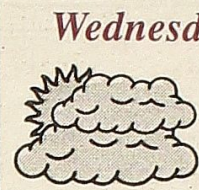




Two students **spent six months in India helping to teach English as part of the Indian Fellowship Program.** See page 6.



Seth Stapleton **surpasses the 1000 point mark becoming the ninth person to do so in Alma college history.** See page 8.



**Wednesday's Weather**

**Mostly Cloudy**  
**High: 45°**  
**Low: 26°**

# The Almanian

Issue 14

Serving Alma College since 1907

February 8, 2000

## Freedman advocates a liberal arts education

By **GINGER DAVIS**  
Staff Writer

"Liberal education ought to make a person independent of mind, skeptical of authority and received views, prepared to forge an identity for himself or herself, capable of becoming an individual not bent on copying other people. Even people as persuasive as one's parents," said James O. Freedman.

On Jan. 31, James O. Freedman, President Emeritus of Dartmouth College, came to speak at Alma College on the behalf of the Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar Program. Freeman is a Bicentennial Professor of Law at Dartmouth as well as the author of *Crisis and Legitimacy: The Administrative Process and American Government*, and *Idealism and the Liberal Education*. He has also served as president of the University of Iowa, and professor of law, and dean of the Law School at the University of Pennsylvania.

Freedman's lecture focused on the need for a liberal education in a changing society. He spoke of "premature vocationalism," and the difficulty of preparing students for "precise conditions" in the job market. With, as he put it, "the accelerated tenure of our daily lives," Freedman felt it would be arduous and not as worthwhile to "vocalize." He argued for

a "holistic" type of education, where well-rounded individuals were the goal instead of graduates with a very narrow focus of study and expertise.

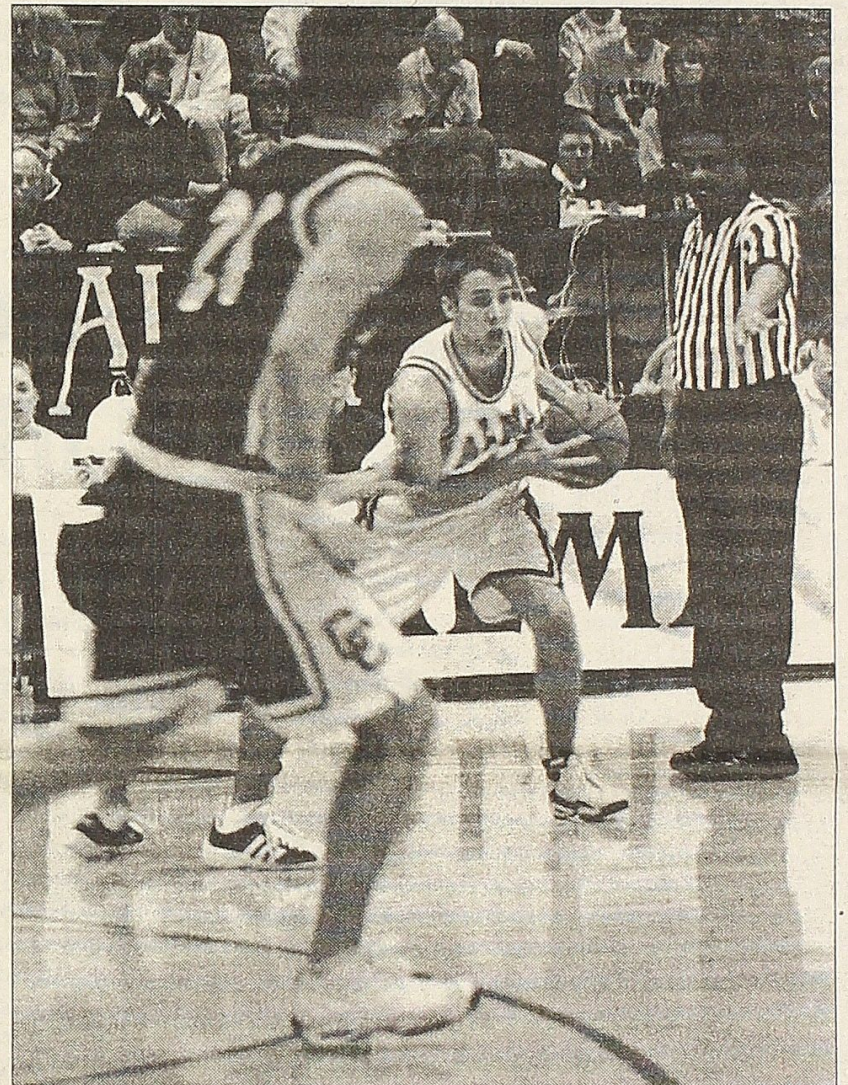
Freedman felt that a liberal arts education should focus on interior life and open mindedness, as well as a willingness to examine one's self. He felt that this type of education helps to fight the pressures of conformity, materialism, and predictability of thought and action.

As Racheal Capraro (01) said, "Having a liberal arts education is the way to gain a better understanding of the world we live in and the people we come in contact with everyday."

Another point in Freedman's lecture was that, today, a liberal arts education is often considered a luxury. Freedman, a self-proclaimed advocate of liberal education, hopes that society never reaches a point where this statement is true. He pointed out that while the number of high-school students who attend college continues to rise, the portion of those students who are studying liberal arts is decreasing.

Rebecca Johnston (00) summed up the event. She said, "I thought Mr. Freedman was an excellent speaker on liberal arts education. He advocated an education that inspires its students to ask the profound questions of life. I enjoyed it."

## Varsity Basketball



Tammy Acker

*Sophomore Dan Chewning displays his perfect triple threat stance. See page 9 for game details.*

## Valentine's Day facts

- ✦ Charles, Duke of Orleans sent the first Valentine card in 1415, to his wife. He was imprisoned in the Tower of London at the time. His wife was out shopping.
- ✦ Over 1 billion Valentine cards are delivered in the United States.
- ✦ Valentine's Day was actually an effort by the Catholic Church to keep teenagers from becoming lovers.
- ✦ The liver, not the heart, is the sign of romance in northern Morocco. When a Moroccan girl falls in love she says, "Darling, you have stolen my liver."
- ✦ King Henry VI banned kissing in England in 1439. Reason: He thought it spread disease.
- ✦ The world's greatest lover was King Mongkut of Siam. He had 9,000 wives. Before dying of syphilis, he was quoted in saying he only loved the first 700.
- ✦ Hershey's Kisses are called that because the machine that makes them looks like it's kissing the conveyor belt.

## Computer and media services under new direction

By **JANAY ANDERSON**  
Staff Writer

David Wang, director of computer and media services, suffered an injury after falling from a ladder last fall term. He did not return to work after Thanksgiving break. The provost would normally take over the director's duties; however, with the dismissal of Provost Brown in December, the position remained vacant.

President Alan Stone asked Jerry Scoby, vice president for finance and administration, to temporarily fill the vacancy. He gladly accepted. When asked if they were looking for someone to fill the position, Scoby replied, "No. David is simply out for a while, he will be back. I am just filling the position for the remainder of the semester or until necessary."

Scoby has been in constant contact with David Wang and comments that "he is progressing physically". Wang remains under the care of physicians and is presently in physical therapy.

The faculty, staff and administration short term medical leave policy will cover a period not to exceed six months

in which the individual will receive worker's compensation.

In the meantime Scoby appointed Donna Adams, assistant director for user services, as acting director of the unit Adams will carry this position on a part-time basis while she continues to hold her regular full-time job. Adam's job holds her responsible for providing the campus with computer services.

For the time being the unit will direct its concerns to Scoby. His responsibilities consist of helping set priorities for the computing needs on campus, providing direction for the implementation of the technology task force recommendations, and supervising the administrative and clerical employees.

Keith Suppes, senior and resident computing consultant for Bruske, said, "Scoby is very receptive to the campus needs. I look forward to seeing changes implemented". After meeting with Scoby on Thursday, senior Aaron Kerr, RCC for Gelston, said, "I was really impressed, there are a lot of good changes being made."

When questioned about how he approaches his new responsibilities, Scoby explained that he enjoys service and said, "I am happy to help out."



## Eighty-eight killed in plane crash

By **NIKOLE CANUTE**  
News Editor

On Monday, Jan. 31, Alaska Airlines Flight 261 crashed into the Pacific Ocean off the coast of California.

Eighty-eight people were onboard the flight from Puerto Vallart, Mexico to San Francisco, and all were killed.

The cause of the crash has yet to be determined. Voice recordings from the pilot and co-pilot suggest that there was a problem with the horizontal control system, which keeps the plane level.

Thirty minutes before the crash, the pilot and co-pilot found a problem with the system, and

subsequently went through the troubleshooting procedure in their flight manual and talked to mechanics on the ground in both Seattle and Los Angeles.

Nine minutes before the crash, the plane dropped more than seven thousand feet in ninety seconds, but the crew regained control.

The National Transportation Safety Board believes the crash may not have been entirely due to the problem with the horizontal control system, because crew members heard two loud sounds from the tail of the plane before it crashed.

Witnesses of the crash say that the plane flipped upside down and spiraled into the ocean as it attempted to make an emergency approach to Los Angeles.

More information will come from the flight data recorder, which technicians began working on Feb. 5. The recorder contains twenty-five hours of data, including the two hours and forty-five minutes from when the flight began to when it crashed.

Currently four bodies have been recovered, and officials believe that there are more trapped under debris, which is 650 feet underwater. The debris covers the area of a football field.

A memorial service, organized by the National Transportation Safety Board and Alaska Airlines officials, took place on Feb. 3.

This plane crash follows in the wake of the Jan. 30, 2000, Kenya Airways Flight 431 crash off the Ivory Coast which killed around 150 people.



### 'News at a glance'

#### Interest rate rises

WASHINGTON—A key interest rate went up a quarter of a point to 5.75 percent Wednesday in an attempt by the Federal Reserve to slow the booming economy. Investors are worried by the move, fearing more interest rate increases will follow. Economists have predicted the rate will be raised again at the next meeting of the Federal Open Market Committee on March 21. Some believe that combating the soaring economy is unnecessary because inflation has remained low. Policy-makers feared that the current tight labor market would force higher wages without a corresponding increase in productivity.

#### Bush remains neutral in Confederate flag issue

AUSTIN, Texas—Gov. George W. Bush has chosen to remain neutral on the issue of whether the Confederate flag should fly over the South Carolina state house. He believes it is up to the people of South Carolina to decide. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is boycotting the state to further stress its demand that the flag be removed. The NAACP also wrote Bush on Jan. 14 looking for his support in their effort to have a plaque with the flag's image on it removed from the Texas Supreme Court Building. The plaque will remain in place, however, because it is believed to "reflect the history and diversity that make Texas unique," as said by Clay Johnson, Bush's executive assistant.

#### Unemployment at 30-year low

WASHINGTON—The current unemployment rate has dropped to 4.0 percent, the lowest it has been since January 1970. The Labor Department reported the economy added 387,000 jobs outside of farming, more than the 255,000 forecasted by Wall Street. Clinton stated that nearly 21 million jobs have been created since 1993. January also brought the largest rise in nonfarm wages since September 1997. "An economy where employers are looking hard for workers is an economy where they will invest more in training...[and] in those who've traditionally been disadvantaged," said Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers.

## The Almanian

Serving Alma College since 1907

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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 unpublishized; (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 thoughtprovoking 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.

## British give IRA ultimatum

By **CHRIS HARRINGTON**  
Staff Writer

Last Friday, Britain pressured the Irish Republic Army (IRA) to move to a more peaceful way of life.

Britain gave the IRA an ultimatum. It pertained to the IRA making progress towards disarmament. If the IRA is not compliant with Britain's request within one week, Britain will shut down Northern Ireland's new provincial government. Northern Ireland's main concern is that the IRA will not comply with the request and their independence will be taken away. This proposal is being referred to as the "Good Friday" agreement.

