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# The Almanian

November 24, 1998

Serving Alma College since 1907

Issue 10

## News Briefs

### National News Briefs

#### Rural patients ignorant about risks of AIDS

**ATLANTA** — The Centers for Disease Control conducted interviews with HIV-infected patients in rural areas of four states and revealed that more than one-half of the respondents never thought that they were at risk of contracting the virus even though most were engaging in unprotected sex and other risky behavior.

The researchers interviewed 608 adults with HIV living in rural areas of Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, and Delaware. Nearly a third admitted that they did know how the disease was spread.

#### Lawyer: Attackers' motive was burglary

**LARAMIE, Wyo.** — Gay college student Matthew Shepard was beaten and tied to a fence by his attackers as they interrogated him for information so they could burglarize his apartment a prosecutor revealed.

"As he lay there bleeding and begging for his life, he was then bound to the buck fence," prosecutor Cal Rerucha stated at the preliminary hearing for Aaron James McKinney. McKinney along with Russell Arthur Henderson have been accused of killing Shepard after luring him out of a campus bar to an isolated area outside of the town.

#### Gulf war veterans say they lack help for ailments

**WASHINGTON** — Last week ailing Gulf War veterans told a presidential panel that they still can't get the government to take their issues seriously. "For us, the Gulf War continues," said one former Air Force sergeant with \$32,000 in medical bills. U.S. officials have acknowledged the illnesses are real, but they lack good diagnoses despite the years of extended study.

### World News Briefs

#### American doctors correct spina bifida in fetus

**LONDON** — American surgeons reported that they have corrected spina bifida in a 23-week old fetus while in the womb. The surgery will allow the baby to born with normal leg movements. In a letter published last week in The Lancet medical journal, doctors from the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the University of Pennsylvania said that by repairing the condition early they can prevent nerve damage.

#### Cyanide-laced fish found before delivery

**MANILA, Philippines** — Philippine authorities found 40 boxes of cyanide-laced live fish which were bound for trendy restaurants in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Japan. The fish were caught after being stunned by cyanide and contained 0.87 parts per million of cyanide, enough to poison humans.

## WQAC makes improvements

By AMY FRALEY  
News Editor

During winter term 1999, the Alma College radio station, WQAC, will be making some major changes. With the donation of continuous play equipment from WCFX, 95.3 out of Mt. Pleasant, the station will now be able to run 24 hours a day.

According to WQAC's general manager Ben Shoemaker (00), the continuous play equipment, "is like a giant juke box."

The equipment consists of multiple compact disc changers run by a computer. It takes CD's along with the liners that are used between songs. It will be installed by a team of engineers from Indiana.

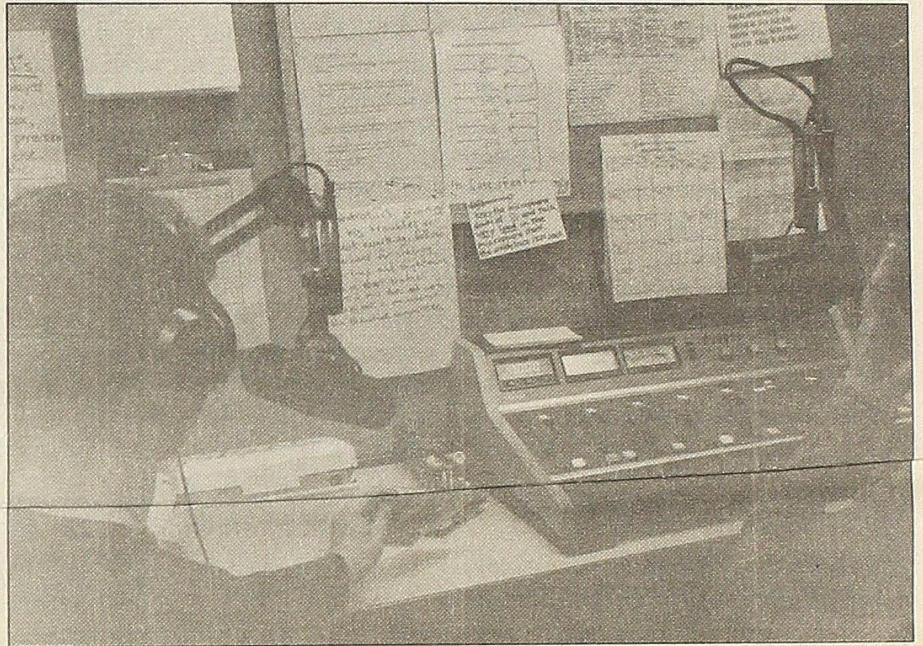
Program director Jeremiah Lee (00) said that the equipment is "totally automated and could be used without DJ's," however he stressed that was "not what we [WQAC station managers] want."

The new equipment will change the way that the station is run, Lee stated.

Lee further said that the "station has gotten a lot better this year, despite the technical problems. So, with the current problems, I think that everyone is doing as good a job as possible."

The technical difficulties included problems with the broadcasting equipment. Luckily none have proven to be too serious or costly.

Shoemaker said, "It's just time to start replacing the equipment, most of it is the original from the station's founding and there have not been any major difficulties during that time." He also said that last year's director Peter Muccio (99), "laid the groundwork that I followed and with the addition of the new equipment, it's going to take us [WQAC] to the next level



Equipment at the campus radio station WQAC has been on the rocks for several weeks. New equipment has been donated to the station and will arrive soon to enable the station to run for 24 hours a day. Photo by Maya Mackowiak.

of radio broadcasting. It will also make the station sound more professional than ever before."

The station, which can be found on 90.9 FM, changed to WQAC in 1993. It had previously been WABM, an AM station.

Every week night from 7 p.m. until midnight the station airs specialty shows while rotation runs from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. There are about 20 shows ranging from rap and country to alternative Christian, and even a local show during which only Michigan musicians are played.

Shonda Brown (00), a WQAC DJ, has a weekly specialty show *B Tough Flava*, which airs every Wednesday evening from 9 until 11 p.m. During her slot, she plays exclusively R&B and rap artists.

Brown said, "I am really happy about the new equipment and I can't wait for it to get up and running."

This year's staff includes General Manager Ben Shoemaker (00), Program Director Jeremiah Lee (00), Music Director Allison Folts (00), Promotion Director Jennifer Fish (00), Business Director Delbert Dunsmore (00), News and Sports by Andrew Pommerville (00) and Justin Fritz (02), Technical Director Matthew Adams (00), and the Technical and Clerical Director Barb Knust (00).

WQAC is encouraging any interested students to contact Jeremiah Lee about DJ positions. No experience is necessary for students interested in working on a rotation show.

## Sexual Harassment seminars held for employees

By TONYA SCHAFER  
Staff Reporter

A series of seminars on the issue of sexual harassment is being conducted for employees of Alma College by the Center for Student Development. Led by Dean of Student Development Bob Perkins and Assistant Dean Gayle Passerati, the workshops focus on problems associated with harassment that occurs in educational institutions.

"One of the college's insurance companies suggested that we do training on sexual harassment for the campus," said Perkins. "That's not the only basis for doing this, though. I think we've been moving in this direction for a long time."

A workshop for the administrative and maintenance staff has already been conducted, as has a workshop for half of the faculty. Seminars for the clerical staff will be conducted after Thanksgiving; the sec-

ond half of the faculty will be instructed following that.

The seminars utilize handouts, overheads and videotape to present the issue of sexual harassment to attendees.

Topics covered include behaviors that may be considered sexual harassment, how the culture of an academic environment encourages harassment, and a victim's options for reporting sexual harassment claims.

In addition, copies of the college's sexual harassment policy are handed out. According to Perkins, this policy is student-friendly.

"It's very victim-driven. In other words, it was designed to empower the student to make the decision as to how far they want to go in pursuing a complaint. It moves at their own pace," he said.

Future follow-up seminars may be conducted.

"We've had some feedback from women

that perhaps we should do a meeting where just they can talk to us, so I think we're going to look at that," said Perkins.

In addition, harassment workshops for students are being considered.

"I would like to offer them," said Perkins. "I think what we would do would be to either suggest it to the hall directors or RA's and offer them that opportunity. It would be nice to get a feel for whether or not students would be interested in such a workshop. We do sexual assault workshops, but we haven't really done one on sexual harassment. I think that would make good sense to do."

