coach Bill Klenk, who is also a 1959 Alma alum.

"It's a very very nice honor, no question about that. I feel very fortunate that people think this is

something they should do," Klenk said.

Last Saturday the college sponsored one of the many fund-raisers for the field's construction. The event was a \$200-a-plate dinner held at the Laurel Manor in Livonia, and all proceeds went to a new scoreboard that will bear the name of Detroit Tiger baseball player and Alma alumni Jim Northrup. About 200 people attended the event. Among the group were many past Tiger baseball greats.

The idea and dedication came from Northrup's brother-in-law, Jim Greenleys.

Northrup is best known for his game-saving triple in the seventh inning of the 1968 World Series against St. Louis. His triple brought in two runs, turning the game around for the Tigers. They went on to win the series 4-1.

Northrup was signed on to the Tigers after his junior year at Alma. He played professional baseball for 16 years, 12 of them with the Tigers (1964-1974). He played for the Montreal Expos in 1974 and for the Baltimore Ori-

oles in 1975.

Northrup also participated in football, basketball, baseball, golf and track when he attended Alma. Several professional football teams, including the Chicago Bears, courted the All-American quarterback. Nevertheless, baseball took him further.

Two years behind Northrup in attendance at Alma, Klenk knew him well.

"I played with him for two years, he was a freshman my junior year. I played football, basketball and baseball with him. He and I were also members of the same fraternity, the TKE fraternity on campus, so we were pretty close," Klenk said.

Northrup has been a loyal supporter of Alma College. He was a member of the Alumni Board from 1991-94 and served as president of the Alumni Board and the Board of Trustees in 1993-94. He often is a featured speaker at several recruiting events for Alma's athletic and admissions departments, and has conducted baseball clinics for the baseball team.



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National championship debate continues for fans

By Sean Babbitt
Sports Editor

Who is the college football national champion? No matter which team you root for, or what state you are from an objective look at one of the most subjective championships is deserved.

If you are a Nebraska fan, how can you say that you are the national champions when Michigan has gone undefeated? Likewise, how can Michigan fans say the the Wolverines are national champs when Nebraska has a perfect mark?

When deciding on a national champion the only factor the NCAA allows a pollster to use in deciding which team is better is statistics, especially when the two teams are not allowed to play each other.

Everyone knows that you can find a statistic for everything and then manipulate it to say anything you want.

Nebraska could say that they played a tougher schedule according to the final rankings. By playing 18th ranked Washington, 8th ranked Kansas State, 23rd Missouri, 20th Texas A&M, and 7th ranked Tennessee, the Cornhuskers played more ranked opponents, and beat them more convincingly, than Michigan's 3 (16th Penn State, 12th Ohio State, 9th Washington State).

For a Wolverine fan that does not mean a thing, because every game Michigan played in the Big 10 was a rivalry. That is fine, Michigan fan, but better teams play better games. Advantage: Nebraska.

Then you can consider at common opponents, of which there was only one, the lowly Baylor Bears. Michigan won in convincing fashion (38-3) on September 20th in Michigan Stadium. Nebraska, on October 11th beat the Bears in Waco 49-21. The 35-point margin of victory for the Wolverines topped the Cornhuskers' 28-point drubbing. Advantage: Michigan.

Well what about the out of conference schedule? Michigan played two big name teams at home in Colorado and Notre Dame in addition to Baylor.

Nebraska played a considerably lighter out of conference schedule in the form of Akron and Central Florida. The Cornhuskers then travelled to Seattle to play a very tough Washington Huskies

club--one that ended the season ranked 18th in the country. Michigan did not play a team that finished ranked in the top 25 final standings, but based on name strength of Colorado and Notre Dame, advantage to Michigan.

In the bowl games, both Michigan and Nebraska played very tough-ranked opponents in Washington State and Tennessee. On January 1, Michigan played Washington State in a very competitive game ending in a 21-16 win.

The Cornhuskers played Peyton Manning and the 3rd ranked Tennessee Volunteers on January 2nd at the Orange Bowl. The 42-17 scalping Nebraska gave Tennessee was enough to win over 30 coaches in the ESPN/USA Today poll. Nebraska

played a higher ranked, better team than the Wolverines did at the Rose Bowl with Washington State.

Sorry Michigan, but the Big 10 hand-cuffed you in your pursuit of the national championship by making you play the Pac 10 instead of playing a game for the national championship. Nebraska played anyone who wanted to put on the pads. Advantage: Nebraska.

What is the verdict in this short comparison? It is a tie, just as it ended in the polls. There will be arguments until a playoff system is established to crown a true national champion. Michigan, you have a national championship. Nebraska, you have a national championship as well. We will see what happens next year.

