

News

- * Winter Rush Approaches, p. 2
- * PIG Books, p. 2

Feature

- * Choir Christmas Concert, p. 3
- * Movie Review, p. 4

Sports

- * J.V. Basketball, p. 5
- * Women's Basketball, p. 6

Opinion

- * 2000 Presidential elections, p. 7
- * Letters to the editors, p. 8

The Almanian

December 8, 1998

Serving Alma College since 1907

Issue 11

News Briefs

National Briefs

Clinton raises drinking water standards
NEWPORT, RI - Last week President Clinton introduced new federal drinking water standards which focused on filtering out impurities and helping communities upgrade their treatment systems. The President also released \$775 million in low-interest loans to states in an effort to help communities improve their treatment systems. Most treatment facilities have until December 2001 to comply; however, smaller systems serving under 10,000 people have additional years to comply with the stricter standards. Over the next five years the changes are expected to cost federal, state, and local governments \$2.5 billion. For about 90% of American households, it is expected that the changes will add less than \$2 to the average water bill.

Gas Pipeline explosion damages road
MOAB, Utah - A 10-inch natural gas pipeline exploded last Thursday damaging a roadway and sending up a mushroom-shaped cloud. All workers managed to escape serious injury. The accident occurred while a construction company was installing a natural gas line. Officials said about 40 feet of State Road 191 was damaged due to fire.

DC school bus drivers to get drug tests
WASHINGTON - Last week, in an effort to step up investigation into drug use, officials said that school bus drivers in the nation's capital must undergo drug testing. In October, concerns were raised when drivers were dismissed for failing drug tests and a clerk in the Safety and Training office was fired for covering up those test results.

World Briefs

Wiring may have been cause of orphanage fire
MANILA, Philippines - Wiring may have been the cause of a pre-dawn electrical fire that demolished an orphanage last Thursday. Investigators said the fire killed at least 28 people, most of whom were children. Witnesses said that children were trapped behind metal window grates and were screaming for help as the flames drew closer. Neighbors tugged at the padlocked main gate but could not get it open.

U.S. wants to boost trade with Africa
NAIROBI, Kenya - During his African tour, William Daley, Secretary of Commerce, said he hopes to encourage American companies to boost trade with Africa, but is concerned that corruption and political instability might dispel firms looking for new markets there. "These companies are not going to invest here if they do not see things change," he said.

Stone attends Annapolis Conference

By AMY TAYLOR
Staff Reporter

President Alan Stone visited the nation's capital November 18-19 for the Annapolis Group Conference. The Annapolis Group is made up of the eighty most "selected" colleges in the United States.

"It is a good company for Alma to be in. The last time I checked we were the sixty-third most selected out of the eighty," Stone said.

Other colleges in the group include Hope, Kalamazoo, Wooster and Oberlin of Ohio, Reed of Oregon, and Louis and Clark of Washington.

According to Stone, a college is selected into the group through three lists. The lists are of quality institutions and consist of the Library group, Undergraduate Science group, and the International 50. Alma was selected as a school of quality libraries and undergraduate science research. And, as soon as a school drops their name from the list of the International 50, Alma will be added to that list as well.

"They took the schools who appeared on those three lists and invited them to the conference," said Stone.

According to Stone, a concern for the Annapolis Group is the *U.S. News and World Report* Survey which uses the same criteria for state universities that they use for national liberal art colleges in compiling their lists. This means liberal art colleges get ranked using the same criteria as larger schools do.

Stone encourages quality schools to boycott the survey; however, the effects have been limited. The boycott has gained support from fellow quality institutions, dropping

the involvement rate from 69 to 50 percent, thus resulting in lowering the credibility of the *U.S. News* Survey.

Stone said, "We think there is something special that goes on at good small schools which has to do with issues such as the engagement of students, close interaction with faculty, small class sizes, lower faculty/student ratio, study abroad programs, service learning and student research."

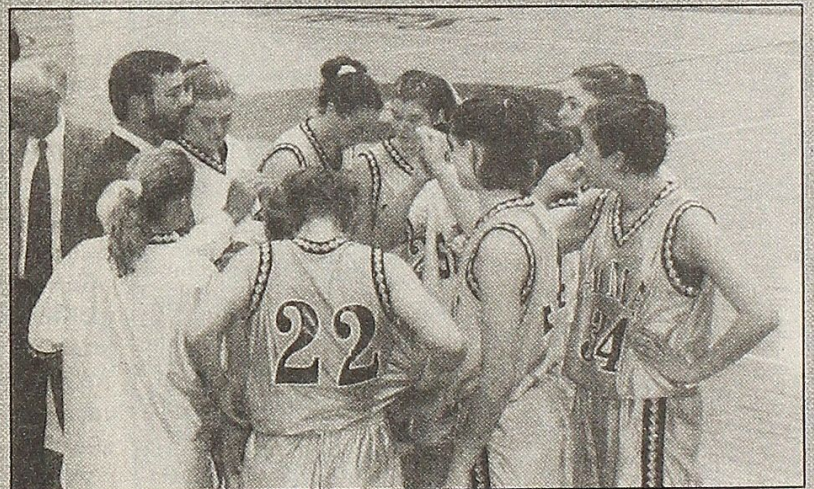
He added that Annapolis presents better distinct measures than those used by the *U.S. News* Survey through the Enchems group. Enchems looks at the number of papers assigned, the amount of assigned reading, comprehensive exams, class participation and feedback on performance of the schools. It provides a survey with a different way of ranking schools.

"It is a survey that the students fill out giving a better grasp on colleges," said Stone.

The survey is called the "Pew Survey of Student Engagement" and helps provide information about colleges and universities conducive to student learning. It contains items related to student engagement and actions important to college evaluations. Also, it outlines the importance of foreign language, independent study, challenges of the school, student success in college and support of diversity.

Stone said, "The conference was particularly interesting because of my own project to change the ranking system in the *U.S. News* Survey and I was very happy with the outcome of the discussion."

Time Out!



Alma women's basketball coach Charlie Goffnett offers advice to his players at a time out during the Albion game in which the Scots were victorious 86-63. Photo by Steve Nadeau.

Task Force works to revise mission statement

By DONNA PAPPAS
Staff Reporter

The Evergreen Planning Task Force is in the process of revising the Alma College mission statement in order to continue providing quality ethos to its students.

"It is necessary for the school to have a written consensual plan for the future so everyone in the school can see where the school is going generally, as well as within each specific department," said President Alan Stone.

The present mission statement was amended in 1983. The Task Force is revising the statement so that it is no longer as redundant. They are also focusing on the language of the statement.

"We have taken out the old-fashioned words, such as vocation and career, to update the language to the 90's," said Dr. Bernie Davis, professor of political science.

The basis of the plan focuses on the good

of the students. It does not propose radical departures from the earlier plans or the College's basic mission. It focuses on enhancing the quality of current practices instead.

Along with the mission statement, this Task Force, the Board of Trustees and the First Faculty Fireside are in the process of revising a vision statement. This will describe the major points of emphasis for the next few years, detailing how these goals will actually be carried out, department by department, throughout the school. Eventually, each department will respond with their goals as well.

The vision statement states where Alma should be in ten years. From the concerns that are identified by these committees, a few are chosen and concentrated on. The six goals that will be emphasized in the next four years are community, diversity, quality ethos, student research, globalism and service-learning.

"The benefit of this plan is that we are all

working toward the same ends of our goals," said Stone.

The vision statement is updated every four years. The present four-year plan, which is scheduled to be amended again in two years, includes the following goals intended to maintain quality ethos: 1,350 students (1,400 fall full time); a 13.5:1 student / faculty ratio; 1.1:1 faculty salaries; stable facultystaff numbers; an endowment of \$100 million by the year 2000; inflationary tuition increases; and inflationary departmental increases.

The funding for these goals is expected to be provided by increases in annual giving, \$500,000 annual operating surpluses, control of financial aid expense and the annual enhancement program. New recreational structures, a technology center and enhanced computerization are also planned outside of the annual budget.

These changes are expected to be approved by the Board of Trustees at the May 1999 meeting.

