



Homegrown makes their name known around the community. See page 4.



Tennis teams begin division play. See page 6.

## Wednesday's Weather



Rain and Snow  
High: 46°  
Low: 31°

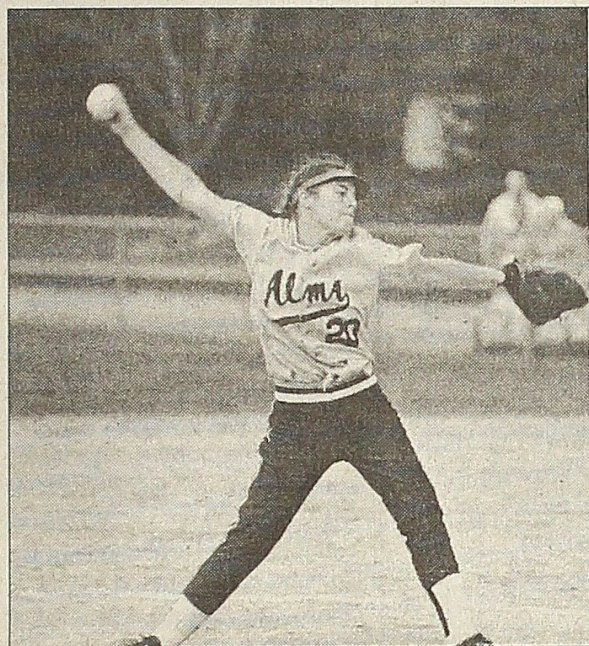
# The Almanian

Issue 18

Serving Alma College since 1907

March 28, 2000

## Softball team wins invitational



Bryan Waugh

Senior Becky Pierce (20) picks up her tenth win of the season. See page 5 for story.

## Clothesline Project makes impact

By NIKOLE CANUTE  
News Editor

In an effort to spotlight violence against women during Women's Month, the Wilcox Medical Center displayed their Clothesline Project in the Dow Science Lobby from Tuesday, March 21, to Thursday, March 23.

The Clothesline Project is an idea that began in the spring of 1990, and involves displaying t-shirts made by women who have been victims of violence.

Different shirt colors represent different forms of violence. White shirts are in memory of women who have died as a result of violence. Yellow or beige shirts signify a woman who has been battered or assaulted, emotionally or physically, as an adult or as a child. Red, pink, or orange shirts represent rape or sexual assault. Blue or green shirts signify incest and sexual abuse survivors. Purple or lavender represents women attacked because of their sexual orientation, and someone who knows a victim makes black shirts.

The creators of the Project were outraged when they read a statistic from the Maryland Men's Anti-Rape Resource Center which estimated that in the 16 years of the Vietnam war, 51,000 women were murdered in the United States by their husbands or lovers. In the war itself, 58,000 Americans died.

Joseph Gelina, director of health services, brought the program to Alma five years ago.

Gelina said the Project is a "safe forum for victims to be able to talk about this and know that they are not alone." Gelina continued by saying that the Project "gets people thinking about it."

The purpose of the Project is "not about being sorry for victims – it is about women reclaiming their lives," according to information given to Gelina.

Krystal Lee (01) said, "I think it is a good idea for people to express their feelings this way. It might be a little less painful than talking to someone about it. It is a way for them to make other people aware that things like this can happen with their family and their friends. Alma students made the majority of the shirts. It is just something you would never know."

This year, there were approximately eighty shirts from the Alma College campus, and twenty from the community. Ninety-percent of the shirts displayed were made by women.

Shirts are available all-year long at the Wilcox Medical Center. When someone makes a shirt, they are given the materials and a private room. Counseling and support are available, as the Clothesline Project works closely with the Counseling Center.

When individuals make a shirt, they are asked to use only first names or initials if they name the assailant. The survivors make shirts themselves, with the exception of shirts made in memorial.

Kristin Phillips (02) said, "As sad and depressing as it is to see these shirts, the strength and the power of the women who made them stands out more than anything else."

## Controversy over Napster hits Alma

By SCOTT TIMMRECK  
Opinion Editor

*This is Part One of a two-part article on Napster, a controversial piece of software that has university network administrators up in arms. Part One examines what Napster is, what problems it causes, what issues it raises, and why nearly 200 colleges and universities have banned its use, as well as Alma College's current stance on Napster.*

One of the hottest issues in the digital world currently centers around a free and contentious piece of software that is nearly as ubiquitous on campuses nationwide as Sony's Playstation. Napster is an easily downloadable application that, when installed, turns any computer into a server for all MP3 files stored on the hard drive of that computer. MP3 is the most popular format of digital music, a compression tool that converts songs into manageable files.

In essence, Napster makes every song on a hard drive available for anyone else who is using the software. Users need only find the song that they want by typing in the song or artist's name, and then click on the link to download the desired song file. Before

Napster, that process was time consuming and generally unsuccessful.

The most frequent problem of the free and easy access to so multiple songs is the overuse of Napster. Since the program simplifies the process of obtaining virtually any song (at any given time, there are over 700,000 songs available) by turning it into a type-and-click operation, anyone with a computer and a network connection can have access to seemingly endless music, assuming they are willing to share their music library with all other Napster users.

That is, until last February, when colleges and universities began banning Napster, claiming the software was eating up precious bandwidth from their networks. Simplified, bandwidth is the space inside the lines that run from any computer to the server. These lines provide any particular computer with the data that make up the Internet, which includes Napster. Because such a large proportion of students were downloading songs and allowing users to upload songs to their personal computers, the lines were getting jammed and not allowing other network services, such as e-mail and web surfing, to move at the allowed speed of the network.

Alma College is not exempt from the problems that Napster creates. In

February, after doubling the bandwidth that the college's servers provide, the lines were still saturated, due mainly to students downloading songs with the aid of Napster. Students in the library were having problems getting to educational sites, and the network was generally slower.

However, the problems do not end with a sluggish network. From 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, Michnet, the provider of Alma's network, tracks the bandwidth that is used. "Once 80% of the available bandwidth is used, the lines are full," says Phil Warsop, Alma College's network administrator. Once the lines are full, the network gets a mark every ten minutes. If more than 35 marks are given in a month, Michnet charges the college approximately \$10,000.

Copyright issues also dominate any discussion of Napster. Like any institution, Alma's stance is that intellectual property — many of the songs offered through Napster — is copyrighted. Downloading any song performed by an artist under a record contract is considered a violation of copyright and a violation of Copyright Law in Title 17 of the U.S. Code. If a user of Alma's network is violating copyright laws, the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) has the

See NAPSTER on 2

## Bahlke Stadium gets a facelift

By KATIE BEAM  
Staff Writer

This fall, the defending MIAA-Co Champion football team will have a new playing surface called AstroPlay from AstroTurf.

Since last week, construction crews have been tearing up the old surface of artificial turf that was laid in 1988 to prepare the field for the installation of AstroPlay. This is a new type of artificial turf that is "engineered to play like grass," as the website proclaimed.

Head football coach Jim Cole said that having the field resurfaced was a "matter of necessity." Alma used the old artificial turf for almost 13 years, while its recommended lifetime is only 8 to 10 years. Because of its age, the turf became very hard. Cole said the turf had not caused many injuries, as far as turning ankles and knees, but because of its hard surface, it caused compression injuries to shoulders.

