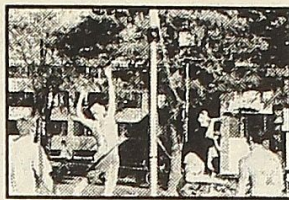




Men's and Women's baseball **begin training for their upcoming season.**
See page 5.



Students **enjoy the teaser of spring in a game of volleyball.**

Wednesday's Weather



Showers
High: 49°
Low: 29°

The Almanian

Issue 16

Serving Alma College since 1907

March 14, 2000

Model UN team rakes in many awards

By **CHRIS HARRINGTON**
Staff Writer

Over spring break, the Alma College Model United Nations program once again lived up to its reputation as being a top program in the nation.

The team participated in the Midwest Model United Nations Competition which took place in St. Louis. The competition is the first of two competitions that Alma participates in during the year. The second is the trip to New York, which draws schools from all over the country not just the mid-west region.

The two trips are really independent of each other. When Dr. Hulme, professor for the Model UN team, was asked if the St. Louis trip was a warm-up for the New York trip, he said, "Not really, we will be representing different countries at each trip. The competition will also be tougher in New York, as it will draw schools from all over the country." These teams will include upper echelon schools such as Harvard, Princeton and other large names.

The function consisted of various schools in the mid-west region and made up of over 700 delegates. Each team is assigned a

See **MODEL UN** on 2



Submitted photo

Scott Timmreck, Holly Paquet, Chris Macknacki, Darlene Fawkes, and Rachel Retzler relax at dinner after a successful competition.

Spring break fire singes Bruske room

By **GINGER DAVIS**
Staff Writer

Wed. March 1, a fire destroyed the contents of senior Lynn Seaton's Bruske room.

Seaton was gone for Winter Term Recess when the fire took place. At 6:32 p.m. the fire alarm in Bruske Hall sounded. Hall Director Tim Krabill went to the alarm activation panel to find the source of the alarm. Alma Resident Assistants (RA's) are trained in Emergency Response Procedures, but because of vacation, only one RA was in the building.

Krabill said, "If the alarm goes off, all the RA's are to report to the front desk, and check to see where it is. The first thing we do is call security. Cardell Johnson came down and according to our emergency procedures, the first person to respond goes directly to the scene where the alarm was activated. When he came down, I was on the phone with security and I asked him to go up to First North. I hung up the phone and headed up there myself."

Krabill added, "He (Johnson) went up there and smelled smoke, but at that time could not locate exactly where it was coming from, so he unplugged the microwave, thinking that it could be something in the kitchenette. I told him to just get out of the building. That is when I went back down to the front desk and called 911." Security officer Ted Jaure arrived as Krabill hung up the phone. Johnson saw flames in room #160 from outside the building and reported this to Krabill and Jaure. Both set out toward the room with fire

extinguishers but, due to smoke, they also evacuated the dorm. The fire department arrived at 6:37, and by 6:55 the fire was extinguished.

The fire was contained to room #160; therefore, damage to the building was minimal. Seaton's door was broken by axes when the firemen entered, and the firemen also broke the windows. The room's walls and ceiling were black from the fire, and the curtains were destroyed. Two adjacent rooms, the North Quad, the North corridor and the Phi Mu Alpha meeting room had water on the floor.

Seaton spoke of the damage to the contents of her room. She reported that the only things destroyed by the fire were "my fish tank, my stereo that was underneath it, the stand that went with it and some CD's. The fire produced a lot of soot and smoke. Smoke doesn't come out of things like plastic or cloth and the soot stained some things pretty badly. Then they brought in water hoses and sprayed down my room, so I had water damage, soot damage, smoke damage. So, most everything was damaged somehow."

The fire department concluded that although the fish tank's wiring did not cause the fire, the fish tank started the fire. Because much of the fish tank melted, they are not sure exactly how the tank caught fire.

Another RA, Senior Amy Sandberg (00), also keeps two large fish tanks in her room, but was not worried about fire danger. Sandberg said, "I think what happened to her could have happened at any time. It's just very unfortunate that everything she had was destroyed." Sandberg said of her fish tanks, "This is just a risk. The light could spark at any time, the heater could spark at any time."

Alma students compete for honors

By **RACHEL KUHL**
Staff Writer

Alma college students Jennifer Gibson (01) and Jaena Wisniewski, (01) will be competing this month against other college students nationwide for one of approximately 75-80 scholarships available from the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation.

According to the foundation website (www.Truman.gov), the scholarship was established as a federal memorial to our thirty-third president. The foundation awards up to \$30,000 to qualified students planning to pursue a career in public service.

In order to qualify for the scholarship, Gibson and Wisniewski were nominated by Alma College and required to complete an extensive application process. All students nationwide must first be nominated by the college they attend, be of junior or senior status, have an extensive record of community service and be committed to a career in public service.

There are approximately 200 finalists vying for the scholarships nationwide. The breakdown of finalists consists of one winner from each state, 20 wild card positions and 30 appeal entries. The appeal entries are entered by college officials who feel that there is a student

See **Honors** on 2

Greeks embrace nationwide unity

BY DAWNA ANDERSON
Staff Writer

The weekend of Feb. 17-20, eleven Alma College students, along with Marty Stack, assistant dean of students, attended the Mid-America Greek Council Association (MGCA) annual conference in Chicago.

The students represented several Greek organizations from campus, but mainly the Interfraternity Council (IFC) and the Panhellenic Council (Panhell). The chapters of Phi Sigma Sigma, Gamma Phi Beta, Alpha Xi

Delta, Theta Chi and Sigma Chi sent members as well.

The goal of the MGCA conference is to bring leaders of Greek communities together to share ideas and compare issues. One of the functions held besides the seminars was the Affliction Luncheon, where the students sit with their brothers and sisters from different schools across the mid-west.

Other functions included an awards banquet, a dance and a hypnotist. Because of the current transitions in IFC and Panhell Alma did not have enough time to properly prepare an entry for an award. In past years, however, the Greek

women received recognition for academics, council management, community service, leadership education and self-government judicial affairs. The Council Association also awarded the efforts of Alma's Greek men in risk reduction management and public relations. Next year the Alma Greek community plans to once again submit entries for these awards.

Submitting entries is a very time consuming process. Detailed documentation must be submitted to prove that the community is indeed fulfilling the long list of criteria for each award.

The main purpose of the conference was for the students to learn how to improve their chapter and community. There were two different kinds of seminars held to achieve these goals. "Pathways" were held several times a day with the same group of pre-registered students and the same advisor each time. The other seminars referred to "Hot Topics." A list was posted each day so students could sign up for those sessions that interested them.

Theta Chi brother Bill Dever (02) attended one seminar entitled "Working Smarter, Not Harder." The session focused on how to motivate people to become more involved and the reasons that people become active in campus life. Dever found that many of the issues at this and other seminars he attended applied more to larger schools. However, there was a discussion about dry housing that he found to be very important.

"The dry housing issue discussed at the conference is pertinent to Theta Chi because the national chapter has decided that as of July 1, 2003, all the Theta Chi chapters will have alcohol-free housing," said Dever.

Sigma Chi brother J.R. Logan (02) found the speakers on time management and schedule balancing to be very informative.

Logan said, "It was a good conference for making connections with other Greeks."