Winter Rush expected to run smoothly this year

By AMY FRALEY
News Editor

Alma College Winter Rush events will begin Sunday, January 9, with students signing the initial rush list. The list will be at both lunch and dinner Monday through Wednesday. On Thursday, January 13, an informational meeting will be held for all students who signed the rush list.

The actual events for the women begin with Teas on Saturday, January 16. Teas will last from 1 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. with groups spending half an hour at each house.

Spreads will be held on Sunday for Kappa Iota, Phi Sigma Sigma and Alpha Xi Delta and on Monday for Alpha Gamma Delta and Gamma Phi Beta. Desserts will be the same way with Gamma Phi Beta, Alpha Gamma Delta and Kappa Iota hosting them on Wednesday, January 20, while Phi Sigma Sigma and Alpha Xi Delta will have their deserts on Thursday, January 21.

On Friday, January 22, Bid Signing will be held from 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. with walk-outs immediately following.

"Around the World" will be the rush theme of the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority this winter. "Rush is a lot of work, but it is also a good time for us to meet new people and expand," said Rush chair Leslie Russell (99).

Phi Sigma Sigma's Rush theme for Teas will be "Phi Sigdelic." Rush chair Colleen Peterson (01) said the goal of the Phi Sigs is to "reach quota and to stand out and be known as something other than the 'new' sorority. As a sorority we are excited about talking to the girls and getting a feel for them."

Kappa Iota president Becky Johnston (00) said that their group is "looking forward to meeting women." She also said "Rush is a great way to get non-Greek students involved and interested. If they don't go through the Rush process then they don't really see what Greek life is all about."

The Alpha Xi Delta sorority theme will be "In Xi Army" during Rush this winter. A member of the group Carrie Reid (99), said "We are excited and looking forward to Rush. We've been having committee meetings all fall, so everything is pretty much all planned out."

The Gamma Phi Beta sorority has chosen "125 Years of Friendship: A Celebration of Excellence" as their theme for Winter Rush. The ladies chose this theme in honor of the 125th anniversary of the sorority.

Beth Rosenow (99), Rush chair said "I thought this would be a great theme because it reflects the dedication of our group and commemorates the hard work of our founders."

She also said the group has been hard at work this fall planning and preparing the Rush ac-

tivities. "I think that the work of Panhel this year will prove to be beneficial during Rush week. The informational meetings held this term were a great way for non-Greek women to become acquainted with the Rush process and get any potential questions answered."

Echoing Johnston's statement was Panhellenic President Emily Jefferson.

She said that "until students rush they do not see that Greek life at Alma is different from what you see at larger universities. It allows both men and women the opportunity to see what sororities and fraternities are all about. By participating in Rush non-Greek students can see that Greek life allows for the promotion of leadership opportunities, stresses the importance of academics and encourages community participation."

Panel is hoping for a good turnout at Rush this year. Jefferson noted that the group has made more of an effort by hosting the question and answer session for the prospective rush-ees. Further, they will place table tents with Rush information in Hamilton during the week prior to Rush.

For the men Rush is much different. Beginning on January 16, a different fraternity each night will host what are known as "smokers." On the night of their "smoker" each fraternity will invite rushees over for dinner and conversation. Run-outs will be held Saturday, January 23.

Inter-Fraternal Council president Paul Chittick (99) said this winter the men "are looking forward to having a positive Rush experience, rather than competing for members."

Internet provides loan information

By AMY TAYLOR
Staff Reporter

Information on student loans is now accessible online.

This information is not only available to help students locate applications, but it even helps borrowers make the right loan decisions. Many major lenders including Nellie Mae are providing students with more information to help them understand borrowing and credit issues before they get to college. Nellie Mae's website at www.nelliemae.com, offers students and parents advice on important issues to consider before taking out a loan. Also, the web site offers in depth counseling about loans during and after college.

Nellie Mae is located in Braintree, Massachusetts and is a national provider of federal and private loans. It was developed in 1982 and has provided more than \$5.6 billion dollars in education loans to 1.5 million students and families.

According to a news release,

Nellie Mae's Vice President of Public Affairs, Diane Saunders, said, "As with any major purchase, make sure you are getting the best offer to fit your needs."

In the College Board's recent "Trends in Student Aid," student loans comprise 60% of all student aid. Therefore, the Board said that students cannot be too cautious when deciding how much to borrow for college and which borrower to choose.

Other features that the Nellie Mae web-site offer are Loan Link calculators and worksheets to compare financial aid packages, estimated monthly debt payments, how much money to borrow, budget and track spending, and checking the status of an actual loan application.

According to Nellie Mae, the current average student loan debt is \$18,800. For undergraduates the monthly student loan payment is \$161 and for graduate students \$271. Thus, taking out a loan should be given the same attention as purchasing a first home or car.

For a free copy of Nellie Mae's

"Take the Right Road" guide to educational borrowing visit the web site at www.nelliemae.com or call 1-800-9-TUITION.

PIG Books set to arrive soon

By TONYA SCHAFER
Staff Reporter

The 1998-99 version of Alma College's Personal Identification Guide (known as the PIG book) has been a source of irritation for many on campus, as it has yet to be distributed to students. The book, which contains photographs, addresses and phone numbers of Alma students and faculty, has been delayed this year by a series of miscommunications and technical crises.

Representatives from Jostens, the company printing this year's PIG book, photographed students for the guide earlier this semester. Members of *The Scot* yearbook staff, who also produce the PIG book, waited for these pictures to be sent back before they numbered each and indicated on which page in the book each would fall. *Scot* staffers then sent the photos back to Jostens and awaited the result.

This process, however, was a source of delay.

"We did not get the pictures back [from Jostens] until Homecoming," said Erin Caswell (01), Business Manager of *The Scot*.

"[In years] before, we had gotten two rolls back—one with pictures that had to be cut out and one with the pictures perforated. This time, though, they thought they would be really nice and punch the pictures out for us. But we had no names to match them up with."

Students in the pictures were eventually identified and the pho-

tos sent back to Jostens, where production was snagged in the binding department.

"They told us they were understaffed and that work was backed up due to employees being on vacations," said Caswell.

Jostens eventually put the PIG book on a rush order. Caswell, however, is unsure as to when the guide will be made available to students.

"We're hoping it will be here by Christmas break. It's on a day-to-day basis," she said.

Tammy Godfrey (01) expressed impatience over the tardiness of this year's PIG book.

"I understand that things go wrong," she said. "But they should have let people know why it was going to be late instead of letting people get mad."

The problems created by having the photographs professionally taken may be alleviated next year.

The Scot staff is currently considering the use of Sodexho-Marriott's digital camera equipment in creation of the PIG book. While the photos would not be of as high-quality, confusion would be lessened.

"When students have their ID pictures taken, all the information will be there on disk," said Caswell.

With *The Scot* staff currently awaiting receipt of the completed PIG book, Caswell expressed frustration about the situation.

"I'm anxious to get it back," she said. "It's been a hassle for everyone."

Classified

***ACT NOW! Call for best SPRING BREAK. Prices to South Padre (free meals), Keywest, Cancun, Jamaica, Bahamas, Panama City, Reps needed... Travel free, earn cash. GROUP DISCOUNTS FOR 6+. www.leisuretours.com/800-838-8203.

#1 Spring Break Specials! Book Early & Recieve a Free Meal plan! Cancun & Jamaica \$399, Bahamas \$459, Panama City \$99. 1-800-234-7007 www.endlesssummertours.com

Power Mac 5200 24/800 incl. 15" monitor, kybd, modem, mouse, CD, MS office, internet software \$675 Call Scott (517) 336-7380.



Every Monday 9 - 11 p.m.

Townies

WQAC 90.9 FM--smooth, yet unrefined

December 8, 1998

FEATURE

3

Choirs present "Festival of Carols"

By **TONYA SCHAFER**
Staff Reporter

The Heritage Center's Presbyterian Hall was filled with Christmas spirit this past weekend, as the Alma College Choirs presented their annual Festival of Carols. Each of the three shows was performed in front of a full house and featured holiday music from around the world.

Conducted by Will Nichols, profesor of music, and accompanied on piano by music faculty member Anthony Patterson, the Women's Glee Club, Men's Glee Club and Alma College Choir combined efforts to perform the program's 23 songs. Each piece

was related to a central theme of Mary and Joseph's Christmas Eve journey to Bethlehem.

