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The Almanian

November 10, 1998

Serving Alma College since 1907

Issue 8

News Briefs

National News Briefs

GOP selects Philadelphia for 2000 convention

WASHINGTON — The Republican party has chosen Philadelphia as the site for the presidential convention in 2000. Philadelphia beat out four other finalists: San Antonio, New York, New Orleans and Indianapolis.

This decision must still be approved by the membership of the Republican National Committee in January, but officials said that the matter was settled for practical purposes.

U.S. smoking rates highest in Kentucky

ATLANTA — The government reported that once again Kentucky leads the pack when it comes to smoking, with nearly one in three adults lighting up in 1997. Utah holds the lowest rate, with about one in seven adults lighting up, due to the strong Mormon stand against tobacco. Michigan ranked 10th with 26.1% of the adult population smoking.

British au pair could face another trial

BOSTON — The British au pair convicted of killing a baby could face another trial because the child's parents are attempting to collect millions of dollars in damages. Lawyers for the woman, Louise Woodward, were in court last week asking a judge to set aside a default judgment against her in the wrongful death lawsuit filed by Sunil and Deborah Eappen. U.S. District Judge William Young said that he would deliberate on the matter.

Sawmill worker guilty in burning death

INDEPENDENCE, Va. — A white sawmill worker was convicted last week of first-degree murder in the death of a black man. The man apparently beheaded the victim and then set fire to the corpse after a night of binge drinking. Emmett Cressell was charged with capital murder in the slaying of Gasmett P. Johnson, Jr. Capital murder carries a possible death sentence charge where as the maximum sentence for first-degree murder is life in prison.

World Briefs

UN urges investigation in Kosovo

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — The president of the UN War Crimes Tribunal asked the Security Council last week to force Yugoslavia to allow an investigation into alleged atrocities in Kosovo. The appeal was made by President Gabrielle Kirk McDonald after Yugoslavia refused to allow tribunal staff into the war-racked province.

Campus Compact benefits Alma

By AMY FRALEY
News Editor

The Campus Compact program began 12 years ago in Michigan when administrators and educators became concerned about the lack of civic identification on the part of students. They wanted students to learn about the joy of volunteering through participation.

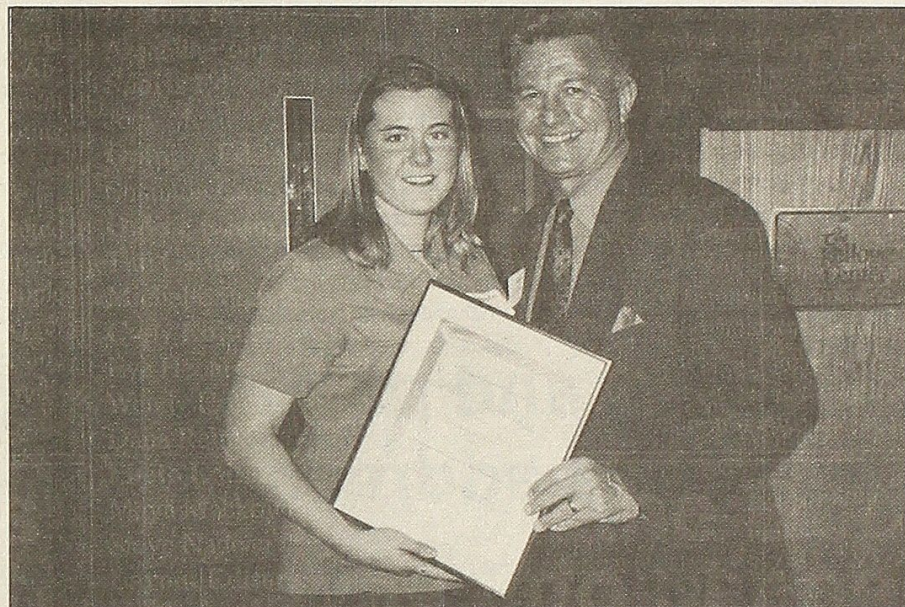
Today, 29 private, public and community colleges are members of the Michigan Campus Compact program (MCC), including Michigan State University, the University of Michigan, Central Michigan University, and several MIAA schools. The newest members are Saginaw Valley University and Northwood University.

The Campus Compact is beneficial to Alma College because it promotes volunteering through Students Offering Service (SOS) and service learning courses. Alma is leading the pack by offering 38 service learning courses. In fact, statistics show that 2 out of every 3 Alma College students will take at least one service learning course before graduation.

Alma College President Alan Stone is the chair of the MCC program. The vice-chair for the duration of the academic year is Central Michigan University President Leonard Lockton. The program, which meets twice a year, is responsible for promoting student volunteering.

Stone said that being chair of the Campus Compact has been "the most important thing I have done in my 21 years as a college president. It makes better citizens and helps build accountability."

Stone pointed out the advantages for member schools: "Last year MCC awarded



Senior Amanda Schafer stands with President Alan Stone to accept the "Commitment to Service Award" which was presented to her last year by the Michigan Campus Compact. Stone is the chairperson of the organization. Submitted Photo.

\$171,000 in grants to faculty, staff and students of our member campuses. Other benefits include a reduced membership rate for conference retreats and seminars, state wide recognition for faculty and students in recognition for their service efforts, a consulting service and networking opportunities through meetings, seminars, and listservs."

Grants offered by MCC include the Faculty Fellows Grants, Scholarship of Engagement Grants, Fetzer Institute Grant, Venture Grant Cycle 17 and the McGregor Fund. It also offers the Service Leadership Camp and the Faculty Institute on Service Learning.

Sue Ritz coordinates the internships and works with the faculty coordinators and

student coordinator Amanda Schafer (99).

Schafer said, "Heather Hodgson (00) and I have the opportunity to attend monthly SCAN (Student Community Action Network) meetings with other Campus Compact students." She also said, "It's a great chance for Alma to network with other schools."

There is a national Campus Compact program. Across the nation more than 10,800 faculty members are involved in service learning, and each year undergraduates contribute 29 million hours of volunteer service.

Jill Gunter (00) said, "I am pleased that Alma College offers service learning courses and assists its students in finding volunteer opportunities."

Both parties claim election victories

By LINDSAY ROBINSON
Staff Reporter

Both the Republican and Democratic parties were claiming victories after the election returns came in late Tuesday night, November 3.

On the state level, Republicans claimed majorities in both the House and Senate. Republicans won 58 of the 110 seats in the Michigan House of Representatives, and 22 of the 38 Senate seats.

John Engler retained his governor's seat by winning 1,868,191 votes over Fieger's 1,122,275 votes. Republican Candice Miller remains the secretary of state by claiming twice as many votes as both of her candidates, Mary Lou Parks (D) and Perry Spencer of the Reform Party, combined.

Republicans also were able to obtain a majority in the state Supreme Court for the first time since 1976. Republican judges Clifford Taylor and Maura Corrigan won judicial seats, along with Democrat Michael Cavanaugh. Although the Su-

preme Court is officially non-partisan, candidates are nominated at party conventions. Republicans now hold four of the seven seats.

Democrats claimed a major state victory in the attorney general's race. Democrat Jennifer Granholm raked up 1,532,998 votes, a slim advantage over Republican John Smietanka's 1,422,384.

In elections closer to Alma, Republicans also claimed several victories. In the 93rd district of the State House, which includes Gratiot and Montcalm counties, Larry DeVuyst (R) claimed victory over Paul Eby (D).

In the 33rd district State Senate race, Republican Mike Goschka defeated Barbara McDonald. That district includes both Saginaw and Gratiot counties.

Proposal A, which proposed a change in the working of Michigan's Constitution, replacing the word "handicapped" with "disabled," passed, along with proposal C, which proposed cleaning former industrial sites, controlling water pollution and improving state parks. Proposal B, the pro-

posal to legalize assisted suicide, was overwhelmingly defeated.

