



**Track teams** host their first home meet against Albion and Olivet. See page 8.



**Alma College** retires three faculty members. See page 5.

**Wednesday's Weather**  
Partly Cloudy  
High: 49°  
Low: 33°

# The Almanian

Issue 20

Serving Alma College since 1907

April 11, 2000

## Faculty member receives death threat

By **NIKOLE CANUTE**  
News Editor

On Wednesday, March 29, Lawrence Potter, associate professor of English, received a racial death threat through campus mail.

The letter was taken immediately to the Provost's office, and then to the office of Alan Stone, president, who then called the local authorities.

The author of the letter has not been identified. The local authorities have fingerprinted the letter, and the state police, as well as the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), are now involved.

The letter was, in Potter's words, "full of venomous language and 'hate images' that are historically connected to racism." Threats of physical violence, including bombs, were also mentioned in the letter, which left Potter "unnerved, unsettled, and unsure about 'me' and 'my' safety."

Potter has had alarms installed in both his home and automobile.

In response to questions related to his safety, Potter said, "Because there is no one/group identified, safety becomes priority to me, and I don't think that it is healthy for anyone to be in an environment where they don't feel safe one hundred percent of the time."

Regarding whether he will remain at Alma, Potter said, "At this point, I don't know ... It's not my aim to leave."

According to Stone, nothing like this has ever happened at Alma College before.

As part of the campus administration's response to the threat, Stone has sent two campus-wide e-mails. In them he stated, "Threats are not the Alma way," and offered his apologies to "the threatened individual and those offended."

The last e-mail also contained an offer from Stone of \$1,000 to anyone who has information that leads to "anyone responsible for the threat."

Another \$1,400 has also been pledged by the Alma College faculty for the same purpose.

If anyone has information regarding the threat, they can call the Stone's office at extension 7146.

When asked what he would like to see happen, Potter said, "There have been several things that crossed my mind and I do not think that many (although there have been some here who have been victimized) individuals on this campus know what it feels like and how serious it is to be a VICTIM! My only thought is that the legal forces involved are able to do a quality job in investigating this situation and bring about some evidence for a suspect/s. I want the person/s to suffer just like s/he wished for me to suffer."

Once the perpetrator is found, Stone has indicated that harsh consequences will follow. He said, "We're willing to prosecute this individual. If it's a student, we'll throw them out of school. If it's an employee, we're going to fire them on the spot. We're going to prosecute them to the limit of the law. This is a federal crime. You cannot do this in the United States, and we can find this individual - we're going to get them."

Administration is concerned that this incident might affect enrollment. Alan Hill, vice president of enrollment and student affairs, said, "For those who are unaware of our community that may potentially want to be looking at it as an institution, just to see something like that could hurt, because they may not fully understand what this community is all about."

Tonight at 7:00 p.m. there will be a town meeting regarding the threat and issues surrounding it in the Chapel. Potter, Stone, and Hill have all said that they plan to attend the meeting.

Potter said, "I will provide the 'College community' the opportunity to hear these words [the letter] when I bring voice to them (or speak them into existence) at the Town Meeting ... By giving voice or speaking them into existence, I mean sharing

See **THREAT** on 3

## From communism to democracy: Slovakia needs support of western countries and the involvement of young people

By **AMY TAYLOR**  
Managing Editor

The Deputy Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic received an honorary degree during the Honors Day Convocation.

Every year at Convocation the faculty recognizes an individual for outstanding achievements. Ivan Miklos received the honorary degree based on his efforts to bring Slovakia out of communism.

"I can assure you that you can be proud of your Alma College—you can be proud of our Alma College," said Miklos.

Throughout the past ten years, Slovakia has transformed from a command economy to a market economy, and from communist control to a

democracy.

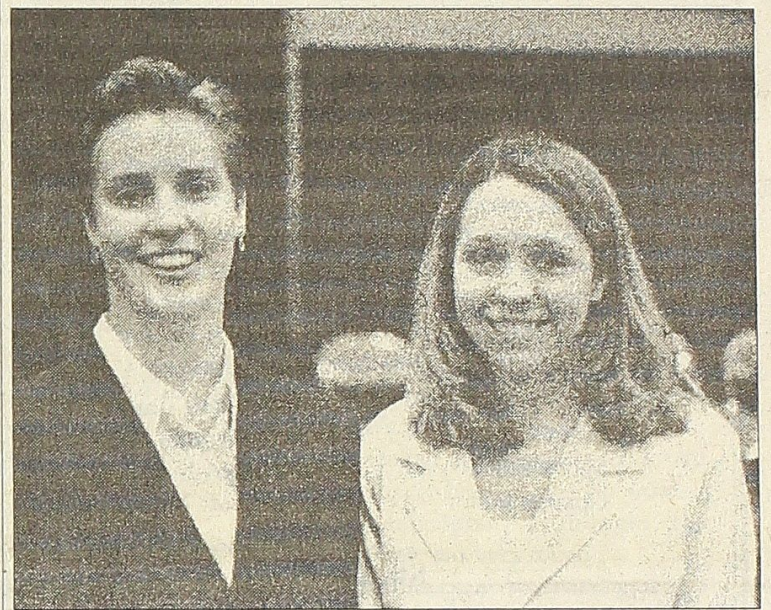
Miklos shared with the College two days which were spent educating others about the changes in Slovakia since the end of the communist regime.

"I was really intrigued by his speech. It was insightful and really gave me a better understanding of the economic and social difficulties of moving from a command to market economy," said senior Amy Fraley.

Since his expertise is in economic affairs, Miklos addressed the College last Wednesday evening in a keynote speech titled, "The Process of Transition: A Value of Democracy in Post-Communist Political and Economic Transformation." According to Miklos, the process of transformation for Slovakia is more of a technical problem than a political problem. He sees

See **SLOVAKIA** on 3

## Jennifer Gibson becomes first Truman Scholar in Alma history



*Tammy Acker*  
*Jaena Wisniwski (01) and Jennifer Gibson (01) were both recognized for being finalists of the Truman Scholarship at Honors Convocation.*

By **BILL LOTT**  
Staff Writer

At 12:02 a.m. on Friday, March 24, Jennifer Gibson (01) learned that she accomplished something that no other Alma College student had before her - she became a Truman scholar.

By winning the Truman Scholarship, Gibson not only gains the prestige of winning one of the most important awards in the United States, but also \$30,000 to help with graduate school expenses. "\$3,000 goes towards my last year at Alma," said Gibson, "but the other \$27,000 will go towards graduate school."

Gibson plans to use the money to further her education in a joint program with the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University and Harvard Law School. Through this program she will gain her masters degree in international relations from Tufts and her law degree from Harvard. The program will last four years, followed by two years of public service as is required of recipients of the award.

When approached by Derick "Sandy" Hulme, professor of political science and a member of the Nationally Competitive Scholarship Committee, Gibson began the application process. "I didn't even think I had the credentials to do it," said Gibson.

That is where the committee comes in. The committee, which consists of ten professors from across the academic spectrum, targets seven nationally competitive scholarships and identifies students that it believes have the potential to win these scholarships.

"The long term goal of this committee," said Hulme, "is to help the entire campus think big and envision their goals, at the same time enhancing the intellectual climate of the campus."

Gibson won the scholarship, which is open to students planning on a career in public service, after a long process that included "a very complex application," according to Gibson, and a 20-minute interview for finalists.

The application process consisted of a number of essays on topics such as leadership experience, volunteer experience and what the candidate wished to do in pursuit of higher education. Gibson also wrote a one-page policy proposal on HIV/AIDS in Africa.

See **TRUMAN** on 3



# Being Sharpe finally pays off

BY GINGER DAVIS  
Staff Writer

Michelle Sharpe (01) just received a Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship.

**Q: What is the Goldwater scholarship?**

A: It is a scholarship for science, engineering, and mathematics. It is for people who are planning on going on to grad school [and] have a good background already and a good perspective future for being influential in research in science, mathematics, and engineering.

**Q: What is your major?**

A: I am a Biochemistry major.

**Q: Are you doing any research right now?**

A: Yes, I have done research for two years straight now. I started the first term sophomore year. I had a summer internship with Dr. Beckman

doing Biochemistry this summer. I have been working with Dr. Beckman both terms this year. I am working on getting a job doing research for this summer. Hopefully I will be working for the Center for Disease Control and Prevention or Skrips Institute out in San Diego, California, there is a possibility there. There is a possibility of working at DOW. I am still ironing out details.

**Q: What are you researching right now?**

A: Right now I am doing some enzyme kinetics. I am essentially trying to figure out the basic properties of this enzyme because very little is known about it.

**Q: So this is a prestigious scholarship?**

A: Yes. They give out three hundred nationwide. Every college is eligible to submit four people. It is an undergraduate scholarship. It essentially takes care of the rest of the [tuition] that Alma does not take care of. It is \$7,500. I do not care about the money part of it, I am happy to have gotten it.

**Q: How did you get submitted?**

A: I was nominated by faculty in the science department. I filled out a whole bunch of information. They wanted to know everything about my experiences with research, what I am planning on doing, they needed transcripts, they needed to know what influenced me to go into science. There was one question that really kind of struck me as odd. They wanted to know what sort of disadvantages I have had. The only one I put down was I am a female in a male dominated area.

**Q: What were some of the requirements for the scholarship application?**

A: A six hundred-word essay on the research that I have done. I told them about my undergraduate research - how long I have been at it, what I was hoping it would do. There was the basic stuff: name, credits for graduation, major, all the awards that I had gotten. In high school I had gotten the Madame Curie Award. It is just something that is given out to Junior

Women who are outstanding in science. I have got a DOW scholarship. Those are my only science related scholarships.

**Q: What are your plans after graduation from Alma?**

A: It depends on this summer ? if I work at the CDC this summer and really enjoy it then I will probably work part time and go to graduate school part time at Emery University. If not than I will probably just go to grad school. I am looking a Duke, I am looking at Emery, I am looking at Harvard.

**Q: Where do you see yourself ten years from now?**

A: Well, with my PhD - by ten years I hope I have my PhD - and working in industry somewhere or in the government doing Biochemistry or molecular biology research.

## MCC awards students

By KATIE BEAM  
Staff Writer

The Michigan Campus Compact (MCC) will awarded three Alma College students for their dedication to community service during an awards brunch at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing on April 15, 2000.

Seniors Karyll Groty and Sarah Amman, along with junior Melinda Messmer, were chosen from a pool of 163 students from colleges and universities statewide. Each woman was nominated by the college because of their time and commitment to community service.

Groty will receive a Commitment to Service Award for her outstanding commitment to serving the Alma community. This is the highest honor a student can receive for individual service as part of their college education. Groty is a Woman's Aid Shelter volunteer, Michigan Masonic Home companion and a mentor for the Migrant Bilingual Program for Gratiot County. She is one of 21 students to receive this award this year.

Amman and Messmer will each receive a Heart and Soul Award. Messmer is the Service Learning Coordinator on campus and the External Co-Coordinator for Students Offering Service (SOS). Amman is currently in Honduras, teaching English to students. Both will be awarded for their efforts in the community.

MCC is a national coalition of college and university presidents. Kimberly Lane, the student development coordinator for MCC, said, "the purpose [of MCC] is to instill a lifelong tradition of community service in college students."

The awards brunch will be highlighted by a keynote address from Melissa Kendrick, who is the executive director of Campus Opportunity Outreach League (COOL).



**Man shoots himself after killing mother**

SAGINAW—A man shot himself with the gun he used to kill his mother on Sunday. The 23-year-old gunman also wounded his stepfather. The condition of the stepfather is unknown. Relatives described the man as having "acute mental problems." Authorities have not released any names.

