

"Female Transport" opens soon at the Heritage Center. See page 6 for more details.



The Lady Scots stand strong during Conference match -ups. See page 10.



**Wednesday's  
Weather**  
**Scattered Showers**  
**High: 67°**  
**Low: 41°**

# The Almanian

Issue 3

Serving Alma College since 1907

October 3, 2000

## Student Congress works for improvements

By **DONNA PAPPAS**  
Staff Writer

Among the new additions to campus this year, Student Congress and the Physical Plant have worked together to install an emergency phone topped by a blue light.

Student Congress' Student Life Committee originally requested this phone and the Congress took their concerns to the Physical Plant, who agreed to fund this nearly \$2,800 project through its operating budget.

The phone is located between the Dow/Kapp building and the Physical Education Center. Last year's Student Congress voted on this site.

"There were two choices: by new dorms or in that spot. There is a lot of traffic on the main part of campus and nowhere to run to because no buildings in that area are open. But over by new dorms, you can run into the dorms. We were only able to put up one at that time, and this way it doesn't just serve people going to parties," said Melinda Messmer (01), Student Congress president.

This phone has been operational since September 12. The purpose of the phone is that if anyone is in the area and needs to contact security, they can go to the post and push the call button. Automatically, the security line is contacted and a bright blue strobe light brightens the area.

Other than use during testing, this phone has not been used yet.

"This is a good sign," said Duane Knecht, Physical Plant director. "If the light does seem to benefit campus or if there are concerns, we are willing to evaluate the need to install additional phones."

The golf carts spotted around campus are also another security addition. These carts make it easier for the Security Officers to get around campus. They also enable security to provide escorts for students who need to get around campus late at night.

"If a student has a need for the escort service, they can call security and they will be picked up and taken where they want to go. For example, if it is late at night, security is available to escort students to their cars or home from parties," said Knecht.

Security encourages the use of these services, and can be reached at x7777.

Another improvement this year is the multiple benches that have been added on the lawns around campus. These benches were donated by Gary Fenchuk, a 1968 alum and Board of Trustees member.

Another addition to the campus will be the 2000 Senior Class gift, which is a concrete Alma College sign. It will be placed outside of VanDusen on the corner of Superior and Harvard streets. The class of 2000 has not yet reached their funding goal for this project, however. When reached, Physical Plant will begin the installation of the sign.

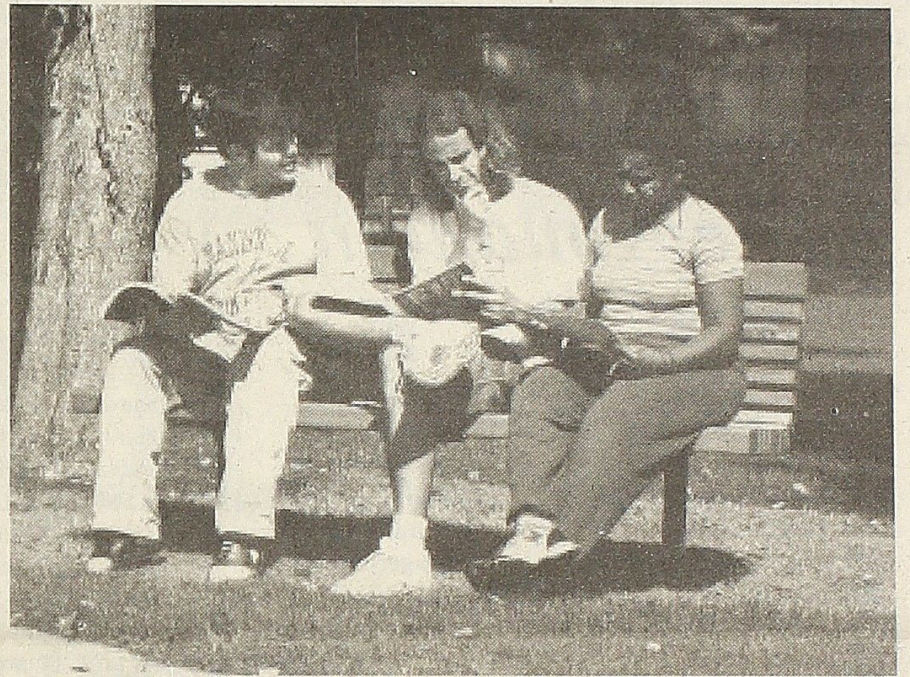


Photo by Bryan Waugh

Chris LaCrois (02), Ryan Sherman (02) and Michelle Cade (03) spend a relaxing afternoon studying on one of the new benches seen across campus. Donated by Gary Fenchuk, a 1968 alum, the benches are just one of several campus improvements seen this fall.

### *In this issue . . .*

*Pine River problems.  
News, pages 1-4*

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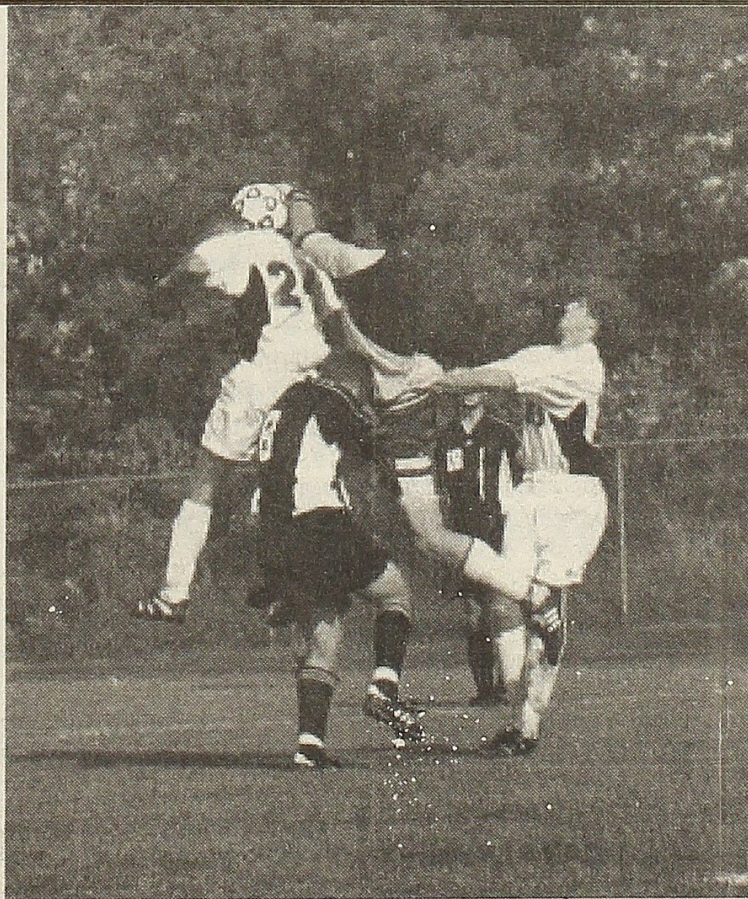


Photo by Joey Corr

Exciting action at the mens' soccer game against Kalamazoo College ends in a tie. See Sports for the full story.

## On-campus interviews begin at Center this month

By **SEAN WILSON**  
Staff Writer

The Center for Student Development is again coordinating on-campus interviews with both Alma College seniors and with local and national corporations who are seeking employees.

The interviews, which began on Wednesday, Sept. 27, will run well into November and there is still time to sign up for those held later this fall.

"We'd like to see as many seniors as possible involved in this program," said Carolyn Schneider, an associate dean of students

for the Center.

Interviews are held at the Center and last about half an hour long.

Schneider works with seniors interested in the interviewing process by conducting mock interviews and holding workshops on important issues such as the correct technique for the cover letters and resumes. She also schedules individual appointments with students who wish to speak to her for tips.

"It's really pretty exciting, to think about the number of things I could be doing in the future," said senior Tessa Chambers.

See **INTERVIEW** page 4



# Nationally Competitive Scholarship Committee holds reception this week

By SEAN WILSON  
Staff Writer

The National Competitive Scholarship Committee will hold a reception for Alma College students competing for national scholarship this Friday. "Our goal is to identify and groom candidates for the nation's most highly competitive scholarships, and to cultivate a more intellectual atmosphere on campus here at Alma," said committee member

and associate professor of political science, Sandy Hulme. Hulme added that the committee hopes to involve one hundred to one hundred and fifty students at some stage in the competitive process annually. In the past Alma has ranked higher than any other small college in Michigan in terms of the number and quality of the scholarships Alma students received. The reception is for qualifying students, including all freshmen with Trustee or higher scholarships, and

upperclassmen with a required GPA level. The reception is an opportunity for students to discuss the scholarships they seek with the faculty advisers of the committee who specialize in that particular scholarship. The reception is also honoring last year's top three national scholarship winners. One such winner is Jennifer Gibson (01), who won a \$30,000 Truman Scholarship. The Truman Foundation's goals are "to provide college juniors with exceptional leadership potential who are committed to careers in government, the no profit or advocacy sectors, education or elsewhere in public service with financial support for graduate study." Other winners to be honored at the reception are Michelle Sharpe (01), winner of a \$7500 Goldwater award for work in mathematics, natural sciences, and engineering, and Stacy Turschak (01), who won a \$5000 Udall Scholarship for work with the environment or social work involving Native Americans. The committee is comprised of ten faculty members and the

Reginald Avery, provost. The faculty members are: associate professor of biology David Clark; professor of exercise and health science John Davis; associate professor of political science Sandy Hulme; Reid Knox professor of American history Edward Lorenz; Dana professor of religious studies Ronald Massanari; associate professor of English Ute Stargardt; professor of English John Ottenhoff; chair and professor of communication Micheal Vickery; and Angell professor of biology Lawrence Wittle. The Committee focuses on eight of the nation's most highly sought-after scholastic awards, including the Goldwater, Truman, and Udall Scholarships, the Madison Scholarship for American History master's programs, the Mellon Fellowship for teaching and scholarship in humanistic disciplines, the National Science Foundation Scholarship for women in engineering and computer sciences, the much sought Rhodes Scholarship for Oxford Master's work, and the Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship for study abroad.

## News 'At a glance'

**Olympics come to an end**  
SYDNEY – The Olympic games ended Sunday in Sydney. The United States gathered a total of 97 medals: 39 gold, 25 silver, and 33 bronze medals. The softball and baseball teams won gold; Marion Jones won gold in the 200-meter event; Michael Johnson won the gold in the 400-meter race; and the women's soccer team won silver. Tennis star Venus Williams won two gold medals: in individual and doubles play, with her partner and sister Serena Williams.

**Denmark votes 'no' on the Euro**  
COPENHAGEN – Danes rejected switching to the European Union's single currency by a vote of 53.1 percent to 46.9 percent on Thursday. Rejection is expected to shock the European community and cast further doubts about the weak currency. However, Danish Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen was quick to say that the Danes had not rejected Europe as a whole, as Denmark is still a state in the European Union. Opponents of the referendum believed that the switch to the Euro would erode Danish sovereignty.

**FDA approves abortion pill**  
WASHINGTON – On Thursday, the Federal Drug Administration approved the sale of RU-486, prompting a reaction from campaign 2000 candidates. Governor George W. Bush said the FDA's decision was wrong; he feared that making this pill available will increase the number of abortions. Vice President Al Gore said earlier this week that he was in favor of making the pill available. Both campaigns have said that the next administration could amend the scope of the FDA ruling, thus encouraging both pro-lifers and pro-choicers to keep lobbying.

**Former Canadian premier dies**  
MONTREAL – Pierre Trudeau, Canada's prime minister from 1968 to 1984, died Thursday of prostate cancer in his home in Montreal. The flamboyant and charismatic leader accomplished great feats as leader: parliamentary independence from Britain, defeat of the French separatist movement, the establishment of relations with China and the formation of a new Canadian constitution, which included a bill of rights. A former opponent said Trudeau was "a giant of a man." He was also called the "embodiment of the dream of a just society."

## 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 unpublishized; (3) to voice concern over campus and world events through well-researched, unsigned editorials representing the majority opinion of the editorial board; (4) to allow individuals to express concern through signed opinion articles while reserving all editing rights; and (5) to provide interesting, informative and thoughtprovoking articles on non-timely subjects.

### Staff Editorial Policy:

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

### Letter Policy:

All letters to the editors must meet the following standards of publication: signed, include the author's phone number and address, and pertain to the Alma College community. Letters are published as layout space allows with priority given to letters under 250 words. Submission of a letter does not guarantee publication. We reserve the right to condense letters for layout purposes. Deadline for publication is 5 p.m. the Friday before requested publication. E-mail letters to the editors at ALMANIAN@alma.edu or address letters to Newberry Hall, Alma College.

## STUDENT CONGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

Provost Avery is contemplating a student committee that will meet monthly to discuss college issue facing students.

Congress discuss elections of students for Board of Trustees committees.

There are two new organizations on campus this year. The Adventure Club and the Rock Climbing club. For information on the Adventure Club contact J.R. Logan. For information on the Rock Climbing Club contact Stacie Wollenslegel.

Students have successfully restarted the Alma Young Democrats. Plans to take part in the Homecoming parade, rallies and much more are all planned for the upcoming year. Two AYD members also plan to take part in a debate between Alma College Republicans and Alma Young Democrats.

## Correction

In the Almanian's September 26 issue, several errors were stated in the time and name of WQAC radio shows. A complete, corrected schedule is available on page 6. The Almanian regrets the error.



**The Gratiot County Players Present**

# **STEEL MAGNOLIAS**

**by Robert Harling**

**Directed by Dr. Scott Messing**



**Oct 6, 7, 8 & 13, 14, 15**

**Fri & Sat shows at 8pm**

**Sunday shows at 3pm**

**Strand Theater, downtown Alma.**

**\$7 Adults, \$6 Students and Seniors**

**Tickets at the door only**



# Pine River pollution still plaguing Alma

By CARDELL JOHNSON  
Staff Writer

Since the early 1990s, residents in the Alma and St. Louis communities have battled with the Total Petroleum Refinery (TPI), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in determining who is responsible for the toxic waste in the Pine River.

