



**Bombs Away! Women's Basketball team breaks MIAA three-point record**



**This year's Switch-a-Day winner Sean Dick spent a day as "President"**

**Wednesday's Weather**



**Showers  
High: 57°  
Low: 41°**

# The Almanian

Issue 15

Serving Alma College since 1907

February 22, 2000

## School takes stand on cable splicing

By **DAWNA ANDERSON**  
Staff Writer

The Student Judicial Committee recently decided the fate of the students caught splicing cable.

The case began during the holiday break when house-keeping was cleaning the windows in the rooms.

An employee noticed a plant in one of the rooms that belonged in the lobby of the dormitory. While retrieving the plant, a hole the size of a softball was discovered in the wall. The hole contained cabling obviously used for splicing.

After notification of this discovery, James Kridler, dean of students turned the case over to Ken Smith. Smith is the Mitchell Hall Director and in charge of the campus student judicial system.

Bresnan Communications, the campus cable pro-

vider, allowed the school to handle the situation without interference.

The students that heard the case found the accused guilty and subjected them to the standard fine that is paid for most violations.

Smith pointed out that the Student Policy Handbook contains a paragraph that outlines the college's view on cable splicing. It reads:

"CABLE TAPPING IS A FEDERAL OFFENSE. Any person who taps into a residence hall/house cable service line is subject to a disciplinary action, a fine of \$150 and repair costs."

Administration is aware that this is not a rare case. Holes already exist in the walls of many residence hall rooms for the purpose of splicing cable. In response Smith said, "If they wish to take that chance, that's their prerogative."



Tammy Acker

*Wei Tsun Chang, music instructor, and Allison Topham (02) perform along with the Alma Symphony Orchestra this past weekend.*

## Alma reinstitutes off-campus housing lottery

By **GINGER DAVIS**  
Staff Writer

This year the housing department will be reinstituting a lottery to decide which seniors may live off-campus. Any junior who wishes to live off campus (even those who have already signed leases) must attend the lottery, held on March 20, 2000, at 5 p.m. in VanDusen Commons.

There are several reasons for the change in housing, most of which are financial.

In the past, a lottery was held to allow 30 seniors to live off campus, but at the recommendation of Student Congress the policy was changed so that all seniors were allowed to live off-campus. At first, the number of seniors taking advantage of this opportunity numbered about 30, but this year the number increased. As James Kridler, dean of students, said, "For that last two years it has become very popular. Now we have 77 seniors that are off campus. You take that in consideration with the enrollment being down, that became an issue."

For each senior who lives off campus, the college loses \$2,500 in rooming fees. Also, as President Alan Stone said, "There is a real scarcity of seniors throughout the campus; we have lost a lot of leadership within the residence halls."

The lack of seniors on campus has also had a large impact on Sodexo-Marriott. Stone commented, "It really

hurt Marriott, because they lost about 90 more students than they had planned on this fall. They had gone into the year staffed for about 90 more students eating on campus. The lottery is just to even this back out."

Another reason to reinstate the lottery was the response of the alumni to seniors living off-campus. Kridler said, "In the past two years, the president of the director of alumni relations in particular, has been going around to alumni meetings and various homecoming gatherings. Some alumni are saying that they are concerned about the change in residential life on-campus because seniors are living off-campus and [they] feel that was very important."

The final reason for the lottery was the increase in complaints from local community members about Alma students living off campus. "The college cannot do anything about that, but we still get blamed," said Kridler.

He also added, "If a student has been given special permission to live off-campus, and that was granted, you do not have to go through the lottery. That is a separate situation."

Debra Moon, secretary to the assistant dean of students, said, "I got 34 applications filled out and about ten e-mail messages from people" on the subject." She added, "Now we are not filling out forms, we are just taking names." She said it is not necessary to sign up for the lottery; a student must simply show up for the actual drawing.

Moon said there is an all-or-nothing option for students who had planned to live with a group of other students. "If a group of students have signed a lease, either one person can go through the lottery for the whole group, and draw one number, or all of them can go through the lottery and draw a number. It is up to them." Overseas students may have Moon or another student draw for them.

Kridler commented on the issue of students who had already signed leases. "We have asked that those people go through the lottery like everybody else. We have also asked them to give us a copy of the lease, and we understand that if they did not get off [campus] through the lottery then we are going to have to make some adjustments for a few people, this time. We do realize that students signed that lease in good faith; they did not know that this was coming."

Many juniors are less than thrilled about the lottery. As Bradley Bohn (01) said, "I think it is a little ridiculous to have a lottery where only 50 people can move off campus."

Patrick Reinke (01) thought it was unfair for the college to try to eliminate this aspect between college life and the real world. "I am against the lottery. I am tired of the college holding our hands," he said. He also felt that campus life gave students a false view of living on their own. "They are supposed to be preparing us for the real world. Where in the real world are you going to have your housing, your meals [and] your schedule planned for you?"



# NCA report makes suggestions

By GINGER DAVIS  
Staff Writer

*The following is an overview of some problems mentioned in "The North Central Association of College and Schools Report of a Visit to Alma College November 1-3, 1999."*

The NCA noted the college's strengths, such as enrollment growth and a strong financial situation. The NCA report also noted problems. They suggested that a building endowment be set up to help with the cost of maintaining the new buildings to be added to campus. They also recommended downsizing the number of members on some of the governance committees. They stated that "Title IX: Gender Equality" should be addressed with regards to athletics. The NCA team reported

that the "administrative staff's low morale, workload, and compensation issues" were an area for the college to work on. Here are some excerpts from the report:

1. The college's Board of Trustees begins review and consideration of the by-laws including the provision for Associate Trustee members from the faculty and student body.
2. The institution's search for a new Provost should also be an inclusive process in valuing the inputs from the same groups of constituents.
3. The Board must understand its role and responsibility for evaluating the president of the institution. This needs to be done through a process that includes a formal recommendation, voice and constructive input from the faculty and administrative staff. The faculty must accept the Board's position of ultimate authority in this matter as evaluator of the president's performance.

## 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 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.

# Board meets, plans for Alma's future

By GINGER DAVIS  
Staff Writer

On Saturday, Feb. 12, a meeting of the Alma College Board of Trustees was conducted. Issues such as the budget, the facilities plan and the North Central Accreditation (NCA) Report were addressed.

Kevin Main (00), student representative on the board, said the NCA report was an important issue for the Board to tackle. "The NCA report touched on the fact that they felt that the Evergreen Plan was too visionary and too broad."