Packers, Broncos get ready to rumble in Super Bowl XXXI

By Sean Babbitt
Sports Editor

John Elway, a veteran of three Super Bowls, and four AFC championship games strapped his helmet on for another Sunday game in pursuit of the elusive Super Bowl win.

This week the opponent was the hard working men from the Steel City of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Across the country in San Francisco, the Forty-Niners squared

off with the defending Super Bowl champions, the Green Bay Packers. All were vying for the right to compete for the silver trophy in San Diego in two weeks.

In the early game in Pittsburgh, the Denver Broncos used a potent running game and a very fast and strong defense to clear the Steelers out of their path to the Super Bowl.

Scoring early and often, the Broncos cracked the scoreboard first on an 8-yard touchdown run

by Terrell Davis. Kordell Stewart for Pittsburgh then ran 33 yards to the end zone to tie the score at seven in the first quarter. That would be the closest they would come when Denver ripped off 17 points in the second quarter.

The second half was a very close defensive battle, without a team scoring until midway into the fourth quarter when Stewart hit receiver Charles Johnson in the end zone. The touchdown fin-

ished the scoring at 24-21 in favor of Elway's Broncos.

Over on the west coast the defending Super Bowl champions were looking to add the San Francisco 49ers to their long list of vanquished foes.

Co-MVP Brett Favre led his team into what has been called the real Super Bowl, on a hot streak after beating the young Tampa Bay Buccaneers in last week's divisional playoff game.

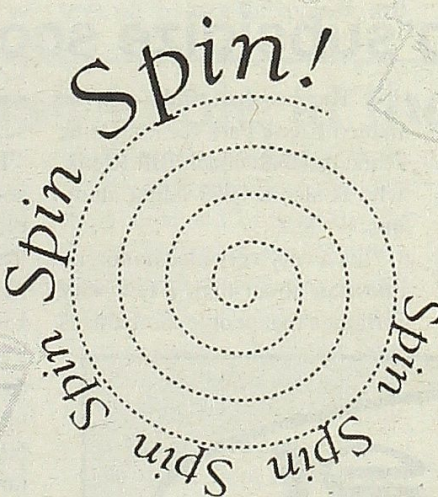
The Packers rolled the 49ers by beating them on the defensive end.

Kicker Ryan Longwell, earlier in the year cut by the 49ers, kicked 3 field goals and Dorsey Levens ran for 114 yards and 1 touchdown in the 23-10 victory.

In the Super Bowl, Green Bay will match up against the Denver Broncos in a game that the oddsmakers have already given the Packers a two touchdown edge.

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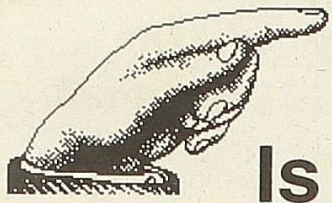
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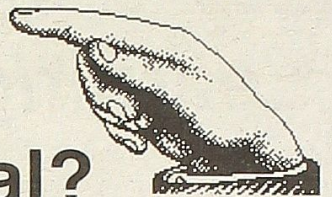
January 13, 1998

OPINION

7



Point/Counterpoint: Is prayer in school constitutional?



Prayer is a fundamental right

By Shannon Casey
Staff Reporter

The United States Constitution is routinely disregarded when liberal judges exercise their right of interpretation. But, they went too far when they banned all types of religious expression in public schools.

Not only have they disregarded the Constitution, but they have blatantly violated it. The first ten Amendments to the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, were ratified in order to protect individual rights; this includes religious rights.

The Constitution explicitly states in the First Amendment, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of

speech."

These liberal judges violate two parts of the First Amendment. They prohibit the free exercise of religion and hinder free speech. Schools should be able to designate a minute of silence at the beginning of each day. This minute would allow for prayer or basic reflection. It is far from establishing a universal religion.

Students who want to pray would have the right to do so. Other students can do what they deem appropriate. Nobody is forced to pray and nobody is being persecuted for not praying.

Silent prayer is a form of free speech and should not be prohibited in public schools. In a time when judges find an implicit right to privacy in the Constitution, they disregard what is explicitly written.

The abomination of religious rights goes far beyond students in the classroom. These judicial rulings have time and time again hindered teachers' rights also.

During a silent reading session, when students may read any book of their choosing, judges have forbidden teachers from

silently reading their Bibles to themselves. They claim it promotes religion to impressionable students.

How does reading a Bible promote religion? Teachers are allowed to read works by Karl Marx and are not accused of promoting Marxism. They can read selections from Hitler's *Mein Kampf* and are not charged with promoting Naziism.

The works of Marx and Hitler are claimed to be of literary value. Why is the most read book in history not able to be read for its literary value? How is silently reading a book shoving religion down the throats of impressionable minds?