Student response to such a seminar has been positive.

"It would be very informative," said sophomore Laura Price.

"There hasn't been enough of anything about sexual harassment on this campus. I have not read one thing or seen anything, so I think it would be interesting."

# ID cards improved

By STEPHANIE POWELL  
Staff Reporter

By now, most Alma College students have acquired—or at least seen—the new identification cards issued by Sodhexo Marriot at the beginning of the 1998-99 school year.

According to Mark Starkweather, director of campus dining, the new cards are a big improvement from the old system.

The old-style cards haven't changed for about the past 25 years," Starkweather said. "We were basically operating in the 1990s with a 1960s system. I went to the Vice President of Finance last year and talked it over. We made a budget for the change. Then I got permission from the college to go ahead with it. Basically, everyone agreed it was time," he said.

To make the change Sodhexo Marriott acquired a new digital

camera, a computer and a high-quality color printer. These three machines, Starkweather said, trim the process of issuing cards from three steps to just one.

"Now we take the pictures and the cards are done in an instant," Starkweather said. "Before, we had to go through a development process with the film, as well as other steps. It just took longer. Now, everything gets done in one place."

Another improvement is the extra magnetic stripe, or "junk stripe," as Starkweather referred to it, on the backs of the cards that allows students to establish an account in the library for use of the copy machines.

The appearance of the new cards is different, depending on who they are issued to.

Student identification cards, for example, have pictures of the McIntyre Mall, while faculty and staff cards have pictures of the

Heritage Center.

Of course, the new system has not been problem-free.

"We got some bad plastic," Starkweather explained. "The meal cards were starting to break. So we called the company and they took care of it. We made new cards for everyone in three days. With the old system, it would have taken much longer because we would have had to take everyone's picture over again. We would have started from scratch. The new system is able to store images of people, so taking new pictures was not necessary."

Students who grow tired of their picture, however, can pay \$10 for a new card with a different picture.

Starkweather said students with questions or concerns about the new system are welcome to stop by his office in the lower level of Hamilton or call him at 7313.

## Campus sets new smoking policy

By STEPHANIE POWELL  
Staff Reporter

On November 13, President Stone's office sent a campus-wide memorandum informing the college community of the new tobacco use policy.

Proposed by members of the Student Life Committee, reviewed by various campus organizations—including Student Congress—and approved by the Executive Staff, the "non-smoking" policy is to go into effect immediately.

The purpose of the new policy, according to the memorandum, is "to create and maintain an environment which sustains and enhances the general health and well-being of its faculty, staff, students, visitors, and the safety of its property."

The nature of the policy is to

discourage all use of tobacco on campus.

Regulations, which affect all college buildings and vehicles, require that people refrain from smoking in most common areas—such as hallways, reception areas, dining rooms, lounges, breakrooms, etc. Joe's Place will provide a well-ventilated section for smokers.

In residence halls, smoking will be permitted only on the top floors. Furthermore, no smoking will be allowed within twenty feet of public entrances to any building.

People in violation of the policy will first be asked to comply. Further offenses will be reported to the Dean of Students.

News of the policy and its specifics was met with a variety of opinions.

"To me it's logical. Smoke doesn't get into the buildings this

way," said Laura Spratke (02). "But I don't smoke, so it doesn't even matter what I think."

Danielle Stoddard (00) said she is happy with the new policy. "I think it's good that the rights of nonsmokers prevail over the rights of smokers, but I really can't see how things are going to be that different," she added.

In order to better meet the needs of smokers, ashtrays and other receptacles for smoking materials will be placed in appropriate, more accessible areas.

Michigan Public Act 198 states that violators of such policies are subject to civil fines of up to \$100 for the first offense and a maximum of \$500 for the second and subsequent infractions. This law, however, may be enforced by state and/or health department officials, not Alma College authorities.

## Consultant examines Alma College

By AMY TAYLOR  
Staff Reporter

Last spring the Board of Trustees appointed a task force to perform formal assessment procedures on the President, Vice-President and other forms of interest areas. The procedures give an overview of the college, making it easier on outsiders who want to gain more information.

Dr. William A. Weary, an outside consultant, was sought out by the college to compile a report on the various interests of Alma.

He said, "Not only will this report help me understand Alma for myself, but it will start some conversations that will continue."

Weary is the President of Fieldstone Consulting Incorporation, which is located in Washington D.C. He also conducts as-

essment reports for Boards of Trustees, non-profit organizations and planning programs. Throughout the week of November 16-20, Weary spent a span of two or three days engaging in discussions at Alma.

These confidential conversations included nearly 185 people from the college community. These individuals were from the faculty, maintenance department, secretarial staff, administration, President, Vice-President, Provost, Trustees, athletic staff and various committees on campus along with students.

"It is most exciting when you look at the big picture and that is what we have been talking about," said Weary.

Specifically, Weary met Friday, November 20 with a group of eight students. In this session, he asked the students questions

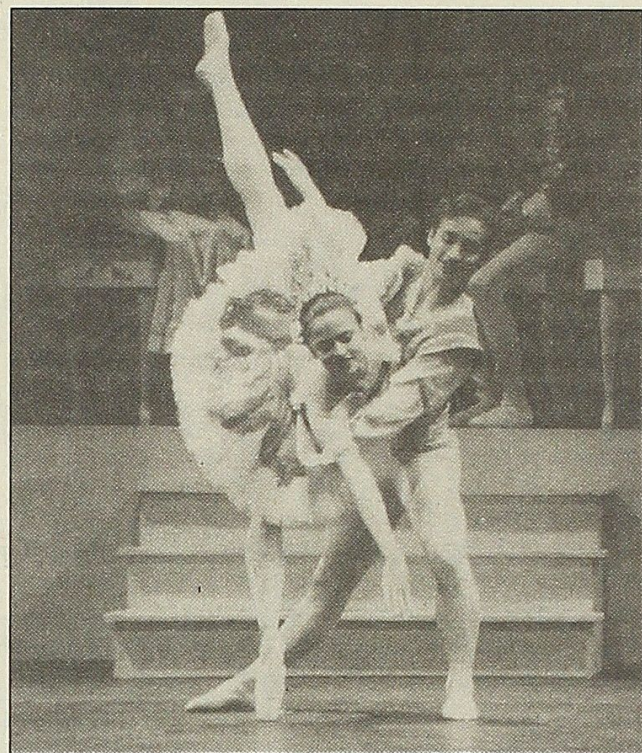
about the professors, admissions process and characteristics of the students who fit in well. Also, he asked what Alma's best qualities are and three improvements the school ought to complete.

Some of the improvements suggested were a new football field, housing for married couples and families, a better computer network, more lighting on campus and improvements to residence halls. Another observation was that students need to be aware that the Center for Student Development offers counseling for those in need.

Overall, Weary said, "Alma is a great college. The people are as caring and down to earth as you can ever find."

According to Weary, the Board will meet in February where he will present his report.

## The Nutcracker Live!



The Cavalier spins the Sugar Plum Fairy during last week's production of 'The Nutcracker.' Both parts were performed by members of the Grand Rapids Ballet Company. Photo by Steve Nadeau

## Alma faculty fill in for ill professors

By LINDSAY ROBINSON  
Staff Reporter

Alma's teaching staff was dealt a blow recently as two of its professors have fallen ill and are currently unable to conduct classes. The faculty population had already been lower in number than last term because of positions vacated over the summer.

Professor of Economics George Choksy and Professor of Math and Computer Science Theodore Hertzog are both out due to illness. Choksy's absence has been particularly detrimental because the economics department had started out the year already short-staffed. Professor of Economics Denise Johnson accepted a job elsewhere and left the economics department with only two professors. Because of Choksy's illness, the department is now left with one professor—Economics Department Chair/Associate Professor James Mueller.

Professor Mueller has taken over all but one of Choksy's classes, including two sections of Principles of Macroeconomics, and International Economics. He has added those classes to his own load which includes two other sections of Principles of Macroeconomics and one section of Principles of Microeconomics.

"These things happen. Unfortunately it had to happen this term, but we're just trying to do what we can to make sure students get what they need to get," Professor Mueller said.