**Illness delays Elian case**

MIAMI—A cousin of Elian's has been sick, possibly delaying a meeting of the Miami relatives with psychiatrists to arrange the boy's handover to his father. The meetings were arranged at Attorney General Janet Reno's request. Marisleysis Gonzalez has been hospitalized for exhaustion several times in the past couple of weeks. A spokesman for the family said he doubted she would be better in time for the scheduled Monday meeting.

**Army sexual harassment case under review**

WASHINGTON—Lt. Gen. Claudia Kennedy, the army's highest ranking female officer, has charged a fellow general with sexual harassment. Kennedy may now face charges of her own after a senior defense official reported that he had witnessed personal misconduct on her part. The official said the misconduct took place in the 1980's, but offered limited evidence.

**CIA official fired over Chinese Embassy bombing**

WASHINGTON—One official was fired and several others disciplined for mistakes that led to the bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade. Another CIA representative was recommended for counseling. "The sanctions range from oral reprimands to letters of reprimand that contain prohibitions on promotion and rewards for periods of time," a CIA official said.

**Clinton upset at Congress**

WASHINGTON—President Clinton was upset at Congress for planning a break before acting on legislation concerning gun control, a patient's bill of rights, and a raise of the minimum wage. The chairman of the Republican National Committee said Clinton and Vice President Al Gore have been slow on balancing the budget and acting on tax cuts. On raising the minimum wage, Clinton said, "For hard-pressed families, the cost of congressional delay can be measured not just by the day, but literally by the hour."

## The Almanian

Serving Alma College since 1907

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#### Statement of Purpose:

The Almanian is a student publication of Alma College and strives to fulfill several objectives: (1) to provide timely, unbiased coverage; (2) to inform students of events and policies otherwise unpublicized; (3) to voice concern over campus and world events through well-researched, unsigned editorials representing the majority opinion of the editorial board; (4) to allow individuals to express concern through signed opinion articles while reserving all editing rights; and (5) to provide interesting, informative and thoughtprovoking articles on non-timely subjects.

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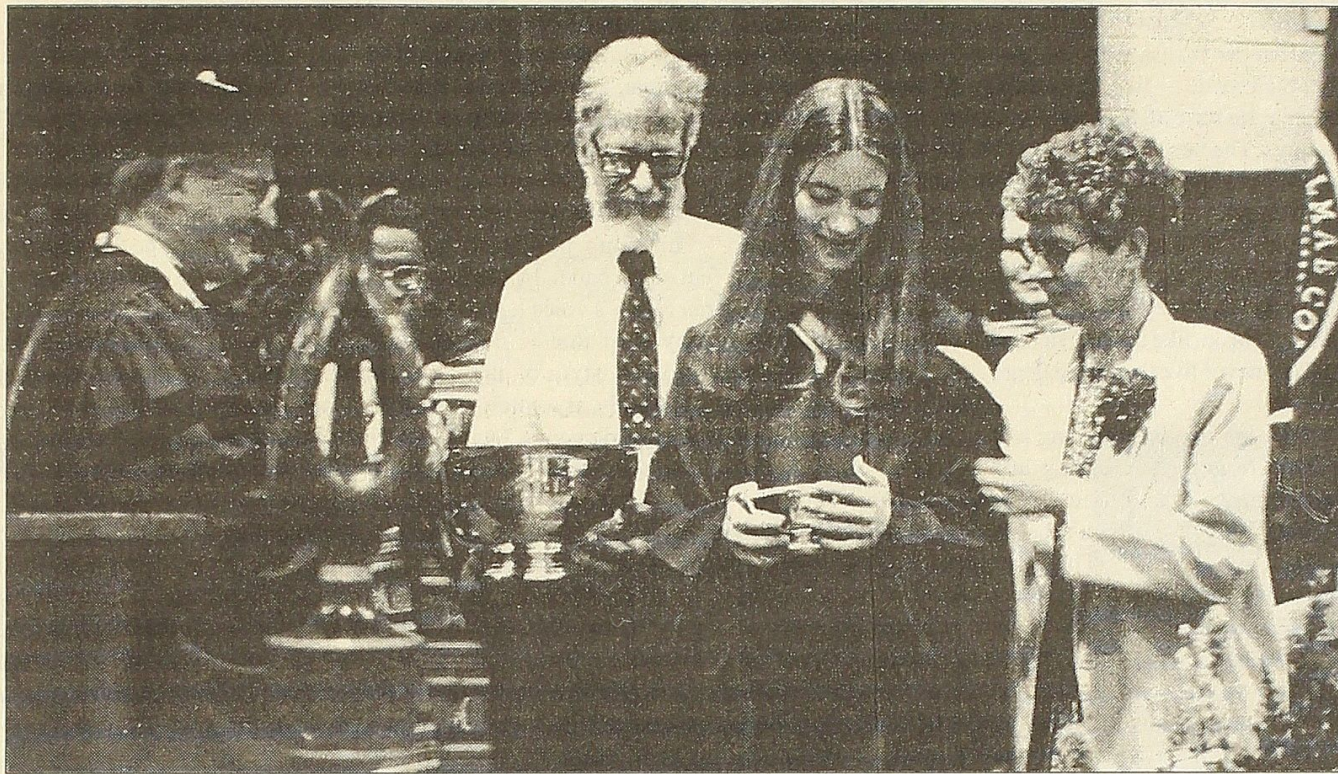
Opinions expressed weekly in the "Staff Editorial" reflect the views of The Almanian Editorial Board. These views in no way reflect the views of the entire Alma College community.

#### 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.



# Barlow Trophy awarded at Honors Convocation



Tammy Acker

By BRIAN PRIEHS  
Staff Writer

On Thursday, April 6 Alan Stone,

president of Alma College, presented the most prestigious award that Alma has to offer to a graduating senior. The Barlow Trophy Award was awarded in front of the faculty and student body during the Honors

Convocation to Melissa A. Desjarlais.

The Barlow Trophy is a highly prized senior award funded by Joel Barlow. The award was first presented in 1949. Barlow, a 1929 summa cum laude graduate from

Alma, was an attorney in Washington DC, and later became an Alma trustee. The trophy given to the winner and other awards given to the nominees are gifts of Dr. Barlow and have been for over 50 years.

The criteria to receive a nomination for this prestigious award is extremely demanding. Students must be in the top ten percent of their graduating class. Scholarship is a permanent characteristic of the award, but is not the deciding factor that the award is considered upon. Involvement in campus life through various extra-curricular activities is also a prerequisite. Contributions given to the Alma College community finalize the major requirements for the honor. Students must also compose an essay about three extra-curricular activities in which they have learned the most. The final process consists of a joint faculty-student committee that selects the nominees and finally, the winner.

This year, three nominees were selected for the award: Desjarlais, William J. Doyle, and Eva L. Hecht. All three candidates have superior qualities, and so the choice for a clear winner was very difficult.

The feeling after winning the award is "extremely hard to put into words," said Desjarlais. "I thought the competition was very tough."

Desjarlais plans to attend graduate school at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln. She wishes to continue her studies in the field of mathematics. With a 4.0 GPA in her dual majors of math and psychology, Desjarlais was on the Dean's List for the past seven terms. She is also one of two seniors with the highest grade point average of the graduating class. Desjarlais is a member of Gamma Delta Alpha, women's honorary; Omicron Delta Kappa, national honorary; Psi Chi, psychology honorary; Sigma Alpha Iota, women's music honorary; and Phi Mu Epsilon, the national math honorary.

"I enjoy music and math, and I like to do it very well," said Desjarlais. In final thoughts she said: "[It's] a nice reward after four years of hard work."

## THREAT from 1

with this community the IMPACT that such threats can have on an individual's life. It's a different type of feeling."

Hill said, "I really feel that this type of incident really does show, or should show, the importance of our institution talking as a group about diversity, because race does matter. People assume it doesn't, but it does, and we had better talk about those things, or you have incidents like this ... This should be a sign of the community coming together and showing support for difference in our community."

"I am here to perform a job and perform it well. Making sure I respect, nurture, and exchange with those who respect, nurture, and share exchanges with me. I respect the ideology of "agreeing to disagree agreeably." It's part of my academic training, my personal convictions, and my humanness. We are not perfect beings! Hence, you will not have a perfect Utopia," said Potter.

## TRUMAN from 1

On February 14, Gibson found out that she was a finalist in the competition and began preparing for the final round interview. Preparation came in the form of three mock interviews by 16 Alma professors from all different disciplines.

"The mock interviews are absolutely essential," said Hulme. "The faculty has been very supportive as a whole. There have been several mock interviews for different students applying for distinctly different scholarships, with several different faculty members serving on each of the mock interview panels."

After preparations, Gibson traveled to Ann Arbor on March 17, where she went through an intensive 20-minute interview with 6 panel members that were professionals in different areas. "They tried to test me on issues that were not in my area of interest," said Gibson.

For Gibson, this included questions on how she felt about the Detroit School System takeover and comparing and contrasting her experiences on Alma's Model United Nations team with her experiences as an intern at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations.

When she received the e-mail, Gibson could do nothing else but start screaming. "I promptly started screaming when I read the e-mail," said Gibson. "All of my roommates had to run into the room to see what was the matter."

"I enjoyed the feeling of being 10 feet off the ground," said Gibson of her first feeling after receiving the news. "I was too excited to do anything and I had an exam in the morning. Needless to say I did not get to sleep until very late that night."

In retrospect, Gibson says that there were certain people that she could not have accomplished this without. "My family has been a big support system in everything I do," said Gibson, "and they were there for me during the entire process."

"Also, I could not have done any of this without the faculty. They have been just amazing, whether by taking time out for mock interviews or by just stopping me in the hall to encourage or congratulate me. The credit goes to them as much as it does to me."

"The faculty were going crazy," said Hulme regarding the day after Gibson received the news. "Whenever students are going out and making things happen, that is what the faculty really loves to see. It's great for her, but it is also great for the faculty and the college."

From May 21-28, Gibson will participate in the Truman Scholar Leadership Week in Liberty, Mo. Activities will include preparing policy proposals, a public services fair, visits to the Truman Library and Truman Home in Independence, Mo., and an awards ceremony at the Truman Library.

Alma also had a Truman Scholarship finalist, Jaena Wisniewski (01).

## SLOVAKIA from 1

the transformation as a long-term process which needs to focus on changing the opinion of the people and their shared beliefs.

"Economic and political transition is a more complicated process than before because it is connected to values," said Miklos.

Slovakia is taking many steps to integrate itself into the international community, and to catch up with the rest of the world. Already a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Slovakia, along with other Central and Eastern European countries, is negotiating to join the European Union (EU) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Slovakia is one of the slower countries to reform since the end of the cold war; however, it is seeking all means to catch up with the rest of the European countries undergoing political and economic transformation.

"The most important thing is for western countries to support these changes," said Miklos.

Since integration is a primary goal for Slovakia, Miklos suggests the importance of involving young people in the transition.

"Newer generations are more favorable for constitutional democracy," said Miklos. "Most young people want to be a part of the western world," he said.

With countries in transition, it is necessary to understand its conditions, history and experiences - especially with different regimes. Educational sectors, independent mass media, and the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) assist the government in seeing changes relatively quickly.

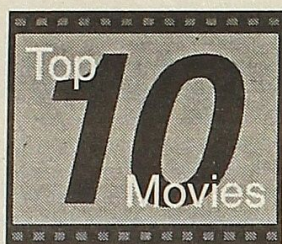
"I think it is good to see countries that have suffered such severe economic and political oppression finally start to see their full potential on a global scale," said junior Mike Lovati.