Both the soccer and football departments researched AstroPlay, sending players to practice on the surface at other facilities before deciding to install it in Bahlke Stadium.

AstroPlay boasts low-abrasive fibers, excellent wet and dry traction and rapid drainage from precipitation. Dan Sweetman (01) said, "It'll be better than regular turf at reducing injuries. It looks like real grass so it should be easy to get used to — and we can wear real cleats."

If you missed the construction crews tearing up the field, log on to [www.alma.edu/athletics](http://www.alma.edu/athletics) to see pictures taken during demolition.



**NAPSTER from 1**

right to take such violators under its wing, as it did with students at Carnegie Mellon University and with one Alma College alumni.

The bandwidth issue and the copyright issue are at the forefront of the decision of colleges and universities to ban Napster, as 196 institutions have already done. According to Warsop, Alma is heading in the same direction.

"We need to ban Napster," he said.

Rob Hertenstein, Alma's webmaster, took the following stance on the Napster issue: "Our network would be saturated, and network services would be stolen by Napster servers."

However, Warsop admits that he has no clear idea of what to do next. The solutions to the Napster problem are not simple and very expensive. "I don't think that everyone understands the expenses involved [with solving the problems]," he said.

*Next week, Part Two will examine how Alma College is considering to solve the Napster problem, what other institutions have done to solve their problems, how Alma College students feel about Napster and what the future holds for free music from the Internet.*

# 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 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.

## XEM and Chem Club prepare Science Blowout

By CARA BONINE  
Staff Writer

"Science is Fun – No Fooling" is this year's theme for the biannual Science Blowout Saturday, April 1, from 1-4 p.m. in the Dow Science Center.

Chi Epsilon Mu (XEM) and the Chem Club are hosting this year's event as part of Little Sibs Weekend. The event is open to all students and community members.

"We usually do not attract too many college students," said Stacey Beyer (00), vice president of XEM, "but we really want to get more student involvement."

"The Big Show," a large-scale chemistry demonstration, will be

presented three times by XEM and the Chem Club between 1-4 p.m. There will also be two "Kid's Rooms," where children will be able to make slime and participate in other hands-on demonstrations, including magnets, bubbles and "magic ink."

"We want kids to make things they can go and show their parents," said Beyer, "and learn about chemistry at the same time."

The planetarium located in Dow will be showing forty-five minute presentations three times throughout the day starting at 1:15 pm.

"The program is fun for all ages," said Katie Wibby (01), XEM Future Generations Chair. "It is a great event to bring your little sibs to."

## Greek scholars honored

By RACHEL KUHL  
Staff Writer

The Panhellenic Council held an honors banquet last Sunday to recognize Greek members earning a 3.5 GPA or higher for the Winter and Fall 1999 terms. Jenna Knisely (01) and Brenden Conboy (02) organized the event. According to Knisely, "The dinner took about a month to plan." However, the awards themselves were earned by two semesters of hard work.

### 3.5 GPA and above for Fall 1999

Alpha Gamma Delta (ΑΓΔ)  
Rebecca Pierce, Kristin Martin, Laura Baker, \*Laura Nelson, \*Cecily Ogden, Sara Vaughn, Megan Thurber, \*Carrie Rau, \*Kelly Boeneman, Angela Soltys, Meagan Tripp  
Alpha Xi Delta (ΑΞΔ)  
Rachel Dowdney, Meredith Lawrence, \*Tracy MacLake, Michelle Degraaf, Christine Gutek, Sarah Fossati, Emily Weston, Erin Oglenski, Kathryn Nordin, Sara Brockdorf, \*Amy Czbala, Reannon Broekema, Alexis Bankowski, Amy LaGuire, Karyn Sudbury, \*Nikki Schrems, \*Angela Christoff, \*Heather Moon, Andrea Clements, \*Suzanne DuLong, \*Jessica Ross, \*Mitzi Janukaitis, Elizabeth Weber, Alicia Halligan, \*Emily Testani

### Phi Sigma Sigma (ΦΣΣ)

\*Rebecca Dutton, Nicole Hind, Jodi Taylor, Sarah Conley, \*DeDe Frey, \*Erin Conwell, \*Dawn Smith, Karyn Gilbert, \*Melissa Lewis, Stephanie Lehnert

### Kappa Iota (ΚΙ)

Courtney Evans, \*Erin Freeland, Jennie Zerges, Melissa Van Wert, \*Lindsay Dahm, Melissa Allen, Melissa Wolf, Katie Wibby  
Gamma Phi Beta (ΓΦΒ)  
Jen Knight, Laura Matthews, Angela Stoutenburg, Amy Whitmore,

Elizabeth Paterson, Amber Corneillie, \*Kristy Hopper, \*Katie Ellis, \*Elke Betz, Christina Murray, \*Beth Siewert, \*Amy Fraley, Karyll Grotty, \*Jenna Knisley, \*Katie Beam  
Tau Kappa Epsilon (ΤΚΕ)

Deric Bilicki, Marcus Dukes, Ryan Cook, Matthew Leighty, Brandon Klump, Jeremy Terbush  
Zeta Sigma (ΖΣ)

John Busing, Joel Stewart, Brent Moeggenborg

### Sigma Alpha Epsilon (ΣΑΕ)

Derek Finkbeiner, Kevin Forbing, Brandon Peters, Kevin Stanley, \*Scott Hill, Ryan Webb

### Sigma Chi (ΣΧ)

\*Nicholas Zehner, Todd Swinehart, \*Andrew Pomerville, \*Jared Falkowski, Christopher Andrus, \*Paul Meek, Jason Paetz, Christopher Roland, Michael Murphy

### Theta Chi (ΘΧ)

Andrew Downs, Kevin Kosch, \*Adam Lincoln, \*David Schumm, \*Bernard Brooks, Michael Slater

### 4.0 GPA and above for Fall 1999

#### Alpha Gamma Delta (ΑΓΔ)

\*Laura Opperman, Julie Tolles, Roxanna Weisenbach  
Alpha Xi Delta (ΑΞΔ)  
\*Amanda Burnett, Andrea Carlson, Jessica Kotas, Kyra Toten, Lisa McGee

#### Kappa Iota (ΚΙ)

Becky Johnston

#### Gamma Phi Beta (ΓΦΒ)

Heidi Grantham, Jamie Hammel, \*Beth Law, Katie Mack, Julie Yaklin

#### Theta Chi (ΘΧ)

Scott Herman, James Kuhl

#### Sigma Chi (ΣΧ)

Matthew vandenBerg, Brenden Conboy

#### Sigma Alpha Epsilon (ΣΑΕ)

William Doyle, Nathan Spang, Matthew Terry

\*denotes GPA honors for both Winter and Fall of 1999



## Members of Ferris State fraternity face charges

BIG RAPIDS, Mich.—Several members of the Knights of College Leadership, an unofficial fraternity, are facing charges for the death of Stephen Petz, 19, due to alcohol poisoning. An autopsy showed Petz's blood alcohol level was 0.42 percent. Prosecutors issued warrants that included charges such as providing alcohol to a minor and involuntary manslaughter.