In 1998, the EPA brought 36 charges against the refinery. The charges included violations of the Clean Air and Water Acts. On a number of occasions, the EPA found the refinery in violation of other emissions regulations.

The chemicals detected in the river were benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylene and DDT. DDT is one of the most hazardous chemicals discovered in the water. According to EPA officials, the river contained the highest levels of DDT reported in the United States.

This threatens aquatic and human life. Various reports conclude that DDT causes certain types of cancer and could explain the high cancer rates in the county. However, this has not been proven, but tests are underway to prove or reject this hypothesis.

The battle between Total Petroleum Refinery and the EPA has had a tremendous impact on the community. In the neighboring city of St. Louis, the citizens formed the Pine River Superfund Citizens Taskforce to deal with clean-up of the polluted river due to Velsicol Chemical Company's dumping. The taskforce recently became involved with the TPI consent decree, since the Pine River runs through both Alma and St. Louis. This group of community citizens and government officials want to achieve environmental justice for the community.

The taskforce has had the help of many committed Alma College students. They have participated in public hearings and have challenged officials to take a stand on environmental issues facing the community. Students also created a website containing factual information on the Pine River over the past century. This is available to educate and update the Alma College community as well as local residents on current issues affecting the Pine River and the clean up process.

The group is effective at getting the community voice heard and plays a key role in the policy-making process of sustainable environmental and economic development. "In

a recent meeting with the EPA, our taskforce was informed it is the largest in the U.S." says professor of political science, Edward Lorenz. "The group is effective because we combine citizens and students from the college to conduct research and put pressure on public officials to do an excellent clean up."

On May 11, the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the refinery rendered a decree for \$13.9 million. According to the DOJ, this is the largest settlement for clean up in the United States. However, citizens and students involved are

not satisfied with the decree. Residents demand that the refinery take responsibility for restoring the river. The estimated cost is \$30 million.

However, the citizens refused to give in and have wrote letters to the DOJ, voicing concerns and asking for a larger settlement. For every letter sent, the DOJ has to write an explanation to each citizen and provide a summary of all the letters to the judge. If the judge agrees with the citizens, the decree will not be signed and both parties will begin re-negotiating.

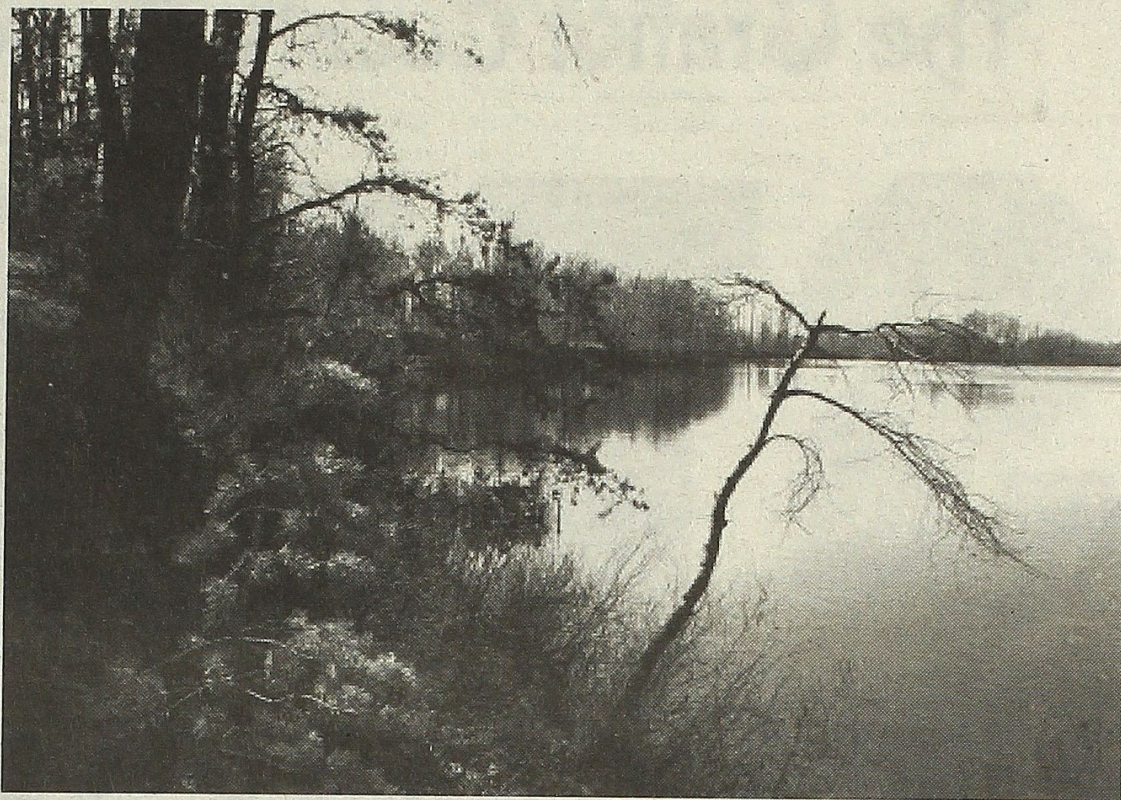


Photo by Bryan Waugh

The Pine River, pictured above, continues to be a problem for Alma and St. Louis residents.

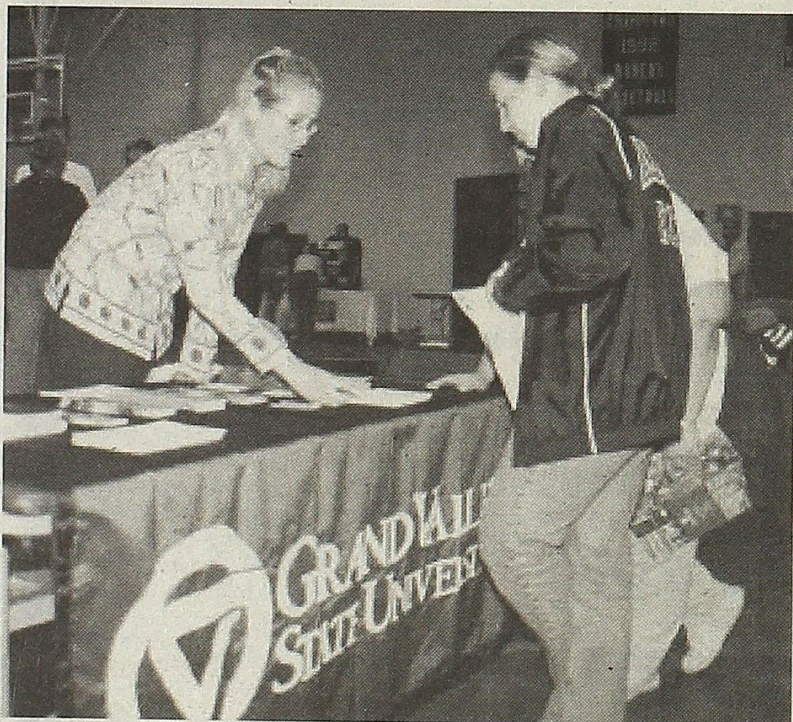


Photo by Bryan Waugh

A local high school student visits college booths during Alma's College Fair last week. Alma College hosts the event every year, inviting colleges from across the state to participate.

## (INTERVIEW from page 1)

Chambers interviewed with Andrews, Hooper, and Pavlik, P.L.C. on Sept. 28, and is planning other interviews in the near future. Chambers went on to urge other students to take advantage of the resources the Center offers. "They've really got a lot going on there," she said.

Some corporations have been coming to campus for these interviews for decades. Others are referred to Alma in various ways, including the National Association of Colleges and Education and the Alumni Offices, which give information to alumni who work for companies that are hiring.

"One noticeable difference between Alma and other colleges is the fact that Alma does not allow corporations to pre-select students for on-campus interviews," said Schneider.

This means that any student meeting the GPA and program requirements may interview with any corporation they desire.

Major corporations presently on this year's schedule (which will expand as the fall progresses) include Kmart, Wal-Mart, Massachusetts Mutual Finance Services, the

Federal Mogul Corporation, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, and many more.

Students are notified about the opportunities to interview early in the summer or late in their junior year by mail or email. Most information about the interviews is also available online at: <http://www.alma.edu/services/thecenter/career/ocint.htm>

The Center requires at least two days' prior notification to cancel an interview.

The Center's Career Preparation program began in 1977 with the aid of a Federal Kellogg Grant. It is still readying students for careers in almost all fields today.

Mindy Sargent, another associate dean in the Center, also helps to assist underclassmen in their endeavors to choose a career path through internships and planning programs.

Upcoming programs by the Center to prepare students for interviews include the "Dress and Dine for Success" program on Oct. 11 and the

Career Exploration (Explo) on Oct. 13.





# Urban Legends disappoints viewers with final cut

By OLGA WROBEL  
Staff Writer

Is there anyone out there who remembers all the *Scream* movies? How about that profound pair of *I Know What You Did Last Summer* flicks? Does *Halloween* ring a bell? For most people, the answer would be yes, unfortunately, and yes again. Unless one is in the mood for another dose of voluptuous blonde girls running around screaming like hyenas, or a scary guy who always wears some kind of white mask, then do not see *Urban Legends: The Final Cut*.

*Urban Legends: The Final Cut* stars Jennifer Morrison as Amy, a student at Alpine University, who is working on her senior thesis — a movie for her film class. She decides to base it on a college campus where students are being brutally slayed in a pattern following different urban legends.

Amy is hoping to win the Hitchcock award, an honor that basically guarantees a Hollywood filmmaking career. Other potentials for the award include the “cute” boy, Travis (Matthew Davis), the dark mysterious type, Toby (Anson Mount) and the rich kid, Graham, played by ...ahem...*Joseph* Lawrence (whoa!). With so much competition for this prestigious award, of course trouble arises.

The murders begin, and the killer tries to make Amy’s film “come alive.” However, the first death is the only actual urban legend in the whole film. A girl wakes up in a tub of ice, with her internal organs missing. After this scene, many of the murders don’t actually happen; the viewer is only watching the cast film Amy’s movie.

After a while, the movie just becomes one big, soap opera-inspired mess. One of the dead character’s twin brother arrives

mysteriously. The strange French director disappears every time a murder occurs. Amy always seems to be walking around the campus alone at night, even though she is aware her life is in grave danger. The basic concept is that the whole movie is a movie inside a movie.

*Urban Legends: The Final Cut* has no good qualities. It was a combination of horror genre cliches: “What was that sound? Thank goodness, it was just a bird flying by. Oh no! The main character is about to get murdered in the middle of the film! Wait, that can’t happen, it’s only a dream.” And remember: if you are trying to escape from a killer, always run either a) upstairs, or b) in the middle of the dark scary woods. These two examples do not even begin to explain the predictability and stupidity of this movie.

The concept was not the only poor quality. The script is not in

the least bit humorous or creative. The actors are stiff, and way too melodramatic. Sorry, Joseph Lawrence, but a fabulous Hollywood career in your post-“Blossom” days is very unlikely.

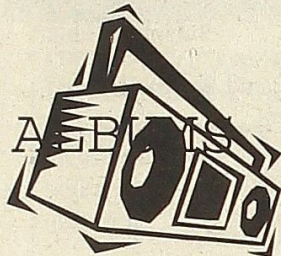
This brings up another drawback of *Urban Legends: The Final Cut*. In the trailers and previews, Joseph Lawrence is shown quite a few times, as his name is the most known. However, he is rarely even seen in the movie.

Overall, *Urban Legends: The Final Cut* is reminiscent of cheesy 80’s horror films. It is time that Hollywood moves on to a new idea — the whole teenage slasher movie concept is overused.

Grade: F

(From Box Office Top Ten)

1. Urban Legends: The Final
2. Cut
3. The Exorcist
4. Almost Famous
5. Bring it On
6. The Watcher
7. Bait
8. Nurse Betty
9. What Lies Beneath
10. Space Cowboys



Top Tens Songs of the Week  
(From Billboard.com)

1. “Music” Madonna
2. “Give Me Just One Night (Una Noche)” 98 Degrees.
3. “Doesn’t Really Matter” Janet Jackson
4. “Jumpin Jumpin” Destiny’s Child
5. “Kryptonite” Three Doors Down
6. “Bag Lady” Ērykah Badu
7. “With Arms Wide Open” Creed
8. “Incomplete” Sisqo
9. “Bent” Matchbox 20
10. “Country Grammar” Nelly

www.What!?!

BackForwardStopRefreshHomeAC

Address: www.What!?!Go

www.bushdance.com

Sometimes the best political Websites are the ones that are completely irrelevant. This site may not have a message, or political agenda, but it doesn't have funny animated pictures of George Jr. dancing.

www.hillary2000.com

If you don't care to join them, beat them... the domain name was bought by a bunch of Republicans and has now become the Official Anti-Hillary Clinton Campaign Website. It includes mock campaign slogans, amusing opinions and order forms for Stop Hillary Buttons.

www.viewaskew.com

If you are a fan of writer-director Kevin Smith —Clerks, Mallrats, Chasing Amy and Dogma—this site is a must-see. It includes news, interviews and information on the ill-fated animated Clerks TV series.

www.harrypotter.com

Can't get enough of Harry in the four books? Check out this site, with information on Harry and the Sorcer's Stone—The Movie which should hit theaters next summer.

Book Review by Ginger Davis

## Believing in magic: wizards, goblets and fun for all ages

Americans love rags-to-riches stories, and the tale of J.K. Rowling — a single parent who created the Harry Potter series on napkins in street cafes — is one of the best ones to hit popular culture in quite a while. Nearly every child and adult in America has heard of Harry Potter, the boy wizard from the British Isles who has become more of a pop phenomenon than “Survivor.” And, unlike “Survivor,” anyone who is not familiar with Harry Potter is missing out.

The fourth book in Rowling’s series of seven, *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, was the best-seller on Amazon.com for months before the book even hit stores. Rowling could have reprinted one of the early books, substituting new character names and she still would have had enough money from sales to buy a small country. Instead, Rowling outdid herself. *The Goblet of Fire* is 734 pages — alas, the poor parents who promised to read this to their children — of smart, entertaining reading.