Miklos received his education from an economic university and studied for a semester at the London School of Economics. From there he entered the teaching profession as an assistant professor of economics. He said he has always had a passion for politics. However, it was not until recently that Miklos was offered the position he currently holds.

"It is important to gain a really good education and understand different cultures," said Miklos. The world is changing and it is best to understand other cultures," he said.

Miklos developed a think tank for economic reform in Slovakia and a think tank with the United States. Slovakia is currently working with other countries such as the United States to help with this development process.



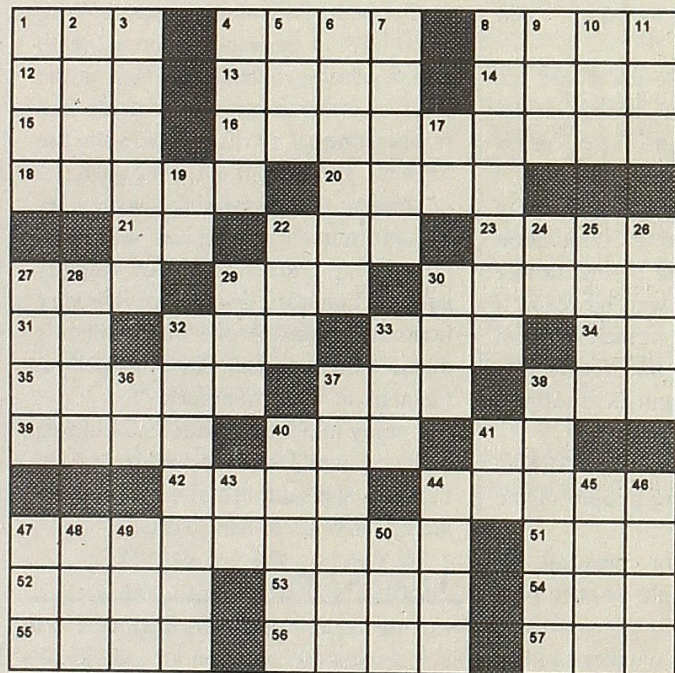


1. *Erin Brockovich*
2. *Road to El Dorado*
3. *The Skulls*
4. *Romeo Must Die*
5. *High Fidelity*
6. *American Beauty*
7. *Final Destination*
8. *Mission to Mars*
9. *Here on Earth*
10. *Whatever It Takes*



1. 'N Sync *No Strings Attached*
2. Santana *Supernatural*
3. Romeo Must Die *Soundtrack*
4. Sisquo *Unleash The Dragon*
5. Drag-on *Opposite of H2O*
6. Dr. Dre *Dr. Dre — 2000*
7. Ice Cube *War & Peace Vol. 2 (The Peace Disc)*
8. Destiny's Child *The Writing's On The Wall*
9. Macy Gray *On How Life Is*
10. DMX *And Then There Was X*

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## ACROSS

- 1 Sum
- 4 Talk back
- 8 Old India copper coin
- 12 Hawaiian garland
- 13 Medicinal plant
- 14 College official
- 15 Elevated railroads
- 16 Exercising moderation
- 18 Make happy
- 20 Bid (p.t.)
- 21 S. New England state (abbr.)
- 22 Jelly
- 23 Number
- 27 Democrat (abbr.)
- 29 Dog
- 30 Trite
- 31 Extended play (abbr.)
- 32 Father's boy
- 33 Sun
- 34 Southern state (abbr.)
- 35 Cloth cap
- 37 Rule
- 38 Number
- 39 Sea bird
- 40 Hours of light

## 41 Midwest state (abbr.)

42 In bed

44 Flower

47 Drink maker

51 Attempt

52 Vivacity

53 Chair

54 Direction (abbr.)

55 Leader (abbr.)

56 Makes mistakes

57 Legal point

## DOWN

1 Leeward side

2 Secluded, wooded valley

3 Take away gun

4 Glut

5 Beer

6 Sad

7 Calyx of flower

8 Gland near the kidneys

9 Teacher's group (abbr.)

10 Native (abbr.)

11 Saturated hydrocarbon (suffix)

17 Edward's nickname

19 Scale note

22 Weapon

24 Not out

25 Central part of church

26 Dash

27 Owe money

28 Fencing sword

29 Bed

30 Ribbon

32 Lawmaker

33 Articulate

36 Railroad (abbr.)

37 Object for climbing

38 Tear; badly worn

40 Thick

41 Sing., present of be

43 Am

44 Crafts

45 Gaelic language

46 Whiskeys

47 England's electronic media (abbr.)

48 Appendage

49 Free of something

50 Hearing organ

Music Review by Ginger Davis

## The Man Who struggles to find a voice

It is no secret that the British usually know pop music better than we do — they have Oasis and The Cure, while we have all those N' Sync-Degree-Street-Boys. The newest Brit pop band trying to make a go at American sales is Travis. This band is currently huge in the U.K. with their album, *The Man Who* — although that comment should be taken with a grain of salt, since the British said the same thing about the Spice Girls. Travis' music, like the title of their album, is vague and never lives up to the genre of Brit Pop.

Overall, *The Man Who* is like listening to a rainy day. It is quite gray, depressing and occasionally, stormy. The music (very Radiohead) is simplistic. The album's better songs are the jazzier numbers, like "The Fear" and "Driftwood," but the members of the band have not realized this. Instead, they spend much of the album sunk in ballads that say nothing. The first song, "Writing to Reach You," is one of their catchier ones. It seems to blend the music of The Cure with the vocals of a lead singer resembling the voice of Bruce

Springsteen or a very mellow Chris Isaac. This and the second song, "The Fear," are relaxing if not particularly inspiring, as the introduction to "The Fear" is peppered with bad video game sound effects.

The best song on *The Man Who* is the sleepy ballad "As You Are." This song perfectly captures the rainy-day feel of the band. In "As You Are," lead singer Fran Healy's voice has a wonderful gravelly quality to it that is not evident in the bubble-gum pop style of the album's other songs. Unfortunately, as a whole, the band never uses the talent displayed in "As You Are" in the rest of *The Man Who*. The song, "The Last of the Laughter" is the album's worst. The whiny tone and cheesy lyrics — "When the blue sky turns to gray" — add nothing to the album.

Lyrics are the band's greatest shortcoming. Listening to Healy crone "I want to live/I will survive/And I believe/it won't be very long/if we turn, turn, turn" will make the audience want to groan (Ahem...Diana Ross rip-off?). The lyrics are about as deep and thoughtful as an

average Adam Sandler song. Strike that, even Sandler can come up with lyrics that are more clever than, "Where did the blue sky go?/Why is it always raining so?"

Is this band going to make it big in the United States? Probably not — the CD is blandly pleasant, but there are no especially memorable songs that would make good singles. It is clear that Travis is struggling to find a voice. Some songs are mellow, some are almost-but-not-quite dance tracks and others are simply nothing that Radiohead has not done better. Many better musicians have come from the U.K.

Healy acknowledges many other artists in the song "Slide Show." He sings, "There's no devil's haircut in my mind/There is not a wonderwall to climb or step around/But there is a slide show/And it's so slow/Flashing through my mind..." This seems to be a metaphor for all the different costumes (Radiohead, The Cure, Oasis) Travis is trying on in a search for their own style of Brit pop. Until they find their own "Devil's Haircut," we are all better off listening to Beck. **Grade: C-**

## Entertainment Briefs

### Seinfeld to become a father

Jerry Seinfeld's wife, Jessica Sklar, announced that she is pregnant with the couple's first child, which is due in October. Despite the controversy surrounding their marriage (the age difference), the couple has stayed together.

### Darva gets her annulment

Darva Conger, the bride on the now famous "Who Wants to Marry a Multi-Millionaire," succeeded in securing an annulment last week. The judge denied the annulment at first, but after testimony by Conger about her husband Rick Rockwell's seedy past, he granted her appeal.

### Travolta and Preston with another baby

John Travolta and wife Kelly Preston had their second child, a baby girl, last week. Ella Bleu joins her older brother Jett at home. The couple met in the late 80's while filming *The Experts*.

### Berry has the blues

Actress Halle Berry turned herself into authorities last week after leaving the scene of an accident. Berry reportedly ran a red light, hit another vehicle and sped off. Berry received 22 stitches and the victim suffered a broken wrist and claimed neck and back injuries. The court date is set for May 4.

### Houston, we have a problem

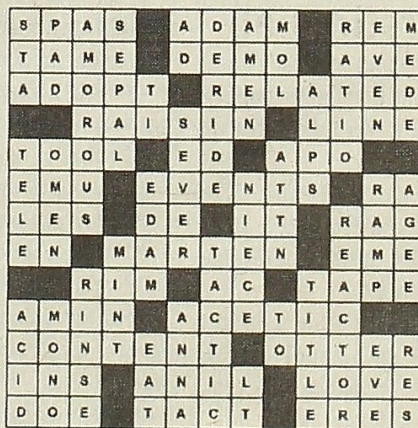
Whitney Houston may be heading to jail. According to Hawaiian police, marijuana was found in one of Houston's bags at the Keahole-Kona International Airport. Although Houston left before the police could arrest her, Hawaiian officials are considering bringing marijuana-possession charges against the diva.

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Address: www.What!?! Go

<http://primusweb.com/fitnesspartner/library/features/0697tan.htm>  
As summer approaches so does the beach and everything that comes with it — including sunburns. Surf on over to this web site for all the information about suntans and sunburns that a person could want. Learn about the best way to protect yourself from skin cancer, the scoop on tanning beds, how to fix a bad self-tanner accident and much more. Be good to your body and learn how to look tan without damaging your skin.

<http://www.prevention.com/healing/living/vacay.html>  
For many people, an important part of summer is camping, so learn how to camp safely at this web site. All of the major bases are covered, including the proper procedure for snakebites, bee stings and other injuries. They also offer advice on how to stay away from potentially fatal situations. Enjoy nature and stay safe with prevention.com's camping advice.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/olympics/studio.htm>  
One of the main entertainment events this summer will be the 2000 Summer Olympics held in Sydney, Australia. Check out ABC's web site to learn all about Sydney, the sports, different venues and breaking news about the Olympics and Australia.



Answers to last week's crossword puzzle

See page 6 for answers to this week's crossword puzzle



April 11, 2000

## FEATURE

5

# They will be missed greatly

By DAWNA ANDERSON  
Staff Writer

This year Alma College is losing three very loved and respected professors. Eugene Pattison, Richard Roeper and Joseph Walser will retire at the end of this school year. These men left us with a few remarks at Honors Convocation last Thursday. As the students listened to their parting words of wisdom, many remembered past classes they had, while others regretted not having them. The audience knew how much these three great men brought to Alma and what they were leaving behind — a legacy of compassion, knowledge and hope.

## Pattison retires after 36 dedicated years

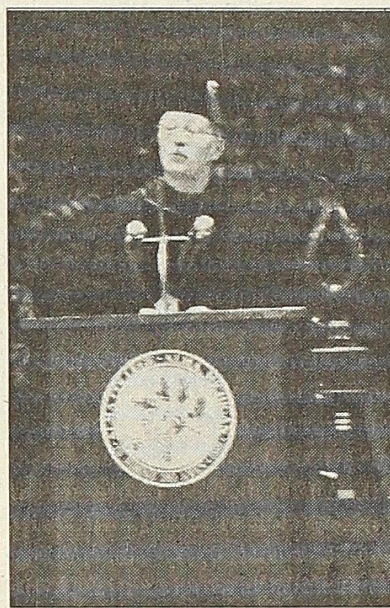
**Eugene H. Pattison** graduated from Alma in 1956 with a B.A. degree in English and psychology. He continued his education at the University of Michigan and Harvard Divinity School for theology. Pattison returned to the University of Michigan to complete his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in English. He went back to Harvard Divinity to finish his S.T.B. In 1964 Pattison returned to Alma to teach English. He also became the faculty advisor to The Almanian and to Alma's chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon. Pattison loves to teach literature, composition and especially, travel courses.