"If Northern Ireland agrees with Britain's proposal, then the deal is solid," said junior Chris Porco.

The conflict of the IRA has involved the rest of the province and the island of Great Britain as well. Results have shown a guerrilla war lasting over three decades and taking the lives of 3,600 people.

Britain is receiving extended support from Northern Ireland government officials on the matter. Secretary Peter Mandelson is taking charge of communicating to the IRA. The "Good Friday" agreement is an all-or- nothing deal. There will be no acceptance of partial adherence to the ultimatum.

Mandelson expects a total disarmament by May, even though the IRA has not said when, if ever, it would start. Irish officials, including Mandelson, believed this to be unacceptable and a betrayal of the Northern Ireland community. Over the years, the IRA has accumulated weapons and sophisticated equipment that is being stored in bunkers throughout the Irish Republic. The group recently spoke on its actions stating that the 1996 cease-fire was a sufficient example of its nonviolent intentions.

The statement of a cease-fire being sufficient has left the British and Irish government officers skeptical. In 1996, the IRA had declared a cease-fire when it set off a bomb in London. The results of the bomb were two deaths and \$120 million in damages.

Mandelson and the Northern Ireland government are not asking for weapons within the stated one week. They are asking for the bare minimum information on when the IRA plans to start handing over weapons.

Junior Jared Fritz said, "Until the British colonial style government gives complete independence to Ireland, organizations will rise up against the tyrannical rule of Britain."

Ireland is a country that is involved in a life long struggle for independence. Fritz also said, "The British rule is a detriment to the peace of the area. Whether it is the IRA or any other organization, there will always be a struggle as long as there is a lack of independence."

Political leaders who have fought extensively for independence in Northern Ireland urge Mandelson to try something short of a suspension in resolving the latest of struggles between the IRA and the United Kingdom region.



## Pre-term changes approved by faculty

By DAWNA ANDERSON  
Staff Writer

The Fall of 2000 will mean changes in pre-term for first-year students. In past years pre-term has been a nine day introduction to college life for the incoming students.

The pre-term schedule from past years has begun on "move in" Saturday and ran throughout the week until the following Sunday. Each day was filled with seminar classes, informational meetings and social gatherings designed to help incoming students get a glimpse of what college life entails.

Many of the students found it overwhelming. They have to study for the seminar classes, adjust to a new room and roommate and meet a class of 300 or more students.

Several first year students this year felt that Alma tried to accomplish too many tasks in too short of a time period. They felt the number of hours required for class attendance, homework, meetings and social activities easily outnumbered the available amount of time.

"The class wasn't overwhelming, but the activities didn't give me a chance to adjust to living in a dorm with a roommate. I felt like I was running around all day. Pre-term wore me out more than the regular term did," said Lark Haunert (03).

The faculty has heard the pleas of the students, and has taken time to revise pre-term for next year's incoming students. There are a number of groups who have been working together to better this situation. The Educational Policy Committee, the Pre-Term Advisory Committee and the faculty have already put a great amount of time and effort into making next year's pre-term the most successful yet.

The goal of these coming changes is to maintain a more uniform workload level among the different seminars. "There was a sense students found problems with the unevenness of the workload," said James Hutchinson, chair of the Pre-term Advisory Committee.

The Educational Policy Committee is asking for outlines from the seminar professors and will be providing feedback on what is to be expected of the students in terms of the number of papers and reading assignments.

"It's not our intention to force individual faculty members to follow a model because diversity is what is important," said Hutchinson. A more equal schedule is what they are aiming for.

The faculty want the first week on campus to be an enjoyable experience for the students, and a time that they can become accustomed to the new environment. For these reasons they have accepted the changes that are being referred to as "Option B" (Option A, a plan including more changes, was rejected by the faculty last term).

Option B includes the same concepts as previous pre-terms, however, the scheduling will be slightly different. Instead of a Saturday through Sunday class schedule, it will be a Monday through Friday schedule. This applies to the classes, and the weekends will contain the informational meetings and social activities.

This allows students to regain their sense of school work during the week and social lives on the weekends, and incorporate all the activities that the campus feels are needed.

The long standing tradition of Alma pre-term will continue to introduce students to the new lives on which they are about to embark. Next fall, they will participate in the improved schedule of events.

## Provost search committee seeks ideas

By SARA TRAVIS  
Freelance Writer

The Provost Search Committee held an open forum in Jones Auditorium at 4:30p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 2. The committee was made up of Alan Hill, vice-president for enrollment and student affairs; Jim Kridler, dean of students; Jerry Scoby, vice-president for finance and administration, Reverend Jesse Perry, six faculty members including John Ottenhoff, Michael Yavenditti, Eugene Deci, Karen Ball, Deborah Dougherty, Pricilla Perkins, and student Melinda Messmer (01).

Some of the faculty concerns brought forth at the Wednesday meeting were a future provost's commitment to diversity and his or her ability to create and establish a closer partnership between the school and the community.

Student concerns presented at the meeting included the desire for a future provost to promote a feeling of "family" or "community" on campus. Senior Kevin Stanley voiced his concern for a provost who is "personable and approachable."

The ability to be approachable was also echoed by sophomore Matt vandenBerg, who thought it was

important to find "someone who is responsive to the concerns of the students, faculty and administration."

Committee chair Deci stated "the committee believes that this is a very important search for the students, the staff, the faculty and for the very future of the college. The committee also held an open forum on Friday, Jan. 28.

President Stone appointed the administrative members of the committee: Scoby, Hill, Perry and Kridler. The faculty from each division voted upon the faculty members on the committee. Student Congress chose the student representative.

The Provost Search Committee was created with the purpose of conducting a search for a new provost for Alma College.

As of now, the committee has met to determine hiring procedures for the new provost, to gather input from the community as a whole and to review the files of candidates.

The final candidates will be invited to campus to interview in person with the committee and various groups on campus. They will also be required to give a presentation that will be open to the entire community so that all members of the community will be able to see the candidates and express their opinions.

## Embracing the anti-love

By GINGER DAVIS  
Staff Writer

On Feb. 13 at 9:00 p.m., the Alma College EPIC club will be hosting its annual "Anti-Valentine's Day" poetry reading.

With Valentine's Day approaching, EPIC is planning its annual tradition. No, not sending flowers and candy to your loved ones, or even looking for new loved ones at the bar — but, the annual "Anti-Valentine's Day" poetry reading. This day is a chance for all of campus to share literature about the downside of love.

As EPIC member Kristen Schutt (00) said, "It is an annual poetry reading held by EPIC. We usually hold it before Valentine's Day and use it as an excuse to read angry love poetry."

This event is a chance for people to express their feelings about Valentine's Day via the written and spoken word. EPIC president Forrest Johnson (02) said that the event gives students "the chance to release Valentine's tensions."

Students can bring in their favorite work, original work, stories or any form of literature they wish to share. Johnson said, "It's an open forum. People are free to bring guitars, and scream Adam Sandler songs — whatever they want to do."

Students are invited to read, perform, sing, or just to listen. They are not required to bring anything; however, Johnson commented, "Anti-Valentine's day cookies, like broken hearts, would be welcome." The event is expected to last between sixty and ninety minutes.

Schutt also remarked that the event is always full of surprises. "A few years ago it was held in the Planetarium (in Dow) and a few EPIC members were pulled out of the reading to be sung to by the IMA singing Valentines. How great the irony," said Schutt.

Last year's reading included a variety of genres. As Anne Henningfled (01) said, "Last year there was a collection of a number of different kinds of people reading poetry. Kelly [Prill] read some stories. Mike Slater played some anti-love songs on his guitar. There was some singing, and happiness about anti-love. There were some anti-love poems, and there were some

love poems. It was excellent."

Henningfled went on to explain that the event was a positive one, despite the anti-love theme. She said, "We were celebrating the anti-love. We were okay with not being in love. It was a big celebration of not being in love. It was fantastic."

Schutt agreed when she said, "Some people used it as a chance to vent about unrequited love, being dumped or just to express their writing talent. We read our favorites, some original pieces, song lyrics — pretty much anything."

Henningfled added that, if nothing else, the "Anti-Valentine's Day" poetry reading is "always a good place to pick up guys."

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## For Your Entertainment

### "Millionaire" looking for diversity

The top-rated TV quiz show is looking to add some diversity to its bizarre, nearly uniform lineup white male contestants. Show producers are at a loss to explain the singular demographic the show attracts. "This has been something that has been recognized from the beginning...For some reason the contestants that make it tend to be white men," said network spokesman Kevin Brockman.

### X-Files spin-off in the works

Fox, home of the X-Files, is planning a spin-off based on the show's beloved, dorky Lone Gunmen, which they hope will bring higher ratings. The trio has appeared on the X-Files several times. X-Files creator Chris Carter has signed on to produce the pilot for next fall.

### Lettermen to return to *Late Show*

Late Show host David Letterman stopped by his office last week and may return to work by Valentine's Day, according to sources close to the show. The 52-year-old underwent emergency quintuple-bypass surgery last month. At the time, doctors anticipated that it would take him six to eight weeks to heal.

### Gene Wilder battling cancer

Wilder, the comedian known for such classics as "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory," "The Producers," and "Young Frankenstein" is in the hospital battling cancer—the same disease that claimed his wife, fellow comedian Gilda Radner.

### February sweeps in full swing

February sweeps began last week and will be running through March 1. It's one of the seasons when the six networks load up with stunts, spectacles and specials, have big-name guest stars and air mini-series. The reason: to attract more viewers in order to get advertisers to pay higher rates.

*Musically Inclined my Scott Timmreck*

## DOTN and "Man on the Moon" soundtrack please listeners

BY SCOTT TIMMRECK  
Opinion Editor

Barely out of his teens, Travis Meeks, lead singer and guru of the surprisingly successful acoustic-rock band Days of the New (DOTN) is on top of his game as of late. After the highly successful debut of the Indiana band on the commercial radio market and endless comparisons to Alice In Chains, DOTN hit it big in 1997 with their dark and moody "Touch, Peel And Stand," a swampy mix of acoustic guitar and deep vocals that were virtually unheard of in rock until Meeks brought them to the scene.

DOTN's second album, titled "Days of the New" is nothing different. Meeks continues his quest to become one of the most recognizable singers in the industry, and the acoustic guitars are so well-done and violently played that they might as well be electric guitars. Songs like "Enemy" and "Flight Response" are good pieces, and the scattered moments of violin sounds and female backing vocals give some sunshine to an otherwise bleak album. However, the grayness is not the dominant aspect of the record—that characteristic falls on how well the guitars and vocals go together and match each other, as is done on every track, specifically "Weapon & The Wound." Despite not what a com-

mercial audience is looking for, DOTN is a quality record, easily a better effort than the first of the band, and although not exactly something that will get play on beaches or at a party, if you're interested in lying down to think, Meeks and his band can set the perfect tone.

Jim Carrey, arguably the most idiosyncratic mainstream actor of the 90s, would like you to know that his name is Andy (Kaufman) and that you're reading a review of his soundtrack. Hailed by numerous critics as the best film of 1999, Milos Foreman's "Man on the Moon" chronicled the life of the late comedian and was met by praise by fans in addition to award academies. The soundtrack, although not as good as the film, is outstanding and, unlike most soundtracks, actually has something to do with the content portrayed in the movie. R.E.M. contributes a new song, "The Great Beyond," as well as their smash hit that is the same title of the film, in addition to the original score. The Mighty Mouse Theme, one of the first symbols of popular culture that Kaufman incorporated into his acts, shines up the front end of the album and makes for a playful track in between the longer pieces. The crowning moment, the "Milk and Cookies" orchestral score, invokes the laughter and emotion that flows in the film when Kaufman invites his entire audience out for the classic snack. Although it is not exactly a disc to pop in for a romantic night with your significant other, the soundtrack is a high-quality companion to a movie that is, overall, fun.