The MGCA conference provided an educational and bond-building weekend at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on the west side of Chicago for the 1,670 students and advisors in attendance. Returning advisors received a chance to update their colleagues on the improvements in Greek life made since the previous year. Students learned about how they can help their Greek community grow to be more unified and involved.

As Stack said, "It's a really good educational opportunity for students."

MODEL UN from 1

country to do research upon. The teams research four main issues including economics, politics, disarmaments and special political decolonisation.

The recent competition can be called nothing short of successful for Alma. Many members of the team received awards for outstanding performances. Individual awards were won by Sara Bickler, William Doyle, J.R. Logan, Eric Nguyen, Jen Wuorenmaa and Chris Machnacki. Individual honorable mention awards were earned by John Mileska, Amy Taylor and Elizabeth Wheat. A total of 12 outstanding delegate awards were given in the entire conference and only 6 honorable mention awards were given out. The teams are judged mainly by former participants of the Model United Nations.

Alma was successful with the team awards as well. The representatives for Tanzania, Ethiopia and Uruguay won awards. Tanzania members included Amy Fraley, Michelle Cade, Alicia Allen, Seo-Hee Kong, Cardell Johnson, Ed Vollenweider and Kristin Kender. Jen Gibson, Jaena Wisniewski, Scott Timmreck, Holly Paquet, Jen Wuorenmaa and J.R. Logan represented Ethiopia. Finally Uruguay members were John Meliska, Elizabeth Wheat, Amy Taylor, Darlene Fawkes, Sara Travis and Chris Machnacki.

Only two teams will be represented by Alma in the New York trip, Ethiopia and Togo. Over 3,000 students from all over the country will be competing in the actual United Nations Center. That trip is going to take place from April 18-22, during finals week. The students have been told to make arrangements accordingly.

This program has been described as a very demanding commitment, but also very rewarding. Sophomore Matt vandenBerg said, "The work load and stress level can be very high at times, but what we receive in return makes all the hard work worth it."

Senior Willie Doyle said, "I was happy on an individual level to have won an award, but the team effort by everyone else is what was really pleasing. At the awards ceremony, after they announced our second team award the whole team got excited, however after hearing the third team award go to Alma, I was shocked."

Dr. Hulme is the professor who directs the program and he was pleased to see the success of the team. Hulme said, "We had a lot of strong active participation from our younger members who have not had previous experience with Model UN."

Hulme also expressed his confidence in the team's ability to do well in New York as long as they keep up their strong work ethics.

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 unpublicized; (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.

HONORS from 1

that has been overlooked in the selection process and should continue into further rounds. Only 90 appeals are granted and of those only 30 are selected to compete. Gibson is competing against seven other students to represent the state of Michigan, and Wisniewski is hoping to be one of the 30 appeals.

The next challenge for both Wisniewski and Gibson is the formal interview. Gibson will be traveling to Ann Arbor, Mich. on March 17, while Wisniewski will be traveling to Washington D.C. on March 31. During the interviews both women will most likely discuss some of their future career ambitions in the field of public service.

Gibson plans on pursuing a law degree and masters of law and diplomacy at the same time from Fletcher University, while Wisniewski plans to "attend Michigan State University's College of Human Medicine and the University of Michigan's School of Public Health."

Criteria stated by the foundation website suggests that the interview selection panel will be looking for, leadership potential and communication skills, intellectual strength, analytical ability and the likelihood of the individual making a difference in public service. "I am looking forward to my interview in D.C. and am grateful for the mock interviews arranged by the National Scholarship Committee," said Wisniewski.

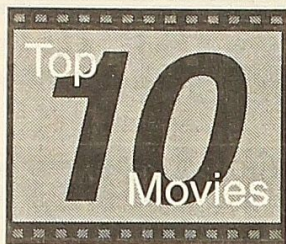
According to Gibson, "It was a very big honor just to have been nominated by Alma College to apply, so making it to the final round has been icing on the cake." Wisniewski agrees, "I am honored to have been considered for the Truman Scholarship and am excited to now be a finalist."

Wisniewski and Gibson have also been surprised at the level of support from both the college and the Alma community. Wisniewski said, "I have received tremendous support and encouragement from many in the campus community and for this I am extremely thankful and appreciative."

March 14, 2000

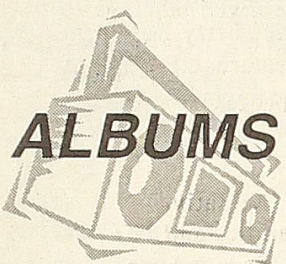
ENTERTAINMENT

3



Movies

1. "The Whole Nine Yards"
2. "The Next Best Thing"
3. "My Dog Skip"
4. "Drowning Mona"
5. "Pitch Black"
5. "Snow Day"
7. "Reindeer Games"
8. "Wonder Boys"
9. "American Beauty"
9. "The Cider House Rules"



Music

1. Santana Supernatural
2. Dr. Dre Dr. Dre — 2000
3. Christina Aguilera Christina Aguilera
4. Kid Rock Devil Without A Cause
5. Eiffel 65 Europop
6. Macy Gray On How Life Is
7. Celine Dion All the Way
8. Dixie Chicks Fly
9. Various Artists Grammys 2000
10. DMX And Then There Was X

Musically Inclined by Scott Timmreck

Oasis-standing on top of the world?

In their endless quest to be "the best band in the world," as leadman Noel Gallagher stated near the middle of the 90's, Oasis has had a tricky ride. Their second record, *"hat's The Story (Morning Glory)"* (which Q magazine called the best album of the 90s) smashed US audiences over their heads with the songs "Wonderwall" and "Champagne Supernova," and went on to sell well over 3 million records on this side of the ocean. But like anywhere in today's musical field, band loyalty shifts at a ridiculous pace, and Oasis' third record, *Be Here Now*, took the band's second-coming of Beatle-mania act and threw it out the window. While other bands were experimenting with electronic beats and material suited for a rave, Oasis was left behind with a few guitars and some drums, not exactly sure where to head next.

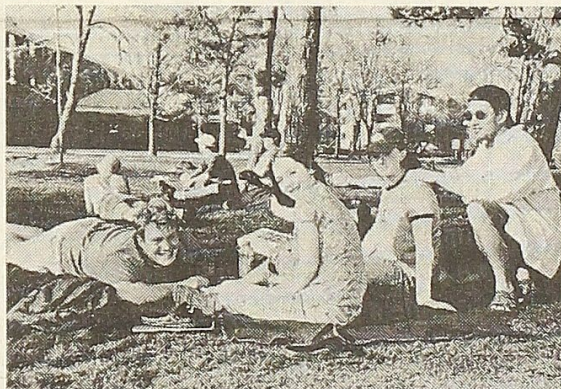
With their fourth effort, *Standing On The Shoulder of Giants*, Oasis have found themselves with some new members and have put their heads on straight enough to make their most sonically entertaining record to date. Produced by Mark "Spike" Stent, Oasis has moved away from the trademark in-your-face guitar licks and solos that

were the fundamental element behind the band's first three records. The finest piece, "Where Did It All Go Wrong?" provides the best lyric on the album: "And I hope you know that it's touch and go," painting a metaphor for life and the daily actions of people. Belligerent but peaceful, strong but gentle, Liam Gallagher, Noel's younger brother, sings his heart out, ripping into the rhythm but keeping the pace that the huge guitar licks provide.