The Festival featured several well-known carols. These included a haunting rendition of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" that opened the show; traditional favorites "The First Noel" and "Oh Little Town of Bethlehem;" and the somber chords of "I Wonder As I Wander."

Lesser-known songs were also performed. Such pieces as the Polish carol "Glad Tidings Bring," the Spanish melody "Dansaron" and the traditional French piece "Patapan" provided the show with an element of diversity and uniqueness.

The concert ended with a performance of "Silent Night." Each singer clutched a single illuminated candle that combined with the others to become a sea of soft light as the stage darkened upon the song's conclusion.

Guest performers joined the choirs in this musical endeavor.

Jill Heyboer, the college's flute instructor, provided singers with a sweet, lyrical accompaniment on many of their pieces.

In addition, student musicians enriched several songs with performances on the oboe, trumpet, horn, trombone and tuba.

The concert was held on a stage decorated by a simple arrangement of poinsettias. A majestic

Christmas tree covered with white lights stood behind the choirs as they performed; additional strings of white light were draped from the ceiling in graceful arcs.

Choir and Glee Club members, who had been working on the program's pieces since mid-October, enjoyed the opportunity to perform these Christmas songs.

"Glee has been a great experience for me. I have been trying to broaden my musical knowledge beyond the instrumental side of Alma College, and the vocal side has provided an excellent learning opportunity," said Laura Price (01), a member of the Women's Glee Club.

"Despite the fact that we were

standing still for about an hour, it was a great time and it went very well," said Men's Glee Club member Jim Miller (01).

Kirstin Porter (01), a member of the Alma College Choir, added, "Choir is always a lot of fun. We get together, we enjoy ourselves. It's good for the holiday spirit."

Nichols also had good things to say about the outcome of the concert.

"Christmas is the best time of the year to be a singer. I got goose bumps when they [the choirs] came out and started singing 'Oh Come, All Ye Faithful.' It's just the best thing there is. It makes me happy," he said.

Casey's bid for Republican office underway

By **MICHAEL MURPHY**
Staff Reporter

The election for the Third Vice Chair of the Republican State Committee is rapidly approaching, and junior Shannon Casey is mounting a campaign to win the election.

Held during the first weekend of February, the Michigan Republican Convention will feature elections to the state Republican Executive Board, meaning that the Third Vice Chair will be on the ballot.

The Chair's position is to work within a budget to help advance the Republican scene to Michigan's youth and younger voters.

"[The Chair] entails working with district chairs, county chairs, and elected officials [seeking] strategies to get more young people involved in the party," said Casey.

Casey said he has decided to run for the election because he believes that the Republican Party has not reached out enough to the young people of Michigan.

He will probably face three to four opponents, one of which may be the current Chair.

Even with the support and help from his campaign volunteers, Casey said, "It will be an uphill battle, but we will try to play our cards right and win."

"[Shannon] has to mount a major campaign for the February date," said President Alan Stone, advisor to the Alma College Republicans.

Entering the race during the final week of November, Casey has steadfastly campaigned for the election. He is trying to meet all county chairs and district chairs to gain support for the election.

Stone said that Casey, who is the first Alma student to run for the office, has already received backing for the campaign.

These endorsements come from many key figureheads in the Republican state political spectrum, including State Representative John Pappageorge, State Senator Mike Goschka, Gratiot County State Representative Larry DeVuyst, the Gratiot County Republican Party, and Gratiot

County Sheriff Rick Beracy.

Presently, Casey is having stationery and brochures printed, and plans on getting banners and lapel stickers for the February convention. Casey intends to raise \$3,000-\$4,000 for his campaign.

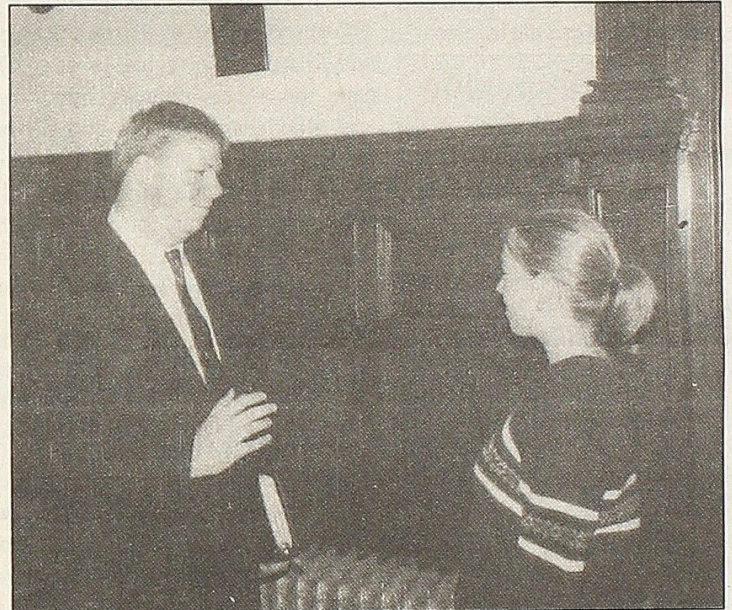
"I have been on the phone and at meetings steadily," said Casey, indicating the countless hours he has already put into the campaign.

Casey, who is from Manistique, is not foreign to the political process.

This summer, Casey was the Campaign Manager for State Representative John Pappageorge. It was at this time that he started working closely with the state party.

He has also been involved with the Alma College Republicans, which has been able to bring political figures to Alma College to present forums to the students regarding political issues.

Timm Thorsen, Alma's Sociology Department Chair and Secretary of the Gratiot County Republican Party, said, "The Alma College Republicans have been quite active and Shannon's



Junior Shannon Casey works to get endorsements and support for his campaign for the Third Vice Chair of the Republican State Committee. Submitted Photo.

been responsible for that. I have been quite impressed with what they have accomplished."

"Shannon is very organized and understands the political process. He is very pragmatic and has a good shot at it," said President Stone.

Casey said that he is feeling confident and excited about the entire campaign.

If he does win the election, Casey said, "It will leave my options open in two years. I will have met all the needed people and developed a reputation."

Jodie Reeves joins Alma staff in Provost's office

By **STEPHANIE POWELL**
Staff Reporter

Students who peer through the window of the Provost's office on the way to class will see a new face peering back at them: Jodie Reeves took her place at the secretary's desk on November 23.

Reeves has lived in Gratiot County all her life. Now the mother of Ben, 18; Elizabeth, 16; Jonathan, 9; and Samuel, 6, Reeves lives with her husband on their Ithaca farm.

"I'm really excited about this job," Reeves said. "I think it will be a challenge, but Rosalie [Sanford, Provost Brown's former secretary who retired in November] has left helpful little notes for me all over the place."

Reeves said she is sure she will

enjoy the campus environment.

"I enjoy meeting kids," she said. "I like talking to people that age. I work with kids a lot at Ithaca High School, I'm an accompanist for the musicals."

Music is among Reeves' hobbies. "I've played piano since I was four," she said. "And I took organ lessons here at the College when I was in high school. Sometimes I play at weddings at Dunning Memorial Chapel." Reeves said she also likes to sing, sew and read. "I love to go to my kids' sporting events—actually, I like to do anything with my kids. I'm a kid at heart."

"I'm glad for the opportunity to work at Alma College," Reeves said. "I applied here once before, years ago. I just always thought it would be such a neat place to

work." Reeves' chance finally came when her sister-in-law saw an ad for the secretary position in the newspaper and passed it along to her. "I knew I would definitely look into it—and now here I am."

Reeves said she is still learning the various duties associated with her job.

"Right now I'm working on the faculty evaluations. I also schedule meetings and events for faculty members. I create programs for events like Honors Day, Commencement, and so on."

Reeves added, "Really, I'm still learning. I learn as I go along."