## Minnesota inmates paid to fill out census

MINNEAPOLIS—Minnesota is offering its inmates \$1 per form for filling out the 2000 census. The incentive is offered in order to try to help reach the Census Bureau's target of 90 percent inmate participation. "I think we can reach that level, but it would definitely be problematic without some incentive," said Erik Skon, the state's assistant commissioner for adult facilities.

## Protesters rally after funeral of police shooting victim

NEW YORK—Protestors clashed with police after the funeral of Al Sharpton, the third unarmed black civilian in the last 13 months whose death involved undercover officers. As Sharpton's casket was carried into the funeral home, some protesters grabbed the U.S. flag draping it, tore it up, and set it on fire. Many called for Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's resignation, and some carried signs threatening his family.

## Michigan State claims sports has increased school's popularity

EAST LANSING, Mich.—Officials at Michigan State claim that the successes in the NCAA Tournament have increased the school's popularity. Freshman applications have increased and for the last two years have been around 21,000. Enrollment has increased by 2,300 students since 1996 and donations are up 28.4 percent from \$58 million in 1995-96 to \$74.5 million in 1998-99.

## Eliau battle continues

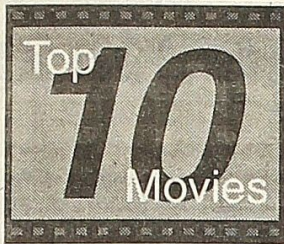
MIAMI—The Relatives of Elian Gonzalez have until April 3 to file an appeal to keep the boy from being returned to Cuba. They are getting pressured by the U.S. government to file it. If they do not, Elian will be returned to his father in Cuba. Attorney General Janet Reno stated the goal was to "reunite Elian with his father in a fair, prompt and orderly manner."



March 28, 2000

## ENTERTAINMENT

3



1. *Erin Brockovich*
2. *Mission To Mars*
3. *Final Destination*
4. *My Dog Skip*
5. *The Ninth Gate*
6. *The Whole Nine Yards*
7. *American Beauty*
8. *The Cider House Rules*
9. *Snow Day*
10. *The Tigger Movie*

obtained from snap.com

## ALBUMS

1. Santana *Supernatural*
2. Sisqo *Unleash...*
3. Dr. Dre *Dr. Dre — 2000*
4. Macy Gray *On How Life Is*
5. Bone Thugs 'n' Harmony *Resurrection*
6. Black Rob *Life Story*
7. Destiny's Child *The Writing's On the Wall*
8. Kid Rock *Devil Without A Cause*
9. George Strait *Latest Greatest...*
10. Christina Aguilera *Christina Aguilera*

Musically Inclined by Scott Timmreck

## The legend of the Pumpkins

Alternative rock poster child Billy Corgan may have finally found himself, or at least figured out that he is a rock star. Corgan's fifth album with the Smashing Pumpkins, *Machina: The Machines of God*, finds him surprisingly truer and a lot louder than he has been in the past.

Since shouting from the rooftops about being a little boy or screaming through the radio that he is still just a rat in a cage, Corgan has taken his bandmates for a ride, everywhere from Lollapalooza to the biggest arenas in the world to the smallest corners of the heart. The Pumpkins have spun from the status of the most respected band in rock to the most questionable band in the industry. Jimmy Chamberlain, the soft-spoken but tough drummer, was fired because of drug issues, and bassist D'Arcy recently left the band to pursue other interests.

The Pumpkins produced a critically acclaimed two-disc album in 1995 that spawned five singles, dealing mainly with teenage angst and the sadness that lies in everyone. The record appealed to rock fans of all ages, touching on issues of the heart and issues of the world.

Then, Corgan and his fellow vegetables made *Adore*, a record he once declared would "change the face of rock 'n' roll." He was wrong. *Adore* went nowhere—Corgan sang about issues that had nothing to do with 1979 or today being the greatest day he's ever known. Untranslatable lyrics filled the album, which never really had any direction to begin with. Filled with pointless keyboards and ridiculously elemental sounds, it was not the Smashing Pumpkins that everyone loved—there were no lines about being a zero.

Times change, and musicians decide that exploration into other realms of the rock 'n' roll world is not necessarily a good idea. For the new album, the Pumpkins have

up their amps to make their best-sounding record since *Siamese Dream* rolled onto popular radio in 1993. There are no bullets with butterfly wings here. In fact, there is not even melancholy or infinite sadness. Unlike previous efforts, Corgan does not unload his soul into the music. This time, he believes that his soul is too good for the music and that the sounds should be able to speak for themselves.

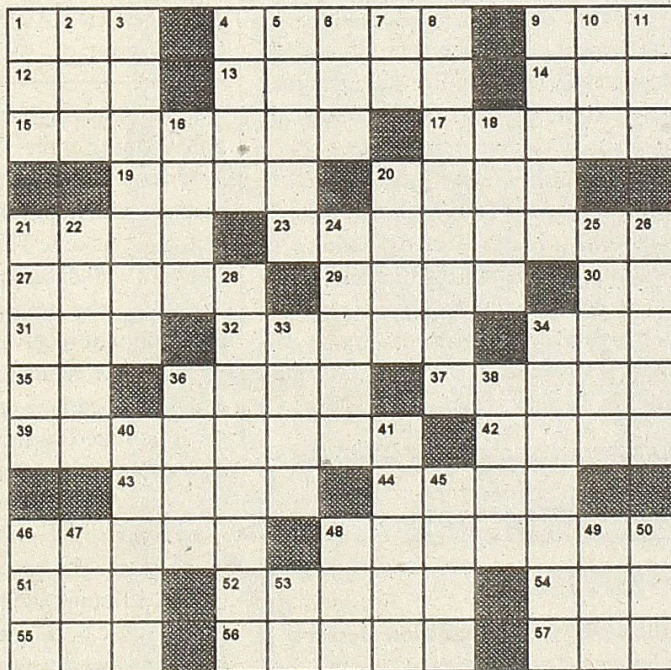
Successful in his endeavor, Corgan has created wonderful songs that do not slow down but still retain room to breathe. In "Stand Inside Your Love" and "Age of Innocence," the Pumpkins have created two gems that may even flaunt themselves a bit for commercial radio. Corgan has stopped moaning and complaining about happiness and finding God.

This time, he either thinks he is God or has found Him. His banter and wisdom speak of the good things in life—the searches, challenges and mysteries that make up our existence. Any hint of regret is gone, not only because it is lost in the loud guitar fuzz, but also because it is not allowed to come out in the tightly bundled hooks and riffs that mark the Pumpkins' style. Few digressions from the loud but soulful predominant sounds exist, making the drums and guitars even stronger than one would hope for from Corgan.

*Machina* conquers the lack of faith that fans have in the band since its last effort. Corgan has answered the challenge instead of sulking over it, highlighting his strength, just as the guitars here highlight the album's strength.