The Evergreen Plan's focus was on "a learning community that espouses and models in all its structures and relationships the principals of mutual respect, democratic governance, cultural and intellectual diversity, informed discussion and principled argument."

Alan Hill, vice president for enrollment and student affairs, discussed tasks now facing the Board in regards to the NCA report: "We have to give a written response on how we are going to address some of the issues that came up. The Committee on Planning and Evaluation [is] the group that is responsible for the NCA reports. What that group is supposed to do is go back and point out what they think those five or six points are that need to be addressed. Then, once they have developed that list of what they think the key points are they [will ask] everybody on the board for feedback."

He said the executive committee would then go through and point out what committee is responsible for addressing what.

Saturday's meeting also set up the initial budget for next year. President Alan Stone said, "This is the meeting where they always set the tuition for next year and the preliminary budget, and they set the wage and salary figure for the administrators. They also approved the sabbaticals, promotions, and tenures that will take effect in July."

The meeting also gave approval for the financing of the first stage of the facilities plan, which Stone said is the exciting part for students.

"This is a plan to build new buildings. The board approved in concept the whole plan and they gave us the borrowing authority to go ahead and start the recreation center part of it this summer. So we [are] talking to architects this summer and getting it underway in sort of a fast track," said Stone.

At the next meeting, Stone said, "They will hear a report from the committees that are working on the North Central response. They will get a preliminary look at the classroom-technology building. They gave us authority for some planning money to begin work on the planning process. They will also work on the budget for the college, which begins July 1, and the final budget will be approved in May."

## News

### 'At a glance'

#### Ford pays \$3.8 million in settlement

WASHINGTON—Ford Motor Co. has agreed to pay \$3.8 million in a settlement that involves discrimination in hiring women and minorities at several of their plants. The company will compensate women and minority applicants for wages lost at entry-level positions and will hire 100 of them for assembly jobs. Two of the plants involved in the settlement are located in Wayne and Sterling Heights, Mich.

#### US Airways says Boeing could have prevented crash

SEATTLE—USAirways accused Boeing Co. of withholding information that might have prevented a Boeing 737 crash that killed all onboard. Boeing denies the accusations, saying the information was available to the Federal Aviation Administration when the plane was being certified. The information involved flight test data on certain flying characteristics of the plane at certain speeds.

#### Woman calls police from trunk of hijacked car

ARLINGTON, Va.—A woman called the police using her cell phone after being forced into her trunk by a gunman on Thursday. The gunman was finally stopped when he lost control and hit a tractor-trailer after sideswiping two police cars blocking his way. The 24-year-old medical student suffered a bump on her head. The gunman, Elliott L. Robinson, 19, is being held without bond.

#### U of M plans to open diabetes research center

ANN ARBOR, Mich.—The University of Michigan, along with the Juvenile Diabetes Foundations, plans to open a \$6 million diabetes research center. Officials said the center will complement the existing Michigan Diabetes Research and Training Center based in Ann Arbor.

#### Clinton signs law on date-rape drug

WASHINGTON—On Friday, President Clinton signed a bill that would restrict possession and distribution of a date-rape drug known as GHB. According to the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), the drug has been linked to 5,700 overdoses and 58 deaths since 1990. The law would give the DEA authority to prosecute those who manufacture, distribute or possess the drug.



February 22, 2000

## FEATURE

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## Student enjoys presidency while Stone skips class

By KATIE BEAM  
Staff Writer

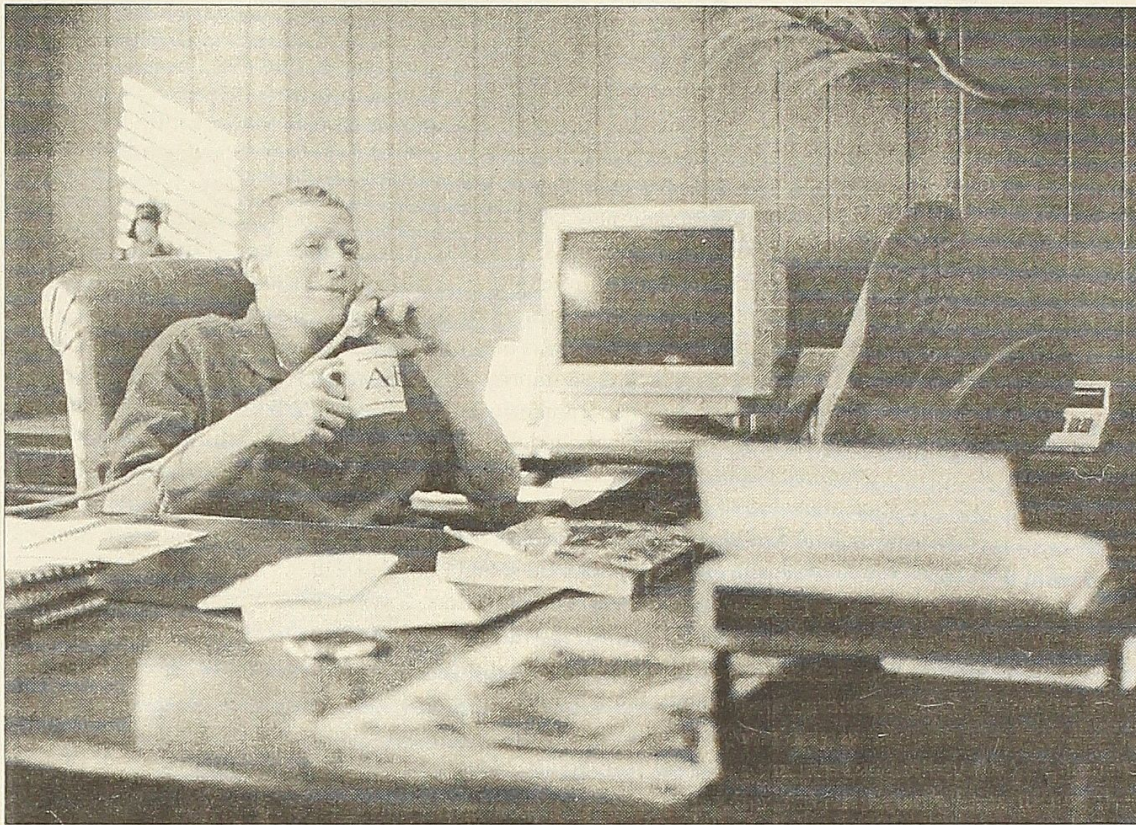
Last month, the senior class sold raffle tickets door-to-door in the residence halls to raise money to buy a class gift for the college. The winner of the raffle got to switch spots with President Alan Stone during what is known as "Switch-a-Day."