Political Science Professor Burnett Davis also took over one of

Choksy's classes—History of Economic Thought. Davis commented upon adding an economics class to his full-time political science schedule.

"We're hoping that Choksy will come back—both for his sake, his students' sake, and for my sake. I want to get back to just being a political science professor. It's been fun being an economist for a day or two, but a little bit goes a long way," he said.

Hertzog did not leave behind as large of a load to cover, but nonetheless his absence is being felt in the math and computer science department. Professor of Communication David Lawrence has taken over Hertzog's Introduction to Computing class. Lawrence explained why he was chosen to take over this particular course for Hertzog.

"This is a course that deals with software application. When Hertzog had to withdraw from the course, they had just started HTML (Hypertext Markup Language). And since I have done digital communication, electronic publishing, and have taught HTML, graphics with Photoshop, and things like layout for the World Wide Web, they asked me if I would finish off this course," he said.

Hertzog was also teaching Introduction to Computer Science and Data Structures. Professor of Math and Computer Science Myles McNally returned from his sabbatical to teach these classes.

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## FEATURE

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## ACDC and ASO perform 'The Nutcracker'

By TONYA SCHAFER  
Staff Reporter

Music and dance filled the Heritage Center this past weekend as the Alma College Dance Company (ACDC) and the Alma Symphony Orchestra (ASO) combined efforts to perform Peter Ilyitch Tchaikovsky's famed ballet 'The Nutcracker.'

The show, ACDC's first of the

1998-99 season, played to a full house at each of its five performances. Tickets, sold out since October, were so in-demand that an evening dress rehearsal was eventually opened to those unable to secure a seat for the regularly scheduled showings.

Choreographed by associate professor of dance Thomas Morris, ACDC's version of 'The Nutcracker' incorporated community

pride into its setting, which was moved to Edinburgh, Scotland in the year 1905.

The story focuses on the Christmas-night adventures of Clara MacMillan, the young daughter of Edinburgh's Lord Mayor. After attending her family's lavish holiday party, during which the eccentric Dr. Drosselmeyer presents her with a toy Nutcracker, Clara falls asleep and dreams that the mice now munching on scraps of food from the party are attacking her. Dr. Drosselmeyer appears in fantasy and brings Clara's Nutcracker doll to life; the brave toy defeats the mice and turns into a handsome prince who accompanies Clara and Dr. Drosselmeyer to the Land of the Snow and the Kingdom of Sweets. There the Sugar Plum Fairy, her cavalier and her subjects dance for the trio. Before Clara eventually bids farewell to the group and retreats from her dream reverie.

Well-known names in the theatrical world were enlisted to assist with this production. Guest costume designer David Heuvel

who has worked with France's Ballet du Nord and the Washington Ballet. His designs for 'The Nutcracker' ranged from the elegant gowns worn by female partygoers in the first scene, to the gauzy, glittering outfits worn by dancers portraying delicate Snowflakes in the Land of Snow.

Guest dancers from the Grand Rapids Ballet joined the ensemble to perform some of the production's roles. Melanie Anderson, who has performed with the famed dancer Rudolph Nureyev, portrayed the Sugar Plum Fairy. Her cavalier was played by Attila Mosolygo, who has worked with the Ballet Theater of Chicago and the Mobile Ballet. Troy Knight, who danced the part of the Snow King, was trained at Brigham Young University and has worked with the Chicago's Ruth Page Foundation.

Two Alma students danced in the production. Alternating the part of the Snow Queen were Suzanne DuLong (00) and Elke Betz (02).

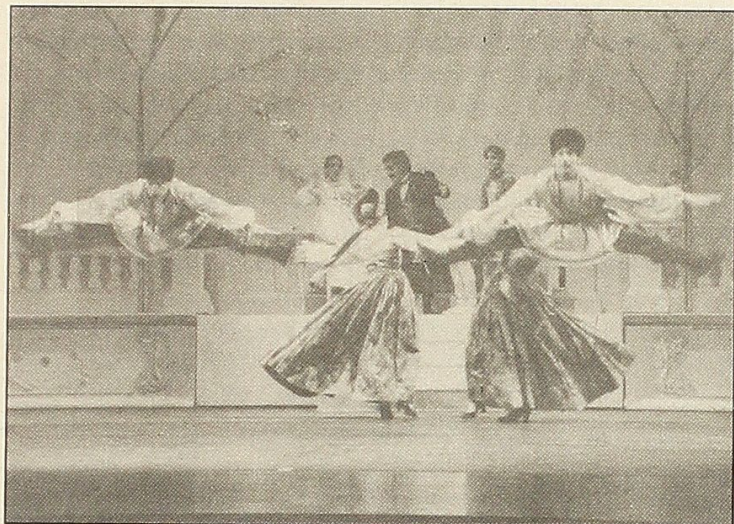
In addition, Alma dancers performed as culinary treats in the

Kingdom of the Sweets. These roles included exotic Spanish Chocolate, playful Chinese Tea, sensuous Arabian Coffee and spirited Russian Trepak.

Sets and lighting for 'The Nutcracker' were designed by assistant professor of theater and technical director Steven Draheim. The opening scene featured the richly-decorated MacMillan home fully lit for the coming festivities. This moved on to the dimness and starkness of Clara's surreal battle with the mice, the cool blues and softly-falling snowflakes of The Land of Snow and the candy-coated brightness of The Kingdom of the Sweets.

The Alma Symphony Orchestra was conducted by professor of music Douglas Scripps, who is also music director for the Grand Rapids Ballet. ASO had been rehearsing the intricate piece for several months prior to the show.

Tammy Godfrey (01) thought the show was great. I like seeing how the arts are becoming stronger every year here at Alma."



Mark Brewster (00) and James Kuhl (01), guests of the Alma College Dance Company, perform in last week's production of 'The Nutcracker.' Photo by Steve Nadeau.

## Bishop Makarios begins eighteenth year at Alma

By DONNA PAPPAS  
Staff Reporter

Many times we hear the phrase "my door is always open." But no one means this more than Bishop Makarios.

Makarios' door is never locked, extending his welcome to all students on campus. He spends more time involving himself in personal and emergency problems of students than he does teaching.

The most memorable experiences of the Bishop's day-to-day life are dealing with student problems. He says these are the most rewarding moments in his life.

"Getting involved in the students' personal problems is one of the highlights in my life," said Makarios.

For this reason, he does not move from the campus. He lives in the Kirk house, which is across the street from the chapel.

When a student approaches him with their problems, the first thing Makarios does is assess the situation— as fast as he can. He then tells them the secret of life.

"The secret of a successful life

is to learn to accept failures. Once you learn that, those failures become stepping stones to success. Failures are not always negative, they should be used as positive experiences to climb up. Each failure is one step, you climb on it, take the next failure and go on through the ladder of failures until you reach the top."

Makarios is involved in the overseas program as well. There are two students studying over-seas in India this term. They teach at a high school in India which is owned by Makarios' extended family's corporation.

Makarios also works with young Indian children who are growing up in America and educated in American schools, but have parents that are from India. Makarios was born in India but educated in America as well. The children feel he is able to understand more than their parents do because he has lived here for 36 years.

This is Makarios' eighteenth year here at Alma College. This term he is teaching East-West Christianity and How to Read the Bible.

Makarios feels closely connected with the college and students because his involvement in campus life is not strictly academic. He will stay here as long as he can, as long as the college needs him and as long as he is physically able to work.

"I enjoy teaching, it is my lifestyle in a way. Even when I preach in the church. They say I started preaching but ended up in teaching," said Makarios.

Makarios completed his seminary in India and became a priest in 1952. After six years as a priest, he received a scholarship to travel to England, Germany, France, and Switzerland for 2 years to work in the field of ecumenism, which is the political movement of all churches coming together.

In 1963, Makarios came to America on a scholarship as a student, with the help from a Bishop that sponsored him at a theological seminary in Wisconsin. He then went on to complete his masters in Alexandria, Virginia and his doctoral degree was finished at the Presbyterian seminary in Richmond, Virginia.

The Bishop who initially sponsored Makarios died in 1969. This became a touching point in Makarios' life. He came back to see the Bishop's wife to thank her for all her family had done for him. She gave him a small box. She said the Bishop had called her before he passed away and told her that one day, Makarios will become a Bishop as well. He asked that she give Makarios his ring, which Makarios still wears today.