He said the greatest aspect of teaching is "the chance to see a lot of students grow, the chance to discover with them and the adventure of

always changing what you're doing."

He is looking forward to retirement and to spending more time doing the things he loves. Pattison plans to devote more time to the church. He is an ordained Presbyterian minister and plans to conduct more church services and to be the Commissioner of the Senate of the Covenant. He will continue his publishing hobby by purchasing a computer, printer and scanner. Finally, he wants to focus on home remodeling and travelling using his Posey Award.

During his convocation speech, his last remarks reminded us that our campus is not a place for violence. Thank you Eugene Pattison for 36 wonderful years of wisdom.



Tammy Acker

## Roeper will never "spade" from our memory

**Richard A. Roeper** came to Alma in 1972 with a very impressive resume. He received his B.A. in biology from Lawrence University, a M.A.T. in botany from Miami University and a Ph.D. in botany from Oregon State University.

He has been extremely active at Alma College with students' needs of personal attention. Over the years the students and the faculty have recognized him with several distinguished awards.

Roeper is known for his love of nature and gardening. He is responsible for many of the beautiful gardens and trees on campus. He also started the popular Environmental Studies minor.

Roeper is not just a man of plants; he also

served as Alma's faculty representative to the MIAA and the NCAA. In addition, he coached the faculty intramural basketball team.

Most students will remember Roeper as a professor who cared and took the time to show it. As he said at Honors Convocation, "Teachers are the gardeners of minds, the seeds of knowledge, morals and character."

His parting words to the campus showed his wit and his love of gardening. They brought a smile to the face of every audience member:

"Old gardeners never die, they just spade away."

Don't worry, Richard Roeper, you will not "spade" away in the memories of the students and staff of Alma.

## Walser looks forward to retirement with enthusiasm

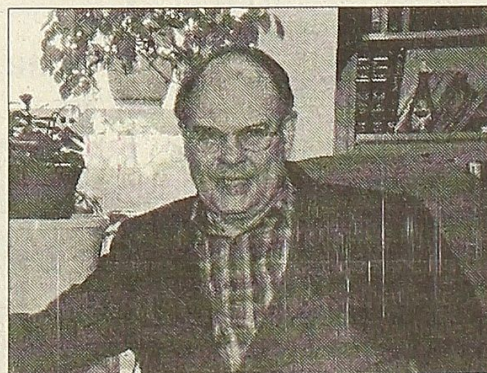
**Joseph G. Walser** graduated from the University of North Carolina. From there he went to the Divinity School of the University of Chicago and finished his B.D. at Union Theological Seminary. He then attended Duke University for his Ph.D. Walser came to Alma in 1964 to teach religious studies. He is also an ordained Presbyterian minister.

Walser has brought a great deal to Alma through his love for teaching and students, and also as a man who will step up to challenges. He filled in as acting Provost, Chaplain and tennis coach, among other positions. He also directed a program to send students and faculty to the Near East for biblical and archaeological studies. He has traveled to Israel several times, Egypt, India and Scotland. He is looking forward to retirement with enthusiasm, as he

looks forward to everything. Walser plans on travelling with his wife Catherine. They will visit Spain, Australia and Israel after settling into their new home in Wilmington, NC.

Walser's love and enthusiasm for teaching resulted in his receiving twelve awards as the Outstanding Professor in the Humanities. It has also resulted in the Joseph and Catherine Walser Global Scholarship Award (which the couple founded this year) for students who wish to take courses that will expand their horizons.

The college is sad to see Joseph Walser leave after 36 dedicated years. He will be greatly missed by all. His enthusiasm for students is amazing. When asked what his favorite aspect of teaching is, he replied, "When I see somebody light up with understanding, that is the most beautiful thing in the world!"



Bryan Waugh

## Media Relations Director retires after 23 years

By BILL LOTT  
Staff Writer

On June 30, Charlotte Schmidtke, media relations director, will finish packing up her things and leave Alma, headed for craft-making and mystery writing.

Schmidtke retires this year after 23 years in the public relations office. Although her title has changed several times since 1977, her job has remained the same. Schmidtke is involved with Alma as a "primary media contact, news and feature writer, supervisor of student writers, handler of media queries and acting spokesman for the college in times of crisis."

"I want to retire while I'm in good health," said Schmidtke. "I'm a craft-maker and I want to begin using my lifetime supply of basket-making materials." Good health will also come in handy when she begins redecorating the home that she and her husband James, professor of history will move into in June of this year. Schmidtke, an avid mystery reader, would also like to write a mystery novel of her own.

Although Schmidtke will have plenty to keep her busy, she will miss all of the wonderful moments of her career. Her achievements include writing the chapter on student life in "Within Our Bounds: A Centennial History of Alma College" and writing a letter to the editor of the Wall Street Journal on Alma's performance of the Nutcracker in January 1999. Other achievements include: touring the Soviet Union and Poland with the college choir in 1978, the New York dance spring-term in 1988 and of course, meeting her husband.

Schmidtke will also miss working at Alma, but will never forget the people, as well as the wonderful view of the Heritage Center, that made her position "the best job on campus."

"Working with the students has been a very enjoyable part of my job," said Schmidtke. "Also, wonderful colleagues that I really love have been positive factors in enjoying my job."



## Shanghai Noon



\* Buena Vista Pictures Distribution / Spyglass Entertainment Group LP. All Rights Reserved Douglas Curran

### ANSWERS TO THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

A	D	D		S	A	S	S		A	N	N	A
L	E	I		A	L	O	E		D	E	A	N
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			A	B	E	D		A	S	T	E	R
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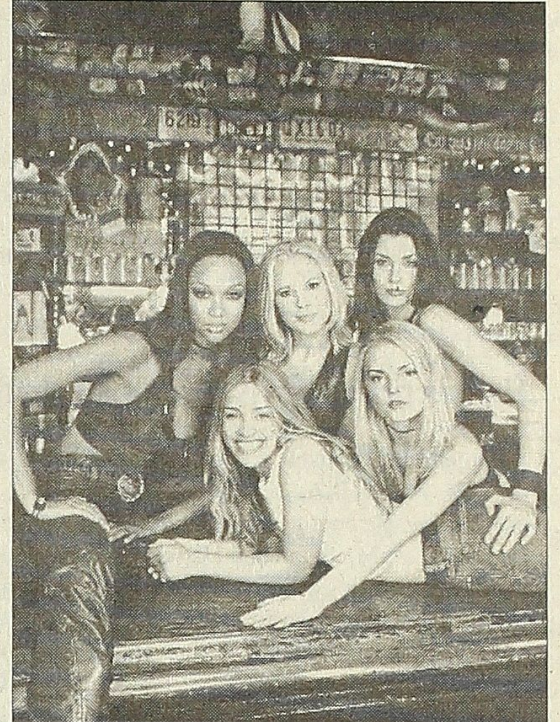
# Take a trip to the movies

## And the title is ...

What's in a title? Plenty, if you want your movie to succeed. Here are some original working titles of film projects from the past and present. Which movie title do you like best?

*Guy Gets Kid / Big Daddy*  
*Bill and Ted Go To Hell / Bill and Ted's Bogus Journey*  
*Jello Shots / Body Shots*  
*I Was A Teenage Teenager or No Worries / Clueless*  
*My Posse Don't Do Homework / Dangerous Minds*  
*Dumb Happens / Dumb and Dumber*  
*Shoeless Joe / Field of Dreams*  
*Eggs, Beans and Chippendales / The Full Monty*  
*Andy Kaufman / Man on The Moon*  
*Pond Rules / Mystery, Alaska*  
*People Like Us / Philadelphia*  
*Scary Movie / Scream*  
*Hare Jordan / Space Jam*  
*The Body / Stand By Me*  
*Rick's Place / Casablanca*  
*A Boy's Life / E. T. The Extra-Terrestrial*  
*The Babysitter Murders / Halloween*  
*The Greatest Gift / It's A Wonderful Life*  
*\$3,000 / Pretty Woman*  
*Revenge of the Jedi / Return of the Jedi*

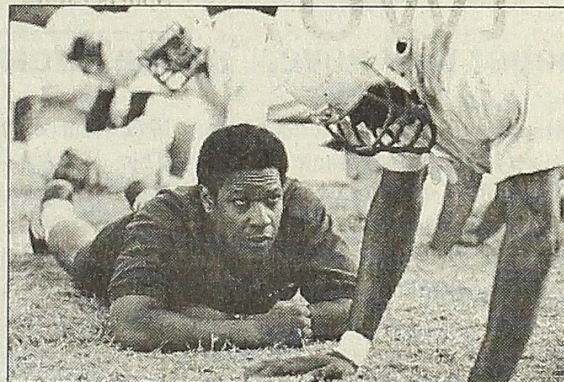
## Coyote Ugly



\* Touchstone Pictures / Jerry Bruckheimer, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Patrick Demarchelier

The hottest night spot in New York is a bar called Coyote Ugly, which features a team of sexy enterprising young women, including (clockwise from lower center) Violet Sanford (Piper Perabo), Zoe (Tyra Banks), Lil (Maria Bello), Rachel (Bridget Moynahan) and Cammie (Izabella Miko) in Touchstone Pictures' / Jerry Bruckheimer Films' romantic comedy, "Coyote Ugly," produced by Jerry Bruckheimer. The film is distributed by Buena Vista Pictures Distribution.

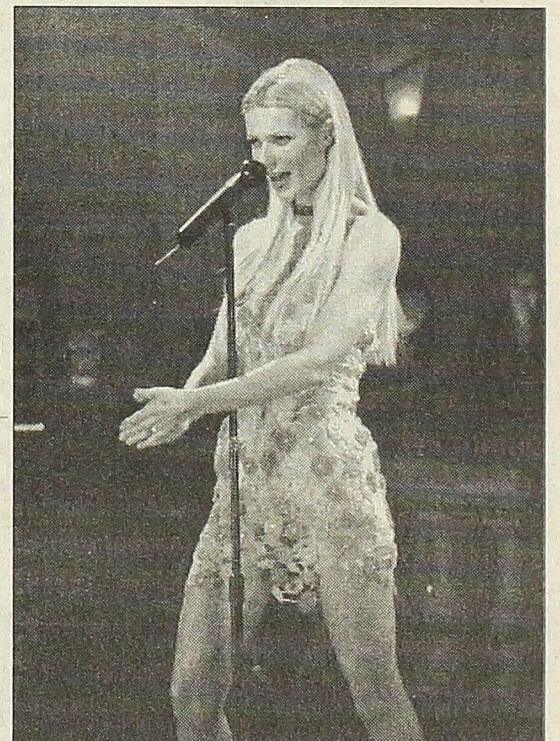
## Remember The Titans



\* Disney Enterprises, Inc./Jerry Bruckheimer, Inc. All Rights Reserved Tracy Bennett

When Herman Boone (Denzel Washington, left) is hired as head coach of the T.C. Williams High School Titans football team, he replaces the white Head coach (Will Patton) who has several years seniority, a steadfast following and a tradition of winning high school football in Walt Disney Pictures' live-action drama, produced in association with Jerry Bruckheimer Films, "Remember the Titans," produced by Jerry Bruckheimer. The film is distributed by Buena Vista Pictures Distribution.