The \$139.50 raised in the raffle was put toward the purchase of a new "Alma College" sign that will be constructed at the corner of Harvard and Superior streets. Along with the sign, flagpoles will be installed.

This year's "Switch-a-Day" winner was junior Sean Dick. He was surprised to win because he only purchased one ticket.

"When the guy came to my door, I told him I didn't have any money, but I ended up buying one ticket just to get him to leave," said Sean. Surprised as he was, he had "fun" being the president last Monday.

His day began at 9:30 a.m., when he sat in on a meeting with other important college administrators. Afterwards, Sean went out to lunch at the Pine River Country Club with some college vice-presidents. Lunch was free, of course.



Junior Sean Dick relaxes with a cup of coffee during "Switch-a-Day"

Tammy Acker

When he returned to the president's office, he had nothing to do because he was told he had no authority to conduct "official business." So he voided a few parking tickets and called a couple of his buddies, first-year student Ramone Briscoe and senior Joe

Peters. He told them to "come down to his office."

He laughed and said, "Joe's heart dropped when he heard the news and Ramone began thinking of excuses for whatever he may be in trouble for." Sean's favorite part of the experience was calling the

president's administrative assistant, Becky Webster – even though she was in the next room. "She got mad after I called so many times," Sean said.

While Sean was playing president, Stone was supposed to be attending class in Sean's place.

However, Webster said that Stone "wasn't able to make it to Sean's first class," which would have been Communications 303 at 9:30 a.m. (Stone left for India before he could be reached for comment.) He did make it to the next class at 10:30 a.m. Sean was glad he went, even though he said Stone took too many notes in his history class.

Sean said the president was a bit "uncooperative" about the whole idea of the day. Especially since he had to get the notes for the missed class himself. He jokingly said he wanted to be reimbursed his fifty cents because Stone skipped class. However, he smiled and said his money did go to a good cause.

Senior Steve Crider, senior class president and last year's "Switch-a-Day" winner, said he hopes to raise \$10,000 for the senior class gift. Most of this money will come from seniors who hand over their security deposit to the fund. As incentive, seniors who give between \$75-\$100 will receive a free Alma College flag of their own.

## Show me the money!

By CARA BONINE  
Staff Writer

ACUB (Alma College Union Board) hosted its annual Casino Night on Friday, Feb. 18 in the Tyler-Van Dusen Campus Center at 7 p.m.

The evening's events included playing casino games such as craps, roulette, slot machines and black jack followed by a performance by comedian Vince Morris. ACUB members served as dealers for the mock casino games and chips won could be turned in for raffle tickets.

"It is just a lot of fun for everyone to do," Kathi Svenson (00), ACUB member said. "It is a fun easy way for people to win prizes."

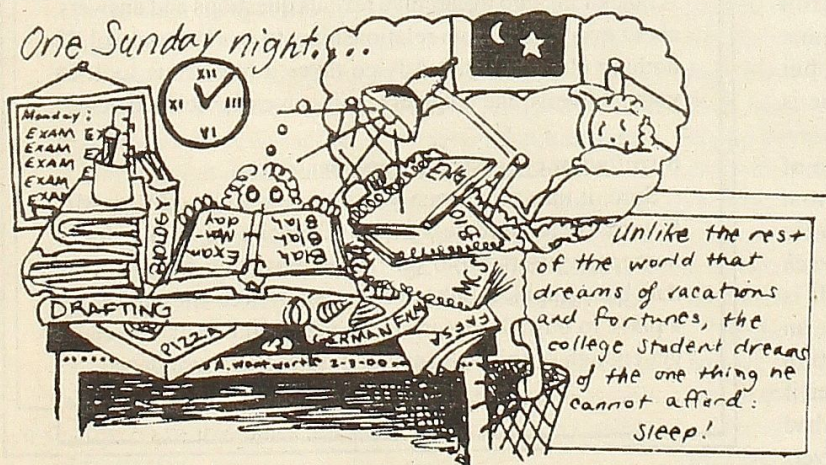
At 10 p.m. the crowd enjoyed an hour-long performance by Vince Morris and thanked him with a standing ovation. He has been featured on MTV, Comedy Central, NBC's *Friday Night* and the *Late Late Show* with Craig Kilborn.

The evening concluded with the raffling of various prizes including restaurant gift certificates, movies, CD player, VCR and TV.

"Part of [ACUB's] mission is to provide fun, free entertainment for the entire campus," said Svenson, "and find things that everyone can enjoy."

The next ACUB event will be Coffeehouse with performer Craig Karmen on Wednesday, Feb. 23 at 8p.m. in Jones Auditorium.

## College Life By Adel Wentworth



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**The Almanian is now accepting applications for the position of Editor-in-Chief for the 2000-2001 school year.**

If you are interested, pick up an application on The Almanian office door located in the basement of Newberry. Please return the application to the Student Affairs office in Tyler/VanDusen by Friday, March 10.



For Your

**Entertainment...****Baywatch done for good?**

The cast of *Baywatch* may be looking for a new job. The producers of *Baywatch Hawaii* say that the show needs at least \$2.5 million, or they will be calling it quits.

**7th Heaven not so heavenly**

Aaron Spelling, producer of the hit show *7th Heaven*, is suing *Gear*, a male magazine, for publishing near nude photos of Jessica Biel. Biel, teen star of the show, is underage. Spelling is suing for defamation of character.

**Twenty-One makes millionaire history**

The popular NBC show *Twenty-One* made gameshow history with another winner. Last Wednesday David Legler walked away with more than any other game show contestant yet — \$1.765 million dollars.

**Who wants to marry a multi-millionaire, again?**

FOX's special show "Who Wants to Marry a Multi-Millionaire?" will not be airing again as planned. The show was pulled from tonight's line-up since last show's multi-millionaire groom was discovered to have restraining orders against him from his ex-girlfriend because of domestic abuse.

**Miami too hot for Madonna**

Madonna is selling her Miami mansion for a reported \$8.9 million dollars — quite a rise since she bought the home for \$4.9 million in 1992. Sources speculate that the reason for the move could include her new British man.

**Music Review by Brian Priehs****Luna: poets of pop sensibility**

*The Days of Our Nights*, Luna's fifth album, is a creative masterpiece of ingenious, instrumental sound. Hitting the record stores in the fall of last year, Luna has reached the top of the charts in the *College Music Journal*. As part of the college scene for the last several years, *The Days of Our Nights* is the alternative supergroup's first album with their new label, Jericho Records.