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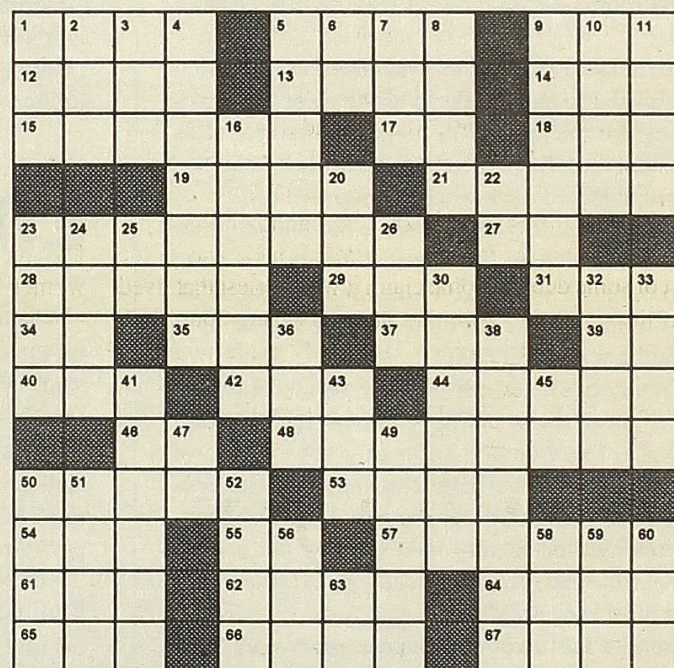
With a presidential election upon us, many are confused by all of the talk, debating, and primary junk. If you're looking for a clear answer about what candidate you most agree with, surf on over to presidentmatch.com. This site, which is part of AOL, lets you fill out a short questionnaire on issues that are relevant to you—from abortion to gun control. At the end it tallies the percent that you agree with the candidates. You can even look at bios and read about the opinions of the eight candidates that are taking part in the primaries. Exercise your right to information and surf on over to presidentmatch.com.

**www.mildred.com**

Too afraid to pierce your own body? Give piercing, tattoos, and scars a try at mildred.com. This interactive web site is a game of sorts. You pick a person, take \$100, and pierce, tattoo, and scar your body anyway you like. The catch to the game is that you must fight on infections and budget your money. It's a little odd, but you can use your own images for tattoos and see how that belly button ring would really look. Now everything is virtual.

**www.valentine.com**

Valentine's Day is well on its way, and valentine.com is the "love at first site." You can send a virtual card to your valentine, or the person you want to be your valentine. You can also find a long lost love, read success stories, chat, and even read the best and worst "lines." Even if Valentine's Day has you gagging, valentine.com is worth checking out.



#### ACROSS

- 1 Light
- 5 Snare
- 9 Feminine pronoun
- 12 S. African native plant
- 13 Unusual
- 14 Sleeveless Arabic garment
- 15 Stellar
- 17 Raised railway
- 18 Decay
- 19 Lawsuit
- 21 Across; over (pref.)
- 23 One who leaves
- 27 Indicates plural form
- 28 Architectural design
- 29 Drooping of head
- 31 Place
- 34 Mother (informal)
- 35 Giving loving care (abbr.)
- 37 Excavate
- 39 Southern state (abbr.)
- 40 Finis
- 42 Potato
- 44 Servant
- 46 Bone
- 48 Unending
- 50 Poison
- 53 Painful
- 54 Eggs
- 55 Near
- 57 Slanted type
- 61 Vietnam offensive
- 62 Circuits
- 64 Yugoslav statesman
- 65 Direction (abbr.)
- 66 Way to go out
- 67 First garden

#### DOWN

- 1 Vegas
- 2 High note in music
- 3 Flightless bird
- 4 Part of
- 5 Arranged meeting place
- 6 Egyptian sun god
- 7 Be (p.t.)
- 8 Animal skin
- 9 Irritate persistently
- 10 Black
- 11 Rodents
- 16 Not usually
- 20 Even (poetic)
- 22 For example
- 23 Wife of knight
- 24 Dash
- 25 Yes (Span.)
- 26 Fishing pole
- 30 Distract
- 32 Nights before
- 33 Fashions lace
- 36 Feline
- 38 Helmet-shaped
- 41 Give
- 43 Error (pref.)
- 45 Football position (abbr.)
- 47 Consequently
- 49 Wet
- 50 Result of election
- 51 Tied
- 52 Man
- 56 Levied fee
- 58 Cover
- 59 Native of (suf.)
- 60 Against
- 63 16th Greek letter

## At the Center...

### Metro Detroit Business Roundtable

Wednesday, February 9 at 6 p.m.  
Held at Woody's Restaurant in Royal Oak.

### Detroit In-City Interview Program

Thursday, February 10  
Held at the Southfield Marriot in Southfield

### Job Pursuit Workshop

Monday, February 14 at 3 p.m.  
A workshop designed to explain the format for the Job Pursuit job fair in Lansing.

### Surviving Midterms Workshop

Wednesday, February 16 at 4 p.m.  
This hour long workshop teaches you strategies for improving concentration, maximizing study time and handling the stress of too many projects, too little time.

### Interns' Reflections: A Panel

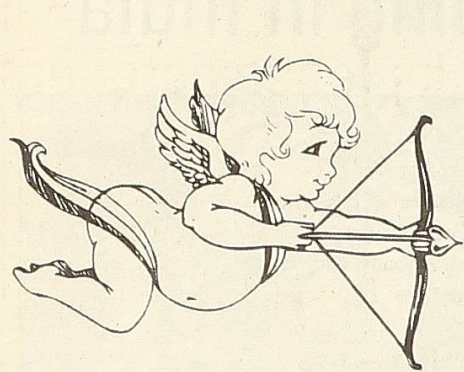
Thursday March 9 at 4 p.m.  
Come listen to the stories of students who have served as interns in this past year, whether here in Alma, in Michigan or in a far away city.



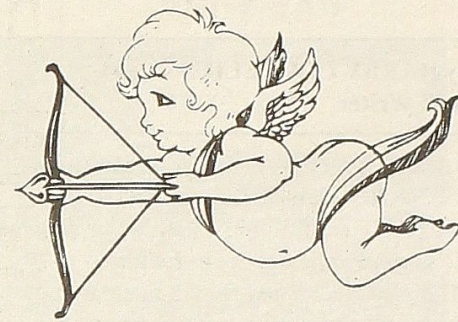
February 8, 2000

## FEATURE

5



# Valentine's Day 2000



## Cupid's arrow strikes again

By MANDY LONG  
Feature Editor

Some say it with flowers, others with a box of candy or jewelry. Happy Valentine's Day! Yes, that time of year with cupids, hearts and plenty of pink has arrived. Aisles full of chocolate and candy hearts are present in every store, and even those that proclaim it a "Hallmark Holiday" still rush around looking for the perfect gift.

For those of you that question the meaning of this particular holiday, you can trace it back to ancient Rome where February 14 was a holiday to honor Juno, the Queen of Roman Gods, Goddesses, women, and marriage. There, at the Feast of Lupercalia, boys and girls were allowed to mingle, dance, and play. Legend has it that these festivals were where boys and girls fell in love, and later married.

Just how it came to be known as Valentine's Day is the subject of some debate. Some claim it was a priest that lived during third century Rome that married young couples in love, even though Emperor Claudius II made marriage illegal. Others say that Valentine was a young man kept in prison unjustly, who fell in love, and before death wrote a

letter to his love, which he signed "From your Valentine." Somehow the phrase stuck. Nonetheless, Pope Gelasius declared February 14 St. Valentine's Day in 498 AD, and in the year 2000 we are still celebrating it.

Valentine's Day didn't become popular until the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and by the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, cards were handed out in mass quantities, and Valentine's Day, as we know it was born.

Everyone remembers giving valentines to their friends and classmates at school, receiving their first heart shaped box of chocolates and their first "real" valentine.

Although most would agree that love is a wonderful thing, Valentine's Day is the source of heated debate between the sexes. What is the perfect gift for that special person in your life? Of the one billion Valentine's Day cards sold every year, women buy over 85% of them. On the other hand, of the 155 million roses sold in the United States on Valentine's Day, men buy a whopping 90% of them. In the end however, women buy the most gifts.

Whether your gift is a love letter written from the depths of your heart, a dozen red roses or a Hallmark card that sums up your sentiments oh so perfectly, Valentine's Day isn't all about the gift. It's about the person giving the gift.

## What Kind of Valentine Are You?

Do you go all out on Valentine's day to make your loved one feel special? Are you a great gift giver? Take this short quiz to find out how you score in the Valentine Hall of Fame.

**1. It's the day before Valentine's Day and your significant other has been dropping hints that they're expecting a big gift, and you still haven't bought anything. Do you:**

- A. Sit your boyfriend/girlfriend down and tell them the cold hard truth—you have no idea what to get them.
- B. Rush to the nearest store and ask the first available salesperson what they would want if they were your boyfriend/girlfriend.
- C. Call up your significant other's best friend and ask for gift ideas that will be sure to please.

**2. You see the perfect gift for your Valentine but don't have that much cash to spend. You:**

- A. Forget that gift and head over to the dollar store.
- B. Pull out your credit card—it will be worth the look on their face.
- C. Decide to shop around, maybe you can get a better deal someplace else.

**3. A friend tells you that your Valentine really wants something romantic, like a love letter, for Valentine's Day. You decide to:**

- A. Blow off your friend's idea and take him/her out to dinner instead—it may not be what they wanted, but it's what's convenient.
- B. Copy a love letter a friend gave to their significant other, you're just not the romantic type.
- C. Sit down with a pen and a piece of paper and pour your soul out to them—it may be a little cheesy, but it's sure to do the trick.

**4. Your significant other tells you that they would hate to get a certain gift—and it just so happens that's the gift you've bought them. You:**

- A. Decide to give it to them anyway. It might not be what they want, but it IS what they'll get.
- B. Make an excuse to leave and run out to return it before it's too late.
- C. Ask him/her why. Maybe an explanation will help you better understand why they wouldn't want the gift.

**5. You've been working extra hours to buy that special gift for your Valentine. When Valentine's Day rolls around they don't seem to like it very much. You:**

- A. Throw their gift at them and scream "You unappreciative loser!" before slamming out the door.
- B. Burst into tears and run out of the room—this is the last Valentine's Day gift they'll ever get.
- C. Ask him/her if they like it. Even if they lie it will make you feel better.

**If you answered mostly A's:** You need to put a little more time and effort into being a Valentine. While gift buying and romance can be a little difficult to achieve with a busy schedule, a little thought is all that is needed. Make Valentine's Day special and you won't regret it.

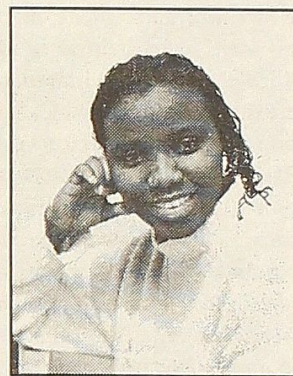
**If you answered mostly B's:** You're trying to be a good Valentine, but you only accomplish what you want to achieve about fifty percent of the time. The best advice we can give you is to put a little more time into your quest for the perfect Valentine's Day. And remember, asking for advice from friends and family could be your key to a memorable Valentine's Day.

**If you answered mostly C's:** You have it going on! You're not always sure what your loved one wants, but you're not afraid to ask friends, family, or the occasional salesperson for advice. You remember that gift giving isn't always about the gift, but about the effort you put into it.