Whatever Corgan's intention, he can be sure that the messages on *Machina* are not as ambiguous as those on *Adore*, although the guitars are almost as fuzzy. Whether he has found God or not, Corgan has rediscovered rock music that is widely accepted and able to be shouted from the rooftops. **Grade: A**

Thank you to WQAC for their Smashing Pumpkins logo and turned



## ACROSS

1. Aviv
4. Remedy
9. Belonging to (suf.)
12. Is (p.t.)
13. Amphitheater
14. Give approval
15. Sedative
17. Correct
19. Wan
20. Taro plant
21. Aquatic animal
23. Engine cooling device
27. Danger
29. Window
30. Box Office (abbr.)
31. Order (abbr.)
32. Smell
34. Second smallest U.S. state (abbr.)
35. Southern New England state (abbr.)
36. Wide-mouthed pitcher
37. Rent
39. On the same team
42. Gr. god of war

43. Clock face
44. Melodious song bird
46. Record keeper
48. Behaviors
51. Policeman (slang)
52. Muse of lyric poetry
54. Bring action against
55. Small bed
56. Measured
57. Number

## DOWN

1. Flap
2. Mistake
3. Spotted animal
4. End
5. Arrangement
6. Born
7. Not out
8. Red bird
9. Molded metal
10. Variant of no (Japanese)
11. Time standard (abbr.)
16. A republic of Africa

## Entertainment Briefs

**Moss released from hospital**  
Supermodel Kate Moss, 26, was released from hospital Saturday after collapsing at her home with a kidney infection. Her modeling agency claims that the hospitalization of the model, who has previously been treated for substance abuse, had nothing to do with alcohol or drugs.

## 'N Sync making history

*No Strings Attached*, the new album from 'N Sync, sold more than one million copies in one day says the band's label, Jive. This is the first album in history to sell more than one million copies in one day.

## Travolta sending subliminal messages?

Anti-Scientologists are accusing John Travolta of hiding subliminal messages in his upcoming film *Battlefield Earth*. According to FactNet, an anti-Scientology group, the messages will be used to recruit new Scientologists.

## McCartney suing MP3.com

Paul McCartney and MPL Communication, his music-publishing company, are suing MP3.com for copyright violations.

## Pitt's admirer

Brad Pitt's mother is outraged by an impersonator who is giving Pitt a bad reputation in his hometown of Springfield, Missouri. The impersonator is reportedly bar-hopping and dating women who think he is Pitt.

## Letterman up and running

*Late Show* host David Letterman will finally be returning to work full time this week. Letterman has been working part time since his heart bypass surgery earlier in the year.

[www.laffworks.com](http://www.laffworks.com)

Are you in the mood for a good laugh? If your kind of humor involves spite and nasty insults then surf on over to [laffworks.com](http://laffworks.com) and "point, click, and laugh." This week's feature is an interview with former presidential candidate Bill Bradley that takes a few surprising turns. You can also browse other features like "Britney Spears," "Mastercard," "Playbaah," and "Prank Mail." Laffworks.com also offers a free email account, a voice chat room, polls, free postcards, and the latest news. If the end of the semester is running you ragged, then hop on over to [laffworks.com](http://laffworks.com) for a few quick stress-relieving laughs.

[www.sothere.com](http://www.sothere.com)

Almost everyone has had their heart broken, stomped on, or simply ripped to pieces. For all of those who still need to vent, [sothere.com](http://sothere.com) has come to the rescue. Sothere.com is a collection of letters written by those who have been slighted. Although the person that broke your heart may never see it, you still have the satisfaction of getting the final say. Some of the letters are sad, others delightfully funny, and for anyone who has suffered a heartbreak, it's nice to see that you are not alone.

[www.darwinawards.com](http://www.darwinawards.com)

Almost everyone has heard of the infamous Darwin Awards—those awards given to the humans who contribute to the improvement of our gene pool by removing themselves from it. This official site features stories of award winners for the past eight years, and even lets you look under certain categories like "Personal Accounts," "Urban Legends," and just plain "Stupidity." While there is a bit of a mean streak throughout this site, there are few that can deny the stupidity of some award winners. Whether you believe in Darwin's theory of evolution or not, [darwinawards.com](http://darwinawards.com) offers a little bit of humor in a far too serious world.



# Alma band plans upcoming performances

By MANDY LONG  
Feature Editor

Throw together a few Alma College students, a lot of dedication, some great music and you have the making for Alma's Homegrown.

"We have a lot of fun doing what we do," said sophomore Andrew Pomerville, who helped start the band.

"We were all sitting around brainstorming and we came up with the name Homegrown," said Pomerville. "And no, there aren't any drug references," he added with a laugh.

Homegrown began last November with ACUB's Songfest, where the band took first place in large group performances. After bringing the audience to their feet with Rusted Root's "Send Me On My Way," the band's career took off.

Since then Homegrown performed at an ACUB sponsored Coffeehouse night, at ΦMA's American Music Composer's Concert, and will also be performing at Theta Chi's annual Beach Bash and the Sigma ChiLander, as well as opening for Ekoostik Hookah this Friday at the Strand.



Bryan Waugh

Members of Homegrown anticipate their performance at the Strand on Friday.

Homegrown is comprised of five Alma students: Pomerville, sophomore Chris Andrus, junior Eric Eppensteiner, junior Ryan Gall, and sophomore Jonah Powell. Other Alma students have made guest appearances and include junior Kirstin Porter, junior Kevin Metz, senior Jeremiah Lee, and sophomore Sarah McKinney.

"We practice once or twice a week, and we do about half covers and half of our stuff," said Pomerville, "We write stuff together, but everyone has pretty much written songs of their own."

Homegrown plans on continuing their performances throughout the summer around Michigan and in the Traverse City area.

"We play pretty cheaply for parties and concerts," said Pomerville, "We're willing to play just about any local party."

Although the future could hold anything for Homegrown, Pomerville hopes to see the band stay together through college.

"I would like us to stand together through the next couple years of college, and who knows, we could go anywhere," he said, "The limits of this group are unending."

## Sig Macker raises money for kids

By DAWNA ANDERSON  
Staff Writer

The Alma College chapter of Sigma Chi held a 3-on-3 basketball tournament Saturday, March 18, imitating the famed Gus Macker basketball tournament.

The fraternity sponsored the Sig Macker, as it was appropriately called, in the gym of the Hogan Physical Education Center. It was organized and officiated by Sigma Chi brothers, some of who also participated by playing on a team.

A total of 13 teams participated in this year's First Annual Sig Macker, but one of the tournament coordinators, Nick Zehner (01) expects a larger turnout next

year. "There were several high school teams, so hopefully they will spread the word to the other kids," said Zehner.

The winning team this year was comprised of Sigma Chi brothers.

It was not necessary to have a team to participate in this event. In addition to the 3-on-3 tournament, the Sigma Chi brothers held a 3-point shot contest. Jason Paetz (00) won the contest by making 20 shots in one minute.

The profits of this year's event are going to benefit the Children's Miracle Network. The fraternity plans to continue this fund-raising event. They are encouraging everyone on campus to put together a team to challenge this year's top teams in the Second Annual Sig Macker next year.

## American Beauty delights viewers

By GINGER DAVIS  
Staff Writer

After receiving eight Oscar nominations and winning three Golden Globe awards, *American Beauty* has been re-released in theaters with hopes that the Oscar buzz will sell more tickets. The nominations and the buzz are well deserved. This is a wonderful, touching movie that deserves all the recognition it receives.

