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The Almanian

October 13, 1998

Serving Alma College since 1907

Issue 5

News Briefs

National Briefs

Drive-up flu shot program is a smash
ATLANTA — For the first time, last Saturday, Atlanta motorists were able to roll up their sleeves and place their order for one free flu shot. The drive-through flu shots drew hundreds of people seeking to get a jump on the flu season.

U.S. broadens meat and poultry recall

WASHINGTON — The Agriculture Department extended a recall which involved about 2 million pounds of poultry and meat. The meat was to be used in prisons, hospitals, schools, including some in Michigan. The recall was called because a new testing method continually showed salmonella contamination at a Georgia processing plant. The recall took effect September 28.

Panel drops charges against Gingrich

WASHINGTON — The House ethics committee dropped the three ethics charges against Speaker Newt Gingrich. The charges were dropped despite the fact that Gingrich repeatedly violated one rule, he used a political consultant to develop the Republican legislative agenda. The committee took no further action because Gingrich had no other violations.

World Briefs

Insecticides kill hundreds in Vietnam
HANOI, Vietnam — Food poisoning killed 156 Vietnamese in the first six months of the year. The state-run Labor newspaper said there is danger of an epidemic because of the great amounts of insecticides used by farmers. In 1997, there were 292 fatalities.

North Korea braces for more famine

BELJING — The harvest in famine-stricken North Korea will not be any better in 1998, and in fact, could be worse, a senior UN aid official stated. North Korea needs about 5 million tons of grain to feed its 23 million people, however last year it managed only to produce about 2.8 million tons.

Arafat asks world to pressure Israel
OSLO, Norway — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat urged the international community to increase pressure on Israel to abide by the peace pact reached five years ago. The Detroit News reported that "Arafat said the 1993 Oslo Agreement wasn't just bilateral, noting the United States, Russia, and European countries also signed it."

Spirit Stone resurrected from grave

By DAVID MICHAEL HEYD
Freelance Writer

Look out Alma College, spirit is once again rearing its head and has come in the form of a stone. No, not our beloved president, but a generation old tradition: the Spirit Stone.

Alma College's Spirit Stone was placed on campus by the first-year class of 1985. It was both a symbol of and a catalyst to school spirit. The stone was painted by campus organizations to attract attention to events or to make a statement about themselves.

By the spring of 1985 the Spirit Stone was being abused. Vandals would dump paint over it to cover up what the last group had done. The same class which brought the stone to life also sealed its tomb. In the spring of 1985, fifteen graduating seniors moved the stone and buried it. Their prank included leaving a stick cross as a grave-marker. With almost no traces as to its location, the Spirit Stone remained entombed.

As of early morning October 9, 1998, the Spirit Stone was no longer lost. Excavation began at 11:30 p.m. Oct. 8, 1998 by junior class President Steve Crider, Vice-President Ryan Jambo, Treasurer John Chasnis and juniors Kevin Stanley, Scott Hill, Kevin Main, Dave Jordan and Matt Kunkle. Class of 2001 President Ryan Gall made an appearance. Despite difficulty in shoveling through winter-hardening ground and a one shovel casualty, manual digging ceased at approximately 2:00 a.m. Oct. 9, 1998, the task completed. Removal of the Spirit Stone was planned



Michael Stoneback (00) spray paints the Alma Spirit Rock that was recently unburied by members of the class of 2000. Photo by Steve Nadeau.

to take place with 2x4's and rope, but the combined efforts of all persons present resulted in wiggling, not removal. Alma College Physical Plant workers were contacted and a back-hoe (a bulldozer with a bucket scoop in the back) was used. Despite the minor breaking of the back-hoe the Spirit Stone was above ground for the first time in thirteen years at approximately 8:00 a.m. Oct. 9, 1998.

The revival of this tradition officially began with Alma College Homecoming weekend 1998. Post-removal painting took approximately one hour. Less than a day later a campus organization took advantage of the resurrected rock and poured purple paint over the Homecoming arrangement. It was discovered by Crider and early Saturday morning of Homecoming weekend, hours after the purple paint

was poured, a new design was placed on the Spirit Stone. "Welcome back Alumni" was among the theme statements.

"Alma has really good sports teams and only about the same two-hundred students ever give support," said Crider, "The Spirit Stone should help not only sports but also the fine arts. It [the Spirit Stone] is for everybody."

Chasnis said, "... because the Spirit Stone is something everyone can do, we [the excavators] hope to rejuvenate the excitement for Alma."

"Or at least that's the plan," said Stanley. The Spirit Stone was, and is, a symbol of Alma College activity, pride, and spirit. This enormous rock is now available for use by all students and can be viewed sitting by the walkway between Clack and Dow.

Board of trustees meeting successful

By LONNA LUTZE
Staff Reporter

The Board of Trustees, the legal body for the college, had a retreat October 1-3 at the Boyne Highlands Resort Center. Areas of praise and concern for the college were addressed at the meeting and extensive discussions were held. Overall, views of the board members were that the student voice was heard and decisions were made for the benefit of the student body.

The board addressed plans for college building developments and approved a library proposal to use about \$4 million to improve the library holdings. President Alan Stone stated that the library is up to par with the technology it has, but it needs more money to put in its book budget in order to increase the number of books, CD-ROMs and other information sources.

The library initiative caused the Intramural building to be put on hold for about another year. Stone stated that he thinks both are important to the campus. The IM building is important in both attracting

and retaining students, but the library improvements are more critical to the students who are already here.

Board members had a lengthy discussion about the issue, but in the end approved it with a unanimous vote.

The Enrollment and Student Affairs report was given by Student Congress President Amanda Schafer (99). In it she addressed what she said were the six major student concerns about the running of the college.

The first three concerns Schafer addressed dealt with the amount of faculty turnover during the summer. Students were concerned about the reasons the college lost so many staff. They were speculating about tensions between faculty and administration and had concerns about faculty/departamental politics and the hiring/firing process.

The next two student concerns Schafer presented to the Board dealt with diversity on Alma's campus. She stated, "Students feel as if diversity is being forced before they even have a chance to embrace it. All

the while, there is confusion about the loss of 'diverse' staff [loss of women faculty] on campus committed to quality and evolution."

The first part of this statement focused on what Schafer called the backlash from both minority and majority students in response to Stone's opening convocation speech. She said that students felt that his speech was singling out minority students and students were embarrassed that Stone felt the need to speak to them in that way.

This issue is also expressed in the statement Schafer said to the Board, "Diversity is going to happen because my roommate or my lab partner is a minority student and we get to know each other as friends, not because the college president told us we needed to be friends."

Stone, however, stated that he was not trying to give this impression, rather, Alma's Diversity Enhancement Team had asked him to state the college's position on diversity.

The Diversity Enhancement Team is a
Continued on page 2...

Important opportunities available at job fairs

By AMY FRALEY
News Editor

A big concern for many new graduates and recent alumni is finding a job. Even in a strong economy, graduates seeking employment often underestimate the planning and perseverance the process takes. More than ever, companies need reliable and effective ways to recruit qualified candidates. One such way is through job search events or jobs fairs.

Job fairs offer opportunities for students to meet with employers

looking to fill entry-level positions. They also provide graduates with the chance to practice their interviewing skills and obtain information about possible careers. Graduates are given the chance to discover new opportunities, investigate careers, and network with professionals, as well as broaden their outlook.

Martha Schaefer (99) said that she thinks job fairs are "great, especially for students who are actively seeking a job. Being a senior I can appreciate these fairs because they are an excellent way for us to explore the job world."

Echoing Schaefer's comments, Nick Vartanian (01) said he believes that "jobs fairs are not only an excellent way for students to search for jobs in their field, but they also give seniors and graduates the chance to make important connections."

The Michigan Collegiate Job Fair (MCJF), the state's largest and longest-running job search event, will be held November 13, 1998 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at Burton Manor in Livonia, Michigan.