*The Goblet of Fire* may be classified as a children’s book but anyone, from senior citizens to college students, will enjoy Harry Potter’s adventures and misadventures. There’s lighthearted fun — turning bullies into bouncing ferrets — but there’s much more to these books than just silliness and spells. Rowling uses the evil wizard, Lord Voldemort, to illustrate the fact that good and evil exists within all of us. In an earlier book, Harry learned that he and Voldemort come from very similar backgrounds and possess similar talents, but

Harry’s choices are what set him apart from the Dark Wizard. It would be easy to make Harry’s world black and white, with the only decisions being right and wrong, but like the real world, it is more complicated than that.

Rowling’s greatest gift is her ability to make characters real and appealing. Harry Potter, now 14 years old, is an ideal hero because he does not always make the right decision. He is sneaky, breaks rules and some of his decisions are downright foolish. However, Harry has a good heart and because of this, the reader loves him and his flaws.

Critics have made much of the fact that this book is darker and more violent than the other. The darkness of *Goblet* is merely proof that Rowling is telling the story she wants to tell. She could have toned down the story to please parents but instead chose to be true to her story. When addressing the school after a tragedy, Harry’s headmaster, Drumbledore, said, “The ministry of Magic does not wish me to tell you this. It is possible

that some of your parents will be horrified that I have done so.” Drumbledore does not spare his students the truth, because he is confident that they can handle it. Perhaps he in some form is the author: like Drumbelore, Rowling does not spare her readers the story because she is certain they can handle it.

It is too easy and cliché to say that anything as popular as Harry Potter cannot be good. These books sell because Rowling is a talented, hardworking writer and because the child in all of us needs be indulged every now and then.



# Play “transports” the audience

By RACHEL KUHLM  
Staff Writer

Imagine being confined to a cell deep inside the belly of a sailing ship. There is no sunlight or fresh air and only a limited supply of food. You share these cramped quarters with five others, each of you chained and shackled for the duration of a 5-month voyage to an uncharted land. This is the setting for the upcoming Alma College Theatre production, “Female Transport,” written by Steven Goch.

The play is directed by Joseph Jezewski, associate professor of theatre. The setting of the story is a female cell within a convict ship traveling from England to Australia in 1807. According to Jezewski, the play “more than anything is about how this very different group of women begin by reacting with an every-man-for-themselves mentality, but then find their individual strengths that come from working together.”

The subject matter of the play is extremely serious and intense. It includes language and physical violence that may not be appropriate for all audience members.

“The language fits the characters, but the toughest thing has been in (capturing) the roughness of the characters,” said senior Shania Hewitt, who plays the role of one of the convicts in the production.

Junior Mark Penzian, who plays one of the shipmates, agrees with Hewitt. “It’s tough having to be pushy towards the women. It’s tough verbally, but especially physically.”

While the play itself is fictional, the story is

based on actual events that took place during the late 1700’s to mid-1800’s in colonial England. Due to urbanization as a result of the Industrial Revolution, there was a sharp increase in petty theft crimes. As the prisons became overcrowded, the convicts were shipped to the then uncharted continent of Australia.

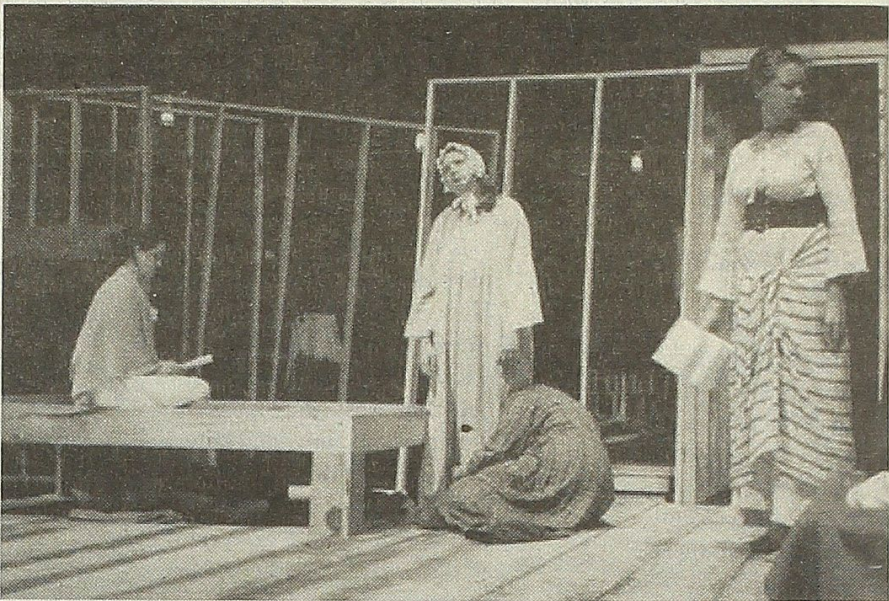
“The convicts had no idea what to expect. Today it would be like sending a random group of people on a rocket ship to the moon,” said Jezewski.

At first the transports of convicts were headed by the British Navy. The responsibility was soon delegated to mercenary sailors whose motives were primarily to gain monetary profit from the voyages. This resulted in less concern for the health and safety, and harsher treatment of the inmates.

“Because of the harsh treatment the women get, they must become strong in order to survive,” said Jezewski.

The play incorporates all aspects of the convicts’ experiences into its approximate 2-hour running time. There are fights for food within the cell, interactions between the mercenary sailors and the women, public lashings, as well as real shackles, real chains and real bars surrounding the set. The makeup and costuming add to the dramatic effect the horrendous voyage for these women, and for the convicts in general. Audiences will appreciate both the experiences of the characters and the precision given to the overall details of this real-life historical drama.

“Female Transport” will be performed Oct. 12-15 at the Heritage Center.



Submitted Photo

Amanda Terrill (04), Sandra Patrick (04), Erin Hasty (03) and Shania Hewitt (01) rehearse for “Female Transports”

## “The Nutcracker” coming in November

By CARDELL JOHNSON  
Staff Writer

It’s that time of year again. A time when we seem to forget our problems and groove into the holiday spirit. A time when we reunite with loved ones and discuss embarrassing childhood memories, and a time when shopping becomes hectic, yet enjoyable.

If these holiday thoughts are getting you down, revive your spirit by dropping by the Heritage Center to view one of five spectacular performances of “The Nutcracker” ballet.

“The Nutcracker” will open on Thursday, Nov. 16 at 8:00p.m. It will conclude with its fifth and final performance on Sunday, Nov. 19 at 3:00p.m. The ballet is choreographed by Thomas Morris, professor of theatre and dance, and is comprised of Alma College students (including members of the Alma College Dance Company), community members, and professional guests from the Grand Rapids Ballet.

“The Nutcracker” is originally based on *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King* written by E.T.A. Hoffman. The book begins with a little girl name Marie. She is confined in a loveless household fighting bloody battles against a mouse king with seven heads.

However, when the story was choreographed into a play, it was based on a revised version of the story by Alexander Dumas. His version reflects what we have come to love as the Nutcracker Ballet.

“The Nutcracker” is a holiday fairy tale about a young girl, Clara, and her favorite Christmas. Her grandfather, Drosselmeier, is a magical, mysterious character in her life. This Christmas, he gives her a special present, a Nutcracker doll. She receives the present from him at the annual family party.

Clara is very excited about her new doll and wishes to stay up all night with it, but is sent to bed by her family. After the guests leave and the family is asleep, she sneaks downstairs to look at her Nutcracker doll. She eventually falls asleep, and begins to dream about the doll.

“The Nutcracker” is a very delightful ballet. However, it is not performed every year. According to Judy Martin, technical administrator of the Heritage Center, “there are a number of factors why the ballet is not performed each year.” People would simply get tired of coming each year. But when it is performed every other year, people look forward to attending the event.

### WQAC Schedule

WQAC 90.9fm	Monday	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Friday	Sat.	Sunday
4:00pm	rotation					Biscuit's Basement (local music)	
5:00							
6:00	Rock/ Alternative Variety		All Women's	Big Dum Show (classic rock)	Canadian & Brit Pop	r o t a t i o n	WQAC Top 30
7:00	Instant Pleasure (variety)	Artist Showcase	Music	All Wax			Countdown
8:00	Hipple	Easy Metal	70% H <sub>2</sub> O	Bop & Beyond	House of Trance Ill-Vania		(listen for giveaways)
9:00	Music	Quack Yak! (talk show)	(world music)	(Jazz)	(techno)		Classic Rock
10:00	Jam	the 12-Gauge	Bad Transitions	Urban Jam Zone	Christian Music		Variety
11:00	Bands	(metal)	(variety)				
midnight	Ska Bonanza	Dead Heaven	Geology Class (rock)	Erickson Clinic	all times not filled are rotation - the best mix of new music & classic alternative favorites requests? x7301		
1:00am	Ska	(Industrial & goth)		(modern rock innovators)			



Entertainment Briefs

Puff Daddy to stand trial

Sean “Puffy” Combs stood trial Thursday for weapons charges. He was officially charged and will stand trial sometime in January. His girlfriend, Jennifer Lopez, who was present during the time of the alleged incident, was not charged.

Oscar winner hospitalized

Billy Bob Thornton, Oscar winner and husband of Angelina Jolie, returned home Wednesday after being hospitalized for a viral infection.

California girls are the luckiest people in the world...

Barbara Striesand gave her last concert in Madison Square Garden Thursday to a sold out crowd. She has put her New York co-op on the market, and soon plans to vacate the city and take up permanent residence in California.

Even more of a good thing...

The Dixie Chicks are set to add 15 more dates to their tour schedule. The new dates will be sometime in November.

Why animators nationwide are cheering...

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has added a new category—“Best Animated Film”—to its roster.

Etheridge and Cypher go their separate ways...

Melissa Etheridge and Julie Cypher have called it quits. The couple, who share two children, bought adjoining homes so they can share a backyard as well.

Jim Morrison is alive?

Maybe not, but you don’t have to be alive to record new songs. Thanks to technology, John Lee Hooker is working on a duet of “Roadhouse Blues.” with Morrison, which will be released on a tribute in November.

More than just iMac’s

Computer and Media Services welcomes a new face

By SEAN WILSON  
Staff Writer

The candy apple green iMac’s are not the only new addition to Computer and Media Services — this fall Michael Thomas joined the department.

As a technical support specialist under the Computer and Media Services department, Thomas is primarily responsible for ensuring that Alma’s computer network and individual machines are running properly. He presently specializes in the maintenance and repair of Macintosh computers.

He will work with the Digital Equipment Corporation’s VAX’s and Alphas, helping the vastly complicated College network, with its 600 workstations and 400 facilitating microcomputers, to run more smoothly and quickly.

“I’m pretty good at this sort of thing,” said Thomas.

He holds a Bachelor’s degree in Applied Arts from the University of Michigan and previously held positions in graphic design and marketing at Northern Michigan. Prior to coming to Alma College in August, Thomas worked as an Arts/Communications specialist where he directed advertisement

and layout activities in various official publications.

“He has good experience working with both Mac and Intel based computers,” said Jay Chapin, administrator for client support for computer and media services.

Thomas came to Alma during a time of great changes in his life. He entered this new position while balancing the great joy of an infant daughter (as of the printing of this article, Emily will be exactly nineteen days old) with the grief of a lost loved one. His mother-in-law passed away on the Nov. 6.

“She missed the birth of her granddaughter by about a week,”

said Thomas.

Thomas and his wife live in the city of Alma, and it was in order to assist his ailing mother-in-law that he sought a position so near to home. His wife Daniela was a former Alma College student. Reverend Jesse Perry performed their marriage in the Chapel, with the reception held just a short walk away in the VanDusen.

His hobbies include reading, and writing letters to friends.

“Recently, taking care of Emily has been prevalent for Daniela and I,” he said.

Music Review by Cardell Johnson

98 Degrees surpasses boy band expectations

With their new album *Revelation*, 98 degrees proves they’re not just another boy band. According to soundscan, *Revelation* has sold over 200,000 copies since its release on Sept. 26. These sales should be strong enough to remove the overly-anticipated *Music* by Madonna from the number one spot on the Billboard Charts.

*Revelation* is filled with potential chart topping hits like “The Way You Want Me To,” “You Don’t Know,” and their current number two single, “Give Me Just One Night (Una Noche).”

The album is well balanced. It contains an equal amount of up-beat dance tracks and slow ballads. “He’ll Never Be What I Used To Be To You” is an example of their new hip-hoppish, R&B sound.

98 degrees shines with their ballads. “My Everything” is the best slow jam on *Revelation*. It is destined to reach number one. This past week, MTV conducted a listening party for fans. They asked viewers to select the next single from the album. Hands down, “My Everything” won by 600 votes.

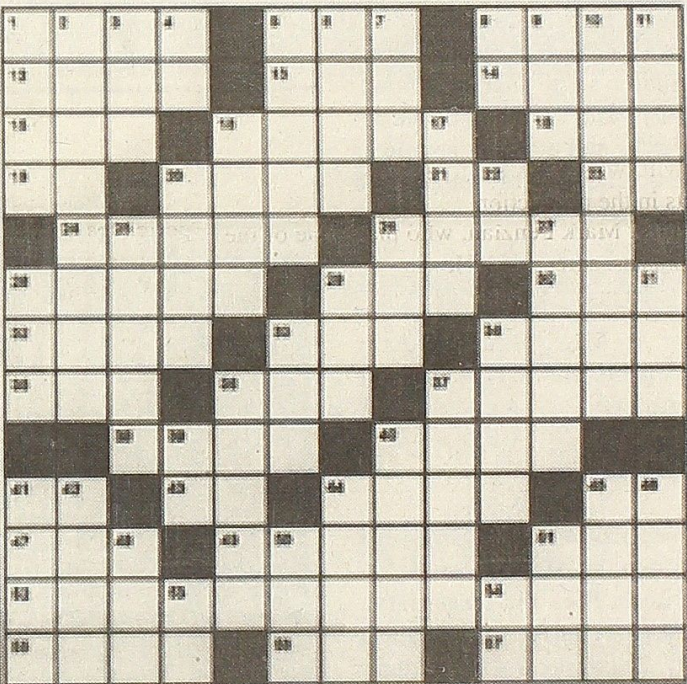
It doesn’t stop there — the following track “You Should be Mine” is another ballad that will scorch the charts and air waves

if released as a single. “Always You and I” is the album’s final cut. It is one of the group’s most mature ballads. However, it sounds like a rip-off of sappy, yet heartfelt ballads written and produced by singer Mariah Carey. This shows a lack of creativity on the group’s part. “Stay the Night” also seems to be out of place. It is unoriginal and mocks the sound of the untalented and overrated Backstreet Boys.