In addition to a bit of innovation, Oasis is good enough to steal their own works and still make them sound original. "I Can See A Liar" might as well have been on their first record, or on one of The Who's records, as the title suggests. The guitars are straight-up and Liam's energy bounces off the classic Oasis sound, harkening back to the "Definitely Maybe" days of 1994 when the music was pure British pop-rock.

Although far from being "the best band in the world," Oasis is good enough to say that they can at least try for such a title. *Giants* is a fine album, and if the band is willing to shout their songs (which really don't say much of anything) from the rooftops, people will listen. Grade: B

Students Seth Emerson, Andrea Crabtree, Robyn Cole, and Hieu Biu take advantage of the fabulous weather and get some homework done in the process



ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

Wedding bells ring for Grant and Gill

Christian singer Amy Grant and country star Vince Gill tied the knot Friday outside of Nashville. Grant and Gill both deny allegations that Grant was the cause of Gill's divorce to his previous wife.

Backstreet Boys warn about scams

The Backstreet Boys are warning fans about backstage passes and concert tickets being sold on Ebay and other online merchandise sites. The band says all of the backstage passes are fake and many of the concert tickets are counterfeit.

Taylor becomes a real doll

Actress Elizabeth Taylor is now available in doll form from Mattel, the makers of Barbie. The first doll features Taylor as Cleopatra. A second doll, due out this summer, shows Taylor as she appeared in *Father of the Bride*. Both dolls cost \$75.

Three NBC shows return for a second season

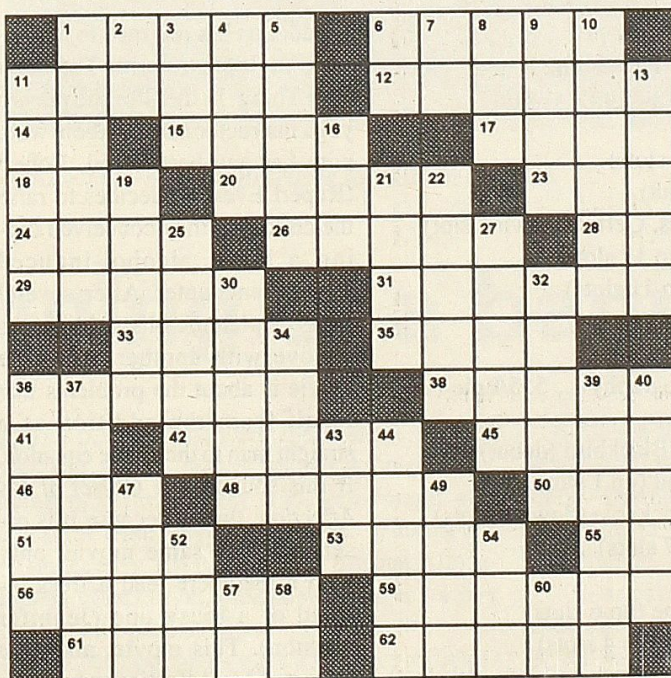
NBC has officially renewed three of their shows for a second season. *Third Watch*, *The West Wing*, and *Law and Order: Special Victim's Unit* will all be returning after excellent ratings during their first season.

The Sixth Sense makes history

The summer blockbuster the *Sixth Sense* set records as it became the 11th highest grossing film of all time. Buena Vista reports that the movie has brought in over \$285.9 million dollars.

- 48 Horses
- 50 Rent
- 51 Same
- 53 Mexican food
- 55 Southern state (abbr.)
- 56 Races
- 59 Outdoors person
- 61 Desires
- 62 Coach

- DOWN
- 1 Planet
- 2 Near
- 3 Drag; haul
- 4 Speak
- 5 No
- 6 Public announcement (abbr.)
- 7 Football position (abbr.)
- 8 Extravehicular activity (abbr.)
- 9 No one
- 10 Lacking tone
- 11 King of golden touch
- 13 Passage or opening
- 16 A Gabor
- 19 My sister's daughter
- 21 Jacket (England)
- 22 Take pleasure in
- 25 Strange
- 27 Cut
- 30 Not a winner
- 32 Royal
- 34 Roman emperor
- 36 Shout of approval
- 37 Firmament
- 39 Number
- 40 Repave
- 43 Large vessel; tub
- 44 Decree by legislation
- 47 Distance (pref.)
- 49 Blemish
- 52 No (Scot.)
- 54 Indicates tumor (suf.)
- 57 Three feet (abbr.)
- 58 Steamship (abbr.)
- 60 3.14159



ACROSS

- 1 Boutique
- 6 Contest area
- 11 Age
- 12 Vow
- 14 Impersonal pronoun
- 15 Donated
- 17 Unknown (abbr.)
- 18 Bill
- 20 Means of accomplishment
- 23 Having the quality of (suf.)
- 24 Solo vocal piece
- 26 Evaluates

28 Argon symbol (abbr.)

- 29 Fish hook leader
- 31 To an excessive degree
- 33 Variant of scion
- 35 Upper part of glacier
- 36 Edam
- 38 Fr. painter Fernand
- 41 Male pronoun
- 42 Transmits sensory stimuli
- 45 Rattling throat sound
- 46 Dine

www.What!?!?



www.what!?!?

www.emode.com/test/dog2.html

Ever wonder what kind of dog you would be if you were of the canine persuasion? This site answers that all-important question with a short quiz. The quiz is 12 questions – it takes approximately 8 minutes – and asks about your high school experiences, favorite sports, favorite foods, and leisure time activities. When you're done you get your answer. Although it may seem useless, this site could tell you the kind of dog you would be most compatible with, and if all else fails, is worth a good laugh.

www.condensedsoup.com

As this site explains, all you need is a little water, celery, 12 gerbils and dedication to put together a truly funny site. Condensedsoup.com offers lots of soup info for the savvy surfer, as well as a few good laughs and some funny cartoons. As this site reminds us, the power of soup is enormous.

www.sci.mos.mn.us/sln/tf/c/crosssection/namethatbar.html

Do you know your candy bars? Get ready to play...name that candy bar! This site shows pictures of cross sections of our favorite candy bars. Take a guess, and then click on the picture to see if you were right. They start our relatively easy but get more and more difficult. Test your candy bar savvy at this site.

March is National Women's Month

Women's History Month Schedule

Service Projects

Women's Aid Services: March 15th, 1-5 p.m.

Women's Clothing Closet—There is a room full of clothing for women in need, and the clothes need to be sorted, folded and hung. Decorate a room—Help make a shelter room a little nicer! We need help cleaning, wallpapering and painting.

Baby Pantry: Tuesdays in March

The Baby Pantry needs volunteers every Tuesday to help sort and fold baby clothes for needy families. The Pantry is located in the American Red Cross office, and the hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please stop by for a few hours to help out!

Speakers

Gelston Hall RA Staff: March 17 from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. in Jones Auditorium.

The Gelston Hall Staff is sponsoring an open mic coffeehouse honoring women.

Mary McMartin: March 20 from 7:30-9:00 p.m., Fireside Lounge. McMartin is a Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Coordinator for the Child Advocacy Agency. Her speech is entitled "Let's Empower the Children."

Newberry Hall Council: March 20, 8:00 p.m. in Van Dusen Commons.