Nationally, Democrats were able to proclaim victory.

Republicans lost five seats in the House and three in the Senate. Although the Republicans still hold majorities in both chambers, the numbers are less lopsided, which will be advantageous for Democrats, particularly in the impeachment proceedings for President Clinton.

Emily Lewis (99), member of the Alma Young Democrats said, "For me, I had mixed feelings about the election results. In the state, with the exception of Jennifer Granholm winning the attorney general race, the elections were disappointing for Democrats. But nationally the Democratic party did very well."

Paul Vitantonio (01), member of the Alma College Republicans, said, "I think the elections went well. I wish we could have taken the seat of the Attorney General, but other than that, I think things definitely turned out well for the Republicans," he said.

Communication honorary to host internship night

By AMY FRALEY
News Editor

On November 18, at 8 p.m. in SAC 133 Lambda Pi Eta, the communication honorary society, will host an internship panel.

The panel will feature students from the communication, accounting, business, political science, economics, public affairs, biology, chemistry, psychology and sociology departments. Many of these students participated in internships through the Chicago Urban Life Program or the Philadelphia program, while others worked in New York City and Washington D.C.

The panelists will be speaking about their internships and answering questions about their ex-

periences. Each student will give a short summary of where they did their internship and how the experience benefited their academic and personal growth. Afterward the panelists will try to answer the questions and concerns that students may have about finding an internship.

APIH president, Amy Sherd (99) said, "Many of these students have had really great experiences, whether at Alma or elsewhere. They have lots of great advice to offer and share with other students who are looking."

Amanda Schafer (99), a member of APIH, said, "This is an excellent chance for students to learn about potential opportunities outside of Alma."

Since the communication de-

partment requires that each student complete an internship, the honorary decided that hosting the event would help not only communication majors but could offer assistance to students of all academic backgrounds. The panel has been planned in conjunction with an internship workshop that will be held during winter term 1999.

Sherd said, "I worked on the Robeson 100th Birthday Committee through the Urban Life Program in Chicago. It was a great experience, but when I came back I did not have a lot of people to tell my story to. However, this will give me the opportunity."

Julie Gerken (99) will also be one of the panelists. Gerken worked at the United States Mis-

sion to the United Nations in New York City and at the State Department in Washington, D.C. She had the opportunity to sit in on Security Council meetings, assisted the Secretary of State press corp and wrote daily briefs while in New York. In D.C., Gerken read the incoming cable and wrote reports for the ambassadors' advisors.

"I have had wonderful opportunities since I have been at Alma College," said Gerken, "At the State Department I was one of the least educated and youngest interns. I was competing against graduate students from schools like Oxford and Harvard. It was an eye opening experience."

"I think that a panel like this will help students like myself and give them a good understanding of how

important internships can be. They not only look good on your resume and give you an edge, but most importantly they can provide you with the practical experience needed in the real job world," junior and international business major Jill Gunter said.

The event has been coordinated and planned by the members of Lambda Pi Eta who include seniors Amy Sherd, Melissa Crossnoe, Sarah Dempsey, Jill Georges, Angela Gusse and Amanda Schafer.

To become a member of Lambda Pi Eta, students must have junior status, have completed 12 credits in the communication department, have a 3.0 overall and a 3.25 in communication.

Lighting and parking problems addressed

By TONYA SCHAFFER
Staff Reporter

Changes in campus lighting and parking may soon be performed as the college seeks to correct areas in need of improvement.

On October 19, Vice President of Finance and Administration Jerry Scoby, Physical Plant Director Duane Knecht and Vice President of Enrollment and Student Services Alan Hill conducted an evening tour of campus and identified four areas that require additional illumination.

Increased lighting has already been installed behind the Alpha Gamma Delta and Kappa Iota sorority houses on Superior Street.

"We had an inquiry from the Interfraternity Council concerning [this] area," said Scoby. "[It] was pretty dark, so we added a light back there."

In addition, three other areas—the west side of the Reid-Knox Administration Building, the northwest corner of the Heritage Center and the north side of Dow Science Center—have been deemed in need of further lighting. Installation, however, will not be a simple task.

"The easiest one to do was at the sororities because power was available," said Knecht. "With the other three lights, it's a little more of an undertaking. There isn't a power source available right where the lights would need to go, which means that at some point we would have to do underground trenching and bury cables in order to install them."

Neither Scoby nor Knecht could predict what the costs of this undertaking would be.

"The other thing we're keeping in mind, especially with a building like the Heritage Center that is such a showpiece for the college, is that we want it to blend in with the current lighting that is

part of the facility. If it's decorative lighting, that would be more expensive than the traditional exterior fixtures," said Scoby.

If considered feasible, the installation of these lights will be performed over Christmas break.

Alma student Kathleen McCrudden (01) expressed approval over the proposed changes. "As a female, it would make me more comfortable in the evenings, especially during winter. In general, it's a good way to prevent problems from happening," she said.

Changes in parking are also currently being discussed. The increased number of first year enrollments has led to a shortage of spaces on campus. With the institution of a citywide ordinance that bans parking on the streets from 2 a.m. to 7 a.m., many students who are unable to find a space on campus have received parking tickets.

"I paid thirty dollars for my permit. I'm sick of paying more for the tickets I get," said Katie Mann (02), who owns a non-preferred permit.

"It's been customary that we have sold exactly the number of preferred parking decals as we have preferred parking spaces," said Scoby. "At the same time, we sell more non-preferred decals than we have non-preferred spaces. We tell students that when we sell them. It's a decal that allows them to park on campus, but it does not guarantee them a space."

"What we're seeing this year, compared to prior years, is that we have more students. In the past, when November 1 came around, a lot of the cars disappeared—students took them home. So far, we have not seen that. So, we are considering, 'will that change in the next few days?' and, if not, 'what may we need to

National campaign to focus on financial aid opportunities

By DONNA PAPPAS
Staff Reporter

"No deserving student should be deprived of a college degree because he or she doesn't have the right information," said President of the American Council on Education, Stanley Ikenberry, in a press conference held October 27 at the Martin Luther King Memorial Library in Washington, D.C.

Ikenberry is part of the campaign "College Is Possible," which was started by the Coalition of America's Colleges and Universities. It is intended to further educate the public about financing a college education. Nearly 1,200 colleges and universities will participate. They attempt to reach students and parents in their region, with support from a website (www.CollegeIsPossible.org), the U.S. Department of Education's toll-free number for college information (1-800-433-3243), and a resource guide.

The purpose of this campaign is to address the responses found in a survey that showed many parents and students dramatically over estimate the price of a college education, and under estimate the resources that are available to help them pay for college. There is \$60 billion available to

students in financial aid from federal, state, local, and institutional sources to help them meet college bills. Seven out of ten full-time students qualify for financial aid.

Financial aid is available through grants and scholarships which do not have to be repaid, loans which have to be repaid, and work-study which provides aid in exchange for work. In order to determine financial "need," the expected family contribution is subtracted from the total price of attending the institution, which the government assesses through the Federal Application For Student Aid (FAFSA).

This leftover amount may be obtained through a number of federal and state grant and loan programs, aid provided by institutions, and private sources of aid. At private colleges, the average amount received is almost \$9,000. Even current students are able to take advantage of the possibility of outside scholarship sources. Money is available for a variety of areas, such as talent or major.

"A lot of times, money goes unawarded or students don't take the time to fill out the applications for available scholarships," said Chris Brown, director of financial aid.

With today's technology, students are able to find available scholarships more easily and

quickly by using the Internet, and most of this information is free. Brown discouraged the use of scholarship searches which require a fee, and recommended "Fastweb" as a source of obtaining resources (www.fastweb.com).

However, MI-CASHE applications are made available in the financial aid office. This scholarship search service costs \$15, and after a personal survey, attempts to match students with available scholarships and loans from private sponsors.

