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The Almanian

April 14, 1998

Serving Alma College since 1907

Issue 24

News Briefs

World News

Botha's Trial to Begin in S. Africa

The trial of P.W. Botha, the last hard-line apartheid president, begins Tuesday in a case symbolic of lingering racial division in South Africa. Botha has pleaded innocent to contempt charges for ignoring a subpoena to testify before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which is investigating human rights atrocities committed by all sides during the apartheid era. Botha says the commission is carrying on a witch-hunt against whites.

American Priest Must Leave Cuba

The only American priest living in Cuba said today that the Communist Party has ordered him to leave his provincial parish and eventually Cuba. Father Patrick Sullivan, who has been in Cuba since 1994, said the party did not explain why he had to leave.

Tobacco Industry Goes on Offensive

Tobacco industry leaders Sunday stressed that they would unleash their huge lobbying power to stop congressional tobacco legislation and would go to court to challenge certain provisions. Clinton administration officials and members of Congress said they are confident they will pass the tough anti-tobacco measures by the end of this year. Major tobacco companies last week announced they would not go along with tobacco legislation being debated in Congress.

Campus Happenings

Exam treats will be offered in Hamilton Commons tonight and tomorrow night from 9:30 until 10:30 p.m.

Residence Halls will be closing for break at 5 p.m. on Saturday and re-opening Saturday, April 25 at noon. Spring Term classes will begin on Sunday, April 26.

Senior Party will be held on Friday night from 9 p.m. until midnight at Shifter's in the Comfort Inn. Tickets are available from Deb Moon in the Student Affairs Office. Each senior will receive two tickets.

Baccalaureate service will be held on Sunday at 10 a.m. in the chapel. **Commencement** will follow in Cappaert Gymnasium at 2 p.m.

All **library materials** must be returned by Friday.

Model U.N. team repeats as Outstanding Delegation

By Missy Crossnoe
News Editor

Alma College's Model United Nations team returned from the world's largest Model U.N. competition on Saturday, having received the title of Outstanding Delegation for the second consecutive year.

"This win is a tribute both to the experience of our returning members and the energy, enthusiasm and raw talent of our first-year members," said senior Brandon Miller. The team has won the New York competition three of the last four years.

Twenty-two students, along with Sandy Hulme, associate professor of political science, comprise Alma's team. Even December graduate Beth Cain joined the team from Washington, D.C. to compete as a delegate.

The team joined 2,300 college students from 194 schools to represent 185 countries at the conference. Georgetown University, West Point Academy and Brigham Young University are just a few examples of the competition Alma's team faced.

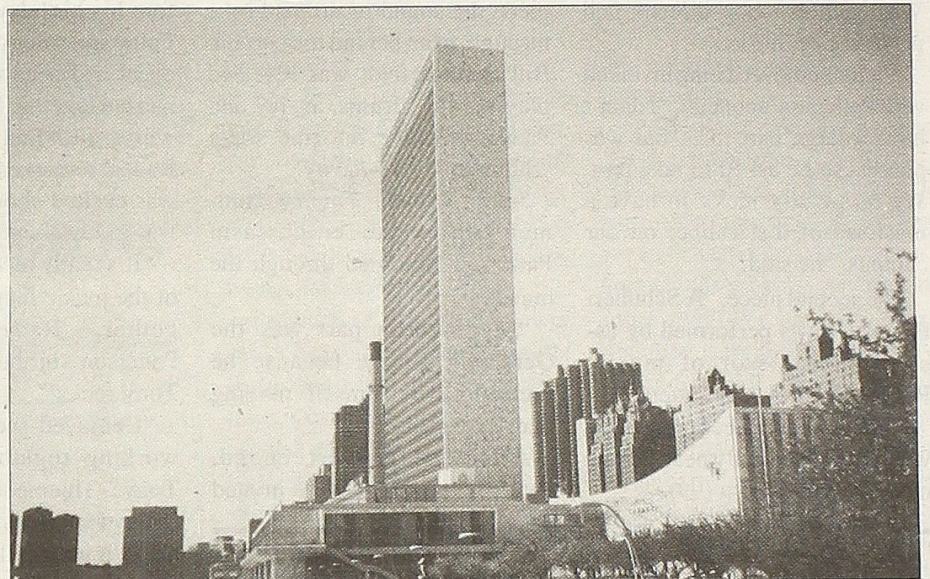
Each year, the focus of the team is to successfully portray the interests of the country they represent; this year's country was the African nation of Namibia.

For the entire term students worked with partners on committees addressing topics that are of concern to their country. Their goal is to find a solution to these problems that the whole world will support. They travel to the conference to discuss and debate with other countries and finally write resolutions representative of Namibia's position.

