

# The ALMANIAN

Serving Alma College since 1907

Alma College, Alma, MI 48801

Issue 8

Tuesday, November 21, 2000

## Kolenbrander named interim president

By JENNIFER GIBSON, News Editor  
and DONNA PAPPAS, Staff Writer

In response to a request from President Alan Stone, the Board of Trustees has allowed his retirement date to be pushed forward from June 30, 2001 to December 31, 2000. The executive committee of the Board of Trustees was then authorized to appoint an interim president. Dr. Harold M. Kolenbrander was selected to serve from January 1, 2001 until a new president is appointed.

Kolenbrander was recommended to the Presidential Search Committee of the Board of Trustees by Senior Consultant Bruce Alton of Academic Search Consultants. The executive committee then voted unanimously to appoint Kolenbrander.

"[Kolenbrander] is a consensus builder and gifted listener. Seldom in my 14 years of consulting have I experienced a president held in higher esteem by all constituents of a college," said Alton.

Kolenbrander is a 1960 graduate of Central College in Iowa where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry. Four years later, he was awarded a Ph.D. in biochemistry from the University of Iowa and immediately began working for Central College as professor and later as chair of the chemistry department. In 1971 Kolenbrander was appointed dean of college planning at Grand Valley State University and in 1975 returned to Central College where he served as Provost for 11 years. In 1986 he left his alma matter to begin a new position as President of Mount Union College in Alliance, Ohio.

"I think [Kolenbrander] is just the perfect candi-

date. Over the long term, [at Mt. Union] he added buildings and built the endowment. It's what an interim needs to do - concentrate on the finances of the institution. You can't make any big changes," said Stone.

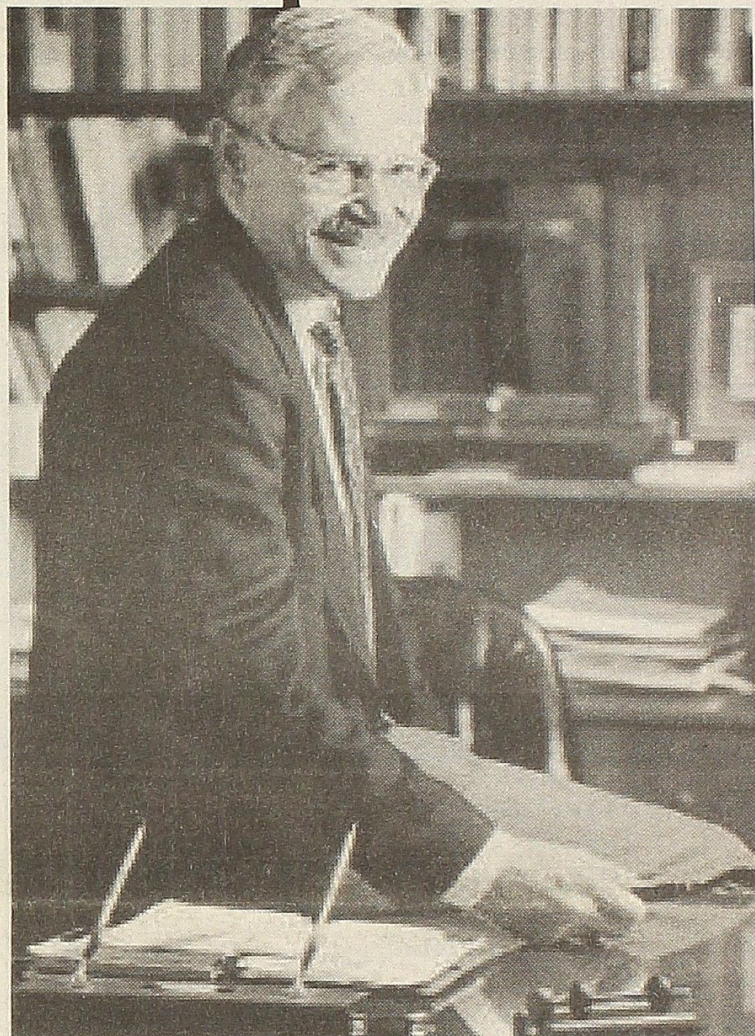
During his time at Mount Union College, Kolenbrander accomplished a variety of goals. The school grew from 1,000 to 2,200 students by the time he retired in June of this year. In addition to this, endowment grew from \$25 million to \$130 million, the number of full-time faculty increased from 60 to 114, and six new buildings were added, including a campus center, a physical education and wellness facility and information center.

"I was very impressed. He seemed willing to listen to folks here and help heal some of the wounds that have developed in the past couple of years," said Burnet Davis, professor of political science and co-chair of the Presidential Advisory Search Committee.

Despite Kolenbrander's qualifications, Stone said the search for a permanent president will continue. "[Kolenbrander] is strictly interim. He's 62 and he's had his career. There's a group of maybe 25-30 presidents that do this very thing," said Stone.

A national search for a new president has begun, and the Presidential Search Committee plans to make a recommendation to the full Board in March 2001. The Board's goal is to appoint the president in March, with duties beginning July 1.

See KOLENBRANDR, page 2



Courtesy Photo

Dr. Harold M. Kolenbrander, retired president of Mount Union College in Ohio, joins Alma College as interim president on January 1, 2001.

## Money troubles plague Student Congress

*New campus organizations may find startup funding at a minimum*

By JENNIFER GIBSON  
News Editor

New organizations on campus this year may find it a little more difficult to get startup funding from Student Congress. Several factors,

including overspending last year, an advance made to last year's senior class and lower than expected enrollment have resulted in Student Congress having a smaller amount of money than usual for unexpected expenses.

"The good thing is that we're not

in the red. We're okay. \$3000 is not a small amount of money. The other good thing is that all of the groups last year received their budgets. All of them received a raise if not the full raise that they needed or were asking for," said Melinda Messmer (01), Student Congress president.

The shortfall was discovered at the beginning of this year when Messmer and Ryan Gall (01), Student Congress treasurer, were notified that there was only \$900 in the Student Congress contingency account and \$800 in the organization's reserve account.

According to Messmer, these numbers were drastically low compared to recent years, when the contingency fund has usually been between \$8,000-\$10,000. At the end of last year, the reserve account had been approximately \$12,000.

James Kridler, dean of students and Student Congress advisor, said that the situation is a result

of different budgeting philosophies. "A lot of it has had to do with who was on the budget and finance committee at the time and it was a decision of whether Student congress should be more conservative in our budget process and then allocate money as we go along, or should we give people the money that they ask for so that we don't have to spend our time during the year allocating money. Those are the two big factors," stated Kridler.

Messmer and Gall, along with James Kridler, dean of students and Student Congress advisor, Jerry Scoby, vice president of finance and administration, and President Alan Stone, were able to find some of the money, so that both accounts currently stand at approximately \$3000.

One of the main causes of the low accounts was the fact that student organizations overspent their budgets by approximately \$3,000 last year. Furthermore, student congress had budgeted

\$188,000 to these groups, but actually only received \$186,000 due to lower than expected enrollment.

[quote from ryan gall]

John Johnston, controller, said that this is not necessarily an unusual occurrence. "You start the year with a projected student count at a dollar amount. They make their budgets based on that. If there are fewer students that show up then there is less student dollars to actually turn over," said Johnston.

The large decrease in the reserve account was traced in part back to a \$3800 withdrawal given to last year's senior class as a forward amount of money to pay for the flags they purchased as a fundraiser for their class gift.

"That reserve is not supposed to be touched and the only person that can sign off on the money is Dean Kridler. Dean

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**Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*** kicked off the holiday season this weekend with performances by the Alma College Dance Company. See Feature for details and pictures. p. 8

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Construction brings internet cable to Alumni House

By AMY TAYLOR  
Managing Editor

The Smith Alumni House will soon have access to internal sites of the campus computer system after the completion of an underground-cabling construction project. This office, as well as the Physical Plant, are the two remaining offices that are not currently on the campus system.

The construction, which began Nov. 6 with digging across Superior St. from the Reid Knox building near South Complex's parking lot, will enable the Alumni Office to access many new

programs on their own computers. A final stage of the project consists of running the cable under Philadelphia St. and installing the equipment in the Alumni offices.

"Technologically it is going to help us a great deal because our new computer software for the advancement office will not allow us to run it off our modem which we are currently using," said Bob Eldridge, director of alumni/community Relations.

The modem, which the Alumni Office and Physical Plant currently uses, will not allow them to access any of the internal sites on the system such as the Intranet. Alumni programs rely on the main

frame in the advancement office of Reid Knox; therefore, they work a lot out of that office.

The project costs approximately \$15,000 to \$20,000, which comes out of special funds set aside from Computer and Media Services.

"The cabling will provide the Alumni House with access to the campus computer system and back online with the Advancement Office in Reid Knox," said Duane Knecht, Physical Plant director.

Knecht predicts that the project should be completed in two or three weeks weather permitting.

"We probably use our database more than anybody else on campus, or at least as much as anybody else," said Eldridge. "It will really be a blessing so that we do not have to go across the street as much."

According to Knecht, construction will begin sometime around the first of the year for installing the system in the Physical Plant.

All housing on the campus is already set up on this service except for small housing, which is currently in consideration. Residents of dormitories receive the service free of charge, but Computer Services must first activate it.

Pulling the cable through for the Alumni House provides for adding the sorority houses later in the budget. The rest of small housing can receive access through another cabling project that would go under Grant and Center streets.

"It is in the thought process, but it is very expensive," said Knecht.

Construction of this kind of a project requires digging underground and working around gas lines and telephone lines. For the Alumni House, construction did not have to go under Superior St. since South Complex is already connected. They started digging in the lawn that borders Superior and South Complex's parking lot.

News

'At a glance'

**CHICAGO** - Since Thanksgiving is the heaviest travel time of the year, crowded planes and busy airports are already a cause for increased flight disruptions. Airline passengers for the Thanksgiving holiday may encounter even more troubles as disputes over airline employees continue to emerge.