"I looked on the internet for a few things, but with a little more time I'm sure I could have found more available scholarships. Taking full advantage of the internet and available resources would've been helpful in cutting costs," said first year student Julie Skok.

The financial aid office has a scholarship notebook available to all students.

Scholarships for graduate students are also available through the internet. Most of these type of scholarships are major-specific, and can be found in departments that they relate to.

The "College Is Possible" campaign is expected to run through the year 2000. It hopes to get this slogan out to the American people.

do differently to accommodate the student parking needs?" he added.

Included in the college's Master Plan for campuswide improvements is the addition of a 170-space lot that will be placed north of Hamilton Commons, near the location of the current baseball field. More parking was also installed this summer through the redesign of a lot adjoining Gelston and Newberry Halls.

"We were able to pick up ap-

proximately 27 new spaces," said Knecht.

Additional parking on campus may be necessary, but its construction is a complicated matter. According to Knecht, the costs often run high.

"As a rule of thumb, one brand-new parking space—blacktop, lighting, and drainage for the lot—runs \$800 to \$1,000 per space. So if you're dealing with a lot that has 150 spaces, that's \$150,000," he said.

In an effort to provide a temporary solution to its parking problem, the college has reserved thirteen spaces in the lot across from the Heritage Center for commuting students; the remainder will be considered non-preferred parking. In addition, students with non-preferred permits who have received parking tickets from November 1 to 6 only may turn the tickets in to Physical Plant and be absolved of payment.

Thirteenth annual Derby Days a success

By DONNA PAPPAS
Staff Reporter

The Sigma Chi (ΣΧ) Fraternity, with support from the campus sororities, hosted the 13th annual Derby Days philanthropy competition last week. Derby Days is held on almost every campus where a ΣΧ chapter is located. It originated at the University of California-Berkeley.

"This was the most successful Derby Days I've been part of since I've been here," said senior Erik Cargill, ΣΧ president.

Last year, the campus fundraiser was successful in raising \$2,300.

"We had a goal to raise \$2,500, but with the hard work of all the

brothers and the sororities, we were able to raise \$3,200," said senior Pete Muccio.

All money raised during this year's week long event was donated to the Community Cafe, which is held at the First Presbyterian Church in Alma. The Community Cafe provides meals to those in need on Thursday evenings.

The week of Derby Days began on Oct. 27, with a brother auction and a sorority cookout at the ΣΧ house. The brothers were auctioned off for a day to sorority members. The dollar amount spent by each sorority earned them points in the competition.

One representative from each sorority was also chosen as a

sweetheart candidate. They included sophomore Dana Boyer (ΦΣΣ), junior Tiffany Brown (ΑΓΔ), senior Jennifer Cornell (ΚΙ), junior Kimberly MacLauren (ΓΦΒ), and sophomore Elizabeth Weber (ΑΞΔ). They collected cans and money from faculty, students, and the community to contribute to the fund-raiser.

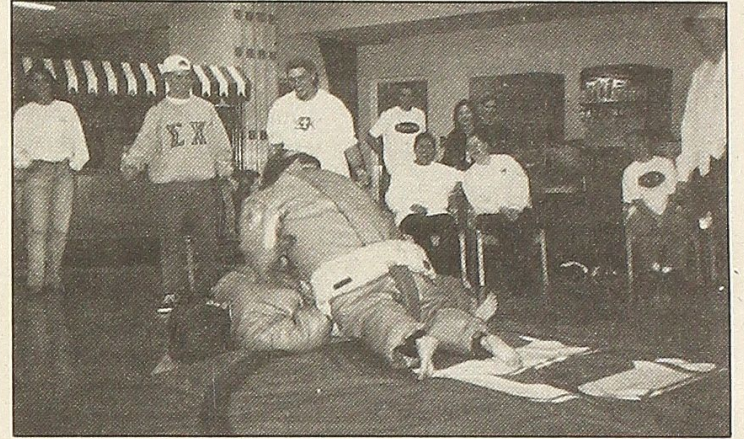
A banner competition was also held during the week. Each sorority designed a banner which was judged by the ΣΧs in order to earn points. ΑΓΔ placed first, followed by ΑΞΔ.

Wednesday night, the ΣΧ's held sorority and then campus-wide Sumo Wrestling in Van Dusen. Two representatives from each sorority competed against each other in attempt to gain points for their sorority. ΓΦΒ took first and second place, and ΑΞΔ took third.

Wednesday was also Domino's donation night; for every large pizza ordered, Domino's donated \$1 to the fund-raiser.

Thursday was sweetheart appreciation and make-a-brother-smile day. If a sorority member made a brother smile, they earned either a ghost or a derby, which counted as points in the sorority competition.

Friday, the fraternity held a



Sigma Chi's Mike Murphy (01) and Chris Tapley (99) cheer on the Sumo Wrestlers during the Derby Days competition. Submitted Photo.

community haunted house at the ΣΧ house. Each sorority decorated a room in the house, which were judged by faculty members. ΓΦΒ and ΦΣΣ tied for first place, ΑΞΔ was second, and ΚΙ placed third.

A Field Day competition was held on Saturday. Sorority members and their ΣΧ coaches participated in King Tut's dream (the team that wrapped their coach with a roll a toilet paper first won), the egg drop (coaches were on the ground with a cup in their mouths, while the teams cracked eight eggs and attempted to drop the yolks into the cup), a tug-of-war, and a five-legged race.

The last event of the week was the pre-party and sweetheart/sorority winner announcement, followed by a campus wide Halloween costume party. The sweetheart winner was MacLauren, who raised \$600. Gamma Phi Beta was the overall sorority winner.

"It was a lot of fun collecting the money and working with the brothers. I think what they're doing is great, and I'm excited about the amount of money that was raised," said MacLauren.

Wrapping it up, Cargill said, "I am very proud of all the effort from the brothers of Sigma Chi and the sorority members."



Gamma Phi Beta's Jenna Knisley (01) and Amy Novak (01) were proclaimed Sumo Wrestling champions during Derby Days. Submitted Photo.

Ingles shifts from basketball player to coach

By KELLY McDONALD
Staff Reporter

Basketball gets in the blood when you live and breathe it your whole life.

Junior Jessica Ingles has been around the sport her entire life, and now that her playing days are over, she is giving back to the sport that got her where she is today. Ingles is the head junior varsity basketball coach at Alma High School this fall and is enjoying every minute of it.

Ingles is a 1996 graduate of Greenville High School where she starred in three sports-basketball, volleyball and softball. She played three years of varsity basketball and currently holds five school records including most three-pointers in a career-the record for girls as well as boys. She was three-time team most valuable player and all-conference selection and two-time all-state selection.

Basketball has been a part of her life for as long as she can remember.

Her dad has been the varsity boys coach at Greenville for the last 27 years. She remembers the days when she was the little tike dribbling around the gym with dad looking on proudly.

"I've always wanted to be a coach. I have had a number of bad coaches and have learned from them what I don't want to do," said Ingles.

Ingles came to Alma College

expecting to play basketball and softball here but a freak accident ended her high hopes. A week before her first college basketball game, she blew out her knee on a routine play during practice. A jump stop that basketball players do a hundred times during practice was what caused the injury. The prognosis-a torn anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) and end of career.

After suffering through three knee surgeries, two being complete reconstruction, she knew she still wanted to be around the game. That's when she got the job at Alma High School.

"I was hoping my career would last longer but things didn't work out. Coaching is not the same as playing but it is as close as you can get," said Ingles.

Ingles has coached her team of 13 girls to a 8-10 record this year with two games still remaining. The girls enjoy playing for her and they are looking to end their season at the .500 mark.

"I think it is important for girl athletes to have good female role models. Sports should be a good experience and I want to give that to my girls," said Ingles.

Ingles is going into secondary education with a major in English and a minor in Communication. She wants to teach in high school and hopes to become a successful high school basketball coach.