However, *Revelation* is a well-crafted album overall, and deserves recognition. The group experimented with different genres of music, making the album much more exciting. The album is also very mature and laid back. The group co-wrote five tracks, which are two steps forward from their previous efforts.

“I’m really feelin’ this album,” said Jennifer Wuorenmaa (02). “It has such a good vibe, starting with ‘Give Me Just One Night (Una Noche),’ that you cannot resist purchasing the album.”

From the looks of it, 98 degrees should continue their success with this album. For more information on 98 degrees visit [www.imusic.com](http://www.imusic.com), [www.billboard.com](http://www.billboard.com) and [www.mtv.com](http://www.mtv.com).



ACROSS

- 1 Largest continent
- 5 Direction (abbr.)
- 8 Diplomacy
- 12 Quiet, not working
- 13 Rule
- 14 You (archaic)
- 15 One
- 16 House overhangings
- 18 Girl's name
- 19 News agency (abbr.)
- 20 Gull
- 21 Western state (abbr.)
- 23 Southern state (abbr.)
- 24 Rent
- 26 E. African tribe
- 28 Scope
- 29 Noise
- 30 Southern state (abbr.)
- 32 Bat
- 33 Smack
- 34 Association (abbr.)
- 35 Preparing golf ball
- 36 Direct an arrow
- 37 Eight singers
- 38 Them
- 40 Completely true
- 41 Egyptian sun god
- 43 Musical note
- 44 Female suffix
- 45 Creek (abbr.)
- 47 Collection of poems
- 49 Lettuce preparation
- 51 Lion
- 52 Southern state
- 55 To the inside
- 56 Direction (abbr.)
- 57 Able to gain entry

DOWN

- 1 Region
- 2 Water aircraft
- 3 Skilled person (suf.)
- 4 Near
- 6 Make happy
- 8 Central part of church
- 7 Female sheep
- 8 Small man's initials
- 9 Surprised expression
- 10 Shake violently
- 11 Canned fish
- 16 At rest
- 17 Read quickly
- 20 Wife
- 22 Top
- 25 Go in
- 26 Small portion
- 27 Small tale
- 28 Rodent
- 29 Faintly lighted
- 31 Plentiful pest
- 33 Male pronoun
- 34 43,500 sq. ft.
- 36 Washed by waves
- 37 Better than
- 38 Derived or coming from
- 40 Gate
- 41 Wife of a rajah
- 42 At another time
- 44 Dash
- 45 Hereditary unit
- 46 Chestnut-colored horse
- 48 Craft
- 50 High card
- 51 Part of face
- 53 At
- 54 Behold



October 3, 2000

## FEATURE

8

# Madagascar

*Senior Stacy Turschack spent Winter Term 2000 in Madagascar studying conservation and ecology. The following are pieces of poetry she wrote portraying her experiences.*

## SurvivingWriter'sBlock

How is it that when I have more to say than ever before, I can't write? Five minutes and I have five ideas, but the words won't come. Madagascar is too real, too overwhelming, too big to capture. And I'm too close to break off a piece of the whole.

## The FirstNights

I lie on my hard, lumpy-bunk. Sweaty and desperately in need of a bathroom. Animals outside the window snap, snarl and howl. Logically I know it's a squabble between dogs and maybe a couple of chickens. They sound vicious. The twenty meters to the outhouses seems endless. I wish desperately for someone to walk with me. Shaking and shivering despite the heat I head for the door. My Maglight clutched in my slippery palm. Maybe I am afraid of the dark.

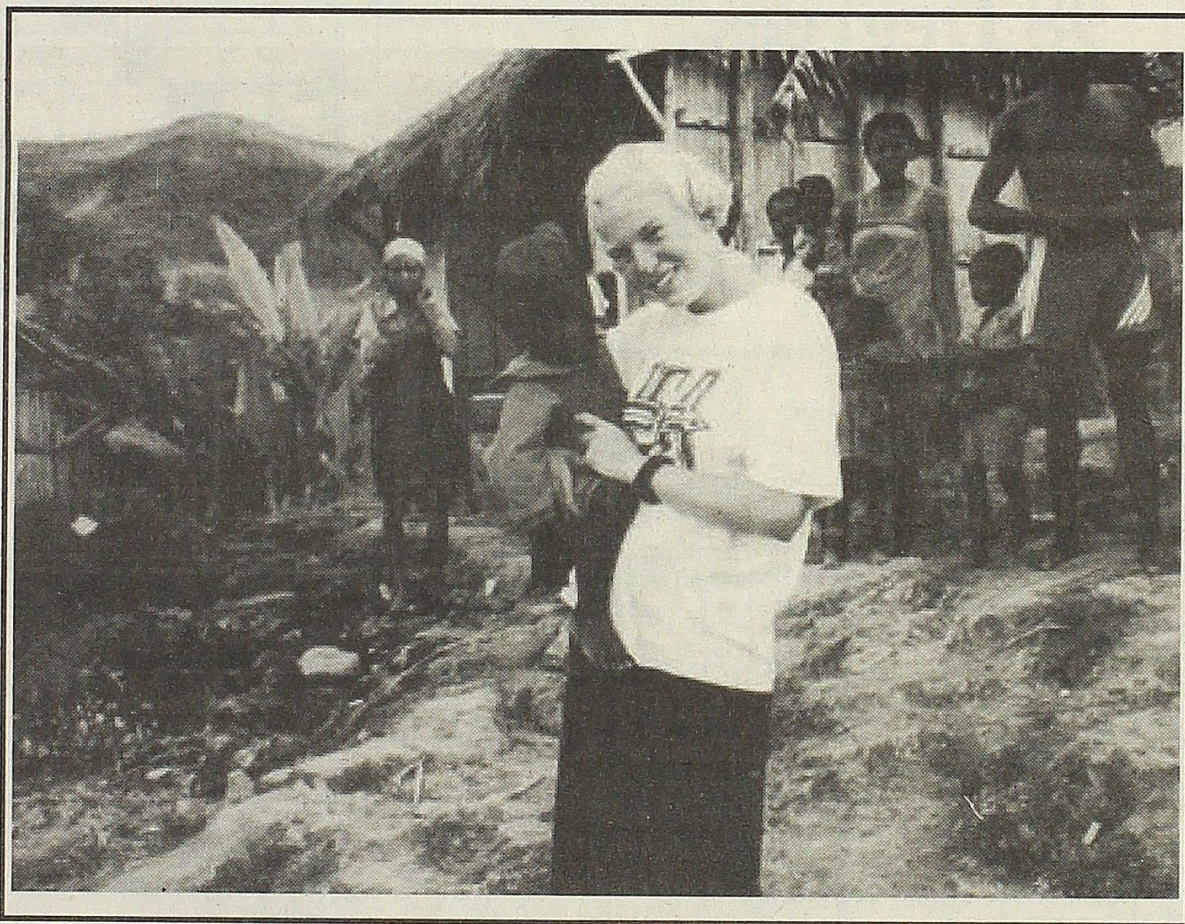
## Bucket Baths

The green plastic bucket slurped as I push it into the barrel of water . . . mosquitoes, flies and insect larva float along the surface. A testament to safety. Letting the water stand three days kills the parasites that can crawl through skin and creep through the body to invade blood, liver, and eventually brain. But the stagnant water provides a pleasant breeding ground for all those insects. One parasite for another. If you consider insects parasites. I'm starting to learn that parasite in Madagascar means life-threatening. I try, but don't quite succeed in avoiding the collection of invertebrates. Good enough. Dumping a large plastic mug into the bucket I head to my pre-selected stall. Dove soap and Pantene wait beside by semi-clean dress and an already mildewing towel. Nothing dries in the stagnant, saturated air. I peel away my single layer of clothing to reveal swollen overheated skin. I vaguely wonder if my shoes still fit. Relief. I already hate the thin green cotton awaiting me. Only my Teva sandals remain. One look reveals a floor coated with soap-scum, mildew and unidentifiable sludge. My feet can stay dirty. A deep breath. Squared shoulders. I step behind the shower curtain into the gray slime. The heavy heat plummets to a damp chill. A mug full of icy, almost insect free water. I go for it. Water splashes onto my breasts and streams down my body. My nipples tighten and I struggle not to scream. My sharp intake of breath. Another dose. Another gasp. My hair. I curse softly. Safe for bathing doesn't mean safe for drinking . . . especially since it's flies that carry cholera. Didn't I mention that? A cholera epidemic is sweeping the country. I pinch my lips closed and brace myself. Water flows over my head. I struggle not to gasp. I hiss through clenched teeth, unable to keep my lips sealed. Didn't quite succeed. A few drops — better than

a mouthful, but cholera is cholera.

## Vazah

Vazah that's what I am here. I'm still not sure what it means. White person, French, Foreigner. It doesn't really matter. Being a vazah has privileges. Respect. Authority. Fear. That gets to me. I can handle the staring and the pointing. But not the isolation. Children peer from behind doors and around corners. I smile and make faces. They laugh and giggle. I step forward, and they run. Untouchable. All I want is to be held.



## Home

The two room, straw-roofed cabin sits perched on the edge of rolling, pastured mountains. Curled on the clean swept dirt porch, I relax. Shades of blue, pink and yellow dance with the setting sun. Content. At home, yet nothing except the patches of corn remind me of home, of Michigan. Maybe corn is the key. The quiet familiarity of farm life. And the security of knowing that each day brings another day of work in the fields.

## Donne-Moi . . .

When I first arrived I expected it . . . the hordes of stick thin people with outstretched hands. I prepared myself. I knew that filling those empty hands only produced more. That a tradition of handouts kept children out of school to work on the streets. But reality, reality is different. In Fort Dauphin I was greeted with "bonjour vazah" as often as "donne-moi . . ." Give me . . . money, candy, pens. I ignored the

outstretched hands and greeted the bonjours with a smile and "salama" Malagasy for hello. The number of hands decreased and smiles increased. My guard slipped. I filled the hands that remained with I'm sorry smiles. I walked alone without fear. After three weeks I was home. I knew Fort Dauphin and Fort Dauphin knew me. So that last day in the market, I wandered through the crowds with my basket looking for garlic, onions and cucumbers. As I paid for my kilo of tomatoes an old man held out his hat. A polite "no." No eye contact. He followed me . . . holding out his hat each time I paused to look or buy. He followed. He followed. At the stand where I bought tomato-boite and chocolate, I finally turned. Met his eyes. Snarled "NO!" Pushed past him. When did I become uncaring and cold?

## Norwegian Pines

Before I left for Madagascar I thought I was an environmentalist. But after only two weeks here Norwegian Pines and trash have taught me differently. Hypocrite. In fact I don't think it's possible to be an American environmentalist. Hypocrites. America condemns developing countries for destroying their environment. . . . Funny these people waste nothing. Notebook paper: school work, homework problems, and finally toilet paper. Me, I'm different. Wrappers from cheese, crackers, cookies, candy-lunch. I produce more waste in a day than the average Malagasy family produces

in a week. But still that can be forgiven. After all, I don't have a place to cook lunch. Right? But wait, it was also me that fell in love with Madagascar's Norwegian Pines. I know they are exotic. That native growth was cut to make room for them. But I don't care. I care that I can smell pines and imagine for just a moment that I'm home.

## CulturallyParalyzed

Through the barred window I watch. The street outside teams with life-cars, people, cows in a melange of coming, going and selling. Shouts and beeps scream over the music of the Coca-Cola Epicerie open late for the Malagasy who wait for the nine thirty taxi-brousse to Tamatave. In the bleach white silence of my hotel room, a single bed waits and I watch. Alone. Culturally paralyzed . . . the bars mock me. Security. Safety. It's fear that holds me. Fear of a language I do not know. Fear of leers and stares and grabs. Fear that another child will run in terror when I smile.



October 3, 2000

## SPORTS

9

## Men's soccer ties Kalamazoo, defeats Adrian

By DARBY CORNELIUS  
Staff Writer

The Alma College men's soccer team (5-4-1, 2-0-1 MIAA) captured a tie at home in the conference game against Kalamazoo College last Saturday.

Junior Jeremiah Roberts scored the lone goal on an assist from junior Adam Sobczak. A Roberts ball hit the net at the 88:35 mark in the second half to bump the score to 1-1. The game went into overtime. Double overtime followed and the game remained a tie.

Kalamazoo's Matt Poniatowski scored for the Hornets at 62:38 in the second half.

The Scots outshot Kalamazoo 16-10. Alma goalkeeper senior Sean Byram recorded six saves.

"It was a tight game the whole way, and we really played hard in overtime," said Byram.

The home field advantage is always a factor in the intensity of play, and Alma proved to be ready to challenge the Hornets. The Scots expected good competition from Kalamazoo, and they returned the intensity to tie the game.

The Scots are still vying for the conference title, and with the tie, they are a half-game back of the Kalamazoo Hornets (6-2-1, 3-01). They are not going to let up, and are looking forward with confidence to the next conference game. And the next, until they seize the MIAA title.

Last Tuesday, the Scots downed Adrian 3-1 on the road to stay undefeated in the MIAA. Adrian now falls to 2-5, 0-2 in the MIAA.

The Scots upset the scoring by outshooting the Bulldogs 33-3 throughout the contest. Alma played

Adrian's Shawn Soudek put one on the board in the first 42 seconds of the game, giving Adrian a 1-0 lead.