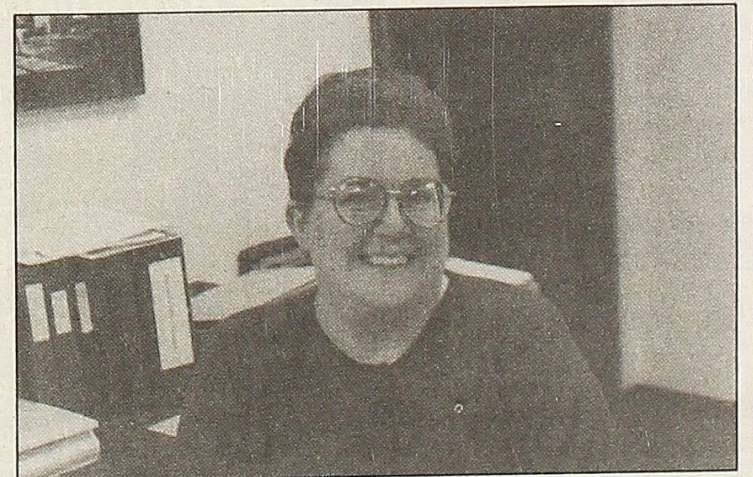
Reeves said she is certain she will enjoy the transition to her new job.

"I like to work at a fast pace," Reeves said. "I need to keep

busy—I don't like to be slow."

Reeves has also enjoyed meeting various members of the Alma College Community. Everyone

has been so friendly and helpful. They're making my transition so much easier. My first week has been great."



Jodie Reeves is the new secretary in the Provost's office. She has taken over for Rosalie Sanford who retired in November. Photo by Maya Mackowiak.

Movie Review by Lindsay Robinson

"Enemy of the State" a must-see

Watch your every step. Be wary of whatever you say. Be careful about anything you do. Why? Because what you do not know is that someone may be watching you. This is not about Santa Claus coming to town, but it is the premise behind the fast paced action thriller *Enemy of the State* starring Will Smith and Gene Hackman.

This movie suspensefully tells the story of a crooked government agent out to kill a man who does not know he holds in his hands key information about a murder cover-up. Administrator of the State Department to the National Security Agency (NSA), Thomas Brian Reynolds (Jon Voight) wants to win the vote of a Republican congressman for a bill which would allow governmental access to private informa-

tion. Since the congressman refuses to stand for what the bill means, Reynolds has his agents kill him. What Reynolds does not know, though, is that the murder has innocently been caught on videotape by a nature observer.

Reynolds, through illegal use of equipment owned by the National Security Agency, is able to track down who the observer was, and has his agents chase him in order to get the videotape.

As agents bear down on the observer, he runs into an old college classmate, Attorney Robert Clayton Dean (Will Smith). As the observer breathlessly begs for help, he drops the video, which was saved on a disk, into Dean's shopping bag. The observer is hit by a firetruck and killed while trying to escape the agents chasing him, and after searching his body, the agents find he is no longer in possession of the videotape. What they do find, though, is Dean's business card.

This is where the fun begins.

Reynolds uses the surveillance equipment of the NSA to track down Dean. By examining videotape from a security camera in the lingerie store where Dean was given the video, Reynolds finds that he indeed has what they want. Using sophisticated equipment, Reynolds and his men are able to find out everything about Dean and his life. They find out through phone bills to whom he speaks with, and using that information, bug those telephones. They break into his house and place bugs in his clothing and little surveillance cameras in his smoke detectors. They even trace his moves in the outside world using tracing equipment and by following him via satellite equipment 155 miles above the Earth's surface. And the beauty of this, to Reynold's agents, is that it is all unbeknownst to Dean.

When Dean finally realizes that he is indeed being followed for some reason, and that his life and the lives of his family members are in jeopardy, he enlists the help of a man he has never formally met, but has done business with indi-



Jason Lee (right) plays Daniel Zavitz, a photographer who has stumbled upon information in the mysterious death of a U.S. Congressman. When he accidentally bumps into his old friend Robert Clayton Dean (Smith, left) he slips him the evidence and embroils Dean in a run for his life. Photo credit: Linda R. Chen. "Touchstone Pictures. All Rights Reserved."

rectly. This man, known to Dean only as Brill (Gene Hackman), is a former intelligence worker himself, and is the key to Dean's life and proof of innocence.

This movie is a gripping tale and really makes you think about what freedom you truly do possess. As Jon Voight said through his character, Thomas Brian Reynolds, "Privacy's been dead for 30 years because we can't risk

it. The only privacy left is in the inside of your head. You think we're the end of democracy? I think we're democracy's last hope."

We have often wondered here on Earth if there is indeed intelligence far beyond watching us, but have we ever really thought that it is our own government? Watch the movie and see the possibilities for yourselves.

What's Happening On Campus?

Tuesday, December 8

*6:30 p.m. IFC meeting, SAC 106
*8 p.m. Panhel Meeting, Fireside Lounge

Thursday, December 10

*8 p.m. Jazz Ensemble, Heritage Center for the Performing Arts

Friday, December 11

*8 p.m. Alma College Theater "One Acts"
*8 p.m. Kiltie Band, Heritage Center for the Performing Arts

Saturday, December 12

*8 p.m. Alma College Theater "One Acts"
*8 p.m. Phi Mu Alpha Performance, Heritage Center for the Performing Arts

Sunday, December 13

*11:15 a.m. Chapel Service, Chapel
*3 p.m. Alma College Theater "One Acts"
*9 p.m. Catholic Mass, Chapel

Monday, December 14

*Fall Term Exams Begin
*6:30 p.m. Student Congress Meeting, Dow L1
*8 p.m. Youth Orchestra, Heritage Center for the Performing Arts
*9 p.m. Bible Study, Fireside Lounge
*9 p.m. Fellowship of Christian Athletes Meeting, Jones Auditorium

Tuesday, December 15

*Fall Term Exams

Wednesday, December 16

*Fall Term Exams

Thursday, December 17

*Fall Term Exams

Friday, December 18

*Fall Term Exams End
*5 p.m. Residence Halls Close

\$24,000 offered in scholarships

By MANDY LONG
Feature Editor

Alma College students looking into teaching the social sciences at a secondary level are once again being invited to apply for the James Madison Fellowship.

The James Madison Fellowship, which was won by Alma graduate R.J. Webber in 1996, offers a maximum grant of \$24,000 to students who wish to teach social studies, American history or political science at the secondary level by attending a graduate school of their choice.

The Fellowship is offered through the James Madison Fellowship Foundation which was created in 1986 by Congress to improve the teaching of the U.S. Constitution and other social

science subjects in American schools. The Foundation is an independent establishment of the executive branch of the federal government and is funded by Congress and contributions from individuals, other foundations, and corporations.

The Foundation offers two awards: Junior Fellowship Awards and Senior Fellowship Awards. Junior Fellowships are given to recent graduates or undergraduate students who wish to attend graduate school full-time. Senior Fellowships are given to experienced teachers who wish to pursue graduate studies through summer and evening classes.

The recipients of these awards are able to attend any institution of higher education in the United States to receive a master of arts, a master of arts in teaching, or a master of arts in education with an

emphasis in American history, government and political science. They must also use the grant for tuition, required fees, books, room, and board.

In addition to the grant, Fellows may attend an all expense paid seminar during the summer. This seminar discusses the American Constitution and is held at

Georgetown University.

The deadline for application is March 1. For more information, students may contact Edward Lorenz in the History Department, visit the website at <http://www.jamesmadison.com> or call their toll free information line at 1-800-525-6928.

Writing Contest

Prizes

Essay, Poetry, Short Story categories

\$100 First Prize in each category

\$ 50 Second Prize in each category

\$ 25 Third Prize in each category

Entries will be considered for publication in *Pine River Anthology*, Alma's fine arts journal. Please address questions to Jennifer Zumpf: 01jmzumpf.

Rules

No limit on length, form, style, or subject. Contestants may enter a maximum of one essay, one short story, and three poems. All entries must be typed. Do not place name and address on submissions. Identify the category you are entering on the top right corner of the first page.

Procedure

Include a 3X5 index card including name, address, phone number, and the submission's title. Drop off entries by Noon, Friday, December 11, 1998 in SAC 330.

The Almanian is currently hiring for the following positions:
News Editor
Layout Editor
Staff Reporter
Sports Reporter
If interested contact Missy Crossnoe at X8346.
All positions are paid.