More than 150 employers and up to 1,200 college seniors and

graduates from throughout Michigan and surrounding states are expected to attend the 10th annual fair. The MCJF is cosponsored by Wayne State and Eastern Michigan Universities and supported by more than 70 other two and four year institutions.

To register for the fair in advance students can send their resume and a \$10 check to MCJF at University and Counseling and Placement Services, 1001 Faculty Administration Building, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI 48202-3622. The deadline is Friday November 6, same day

registration will be \$20.

Further information can be obtained by calling Nannette McCleary at (313) 577-9947, or Ken Meyer of EMU at (313) 487-0400. Additional information is available online at <http://www.sa.wayne.edu>.

Carolyn Schneider, associate dean of student development said that "Alma College has about 15 to 25 students participate in the MCJF every year." She also stated that "job fairs are a beneficial opportunity for students to get contact with employers who will not come to small schools."

TRUSTEES (cont. from p. 1)

team made up of faculty and staff that has existed for the last ten years. This team proposes various ways to enhance diversity through such things as the college's hiring practices and events which are held.

The final student concern Schaefer addressed was that "students feel their voice is not heard and are afraid to challenge the system to change."

Stone stated that the students' ability to voice their opinion has long been a concern for students, but that there are various ways students can voice their opinions about campus issues. Stone said that the student voice was heard at board meetings and always has been. "Student representatives have made student needs known to the board and the board responds," he said.

Alma's desire to hear student ideas is reflected in the fact that it is the only college in the country that gives the student members voting privileges.

Schafer has asked Stone to speak to student congress on November 2 on any or all of these issues. Stone said he would also be happy to talk with students beforehand about these concerns.

Schafer stated she recommends that students tell the associate trustees about college needs. "I really feel like the board of Trustees wanted to hear what the students had to say and I hope that students continue to express their concerns to me so that I can continue to tell them."

Joseph Walser, religious studies chair also stated that the board was effective in hearing student concerns and opinions. He said, "It was a board meeting in which we had to make some very difficult choices from bylaws to development campaign priorities. The good thing was that after much discussion and consideration the board, including faculty and student members, was strongly together on its decisions."

Alma schools bond proposal defeated

By TONYA SCHAFER
Staff Reporter

A record number of Alma citizens made their way to the polls on Tuesday, September 29 to vote down a bond proposal offered by Alma Public Schools. The measure, which would have added 8.4 mills to the township's taxes, was defeated by a margin of over 2 to 1.

The proposal consisted of plans to build a new middle school on the north side of the high school; this structure would have replaced the current aging building located downtown. Plans were also included for the renovation of the elementary and high schools, including the addition of technology labs and classrooms. The current structures have undergone only minor remodeling since their construction in 1971. The price tag for these improvements was an estimated \$45.17 million.

Voting was held at the Alma

Community Center. Although support for the proposal was evident in the form of orange and black signs fixed in advocate's yards, the final results revealed a different viewpoint. Of the 3,174 votes cast, 955 (or thirty percent)

Dodge, an Administrative Assistant at Alma Public Schools, was "surprised that the margin was so wide."

Supporters had hailed the measure as a means of insuring the growth of the community and attracting newcomers. However, an opposing faction expressed concern over the large sum of money that was being requested.

Dr. Jonieta Stone, a member of the Alma Support Committee, an organization that worked for the passing of the bond issue, believes that this is just one of a variety of reasons the proposal did not pass. Now, according to Stone, "the school board needs to really listen to the citizens' concerns and include those in the next planning."

Neither Stone nor Dodge could predict what plans will next be in store for the proposal. A regularly-scheduled school board meeting was held on Monday, October 12 and talks over the issue began then.

"The school board needs to really listen to the citizens' concerns and include those in the next planning."

-Dr. Jonieta Stone

were in support of the bond issue; the remaining 2,219 votes were opposed to the measure.

Although aware of resistance to the bond proposal, some members of the school community did not expect the final result. Sue

German Marshall speaks on campus

By JOHN MELISKA
Freelance Writer

Ivan Miklos, 1998 German Marshall Fellow, visited Alma College from Monday, October 6 through Sunday, October 13. Miklos was a Slovak official who is president of the Center for Economic and Social Analysis (M.E.S.A. 10), which is a think tank in Slovakia studying economics and public policy.

The work of M.E.S.A. 10 is devoted to assisting Slovakia's transformation from a communist state to a democratic, capitalist country. Its website declares, "M.E.S.A. 10 seeks to promote free market economy based on the principles and values of free competition."

Slovakia is a country of 5 million people located in Eastern Europe. Miklos came to Alma through the German Marshall Fund, a foundation allowing for-

eign officials to travel to American schools to promote international understanding.

Edward Lorenz, chair of the Alma College political science department, organized Miklos' stay. Lorenz said, "Following his stay at Alma, [Miklos] went to Washington, DC to consult with officials about Eastern Europe." In September, Miklos was promoted to First Senior Vice-President of the Institute for East-West Studies, which is responsible for coordinating the financial rescue of Russia.

This position is very important in light of recent world events. According to the CNN website, "The troubles in Russia already have sent ripples through the world economy, and could trigger much worse." In order to come to Alma, Miklos left Moscow where he was busy with coordination activities.

During his stay at Alma,

Miklos visited 18 classes. He spoke on a panel on Tuesday which consisted of Dr. Marek Payerhin, associate professor of political science, Patrick Furlong, professor of history, and John Meliska (01). The discussion was entitled "An International Forum: Is Democracy Inevitable? Where Do We (Alma) Fit In?" The discussion focused on whether Alma students and faculty can help promote democracy worldwide. Miklos gave another presentation on Wednesday, October 7. The lecture was entitled "The Impact of the Russian Economic Crisis on East Central Europe."

Ivan Miklos said he was excited about coming to Alma. He stated, "I have enjoyed seeing the central part of the United States before, so I know that the U.S. is more than just the East and West Coast."

Fire Up Kiltie Band!



Kiltie Band drum majors Jim Miller (01) and Matt Kunkle (00) raise the crowd's spirit on Homecoming with their rendition of "Gimme Some Lovin'." Photo by Steve Nadeau.

Career Explo brings alumni back to campus

By SCOTT TIMMRECK
Freelance Writer

On Friday, October 9, the Tyler-VanDusen Center was bustling with activity as Career Explo '98 hit Alma College. This annual event, typically held on the Friday before Homecoming gave students a chance to interact with Alma College alumni about various careers and graduate school opportunities.

"It's a chance for students to meet alumni and explore options they've not been exposed to yet," said Mindy Sargent, director of Career Explo.

The program for students began at 1:00 with a panel discussion involving six alumni and regarding job strategies. It offered an opportunity for students to get a general overview of successful strategies used to win a job in the

career field of their choice. The panel lasted until approximately 1:45, when all participating alumni were then available for conversations on a one-to-one basis, which provided curious students a chance to ask more specific questions regarding an appealing career field. Sargent suggested questions such as "What do you do on a daily basis?" and "What kind of skills are most important?"

