

The Almanian

Issue 12

Serving Alma College since 1907

January 26, 2000

Faculty expresses concerns

By NIKOLE CANUTE, News Editor
And DONNA PAPPAS, Staff Writer

President Alan Stone made "an appeal to faculty to put aside this tension and begin to unwind this spiral of distrust," at the faculty meeting which was held Monday January 24.

In an interview before the faculty meeting, Stone said, "I think indeed that there is an atmosphere that most people now are describing as toxic. It has to do with divisiveness, conflict, mistrust and negativity." In an attempt to "heal" this relationship, he opened up debate to allow faculty to ask any questions they had in order to increase communication.

Stone began by giving his account of the history of how the tension began. This history included the vote of no confidence in the president which was taken in the Spring of 1998. Failed motions of no confidence in the president led dissenting Board members to agree to "voluntarily drop off."

When asked which specific incidents had escalated the tension to the point where it had to be addressed at this faculty meeting, Stone listed the resignation of staff member Karen McConkie, the search for a new professor in the religion department, the abrupt dismissal of former Provost Leslie Brown, and an incident involving the re-routing of mail.

Faculty questioned Stone regarding a stack of 51 envelopes from Trustee Jim Delevan which was intended for, according to Stone, "numerous Board of Trustee members and others who are against me." Stone noticed this stack while in the mailroom, and instructed the mailroom to put them in boxes. Stone then claims that he called an attorney to justify the legality of his actions, and then

sent the envelopes back to Delevan.

Stone's justification for re-routing mail was that the cost of the mailing was covered by the political science department's budget.

Questions were raised by Sandy Hulme, professor of political science, over the monitoring of mail and the usual practice of reimbursing department budgets when they have been used for personal reasons. Hulme stated that Delevan had requested that he mail the envelopes out from the school and send him the bill, as he was leaving on an early morning flight to Australia.

"I believed this to be a mis-use of college funds," Stone said.

Hulme contacted the Postal Inspector's Office in Detroit, which said that Stone's action was "reprehensible, but unfortunately no illegal."

A response letter that Stone had written and sent to the Board also concerned many of the faculty members. The statements which were addressed included, "Some Trustees and I have been told that these few faculty do not care if they hurt the College's enrollment and fundraising efforts because they see damage as furthering their aim... The quality ethos which [Provost Leslie Brown] championed is all about the importance of the Alma College faculty and is often juxtaposed to the 'students first' paradigm... This is a critical time for Alma College because it is teetering between which side will control the College - faculty or administration."

Faculty questioned whether Stone truly believed these statements to be the case, and added that these were the kind of statements which have led to broken trust, confidence and openness.

See TENSION on 3

Student choreography concert: Another success for AC dancers



In a show of strength and skill, Katie Wibby '01 and James Kuhl '01 perform a swing style dance at the Student Choreography Concert.

By DAWNA ANDERSON
Freelance Writer

This past weekend friends and family members were entertained as 21 Alma College students performed in a variety of dances at the annual student choreography recital.

The show, having a history of success,

was forced to turn people away this year as tickets for the two performances were sold out at least a week in advance. However, many eager spectators were able to take advantage of the two open dress rehearsals held the evenings prior to the big weekend.

This show gives Alma College students

See CHOREOGRAPHERS on 3

Inside Edition prompts Stone to call meeting

By CARA BONINE, Staff Writer And
SCOTT TIMMRECK, Opinion Editor

On December 15, 1999, President Alan Stone requested a meeting with *The Almanian* editor-in-chief, Steve Nadeau, to discuss the recently published *Inside Edition* of *The Almanian*.

"I asked just for the editor-in-chief," said President Stone, "then Professor Lawrence called and said he was going to join him, which was fine." In addition to the attendance of Nadeau and David Lawrence, assistant professor of communication and advisor to *The Almanian*, Nikole Canute, current news editor, and Donna Pappas, former news editor, also attended the meeting.

"We felt that as the writers of the majority of the *Inside Edition*, our presence was more crucial than that of our editor-in-chief, who was not as active in the information-gathering process," said Canute.

President Stone said he called the meeting to give Nadeau a letter to the editor to publish in the next issue, and to explain its contents.

"I didn't want [Nadeau] to misunderstand the letter," said

Stone. "I thought it would be good if we had a conversation about my perspective on the *Inside Edition* because I thought it was one-sided."

Stone began the meeting by explaining that he had heard accusations that the *Inside Edition* was referred to as "yellow journalism" and that it was called a "smear job."

During the meeting Stone noted "inaccuracies" in the articles printed specifically in the *Inside Edition*. Stone's first concern was *The Almanian* staff members' sources were "one-sided."

"Yes, I asked them about their sources because I was afraid they had not contacted any of the present Trustees... There are thirty members on the Board of Trustees that support the president, maybe one that doesn't," said Stone, "and they contacted not any of the thirty... They did tell me they had contacted Jim Delevan, who doesn't support me."

"After he said that he knew Delevan was our source because Delevan had told him what was going to be in the *Inside Edition*, we told him we had called Delevan and requested an interview, which he declined," Pappas said.

Stone also stated the writers of the *Inside Edition* had quoted John Colina, the present Chair of the Board of Trustees, from a document without speaking with him.

"As the resignations took place in the past, [*The Almanian* staff] felt that written responses at the time were more relevant to the article than statements given after the fact," said Canute.

Stone also was concerned with the term "strategically eliminated" used in the staff editorial. Stone understood that the terminology was used in an editorial piece, however, felt that it was an "inaccurate characterization."

In addition, the staff and the president discussed the statements regarding a resolution to the Board resignations. In the resolution stated at a May 8, 1999, Board meeting, "the best interests of Alma College require the resignation and withdrawal of any and all Trustees who are unable to put this matter to rest."

"[*The Almanian* staff] wrote as though if the Board resignation was the resolution that went through," stated Stone, "They should have said that it was defeated almost unanimously."

"The article does in fact state that the resolution was 'considered,' not that it was passed," stated Pappas.

"We strive to be fair and accurate in the stories we present," said Nadeau. "We will continue to talk to President Stone, staff and administration as we follow these events."

AIDS epidemic sweeps Africa

By GINGER DAVIS
Staff Writer

Once again, the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) epidemic has been placed in the international spotlight.

AIDS is currently ravaging nations in Africa. Drug therapy for this incurable disease is costly, and there is a lack of medical treatment in many remote areas where AIDS is spreading rapidly. Politicians and members of the United Nations (U.N.) fear that the number of AIDS victims in Africa and worldwide will continue to increase. Currently, 33.6 million people, 23.3 million of which live in Africa, have the

disease. In the next century, it is estimated that AIDS will kill more people than the total number who died in all of the wars of the twentieth century.

Because of the global impact of the spreading disease and the fact that the African AIDS epidemic has become too large a problem for Africa itself to handle, the United Nations has decided to get involved. Billie Schultz, (02) agreed that AIDS could be a problem in the future for the UN. She said, "Right now, it's more contained, but as it spreads, if the UN doesn't do something about containing it, they're going to be looked on as the bad guys."

The U.N. Assembly does not usually involve itself in medical issues, preferring instead to deal with those issues in smaller U.N. branches. In this case, however, they are making an exception because the United Nations feels that AIDS is as much a threat to international security as war. This is the first time that the U.N. has declared any disease to be an international security threat. Katie Phillips (03), Newberry Hall Representative for the Republican Party, felt that this was a threat

to nations. As she said, "A disease can certainly be as bad as a war."

AIDS, which once had a reputation as a disease that infected IV drug users and homosexuals, is now affecting African orphans. Various African governments have had some success curtailing the rate of infection, but they still have the problem of dealing with already infected Africans and their children.

Within the next decade, over ten million African children will lose one or both parents to AIDS. Migrant workers without permanent places of residence, high levels of poverty, increasing numbers of women turning to prostitution for income, and the cultural belief that raping a virgin will cure AIDS are all factors in the spread of the AIDS virus through Africa. The African economy is suffering from the losses in its work force, and the governments are struggling to find ways to care for children orphaned by AIDS.

The U.S. is now deciding how it will help in the African war on AIDS. Many drug and pharmaceutical companies are trying to come up with cheaper, and/or generic drugs that can be used to treat the symptoms of HIV and AIDS. The Clinton Administration is prepared to increase U.S. financial contribution to the escalating problem. They are planning to ask Congress for \$100 million, bringing the U.S. total to \$325 million, to fight AIDS in the US, and across the globe. Phillips agreed with this decision, saying "Well I certainly favor giving money to help them."

U.S. launches national missile defense

By CHRIS HARRINGTON
Staff Writer

The United States' national defense took a great step forward last Wednesday by heading an antimissile defense test.

U.S. rocket scientists tested of one missile guided to intercept a simulated enemy missile. The missiles travel at 15,000 m.p.h., 140 miles above the Pacific Ocean. The "kill vehicle," which is the simulated missile, operates without explosives and is the target for the interceptor. The two missiles were launched with hopes to have a head-on collision in space but, the test failed because the missiles missed each other.

The exact reason for failure was not disclosed. The heat-seeking sensors on the interceptor could not recognize the "kill vehicle" during last six seconds of the eight-minute flight.

The interceptor was launched from Vandenberg Air Base in California, while the kill machine was launched 4,300 miles away out of the Kwajalein Missile Range. The interceptor was challenged by decoys in the sky on the way to its target, but as programmed it avoided the unwanted targets.

A similar test was performed on October 2 with a direct hit. This success was passed off as a "lucky shot" by the Union of Concerned Scientists according to the January 19 edition of the *Detroit News*.

When the program finishes its final testing, the missile base will be stationed in Alaska. Alaska has been chosen because it can provide coverage over all 50 states, including Hawaii. The Pentagon may also set up a site in North Dakota.

A problem with these sites is that it may violate the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (ABM). Capital cities are legitimate for these types of systems, but the ABM was set up to prevent countries from creating missile launch sites in strategic locations. This keeps a country too focused on defensive interests as opposed to offensive. These offensive setups are also referred to as theater missile systems.

Junior Michael Baysdell said, "I believe that a theater missile system does exist in the United States. Although it may not be perfected yet, it

News

'At a glance'

Grandmothers hope to reclaim Elian

NEW YORK—The grandmothers of Elian Gonzalez flew in from Cuba to meet with Attorney General Janet Reno on Saturday. The two grandmothers presented a three paragraph letter in which they stated their wishes for Elian to be returned to "the normality of life with his father, brother, family, friends at school, his toys, dog and parrot." Sources say the ladies were in tears throughout the meeting. The Immigration and Naturalization Service has ordered him returned to Cuba, but some members of Congress are pushing for Elian to be declared a U.S. citizen, thus taking Elian out of INS jurisdiction.

Fraternity leaders overturn ban on parties

EAST LANSING, Mich.—After four months under a no party policy, fraternities at Michigan State University will once again be having parties. After a closed meeting on Wednesday, the decision to overturn the ban passed by one vote. The ban had been implemented to rid the fraternities of a party image. This, they hoped, would increase membership. According to Beta Theta Pi President Kevin Thompson, though, the numbers of new members fell. Members will only be allowed to invite two guests each, unlike before when invitations were unlimited.