In 1981, Makarios received a call from the chaplain at Alma. He asked him to come preach at service one Sunday. Makarios was also invited to attend a few classes, not aware that the College was interested in him teaching as well. Two months later, he was asked to give a seven week course.

Makarios is also active in other churches around the world. Every weekend he travels to churches in areas such as New York, Canada, and England. When he is visiting these churches, he finds time to visit other colleges as well.

One major difference between

the Eastern religion and Western religion is in the form of structure and worship. The Roman Catholic Church is a Latin structure and form of worship that accepts one person in the world as the head of the church. There is also a belief in the infallibility of the Pope. But each church of the Eastern religion is an independent unit in its own country.

Makarios' family can be traced back in his church for about 2000 years, beginning in 52 A.D. This influence was the major factor in his upbringing. Both his parents are still living— his father is 100 years old, his mother is 97.

"A tremendous influence on my life was my mother. The first thing she says when she sees me, to this day, is have you said your prayers today?" said Makarios.

Makarios also has four other siblings. Two brothers are priests in his church, one sister is a nun, and one sister is a teacher in a church school. In the second seven weeks of next term, Makarios will be teaching Paul's Letters and Matthew, Mark, and Luke.

## Rebecca Raus shares experience of term abroad in Mexico

By REBECCA RAUS  
Contributing Writer

I decided to study a semester abroad in Mexico City and I was scared. Maybe it was fear of the unknown, or maybe it was the thought of being in a foreign country for such a long time; maybe it was a fear of struggling with the language, or maybe it was the thought of living in the largest

city in the world and maybe it was the whirring voices. There was no optimism in the buzzing around me, only what I later discovered to be ignorance.

My head was satiated and stuffed full of cabbage put there by people around me who had gathered it from some stereotype or some inaccurate source. If their warnings had any truth, they were often exaggerated. Once I made

my decision to study abroad, everyone around me, my friends, classmates, the news and the international director were all instantaneously converted into experts on Mexico and all of the issues related to it. I was told to avoid *libre* taxis, ATMs, police and I was even told not to breathe. Ironical as it may be, most of my sources had never stepped foot on Mexican soil. I heard the ad-

vice any traveller should receive upon going to a large city, but no one warned me about how Mexico would become a river of gratification in my life.

All students studying abroad at Alma College are required to attend an orientation to prepare them for their experience. During orientation the international director's sentences would often end with "except Mexico." Once

she made a comment about crime and told us attentive students that in regard to our personal safety, we would be safer in Europe and other countries than we were in the United States—except if we were in Mexico. You can drink the water, you won't need shots, you can do this and that... except in Mexico.

I was never completely con- See MEXICO on page 4...

# Students raise money for college

By STEPHANIE POWELL  
Staff Reporter

Alma College students have taken to the phones this fall to raise money--and they far exceeded expectations.

Each year Pam Eldridge, Director of Annual Giving, hires approximately twenty students to call Alma College alumni and friends and request donations. Calls were placed to all fifty states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

"Our goal is to raise one million dollars from the phone telethon," Eldridge said. The money students raise by calling alumni is usually for the scholarship fund. But if the individual wishes to donate

his or her money to something else, like the dance program, we are more than happy to make exceptions for them."

Jennifer Wysocki (02) said those who donated to the college were more than happy to do so. "We tell them that it costs \$61 to run Alma College for one minute, and that about ninety-five percent of Alma students receive financial aid, which amounts to about \$6,650 per student," Wysocki said. "When they hear those numbers most agree that they can give \$61—just to run the College for one minute. Every now and then, someone would request that their money go to a Greek organization or to Klenk Park [the

new baseball complex], but most didn't have a preference."

Wysocki won the award for raising the most money during the eight-week calling program. She received a gift certificate to the Scot Shop in recognition.

Most of the calls are directed toward alumni; however, the students also called a group of people collectively known as Friends of the College. This group generally includes various Presbyterian organizations, since Alma College is the only college in the state that is associated with the Presbyterian Church.

"The Presbyterian organizations are usually very good to us," Eldridge said. "We also get donations from some women's organi-

zations and local community businesses."

Eldridge said calling is an essential part of raising money. "Most alumni really do like to give; they just won't do it unless they are asked. That's where calling comes in." About one month before the calling begins, the alumni are sent pre-posted envelopes and reminders about donating. "Sometimes," Eldridge added, "they just like to talk to the current students. Some alums haven't been in town for twenty years or more, and they just like to hear what's going on. They look forward to the call, so they won't donate through the mail."

Wysocki said most of the alumni she spoke to were cordial. "They

like to ask about certain professors and if a particular building is still standing," she said. "They always ask questions like that. Wysocki said rudeness was relatively rare. "Not very many people hung up on me," she said. "But a few husbands refused to let me talk to their wives."

Eldridge said there are many ways the college goes about raising money. "We call the phone operation the grass roots campaign. Where our larger donors are concerned, we deal face-to-face. Also, many people make donations in the name of deceased Alma alumni," she said.

For more information about gifts to the College, contact Pam Eldridge in Reid Knox at 7325.

## MEXICO continued from page 3...

vinced of why I was going until I arrived.

I stayed in Mexico for five glorious months. Within me a desire to absorb, my eyes like sponges, my heart porous and ready, I was thirsty.

I grew up in a town that lacked even a stop light, and now I was living in a city with 22 million people. I loved public transportation, I loved that it was warm and the sun shined in February, I loved that I spoke a language I learned from a textbook, I loved that there were Salsa clubs—I loved Mexico.

I was a sponge—at times it wasn't just absorption; it was fusion. I learned about myself and built confidence in my ability to survive and succeed in any environment.

Kristi, a 17 year old girl who worked in the house where I stayed during my time in Mexico, invited my North Carolinian roommate and me to her cousin's wedding.

It was in the *pueblo* San Pedro, near Ixtlahuaca about two hours from the city.

The *campo* was gorgeous; the

land told stories at just an eyes' glance. The rocky hills rose and fell gracefully.

I don't know if it was the land that was truly gorgeous, or if its beauty lay in its simplicity, its inhabitants, in its traditions. The moon was our only street light, and it led us to the wedding reception that night. It was held outside under a tent where live bands filled the dry rocky hills with Cumbia and Norteña music. The dry dusty ground was wet down to create an adequate dance floor, but after four hours we all were dancing in a dust cloud anyway. We kicked up so much dust that my black shoes quickly turned grey.

Black soot came from our noses when we blew them and Anna and I laughed. We loved it. After dancing for six hours we walked the narrow, rocky moon-lit trail back to Kristi's two-room house. We froze that night as we slept inside those turquoise cement walls, and it didn't matter; I was a sponge.

The whirring voices forgot to tell me about this part of Mexico. They forgot to tell me how con-

tent I would feel at a time when I had nothing more than companionship and a place to sleep. There was no fear in these emotions.

One warm February night my friends and I were riding a *pesero* on our way back from Xochimilco. The *peseros* often became crowded.

That night a man climbed aboard the small bus with one hand steadying a large bag over his shoulder and his other hand holding the arm of his young daughter.

The man held onto the bar above his head as people poured into the little *pesero*. He tried to keep his little girl on her feet. She was tired. There was a small space between myself and my friend to my right. My eyes met with the man's brown eyes and I offered the seat to his little girl.