"I've always been a competitor and winning is very important to me. I have had a great time with

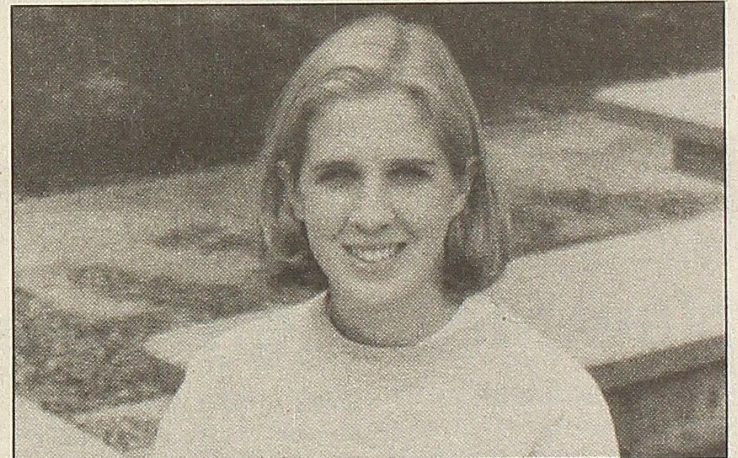
these girls and am looking forward to the future," said Ingles.

Ingles has enjoyed her coaching position but thinks there is room for improvement. Coaches always tell their players to just play the game and they will take care of the officials.

"I need to learn to try to influence the officials a little more. I'm still a little timid," said Ingles.

She is still in that player mode because she has yet to pick up her first technical foul, but is trying.

At age 20, there is plenty of time for that. This is the end of one career but just the beginning of another.



Junior Jessica Ingles uses her past experiences as a basketball player to aid her in coaching the junior varsity basketball team at Alma High School. Photo by Steve Nadeau.

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Library welcomes new face to staff

By STEPHANIE POWELL
Staff Reporter

On November 2, the staff at the Alma College library welcomed a new face.

Carol Struble, who is an alumnus of Alma College, returned to take charge of technical services. Struble, who arrived from Pittsburgh, Penn., says she is thrilled to be back in Alma.

"It (coming back to Alma) is something I've been thinking about doing for a few years," she said. "When I saw the job opening in the area I was really interested in, which is technical services, I decided to apply."

Struble, who grew up in Lansing, said being close to her family was an added plus.

She graduated from Alma College with a double major in Spanish and history and said her original plan was to teach Spanish at the collegiate level. With that in mind, she headed for Indiana Uni-

versity at Bloomington where she completed a Master's degree in Spanish.

"While I was there," Struble explained, "I worked in the library. I really liked it. It was interesting to me."

After teaching Spanish for one year at Central College in Iowa, Struble said her desire to pursue work in a library setting compelled her to obtain a Master of Library Science (MLS) degree, which she did at Western Michigan University.

Since receiving her MLS, Struble has worked in a number of libraries, including one in Indianapolis, Ind., a hospital library, and at a small college in Wilmington, Oh. Struble spent the last fifteen years at the University of Pittsburgh.

Struble said that, since her last stay in Alma, things have changed considerably.

"Well," she said, "there was no Wal Mart or fast food restau-

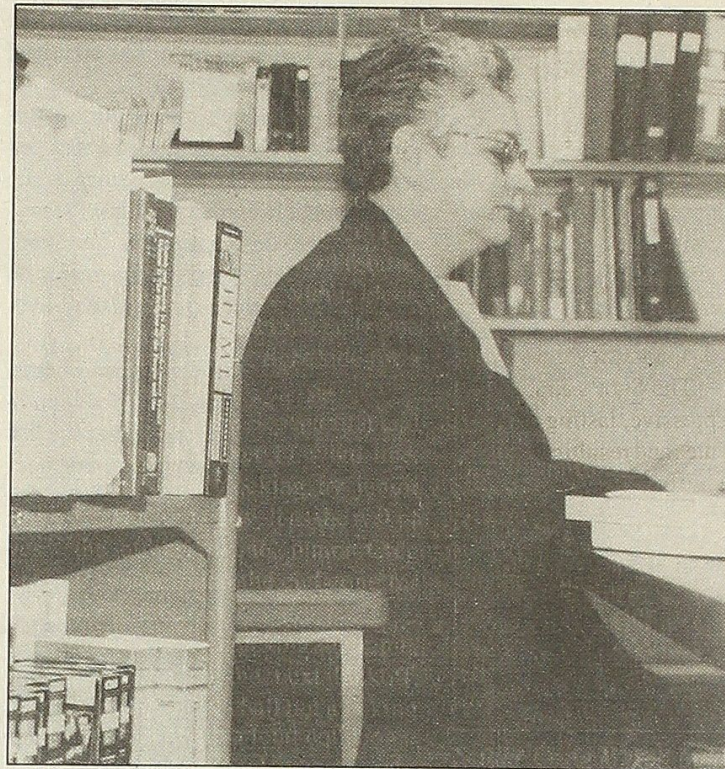
rants—no McDonald's or Burger King. The 300 Bowl was there, and so was Pizza Sam."

"When I was a student here," she added, "I didn't have a car and neither did my friends. So our activities were here on campus or we walked uptown. A big outing was a trip to Mount Pleasant for dinner at The Embers."

Struble said her job at the library entails cataloging, or creating records of materials that are available in the library and making the information accessible on the PACs; she also oversees the library's acquisitions. "I also work with government documents," she added. "Right now, we're working out a process to get that information on the PACs, because right now it's not on there."

Students who wish to meet Struble can look for her at the Reference Desk in the library.

"That's the part of my job I'm most excited about," Struble said, "working with the students."



Carol Struble, a new member of the Alma College Library staff, returns to her alma mater to take charge of technical services. Photo by Steve Nadeau.

Alma looks forward to "The Nutcracker" performance

By MANDY LONG
Feature Editor

Sugar plum fairies, Snow Queens, Cavaliers, and ballerinas will once again be gracing the stage of the Alma College Heritage Center for the Performing Arts as the Alma College Dance Company and the Alma Symphony Orchestra perform *The Nutcracker*.

Tom Morris, professor of dance, is directing and choreographing *The Nutcracker*, which has been in the works for over two years. Last fall "Act II" of "The Nut-

cracker" was performed, which will be expanded on this year to include Act I.

According to Morris, over 50 Alma College students are involved in the ballet production, as well as 50 local area children, faculty and administration members. Alma College students play several lead roles, and junior Suzanne DeLong and first-year student Elkie Betz will be alternating the role of the Snow Queen. There will also be several guests artists in the roles of the Sugar Plum Fairy and the Cavalier.

Tickets for *The Nutcracker* were sold out in October. However, preparation for the piece began last spring when sets were built, and rehearsals began the first week of classes.

"Everybody has to get in there and make it one production," said Morris, "It's not just choreography and dancing, but a collection of technical staff, musicians, and a symphony."

The Alma Symphony Orchestra began preparations for the show following their fall concert. Community members and smaller sections of the orchestra joined to-

gether to learn Act I and relearn Act II. A guest harpist will be featured as well as a celeste player for Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy. Conducted by Doug Scripps and lead by concert master Wei Tsun Chang, *The Nutcracker* Orchestra has been working hard to master the difficult score, troublesome for even professionals.

The Nutcracker is based on an original story by E.T.A. Hoffman that was made into a ballet. It's about a child named Clara who dreams that a nutcracker doll given to her by her godfather, Drosselmeyer, turns into a hand-

some prince.

The score from *The Nutcracker* is the third and last of Tchaikovsky's great ballets. While it was first performed in 1892 in St. Petersburg at the Maryinsky Theater, its best known versions have been performed by dance companies such as the Royal Ballet and the Birmingham Royal Ballet. The most well-known version was performed by Festival Ballet in 1957.