## Duets



\* Karaoke Productions, Inc. All Rights Reserved Rob McEwan

## Gone In Sixty Seconds



\* Touchstone Pictures / Jerry Bruckheimer, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Merrick Morton

## Top Ten Grossing Films of All Time

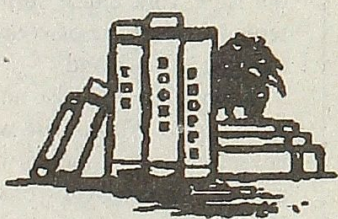
1. *Titanic* (Paramount) \$600,743,440
2. *Star Wars* (Fox) \$460,987,469
3. *The Phantom Menace* (Fox) \$429,870,576
4. *E.T.* (Universal) \$399,804,539
5. *Jurassic Park* (Universal) \$356,839,725
6. *Forrest Gump* (Paramount) \$329,690,974
7. *The Lion King* (BV) \$312,855,561
8. *Return of the Jedi* (Fox) \$309,125,409
9. *Independence Day* (Fox) \$306,052,958
10. *The Sixth Sense* (Buena Vista) \$290,288,427



Need a study break? **The Book Shoppe** in downtown Alma now features a **coffee bar and Big Apple bagels!** Relax with a soothing cup of tea, or give yourself a jolt with an espresso. Our drink lineup also features chai, steamers, mochas and more!

## EXAM SPECIAL

From now through graduation (Saturday, April 22) you'll receive **half off** the price of a drink when you show us your Alma College student ID.



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Thursday, Friday: 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.



## Baseball drops a deuce to Adrian

By AMY NOVAK  
Sports Editor

The baseball team dropped two to Adrian yesterday, losing 1-5 and 5-6 in two seven inning games.

In the first competition, Adrian scored five runs off of six hits to take the win. Senior center-fielder Jason Biehl, senior shortstop Andy Meteer and junior second baseman Jeff Lane were each one for three in the game. Sophomore third baseman Jerrod Dohm was one for two to complete the four hits tallied by the Scots.

First-year student Nick Duflo took the loss, allowing six hits, five runs, four earned, and striking out four.

In the second game, both teams scored one in the first. Alma scored on a single by senior designated hitter Jim Bouchard. The Adrian pitcher struck out three batters while bases loaded to end the first half of the inning.

In the second the Scots scored four runs, two on a single by

senior first baseman Tiny Sweet and two on Adrian errors. Following a two run double by Adrian, junior pitcher Todd Albee struck out two Bulldogs before an error allowed Adrian to score two more. This left the game tied 5-5 going into the third.

Adrian pulled ahead in the bottom of the sixth as an error off an infield hit gave Adrian the go-ahead run.

Meteer and Bouchard were two for four, sophomore right-fielder Nick Bolhouse went two for three, while Biehl and Sweet were one for three to complete the eight hits for the Scots.

Albee took the loss, retiring 12 of the 15 batters he faced. He allowed seven hits, six runs, three of which were earned, and struck out two.

This win left Adrian at the top of the MIAA standings with a 5-0 record. The Scots fell to 3-13 overall and 1-4 in the MIAA. The Scots take on Adrian again today at 4 p.m. to complete the three game set.



Jeff Lane (01) rounds the bases in Monday's matchup against the Bulldogs

Brian Priehs

## Scots win two, drop one

By DAN JOYCE  
Staff Writer

The Alma College women's tennis team won two matches and lost one this past week. Their record is now at 6-8 overall (1-2 in the MIAA), with five wins in their last six matches.

At home on Thursday, the ladies picked up a 7-2 victory over Spring Arbor College.

The key to the Scots fourth-straight win came when they swept the six singles matches.

Posting singles wins for Alma was sophomore Debra Bacon 6-4, 6-2; junior Marisol Diaz 7-5, 6-3; sophomore Emily Brookhouse 6-0, 6-0; senior Betsie Keeler 6-0, 6-0; junior Amy LaGuire 6-4, 6-0; and first-year student Janet Daig 6-0, 6-0.

The women posted a 1-2 record in doubles play. The team of first-year students Leah Daig and Sarah Keller outdid their opposition 8-2.

Brookhouse and LaGuire fell 6-8 as the team of Bacon and sophomore Melissa Bobier dropped 3-8.

The ladies split a double header in South Bend, Ind. on Saturday.

In the first match, MIAA rival St. Mary's beat the Scots 9-0.

J. Daig said, "We played really well. They are a stronger team than they have been in the past. We played well and have nothing to be ashamed of."

Against St. Mary's, two matches were forced into a third set. Bacon went 6-4, 1-6

and 0-6 and the team of Diaz/Keeler fell 0-6, 6-7 and 2-7.

Also losing tough singles matches were Diaz 0-6, 1-6; Brookhouse 3-6, 0-6; Keeler 0-6, 0-6; LaGuire 1-6, 1-6; and J. Daig 2-6, 1-6.

Dropping matches were Brookhouse/LaGuire 2-6, 2-6 and L. Daig/Bobier 0-6, 0-6.

After losing to a tough Belles team, the Scots rebounded to mount a 5-4 win.

"Against Tri-State," said Brookhouse, "we really stepped it up for a win."

Alma won five of the six singles matches. The winners were Bacon 6-0, 6-1; Brookhouse 5-7, 6-2, 6-1; Keeler 6-1, 6-0; LaGuire 6-2, 6-1; J. Daig 6-0, 6-0.

Diaz dropped a close match in three sets, 6-4, 4-6, 4-6.

"The result of the TSU match was already decided after the singles, so I made some changes in the lineup so other players could play. Because time and the long trip home, we decided to forfeit [the first] doubles match. The women played well over the weekend and did a great job to put away Tri-State," Coach Chi Ly said.

The newly made teams both lost. L. Daig/Keller fell 4-8 and the team of Bacon/Bobier were downed 2-8.

After traveling to Indiana for two matches, the Scots are scheduled to play at home until their final match. On April 10, Hope College will visit, followed by Kalamazoo College on April 11 and finally, Aquinas College will travel to Alma on April 15.

## Softball team receives honors

By AMY NOVAK  
Sports Editor

Two members of the women's softball team were named MIAA Players of the Week.

Senior Brandee Brower was named player of the week for her performance in the Scot's doubleheader against Kalamazoo last week. She had two each in doubles and RBIs. With a .467 batting average, she has tied the alma single-season record with 39 RBIs.

Senior Jackie Cowan was named pitcher of the week for her four hit shutout in game two against Kalamazoo. Allowing only five runners to advance past second, she struck out four and walked only one. This marked her third shutout of the season, with a record of 9-3 and a 1.09 ERA. Nationally ranked with 7 strikeouts per seven innings, batters hit only .218 against her.

Congratulations to all Alma College Students, Faculty, and Staff who volunteer and serve. Please congratulate the following honorees receiving special recognition for their commitment to volunteerism and service!

Dr John Arnold and Dr Ute Stargart  
1999 Michigan Campus Compact Faculty Award

Karyll Grotz  
2000 Michigan Campus Compact Commitment to Service Award

Sara Amman and Melinda Messmer  
2000 Michigan Campus Compact Heart and Soul Award

Rose Peck  
Alma College Volunteer Administrator of the Year Award

Ruth Ann Farrier  
Alma College Volunteer Support Staff of the Year Award  
Students United Against Sweatshops Alma College Outstanding Student Organization Volunteer Award

Melissa Couturier  
2000 Mary Jansen Opra Scholarship Award

Jaena Wisniewski  
Alma College Outstanding Commitment to Service Award



# Track teams host first home meet

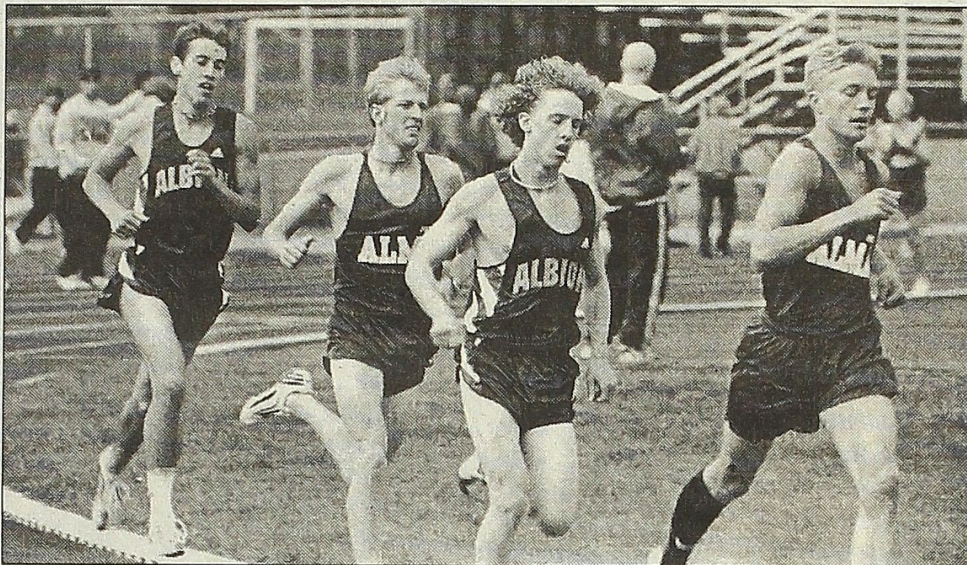
By DAWNA ANDERSON  
Staff Writer

This past week both men's and women's track and field teams were scheduled to participate in a conference meet on Wednesday and an Invitational on Saturday. However, due to unusual weather, both teams chose not to attend the invitational competitions on Saturday.

The conference meet was the teams' first home meet of the 2000 season. The men hosted a double dual meet against Albion and Olivet. For double dual meets all events are run with all three teams. Then when the score are being tallied the teams are scored against each other two at a time. In this fashion Alma went 1-1 for the day losing to Albion 58-90 and winning over Olivet 97-37.

The following men placed in the top three in their events either against Albion or Olivet.

LONG JUMP: Edgar (00)(1-both), Stemple (01)(2-both) HIGH JUMP: Charlie Smith (03)(1-both), Johnson (03)(2-both) SHOT PUT: Rowell (02)(1-both), Delisle (02)(2-both) JAVELIN: Bowden (00)(2-Albion, 1-Olivet) DISCUS: Delisle (02)(1-both), Bowden (00)(2-both) TRIPLE JUMP: Edgar (00)(1-both), Stemple (01)(2-both) 3000 METER: Johnson (03)(2-Albion, 1-Olivet), McGuire (02)(3-Albion, 2-Olivet), Kibbe (02)(3-Olivet) 1500



Alma men prepare to overtake Albion on the straight-away

Brian Priehs

METER: Rau (02)(3-Albion, 1-Olivet), Baker (02)(2-Olivet), Bush (03)(3-Olivet) 110-METER HIGH HURDLES: Charlie Smith (03)(3-Albion, 1-Olivet), Haynie (01)(3-Olivet) 400 METER: Nugent (03)(3-both) 100 METER: A.J. Smith (03)(2-Olivet) 800 METER: McGuire (02)(3-Albion, 1-Olivet), Burton (03)(2-Olivet), Sterling (03)(3-Olivet) 400-METER HURDLES: Charlie Smith (03)(1-Olivet), Haynie (01)(2-Olivet) 200 METER: A.J. Smith (03)(3-Albion, 2-Olivet) 5000 METER: Johnson (03)(1-both), Rau (02)(2-both), Kristen (00)(3-Olivet).