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** - George W. Bush's lead in Florida grows after absentee ballots were received over the weekend. Gore filed a legal brief requesting the Florida Supreme Court to order the results of recounts to be included in the state tally. A hearing was held Monday to consider the validity of the ongoing hand recounts, which will delay the declaration of a winner longer.

**COLLEGE STATION, Texas** - More than 25,000 people observed the one-year anniversary of the bonfire that killed 12 Texas A&M students. The memorial ceremony took place at the exact place and time the incident occurred on Nov. 18, 1999 at 2:42 a.m. Besides those killed, 27 were injured when the log stack toppled while it was being assembled for the schools annual pep rally. The long-time tradition is suspended until 2004.

**HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam** - Last week President Clinton visited the site of where an U.S. pilot was shot down in Vietnam during 1967. Clinton, the first president to visit Vietnam in 31 years and the first ever to stop in Hanoi, is honoring the search for missing U.S. forces.

**VIENNA, Austria** - A cable car fire at Kitzsteinhorn Mountain tunnel resulted in 155 deaths. Reports say that leaking oil from a defective wheel or blocked brakes and sparks on the tracks caused the fire.

The Almanian

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Statement of Purpose:

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

Staff Editorial Policy:

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

Letter Policy:

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

KOLENBRANDER from page 2

The process for selecting a new President begins with the Presidential Advisory Search Committee (PASC), which is made up of members of the campus community including Davis, Carol Slater, Priscilla Perkins, Carrie Parks Kirby, Ron Massanari, Dick Bowker, Melinda Messmer, Bob Perkins, Judy Scott, and Audrey Williams. The two alums on the committee are David Devine and Larry Andrus and the three members of the Presidential Search Committee of the Board of Trustees are Dave Chapoton, Lee Posey and Judy Maze.

The PASC makes recommendations to the full five-member

Presidential Search Committee of the Board. If this group approves of the PASC's recommendation, they will submit it to the full Board, who ultimately makes the final decision.

This provides a linkage between the on-campus group and the Board search committee to give a better sense of who the on-campus community likes and why. It also improves communication and maximizes the chances of having a president with enthusiastic support for the Board and the campus community," said Davis.

CAMPUS CALENDAR

Monday, Nov. 27 <sup>th</sup>	Classes Resume Student Congress Meeting SAC 113 6:30p.m. Greek Week Begins
Tuesday, Nov. 28 <sup>th</sup>	Greek Week Drag Show 7-9p.m. in Chapel
Wednesday, Nov. 29 <sup>th</sup>	ACUB Hypnotist 8p.m. in Chapel
Thursday, Nov. 30 <sup>th</sup>	Greek Week Bowling
Friday, Dec. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Craft Show and Sale 11 a.m.-9 p.m. in Rotunda Festival of Carols 8 p.m. in Heritage Center Alpha Xi Delta Open Formal 9 to 12 p.m. in Jones
Saturday, Dec. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Admissions Scholarship Day ACUB College Bowl 10 a.m. in SAC 113 Festival of Carols 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. in Heritage Center
Sunday, Dec. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Chapel Service 11:15 a.m. MSU Gospel Choir Concert 7:00 p.m. in Chapel

November 21, 2000

## NEWS

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## Controversy stems around oak trees

By DONNA PAPPAS  
Staff Writer

The Stone Recreational Center is right on schedule, amid a controversy over two of the Red Oak trees of the "Jungle, grove and campus fair" that we sing about so often in our Alma Mater.

This line from our Alma Mater refers to the exact site where the building of the new Stone Recreational Center is currently underway and will continue throughout the winter. Many years ago, this site was referred to as the "jungle" because of the abundance of trees that were contained within that area.

"When they did the plan for this new building, one of the things that I and other people asked about were what trees were we going to lose to do this. I was worried about big significant trees and they said no, they were not going to take them," said Richard Bowker, professor of biology.

"The Oak trees were on the demolition drawings, it wasn't like a surprise. The commitment to save the trees came the day it was noticed that a crew had showed up to take down the trees. That's when we stopped and said we will try to redesign this," said Duane Knecht, director of physical plant.

In response to this debate over whether the demolition of the Oak trees were a part of the original plan, Jerry Scoby, vice president of finance and administration, said, "I don't know, technically. The plans that we've been working on for months with the collaborative, the architectural firm we were using, showed the removal of trees in that area. Once we got to the point of taking things down it became more of a public issue."

On Oct. 7, Bowker noticed one of the Red Oaks was being cut down. He immediately contacted Stone, and they met at the site of the tree. Stone prohibited the cutting down of that tree on that day.

The engineers were called back to attempt to redesign the plan. The reason the trees were included in the demolition was because it was necessary to construct a sewer line around the building. The engineers then developed a new plan to construct the sewer line between the two Red Oaks. The other option would have been to reconfigure the layout of the building.

"We didn't configure the layout in a different position since we had already spent quite a bit of money on relocating underground utilities anyway. To stop and have to go back and redesign the whole building to save two trees would have been a monumental expense," said Knecht.

The master plan of this institution allows for the construction of tennis courts next to the building.

"The only way that we could've salvaged these trees would've been to move the building back, but we wouldn't have had enough room on either side of the building for practice fields or the tennis courts."

"Being landlocked like the institution is, we try to make good use of what we have and so by placing the building in its perfect configuration will allow for future expansion for potential tennis courts to the north of the building," said Knecht.

The decision was made to construct the sewer line between the trees. After digging about three feet into the ground, the crew hit sand. There are strict requirements for types of soil and how a bank has to taper back to make it safe for the people standing down in it. Once sand was hit, the wall caved in. The requirement for a safe bank took that taper back beyond the two trees.

Knecht then called the executive staff out to show them what the circumstances were. Scoby made the next decision.

"It was an issue of saving a tree or putting a workers life in risk. That trade off decision was a very easy decision for me. In the end, when it was decision time, I had to make that decision," said Scoby.

One of the Red Oak trees was cut down. The other still remains standing.

"There was absolutely no way to save the tree, short of taking somebody's life down in the hole, but of course they wouldn't have gotten down in it anyway," said Knecht.

"Probably [the other tree] has been killed. It was dug around it enough that if you get into the drip zone of a tree, there is a very high probability of killing it," said Bowker.

"It was probably an inevitability once they got rolling on this plan, but to me the really sad part was... if one of the planning considerations you make are it's important to have trees on our campus, and the green space around us is as important to our environment as the rest of the space, they can plan that accordingly," said Bowker.

Ever since the construction of the Heritage Center, it has been policy to plant two trees for every one that is chopped down.

"We'll plant more, but the problem is you plant small ones when you take down big ones," said Stone.

Bowker said the problem was also that the, "immortality rate of little trees is extremely high."

"I was sorry about the Red Oaks because they were nice trees. Both of them looked healthy, and I noticed one even had a squirrels nest in it. That's not what you want to do is take down trees with squirrels nests, obviously. But there was really no choice because of the

sewer, and we kept trying to see if we couldn't do it some other way," said Stone.

"We have always tried to do our best to leave trees alone, we've transplanted trees, we've built things around them to try to accommodate trees. In this particu-

lar situation it was a life safety issue, just because of the size of this pit and the tree was going to fall into it anyway and kill someone so instead of having that fatality, the tree had to come out," said Knecht.

When asked about the possibility of a conservation plan for the

college, Scoby said, "I don't have a response to that, it is a very broad question."

Bowker, however, suggests a landscaping plan for the campus which shows that we care about the trees, and do not, "sacrifice them every chance we get."

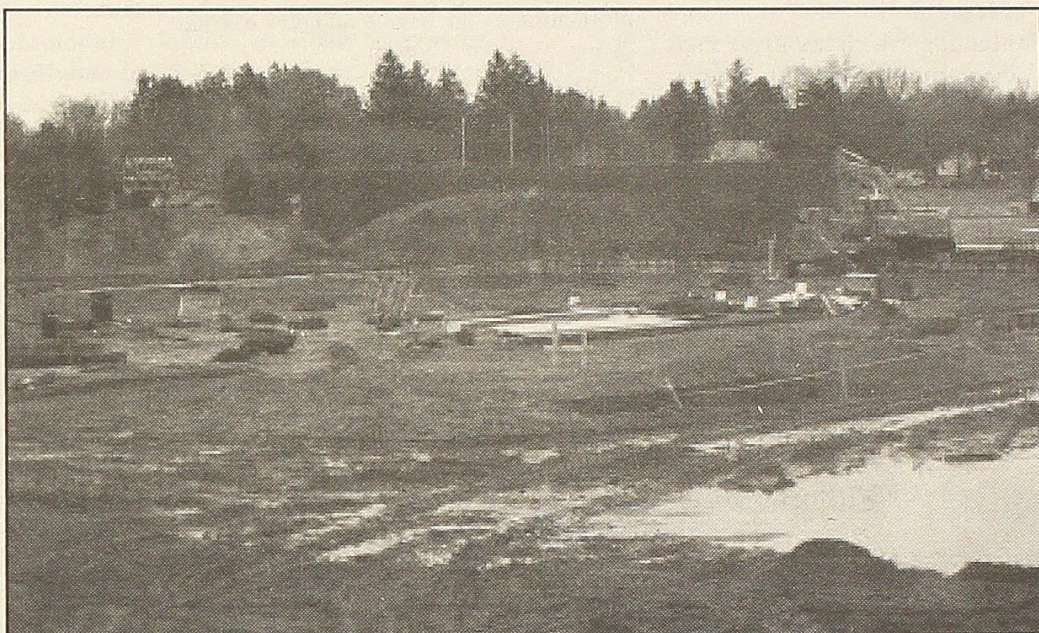


Photo by Dan Joyce

*Construction for the new Alan J. Stone Center for Recreation continues. Construction of the new facility caused the destruction of two red oak trees often sang of in Alma's Alma Mater.*

*(CONGRESS from page 1)*

Kridler, however, told me that he had never seen the \$3800. It turns out that Alan Hill, in wanting to help Steve Kridler [Class of 2000 President] and the class, went in and what we're assuming is that he thought he was dipping into the contingency account, but he was actually taking from the reserve," said Messmer.