Alma College's performances of *The Nutcracker* will be taking place November 19-22 at the Heritage Center.

New Morissette release no departure from the old

By TONYA SCHAFER
Staff Reporter

Lost amid the swirl of controversy surrounding her all-nude romp through the streets in the music video for her latest single, the November 3 release of Alanis Morissette's sophomore effort was an anticlimactic event.

The CD, *Supposed Former Infatuation Junkie*, does not stray far from the formula that established its songstress as the voice of tortured, embittered females everywhere; Morissette is still angry at the world, still asserting her emotions through unearthly howls, and still striving to shock the unwary listener with her sometimes scandalous subject matter.

Containing 17 tracks that run for over 71 minutes, *Infatuation Junkie* provides a vast amount of music for the money. Wading through its angst, the listener will discover a few songs worthy of praise. The aforementioned single, "Thank U," is a fairly upbeat search for self-acceptance (that, unfortunately, promises to be

played to death on every Top-40 radio station in America). "That I Would Be Good" is a haunting, somber piece that closes with a stirring flute solo played by Morissette herself. And "The Couch," a stream-of-consciousness tirade in the voice of a world-weary psychiatric patient, is a turbulent song with an exotic drumbeat.

Many of Morissette's songs express her disillusionment with aspects of modern life. "Baba" is a diatribe against charismatic leaders of alternative religions who demand blind adoration from their followers; this piece closes with an eerie, sacrilegious chorus of "Ave Maria's." "Unsent" is a series of cast-off letters to the men she has loved and lost. "Sympathetic Character" describes a woman's emotionally compromising relationship with a man prone to violent, raging tantrums.

No song on this album stood out as being horrid—which demonstrates *Infatuation Junkie*'s primary flaw. The num-

ber of tracks crammed into Morissette's release quickly begin to sound alike; the singer's wailing simply melts into one massive blob of anguish. Such tracks as "Heart of the House" and "Are You Still Mad" may eventually grow on the listener, but their meandering qualities do not create initial memorable impressions.

Such a lengthy undertaking as 60+ minutes of music may have seemed commendable at the time of its inception, but the finished product would be more satisfying if Morissette had focused on the unique quality, and not mere quantity, of songs on her album.

Admirers of the singer's earlier work will not be disappointed with

Supposed Former Infatuation Junkie. A few hipsters who initially shunned Morissette may find pleasant surprises in the earthy tone of her latest release. The singer has interesting ideas to express; it is just disappointing that only a few of the pieces on her latest album attain the quality she is capable of producing.

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November 10, 1998

SPORTS

5

Scots end season on powerful note

By MARK ISZAK
Freelance Writer

On the last game of the 1998 season, the Scots accomplished what they had worked and hoped for. They went out with a bang, smoking Olivet 56-16 on November 7 at Bahlke Field. The Scots hoped to improve their record to 5-4, and they did--with style.

The Scot's first drive was impressive, lasting around six minutes and resulting in a touchdown.

From then on it was all Scots. Senior quarterback Jason VanDerMaas added a rushing touchdown, as well as three in the air.

Also, a blocked punt depicted how well the defense played.

Excellent offensive performances were put forth by senior Rod Barriger, as well as sophomore Brian Pierce. Both receivers caught a touchdown pass, which complemented the running game quite well.

The special teams also performed well. In addition to the blocked punt, junior Dustin Armstrong returned a punt for a touchdown in the first half.

Leading the way on defense was junior cornerback Zack Workman. Workman tallied two picks for the Scots, including a

very important interception which ended a late Olivet surge just before half-time.

The half-time score was 35-0 in the Scot's favor. However, they proved they were not yet finished.

The Scots would rack up two quick touchdowns, with the help of some tough running by first year student James Parshay and senior Craig Wasen.

Wasen ran hard all game, and contributed a few 10+ yard rushes to help move the ball.

Wasen said, "The seniors went out and made a good showing their last game. The victory gives the team something positive to start from for next year. As for next year, the team will have a great chance for the championship, and I wish them all the luck in the seasons ahead."

Also seeing some action were quarterbacks junior Josh Wakefield and sophomore Brandon Wrobel.

"Everyone got a chance to play and get a feel for the game," said Wakefield.

As for next year, Wakefield is excited and anticipating the start of the season, as he will have a great chance to lead the offensive assault.

Olivet gained some momentum when it picked off a Wakefield

pass and returned it 46 yards. However, the Scot's defense held up, with tackles by junior Todd Francis and sophomore Dan Huggler.

The fourth quarter started with an interception by senior Tim McAleece and a 24-yard return.

Then Wakefield, with a block by junior Adam Kern, found some room around the right side for a 19-yard gain.

This gave the Scots a first and ten on the Olivet 11- yard line. With tough blocking by junior Chad Klopff, as well as the rest of the offensive line, junior Greg Bowden found the end-zone for six points.

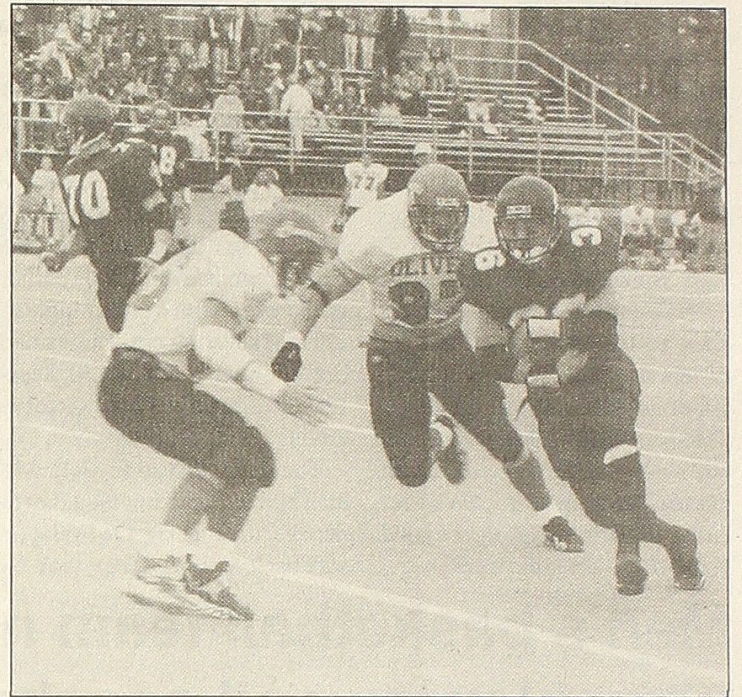
Pads were cracking all game, including on the next kickoff. Senior Keith Schall put a licking on Olivet with a loud collision.

Olivet stuck back with a touchdown from 32 yards out by sophomore Kris Brown.

Brown completed his season by setting the Olivet single season rushing record with 900+ yards. Olivet converted for two points, making the score 56-8.

A nice 34-yard return by first-year student Pat Cell gave the Scots good field position.

Then Wrobel took the helm and completed his first two pass attempts to sophomore Ryan Huber



Senior Craig Wasen holds onto the ball and escapes the grip of two Olivet players to help the Scots defeat Olivet 56-16 at last Saturday's game. Photo by Steve Nadeau.

and junior Jason Fritz.

The Scots didn't see the end-zone again, but had been living in it for almost the entire game.

Olivet scored six points more, along with a two point conversion, making the score 56-16.

It would end up that way, as the Scots celebrated a season-clinching victory and a winning season.

"The win set the tone for next year's team, which should be very successful," stated senior Brandon Kaput.

A fond farewell is due to the senior Scots, all 20 of them. With this final victory, these seniors become the second winningest class this decade with 21 wins in four years, tying them with the class of 1990.

Men's Soccer team qualifies for NCAA tournament



Alma College soccer player Mark McClutchey (00) assisted the Scots in their 3-2 win over Kalamazoo. Photo by Steve Nadeau.