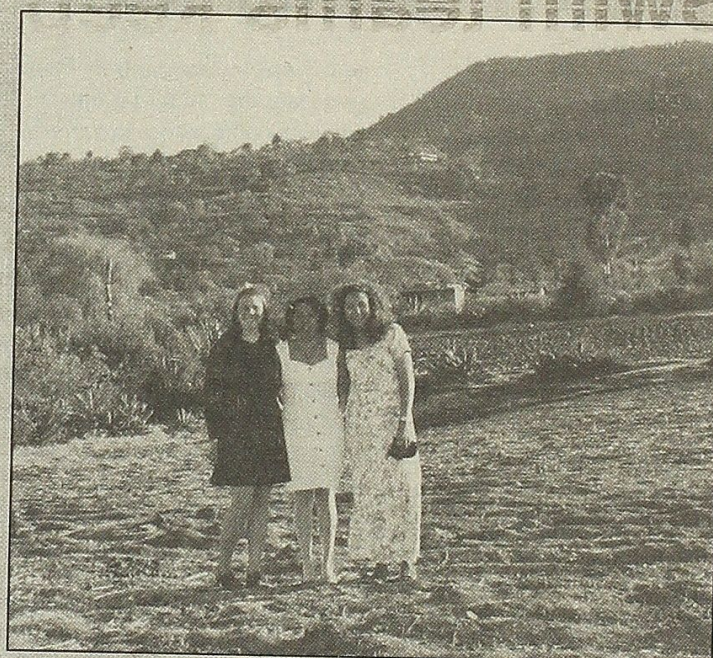
I helped her small beautiful body up onto the seat and her eyes were so big, so brown, and so precious. She sat close to me. It wasn't long before this stranger of a child was asleep leaning on my arm with her round, little brown belly poking out from underneath her shirt. The *pesero* kept on that night and contentment fled over my whole body.

It scares me to think I could have kept myself from being touched so powerfully by another culture. I was my biggest obstacle.

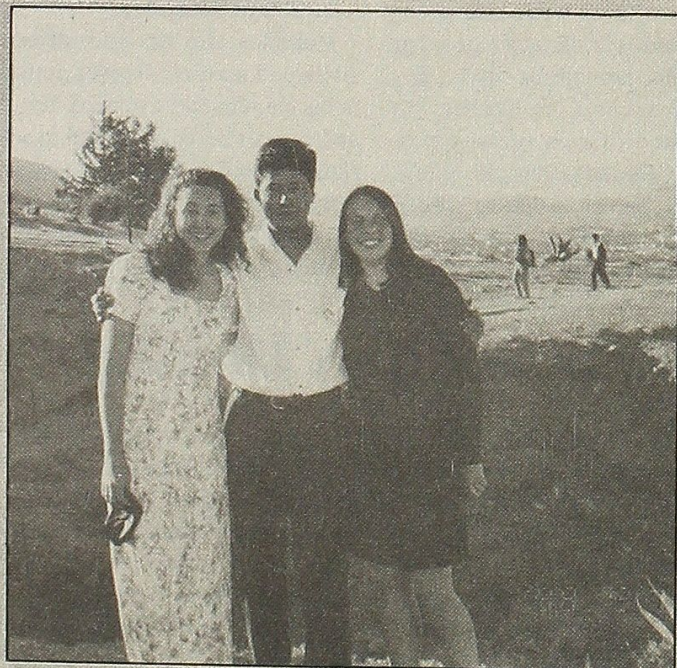
My fears and others' myths were my biggest enemy. I step back from all of this remembering that the discovery of these

kinds of moments were up to me.

I'm glad I didn't settle for the view of Mexico that the whirring voices created. Had I let that dam full of false and ignorant claims stop my decision to go, I would have denied myself one of the most powerful experiences of my life.



Rebecca Raus stands with her friends Oti and Anna with whom she attended a wedding in Mexico on March 15, 1998. Photo submitted by Rebecca Raus



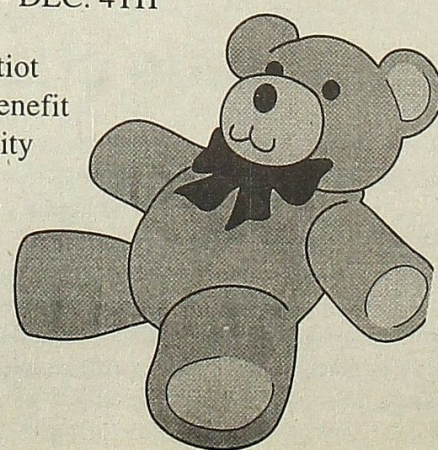
Anna Bellamy, José Moreno Mendoza, and Rebecca Raus stand outside in San Pedro, Mexico. Photo submitted by Rebecca Raus.

## Alpha Xi Delta presents their annual TEDDY BEAR DRIVE NOV. 30TH - DEC. 4TH

\* Stuffed animals will go to the Gratiot County Fire Chiefs Association to benefit traumatized children in the community

\* Drop boxes will be located in Hamilton and all dorms

\* Bring new or used fuzzy friends from home after Thanksgiving



# Weselyan ends men's soccer season

By SEAN BABBITT  
Freelance Writer

Cedar Point in Ohio had some competition this fall because of the men's soccer team here at Alma. The Scots, who finished the season 14-4-1 overall and 10-3-1 in the MIAA, took everyone on a roller-coaster ride the entire season.

The Scots started the season flying by winning all of their non-conference games and were ranked first in the region and eighth in the country. Then Alma went into the conference schedule and hit a lull in the season. That lull cost them the conference title, but about midway through the season the Scots picked it up for a final run at a chance to return to the national tournament in Dublin, Ohio.

"What was great to see was the resiliency of this group," said head coach Scott Frey. "This group could have packed it in and they didn't."

This was the second year in a row that the Scots had qualified for the tournament. Last year the team qualified for the first time and lost in the final regional match against Ohio Wesleyan College. This year Alma met Wesleyan in the first game and unfortunately for the Scots the results were the same. Alma was ousted from title contention 5-0 to end the season.

"For the first 15 to 20 minutes of the game, we probably played our best soccer of the year. We came out and played very well," Frey said. "There were some good chances early on, but we did not capitalize, and [Wesleyan] really finished the first good chances they had."

The Scots found themselves down 3-0 at half-time and played Wesleyan pretty tough until the last five minutes of the game. That was when Wesleyan scored on a penalty kick then quickly struck again to finish off the Scots.

"When you go down 3-0 against the team that eventually won the region and also down a man, there was really not a lot you could do. The team did not deserve to lose 5-0 because of the way they

played. But they played a really good team," said Frey.

"The guys could have packed it in earlier in the season but showed great heart in even making it to the tournament," Frey added.

The Scots will be going into next season with a senior laden team wanting a bit more than they have gained in these past two years. Returning will be two-time all MIAA first team selection junior Chris Alexander to the midfield position. Also returning will be junior forwards Matt Keller and Paul Aceto, who were all MIAA second team and honorable mention, respectively.

The Scots will be graduating some major ingredients from their successful teams of the last two years. Senior first team all MIAA selection and leading scorer for the Scots Randy U'Ren will be leaving, as will two-time first teamer senior Jason Passalacqua.

The goaltending should be in capable hands with junior Jon Cullen between the pipes, who at one point this season had a school record, five shut outs in a row.



Jeff Hosler (02) looks downfield for an open teammate while Mark McClutchy (00) backs up the play. Photo by Steve Nadeau.

Another senior, Sean Byram, will back him up.

"The pieces are there for a good team next year with us returning nine seniors who have been to the national tournament these past two years," said Frey. "We want and expect to be better."

# Swim teams keep their focus on league meet

By KELLY McDONALD  
Staff Reporter

In the early hours of the morning on any given day of the week, most college students are still catching up from the last night's festivities in the comforts of their own bed. Then, there are those who crawl out of bed at 6 a.m., three days a week and stroll on over to the physical education center for a morning workout. That is called dedication and the members of the men's and women's swimming and diving teams are all about that.

Both teams traveled to Calvin on Tuesday to take on the Knights in the first league meet for both schools.

The men's team is coming off a disappointing loss to Grand Valley State last week. They are trying to improve their record from last year and are determined to fare well in the standings this year with the addition of some key first-year students. The men's team lost to Calvin, 133-100, but not without a fight.

"The freshmen are really stepping up and we are getting better," said Nick Holliday (01). "The dual meets are important but our ultimate goal is the conference meet. Calvin was a tough loss but we think we can get them in the conference."

The Scots are holding their own in the MIAA, a conference that many suggest to be one of the best in Division III for men's swimming and diving.

"The team is doing pretty good, better than expected. The underclassmen are stepping up and our entire team attitude is better than

last year," said senior captain Bill James.

Hope College came to town on Saturday to take on the Scots but Alma lost.

"We are training really hard this year and we're in better shape than last year. We are working hard in practice and everyone is swimming good. We should do real well in the second half of the season after we get back from Florida," said senior captain Mark Oberman.

The teams spend the first week in January in Orlando, Florida to train for the last stretch of the season.