Abortion activists gather in Washington

WASHINGTON—On the 27th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, activists on both sides of the abortion debate gathered to express their beliefs. Protesters toured the White House and rallied around several abortion clinics and Planned Parenthood offices. On Friday a federal judge in Washington had to order several of the activists not to block access to area reproductive clinics. The events lead up to the annual March for Life, held on Monday.

Teen gunman says he had no choice

PORTLAND, Ore.—After surveying the cafeteria where the incident happened, Kip Kinkel said, "I had no other choice." Kinkel's shooting spree on May 21, 1998 left two students dead. A police videotape released Thursday shows the aftermath of this event. In the video police retrace Kinkel's steps with him in handcuffs. Kinkel said he wasn't after anyone in particular. "It was all a blur," he said. Kinkel also confessed in an earlier interview to killing his parents. He has been sentenced to 112 years in prison with no parole.

The Almanian

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Statement of Purpose:

The Almanian is a student publication of Alma College and strives to fulfill several objectives: (1) to provide timely, unbiased coverage; (2) to inform students of events and policies otherwise unpublished; (3) to voice concern over campus and world events through well-researched, unsigned editorials representing the majority opinion of the editorial board; (4) to allow individuals to express concern through signed opinion articles while reserving all editing rights; and (5) to provide interesting, informative and thought-provoking articles on non-timely subjects.

Staff Editorial Policy:

Opinions expressed weekly in the "Staff Editorial" reflect the views of *The Almanian* Editorial Board. These views in no way reflect the views of the entire Alma College community.

Letter Policy:

All letters to the editors 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 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 editors at ALMANIAN@alma.edu or address letters to Newberry Hall, Alma College.

January 26, 2000

NEWS

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TENSION from 1

In an earlier interview, Stone was asked in what ways faculty have attempted to "control the college." He said, "There was a motion earlier that they should be involved in the evaluation of the president." He also added, "most of the complaints are that the administration has made personnel decisions with administrators which the faculty does not approve of."

An administrative decision that faculty expressed their concern about included the resignation of McConkie. One faculty member stated it "was handled in a way that led to the resignation of someone we had respected. We can see the logic in the provost, but not the rude and humiliating way of handling her removal."

A faculty member also expressed his concern with the method under which all faculty members received this memo which was not addressed to them, but to the Board of Trustees.

Stone was then asked what changes he believed that he needed to make in his management style. His response was to "low key it," by backing away from any controversial decisions until he knew how the faculty would respond, by having a provost in the office who can relate with the president, and by becoming a more external president.

A faculty member asked Stone if he could "let go," and how will they know when he does. Stone had previously stated that he, "doesn't hold grudges." He said the faculty would know through the provost's office, not through him any longer since he has "been burned enough."

The faculty continued to question whether Stone would consider resigning. Stone said, "I don't believe I am going to leave. The Board is aware of the turmoil and has told me to not consider resigning even if it heightens. I am an employee of the Board."

Stone continued to say that it would be tough to find a new provost if the Board announced that the president is stepping down, since the new president may want a voice in hiring the provost. He was also concerned with the future of the vice presidents, who he believes may also be dismissed by a new president. The Long-Range Plan would also be put aside by the Board, who would have to spend their time searching for a new president.

Stone announced that Billy Wanink had sent him an e-mail and had asked him to send it to the faculty. Stone said that he was not going to be sending this letter to the faculty because it expresses her displeasure with the faculty and, "we don't need any more heat on this." The faculty were upset by this decision and questioned whose input it was that led Wanink to form this opinion.

Stone was asked whether he saw himself as bearing any responsibility for the current situation. He said, "Most have been pointed out, I don't know of any that are left. I've made a lot of mistakes, but have also done a lot of good. When a team is losing, you fire the coach. But we are not losing."

"Quality ethos" was a concern for both the faculty and administration. Jim Kridler, dean of students, made it clear that quality ethos was in reference to "institutional excellence."

A faculty member stated that this was "a poor start to the healing process." What is needed is "for [Stone] to stand in front of the administration and say you take responsibility for some of this. It is the president and executive staff who need to take the lead in sorting this thing out."

Another question which was raised was if there was any way that Stone could "soften or moderate personal interactions with people so they will not come away feeling intimidated or berated."

"I would hope so. I will work on it," said Stone.

The fact that former provost Leslie Brown was asked not to return to campus was also addressed. Patrick Fleming, associate professor of history, referred to the "order of banishment" as "chilling," and suggested that the ban be lifted because it is "foreign from what we are about."

The debate ended with a final statement by Michael Vickery, chair of the communication department, that this healing process would be ended the first time that the faculty hear that the problems at this college are characterized as the "fault of the faculty."

Comer fills in as interim provost



Tammy Acker

By KRISTIN STATON
Freelance Writer

With the termination of former Provost Leslie Ellen Brown firmly behind it, Alma College has begun its 2000 winter term with a new face in the Office of the Provost. Dr. Kelvie Comer was appointed to the office by President Stone in late December and assumed the duties of interim Provost on January 9, 2000.

Comer came to Alma College from Central Michigan University, where she is a tenured professor of Higher Education Administration. She finished her undergraduate work at Pennsylvania State University in 1968, and then completed both her masters and doctorate at Temple University in Philadelphia in 1978.

In December, Comer was approached by President Alan Stone to make recommendations to fill the position left open by Brown, only to find herself as Stone's primary candidate. Comer had worked with Stone on several occasions and said, "Dr. Stone is a nifty guy to work for. This would be a tremendous opportunity." Likewise, Comer saw the chance as an opportunity to utilize skills that she had fine tuned working as a dean and in a dean's office for over twenty years.

Luckily, the wake of the termination of the former Provost has caused Comer no professional problem thus far. "The office was organized, and old paperwork was handled well," she said. Since the Provost's staff is very new, most staff members having been hired less than a year ago, Comer feels like she fits right and finds her staff very helpful. "We all make mistakes," said the Provost.

In her short time here at Alma, Comer has found that the faculty and students share a certain passion for their education. "The faculty is deeply committed to the students, and the President and Vice Presidents deeply committed to the Alma College institution."

As Comer is filling the position of Provost during the interim period, her days at Alma College end on June 30, 2000. When the summer term at Central Michigan University begins, she will resume teaching and continue her ongoing work with a study of women in higher education.

Provost Comer hopes that her time at Alma College will be successful and well spent. Her main goal is to increase the relations between students and college faculty, and she adds, "Alma College is a terrific place. If you've got a question, call the office, send an e-mail, or come in and holler."

The Provost Search Committee

will hold open forums on Friday, January 28, from 3:00-4:30 p.m. in SAC 113 p.m., and on Wednesday, February 2, from 4:30-6:00 p.m. in Jones Auditorium. The purpose of the forums is to allow the Alma College community to voice its opinions about their desired criteria for hiring a new provost. The entire Alma College community—students, staff, administrators, and faculty—is strongly encouraged to attend these forums and to make known their concerns, issues, and desires regarding the provost search.

CHOROGRAPHERS from 1

the opportunity to perform dances that they have choreographed themselves.

Any dancer could have submitted a dance to be performed this past weekend. After all the dances to be performed were established, auditions were held early in the school year for the dancers.

The performance consisted of ten dances split by a ten minute intermission. The first five were a blend of modern, ballet, and jazz pieces set to a wide variety of music selections. These included a more traditional song, a popular number by the Goo Goo Dolls, and as well as one in Spanish. During intermission the audience was a buzz of compliments, especially for the fifth dance, "Oye."

"I think they are doing a really good job. I'm thoroughly enjoying it." Said senior Kyra Totten.

Not only were there Alma students but also several Central Michigan University (CMU) students in attendance. "The blend of music and dance is beautiful." First year CMU student, Joe Francisco said.

The second half of the performance included tap, jazz, modern and swing. Junior Melissa Cox choreographed and performed her own piece to a song played live by guitarist, Robert Gruca. Cox choreographed two other dances in the recital, "Oye" and "Bang the Drum All Day."

"Precious Things," choreographed by first year student Amanda Tharp, has been a major topic of conversation. The costumes and dark make-up corresponded with the sharp movements to portray the emotional aspects of the song. The dancers wore shredded, blood splattered shirts to represent the rape story of the Tori Amos song. Tharp began her own work on this piece in July but did not begin to work with the five other dancers until September.

It's uniqueness grabbed the attention of the audience, which is exactly what Tharp wanted. "I wanted something that would stand out from everyone else's piece," said Tharp.

This annual recital is often a favorite performance for the dancers because it gives them the opportunity to show talents they do not often display.

Sophomore Elke Betz enjoyed Precious Things. "I was excited to do something different. I don't normally do jazz,"

said Betz.

She was not the only dancer to have a good time working on this performance. "I liked both the pieces I was in ("Oye" and "Black Balloon"). I thought it was a great experience to hang lights and not just dance," said first-year student Regina Palaz.

This past weekend was a wonderful experience for the performers as well as the audience. The dancers displayed the variety of talents they have but aren't always able to show. The audience members watched great art unfold before their eyes as dancers and some choreographers debuted their talents for the first time.

The annual student choreography recital was once again a great success and next year's performance is already being anticipated by many.

DEFENSE from 2

is definitely in the works. If the United States does create a theater system, it would have to be hidden from the public to prevent a violation of the current treaties."

The Pentagon would like to send a proposal of the missile defense program to President Clinton in June. There are going to be a total of 19 tests, but two of the first three tests must be successful to send the proposal to the president.

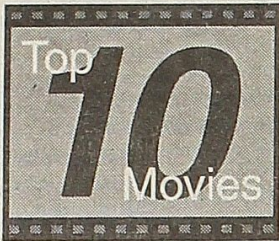
Senior Greg Tulik said, "We should do whatever we can to maximize our defense. We have to look out for our own interests."

The defense is not modeled after any specific enemy missile attack system, such as the Chinese or Russian systems, but it will raise a large issue for Congress regarding our foreign policy. The U.S. does not want to create unwanted tension by implementing such an effective system. Such a move may put pressure on an arms race.

Potential costs may reach \$12 billion giving Congress further issues to think about. After the failure, the Pentagon is proposing another \$2 billion dollars be spent on the project.

The main point that Congress will contemplate is the need for such a costly system that has a large margin of error at this point. The next test will take place in April.

Musically Inclined by Scott Timmreck



In the spotlight again

From a bar near his home in Virginia to Giants Stadium, Dave Matthews has quietly taken his guitar from the grassroots of America into popular culture and assembled a loyal fan base unlike many bands have seen or will ever see. Capturing his spirit and that of his band on *Listener Supported*, Matthews has released the third live record of his band's nine-or-so year career, five of which have involved sitting in the mainstream spotlight.