By SEAN BABBITT
Freelance Writer

Alma's mens soccer is back, not that they ever left, but they are back in the NCAA tournament for the second straight year.

With the Scots 3 - 2 win over MIAA champion Kalamazoo Comets on Saturday, they qualified to travel to Ohio and play in the tournament.

For the second consecutive year the Scots, 14 - 3 overall, 10 - 3 conference, will be representing the MIAA in the NCAA division III tournament. The Scots will be seeing some familiar faces as they try to better last years-regional finals championship game.

"We are not just happy to be

there, [in the tournament] but we expect to have been there," said head coach Scott Frey. "Last year the thought was let's get to the playoffs and that would be nice, because we have never done it. This year the expectations were that we would be there."

The team will be playing an Ohio Wesleyan squad who ousted them last year in the regional championship game, 1 - 0.

"They [Ohio Wesleyan] play the same way they have for the past 20 years," said Frey. "By far they are the team that division three programs measure themselves by, as far as historical tradition."

Three other teams will be in the tournament from around the

Great Lakes region.

DePauw University in Indianapolis will go in as the top seed, and will be joined by Earlham College. Another team making a consecutive year entry is Otterbein College. Last year Alma ousted Otterbein in the first round by defeating them 2 - 1.

Alma earned their way back into the tournament this year by winning their final seven games in conference play and by beating champion Kalamazoo on the final day 3 - 2.

Junior keeper, John Cullin, in that seven game winning streak, earned five consecutive shutouts in the streak, and nine total for the season.

See SOCCER on page 6...

Swim team will not give up, despite loss to Hillsdale

BY MIKE HEYD
Freelance Writer

"Even when the meet was definitely not winnable anymore, they kept racing to win," said men's and women's swimming and diving Coach Greg Baadte.

Last Saturday the Alma College women's swimming and diving team competed against Hillsdale for their first dual meet. Alma lost their away meet to this division two non-conference team 142-89.

Sophomore diver Rachel

Dowdney took two first place honors in diving. Her one-meter board score of 202.95 and three-meter board score of 182.32 are good indicators that this now experienced diver is going to do well this season. It was Dowdney's second time ever breaking 200 on one-meter.

The loss was not a result of bad swimming or diving, however.

"We swam well; they just swam better," said sophomore swimmer Christy Doyle.

The Lady Scots never lost motivation. Baadte mentioned

several women who had exceptional meets. Dowdney, junior swimmer Laura Camann, sophomore swimmer Nicole DeFrance and first-year student swimmer Katie Kooyers were among them.

Junior swimmer Carrie Thomas said, "We swam really well for this early in season."

Baadte said, They never quit. They never gave up."

Last year's commencement gave the women's swimming and diving team a shock. Baadte said, "We lost the top two scorers and four of the top eight scorers to

graduation and transfer."

Camann said, "We lost a lot to graduation and transfers last year, but we're having fun and have high morale. But the points are hard to make up."

The heart of the women's swimming and diving team lies not in winning but in improving and having a good time.

With high morale, positive attitudes and competitive spirits, The women's swim team is approaching this year's season with enthusiasm.

Doyle said, "The meet was

more important to us, not necessarily how we swam but it was a time for us to bond and get to know each other better. We had fun."

Camann said, "We even made up new cheers while we were there."

The Alma College women's swimming and diving team will compete again this Thursday against Grand Valley State University. This home meet will include both the men's and women's swimming and diving teams.

Volleyball ends season in Colorado Springs

By KELLY McDONALD
Staff Reporter

A weekend of sightseeing and volleyball sounded like a good time to the 13 members of the varsity volleyball team, and that's what they got last weekend when they traveled to Colorado Springs to take part in the Colorado College "Spike It Up" Invitational.

While the main reason for traveling to the tournament was for experience, the sightseeing was a major attraction to the team.

Many of the girls had never been out west and were excited about the trip. But the team stayed focused throughout and played good volleyball during the weekend.

With senior co-captain Ellen Bradbury out for the year with a bad shoulder, the team went in a little short-handed.

The Scots were looking for someone to step up and fill the hole Bradbury left.

That's where sophomore Meghann Devlin came in. Devlin had led the Scots in their five game triumph over Albion earlier in the week with a career high 22 kills and seven blocks. This earned her the honor of WMLM Scots Player of the Week for October 26-31.

The team arrived in Colorado on Thursday, but it took a day to get over their jet lag. On Friday, it was back to work. They took on

the host team from Colorado College but lost in three games, 6-15, 4-15, 5-15.

Nationally ranked California State Hayward was the next foe for the Scots. Although they played a better overall game, they went down in three games, 8-15, 6-15, 12-15.

On Saturday, they recovered from the long trip and got a win against the team from Ogelthorpe, 8-15, 15-9, 15-8, 15-5.

California Lutheran, ranked seventh in the nation in NCAA Division III, was the next team the Scots were up against. The overpowering front line of Lutheran took over the game and

Alma lost in three straight games, 0-15, 3-15, 12-15.

"Our team was so young this year," said Bradbury, "but from the experiences of this season, I think they will do well in the future."

The Scots five game improvement from last year was an accomplishment for the team. Their final overall record was 12-17 and 7-9 in the MIAA.

"We improved our record from last year and that was our goal of the season. Overall, we were very pleased with the results," said senior co-captain Nicole Markeicki.

"We had great overall improvement in team spirit as well as ability," said sophomore Julia

Fielder.

After the volleyball tournaments were over, the team visited some exciting places in and around Colorado Springs.

The consensus favorite of the team was the Royal Gorge, which is the highest suspension bridge in the world.

They also went to the top of Pike's Peak and visited the Cave of the Winds.

The trip was fun for everyone but it also capped off a spectacular career for two of Alma's seniors.

Markeicki played her last volleyball game for Alma College in Colorado while Bradbury ended her career earlier in the season.

Men's basketball team has several new players and coaches for 1999

By KELLY McDONALD
Staff Reporter

As football season comes to a close and the weather becomes chilly, athletes are moving to the comforts of the indoor gymnasium. The men's basketball team started practice on October 25, with many new faces on the team.

The coaching staff has also seen some changes over the summer with Calvin College graduate Sam Hargraves joining head coach Kevin Skaggs at the helm. Hargraves was an All-MIAA player last year and has great knowledge of the game. However, back for his second year on the coaching staff is Alma graduate Scott Goddard. Also, joining the bunch is Jeff Curtis, an Alma graduate, who played for the Scots for the last three seasons.

There are 24 guys out for the team this year. The biggest name in the bunch is junior Jeremy Hyler.

Hyler led the team and was second in the league in rebounds last year, with an average of 7.4 per game. He was also third in the league in blocked shots, swatting 1.4 per game.

Also back from last season are senior Pat Hoag, junior Seth Stapleton, junior Tony Colucci and sophomore Chris Seelbach. All contributed to last year's record of 11-14 and are expected to have important roles this year as well. Some of the key new faces in the bunch include three transfer students. Junior college transfer Jim Hanlin playing at point guard for the Scots. Muskegon Junior College transfer Tony Jasick and Elmhurst College transfer Scott Eldrige will also be fighting for playing time.

"We have very good potential to move up in the conference standings," said Skaggs.

The team was hit hard by graduation from last year, losing lead-

ing scorer Doug Austin and point guard Eric Spielhaupter, as well as three-point specialists Curtis, Chris Davis and Jason Huber. The team is going into this season with an open outlook and high goals and expectations.

"By far we have made up for the loss of the seniors. I don't think it will hurt us in any way. We have a great attitude and continue to work hard," said Hyler.

"Like every year, we want to finish as high as we can. The ultimate goal is a championship, but we are just going to play to the best of our ability," said Skaggs.

"Our goal is to finish in the top three in our conference. The quote for this year is 'Dare to Believe,'" said Hyler.