Roberts and senior Paul Aceto each found the net to raise the score to 2-1 before the half was over. Junior Jeff Hosler had an assist on Aceto's goal.

The end of the first half did not signal the end of the Scots' scoring. Aceto put one past the Bulldog goalie on an assist by Ryan U'Ren with 25:05 left in the game.

The Scots travel to Calvin on October 4 to take on the Knights at 4 p.m. They then travel to Olivet on Saturday.



Photo by Bryan Waugh

A player heads the ball during their game against Kalamazoo on Saturday

## 25 unanswered points lead to football loss

By BRIAN ROCKWELL  
Staff Writer

The teams combined for one first down and four possessions in the first 12 minutes of the game.

Alma jumped on the scoreboard with 2:55 left in the first quarter when running back Tom Devore capped a 13-play drive with a six-yard scoring run.

Hanover, which had a trio of three-and-out possessions in the first quarter, got the ball deep in Alma territory at the end of the first period when cornerback Marty Adkins intercepted senior quarterback Brandon Wrobel's pass at the Scots' 16-yard-line.

The Panthers tied the game two plays later when quarterback Eric Bruns connected with receiver Jeffrey Jourdan with an 11-yard touchdown pass at the 14:54 mark of the second quarter. The Panthers added to the margin three minutes before the intermission. Bruns lofted a pass ahead of the secondary, which senior receiver John Agan was able to pull in and ramble 35 yards for a touchdown to put Hanover on top 14-7 with 2:59 left in the half.

The Scot's struggled to keep their offense on the field as Hanover dominated the time of possession in the third period. Panther's kicker B.J. Black closed a 15-play, six-minute, 15-second drive with a 41-yard field goal to give the Panthers a 17-7 cushion at the 8:45 mark of the third quarter.

Alma's offense started sputtering again early in the fourth when Hanover's defense created a scoring opportunity. After Hanover's Bruns had been intercepted in the end zone by the senior Steve Alley, Alma's first play from scrimmage resulted in a safety for Hanover when the center's snap sailed over Wrobel's head and rolled an additional 15 yards into the end zone.

Trailing 19-7, the Scot's gave up a touchdown midway through the final period when Bruns hit receiver Terrell Cummings from five yards out to seal the game. The extra-point attempt smacked the left upright, providing the final margin of victory.

Brandon Wrobel had had another fine game for Alma, completing 26-51 passes for 259 yards with and one interception. Once again the Scots had trouble moving the ball on the ground. Alma Carried the ball twenty-eight times for a lackluster fifty-two yards rushing.

Hanover, however, had no trouble running the ball, totaling 104 yards on 29 rushes. starting running backs Travis Morris and Todd England combined for 86 yards. Morris ran for 44 yards on six carries and England gained 42 yards on nine rushes.

Alma's defense was led by David Simpson, who once again led the Scots in tackles, including one for loss and a blocked pass. Steve Alley also had a good defensive effort and was in on six tackles and recorded one interception.

## Scots finish well, despite injuries

By BRIAN ROCKWELL  
Staff Writer

Despite injuries and top runners resting their legs the Alma Scots finished better than expected at Earlham, Indiana last Saturday.

Running an extremely tough course in very hot weather and racing against more than twenty teams from all over the nation the women finished tenth and the men finished twelve respectively.

Coach Dan Gibson was very happy with the way his teams ran. "We did extremely well given the conditions we ran with. The course was slow and had lots of hills. It was very hot out so the weather wasn't great for running," Gibson said. "We had a lot of our best runners sit out. For the girls we rested our top runner sophomore Darby Cornelius and the girls still placed very well. Amanda Ufer ran hard for us and was our first girl in. Four out of our top five guys didn't run and everyone stepped up so we still finished extremely well, which just shows how good our depth is. Andrew Kibbe ran a great race for us. He's been running fourth or fifth for us for most of the year and he wasn't even in the top seven last year, but he was our number one guy Saturday, which was real impressive effort on his part. Overall I was extremely effort with out performance. We did much better than we had any right to, considering the kids we sat today(Saturday)."

The Women's team was lead by Amanda Ufer (03) finishing thirty-third with a time of 21:14. Emily Brezcinski (04) came it at 21:27 for a forty-fourth place finish. Brezcinski was followed by Stacy Tuershak (01) who finished forty-seventh in 21:37. Amanda Duesendang (02) came in fifty-first in 21:45 and Jillian Pfeffer (04) finished in 22:03 to round out the Scot's scoring.

Andrew Kibbe (02) led the way for the men's team with a time of 28:35 for a top twenty-five finish. Reid McGuire (02) followed Kibbe in with a time of 28:39, good for twenty-seventh place. Ryan Rau (02) finished in 29:29 for forty-sixth. Adam Sudia (03) finished seventy-third in 30:30 and Mark Williams (01) came in eighty-sixth with a time of 31:14 to finish the Scot's top five.

(see CC page 10)



# Conference battles: Alma vs. St. Mary's and Calvin volley for Conference

## *Scots stand strong, conference upsets continue*

by DARBY CORNELIUS  
Staff Writer

The Alma College volleyball team defeated Saint Mary's 3-1 (15-10, 15-5, 15-12) last Sunday in another conference matchup. Senior Meghann Devlin led the way for Alma with 14 kills and six blocks. Junior Jaime Lippert posted 2 assists, 11 digs and two aces, while senior Andrea Horton put two aces on the board. Sophomore Katie Moll posted 12 digs.

Last Saturday, the Scots competed in a tournament at Madonna University, splitting 1-1 for the day. Alma fell to Madonna in straight sets in the first match (12-15, 8-15, 5-15), but bounced back to pick up a tough 3-2 (15-8, 15-14, 16-12, 15-12, 11-15) win over the University of Windsor in the second match.

Devlin led the Scots with 21 kills and 12 blocks in the two matches, while Lippert added 2 assists. Moll tallied 41 digs and junior Alissa Asch posted three aces for Alma.

Alma fell to the Calvin Knights in straight sets last Friday for their second conference loss of the season.

The first game ended 15-9, followed by two 5-6 games, all in Calvin's favor. First-year student Stacey Moyer led the Scots with eight kills, while Devlin had 6 kills, 3 blocks and three digs. Lippert added 17 assists.

The Scots struggled defensively throughout the match, letting too many balls hit the floor on their side. They had been playing more intense defense earlier in the season, and are determined to step out of the current slump.

Part of the problem may have been a lack of confidence.

"We didn't play up to our potential, and the nights weren't afraid of us," said Moyer.

Head Coach Penny Allen-Cook is optimistic about the rest of the season. The team's ultimate goal is to win the MIAA title.

"We've been playing well this season and we certainly aren't going to let this loss set us back," said Allen-Cook.

In a matchup last Tuesday at home against Adrian, the Scots won all five games. The match added to a four-match conference win streak.

"We stayed tough through all five games to come away with the win," said sophomore Megan Cook.

Devlin dominated with 25 kills and six blocks in the night. Sophomore Theresa Miller and Cook each posted 14 digs, while Horton led the Scots in serving with two aces.

Lippert tallied 47 assists, to add to her 669 in the season. She was named MIAA "Player of the Week" for Sept. 17, playing a major role in the three straight conference wins.

Alma's standings are now 13-11, 6-2 MIAA. The Scots travel to Kalamazoo College on Wednesday, Oct. 4. They will then host games against Olivet on Oct. 11 and Albion on Oct. 14.

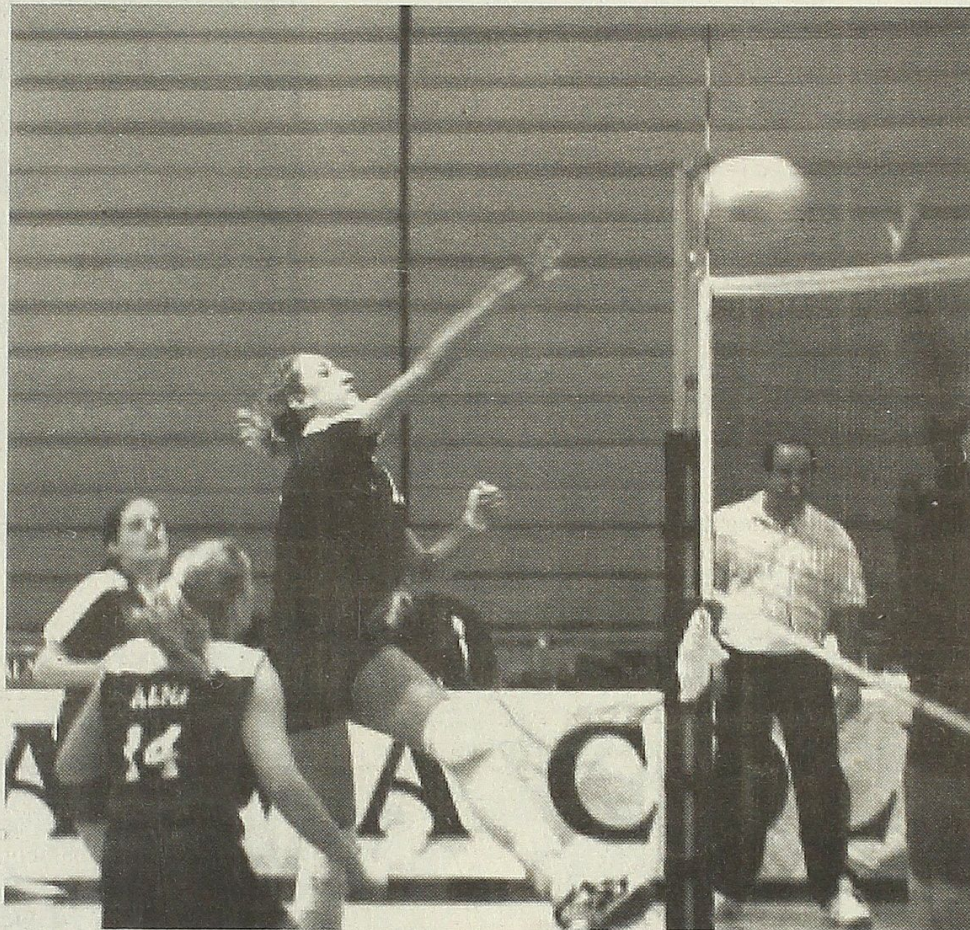


Photo by Bryan Waugh

Meghann Devlin (01) sends the ball over the net.



Photo by Bryan Waugh

Megan Cook (03) makes a great dig in their game against St. Mary's.

(CC from page 9)

The Scots have a lot to look forward to in their next race. They compete at the MIAA jamboree on October 14. Every college in the state of Michigan competes. Schools are split up into two divisions; big schools and small schools.

The Scots performed better than expected at the Jamboree last year and hope to duplicate that success this year. Coach Gibson is optimistic about his teams' chances. "We ran very well there last year, the girls were sixth and the guys also did very well," Gibson commented. "It's an important race so we rested a few of our top people last week to keep everybody healthy and hopefully have some fresh legs come a week from Saturday. I think we have a lot to look forward to this year."



October 3, 2000

## SPORTS

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## Young Sports Information Director brings experience

By AMY TAYLOR  
Managing Editor

Dennis Warden, a 1999 graduate of Central Michigan University, brings experience to Alma College as the new Sports Information Director. The journalism major replaced Eric Seiger on Monday, Sept. 25.

"Things have been going good," said Warden. "It is a wonderful staff to work with."

The 23-year old is a unique addition to the Alma College staff. In a profession dominated by mostly older personnel, Warden's young age brings with it a good deal of experience. While attending CMU, Warden devoted his time to CMU Life, Central's student newspaper, as the Sports Editor.

In addition to the university newspaper, he also worked for the Sports Information Office the last half of his senior year. After graduation, Warden worked for a little over a year at the University of Texas at Austin as the Media Relations Assistant, which is otherwise known as Sports Information.

"I thought that I was going to go into journalism, but decided to do public relations instead," said Warden. "Public

relations is a lot of fun, you get to work with many interesting people."

Growing up in Concord, the Michigan native missed his family while in Texas and decided to return home. Now he brings his talents to Alma.

"Alma is a very good college to be at. I think academically, Alma is one of the best in Michigan," said Warden.

Warden has enthusiastically started his position.

"I have already made some changes this week," he said.

These changes to the Sports Information Office include different organizational methods which he finds more comfortable and will allow others to easily find information. Warden's responsibilities as Sports Information Director include promoting the college's athletic programs and keeping the website updated. These tasks are not faced alone however, Warden has a support group in his former co-workers at Central.

Besides those objectives, Warden wants to get people all over the state to know Alma and what it is about.

"Alma is a first class college in comparison to others in the MIAA," said Warden. "We are as good as any of them."

Warden also believes that he can promote Alma at the same level as Central and Western Michigan Universities. "I want to try and get people to know where we are on the map," said Warden.

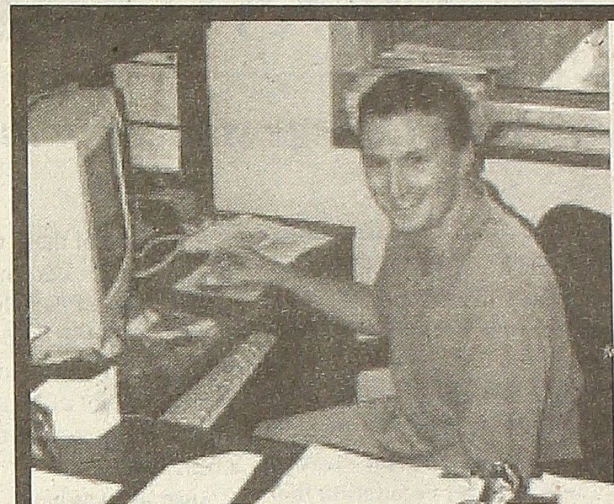


Photo by Dan Joyce

Dennis Warden, the new Sports Information Director, begins his workday.