Appropriately recorded at Continental Airlines Arena on September 11, 1999 during their spring/summer/fall American stint, Matthews and mates Boyd Tinsley, Carter Beauford, Stefan Lessard and Leroi Moore (who can play 33 different kinds of percussion) march through twenty hits, incorporating both fan favorites and radio favorites. Crashing into the set with "Pantala Naga Pampa," a traditional opener, DMB slides though the middle of their catalog with "Crash Into Me," "Stay" and "Don't Drink the Water" and creeps into hidden corners and finds gems like "#40" and "True Reflections," the latter sung by Boyd Tinsley and the crowning track on the two-disc album.

"Jimi Thing," "#41," "Warehouse," Johnny Cash's "Long Black Veil" and Bob Dylan's "All Along the Watchtower" also appear, the final an eight-minute piece that showcases the energy Matthews can bring to a

crowd of both college kids and old hippies. He makes it clear that he enjoys himself and that he can play his guitar with the best. Sweltering on the strings is Tinsley, the best violinist in rock and Moore's drumming, especially on "Too Much," arguably the crowd favorite of the show, and "Warehouse" make the songs danceable and ultimately, fun.

Fresh and clear, DMB is always best heard live and *Supported* is no exception. As with other live material, Matthews' soul and spirit are both present, and as any DMB fan knows, no song ever sounds the same twice, the element that makes the band as dynamic and full of life as it is. DMB is good enough to progress on material that they've already recorded, and that characteristic of the music becomes eminent as the plucks of the bass enter your body. Never dry, never lifeless, always fun and always sensational, the record shines as well as any live material ever has.

Under the dreaming tree wondering of success and presenting himself before crowded stadiums, Matthews has once again laid down quality material for the insatiable appetite of his fans, material full of Dave's passion to seize the day and if nothing else, have fun with it while making music for people that will smile because of it.

- 1. "Next Friday"
- 2. "Stuart Little"
- 3. "The Hurricane"
- 4. "Girl, Interrupted"
- 5. "The Green Mile"
- 6. "Galaxy Quest"
- 7. "The Talented Mr. Ripley"
- 8. "Supernova"
- 9. "Toy Story 2"
- 10. "Any Given Sunday"

ALBUMS

- 1. Santana *Supernatural*
- 2. Jay-Z *Life and Times of S. Carter*
- 3. DMX *And Then There Was X*
- 4. Celine Dion *All The Way*
- 5. Various Artists *Now 3*
- 6. Christina Aguilera *Christina Aguilera*
- 7. Dr. Dre *Dr. Dre—2000*
- 8. 2Pac and Outlawz *Still I Rise*
- 9. Backstreet Boys *Millenium*
- 10. Kid Rock *Devil Without a Cause*

www.What!

www.joecartoon.com

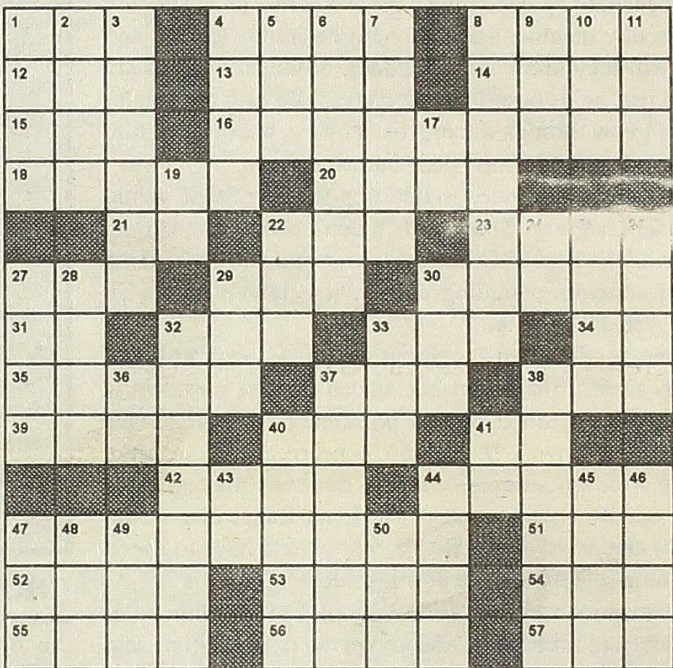
For those of you with a delightfully sick sense of humor, joecartoon.com is a wonderful way to get a few easy laughs. Full of cute little animals and kitchen appliances, like microwaves and blenders (I think you're starting to get the idea), joecartoon is humorous and at the same time tasteless. Listen to a gerbil dare you to turn on a blender or laugh at some of the still cartoons. Although it's a bit disturbing, it's worth a look.

www.hamsterdance.com

Along the rodent line is hamsterdance.com. Although this site doesn't offer any appliances or bloody eyeballs, it does feature cute little animals dancing to an even cuter song. For those of you with a less sick sense of humor, hamsterdance.com is for you.

http://abc.go.com/primetime/millionaire/mill_home.html

If you're like the rest of America, you just can't seem to get enough of "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire." Now Regis is online and you can play the game too. The site offers an area where you can play along with the TV show, read about the winners, get sweepstakes information and learn all about the show. The phone call is now toll free, so call away and become a millionaire.



ACROSS

- 1 Noah's boat
- 4 One who mimicks
- 8 Funeral stand
- 12 Hawaiian necklace
- 13 Outer garment for women (India)
- 14 Leeward side
- 15 School of whales
- 16 Wanderers
- 18 Smell
- 20 Design with intricate figures
- 21 Never
- 22 Moist
- 23 Clinched hand
- 27 Though (Inf.)
- 29 Auricle
- 30 Windy
- 31 Exclamation
- 32 Pig pen
- 33 Slippery fish
- 34 Press service (abbr.)
- 35 Field of conflict
- 37 Tree
- 38 Time
- 39 Was (p.t.)
- 40 Black fluid

41 Ante meridian (abbr.)

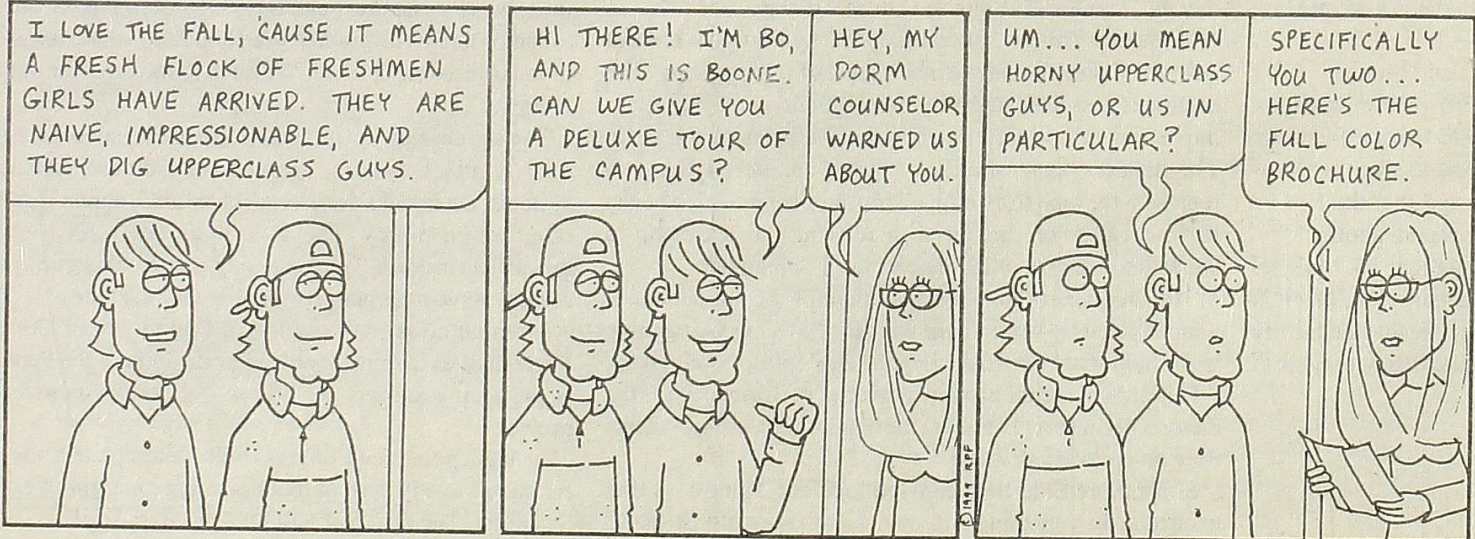
- 42 Formerly
- 44 Drama set to music
- 47 Frightening
- 51 Neither
- 52 Unencumbered
- 53 Great lake
- 54 Condition of being (suf.)
- 55 Undesirable plant
- 56 Distance (pref.)
- 57 Female saint (abbr.)

DOWN

- 1 Aquatic plant
- 2 To the back
- 3 Japanese robe
- 4 Thin Man dog
- 5 Equal
- 6 End of pencil
- 7 Bolt
- 8 Fateful
- 9 Capability of (suf.)
- 10 Ever (poetic)
- 11 Point in law
- 17 Print measurement
- 19 Midwest state (abbr.)
- 22 Method; direction
- 24 Island (abbr.)
- 25 Adult male deer
- 26 Sort
- 27 Defrost
- 28 Rabbit
- 29 7th Greek letter
- 30 Opal
- 32 Smirked
- 33 Large N. American deer
- 36 Person who lives in (suf.)
- 37 All
- 38 Corrects
- 40 Very small island
- 41 News agency (abbr.)
- 43 Route (abbr.)
- 44 S-shaped, double curve
- 45 Base
- 46 Johnson
- 47 Stitch
- 48 Prong of a fork (Scot.)
- 49 Indicates an enzyme (suf.)
- 50 None

LEX

by phil flickinger (www.l-e-x.com)



WHAT ARE YOU

AFRAID OF?

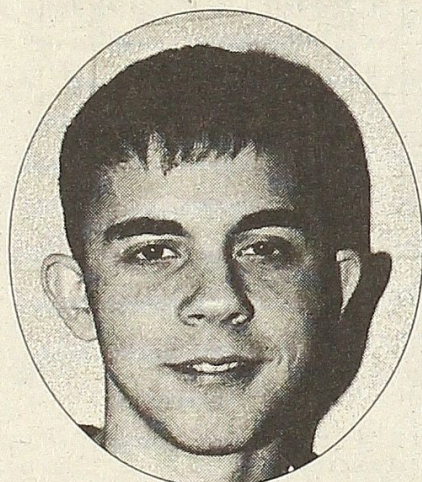


"Not meeting the right girl. It's something that I have no control over."

Mike Baysdell (01)

"Snakes. I always have recurring dreams about them."