After much discussion longtime record label, Elektra (Phish, Stereolab, and Metallica), refused to release the group's latest effort. However, it was released on schedule in Europe by Beggar's Banquet (The Charlatans), and the band was then quickly signed by its present label, Jericho, which is an imprint of Sire Records (Canadian rock sensation — The Tragically Hip). Released domestically in late October, Luna obtained their best reviews in their eight-year history. *The Days of Our Nights* rose dramatically and was soon at the top of the *CMJ* radio charts.

Produced by Paul Kimble (Grant Lee Buffalo), the stable quartet of Dean Wareham, Justin Harwood, Sean Eden and Lee Wall will begin their tour across the states next week in Texas. Swinging through Chicago, on the band's way to New York during the first week of April, is the closest Wareham's sleepy-time comes to the Detroit area. Strangely enough, the band has never reached the heights of commercial radio. If they were to hit the popularity of mainstream airplay, *The Days of Our Nights* would be the album

to step into that abyss. The most potential hit to reach that pinnacle of the twelve-song play list is the magically engineered track "Hello, Little One." Composed of the simple chords of two guitars and the mix of a little soothing drumbeat, you have a great single. "...I lost my silver spoon and I won't be coming home..." are deathly deep lyrics that create a positive energy throughout the song. Track six, "Superfreaky Moments," is a masterpiece of loving lyrics composed in a perfect manner. "The Slow Song," sung entirely in German, stimulates the audience and leaves a strong impression of the group's global talent.

From the beginning of the album, with "Dear Diary," to the close, with a surprising rendition of Guns N' Roses' "Sweet Child O' Mine," Luna creates an atmosphere all of its own. The cover is brilliantly transformed from the powerful riffs of Guns N' Roses to the sweet melodious tunes of Luna, almost as if the song was the original work of the foursome.

The unparalleled wit of Dean Wareham is apparent throughout the entire album. With the somber sounding lyrics heard from song to song, Luna keeps the whole album creative and easy-flowing. This album exemplifies the new generation "folk-pop-alternative-rock" genre of music.

I strongly recommend this album for all lovers of music.

Learn more about Luna at their website: [www.fuzzywuzzy.com](http://www.fuzzywuzzy.com)

**Spring Break Pictures Contest**

Going someplace wonderful for spring break? Take lots of pictures and submit them to the Almanian for our "Spring Break Pictures Contest." The Almanian staff will vote on the most interesting, wacky, fun, or outrageous photos and publish them in The Almanian. Drop your pictures off in the folder on the Almanian door in Newberry basement, or send them through campus mail to : The Almanian, Newberry Basement. Photos are returnable, so enter them all—you might just end up in the Almanian!

**1st Place**

A \$25 gift certificate to the Country Inn in St. Louis and two movie passes to Alma Cinemas

**2nd Place**

A free large pizza from Domino's and 4 free games of bowling at 300 Bowl

**3rd Place**

A free large pizza from Domino's

Please include the photographer's name and a description of the pictures. All pictures are returnable.

**Movie Review by Ginger Davis****The Beach: No paradise for the actors or the audience**

*The Beach*, starring Leonardo DiCaprio and a large cast of unknowns, is an award-worthy movie. Specifically, it should win this year's award for "Most Misleading Trailer." The film's trailer, which featured DiCaprio running around in a bathing suit while looking pretty, making out with a model, preparing to swim for paradise with friends, finding paradise and being chased away from it painted a very false picture of the movie.

To set the record straight, this film is not a romance. *The Beach*, after all, was directed by Danny Boyle, who directed *Trainspotting*. Based on the book by Alex Garland, this movie was an opportunity for DiCaprio to shatter his teen idol image. The film, and DiCaprio's character, Richard, will come as a bit of a shock to DiCaprio's loyal teen fan base (Ironically, the movie's tagline is "innocence never lasts forever").

In the film Richard and two French tagalongs who he picks up in Hong Kong set out to find the island paradise on a map Richard is given by a raving, drug-addicted

psycho. They find the island, get past a band of drug dealers who inhabit and closely guard their land, and find a colony on the other side of the island.

The colony, comprised of what I would like to call hippies (except too clean cut), is permitted to live on the island as long as they do not bring anyone else to live there. This agreement is unintentionally broken when some random pot-heads to whom Richard gave a copy of the map arrive on the island. Richard's mission is to reclaim the map and save the pseudo-hippie colony. This is not quite as predictable as it may sound. The characters in the movie make a few dark choices that give the movie unexpected depth (I am being vague here for a reason). The movie is intended to be a satire of society stripped to its barest roots. Unfortunately, the characters, scenery and most (with a few exceptions) of the plot twists are so slick and pretty that this film never makes any real ground in the satire department.

The film's biggest problem came from the studio. Twentieth-

Century FOX wanted DiCaprio's character to be loveable and sweet to sell more tickets. Boyle dissented. For the most part, the director won but there are a few moments (like DiCaprio living alone in the woods for weeks and still managing to remain clean-shaven) that detract from the film's flow.

DiCaprio does a good job in the film because he was not afraid to be a jerk. He could have pulled an "Arnold Schwarzenegger" and spent the rest of his career playing the same character — in this case the loveable Jack Dawson from *Titanic* — and people would still flock to the movies to see him. He instead chose to act, but despite his efforts this movie is not very strong or engaging.

*The Beach* ends on a note of "almost." The plot almost worked, the characters were almost believable and *The Beach* almost looks real. When all is said and done, there is an unsettling feeling that this film could have been much better if the writer, director and cast had not thought they were so clever.

www.What!?!

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**<http://www.16color.com/>**

16 Color is the "internet movie machine." This site features short movies consisting of cartoon-like characters that internet users can create themselves. They range from bitter, bloody Valentine cartoons (obviously from someone who didn't have a valentine), to movies about aliens. They're all short, a little odd, and free to watch. Surf on over to 16color.com and create your own movie or take a look at the movie-making talent of others.

**<http://www.echonyc.com/~spingo/Mr.BA/>**

Looking for good advice? Well, maybe the best way to get good advice is to get bad advice, from Mr. Bad Advice. A quick look into the archive reveals questions and answers about everything from relationships, to work, to school. If nothing else, Mr. Bad Advice takes a humorous look at your problems, and laughter is sometimes the best medicine.

**<http://www.cyberstreet.com/users/lynn/>**

Sure, it may have been years since we played with Mr. Potato Head, but he's still a favorite of many. This homepage offers a bio on the beloved toy, funny faces, data bits, graphics, links to other potato web sites and even a place to buy Mr. Potato Head merchandise. If you can't get enough of this toy, surf on over to this homepage.