The women's team also lost two meets last week, to Calvin and to Hope. The Lady Scots were hit hard by graduation and transfers last year and lost many of their top scorers. With one senior and three juniors, the team is still trying to make up for its youth.

"We're a really young team. We don't have a lot of upperclassmen, but we're starting to define our strengths. We may not be winning every meet but we're improving our times," said Katie Zellen (00).

"We're doing very well but our record hasn't shown it because we have swam against the best teams in the area. But our times are better compared to last year," said captain Carrie Thomas (00).

The dual meets are looked upon by many as just a time to get ready for the league meet. The focus of this team is on the MIAA meet at the beginning of February.

"We are looking forward to the conference meet to show the other

conference meet to show the other teams what we're really made of," Zellen said.

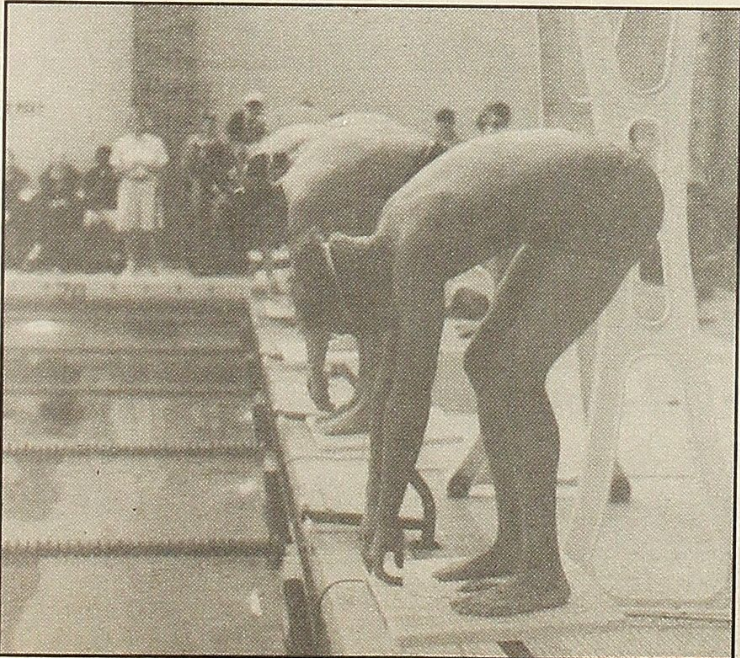
For the next meet, the teams travel to Indiana to take part in the Depauw Swimming Invitational. The meet is scheduled for the weekend of December 4-5.

## NCAA FOOTBALL SCORES TOP 25 SCOREBOARD Saturday, November 21

1 Kansas St. at 31	Mississippi at 17
23 Missouri 25	15 Georgia 24
25 Kentucky at 21	16 Oregon at 41
2 Tennessee 59	Oregon St. 44
USC at 17	Rice at 16
3 UCLA 34	17 Air Force 22
4 Florida at 12	Rutgers at 7
5 Florida St. 23	20 Virginia Tech 47
11 Michigan at 16	Wake Forest at 35
6 Ohio St. 31	21 Georgia Tech 63
9 Arkansas at 21	24 Syracuse at 38
Mississippi St. 22	Temple 7
LSU at 36	
10 Notre Dame 39	
14 Penn St. at 3	
12 Wisconsin 24	
Houston at 20	
13 Tulane 48	

November 19, Scores

Pittsburgh at 10
22 Miami (FL) 38



Swimmers wait for the starting signal to begin their race during last weeks meet. Photo by Maya Mackowiak.

# Women's basketball team plays with heart

By KELLY McDONALD  
Staff Reporter

The scoreboard said 108-100. In the Palace? Nope. Breslin Center? Nope. Crisler Arena? Nope. It was in our own Cappare Gymnasium. An unthinkable score to an unbelievable game. The women's basketball team showed what young legs and speed can do to a basketball game. The Scots prevailed in a game of remarkable performances in their first game in the Scottie Classic on Friday night, against the University of Wisconsin-Stout.

The Scots had a tough first half against Wisconsin and some of that could be blamed on first game jitters. With only one senior and two juniors, the team is young and inexperienced. The full-court trapping press bothered the youngsters, but they stayed in the game with hustle and tenacity on defense. Wisconsin's quickness and excellent field goal percentage proved to be too much for the Scots in the first half. The Scots found themselves down 56-40 at the half.

The second half was an entirely different story. Whatever was said in the locker room at half-time was enough to put a little fire into the team. Down by as many as 17, the

Scots came out rolling in the first two minutes of the second half with Julie Whitmore (01) made a beautiful pass to Ellen Bradbury (99) down low and then stole a pass on the other end and took it the length of the court for a lay-up. The Scots picked it up on the offensive end as well and started getting the ball down low. That's when Bradbury took over. Turn around jumpers, lay-ups, post moves, or 15 foot jump shot, it didn't matter, they all went in for Bradbury.

The Scots cut the lead to 68-61 six minutes into the second half. Alma scored an astonishing 68 points in the second half alone playing the 'run and gun' game and never really setting up a half court offense. With Rebekah Barker (01) running the show, the Scots tied the game at 73 with 11 minutes to play. Alma took the lead for good on a Whitmore 3-pointer at the 7:30 mark. Shannon Gross (00) sealed the game with steady free throw shooting in the last minute. Running with young legs is what made the final score an incredible 108-100.

"The first half we weren't taking care of the ball. We played better in the second half. The biggest thing is we didn't give up and we showed a lot of guts and heart,"

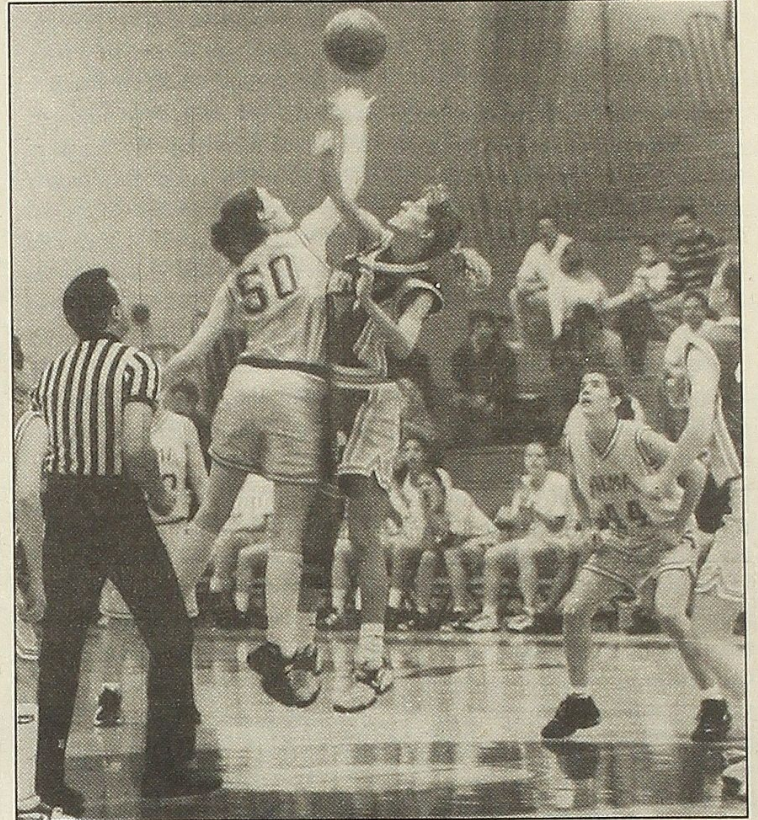
said Bradbury.

Bradbury ended the game with a new school record for points in a game with 39. She broke Missy VanDamme's previous record of 35. Gross caught fire in the second half and ended the game with 21. Mary Barnhart (00) chipped in with 13 and Barker added 10.

"The chemistry is there. Our first game was great but we can't let it get to our heads. We just need to keep working hard," said Missy Thorndyke (01).

On Saturday, the Scots came out mentally as well as physically drained from the previous night. They dug themselves a hole early against Aquinas, but this time couldn't make up for it. Down 45-23 at the half, they showed signs of another miracle comeback but couldn't get closer than seven. Aquinas' height proved to cause too many match-up problems for the Scots and they never got into the flow of the game, losing 75-60.