This team has plenty of potential and looks to be in for a good season. The Scots start out their 1998 campaign with a trip to Pennsylvania on November 20th. Their first home game isn't until December 28th. If you "Dare to Believe," come out and watch the Scots as they look to improve their record.

SOCCER (cont. from page 5)

The game was sealed very late when junior forward, Joel Stewart scored with seven seconds remaining in the second half.

The goal was scored by junior co-captain Chris Alexander.

Senior Randy U'Ren and senior Jason Passalacqua also tallied to send the Scots to the national playoffs.

"The team believes that it can win and it should win, and it is finding a way to do so," said Frey. "You could build a story out of it, the seniors, Randy, and Pass, really found a way to get it in the back of the net."

The Scots had been sort of drifting in the wind until October 17, when they won at Olivet.

"The real turn around for us came against when we lost to Kalamazoo. We felt like we had played very well against Kalamazoo and then we knew that we could do it from there on out," said Frey.

The Scots ended their season with two different players on the MIAA league leader page.

U'Ren finished with 31 points placing him fourth in total points. While Alexander was third in with nine assists.

U'Ren was also honored this week by being named the MIAA co-player of the week for his goals against Kalamazoo College and Defiance College in league play.

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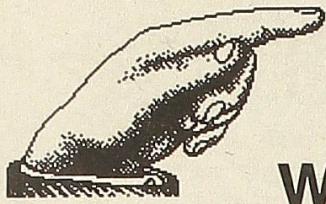
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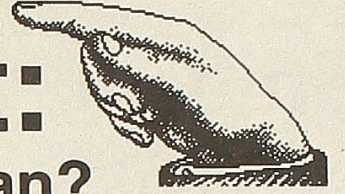
OPINION

7



Point/Counterpoint:

What did Tuesday's election results mean?



Mixed election results for State Democrats

By EMILY LEWIS
Freelance Writer

The 1998 elections were disappointing for the Michigan Democratic Party, but were surprisingly positive for Democrats on the national level. Republicans experienced a very successful election here in Michigan. Besides Governor John Engler's re-election win, the Republican Party was able to capture a majority of the seats in the state House and state Senate. In addition, Republican candidate Candice Miller was re-elected as secretary of state and conservatives now control a majority of the Michigan Supreme Court. The only statewide Democratic victory was Jennifer Granholm's win over John Smietanka for the attorney general's office.

Nationally, however, the Democratic Party enjoyed several significant election victories. For example, Democrats gained five new seats in the House of Representatives and halted the Republicans from gaining seats in the Senate. Despite Republican successes elsewhere in the state, ten of Michigan's sixteen House seats will continue to be held by Democrats for the next two years.

Last Tuesday's election results were a surprising and historical event. In off-year elections, the president's party typically loses between twenty and thirty seats in the House. Not since James Monroe has a president's own party increased its num-

ber of seats in the House of Representatives in the sixth year of a presidential term.

Up until Election Day, most political experts and analysts were predicting that the Republican Party would have a sweeping victory in Congress. Republicans were hoping to gain enough seats in the House to be able to override presidential vetoes on such issues as partial-birth abortion. In the Senate, Republicans wanted to gain enough seats to become filibuster-proof. Although Democrats did not gain any seats in the Senate, they successfully unseated a few incumbent Republican Senators such as Alfonse D'Amato of New York. When the elections were over, the Republican Party was happy just to be able to hold on to their current majority in both chambers of Congress.

The Democratic Party's 1998 election victories are the first big step towards Democrats regaining control of the House of Representatives and Senate in 2000. Democratic successes in this election indicate that the American people are not satisfied with the Republican Party's performance in Congress or in its investigation against President Clinton. Voters want Congress to focus on more important issues such as education, social security, and health care reform. The Republican Party's response to these issues will determine how well they will do in the next elections.

Republicans hold on to majority

By SHANNON CASEY
Opinion Editor

Last week's general election proved that the Republican Party is the party of the future. In Michigan the Republicans made huge gains and in the national election, Republicans held their own.

The voters overwhelmingly re-elected Governor Engler and Secretary of State Candice Miller. The Republicans maintained control of their majority in the state Senate and regained a majority in the state House.

Term limits opened up many seats that were historically conservative, but have been held by a Democratic incumbent for the past generation. Now the Republicans control 58 of the 110 House seats.

Gratiot County Republicans fared well in Lansing last week also. Mike Goschka, candidate for state Senate decisively won the only open state Senate seat, despite the big dollars the Democrats funneled into Barb McDonald's campaign. State Representative Larry DeVuyst also won re-election in a cake walk.

If the Democrats continue to elect party leaders like Geoffrey Fieger, they are in big trouble. Michiganders proved in Tuesday's election that they are not willing to elect extremists just because they may have a lot of money to spend. They also proved that scare tactics, such as saying Republicans want to starve school children and cut Social Security, do not

work. Voters are too smart for these smear campaigns.

The voters spoke and Michigan Republicans listened four years ago when they said they wanted lower taxes, smaller and more efficient government and localized power. That is why the elections turned out so favorably to Republicans.

Nation-wide, Republicans did not make the gains expected, but one must remember back prior to 1994. Six years ago the Republicans had lost the presidency, had a minority in both houses of Congress, possessed only a handful of governor mansions, and held few state legislatures. Today Republicans are the majority party in both the House and the Senate and hold 31 of the nation's 50 governor mansions, including eight of the nine largest states.

Republican governors such as John Engler, Tommy Thompson, and George W. Bush have attracted the national spotlight by turning around states plagued by liberalism into states with healthy economies, great schools and less government bureaucracy.

In order to continue this progress, Republicans will have to stick to their agenda of cutting taxes, reforming the IRS and welfare, improving healthcare, and come up with new plans to protect Social Security and fix America's schools. Building on the improvements of the last four years, Republicans will have no problem remaining the majority party in the future.

Murphy's Sports Track

By MICHAEL MURPHY
Staff Reporter



With little less than a month remaining in the college football season, the Heisman Trophy race is getting more and more publicity. The trophy that is so symbolic of college football's top player is going to be awarded in one month. Many players have put together excellent seasons that definitely are placing them in the thick of the race.

Here is the cream of the crop that have the best chances of winning the trophy. (Note: all figures and team rankings are taken after games played on October 31.)

Michael Bishop

The quarterback of #2 Kansas State, Bishop has steadily guided the Wildcats to a possible national championship. With 16 touchdown passes and only one interception, he has been more than consistent while guiding his team to an 8-0 record. If Kansas State goes undefeated for the rest of the regular season, look for him to get even more recognition.

Tim Couch

He was one of the top contenders at the

onset of the season and still remains high on everyone's list to win the award. In leading Kentucky's potent offense, Couch has completed 286-of-399 passes for a whopping 3,108 yards. He has also thrown 27 touchdowns, although he has a rather high 10 interceptions. In addition, he had a string of 8 straight 300-plus passing yards games. Couch has also played against some excellent competition in the SEC while guiding his Wildcats to a 5-3 record.

Daunte Culpepper

They call him "Daunte's Inferno." You may not have heard of Mr. Culpepper, but I guarantee you will see him on Sundays in the NFL. The University of Central Florida quarterback has passed for 2,918 yards while completing an outstanding 73.7% of his passes. One may make an argument that the Golden Knights have not played tough competition. Steve McNair, however, got even more recognition while playing for Alcorn State which faced much easier competition. Culpepper needs 124 yards rushing in his next 3 games to become the third player ever to have 10,000 passing yards and 1,000 yards rushing.

Cade McNown

The fourth-ranked UCLA quarterback, McNown has put up some solid numbers.

Throwing for 1,607 yards and 13 touchdowns, he has been extremely consistent. His mature leadership has put the 7-0 Bruins into position to win a national title. McNown has been able to come up with many clutch plays as well, and is showing that he knows how to take his team to the promised land.