According to Kridler, the money was authorized by the Student Congress President and Vice President from last year, Kevin Main and Kevin Stanley. "Student Congress last year advanced the senior class \$3800 as a fundraising event for their class gift. They needed money upfront to buy the flags. That turned out to be not a great idea. There was money lost because they basically had to sell the things at what they paid for them or less," said Kridler.

Messmer has been in contact with Stanley in an attempt to find what exactly happened, but has been unable to reach Main. To date, Student Congress has been able to recover \$2100 of the \$3800 that it lent the Class of 2000.

Another reason for the low status of the reserve account has been attributed to \$4000 given by Dean Kridler to Yearbook.

"The \$4000 came out of the reserve account. The yearbook is a budgeted figure and what happened is Student Congress didn't allocate enough money to cover the contract. Yearbook doesn't have a choice in that. They have a contract with Jostens. That's why we had to do that but that didn't effect the annual account," said Kridler.

"The yearbook is in the red by two years and they keep ordering huge amounts of yearbooks

and then nobody gets them. The thing is is each person on their student activity fee is budgeted \$30 to get a yearbook. I don't really understand how [yearbook] is not getting the money for it. That is not something that Dean Kridler and I went over specifically, but they took this \$4000 to pay for last year's yearbook or the year before and [Kridler] basically told me that we will not get that money back. I am very frustrated by that," said Messmer.

In the future, Messmer hopes to avoid a similar situation by working with the business office to track how much groups are spending.

"Matt vandenBerg and I have talked that somehow we are going to get the business office to try and help us with this, so that they know where the line is for each group. So, if somebody comes in with a \$50 request, but they only have \$35 left, they'll tell them that we can only give you the \$35 but we can't give you the rest," said Messmer.

"The way that I saw the process working last year is that they intentionally allocated a bigger percentage of what they thought they had so that they wouldn't have to deal with all of these contingency requests. The only effect I see this having is that there really wouldn't be much help for a brand new organization this year, but there are some years where there are no new organizations. I don't really see it begin a detriment to student congress. I think there has now been an awareness on the wisdom of advancing money for things. If that is going to be done there has to be more clarification and accounting for that," said Kridler.

*His Story / Her Story*

## Analyzing analyzing

By **BRYAN WAUGH**  
Photographer / Staff Writer

What's wrong with women? Can anyone answer that question? Men for years have been pondering this arcanum and no one has ever gotten close to answering this question.

Well, at least until I came along and thought about it for a minute. It is their inability to control their mind from over-analyzing.

Wow, I'm a genius! Just think about it for a second. If they could stop and just make a decision, life would be so much easier. How much do you want to bet that heaven is the same as earth just without women over-analyzing?

It drives men nuts. It's the reason there is so much violence in the world. Ironically stated like a beauty pageant contestant, it would solve all the world's problems like global warming, the pollution in our lakes and rivers and could even destroy communism.

Well maybe not; who knows? Maybe I am over-analyzing this analyzation of over-analyzation. Are you bored yet?

Isn't this just silly? Maybe we should all gather up and go to the bathroom and talk about it.

Ya know, that way none of us will get lost. Then maybe if we all put our brains together we can figure out what is going on.

Men know what to do in every aspect of life.

That is why we never need to stop and ask for directions. If we end up somewhere else than where we were going, that's just because the place is better.

Do we have to stop and think about what to wear? No, of course not; you just wear

whatever is clean.

Do we spend five hours in a beauty salon, trying to decide what supermodel we want to look like this week? No, because no one is really going to notice anyway.

Now let's look at this from a less degrading point of view.

Hmmm, nothing really there; actually women tend to try and understand what problems they are having and how to solve them.

I would have to say that it is a good thing to have a girl at your side. She can help you look at any situation from every angle possible.

So when you decide on doing something, you will know exactly how it will turn out. However, it usually never works out the way you planned.

There is always something that no one ever thinks that always somehow happens in the end.

Looking at either sides, there are advantages from both points of view. Guys tend to simplify their life by just letting it flow and following it wherever it may take them. Women on the other hand try to control their destiny.

They think about what decision would be the best for their future and they are always looking ten years down the road.

Let's assume that someone out there could possibly have a little bit of both extremes in their pocket.

Think of what they may want to do or what may best suit them. At the same time just roll with the punches and accept the doors that close and those that open, while not trying to over analyze certain things.

Or maybe we should just take life as it is given to us and do our best with it. Now that is something to think about.

By **RACHEL KUHL**  
Staff Writer

Let me start by saying that I openly admit to being an over-analyzer. I also want to add that I think deep down all women over-analyze. With that said, let me now plead my case as to why over-analyzation is a good thing.

In the Mars and Venus debate, it has already been established that men and women communicate differently.

Women are open, expressive and often rely on their emotions when examining a problem or issue.

Men, on the other hand, see a problem and solve it. They use their brain rather than their heart, and very seldom open up to anyone about their feelings.

This just shows that men are aloof oafs, this just shows that women tend to see things on a broader spectrum.

Women seek to explain things and to find reasons, while men just want to be as efficient as possible.

As a woman who over-analyzes, I wish I could say that my way is best, but honestly, I see a need for both.

To analyze is to fully examine a problem or issue and consider all of the possible solutions. To over-analyze is to not only examine the problem and its solutions, but also to examine all of the possible ramifications of those solutions. This is not a bad thing, this is instead a safety net.

Sometimes for all of their logic, men just do not get it. For example let's say my gal pal needs a date for a wedding that we are both attending.

My boyfriend would see this and solve it by matching her up with one of his friends. However, as women, we know that there is

much more to it than that.

It has to be someone who is open to a potential relationship, but not assuming the date means there will be a potential relationship. He has to have no emotional ties to a host of friends or enemies of my galpal.

He has to be good looking but not arrogant about it, and he has to be the type who will be attentive to her but not joined at the hip.

Now most men would find this whole process silly. They would say that my gal pal and I are over-analyzing the situation and being too picky.

But as women we know that a wrong selection means more than just a good time or a not-so-good time, it could mean the difference between a mere date or a long term beau.

Maybe this date is the one my galpal is meant to be with for the long haul, or maybe she'll just ditch him for the cute groomsman on the left. Who knows?

The point is that you never know, and there is more to any decision than meets the eye. Women know this. We know that you have to look deeper to see all the possibilities. We know that sometimes you have to worry, even if men say you are acting silly.

We know that there are dangers, pain and heartache that we do not want to experience, so to defend ourselves we try and control the outcome.

We over-analyze because it at least lets us feel like we are able to control what happens. We want to feel that it was our thought process that made the difference between success or failure. We want to be right no matter what, and through over-analyzation, we can.

It does not have to make sense to men. It makes sense to us.

## Viewpoints

The Almanian went around campus and campus and asked the following question:

What is your opinion on the vote count controversy of the election?



"They should change the system and get better machines. That would be more accurate."  
**Bonnie Baker (02)**



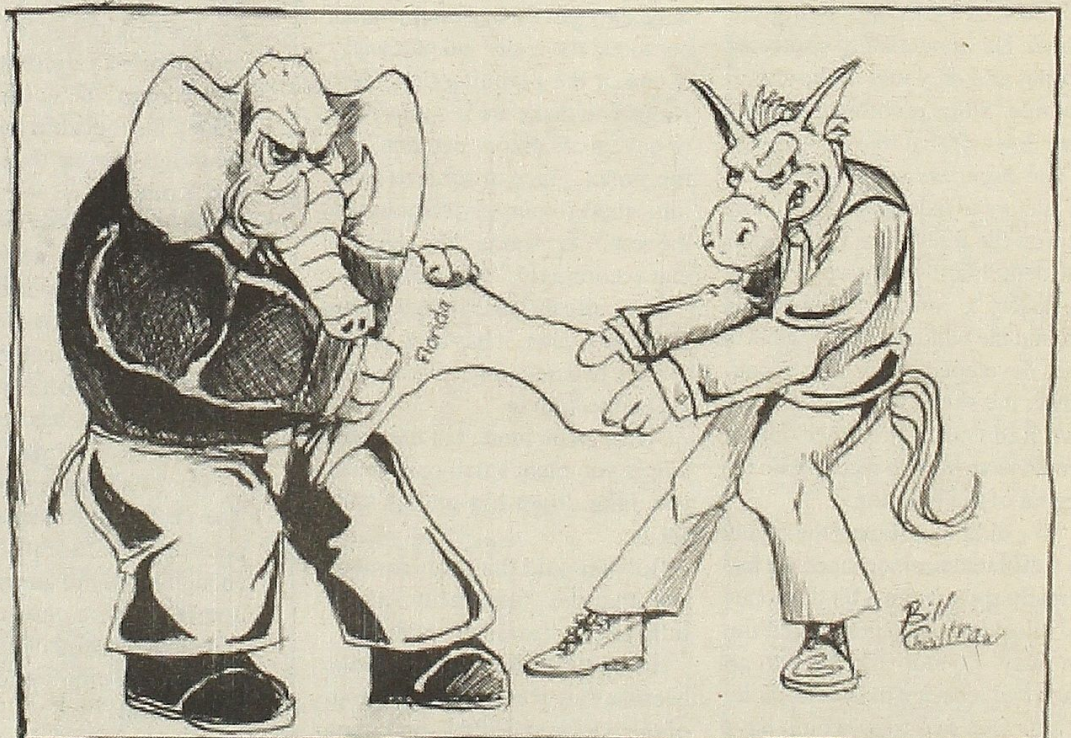
"I think that they should do a complete revote with better machines to reduce the margin of error."  
**Chris Warner (01)**



"I think that they should do a hand count of the entire state and let the chips fall where they may."  
**Professor Steven Vest**



"I don't really care anymore."  
**Sarah Pipas (04)**

CARTOON CORNER  
By BILL CHALTRAW

Sports Track

# The Smith factor: NBA dunks T'Wolves huge fine

By **MICHAEL MURPHY**  
Opinion Editor

The Detroit Pistons stand in good position to sign former Minnesota Timberwolf forward Joe Smith to a contract allowing him to begin playing with them as soon as possible.