Heather Hertema (02)

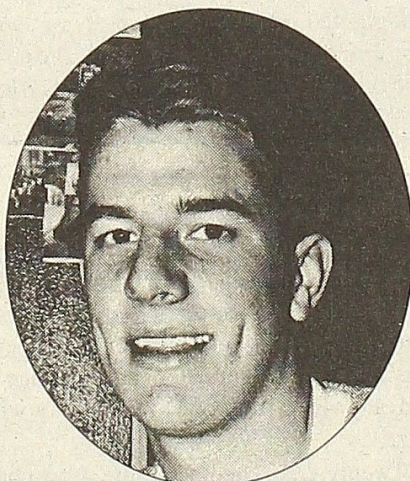


"Being trapped under a sheet of ice and drowning."

J.R. Logan (02)

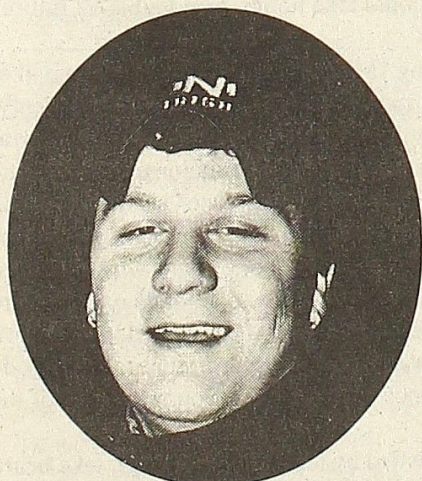
"Only two things in life scare me and one of them is Carnies, you know circus folk!"

Scott Baker (02)



"Big jungle cats, because they have ferocious teeth and razor sharp claws."

Andy Garrison (02)



By MANDY LONG
Feature Editor

We have movies named after it, about it, and even a few that try to cause it. It keeps us in our beds at night as children and causes us to jump, yell and maybe cry as adults. Fear. We've all felt that sensation of dread rise in our stomachs as we go to the dentist or see a snake at the zoo. What is it that causes fear?

Most psychologists will tell you that fear begins in childhood or is culturally learned. Very few toddlers cry at the sight of a little gray mouse, but given a few years they will run from the room.

Some fears seem to make sense, such as flying or snakes—situations or animals that could be dangerous. Others, like the dentist, confined spaces, or giving blood, are just uncomfortable. Yet others are the figments of our imagination, such as the boogiemani.

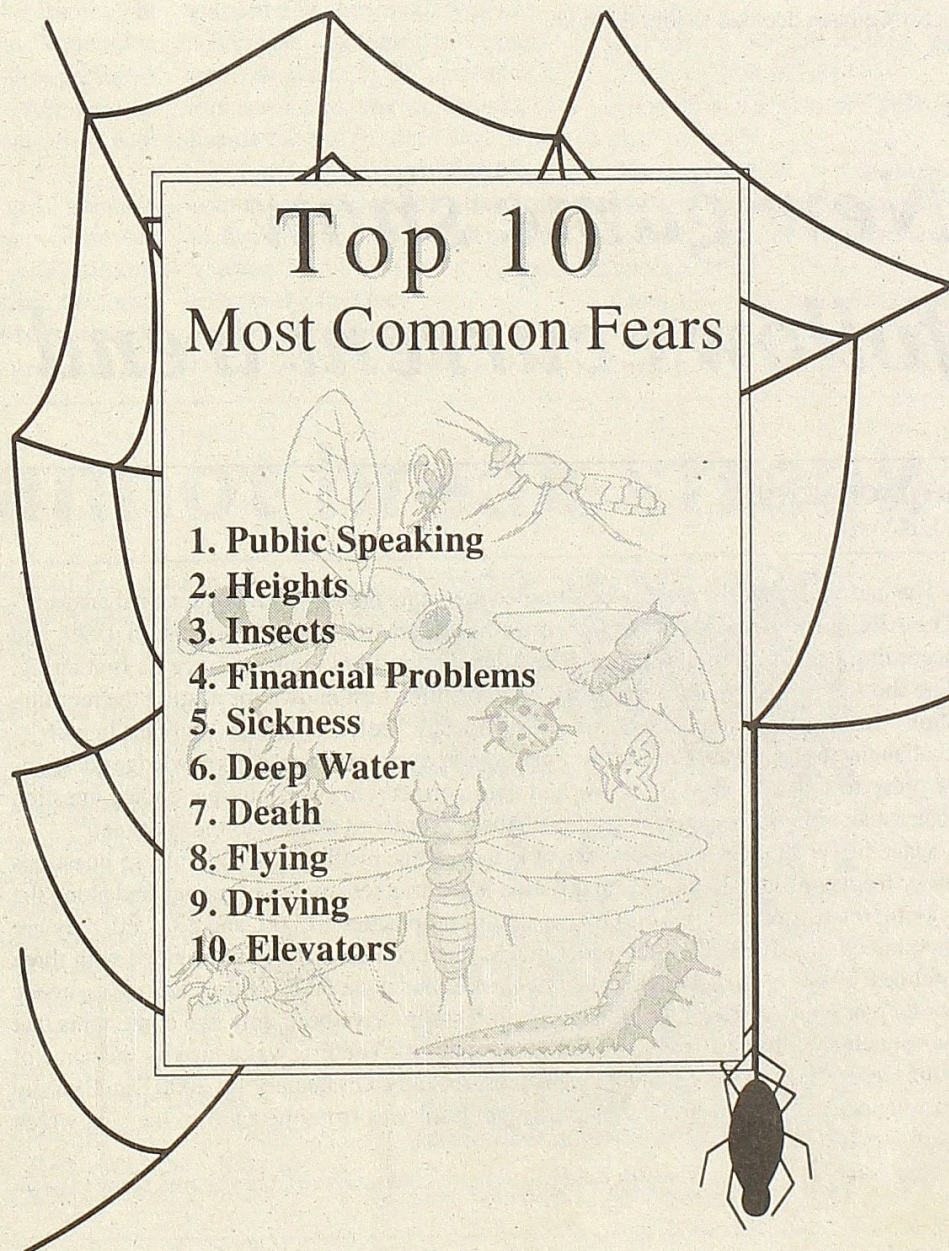
A fear turns into a phobia when there is excessive, irrational fear compared to the reactions of others. We've all heard of agoraphobia or dentophobia, but not all phobias are that common. Alliumphobia, the fear of garlic, eleutherophobia, the fear of freedom, and linonphobia, the fear of string, are just a few on the list of odd and unusual phobias.

Even still, many of us crave that rush of excitement and jump out of planes and bungee jump off of towers. We run to movies that serve no other purpose than to scare, something we call entertainment. Fear is one of the most basic emotions and transcends species, time, and place.

Perhaps Franklin D. Roosevelt summed it up best in his inaugural address when he said, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself."

Top 10 Most Common Fears

1. Public Speaking
2. Heights
3. Insects
4. Financial Problems
5. Sickness
6. Deep Water
7. Death
8. Flying
9. Driving
10. Elevators



Think with your head, not just your heart

By JANAY ANDERSON and DARBY CORNELIUS
Staff Writers

Can you say "overwhelming?" We can.

With Greek recruitment week in full swing, we the recruits have many inquiries and expectations. We are subject to the stress of making first impressions to allow the five sororities to select their favorite sheep from the flock.

Familiar phrases this week include, "Follow your heart", "You'll just know", and the grand daddy of them all, "Do what is right for you."

So the question arises, "What is right for me?" We find ourselves pondering this thought to no avail, wishing there was one easy answer.

We are being exposed to the possibilities of new friendships, new commitments, and new opportunities. We must also realize that we cannot expect to create new standards or ideals for ourselves if they conflict with our previously established goals and virtues.

The bottom line is clearly blurry. We know that if we join a sorority we will gain experiences we can never expect to understand if we remain independent. On the other hand, what is so wrong with being ourselves? College is all about independence. Or is it?

These are just a few of the questions looming through our minds as we drift from house to house looking for a home.

We also realize that many stereotypes must be overlooked or at least set down for a few minutes so that we can truly make our own objective decisions.

When recently asked what makes the Alma Greek system so different from other schools, I was left with a blank look and a defensive "wul, I dunno." Convincing, I'm sure.

As we think back to our first perceptions of sorority life, we both recall having no intentions to venture into sisterhood. We had heard many of the generalizations and never thought twice about "buying our friends" or placing ourselves on a "pedestal over all the lowly non-Greeks."

However, as we familiarized ourselves with campus life we began to widen our outlook. Over the first semester, we formed friendships with many sorority members, unaware of their involvement in the Greek society. Once their true identities were revealed, we came to realize that the stereotypes were wrong.

Just because you wear certain letters does not mean that you are a bunch of clones. This is now apparent to us. Each sorority is set apart from the others in a special way, and in the same way the diversity continues within the individual groups.

We are heading into recruitment week with our common sense on our sleeves. We know that if we do happen to get bids, we will be excited. But we also know that we do not want to set ourselves apart from others by joining one group.

So we have decided to join them all.

New game show follows current trend

By RACHEL KUHL
Staff Writer

The latest television craze can be summed up in one phrase, "Is that your final answer?" The ABC game show, "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" began in August of 1999, and according to ABC.com, has given away over \$7.5 million in prizes since its first airing. The show is hosted by TV personality Regis Philbin, best known for hosting the morning show "Live" with Kathie Lee Gifford. "Millionaire" pulls contestants and fans in with its challenging trivia set-up. Contestants must answer a series of everyday knowledge questions in order to make it on to the show and then correctly answer multiple choice questions faster than nine other contestant semi-finalists in order to make it to the "hot seat."

Once in the "hot seat," the contestant is face-to-face with Regis and only 15 questions away from a million dollars. Each question is worth a set amount of money and along the way there are stopping points. Once a contestant reaches \$1,000, and \$32,000, they are guaranteed to leave with at least that much. Each contestant is also provided with three lifelines. They can take away two wrong answers with the 50/50 option, ask the audience for help or phone a friend for assistance. So far there have been only two contestants that have made it all the way to the million dollar pay-off. The first was a man by the name of John Carpenter, and the second happened just recently. On January 18, 2000 Dan Blonsky just happened to know how many million miles it was from the earth to the sun, which won him his own million.

The success of "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" has spawned a new game show rage on

Eli concert rocks Heritage

By DAN JOYCE
Staff Writer

A prank phone call, a guitar, free stuff and a lot of fun. That only starts to scratch the surface of the Eli concert Saturday night.

I cannot lie. On the way to the concert I almost went back to my room. Another Christian music concert, yippee. Anything sounded more interesting. Yet, something told me I should go.

Taking a seat next to some friends in the very back of the Heritage Center, I felt safe. If I decided the show made me miserable, I would just leave. I even started with a bitter taste in my mouth from all of that other Christian music. The music Eli himself called "stale."

I had just set my coat next to myself on an empty padded seat when Joey Mead (00) trotted onto the stage with a half-time cordless microphone. Great, another one of those no-taste-in-music groupies.

Boy, was I ever in for a surprise.

After having a few friends help Mead launch numerous freebies into the crowd, I realized that the auditorium was quite full for such a small town. Young and old, they all showed up. Mothers with children, everyone.

Huh, maybe it would not be another "I wish I could make it big on the secular scene" artists. Nah.