### What is the best Valentine's Day present?



"A ticket to a play or concert in New York City."  
Jung Mi Park (03)



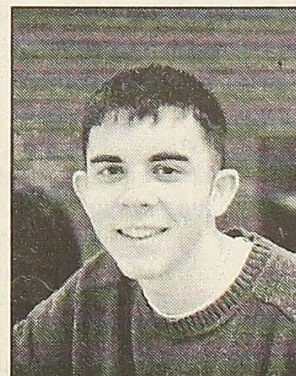
"The best present would be to spend time with the people you love."  
Beatrice Chege (01)



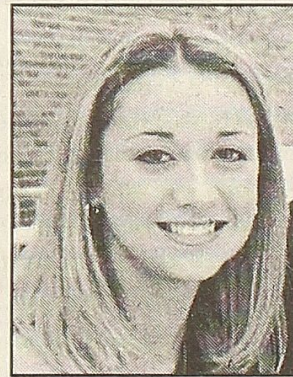
"A white rose and an evening out at a nice restaurant."  
Liz Wheat (02)



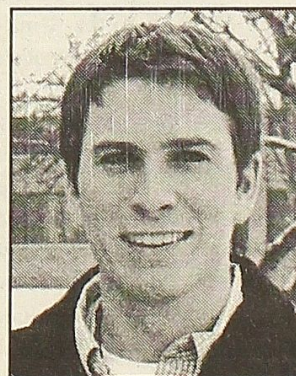
"A romantic evening with dinner."  
Francisco Garcia (02)



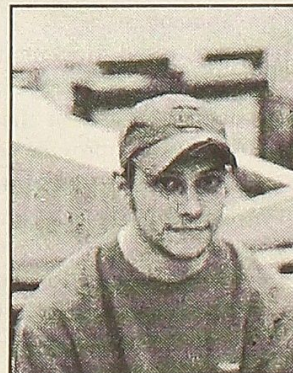
"A hand written poem."  
J.R. Logan (02)



"A dozen roses."  
Beth Paterson (01)



"Something's better than nothing."  
Andrew Rugg (00)



"Avocados."  
Nathan Traynor (01)

Photos by Tammy Acker



# Alma students experience culture and learning in India

By **DARBY CORNELIUS**  
Staff Writer

After six months in India, seniors Julie Morrill and Eryn Hart have returned to Alma College.

As part of the fifth India Fellowship program, they helped teach at the Mathen Mappilai Memorial Public School in Kerala.

The students ranged from kindergarten through tenth standard(grade), and were taught ethics and language comprehension. Although the state language is Malyalam (one of India's fifteen official languages), Morrill and Hart instructed in English.

Morrill said, "The kids are so enthusiastic there. I have never felt so much the center of attention. They want to talk to you and learn from you."

Upon arriving in India, they were faced with a drastic climate change. Kerala is a state in the southernmost part of India in the southeast. They arrived during monsoon season, and exited the plane into a sweltering tropical land where it rained at least once every day.

Along with the climate, there was also a huge difference in culture. At first, Morrill and Hart were overwhelmed by the number of people. They stayed in the capital for a day before entering the village, and, as foreigners, were surrounded by curious faces. They were subject to a new lack of personal space, as they entered buses to find five people crammed into two-person seats.

The Indian culture includes many conservative adjustments from American ways. The women wear modest churdars, also called camis, consisting of loose drawstring pants worn under a dress with a scarf to cover the torso. While in India, Morrill and Hart chose to wear the traditional saris that are required of teachers. A sari is five meters of fabric that wraps around, pleats, and tucks in.

"They look really good, but it took us a while to figure out how to put it on," said Julie. She also mentioned how comfortable they are.

Morrill and Hart are both vegetarians, so the Indian cuisine was compatible to their diet. The main foods were rice and chappatis, tortilla-like entrees, rich in carbohydrates. Because of the many different religions, certain meats are avoided. For instance, Muslims do not

eat pork and Hindus do not eat beef. Many of the foods are nutritious and all of them are to be eaten with your right hand. This was another interesting adjustment for Julie and Eryn.

The women were in Kerala during its annual Onam festival, a holiday based on an ancient Hindu legend. The celebration included parades, feasts, games, and a week off school. The young children participated in various competitions and activities during Onam near the new year.

Morrill and Hart also attended various religious ceremonies, shrines, and a wedding at a temple in Armala. In the Orthodox church, they encountered different traditions like standing throughout the entire service, and the division of men and women on opposite sides of the church. The elaborate services run for nearly two and a half hours.

Morrill said, of the Indians, "They don't really operate on the clock like Americans do." She noticed that the pace of everyday life was more laid-back and less chaotic.

Another surprising difference was the lack of technology in India. They are not computerized, which makes patience an important part of daily life. For instance, going to the bank may take thirty minutes, even if you are the only person there.

Morrill decided to go to India after talking to those who had returned from the fellowship. She thought it sounded like an incredible opportunity, and she liked the idea of working with kids. She is going into an international field when she graduates, so she thought it would be a good chance to experience international relations first hand.

For more information, or questions regarding the India Fellowship, contact Julie Morrill at x8353 or 00JAMORR@alma.edu.



Submitted Photo

Seniors Eryn Hart and Julie Morrill spent last semester in India as part of the India Fellowship Program.

## Intranet offers much to students

*New server provides faster access and easy to remember address*

By **AMY NOVAK**  
Online Editor

Did you ever wonder if there was a web-site for just the Alma College community? Have you ever wanted to see the list of closed classes online, get a report from various committees on campus, or just look up your roommate's funny picture on the online Pigbook? If so, check out the Alma College Intranet.

No, it is not a typo, it's the INTRANet: a web-site that can only be accessed by those on the Alma College campus with legitimate usernames and authority.

"As of right now, the intranet is available only to everyone on campus," said Rob Hertenstein III, who created and maintains both the Alma College internet and intranet sites. "It isn't available for dial up or off campus users. This is for privacy and security reasons. Hopefully in the future, students and professors will be able to dial in from off campus."

So what does the Alma intranet offer? The answer is many different things. A quick visit to the site - [intra.alma.edu](http://intra.alma.edu) - will provide you with links to the various committees on campus, a forum to voice your concerns or questions about the college sites, the REGM online where you can see what courses are available through the registrars office, campus reports, news and events on campus, the library homepage, the different aspects of student life, and, of course, the online Pigbook.

"The intranet site was created about

three months ago to give people a chance to put material on the web," said Hertenstein. "We've even created a forum open to all of campus to discuss problems with the web."

The school has recently upgraded the server so that the intranet will run five to ten times faster than before. After a few more bugs are removed, the intranet should run even faster. The new URL is a lot easier to remember also, it is just [intra.alma.edu](http://intra.alma.edu) instead of the old [acweb2.cc.alma.edu](http://acweb2.cc.alma.edu).

The forums set up on the intranet deal with the computers and sites maintained by the college. They are open to any suggestions for improvement and are checked frequently by Hertenstein. Although participation in the forums is currently low due to little knowledge about them, Hertenstein hopes participation will increase as more students become aware of what the sites and forums have to offer.

As for future plans for the site, whatever the campus wants can be added, although Hertenstein is already planning on adding a search engine. The site currently has only basic tools, so it is up to the Alma College community to decide what else they would like to see.

"I really welcome suggestions, comments, ideas, and even constructive criticism," said Hertenstein. "The larger the part the students take, the better the web-site will be. I hope to extend the sites to include student organizations and student home pages."

Anyone with contributions to the site can e-mail Hertenstein at [webmaster@alma.edu](mailto:webmaster@alma.edu) or visit one of the forums on the intranet.

## Be chilled and thrilled by *Scream 3*

By **CARA BONINE**  
Staff Writer

"Hello Sidney!" *Scream* fans beware; a new chilling and gory slasher film has hit theaters and this time, "the rules don't apply."

*Scream 3*, now in theaters, is a classic horror movie jolting and trapping its audience in a web of terror and intrigue.

Director Wes Craven doesn't waste time in the opening scenes with character development and setting, he instead gets the audience screaming right from start with the death of Cotton Weary and his girlfriend.

As in the prequels, Neve Campbell, as Sidney Prescott, becomes the forever-haunted heroine with attitude and determination. With obvious humorous overtones, the plot focuses on the set of *Stab 3*, the movie inspired by the events of Sidney Prescott and Gale Weather's (Courtney Cox Arquette) lives.

When *Stab 3* actors and actresses start turning up slashed and gutted, Weathers and ex-boyfriend Dewey (David Arquette), the goofy yet endearing former cop, team up to investigate the murders.

As the story continues, it becomes obvious that the stalker is killing the actors in the order they appear in the script. But many versions of the

script were made to avoid revealing the ending; which script does the killer have?

Prescott, now living in a remote location, is called by an all-too-familiar and chilling voice. Prescott comes back to the city to help with the investigation as a wise veteran of the stalker scene after the killer leaves pictures of her young mother at the murder scenes.

"The movie wasn't anything I expected," said Megan Grossnickle (03), "I expected it to be a 'spooker,' but it turned out to be a comedy."

"It was a good movie," said Adam Sudia (03), "but some of it was pretty predictable."

With clues revealed throughout the movie leading the moviegoer to suspect many different characters as the stalker, there is no room for boredom. Craven has created a mystery within a horror film, keeping viewers on the edge of their seats.

"*Scream 3* was a very entertaining movie," said Ben Shoemaker (00), "It had a fantastic blend of action and humor. It reminded me of the original *Scream*."

*Scream 3* is pure fun and amusement from beginning to credits. Craven has created a movie that takes the moviegoer away from the dull and drab real world into a world of shock, gore and excitement. Watchers leave the theater feeling alive and laughing. What else can one ask from a movie?



**Basketball standings and rankings****MIAA Women's Basketball Standings**

Hope	11-2
Calvin	10-2
Defiance	8-4
Kalamazoo	8-4
<b>Alma</b>	<b>8-5</b>
Albion	5-8
Adrian	3-9
St. Mary's	2-11
Olivet	1-11

**MIAA Men's Basketball Standings**

Calvin	10-0
Defiance	8-2
Hope	7-3
Albion	4-6
Kalamazoo	4-6
Olivet	4-6
Adrian	2-8
<b>Alma</b>	<b>1-9</b>

**Weekend results from around the MIAA****Men's Basketball**

Defiance 91	<b>Alma 63</b>
Calvin 83	Adrian 68
Hope 82	Kalamazoo 67
Albion 75	Olivet 65

**Women's Basketball**

Kalamazoo 65	<b>Alma 63</b>
Hope 70	Albion 43
Defiance 66	Olivet 49
Calvin 6	St. Mary's 44
Adrian 76	Bluffton 43

## Barnhart produce points; But Scots lose two

By KELLY McDONALD  
Sports Editor

The women's basketball team's dreams of an MIAA championship were shattered last week as they lost two close games to Defiance and Kalamazoo. Those losses drop the Scots to fifth place in the MIAA standings.

The Scots traveled to Defiance (8-4 MIAA, 12-8 overall) on Wednesday to take on the 6-4 Yellowjackets. Mary Barnhart (00) was the story of this game, as she scored a career-high 28 points, but it was not enough to hold off Defiance as they cruised to a 56-49 victory. Barnhart was a sizzling 9-11 from the field and was perfect at the line going 8-8.

The Scots were down seven with eight minutes left in the game, but went on an 11-2 run to take the lead with four and half minutes to play and provide some much needed hope for a victory. But Defiance came right back with a 12-3 run of their own to secure the win.

Shannon Gross (00) was the only other Scot in double figures as she tallied 11 points.

The Scots returned home on Saturday for a match with the Hornets from Kalamazoo. Alma would try to make Kalamazoo head coach Michelle Fortier wait one more game for her 50<sup>th</sup> victory. The Scots could not muster enough in the end as Kalamazoo (8-4 MIAA 15-5 overall) won the game, 65-63, which breaks their previous school record for most wins in a season.