Sign up to play in the Newberry Hall Euchre Tournament. All proceeds will benefit the Women's Aid Shelter.

Scott Thelen: March 22 from 7-7:45 p.m. in Fireside. Thelen is a health educator who will be explaining the WIC and family planning programs the Ithaca Office has to offer, as well as service opportunities for interested volunteers.

Nathalie Menendes and Deb Shoemaker: March 27 from 8-9:30 p.m. in

Newberry. Menendes and Shoemaker are Counseling Center Interns who will be presenting on "Women's Sexuality and Health Intimacy."

Anne Henningfeld and Melissa Desjarlais: March 27 at 8:00 p.m. at the Heritage Center. Anne and Melissa will be "Fiddlin' For Some Change" with an evening of traditional and contemporary Celtic and American music for violin and piano. Donations will be accepted for the Women's Aid Shelter.

Clothesline Project

Sponsored by Joe Gelina and the Wilcox Medical Center

The Clothesline Project is a remembrance for all those who have been affected by violence. It will be displayed in Dow Lobby, March 21, 10 a.m.-7p.m.; March 22, 10 a.m.-4p.m.; March 23, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Please go and support your sisters and children who have suffered or perished because of senseless violence.

Spring Break Pictures Contest

Did you go someplace wonderful for spring break? If you took lots of pictures, submit them to *The Almanian* for our "Spring Break Pictures Contest." The newspaper staff will vote on the most interesting, wacky, fun or outrageous photos and publish them in an upcoming issue. 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

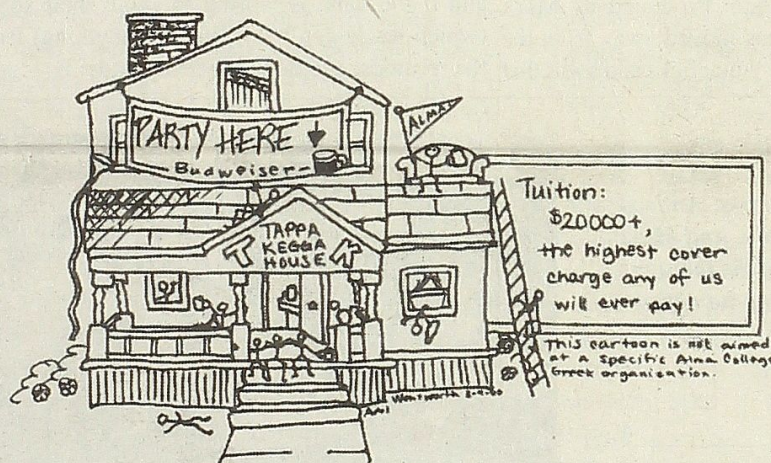
A free large pizza from Domino's

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

Photos must be submitted by midnight Saturday, March 18.

The Almanian is now accepting applications for the 2000-2001 school year. All positions open. Pick up applications on the Almanian door in the basement of Newberry Hall. Applications due by March 24, 2000

College Life by Adel Wentworth



WQACTop 30 Albums for the week

1. The Cure, Bloodflowers, Fiction/Elektra (debut)
2. Eels, Daisies of the Galaxy, Dreamworks (holding)
3. The Smashing Pumpkins, Machina, Virgin (up 2 slots)
4. Dido, No Angel, Arista (down 2 slots)
5. Beck, Midnite Vultures, DGC (down 2 slots)
6. Metroszene, The Weekenders E.P. (debut)
7. Bloodhound Gang, Hooray For Boobies, Geffen (down 1 slot)
8. Korn, Make Me Bad, Epic/Immortal (up 17 slots)
9. Fiona Apple, Limp, Clen Slate/Epic (up 11 slots)
10. The The, Naked Self, Nothing (debut)
11. On, Shifting Skin, Epic (up 17 slots)
12. Ben Folds Five, The Unauthorized Biography..., 555/Epic (up 3 slots)
13. Bell, Book, and Candle, Red My Sign, Blackbird (debut)
14. Violent Femmes, Freak Magnet, Beyond (up 1 slot)
15. Fullerenes, Talk Serious About Luv, Stackable (down 4 slots)
16. David Bowie, 'hours...', Virgin (down 7 slots)
17. Kittie, Spit, Artemis (down 1 slot)
18. Primus, Antipop, Prawn Song/Interscope (up 6 slots)
19. Incubus, Make Yourself, Epic/Immortal (up 4 slots)
20. Man On The Moon, Soundtrack, Warner Brothers (down 10 slots)
21. Fighting Gravity, Hello Cleveland, BOB (debut)
22. The Reverend Horton Heat, Spend A Night In The Box, Time Bomb (debut)
23. Morphine, The Night, Dreamworks (down 15 slots)
24. Our Lady Peace, Happiness... Columbia (down 3 slots)
25. Ani DiFranco, To The Teeth, Righteous Babe (up 4 slots)
26. Stroke, First In Last Out, Interscope (down 1 slot)
27. Andrew Pomerville, Jaengo's Basement, Ducky (down 26 slots)
28. Pete Krebs, Bittersweet Valentines, Cavity Search (down 9 slots)
29. Save Ferris, Modified, Epic (down 11 slots)
30. Luna, The Days Of Our Nights, Jericho (down 4 slots)

Next Best Thing never delivers

Madonna has returned to nationwide multiplexes with *The Next Best Thing*. In the film she plays a yoga instructor named Abbie who, with her gay best friend, Robert (Rupert Everett), decides to raise the child that they conceived during a brief, alcohol-induced straight encounter. After several years of platonic bliss Abbie falls in love with another man. The movie is about the problems that result from the addition of a straight man to their little equation. If this sounds like *Object of My Affection*, that is because it is essentially the same movie, only with a mediocre lead actress instead of a lousy one (Jennifer Aniston). This movie, also like *Object of My Affection*, advertises its own flaws with a title that is a pun heavily laced with irony.

The Next Best Thing struggles to find a genre and never quite decides what type of movie it wants to be. It is not a comedy, mainly because Madonna is not funny. The movie is attempts to be a drama are like watching two teenagers on a first date: awkward, at best. There are times, namely dur-

ing the courtroom drama scenes and when the child pleads for Everetts return, where the film tries to be a tearjerker, but it falls short in this category, also.

Rupert Everett floats by on charm, and steals the movie away from Madonna. Although the first part of the movie seems to be centered on her, Everett soon travels off in other directions, playing the spurned parent seeking visitation rights with more charisma and dramatic flair in one scene than Madonna evokes in the entire movie. This is unfortunate because Madonna can act – there is evidence of this in *Evita* and *Four Rooms* – but does not bother to.

Their son, played by Malcolm Stumpf, is cute but not especially memorable. Neil Patrick Harris has a small but winning role as a gay friend of Robert and Abbie. The scene where he, Robert and Abbie attend a funeral for Harris' late boyfriend, who died of AIDS-related pneumonia, is both touching and funny: no easy task for a funeral scene. Benjamin Brann plays Madonna's new man, Ben. However, he is so kind, patient and

perfect that he seems flat and phony. He appears to be suffering from the same malaise that affects Madonna. Both try to slide by on nice smiles and pretty faces, rather than bringing any depth to their characters or the movie.

The end of the movie is a disaster. The plot takes several turns that should be confined to daytime television. Somehow, despite the mess of custodial rights that the characters are swimming around in, everyone lives happily ever after. The fact that Tom Ropelewski, the screenwriter, managed a happy ending out of this mess is one of the funniest parts of the film.

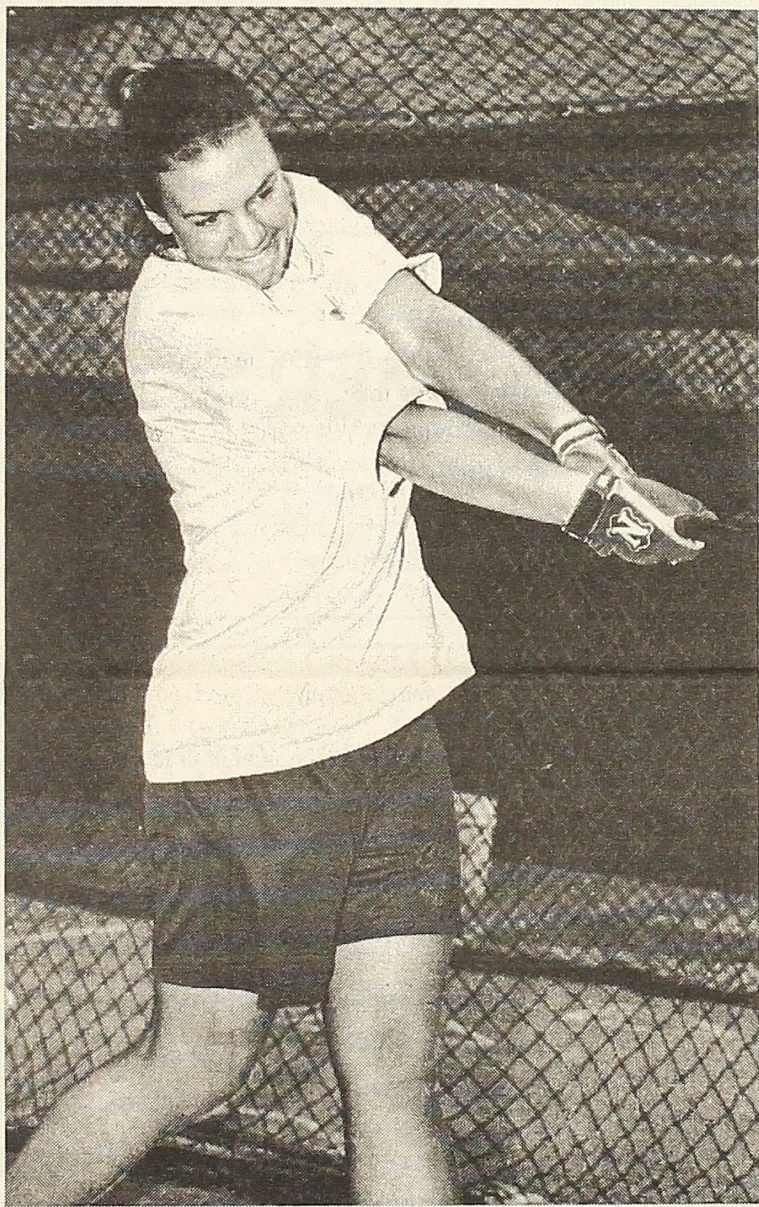
Somehow Everett manages to survive the dramatic and comedic wreckage of the film with little damage. He was the highlight of this film, and one can only hope that in the future he makes better choices about the roles he takes. As for Madonna and Brann, the next time they decide to take time off from acting, they should take care not to do it while filming a movie.

March 14, 2000

SPORTS

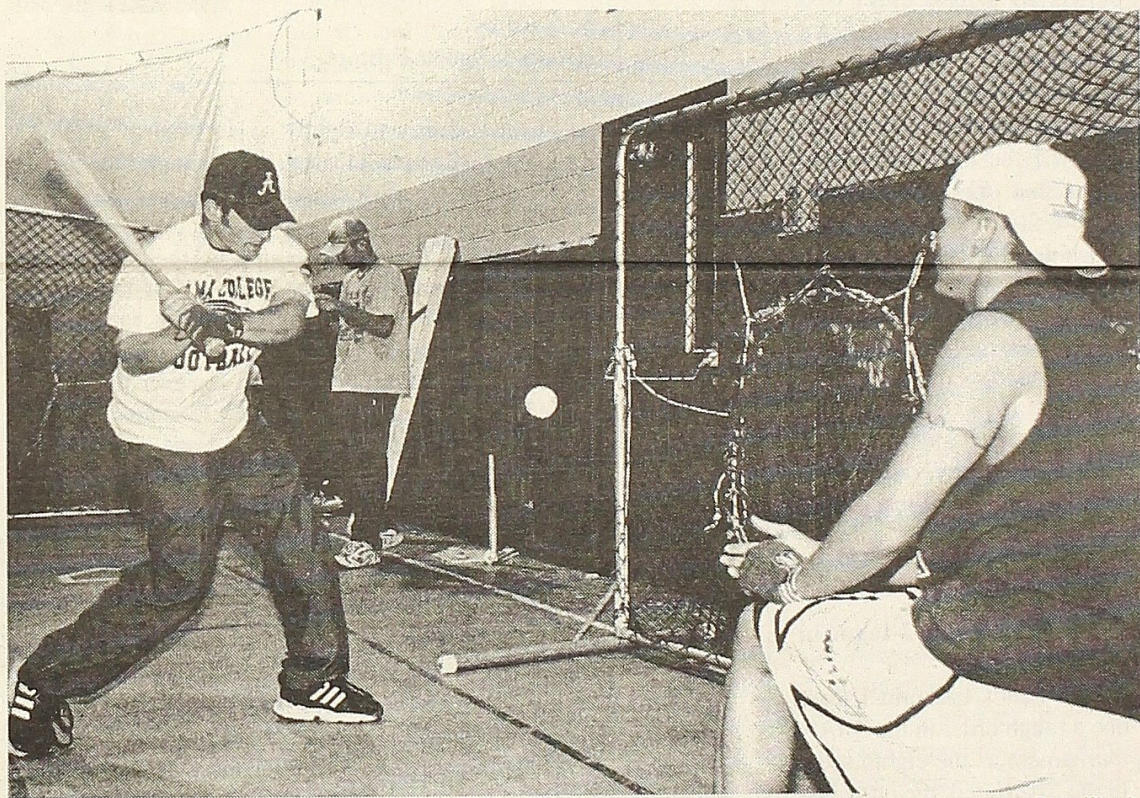
5

Baseball and softball teams compete in Cusic Classic



Bryan Waugh

Senior Brandee Brower strokes it at indoor practice last week.



Bryan Waugh

Senior Shawn Grant practices soft toss in the gym.

By AMY NOVAK
Online Editor

The baseball and softball teams traveled to Fort Meyers, Florida over Spring Break for Spring Training. While down there, the both teams competed in ten games of the Gene Cusic Collegiate Classic to start off their respective seasons.

The softball team returned home with a perfect 10-0 record. The Lady Scots recovered from a 5-0 deficit to win over Concordia-Moorhead College (Minnesota) on their last day of play. The Scots won 6-5 when senior Stacie Vietzke squeezed home senior Amy Czabala with a bunt.

Senior Brandee Brower was 2 for 4 with two RBIs and Vietzke went 2 for 3 with

the winning RBI. Junior Becky Pierce picked up her sixth win of the season, with eight strikeouts and eight hits.

The Scots then finished the tournament with an 11-1 win over Johnson Wales (Rhode Island). Senior Jackie Cowan took her fourth win of the season. Sophomore Liz Knochel was 2 for 3 with a double and first-year student Julie Wiest was 2 for 2 with a stolen base and a run.

The baseball team finished 1-9 overall. The team's only victory came on their last day of play when they defeated the Milwaukee School of Engineering (Wisconsin) 9-2 in the first of two games of the day.

Senior Art Klawander was 2 for 3 with two RBIs, two stolen bases, and two runs

scored while senior Shawn Grant also went 2 for 3 with three runs scored. Senior Andy Meterer went 3 for 4 including an RBI and a triple.

First-year student Nick Duflo took the relief win, allowing only four hits in under four innings.

The Scots lost 4-2 to St Vincent (Pennsylvania) in the second game. Junior Sean Dick took the loss, allowing ten hits and four runs in over four innings.

The baseball team regular season begins March 28, when they take on Saginaw Valley State University at home at 3 pm. The softball team travels to California on March 16 to play in the Sun West Tournament. They will begin their regular season on March 24 with the Alma Invitational.

Florida: the beginning of a banner season

By BRIAN PRIEHS
Staff Writer

The men's tennis team ventured to Florida over Winter Term recess to ignite their 2000 regular season. The team left the college on Friday, Feb. 25, in the comfortable and luxurious Alma sports' van, waiting anxiously before they could step ground in Haines City, Florida. Having high aspirations about their week in the pleasant suburb of Orlando, the seven-man roster felt prepared for their trek.

Ten hours later in the state of Tennessee, the team reached their destination for the night, the home of a player's relative. The next day the team piled back into their cramped living space for the remainder of the journey, hoping that would be their last time they would ever have to fend off copperhead snakes in their lives. In total, the drive was nearly twenty-two exhausting, but enjoyable hours.

The men on the team and their two coaches were ready

for the tough four matches that were ahead of them. They opened the season with a match against Augustana of Illinois. Losing 6-3, the contest was well-fought and perhaps, the best the team played as a whole. Winning for Alma were Tim Zeedyk (01) and Denis Busque (02) in singles. In doubles competition, Busque was also victorious while teaming up with partner Matt Piper (02).

The rest of the Scots' opponents were a bit more difficult. Division II foe, Michigan Tech defeated the Scots in their next dual meet. Mark O'Bryan (03) played extremely well against the Huskies while losing a close match in three sets. Captain Ryan Webb (00) also took a set away from his opponent.

"Going down and playing teams that are a level above you is one of the best learning experiences you can have with this game," O'Bryan commented.

Match number three against Eckerd of Florida and match number four against Webber of Florida proved to be just as difficult for the Scots as their previous contests - they lost both matches.

Although the team competed in match after match, they also participated in two- to-three grueling practice sessions daily. The men developed skills that will definitely help the team in the upcoming season, which made the trip worthwhile.

Competing over break has not only been beneficial individually, it helped the team become closer. Sharing a small van for the drive down to Florida and back, and sharing a condo and spending the entire week together brought the men together and helped build a stronger team. Sharing common experiences is one thing that will improve any team.

Piper said, "We had really come together as a team by the end of the week."

O'Bryan also added that the trip "helped the team jell together" and that it was a great "steppingstone for what the future has to offer."

The Alma Scots will continue their season March 18 at home against Cornerstone College at 3:30 p.m. and March 25 against Adrian College at 1 p.m., also at home.

Sport **S**horts

Senior diver invited to NCAA championships

For the second straight year, Scot senior diver Joey Mead received an invitation to the NCAA Division III Men's Swimming and Diving Championships, March 15-18 at Emory University in Atlanta.

During his career, Mead made his mark by ranking in the top ten of every Alma diving category. He posted new school records in both the one-and three-meter diving events this season. Mead, along with two divers from Kalamazoo, will represent the MIAA at the nationals.

Calvin ends women's basketball season

The women's basketball team pulled off a mild upset over Hope College in the MIAA tournament semi-finals to advance to the finals against Calvin. The Scots could not hold off the 21-5 Knights as Alma lost, 51-44. The Scots ended the season at 15-11, finishing 10-6 in the league with third place honors.

Four women brought home post-season honors for Alma. Shannon Gross (00) and Mary Barnhart (00) racked up two All-MIAA first team honors. Janell Twietmeyer (03) was voted to the second team while Shelly Ulfig (03) was an honorable mention selection.

Scots lose to No. 2 team in nation

The men's basketball team had a tough order in the MIAA tournament as the eighth seed. In the first round, they traveled Grand Rapids to take on the nation's No. 2 team, the Calvin Knights. They finished a disappointing season at the hands of the Knights with a 79-73 loss. Alma finished the season 7-18.

The league recognized two senior leaders of the Scots with post-season honors. Jeremy Hyler and Seth Stapleton were both named to the All-MIAA second team.

NCAA tourney brackets announced

The NCAA announced on Sunday the 2000 field of 64 teams for the NCAA Championship tournament. The number one seeds in each region went to Michigan State University, Ariona, Stanford and Duke. First round games begin this Thursday. The championship game is set for April 3.

Women's tennis takes the courts on West Coast

BY DAWNA ANDERSON
Staff Writer

The women's tennis team traveled to California during Winter Term recess. They flew out Friday, Feb. 25 and returned Saturday, Mar. 4.

The nine women on the team, along with their Coach Chi Ly and his wife, left for Long Beach with hopes of fun in the sun and glory on the courts. Unfortunately, the team lost all three matches to Biola University, United States International University and California Technical University. Many of the women won their individual matches, but the team came up short each time.

The team also discovered that California can have cold weather. The ladies expected warm temperatures but received cool breezes between

50-60 degrees each day.

Another unexpected surprise was the conditions of their hotel. The team found the Comfort Inn to be uncomfortable, because of the lack of English-speaking employees and the constant haze of danger that hung around the neighborhood. After two nights they moved to a Holiday Inn.

The trip was not just hard work and disappointment. On the days they did not have matches, they practiced hard in the morning and spent the afternoon enjoying some of the entertainment that California had to offer.

The women visited Disneyland and bonded as a team by riding every amusement attraction together. The season was too early to attract many tourists so they never had to wait long in line. They also went to the beach to enjoy the sun in their swimsuits despite the cool weather. Another day, the team went to the Chinese

Theatre in Hollywood to watch *The Next Best Thing*.

One of the best aspects of the trip was the break from campus food. The women enjoyed several evenings of fine dining. One of their favorite spots was the Spaghetti Bender, an Italian restaurant with a catchy song that implanted itself in the heads of the players.

Overall, it was a successful trip in terms of time spent on the court and team bonding. First-year students, Janet and Leah Daig had a good time.

"The trip to California was beneficial in many ways. It not only allowed us to work on our tennis skills but also to get to know each of the team members and to work as a team," said Leah.

Janet said, "It gave us a good chance to have the experience of playing teams that we would not ordinarily play."

Tribute to a Piston legend;
#4 raised to Palace rafters

By Kelly McDonald, Sports Editor

He is now a Piston 4-ever, and rightly so. In front of a packed Palace of Auburn Hills last Friday, #4 was raised to the rafters in honor of one the most respected players in the game.

Joe Dumars exemplified what every parent wants their kid to grow up to be. He is one of the good guys in a sports world that has seen players choke their coaches, bite ears off, and even be tried for murder.

In his 14 seasons with the Detroit Pistons, did you ever see him show up a referee, another player, his coach or fans? How many professional athletes today do you know who would take a pay-cut to make room for the next superstar?

That is what Dumars did when Grant Hill came to town. An aging veteran who easily could have requested a trade to a championship contender, Dumars instead took a backseat to Hill, and showed him the ropes of the NBA.

This is a guy, who at 22 years old in 1985, was drafted by Detroit with the 18th pick overall, and had to call his parents in Louisiana to ask where Michigan was. And when he got here, he was disappointed there was no crawfish or gumbo.

But Dumars adjusted and became a Piston legend. If Isiah was the captain of those championship teams, Dumars was the glue that stuck them all together.

Dumars brought his poise and dignity to the "Bad Boys," and guys like Bill

Laimbeer and Rick Mahorn could not help but respect him. Dumars did his job, did it well, and did it with respect for others.

"He's a role model's role model, a professional's professional," said Hill, Dumar's teammate of five years, at the Friday night ceremonies.

Not ever one to gloat in the glamour of professional sports, Dumars quietly accepted all the attention in a night reserved for him. One by one, Bill Davidson, Jack McCloskey, Chuck Daly, Grant Hill, and Isiah Thomas rose to speak about their memories of Dumar's storybook career.


Maybe the biggest surprise of the night was when Russ Granik, deputy commissioner of the NBA, announced that the league's annual Sportsmanship Award has officially been renamed the Joe Dumars Trophy.

"Joe represents the best of the NBA, and it gives us enormous pride to name this trophy in his honor," said Granik.

The humble Dumars said, "I feel lucky and blessed to have a night like this. It is a great honor and I'll never forget this night."

And I am sure the 22,076 fans that witnessed the event feel the same way. We were honored to be there and will never forget the night.

Dumars is now the Vice-President of Player Personnel for Detroit, and will be a Piston 4-ever.



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March 14, 2000

OPINION

7

HEMISPHERES

By Cara Bonine

Maricarmen Ramirez Garcia is the first wife of a Mexican governor to break her traditionally supportive, ornamental role and demand a political career of her own.

After winning the primary, Ramirez will represent the center-left party of the Democratic Revolution as candidate for a Tlaxcala seat in the Mexican Senate.

Her campaign to improve women's rights includes working with over 20,000 women in Mexico, helping them start businesses and encouraging them to become more independent and self-sustaining.

"It's simply unacceptable that in a Mexico of 100 million people, about half live in poverty," she says. "Women have a central role in changing that."

In the United States, Hillary Clinton is also preaching Ramirez's bold truth about women and politics. Trying to gain a similar Senate seat, Hillary's political tactics are surprisingly similar to Ramirez's.

Both leaders have taken the same criticism: rising to the top of the political arena in the shadows of their husbands. Yet why aren't American women as enthused to hear Hillary's message? Is the women's liberation movement old-fashioned and unnecessary in the new millennium? Don't American women need a leader and role

model in this new era?

Many argue that women are not in as bad of a situation economically and socially in the U.S. and therefore, do not require the guidance of a strong female leader.

This is true; women have more opportunities available to them than at any other time in history. Young women today cannot fathom the small list of careers that were available for women only a generation ago.

However, women in the U.S. still face real and important issues, issues that will eventually need to be addressed by countries such as Mexico in time.

The American "working mom" faces the difficult task of balancing a career alongside a family. The full-time job of raising the children and keeping the house has now been replaced with a full-time career. How do families deal with the ever-difficult job of raising a family and having a career?

This is one of many issues facing women in the U.S. and proof that women leaders are still necessary and needed in today's society. American women crave an enthusiastic and strong leader, like Ramirez, to help them in their domestic struggles and allow them complete professional freedom.

Simple Thoughts By Dan Joyce

Think for yourself

When confused, simply ask more questions.

While this may seem obvious, how often has any one of us just gone about our lives confused?

The answer to any question is reachable. Though it may not be easily uncovered, the answer is there. Search without giving up and you will find the answer.

The solutions to many of your hard-to-find questions are seldom in a textbook. More often, a novel, the Bible or other religious writings, other people, or you yourself might hold the answer. Just dig a little deeper.

Never just accept anyone else's definition for anything. Think for yourself. Do not be led blindly into that which you cannot escape. Be wary of being led into anything that you do not understand.

Do not wait around for the right time to stand up for what you believe in; there is no such time except in the present, past and future. Yes, always be willing to live for what you believe. Dying for what you believe in seldom accomplishes what living for it does. Upon being asked what you believe, be prepared to give your reasons. Also, try to give examples from your daily life. Give no one the power to change you; only change yourself.

This does not mean that you can never accept anyone else's values. Listen to what they believe and why they believe it, watch to see if they practice it, and decide for yourself if they are right or wrong. Never expect anyone to accept all of your values and beliefs. But always expect them to respect your ideas only as much as you respect theirs. No person will respect your "high and

mighty" morals if you will not even listen and evaluate theirs, nor should they.

To profess to have greater values than any other without honestly considering theirs is hypocrisy. Do not trust a hypocrite. Try not to let hypocrisy lead you.

If you notice that a friend is being hypocritical, make known to them your observation. A true friend will listen, explain and decide for themselves if they are in the wrong. Always be prepared for the same criticism. I say to be prepared, not to have a comeback. Do not point out their wrongdoings just to avoid the evaluation of your own.

At the same time, preparation has no connection to excuses. Admit your wrongs and try to avoid making the same mistake twice. Hope for the same in others, but do not expect it. Expectations lead to disappointment.

ment.

Go into everything you do with an open mind. An open mind will learn far more than is meant to be taught.

Never talk down to another person. There are others better than you and there are those who have not experienced as much as you have. You can learn just as much from either of these people.

It seems that I have laid out a good share of that which I believe. It is too bad that beliefs do not always lead to actions. I know that I have gone against or denied that which I believe in more than once. To realize a mistake is the first step to correcting it.

Everything I have experienced and witnessed has led me to the values I now hold. Future experiences will either change my values, strengthen them or expand upon them.

Life, at Alma

By Scott Timmreck

A tragedy in Michigan

This column is going to leave Alma this week. We are going next door to Flint to discuss the tragedy at Buell Elementary School that resulted from a 6 year-old (6 YEARS OLD!) boy pulling the trigger of a .32-caliber semiautomatic handgun and killing his classmate, Kayla Rolland.

Only 11 months ago, the world watched as crying teenagers, worried parents and perplexed school officials experienced the terrible tragedy at Columbine High School in Jonesboro, Colorado.

I remember that day — the sun was shining and I was leaving Mitchell Hall, but the television screen in the lobby was showing CNN, and flaunting the words "BREAKING NEWS." Curious, I sat down and watched the situation unfold, disgusted not only at the killers for their actions, but with CNN and the hordes of cameras and reporters that were swarming the horrible scene, all in the name of journalism. What were they trying to accomplish?