The 40 participating alumni represented numerous fields such as education, broadcasting, consulting, business, law, language, politics, and science. Careers ranged from the principal of a local school to insurance claims representative to newsreporter, to attorney to superintendent of human resources. The alumni come from varied classes, the earliest being 1964, and the lat-

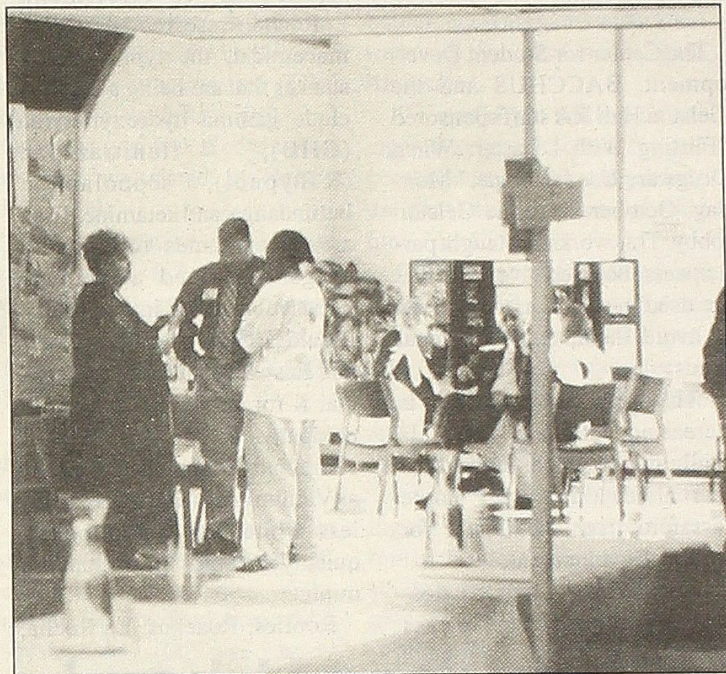
est being 1998. A complete list of all alumni that participated can be found at <http://www.alma.edu/OfficeServices/lcsdlalum1st.html>.

The fair was held in a traditional career fair format, with each member at a table, ready and willing to answer questions and promote their organization.

Sargent said that it is good for all students to explore exhibitions and talk to a representative from a field in which they might have some interest.

"It is never too early to start exploring," she said. "It's good for all the students to wade into the career process. I don't want anyone to drown."

She continued, "Career Fairs offer a chance for students to get very specific details on an organization that could help direct studies here and also their hopes and dreams for their career."



Students discuss career options with Alma's returning alumni.
Photo by Steve Nadeau.

Participants in Poland spring term to study Holocaust

By TONYA SCHAFER
Staff Reporter

For the first time ever, American college students will work in Poland to restore a Jewish cemetery ravaged by World War II and vandalism. Participants in Spring Term Course 009 (*The Holocaust: Causes and Legacies*) will travel to Wroclaw, a once-thriving Jewish community whose population now numbers approximately 200. While there the students will perform extensive restoration of the ulicka Lotnicza graveyard and at the same time absorb the region's historical and cultural atmosphere.

Participants will work in the cemetery from Monday to Friday, cleaning gravestones, weeding and hoeing. English Professor Dr. Ute Stargardt along with German Professor Dr. John Arnold will lead the trip. According to Stargardt, the labor "will

be hard and not particularly entertaining." Students will be expected to maintain a high level of decorum and reverence while in the cemetery, for residents of the village will be present while cleanup occurs.

"We don't want to look like gaping tourists," Stargardt said.

During the restoration process, students will stay at the Wroclaw Jesuit Center. This, according to Stargardt, will be a valuable educational experience. "Non-Catholic students will have the opportunity to live in a Catholic environment," Stargardt said.

Further religious education will occur in the form of on-site studies of Judaism. Participants will be allowed to attend Friday-evening Sabbath services conducted by members of the Wroclaw Jewish community. As a result, Stargardt says, students will be allowed to observe the customs as members of a congregation and not as outsiders.

Weekends will be occupied by excursions to several sites integral to the historical legacy of the Holocaust, including Berlin, Krakow and Prague. In addition, a trip to the infamous Nazi concentration camp Auschwitz is planned. While at Auschwitz, students will stay at a German youth center, where they will have the opportunity to interact with young scholars from other countries.

Preparation for the spring term will be required before the group leaves Alma. Participants will be assigned short readings and reports and will discuss what they have learned at casual meetings. In addition, students will keep a written daily journal of their experiences in Poland and complete a final exam.

Alma College was offered the chance to undertake this project at the express invitation of Wroclaw community leaders. A Polish survivor of the Holocaust will accompany the group to serve

as translator and, according to Stargardt, "provide the benefit of his experience as a Jew in the Holocaust."

Stargardt hopes to make this Spring Term service project an ongoing event. The current cleanup will focus on primarily cosmetic concerns, making the cemetery physically presentable. Possible future trips will delve deeper by fixing deteriorating foundations and involving more schools in the process.

The approximate cost of the Poland Spring Term is \$2200. This figure includes round-trip airfare from Detroit to Wroclaw, rail and public transportation within Poland, lodging and breakfast at the Jesuit Center and lodging during all overnight excursions. The fee does not include additional meals, snacks and private expenses. An extra \$800 should be budgeted for these items. A non-refundable deposit of \$220 is due by October 31 and

should be turned into the Business Office.

Enrollment in the course is on a first-come, first-serve basis and is limited to 16 students. Participants will depart from Detroit on Saturday, May 1, and return on Wednesday, May 26.

The Holocaust Spring Term, said Stargardt, will be a definite learning experience. "If students study causes and legacies in a book, that's fine, but it's removed. When you look at the actual graveyard, you get a real sense of what the legacy is. It makes the visit that much more powerful."

Students with further questions can contact Stargardt at ext. 7224 or through e-mail at stargardt@alma.edu.

Faculty art show praised by students

By MANDY LONG
Feature Editor

Recently the Alma College community was given a chance to see the artwork of Alma faculty at the Faculty Art Show being held in the Florence Kirsch Beck Art Gallery in the Clack Art Center. The artwork, which has been on display since September 28, will continue to be on display for the rest of October.

The faculty art show includes works from several faculty members, including Sandy Lopez-Isnardi, assistant professor of art and design; Robert Rozier, chair and associate professor of art and design; Carrie Parks-Kirby, professor of art and design; Cheryl Herr-Rains, professor of art and

design; and Pamela Pemberton.

Each faculty member has contributed several pieces that range from watercolors to terra cotta pieces.

Lopez-Isnardi contributed silver print photographs to the show. While many of these photographs were taken in Michigan, others reached outside the state. With titles such as "The Allegory and the Cave" and "Arched Branches," these works portray scenes of sculpted fields, cemeteries, headstones and beaches.

Rozier also contributed to the Faculty Art Show several watercolor pieces such as "Oliviers En Automne," "Rue Des Lombards" and "Ferme Pres D'Apt," which all depict outdoor scenes.

Herr-Rains donated several

pieces to the show, including two pieces of sagger-fired stoneware that created intricate mounted pieces.

Pemberton provided a couple of ceramic pieces to the faculty art show as well.

Parks-Kirby contributed many pieces to the Faculty Art Show which ranged from underglaze painted terra cotta and wood pieces to graphite, prismacolor and alkyd pieces.

One wall of the art show consists entirely of decorative tiles portraying birds, flowers and other outdoor images. Parks-Kirby also provided several "puppet theatres," and graphite, prismacolor, and alkyd paintings with titles such as "Persona Non Grata," "Modus Operandi"

and Prima Donna."

Pieces with the same names also appeared in mounted pieces made of underglaze-painted terra cotta and wood.

"I was astonished at how many great pieces there were," said junior Joy Kilanowski. "I thought the artists displayed great talent in these pieces."

Praise was also given by junior Briget Paulsen, who stated "I was especially fond of the 3-D artwork done by Carrie Anne Parks. It was amazing."

The Alma College Faculty Art Show will be in Flora Kirsch Beck Art Gallery all month long, followed by a print show of works done by junior Don Nice, and the photography of Amelia Tierny in the Lounge Gallery.

What's Happening On Campus

Tuesday, October 13

*Midterm Preparation Workshop-The Center for Student Development, 4 p.m.

Wednesday, October 14

*Job Search Strategies Workshop-The Center for Student Development, 4 p.m.

Thursday, October 15

*Job Search on the Web Workshop- Swanson Academic Center Rm. 110, 4 p.m.

Sunday, October 16

*Chapel Service-Chapel, 11:15 a.m.

*Catholic Mass-Chapel, 9 p.m.

Monday, October 19

*Student Congress Meeting-Dow L1, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 20

*Heybour Faculty Recital-Heritage Performing Arts Center, 8 p.m.