Are people really offended when a teacher demonstrates an open mind by reading a Bible? It seems that more people would be offended by seeing someone reading Nazi propaganda, which contributed to the attempted genocide of the Jewish people.

The First Amendment protects the right of individuals to read whatever they choose, whether it is the political writings of Hitler or the religious writings in the Bible.

Separation of church and state needed

By Rhonda Smith
Staff Reporter

As Americans we enjoy certain rights which we have grown to treasure. Freedom of speech and religion are rights we have become defenders of. The current wish of many to implement prayer in our public schools defies our ideals as Americans.

The Constitution created by our forefathers reads that government involvement in religion is prohibited. According to the 1947 Supreme Court case *Everson v. the National Board of Education*, no tax money may support any religious activity or institution. Since that decision the Court has struck down any attempt to support prayer in public schools as unconstitutional. Moreover, the ruling even has been applied to non-sectarian or voluntary prayer in schools.

Due to the fact that our taxes are collected and distributed to public schools by the government, prayer in school remains unconstitutional. Therefore, the government would be supporting religion monetarily which would be forcing every taxpayer, regardless of their beliefs, involuntarily responsible for its support. If the role of religion in a student's life is so integral, then their parents should send them to parochial school.

Prayer in school also steals time from the child's right to education. Whether prayer in school be led by students or a reflective five minutes, it prevents students from accomplishing what they attend school for—to learn. What if a child prefers not to pray and pulls out a book to read, would this student be punished for disrupting prayer time? How would schools regulate praying?

What about those religions that subscribe to differing styles of prayer? Not all religions can thank God and hail Mary silently in their heads. Some need to perform their prayer at certain times of the day and use different positions and religious "tools." What about the atheists and agnostics who choose to not worship? Can students and teachers remain not tempted to persuade impressionable minds or ridicule religious choices? Will every religion be respected and every style accepted?

The diversification of this country presents proponents of prayer in school a difficult task. Can they create an event in a way honoring the freedom and toleration of religion that the United States holds dear? As students become older and more understanding of these rights, can they be expected to conform, not oppose, causing disruptions in theirs' and others' education.

Prayer in public schools will be hard pressed to be passed by Congress with the support of the citizens of the United States. The installation of prayer in schools would topple the institutions Americans have upheld for over two hundred years which also have made our nation progressive and unique.



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Classifieds

The Alma College Conference Office is now accepting applications for the position of Highland Festival Housing Coordinator. Responsibilities include: reserving rooms, processing payments, supervising a staff of students, and coordinating guest registration during Highland Festival weekend. Good organizational and communication skills are essential. First or second year students are preferred, with the expectation of handling responsibilities for more than one Festival. Interested students may apply at the Personnel and Conference Office, Reid-Knox building by January 30, 1998. Position will begin in mid-February.

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Staff Editorial

Learning requires better evaluation

Success at Alma college is often measured by grades: a 4.0 is supposedly indicative of academic excellence, and lower letters are lesser so. It is unfortunate that a great deal of weight is placed upon these symbolic letters of the alphabet, but they are a strong determining aspect of our success. We have become dependent upon our professors to evaluate our progress and work by a grade. Our future employers and academic institutions will most likely look upon our transcript to see how well we did as measured by our grades.

Academic institutions are designed to promote learning. How much we learn cannot be measured in terms of grades, but by our growth in learning. Can you ask the right questions? Have you learned to accept criticism? Are we able to socialize and converse with our future employers? These are only a few aspects of our learning, but they help illustrate true collegiate success more than grades do.

However, we must come to understand that the issuance of a letter grade by our respective professors somewhat determines our future path. Whether graduate school or employment follows, the grades you receive influence and help direct this path. Pursuing this goal requires the proper education as well. Grades are a good evaluation, but there is a need for something stronger.

This is the conflict. There needs to be a different emphasis placed

upon learning and how our professors evaluate our progress. Granted, the syllabi they hand out at the beginning of each term helps to outline their evaluation, but we cannot watch professors grade our finals when we just went home for break.

There is so much more learning from our classes. One of the most important factors in learning is evaluation; however, we are short-changed by this evaluation because of certain practices involved.

We learn a great deal by researching papers, studying for tests and discussing issues in class. In addition, the pinnacle of learning comes when we are able to handle constructive criticism from our mentors and we can see where we may have lacked in learning.

Grading may be designed to accomplish this, but we cannot get the necessary feedback from our professors when it comes to its final evaluation. Grades are an easy and excessively abstract way out for professors to evaluate us. If we are to really get our money's worth in tuition, we all should have an evaluation session with our professors upon completion of each course.

This session with our professors is probably out of the question for time reasons, but the fact remains that this is the better method of evaluation. We are not able to finalize any type of learning in any course because we are not given the correct and proper evaluation from our professors. Grades are important, but a stronger evaluation needs to be made.