This movie, named after a type of rose that appears in nearly every scene, is the story of a self-admitted loser who introduces himself at a party with the words, "I wouldn't remember me, either." Lester Burnham (Kevin Spacey) has a job in advertising that he despises. His psychotically perfect wife (Annette Bening) and Goth daughter (Thora Birch) pity him. The movie records the problems that develop when Lester decides that he is tired of being a nobody and is determined to take charge of his life. This awakening of sorts starts with his obsession with Angela Hayes (Mena Suvari), the slutty blonde best friend of his daughter. The story centers on Brown's lust for Suvari and his desire to regain control of an unhappy life.

*American Beauty* is truly an ensemble piece. Ricky Fitts (Wes Bentley) is outstanding as the boy next door who had an obsession for filming. Fitts manages to date the daughter and befriend Lester. He has a dark intensity in every scene that is so sting it is a wonder that he does not set the screen on fire. The Jims – two gay men who live on the other side of the Burnham house – are comic and charming. Ricky's father, Colonel

Frank Fitts (Chris Cooper), an unforgiving ex-marine who runs his family as he would run a garrison of troops, is onscreen perfection. Jane Burnham, the daughter, is very funny. Her scene as an unsmiling Goth member of the pep squad is irony at its best. Watching the character Angela Hayes regress in years as her true colors appear is another wonderful aspect of the film.

Caroline, the perfectionist wife, is sensational. She is a better-developed version of the plastic wife on *The Truman Show*. In a fight with Jane, Caroline attempts to illustrate how easy Jane's life is by screaming, "You ungrateful little brat! When I was growing up, we lived in a duplex! We didn't even have our own house!" This movie has a wonderful way of mixing drama with comedy, and the end result is as beautiful as the roses for which the movie was named.

The movie is full of many memorable characters, but it is Lester that makes this movie such a joy to watch. His expressions (like the slow smile the creeps across his face when he hears that his daughter is in love) are priceless, and the absolute glee with which he delivers lines is intoxicating. His enthusiasm for every aspect of his life – from working at the local burger joint to having his remote control car chase his wife – is catching and endearing. Not since *Death of a Salesman* has a loser been this lovable.

A review of *American Beauty* cannot do it justice, only the movie itself can do that. Or, as Lester says, "I know you don't have any idea what I'm talking about. It's okay. You will." **Grade: A.**

### IMPORTANT REMINDER

Don't miss the **Volunteer and Community Service Recognition Dessert** brought to you by Students Offering Service, The Michigan Campus Compact and Service Learning. The dessert will begin at **7:00pm Thursday March 30 in the Heather Room**. Volunteers who would like to attend, please RSVP to the SOS office at X7598 by March 26. Remember to bring medical supplies to donate to Honduras!

### Roberta B. Swanson Pre-Med Scholarships

Juniors and seniors enrolled in the College's Pre-med curriculum for the academic year are eligible for consideration for a Roberta Swanson Pre-med Scholarship. If you are interested in applying for this award, please stop by the financial aid office for application information. Completed applications are due on or before April 17, 2000.



March 28, 2000

## SPORTS

5

## Scots capture third straight championship title



The softball team celebrates after achieving a championship victory.

Bryan Waugh

By **KELLY McDONALD** and  
**DAWNA ANDERSON**  
Sports Editor and Staff  
Writer

The Alma softball team (16-4) captured its third straight title in the 11th annual Alma Invitational

on Saturday defeating Lake Superior State University (14-8), 2-1 in extra innings.

The final game was a classic pitchers duel, as neither team scored until extra innings as the Scots were determined to avenge an earlier tournament loss to LSSU. Becky Pierce (00) kept the

Scots in the game as she went the distance giving up one run on three hits and striking out three. LSSU

pitcher Jean Pergande held the potent Alma offense to six hits.

With the game scoreless going into the top of the eighth inning, the Scots looked for a spark. The bats of Amy Czabala (00) and Jackie Cowan (00) answered that call as each tallied singles to score two much needed Alma runs. The international tiebreaker rules put Jessi Ross (01) on second base to start the inning. Danielle Pease (01) sacrificed Ross to third and then Czabala's single plated Ross. Then Czabala scored on Cowan's single to left to give the Scots a two-run advantage.

LSSU came back in the bottom of that inning to score a run, but Pierce took care of the rest as she recorded her tenth win of the year with Alma winning, 2-1.

"It was nice to come back and play them again. They are a nice team," said head coach Denny Griffin.

Cowan and Susan Vander Putten (01) tallied two hits each as Czabala and Brandee Brower (00) had the other two Alma hits.

The tournament started on Friday

as Alma took on Aquinas and LSSU in the early games.

Alma took advantage of five Aquinas errors as they won the game, 8-5. Czabala pounded out two hits and scored four Alma runs as classmate Brower tallied two RBI's on two hits and scored a run.

LSSU defeated the Scots in the second game of the tournament, 3-1. Alma could only muster three hits; Pease got two of them. Cowan took the loss on the mound as she gave up three runs on nine hits but struck out eight.

"Our bats really started to come around this weekend. We looked strong out there and there was some great weather for softball," said Heather Svejcar (02).

In the nightcap, the final game of Alma against Capital (Ohio), darkness set in and the game was suspended until Saturday morning with Alma up 3-0. Capital's woes continued as the Scots took advantage to win their final round-robin game, 9-5.

Alma got two hits each from Pease, Brower and Katrina

See **SOFTBALL** on 6

## Track prepares for MIAA

By **CHRIS HARRINGTON**  
Staff Writer

Over the weekend, the Alma College track teams did some traveling.

The men took a trip down to Huntington, Indiana to compete in the Huntington Relays. The women headed to Emory, Georgia to compete in the Division III Emory Invitational.

The men finished first in the high jump relay. Participants were freshman Charlie Smith junior Justin Stemple and freshman Matt Johnson with a combined score of 17' 10". Charlie Smith took 2nd place in the 400 hurdles with a time of 58.3 seconds. The 400 hurdles were the only individual event at the meet. The shuttle hurdle team, composed of Charlie Smith, freshman A.J. Smith, Junior Jeremy Haynie and sophomore Jason Grifka, took third place.

There were many second and third place finishes at the meet, but only the one first-place finish. Sophomore Jason Grifka said, "We had a solid showing but we could have run better. Overall, it was a successful meet and it set us up nicely to compete well in the MIAA conference."

League action starts for the men this Saturday at Hope. There is also a home meet on Wednesday April 5 at 2:30p.m.

The women took 14th place at a meet that over twenty different schools participated in, including fellow MIAA rivals Hope and Calvin. Alma scored 14 points at the meet with the majority earned in the field events.

First-year student Kiran Shrestha placed 7th in the long jump and earned 2 points with a jump of 4.82 meters. In the pole vault, Thyra Folk (03) placed 5th and earned 4 points with a vault of 2.45 meters and junior Andrea Horton earned 0.5 points and 8th place with a vault of 2.30 meters. Senior Jenny Dulz added 3 points in the discus event with a throw of 36.18 meters and a 6th place finish.

The only runner to earn points was senior Anne Grimaldi. She ran an 11:04.04 in the 3,000-meter run good for five points and 4th place.

Regarding the meet in general, Junior Becky Burkett said, "We performed really well in some of our events however we had some disappointments as well."

The women continue their season this Saturday at Hope competing against both Hope and St. Marys'. The next home meet will be Wednesday April 5.