Use of date rape drugs increasing on campuses

By AMY TAYLOR
Staff Reporter

The Center for Student Development, BACCHUS and the Gelston Hall RA staff sponsored "Flirting With Disaster: When Drugs are Used to Rape," Monday, October 12 in the Gelston lobby. This workshop taught participants about sedative drugs that are used in sexual assaults, how to avoid them, and their legal status.

"The use of date rape drugs is increasing nationally and it is vitally important for students to hear about this," said Gayle Passaretti from the Center for Student Development.

These sedative drugs are misused by spiking victims' drinks

in order to sexually assault them. According to Hoffmann-LaRoche, a research-based pharmaceutical, the types of substances that are being abused include gamma hydroxybutyrate (GHB), flunitrazepam (Rohypnol), scopolamine, burundanga, and ketamine. There are street names for sedating drugs that need awareness. "These consist of Liquid Ecstasy, Liquid X, Grievous Bodily Harm and Easy Lay for GHB and Special K for ketamine," added the company.

Rohypnol is ten times as strong as Valium and is a tasteless, odorless white pill that dissolves quickly in liquids in less than one minute.

Roofies, Roachus, La Rocha,

and the forget pill are street names for this particular drug. It causes amnesia for up to eight hours and within 15 to 30 minutes of consumption, the individual will feel drunk and confused. Other side effects include impaired motor skills, impaired judgment, decreased heart pressure, drowsiness, dizziness and excitability or aggressive behavior that is unusual—the person appears drunk. The effects of these drugs may not wear off for several days.

"Be alert to these types of behaviors. If an individual falls down or falls asleep and you are concerned call the hospital immediately or 911," said Passaretti.

She also added that if it is suspected someone is a victim, take them to the hospital immediately

and try to save a sample of the beverage for analysis which can keep for forty eight hours. Keep clothing unwashed, do not wash off or douche.

Passaretti said, "It is important for the friend to tell the doctor if she is out of it that she may have been drugged and raped so they can perform a special test that detects it."

After the incident the individual may be untrusting and experience trouble sleeping. Also they will be frightened of what happened to them. Whether sexually assaulted or not, counseling is needed and can be done here on campus—it is confidential. For more information on this topic contact the Center For Student Development at x7225.

Ways for women to protect themselves:

1. Do not take drinks that you have not opened yourself.
2. Do not leave beverage unattended for even a second.
3. Be wary of taking drinks from people that you do or do not know.
4. Be alert to the behavior of friends.

For example, anyone who appears disproportionately drunk in relation to the amount of alcohol they consume can be in danger.

New release Urban Legend offers audience few scares

By TONYA SCHAFER
Staff Reporter

Everyone has heard of urban legends. These stories of gruesome events that happened to a "friend-of-a-friend" have become a mainstay of American culture. It is common knowledge that Pop-Rocks and cola are a dangerous combination; after all, didn't "Mikey" from the Life Cereal commercials die from a burst stomach upon ingesting a mixture of the two?

And everyone has heard about the co-ed who was brutally murdered during the night while her roommate slept peacefully in the next bed. The following morning, the unaware woman awoke to encounter a grisly scene and the words "Aren't you glad you didn't turn on the light?" written in blood on the wall. This incident, students whisper to one another, happened a few years ago at a rival university; at least that is what someone's cousin's friend said, and that friend knows someone who was in the same class as the unfortunate roommate.

These outlandish tales, false yet repeated as true from one end of the country to the other, are the premises for an equally absurd movie, *Urban Legend*. The calm

of Pendleton University, located in a sleepy New England village, is shattered by a series of brutal murders based on popular urban folklore.

The story begins one rainy night with the slaughter of a Pendleton student who was offed in a manner eerily reminiscent of the ax-murderer-in-the-backseat tale. The incident understandably creates a furor on campus, one that is fueled by the inflammatory news stories of dogged college reporter Paul (Jared Leto of *My So-Called Life*), whose goal is to expose the truth and see his name in the story's byline.

Events take an eerier turn as the film's protagonist, earnest collegiate Natalie (Alicia Witt of *Cybil*), finds herself in a sticky situation. One by one, her friends are murdered by increasingly gruesome methods, all based on urban legends. The despairing Natalie teams up with Paul in an effort to discover the killer's identity and halt him or her before any farther carnage; at the same time, the two must watch their own backs to ensure that they will not be the murderer's next victims.

This story is a typical horror tale. All the stock characters are here: the virginal heroine; the

earnest, puppy-eyed hero; the slacker; the frat boy; the goth chick; the best friend; the tramp. There is even a creepy janitor, an uptight dean, a sassy police-woman and a sinister professor thrown in for good measure. The latter character is portrayed by Robert Englund, better known as Freddy Krueger from the *Nightmare on Elm Street* films. The professor teaches a course on urban legends at the college and, as a result, is immediately considered a suspect by the heroes when the copycat murders begin.

Urban Legend is the type of movie from which the audience can pick out victims and survivors as soon as the characters appear onscreen. This morbidly amusing distraction may be the only thing that will save viewers' sanity in an otherwise predictable film. Because many of these ur-

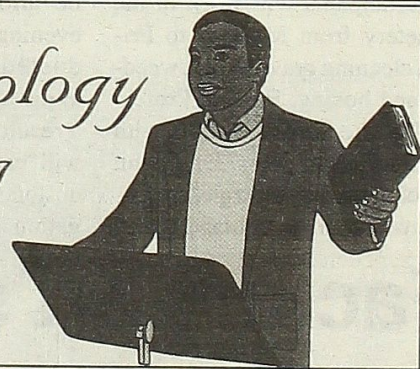
ban legends are so well-known, there are no surprises as to how the victims will die. Although there are a few startling moments, and enough blood and gore to satisfy fans of carnage, the film provides no adrenaline rush. The unlikely premise becomes absolutely idiotic in the slaughter-fest ending; the last scene will have viewers rolling their eyes and groaning in disbelief.

The acting was adequate in *Urban Legend*; its cast of beautiful Gen-Xers did a passable job of portraying, well, beautiful Gen-Xers. Englund is menacing as Professor Wexler. The one disappointment in the cast was Witt and her portrayal of Natalie; granted, a "goody two-shoes" character may not be the most exciting role to play, but Witt brings absolutely no spirit to her frightened student. There is zero

romantic chemistry between leads Leto and Witt; their interactions are cold and robotic, demonstrating a strictly business relationship.

Fans of urban legends may find this story amusing as they see their beloved tales of American pop culture brought to life on the big screen. Others may find amusement in the horrid inside jokes peppered throughout the screenplay. For the majority, however, *Urban Legend* will be a tedious, predictable replay of countless horror movies. Better time would be spent with a group of friends and a bowl of popcorn, comparing variations of the gang high-beam initiation tale or the yarn about the boyfriend who is hung above the car his girlfriend sits in. The night will be more frightening than if it were spent watching this movie.

Pine River Anthology
Literary Reading
Thursday, October 15th
Jones Auditorium
8 - 9:30 p.m.



Alma Symphony Orchestra opens season

By LINDSAY ROBINSON
Staff Reporter

Music resonated once again through Presbyterian Hall Friday night as the Alma Symphony Orchestra performed their first concert of the season.

The thirty-ninth season opened with musical selections featuring student soloists on the oboe, cello, horn, and viola.

The concert began with a work featuring the entire orchestra. "Capriccio Espagnol, Op. 34," by Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov, which contained six movements spotlighting different sections of the orchestra.

The second piece, "Concerto in C minor for oboe and orchestra" by Benedetto Marcello, featured senior oboist and music major Donna Thieme. "Concerto in C Major for violoncello and orchestra" by Franz Joseph Haydn followed, featuring junior cellist Sarah Keen.

The concert resumed after intermission with a work by Richard Strauss titled "Concerto No. 2 in E flat Major for horn and orchestra." The piece included solo work on the french horn by junior Roxanna Weisenbach.

The concert ended with a work by Hector Berlioz, named "Harold in Italy, Op. 16." The

solo spotlighted senior viola player Andrew West.