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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 as layout space allows and priority will be given to letters under 250 words. Submission of a letter does not guarantee its publication. 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.

Phone tax should be unconstitutional

By Shannon Casey
Staff Reporter

According to the Constitution of the United States, Congress has the sole authority to lay and collect taxes from the American people. The founders added this clause for a reason: to hold elected officials accountable for their actions.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) violates this clause by trying to add a tax on phone bills without the consent of Congress. The citizens of the United States have a right to know what taxes have been levied.

The reason the founders did not want government bureaucracies to have the power to tax is because these bureaucracies are out of reach of the taxpayers.

Taxpayers cannot fire bureaucrats or hold them accountable in any way.

Members of Congress, on the other hand, serve at the will of their respective constituents. If Congresspeople are wasting their constituents' tax dollars on government programs that benefit an elite few, they can lose their office during the next election. All of the campaign money in the world is useless if your constituents are unhappy with your record.

Congress gave some of their power away because of the vague language in the 1996 Telecommunications Act. The FCC now has the power to add taxes to your phone bill. Remember that an unelected board of directors governs the FCC. Citizens cannot hold this board of directors ac-

countable in any way.

The new tax will pay for phone subsidies in rural areas. Is it the obligation of Michigan taxpayers to pay for phone service for people who decide to move into the Alaskan wilderness?

It will also pay for wiring grade-school classrooms to the Internet. Although the Internet is a great tool, the FCC should not be requiring people to subsidize its use in classrooms where the teachers fail to teach third graders the basics of reading.

Besides, education should be left to the states as the founders intended. This transfer of power would not only get rid of a huge bureaucracy, but also allow for more money for classrooms instead of some wasteful bureau-

cratic budget.

This universal service program will be expanded to \$2.2 billion annually starting in 1998. Who is going to stop it from expanding every year? If the bureaucrats cannot be held accountable for spending our tax dollars, what incentive will they have to stop increasing taxes? They will no doubt follow the golden rule of government programs: to milk as much money out of the system as possible.

This familiar situation sounds like taxation without representation, a battle cry that sparked the Boston Tea Party. The power to tax needs to be given back to Congress, as the founders intended and as the Constitution explicitly states.

Sports Uncovered by Tim Caister

U of M and Nebraska both deserve a share

Off the top of my head...

Unfortunately, the biggest sports story in the state of Michigan since the Red Wings won the Stanley Cup happened while we were home for break. The national championship shared by the Michigan Wolverines, no matter how old you may think it is now, is still a story worthwhile for this column.

They both deserve it.

The split decision between the AP sports writers' poll and the ESPN/USA TODAY Coaches' poll was somewhat justified. For us placed in this state, it is very easy to be swayed toward Michigan and its claim to a unanimous national championship; however, we have two teams which went undefeated. If we were from Nebraska, I would strongly assume that we could care less about what team the AP poll has as national champion—

Michigan.

Both football teams did what they were asked to do. Neither team has a blemish on their record. Some may argue that Nebraska essentially did lose to Missouri, but they did put that one in the win column.

Another aspect of this argument is the way both teams won their bowl games. The Rose Bowl came down to the last drive by Washington State, but the Orange Bowl was won in the third quarter. Michigan will most likely never become that type of team. They win with a ball control running game and seldom get a chance to score over forty points.

Nebraska has a running game geared towards scoring and has the opportunity to score over forty points. This is an apples to oranges argument. Either way, they both won their bowl game.

Finally, Michigan was ranked number one in both polls going into the bowl games. Should they

have stayed that way? (I hate to say this) No. Michigan beat the number eight/seven team in the country, whereas the Cornhuskers beat the number three team. This is where the bowl alliance punished the Wolverines. Michigan did not face the caliber of an opponent that Nebraska did. Yes, maybe Tennessee was overrated, but that is the problem with the polls and no matter what is said, the polls do have the final say in the national championship.

Both teams did what they were asked to do. Think of it this way. If you were from the state of Maine and you did not know the difference between a Wolverine and a Cornhusker, would you give them both a piece of the prize? The best compromise is a split title. Do not punish the players on either team for winning out their schedule.

The right choice

Last week Charles Woodson (do I need to tell you who he is?)

announced he would make himself eligible for the NFL draft. Good for him. He is arguably the best all-around player in college football, why not go for the money while his stock is extremely high? Some may argue that he just should stay in school for the team and his education, but are not those same people as selfish for the team as Woodson is about the NFL money?

To help illustrate, Peyton Manning's decision last year to remain at Tennessee was a huge mistake. His stock at the end of last year was higher than it is now. He probably could have made more money last year. For those of you who are selfish about the Wolverines' chances for next year without Woodson - they are only losing two players on defense. The number one defense from this past year will be even better next year.