# March Madness

## NCAA Final Four

**Wisconsin**

**WEST**

**MSU**

**MIDWEST**

**EAST**

**Florida**

**UNC**

**SOUTH**

**Championship Game**  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
Monday - April 3, 2000  
CBS - 9:18 pm ET



## Baseball gears up for MIAA action

By KATIE BEAM  
Staff Writer

The baseball team is anxious to begin its MIAA season this Friday against Albion College. Thus far, the team has encountered a few bumps in the road, posting an overall record of 1-9. But head coach John Leister and his players are not fazed a bit.

Second-baseman Jeff Lane (01) said, "Despite our showing in Florida, we are farther along as a team than we were last year at this point, so we're just excited to get going."

Leister quickly pointed out the team's strengths: the experience of the returning players and the leadership of the seniors. Andy Meteere (00) has been with the program for four years and "could be the best shortstop in the league," Leister said. He also said the team is "defensively sound with good pitching." Having pitchers David Piering (00) and Andrew Merchant (00) on the mound "is a plus."

Pointing out problems the team encountered was a bit tougher. Leister said, "It's hard for a coach to point out weaknesses—they like to believe there aren't any," he laughed. But he said that the team's hitting skills could be improved; without good hitters, it is hard to win games.

As far as repeating as MIAA Champs, the players expect the league to be tough. "Winning the title last year gives us an advantage," said Merchant (00), "although there will be teams shooting for us."

Lane expects to win the league. "A league championship means an automatic bid into the NCAA Division III Tournament. This year, Lane added, "We hope to win a few games in the tourney—not just get there like we did last year."

In general, Leister said the team's goal is (and has always been) to "play sound baseball every day" and "play as hard as you can every time out."

The team plays Saginaw Valley State University tomorrow night at the new Klenk Park, and begins MIAA action this Friday in Albion.

## Men's tennis back on track

By BRIAN PRIEHS  
Staff Writer

On Saturday, March 25 the men's tennis team opened division play against the visiting Adrian Bulldogs. Although facing a wind storm, the Scots were mentally and physically prepared for their opponent.

The men took court against the Bulldogs with an extreme amount of confidence and left the match with a victory. The overall score of the day was 8-1.

"The wind was a major factor against us in all of the matches against Adrian. It was a good test of our mental toughness," said Matt Piper (02).

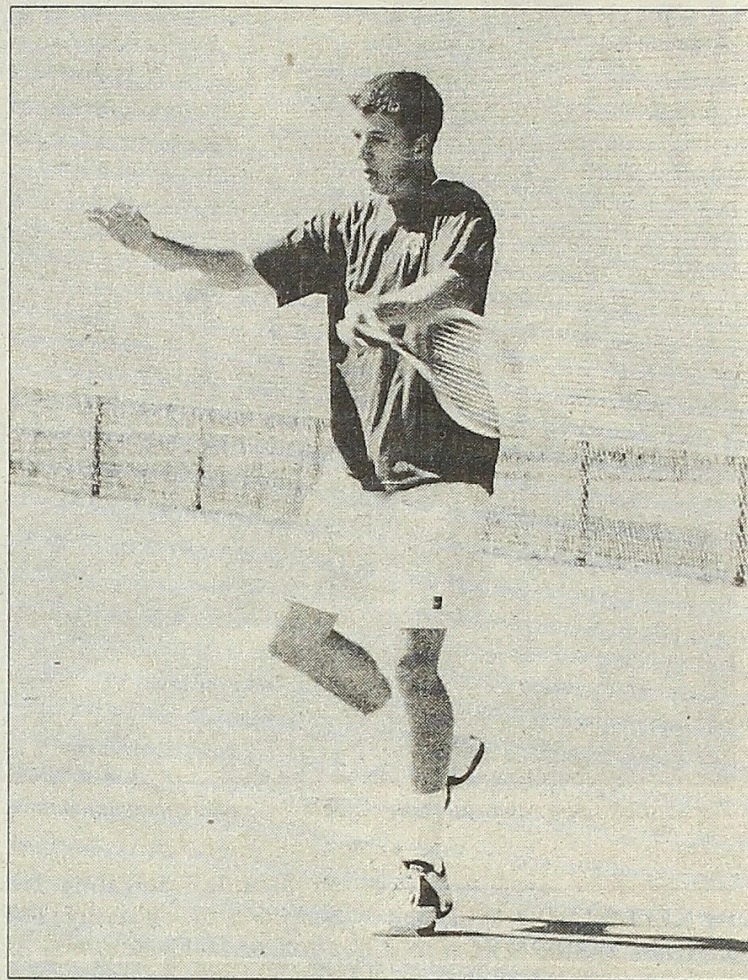
The Scots posted wins in all three of the doubles matches. Mark O'Bryan (03) and John Boyer (02) defeated Adrian, 6-2, 6-4. Tim Zeedyk (01) and Ryan Webb (00) paired up for a victory, 6-0, 6-3. The doubles team of Denis Busque

and Piper also won with a score of 6-1, 6-0.

In singles competition, Piper pulled away in the third set to win his match, 5-7, 6-3, 6-4. Webb posted a victory, 6-3, 7-5. O'Bryan won his contest with a score of 6-1, 6-1. Zeedyk also pulled away in the third set of his match to win, 6-2, 4-6, 6-3. Busque was victorious, too: 6-0, 6-0.

With a forearm injury occurring early in the day for Boyer, Ben Zilz (03) was asked to jump into the line-up and play third singles. Playing his first regular season college match, Zilz played well, but posted a 5-7, 3-6 loss.

The Scots face Hillsdale College Tuesday, March 28 at 3:30 p.m. and division foe Hope College Wednesday, March 29 at 3 p.m. Both of the matches are at home. For more information about statistics or upcoming matches refer to the Alma College home web page.



Bryan Waugh

Tim Zeedyk (01) prepares his backhand against the Adrian Bulldogs.

## Women's tennis breaks even

By DAN JOYCE  
Staff Writer

The Alma College women's tennis team broke even this past week annihilating Adrian and dropping one to Albion.

In the Scots' first MIAA bout this season, the women walked onto Bulldog soil Thursday and tamed the beasts. After the dust cleared, Adrian had nothing but battle wounds to show as Alma won 9-0.

Scores for the singles matches were: Deb Bacon (02) 6-1, 6-0; Marisol Diaz (01) 6-3, 6-4; Emily Brookhouse (02) 6-0, 6-1; Amy LaGuire (01) 6-0, 6-1; Janet Daig (03) 6-2, 6-1; and Melissa Bobier (02) 6-3, 6-1.

The doubles matches finished as follows: Bacon/Brookhouse 6-

4, 6-4; J. Daig/Diaz 6-0, 6-1; and Laguire/Bobier 7-6 (7-3), 6-2.

Leah Daig (03) and Sarah Keller (03) each played and won exhibition matches.

The match on Saturday at Albion did not go as well for the women.

With only one of the nine matches going into a third set, the Scots dropped their second MIAA match 9-0.

Betsie Keeler (00) said, "[Albion] was a pretty comparable match. The score doesn't show it, but we played really well. We do have some areas to improve on and we will."