After a short introduction and prayer, the show began. The mellow, laid back environment almost worried me. It was not a teen pop kind of air. It was more real.

The first song caught me off guard. It was very mellow, but full of truth and emotion. The vocals and the guitar fit. No drums or bass. No background vocals. Just Eli and his 50 year old guitar. Impressive.

After a couple of songs, I started comparing Eli to other artists and bands. His clear but raspy voice with the folk/pop guitar reminded me wholly of some of *The Barenaked Ladies* stuff. The song writing was far better though. The lyrical

style and form of "this is true" emotion sounded like good old Bob Dylan stuff.

More comparisons can be made, after all Eli even calls his music "unoriginal." Some sounded like *Geoff Moore and the Distance*, some was comparable to *Mighty Joe Plum*.

Little by little, I came to realize that I was going to enjoy the show. I could try not to, but I would not be able to resist.

Eli does not fit the Christian music cliché. He was honest. He had fun. He pushed everyone to dub his albums. He even prank called Kristie Gehrs (03) who could not be at the show due to an injury.

"I had no idea who it was at first," said Gehrs. "Then, once I heard the crowd I figured it out. It was really great that he took time out of his show to call me. I really wanted to be at the concert."

He really started to impress me when he started ripping on most Christian music.

"Yeah, most of it flows real well but it is watered down. After all, my toilet also flows."

In an interview that Eli allowed me to conduct after the concert, pictures and autographs, Eli made it known that he has no use for most music, even Christian music, but others do. "If the more mainstream bands are saving souls, more power to them. I just do not like their stuff."

Eli hides nothing. If forced to open for another band, he would choose *Marilyn Manson* due to the great opportunity to witness to so many people.

He hates the way most booking agencies are run. He hates the low values on the legal end of booking, especially for Christian musicians. Not once did Eli hold off on a comment relevant to himself.

Thanks goes out to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Trinity Bible Fellowship for making Eli's stay enjoyable and bringing him to Alma. Maybe next year we will have a chance to see Eli live at Alma again.

other networks, offering more prize payout than ever before. On the FOX network, according to FOX.com, their new show "Greed," hosted by Chuck Woolery, offers more thrills than "Millionaire" and more competition. "Greed" starts off with a team of five contestants who work together to answer questions. After round one ends however, all bets are off and teammates can challenge each other to their share of the winnings. In the end, anywhere from one to five lucky winners could take home the possible \$2 million prize.

"Twenty-One," another game show challenging "Millionaire," is actually a revival of one of the most successful game shows of all time. According to NBC.com, "Twenty-One," now hosted by Maury Povich, originally began in September of 1956 and was hosted by Jack Benny. Due to scandal in 1958, as retold by the major motion picture "Quiz Show" the show was canceled. The idea behind "Twenty-One" seems basic, but the layout can be confusing. Contestants compete against each other answering questions worth varying amounts of points. The first one to reach twenty-one points wins the round and \$100,000 that they keep no matter what. They then go on to a bonus round where they could win an additional \$210,000. Once the bonus round is completed, they meet a new contestant, and again try for \$100,000. "Twenty-One" has no lifelines, but they do have "three strikes," so if you answer wrong once or even twice you aren't out of the game.

If your craving for game show action isn't satisfied by television coverage, take heart, there are now on-line and CD-ROM versions of nearly all of them so you can play them as often as you like and you can hit the mute button if Regis asking for your final answer gets too annoying.

Scots on a winning streak behind play of senior guards



Bryan Waugh

Shelly Ulfig (03) powers her way through four defenders.



Bryan Waugh

Senior Shannon Gross (42) controls the tempo for the Scots.

By KELLY McDONALD
Sports Editor

The women's basketball team keeps on rolling behind the play of senior guards Mary Barnhart and Shannon Gross. They racked up three more MIAA victories last week in games against Olivet, Albion and St. Mary's.

With season-ending knee injuries to starting point guard Rebekah Barker (01) and back-up point guard Kristie Gehrs (03), Barnhart, Gross and teammate Joy Horton (01) have handled a majority of the pressure in the backcourt.

"We obviously miss our point guards but everybody is stepping up," said Gross. "Everyone is changing positions, but we still feel we are very competitive."

On Wednesday, the Scots traveled to Olivet for their first match-up against the Comets this year. Olivet surprised the Scots by coming out strong and sticking with them the entire first half. But Alma prevailed in the second half to take a 66-56 win into Saturday's match-up with Albion.

Barnhart dropped in 12 points to lead four Alma players in double figures. Gross and Janell Twietmeyer (03) tallied 11 points each while Julie Whitmore (01) added ten. Twietmeyer paced the

Scots in rebounding with nine.

The red-hot Scots entertained Albion on Saturday afternoon at Cappaert Gymnasium trying to avenge an earlier season blemish to the Britons.

Alma came out on fire taking a 20-10 lead ten minutes into the game. None of the players thought they should have lost the earlier meeting against the two teams and had something to prove to themselves.

"We played them early in the season and were trying new things. Our defense was more effective than last time we played them," said Gross. "We played with a lot more emotion."

They rolled to a 58-39 win.

Coach Charlie Goffnet threw a couple of different defensive looks at Albion that confused the Britons into 20 turnovers. Alma's defense recorded season bests, as they forced Albion to shoot 27% for the game and held them to 39 points.

Barnhart took control of the game early, directing traffic and dishing out assists as she continued to handle the ball for the Scots.

A Barnhart to Gross fast break conversion followed by a Barnhart to Sarah Kruttlin (03) basket put the Scots up 26-14 with seven minutes to go in the first half.

Alma took a 34-23 lead into the locker room. A suffocating 2-3 zone

continued to cause fits for the Britons as the Scots went on a 12-3 run to start the second half. Sarah Kruttlin (03) ignited the Alma crowd throughout the half with three blocked shots while Barnhart dished out a career-high 12 assists as Alma claimed their ninth victory of the season.

Gross continued her tear in the point column with 16 points on 6-9 shooting and also grabbed five rebounds. Twietmeyer added eight points while Shelly Ulfig (03) pulled down nine rebounds and tossed in eight points. Adrienne Fitzgerald (00) helped the Scots to a 37-31 rebounding advantage with eight boards of her own.

St. Mary's (0-9 MIAA, 0-16 overall) did not bring with them much competition on Sunday as the Scots dominated the entire game.

The first half was highlighted by reserve forward Shannon Boven (02). She came in to support the Scots with a big defensive play, then came down the floor and grabbed a offensive rebound. The next two possessions were all Boven as she connected on two low post shots to help the Scots to a 42-24 half-time lead.

Most would expect the level of intensity to drop considerably in a game in which Coach Goffnet cleared his bench. Not so in this game. As the reserves played their minutes, the rest of the team kept the intensity up with their encouragement from the bench.

Katie Bernthal (03) sparked the second half as she came into the game and quickly nailed her first shot, much to the delight of her teammates.

St. Mary's was no contest as Alma won easily, 73-51.

Alma now sits atop the MIAA with a 7-2 mark.

"We control our own destiny," said Gross. "The league is real balanced this year and everyone has a chance to win the title."

Alma (11-6 overall) travels to Hope on Saturday for a key league game.

Men's basketball cannot break streak

By AMY NOVAK
Online Editor

The Alma men's basketball team continued their MIAA losing streak last week, falling to both Olivet and Hope in conference play. The Scots are now 5-10 overall, and 0-6 in the MIAA.

Last Wednesday, the Scots traveled to Holland to take on the Hope Flying Dutchmen. Despite being down by three in the final minutes of the first half, the Scots could not take over the lead, and eventually lost 86-64.

The Scots shot at only 35 percent, while being out rebounded 29-45. The Scots were led by junior Sean Dick with 15 points and five rebounds. Also

contributing to Scot scoring was senior Seth Stapleton with nine points and three rebounds. Senior Joe Peters added six points and four boards in the game.

A 15-4 run at the end of the first put the Dutchmen ahead and they never looked back. This loss marks the 19th road loss to Hope. The Scots have lost 14 of their last 15 matchups with the Dutchmen.

Last Saturday, the Scots were once again on the road, this time traveling to Olivet to take on the Comets. Despite both Stapleton and senior Jeremy Hyler scoring in double digits, the Scots continued their MIAA losing streak with a 79-91 loss.

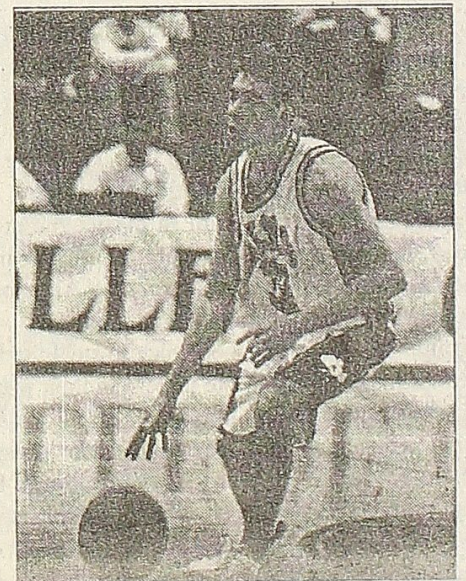
The game was close in the first half, with the Scots only being down by

four at the half. However, in the second, Olivet outshot, outscored and out rebounded the Scots to seal their victory.

Stapleton led the Scots with 23 points and three rebounds, while Hyler added 21 points and eight boards. Also contributing for Alma was Peters with eight points and three rebounds and senior Spencer Roecker had six points and five rebounds.

The Scots shot 47 percent, compared to 52 by the Comets. The teams were close on turnovers, with Alma committing 12 and Olivet 11. On the boards, the Scots had 36 rebounds compared to 37 by the Comets.

The Scots continue MIAA action tonight at 7:30 when they host the Albion Britons.



Bryan Waugh

Joe Peters (00) dribbles down the court.

Mead captures season-high score; but swim teams are sunk by K'zoo & Wayne State

By CARA BONINE
Staff Writer

The men and women's swimming and diving teams were defeated by their MIAA foe Kalamazoo College last Wednesday. The Scots then battled Wayne State at home and the women defeated them with a close 115-112, however the men lost 120-113.

At Kalamazoo College, the men's team took first place in 3 out of the 13 swimming events producing the final team score of 153-69. Justin Fournier was first in the 100 backstroke in :55.78, while Mike Heyd won the 100 breaststroke in 1:12.60. The relay team of Fournier, Dan Schroeder, Mike Porter, and Joe Harris also won with a time of 1:32.27.

"Many of us are swimming our best season times," said Justin Fournier (02), "hopefully we just keep it up."

The women's swimming team also won 3 out of the 10 individual events in Kalamazoo with a final team score of 142-99. Katie Zellen won the 50 freestyle in :25.57, while Carrie Thomas prevailed in the 100 breaststroke in 1:14.76. The 200 medley team, including Jaclyn Bernard, Thomas, and Laura Camann and Nicole Gentry, also won their event.