Donovan McNabb

The 17th-ranked Syracuse co-Captain and quarterback, McNabb is 108-of-159 for 1,487 yards, 15 touchdowns, and 2 interceptions. His commanding of the Orangemen option has been most impressive, as he has the quick ability to decide whether to pitch the ball to the running back or tuck the ball inside and run it himself. His leadership and skills were the reasons behind Syracuse's decimation of Michigan in September.

Akili Smith

Akili Who?!? Do not be surprised if you have not heard of the twentieth-ranked Oregon quarterback. He has put up some excellent numbers, though, passing for 2,038 yards with 19 touchdowns and 5 interceptions. Unfortunately, he has not gotten the publicity that all of the other Heisman Trophy contenders have received. He almost pulled off an incredible upset at

the Rose Bowl against an excellent and undefeated UCLA Bruin team.

Ricky Williams

The 6-2 Texas Longhorns would be nowhere near their record had it not been for this dred-locked running back. His numbers are simply amazing; 264 carries for 1,634 yards, good for a 204.25 yards per game average. He is first in the nation in rushing and has 24 touchdowns. An even more incredible statistic is that only 22 of the NCAA Division I teams have outrushed Williams alone this year. He matched the NCAA record of reaching 1,000 yards in 5 games. The classy tailback needs only 294 yards in his final 3 games to break Tony Dorsett's career rushing record set back in 1973-76. His 150-yard rushing performance against Nebraska helped the "Horns snap the "Huskers' 47 home game winning streak and possibly helped him to become the odds' on favorite to win the Heisman.

As one can see, all of these contenders have put up great numbers. There are many more solid contenders for the Heisman than last year, when only Ryan Leaf, Peyton Manning, Randy Moss, and Charles Woodson were given serious thought to winning the Heisman Trophy.

Staff Editorial**Students hurt themselves by not voting**

The 26th Amendment of the United States Constitution states: *The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age.*

This amendment refers to the majority of students on campus who are given the opportunity to vote. As a result, it is only right to stress the importance of voting in elections that will affect our lives and our future.

Several years later, a few amendments and bills added to the Constitution finally gave equal rights for all to vote.

These laws gave women and blacks the right to vote. They instituted an age that allowed young adults beginning at 18 the right to vote.

All of these rights were given and still we do not take advantage of them.

The voter turnout rate for young adults is the lowest among all other age groups including senior citizens.

Being a legal citizen means voting is a part of civic duty or participation in elections as one of the responsibilities of citizenship. Not only does voting involve citizens in civic duty but politics as well. Voting is not the most important aspect of political participation, but it is a necessity if one is to have a voice in election outcomes.

Participation in politics grants citizens the chance to voice their opinions and concerns to those who hold the seats in offices. Also, it allows citizens to increase their knowledge on who is running for specific positions

and what each candidate values for the welfare of individuals.

Why do some citizens choose not to vote? This is a question that remains to be unknown. However some resolve that voting is not done because citizens do not have a sense for who is running or do not share the same views.

It has been noted that voter turnout decreases when citizens have a low level of trust in the government. The outbreak of the Bill Clinton-Monica Lewinsky fiasco might account for why only one-third of all eligible voters showed up to last week's election.

Others feel the government does not care about their opinions therefore voting is not an option. Not voting results in a lack of participation and a loss in the voting process.

When voters choose not to participate in elections, they lose the

right to complain about who is elected. Also, they lose the right to object to policies and laws which are passed.

Voting is not that difficult to do nor is it a painstaking process. A convenient way of registering is possible through legislation enacted by Congress called "motor voter." Motor voter requires states to permit people to register to vote when applying for a driver's license. Another form of voting is through absentee ballots. Absentee ballots offers a convenient process which mails the voting ballot directly to your home.

Political participation is involvement in activities structured to influence leadership and policies. Through voting, the people choose who they want to represent them. Therefore, choosing not to vote only hinders the individual in the long run.

Jesse "the Body" Ventura slams his way into Minnesota governor's seat

By LINDSAY ROBINSON
Staff Reporter

Partisan politics continue to frustrate voters all over the country. Negative advertisements and other various political attacks pepper news media, either on television, in newspapers, or on the radio. By the time polls closed at 8 pm November 3rd, citizens of Minnesota proclaimed to their state and eventually made a nationwide proclamation that they had had enough.

The election returns spoke for themselves. Republican candidate Norm Coleman and Democratic candidate Hubert Humphrey III took a double, and then a triple take. Neither of them had won. Instead, standing atop of victory's pedestal, was reform party candidate Jesse Ventura.

Many people know Jesse Ventura as the former professional wrestler who donned pink tights and a feather boa. Minnesota residents now know him as their governor.

Gathering 37 percent of the state's votes, Ventura managed to

beat his Republican and Democratic opponents. Coleman received 34 percent of the votes, and Humphrey 28 percent.

Ventura, 47, was born James George Soros. After high school, he joined the Navy SEALs, and

Many people know him as the former professional wrestler who donned pink tights and a feather boa. Minnesota residents now know him as their governor.

later became a bouncer, which is when he met his wife. He was married in 1975, the year he became a pro wrestler. He changed his name during his wrestling training on the West Coast. He chose the first name Jesse because "he liked the sound of it," and Ventura because he knew

that was where he would be doing a lot of his wrestling.

Ventura's prior political experience includes a term served as the mayor of a suburb of Minneapolis from 1990 to 1994.

This man is a refreshing change to the stagnant political arena. He boldly brings with him a conservative fiscal stance and moderate views on social issues. He proposes that a national consumption tax would equalize the tax burden across all socioeconomic levels. According to this plan, people would just pay taxes on what they purchase, so people in effect could dictate how much money the government would get. He believes that abortion issues do not belong in politics, and that a woman should retain her right to choose. He supports legalizing marijuana for medicinal uses, and opposes governmental influence in the health care arena, particularly in the area of insurance mandates. Political Action Committees (PACs) are detrimental to the political process in Ventura's eyes, and he refused any money

offered to him in his campaign.

According to Ventura, there should be little governmental interference in the school system, and he believes that testing should be done at the local level. But at the same time, he does not support school vouchers. Ventura is also largely in favor of the right to bear arms, and believes that citizens should be able to carry weapons.

Though some of Ventura's ideas have some rough edges, a great current of political energy and motivation flows from him. His lack of party identification allowed him to express his views without restraint, and that he certainly did. And his state rallied behind him. This country would be in for a great treat if all politicians had such vigor and energetic spunk as this iron-man Minnesotan governor.

Classified

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Letter to the editor

To the editor,

The Class of 2000 resurrected the Spirit Rock with the primary motivation of welcoming back the alumni at Homecoming '98 while also attempting to rejuvenate school spirit. This relic symbolizes the freedom of expression; it allows anyone on campus to show they are proud of Alma College, or at least some facet of the well-rounded education it provides. The rock is a tangible object—a visual representation people can see every-

day, serving as a reminder that this college is not only about classes and homework, but that it is also about personal expression and inward discovery.

The work on the rock is not complete, for it is currently at rest on its side. We hope to build a new pedestal for the rock and to move the rock to a better location.

For those students and faculty members who feel the rock is an eyesore, we ask that you please remember "beauty is in the eye of the beholder." Prospective stu-

dents should be impressed with the rock when they visit our campus. They should see individuality. They should see fun. They should see the freedom of expression that makes our nation a global standard of excellence. We would further argue that if one sees only a rock covered in multi-colored paint, he or she is not really "seeing" the Spirit Rock at all.

If this "eyesore" is really as unbearable as it has been made out to be, then by all means feel free to return it to the muddy

depths. In doing so, however, know that you are burying with it the pride and expression of 1500 souls. This relic is much more than a one-ton mass of paint splatters; it is the foundation of growth and aspiration; it is the first solid step towards true achievement; it is a building block...er, building rock...on which we will build on as we evolve into full-fledged adulthood.

The Class of 2000

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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.