"I think it's great that students, and not just professionals in the music field, are able to participate in concerts at Alma," said senior Jamie Raden.

Douglas Scripps, music director, expressed his delight in the performance, with it occurring so early in the year.

"There are a lot of talented players in the orchestra, and we could have featured any number of them. We picked these four, and they did very well. But I'm mainly proud of the orchestra, because we've only been together for four weeks. It's early to do a

concert for us, but we're in the game. They play, and they like it. They have wonderful spirit, and I'm thrilled to work with them," he said.

In the spirit of the Homecoming season, alumni Misty Daniels (97) commented about being able to come back and see a concert by the group she was once a part of.

"It's really nice to come back and hear them again. It's something I really enjoyed because it's something I was once a part of. They sounded great," she said.

The symphony will perform in three more concerts to complete the 1998-99 season.

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Soccer teams both capture win on Homecoming

By **DONNA PAPPAS**
Staff Reporter

Homecoming turned out to be more than just a big win for the football team. The women's soccer team defeated Adrian 6-1, while the men's soccer team shut-out Defiance 6-0.

On Wednesday, the women's team played strong in the first half, holding the Flying Dutchmen to 1-0 at the break.

But in the end, Alma was defeated by Hope who is currently tied for second place in the league.

The final two goals of the game were scored early in the second half, giving Hope a 3-0 win.

Goalie Julie Belanger (02), relieved regular starter Paula Schwarz (02) who was injured during warm-up. Belanger made eleven saves in goal.

Saturday, the women defeated Adrian, with a final score of 6-1. The Scots began the scoring only nine minutes into the first half, with a goal by Laurie Rodgers (02), assisted by Kristy

Hopper (01). Gretchen Craig (01), unassisted, kicked in the second goal.

The Britions were next to score, which would be their only goal of the game.

Sarah Hayes (01) made the final goal of the half, assisted by Joy Horton (01).

Hayes then began the second half with a goal assisted by Rodgers. She was also a part of the next goal, as she assisted Kara Kwolek (02) in her first goal of the season.

Craig scored unassisted, again, for the final goal of the game.

"The girls had good control of the ball," said first year Coach Chi Ly.

"We are all excited that we have a new coach that plans on staying with the team. Every game we have been improving, and every game that we have left can only improve our standings in the league," said Craig.

"We played well [against Adrian], but not up to our full intensity. We have no place else

to go now but up," said Beth Siewart (01).

The Scots now occupy the fifth place in the league with an MIAA record of 2-3. Overall, their season standing is 3-8.

Tuesday, the men's team played their second double-overtime game of the season against Albion, which ended in a 0-0 tie.

"Albion was tied for first place going into this game, so it was a very important game. We didn't play as well as we needed, but our backs Chris Alexander (00), Brandon Klump (00), Mark McClutchey (00), Jason Passalacqua (99), and goalie Jon Cullen (00), kept us in the game," said Coach Scott Frey.

"Tuesday was a defensive struggle and a hard fought game," said Alexander.

There was more action during Saturday's Homecoming game against Defiance, provided entirely by the Scots. Cullen and Sean Byram (01) shared the winning shutout. Cullen had two saves in the first half.

"The team played exceptionally well, we kept focused and pulled out a win. Hopefully we can carry this momentum into our next game," said Sean Rice (01).

Only one goal was scored in the first half, unassisted, by Randy U'Ren (99).

"This was a good game to get us back on track. If we continue to play with high energy and emotion and play smart, the rest of the season is in our hands," said U'Ren.

The offense picked up in the second half, bringing the final score to 6-0.

Nick Schipper (02) kicked in his second goal of the season after the first ten minutes of the half, assisted by Paul Aceto (01).

Nate Spang (00) was next to score, his first of the season, assisted by Matt Keller (00).

Less than two minutes later, unassisted, Keller kicked in his first goal of the season as well.

U'Ren then added another goal, assisted by Alexander.

The final goal was scored by Adam Sobczak (02), his second of the season, assisted by Schipper.

"We played with emotion and excitement. This game was a good warm-up for next week, said Alexander.

"Hopefully it will get us going in the right direction. It was a good chance to get everyone in the game and get some playing time," he added.

This win brought the men's overall record to 7-2-1. In the MIAA, their record is 3-2-1, putting them in a three way tie for the third place ranking with Albion and Calvin.

Next week they will face the two MIAA teams currently leading the league; Kalamazoo (currently holding first place) on Wednesday and Olivet (second place) on Saturday.

"Whether or not we stay in the MIAA race depends on this upcoming week. [against Defiance] we did a good job of playing the type of style that we need in the rest of the season," said Frey.

Today the women host number one ranked Kalamazoo at 4 p.m. On Saturday, they travel to St. Mary's College Notre Dame in Indiana for a game which will start at noon.

Defense dominates against Adrian

By **Sean Babbitt**
Freelance Writer

Dan Sweetman (01) made it easy for the offense. By intercepting three passes against Adrian College, Sweetman kept the potent Alma offense on the field to pile up the 49 - 0 score at this past Saturday's football game.

Adrian had been sitting on top of the league until this game. The Bulldogs fell to 3 - 2 while the Scots ran their record to 4 - 1 overall and 2 - 0 in the MIAA in front of a packed homecoming crowd.

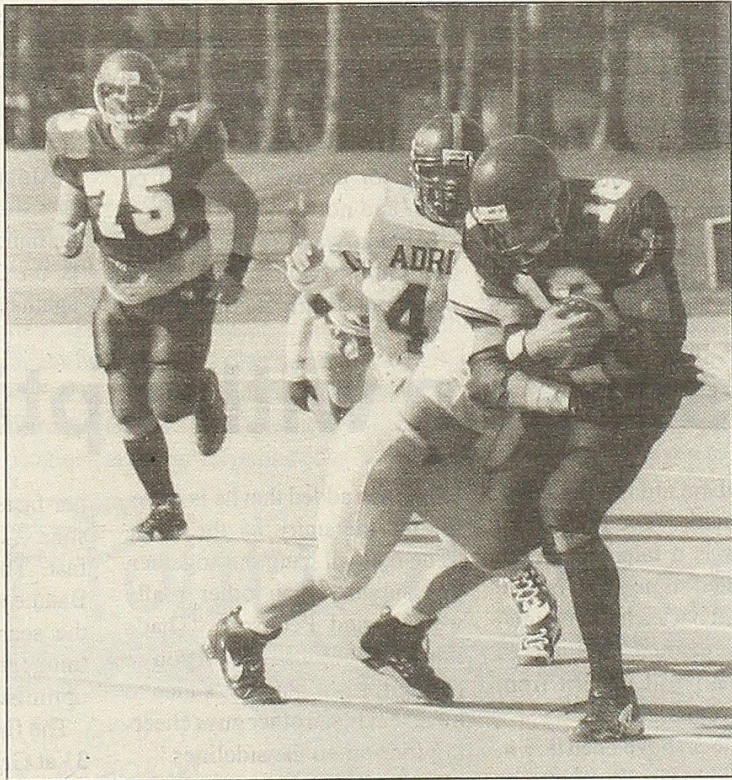
Quarterback Jason VanderMaas (99), who had suffered a concussion in the Scots last game, showed no ill effects as he lit up the Adrian defense. VanderMaas passed for 269 - yards and three touchdowns to go along with his 128 - yard rushing attack.

The Scot defense was the dominating force though. Led by Sweetman's three interceptions, the Alma defense clamped down on the Bulldog attack. They limited all MIAA quarterback, Dan Hutchison and his offense to only 216 yards of total offense.

Adding to the fun was senior defensive back, Tim McAleece (99) who intercepted one pass and could have had another one. McAleece's interception set up VanderMaas's first touchdown pass of the game when he rumbled down to the three yard line before he was brought down.

The game was only in limbo until the second drive, when the Scotgun offense really started to click.