"I think we've seen a really big improvement on the times," said Katie Zellen (00). "We've seen people really

cheer each other on, which is good for the conference."

The Scots then prepared for their home finale on Friday against Division I Wayne State University.

The men won 5 out of the 13 events, nearly upsetting the Warriors before being defeated. Joey Mead captured both the one and three-meter diving events and scored a team season-high 258.20 on the one-meter board and nearly missed a national qualifying score on the three-meter. Mead was 2.45 points shy at 272.55 of the qualifying score.

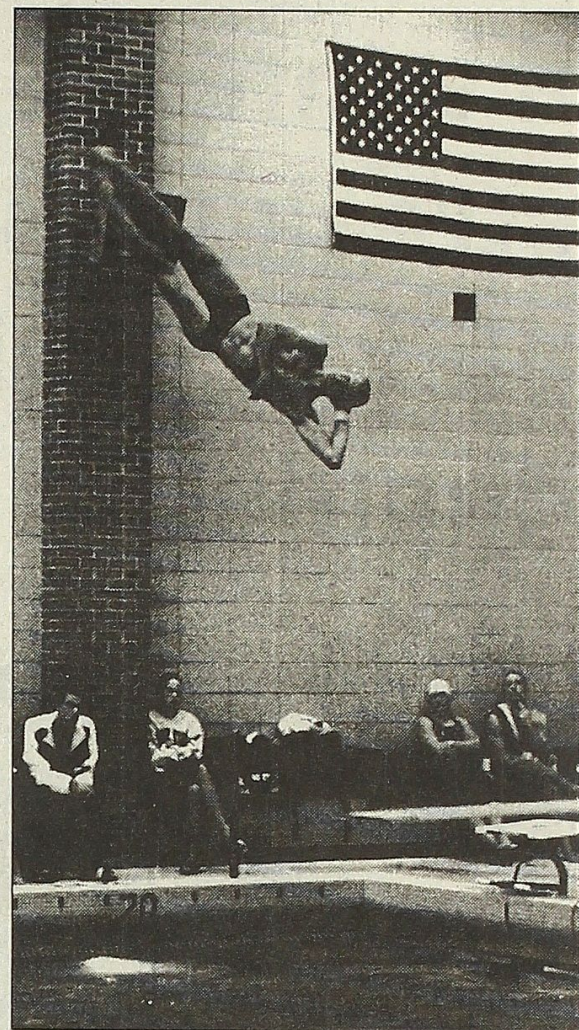
Individual winners also included Justin Fournier in the 50 freestyle, Mike Cox in the 100 backstroke and the 200 freestyle relay of Porter, Holliday, Harris, and Fournier also placed first.

The women's meet with the Warriors came down to the last race. Katie Zellen, Nicole Gentry, Jenni Troyer and Meredith Henry swam the 200 freestyle relay in 1:44.20 and gave the team the points needed to defeat Wayne State. Zellen also won the 50 freestyle and the 100 backstroke.

Other winners against Wayne State included Andrea Carlson in the 1,000 freestyle and Rachel Dowdney in both the one and three-meter events.

"We are getting a lot stronger as a team," said Laura Camann (00), "and we are trying to get a lot of state times."

The Scots now prepare for the MIAA championships on February 9-12 at St. Mary's College in Notre Dame.



Tammy Acker

Joey Mead (00) shows spectators diving in style.

Junior Varsity: confident and strong

By DARBY CORNELIUS
Staff Writer

With a solid group of hard-working young men, the junior varsity basketball team continues to improve their position among competitors.

Since starting the season with two losses, the team has persisted to gain a respectable 6-5 record.

The numbers have changed since the first games. Several of the team members have opted to invest their time elsewhere after returning from the holiday break.

Now ten players strong, the remaining first-year men show an appetite for success.

"These guys come to practice every day and want to work their tails off," said Coach Jeff Curtis (98).

This is Curtis' second year as the J.V. coach. He is confident in the team's ability to learn and improve.

The team battled the top team in the league at Hope College on Wednesday, January 19 to suffer a close loss. The intense game ended with a score of 93-90, with an unsuccessful Alma buzzer shot in overtime to award the Flying Dutchmen another win.

Curtis said, "It would have been nice to steal the win on the road."

The team has shown a definite pattern in their performance, with all their wins on the home court thus far.

First-year assistant coach Corey Dunn said, "These guys have a great camaraderie on and off the court. They are a lot of fun to work with."

When asked about his individual goals for the season, first-year student Corey Heitsch said, "to have fun and improve each day."

The team is looking forward to the rest of their games in hopes of achieving the league title.

The team expects to pick up a win on the road when they travel to Olivet College on Saturday, January 29.

Sports Track By CHRIS HARRINGTON

John Rocker; a bigot?

John Rocker.

What comes to your mind?

Pitcher? Head Case? Racist? Bigot?

John Rocker is a very complex individual, like all of us. Many words may describe this man, but jumping to conclusions is in itself prejudice. John Rocker, the Atlanta Braves closing pitcher has suffered through all kinds of prejudice, making him one of the more controversial sports figures for the time being.

The pitcher's warm-up routine includes sprinting to the mound from the bull-pen and letting the ball thrown by the catcher bean him in the chest. He has been labeled by many as a thug at best.

I will take a minute to recap the events that brought up this whole issue back in the fall.

During post season play the Atlanta Braves played the New York Mets in their quest for the National League Championship and the New York Yankees in the World Series. This required that Atlanta play in New York on numerous occasions.

John Rocker, the Braves closer, is a man with an intense personality. He is a man who can develop a bad reputation in a short period of time, similar to the way rivals of the Red Wings thought of Vladimir Konstantinov before his sports career was ended.

During the World Series, the hatred of the New York fans towards Rocker escalated so

high that they felt it was appropriate to spit on him, throw cups of beer on him and even throw batteries at him. This went on throughout the series.

These actions are completely out of control. The man's life was in danger.

How did Rocker respond? He responded in a way that probably was not the most mature thing to do. Believe it or not a man does not weigh the costs and benefits of his image as a gentleman when his life is in danger. His response included derogatory comments directed at a crowd that could have caused harm to him.

Rocker was interviewed exclusively on ESPN January 12 so he could try to answer the questions that have given him such a bad image. He was grilled on the reason behind his derogatory comments while being accused of a racist and a bigot.

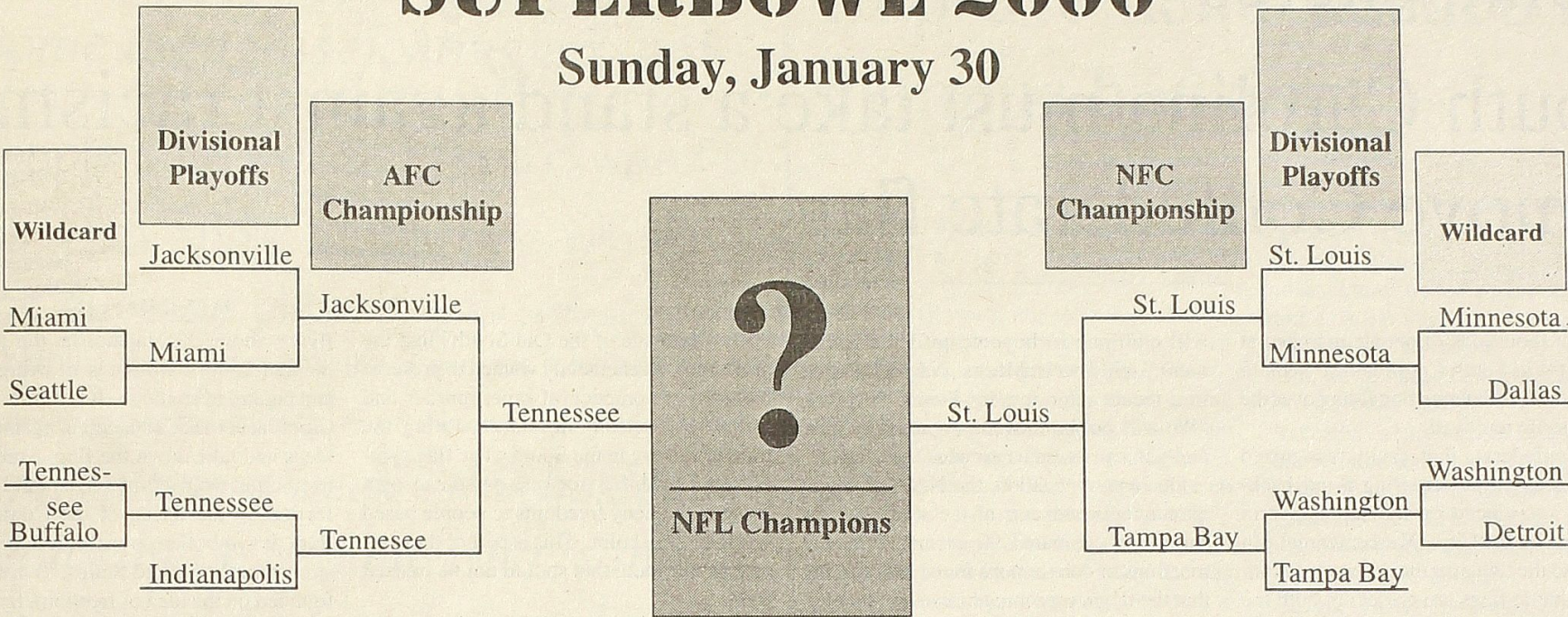
Have we completely lost sight of basic societal needs? People are people regardless of how big, fast, or strong they are. Whether you are a professional athlete, a corporate executive, a janitor or even a teenager, people cannot be expected to act a certain way when they are all of a sudden dropped into extreme circumstances.

We must do away with ignorance that has plagued us. Kudos to those of you who do your homework on the controversial issues that surround our society every day.

John Rocker may have offended some people, but the hurt he has endured travels a lot deeper.

SUPERBOWL 2000

Sunday, January 30



WHO WILL WIN THE SUPERBOWL?

Jen Klaiss
Production Editor
St. Louis
24 - 21

Cara Bonine
Staff Writer
Tennessee
21 - 10

Nikole Canute
News Editor
St. Louis
24 - 17

Chris Harrington
Staff Writer
Tennessee
33 - 27

Rachel Kuhl
Ad Manager
St. Louis
21 - 10

Mandy Long
Feature Editor
St. Louis
21 - 17

Kelly McDonald
Sports Editor
St. Louis
35 - 21

Steve Nadeau
Editor-in-chief
Tennessee
24 - 17

Sara Travis
Layout Editor
Tennessee
35 - 17

Bryan Waugh
Photographer
Tennessee
33 - 17

Tennessee or St. Louis?

What The Almanian staff thinks...

Jordan converts to owner from Chicago to Washington

By AMY TAYLOR
Managing Editor

Michael Jordan joined the legacy of ex-athletes last week going from a sweaty player on the basketball court to pulling up a seat in the owner's box.