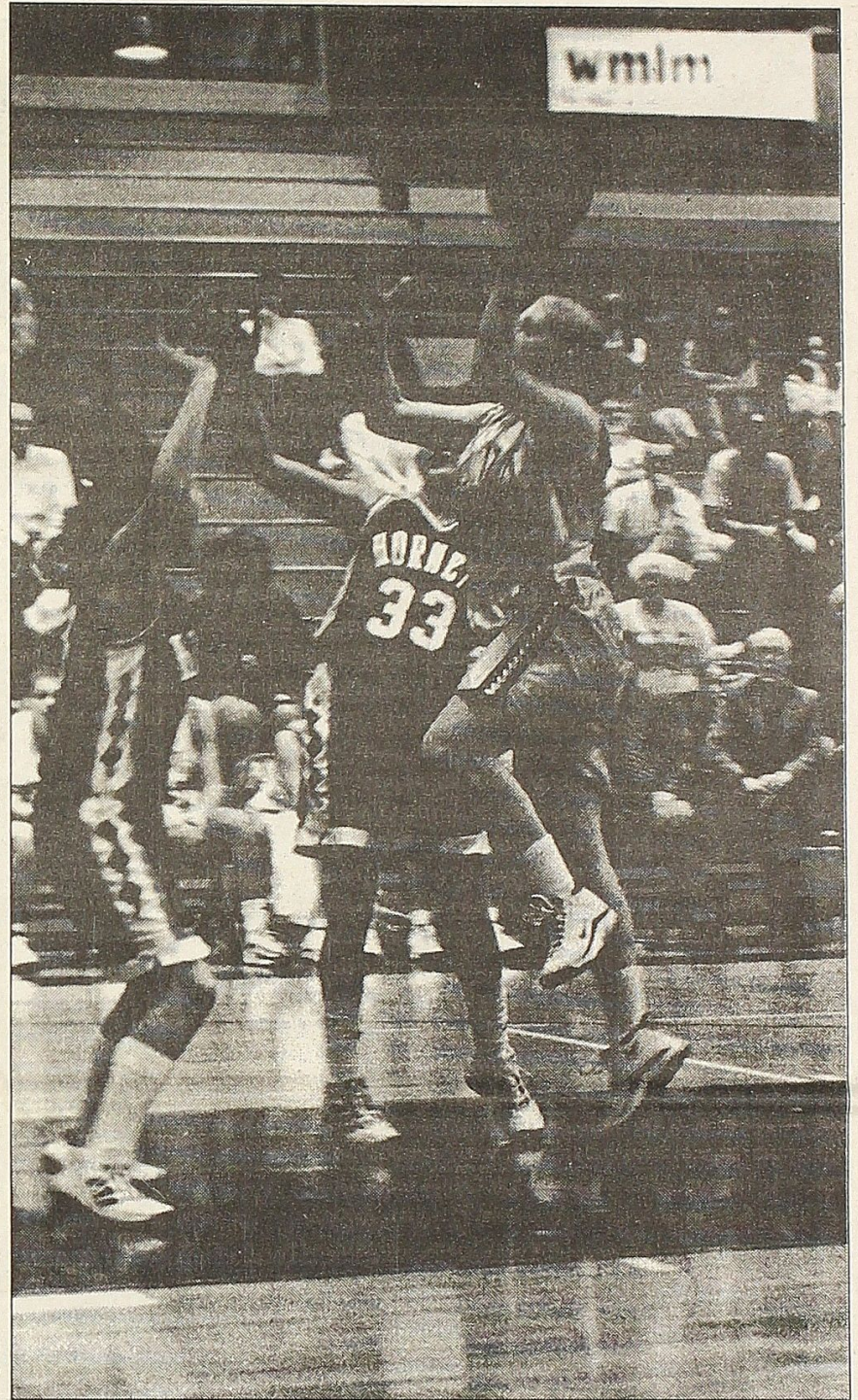
It looked good for the Scots early as they jumped out to a 9-3 lead to begin the game. But it was a game of momentum and one that featured seven ties and six lead changes. The Scots would go into half-time down two, 27-25.

Alma would explode out of the locker room with a 12-3 spurt to put them up seven, 37-30, their biggest lead of the game. But the famous Alma slump doomed the Scots again as they could not manage a field goal for six straight minutes. That opened up the door for Kalamazoo as they took a 52-49 advantage.

Five points from Barnhart with four minutes to go in the game allowed Alma to enjoy a 57-54 lead. But it would not be long before Kalamazoo took the lead for good, as the Hornets went on an 8-0 run to take a five point lead and the game. Kalamazoo would go on to win, 65-63.

It was a well-played game as both team shot over 45% from behind the three-point arc. Kalamazoo shot 46% from the field for the game while Alma only shot 38%. The Scots enjoyed a 29-28 rebounding advantage. Kalamazoo did the job on the Scots leading scorer Shannon Gross, though, as Gross could only muster eight points.

Barnhart again led the way for Alma pouring in 17 points. She also dished out three assists and grabbed three rebounds. Her effort during the week earned her MIAA



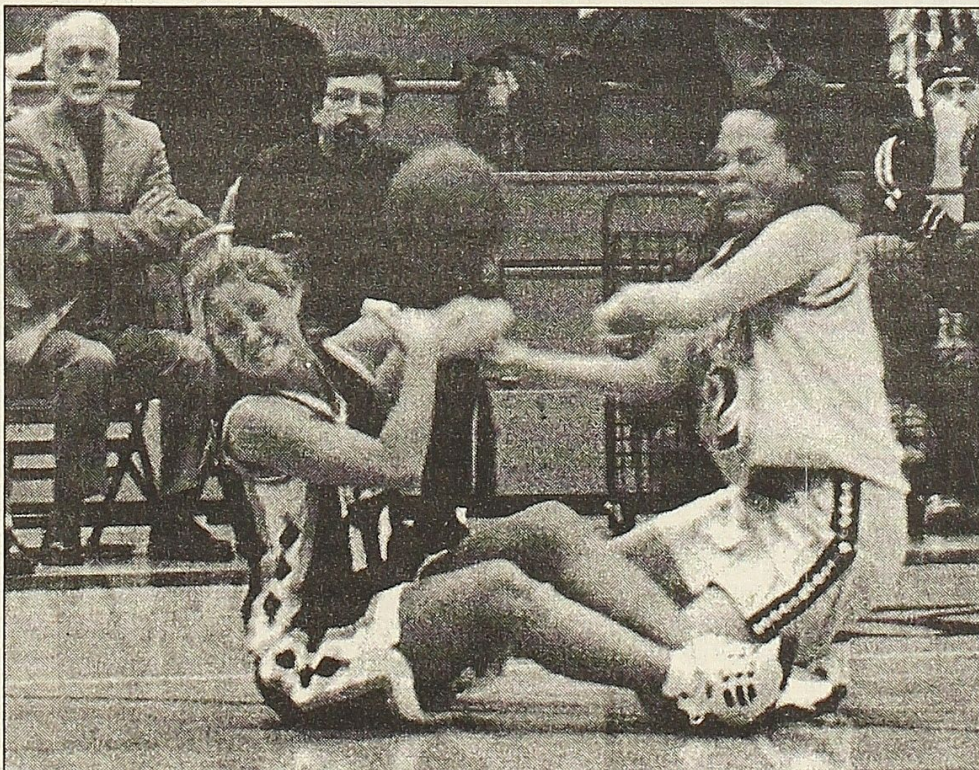
First-year student Janell Twietmeyer (#40) tries a one-handed shot as two defenders surround her. Tammy Acker

player of the week honors.

A couple of first-year students, Shelly Ulfing and Janell Twietmeyer helped out the Alma cause with 13 points each. Ulfing also grabbed seven rebounds as Twietmeyer had six.

Alma (8-5 MIAA, 11-9 overall) is idle until Saturday when they travel to Calvin for a 3 p.m. match-up.

A cat fight? No, just senior Shannon Gross (#42) hustling after a loose ball in Saturday's home game against the Kalamazoo Hornets.



Tammy Acker

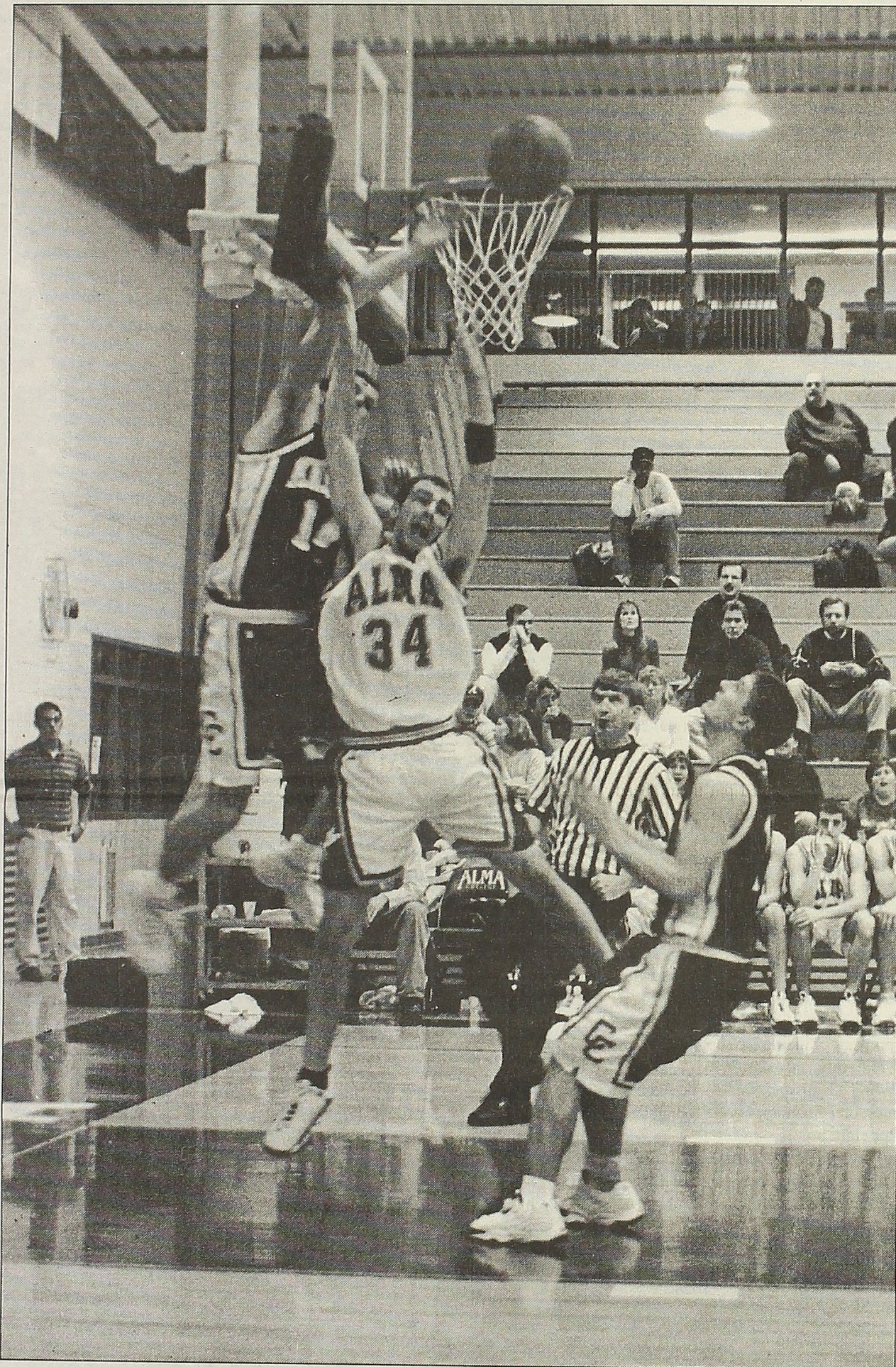
## The Almanian

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**Sports writers.**

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# Stapleton makes Alma basketball history



Senior Seth Stapleton (#34) hopes for a whistle as he gets hammered underneath.