With that in mind, the women will take on Spring Arbor on Wednesday and Tiffin University (Ohio) on Saturday in non-MIAA play.

### SOFTBALL from 5

DiNallo (01) as Brower added three more RBI's on the day.

Alma earned the right to play in the championship game with an 11-0 win against Aquinas on Saturday afternoon. The Scots pounded out 11 hits, including a six-run fourth inning. Pease tallied two hits and two runs scored for the victors as Elizabeth Knochel (02) played a fine defensive game behind the plate.

Almost everyone was pleased with the way the women played. "Their defense was strong, pitching was solid and the batting was there when they needed them," said manager Kim Thielke (03).

The women have proved themselves worthy of their national ranking by overcoming a disappointing tournament in California. In reference to the California tournament Griffin said, "There was a tough caliber of competition. There is always a fine line between winning and losing when you are talking about the top ten."

They begin MIAA action today, hosting Hope at 3p.m.

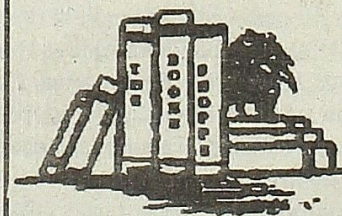
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Diversify this Life, at Alma

By SCOTT TIMMRECK

Alma College has its faults, considering its \$20,000 price tag. Party life can get dull, and the food gets repetitive after approximately twenty-nine days. Some campus organizations are frustrating, and the push by the aura of the school to be involved usually exceeds what any individual can comfortably manage.

But I love Alma College. I could not write a weekly column on a place that I do not enjoy. This place is wonderful – there is always food, living spaces are well-maintained, the grounds are kept free from anything displeasing, the people are wonderful, the women are incredibly more pleasant than any women that ever walked through my high school. Also, the education provided is top-notch.

Despite my affection for this fine institution, I will never be completely satisfied with the money and effort that I have paid to be here. For anyone who does not know, administrators and faculty are in a stalemate situation of a conflict that some claim is taking away from the education of the students. There is a key lack of administrators in several offices of the college, including the public relations office. This office has gone the entire school year without a director. Of course, there are also little issues that arise, concerning the well-being of students: parking, lighting, snow removal.

However, it is not these concerns that will make me think poorly about this college. The one issue that will haunt me when I think about this place in the years beyond is an issue that most colleges are current in a frenzy over: diversity. The actions taken to put this word into action are foremost in the minds of those who

want to move ahead at Alma College.

As much as I respect groups like Alma Pride that wish to push new ways of looking at situations and at people, this is Alma. Granted, it is not nearly as conservative as a college like Hope, but it is not UCLA, even though sometimes it wishes to be, in terms of the ideas and issues that some administrators wish could be expressed.

The college encountered this issue when Benjamin Hooks visited campus on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and gave a rousing speech that earned him a standing ovation. Many people agreed that he was a fine speaker with a wonderful message. And recently, Pride had its campaign to get others to respect the differences in people.

The college brought in Hooks to promote diversity, and Pride wishes to do the same thing, but am I missing a fundamental part of the entire concept of diversity here at Alma College, a concept so heavily weighed that people are rejected for key positions on campus because of it? Webster's Dictionary defines diversity, in a rather negative light, as "the state of differing from one another." Is this something this institution is supposed to promote?

Indeed, diversity is wonderful. It brings different ideas and different views to any group, and there is no good reason not to promote a vast panoply of ideas. However, again, this is Alma College, a place of conservative ideals and plenty of people, including myself, that do not have an open mind regarding various situations.

Statistics show that over 93% of this campus is Caucasian, and many students here come from mid-Michigan and upper-middle class families. Most of the surrounding community holds that same identity. Why promote a concept, however important to a school's well-being, that is, for all good measures, impractical? Again, the forwarding of ideals and values of different cultures is wonderful, but there is no need to highlight such differences—we already recognize that the differences are there. I understand that people do not fit the category I just described, but there is no reason to spotlight the differences.

The idea of diversity on this campus is not quite the issue. The issue stems from the people who think it is necessary to better our society, to move things forward into the 21st century when we will all be integrated as one. Perhaps that will happen, but not here, not for a long time. This is an overly conservative campus that attempts to address the issue of diversity but in reality knows that little can be accomplished, simply because of the nature of the institution and the nature of the issue. Yet it remains the thing to do, even if the cards are not necessarily dealt in the college's favor.

We are all asked to accept the differences of people. We are asked to accept people who see different issues in different ways. Surely there is nothing wrong with taking a negative attitude toward the concept of diversity, because if there is, the furthering of ideas and the presence of different viewpoints is halted for this cause that some consider impractical.

Campus Quips

Since Women's Month is just about over, it can be said: Congratulations to the everyone that put in so much effort for everything that went on...

Congratulations to the winners of ACUB's Mock Rock--despite the whopping four acts, it was fun...

The sun and warmth are good, as is the start of softball and the return of the Detroit Tigers...

Don't forget that March 30 is the well-known "Doctor's Day"--send a lollipop to your doctor as a thanks...

Plans for the new recreation building should include a flight simulator—it would be fun...

HEMISPHERES

By Cara Bonine

Higher oil prices mean more power in Middle East

As the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) continue to raise oil prices, Americans are becoming frustrated with increasing gas prices.

Over the past year oil prices have more than tripled and oil now costs over \$30 a barrel. Members of Congress are becoming frustrated as well and have complained about the vast profits of oil producing countries.

OPEC members, such as Libya and Algeria, are not interested in boosting oil supplies to help alleviate oil prices. Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil producer, reported recently it would supply more oil to the United States.

Even with Saudi Arabia's increase production, the United States estimates an overall 59 percent increase in oil prices this year.

"[Oil producers] are incredibly cautious," said a Western economics writer in the *Christian Science Monitor*. "The catastrophic low prices of 1998 still make them feel very vulnerable and not quite king of the castle."

Here in the United States, Connecticut lawmakers are demanding a 7 cents per-gallon gas tax cut. In Oklahoma and New York, they are proposing cutting gas taxes completely for the summer. The Indiana State

Senate has already passed a bill to save motorists 9 percent in gas taxes.

Although increasing gas prices are becoming a burden on consumers' pocketbooks, the crucial issue does not lie in America. The question that arises from the oil price surge is, where is the profit going, and in what ways is OPEC using the money?

In 1999 Iraq and Iran gained almost \$15 billion in revenues from oil production and this year they are expected get \$20-21 billion in revenue. Other large producers include Kuwait, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.

With an increase in wealth comes an increase in power – both politically and militarily. The United States must devote attention to curb the Middle East's monopoly on oil production.

The United States and other countries around the world depend almost solely on the Middle East for oil. As long as this dependency exists on the Middle East, they will continue to be a threat politically and perhaps militarily.

Even with tax cuts from the legislature, motorists will pay outrageous prices at the gas pump and frustrations will inevitably increase. However, tax cuts are not enough; the dilemma must be dealt with farther east.

Rising flames raises questions

By RACHEL KUHL  
Staff Writer

The recent outbreak of college fires both nationwide and on our own campus has raised questions about the responsibility and liability of the school to replace damaged property.