## Men's and women's golf teams disappointed with Saturday's performances

By OLGA WROBEL  
Staff Writer

The men's golf team had reason to celebrate last Wednesday when they won their first conference tournament in three years. With a score of 401, the Scots defeated league leader Hope by just two points. The Scots also edged past Calvin, Olivet, Albion, Adrian and Kalamazoo. Junior Drew Rummel led the Scots with a par 72 game while sophomore Armond Smovelian added a 76.

Last weekend the Alma College men and women's golf teams showed strong performances. On Saturday, September 30, the lady Scots took fourth place at the MIAA tournament at Hope College, while the men took seventh in competition at Adrian.

Placing after Hope, Albion and St. Mary's, the women's team had an overall four person score of 381. Junior Lindsay Carpenter led the Scots with a score of 87. Following her strong performance were junior Julie Harris with a 94, junior Nicole Sears with a 98 and sophomore Caroline Olsson with a 102.

"We played okay," said coach Charles Goffnet. "It wasn't bad, but it was not the best we've done."

Sears agreed.

"I think we did good," Sears said. "But there is always room for improvement."

The men's team was a little disappointed in their performance.

"We didn't play very well," said coach Mark Starkweather. "We were a little upset, but hopefully we'll play better next time."

The men's overall score was 408. Top scorers included first year student Justin Desjarlais with a 78 and first year student Ryan Munro with an 80, while Smovelian and Rummel both added an 83.

"Yesterday I was satisfied with how I played," said Desjarlais. "Except I left a few shots out on the course."

The women compete this Saturday at Adrian, while the men compete Monday at Calvin, Thursday at Kalamazoo and then host the MIAA competition on Saturday at the Pine River Country Club at 1 p.m.

By DARBY CORNELIUS  
Staff Writer

The Alma women's soccer team (3-5-1, 1-4-1 MIAA) fell to Kalamazoo 10-0 last Saturday. The Hornets, who put up four goals in the first half and six goals in the second, improved their record to 6-4-1 (4-1 MIAA).

The Scot record is now 3-5-1 overall and 1-4-1 in the MIAA.

Kalamazoo outshot the Scots 33-2. Alma's junior goalkeeper Paula

Schwarz recorded 10 saves in the losing effort.

The Scots had trouble defensively against the Hornets, and just couldn't get any balls past their goalie.

Senior Gretchen Craig said, "We expected Kalamazoo to be tough, but we didn't come out ready to play."



The team is ready to take on Calvin, another conference competitor.

"We expect it to be a good game. We are mentally prepared

to do our best," said senior Kristy Hopper.

This week's game proved to be a different story than the Hope contest last week. The ending could have been happier, but the women's soccer team is ready to move on to the next chapter. The main characters will be the Scots and the Knights. This modern-day battle will take place at 4:00 on the morrow. All are welcome to attend.

The Scots host Calvin tomorrow at 4 p.m. and host Olivet Saturday at noon.

E-MAIL US WITH QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS AT  
ACUB@ALMA.EDU

CONGRATULATIONS  
TO  
AARON ENGI  
ACUB'S REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MONTH  
FOR SEPTEMBER  
Thanks for all your hard work at the All-Nighter

REMINDER NEXT ACUB REPRESENTATIVES MEETING:  
THIS WED. OCT. 4TH

Also thanks to all who helped make the All-Nighter a huge success!!!



# A postcard from Australia

*An Alma College student in the midst of Australia's Olympic games...*

By **SCOTT TIMMRECK**  
Overseas Correspondant

If television ratings are anything to go by, the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games failed to reach the majority of the American population that usually tunes into the massive sporting competition.

In fact, NBC's early ratings showed that these Games were the least popular with United States citizens since the Games of 1968 in Mexico City.

That's not the attitude in Sydney. Filling their pages and screens with the slogan "Our Olympics," the local news media began popularizing these Olympics long before most people even thought about who might light the giant torch on September 15.

But after much waiting, the Games finally officially arrived Down Under and Australia's capital put its picturesque harbor all over the world. With the sails of the Opera House gleaming in the sunshine twenty miles in the distance from the main venues, 10,500 athletes displayed their years of toil and training for all the world to watch.

A fraction of them won medals. Some got kicked out for drug abuse. Most of them had fun. The official condom supplier of the athlete's village had to deliver more product after the original 20,000 condoms had been used or taken away.

Australia was happy to be under an international spotlight. The country was proud to show that kangaroos do not run through the streets of Sydney, that koalas do not live on light poles, that Crocodile Dundee does not resemble most Australians and that not everyone wears those goofy-looking hats with very wide brims.

However, the country was proud to show its diversity (more languages are spoken in Sydney than New York City), its vastness, its very recent but interesting history and, most importantly at these Games, how much it likes to party.

Sydneysiders and all Australians partied when Cathy Freeman won a gold medal in the 400 meter dash. They made plenty of noise when their field hockey team won the gold medal and when their water polo team beat the United States for the grandest prize in the Olympics.

Aussies won gold in shooting, sailing, pole vault and swimming. Their hero, a 17-year old pool god named Ian Thorpe (who has size 17 feet), broke a number of world records despite losing the 100 meter freestyle race to Pieter van don Hoogenband.

As usual, the United States finished nicely, winning the medal count with 97 medals, 39 of them gold. Nancy Johnson won the first gold medal of the Games at the 10-meter air rifle event.

Michael Johnson again won the 400 meter dash, and Maurice Green proved he is the fastest man in the world by winning the 100 meter dash. Gary Hall Jr. and Jenny Thompson led the swimmers to 33 medals, including 14 gold medals. Wrestler Rulon Gardner beat Russian Aleksandr Karelin, who had never lost a match in a major competition.

The Williams sisters dominated the tennis courts, winning gold in the women's doubles event. The softball and baseball teams won gold, as did both basketball teams.

But once you get past the athletes, the story of the 2000 Olympic Games was Sydney. Juan Antonio Samarach, the president of the International Olympic Committee,

called these Games the "best ever" after trading that title in the 1996 Atlanta Games for the less pleasing "most exceptional."

Sydney had no major transportation issues and did not turn into an international flea market. Most importantly, there was no major tragedy like the bomb in Centennial Park that scarred the 1996 festivities.

Instead, Sydney gave the world a playground of Olympic venues and a vast plethora of quality train and ferry transport options, as well as plenty of sunshine.

The American dollar was worth \$1.84 Australian. Ninety percent of the available tickets sold, surpassing the number of ticket sales for previous Olympic Games.

Consequently, the city and the entire atmosphere were electric. People wore their souvenir t-shirts and the flags of their nations.

Happy children played in fountains and ate ice cream. Cheering adults endlessly chanted Australia's trademark cheer, "Aussie! Aussie! Aussie! Oi! Oi! Oi!," much to the eventual annoyance of more than one spectator.

No one can claim that Australians

do not love sport.

And, well, the number of people was humbling. Forget statistics—downtown was as crowded during the Closing Ceremony as New York City is on New Year's Eve. Millions of people saw these Games firsthand.

They came in all colors, all sizes and all nationalities. Asians and Americans took pictures with one another. Russians and Australians cheered on the same teams. And if you missed it, North Korea and South Korea marched together in the Parade of Nations during the Opening Ceremony. These Games were the world's games.

In light of the abundance of drugs, the emphasis on the medal tally, the gigantic media presence and the commercialization of everything, anyone can be cynical about the Olympics.

However, here in Sydney, on the world's stage, in the final year of the twentieth century, it was difficult to look beyond just what a grand event the 2000 Olympic Games were. As usual, they gave the world some surprises, some arts and some heroes. "Our Olympics" put this city and this country on the world's map, and do not look for it to leave soon.

## 2000 Summer games come to an end

By **AMY NOVAK**  
Sports Editor

As the saying goes, all good things must come to an end. The 2000 summer Olympic games are no exception. The closing ceremonies for the XXVII Olympiad took place Sunday night in Stadium Australia in front of over 110,000 people. Nearly 11,000 athletes from 199 different nations celebrated the end of the 17 day competition.

In another ceremony that celebrated the deep culture of the Australian continent, the world also looked to the future. As the Olympic flag was lowered and the flame extinguished, the audience watched as the world began to look towards the next summer Olympic competition that will be held in Athens in 2004. The Olympics originated in Athens in 776 B.C. before being abolished in 393 A.D. The Athens games will mark the first competition there since 1896.

The United States dominated the competition,

bringing home a total of 97 medals. Winning 39 gold, 25 silver and 33 bronze, the 2000 summer games were historical for the Americans. Russia had the closest number of total medals, with 88, 32 gold and 28 each of silver and bronze.

Just as the five rings of the Olympic emblem signify the union of five continents in competition, competing countries united in celebration of the joy created by the memories and victories of their winning athletes.

Americans were no exception. Remembering the huge number of U.S. gold medals, there are several moments of the 2000 games that no American will ever forget.

United States heroine Marion Jones brought home five medals, making her the first woman in track and field history to win five medals in a single Olympics, while diver Laura Wilkinson was the first American in 36 years to take home a gold medal in the women's platform.

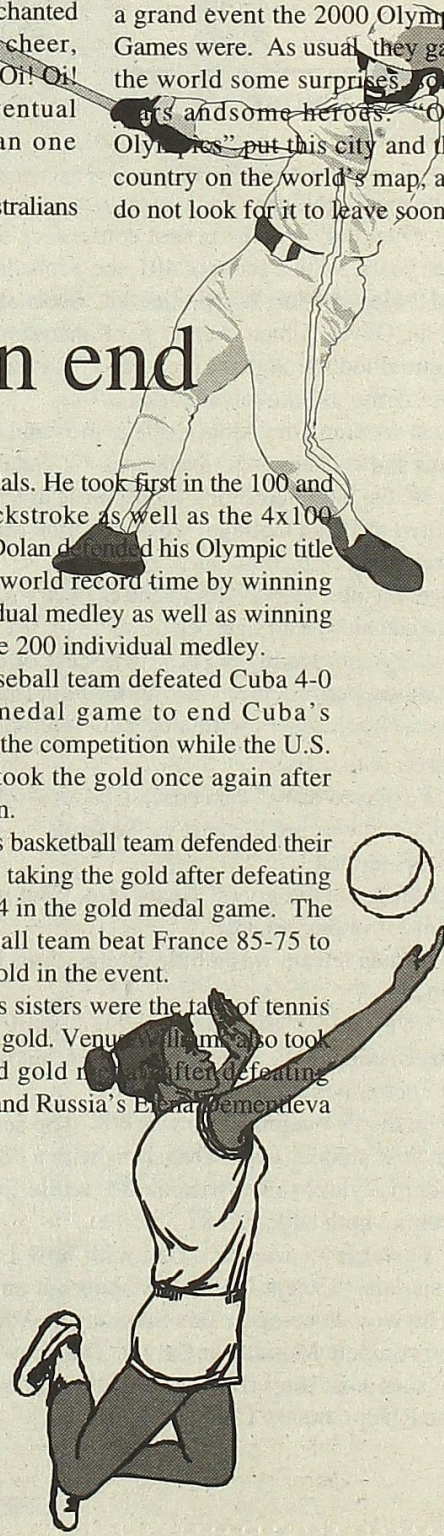
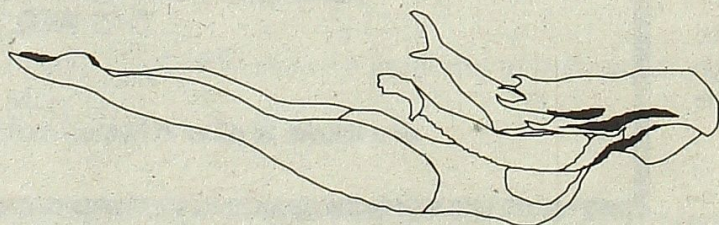
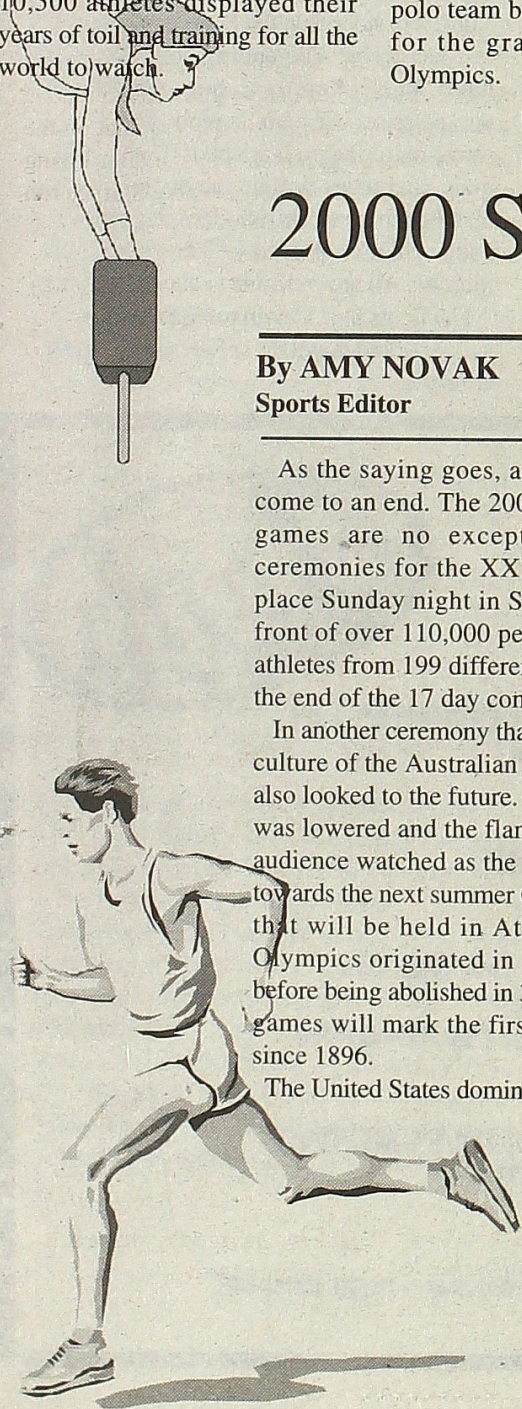
Lenny Krayselburg had tears in his eyes each time he stood on the platform to receive his

three gold medals. He took first in the 100 and 200 meter backstroke as well as the 4x100 medley. Tom Dolan defended his Olympic title and broke his world record time by winning the 400 individual medley as well as winning the silver in the 200 individual medley.