Tammy Acker

By DARBY CORNELIUS  
Staff Writer

Senior Seth Stapleton is a scoring machine. Stapleton became only the ninth player in Alma men's basketball history to surpass the 1,000 point barrier. His effort last week puts him at 1,024 career points.

Stapleton leads the Scots in assists (42), steals (19) and three-pointers (31). His 14.3 points per game average ranks him ninth in the league.

A starter since his freshman year, Seth has seen a lot of ups and downs on the varsity team. He recalls many exciting moments throughout the years. One particularly memorable instance occurred in the 1996-97 season. With a respectable record of 14 wins and 12 losses, the team won the first MIAA tournament game in the history of Alma basketball.

Stapleton first became interested in basketball in fourth grade when his Dad bought "Pete Maravich" basketball tapes for him and his younger brother Luke Stapleton (03). Since then, his focus has remained on the game he loves.

In high school, his team received high honors for setting the most records and winning the most tournaments in Ithaca High School's history.

When asked how he feels about the team this year, Seth said, "I'm not accustomed to the losing, but I'm convinced it's gonna make me a better person somewhere down the line."

This guard and forward takes basketball seriously but enjoys hanging out with the team off the court as well. He thinks of his teammates as brothers, and shares a bond of companionship with them all.

Head coach Kevin Skaggs recalls his first impression of Seth when he came in as a first-year student. He thought Stapleton was a typical high school player that needed to get better defensively. After one week of practice, Skaggs had no doubt that Seth would be a high scorer. Skaggs describes Seth as a focused, hard-working player who takes criticism well and wants to get better.

Skaggs said, "He never allows the circumstances to dictate the level at which he works."

When he is not playing basketball or working on his studies, Seth spends his time working at a screen-printing shop called "Alley T" in Ithaca. He dreams of one day being an entrepreneur with his own line of customized t-shirts.

After graduation, Stapleton plans on going into business and living in Michigan for a while. He will be coming back to Alma next semester to finish his education.

At his current pace, Stapleton should climb the career scoring lists and make his mark in Alma basketball history. His competitive attitude pushes him to continue working toward his goals, and he has proven himself a dedicated athlete.

## Track team prepare with successful indoor season

By DAWNA ANDERSON  
Staff Writer

This year's track season has kicked off! On Jan. 28 both the men's and women's Track and Field teams participated in their first indoor track meet of the season.

Both teams use the short pre-season to prepare for the coming outdoor season. It is a good chance for the runners, jumpers, vaulters

and throwers to get back into shape for their events.

The men's team took 21 members to the meet at Grand Valley State University (GVSU). They performed well against a field of larger schools, several of which were Division II.

The first-year students took this opportunity to show what they are really made of. "Overall I was pleased with the young guys," said Coach Curtis, men's track coach. "It was early in the season. We've

only been training a week and a half."

Despite the short amount of time spent training as a team, three men placed in their events. This is a great accomplishment considering the competitiveness of the field.

Chad Rowell (02) placed fifth in shot put. Rick Edgar (00) and Justin Steeple (01) placed second and fifth, respectively, in the triple jump.

The team will be returning to GVSU on Feb. 12 to "show the

progress" in the two additional weeks of training.

The women's team also made the trip to GVSU taking 10 dedicated members. For the women participating in track this year, the indoor season is recommended but not required. Many of the jumpers, vaulters and hurdlers use this time to have their steps perfected for the beginning of the outdoor season.

Their hard work paid off at the meet. Five of the ten women who

participated placed in their events. Annie Grimaldi (00) took second in the 5K. Becky Burkett (01), Andrea Horton (01) and Shelly Maruszak (01) took third, fifth and sixth places in the triple jump. Burkett also took fifth in the long jump, and sixth place went to Pykosz (02).

The women are back at work training hard for their next meet in Spring Arbor on Feb. 5. Overall, it looks to be a promising season for both teams.



## Swimmers prep for league

By RACHEL KUHLE  
Staff Writer

After wrapping up their 1999-2000 season with a 115-39 victory over Olivet, the Lady Scot swimmers are preparing for the MIAA Championship. The Scots will face everyone in the conference, including teams they have fallen to and defeated.

IM and Butterfly swimmer, Jenny Troyer(01) stated, "I think we'll do pretty well. Hope, K-Zoo and Calvin are really strong, but I'm pretty sure we have a good chance against Albion" Jenny also seemed to think that Coach Baadte was confident about their chances. "The coach is really excited about the meet, he has a couple of strong relay teams in each event, so I think he feels we'll do well."

The practices leading up to championships have been a little different from those earlier in the season. First, Coach Baadte was ill, resulting in his absence from practice. This placed more responsibility on the shoulders of assistant coaches Rob DuHadway and Nick Pellergrino.

Also the swimmers have been tapering. According to distance swimmer Andrea Carlson(01), "We taper for conference so that we decrease our yardage but increase our speed." Troyer adds, "We're fine-tuning everything right now."

The men's swim team is also tapering during practice in preparation for the big event. The men finished their season with an MIAA dual-meet season record of 2-3, and an overall record of 2-5. In their final meet against Olivet, they won 124-55, and senior Joey Mead qualified for the NCAA Championships with his one meter and three meter diving scores.

First-year student Mike Porter is ready for the upcoming meet, "I'm not really nervous, I'm actually kind of excited." Porter was also fairly confident about how well the team would do, "I think we'll do pretty well. We look pretty fast right now, and we should be even faster by then."

Carlson also has high hopes for the competition, "We tend to do very well at conference, it's always an exciting meet." St. Mary's College will host the next meet, and the championships will take place at Notre Dame University, during Feb. 9-12, 2000.

# Scots break two game losing streak

By AMY NOVAK  
Online Editor

The men's basketball team broke their losing streak last night, winning 81-66 over Grace Bible College in their last non-conference game of the season.

The victory ended a two game losing streak, as the Scots lost to Calvin College 86-67 and Defiance College 91-63 earlier in the week.

Last Wednesday, the Scots fell to the second ranked visiting Calvin Knights after a close first half of play. The Scots were down by just seven at the half, but the Knights took an 18 point lead with just under nine minutes remaining to seal the victory.

The Scots were led by senior Jeremy Hyler with 22 points and six rebounds. Senior Seth Stapleton added 11 points, while sophomore Aaron Kanitz had ten points and five rebounds.

Calvin shot at 54.5 percent while keeping the Scots at 46.9 percent. Alma was out rebounded 40-29 by the visitors and the Calvin bench had 36 points for the team, compared to just 16 for the Scots.

Last Saturday, the Scots traveled to Defiance, Ohio to take on the Yellow Jackets. Despite the devastating 91-63 loss, Stapleton became the ninth player in Alma College history to reach the 1,000 point mark of his career.

The Yellow Jackets ended the first half with a 17-0 run that put

them ahead 43-24. The Scots broke their scoreless streak early in the second, only to be followed by a 15-4 run by Defiance, allowing the Yellow Jackets a 58-30 lead.

Kanitz had 14 points and four rebounds for the Scots, while Hyler added 12 points and five rebounds. Stapleton scored only six points in the game, but it was enough to put him over the 1,000 point mark.

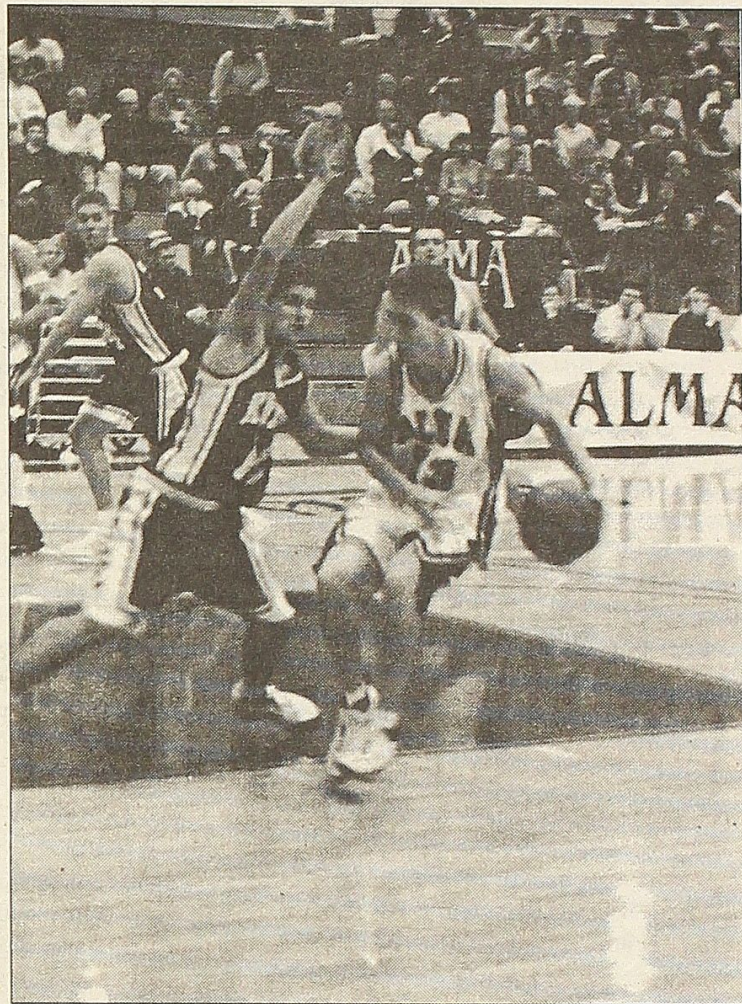
The Scots shot at 38.7 percent, not much below 38.5 percent by Defiance. The Scots outrebounded the hosts 52-44, although they committed 29 turnovers, compared to just 19 by Defiance.

Last night, the Scots broke their streak in a victory over Grace Bible College. Stapleton led the Scots with 23 points and 10 rebounds for his second double-double of the season, while Kanitz score 22 points and added 11 rebounds for the Scots to record the first double-double of his career.

Sophomore Sean Dick scored 15 points while Hyler added 13 along with eight boards.

Although the game was close at the start, a 20-6 run by the Scots helped put them ahead 41-32 at the half. However, a 18-8 run by the Tigers early in the second gave Grace Bible a 50-49 lead with just over 13 minutes left.

The Scots responded with a 17-6 run in the next five minutes to take a ten point lead with just under seven minutes remaining. Four three pointers, two each by



Tammy Acker

Senior Joe Peters (#33) runs into trouble as he drives to the basket.

Stapleton and Dick, extended the Alma lead to 17 points in the final minutes.

The Scots shot at 44.3 percent, compared to 40.6 percent by Grace Bible. The Scots enjoyed a 47-40 advantage on rebounds, but were

evenly matched in turnovers, causing 19, but giving away 18.

The Scots are now 7-13 overall and 1-9 in the MIAA. Their next game is Wednesday when they visit Adrian College. game time is 7:30.

## Sports Track by Chris Harrington

### Lord Stanley will return to Hockeytown

The Detroit Red Wings ran into a brick wall during the last month, leading up to the all-star break.

The early season dominators of the National Hockey League seem to be struggling in a scary way. The Wings had a tenacious start to the season, leading in wins and points throughout the first three and a half months of the season.

Lately it seems necessary to celebrate if they happen to pull together a win. Their troubles seemed to start about the same time goalie Chris Osgood returned from his injury. The team was clicking on all cylinders up until that point.

Their current status is second place in their division. While they do have the second best point total in the Western Conference, come playoff time, that is still good for only a fourth seed rating. St. Louis has proved a tough opponent this year, adding a little competition to the Wings watered down central division.