A couple of runners in particular had

spectacular races. Garnet Johnson who took second place in the 5,000-meter run did so with a time of 9:06, this is the fifth fastest time run by an Alma student. Reid McGuire placed third overall in the 800 meter run with 1:58.76 an eighth fastest time. In addition to these two runners one hurdler also ran a fantastic race. Charlie Smith ran the 400-meter hurdles in 57.49, the eighth fastest time in Alma history.

The women also hosted a double dual meet against Albion and Olivet. In the end Alma defeated Albion 92-60, but this victory was not easy.

"We opened the meet by losing the first five events," said Dan Gibson, women's

track coach, "but we won every event after that."

The team also defeated Olivet 124-26.

The following competitors placed in their events.

DISCUS: Dulz (00)(1-both), Boven (02)(2-Albion, 3-Olivet) JAVELIN: Boven (02)(1-Albion, 2-Olivet), Juilleret (01)(2-Albion, 3-Olivet) HIGH JUMP: Pykosz (02)(2-Albion, 1-Olivet), Babbitt (02) and Maruszak (01)(3-both) SHOT PUT: Dulz (00)(2-both), McGee (02)(3-Olivet) LONG JUMP: Burkett (01)(2-Albion, 1-Olivet), Pykosz (02)(2-Olivet) TRIPLE JUMP: Burkett (01)(1-both), Babbitt (02)(2-both), Horton (01)(3-Olivet) POLE VAULT: Folk (03)(1-both), Horton (01)(2-both) 5000: Nederhood (02)(1-Olivet), Troyer (01)(3-Olivet) 1500: Grimaldi (00)(1-both), Cornelius (03)(2-both) 400: Maruszak (01)(1-both), Shrum (02)(2-Olivet), Creevy (02)(3-Olivet) 800: Riddering (03)(1-both), Cornelius (03)(2-Olivet) 200 Burkett (01)(1-both), Venema (00)(3-Olivet) 100 HURDLES: Horton (1-both), Dulz (00)(3-both) 100: Burkett (01)(1-both), Shrestha (03) and Venema (00)(3-Albion, 2-Olivet) 400 HURDLES: Maruszak (01)(1-both), Folk (03)(3-Albion, 2-Olivet) 3000: Grimaldi (00)(1-both), Dusendang (03)(2-Olivet).

Both teams had a great home meet and deserved their snow day on Saturday. They will run again on Saturday at Saginaw Valley State University.

## Softball defeats Hornets 5-1, 7-0

By DAN JOYCE  
Staff Writer

The Lady Scots softball team earned two more wins this week against Kalamazoo College last Wednesday.

Winning 5-1 and 7-0, the ladies hold a 22-5 season record (4-0 MIAA). The Scots continue to build on their massive winning streak in the MIAA; after the Hornets, it stands at 37.

In the third inning, Jackie Cowan (00) knocked in Amy Czabala (00) who had walked and Brandee Brower (00) who had doubled. The shot tallied Cowan's team-best eighth double of the season.

Two more Scots rounded the bags in the fourth inning due to a Hornet error.

Katrina DiNallo (01) hit a single that drove in Leslie Hohlbein (03) to finalize the score.

Becky Pierce (00) picked up the win, allowing only five hits scattered throughout

the game.

"The team is really coming together and getting in our groove," said Czabala. "We're looking forward to going undefeated in the conference."

In the second game, the Scots sent the Hornets back to their nest with a shutout.

The second inning allowed four Scots to happily touch the plate after the long run from third.

Liz Knochel (02) started the scoring by hitting her first homerun of the season. Czabala picked up an RBI single off of two Hornet errors. Brower also produced an RBI double to left-centerfield.

Only five runners were able to reach third against the Scots' defense and only two of those five were allowed to advance.

Alma scored another run in the third on a Kathryn Nordin (00) single.

The fifth inning added the final two runs when Nordin

hit a two-run double.

Nordin went two-for-three with three RBIs and a run scored. Brower was also two-for-three with two RBIs. Knochel batted two-for-two and tagged home twice.

Cowan picked up the win, making the victory her third shutout of the season.

As the week came to a close, Alma found itself atop the regional standings and sixth in the nation according to the USA Today/NFCA Division III national poll.

"Rankings don't mean much after you get [to the tournament]. We have to take it one game at a time," Czabala said.

The ladies have three games scheduled for the coming week. Calvin College will visit Alma Monday at 3:30 p.m., Olivet College awaits Alma's visit on Wednesday and Adrian College prepares for a road trip to try to defeat the Scots on Friday.

## Gamma Phi Beta

Wishes good luck to all of their seniors!

We're going to miss you all very much!

Holly Caraway

Amber Comeillie

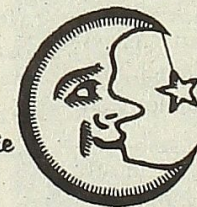
Amy Fraley

Heidi Grantham

Karyll Grotz

Janna Jackaboicie

Emily Jefferson



Renee Judd

Beth Law

Melissa Strikulis

Angie Stoutenburg

Amy Whitmore

Julie Yaklin

Γ  
Φ  
Β

Goodbye and good luck  
from the Almanian to all  
of the seniors!



## Netters win one, lose one

By BRIAN PRIEHS  
Staff Writer

The men's tennis team faced a pair of tough opponents this past week while splitting with a win over Albion College and a loss to Aquinas College.

On Wednesday, the Aquinas Saints defeated Alma with a score of 8-1. The lone win came from singles player sophomore Denis Busque. Busque won his match with a score of 6-1, 6-0.

"Each individual match was very close. It just showed that Aquinas had a little more experience than we did," Busque said.

On a brighter note, the Scots surpassed the Albion Britons last Tuesday with a score of 5-4. Junior Tim Zeedyk captured the match-clinching victory at singles, 6-2, 5-7, 6-2. Zeedyk played for nearly thirty minutes after all of the other matches ended before sealing the victory. In the final set of his match, both teams waited with anticipation to see who would walk away with the win and pull ahead in the conference standings.

"It was cool to get the final win," said Zeedyk. "I knew that I could do it."

Two of the six singles matches went to three sets, with Alma posting victories in both. Besides Zeedyk, first-year student Mark O'Bryan defeated Albion, 2-6, 6-2, 6-2. Sophomore Matt Piper won at first singles, 6-3, 6-2. Busque was also victorious in singles, 6-2, 6-2.

In doubles competition, Albion dominated on paper. However, at second doubles, the match could have gone either way. Senior Ryan Webb and Zeedyk paired up to compete in a two and a half-hour marathon, losing 6-3, 5-7, 6-3. The lone win in doubles competition came from sophomore John Boyer and Piper in the number one position, 6-0, 7-6.

Tomorrow the Scots will compete in a scrimmage against Kalamazoo Community College at home beginning at 2:30 p.m. Season play will continue April 13th against Hillsdale College at 3:30 p.m. (also at home). The Scots will face the conference leader Kalamazoo College April 15th at Kalamazoo.

The Alma Scots are now 2-1 in MIAA play and 2-7 overall.

## College recruiting in full swing

By CHRIS HARRINGTON  
Staff Writer

Yes, it is early April, but that doesn't mean the college football scene remains idle.

The recruiting war has been in full effect throughout the early part of the year. Both Michigan and Michigan State were successful in their new signings.

MSU snagged the number one recruit with wide receiver Charlie Rogers from Saginaw. Both the University of Michigan and Michigan State were in a neck to neck race to win over Rogers, but the final answer for him was "Sparty."

Other top 100 MSU signings include: tight-end Eric Knott from Detroit Ford; quarterback Jeff Smoker from Pennsylvania; running back Tyrell Dortch from New Jersey; and tight-end James Cooper from Missouri.

Notable recruits for Michigan are: wide receiver Markus Curry, the number

two receiver in the state behind Charlie Rogers; quarterback Jermaine Gonzales from Orchard Lake St. Mary's who did not throw an interception the entire season and passed for over two thousand yards; tight-end Tyler Ecker from California; tight-end Jim Fisher from Ohio; and running back Reggie Benton from Grand Blanc.

Both schools have strong classes coming in next year. This will make the 2000 matchup very interesting this fall. Although Michigan has more returning starters for next year, Michigan State has the bragging rights and the confidence to beat Michigan again.

This is a highly debated topic that can not be settled until the fall. My pick goes to Michigan, due to their number of offensive weapons returning.

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**Secretary of State  
Michigan**

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## Sports Shorts

### Chelios will play in post season

Despite his face injury incurred during the third period of Friday's game against Washington, Detroit Red Wings defenseman Chris Chelios will play in the post season for the Wings. The injury occurred when Chris Simon hit him with his stick. Chelios practiced with the team on Monday and is expected to start in the first game when the Wings take on the Kings.

### Marbury injury not severe

New Jersey Nets point guard Stephon Marbury will miss the next week because of tendinitis in his left knee. The team was relieved Thursday after an MRA revealed nothing more than patella tendinitis which does not require surgery. Marbury leads the Nets with a 22.2 scoring average. He has missed one game due to the injury.

### Singh wins Masters

Vijay Singh hung on at Augusta to win The Masters. This marks his second major championship. Singh played all four rounds at par or better. His only near competition were Ernie Els who had trouble putting and David Duval who ended in a creek on no. 13. Tiger Woods finished fifth.

### Fizer to enter NBA draft

All-American player for Iowa State Marcus Fizer announced Monday that he would skip his final college season and make himself eligible for the NBA draft. Fizer led the Cyclones to their best season ever. He decision to enter the draft has a lot to do with providing for his family, as he has two children and is engaged.

### No chance for Demitra in playoffs

St. Louis forward, Pavol Demitra, will not play in the post season for the Blues. According to coach Joel Quenneville, Demitra can barely skate. He has been out since March 24 after Tampa Bay player Brian Holzinger drove him face first into the boards. In his 71 games of the season, Demitra scored 28 goals and had 47 assists.



# Letters to the editors

To the editors,

In the last two issues of The Almanian, "diversity" has alternately been condemned and labeled "a great cause." Underlying both viewpoints, however, is the erroneous assumption that diversity is an "it," imbued with its own ontological status. As visiting Woodrow Wilson scholar Judi Hampton told the Alma community several years ago, "Diversity is not a philosophical choice, it's a practical reality." Indeed, according to Tim Wallace from the department of Agricultural Economics, University of California-Berkeley, "If we could, at this time, shrink the earth's population to a village of precisely 100 people, with all existing human ratios remaining the same, it would look like this:

- There would be 57 Asians, 21 Europeans, 14 from the Western Hemisphere (North and South), and 8 Africans.
- 70 would be non-white; 30 white. 70 would be non-Christian; 30 Christian.
- 50% of the entire world wealth would be in the hands of only 6 people. All 6 would be citizens of the United States.
- 70 would be unable to read. 50 would suffer from malnutrition. 80 would live in substandard housing.
- Only 1 would have a college education."

Diversity is not an "it"—diversity is us. Even on a geographically isolated, demographically homogeneous campus, we experience situational and perspectival diversity daily. Diversity does not mean only ethnic/racial differences. Diversity encompasses multiple opinions, ideologies, experiences, and perspectives. One synonym for diversity is "variety is the so-called spice of life." And if treating others with compassion and respect is not a goal deemed worthwhile enough by some, consider this: The American Council on Education reports that Fortune 500 executives believe college graduates need to work more on both communication skills and being able to work with people from different backgrounds.