Last year, nobody thought the Pistons had a chance to get the 25-year old, five-year veteran from Maryland. A few months ago, it looked as if Smith would be staying around Minnesota territory for quite a long time.

This was negated when Smith and the T'Wolves signed an illegal secret agreement. This agreement was a multimillion-dollar, multi-year contract extension for Smith to continue playing in the 2001-2 season after he had already played three seasons with the Timberwolves.

After citing NBA contract guidelines, Commissioner David Stern levied the league's harshest penalty ever on the Minnesota franchise, fining the Timberwolves a whopping 3.5 million dollars and stripping them of their next five first-round draft picks. This is a very severe penalty for the Timberwolves, as first-round picks are obviously critical in maintaining a competitive team.

Furthermore, executives and key personnel in the Timberwolves' organization may be kicked out of the league for good.

Smith was also reprimanded, but not as harshly. Stern's iron fist voided Smith's contract for his past one-year contracts along with his current contract with the T'Wolves. This stripped Smith of his so-called Larry Bird rights, something critical for NBA players to have in free agency.

Commissioner Stern's huge sanctions on the Timberwolves come as a surprise. No single team in the history of sports has ever received such a penalty, except for the 1919 Chicago Black Sox for throwing the World Series to the Cincinnati Reds. But that was a long time ago and times have changed.

Presently, in a league where shady deals and misconduct run rampant, Stern's penalties indicate that he is trying to curb these secretive handshakes. Teams and players are now aware that if they try to pull any controversial deal not in accordance with NBA statutes, they will be left extremely wounded for many years to come.

Unfortunately, it also shows how mean and deplorable sports have become. When teams are forced to illegally sign

players, the point of the "game" and the "fan" are lost. The player too is not right, as he, and we will use Joe Smith as one example out of many, was acting aloof from the law. Players, and teams as well, are not showing respect for the league — their employer — to which they work for.

It is true that the T'Wolves lost a great deal after this incident. However, it also proves that the true loser is the fan, as the point of the sport, of the game and the team is utterly lost.

To be sure, this was an action that needed to occur in order to contain the NBA from immersing itself into even more problematic issues. Stern is now mandating that teams follow the rules, something that should have been happening in the first place.

Us sports fans can simply hope that this will not only help cure the NBA of its numerous problems, but also spark all professional leagues — the NFL, MLB and NHL — to investigate into their own teams to ensure that their businesses are being conducted fairly.

Fans will then appreciate this, knowing that they are paying to see stuff that is not the outcome of scandal and illegal workings.

# Recounts question electoral process

By **DONNA PAPPAS**  
Staff Writer

As ballot issues concerning this year's presidential election still loom over our country, the significance of the manual recounting of votes in some Florida counties has come to the spotlight. In reality, this debate has boiled down to Republicans versus Democrats.

While the deadline for recounting passed last Tuesday, Texas Governor George W. Bush requested a court injunction to stop the ballot recount. The Florida Supreme Court did not grant Bush and the Republican party they wish, ruling that there is no legal justification for prohibiting the state from the painstaking manual recount.

The Democrats, on the other hand, are pushing for ballot recounts since the margin between Vice President Al Gore and Bush seems to continuously lessen. Bush's slight lead over Gore has given Democrats hope for victory.

The real issue that I see present is that every vote counts.

How can the citizens of our country understand this when tallies are changing daily? It is our responsibility to assure that every vote does count. It is our responsibility to assure that every vote is correctly counted. The true intention of voters must lead to the election of our next president.

The will of the people must be enforced, as is expressed under the rule of law.

But every vote doesn't count when 19,000 ballots are thrown out because a "butterfly ballot" causes misinterpretation and 19,000 people accidentally vote for two presidential candidates.

19,000 is no coincidence.

I believe that the next president of the United States should gain that office legitimately. So far, the manual recounts

have produced evidence of error that was present during the first round of ballot counting.

How can one party ethically accept its victory over another when it has been proven that numerical mistakes may have put them in power?

If the manual recounts are going to tell the truth, we should not prevent them from continuing.

What is important in this election is that whomever takes the office of president in our country has the support of its citizens. If mistake and fraud are associated with the outcome of the election, opposition, not support, will follow the presidency.

Recounts are necessary to expose the truth to our country and promote support of our next president.

Finally, how can we as a nation continue to promote our democratic ideals abroad?

We involve ourselves in numerous fights to implement a democratic, fair voting system in other countries. How does this look to the rest of the world?

One newspaper from London has compared United States elections to the Forest Gump movie: "In America, the elections are like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're going to get."

May the intent of the people be heard and the best man win.

By **MICHAEL MURPHY**  
Opinion Editor

The Florida Supreme Court ruled last Friday that Florida's Secretary of State Katherine Harris — the state's key election official who is also a Republican — was right in not accepting late voter recounts.

Without a doubt, Florida's Supreme Court did a service to our political system for many reasons.

First of all, the requests for recounts are showing a lack of faith in our very own electoral process. The nation and Al Gore should place their trust in the counting and re-counting of votes that have already

happened. Constantly clamoring for recounts will only cause more distrust in the political system. Dragging this process out will further scar our voting process's legitimacy.

This entire saga is spreading the rift between the American public and government. People are tired of seeing our nation's leaders trying every trick in the book to somehow pull out a victory or stop the adversary from winning. Both sides are guilty of this bantering that is alienating the people. The fact that both sides have talked about suing various institutions is absolutely intolerable and something that both parties cannot afford to do in the eyes of the public. Both parties are rapidly losing any respect they may have enjoyed before this election.

Furthermore, people are saying that if George W. Bush wins, he will have no credibility due to all this controversy. Well, let me ask this: Will Gore enjoy waves of credibility with all of America if he somehow emerges victorious? No, he won't. Every day this controversy drags on, whomever the president is will lose that much more respect and public confidence.

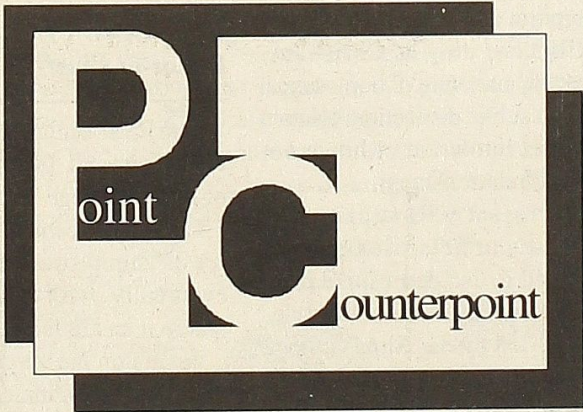
The entire world is now examining the US — the preeminent example of democracy and pure elections — much more critically. They are questioning us and whether we are what we try to exemplify. They are laughing at the plethora of court injunctions, appeals, lawsuits, name calling, poor losing and so on. We are the laughing stock of the world and are still acting as if we are deer frozen in the midst of a car's headlights. We are being humiliated due to this controversy.

What all this means is that the US is losing credibility in the eyes of the world as the exemplary government. How are we going to assist nations in democratic infancy if we cannot figure out our winner after two weeks? Harris not accepting late ballots is key in starting to put closure on this drama.

Right now, America is apathetically divided over what should be done with this presidential issue. People are angry, mad, annoyed and aghast over what our leaders are doing nowadays. This must change and it must change now.

Whenever receives the needed 270 electoral votes when the fifty states' presidential electors convene on December 18, whether it be George W. Bush or Al Gore, the people should not feel that he did not win the presidency fairly.

They must recognize that the election was fair, that it was run under the jurisdiction of our Constitution and that he deserves the respect and faith needed to govern as President of the United States of America.



## Staff Editorial

# Calling for better communication: Is anyone there?

Just a few days ago, digging at the Smith Alumni House across from South Complex was started for installation of networking cables. The wiring problem has been an issue, especially to small housing units for some time.

For quite a while, the fraternity and sorority houses, along with the other small housing units, have argued that they should have access to the campus Intranet.

For the last few years, the Intranet was available to Bruske, Gelston, Mitchell and Newberry Halls as well as to academic buildings. Each room in these halls had network available at a fee. No small housing unit could even purchase the use of the Intranet.

Many complaints spurred from this. Also, many rumors spread as to the reasons for the Intranet's unavailability to other buildings. One such rumor was that the school could not have the cable, which is an underground cable, buried beneath the road. This was disapproved when South Complex had it installed this last summer.

Recently, we found out that the reason was not the inability to cross the road, but the cost was simply too great. Even now, rumors still fly as to reasons that all residents in campus housing do not have availability to networking.

Our school needs to better make known what they are or are not doing for the students and why. Most residents of Carey, Nisbet, Brazell and Bonbright did not even know that part of their parking lot was going to be closed or overtaken by work crews. This was another source of rumors.

Many campus rumors lower student morale. Numerous rumors are false, but we rarely hear the real stories. In the case of the digging for the Alumni House, the school could have hung up posters in the four South Complex buildings.

Another example of ill communication with students is the scheduling of the gym. Many students like to play pickup basketball at night. It is always a guess as to whether or not the gym will be in use. The school should make available

to every student a weekly calendar of when the gym will be available.

Such a calendar should be posted near the gym, but should also be sent by either campus mail or email to any student who is interested in receiving it. This would only take a simple sign-up list and a few minutes to send it out.