December 8, 1998

SPORTS

5

Winter Basketball Schedule

Men's JV Basketball

Dec. 11	at Delta Community College	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 5	Kalamazoo	5:15 p.m.
Jan. 9	Calvin	12:50 p.m.
Jan. 13	at Defiance	5:15 p.m.
Jan. 16	at Adrian	12:50 p.m.
Jan. 20	Hope	5:15 p.m.
Jan. 23	Olivet	12:50 p.m.
Jan. 27	at Albion	5:15 p.m.
Jan. 30	at Kalamazoo	12:50 p.m.
Feb. 3	at Calvin	5:15 p.m.
Feb. 6	Defiance	12:50 p.m.
Feb. 10	Adrian	5:15 p.m.
Feb. 12	Kalamazoo Valley	7:00 p.m.
Feb. 13	at Hope	5:15 p.m.
Feb. 17	at Olivet	5:15 p.m.
Feb. 20	Albion	12:50 p.m.

Men's Basketball

Dec.	Alma Rotary Classic	6/8 p.m.
28-29	Alma, Bethel, Northwood, Oberlin	6/8 p.m.
Jan. 2	at Spring Arbor	3:00 p.m.
Jan. 5	Kalamazoo	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 9	Calvin	3:00 p.m.
Jan. 13	at Defiance	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 16	at Adrian	3:00 p.m.
Jan. 20	Hope	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 23	Olivet	3:00 p.m.
Jan. 25	at Grace Bible	7:00 p.m.
Jan. 27	at Albion	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 30	at Kalamazoo	3:00 p.m.
Feb. 3	at Calvin	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 6	Defiance	3:00 p.m.
Feb. 8	at Orchard Lake St. Mary's	7:00 p.m.
Feb. 10	Adrian	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 13	at Hope	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 17	at Olivet	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 20	Albion	3:00 p.m.
Feb.	MIAA	
24-27	Tournament	TBA

J.V. basketball falls to Delta

By MARK ISZAK
Freelance writer

On Friday, December 4th, the men's J.V. basketball team hosted Delta Community College. The Scots came into the game with a 2-1 record. Although they hoped to improve their record to 3-1, the Scots fell short and lost 75-67.

Delta opened up the game's scoring with a bucket two minutes into the contest. Soon after, sophomore Andrew Van Schoick put Alma on the board with a three-point play. This sparked the Scots, who played well and intensely the first half of the game. The offense was rolling, due to good passing and ball handling.

The Scots were hot in the first half, dropping several three-pointers. Sophomore Ernie McNeil and first-year students Rich Walters and Spencer Wideman all pitched in a couple of threes for the Scots. Also, the Scots shot well from the strike all game long. A productive offense and a hard-working defense gave the Scots a half-time lead of 32-31.

The start of the second half marked the beginning of a struggle for the team. Although it was a tough half, the Scots battled hard to try and stay in the game. The second half was highlighted by

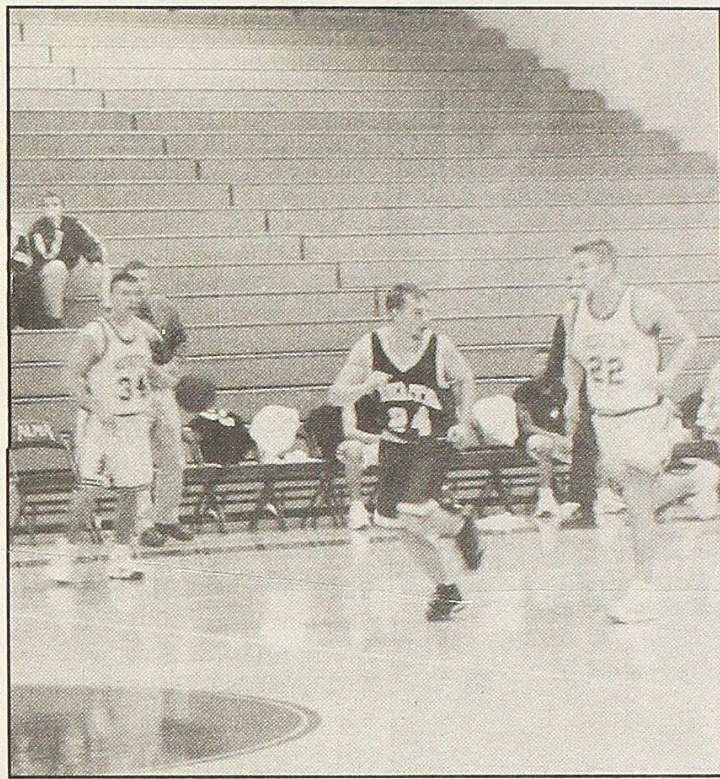
some good play, both offensive and defensive. Van Shoick performed well, especially on offense, and showed it by starting off the scoring for the Scots with a steal and a basket. First-year students Chad Creevy and Dan Chewning came out with a couple of early baskets as well, but the Scots struggled on offense.

The shots were not dropping and rebounds were hard to come by. Delta played a tough defensive game, which hindered the Scots offensive play.

However, the offense had its high points, with McNeil hitting a long three-pointer over a Delta defender to get the crowd going. McNeil also played well on defense, using his speed and quickness up and down the court. With ten minutes left in the game, Delta was up by a dozen, 58-46.

Despite being down, the Scots kept battling, with a couple of Chewning three point plays and a Ken Knudsen (01) basket. The scoring went back and forth the rest of the game, but Delta came out on top: a Walters three-pointer at the buzzer finished the game's scoring, with Delta on top 75-67.

Head coach Scott Goddard said, "The team is playing well despite its youth. The shots just weren't falling tonight. We were



Chad Creevy (34) and Daniel Chewning (22) go on the defense in the Delta game. Photo by Maya Mackowiak.

also missing three players who were out with sickness; however, we are looking forward to facing Delta again this season."

Chewning said, "Even though we were down, we kept our heads up and played hard. We need to take better shots and bring down more rebounds. If we do these things, we'll be just fine."

McNeil said, "The team played a great first half but broke down in the second. We need to maintain our first half intensity all game."

The Scots are now 2-2. The next matchup for Alma is set for December 11 at Delta College.

Men's basketball team working together

By KELLY McDONALD
Staff Reporter

With five new players seeing significant playing time, the men's basketball team is learning to play together.

The Scots have yet to play in front of the home crowd with their first five games being away, but they are holding their own in a season of changes.

"I think they understand what is expected of them," said head coach Kevin Skaggs.

"Now we are trying to get everyone on the same page," he added.

Three transfer students, Jim Hanlin (00), Tony Jasick (00) and Spencer Roeker (01), have cracked the starting lineup for the Scots.

Alma played their first game of the season against Muskingum (Ohio) in the Bud Manes Classic at Thiel College in Pennsylvania. The Scots struggled offensively and found themselves down 34-26 at halftime.

They made a run in the second half, closing the gap to two points with three minutes left to play, but Muskingum fended off the late rally and Alma went down 62-57.

Seth Stapleton (00) led the Scots

with 20 points while Jeremy Hyler (00) added 10 points and nine rebounds. Hanlin contributed eight assists.

"We are still learning the system defensively and learning each other and where we can score from," said Skaggs.

On Saturday, Alma took on Gallaudet University (D.C.) in the consolation game.

Gallaudet scored the first basket of the game, but from there on, it was all Alma.

They were up by as many as 29 points and won the game easily 79-62.

Hyler led the way with 18 points and pulled down 18 rebounds while Jasick tallied 15 points and six rebounds. Stapleton finished with 12 points and Chris Seelbach (01) added 10.

The Scots traveled to Tiffin (Ohio) for the last game of their road trip.

A little tired from the weekend, the Scots had a poor first half showing, going down early, 57-31. The deficit proved to be too much and Alma lost 101-74.

Pat Hoag, the lone senior on the team, had 15 points and six rebounds and Hanlin added 12 points.

See BASKETBALL on page 6...

Tau Kappa Epsilon alumni of Alma proudly salute one of their own,

DR. MIKE MULLIGAN

a member of the class of 1962 and winner of the 1998 George A. Hebert Award given by the Alma College Alumni Association to honor outstanding loyalty and service to Alma College.

Owner and president of a career training firm, Mulligan and Associates Inc. of Chicago, he is working to make good things happen for Alma Tekes and their friends.