Bryan Waugh

*Julie Whitmore (22) shoots through a crowd while Shelly Ulfig (44) positions for the offensive rebound.*

## Hot-shooting guards help Scots win two

By KELLY McDONALD  
Sports Editor

Bombs away! That is what the women's basketball team did in defeating Adrian and Olivet in MIAA league games last week. The Scots shot an amazing 92.3 percent from three-point land in their 85-58 win over Adrian on Tuesday. They continued their hot-streak against Olivet on Saturday winning easily, 85-64.

It was the Shannon Gross (00) and Julie Whitmore (01) show to begin the game against Adrian as they combined for Alma's first eight points. Gross started the game with two free throws, then fed Whitmore in the post for two more baskets. Two more free throws by Gross and a basket by Janell Twietmeyer (03) gave the Scots a 10-0 lead before the Bulldogs knew what hit them.

The Scots never looked back as they put on a shooting camp from the three-point line. At one point in the first half, Alma scored three-pointers for five straight possessions cruising to a 44-26 half-time lead.

The second half started out in Alma's favor with the Adrian coach being assessed a technical foul before play even began. Gross hit the two free throws that ignited a 9-0 run to start the half to put the Scots up 52-26.

The second half dragged on as both teams were shooting the bonus with over ten minutes still to play.

But the crowd was fired up when Katie Bernthal (03) hit Alma's twelfth three-pointer of the game with four minutes left to break the MIAA single-game team record for three-pointers with 12. The Scots shot 12-13 from behind the arc, putting Adrian away, 85-58.

Gross had the hot hand the entire game as she shot 5-5 from the three-point line and 13-14 from the free-

throw line. She finished with 28 points and dished out six assists.

Twietmeyer added 16 points on 4-5 shooting from three-point land. Sarah Kruttlin (03) came off the bench to add nine points, as Shelly Ulfig (03) and Mary Barnhart (00) tallied seven points each.

Alma's shooting cooled off a bit when Olivet visited the Scots on Saturday. They still managed to jump out to a 19-10 lead ten minutes into the game.

But Olivet put together a 12-5 run to bring them within two of the Scots. Alma was able to take control as Olivet's defense continually played behind the Alma post players while the guards just fed them the ball.

With the game tied a 32 with three minutes to go, Alma went on a 10-2 run to close out the half. That included a buzzer beating lay-up by Whitmore with a nice pass from Joy Horton (01) as the Scots led, 44-34.

Alma continued their run to open the second half as they took a 53-38 lead with 17 minutes to play. The game would not get any closer. Alma blew the Comets away in the second half, taking an easy 85-64 win.

The two first-year students, Twietmeyer and Ulfig had career days for the Scots. Twietmeyer finished with a career-high 24 points and also grabbed ten rebounds. Twietmeyer's outstanding play earned her MIAA Player of the Week status. Ulfig added 21 points and a career-high 16 rebounds.

Barnhart tallied 12 points and four steals as fellow senior Adrienne Fitzgerald contributed eight points and four rebounds.

With the win, the Scots clinched a first-round home game in next week's MIAA tournament. They host Defiance tonight at 7:30, which will feature three seniors playing their last home game for the Scots.

## Men and women take fourth at season's end

By CHRIS HARRINGTON  
Staff Writer

The men's and women's swimming and diving teams had excellent years as far as accomplishing goals.

In the final meet of the year, Coach Greg Baadte made it a goal of the men's team to take at least fourth place in the MIAA. They finished fourth behind Kalamazoo, Hope and Calvin. The men beat out Albion and Olivet. The final league meet was a four day venture that took place at Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana.

In the regular season the highlight for the team was when they beat Albion. This was something the Scots had not done in a very long time. Albion is usually a strong opponent that the Scots are able to use as a measuring stick for the season.

Coach Baadte said, "They are a big rival, it was a huge high point for us." According to Baadte there really wasn't a low point this year; the men swam and dove rather consistently.

The men broke a handful of records this year. These

include: Justin Fournier (02) swimming a 21.71 in the 50-meter free; Fournier with a 47.77 in the 100-meter free; Dan Linsell (02) swam a 146.91 in the 200-meter free; Mike Cox (00) swam a 158.50 in the 200 backstroke; the 200 medley record was broken in 138.16 by Cox, Dan Schroeder (02), Nic Holliday (01) and Fournier; the 800 free-relay time was broken in 715.58 by Joe Harris (02), Mike Porter (03), Linsell and Fournier; finally Joey Mead (00) scored 496.35 points in the three meter dive. Mead will soon be competing in nationals for the diving competition in Atlanta. All year, Schroeder came close to breaking the 100- and 200-meter breaststroke records.

Even though swimming can be an individual sport, to a certain extent there must be good team support among members.

"As the season went on, the team chemistry got better, and we worked very well together as a team. This was key to the success we had," said Aaron Rycroft (03).

The women took fourth place in the final league meet as well. The first day was a little shaky due to a false start in the medley. The second day was a different story.

"They came out with a fire in their eyes. They were ready to compete from then on. Everyone had big swims that day," said Coach Baadte.

No records were broken by the women, but Jenni Troyer (01) took second place in the 200-meter butterfly. By so doing, she earned the highest place finish out of the men's and women's team. The 200-meter relay had a great finish as well taking third place.

The high point for the season was the conference meet when they came back after having a disappointing first day. The low point of the season for the Scots happened when they lost to Albion in the regular season.

"Albion is almost an automatic win for us. We destroyed them in the conference meet and to this day I don't know what we could have done to alter the outcome," said Coach Baadte.

Four seniors graduate for the men this year. This will leave some holes to be filled for next year. The women graduate three seniors, but have a whole crop of younger talent ready to step up for next season. The ability of younger talent to compete strongly all year was one of the positives for the women.



# Men's basketball team eighth seed in MIAA tournament

By AMY NOVAK  
Online Editor

The men's basketball team lost twice last week to the Olivet Comets and Albion Britons in two MIAA contests. The losses leave the Scots at 7-17 overall and 1-13 in the MIAA.

The Scots hosted Olivet last Wednesday in their last home contest. Trailing by six at halftime, the Scots rallied early in the second to take their first lead of the game. The lead changed five times in the next fifteen minutes of play; Olivet took the lead for a final time with just under four minutes remaining to give Alma a 70-78 loss.

The Scots were led by senior Seth Stapleton with 18 points and four rebounds. Senior Jeremy Hyler added 10 points and seven rebounds, along with three blocks. Sophomore Sean Dick scored 13 points and grabbed three boards, while junior Aaron Kanitz added nine points and six rebounds. Senior Chris Seelbach had eight points and eight boards also for the Scots.