Another way that the school could let students know about construction, renovation or any other events affecting students' activities would be to place small sections in this very paper that would tell of campus happenings. Too often, students, The Almanian, faculty and staff take different sides to certain rumor issues.

With more communication, many discrepancies between the school's administration and students could be cleared. After all, who is paying for all of these projects?

## Letters to the Editors

To the editors:

I was recently disturbed by a campus-wide e-mail describing the "Safezone Project" on November 28, which would enlist GLBT "allies." I am not disturbed by the prospect of allies for this group, but by the implicit understanding of whom an ally would be. It seems an ally would be a pushover—someone who would unquestioningly accept and support the lifestyle of any individual. Therefore, I ask: is it better to have a friend who never stands up to you, merely going along with whatever you do, or a friend who attempts to show you your mistakes and weaknesses and helps you overcome them?

Homosexual relationships are both socially destructive and morally evil. They degrade the sanctity of marriage and clearly violate the tenets of Christianity. The Bible is very clear here. Homosexuals, however, are not "evil" or "deviant." They merely possess an urge, either biologically or socially created, to engage in sexual relationships with members of the same sex. This is very similar to the urge to sin we all struggle with from original sin. Just as we are all called on to resist the lure of sin and live pure lives, so too homosexuals are called by God to resist homosexual relations and live chaste, heterosexual lives. Far from needing the bigotry and hate offered by many ignorant homophobes, homosexual individuals need sympathetic friends who can provide a loving and moral environment which will enable these individuals to recognize their failings and return to a straight and righteous path.

Alma College students should not practice discrimination or hate against any group, but they should not accept and encourage vice as well. As servants of the Lord, we are all called to oppose sin and encourage righteous behavior. Consider an individual who enters Alma questioning his or her sexual orientation and lifestyle. By showing support for the homosexual lifestyle, the Alma community is making it very easy for that individual to slip into the dark pit of sin and vice. If instead the community supported such an individual as a

person while questioning the morality of such a lifestyle, he or she may find the impetus needed to reform his or her life and adopt a Christian lifestyle.

I am particularly perturbed when proponents of homosexuality link intolerance towards homosexuality with intolerance towards other groups, such as African Americans. Any intolerance based on a morally insignificant and biological characteristic such as skin color is irrational and does not have a place on a civilized campus. Similarly, intolerance and hate directed towards individuals purely for possibly biological urges (the preference for a same sex partner) is also wrong. Yet, intolerance of immoral actions is never wrong and, in fact, fulfills our duty as Christians. Therefore, we must be intolerant of homosexual lifestyles. Notice the subtle distinction: tolerant of the individual, yet intolerant of his or her actions (homosexual relationships).

The Safezone Project will supposedly sensitize participants to heterosexism and homophobia. But will it also desensitize them to the immorality of the homosexual lifestyle? The project is supported by the Alma College Diversity Enhancement Team. Yet, is all diversity good? Surely we want the diversity of students from different national, cultural, ethnic, and racial backgrounds. But do we want the diversity of blatantly immoral groups? I should here point out that pedophiles have formed a national group (North American Man Boy Love Association) to fight for their rights. Shall Alma welcome the diversity such individuals would bring to campus?

In closing, I would like to propose true allies of GLBT students. These are the many Christian men and women throughout campus who are pleased to help others find their way in life through prayer and the Bible. They do not practice discrimination or hate, but they will encourage others to determine if their lives are in line with Christ's teachings. Perhaps these people would make better allies than those whom the sponsors of Safezone Project have in mind.

John Gardai (03)

## From the Editor's Desk . . . Kolenbrander appointment moves Alma toward unity

By AMANDA LONG  
Editor-in-Chief

The Presidential Search Committee and the Board of Trustees recently announced to students and faculty that Harold M. Kolenbrander will serve as interim president of Alma College beginning January 1, 2001.

This announcement could not come at a better time. Alma is in a time of transition for its administration, faculty and student body. With this interim president, and eventually, with our new president, Alma will have the opportunity to succeed where it has failed in the past.

We are on the verge of a time of great success at Alma. Construction has started on a new recreation center, and plans are in the works for other additions to Alma's campus. Alma is drawing students and faculty from around the world, bringing new ideas and experiences.

The announcement of a new president offers hope for the one thing that can make Alma better than it has ever been before — a united college.

For some time the tension between the faculty and administration has been apparent to the college community and beyond. Alma has lost faculty and administration members that added their ideas and experiences to the entire college because of this tension.

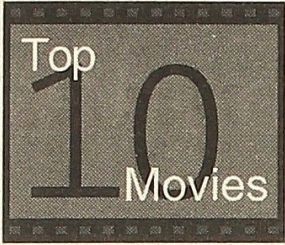
As Kolenbrander joins Alma, he offers the students and faculty a sense of hope for a new beginning with trust, unity and progress. He brings with him valuable experiences that qualify him to set Alma on its new path to success.

Those that leave Alma this spring as they move into the work world will leave knowing that Alma is on the verge of meeting its full potential.

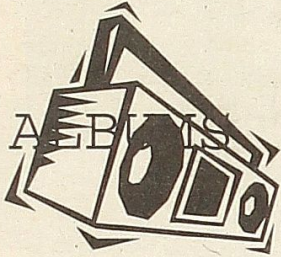
Those that are just beginning their career at Alma have much to look forward to this year, and in the years to follow.

This January we lose a president who has contributed to Alma in countless ways. However, the Presidential Search Committee and the Board of Trustees should be commended for the decision to name Kolenbrander the interim president.

With this move, Alma begins a new time of respect and unity for the administration, faculty and students.

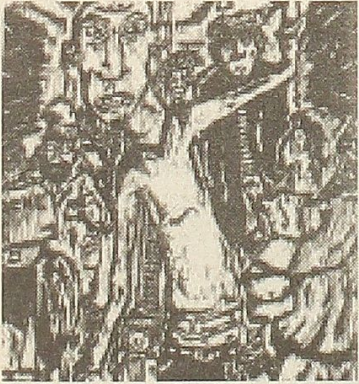


- 1. Charlie's Angels
- 2. Little Nicky
- 3. Men of Honor
- 4. Meet the Parents
- 5. Red Planet
- 6. The Legend of Bagger Vance
- 7. Remember the Titans
- 8. Pay it Forward
- 9. Billy Elliot
- 10. Bedazzled



- 1. "The Dynasty Roc La Familia"—Jay-Z
- 2. "Stankonia"—Outcast
- 3. "All That You Can't Leave Behind"—U2
- 4. "Chocolate Starfish and the Hot Dog Flavored Water"—Limp Bizkit
- 5. "Awake"—Godsmack
- 6. "Country Grammar"—Nelly
- 7. "Greatest Hits"—Lenny Kravitz
- 8. "Who Let the Dogs Out"—Baha Men
- 9. "Human Clay"—Creed
- 10. "Rule 3:36"—Ja Rule

Alma College Print Art Fair currently taking place in the Clack Art Center which is view- ing until December 9, 2000



For the past eighteen years Alma College has taken part in a tradition that all began by soliciting contemporary Michigan prints. After a long selection process, out of state Juror Karen Kunc from Omaha, Nebraska was brought in to host the competi- tion. She then judged many pieces of work and declared junior Benjamin Mephram the winner.

Movie Review by Ginger Davis

Barrymore leads an all-star cast with an all-star performance

For the premiere of *Charlie's Angels*, Columbia Pictures was forced to book an extra theater so that everyone who attended could see the picture, the hype was so great. Did the angles rise to the expectations of the audience? They did for one simple reason: charisma.

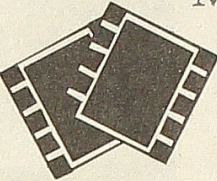
The greatest weakness is the script. Over a dozen writers worked on the script, each asked by the studio to punch up the dialogue a bit, and judging by the results, each writer contributed about 0.3 jokes.

The plot is nothing to brag about but the characters manage to overcome both these problems. The angles—Drew Barrymore, Lucy Liu and Cameron Diaz—are simply having so much fun playing crime fighters, chasing villains and saving the elusive Charlie that the audience cannot help but have fun with them.

Barrymore stands out as the angel, modeled after the original Jaclyn Smith character. She dresses more conservatively than her counterparts and has a tendency to sleep with losers—including her real life boyfriend; Tom Green who appears as a dork named Chad who lives on a grimy fishing boat.

Cameron Diaz is the cutest and most memorable of the Angels. Her dance numbers

are hilarious, namely because the actress seems immune to embarrassment. Remember how



Movie Review

Charlie's Angels

Drew Barrymore, Lucy Liu and Cameron Diaz

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she charmed a bar full of Karaoke singers with a voice that sounded oddly reminiscent of a live goose being thrown in a blender in *My Best Friend's Wedding*? For the same reason—her ability to be both odd and endearing at the same time—she is the perfect Angel.

Lucy Liu was the least likeable of the Angels. Overall, she was like a Clinton advisor at a press conference—she seemed annoyed that she even had to be there. Although the Liu dolls will not sell as quickly as the others, she did present a nice contrast with her silly-sweet counterparts. Without her the movie might

have been an overdose of cute.

Bill Murray is likeable enough as Bosley. After straightening out (pun intended) a few aspects of his character with scriptwriters, he created a funny father-like figure that runs the crime fighting company the Angels work for. This was not his funniest role—not by a long shot—but he brings some much-needed testosterone to the film.

The reason why *Charlie's Angels* works so well is because it doesn't take itself seriously. It is refreshing to see female crime fighters that realize that the very notion of female crime fighters chasing villains in tight leather pants and high heels is ridiculous.

Instead of even trying to be serious about their careers, the Angels engage in stunts that defy the laws of physics and do victory dances when they knock out villains. The result is a lot of lighthearted fun.