As college graduates enter the workforce, they need to possess certain competencies; the ability to engage in perspective taking (listening to, understanding, and respecting someone else's point of view, even

if you disagree with it) is just as vital as skills in composition and computation. Insisting that students develop all of these competencies is part of the mission of any liberal arts institution. (In fact, many colleges and universities require students to take a specific course or otherwise meet a "diversity" requirement for precisely this reason.)

Students rarely complain that composition and computation are being forced upon them — they accept these requirements and fulfill them. Whenever the word "diversity" is mentioned, however, many students automatically reject ideas and opportunities, dismissing them as "mandated." Clearly, being asked to acknowledge our own predispositions and biases is difficult and sometimes painful. Change may be frightening, but allowing our fears to direct our actions is dangerous to ourselves and others.

We live in an age of cynicism. It is much easier to complain than to contribute, to tear down rather than to build. It is simple to default to a cynical response to find fault in every action, to suspect every motive.

Throughout our lives, we are taught to question government, media, social conventions, educators, ourselves. It is important, however, to recognize the difference between true critical thinking and unthinking cynicism. Critical thinking requires a response; unthinking cynicism requires only a reaction. Questions in response to messages, channels of communication and institutional agendas enrich public discourse; cynical reactions do not. We have all been guilty of unthinking cynicism, and in order to create and sustain community, we must engage in perspective taking. Yes, it is important to galvanize at times of crisis, but we must not limit our connectedness to these times. As members of the Alma College community, we need to: 1) remain open and listen to others' perspectives; 2) treat others with compassion and respect; and 3) offer thoughtful response rather than cynical reaction. If we can accomplish this, we will create a community of true diversity of variety, commitment, and caring.

Joanne Gilbert  
Associate Professor of Communication

To the editors,

I am writing in response to an opinion editorial published in your paper this on March 28, entitled "Diversify this" by Scott Timmreck, Opinion Editor of The Almanian. As a student on this campus, obviously representing the typical aggregate of conservative, Caucasian, narrow-minded masses that constitute "normalcy" to Mr. Timmreck, I thought I would delineate the finer points of his ultra-right argument for those who (unlike my superior white self) are unable to understand. In essence, Mr. Timmreck, your argument stands as: go back to the ghetto, black man; lock yourself in the closet, fairy; lose your shoes and stay pregnant in the kitchen, woman; go back to the cherries, migrant — Alma College has no need for your "diversity." I for one, past Co-Chair of Alma College Pride, former resident of the Multi-Cultural Center, member of the female sex (last time I looked), and a bona fide human being, must protest your interpretation of myself, and I am sure that I am not alone.

Not unlike many other students of the Alma College campus, I feel that perhaps "force feeding" of diversity is not the best means of promoting it. While seated at Opening Convocation in 1998, I resented, as I'm sure many did, the call by President Stone for all "diverse" persons to stand up. To stand up to the prying eyes of those who no doubt, like those standing, resented the ostracism. As the child of parents who fought the fight for integration and realization of humanity in the 1960s, I feel myself to be open-minded. Often (this has also been said of techniques, which may not be farfetched considering) educational reforms warfare linger twenty years behind the impetus of the reform. In the case of diversity, I feel that 1) it is NOT alright for the Alma College campus to remain "a place of conservative idealism and plenty of people, including [Timmreck], that do not have an open mind regarding various situations" without a balance of liberal ideals to cull stagnation; and 2) although I may well be iterating well-honed and clichéd phrases from my parents' time — we are all *Homo sapiens* and cannot function without interaction between various communities. We will all interact with one another, regardless of whether it is in the "real world" (that nebulous void after graduation) or in the "zoo" of Alma College, where "minorities" are roped into a situation where they are petted and preened by the administration, hoping the students will do so as well.

As a diverse person, regardless of my skin color, I feel that although it is an essential facet of the United States that such opinions are able to be freely stated, one should consider the implications of words before they are printed.

Melissa Allen (00)

To the editors,

Probably our proudest moment as parents occurred this past March 25th at approximately 12:15 a.m., when we answered the phone half-asleep and heard a voice on the other end yelling "I won, I won!" The voice was that of Jennifer Gibson, our daughter, a junior at Alma, calling to share her excitement over winning the nationally competitive Truman Scholarship. The feeling was unbelievable.

Her winning was the result of not only her efforts and abilities but also the efforts of several members of the Alma faculty who made this possible. They not only encouraged her efforts but also spent much of their valuable time helping her through the arduous process. Starting with her application and continuing through an extensive series of mock interviews, they were there to help and did so enthusiastically. Our appreciation and thanks go out to them.

During the two weeks between learning of her success and the Honors Convocation, Jennifer received calls and congratulations from many students and faculty on campus, many of whom she had never met before. She also received e-mails from other Truman candidates whom she had met during the process. The emotional rollercoaster continued at the Honors Convocation on April 6. The top of the ride came when she was recognized in front of the entire student body and faculty. This brought tears of joy to our eyes. Despite all this, there was one thing missing which upset both Jennifer and ourselves. During this entire time, President Stone never once made any effort to congratulate Jennifer on her accomplishment, despite two golden opportunities that day.

The first chance happened upon leaving the Honors Convocation. As we accompanied Jennifer and Jaena Wisniewski (Alma's other Truman candidate, still awaiting word) to the luncheon, President Stone approached Jaena and talked openly about her possibilities of winning and the fact that he had recently talked to someone from the Truman Foundation. He wished her luck. During this time, with Jennifer walking next to Jaena, about three feet away, President Stone failed to speak to her, congratulate her or even acknowledge her presence.

The second chance came at the luncheon, where we were sitting at the head table along with Melissa Desjarlis, the Barlow Trophy winner, and her parents. President Stone ap-

proached the table, picked up his name tag, briefly congratulated Melissa on the Barlow and, although he was within two feet of Jennifer, he walked away to another table without so much as acknowledging her presence.

Two golden chances, two strikeouts. Neither would have required any special effort or caused him to go out of his way. A simple word of congratulations from the head of the college would have meant a lot, but none came.

We have been led to believe that Jennifer's winning the Truman is a great accomplishment. Unless we're mistaken, this award provides her with the means to continue her education toward a career in public service, not to mention that the Truman represents a large feather in the cap for Alma College. It was a source of considerable publicity not only for Jennifer but also for the college. For example, the Saginaw Township Times ran a story entitled "Alma College Junior Wins \$30,000 Truman Scholarship," the Morning Sun ran an article with a similar headline, and the Saginaw News featured a front-page story with the headline "Africa Awaits Alma Scholar."

It is appalling to us that the president of any institution whether public, private or educational would not openly acknowledge the accomplishments of one of its members. Only President Stone knows why he chose to ignore Jennifer in her time of joy, but his decision was an extremely poor choice in our minds. Jennifer also considered the University of Michigan for her college education. While it was Jennifer's choice, both my wife and I thought U of M was too impersonal and were happy she chose Alma. Unfortunately, we were only half right. Dr. Stone's last-minute phone call to us on Friday night to attempt to explain his conduct did little to change the way we feel. Jennifer was deeply hurt by what we saw as a deliberate snub, not an oversight on his part. In short, it was wrong. At this point nothing he can do will make amends for his conduct, not even attending the Truman ceremonies in May, as he mentioned he might do. In actuality, this would only serve as an opportunity for him to take credit for the hard work and success of Jennifer and the Alma College faculty.

Our hat goes off to our daughter for her efforts, to the faculty members who made it possible, and also to the other ten Alma College students who put considerable time and effort into applying for these nationally competitive scholarships.

George and Arlene Gibson



Letters to the editors

To the editors,

This is in regard to the letter (in the March 28 issue) by Ms. Stephanie Powell wherein she awaits “a formal apology from the Physical Plant.” First, I point out that no “crew” was involved in the removal of the chalking on the library steps and landing. Neither my immediate superiors nor any of my co-workers from Physical Plant were aware that the chalking in question had been removed until after the fact. This was a judgment call on my part and I alone accept full responsibility for my action in removing this controversial chalking. As Ms. Gayle Passaretti pointed out in *her* letter to the editors, much of the chalking was “defaced with profanities and slander.” Offensive language and depictions of that sort that were left on the steps are unacceptable in any segment of society, much less in an institution of higher learning...graffiti by any other name is still graffiti! I found some of the defacing and language offensive to me, and I consider myself to be quite open-minded. Wouldn’t it also be considered offensive to those for whom those remarks were aimed?

Secondly, my sole intent in removing this controversial material was to perform the job for which I was hired – to keep the academic buildings **and their surroundings** clean and presentable to the students, the faculty and the public in general.

Finally, as far as a “formal apology” is concerned, I don’t feel that one is called for...I make no apology for performing my job. If a formal apology is forthcoming, it will be when Satan wears an overcoat in his domain!

Al Cantu, 3rd shift custodial supervisor

To the editors,

Dr. Walser left us with some very astute and inspirational words when giving his speech at Honors Convocation. He challenged us as a community to form a vision, a vision of a college that doesn’t accept second-best. We have our first opportunity to build on this vision with the new Student Recreation Center.

After attending the open student forum that was held in SAC a couple of weeks ago, we were very disturbed at what we saw and heard. The college is only putting five million dollars toward this new recreation center. That sounds like a lot of money, but it isn’t nearly enough to build a facility that this campus can be proud of. The preliminary plans call for a suspended walking track, three (maybe four) basketball courts (that can be converted into volleyball courts, tennis courts, etc.), a fitness center and maybe a multi-purpose room. The plans do not include racquetball courts, an indoor track facility, a new swimming pool, a rock-climbing wall or any other high-quality characteristics found in many other schools’ recreation centers in the MIAA.

This is where the vision comes in. Why can’t we just work a little bit harder to raise some more money for this facility so we don’t have to start from behind? This college can’t afford to have a building that serves only one purpose to this campus. Many Varsity athletic teams are lacking the necessary facilities to train properly. With a little added effort, we can build a facility that not only satisfies the needs of the general student population but the needs of athletic teams as well. Yes, they are planning on revamping Hogan Physical Education Center, but those remodeling plans are taking care of the lack of locker room space for the women athletes (which is in violation of Title 9 of NCAA rules) and a slightly larger free-weight facility. It doesn’t even touch on the fact that the swim team trains in the worst conditions in the MIAA or that the track team doesn’t have anywhere to train for 2/3 of its season while the team is forced to be indoors.

This Student Recreation Center is going to show the community as well as prospective students what Alma College thinks of fitness and wellness. Do we want to show them that we are doing just enough to get by (because that is what they will see), or do we want to show them that we refuse to accept a second-rate facility or attitude? We challenge you as students and faculty to stand up by not accepting the average and striving for the best.

Kristin Babbitt (02) and Darby Cornelius (03)

To the editors,

Much of college socialization revolves around finding or taking part in a non-platonic relationship. For many people, these relationships involve the opposite sex. The key to a successful, happy and fulfilling partnership grows from an understanding, open point of view. Rivalry between the genders can maim and destroy a potentially loving relationship between two people. It would seem that many people, both male and female, are enraged over stereotypes and labels traded between the opposite sexes.

Jests about who must always be right or who never asks for directions distorts how we feel about each other. But attributing an argument to the premenstrual cycle or an awkward glance to “checking someone out” is a horrible way to understand the personality of an individual.

“It’s [stereotyping] a vicious cycle, but one necessary to keeping the wheels turning...of relationships.” Can this be true? Can we base a loving, prosperous relationship on believing things that apply to a majority? No. In a relationship, the couple must understand each other as individuals not as a member of the sex gender. To do anything less would be inane.

Stereotypes germinate from generally true observations. But over time, they grow into affirmed realizations that we too loosely apply to every person included in the conditional clause of the stereotype.