He is helping members design and implement a program piloted as "The TKE Triangle Performance Plan." In the Triangle Program, each undergraduate is paired with an alumnus in one-on-one mentoring and will take part in a team leadership program aimed at growth in several important areas of academic, personal and career life.

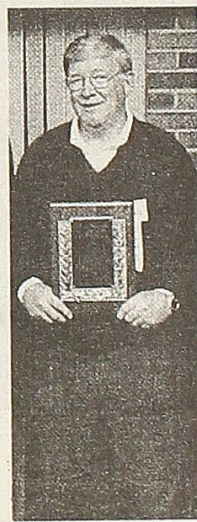
Mike is helping plan the first reunion of Alma Tekes alumni in the International Fraternity's second century, which begins January 10, 1999. The reunion, planned for some time next fall, will include time for Tekes alumni of all ages to tell how the fraternal experience helped them in careers and in personal and family lives.

TAU KAPPA EPSILON

planning for its next century

the choice to belong . . . the challenge to become

(The Zeta Delta [Phi Phi Alpha] Chapter Alumni Association is composed of over 900 Alma College alumni who were members of the local fraternity Phi Phi Alpha or initiates of TKE.)



Fall Sports Outstanding Athletes

Football

All-MIAA First Team

Dustin Armstrong (00)
Rick Brands (99)
Mark Goedge (99)
Jim Townsend (99)

*Offensive MVP

Jason VanderMaas (99)

All-MIAA Second Team

Shawn Priem
All-MIAA Honorable Mention
Rod Barriger (99)
Brian Pierce (01)
Gabe Seibt (00)
Tim Webb (00)
Mike Wenzel (00)
Zack Workman (00)

GTE Academic All-District

Dustin Armstrong (00)
Rick Brands (99)

All-North Region Second Team

Rick Brands (99)

Volleyball

All-MIAA Second Team

Ellen Bradbury (99)
Meghann Devlin (01)

All-MIAA Honorable Mention

Nicole Markeicki (99)
GTE Academic All-District
Kathryn Nordin (00)

Men's Soccer

All-MIAA First Team

Chris Alexander (00)
Jason Passalacqua (99)
Randy U'Ren (99)

All-MIAA Second Team

Matt Keller (99)

All-MIAA Honorable Mention

Paul Aceto (01)

Women's Soccer

All-MIAA Honorable Mention

Kristy Hopper (01)
Jaclyn Sauter (99)
Kelly Vorenkamp (01)

Women's Golf

All-MIAA First Team

Jen Peters (00)
Lindsay Carpenter (02)
All-MIAA Second Team
Nicole Sears (02)

Women's basketball team defeat Albion

By DONNA PAPPAS
Staff Reporter

The women's basketball team opened their 1998-1999 MIAA season with an 86-63 win over Albion on Saturday with key playing from the bench.

"Our conference schedule has begun; these are the games that matter. We are excited about the prospect of getting into the league season. We came off four tough losses in a row, but we shut down Albion right away. This was a fantastic win for us," said Head Coach Charlie Goffnett.

Starting the game for the Scots were Kristin Babbit (02), Rebekah Barker (01), Ellen Bradbury (99), Shannon Gross (00) and Joy Horton (01). The Scots were up 46-28 at the half. They maintained a double figure lead the entire second half, and at one time they were ahead 31 points.

Ten of the eleven Scots scored in the game, while five finished the game with double figure scoring. Mary Barnheart (00) led the team with a total of 14 points. Shannon Boven (02) and Bradbury each added 12 points, Horton scored 11 and Barker had 10. Julie Whitmore (01) was also a major contributor to the final score.

"It was a team effort: no one person stood out the whole game. We really played the first half well. We have been working on defense, and it's starting to pay off," said Boven.

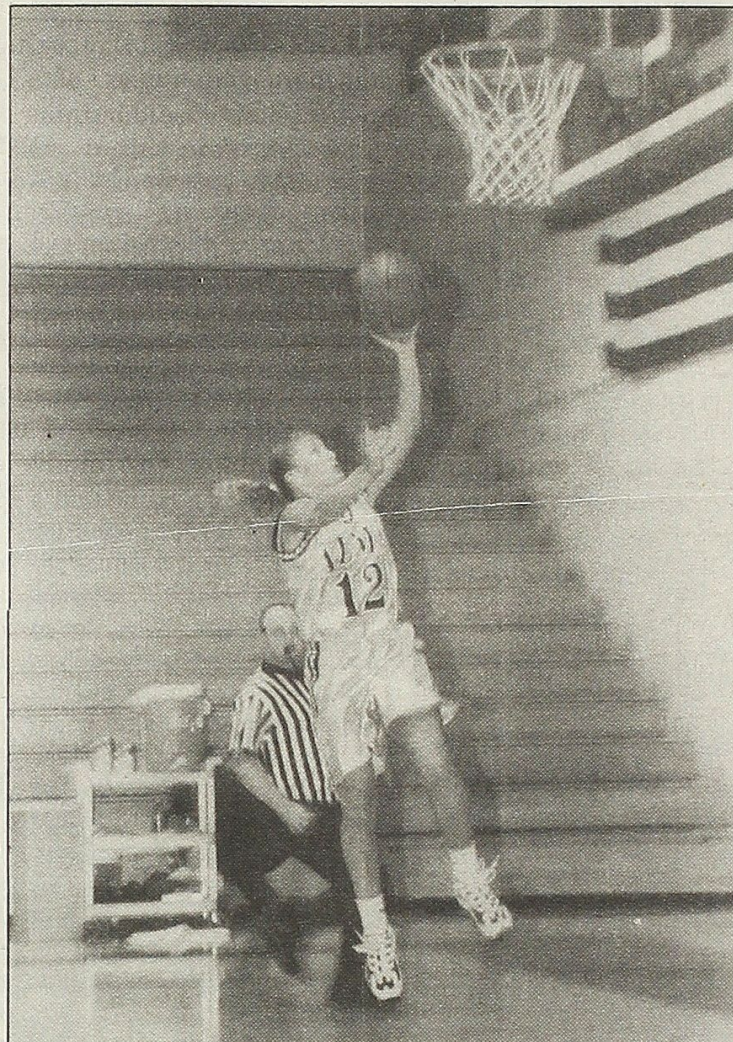
Boven led the team with a game high of 8 rebounds. Bradbury and Gross were also tough defensive forces. The Alma defense held Albion to 40 percent from the field, while forcing 27 turnovers and out-rebounding the Britons 40-27. On offense, Barker provided four assists and three steals.

"The game went great. We played really well together and everyone contributed. It was a real team effort. We are looking forward to the rest of the season," said Gross.

The Scots' overall record is now 2-4. This week, they will travel to Hope College on Wednesday and Defiance College on Saturday. Both teams are tied for second in the league.

Pre-season coaches' rankings placed the Scots in the fifth position. This remains a source of motivation for the team.

"We will need to perform well on the road in order to be successful," said Goffnett.



Junior Mary Barnheart goes for a layup during the Albion game. Photo by Steve Nadeau.

USA Today/ESPN Top 25

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Tennessee (12-0) | 14. Georgia Tech (9-2) |
| 2. Florida State (11-1) | 15. Michigan (9-3) |
| 3. Ohio State (10-1) | 16. Nebraska (9-3) |
| 4. Kansas State (11-1) | 17. Syracuse (8-3) |
| 5. UCLA (10-1) | 18. Notre Dame (9-2) |
| 6. Arizona (11-1) | 19. Georgia (8-3) |
| 7. Florida (9-2) | 20. Penn State (8-3) |
| 8. Wisconsin (10-1) | 21. Oregon (8-3) |
| 9. Texas A&M (11-2) | 22. Texas (8-3) |
| 10. Tulane (11-0) | 23. Mississippi. St. |
| 11. Arkansas (9-2) | (8-4) |
| 12. Virginia (9-2) | 24. Virginia Tech (8-3) |
| 13. Air Force (11-1) | 25. W. Virginia (8-3) |

NCAA Football Scores

Saturday, Dec. 3

Appalachian St. at	20
Northwestern St.	31
1 Kansas St. at	33 (2 OT)
10 Texas A&M36	
Lehigh at	21
Massachusetts	27
22 Mississippi St. at	14
2 Tennessee	24
Connecticut at	30
Geo Southern	52
3 UCLA at	45
Miami (Fla)	49
Florida A&M at	21
Western Ill.	24
BYU at	13
13 Air Force	20
Friday Dec. 4	
Marshall at	23
Toledo	17
Army at	34
Navy	30

The Dangers of Drinking

An Informative Gathering

December 8
9 p.m.
Gelston Lobby

BASKETBALL continued from page 5...