Barrymore produced this film and it shows; the film is an adorable example of what Barrymore does best—humor that all ages can enjoy. There's something for everyone here: no guns so that Rosie O'Donnell can watch, plenty of girl-power for the Britney Spears fan demographic, race cars, Tom Green and Barrymore being thrown out of a building naked.

Album Review by Dan Joyce

Over 20 years old and still pleasing fans

How many bands, 20 years after their first release, can release an album of new material, draw a new crowd and please the old, and become a pop sensation? Bono, The Edge, Larry and Adam have once again brought U2 to the forefront of the music industry.

In a time where the sea of music is tides of country-pop remakes, teen dreams and blonde bombshells selling albums because of the faces on the cover, U2 not only stays afloat, but reclaims the true dry land with *All That You Can't Leave Behind*.

Forget all those guitar-driven noise albums. We don't need another album that utilizes a beatbox and a bunch of harmonies without a guitar or bass. We have U2.

*All That You Can't Leave Behind* follows along, for the most part, with the old U2 style that we all know; tight harmonies that aren't over used or over mixed, the vocals, guitars, bass and drums all mixed to that level. This perfect level is where you don't ever really notice the vocals or the guitar, but you pay attention to the lyrics and the sound. The instruments and voices all just mix and flow., true U2.

Sadly there are a few songs that aren't quite perfectly mixed. Parts of "Elevation" sound a little like that "make it radio friendly" change that Bush saw between *Sixteen Stone* and *Razorblade Suitcase*. Though, just as you start to wonder if the old U2 is gone, "Elevation" finishes, Bono whispers lowly over a few instruments, and you are taken through "Walk On", a song that sounds like a missing track from *Achtung Baby*.

The new album consists of songs that remind you of their first American release, *Boy*, right up through their last new-music release,

*Pop*. The song "Kite" even sounds as though it could have been placed on nearly any album they produced.

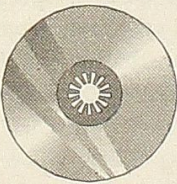
If you are wondering if the music gurus that are U2 have finally "found what they're looking for," give *All That You Can't Leave Behind* a listen. The same soul-searching, self-written lyrics are prevalent, especially in "Peace on Earth." "Jesus can you take the

time/ to throw a drowning man a line/ peace on earth" reminds you of "If God Will Send His Angels" from *Pop*.

All of the album isn't a search for something. The guys still know how to sit back and look at the good going on around them. "Beautiful Day" is one of these songs. "Beautiful Day" opens the album and was also the first single from the album.

*All That You Can't Leave Behind* flows well. All of it is perfectly mixed for the sound they were trying for, but

pop radio may be able to lay too big a claim to certain songs. Though not quite *Joshua Tree*, U2 stands as the firm foundation and the ever-moving threshold of the music industry. Past territorial claims were expanded with little loss of the old land.



Album Review

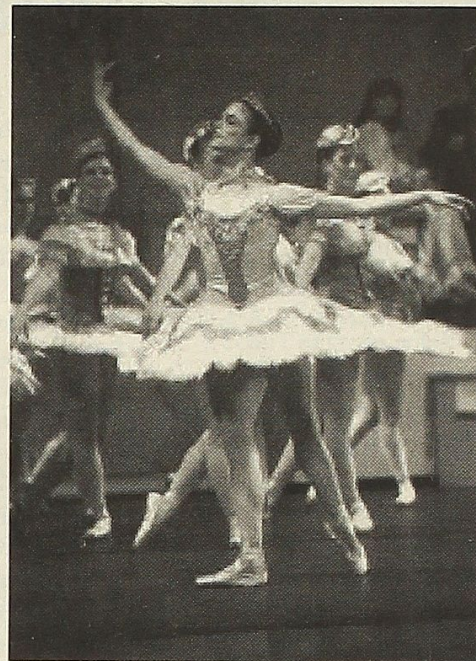
All That You Can't Leave Behind

U2

A-

SUGGESTED TRACKS: "Kite" and "Peace On Earth"  
RELATED ALBUMS: any other U2 album (*Joshua Tree* especially)

# The Nutcracker



By **OLGA WROBEL**  
Staff Writer

One of the most timeless and beloved traditions of the holiday season is definitely the well known ballet *The Nutcracker*. *The Nutcracker* is a story written by E.T.A. Hoffman, with the score written by the great composer Peter Tchaikovsky. This fall the Alma College Dance Company put on *The Nutcracker* at the Heritage Center, and it was performed from November 16th to November 19th, 2000.

It is hard for such a classic fairy tale to disappoint, and in this instance the ballet was wonderful as ever.

For those few who do not know the story of *The Nutcracker*, the first act takes place in the home of a wealthy couple living during the early 1900's. It is Christmas Eve, and their young chil-

dren Clara and Jamie are waiting along with other friends of the family for the gifts they will soon receive. Clara's godfather, Dr. Drosselmeyer, has brought a special gift for her: a nutcracker. After everyone goes to bed, Clara is shocked to see life-sized rats running around her living room trying to attack her. However, her godfather appears with the nutcracker, who has also now grown into a life size soldier, who battles the rats and wins.

After the nutcracker defeats the rats, he turns into a handsome prince and takes Clara on a journey through the Kingdom of Sweets. Here, dancers and gorgeous scenery surround them, and they watch in amazement as the many different cultures of the world come together and put on a wonderful show. It is an imaginary world that Clara will never forget.

The two most important parts of this ballet are the music and the dancing. Tchaikovsky's score is well known and beautiful. Every sound from every single instrument is so full of emotion that the audience cannot help but listen in amazement. The Alma College Symphony Orchestra did a spectacular job, and sounded very professional. Without their talent the ballet would have been nowhere near as good as it was.

The dancing was also done very well; the Alma Dance Company proved to be committed and talented, and there were also dancers from around Michigan. The guest principal ballerina, Melanie Brossiet, played a very important role in the ballet, as the Sugar Plum Fairy. She was extremely graceful, and kept the audience in awe. All the dancers were amazing, and made the production a success.

The other aspect that was very important to the ballet was the set and the costumes. The scenery and stage design was very impressive, and gave the feel of Christmas time very well. The costumes and makeup of the dancer were exquisite, especially the rat outfits, which were hilarious. The entire set was beautiful, and made *The Nutcracker*. It definitely worth the time to see.

The Alma College Dance Company and Symphony Orchestra did a fantastic job on the *Nutcracker*, it was professional and emotional and made the students look forward to more Alma productions in the future.

**Grade: A**



November 21, 2000

## FEATURE

9

# Greek God competition: Scooby-doo sheets, bench pressing, and fun for all

BY RACHEL KUHL  
Staff Writer

The vines were winding, the grapes were ripe, and thus began the Third Annual Greek God Competition, sponsored by Phi Sigma Sigma. The hosts for the evening were Phi Sig seniors Colleen Petterson (01) and Dana Moats (02).

The event kicked off with a toga competition, allowing the ten male contestants to strut their stuff in traditional Roman attire. While most of the contestants selected standard white as their toga of choice, there were a few exceptions, including contestant Dirk Harris' choice of Scooby Doo.

The talent competition followed after a few technical difficulties and audience members

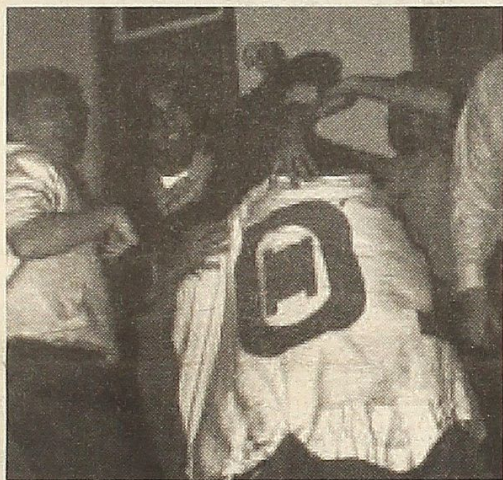


Photo by Dan Joyce

Members of the contest congratulate winner Eric Fritts on his new title

were treated to a variety of entertainment. Contestants Eric Fritts (02) and Ken Kochajda (02) played their version of the 1980's hit "Walk Like an Egyptian," while Mike Murphy (01) and Chris Harrington (01) dressed up, danced and spanked themselves to "Macho Man." Contestant Chris Warner (01) flaunted his physical strength by bench pressing his Phi Sig sponsor Amy Beth Place (02) eleven times, while Seth Emerson (02) flaunted the strength of his explosive nasal capacity.

Dirk Harris (01) stripped and sang along to "Glory Days," while Jason Pappas (02) dazzled the judges with his ability to eat cereal off his chest. Ryan Downing (03) gave a comedy schtick that ranged from Big Beaver road to dog suits. In an attempt to show off his sensitive side, Matt Smith (03) lulled the audience with a beautiful piano piece.

Following the talent portion of the event the contestants were given one last opportunity to win the judges affections before the field would be narrowed to just five competitors. This last chance to impress was the formal wear segment of the evening. Needless to say each of the contestants demonstrated that they could nicely fill out their tuxes and suits, before hearing the judges decisions.

The judges panel was comprised of representatives from each of the campus sororities. After much deliberation they announced their final five: Pappas, Fritts, Smith, Kochajda and Harrington. Once selected each remaining contestant was asked a different question relating to Greek life by one of the judges. Once the interviews were complete, the judges made

their final decision.

The winner of the competition was Eric Fritts with Matt Smith as first runner up. When asked about his victory Fritts responded, "It felt so good, I had to take a nap the next day to recover."

Overall the evening was a success on other levels as well. Not only did it crown a new Greek God, but it also raised money for the National Kidney Foundation.

"I think it went well, we all worked together as a team and had fun doing it. Plus, we were able to raise money for a great cause," said Petterson.



Photo by Dan Joyce

Jason Pappas shows off his stuff to Michael Murphy at the contest.