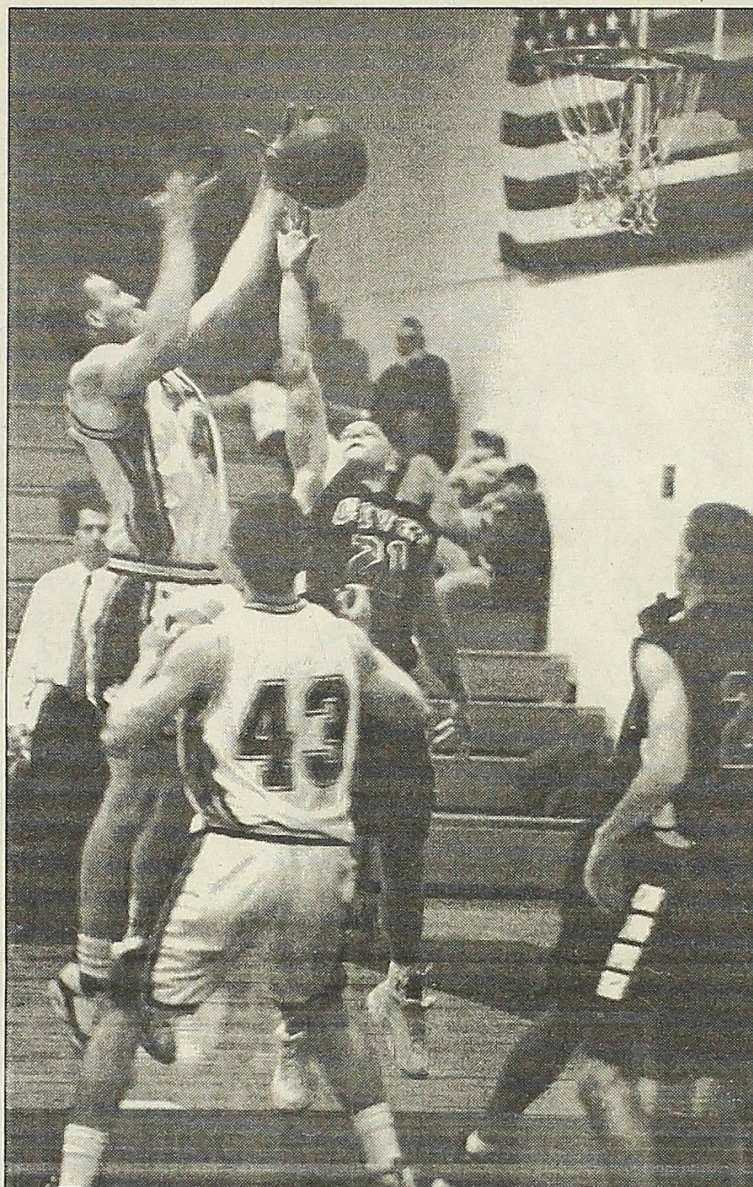
The Scots shot at 45.8 percent, compared to 37.7 percent for Olivet. The visitors however, were 27 of 30 from the charity stripe, compared to the 11 of 19 for the Scots. The Comets held a 38-36 rebound advantage, as well as a 13-17 turnover advantage.

Last Saturday, the Scots traveled to Albion for their final regular season game, falling 62-87 to the Britons. The Scots were only down 33-38 at the half, but Albion outscored Alma 17-6 in the opening minutes of the second to help claim the victory. A 15-0 Albion run in the middle of the second sealed the Briton victory.

Kanitz scored 16 points and grabbed five rebounds for the Scots, while Stapleton added 11 points and four boards for the Scots. Senior Joe Peters scored nine points for the Scot total.

The Scots shot at 44.6 percent, compared to 59.7 percent by the Britons. Albion also enjoyed a 33-27 rebound advantage, as well as a 4-11 turnover advantage. The Scots were nine of 15 from the free throw line, compared to the ten-of 14 for Albion.

The Scots are now seeded eighth in the MIAA tournament and will travel to Grand Rapids on Wednesday, Feb. 23 to take on the top-seeded and number-two ranked team in the nation: the Calvin Knights.



Bryan Waugh

Jeremy Hyler (40) grabs the rebound as teammate Matt Johnson (43) looks to help.

Sports Track by Chris Harrington

## Stewart "Barrys" past, brings hope

Barry who?

Sorry, I can't remember.

In Detroit, the word on the street now is a positively confident buzz. No, not that kind of buzz.

James Stewart is the Detroit Lion's new running back. He comes at a cost of \$25 million over the next five years. This is a definite steal in a deal that will bring Detroit outstanding results. Ron Rivers and Greg Hill were canned last week when the Lions acquired their new addition from Jacksonville.

The Lions take a great step forward with the signing of Stewart. It was an unnecessary hindrance to have the old #20 play for them, and also to hold on to his contract. Sorry, I forgot his name. Actually I could care less if he ever stepped onto a football field again. He sold out, showing a glimpse of his classless character.

On to the issue at hand — the addition of Stewart fills the biggest hole that the team suffered from this season. Along with Fred Taylor, he ran for 931 yards and 13 touchdowns as a time-sharing running back, behind a wall of an offensive line. Jacksonville proved to the league that they

had an explosive offense and a large part of that may be credited to the runners.

Stewart's combined physical size and speed will allow the Lions to make good use of a running back for the first time in... well... I don't think I have ever seen the Lions use a consistent running back they could count on. He is a tough runner that can get things done, and someone who will get the yardage when it counts. Stewart is an excellent receiver out of the backfield, as well. He is simply the complete package.

The Lions already have play-makers such as Germaine Crowell, Herman Moore and Charlie Batch. They have fixed the problem of ground consistency with this acquisition. It seems they have the talent on the team to put up a good fight, but some kind of curse keeps them from clicking on all cylinders. With the addition of Stewart, there is finally a solid player at every skill position.

The draft in April holds paramount importance as the Lions hope to beef-up their offensive line to protect Stewart, as well as deepen their secondary.

On a down note, Robert Porcher declined his five-year, \$35 million contract offer.

Porcher reportedly called the Lions just after the deadline which shows a possibility of regret and reconsideration. He must wait until July 15 for his next opportunity to sign. At least he let the Lions know in advance that he has conflicting interests.

It is time to go back to the "Barry" tangent. The Lions are fortunate to have lost such a hollow player. Although it was bad timing, it needed to happen. Football is a team game and he did nothing but show how impressive one person can be; at times he was unstoppable. Good, right? WRONG! His playing put the Lions in situations where they didn't know what to do. If he was the best running back ever, why were the Lions the definition of mediocrity?