Tony Colucci (00) and Jeff Hosler (02) contributed 11 and 10 points, respectively.

After coming home for eight days to rest the injuries and illnesses, the Scots were on the road again at Concordia (Ann Arbor).

It was a close game in the first half with the teams trading baskets, but the Scots ended the half on a 15-2 run and grabbed the lead.

Alma controlled the boards and played hard defensively to preserve the win.

Consistent free throw shooting down the stretch helped the Scots win 82-63.

"We have picked it up nicely. We need a little more time to learn each other," said Skaggs.

"We have good athletes and it's a good group to work with. They are going to be fun to watch. Patience is the key," he added.

Hyler had a great game with a career-high 29 points while grabbing nine rebounds.

Stapleton tallied 21 points and seven rebounds, and Hanlin also had a career-high with 15 points while dishing out six assists.

Skaggs also commended the play of Colucci and Hoag.

The Scots finally come home for the Alma Rotary Classic on December 28-29.

December 8, 1998

OPINION

7

The Right Side by Shannon Casey

2000 presidential elections getting near



With the 1998 elections over, the political pundits are getting bored. They no longer have political candidates to critique or political parties to slander. Instead, they are gearing up for the 2000 presidential elections.

The next presidential election will prove to be an exciting one. Many political editorialists have already written about their predictions regarding who will succeed President Clinton. Although it is two years early, it is still possible to make some predictions.

On the Democratic side, my money is on Vice President Al

Gore to win the nomination. The power of the vice president to ride into the nomination on the outgoing president's coattails is strong. Even Gerald Ford won the Republican nomination over Ronald Reagan in 1976.

Minority Leader Richard Gephardt is another Democrat who has expressed interest in the presidential bid. Gephardt will not follow through with this interest because he knows that he will not win. Besides, he believes that the Democrats may win control of the House, making him House majority leader.

Gephardt also knows that if he waits his turn, he may soon enough be in the presidential spotlight.

Jesse Jackson may also decide

to run, but it is not likely. Clinton and Gore gained a large portion of the black vote and it is likely that Gore will retain their support. Jackson would have to find a new base and that would be a feat in and of itself.

Senator Bill Bradley will probably also run for the nomination. Although the ex-Knick is a big name, he will not have Clinton to campaign for him. It is likely that Bradley will blossom into a star for the Democratic Party, but not anytime soon.

On the Republican side, there are many shining stars waiting to emerge. Speaker Newt Gingrich is wounded and will probably not resurface for a few years. Luckily for the Republicans, it is not that big of a loss in terms of presiden-

tial hopefuls.

There are many Republicans waiting to take on that responsibility. In the Congress, JC Watts and Steve Largent have the youth and energy to carry the Republican party into the next century. However, they do not have enough experience to run for president.

Jack Kemp, Steve Forbes and Lamar Alexander will probably all run, but they are viewed as old news.

The real hope for the GOP is with the governors. Tommy Thompson and even John Engler have been named as possible successors. Under normal circumstances, they would both be excellent choices, but this election is different.

There is already a clear front runner. George W. Bush of Texas will easily win the Republican nomination. In a CNN poll, he would start the election with a 17 point lead over Gore.

The question arises as to whether Bush wants to be president. Even he claims to have not made up his mind.

He will run because he is a Bush and the glamour of the office escapes no one. Bush has done a superb job in Texas as governor and will be a service to this country. Besides, Bush would not have spent so much time in New Hampshire earlier this year if he was not interested in getting a jump on the competition.

A Word from the Editor by Missy Crossnoe

Seniors... it's almost over

It's amazing how fast time flies. For all you seniors out there you know what I'm talking about. We only have one week left until our last ever fall term exams at Alma College, not that I will really miss taking exams once it's all over. And many of you are probably going on to graduate school and will face even more exams in your future. But I'm not trying to express sadness here over exams—just over everything else—everything that I have experienced in the last three and a half years at Alma.

Well, you are probably reading this column right now and wondering where I am headed, or why I am even writing a column. It was the bright idea of some unnamed *Almanian* staff members that the Editor-In-Chief, myself, and the Managing Editor, Steve

Nadeau, alternate weekly and write a column to fill more space in the paper. So, pushed by my fellow staff members, I am trying my hand at this column thing, for the first time I might add so be nice.

Anyway, with that explanation out of the way—back to the fact that in only a few, short weeks I, and all you other seniors, will be entering the last term of our Alma College career. So far, I have conveniently tried to deny that I am a senior, but it is finally time to admit that in five months I will be a part of the real world, separate from my friends and family and on my own to live out what I have learned in school and what I have learned on my own.

When I first decided to attend Alma, at a mere 17 years of age, I had so many aspirations and

goals. And now I am fully on my way to accomplishing what I had only dreamed. With hard work, studying—although not as much as I should have—and the support of my wonderful group of friends, I feel confident in my ability to step into the real world. However, I also owe this confidence to the faculty and administrators at Alma.

I think all of us should take some time to think back about those who have helped us through our college endeavors. Would we really be the same people we are today if we had attended a larger school such as Michigan State where we didn't receive the same attention and assistance as Alma faculty gladly give? I personally do not think I would be where I am today.

So, I would like to take this small space to make my personal thanks to all those who have been there

for me.

First off, I have to thank my parents for giving me the motivation to attend college in the first place and supporting me in all my decisions—whether good or bad. Secondly, I must thank the communication faculty; Dr. Vickery, Dr. Lawrence and Dr. Gilbert, who have lead me through my major and helped me to gain knowledge about journalism, which is hard to do at a school that does not even offer a journalism program. Dr. Lawrence, I especially owe you thanks for advising my thesis and internship and for all your help with *The Almanian*. I can't forget Dr. Bernie Davis who advised me while I spent a scary, yet highly beneficial and extremely fun term in Washington DC, and I would like to extend a special

thanks to my academic advisor Dr. Stargardt.

Lastly, I have to mention my friends. I can't thank you enough for being there for me, I will never forget you guys and our times together. Fraley, I will miss you next term, have a great time in Paris. Martha, Amanda and all my other cheerleading buddies, thanks for making the years so enjoyable. Thank you Gamma Phi's and everyone else—let's make this last term our best ever and always keep in touch.

To Alma College and the best years of my life—I would like to dedicate this first column. And I hope you other seniors also take the time to thank those who have helped you along the way. Remember, we only have a few months left so make the best of them.

Sports Track by Michael Murphy

NFL Referees developing bad reputations



Correct me if I am wrong, but aren't there supposed to be 22 players on a football field during game time?

Well, while watching the Detroit Lions' Thanksgiving Day Game against the Pittsburgh Steelers and the November 29 game featuring the Buffalo Bills visiting the New England Patriots, one could logically argue that there were more than 22 players out on the field.

Those players were not wearing helmets and pads. Instead they were wearing shirts with white and black stripes. They looked

like zebras and made calls resembling the IQ of zebras.

Referees are their names.

Altering plays and outcomes are their games.

The referees during the Lions-Steelers game made at least three calls that completely could have changed the game's outcome.

One of these horrible calls came when Lions' defensive back Robert Bailey intercepted a Kordell Stewart pass after it ricocheted off several players. Bailey raced the ball back into Steeler territory only to find the referees deeming the pass incomplete. Television replays showed the football came nowhere close to touching the turf. However, the referees' biggest

blunder came during the coin toss preceding overtime. Steeler Jerome Bettis claims he called "tails," but referee Phil Luckett said he heard "heads." The coin flip turned up as "tails," and Detroit ended up winning the toss and ultimately the game. The play is still in review with the NFL, and Luckett is being advised to invest in Q-Tips.

During the Bills-Patriots game, there were two controversial calls in favor of New England that were essential to their game-winning, last-second score.

One came when the referees ruled that Patriots' receiver Shawn Jefferson was in bounds for a catch.