# Paddy Murphy revived for four days

By LAUREN ELIASON  
Staff Writer

What could be more exciting than the Sigma Alpha Epsilon brothers dressed up like gangsters and pretending it's the 1930's? How about a dramatic skit, a funeral, and a party/wake to follow? The SAE brothers give you all that and more in this 4 day celebration. This year's Paddy Murphy began on Thursday, November 16th 2000 and ended in the early morning hours of Sunday, November 19th 2000. The celebration is not only fun, it carries tradition too.

Chapter's of SAE at schools all over the nation carry on this celebration, and it was brought here to Alma in the early 1980 is. The whole event honors Paddy Murphy, a famous gangster "It all is supposed to be taking place during prohibition," said Dirk Harris, SAE President.

Murphy and his gang were killed by Al Capone in the St. Valenines Day Massacre. "The party was put together by an SAE chapter in Evanston, Illinois in the 1950is to honor his death when they found out that Paddy Murphy was an SAE," said Shaun Turkelson.

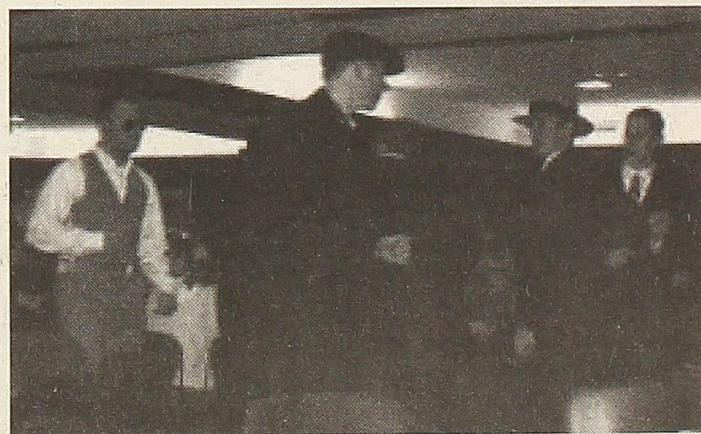
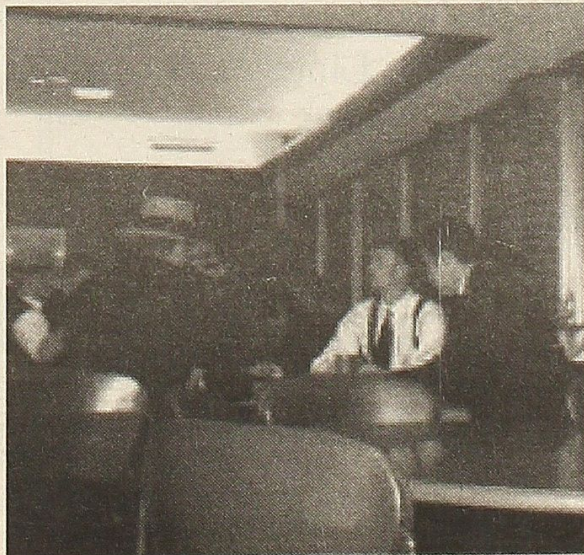
To start off, one SAE member, who is a junior, is chosen to be Murphy. This year's choice was Ken Carver. "It was an honor to be chosen, and it's going to be interesting to see what happens to me," he said.

After Murphy is chosen, the event continues on, with the traditional activities that take place every year. "Even though lots of SAE's have this party, we don't all do the same things for it," said Harris.

At Alma, the event begins with a skit, which takes place on the Thursday before the party. To start off, Murphy (Carver) and his girl, along with his "bodyguards" and fellow "gangsters", sit playing cards in SAGA, all decked out as 1930's gangsters.

Soon the rival "gang" of senior SAE's enter and there is a fight. Murphy gets shot, and his fellow gangsters escape to end the skit.

The festivities continue on Saturday when a mock funeral service is held for Murphy in Jones Auditorium. Murphy lies in a casket while the funeral takes place. His fellow gangsters hold the service



for him, and anyone is invited to go watch.

After the funeral, Murphy is carried back to the SAE house in his casket. After that a wake is held for him, the major event that the week leads up to. The wake is otherwise known as the Paddy Murphy party. Everyone has a good time and honors Murphy in the process.

This time the SAE's don't only know a great way to have fun, they honor a bit of history and tradition in the process.

Paddy Murphy and his gang sit down for a friendly game of cards

Photos by Amanda Dusendang

# Alma wins two at Scottie Invitational

By **DARBY CORNELIUS**  
Staff Writer

The women's basketball team started the season off with victories, defeating Taylor and Defiance at the Scottie Invitational last weekend.

Friday night's action included a close 69-64 victory over Taylor. The Scots began the game in the lead with a score of 20-7 coming out of the first quarter. The Trojans fought back to bump the score to 35-33 at halftime. The score wavered back and forth all throughout the second half. At 59-59 with three minutes of play left, it was anyone's game.

The Scots seized their scoring opportunities, first with two free throws by first-year student Karen Hall and a turn-around jumpshot from sophomore center Shelly Ulfig at the 1:54 mark. The score was in Alma's favor at 63-59.

The Trojans could not keep their hands to themselves as they gave away the deciding free throw shots. Sophomore forward Janell Twietmeyer knocked two in the basket and sophomore Kristy Gehrs sank two more free throws to seal the 69-64 victory.

Ulfig led the scoring with 20 points on 9-of-15 shooting from the floor. Seniors Rebekah Downing and Joy Horton contributed 11 points and five assists apiece.

"We were apprehensive about playing Taylor, because they are a veteran team with a style of play that is difficult to attack," said coach Charles Goffnett.

On Saturday in the Cappart Gymnasium, the Scots denied Defiance a victory in the championship game of the Scottie Invitational. Twietmeyer and Ulfig led the Scots to an 82-64 victory.

Twietmeyer's 25 points tied the school record for the most three-pointers in a game, going 7-for-7 behind the arc. The previous record was set in 1992 by Michele VanDamme.

Ulfig was named Most Valuable Player in the tournament with 18 points and 12 rebounds.

"I think that winning the first two games was a boost of confidence to start off the season," said Ulfig. "The first game got the jitters out, so we were more relaxed going into the second game."

Twietmeyer sank five three-pointers in the first half, helping the Scots to a 38-29 lead. The Scots would not let up and kept a steady lead of at least 13 points to the finish.

Horton added 11 points and six rebounds. The Scots put their effort into the three-pointers with a 64 percent, finishing 11-for-17. Alma shot an overall 60 percent from the floor, going 28-for-46.

In the consolation match, Taylor defeated Aquinas 70-60.

"The tournament couldn't have gone better," said Goffnett. "I thought the women gave an excellent effort."

The Scots will travel to Spring Arbor on Nov. 21 to battle the Cougars at 7 p.m.



Photo by Dan Joyce

*Rebekah Downing (0) drives to the basket in last week-ends Scottie Invitational*

# Scots defeat Olivet, finish season 6-5

By **AMY NOVAK**  
Sports Editor

The Scots wrapped up their 2000 season with a 28-13 win over Olivet College on Nov. 11. This leaves the Scots' season record at 6-4 overall and 3-2 in the MIAA. The 3-2 league record is good enough for a second place tie with Kalamazoo and Albion.

Senior quarterback Brandon Wrobel led the offense, completing 28 of 53 passes for 315 yards and a touchdown. Sophomore Tom Devore led the running game with 12 carries for 50 yards, while sophomore Laurence Trumble

tallied 42 yards and two touchdowns in 15 carries.

Junior Kris Ernst led the receivers, grabbing eight passes for 126 yards and junior Brian Burgtorf caught seven passes for 91 yards and a touchdown.

On the defensive end, senior Justin Harris led the Scots with eight tackles, four for a loss, and three quarterback sacks before adding a touchdown late in the game. Senior Dave Durston tallied seven tackles, two for a loss.

Alma pulled an early 7-0 lead in the first on a five-yard run by Trumble. An eight yard pass from Wrobel to Burgtorf in the second put the Scots up 14-0. Another run by Trumble increased the lead to 21-0.

The Comets scored twice in the last two minutes of the half, to cut the Alma lead to 21-13.

The second half was a defensive battle until late in the fourth when Harris scored on a two-yard run to bring the final score to 28-13.

Harris earned MIAA Defensive Player of the Week honors for the second time this season after his performance in the game against the Comets.

Six Scots earned All-MIAA honors for their performance in the 2000 season. Ernst, Harris, first-year student Josh Peters and senior Dan Sweetman all earned first team honors. Seniors Craig Calkins and Dan Price earned second team honors.

Ernst earned first team honors after leading the Scots and the MIAA in receiving for the season. He caught 60 passes for 796 yards and five touchdowns while returning 17 punts to total 199 yards. He tallied 1,028 all purpose yards on the season to lead the team.

Harris earned top MIAA honors for his second season in a row, totaling 58 tackles, 17 for a loss, and 13 sacks. His loss-tackles and sacks totaled 197 lost yards for the opponents. Harris was named All-American for the 1999 season and is attempting to earn his second bid.

Peters earned offensive lineman honors despite starting the first three games on the defensive side. He was switched during the Hanover game and helped protect the Scot quarterbacks all season.

Sweetman earned All-MIAA honors for the first time, leading Alma with 82 tackles, 50 solo, during the season. He also broke up seven passes and forced one fumble.

Calkins earned second team honors for his position as offensive lineman offering constant protection at the center position. Price earned second team honors for the linebacker position, ending the season with 45 tackles.

Senior Mike Allison, Burgtorf, Durston, sophomore Gavin Fralick, first-year student Matt Piccirilli, junior Dave Simpson and Wrobel all earned honorable mentions in the MIAA.