The U.S. baseball team defeated Cuba 4-0 in the gold medal game to end Cuba's domination of the competition while the U.S. softball team took the gold once again after defeating Japan.

The women's basketball team defended their 1996 medal by taking the gold after defeating Australia 76-54 in the gold medal game. The men's basketball team beat France 85-75 to also take the gold in the event.

The Williams sisters were the talk of tennis after taking the gold. Venus Williams also took home a second gold medal after defeating Monica Seles and Russia's Elena Dementieva for her win.





# His Story / Her Story

## Daily Perspectives

By DAN JOYCE  
Staff Writer

**7:00 a.m.**  
Alarm goes off. Hit snooze.

**10:10 a.m.**  
Alarm goes off. Scratch. Hit snooze.

**10:20 a.m.**  
Alarm goes off. Sit up. Hit alarm off desk. Lay back down.

**10:22 a.m.**  
Jump out of bed. Pick up my alarm to see what time it is. Mutter profanities. Scratch. Put on deodorant. Throw on clothes. Grab snack cakes and place all but one in backpack. Find books for the class I am about to be late for and place them in bag.

**10:25 a.m.**  
Put on shoes and hat, grab wallet and head out the door with backpack. Exit room. Enter stairwell. Turn back around because I forgot my food.

**10:28 a.m.**  
Exit residence hall. Head to class. Think about how I would rather be in bed. Scratch. Feel dumb for staying up so late the night before.

**10:33 a.m.**  
Enter class. Apologize for being late. Not worried, did not miss anything important anyway.

**Throughout Class:**  
Eat snack cakes and wish I was back in my warm bed.

**12:00 p.m.**  
Eat.

**3:20 p.m.**  
Glad to be done with classes.

**3:30 – 3:45 p.m.**  
Use facilities. Feel much better afterwards.

**4:00 p.m.**  
Play Bond on N64. Eat while doing so.

**5:00 p.m.**  
Eat at Hamilton.

**6:00 p.m.**  
Tell my neighbors I have to do homework and cannot play Bond. Play anyway. Eat while doing so.

**7:00 p.m.**  
Kick myself for scheduling night classes because I am missing an intramural basketball game.

**8:30 p.m.**  
Stop by my girlfriend's room and decide to watch a movie. Complain about being too busy for homework. Eat.

**9:30 p.m.**  
Go with girlfriend to Joe's for late-night meal advantage. Eat.

**10:00 p.m.**  
Finish movie. Decide to go back to my room with girlfriend and do some homework. No, really, I have to do it sometime. Y e s , homework. Get homework out of backpack and realize I did have one more snack cake i n there. Clean u p mess from snack cake.

By  
**10**



**p.m.**  
Decide for third time that I must stop talking and get homework done.

**11:00 p.m.**  
Give up on homework. Girlfriend tells me she has to be to bed by 12:30. Talk for a while.

**1:00 a.m.**  
Walk girlfriend to her room and rub her back until she falls asleep.

**1:15 a.m.**  
Play Bond. Eat.

**2:30 a.m.**  
Go back to room and try to finish homework.

**2:33 a.m.**  
Give up on homework. Scratch. Go to bed.

By RACHEL KUHL  
Staff Writer

**9:00 a.m.**  
Alarm goes off. I roll out from under my comfy, cozy, flower-covered bedspread and head for the shower. While running through the shower routine of shampoo, conditioner, body wash and shaving (which is an adventure in itself in a South Complex shower), I'm thinking of a possible clothing combination to wear for the day.

Once out of the shower it's time to dry off, lather up with lotion and get dressed. Luckily, I'm not having a "fat day" today so my first outfit selection, jeans and my cute black sweater, is a go!

**9:35 a.m.**  
It's time to do hair and make-up. Hair is pretty quick thanks to chemical curls, just spritz and scrunch. However, makeup is a little bit trickier. It takes talent to use enough make-up to look nice, but not too much to lose that natural beauty idea.

**10:00 a.m.**

Classes. Now, I need to watch what I say here since most of my professors read t h i s paper. Let's just say that while all of my classes are enjoyable and enlightening, after about the first half an hour of lecture, I often wish I was snoozing away.

**12:00 p.m.**

Meals at Alma are one of those crazy paradox things. You are starving for food by the time lunch and dinner hit, but when you get to Hamilton, nothing even remotely sounds

like something worth eating. I settle for a salad with lots of veggies and some Italian dressing (low fat of course), some of those mini-tacos and then grab a couple sugar cookies on my way out. It isn't really my ideal meal, but at least it fills me up.

**6:00p.m. — Evening**

Depending on the day there is RA stuff to do, Greek stuff going on, Almanian meetings or Judicial Board cases. Once that is all taken care of, it's time to relax a little. On go the sweats, on go the glasses and on goes the cable TV. I chat on the phone with my boyfriend for a half-hour or so. My suitemate pops in after I hang up and we watch the Olympics for awhile until we talk ourselves into a Slurpee run at....

**12:00 a.m.**

Needless to say it is close to 2:00 a.m. before I am securely tucked in to my bed. I debate whether or not to go and yell at the guys on second floor who keep banging around, decide I'm too tired, then fall asleep.

## Emergency phone fails to solve security issues

By DAN JOYCE  
Staff Writer

Everyone has noticed the new emergency phone on campus. Or have we?

When I went to take a picture of this little known addition to our campus, I could not find it. I had to ask Walter Beagley, chair and professor of psychology, to point it out.

I finally found the rather short pole with a button, speaker and strobe light on top. It was behind a tree between the Dow-Kapp Science Building and the Hogan Physical Education Center.

I expected it to be closer to the main path between those two buildings and the Eddy Music Building. No, it is back in the boon docks.

The placement of the new security addition is only one issue. The phone was researched and

placed where it was thought to be most useful or necessary. The area it is located is very poorly lit, but does get travel. This is a good reason to place it there, though it should have been closer to the main path.

The phone was erected near Dow and the P.E. building instead of in south campus or near the other residence halls because it was the only proposed location that was not close to any buildings that are left open any time of the night. Both the South Complex and Mitchell Hall lobbies are always open and have phones available for use in case of an emergency.

Is the new security device necessary? Why do we feel we need it? While I think we should cut out all crime on campus, even though it seldom occurs, is an emergency phone the only answer? I say no.

Marty Stack, associate dean of

students, brought some key issues to light. "The new phone could cause a false sense of security. I am worried that students will think, 'Now that we have a security phone I can walk alone.' They do not use common sense. If the students are leaving a registered fraternity party, the fraternity always has sober security workers who will walk the student home. They should never leave alone," said Stack.

There are always people, no matter where you are, that will walk with you. Find someone to do so. Groups are far less likely to be harassed than individuals.

Also, stay in well-lit areas. Though these may be few and far between, try not to walk in the shadows. (Perhaps the money spent on the phone could have best been invested into more lighting.)

If you still do not feel like walking, even in a group, campus

security is set up to do whatever they can to make students on campus feel secure. If you have no way back to your room or wherever you are going, call security at x7777. They will pick you up and take you to your place of residence.

Another drawback to the light that Stack pointed out is that prospective students, alumni and visitors may see the phone and be worried that security is an issue on our campus.

This could deter prospective students and cause alumni to wonder about what our campus has become.

Safety has not been a problem for the majority of students on campus. For a few students, the lack of safety on campus is something they will never forget. Either way, it is important to realize that the new emergency phone will not solve security problems; common sense will.

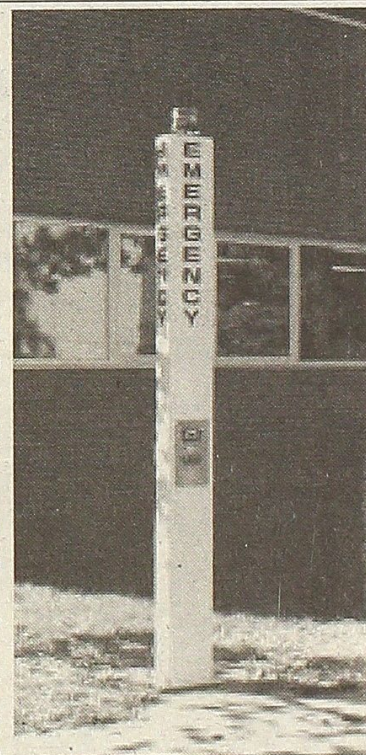


Photo by Dan Joyce

The new emergency phone is located near Dow and the P.E. Building



Sports track

# “Farewell, sweet Olympiad, Farewell”

By MICHAEL MURPHY  
Opinion Editor

Sydney, O Sydney, beautiful were thee,  
Quite a bit, most of us did you please.  
True, we had to put up with tape delays,  
But we still did see most relays.  
Fourteen-hour difference wasn't so bad,  
It only increased the tension, just a tad.  
We saw so many great things,  
And a few bad, giving us a sting.

We saw the Thorpedo, quite quick indeed,  
In the pool, splish splash, all for speed.  
American swimmers were great as well,  
Krayzelburg, Thompson, Dolan, all swell.  
But, a different story for American gymnasts,  
Many a jumps, many a landings, most missed.  
Unlike the Magnificent Seven, now shut out,  
Yelling, pointing fingers, all mean shouts.

Now to boxing we ring for a bout,  
We got trampled over, like a lout.  
Will we ever beat Cuba, in the rounds?  
No, so let's go to the pitching mound.  
In baseball, yes a miracle made, we won,  
We beat them good! Got the gold, now No. 1.  
Softball, too, after struggling, persevered,  
Past the fences, their hits easily cleared.

Fans had nothin' better to do than to cheer,  
For that and Michael Johnson, speedster  
Against the world, he was faster.  
Marion Jones, too, quite a racer,  
Despite her husband's disaster  
Of failing a drug test,  
Which made a big mess.

Andreea Raducan, poor poor little girl,  
Stripped of gold, sent her life down a spiral.  
That was a low point, a crash, a fall,  
Shouldn't have taken cold medicine after all.  
Dream Team, Dream Team where were you?  
Possibly, taking the world to school?  
You are old news, not so great anymore,  
Closer and closer teams got to your score.  
Let's dismiss this and get on with the good,  
It'll bring us all into a better mood.

So, soccer did we get bitter delight,  
Yes, Americans gave the world a good fight.  
Dandy wrestler Rulon Gardner, from Wyoming,  
Nixed the Siberian Bear. Thus we sing  
Ever loudly "The Star Spangled Banner" in  
glory,  
Yes, now, this is close to the end of me story.

Most of the Olympics were indeed nice,  
Under down in Australia, now its twice.  
Respected Olympians, and medals, come home,  
For now, my friends, is the end of my poem.

## —Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

A pressing issue needing to be addressed concerning the quality of journalism in the Almanian has come to my attention. We here at Alma would like to think that our educational standards are not only acceptable, but exceptional. However, the simple spelling mistakes on the WQAC schedule are absolutely ridiculous.

Artist Showcase, The Big Drum Show, the Canadian and Brit Pop Show, House of Trance I11-Vania, and the 9:00 Classic Rock Show are all terribly misspelled. I would also like to bring to your attention that the word rotation is spelled three different ways. Seven out of 29 shows are misspelled, this means that nearly 25 percent of the spelling is incorrect. WQAC sent out a flyer to the campus letting everyone know the schedule, so this does this mean that people cannot even copy correctly?

I just thought it would be helpful to bring this to the attention of the Almanian. It really does not enhance our image as a quality institution. Please do not let it happen again—it is very embarrassing.

Sincerely,

Chad Merricle '02

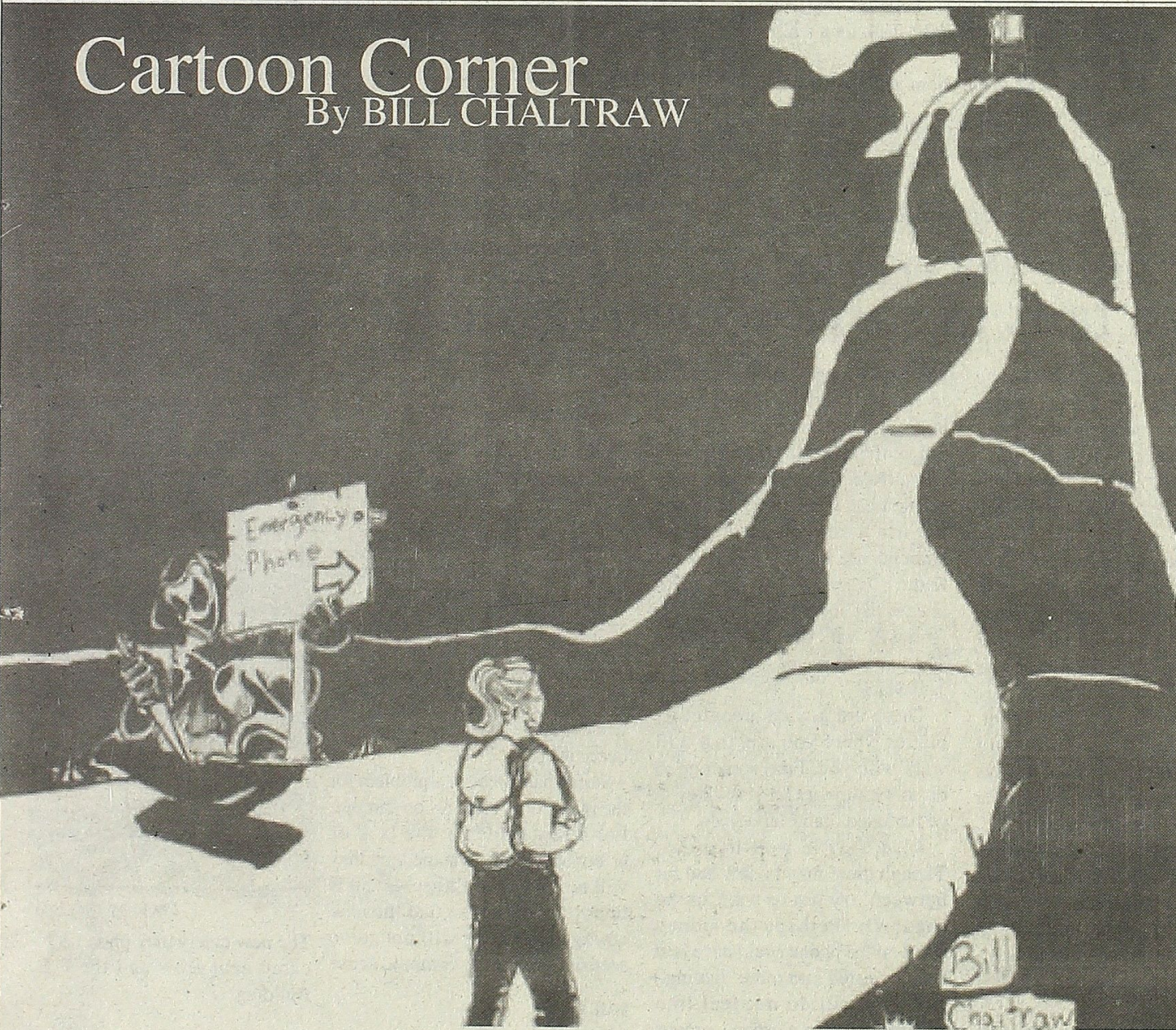
To the Editor,

I am flabbergasted. I read the Staff Editorial from September 26<sup>th</sup>'s *Almanian* today. I found an entire article that tell students, in an "a call to arms" fashion that it is up to them as upstanding "citizens" to keep up on current events. On the same page, an article titled "Simple Thoughts" tells students, in an elementary way, to question our media. As a student, here is my question: Why does the Almanian not provide students with the "news of the world" that its Staff exalts?