"We came out flat in the first half. We were probably a little drained [from last night] but in the second half we came back and played hard. We will improve, we just need a little more practice time together," said Gross.



Ellen Bradbury (99) blocks the ball out of the hands of her opponent. File Photo.

Bradbury again led the way with 19 points and Gross had 17. Kristin Babbit (02) and Whitmore added six apiece.

"We weren't able to get out and run the ball as much as last night. We had a couple of spurts but it wasn't enough," said Babbit.

"We dug ourselves into too big of a hole. We haven't worked much on our press breaker but we will improve. We played two good teams this weekend to get us ready for league," said Bradbury.

Their next game is tonight at 7 p.m. in Spring Arbor.

## Coaching enhances student Erik Cargill's college career

By MICHAEL MURPHY  
Staff Reporter

"Play hard and have fun."

Such was fifth-year-senior Erik Cargill's motto during his second season of coaching eighth grade girls basketball at St. Louis Middle School.

Cargill spent most of his week-day afternoons from 3 to 5 p.m. instructing his team at practices and games. The season for St. Louis started off shaky but drastic improvement helped bring the Sharks' record to 5-5.

"There was a big-time improve-

ment [during the season] as we won our last four games. That is why I call it a successful season because we improved so much from the beginning to the end," said Cargill.

Partially responsible for the season turnaround was that the team, through Cargill's leadership and instruction, became a more cohesive unit.

"They grew together and understood what I wanted from them. They played a little smarter and played together," said Cargill.

Cargill said that the team finally started to become more attentive

to him during practice and game time and this allowed him to better instruct them in different aspects of the game. Through this, his team better understood what they needed to know to become a quality basketball squad.

This is where Cargill realized that his biggest asset came into play. Cargill noted that his best coaching strengths were found in communication. Knowing how to talk to the team at different times and understanding what they needed to hear were what Cargill said helped lead

his team to better attentiveness.

This season was also a definite change from last year, as the same team concluded their season with one victory, making Cargill even happier with the season's end results.

Driven by his high school coach's inspiration and love for basketball, Cargill began voluntarily helping out at the Sharks' practices two years ago, which paved the way for him to become their head coach during the past two seasons.

Like Cargill did two years ago, first year student Kristen Babbitt

volunteered to be his assistant coach. Cargill said that she was an instrumental element to his team's success.


Every minute of the season was enjoyed by Cargill. "I was definitely happy to coach," he said. "It made my college experience a whole lot better."

Cargill plans on becoming a high school teacher, with hopes of coaching basketball and baseball.

"[The past seasons] have helped me to become a good coach and have taught me what I needed to work on, showing me my strengths and faults," Cargill said.



Erik Cargill (98) offers advice to his girls basketball team before sending them back out on the court. Submitted Photo.



Every Monday 9 - 11 p.m.

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# Townies

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WQAC 90.9 FM--smooth, yet unrefined

November 24, 1998

## OPINION

7

## Diplomacy not answer to Iraq equation

By LINDSAY ROBINSON  
Staff Reporter

It is beginning to seem as though the United States and its allies won only a small battle in the Persian Gulf back in 1990, because it is Saddam Hussein and the Iraqis who are winning the overall war. This observation

comes just days after Hussein made yet another bogus promise to the United Nations that they would comply with weapons inspections. Once again, troops and planned attacks were turned around and sent back home, just to see Hussein continue with his non-compliance. When will it end? The news is

flooded with coverage of Iraqis dancing in the streets stomping and burning American flags. No longer are threats made by the United Nations taken with great seriousness. Hussein realizes that as long as he makes promises, no serious actions will be taken against him and his country.

It all started back in 1990. Iraq invaded Kuwait and refused to budge. President Bush got the United Nations to agree with him that the only way to restore stability was if Iraq was removed from Kuwait. The Gulf War resulted in the removal of Iraq from Kuwait. Iraq's conditions of surrender included, among other things, economic sanctions (which dealt a major blow to their main industry—petroleum) and compliance with United Nations weapons inspections. Eight years have passed and the compliance has yet to be found.

For a small while, Hussein al-

lowed some inspections to take place. Then he took the upper hand. Slowly, he began to deny access to some sites where weapons inspections were to take place. He demanded that only if economic sanctions were lifted would he let the inspections continue in full. No one agreed with that idea and the U.S. made threats of force.

It was then that the game of cat and mouse began. Hussein, afraid of another military attack, agreed to let inspections resume. As soon as troops were sent the other way and plans for attack were rescinded, Hussein turned his nose up to officials and went back on his promise of allowing inspections to continue.

Will this game ever end? Not if it keeps being played in the manner it is now. The United Nations seeks to establish and maintain peace in the world. They strive to do so in a non-combative way

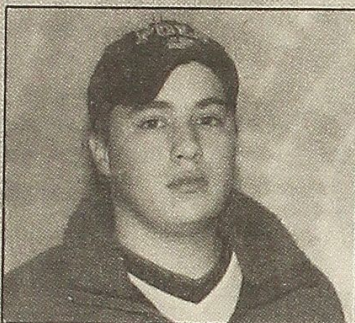
and to utilize diplomacy as their main weapon. But diplomacy will not work in this case. The situation in the past eight years proves the validity of this argument. Does one sit down with a serial rapist and say 'Well, since you've promised, and you mean you've really promised, that you won't do it again, then we will not punish you?'

Absolutely not. The only way that compliance from Hussein can be attained is if military threats are made and backed up. No longer can we let Hussein feed the UN lies. He has proved his non-compliance and since he is not abiding by the conditions of his surrender, he must be punished.

Unfortunately, it would most likely be the United States that would be called in to accomplish this task, but the U.S. must look Hussein in the eye and do what should be done.

## Campus viewpoints

Eight members of the Alma College community were asked the following question: How do you feel about the new smoking policy?



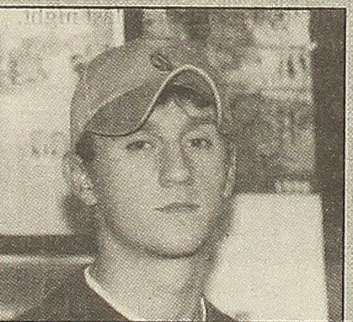
"I think it's good that they restricted smoking in Joe's because there are a lot of people in there who are non-smokers that deserve their space." **Todd Webb (02)**



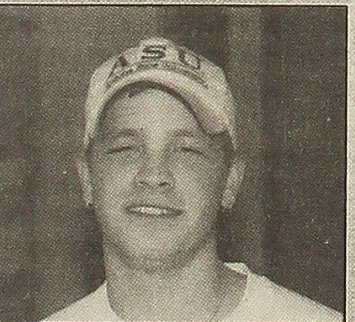
"I think the new policy will be a positive one. The smell of smoke can be really disgusting to some, yet if you choose to smoke at least there are still designated areas for it." **Dana Kozak (02)**



"I think its a good policy. But ashtrays and benches should've been moved prior to implementation of the policy because many students were not aware that the policy went into effect immediately." **Angie Soltys (01)**



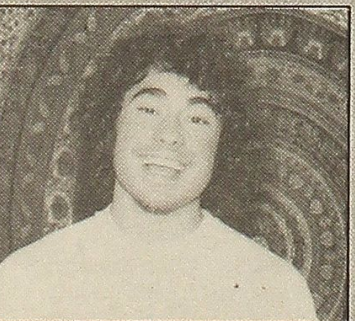
"I don't think of it as that drastic a change. I don't think it is a big deal that people smoke outside of the doorway, but personally, I don't know that many people that smoke either." **Adam Musielewicz (00)**



"I think it is good for people who don't like second hand smoke, because I don't have a problem with other people smoking, just as long as it does not affect me." **Griff Woodman (99)**



"I think it's about time they finally initiated a policy. I only wish it would have been put into effect sooner." **Kristin Kender (00)**



"Nicotine is God's gift to man. Without it we are lost." **Chevron Fickel (01)**



"I'm glad they moved smoking away from entrances of public buildings." **Stacey Nugent (99)**

Data by Donna Pappas

Photos by Steve Nadeau

## —The Right Side by Shannon Casey—

## Democrats unfairly attack Starr

Thursday's impeachment hearings proved that partisanship is alive and well in the House Judiciary Committee.