Junior kick returner, Dustin Armstrong started the drive by muffing the punt that he eventually recovered on the Scot 44 - yard line. The offense chewed up

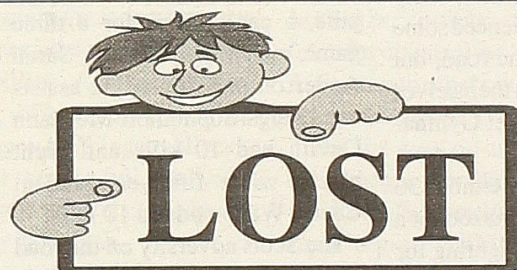


Quarterback Jason Vandermaas (99) is about to be pulled down from behind by an Adrian player during last Saturday's game. Photo by Steve Nadeau.

the turf down to the one yard line where the drive seemed to be stalling out. On fourth down VanderMaas ran a draw to the near side of the field and scored to put the Scots up for good.

The game was marred by turnovers throughout its entirety. Thirteen total by both sides kept the game interesting. The Scots intercepted six passes and recovered one fumble themselves, but fumbled the ball four times and were intercepted twice.

Next week the Scots will be in action when they take on the Albion Britons at Albion. Albion will be looking to avenge last year's loss at the hands of the Scots on Homecoming. The Scots will next be at home in two weeks when they take on the Hope College Flying Dutchmen.



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Red Wings aiming for hat trick

By KELLY McDONALD
Staff Reporter

After a very discouraging summer for Detroit Tiger baseball, a frustrating Scott Mitchell of the Detroit Lions and the NBA lock-out, there has not been much professional sports action in the state of Michigan.

Get ready Michigan sports fans. While most sports fans have been wrapped up in the home run race between Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa, the Detroit Red Wings have been working hard at training camp in Traverse City. The two-time defending Stanley Cup champions opened camp on

September 13th at the Centre I.C.E Arena in Grand Traverse County for the second consecutive season.

The summer of 1998 included some minor changes for the Red Wings as well as rule changes for the National Hockey League (NHL). The NHL has to use a two-referee system and implement goaltender equipment standards. The goal lines have been moved from 11 to 13 feet from the end boards to create more room behind the net. The goal dimensions were also altered, cutting off two feet from both sides. The red line rule is an experimental rule during the exhibition season

that will eliminate the red line at center ice. This change allows for two-line passes and creates more passing and offense, showcasing the skating abilities of the players. Each NHL team will play with the rule for one game during their exhibition season to determine if it is worth keeping.

Looking for the hat trick in championships, the mighty Red Wings are continuing to improve personnel. They were wheeling and dealing in the off season, signing two forwards, Tomas Holmstrom and Mathieu Dandenault, to three-year contracts as well as goaltender Ryan Bach to a one-year deal. They

picked up Uwe Krupp as an unrestricted free agent and got forward Doug Brown back.

The 25 year-old Holmstrom played in 57 games for the Wings last year and was a big contributor in the playoffs with 19 points. Dandenault, 22, played in 68 games last season in Detroit and set new career marks in points and assists. Bach, 24, played in the International Hockey League (IHL) last year appearing in 43 games achieving a 26-9-6 record.

The retirement of Slava Fetisov and departure of Bob Rouse and Dmitri Mironov puts a hole in the defense. That's where Krupp comes in. He is a 33 year-old

defensemen who adds depth and strength to the defensive corps of the Red Wings. He played the last three seasons in Colorado. He will be paired with the young and talented Anders Eriksson on the blue line to form a strong defense in front of Chris Osgood.

With the anticipation of a third championship, Hockeytown is excited for the new season. With ticket prices ranging from \$20 to \$80, the 20,000 seat Joe Louis Arena will be packed regularly. The Red Wings season opener is on October 10 in Toronto. The home opener and championship banner raising is on October 16 at 8 p.m. against the St. Louis Blues.

Volleyball team dust themselves off

By KELLY McDONALD
Staff Reporter

Home games vs. away games? Most coaches, players and fans agree that it is easier to play at home than on the road. The crowd, the gym and the overall home atmosphere are comfortable playing conditions. Thus, the varsity volleyball team experienced some disappointment on the road, but came home to redeem themselves at the familiar Capparet Gymnasium.

On Wednesday, September 30 the Scots visited Kalamazoo for a key MIAA contest. Fighting for

third place, the teams came into the game with identical 4-2 league records. The Scots played tough in a close match, but in the end, they beat themselves. Twelve Alma serving errors equaled a victory for Kalamazoo. The Scots went down in three games, 12-15, 13-15, 15-17.

Senior Ellen Bradbury had 20 kills, a career high for a three game match. Sophomore Sarah Anderson contributed 32 assists and 13 digs. Sophomore Meghann Devlin had 10 kills and eight blocks while first-year student Cherie Wilson added 10 kills.

The Scots adversity on the road

continued against non-conference opponent, Madonna University. They traveled to Livonia, Michigan and lost, three games to none. Bradbury again led the way with 12 kills and 10 digs. Sophomore Andrea Horton added seven kills and Anderson had 26 assists and six digs.

Things started looking up for the Scots when they took on Olivet in their own Capparet Gymnasium. After two straight losses, they came out ready to play in game one.

"We decided that we wanted to do better in the second half of the season. We want to improve upon

what we've already done. The Kalamazoo loss was tough but we're looking forward to playing them again," Devlin said.

The Scots jumped out to a 9-0 lead before the Comets knew what hit them. They won three straight games convincingly, 15-3, 15-2, 15-13.

Sophomore Anne Thelan said, "I thought we played well as a team. We started strong and stayed that way, which is a good thing for us. We played at our level and not Olivets'."

Thelan was the queen of the court in this match, startling her opponents with an impressive

seven aces. First-year student Jaime Lippert did a fine job setting, taking over for an injured Anderson, contributing 22 assists. Senior Nicole Markeicki and Devlin had three blocks apiece.

Junior Kathryn Nordin said, "This is the first time in awhile that we had a lot of fun playing. We were relaxed and passed well, blocked well and served well. Everything came together against Olivet."

Alma (8-8, 5-3 MIAA) is back in action on Friday, October 16 at Defiance. Their next home match is on October 20 at 6:30 p.m. against St. Mary's.

Swim Team begins season with optimism

By STEPHANIE POWELL
Staff Reporter

The Alma College swimming/diving team officially began its season Monday October 5, with an abundance of optimism—and minimal sleep.

In order to comply with the rules, which state that no team will begin practice until Monday, coach Greg Baadte arranged a "Midnight Madness" practice that began at 12:01 am Monday morning.

"We thought we would be cute and start the season that way," Baadte says. "We weren't allowed to start any earlier than midnight."

Baadte, who returns to coach the team for the ninth season, is confident about the abilities of both the men's and the women's teams.

"They're in good shape," he says. "A lot of them have been working out—running, lifting and swimming on their own. I've never seen a group so determined to better themselves."

Carrie Thomas (00), Co-Captain of the women's team, says the morale of the team is high.

"Graduation hurt the women's team a little bit, but we've got

some great freshmen, and we've been moving people around to fill the empty positions," she said.

As captain, Thomas said she feels her job is to encourage team togetherness.

"This is a team sport, not an individual sport. It takes more than one person to win the meet."

As for her personal goals, Thomas said she simply wants to improve her own time. "It's really just you versus the clock."

Coach Baadte shares Thomas' enthusiasm about the team. "This is exciting for me," he said. "We lost valuable members of the team, and they won't be replaced right away. The sophomores will be key, but they all just want to get better and that is all I can ask them to do," he added.

Sophomore Nicole Gentry admitted there is slight pressure to work harder to make up for the loss of key swimmers.

"We know what we need to compensate for, but everyone is training really hard. I think it's going to be a great year," said Gentry.

The men's team is starting this season on a strong note as well. There are currently eighteen members, more than ever before. Baadte thinks this will work in his favor for the men's team.

"The numbers are up, the talent is up," he said. "The great thing is that this is a talented group. We graduated some guys, but we also brought back a lot of talent."