As individuals, we must consciously reject preconceptions about other people. To bridge a gender, race or social gap, we must take every person – male, female, black, white, rich, or poor as an individual with separate ideas and ideals.

Scott N. Sawyer (03)

To the editors,

Because problems exist on this campus concerning the security of our students, Alma College needs to make improvements. A female student was attacked recently while walking home at night and many students have been receiving prank phone calls and threats. Assuming there is safety in numbers, most people I know – myself included – have quit walking anywhere alone after dark.

Harboring new fears, I have really taken notice of the physical aspects of our campus. Outdoor lighting is insufficient and phones are not available outside should a situation arise that requires help. Precautions need to be taken to ensure the safety of our students. I want to see the administration of this college step up and make changes.

Our campus is poorly lit. For students with non-preferred parking, the walk back from the parking lot can be quite long at night. The same goes for any students using the Physical Education (PE) Center. The orange tint of the light results in dimness. Standing directly under a light, I feel more like I am in the presence of soft candlelight. It allows me to see where I am going and that’s about it. If someone else is walking on the sidewalk and is more than 20 yards away I can’t identify who it is. Brighter lights would be comforting.

Around the residence halls shadows are prevalent. Entranceways are well lit; however, around the buildings it is dark. Someone could go undetected up against the wall or down by the bushes. The area between the chapel and Reid-Knox has the same problem. As well, the back pathway to the PE Center along the football field is very dark.

The worst place on campus, so agreed upon by students with whom I spoke, is McIntyre Mall. The lighting is poor on the side of Swanson Academic Center (SAC) that faces Dow Science Center. Lights are almost non-existent at the entrance to the lower level of the library, to the right of the library stairs, and on the sidewalk that runs past the spirit rock. Many students cross this part of campus; it is an important place to make safe.

It isn’t just because of weekends or late-nights that we need this lighting. In the winter it gets dark at 5:00 p.m. and students are definitely still going places: with classes at night, studying to do in the library, athletic practices to attend. The library is open until midnight, certainly a sign that many students commonly walk home at night.

I was coming home from doing homework in SAC last week at the seemingly harmless time of 9:30 p.m. Nonetheless, I’ve learned that assuming trust is a mistake. McIntyre Mall was silent, empty, and dark. Worried by what I couldn’t see, I hurried. My eyes strained, searching

the shadows – left, right, behind me, in front – just be sure of my security.

Besides more lights, outdoor phones would make us feel safer. Of course the lights would be nice, but realistically a light is not going to save me from an attacker. Having a phone, though, would be a way to contact someone if I needed help.

The obvious place to put a phone is in McIntyre Mall, as it is centrally located. A better idea would be to have two phones: one there and one near the PE Center, allowing nearby assistance from anyplace on campus. A “problem” with the phones is the issue of appearance. The college may worry that it will make our campus look unsafe to perspective students. Why do we need the phone, they may ask. Will I be safe on this campus?

But there is another point of view-our campus would look safe because it takes the necessary precautions. And hopefully that is the main purpose the phones will serve: to be there “just in case.” But as we already know an attack has occurred. Reasoning behind the installation of phones is valid.

An alternative to placement in the center of McIntyre Mall is installing a phone in the entrance of SAC. The outer doors would be left unlocked so the phone could be accessed at all times. Locking the doors to the stairway and to first floor would prevent theft or other concerns. This may be easier technologically (access to a phone line is closer) and more feasible (the smaller project would cost less), hopefully resulting in sooner installment.

College students have a lot on their minds between studies, athletics, activities, social interactions, and work. Students shouldn’t have to worry about safety. The real root of the problem is students-the ones choosing to act in poor behavior. However, that doesn’t mean that all students should be punished with fear and worry. Part of this college’s responsibility is to care for its students; I expect it to do so.

When I chose to attend Alma, my parents were so relieved that I wouldn’t be in Ann Arbor, Detroit, or East Lansing – especially after hearing about the student who was found dead and the other who was raped on MSU’s campus. But here I am at Alma worrying about my safety: thus showing it isn’t the size of the population; it’s the structure of it. We obviously have some deviance within our students and that fact should have been anticipated by the college. But now it has been established and I hope to see measures taken to allow students to regain their peace of mind. If Alma wants to advertise itself to the public as a safe, friendly, inviting community, then it better be one.

Sarah Jewell (03)



# Letters to the editors

To the editors,

## For All Practical Purposes: Nothing Ever Strikes Without Warning!

As I finished reading the poorly-structured argument regarding "diversity" at Alma College in The Almanian (March 28), I am bewildered by Mr. Timmreck's question of "why promote a concept...that is, for all good measures, impractical?" My confusion surfaces out of common sense knowledge to know that impractical means "incapable of being put into use or effect or of being accomplished or done successfully without extreme trouble, hardship, or expense." On a more accurate note, when I think of an impractical concept, I think of slavery. But we are taught, however, that slavery was economical; hence, very practical (and political) for a system designed to exploit, negate and misuse those who have been historically considered inferior.

In order for any institution of higher learning to move from its current state of "diorse-ity" to "diversity," it is imperative for the entire community – administration, faculty, staff, and students – to put **practical measures** in place such that the end result is a representation and appreciation of differences, even if there is extreme trouble, hardship or expense. Moreover, it is important to note that this does not exclude institutions like Alma College.

Regardless of the emphatic disclaimer uttered by Mr. Timmreck that he "respects groups like Alma Pride," his rationale for suggesting that Alma College should not celebrate differences is rooted in a system of venomous rhetoric in which he feels it will do no good because "...this is Alma College." To qualify his argument, he uses statistics that reveal the Alma College community is very homogeneous – of a similar kind or nature. That is to say that 93% of the students on campus "is Caucasian, and many students here come from mid-Michigan and upper-middle class families" and that "most of the surrounding community holds the same identity." So what if the community, both college and perimeter, are alike! Does that still negate the fact that we have to move beyond the mindset of powerlessness? While these statistics might appear murky to an "outsider," it should also raise a red flag to the "insider" suggesting that there has to be more beyond this "Alma bubble" which informs and/or contributes to the everyday functions of a larger community.

Even within this confined 93%, students are different! Not *all* of them think alike, have like preferences, share like experiences or dream like dreams. It is more important to note those members in groups like Alma Pride are a part of the "host culture" but insist on "**diversity**." No matter how small the number of advocates, it is apparent to me that "diversity" is needed as a part of the campus community.

Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is a process; working together is success. Whether in business or personal relationships, what makes working together so difficult is the individual need to be right and to have things our way. And it is clear that some individuals at Alma College are not willing to bend, and, therefore, are getting in the way of the visionaries. *We must get clear about what we are doing, why we are doing it and whom we are working with.* Only with an honest examination of our motives and intent can we surrender to any working or loving process. If we enter any collective agreement for only personal goals and with mental garbage, the stability of the community is jeopardized by our dishonest foundation. If we come together in honesty, work together in clarity, we can stay together with respect and meet any goal successfully.

When a student called me at my home alarmed by the cynicism of this article, I urged her to take a stand only because people of African descent are taught that: "**If you don't STAND for something, you will fall for anything.**" In reference to this article, the

student wrote from a "minority" stance on four fronts: as a woman, as an African, as a Black, and as an international. She asserts about Mr. Timmreck's article:

*"Indeed your article had some good insights, but I was greatly disturbed by a lot of your comments pertaining to diversity. It's very sad that as Alma College is making more efforts to embrace diversity, you are contributing your fatal thoughts to killing this issue at birth-level. In addition, you emphasized a negative connotation of the term 'diversity.' Clearly, this is the wrong perception about diversity to promote. On the contrary, Alma College is trying to acknowledge and celebrate the existence of students from backgrounds other than Caucasian since you identify this as the primary group here.*

*You further described that "we already know that the differences are there." So what then is wrong with embracing these differences by having programs and activities that support them (e.g. Benjamin Hooks)? Clearly, you are inaccurate in thinking that this celebration was to honor the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday observance. Rather, it was an event to celebrate the humankind and our "beloved community," not King himself. Given the fact that Hooks was a part of the Civil Rights movement, it goes without saying that he would highlight King's contributions to human rights. I would also like to say that King created for more than just black and white issues: human equality and economic parity. Is it wrong for Alma College to introduce students to other issues not limited to racial differences? I think not. Diversity extends beyond racial differences. Please do not swim or sink into a quagmire of confusion. You don't have to believe in these other cultures but you will certainly have to acknowledge their presence and respect their differences because we are represented, even at Alma.*

*To your dismay, Alma is indeed in a metaphorical state and though it will take time, there will be change. By you being against diversity, you are not only declaring your intolerance, but you are amplifying your ignorance!*

*In reference to your statistics that 93% of Alma is white, what are the other 7% in your estimation? Non-human or non-existent individuals who do not need to be catered to because they are non-white? Think again!*

You also added that are not open to various situations. I can only assume that one of the reasons you furthered your education s to be open to different ideals. Please refer to the Alma College mission statement: 'to the glory of God and the dignity of **all** people.'

*Furthermore, it states: 'the liberation of people from ignorance, prejudice, and parochialism; the preservation and perpetuation of the knowledge, skills, and values appropriate for free men and women; and the preparation of students for useful vocations in a changing society.'*

Think about it, this College is built on the principles of exposing all its students to cultural differences in order to liberate people from ignorance, prejudice, and parochialism like yourself and those who think like you. If your will not learn to open up to other ideas, concepts or cultures different from your own, then you will have problems dealing with real people outside college. Consequently, Alma College will have failed in fulfilling one of its most important goals to you...openness and acceptance!"

*Finally, we [the student and myself] both agree that our greatest problems in life come not so much from the situations we confront as from our doubts about our ability to handle them. Diversity is an issue, for all practical purposes, that places doubt in some of the minds of the people at Alma College and it is evident when articles like "Diversify this" are articulated. Hence, **nothing ever strikes without warning!***

Lawrence T. Potter Jr. and Beatrice Chege

To the editors,

I was distressed by Scott Timmreck's editorial entitled "Diversify this" which appeared in the March 28 issue of The Almanian. In the article, Mr. Timmreck suggested that addressing the issue of diversity here at Alma College is "impractical" because the population here is largely made up of Caucasian, upper-middle class students from the mid-Michigan area.

I can assure you that when you leave Alma College, the population will most definitely *not* be comprised of 93% Caucasian, upper-middle class people from mid-Michigan. In fact, it is predicted that within the next few decades, over 50% of the U.S. population will consist of people from what we now consider to be minority races. You will be working and your children and grandchildren will be attending school side by side with people of varying ethnic backgrounds. Not only that, but you and your children and your grandchildren will probably be in the minority, in that there will be more African Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanic Americans and Native Americans than there will be Caucasian Americans.

Embracing the concept of diversity is not only about making individuals of differing racial, religious, socio-economic and sexual backgrounds feel comfortable, it is also about accepting the reality that we live in a diverse society. It is about making an effort to educate and understand ourselves and each other. It is not a chore, but an opportunity. By turning your back on that opportunity, you are denying yourself a valuable life experience and you are ensuring that you will be ill-prepared to cope with the world beyond Alma.

Difference is a good thing. It is what makes our society and our world interesting. Promoting an environment in which diversity is cherished does not take the effort you seem to think it does. All it requires is that you listen to, learn from and respect those around you. If you can do that for the 93% who you claim are just like you, then certainly you can do that for the other 7% who are not Caucasian upper-middle class students from mid-Michigan.

Deborah Shoemaker  
Graduate Intern  
Center for Student Development

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