The fire at Seton Hall on Jan. 19 brought the issue to the forefront earlier this year, injuring 62 students and killing three freshman. Initial reports citing the cause of the blaze pointed the finger at careless cigarette-smoking students. However, it was later reported by the Star Ledger of Newark that "The incident may have resulted from a feud between a group of students and some nonstudents who were visiting the building on the night of the blaze." While Seton Hall was insured students and their families are still finalizing a settlement.

Just this month, not so far from home, a fire broke out in a dorm at Ferris State University, leaving one woman hospitalized and two students injured. According to

the Associated Press, both the second and third floors of the dormitory were "extensively damaged," while students on the first floor returned to their rooms.

College spokeswoman Margaret Avritt said, "The ones that are wiped out, we're going to take them to K-Mart or Wal-Mart and use some of the University funds to buy them some clothes on an emergency basis."

The issue of student versus college liability was raised on our own campus when, while away on spring break, senior Lynn Seaton's room caught on fire. According to college officials, Seaton's fish tank leaked onto her stereo, causing an electrical short. Since Seaton failed to follow college procedure and unplug all items in her room before leaving for break, it makes sense that the college should not be legally responsible for her damaged property.

Page 75 of the Alma College Handbook states, "Personal belongings of students are not covered under the

college insurance policy. The college assumes no responsibility for personal property that is damaged or destroyed by theft, vandalism, fire, smoke, rain, wind, hail, or water. Check with your homeowners insurance as to whether your belongings are insured."

Assistant Dean of Students Martin Stack points out that in the instance of a fire that is determined to be the fault of the college, it would be in the best interest of the college to work out some type of settlement with those involved. However, in other cases, students need to remember "the college isn't your parents," and a level of personal responsibility must be accepted.

In the case of Seaton, it seems that the parties involved found a fair balance. While she was responsible for her own personal damages, Alma College did not charge her for any of the repairs made to her room, the replaced furniture, water damage to the hallway and adjoining rooms or fire rescue costs.



# Letters to the Editor

To the editor,

For the past year I have attended the Community Governance Committee meetings and have seen the division between faculty and administration. This division was covered in the last December issue of the Almanian.

Lately, the talk between faculty and administration has been centered around returning to the way things used to be, but no one on either side seems to remember how it used to be. Consequently, they do not know how to get there.

Both the faculty and the administration are looking in the right direction, our past, just not in the right place. They need to look at the Christian history of Alma College and remember what the Bible says about forgiveness. In order to build trust and relationships, we first must forgive one another, and then we can seek forgiveness ourselves.

People ask today what is wrong with our children? Why do they get into arguments that result in aggression and mistrust? The answers are that they are following the example set by the previous generation and not forgiving the people who sin against them.

Steven L. Crider  
Senior Class President

To the editors:

On behalf of Alma College Pride, I want to extend a thank you to all those members of the campus community who wore denim or denim patches of Jeans Day 2000, Thursday, March 16. Actively sowing support for human rights and dignity for all person is not always the easy way, but as those of you who have suffered the indignation of any kind of prejudice and hate know it is the moral and ethical way.

Alma College Pride has grown in the past years, and has raised awareness of homophobia on this campus. Unfortunately, there are those at Alma College whose vision, it seems, is to spread hate, fear, and intolerance. This was evident when the chalking the Pride members did in celebration of Jeans Day 2000 was defaced with profanities and slander. This action occurred in the middle of the night, and because of the inflammatory nature of this defacement, the entire chalking was removed from in front of the library. Pride members had received prior permission from Student Affairs to do the chalking.

It appears that those who defaced the chalkings decided that if the chalking was removed, quite possibly Jeans Day 2000 would not happen. Much like the Grinch Who Stole Christmas, these bigots thought they could steal the spirit of human dignity and celebration that was Jeans Day 2000.

I've got bad news for them – their actions only solidified the campus community, the Pride members, and myself that the message of tolerance, acceptance, and non-discrimination for all person needs to be spread. Hate never rules the day, and certainly didn't that day. Countless students flooded The Center that morning, seeking patches of denim to wear to their off-campus activities. The smiles and support I witnessed in support of Jeans Day 2000 far exceeded any hate or fear the defacers thought they might instill on this campus.

Often, homophobia stems from ignorance and fear. Education and openness to diversity can broaden one's world view. By understanding and respecting differences, we can all help make this campus safer, saner and growing, in keeping with the spirit of a liberal arts education.

Alma College remains a place of dignity, where people of all colors, religions, races, genders, physical abilities, ages, and sexual orientation are welcome and accepted.

Gayle Passaretti  
Assistant Dean of Counseling

To the editors:

As a member of Alma Pride, I feel compelled to dispel rampant misconceptions about Jeans Day 2000. The letter from Mr. John Gardai, printed in the March 22 edition of *The Almanian*, contributed heavily to the misguided notion that Alma Pride wishes to "trick" members of the Alma community into showing support for our cause. Please allow me to clarify this issue once again.

The most common misunderstanding about Jeans Day is that we deliberately chose jeans because they're something that most Alma students wear anyway. This is only partly true. We do choose jeans because most students own them. We do not expect students to make special concessions to show their support. Most, if not all, students, faculty, and support staff already own jeans, making it a convenient way to support a cause IF THEY CHOOSE TO DO SO. Believe me, Alma Pride members are well aware of the disproportionate amount of khakis on campus that day. You said yourself, Mr. Gardai, that this was the most noted change on campus. Doesn't that prove that Jeans Day is convenient for all? We don't bother wondering if people are wearing jeans accidentally (By the way, you shouldn't either. Who are you to proclaim that we don't have any "real" support?) because we do publicize our Jeans Day. We post signs—most of them are torn down, but that certainly isn't our fault. Our advisor, Gayle Passaretti, sent a mass e-mail explaining the purpose of Jeans Day. If nothing else, the chalk messages could have served as a siren for those determined for those determined not to show support. People who were obliged to dress in anything other than jeans (blue denim shirts were also an option) for any reason at all had the option of wearing a denim patch. They were available in the Center for Student Development, free of charge. We do our best to accommodate everyone, and we reach out using the same methods that every other group uses.

Secondly, Jeans Day is not unique to Alma's campus, and it is not purely a "gay" event. As much as I would love to say the idea was ours alone, I can't because Jeans Day actually happens on campuses across the country. It is often sponsored by minority groups but not always LGBT organizations. It is in fact used by Native American students, Arabic students, political groups, and yes, also by groups like Alma Pride. We did not invent it at all, but we are proud to sponsor it on this campus.

I am sorry if people viewed our chalk messages as strictly "homosexual" phrases. I can think of several that were not: "Your silence will not protect you," was taken from Audre Lorde's essay about her battle with breast cancer; "support all human rights," which we wrote between Clack and Newberry, proves that our attention was indeed to discourage all discrimination. By the way, our original chalking, which was completed in the rain late Wednesday night, was washed away by the Physical Plant crew. We view this as a blatant infraction of Alma College's anti-discrimination policy, but we still await a formal apology.

On behalf of Alma Pride, I thank every member of the student body, faculty, administration, and support staff who supported us on March 16. Your message, that you are willing to support human rights in spite of potential disrespect, touches us deeply.

Stephanie Powell (00)

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## Classifieds

Registered Nurse/LPN  
Mi Adult Services

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