"...We students have sometimes gotten too consumed and too worried with our own lives that we dismiss the happenings of the world as being too trivial for our own lives." Can an article about new school benches (*Almanian* September 26, page 10) not be considered being "too worried about ourselves?" As a form of media, the *Almanian* has the power and

(See Letters to the Editor on page 14)

## Cartoon Corner By BILL CHALTRAW

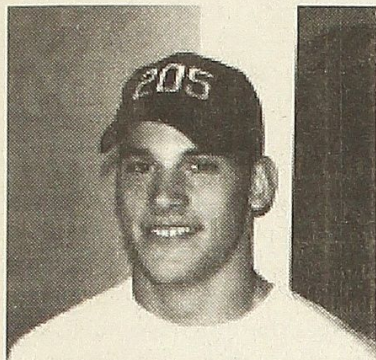


And off  
through the  
campus she  
went...

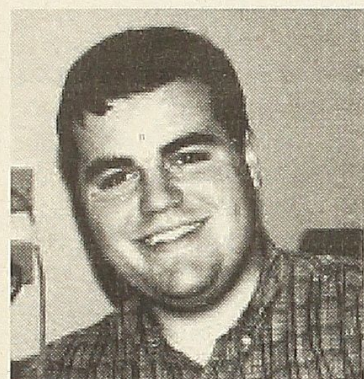


## Viewpoints

The Almanian went around campus and asked students the following question:  
What do you think about the emergency phone?



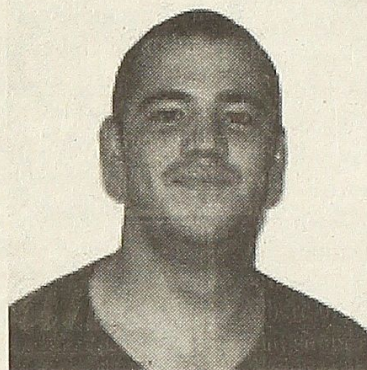
"It can't hurt, it is just a safety precaution." ~Brent Olivier '02



"It's good to see that the administration has responded to increase security." ~Lee Owens '03



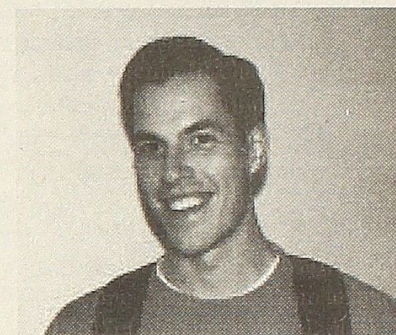
"It would be a good idea to put one between new dorms and the rest of campus." ~Theresa Miller '03



"It's useless, no one knows about it!" ~Greg Leneway '04



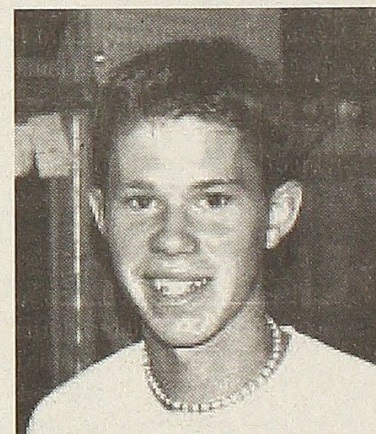
"It is a good idea but it should be in a more centered location." ~Emily Vandyke '03



"What emergency phone?" ~Steve Shepard '02



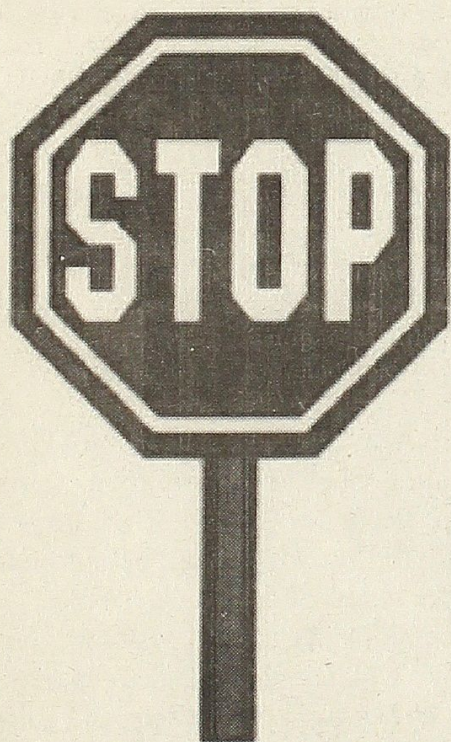
"They should put it in a more centralized spot." ~Heather White '04



"It is a great idea if someone is in trouble; a great investment" ~Travis Kohl '04



"It is a nice step forward for Alma College" ~Erica Bachman '01



Do you have a strong opinion on a campus issue?

*The Almanian* welcomes Letters to the Editor

Drop them off in Almanian Office (Newberry basement) or email to [almanian@alma.edu](mailto:almanian@alma.edu) by 5pm on Friday before publication.



# Letters to the Editor

hus the responsibility to provide its readers with the news of the world. And if the Almanian does not use that power or abide by that responsibility, how can it chide its readers for not abiding by their responsibility to familiarize themselves with the world? By not providing the students with real news the *Almanian* is hypocritical. If the students of Alma College are guilty of being too concerned with their own lives, then is a newspaper that refrains from putting any extensive news of events outside Alma College (except for CD and movie reviews and a cartoon that degrades athletes of the world) also guilty of that same apathy?

And what were the excellent reasons cited by the *Almanian* for the apathy of students? Students spend too much time doing homework, reports, and studying for exams. Does that sound right? Because the students of Alma are pre-occupied with doing well in college they fail as citizens? Students spend hours on end in the library and on the Internet researching for exams and essays and theses, can anyone blame them for not spending further, valued relaxation time with these mediums? Students also spend much time involved with Greek organizations, honorariums, clubs, congresses, and sports. Where can the time and energy come for joining off campus organizations?

Yes, students should be aware of the world. And yes, the *Almanian* is not required to print articles pertaining to the outside world. But I think it crass, narcissistic, and hypocritical of the *Almanian* and the staff writers to reprimand students for living in the Alma Bubble, when in fact, the *Almanian* has the power to not pop the Alma Bubble, but to provide the needle for students to pop it with. "The *Almanian* strongly encourages students to take it upon themselves to learn about the world in which we all live in." I strongly encourage the *Almanian* to utilize their capacity to bring the world closer to Alma students.

cott N. Sawyer (03)

## Staff Editorial

Throughout a typical day here at Alma, all of us are susceptible to the daily hassles and disappointments that every college student encounters. And most of the time we deal with these frustrations by venting to others.

We complain to a best friend or to those sitting with us at dinner. Sometimes we even complain to a teacher or a trusted coach. It is human nature to do just this and, like some type of miracle cure, complaining often makes us feel better.

Unfortunately, what we fail to realize while we are complaining is that it does not solve anything. Regardless of what the problem is, simply grumbling about it fails to correct what caused the feelings of discontent in the first place. What it does do, however, is create a type of apathy where everyone is content with the problem because grumbling about it has made them content.

In reality, though, complaining accomplishes absolutely nothing. It is action that ultimately determines what the outcome to any

problem will be. The Almanian encourages all Alma students to stop simply complaining and instead take action if you see something that bothers you about the community in which you live.

Action can be defined in a number of ways and on a very large spectrum. If your complaint is something as simple as not liking the food in SAGA, then fill out a comment card not only stating what you did not like, but also giving Marriott workers suggestions regarding what you do want to eat.

If you do not like the way that your student activity fee is being spent, voice your opinion by running for a student congress position. Or attend an ACUB meeting.

If you do not like the way that the Almanian is covering campus news, then apply to be a staff writer or show up at a meeting. The important thing is not what you do, but just that you do something that attempts to change that with which you find problem. The important thing is that you take a stand.

As adults responsible for our own lives, it is time that we as students

begin to realize that there is no one there anymore to take care of our problems for us. It is completely up to us now. And if we sit back and decide to do nothing, then we must be prepared for and accept the consequences. We have no right to complain about those things that we have never attempted to do or tried to change.

This is not a lesson that pertains merely to life here at Alma. It has ramifications that extend far beyond our years here. In life after Alma, if we do not attempt to correct wrongs or stand up for what we believe in, no one else will.

If we simply sit back and complain only loud enough for those sitting next to us to hear, our communities will never become the better places that we have the potential to make them.

Things will simply continue on the way they always have, and it will be as if you had never spoken. And, in essence, your voice will not have mattered because you did not back it up with action.

## Simple Thoughts

by Dan Joyce

### Show me the cash, I'll show you weakness

The other day, while cashing a check at a local bank, I saw something that really sparked some thought about what Americans consider important.

I signed the check and handed it to the teller. She went to clear it and began waiting on someone at the drive-up window. Seeing I had some time, I just looked around the room.

On the wall, behind a bunch of loan brochures and other advertisements hung a large American flag. It was not a fabric flag that would hang on a flagpole.

The flag was made of clear plastic. The stripes alternated red and colorless, a blue box surrounded the fifty colorless stars. I was in no way surprised until I noticed that behind the plastic there laid a mat of U.S. dollar bills.

What a symbol of the American mentality of money! The American government, advertising, news, business and most other organizations are not concerned with what is right or best for everyone. They only care about money.

A couple weeks ago, Trinity Bible Fellowship brought a Carolina band named Silars Bald to campus. During one intermission, while settling for the next song, one of the members started talking about being blessed enough to travel around and play music while in college.

He asked the question of why we are here at college. Is it to have a high paying job when we graduate?

He concluded that if that was the case, we were here for the wrong reason. We should be here trying to learn. We should be trying to grow.

What will you do when you get out of college? Why are you here?

When I graduate, I want to do the things I want to do. I do not want an overweight boss carrying a donut and a cup of coffee telling me what to do. I certainly don't want to feel obligated to obey him just because I have to make payments on a boat, car, house and pool.

Americans have grown to believe that unless they have a college degree, they are stuck in one social and economic position. Explain that to my friend's dad, a machine shop owner who never went to college and is now competing nationwide for major automobile manufacturers' bids.

Now, think about how many people you know who have a college degree and are collecting unemployment because they cannot find a job. Why is this? Is it misfortune?

Often it is because they went to college to pursue a career they would not enjoy, solely on hopes of high pay.

If you are taking classes one test at a time and only doing the minimum to get that degree, you are not learning. If you are taking classes that interest you, you will learn, understand and best of all, retain. You will know how to apply your knowledge and will want to use it during your entire life after Alma.

As an owner of a business, would you rather hire someone who knows what they are doing but only works for the paycheck, or would you like an employee who will always do take that extra step, without being asked?

The employee will only want to take that extra step if they are interested. He or she will not go out of the way to give extra effort if only there for the check.

The employee who only wants to make a plastic money flag will just punch in and punch out. Do you want to be that employee? Would you rather be happy all the time and have less possessions? Or, would you like to enjoy your work life and live a more modest life? Do material things really bring that much satisfaction?

Start a career for enjoyment, not to make a larger flag.

## Classifieds

**Make someone happy! Advertise in the Almanian classifieds for only \$.10 per word. Wish a happy Birthday, congratulate a good deed, sell something you don't need, ask for something you do, or just share some words of wisdom! Whatever it is you want to say just contact Rachel Kuhl @ x8184 for more information.**

**THEATRE & DANCE LONDON SPRING TERM 2001** If you are serious about joining us for our LONDON trip, please see CAROL FIKE immediately as space is filling up. We will be in London and Stratford for a total of two weeks. We will see Ballet and Modern Dance as well as Avant Garde productions. We will have backstage tours of theatres, one-on-one talks with performers, and guided tours of the traditional London spots. Call me at x7242 or e-mail me at fike@alma.edu, or come by my office. Again, the trip is filling up rather quickly and space is limited. Thanks....Carol Fike

Happy Birthday Amy Novak and Katie Mann! Have a great time on Saturday night- we love you! Sisters in Gamma Phi Beta.

J.W. Brostrom for Homecoming King. Remember the name, forget the face.

Congratulations to Joe Bush on winning this week's Cross-Country Eagle Award! "Watch out for the eagles hiding behind them bushes!"