Instead of pointing to the Republicans for dragging on President Clinton's im-

peachment hearing, the pundits are criticizing the Democrats for making a mockery of the hearings.

Democratic spin-doctors are questioning Independent Counsel Ken Starr's motives for appearing in front of the committee. They claim he is only interested in attacking the president and is dwelling on Clinton's mistakes.

They forget that the committee asked Starr to appear in the hearing. They claimed to want to hear his side of the story. Before the witness began his testimony, the House Democrats on the committee revealed their true intentions.

Although the members agreed

to the committee's procedures before the hearing, the House Democrats questioned every procedure once the hearing started. They complained about the time constraints put on the White House counsel and forced another vote to bar all time limits.

Of course they were short on votes, as they were when they brought forth the issue the first time. The Democrats were not raising the issue in hopes of changing the rules—they were grandstanding for the cameras.

For almost fifteen minutes, the Democrats took turns questioning committee Chairman Henry Hyde (R-Ill.) on the time limits. Hyde calmly explained to each member that the rules were agreed upon prior to the calling of the witness. Fortunately, Hyde recognized the grandstanding and forced the committee hearings forward.

Starr presented the information to prove his case, as a good prosecutor should. For the first time since the inquiry began, Starr was

able to present his side of the story. After Starr finished his testimony, the members were allowed to ask him questions.


Instead of asking questions relevant to the inquiry, the Democratic members used their time to attack and mock the witness. They had no qualms about telling Starr that they are his harshest critics.

While the Republicans tried to get information from Starr to help them decide their constitutional duty, it seemed as though the Democrats already had their minds made up. It is sad that a few of the more vocal and immature Democrats on the committee made the entire party look bad.

If television cameras are going to bring out the theatrical side of congressmen, then cameras have no business in the committee room. The only way we can get through this impeachment hearing in a timely manner is if both sides quit playing partisan politics.



## The Almanian Judgment Calls



**Thumbs Up** to the campus beautification efforts.

**Thumbs Down** to maintenance workers who wake up students with their leaf-blowers at 8 a.m.

**Thumbs Up** to the new tobacco policy.

**Thumbs Down** to the inability of smokers or non-smokers to see the other side's perspective.

**Thumbs Up** to Lambda Pi Eta for presenting an educational internship panel.

**Thumbs Down** to the fact that not many students attended it.

**Thumbs Up** to Thanksgiving Break.

**Thumbs Down** to the freezing temperatures that accompany it.

**Thumbs Up** to turkey and mashed potato night in the dining hall.

**Thumbs Down** to the ten-minute wait required to get food on this night.

**Thumbs Up** to fuzzy little deer.

**Thumbs Down** to the sight of fuzzy little deer dead on the side of the highway.

## Staff Editorial

## Be thankful for what you have

As the holidays approach and with Thanksgiving upon us, it is once again time to give thanks for our blessings—of which there are many for Alma College students. Although it may not always seem so to us, if we take a look around at the world we live in, we are truly among the most fortunate in our society. It only takes one look—one real look—to see the many things for which we should give thanks.

This evening as you turn on the TV, flip through the channels and watch the news for just five minutes, you might watch the story about the child molester who was convicted and imprisoned, or perhaps you will see images of a car accident in which

a mother was killed because of a drunk driver. Tonight might have a feature piece on a homeless woman who collects cans in order to eat, or maybe a few seconds will be dedicated to the atrocities being committed all over the world—even as you read this. The sad part is that these images are just a few of the hundreds, of the thousands, of similar incidents that occur everyday.

We at Alma go to class everyday, learning and growing both mentally and emotionally. While any school can offer classes to fit a major, Alma is truly unique. Perhaps we do not recognize it, but spending one day on a larger campus reminds us of our blessings. There are not many schools

where every professor knows your name, where you can walk down the sidewalk and say 'hi' to every passing individual and know you will receive a 'hi' in return, or be given the chance to interact with faculty and administration alike.

When we walk outside our dorms everyday we also realize how lucky we are to live in the safe, friendly environment that we do. Most consider Alma a safe place to live and we should give our thanks for the safe campus we live on. Walking around on campus at night is a regular occurrence, with no fear of muggers, rapists, or other criminals attacking or harming students.

This Thanksgiving students at

Alma have many reasons to be thankful. Not everyone comes from a privileged background. Not everyone has had the same opportunities. However, we all share one common thread—we are students at Alma College. We have worked hard to attain our goals and are continuing to do so. We can all agree that exams are stressful and roommates can be difficult; however, we can also agree that we are fortunate to have these experiences.

As you watch the news this evening, take a *real* look at your life, and then watch the lives of others as they are played out on your television screen. Then remember how much you have to be thankful for.

## The Almanian

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## 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.

## —Murphy's Sports Track—

By MICHAEL MURPHY  
Staff Reporter



This year in sporting has definitely seen several occurrences that are strange and odd in the sports

world. Henceforth, this is my list of the Top-15 abnormal sporting occurrences in 1998.

#15: After winning the World Series in 1997, the Florida Marlins become one of the most pathetic teams in the 1998 season as they unload all of their important players who contributed to their excellent 1997 campaign.

#14: The Detroit Red Wings have been showing a tint of inconsistency. Having won six out of their first eight games, the Wings have won but two in their next eight games. Heartless work ethic and sloppy play are the words circling around Joe Louis Arena. Those exact words have not been heard for the past few seasons.

#13: Not known for being a football power, the Wildcats of Kansas State are in position to win a national championship. The past ten seasons have seen a dramatic change in the KSU football program. To demonstrate, Kansas State will have to go undefeated until the year 2012 to have a .500 winning percentage for its football program.

#12: Roger Maris's homerun record of 61—a record some experts thought would last until eternity—was broken by not one, but two players. Quite an impressive feat by Mark McGuire and Sammy Sosa.

#11: The Atlanta Falcons are leading the Western Division of the NFC. Am I not the only one used to seeing San Francisco on top of the leaderboard?

#10: Much to the chagrin of Lions fans, they have learned that all of the blame for their team's pathetic play cannot be placed on the \$6-million man named Scott Mitchell, sitting on the bench.

#9: Cal Ripken decides to conclude his impressive 2,632 consecutive game streak. Memorize that number, sports fans. It will be in the record books until Armageddon.

#8: Florida International University hands Michigan basketball a loss to begin the season. Florida Who?

#7: The same Michigan basketball team then loses a dismal game to Ball State University. When have you ever seen Michigan lose to such low-caliber teams? Looks like a long season ahead for the Wolverines.

#6: Trying to look like they are contenders, the Detroit Tigers start offering money to every free agent on the market. Dean Palmer ac-

cepts a deal worth four years and a meager \$36 million, and then the Tigers offer \$34 million deal to Todd Stottlemyre. I have never seen the Tigers so active in the off-season.

#5: Doug Flutie is now playing for the Buffalo Bills. Are the Bills in the Canadian Football League? I did not think so. Flutie, who had become a symbol of the CFL, thought he would never get to play in the NFL. Welcome to the strangeness of 1998 where anything can happen, Doug.

#4: The only professional basketball games being played now are in Europe and Turkey. I don't know who to cheer for—the Ankara Sandblasters or the Athens Olympians.

#3: For the first time, nothing derogatory was said in reference to either Michigan or Ohio State during the week before their huge football game. Usually one of the teams says something to anger

the other team, thus giving them a mental advantage. Looks like David Boston and Earl Bruce have learned their lessons of talking smack before the game.

#2: An ex-WWF wrestler named Jesse "The Body" Ventura wins the Minnesota gubernatorial election. I hear that Stone Cold Steve Austin and Hulk Hogan are possibly going to throw their names into the 2000 presidential election. Must be because of Monica Lewinsky's lure in the Oval Office. Or something like that.

#1: The top reason why the sports year of 1998 has been strange: Carmen Electra decides to marry none other than the King of Class Dennis Rodman! The question is whether it will last longer than the NBA strike.

These odd occurrences will never be seen again. You gotta love the year of 1998 in sporting. It is definitely one for the record books.



## Political Pokes BY TUCO JAKUBOWSKI

DAVID KENDALL IS  
THE CAN'T-HOLD-  
WATER-BOY

NOW PLAYING IN A CONGRESS  
NEAR YOU!