The biggest, however, happened when New England quarterback Drew Bledsoe heaved a Hail Mary

toss into the side of the end-zone hoping that one of his receivers would miraculously catch the ball. That particular miracle did not happen.

The miracle that did crystallize was when a yellow flag was tossed onto the field and the head referee signaled "pass-interference on Buffalo." This placed the Pats' on the one, and Bledsoe completed a touchdown pass as the final second ticked away on the official clock.

But these controversial calls have not just occurred in the past few weeks. Try the entire season. Coaches and players have constantly been complaining about the refereeing. This season has arguably been the worst offici-

ated season the NFL has ever seen.

What can the NFL do about the poor officiating? I believe that fines should be levied on officials and officiating teams that make critical-game altering bad calls. Owners should vote on the bad calls and then levy the fines appropriately.

Referees should also have to go through better training to become a NFL referee. They go through training now, but I would like to see the training improved. With that improvement, officiating will improve as well.

The biggest change the NFL can bring to the poor officiating **See REFEREES on page 8...**

Staff Editorial

Improvements needed in master plan

The "Master Plan" of campuswide improvements has received considerable attention this year, as administrators relate details of the coming changes. Such efforts to better the college are commendable; however, care must be taken to insure that the goals essential to academic growth and campus improvement are given priority over those that are merely of an aesthetic nature.

The proposed technology lab to be constructed on the southern side of Swanson Academic Center is a welcome addition, for the college's computer facilities are inadequate. Students who wish to type a paper, conduct research on the Internet or send e-mail messages currently find them-

selves marching around campus in pursuit of a computer lab that has not been reserved or is not already filled to capacity.

The building of additional computerized classrooms will alleviate these problems and provide access to the technology essential in modern society.

In addition, plans to expand the Hamilton Commons lot are essential to the alleviation of parking problems on campus. An increasing enrollment may testify to the scholastic value of Alma College, but it has created numerous headaches for non-preferred permit holders who are unable to find spaces in which to park their vehicles. The intention to add a parking lot indicates that

the college has responded to this dilemma in a timely and appropriate fashion.

The immediate need for an Intramural sports building is questionable. Athletics are an important aspect of the college experience and are valuable in the establishment of group camaraderie and the maintenance of physical health.

However, the decision to spend money on construction of this Intramural building is debatable in light of the essential improvements that must be made to other aspects of the college, most notably library resources.

Possession of an adequate research center will do more to attract potential scholars than will

an Intramural building; thus, funds should be used to expand study materials before they are spent on the addition of inessential structures.

The Master Plan presents valuable ideas for the pursuit of continued academic excellence at Alma. Additions of technology and parking are perfect methods of rectifying current problem areas on campus.

However, there are many more weak spots that must be addressed before the college will attain total scholastic excellence. These inadequacies should be corrected before discussion about the creation of nonessential buildings begins.

Letters to the editors

Letters to the editors reflect the views of those who author them. Those views in no way reflect those of The Almanian staff or the Alma College community.

* * *

To the editors:

According to Webster's Dictionary, "authority implies the granting of power for a specific purpose within specified limits."

Unfortunately, many young adults within the Alma College community show a disgusting tendency to push these limits in often creative and overzealous ways in order to prove to themselves and others that they have the power to do so. They see things in black and white—enforcers and leaders versus the rest of the community.

Well, it should not be a competition or a game. Successful and respected campus and community leaders are not in conflict with the rest of us; we work and talk together as equals.

A title or position does not make someone better than everyone else, but many people mistakenly believe that it is an automatic passport to superiority.

When authority is granted, only a fool assumes the right to treat others as intellectual, social, or moral inferiors. It's too bad that fools flourish here.

These past few weeks I've realized how prevalent the "power trip" attitude is around campus.

In organizations all around Alma, those temporarily or permanently donning the mantle of "president" or "chairperson" have seemed to get these titles confused with "dictator."

In one instance a campus leader referred to an obscure rule in Section 5, Paragraph II, word number 16, syllable number 2 to

develop a trite issue that is obviously not upsetting or even worthy of debate to the vast majority. Instead of initiating an important, applicable discussion, such people use their authority to instigate and perpetuate a lengthy conversation which does little but pad their egos, taking time and energy away from valid points.

Another symptom of the abuse of power on the campus is the invasion of privacy.

I have actually had a person standing outside my closed dorm room door listening and writing down any incriminating comments emanating from within.

That is inexcusable behavior. No student at this campus has the right to so blatantly invade anyone's privacy, to become a vigilante who must make a problem even if it doesn't exist just so they can feel that they fixed it.

I feel pity for so-called leaders who hide behind a facade of rules and regulations without tempering their authority with compassion, common sense, or cooperation.

With such young adults, it is a sign that they are not yet comfortable with their responsibilities. They need to prove their capabilities by exercising their power by absurd and unnecessary means, similar to a sixteen-year old boy with his first car who feels the need to peel out of every parking lot leaving a trail of burned rubber behind.

Eventually, these people will hopefully mature and become successful leaders and realize that power is subjective and authority should not make one a bloodhound, constantly sniffing for violations and nipping at opportunities to flex proverbial muscles.

If they do not realize this, they will eventually fail.

Of course the old adage is true:

rules exist for a reason and need to be enforced.

So enforce them, but understand that Alma is a small community. We all know each other (or at least we would if we ever got our PIG books) so we all need understanding and respect; that is the true essence of authority.

There is no reason to become a zealot, seeking out problems and violations to fulfill some subconscious quota; that doesn't even come close to solving the problems and actually builds resentment (can't you tell with this letter?).

Ideally, authority is about power; power is about influence; influence is about respect.

Rachel Przeslawski (00)

* * *

To the editors:

ACUB would like to thank all students who participated in College Bowl on Wednesday, December 2nd. Congratulations to Flutie Flakes, consisting of team members Mike Baysdell, David Clark, and Tim Wolff, who won the competition. Flutie Flakes will represent Alma College at a regional competition in February; we wish them the best of luck.

ACUB Executive Board

REFEREES continued from page 7...

can bring to the poor officiating pattern is bringing in some extra help.

No, I am not talking about putting an extra zebra on the field. I would like to see instant replay resurrected.

It was introduced to the league a few years ago, and then abolished.

And with the abolishment has come several non-calls and bad calls.

The instant replay will not alleviate all of the officiating problems, but it truly will help officials make correct calls in which they are totally undecided.

People complain about the time wasted during the instant replay. I would rather complain about a lost five minutes than a game lost due to a terrible call.

I think it is time the NFL owners reconsider the importance of instant replay. If they vote to bring it back, they will not have to complain as much as they have this year.

Check it out!

The Almanian Online

<http://cicero.com.alma.edu/almanian>

Updated weekly on Tuesday

evenings. E-mail us at

Almanian@alma.edu with

questions or suggestions.

The Almanian

Newberry Hall
Alma College
Alma, Michigan
48801

(517) 463-7161

ALMANIAN@alma.edu

Online address:

<http://cicero.com.alma.edu/almanian>

Editor in Chief:

Missy Crossnoe

Managing Editor:

Steve Nadeau

News Editor:

Amy Fraley

Feature Editor:

Amanda Long

Sports Editor:

Joey Mead

Opinion Editor:

Shannon Casey

Online Editors:

Tim Caister

Michelle Pippel

Copy Editors:

Eva Hecht

Wendy Holmes

Dana Reinke

Photo Editors:

Maya Mackowiak

Steve Nadeau

Layout Editors:

Jen Klaiss

Lonna Lutze

Staff Reporters:

Kelly McDonald

Michael Murphy

Donna Pappas

Stephanie Powell

Lindsay Robinson

Tonya Schafer

Amy Taylor

Business Manager:

Matthew Odinga

Distribution Manager:

Valerie Harris

Advertising Manager:

Julie Gerken

Assistant Advertising

Manager:

Chris Tapley

Faculty Advisors:

David Lawrence

Eugene Pattison

Staff Editorial Policy

Opinions expressed weekly in the "Staff Editorial" reflect the views of The Almanian Staff, which includes section editors, staff reporters and the editor in chief. These views in no way reflect the views of the entire Alma College community.

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, Michigan 48801.