Highlights for the season so far have include stellar play by "The Captain," Steve Yzerman. Forward Brendan Shanahan is earning his salary this year as the team's second leading scorer behind Yzerman. Sergei Fedorov, probably one of the most overrated players in the league, is having an above-mediocre year

with 31 points in 44 games.

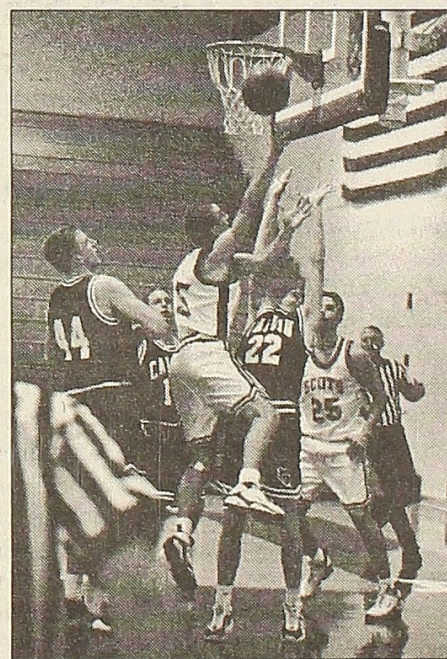
The biggest surprise this year has been the outstanding play of the back-up goaltenders in place of Osgood. It almost brings up the question, "why not stick with what is working?" Granted Osgood does have experience and will probably lead the Wings through the playoffs this year, but is this good enough?

If the Wings can take the All-Star break and look back at what happened during the first segment of the season, the playoffs will be a breeze for them. They must stay healthy and rebound to the dominant play that took the league by storm prior to Y2K.

The Wings have the potential to tear through the playoffs. They are arguably the most talented team in the league. They have the weapons to run up the score on the stingiest of defenses. Their goaltending and defense have resembled brick walls at times. The head of the operation is hockey genius Scotty Bowman. The possibilities are endless for the boys in the red sweaters.

With a solid second half of the season, Lord Stanley should once again return to his rightful home in Hockeytown.

## J.V. basketball



Bryan Waugh

Luke Stapleton (03) plows his way to the basket.



# Hearts, tarts, & other mushy stuff

## His story...

By SCOTT TIMMRECK  
Opinion Editor

Between the extreme hubbub of the Christmas/New Year season and the sunny demeanor that surrounds the Easter season is another holiday: good ol' St. Valentine's Day, a day generally associated with, if nothing else, hearts that are shaped nothing like the one in your body.

That is the first thing wrong with Valentine's Day – its main symbol is misleading. Then there is Cupid, a little cherub with wings who supposedly shoots individuals with an arrow (a weapon generally associated with death) which makes them fall "in love." What is that about? We've also got roses and chocolates, two material objects that cause many kisses on that magical day, that is February 14, but I must ask: why? Roses die, and chocolate is unhealthy. Yes, roses smell good, and chocolate is a proven aphrodisiac. I contend that a holiday such as Valentine's Day is another ploy by the marketing departments of America on consumers who are made to

feel guilty that we are not treating each other as we should.

Not that I'm saying roses and chocolate are bad things to be associated with the holiday of love – indeed, they are ridiculously useful if your goal is to make females smile. My point is that Valentine's Day itself is a paradox. Why do Americans need a special day to show their affection for each other? Why have we created a 24-hour period in which anybody in a relationship feels more obligated than normal to profess their fondness for each other? And why would anybody show their affection with an ugly stuffed gorilla that sings a few bars of "Wild Thing," those same gorillas that show up year after year in the Kmart holiday department? Someone must buy them, because someone keeps making them, and I'd be interested in what male, or female for that matter, spends his or her money on these ridiculous pieces of Americana.

I'm attempting not to appear closed-minded by presenting the absurdities of Valentine's Day. In fact, I am for roses and chocolate. I am all about making girls happy. But making them happy does not always involve

"mushy stuff" like chocolates or cute little stuffed bears, and in the case of Valentine's Day, misshapen hearts. It has always been my attitude to let a girl know that you are thinking about her by dropping her an e-mail that, if nothing else, has a smiley face on it.

Maybe that is shallow. Perhaps I am giving into the "e-age" of electronic cards and digital mail instead of actually making the effort to find a flower store (because we all know they are never around when they are needed) or shell out some money for a nice 3,000-course dinner with 27 pieces of silverware.

Truthfully, I'm a romantic at heart. Doing those kinds of things for girls is fun, especially spontaneously. My problem comes when February 14 rolls around and everybody feels obligated to do everything from giving his sweetheart that gorilla to getting a red and white card from Hallmark with false-shaped hearts on it. Yes, those things are sweet and appreciated, but I contend that they should not happen just because the marketers of the country say so. After all, who really wants to give into that individual who markets those singing gorillas?

## Her story...

By RACHEL KUHLE  
Staff Writer

Well, it's that time of year again: Time for men to panic at finding a gift that is romantic, meaningful and descriptive of his love for his girlfriend; time for attached women to wonder what sweet, romantic token her boyfriend will give her, and pick out an overly mushy card or gift in return; time for single women to either ignore the paper hearts and boxes of chocolate decorating every store, or search for some willing fella' to pair-up with for that lovey-dovey holiday, St. Valentine's Day.

All of the guys that complain about the pressure of finding the perfect gift need to just relax. I mean, honestly, anything you end up doing on Valentine's Day is probably more romantic and sweet than the everyday

happenings between you and your significant other. Not to mention the fact that this is the one time of year when you should not be lacking inspiration for ideas. Nearly every store is filled with cute stuffed animals, melodramatic cards and red and pink flowers of all kinds.

Now some of you men out there may be asking what the big deal is. I mean, would your girlfriend really want a singing monkey that woos her to the tune of "Wild Thing?" The answer is YES! Yes, yes, yes! I'm not saying it is the best gift selection you could make, especially when roses and chocolates are on the same sale table, but the love of your life will love the fact that you bought her something cute and mushy for Valentine's Day.

She'll love that you were willing to put forth the effort of searching through mounds of cheesy stuffed animals to find the monkey that not only sings "Wild Thing"

(which happens to be the song you danced to on your first date), but who was also wearing a blue hat instead of a red one because blue is her favorite color.

In other words, we love the mushy stuff not only because it's cute and cheesy, but because we know it's not the kind of stuff guys usually buy. Therefore, when we open our gifts on Valentine's Day, we know that for whatever amount of time it took to pick it out you were trying to look at things from our perspective.

You might hate frogs, but you'll search through dozens of stuffed ones to find the only kind your girlfriend doesn't have. Maybe you have severe allergies, but you'll hold your breath at the florist long enough to pick out the perfect rose. It's these types of little sacrifices that will win the heart of your girlfriend. After all, just think of all the little sacrifices she probably makes for you every other day of the year.

## Life, at Alma

By Scott Timmreck

The times when I sit down at my computer to check my e-mail lately have become more and more something in which I am not interested. Everybody knows the drill: name, password, anything else that your e-mail program requires, and then the friendly text pops up, something to the effect of, "you have new mail messages." Is it from that person that you met on America On-Line last night? Is it from the guy who lives two doors down from you? Is it from your roommate (yes, it does happen)? Or is from your parents? The questions run through your head for a few seconds before the screen that tells you who the messages are from displays itself.

Maybe there is one from your parents. But, if you ever look at your Alma College e-mail, most of them are from various organizations on campus letting you know what is happening around this institution.

"The Republicans are meeting in Fireside Lounge!"

"ACUB is hosting Quiz Bowl!"

"A new web server is being installed!"

"The Center for Student Development is holding a workshop!"

"A ring was found!"

By now, I couldn't care less. As much as people, including me, like to know what is going on around this place, the entire e-mail system has been drastically misused and has resulted in disgruntled students who are not at all interested in checking mail that looks like it has come from an administrator at this school. Students receive mail daily informing them of meetings and conferences and seminars and events, but it has come to the point where we get so many digital notices that not a single one is really interesting anymore.

In a way, the system is equivalent to a bulletin board, any of the ones on this campus, which also are paradoxical in the sense that there are so many signs, posters and pieces of propaganda pasted on them that people are not really interested in what anything on the board has to say. We live in a fast-paced time, a time when people want their information ridiculously quick and do not want to put very much effort into finding out that information. Consequently, a bulletin board with 50 different posters on it, such as the one inside Swanson Academic Center, almost defeats itself, just as the e-mail system has done because of the ridicu-

lously high and useless number of messages that flood the Alma College network.

I count 196 messages in my "Deleted Items" folder that are mass mailings from administrators at this school. Considering that I have been at Alma in this school year for 165 days (not taking into account weekends or breaks), that is 1.19 e-mails per day, many of which do nothing but clog my Inbox and get my hopes up. Useful messages do exist, of course, and I am sure the message that went to the entire campus community about a lost pair of mittens was quite valuable to the owner of those fuzzy accessories. However, that is a misuse of what e-mail is good for, and I was appalled in reading that particular message.

People use e-mail to communicate with their friends and family and to receive information about their organization, but not to be bombarded with propaganda. At least with bulletin boards, people can pick and choose about what they read. While e-mail has part of that characteristic with the "Subject" line, an e-mail message is something that has been thrown at you and into your personal life, and many people do not care for advertisements to be sent into the same

place that valuable messages from their significant other come to. It is indeed possible to separate those messages, as approximately 90% of the campus population has done with a Hotmail or Yahoo! account. But students still have to check their Alma accounts for important messages from professors, and the bombardment cannot be escaped from.

The ineffectiveness of the system has been illustrated, even recently, with both the last workshop given at the Center and the last College Republicans meeting that no new individuals attended despite campus e-mail.

It is time to reconsider the benefits of mass e-mailing and whether it is beneficial or even practical for organizations to use the system to inform students of campus happenings. It is a nice gesture by administration to let us know what is going on, but e-mail has become ineffective as a means of communicating those happenings simply because everybody is doing it. It has become one giant advertising machine, one massive bulletin board where all the posters look the same and all the messages are lifeless.



## Campus Quips

*Some thoughts floating around*

Need anything be said about the ACUB **Video Bingo** night, or is everyone pretty much on the same page?...

*Student Affairs* forgot to bring the horses to the RA carousels—instead, there were team-building exercises and things of the sort...

Props to whatever makes the weather because it was sunny all weekend and on **Monday**...

I'm sure the Center for *Student Development* has heard that holding programs in the middle of the day may not be the **best idea**...

For anyone who is counting, **Spring Break** is only **17** days away—most of us can then head home to pretty much the same weather we're seeing here...

## The iMAC Plague

By GINGER DAVIS  
Staff Writer

Alma College suffers from a very unusual and very irritating infestation: iMacs. They started in the computer labs, infested the dorms, and now have taken over the library. These colorful little toys are designed for little more than surfing the Internet, but students at Alma have to use them for everything from writing papers to checking e-mail on the infamous mattii system.

iMacs are frustrating for many reasons. First, the keyboard seems to have been ripped off some poor data processor in the 1080s who now has carpal tunnel syndrome. Secondly, the mouse is too small for anyone over the age of five. The designer of this Dixie cup sized mouse obviously had no consideration for the size or shape of the human hand. The only thought that appears to have gone into the making of this mouse is, "Hey, at least it's cute." The iMac, in appearance, is a perfect example of the errors of modern pop culture. Who cares if it works, so long as it looks good?

The fact that iMac creators are betting that people are more concerned with the color of their computer than the quality is an insult to the intelligence of the modern consumer.

Another problem with iMacs, is that (aside from graphical artists) nearly all of the rest of the computer using world uses a PC or IBM compatible. Creators of iMacs, in their infinite wisdom, are even trying to make iMac "IBM compatible." College should prepare you for the real world, and the real world does not use these colorful "oversized gumdrops," to steal a phrase from David Fancher (01).