Joshua Peterson (00) agreed that the team will benefit from having more members.

"Our numbers have been down, and we were basically a bottom-of-the-barrel team, but not any more," he said.

Peterson added that he is grateful for the unity of the team. "The men all hang out together. We support each other really well," said Peterson. "That's important because even if you're racing for last place, it's nice to have seventeen other guys cheering for you on the sidelines."

Baadte insisted his overall goal for both teams is for each individual swimmer to swim his or

her fastest by the end of the season. "I can't make them swim fast. They do that on their own," Baadte said. "It's a little early in the season to tell for sure, but things are looking good. I'm very optimistic."

The first meet is Saturday, Oct. 31 at Grand Valley State University. The first home meet, also against Grand Valley State University, is Thursday, Nov. 12.

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October 13, 1998

OPINION

7

Engler's record speaks for itself

By SHANNON CASEY
Opinion Editor

The choice in this year's gubernatorial election is a no-brainer. It is not entirely Geoffrey Fieger's fault, although he has been quoted as saying some outlandish things about various religious leaders. The Democrats would have a hard time finding anyone who could stand up to Governor John Engler.

The proof is in his record. Engler assumed the office of governor in 1991, and since, Michiganders have experienced steady improvements in most aspects of their lives.

In April 1991, the unemployment rate in Michigan was 9.9 percent because businesses were getting taxed into bankruptcy. Engler was able to encourage businesses to stay, thus lowering the unemployment rate by al-

most two-thirds, to 3.5 percent, well below the national average.

Under Governor Jim Blanchard, welfare in Michigan was a way of life for many families.

Engler's "To Strengthen Michigan's Families" program has cut welfare case loads in half. This cut has not hurt families, but instead it has given them an incentive to become economically self-sufficient. Over 162,000 families are now bringing home paychecks instead of welfare checks.

Engler's most recent welfare program, Project Zero, is a huge success. Its aim is to reduce the number of people who are not earning income, but receiving cash assistance.

Three counties have already reached zero: Menominee, Manistee, and Ottawa. The state has spent over \$8.5 million on the Jobs Commission to continue

to give welfare recipients the training they need.

Engler has proposed a new welfare initiative to help families even more: drug testing for welfare recipients. Many employees in the private sector are tested for drugs, so why not people who receive money from the state?

If they test positive, they will be referred for treatment. Too many times, drug abuse is also child abuse. Michigan offers plenty of temporary assistance to families who need it, but will no longer offer free rides to people who are unwilling to work.

According to Engler, "The state with the best schools wins." He has backed up this statement time and again. Since he took office in 1991, education spending is up by 51 percent to \$12 billion.

Engler has refused to sign executive orders cutting education; the previous two governors

signed \$400 million in executive order cuts in education.

Because of Proposal A, every school district in Michigan will spend at least \$5100 per student giving every student an equal opportunity to achieve a quality education.

Engler is a leader in cutting taxes. During his tenure, he has cut taxes 24 times. In 1990, Michigan property taxes were among the highest in the nation. Thanks to the leadership of Engler, property taxes have decreased by 80 percent.

In addition to Engler's phenomenal tax cuts of the past, he is now proposing a new cut in the income tax rate from 4.4 percent to 3.9 percent over the next five years.

Many critics of the governor point to bad roads. They have to realize that Engler inherited a \$1.8 billion deficit in 1991. Until

recently, the extra money the state took in went to pay off the deficit run up by previous administrations.

Now, with a \$1 billion surplus, Engler is able to allocate extra money to the much needed road repairs.

Under "Build Michigan II," \$6 billion will be spent over the next 10 years on Michigan roads.

This year alone, the state is spending \$1 billion to fix the roads. Today, only 65 percent of Michigan roads are rated as good or fair by national standards.

After the completion of Build Michigan II, 90 percent of the roads will be up to par.

Engler's record speaks for itself. He is the only governor in the nation to turnover a \$1.8 billion deficit into a \$1 billion rainy day fund, while cutting taxes 24 times and increasing spending on education and roads.

Freedom, justice, compassion--it's Fiegertime

By MANDY LONG
Feature Editor

Assaults on unemployment insurance? Attacks on the workers compensation system? Tax shifts from the wealthiest to the middle income working family? Constant drumming assaults on public education? Do these sound like the actions of a respected governor that you would vote for again? No? Well these are the actions of Michigan's current governor, John Engler.

As the gubernatorial elections

draw near, there is one slogan that Michigan voters should remember--"Freedom, Justice, Compassion--It's Fiegertime!" With James Agee, Jennifer Granholm, and Mary Lou Parks on the Democratic ticket, Fieger is ready to rumble.

Fieger has spoken out against Engler on many issues, ranging from education to the environment. For each of these issues Fieger has ideas, has plans, and a way to make Michigan better for citizens like us.

Engler has assaulted public edu-

cation in the state of Michigan time and time again. By criminalizing the right of teachers to collectively bargain, he has driven away the best teachers by allowing those teachers who will work for peanuts to be hired. What does this do? This means that the best qualified teachers are no longer working for our public schools. Engler complains that our public schools are not working. It is a consequence of his own actions.

Engler has also assaulted taxes, shifting the majority of taxes to

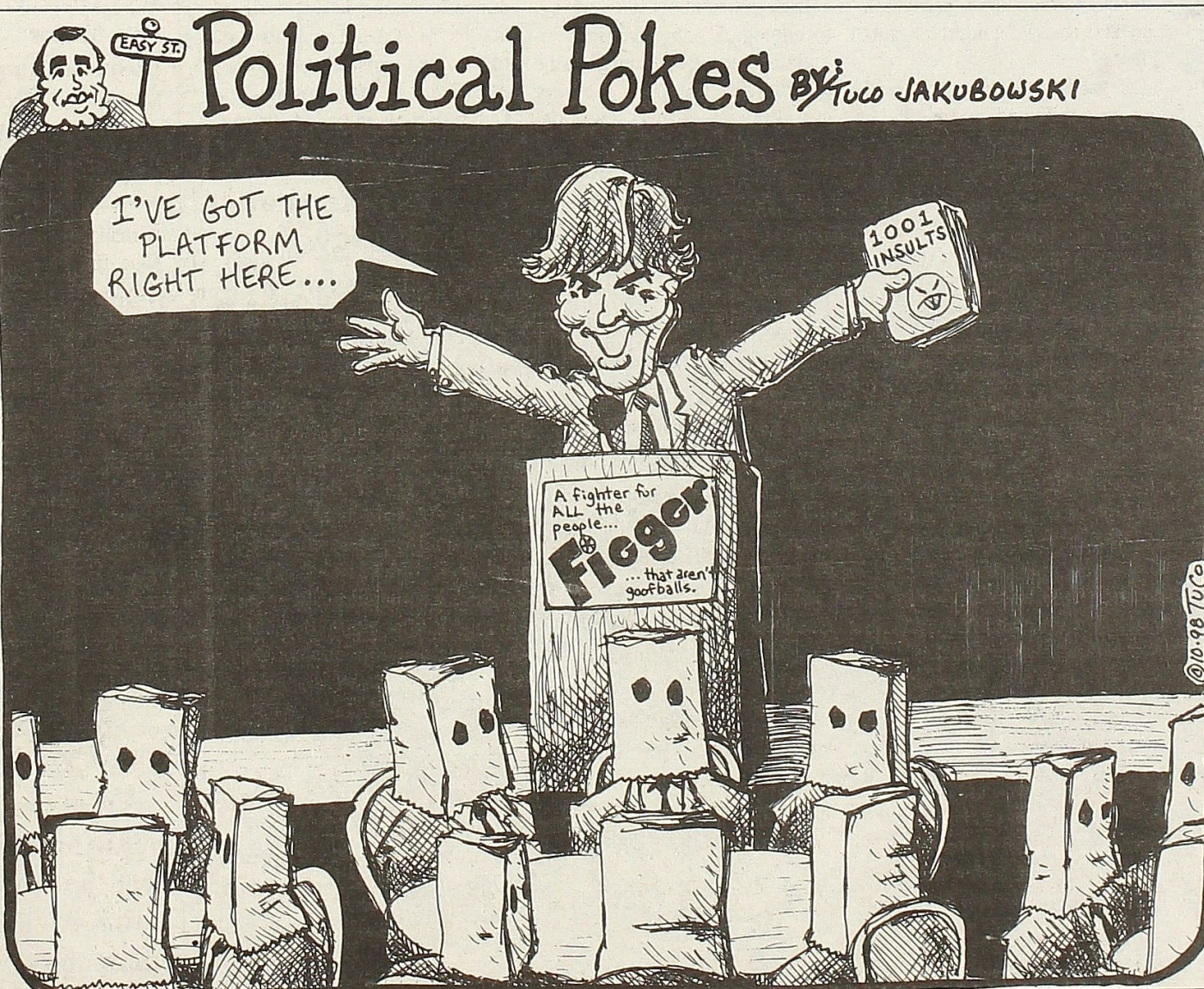
the middle class. In 1996, Engler reported a total tax revenue for the state of Michigan to be \$21.4 billion, while the federal government reported a total tax revenue of \$38 billion. A huge, yet unexplained difference. Where did your money go? Fieger will make sure that there is full public disclosure and approval of any new taxes for Michigan.