A true star brings players around him up to their peak level through skill as well as leadership. This was lacking with the Lions' previous backfield personnel.

James Stewart is an outspoken individual who recognizes his role with the Lions and surely will deliver. This may be a move that will pull the Lions out of the abyss of mediocrity, something far worse than dead last place in the league.

## Scots suit up for spring break

By RACHEL KUHL  
Staff Writer

While many of us will be enjoying the relaxation factor of our spring break, the Alma Scots baseball and softball teams will be hard at work in Ft. Meyers, Fla. preparing for the upcoming season. Both teams compete in the Gene Cusic Collegiate Classic Tournament against teams from all across the country. So far, they are preparing with practices and drills held here in Alma's gym.

Right fielder, Danielle Pease (02) said, "I'm so excited, I can't wait to actually get outside."

Last year the women won all ten of their tournament games, while the men won only two.

Pitcher Todd Albee (01) explained that Coach Leister likes to use the Florida games as an opportunity to experiment with different players in different positions. Albee also felt that Florida was more of a time for the team to get used to the new first-year players.

"We didn't really play to win. It was more to get a feel for each other," said Albee.

The coaches' tactics seemed to have worked. Alma's men's baseball team finished tied for first with Hope College in the MIAA, with a 14-6 league record.

Outfielder Joey Corr (01) is even more optimistic for the upcoming season. "I think we've got a lot of talent this year, and even more team unity."

Corr was also pleased about the first-year students joining this year's lineup. "We've got a pretty talented group of first-year students this year, and I think they'll play a key role in our success."

Teammate Albee concluded, "I think we'll be even better than last year. In fact, I would be very disappointed if we didn't win conference again this year."

The women's team is also optimistic about the upcoming season, after their undefeated MIAA season last year and their 46-7 overall record. They also made a run in the national tournament, making it to the Final Four, but losing in the semifinal game.

"I think it's a really good outlook. We have a whole new team, and we're really deep at every position," said Pease.

Shortstop Brandee Brower (00) added, "I believe we're going to be just as good if not better (this season). We've all been there and we know how to get to where we want to be."

Alma's softball team was recently ranked sixth in the nation by the NFCA/USA Today Division III Pre-season Coaches' Poll.

The softball team will play their first home game March 24, when they host the Alma Invitational. The baseball team will play their first home game March 28 against Saginaw Valley State University.



February 22, 2000

## OPINION

7

## Simple Thoughts

By Dan Joyce

## Criticism welcome

Lately, The Almanian has been flooded with letters to the editor. Many of these have simply been complaints.

After an introduction like that, a reproach would normally follow. Not so. I would like to thank everyone who sent us letters. Whether your letter was quibbling or praising, I thank you.

In taking the time to compose and submit a letter, you show that you care about what is distributed to our campus. You show that you have a belief worth fighting for, and you enjoy making your point known.

Many of the letters we receive are complaints about an article printed in an earlier edition. I agree with some of the letters; I disagree with others. In the same way, everyone agrees with some articles and not others.

The articles I speak of are those in the Opinion section. Those with mistakes in the other sections, especially News, are our fault. Sometimes, bad journalism; other times, bad editing. We accept the blame in these cases.

Any article printed in the Opinion section is just that – opinion. With the exclusion of the Staff Editorials, articles printed in Opinion are the opinion of the author, not always that of the whole staff.

I realize that I must accept part of the blame for outright bad articles. If a person has an opinion that has no basis in anything, I am still a part of the paper and his or her colleague.

I do not agree with many of the views held by my coworkers. They do not agree with many of mine. That only makes our paper stronger. We print things that we hope will cause people to react. If you disagree, know why. If you agree, know why.

If you strongly agree with an article, I urge you to make your thoughts known. A letter to the editor stating your views will make them more widely known. Discussing your thoughts with a friend is very advantageous.

I hope that at no point will you agree with all that we print. If you do, you are too naive. Through this column alone, I hope to push everyone to think about something in a new way. I do not wish to change your thoughts or beliefs, but only to reinforce them through agreement or disagreement.

We welcome any suggestions that you think will help us to produce a product of higher quality. If you feel that the paper needs to see drastic changes, what good will not reading it do? If you have a suggestion, find a staff member or write out a comment and drop it off in the "Letters to the Editors" folder on the Almanian office door in the basement of Newberry. If you do not want it printed, make that known.

We are currently looking for more staff writers. What better chance do you have to make your opinions known and make a difference? Complaining in an Almanian staff meeting has much more impact than whining around the dinner table about an article.

## HEMISPHERES

By Cara Bonine

## Bosnia must create a home for refugees to return

After four years of war in Bosnia (1991-95), refugees are not returning to their homeland, while many are still moving abroad.

No one knows exactly how many Bosnians are leaving the country each year, but estimates are in the hundreds of thousands. Bosnia's population before the war was near 4 million.

Many professionals are immigrating because they cannot acquire jobs in Bosnia that match their skills.

Unemployment is at 40 percent in the Muslim-Croat Federation of Bosnia and more than 50 percent in the Serbian-controlled part of the country. Economic analysts estimate that it will be 10 to 15 years before the economy is working properly.

Bosnian officials are now concerned that when the refugees leave Bosnia they will not return once they are comfortable with their new lifestyles abroad.

President Ganic has set up a foundation to offer advice to young entrepreneurs attempting to set up a business.

"We need a banking system that offers loans. We need capital," President Ganic stated in the Christian Science Monitor. "And most importantly, we need a full return of refugees."

Until Bosnia gives refugees some incentive to return, Bosnian officials cannot expect citizens to come back. With unemployment rates and the economy in disarray there is no reason to return to the country.

Giving advice to entrepreneurs is a start, but this is hardly combating the problem. The president needs to focus more on creating a stable economy and offering jobs to citizens. He needs to incorporate foreign business and industry into the country's economy. Small businesses cannot expect to be successful if large corporations are shying

away from starting business in the country. Bringing in business from overseas, such as the United States and Japan, can bolster the economy by creating jobs.

In addition to the economic struggle in Bosnia, social problems including religious and political discrimination still exist between the Muslims and the Serbs even five years after the war. Forgiving each other has proved difficult after so many years of hatred and war. It will take many decades for each side to forgive and learn to live alongside each other.

Home should be both a place where citizens can live and where they can feel safe. Bosnia today is hardly a home. Without employment and a safe environment, refugees will remain elsewhere and immigration to countries abroad will increase. When Bosnia has accomplished these tasks they will see the return of their citizens.