The hardware and software for iMacs is another issue. If iMac offers better software, then why does Microsoft make an Apple version of "Microsoft Office" and not vice versa? iMacs are impossible to upgrade. Add this fun fact to the small amount of available hard drive space on the typical iMac, and it is no wonder they are so slow and frustrating to use.

iMacs come with a CD-ROM, but any other drives (CD burners, floppy drive, and zip drives) must be added externally. This is not difficult for disk drives, but modular CD burners are not as readily available as their IBM counterparts.

The design of the iMac, which looks like it comes from some movie about the future where the human race lives in space ships and wears matching silver suits, is deceptive: the interior of the computer is not the advanced technology the outside promises. Unfortunately, students have to struggle with iMacs because the computer science department has not yet learned not to judge a book — or a computer — by its cover.

## Simple Thoughts

by Dan Joyce

### Go Greek...if it's right for you

No fraternity is better than any other— one is simply better for the person who has decided to go Greek.

Almost every student at Alma College knows which fraternity is associated with what. No fraternity, according to school policy, is allowed to haze, just as Michigan law allows no one to speed.

Hazing is defined by Webster's Dictionary as "to harass by abusive and humiliating tricks usually by way of initiation."

Rumors fly around campus of hazing. If it does occur, should something be done?

I say no.

Think about our military. Many of the events that occur in boot camp could be considered hazing. Does this mean the U.S. Military should change its system of initiation? How many years has it worked?

I do not want to sound like I am pushing anyone to break school rules, but...

Those who pledge a fraternity know what they are getting into or at least have a good idea. If they think the possibility of being hazed exists and still pledge to that fraternity, good for them. Just maybe that individual will grow from the experience.

Do not ever try to make yourself or your fraternity sound better than anyone else's or any other group. Your fraternity is only better for you.

Remember that a fraternity is not a religion. Each fraternity has its beliefs and standards, but is not a thing to be worshipped, on any level. Those who founded each fraternity did so to help encourage and build each other, to help point others in a direction. They did not set up a

fraternity to force a specific path for your life.

Every person is different and will grow in different ways through pledging experiences. This is what keeps our Greek community at Alma strong.

If Greek is the way you feel that you need to go, pick a group that will push you to be a better person. You will only be able to pick the best by getting to know as much as possible about each group.

The chance to enter into the Greek community has passed for this year, but there are always the following years. Keep an open mind.

My impression of the Greek community here is very good. I did decide to take one of my two open bids and was very impressed that the group I did not choose pushed me to go to the other group.

I know I will be welcome at either house at any time. I have made friends within both groups that only wanted me to make the right discussion for me, not for them.

I believe I did make the right decision.

About the rivalries between the fraternities: they do not exist. Yes, some individuals from one fraternity may not be best friends with many of those in another, but it is on an individual basis.

Any real friend you have made will not disassociate with you because you chose a different fraternity than he did.

If you pledged to a fraternity, have fun. Take it for what it is worth. Do not expect more than a group of people can possibly offer. You will get out of it what you put into it.

If you did not pledge, get to know about each group. Decide if Greek is the way to go for you. If so, rush next year.

## HEMISPHERES

By Cara Bonine

### Receiving Anthrax vaccine in military should be a choice

Major Sonnie Bates, a military pilot at the Dover Air Force Base in Delaware, put his career on the line last week when he refused to be treated with the Anthrax vaccine.

Of the 400 servicemen that have resigned, Bates is the highest ranked service person yet to refuse the vaccine against Anthrax. Bates feels that the vaccine is the cause of many health problems among his peers and asserts that the Food and Drug Administration poorly tested the vaccine.

"The risk is too great. If I lose my health, I am no good to my country and I become an extra burden to my family," said Bates in an interview with *The Christian Science Monitor*, "I believe it is wrong to inject anyone against his or her will."

Anthrax is a deadly bacterium found in animals that may be used in the future by adversaries such as Iraq and

North Korea against the United States.

Of the 380,000 people who have received the Anthrax vaccine thus far, 500 have reported harmful effects, including dizziness, blackouts and memory loss.

Bates and the other men and women who refused the vaccine now face penalties for their action. If court-martialed, servicemen could face fines, losses of pensions and possibly imprisonment for their disloyalty.

This raises a very key issue in military philosophy: To what extent do servicemen have control over their own bodies? Following orders in the military is essential in combat situations. In boot camp, military recruits are programmed sworn to give up their individual lives to defend our country. The military asserts that individual freedom in the military is not

required and that loyalty to our country is the only necessity.

Loyalty and responsibility should be taught in the military, but without destroying all individual freedoms. The men and women of the military are not refusing combat situations that will subject them to the deadly Anthrax bacteria; they are simply refusing a vaccine. Denying the shot does not affect their ability to perform as soldiers. It only allows them a small amount of personal choice.

If our society wants soldiers who will fight unconditionally for the freedom of our country, then it should consider allowing soldiers a small amount individual freedom. Giving military men and women the least bit of choice in their personal matters will remind them of how important and sacred freedom is to our country and instill conviction within themselves.



## Letters to the Editor

As a member of AC Pride, I want to thank members of the college community who helped in making Nomy Lamm's visit possible: Women's Issue's Advisory Board (WIAB) for accommodations, the Mac Curdy House for the pot luck dinner, Student Congress for funding, Progressive Party for funding, and Sodexo Marriott for the lovely reception.

For those who weren't aware of Ms. Lamm's presence on campus, you really missed a wonderful lecture! A human rights activist, Nomy shared her thoughts on how she got her start advocating for the queer, fat, disabled, and women's community—and the importance of being involved in activism. More importantly, she stressed how activism starts with the individual, and develops in the light of a nurturing community.

For a long time (and sometimes still feel this way), I felt like no one outside of Pride really cared about the existence GLBT's on this campus and, that essentially, members were 'freaks', 'against the law of god' and treated as invisible. Rarely have I had anyone call me a name to my face, but within the body language of some of the students, names weren't necessary.

I have experienced hatred many times without a single word. Or better yet, intolerance of my community with heterosexist remarks like "that is sooo GAY", or men calling other men "faggots" as a method of disapproval.

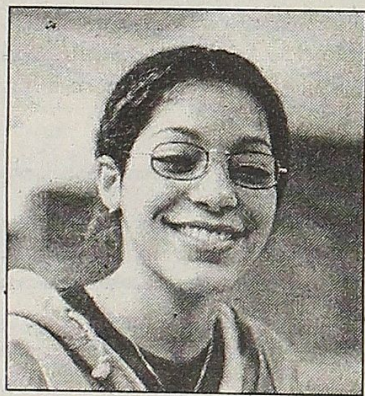
But because of the support of Ms. Lamm's visit, and participation of those during "Jeans Day", it would be insane for me to say that ALL of AC's community is xenophobic and racist. We still have a ways to go, but being involved in events like Ms. Lamm's shows me that being here in mid-Michigan isn't so bad. Like anyone else, I still have my days. Just goes to show that little things DO mean a lot.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Fish

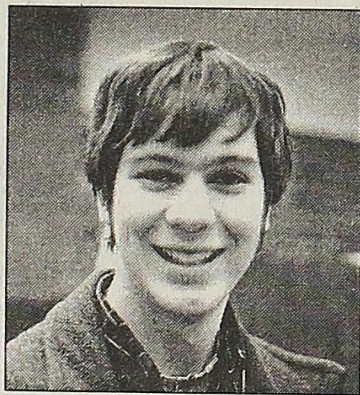
### Campus Views

## Do you think it serves justice to give the death penalty to minors?



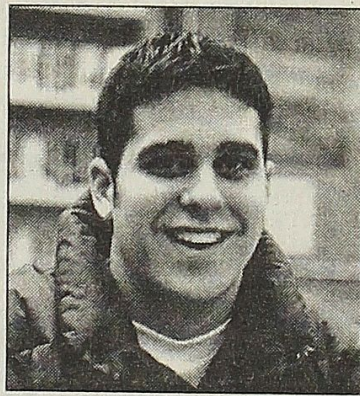
"I don't believe in the death penalty. Two wrongs don't make a right."

Adrienne Fitzgerald (00)



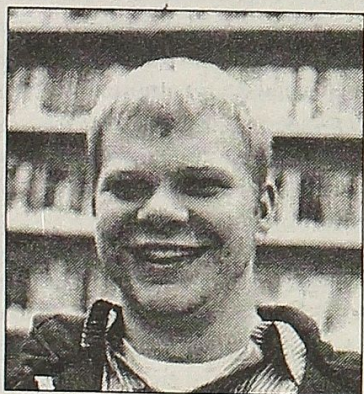
"I don't think it serves justice to give anyone the death penalty."

Andrew Pomerville (02)



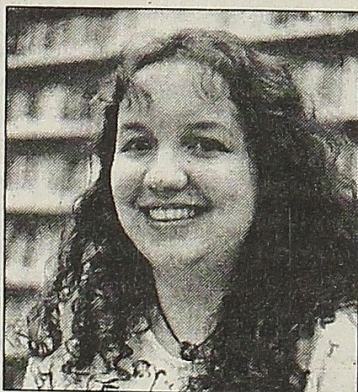
"Yes. If consequences are known, minors might think twice about the crimes they commit."

Mark Iszak (02)



"People should be able to rationalize right from wrong by age 17 and if heinous crimes are committed, they should face the responsibility."

Nick Carman (02)



"No. Minors are not mature enough to be tried as adults because they are not old enough to think like adults."

Amy Plackowski (02)



"The death penalty is a circumstantial issue. It is necessary at certain times, but it isn't right for minors."

Jamie Hammel (02)

Data compiled by Chris Harrington  
Photos by Bryan Waugh

### Staff Editorial

## Vote in the first presidential election of the millennium!

Welcome 2000! We are all pretty sick of hearing about "millennium this" and "millennium that" but here's a new spin: get out and vote in the first presidential election of the millennium!

The competition between the potential presidential candidates is heating up. Democratic frontrunners Vice-President Al Gore and former U.S. Senator (NJ) and New York Knicks basketball player Bill Bradley are currently engaged in a negative campaign dispute; Republican frontrunners Governor George W. Bush (TX) and Senator John McCain (AR) are neck-and-neck with voters at the poles.

It seems as though this year's race will be exciting and memorable. In 1996, we had an incumbent president who won easily over his opponent. Right now, it is too close of a race to tell which candidate will represent the two parties.

Bush won decisively over McCain in Iowa, only to be smashed by him in New Hampshire. Gore has won both

primaries over Bradley, but he only squeaked out a win in New Hampshire by four percent of the vote. Yet, how is this presidential campaign different from ones past? That's easy—this is the first one most of us on campus can vote in!

Not quite of age in Nov. 1996, most of us watched wistfully as our older friends scurried off to the polls.

Now is the time for our generation to participate in politics. The upcoming presidential election is the perfect opportunity for us to be heard. We have to stop complaining about the state of our nation and actually do something about it instead.

It is easy to become informed about the candidates and the issues that are important in this year's race. Simply look at a paper, surf the Internet or watch the news—campaign information is everywhere. If we all voted conscientiously, we could really impact the outcome of the election.

Some skeptics ask, do our votes really matter? Of course! Our country is founded on the

principles of representation and participation of the people in government. Less than 50% of the voting age population voted in the 1996 presidential election. That means President Clinton never actually received majority vote of the population.

We have all heard this before. Voting as a civic duty has been drilled into our heads ever since we took our first social studies class in elementary school. We all forgot about it because we couldn't do anything about it then, but now we can. The "adult" activity of voting we first learned of so many years ago is now our responsibility.

Want to become involved and informed but aren't sure how? Start by going to [www.selectsmart.com](http://www.selectsmart.com) and filling out a short questionnaire to see which candidate feels the same as you on a variety of issues. Then watch political talk shows on Sunday mornings or coverage of the primaries. And when Nov. 7 rolls around, go exercise your voting rights!

## Classifieds

### IMMEDIATE OPENINGS!

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