Engler has also closed many state mental health facilities and deinstitutionalized many of the mentally ill. At the same time he has cut funds for the Department

of Corrections, releasing thousands of "non-violent" criminals. These two cuts have left many Michigan citizens who cannot fend for themselves or may be dangerous to other out in the cold, out on the street.

The list goes on and on. However, Fieger is willing to change all of that. Supporting education, road repairs, HMO patients' rights, the environment, and tax cuts is Geoffrey Fieger.

It's time for freedom. It's time for justice. It's time for compassion. It's Fiegertime!



Staff Editorial

Eating Disorders plague campuses

One out of every hundred adolescent females has anorexia. Four out of every hundred college-aged females have bulimia. Twenty-percent of these women will die without receiving the proper treatment.

What is the meaning of these statistics? What causes these women to do such harm to their bodies?

We live in an age where day after day people are bombarded with advertisements on television, in magazines, and on billboards featuring pictures of paper-thin women. The message rings clear to women throughout the country. In order to be successful, one must be thin. To be accepted, one must be beautiful. To be wanted, one must fit this image.

These messages have a terrible impact upon women.

While the statistics claim that only a few women have these eating disorders (about 5 percent) the statistics leave out the unspoken stories of women who struggle everyday. They struggle everyday trying to fit an image that is not their own. They try to make themselves something they were not meant to be. They try to live up to the standards of people who just do not matter.

It goes beyond advertising. The majority of women in movies and television series rival supermodels in physique and beauty. Pictures in popular magazines almost always show skinny model-type women, and these same magazines remind women in every issue how much of the American population is overweight and give tips on successful ways to melt off the pounds.

When is the average American

woman going to be shown as ideal? When will the day come that a person will be able to go to the movies and see actresses who weigh over 125 lbs in leading roles and as sex symbols? When will the day come that women will open that magazine and see that skinny is not always healthy, and it is okay if you wear a size bigger than a four or a six? When will a woman walk into her favorite clothing store and no longer face the dilemma of racks full of size twos, fours and sixes that can not sell and not be able to find their own size, because it does not seem that enough are made to compensate for all of the normal sized and shaped women?

Maybe times are beginning to change. Some new Calvin Klein commercials and magazine advertisements feature women of all shapes and sizes. Perhaps the

best advertisement out now is one by Kellogg's Special K cereal.

These advertisements not so subtly hint that being fit is healthy, not being sickeningly thin. One can find these advertisements emblazoned with bold letters across the page saying, "The perfect ten, or twelve ..."

Hopefully someday things will change. "Average" American women will be looked upon as being just as beautiful as the few in the population who claim their small body size is ideal.

There will always be thin, healthy women in our society, but as long as the media keeps screaming into the faces of women that the only way to be wonderful is to be thin, there will be devastatingly low self-esteems and countless numbers of women trying to diet their ways to "perfection."

Student apathy hurts future opportunities

By SHANNON CASEY
Opinion Editor

With today's competition in the job market, college students need to take advantage of any opportunities that will help them become better students or more marketable to future employers. The Center for Student Development offers a wide variety of these services to students on campus.

Gayle Passaretti, assistant dean of counseling and student development, recently presented a campus-wide time management/study skills workshop to help students hone their studying habits and become more efficient.

The Center for Student Development, with special help from the Alumni Relations Office,

hosted an alumni panel discussion and career fair over Homecoming weekend. Both events featured Alma alumni who were willing to help current students prepare themselves for the real world.

Unfortunately, only a small fraction of students took advantage of these events. Alumni and staff took time out of their busy schedules for the sole purpose of helping prepare students for success at Alma and beyond. Passaretti presented her workshop in front of only seven students and the alumni panel had an audience of under ten students.

Regardless of how organized or accomplished a student is, there is always room for im-

provement. Passaretti emphasized the practical aspects of the studying techniques by explaining how she utilized each while in graduate school. Alma students cannot afford to miss free help in these subjects.

The lack of attendance at the alumni panel was especially troubling because it was made up of people who know what it takes to succeed in the real world. Many of the alumni were in charge of recruiting for their company, so it was detrimental for students to blow them off.

They talked about networking, technological job searching, negotiating terms, etc., and gave the ten students present some very useful interview tips. It was designed not only for seniors but for

the entire campus. The panelists also explained, in great depth, the importance of internships.

First-year students should be taking note, because internships are becoming more and more important to prospective employers. Years ago, a college student with an internship on his/her resume had an advantage in the job market. Now, having an internship is expected before you get into a career.

The lack of participation in these educational opportunities may stem from student apathy, laziness, or conceit. But one thing is for sure: if Alma students want to succeed outside Alma, they must learn to take advantage of free programs intended for self-improvement.

Letter to the editor

Dear Editor,

The ACUB Executive Board believes it necessary to respond to Ms. Robinson's opinion article regarding ACUB's use of student activity fees to purchase promotional trinkets. ACUB chose to distribute small inexpensive novelty items at Hamilton Commons as an effective way to advertise the "All Nighter." ACUB believes this method of advertising better utilizes our resources and entices more students to take part in ACUB events rather than printing hundreds of mailbox stuffers. ACUB believes this type of advertising resulted in a record attendance at this year's "All Nighter." Without advertis-

ing, ACUB believes students would not attend events and the student activity fee truly would be wasted.

Student Congress allocates less than one fifth of the student activity fee to ACUB. An extremely small portion of this funding pays for ACUB advertising. Whether ACUB advertising includes posters, banners or small novelty items; spending decisions are made after researching several pricing options. Event Publicity Coordinator Leah Christopher did in fact contact Wal-Mart about the price of plastic cups; they are not cheaper than the cups ACUB provided.

The Executive Board was disappointed that no member of the

Executive Board was interviewed regarding ACUB's use of the student activity fee and distribution of novelty items before this article was published.

ACUB invites positive criticism from the student body in order to improve events and their presentation for the future. To positively impact ACUB, please join our representative program or contact the ACUB office at X7329 Monday - Friday, 1-5 pm with comments or questions. ACUB looks forward to entertaining the student body at future events such as Movie Night 10/31, 11/13, 14; Songfest 11/6; Karaoke 11/17; and Real Deal Game Show 12/4.

-ACUB executive board

The Almanian Letter Policy

All Letters to the Editor must meet the following standards of publication: signed, include the author's phone number and address, and pertain to the Alma College community. Letters are published as layout space allows with priority 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. E-mail Letters to the Editor at ALMANIAN@alma.edu or address letters to: Newberry Hall, Alma College, Alma, Michigan 48801.

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