## Campus Views

## What are your plans for Spring break?

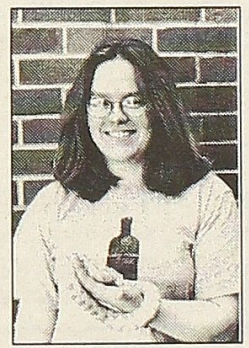
Data compiled by Steve Nadeau  
Photos by Tammy Acker



"I plan on spending time with friends and family and working."  
Cassie Neubecker (03)



"I'm going to go home and work two jobs. I'm going to be a cashier at Meijer and work at the Argus Press."  
Jeanette Walker (02)



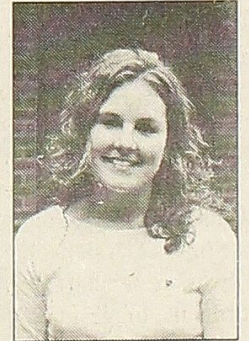
"I'll probably go home."  
Laurel Chapman (03)



"I don't know yet. I might go to Florida or Chicago."  
Nick Carman (02)



"I might go to Chicago with my boyfriend."  
Jackie Hicks (02)



"I'm going to Fort Lauderdale to lay on the beach all day long."  
Lisa Velzy (02)

## Life, at Alma

By Scott Timmreck

A time of much stress and much agony has come upon the spirits of those souls lucky enough to attend Alma College. Study sessions, late nights and increased time in the library at this time of year can mean, well, two things.

First of all, it means that the Model UN team is making final preparations for its trip to St. Louis where members hope to, for the fourth year in a row, to leave with honors. But secondly, it means that midterms have washed into fabulous little Alma.

Yes, this wonderfully hated period of time by both students and professors of this institution – a period of time where we see our friends less and we read more books – sits in a dark place in our hearts because it means more studying and less socializing (which is the fundamental element

behind fun here and anywhere).

The midterm period brings to mind an interesting question: do we study too much?

Of course, there are people who do not study enough, and most of them know that, and they are fine with their sub-par grade point averages. A lot of them consider things other than studying more important. But there are people who consider grades the most important thing on the planet. Yes, there are students who absolutely need a high grade point average to get into medical school or law school, and I respect that.

But I raise my eyebrows when people consistently put off fundamental aspects of college life to put their noses into books for most of their waking hours. Yes, our primary reason for being in this

See LIFE on 8



LIFE from 7

anomaly in the middle of Michigan surrounds academics and studying, and learning should be our first priority.

However, learning does not only have to come from a chemistry lab or a math textbook. Learning is sitting in Hamilton being around people, and learning is sitting down with professors for half an hour and talking about not school, but life. We all know that we learn outside of the classrooms and the books, but do we always adhere to that knowledge?

Is there something seriously wrong with skipping reading for one night and watching a movie with your hall mates? I understand that people put expectations on themselves, but when college ends, most people will look back and see those times, the fun times, as entirely more beneficial in terms of knowledge than the times spent with a biology book.

Yes, that book is necessary to pass the MCAT, possibly the most important standardized test of an aspiring doctor's life, but even if you pass that test with flying colors, what will you know about

people if you were around your books more than you were around other humans?

The world requires extensive knowledge to be gained from books, and you can be the most knowledgeable doctor in the world. However, if you do not understand how to treat people, success will not be easy.

Midterms have snaked upon us, and seniors are counting down the days to graduation. I have heard increased cries of "seven weeks!" around the campus, and every time, I wonder if they wished for more times away from their books.

These things I have stated are obvious to most people, and most students wisely budget their time between grades and the other parts of college, which is a good thing. But grades are not the important thing—learning is. And learning comes from places other than psychology books.

We are here to learn—grades are a byproduct of learning. And if people treat grades as their most important reason for being here, look around. They are probably not here for the right reasons.

Staff Editorial

# Some benefits of Alma

With the commencement of spring break less than a week away and the thought of graduation or summer vacation within reach, it seems as though the negative attitudes on campus have doubled. Whether you are a student, faculty member or an administrator, the moral and pride on the Alma College campus is definitely down.

With the so-called winter blues in effect, it seems only natural to get down on ourselves, our peers and the rest of the Alma community. Although this is natural, it does not make it right.

There are many positive points about Alma that are often overlooked, especially with the promise of soon breaking out of the "Alma Bubble," even if only for a few months. Students, faculty and administration forget about the special things that make Alma the college it is; we overlook the great programs unique only to Alma. The greatness of Alma is overshadowed by issues of gossip, diversity, boredom, competition among groups and flaws in the administration.

What other school has the equivalent of ACUB, to sponsor casino nights and comedians? What other college can have over half of their student population gather to welcome new members into the Greek community? Where else can you paint a rock to show school spirit? What other college shows constant support for all of their sports teams, no matter the

record? Where else does all of a campus share either an extreme passion or a defiant hatred for a specific pizza joint?

The answer is nowhere.

Although Alma is a small school and the lack of size can bring us down at times, it can also be great for us. Because Alma is so small, we have the unique chance to actually know everyone in our residence hall. We have the opportunity to be involved in several groups on campus at an intimate level. We can have strong interpersonal relationships with our professors, who go beyond teaching us to be our friends.

We are not claiming that Alma is a perfect institution, it is not. Just like every other organization in the world, Alma has flaws and problems. Although they may seem large, these flaws will eventually end up contributing to the growth and improvement of the campus.

When leaving for spring break, keep in mind these things that make Alma the great place that it is and keep in mind the reasons you chose to go here. Most of all, think of the things you will take with you when you leave in May: what you have learned, the opportunities you have experienced and the friends you have made. These are the things that make Alma special.

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## Campus Quips

Some thoughts floating around

Kudos to everyone who gave blood at the **Red Cross blood drive** on  
Valentine's Day...

Whoever or whatever makes the weather apparently has a problem with anyone  
interested in safely driving anywhere...

Props to the music department for a wonderful gala this weekend – where else  
but Alma could you mix a professional **Dutch orchestra** and a handful of  
college kids...

**Scream 3** is all the rage because it passes for entertainment in Alma – why?...

For everyone heading to someplace warm for break, congratulations on having  
money to do that...

For everyone heading to your humble abode somewhere in Michigan,  
congratulations on having motivation to do that...

## This Week's Weather:

### Thursday



Showers  
High: 53°  
Low: 42°

### Friday



Scattered Showers  
High: 54°  
Low: 40°

### Saturday



Scattered Showers  
High: 50°  
Low: