



**Sports** -Mark O'Bryan serves it up against Cornerstone.  
See page 6.



**Photo Contest** -Curious about the winners ?  
See page 4.

**Thursday's Weather**  
Partly Cloudy  
High: 59 °  
Low: 37 °

# The Almanian

Issue 17

Serving Alma College since 1907

March 22, 2000

## Renowned poet visits Alma

By **RACHEL KUHLE**  
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, March 14 renowned poet Lucille Clifton shared her poetry, her experiences and her humor with a packed Alma College chapel.

Lucille Clifton is a professor of humanities at the University of Maryland and chancellor of the Academy of American Poets. Her published works include twenty-one children's books and over a dozen books of poetry. Two of those books, *Good Woman: Poems and a Memoir 1969-1980*, and *Next: New Poems*, were both finalists for the 1998 Pulitzer Prize. Said Clifton when commenting on her writings, "The job of poets is to look at what they see, listen to what they hear and not turn away."

Her next book of poetry, *Blessing the Boats* is due out in April. As Clifton read selections from her upcoming book, she also shared the events in her life that inspired them. Clifton recently battled breast cancer and spent time on dialysis before receiving a kidney transplant from her youngest daughter. Her two poems "Dialysis" and "Donor" chronicled her emotions about these experiences.

The poem "Donor," relays how and when Clifton found out she was pregnant. She attempted to self-abort the baby several times to no avail. That pregnancy produced the daughter who would later donate her kidney to save Clifton's life. She also spoke of the closeness she and her daughter share at this point in their lives. The evening was filled with honest stories just like that one. Clifton had the audience both laughing and on the verge of tears as she shared her wisdom and talent. Said Clifton, "I feel my way through things quite often... pleasing people has always been so annoying to me... if everybody just loved me I'd be just fine."

Clifton has been especially loved and admired by those on Alma's campus since her three-week campus fellowship in 1992. William Palmer, professor of English, recalled that during her visit Clifton took the time to not only speak to Alma classes, but also to visit local elementary schools and women's shelters. Cathryn Swender, a new member of the Alma English department, enjoyed Clifton's first visit and was thrilled about the opportunity to work with her again during her recent visit. Swender said, "The first time I met her I was a senior here (at Alma College) dreaming of being a professor, so it was great having her visit my class during my first year teaching here."

After her first visit to Alma College in 1992, Clifton was awarded the doctorate of letters honorary degree by the institution. During her last visit it was announced that a new program would be started in her honor. The Lucille Clifton Writer and Residence brings new and talented to campus every year.

## Service honors retirees

By **GINGER DAVIS**  
Staff Writer

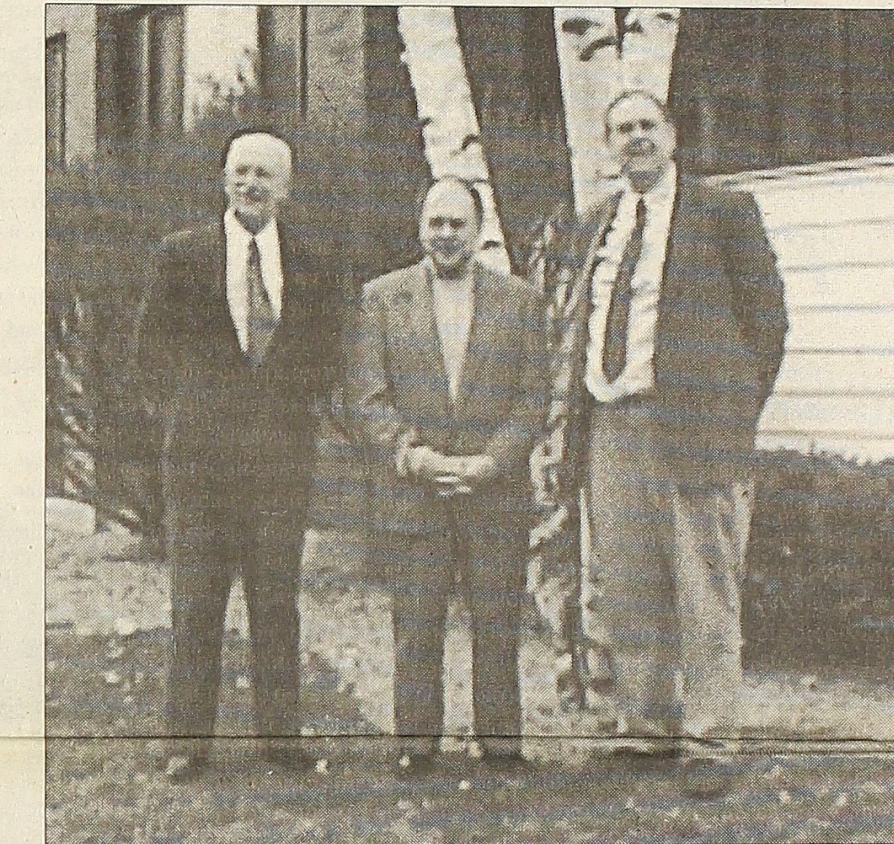
On March 19, 2000 at 3:00 p.m. a special worship service was held in the Dunning Memorial Chapel to commemorate the retirement of three friends and Alma College professors: Eugene Pattison, professor of English; Richard Roeper, professor of biology; and Joseph Walser, professor of religious studies.

Justin Bamford (01) spoke of Pattison's role as advisor to the TKE fraternity, and how as advisor he had saved TKE from near extinction more than once. Lawrence Wittle, professor of biology, commented on the contributions that Roeper had made to the school and the Alma community.

Wesley Dykstra summed up his feelings on the retirement of Walser ("Say it ain't so, Joe!"), and on some of the qualities that made Walser such a valuable member of the Alma faculty. The service featured several speakers, music, and a liturgical dance in honor of the three professors. Leslie Brown, former Alma College Provost, returned to campus to perform a flute solo for the occasion. Alma student Karl Griggs-Vineyard (00) sang, and Karyll Groty (00) performed a liturgical dance.

Alma College Chaplain Jesse L. Perry gave the sermon for the occasion. He spoke of how there is a season for everything, and although the season at Alma is finished for these three men, the impression they have left behind, the friends they have made, and lives they have changed will last long after their presence here is gone.

All of the speakers as well as the Chaplain spoke of the "Three Amigos" not only as teacher and colleagues, but also as friends. Perry said, "These three amigos have touched on many lives in the past decade. I know that they have touched my life



Submitted Photo

From left to right : Eugene Pattison, Joseph Walser and Richard Roeper celebrate their upcoming retirement together.

in so many ways - I know that I would not be standing here today if it were not for one of them."

Alma Student Julie Tolles (00) remarked, "I thought it was very special to these three professors." She also said, "I have had all of them for coursework during my time here at Alma, and I feel very honored to have learned from them and experienced their friendship throughout my time here."

Groty, who performed the liturgical dance, is also acquainted with the three professors. She commented, "I have had Dr. Roeper and Dr. Walser, and because I am an English major I have had lots on contact with Dr.

Pattison as well." She felt dancing at the service was a fitting way to honor the "Three Amigos." She said, "Dr. Hayfield asked me if I would be willing to and it seemed like it was very appropriate considering everything they have given to me and to the college. It was a wonderful opportunity to share a gift."

Roseanne Hoefel, associate professor of English; Catherine Fobes, assistant professor of sociology; Jeffrey O'Neill, and Elizabeth Jones (00) also participated in the service. Hoefel and Fobes read sections of the Bible for the occasion, and O'Neill and Jones assisted in leading the service.

## Hippie-jam band to perform at Strand

By **DAN JOYCE**  
Staff Writer

Ekoostik Hookah, a hippie-jam band, will perform at The Strand Theater in downtown Alma on Friday, March 31. Doors will open at 7 p.m. Alma College's own Homegrown will open the show.

Homegrown is the band that won this year's Songfest for their cover of Rusty Root's "Send Me On My Way."

"We're very excited," said Chris Andrus (02), guitarist for Homegrown, "to just be playing in front of people, much less for a band as well-known as Ekoostik Hookah. I'm glad that we have this chance to play for an audience that is made up of more than students." In order to reserve seats, Alma College students will receive forms in their student mailboxes. These forms entitle the holder to two free tickets. To claim the tickets, you must take the

form to the WQAC office in Tyler-Van Dusen and place it in the provided envelope.

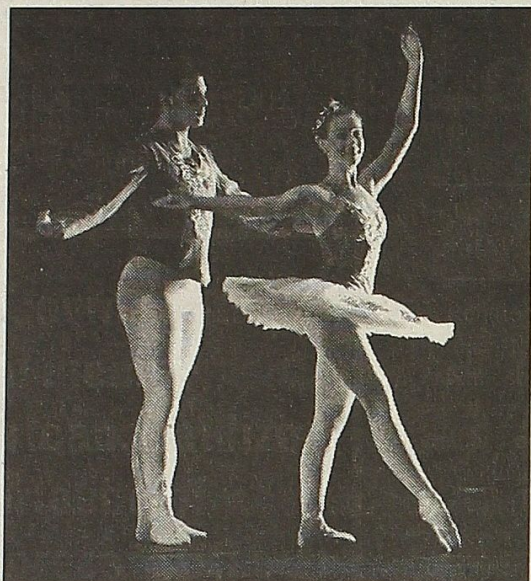
Tickets will be available at the door only if the show is not full. The cost of tickets at the door will be \$5 for non-students, free for students. Hookah's near-cult following may lay claim to all of the unreserved tickets at the door. Only 450 tickets will be available, so if you would like to see the show, reserve your tickets.

The reserved tickets will be available in Hamilton Commons a few days before the show.

Andrew Pomerville (02) said, "With Hookah coming to town, expect it to be packed. I'd take advantage of this wonderful opportunity WQAC is offering." He went on to say, "Ekoostik Hookah is one of the great jam-bands of our time. Their music is reminiscent of The Grateful Dead and Phish."

Ben Shoemaker (00) said, "I'm looking forward to an exciting and fun-filled evening of good music."





Bryan Waugh

Alma College Dance Company. See story on 3.

## The Almanian

Serving Alma College since 1907

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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 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.

## Hopes for lower gas prices look promising

By AMY TAYLOR  
Managing Editor

In the past 12 months gas prices have soared, making this the biggest increase in 30 years according to a AAA survey.

Self-serve regular unleaded gasoline is currently averaging \$1.54 per gallon nationwide, while last March the price of gas averaged 97 cents per gallon.

In the west, self-serve unleaded gas averages \$1.63 per gallon, up more than 18 cents from last month.

Reasons for the increase include the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' (OPEC) decision to cut back production over the past two years. They felt oil prices have been too low in recent years.

The International Energy Agency reported the United States has depleted their oil inventories to the lowest levels seen in four years. Clinton hopes oil-producing countries will move to lower gasoline and oil prices soon. After pressure from oil consuming countries such as the United States, the Ministers of OPEC will meet March 27 to consider production levels. More oil on the market means prices could lower over the next several weeks, but analysts predict prices will probably stay high throughout the summer.

"It hasn't had a huge impact on me because I do not own a car, but high gas prices will drive up other prices in the near future," said Willie Doyle (00).

Until prices come down, Americans can improve gas mileage by making the most of their vehicles. Drivers can purchase high-performance air filters, change to a less restrictive muffler or exhaust system and improve the ignition system. Also, keeping the engine tuned and good tire management will contribute to lower gas mileage.

"The high gas prices makes me more motivated to walk places," said Holly Paquet (03).

Last week, diesel fuel prices were \$1.496 a gallon. This increase caused truck drivers from across the country to venture to Capital Hill last Thursday demanding Congress take measures to bring prices down.



### Plane Crashes into house

AKRON, Ohio—A private plane crashed into a home and exploded after takeoff, killing the pilot. Witnesses said the plane had trouble gaining altitude and the engine sounded odd. The Beechcraft A-23 clipped the garage on one house before crashing into the one next to it. No one in the home was injured, but the house was completely destroyed.

### Man finds missing Oscars

LOS ANGELES—Willie Fulgear, a 61 year-old salvage man, found 53 of the 55 stolen Oscars in a trash bin. The Oscars had disappeared March 10 from a Roadway Express Inc. loading dock and presumed stolen. The man called his son, who then called police. Roadway Express had offered a \$50,000 reward, which Fulgear hopes to claim.

### Fire injures three at Ferris State

BIG RAPIDS, Mich.—One woman was hospitalized and two others injured after a fire broke out in a Ferris State University dormitory. It began around 6 a.m. Sunday in a third-floor room in Brophy Residence Hall, said Margaret Avritt, university spokeswoman. The woman fractured a vertebra when she jumped from a third-floor window. The cause of the fire is still unknown.

### Man continues to hold three hostage

DUNDALK, Md.—Joseph Palczynski has been holding his ex-girlfriend's mother and two relatives hostage since Friday night. Police evacuated the neighborhood after the man fired several shots from the house he and the hostages are in. Palczynski has been running from police since March 7 when he kidnapped his ex-girlfriend and gunned down several people.

### Four killed in robbery

IRVING, Texas—Four people were killed and two others injured in a robbery at a car wash Monday. Police suspect a former employee, Robert Harris, 28. He had been fired Friday after exposing parts of himself to two customers. A nearby business owner had complained that several employees of the car wash had stayed after hours and were unruly.

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The Whole Nine Yards: charming characters, funny accents

By GINGER DAVIS  
Staff Writer

At first, it did not seem that *The Whole Nine Yards* could be truly funny. The lead actor was, after all Matthew Perry. Many recent films (*Lost in Space*, *Fools Rush In*, the *Scream* trilogy, *Picture Perfect*, and anything with David Schwimmer) made it more than obvious that legislation was needed to prevent the cast of “Friends” – with the exception of Lisa Kudrow - from acting in any roles that fell outside their Must See TV line-up. In *The Whole Nine Yards*, Matthew Perry proves that he is more than just a “Friend,” he is a talented actor and comedian.

Perry plays Dr. Nicholas Osernasky (“Oz”), an awkward dentist whose life is turned upside down when a former mobster, Jimmy “The Tulip” Tudeski (Bruce Willis) moves next door. The ensuing plot, in which Tudeski, and his wife try to kill each other to get ten million dollars, is not particularly original or clever, but the characters and

dialogue are so entertaining the rather uninspired plot is forgivable.

Perry is hilarious in this film: he has nervous clumsiness down to an art form. He, like Michael Richards (“Seinfeld’s” Kramer) has a gift for making odd noises, twitching, and tripping into comedy. The film’s other lead, Willis, plays his character with his usual smoothness. He is not breaking any new ground in terms of character development (in fact he seems to be mocking his own *Die Hard*-action hero roles), but his comedic timing makes his performance enjoyable. He gets bonus point for his inventive method of killing flies.

In *The Whole Nine Yards* the actors are enjoying themselves and the script. Their pleasure in their work is infectious. Rosanna Arquette plays Sophie Osernasky, Oz’s trashy wife who is interested in him only for his life insurance policy, to the hilt: she is annoying, sleazy, manipulative, and downright funny. Her French Canadian accent is bizarre, but a comedic masterpiece. Jill St. Claire (Amanda Peet) is Oz’s dental assistant from nine to five,

but dreams of becoming a professional killer. This combination is odd, but she pulls it off charmingly. She manages to play the bubbly receptionist, best buddy and professional killer all with equal glee. Kevin Pollack is memorable as the head of Chicago’s Hungarian mob, Yanni Gogolack. With an accent that is a mixed bag of Italian, German and Polish, he is one of the oddest and most humorous mobsters to ever grace the silver screen.

Another amusing aspect of the movie is the geographic setting. The movie takes place in Montreal, Quebec. Quebec, in addition to being a French-speaking Canadian province, is also a largely untapped spring of comedic material. Filmmakers are banking on the idea that it is nearly impossible to say, “A comedy about Chicago’s Hungarian mob that takes place in Quebec” with a straight face.

This movie is what a comedy should be: humorous, well-timed, full of memorable characters – and it has one good twist. If that is not enough, there are also some wonderful jokes about Canada, mayonnaise, and suicidal dentists.

Musically Inclined

by Scott Timmreck

U2’s Bono goes Hollywood

Despite his busy schedule (hanging out with the Pope and making a new record due out later this year), Bono of superpop band U2 lent his talent to the soundtrack for *The Million Dollar Hotel*. Bono took his extremely glamorous taste in visuals and combined them with the sensual and universally appealing sounds of his band for this project.

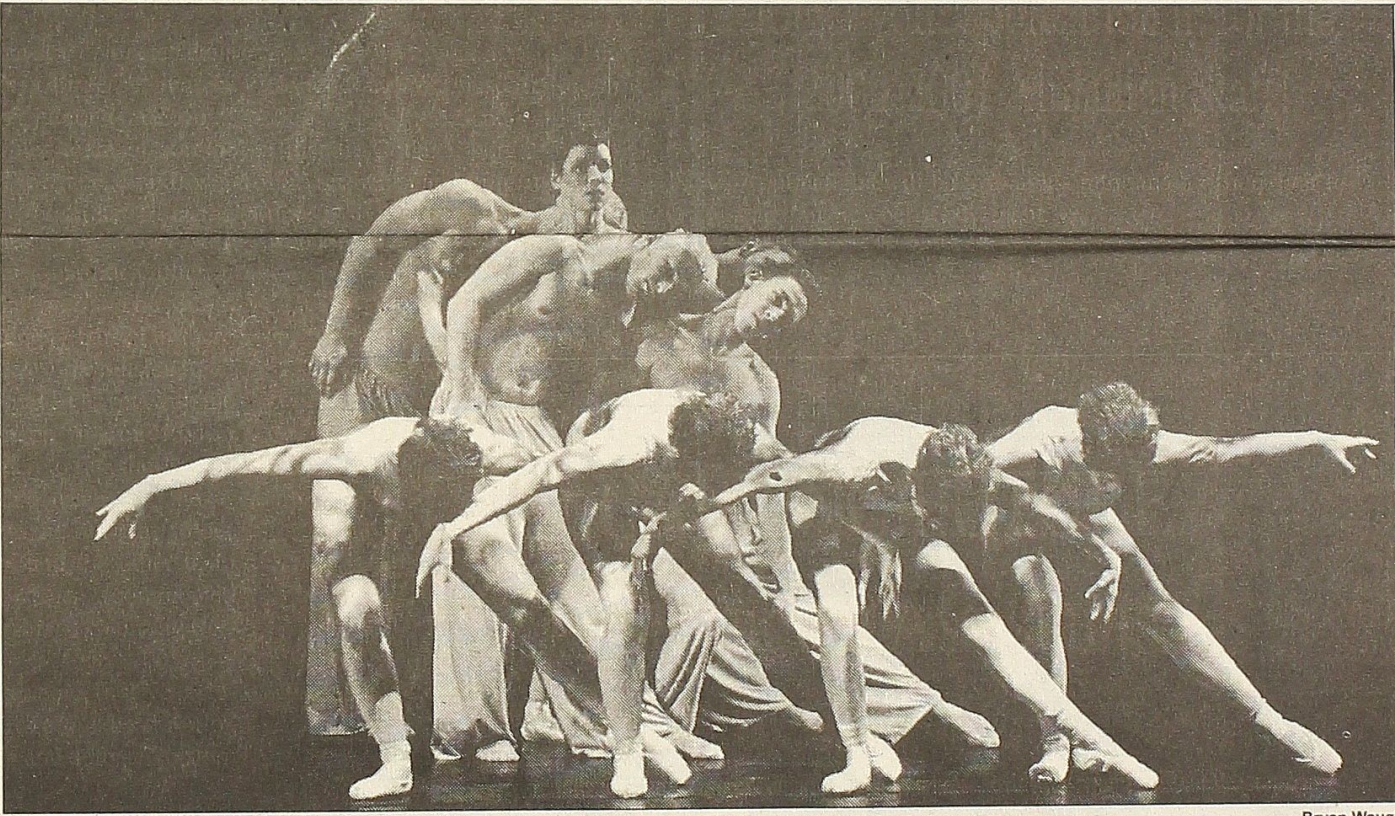
*The Million Dollar Hotel*, a film about a couple caught up in a murder investigation, was swirling around inside Bono’s head for a number of years, ever since 1987’s *The Joshua Tree*.

In addition to playing a large part in the production of the movie, Bono co-produced the soundtrack with the film’s director, Wim Wenders. He also brought in a musical cast that includes actress-singer Milla Jovovich, jazz pianist Brad Mehidau, Adam Clayton, Larry Mullen and The Edge of U2 proper. Three songs are billed to the band, including the amazing single “The Ground Beneath Her Feet,” a tune that rolls around some soft electronic beats and a pedal steel encased in Bono’s soothingly icy voice.

“Stateless” and “The First Time” are bubblegum U2, familiar and good. Gone are the whopping sonic beats that made up 1997’s *Pop* record—this is not an aesthetically pleasing and colorful album flaunting disco balls and endless lights. *Hotel* encompasses everything that rock and roll can be in Bono’s world: piano, folk, jazz, R&B, even new age. The Irish hills where he grew up can almost be visualized in “Falling At Your Feet,” a piece Bono performed with Daniel Lanois. Lou Reed’s “Satellite Of Love,” a juicy ballad that Dave Matthews later copied and twisted, appears in rock and electronic form. Each incorporate elements of the other into unique pieces of flowery happiness that can be found on an episode of Charlie Brown.

Soulful is the best way to describe this usually mellow and always subtle record, with sounds that can capture hearts at one moment and then let go just as quickly. Bono does a remarkable job inserting different forms of rock into each other, making the music freshly shine. *Hotel* is not U2, but it does not attempt to be. It is a record of subdued love songs and individually wrapped sounds – sounds that come with a bit of soul, simple enough to please, and not too complex to wonder about. **Grade: B**

ACDC performs last production of 99-00 season



Bryan Waugh

In the ACDC performance, Bonnie Baker, Regina Palasz, Brooke Palm, Katherine Wibby, Aaron Collins, Ross Kennerly, Gabe Purrenhage, and Matt Smith portray the movement and song of the lark.

By KELLY McDONALD AND AMY TAYLOR  
Sports Editor and Managing Editor

The Alma College Dance Company (ACDC) combined student and faculty choreographed that showcased the grace and agility of its dancers in the season’s last production over the weekend.

“Lark,” a premier piece choreographed by Thomas Morris, assistant professor of dance, kicks off the concert. The piece follows the path of the development of the young lark as influenced by others of its species and by the little forces surrounding them. “Lark” features freshman dancer Jaclyn Grostick (03) and uses some male students new to dancing on stage.

“Pas de Dix,” a ballet Morris also choreographed, features Suzanne Dulong (00), and male guest artists in an excerpt from a full-length ballet, “Raymond.”

Two student choreographed works were included in the program. “Awakening,” a work by junior Melissa Cox, was a

beautiful solo with exquisite accompaniment of solo guitar performed by Robert Gruca, a senior at Grand Valley State University.

Brooke Palm’s (03) work, “Black Balloon,” captured the mood of her piece through veteran dance performances. “We have been working on this since the beginning of the year and performed it in January,” said Meagan Tripp (02). “It was one of the pieces selected by the faculty to be perfored on the larger stage in March.”

“Moments Ago,” delved into a century of memories choreographed by Carol Fike, associate professor of dance and dance director. The dancers were costumed in tattered prom dresses, journeyed through many moods and moments. They finally discarded their dresses towards the end of the piece emerging as the new generation.

The program concluded with “Catharsis,” which the Eisenhower Dance Ensemble choreographed for he Alma College dancers.

“I thought the performance was very crowd pleasing and the pieces were diverse,” said Casey Miller (02).





## 1st place

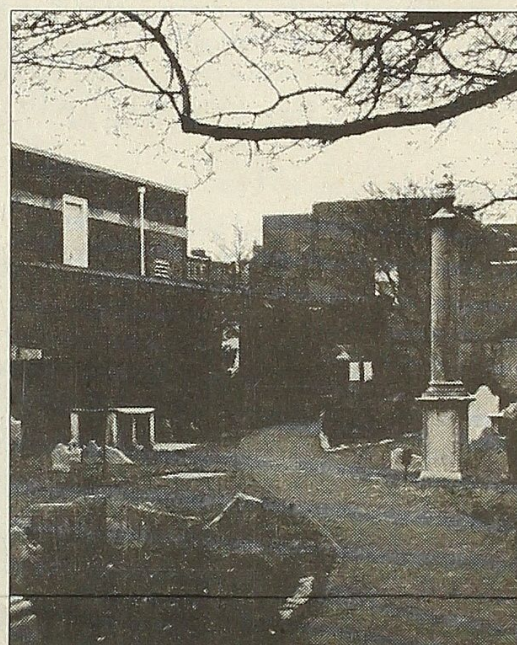
*"On March 1, Terry 'Alex' Marek ('99) and I climbed Sugarloaf Mt. in Marquette. In this picture, we are at the summit, standing in front of the rock on which he proposed!"*

Heather Buist (01)

## 2nd place

*"Walking in downtown Chicago, a few friends and I discovered this sign with a tree growing around it."*

Andrew Tallman (00)



## 3rd place

*"This is a cemetery on the church grounds of one of the oldest Presbyterian churches in the nation. In fact, some of our founding fathers attended church there in the late 1700s."*

Tamara Godrey (01)

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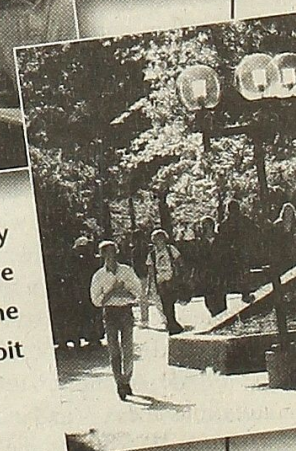
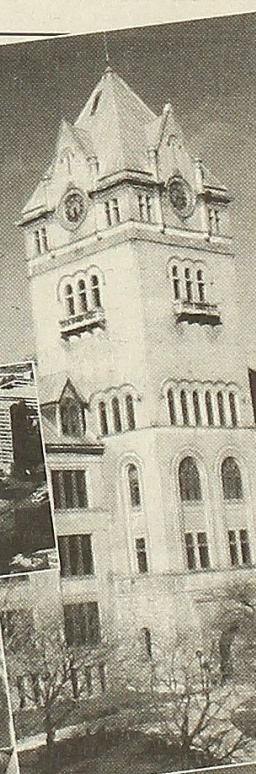
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**Spring Session:**  
May 8 through June 27

**Summer Session:**  
June 28 through August 18

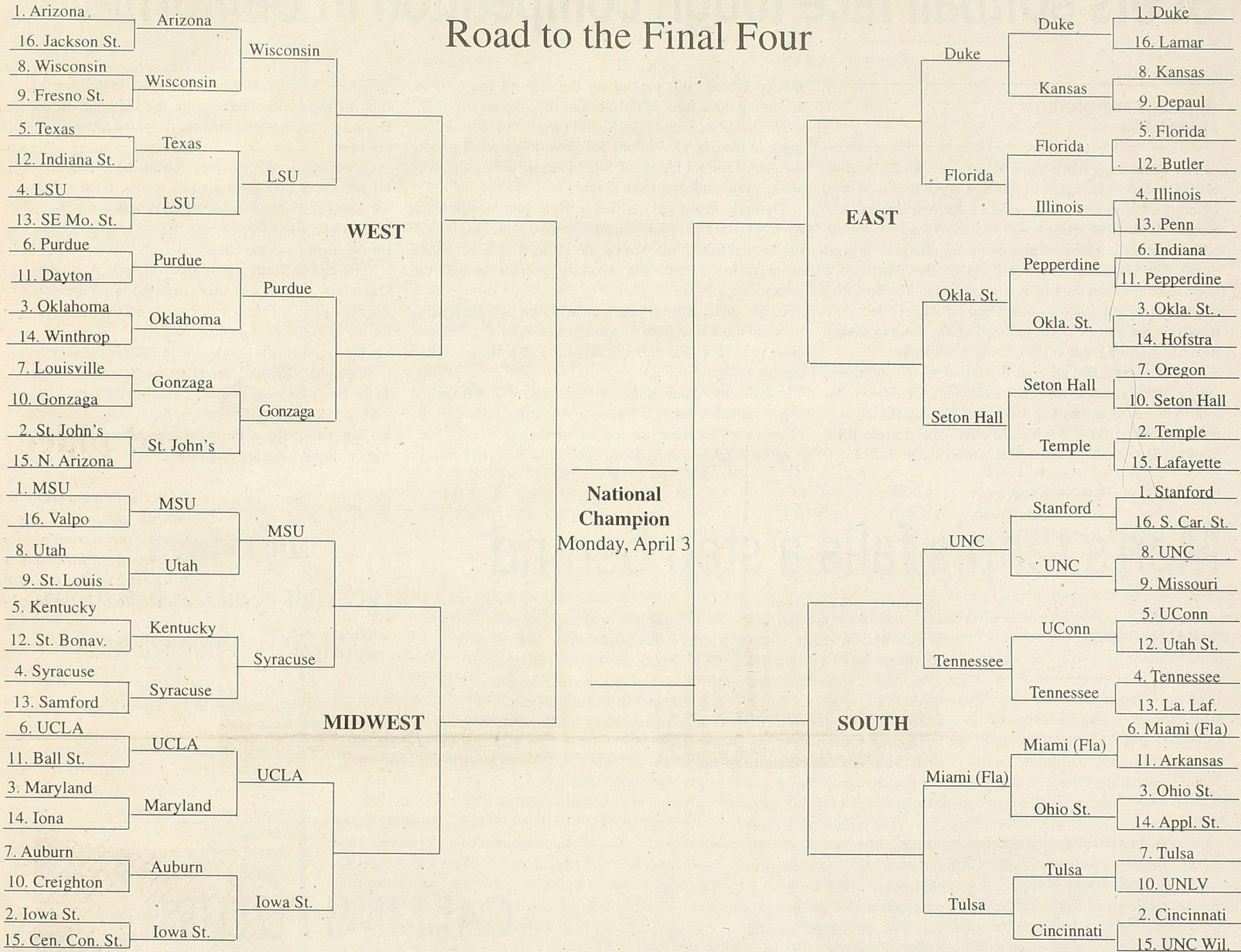
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Men's NCAA Tournament  
Road to the Final Four



Congratulations!

Joey Mead

All-American  
Honorable mention

Congratulations is in order for one of Alma's winter athletes. Joey Mead (00) competed in the NCAA Division III Swimming and Diving Championships last Thursday and Friday where he earned All-American honorable mention status.

On Thursday, Mead scored 376 points on the one-meter board, which placed him 14<sup>th</sup> overall. All divers in the top 16 are assured of All-American honorable mention status.

In Saturday's competition on the three-meter board, Mead posted a tenth place with a score of 385.25 points. Again, he earned All-America honorable mention status for this event.

For his outstanding performances at nationals, Mead becomes only the third swimmer in Alma history to earn multiple All-America honors. Congratulations Joey!

Folk and Horton break college record in pole vault

By CARA BONINE  
Staff Writer

The men's and women's track teams traveled to Indiana on Saturday, March 18 to compete at Indiana Wesleyan University.

"It was not a scored event," said Coach Dan Gibson, "but was a good rehearsal for the upcoming invitational."

Eleven teams were at Indiana Wesleyan University including two other MIAA schools, Albion College and Adrian College.

For the women, Anne Grimaldi (00) led the way for the Scots as she placed first in the 3,000-meter run and fifth in the 1,500-meter run. Thyra Folk (03) placed second and Andrea Horton (01) placed third in the pole vault, which broke the school record for the event.

According to Gibson, other top competitors for the day were Horton in the triple jump and 100-meter hurdles, Becky Burkett (01) in the long jump and the triple jump, Jenny Dulz (02) in the discus, Roberta Squires (03) in the 400-meter, and Laura

Riddering (03) in the 800-meter run.

The women's track team will journey to Atlanta on Saturday, March 25 for the Emory Invitational at Emory University. The invitational is an all-Division III meet with 22 schools competing.

"We are hoping that Atlanta will be a good experience for us and will help us to reach our full potential this track season," said Kate Juilleret (01).

On the men's side, A.J. Smith (03) finished third in the 100-meter dash and second in the 200-meter dash. Ted Burton (03) placed sixth in the 1500-meter run, Charlie Smith (03) finished third in the high jump, and Justin Stemple (01) came in fourth in the long jump. The 400-meter relay team of Charlie Smith, A.J. Smith, Stemple, and John Nugent (03) placed third.

"The guys competed well in Indiana," said Kyle Kristin (00). "We hope to improve our results this Saturday."

The next men's track meet will be in Huntington, Indiana at the Huntington Relays on Saturday, March 25.



# Scots softball face tough competition in California

By **KELLY McDONALD**  
Sports Editor

The women's softball team traveled across the country last weekend to take part in the Sun West Tournament in Orange, California. Playing some of the premier teams in the nation, the Scots came home with a 2-3 road trip record.

Alma opened tournament play on Friday afternoon against California Lutheran. The Scots got on the board early, tallying two runs in the first inning on Jackie Cowan's (00) single and a Cal Lutheran error. They would get three more in the third on singles by Stacie Vietzke (00), Kathryn Nordin (00) and Katrina Dinallo (01) taking a 5-0 lead.

Cal Lutheran picked up a run in the bottom of that inning, but the Scots pounded out 11 more hits and scored five more runs to power their way to a 10-3 win. DiNallo led the way for the Scots going 3-3 with one RBI. Amy Czabala (00), Brandee Brower (00), Cowan and Nordin had two hits each.

Becky Pierce (00) picked up the win on the mound, scattering three runs on six hits and striking out six.

The Scots took on Puget Sound (Wash.) in their second game of the day. Cowan pitched a two-hitter while getting the mercy win for the Scots, 8-0. In her six innings, Cowan walked four and struck out seven.

Danielle Pease (01) tallied a triple plating Elizabeth Knochel (02) and Susan Vander Putten (01) in Alma's four-run second inning to open up the game. The Scots would score two in the fourth and two in the sixth for the eight run mercy.

For the game, Brower had four RBI's on two doubles, as Vander Putten was 2-3 with three runs scored. Pease added three runs scored as Czabala, Nordin and Knochel tallied one hit each.

In their third game of the day, the Scots went up against fourth-ranked Chapman University (Calif.), falling to the Panthers 4-0 for their first loss of the season.

Alma left seven runners on base and could only muster

three hits. Vietzke, Nordin and Vander Putten got the hits for the Scots. Pierce went the distance on the mound giving up four runs on five hits and striking out three.

On Saturday, Alma's woes continued as they took on two more nationally-ranked teams. Both games were played during evening hours in California which made game times feel like 10:15 p.m. and 12:30 a.m. for the team from the East.

The Scots went up against Pacific Lutheran University (Wash.) in their first game of the day. Pacific Lutheran, ranked 11<sup>th</sup> in the nation, took it to the Scots winning in a close one, 4-0.

In the nightcap, the Scots took on 16<sup>th</sup>-ranked Central College out of Iowa. Central proved to be too much as the Scots took the defeat in a 2-0 ballgame.

Alma (12-3 overall) opens up home field play with the Alma Invitational this weekend starting on Friday and continuing through Saturday.

## Men's tennis falls a step behind

By **BRIAN PRIEHS**  
Staff Writer

This past weekend the men's tennis team participated in their first home match of the season. Facing some cold weather conditions, the Alma Scots took court against the Cornerstone Golden Eagles on Saturday.

The match was well fought, but the men could not pull away with a victory. The final tally of the day was 8-1, in favor of Cornerstone. The defeat came early in the match when five of the six singles posted a loss. Fifth singles player, sophomore Denis Busque, pulled away in the third set to win his match against the Eagles, 4-6, 6-2, 6-4.

The Scots lost four of five three set matches. With the matches as tight as they were, the day could have been completely turned around. "Unlucky" is the only word to sum up the team's play.

Senior captain Ryan Webb played yet another exciting match, but came up short in a third set defeat. The doubles combination of Webb and first-year student

Mark O'Bryan also competed their hearts out in a three set match. Singles player junior Tim Zeedyk and the doubles team of sophomores Matt Piper and John Boyer respectively stole a set from the visiting Eagles.

Things were just not falling in place for the men. The Scots worked extremely hard, but there must have been some outside force present that played havoc with the contest, which in conclusion caused the men to fall short.

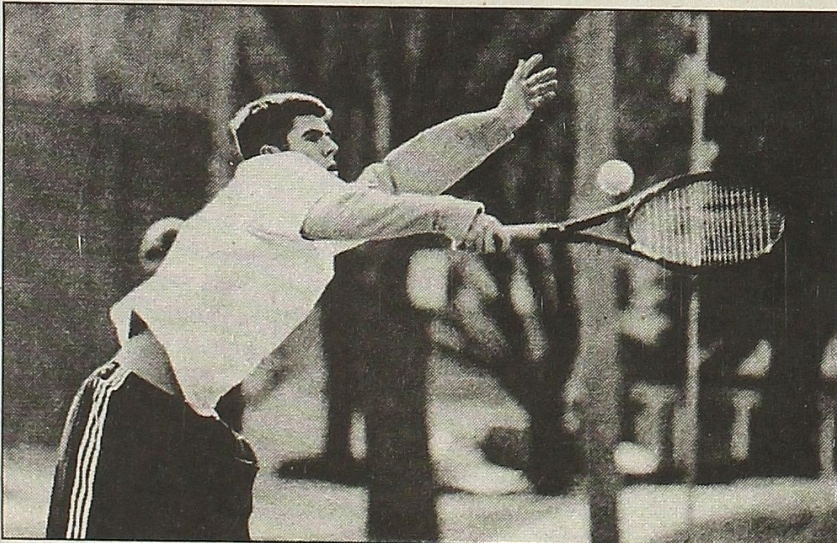
"The match could have gone either way. We did not play to our full potential and the other team got the best of us," commented Busque on Alma's Saturday performance.

On a brighter note, first-year student Ben Zilz played exhibition seven singles and defeated his opponent, 6-1, 6-2.

The Alma Scots will now prepare this week for the tough schedule that lies ahead of them. Saturday, March 25 Alma will start division play at home against Adrian College at 1p.m.

The following week the team will compete on Tuesday, March

28 at 3:30 p.m. against Hillsdale College and Wednesday, March 29 at 3 p.m. the Scots will face Hillsdale College, both at home. For further scheduling information, go to the Alma College home web page.



Bryan Waugh

First-year student Mark O'Bryan swings as a tennis ball hurtles towards him.

**Don't forget**  
to get your application in for the  
**2000-2001 Almanian Staff!**

Applications will be available on the main office door located in Newberry basement.

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Friday, April 14, 2000	4:00 p.m.	Foust 133

Application deadline for 2001 is November 1, 2000.

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March 22, 2000

HEMISPHERES

By Cara Bonine

Milosevic shuts down media; Americans realize importance of free press

Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic attacked opposition-controlled and independent media recently with violence, threats and wild accusations.

As local and federal elections draw closer, Milosevic has taken two television stations and four radio stations off the air in recent days.

Last week, men dressed in police uniforms attacked two guards at one of the television stations and then stole broadcast equipment. On March 12, police shutdown an opposition-run television station, leaving 100,000 viewers with no alternative to the government television station. The Belgrade city government, which is controlled by Yugoslavian's most powerful opposition party, ran the television station.

Government Telecommunications Minister Ivan Markovic said the stations were taken off the air because they were not licensed or had not paid for use of their channel frequencies. Television stations insist that the government has never issued licenses and charges only arbitrary fees.

Recent polling data show that Milosevic's government cannot win in fair elections.

"We're proud we got raided because it means we were doing our job," said television editor Rajko Milovanovic in The Christian Science Monitor.

The events taking place in Yugoslavia are just the most recent examples that illustrate the importance and power of the media. Throughout history, the media have influenced the political stability in various countries. The German Nazis in World War II used propaganda to help establish their anti-Semitic movement. Even in our own Revolutionary War, independent newspapers helped persuade loyalists to join in the fight against Britain.

In the United States today, newspapers and the news media are taken for granted and regarded as a nuisance to politicians. It is true that sometimes our media can step out of the bounds of good journalism, but these events in Yugoslavia should remind us of how vital the media is in making the truth known.

Americans must be more respectful of the news media in the United States. The job of the media is to ensure the truth is known. The Founding Fathers of our country foresaw events such as those in Yugoslavia and demanded freedom of speech and press be a part of the foundation of our country. Respect the media and appreciate the ability to know the truth.

Long distance relationships

By RACHEL KUHL  
Staff Writer

Her story

Relationships are never easy. In fact, they are often a real pain-in-the-butt. Now, I'm not saying that the rewards of having someone to love and love you back aren't worth it, but there are times when being in a relationship with someone can be a real challenge.

College relationships are especially challenging in that there are suddenly so many new people to meet, new experiences to enjoy, and a high school world to leave behind. It is challenging because at no other time in your life are you so torn between being an adult and enjoying your youth. Since most relationships are based on commitment and trust, the adult in you knows that your eye shouldn't be wandering, but the kid in you wants to have fun and enjoy the dating and flirting that goes along with meeting new people.

To me, the most difficult type of relationship to be in at this point is a long distance one. Even if the love between the two of you is strong, it can be tough to be apart for long periods of time and to be leading a completely separate life during that time. Even if you aren't interested in anyone else, both still have different classes at school, new friends the other doesn't know very well, and most importantly, priorities the other may not fully understand.

Priorities. I guess that's the real key. In order to make a relationship, especially a long distance one work, you have to have your priorities straight. This is where that youth verses adult conflict comes in too, because the choice you make attitude-wise will affect the priorities you set for yourself. It has to be a personal choice.

I personally chose to make my boyfriend (who attends another college) one of my top priorities. And I'll admit that I've taken a lot of flack for it from some of my friends who feel I'm "missing out" on things here at Alma by going to see him when I can. I'll also admit that there are times when I do feel a little cheated. His schedule is packed so it is often tough for him to make it here, but I get sick of always being the one who has to travel. It is frustrating when I feel like I have to choose between the person I'm in love with and my own desire to enjoy being away at college. And it is tough to try and make time for each other when we both have other responsibilities.

However, in a way, I am also relieved. I'm relieved because I don't have to feel lonely that there isn't someone special in my life. I don't have to randomly date several jerks in hopes of finding "a good one" somewhere in the bunch. And I also don't have to worry about the "histories" involved in the new people I date. I know my boyfriend's history, and we trust each other to be faithful to one another.

So far, things have worked out well in our relationship. It is tough because you find yourself missing the little things like holding hands, watching television together, falling asleep together at night and waking up together in the morning. However, you wind up appreciating those things even more when you are together. When you are together, you recognize that the rewards are worth going through the tough stuff. So, when it is time to head back to school alone, you are refreshed and ready to miss him while the two of you are apart, knowing it'll be great again the next time you meet.

By BRIAN PRIEHS  
Staff Writer

His story

Hmmmm...How shall I begin an article about something that is the world to me - my relationship with my best friend? The relationship my girlfriend and I have established has encountered a few curves in the road and perhaps, shall I say, a few "accidents." Maybe I am just incredibly lucky to have found a person who I can share the world with and someone who can share her world with me. Should I begin this with the emotional stress, anger, and happiness that one can feel all in a matter of minutes? Or shall I dramatize the entire situation to make it sound appealing to every soul that lays countenance with my script?

College is a time of learning in all aspects of the human condition, not just simply the trivial sense. People have laid testimony to the fact that the first semester away at college is the most difficult. Well, although I am a first-year student, I have also come to the conclusion that my first semester here was less than desirable. I suppose I could sum it all up with the number 36 because we all know that nine times nine times nine times nine only happens once every hundred years, according to former Provost Leslie Brown. So, don't get me wrong, I have grown to love Alma, but it did take me some time.

Attending a college away from the most important person in my life since the eleventh grade has been very rough. Everyone says and believes that it's going to work, but hey, face it, the pure logistics of it all are not in my favor. It takes two very dedicated and talented individuals to keep the love strong and growing.

I must admit that at one point I didn't think that the relationship would last. The fact that I really wanted it to work did not matter anymore. I couldn't just walk over to her room, sit there with her, talk about nothing that really matters, watch mind-numbing television and hold her hand. All the things that occurred in high school were exactly the priceless experiences that add strength to a relationship.

My girlfriend attends a university in the gracious city of Cleveland, Ohio and I only wish that she could be right down the road. I know that I am only a dreamer, but I'm not the only one. I hope that someday you will join us and the world will be as one (the master lyricist John Lennon). Anyway, what to do? What to do? Should I give up on it all? Should I even think about the situation? Long-distance relationships require one to have the highest faith and trust in someone. At times, the feeling of insecurity occurs because I know exactly how a guy can be. It's not that I am extremely protective of my girlfriend, but I always just wished that I could be there to support her and comfort her.

The phone and the Internet have taken the place of my physical presence in Cleveland, but my spirit is stronger than ever. Our relationship has developed to something that I cannot express in words. Actually, I suppose that I could, but there is not the amount of time to fully convey my most sincere thought. How can one hastily describe in detail the way they feel or experience things?

I know that I don't speak for everyone, but through my experience I have learned that long-distance relationships are definitely worth it. So, I would like to congratulate all the fellow long-distance relationship holders out there. I know that at times you may question yourself and wonder what is that you are doing; yet the love is and always will be there. I guess it is fitting to end with a few words of wisdom: Don't let others influence you and always strive for what you feel is right, even though that "right" may be hundreds of miles away.

Simple Thoughts

By Dan Joyce

&

Life, at Alma

By Scott Timmreck

...will return next week.



Letters  
to the Editor

To the editors:

I would like to offer a few comments and suggestions concerning Jeans Day, sponsored by Alma Pride on March 16. On that day, Alma students were asked to wear jeans in support of “human rights.” Considering a large number of college students routinely wear jeans, I find it ridiculous to use jeans wearing as a sign of support for any cause.

Alma Pride is merely taking advantage of something college students wear anyway. In fact, the most significant change on campus that day was the considerable number of students who purposely chose not to wear jeans, opting for khakis instead. The point is that a student who wore jeans that day could have been doing so out of support for Jeans Day or simply because he or she normally wears jeans. Why doesn’t Alma Pride ask students to show support in a unique way that would clearly indicate that support? I have a few suggestions.

On Jeans Day, denim patches were available to those who could not wear jeans. Why not design a special patch and wear it on Patch Day? All those with patches on their clothes would then clearly be supporting the cause. Or Alma Pride could sell their T-shirts prior to a T-shirt Day in which supporters could wear those shirts or ones from previous years. Then again, if Alma Pride merely wants to increase apparent support by taking advantage of a routine activity, I have a few suggestions as well. How about a Coat Day in the middle of winter, or possibly a Shoe Day? Alma Pride could sponsor Saga Day, in which eating in Saga would be a show of support (I could always use a good excuse to avoid Saga food).

Next, I would like to comment on Alma Pride’s use of misleading language in promoting Jeans Day. This day has always been meant to support homosexual rights, so why did the e-mail message speak about “human rights” but never once mention anything relating to homosexual rights? (The fact that Jeans Day was about homosexual rights and not human rights was apparent from the comments written in chalk throughout the campus, especially in front of the library. Every saying dealt with homosexuality; no other human right was mentioned.) By using terms like “human rights” and “civil rights,” Alma Pride is disguising its true intentions and attempting to build false support (who wouldn’t support human rights?). However, all individuals in this nation (homosexual and heterosexual) currently hold equal civil rights.

Alma Pride is really supporting special, unprecedented privileges for homosexual individuals, like expanding the definition of marriage to include same-sex couples. These would not be “rights” at all, but concessions and special privileges given by the government to a vocal and assertive group of individuals leading “alternative” lifestyles.

John Gardai (03)

To the editors:

I particularly liked Scott [Timmreck]’s story about the school shooting because it goes into some unstable waters. This issue tends to be very hot, especially in the political arena.

“Who’s to blame?” the article asks. Well, I agree with the article and believe that the fault lies heavily on the shoulders of the media, but our current society is to blame as well. The media is to blame due to their elaborate shock coverage of these kinds of happenings. When children, especially neglected ones, see other children getting attention for this kind of thing, it clicks that if they want to get noticed, they need to do something radical like the kids they see on television.

This then puts the blame back to the parents and the current state of the American family. If the parents would just take a minute out of their busy schedules of power lunches and after hours meetings and spend some time with their kids then they wouldn’t have to worry about this. I don’t mean to come out sounding like one of those Bible-thumping, moralistic, right-wing family supporters.

If people are going to go through the trouble of getting married and having kids then they better take care of them. Children look to their parents for guidance and when the parents are not around, they feel the only way to get noticed is to act up.

If both parents want to work, that’s fine. Both of mine do, but they also spent time with me as a child. Every Sunday was a dedicated family day for my little brother and I, and neither of us have ever gone around shooting people. Coincidence?

Another thing that helped was when my brother and I were much younger, we had a full time babysitter to watch us. This way an adult was always around us to point out what was right and what was wrong with our actions and what we saw on television. If a family can’t afford a baby sitter like this they should at least have their parents around to watch the children.

Another portion of the blame falls on the media due to their portrayal of violence on television. I know that almost all of us think media censorship is poor and that it shouldn’t happen, but I’m not suggesting that it happen to the things we watch. I’m saying that young children are impressionable. This has been

well documented. If children see someone on television go out and get a gun to settle a dispute, then they will think they can do the same. Young children don’t have the capacity to understand what’s going on in social interactions and so they look to the media to tell them.

Finally, this kind of extreme violence might stem from repressed minor violence. Back in the day, when our parents were kids, if someone had a problem with another person, they would go outside and settle it in a fistfight.

Sure the kids might come home with a bloody nose or a black eye, but no one was dead afterwards! So, what price are we paying for getting rid of playground violence? I know that violence, in a general sense, is frowned upon, but in many ways it is natural.

In nature, animals have to fight for survival. They do not talk about their differences or work things out through compromises. If a wolf intrudes on another wolf’s territory it will be attacked. It is the way of nature. Humans are part of nature (no matter how much we try to separate ourselves from it). Why is it that we have so many restrictions about basically harmless violence?

I know many years ago, if someone got a cut they could die from the infection, but we have drugs now to protect us. So what is so wrong about two kids getting into a little fistfight out on the playground to settle a dispute? Due to this repression of violence at a young age, more Americans want to commit violent acts as they get old. This is analogous to how other types of repression and restrictions we have as children lead to problems in adulthood.

Take, for example, drinking. We are not allowed to legally drink until age 21 in America, and because of that restriction and repression of that act, people never learn how to deal with drinking during the impressionable years, and hence develop problems with it later in life. Minor violence in schools might not be the best because some kids are stronger or bigger, but eventually even those kids will bump into someone who will put them in their place and from that they may learn humility.

Ben Bowers (01)

Staff Editorial

Computers: Should students be required to have one?

A recent trend at many colleges and universities is a new requirement that all students own an internet-accessible computer. This trend, which began at schools like Dartmouth and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, is moving toward Michigan.

For years, Northern Michigan University encouraged students to own laptops and recently made it mandatory for all first-year students entering in the fall of 2000. Michigan State University also recently began looking into the possibility of requiring students to own a computer. For Alma College students, a requirement that they must own a computer is impractical. It is financially stressful, it may not be appropriate for all students and it raises questions about support services and training.

One of the main faults of a computer requirement is that it is financially stressful for students and parents to afford. Many schools that are considering computer requirements plan on including \$1,000 in a student’s financial aid package to cover a computer. There are two problems with this.

First, \$1,000 may not be sufficient to buy a computer that has Internet access – especially if it is a laptop. While computers are becoming more affordable, good laptops are usually more expensive than the average desktop model.

Secondly, a computer bought the first year of a student’s education will not last four years without extensive upgrading. Technology is moving quickly and computers are outdated in a matter of months. Students should not be required to buy a new computer every year to meet the demands of technology.

Another problem with computer requirements

is that a computer may not be needed for all disciplines. The first two years of a student’s education is usually spent taking distributive requirements. After these two years, a computer may not be needed as much in the daily classes of students who are majoring in subjects like music or dance. Computer requirements would make it mandatory for these students to spend large amounts of money for a computer that is not necessary.

Finally, computer requirements raise questions about training and support services. Although many students today having experience with computers, not all are “computer literate.” Who will train students to use their new computers? If students buy different computers, then staffs that are knowledgeable about all types of computers will be necessary. This also raises the question of who will decide what type of computer should be purchased. Many students will be outraged at the idea of buying a computer that they would not choose to buy on their own. Support services should also be considered. All computers crash at some point or develop other glitches. A staff needs to be available to help students as these problems arise.

While the idea of a completely “interactive” classroom may be preferable to many, requiring students to own a computer to attend a college is impractical. Shifting the cost of computing to the student rather than the university is yet another way institutions can raise the cost of higher education. It is the college’s responsibility to keep the latest technology available for students. Only by allowing students unencumbered access to technology will a college fully prepare their students for the real world.

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