I wanted to feel nothing but contempt for Eric and Dylan and for all the tears they caused, but my thoughts kept going toward the media, and how reporters were interviewing parents, whose world had been turned upside-down in a

matter of minutes and who could not possibly sanely comprehend what was going on.

I will forever remember that day, just as I will forever remember where I was when I first heard about the happenings in Flint (in my car, driving to the library). My first thought was, "How young do you have to be to kill in this country?" I had never even conceptualized a gun until I got a Nintendo in 1986, which came with that ugly gray plastic thing that could be used to play Duck Hunt and a few other games that never got any notoriety.

But after taking a few moments to consider how terrible this boy's life must have been, how a boy that young could have obtained a gun and how badly his parents or guardians deserved to be punished, my thoughts shifted back to that sunny day at Alma, when I watched CNN interview a parent whose child was presumed dead. And my disgust shifted too, because after watching the Columbine coverage, reading all the follow-up coverage, listening to politicians gripe about how Columbine was Marilyn Manson's fault and how we need to regulate gun control, I could not focus on Kayla and her family anymore.

No, I began to focus on us, our

American society, and how exactly we react after this kind of thing happens. We look for people to blame (parents). We write letters to the editors of papers (expressing our feelings). We point fingers at violence in movies and dirty lyrics in music (wrong—no studies have ever proved this). Mostly, we look to the government as a remedy, as the solution to our problems, in the form of gun control legislation.

Three bills are currently in consideration in Michigan regarding gun control. The first would require dealers to provide trigger locks with every pistol sold, and make owners responsible when minors commit crimes with their weapons. The second law would require buyers to obtain liability insurance for injuries or deaths caused by their weapons. And the third is a bill that would levy civil fines against owners who leave guns accessible to minors.

Now, a discussion of each of these laws could easily fill a 4,000-word column. But, only one thing needs to be said: Would Sirmarcus Winfrey and Jameal James, the two men with whom the boy lived and obtained the gun from, act differently had these laws been in effect? The answer is NO.

James couldn't care less about liability insurance, responsibility if

a minor used his weapon (which I would assume he, nor any gun owner, would count on when purchasing a gun), or civil fines. The man sold crack cocaine — he didn't care about laws! Neither did the Columbine killers or Ronald Taylor, the man who went on a shooting spree in Pennsylvania the day after the Buell Elementary tragedy. The law-abiding citizens do not let 6 year-olds get a hold of guns — they don't need more laws.

What they do need, and perhaps what we all need, is a reality check. We will cry for Kayla and her family as well as her shooter. We will read the editorial pages of newspapers, form opinions and speak out that something needs to be done. We will hear new reports of teddy bears and flowers being piled up near the school, and watch the prime-time news and its pictures. We will talk with our friends about it and speak out that something needs to be done.

And we will continue to speak out, but then we will stop. We will stop and continue with our daily lives, pushing the thoughts of any tragedy to the back of our heads, hoping that the situation will heal itself. But it won't. CNN and the local news will continue to dehumanize these events, and newspapers will write articles and

editorials that all say basically the same thing, but with different words. Perhaps it is time for society to do a long-term examination, not a hasty one that will accomplish nothing, which results from something like this. Some say the problem is violent television. Well, it is the same people who condone guns that give "NYPD Blue" its positive ratings. This seems a bit paradoxical. Some say the problem is parental indifference. Well, those people who claim this need to pay attention to their own children and listen to what they have to say. It is a different world and children have different ideas.

I have no solution. I do not consider myself qualified to give one, especially considering this medium. But I do know that there is a problem, and by definition, a problem has a solution. The intense media coverage that I mention extensively, that CNN coverage on that sunny day, calls us to do a reality check. How can so much interest in a topic like Columbine lead to a total lack of results and lead to a six-year old killing a classmate? That is the question, one whose answer will hopefully surface in the near future.

Letters to the Editors

To the editors:

I am writing in response to Mr. Dan Joyce who indicated in the February 15, 2000 Almanian (p. 11) that he had experienced an overabundance of fees at Alma College. While I cannot speak to the experience Mr. Joyce had at Ferris (man schools DO require that students request the transcript ahead and charge more for transcripts issued at the counter), I can clarify that this is not the policy at Alma College. Currently enrolled students are not charged for transcripts at all. Former students (not currently enrolled at Alma College) are charged only \$2, and we will send the transcripts out prior to receiving payment so we do not hold up graduate school or employment prospects for our former students.

Colleges and universities across Michigan and beyond hold to a standard for an ‘official transcript’ – the standard is that the transcript be received directly from the issuing institution without going through the student. This is done to maintain integrity of the transcript; in fact, as registrar and a former Alma College student, I could not deliver my OWN transcript to another school and have it considered official; instead, it is sent through the mail. We do accept fax transcripts as working copies so we can properly advise students prior to receiving the official transcript (which may take longer to reveive). Once the transferred credit is applied to the transcript, we send a copy to the student so he or she will know how it transferred.

We also do not charge a fee to review the transcript and put that credit on the student’s record. The Registrar’s Office does not – and did not – charge a \$50 fee to evaluate Mr. Joyce’s, or any other undergraduate student’s transcript.

I would be glad to clarify for any student the charges believed to be incurred through the Registrar’s Office; sometimes a simple explanation can promote better understanding.

Karen Klumpp
Registrar and Assistant Provost

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To the editors:

On Wednesday, Feb. 16, the Greek women of Alma College came together to focus not on their individual groups, but to look at the women’s Greek Community as a whole. Each of these women was drawn to this community at some time. They then chose the group that was best for them and most of their focus shifted from being Geek to being a member of their particular group. This workshop offered a time for Greek women to refocus and remember why they chose to explore the Greek community. The question as posed, “What do each of the groups have in common?” Discussion groups made up of members of various group contemplated this question and came to the following conclusions:

The Top 10 Things All Alma Sororities Have In Common

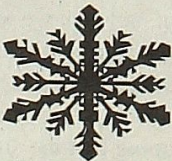
- 1. We each have a rich heritage and celebrate that through our ritual.
- 2. All of our organizations are made up of a diverse group of women who value their individuality.
- 3. We all share friendship, smiles, laughter and tears.
- 4. Each of our groups has women who exhibit strong leadership and individual strength.
- 5. Each of our chapters has dreams and goals, which they continually strive to obtain.
- 6. There is a strong commitment to bettering the community through philanthropic endeavors.
- 7. Each member is offered support and encouragement through the strong bonds of sisterhood, which are formed.
- 8. Intersorority friendships are abundant.
- 9. Each group values a strong sense of academic achievement.
- 10. All members are involved in some other campus or community activities.

The sisters of Alpha Xi Delta thank all of the women who participated in this workshop. We truly believe that by taking this opportunity to recognize our similarities a greater understanding of what it means to be “Greek” was reached. After all, “whatever the letter, we’re Greek together.”

Elizabeth Weber (01),
President of Alpha Xi Delta

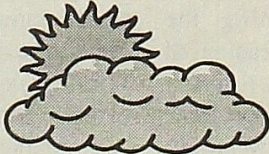
This Week’s Weather:

Thursday



Snow
High: 36°
Low: 14°

Friday



Partly Cloudy
High: 29°
Low: 15°

Saturday



Partly Cloudy
High: 40°
Low: 26°