According to Miller, the scoring of the conference is based upon each team's diplomatic abilities, how they represent their country, if they are able to reach consensus on their resolutions and their creativity with new ideas.

Model U.N. members agree on why Alma has continued to dominate the international conference.

"We have a lot more knowledge and are better prepared than the other delegations," said sophomore Amy Fraley. "We just know how to play; it's more than just knowing your stuff," she added.



The United Nations building was the venue for the closing ceremony of the 1998 National Model United Nations Conference. During the ceremony, Alma's team was named Outstanding Delegation. Photo courtesy of David Vink (00).

Junior Julie Gerken said, "Alma always does better than the other colleges because we have researched our topics for the entire semester. When we get there, there are no surprises. We know what to expect."

She also noted that the mid-semester conference the team attends in St. Louis, Mo. helps them gain experience and better prepare for New York.

Although the Model U.N. members were focused on winning, they did have some time to catch the attractions of New York City.

Gerken said, "A few of us were able to be a part of the audience for *MTV Live*, we saw the Goo-Goo Dolls perform and an interview with Mark Wahlberg."

Team members were also able to squeeze in other attractions, such as the Empire State Building, Central Park and Times Square.

President and Joneita Stone even flew to New York to observe team members in action. They celebrated the team's success with a night out at an authentic Italian restaurant in Little Italy.

"I have been listening for years to Sandy Hulme and students describe the Model U.N. experience. It was a real thrill to be there and actually see the Alma students obviously leading the conference," said Stone.

Model U.N. team members

Justin Gustafson (97)
Brandon Miller (97)
Karen Barto (98)
Tom Glegola (98)
Jennifer Corry (98)
Bethany Cain (98)
Daniel Scripps (98)
Eric Reed (98)
Peter Muccio (99)
Julie Gerken (99)
David Vink (00)
Amy Fraley (00)
Martha Marsh (00)
Andrew Tallman (00)
Willie Doyle (00)
Katie Zopf (00)
Stacy Turschak (01)
Jaena Wisniewski (01)
Sara Bickler (01)
Amy Taylor (01)
John Meliska (01)
Jen Gibson (01)

OΔK Leader of the Week

Each week, Omicron Delta Kappa (OΔK), the national leadership honorary, selects one member of the Alma College community who exemplifies outstanding qualities of leadership for the campus.

This week, OΔK has chosen to honor junior Paul Chittick.

Chittick is very active in the realm of Greek life, acting as current president of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fratern-

ity and has recently been elected as next year's Interfraternity council president.

He has also served his group as vice president, secretary, rush chairman, and special events chairman. On campus he has been a disc jockey for WQAC, is a new member of Beta Beta Beta biology honor society and has been involved in intramural sports. In addition, he volunteered at the hospital last year. Of his contribution, Chittick says he feels his greatest contribu-

tion has been for Alma's Greek system. "I have helped make the Greek system something that the whole campus can enjoy and admire. We have a bad reputation and I do not think that it is warranted," he said.

In order to better serve this ideal, for his varied involvement in the Greek system, OΔK is proud to honor Chittick as this week's OΔK leader of the week.

Patterson celebrates birthday with concert

By Rhonda Smith
Staff Reporter

On Thursday Tony Patterson, part-time professor of music, celebrated his birthday with the Alma College community. The celebration took the form of a concert with performances by Patterson and other music faculty.

The concert opened with a piece written by Patterson and sung by Will Nichols, choir director and professor of music.

Nichols enjoyed being involved with Patterson's concert. "I didn't have a large part in it, but was pleased to be asked to take part. We're awfully lucky to have a musician of that caliber on our campus," he said.

The second piece, "A Schubert Fantasy," was performed by associate professor of music, Raymond Riley and Patterson.

"The Schubert piece performed with Riley was really neat," commented Jenn Brown (99).

Then Brahms's "Clarinet Trio" was performed by Kris Belisle, clarinet instructor, on clarinet, Carl Donakowski, on cello and Patterson on Piano. Lastly, Patterson performed Liszt's "Devil's Waltz."

After a short break, Patterson returned to the stage to favor the large audience with an encore. He began Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" and at a pause in the piece the sound of drums broke through from behind the curtain. Bill Sommerfeldt was revealed playing the drums as he and Patterson broke into the song, "Stompin' at the Savoy."

Junior Donna Thieme commented on the enthusiasm Patterson exhibited through the music.

"My favorite part was the Gershwin encore because he seemed to be himself playing that," she said.

After the concert ended, Patterson's friends were invited

to Sommerfeldt's house for a sort of reception.

Nichols commented that he liked hearing "Tony play with all of his friends and making that wonderful music."

Patterson began at Alma College as piano accompanist to the choir and glee clubs, dance company and various vocal and instrumental students during the 1995-1996 academic year. Before his birthday concert began, Patterson mentioned that this event had been the first time he had put together his own program while at Alma. Junior Jamie Raden remarked that Patterson was excited about the event and was giddy about it.

"It's really nice to see so many of the music faculty perform together," Raden said about Patterson's birthday concert, "and Tony rocks!"

"I enjoyed seeing the faculty working together along with Tony," Thieme added.

Brown enjoyed the concert, also. "It was really good and he is a really good pianist. He is inspiring," she said.

Pass the brats!



Sophomore Brandon Klumpp joins the baseball team in their tailgate party held between games on Saturday. The Scots faced the Olivet Comets, winning two games out of three for the day. Photo by Derek Warner.

— Movie Review by Charlotte Grant —

City of Angels overcomes predictability

City of Angels is for the incurably romantic. It is the story of an angel, played by Nicholas Cage (*Leaving Las Vegas*, *Face Off*), who falls for a cardiac surgeon, played by Meg Ryan (*Courage Under Fire*, *Addicted to Love*), when he comes to take one of her patients to heaven.

Cage is touched by the ferocity with which Ryan fights to save her patient's life. He follows her around invisibly for awhile and finally appears to her, never letting on that he is anything but human. Naturally, the two fall in love.

Despite the predictability of their romance, though, the story never becomes trite. Their affair is passionate and fresh. And if the movie's ending is also slightly predictable, it can be forgiven for the sheer emotion it evokes.

The angel image also avoids becoming trite. There are no wings or halos in this film. Instead, all the angels—and there are a lot of them—wear entirely black. They live in the public library and enjoy hanging out on top of tall buildings.

Only one love scene exists in *City of Angels*, and it is a prime example of how to convey love and passion without gratuitous nudity.

Both Cage and Ryan performed excellently in this film. Cage proves, as he did in *Leaving Las Vegas*, that he is not just an action hero. He seemed to throw himself completely into the role, and he did it well.

Ryan was his equal in this movie. She managed the impressive feat of being sad but not whiny, and distraught but not depressing.

Also, there were quite a few scenes when Cage was in the room but she had to pretend she couldn't see him. Ryan handled these beautifully, managing to convey the impression that only her subconscious was aware of him.

Giving a surprisingly touching performance in *City of Angels* was Dennis Franz (*NYPD Blue*), as a former angel who has become human, and is now one of Ryan's patients. He befriends Cage, acting as almost a mentor. Franz seems to take this opportunity to prove that he can convincingly act out more emotions than just anger.

The cinematography of this film was extraordinary. Many of the shots were visually stunning. A scene of all the angels gathering on a beach at sunrise is practically begging to become a poster.

The angels' penchant for heights also gave several opportunities for captivating images.

While *City of Angels* is primarily a romance, it does not avoid serious issues. In a way it is a spiritual film that explores unanswered questions about death, dying, immortality and God.

This is the aspect of the movie that opens it up for a wider audience. While it is a film romantics will love, it is not only for romantics. *City of Angels* is easily one of the best films of 1998.

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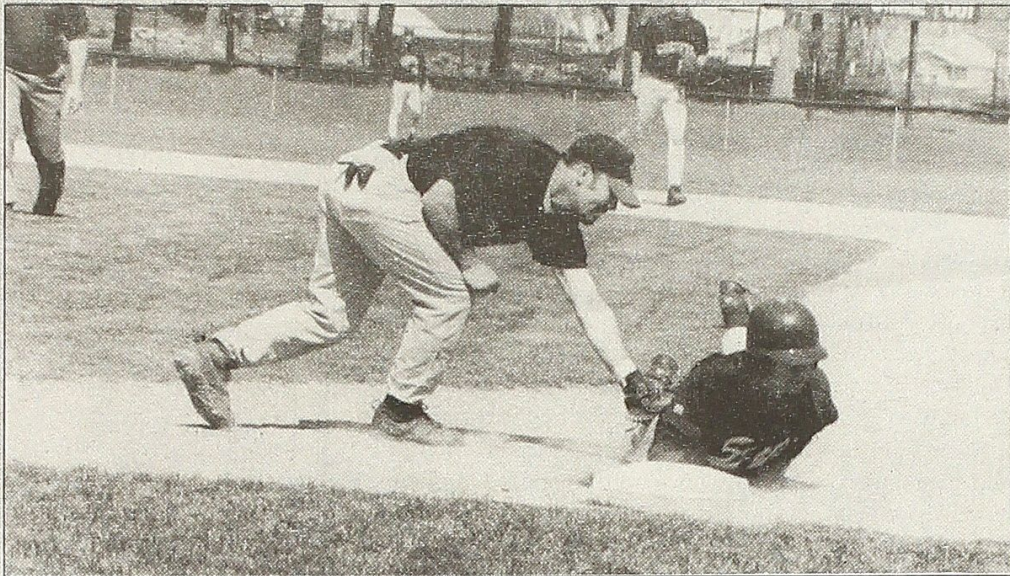
EDS

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SPORTS

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Safe at first!



An Alma baseball player slides into first base. Photo by Derek Warner.

Softball team leads MIAA with 8-0 record

By Joey Mead
Staff Reporter

Last week the Alma College softball team continued their winning streak with two more victories. The Scots competed against Defiance Friday and St. Mary's on Saturday.

The Scots first game against Defiance was a 8-0 mercy game, which means the Scots had 8 runs after 5 innings. In the second game it took 8 innings before Alma scored to win the game 2-0. The Scots had no errors.

Sophomore Brandee Brower said, "The first game was pretty easy, scoring 7 runs in the first inning, but then we figured the second game would be easy as well, but it wasn't. We really should have been more focused going into the second game rather than waiting until the eighth inning to win it."

Junior Heather Bruder said, "Our defense was awesome both games. We focus a lot on defense because with offense you can't control a whole lot. I think that's what has won ball games for us."

On Saturday against St. Mary's again the Scots played two phenomenal games that put one more

check on the victory board. The first game they won 10-2, and in the second game they won 6-1.

Sophomore Becky Pierce pitched a great first game, allowing one walk and two hits. Honorable mention goes out to first-year student Danielle Pease for knocking one over the fence for a three run hit.

Sophomore Jackie Cowan said, "In the second game [St. Mary's] scored first and they stayed on top for a couple innings, and then we went ahead 2-1. After that we kept chipping away and scoring more runs. We had two errors, and they were just bad hops."

Bruder said, "It was kind of disappointing because this team was the first to score on us in our league. By no means was it terrible but it was just kind of a let down that we let the first MIAA team score on us."

The Scots are now on a 14-game winning streak. They have not lost a game since they returned from Florida for Winter Term break.

Pierce said, "It doesn't surprise me that we are doing so well. We get along; our team is really close, and we have so much talent I don't think it surprises anyone that we are doing well. Everyday

we come to play each game, we have our long term goal, but we are just looking at everyday right now and I think that is the key to what is helping us along."

The Scots are number one in the MIAA with an outstanding record of 8-0. Their overall record is 20-2.

One of the MIAA Position Players of the Week was sophomore Brandee Brower and Pierce was one of the MIAA Pitchers of the Week.

"We've all worked really hard. We push each other in practice everyday, and we go out there for two hours a day even with exams and all the stuff we have to do," Cowan said.

Bruder said, "It's awesome feeling being 8-0. Not only are we playing well, I believe we'll keep on playing well because all of us have the love and desire to keep on winning."

The game the Scots were suppose to have against Hope last Wednesday has been rescheduled to Monday April 20 at Alma. The game starts at 3:30 p.m. Hope College is 6-0 and in second place in the league.

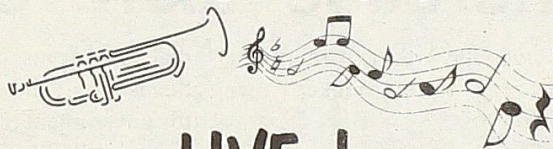
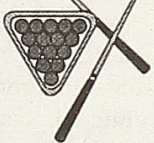
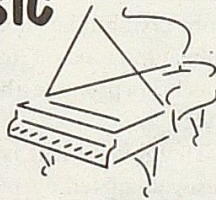
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Staff Editorial

Intramural sports lack organization

The editorial board would like to address a program which seems to lack organization and productivity. Intramural athletics at Alma College currently fail to meet the needs of the student body.

College athletics provide a great way for students to compete, condition or just get involved in campus life. However, not every student is able to participate in athletics at the varsity level. Intramurals are designed to allow non-varsity students the opportunity to participate.

With the limited space provided by Alma College athletic facilities, especially the gymnasium, intramural athletics offer students the chance to become involved through sports. Without intramurals, access to the college's sole major gymnasium is difficult to come by in the winter months, as it is usually occupied by varsity sports teams.

A well-run and organized intramural program offers an efficient way for an optimum number of non-varsity athletes to use this facility. For example, the intramural basketball season is the only time when most students are able to use the Cappaert Gymnasium.

Those students wishing to participate in intramural athletics are asked to pay a registration fee of \$15 per team. This fee, which pays for referees and equipment, is paid under the provision that games will be played and participation is guaranteed. However,

this does not always occur.

In the fall intramural football traditionally suffers from deficient management in that notification is not always given to team captains about upcoming games. This results in many teams actually forfeiting games that they do not even know are scheduled.

This same scenario played out during the intramural basketball season. Especially during the playoffs, teams arrived at the gym only to find out that they had already lost games by forfeit—again, games that they did not know were scheduled.

This lack of organization denies intramural participants the opportunity to play—an opportunity paid for by the registration fee. Teams paid their fees with the understanding that their \$15 would guarantee court time and a well-organized program; however, poor management denies them both.

Currently the intramural program is directed by both students and faculty. While this arrangement provides a great opportunity for student input, it is deficient. Perhaps future intramural programs would be more successful if the faculty coordinators took a more active supervisory role in both planning and directing the seasons.

The editorial board hopes that future intramural athletic programs are handled properly and successfully. Future students seeking to participate deserve this right.

Tobacco deal aims to increase tax revenue

By Shannon Casey
Staff Reporter

President Clinton and Congress vowed to get tough on the tobacco industry after their abrupt withdrawal from Washington's efforts to pass anti-smoking legislation. While they claim to care about teenage smoking, the president and Congress are only interested in more tax money.

The president's most recent budget depends on billions of tax dollars to pay for all of his new social programs. Congress signed on to this budget deal seeing the potential pot of gold.

The tobacco industry is nothing more than a scapegoat for a massive tax increase. The tax in-

creases in the McCain Senate bill would raise the price of cigarettes by about \$1.21 a pack by 2003.

The nation's 45 million smokers will absorb the tax increase. These smokers are generally among the poor and middle class. This regressive tax will hurt the exact people the president is claiming to care about.

Patrick Fleenor of the nonpartisan Tax Foundation estimates that about 34 percent of this new tax would fall on those earning less than \$15,000 per year. In the name of saving kids from cigarettes, politicians are soaking their parents with an unreasonable tax hike, making it harder for parents to purchase food and clothes for their families.

Does the president think that this tax is for the smoker's own good?

The Constitution does not provide a clause allowing the president to save people from themselves. If the president sets this precedent, what will stop him from taxing other items such as unhealthy food or other things that do not promote a healthy lifestyle?

The government is not in the business of telling people what they should and should not do in their personal lives. The 1994 Republican Contract with America was designed in part to get the government off the backs of ordinary Americans.

Smoking tobacco is a choice

that Americans can make for themselves. They do not need the government to tell them that it is unhealthy and they certainly do not need the government imposing taxes just to deter its use.

If politicians were interested in curbing teenage smoking, they would design legislation aimed at teenagers, not penalties for the tobacco industry.

Nobody wants to promote smoking to children, but the president is using that excuse to tap the tobacco industries for a few billion dollars.

The tobacco deal is designed to do more than preventing teenage smoking; it is about finding a new avenue to redistribute wealth.

Letter to the Editors

Letters to the Editors reflect the views of those who author them. These views in no way reflect those of *The Almanian* staff or the entire Alma College community

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To the Editors:

Coach Gibson made the announcement on Friday, March 27, that a new coach was hired for an assistant football position, and this new coach was also offered the head coaching position for the men's track team.

It is our understanding that this creation of the men's head coaching position was done behind Gibson's back, and he was not allowed proper input.

To us, it seems as though the athletic department was looking for a new football coach and because all coaches have many assignments, the track coaching position was given so Alma could offer the new coach more money and more incentive to take the job.

The new coach does have track coaching experience, but if the goal really is to build the track program, it is obvious to us that an assistant coaching position would be more beneficial.

We have never seen a coach as dedicated as Coach Gibson. At practice he runs with each group, middle and long distance, to make sure that everyone is running the right pace.

It is hard for us to see him work so hard and not get recognized or treated fairly. Then like icing on the cake, he loses the head coaching position of the men's track team without proper notification or appropriate discussion of his preference.

As a team, we are seeking an explanation to this issue. We hope this is a misunderstanding on our part, but if Gibson was avoided during this adjustment of positions, he should now be allowed to give his opinion and positions should be readjusted, if necessary.

The bottom line is that we would like to see Coach Gibson

receive more respect and appreciation for his hard work through proper compensation, appreciation and consideration when making decisions. If any wrong was

committed, we would like to see it made right.

Sincerely,
Members of the Alma College Track Team

Classifieds

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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.