Jordan who was named Time magazine's athlete of the century will join the Washington Wizards not as a player, but as a small owner. His new position would officially make him director of basketball operations.

There are many other things that Jordan has planned for the Wizards as finalized deals are quickly approaching. Negotiations have him practicing with the team as well.

"It is exciting to see Michael Jordan taking on a new leadership role in something he feels really passionate about," said sophomore J.R. Logan.

In a televised interview with ESPN, Jordan was quoted as saying that he will definitely suit up with the team on the court for practices.

Jordan's new career move keeps him involved with what he enjoys—basketball. And it is not a bad deal for the Wizards either. The team has not won a NBA playoff series since

1982. For this season, national TV carriers did not even schedule them to appear once.

"I think it is good that he is still involved with basketball because he was an excellent player," said first-year Adam Heikkila. "It will be great for the team," he said.

Even if the executives and the players are not ecstatic about his heirness's grand entrance into his new kingdom, the local community is.

Perhaps with his new reign ticket sales will increase and more people will attend the games. Also, Jordan's existence may be cause enough to put the Wizards back on national TV.

For the record, this was not a spontaneous decision made by Jordan. He contemplated the NBA Charlotte Hornets and his golfing buddy Mario Lemieux wanted him to put a bid on the NHL Pittsburgh Penguins.

"I am wondering why he is buying the Wizards when he was never part of the team," said senior John Chasnis.

However, Jordan sees the Wizards as a chance to continue on making his mark in the basketball world by turning around a team who desperately needs the help of the great one.

Audience is welcome!

Questions?
Call Kevin Stanley x8047

College Bowl
10-12:30 pm
Sat. Jan. 29
Sac 113

Applications due
Fri. Jan. 28
in ACUB office by 5 pm

Teams of 4 and
faculty advisor

Answers to last weeks crossword puzzle:

C	A	B		H	U	M	I	D		E	N	D
U	S	A		E	N	E	M	Y		S	E	E
B	E	H	O	L	D		P	E	R	S	O	N
			I	D	O	L		D	A			
D	I	A	L			A	A		P	A	V	E
A	R	D		D	E	S	C	R	I	B	E	D
I	A		H	I	D		R	E	D		L	I
S	T	R	A	D	D	L	E	S		H	A	T
Y	E	A	R		Y	E			A	I	R	S
			E	L		D	R	I	P			
D	O	R	M	E	R		I	N	T	E	N	D
A	N	I		N	O	M	A	D		P	O	I
M	E	N		S	C	A	L	Y		I	T	E

S.O.S.

Put the "U" in Volunteer!

Meets the 1st Wednesday of Every Month

9:00 p.m.
Chapel

Hemispheres — By Cara Bonine

South Carolina must take a stand against racism; remove Confederate flag

Tens of thousands of people marched at the Capitol in South Carolina last week to demand the Confederate flag flying over the statehouse be removed.

The Confederate flag, easily recognized with its blue stripes crossing a red background, was placed on the statehouse in 1962 to mark the Civil War centennial. In addition to the flag over the statehouse, Confederate battle flags are present in both the House and Senate chambers. For decades the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) has fought for the removal of the flag with no success. "We will continue to march and we

will continue to boycott until it flies no more," said Kweisi Mfume, NAACP leader, in a recent interview by James Pierpoint, "We will not be moved, we are not afraid and you can't turn us around."

On January 1, 2000, the NAACP began an economic boycott of the state that has forced an estimated 90 groups to cancel meetings of conventions in the state stating that the flag represented hatred and bigotry.

At a rally, attended by about 6,000 supporters, a coalition of Southern groups argued that the flag should continue to fly because it represents the heritage of the Old South.

The "heritage of the Old South" that the protestors so vehemently wanted to preserve includes the practice of rape, murder and torture of African-Americans during the time of slavery in the South. The flag symbolizes the ability for one person to own another and deny freedoms to people based solely on skin color. This is part of the heritage of the south that should not be praised and honored.

The beliefs and thinking that Confederate soldiers fought to protect are immoral and wrong. The Confederate flag should, therefore, be removed from the statehouse. By allowing the Confederate flag to continue

flying above the statehouse, the government of South Carolina is allowing hatred and bigotry to continue. It is time for South Carolina to make a statement against these ideas and take down the flag. Americans, no matter what ethnicity, should be offended by the flying of the Confederate flag. It symbolizes treason and the secession from the United States. In a country founded on the idea of freedom, flying the Confederate flag above a government building is undemocratic and unpatriotic. Instead, South Carolina should pay tribute to our American heritage and fly the American flag.

Simple Thoughts

Why can't we all just get along?

By DAN JOYCE
Staff Writer

Admit it, we have all been wrong at one time or another. We do things we always said we would not do. We say things we really do not mean. We think things we ought not think. This does not make us bad people; it simply makes us people.

No problem exists in doing wrong, as long as the wrong was a mistake and a genuine apology follows. If you say something that is wrong, apologize. If you say something that is true but hurts someone, be sure that it was said with pure intentions of bettering that person.

Upon offending someone, try to make it right immediately. Allow time for contemplation, but not for disrespect or hatred to build. Even if the argument is over such a stupid thing as what color socks you should wear, apologize immediately.

Do not apologize, though, if you are not wrong. Some people need to be shown that they are wrong and that they cannot always have his or her own way.

Make sure that you are not easily offended. If someone calls you a name in good fun, laugh. If it was meant to hurt, ignore it. If this person has just placed the straw that breaks the camel's back,

better their immaturity. If you cannot do any of the previously mentioned, is it possible that you deserve it? Kind of makes you think, doesn't it?

Always give others the benefit of the doubt. If they offend you, trust that they did not mean to. If it happens repeatedly, avoid them. If forced to confront them, be mature. If the case builds to the point of an argument, listen. After listening to the other's point of view, bring up your own.

Be open-minded. Accept different views and change your own if necessary. For example, when I argue with someone about whether I should have eaten the pork or the chicken, I find out that they were right. The pork was, in fact a better choice. I usually am too hard-headed to realize that they are right immediately, but upon contemplation I decide they were right.

If this happens to you, go to the person later and tell them of your newly found truth. More times than not, the person will agree that the argument was unnecessary. He or she may have also decided that you were right. In any case try not to start another argument.

Back to the arguing stage.

If, while in the middle of an argument, you feel the urge to state something along the lines of, "I am right... You are a fool... I am

going to just get up and leave before I listen to you," smack yourself. You will save many others the time and effort.

In any argument, remember that you have the possibility of losing a friend if you act immaturity. Always weigh this heavily. If the argument is between yourself and a friend and is about another friend, be extra careful.

If the case is that of a dispute involving three friends, try to keep it from getting personal. If the debate does get personal, chances are you will lose one or more friends due to the way you handle yourself. Decide which, if either, of your friends is right and which you are closer to.

If the dispute causes a friendship to be severed, do not expect other friends to follow you. Do not be upset if outside friends still associate with your new enemy. Do not try to control your friends. Remember you also saw something in that individual that caused you to take a liking to them at one time.

Overall, be mature. Do not be afraid to discuss your views and listen to others do the same. Do not be too immature to allow your views to expand but, just as importantly, do not compromise your ideas without being absolutely sure that you should.

Going Greek...

Doing it for the right reasons

By RACHEL KUHL
Staff Writer

Everybody wants to feel as though they are a part of something. They want to feel as though they have the acceptance of their peers. While some individuals may be more focused on this need than others, the desire to have a group of people who understand us and like us for who we are is something that we all face throughout our lifetime. And so as the hustle and bustle of Greek Recruitment begins, students are faced with the decision of whether or not they want to try and join a sorority or fraternity. Some see Greek organizations as a great way to meet new people, participate in fun events and establish a core group of friends whose bonds will probably last well beyond their days at Alma. Others see Greek organizations as a threat to individuality, a clique that offers friendship at a price, time demands and an expectation that all members must adopt the same attitude towards others.

Both opinions are based on stereotypes, just like both opinions have elements of accuracy. The reason for this is primarily due to the fact that while all sororities and fraternities follow the same concept, each is individually different. The purpose of Greek Recruitment is to give students the opportunity to see all of these differences and then decide if one of the Greek groups matches some of their interests. Where the line between the purpose of Greek Recruitment and the realities of Greek Recruitment begins to gray is when individuals enter the process with expectations of acceptance or finding their niche, and then those expectations aren't met.

How awful it is when you think you've found a friend or a group that you think you fit in with and then, for whatever reason, you are rejected by those people. In the case of Greek organizations this potentially happens when, after recruitment, some people aren't given an invitation to the group they hoped to join. Another common occurrence is that students want so desperately to fit in, or make a good impression, that they really aren't being themselves. For whatever reason, there seems to be the thought that they have to act a certain way or say certain things, or the group may not want them. Either way, there tends to be disappointment and hurt feelings in the end.

Now this is not to slam the Greek organizations for not selecting everyone. In the same way people seek groups they would fit into, those groups are looking for people who will add something to, or fit in with the members that are already there. Sometimes the people and the group pick each other, sometimes they don't. I guess the most important thing to realize as recruiting leads to invitations to join and eventually new member education begins, is that in order to really make the most of the whole experience you have to be secure in yourself first. No Greek organization, or any group for that matter, can define who you are or make you more popular or successful. No matter what, you have to be yourself and be willing to be honest with yourself as well. Are you really interested in meeting new people or are you hoping to "up" your popularity? Do you enjoy doing service projects for the community or do you see it as a great resume booster? Do you usually feel like who you are is defined by who you are friends with, or do you pride yourself on individuality? Neither of these opinions are right or wrong, it's simply a matter of knowing your own motives. Greek Recruitment can be a great experience whether you decide to pledge or not, just make sure that you are doing it for the right reasons.

Campus Quips

Some thoughts floating around

People were worried that it wasn't going to snow at all this winter - look outside please...props to Physical Plant for keeping the main sidewalks of campus relatively clear of snow, no matter what hour of the day...so we're in recruitment week - this basically means that everyone who is thinking of joining a Greek organization is getting a wee bit nervous...does anyone know what happened to the "A" on the press box of the football field - it's been gone for awhile...might anyone agree that it's just a little too cold out...the Alumni House is available for viewing - two words: leather couches...**smokers, deserts, teas, walk-outs, run-outs - everybody have fun with whatever they decide...**

Improvements needed in campus housing

By KATIE BEAM
Staff Writer

Let me tell you a little story. I went to the on-campus apartment housing lottery last winter term. I was there with three friends, and we were a little nervous about getting an apartment because there were so many people at the lottery. But we got lucky. We got two apartments next to each other on Grant Street, and we were really excited.

Now fast-forward to last fall. My roommate and I moved in on Monday, the day before classes began. We went next door to say 'hi' to our buddies when we first arrived. Their place was nice: bright and spacious, with a living room, dining room, kitchen and a bedroom beyond the bathroom. The walls were painted white with massive rugs covering the not-so-nice carpet.

When we went next door into our apartment, I almost fell down upon walking in! It was dusty and smelly, with cheap dark paneling on the walls, ancient acoustical tiles forming a ceiling, no curtains on the windows and threadbare, stained carpet. And there were only two rooms! Our kitchen was only as wide as a hallway and there was no door on the closet or even one separating the rooms. Upon inspecting the closet, we discovered our curtains, balled up on the floor of the closet, smelling oddly...of urine? We threw those directly outside. After the initial shock of seeing our horrendous living quarters wore off, my roommate and I resolved to call Physical Plant first thing the next morning with a few requests.

Since then, I have made weekly calls to the Physical Plant's "Maintenance/Repair Reporting System." This handy extension number (7070) has proved quite helpful in improving our apartment's condition. For example, now we have a toilet seat that a) fits our toilet and b) is not one of those squishy seats that was red and green plaid and looked

like a tablecloth; we have blinds now as opposed to urine-smelling curtains (did I mention we had no curtain rods either?); and thankfully, we feel secure now that our front door has a lock on it that cannot be picked by a five year-old!

But, we still need new carpet and an improved heating system!

Recently, I noticed our friends' apartment isn't as nice as we first thought. They needed a new furnace because it was leaking gas and the carbon dioxide levels were three times higher than the recommended "safe" levels for humans.

But guess what? It wasn't the furnace that needed to be replaced, it was the gas stove! Our friends discovered this upon returning to campus after Christmas break and noticing that their apartment smelled strongly of gas. They rushed in and opened windows and doors before calling a local gas company. The representative from the company told them that the change in pressure of the gas when they opened the windows could have set off an explosion! In conclusion, Alma College has a serious problem of ignoring the decay that has permeated the housing on this campus. From this article, it may appear that only the apartments are in need of renovation. However, I know many other students would agree that *all* dorms, houses and apartments are in need of renovation, from electrical wiring to new carpet to better heating systems.

The college *has* taken steps to renovate the housing on campus. Unfortunately, this only includes replacing furniture and carpet in one dorm per year! This is no where near adequate to take care of the repairs that are necessary. And where are the apartments on this schedule?

Our health and well-being are in danger. Maybe not in the dorms so much as in the apartments, but is the distinction even necessary? We all pay \$20,000 plus a year, why can't we have adequate and safe housing?

Life, at Alma by Scott Timmreck

If one looks at a bulletin board around the campus of this fine institution, he or she is usually inundated with a gigantic spectrum of colors, messages, lessons and petitions, all requesting membership in an organization, a monetary donation, attendance at a function or simple recognition of a set of facts.

The fluorescent ugliness of most bulletin boards and their advertisements is not intentional - people do not promote their "special message" in hopes of making an unsightly mess for everyone who walks by. A mess can catch a lot of attention. In fact, some organizations, some groups and some causes gain so much attention that they are hard to turn away from. And there are people, plenty of them, who do not turn away from anything.

These are the people whose names are plastered in many locations and publications, both on and off-campus. It is a neat feeling to see your name attached to something that other people will see. However, sometimes I wonder if students get a little carried away with putting their name on so many applications and committing to so many things - so carried away that it harms them a bit.

People who commit to a lot of things know who they

are. I'm not degrading them in any way. I wholeheartedly applaud someone who is willing to take on membership in a Greek organization, a spot on a sports team, an on-campus job, a volunteer position at the women's shelter, a secretary for a student organization, the responsibility of a resident assistant and the commitment of a big brother or a big sister, not to mention classes as well as eating and sleeping. Most of these people even have a good social life.

But like other people, I plan on leaving college wondering if doing so much volunteer work and dabbling in practically every on-campus organization is a good thing. College is a time for involvement - we have heard that every day since our junior year of high school. There is so much to do on campus, so many places that we can make a difference, so many people to meet through mutual interests and shared talents and so many stories to gain and share. The problem that has arisen in many minds around the campus of Alma is whether the incredible amount of involvement, all the invested time and effort is worth what must be given up.

Given up are the times when your friends were watching movies without you and the times when you couldn't take

a road trip because the library was exercising a bigger pull on your brain. Given up are the times when you could have been sitting in Hamilton laughing or talking about nothing in particular and the times when you knew that you actually didn't have anything to do. They are the times that Natalie Merchant refers to in "These Are Days" - the ones that we'll remember.

I am not implying at all that involvement is bad. Involvement is wonderful, and making a difference at this school is a feeling unlike any other. I am questioning whether responding to all the signs, practically every single one, on the bulletin boards is good. Does involvement get to a point when, no matter how many good experiences one has with his or her Greek organization or particular group, being so involved becomes detrimental to one of the fundamental purposes of college - to have fun? When you can't join your friends for a venting session because you have to be in two places at one time, as well as in your books, is that beneficial? I'll be able to tell after all the meetings I have between now and my final meeting, the one where I walk through a gauntlet to get my special piece of paper that says I graduated.

Letter to the Editor

I want to commend *The Almanian* in general and the writers of the special "Inside Edition" in particular for the balanced treatment given to some of the reasons we are not only an institution in transition but in some crisis. Clearly you are participating in the fine art of journalism and as such make our educational institution proud. This edition represents the kind of careful research, balanced treatment of sources, and evaluative interpretation that characterizes what we say we are about as an educational institution.

Ronald Massinari

Classifieds

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Campus Views

Staff Editorial

The library and all of its glory

Looming between the "dorm side" and the "other side" of the campus of Alma College is a building flowing with free books, quality journals, unlimited Internet access and people to socialize with. Even though the place sits in a dark corner of students' heads, and no matter how much they dislike going there, a journey into the Monteith Library is inevitable for anyone who pays their dues to this institution.

Whether researching zebras, 14th century art or the current international conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea, students have access to the resources they will need to write a quality paper or do some good research. For a school with an enrollment of approximately 1400, the Alma College library is impressive. There are over 200,000 books; 150 different journals, some which go back to the 19th century; around 35 computers with Internet access and a helpful and smiling staff.

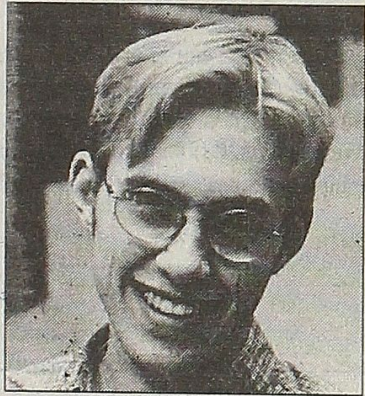
Yes, sometimes the computers freeze or crash or just simply decide not to work. Usually, there is someone present who is able to deal with the situation and fix the problem. Yes, sometimes that one journal is just not available. However, no library can have every publication. Yes, sometimes books are not where they are supposed to be even though the user-friendly library software says that they are checked in. Fortunately, searches are done on a daily basis to find the missing book, the culprit that disappeared. And yes, sometimes the place is just too loud. Seriously, how could anyone think that twenty or more college kids in one place would be quiet? We are social by nature, and frankly, the decision between doing biology or having a discussion about what happened last night is not too difficult to make, especially when the book in front of you has little indecipherable diagrams and pictures on every other page.

As a library, a place for study, the building is wonderful. Individual study carrels litter the three floors, three different Xerox machines patiently wait for money, the floor plan is simple and straightforward, the computers are user-friendly and have up-to-date software and hardware, the furniture is not falling apart, there are easily accessible phones, the librarians are almost always knowledgeable and little things like a stapler and a three-hole punch are available for consumption.

However, the place is not heaven. Sometimes the heat makes it feel like the exact opposite of heaven. Try to check out a newspaper at the circulation desk—it isn't exactly the fastest process. Or wander into the ugly sea of fluorescence that is the Mac lab and figure out that the printers are in some way, shape or form, not operational. Fixable, but not currently operational. Same deal with the Xerox machines. And what if you want to make copies or make a phone call and you're studying on the third floor? You're all about the stairs, or the elevator if you're not up to the challenge of walking.

Despite the presence of negative aspects of the "brary", as it is sometimes called, the place is worth the time of anyone interested in, well, pretty much anything. You can ask a librarian to help you find books and journals, and you can then copy items from the resources using the copy machine—follow the copying with some stapling and some hole-punching, give your friend a call to see about dinner, and then do some more research utilizing the Internet. But check your e-mail first. That's more fun.

What was your reaction to the events on campus in celebration of diversity and Martin Luther King Jr. Day?



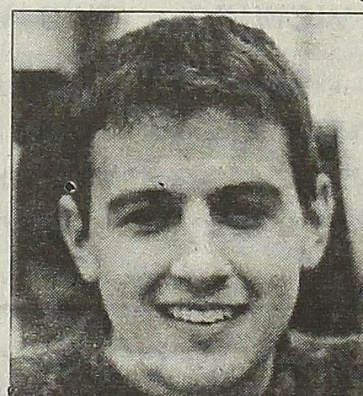
"It's good to know the school wants to enhance diversity. But I didn't get a lot out of the speaker at convocation." Chris Machnacki (02)



"It was a good idea to celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. day. I got a lot out of the speaker at convocation." Mary Fellows (01)



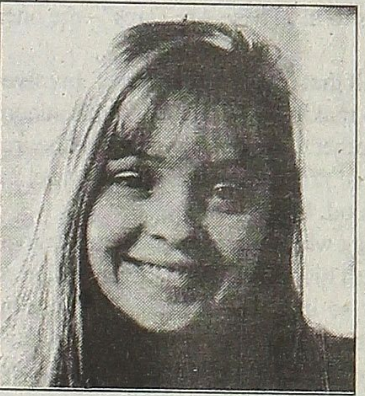
"The community service was a good idea. I don't think Martin Luther King, Jr. would have agreed that it was required." Kate Lowry (00)



"I was very impressed with the speaker, Dr. Benjamin Hooks." Willie Doyle (00)



"It was very positive, especially the service." Alicia Allen (03)



"I didn't participate. It wasn't a very productive day for me, but I did get to sleep in." Helen Shekhovstova, Exchange Student



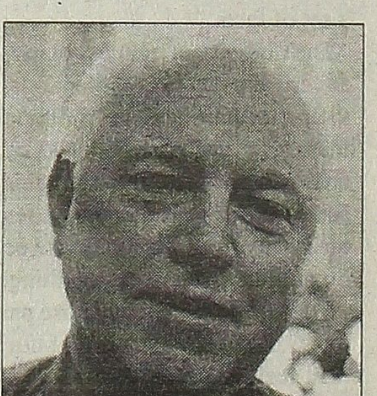
"The day went very well. It was wonderful to hear a man with such charismatic speaking abilities." Priscilla Perkins, Library Staff



"It was a great step for Alma to have acknowledged Martin Luther King, Jr. in steps toward diversity." Rachel Retzler (02)



"Enjoyable. Very good chance for people to experience diversity." Christine Morris, Library Secretary



"A tremendous speech and very enjoyable. The song at the end was touching as well as the poetry readings." Peter Dollard, Library Director