## All MIAA First Team Honors

Kris Ernst (02) Receiver

Justin Harris (01) Defensive Line

Josh Peters (03) Offensive Line

Dan Sweetman (01) Defensive Back

## MIAA Second Team Honors

Craig Calkins (01) Offensive Line

Dan Price (01) Linebacker

## Honorable Mentions

Mike Allison (01), Brian Burgtorf (02), Dave Durston (01), Gavin Fralick (03), Matt Piccirilli (04), Dave Simpson (02), and Brandon Wrobel (01).

# Individuals shine at CC Championships

By LAUREN ELIASON  
Staff Writer

The Alma men’s and women’s cross country teams wrapped up their seasons at the MIAA Great Lakes Regional Meet in Hanover, Illinois on November 11, 2000. Although Calvin won both the men’s and women’s meet, Alma held their own against the competition.

The men’s team placed 16th overall, edging out the likes of league rivals Adrian and Kalamazoo.

Leading Alma, Ryan Triplett (04) placed 35th overall with a 27:12 finish. Also finishing strong were Andrew Kibbe (02) in 68th and Reid McGuire (02) in 90th. Their times were 27:48 and 28:09, respectively.

Mark Penzien (02) came in fourth for Alma and 121st overall, with a time of 28:38. Following behind him were Joe Bush (03) 28:44; Garnet Johnson (03)29:05; and Ryan Rau (02) 30:18.

Although the team was far from finishing last, they felt that their effort could have been a bit stronger. “Our team ran pretty well, but we didn’t run as well as we could have,” said Kibbe. “We are still a very young team, and we have lots of potential.”

The Alma women’s team did well, with a 20th place finish in their regional competition.

Alma’s top finisher was Carly Day (04), who finished 87th coming in at 20:54. Not

following far behind were Amanda Dusendang (03), grabbing the a 93rd place finish with a time of 20:57, and Emily Breczinski (04) who finished 108th in 21:10.

Darby Cornelius (03) and Jill Pfeffer (04) finished right in a row at 113th and 114th, posting times of 21:13 and 21:14. Stacy Turschak (01) 21:16 and Emily Grantner (04) 21:55 finished next for Alma.

“It wasn’t the best team finish we’ve ever had, but the experience of running at regionals is always rewarding. I look forward to next year because we have a lot of team potential,” said Pfeffer.

To wrap up the season, the men’s team grabbed fourth place in the final season standings for the MIAA. Although they couldn’t be disappointed with the finish, they definitely had their share of problems with injury along the way, which may have been reflected in their standing.

Johnson, Triplett, and Rau earned All-MIAA Second Team honors for the men. Bush was also a strong runner for the team.

“Our season went pretty well, considering we had a lot of injuries,” said Triplett.

The women’s team finished sixth in the MIAA, and their story was very similar to the men’s. The team was often shook up by injuries to top runners, making things difficult.

“We had an injury bug, it seemed like there was an injury almost every week. The injuries did allow younger runners to step up though,” said assistant coach Kevin

Skaggs.

Both Breczinski and Dusendang performed well consistently for the team over the course of this season.

Compared to last year, the league was considerably more competitive this season for both the men and the women, with the likes of rivals like Albion and Hope performing well all season.

As far as both teams go, youth was a big factor. With many underclassmen running for both teams, many runners were still getting used to college competition. With this year’s experience under their belts, the team should be strong next season.

“Next year will be promising for both teams,” said Skaggs.

## MIAA men’s basketball predictions

By DARBY CORNELIUS  
Staff Writer

Pre-season basketball predictions surfaced at Wednesday’s conference media day at Albion College. All the coaches in the MIAA voted, but they could not vote for their own team.

Rankings are based on past performance and do not affect the upcoming season. The coaches’ expectations are displayed through the pre-season poll.

The women’s team received a ranking of 17 points and one first-place vote to trail Hope by ten points. The Scots ended the 1999-2000 season with a 15-1 overall record and a third-place tie with Kalamazoo in the conference.

“Polls are just polls,” said women’s coach Charles Goffnett, “If we work hard on a daily basis, we will have a chance to move up from second place.”

The men placed seventh with 35 points. Calvin, as the defending NCAA Division III Champions, placed first with a total of 6 points. The injury-plagued Scots finished last season with a 7-18 record (1-13 MIAA).

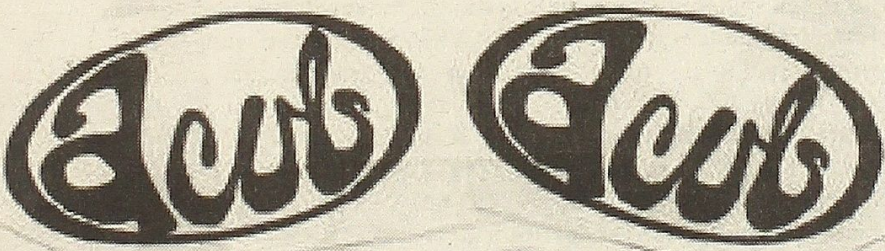
### MIAA Women’s Basketball Pre-Season Poll

- |                 |           |
|-----------------|-----------|
| 1. Hope (7)     | 7 points  |
| 2. Alma (1)     | 17 points |
| 3. Calvin       | 19 points |
| 4. Kalamazoo    | 22 points |
| 5. Adrian       | 33 points |
| 6. Albion       | 36 points |
| 7. Olivet       | 42 points |
| 8. Saint Mary’s | 48 points |

### MIAA Men’s Basketball Pre-Season Poll

- |               |           |
|---------------|-----------|
| 1. Calvin (6) | 6 points  |
| 2. Hope (1)   | 13 points |
| 3. Albion     | 17 points |
| 4. Olivet     | 18 points |
| 5. Kalamazoo  | 28 points |
| 6. Adrian     | 30 points |
| 7. Alma       | 35 points |

\*Numbers in parentheses indicate first-place votes



## Prepare to be Hypnotized...

Alma College Union Board Presents:  
Hypnotist Michael Anthony

Tuesday November 28, 2000  
7:30 PM in the Chapel

**Upcoming Events:**  
**Dec.1- Euchre Tournament**  
**Dec. 2 - College Bowl**

Congratulations to the ACUB Rep of the month:  
Marie Teller

## FAST Stats

### Men’s Swimming

- |              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| 1. Kalamazoo | 3-0 |
| 2. Calvin    | 1-0 |
| 3. Hope      | 2-1 |
| 4. Alma      | 0-1 |
| 5. Albion    | 0-2 |
| 6. Olivet    | 0-2 |

### Women’s Swimming

- |               |     |
|---------------|-----|
| 1. Hope       | 3-0 |
| 2. Calvin     | 1-0 |
| 3. Kalamazoo  | 2-1 |
| 4. St. Mary’s | 0-0 |
| 5. Alma       | 0-1 |
| 6. Albion     | 0-2 |
| 7. Olivet     | 0-2 |

## Individual victories motivates swim team



Photo by Bryan Waugh

By **OLGA WROBEL**  
Staff Writer

On Saturday Nov. 18, the Alma College men's and women's swim teams swam well at home against Kalamazoo College. Even though they lost overall, there were many reasons to celebrate afterwards.

The Alma men's swim team has only seven members, but they had a large number of good swims. Despite their final 132-79 loss, there was five first place finishes. The Scots were led by senior Nick Holliday, who earned three of the first place finishes. He won the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 23.21 seconds. He also won the 200-yard backstroke with a time of 2:06.97. Holliday earned third place in the 400-yard medley relay with sophomore Mike Porter, junior Andrew Schade, and junior Justin Fournier. They won a with a time of 3:54.24. Junior Dan Linsell also placed first in an individual event; he won the 1000 freestyle in 10:47.16. The final men's win was also a relay, consisting of Porter, Linsell, junior Joe Harris, and first-year student Brandon Digia. They won the 400-yard freestyle relay with a time of 3:27.18.

"The guys team swam awesome, said Linsell. "We will swim even faster at DePauw. There are only seven of us, so we are small, but powerful."

The women's team also came out on top in many events, despite losing 133-101. The team earned four first place finishes. First-year student Megan King placed first in both the 200-yard freestyle and 500-yard freestyle, with times of 2:01.60, and 5:18.60 respectively. Her win in the 500 yard freestyle was a first-year student record, proving that King is not slowing down when it comes to her ultimate goal, breaking the records. Senior Jenni Troyer had two first place finishes as well, winning the 400 IM and the 200-yard butterfly, with times of 5:04.38, and 2:24.11 respectively.

It was a close meet that brought a little disappointment.

"The women had a shot, so we were disappointed they didn't win," said Coach Greg Baadte.

Overall thoughts on the meet from the Baadte were that the teams won every close race.

"The swimmers really stepped up and did an incredible job," said Baadte. "We swam very well."

This was the first time in Baadte's eleven years of coaching that Alma won both of the relays against Kalamazoo. The next meet will be the DePauw Swimming Invitational on Dec. 1-2.

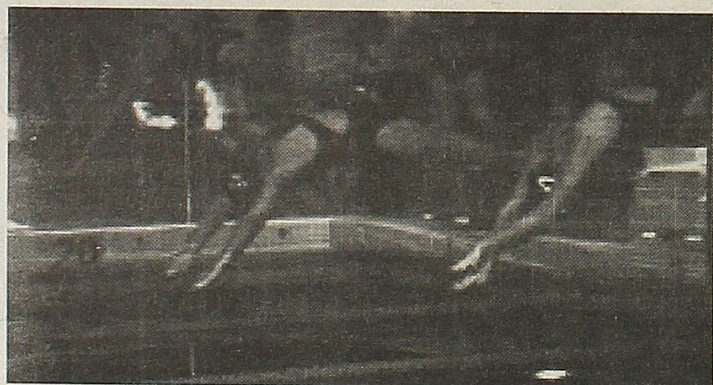


Photo by Bryan Waugh

## 2001 Pom Squad selected

By **AMY NOVAK**  
Sports Editor

Turn up the music and get ready for a halftime performance. The Alma College Pom Squad has been chosen. The team consists of 21 women, some returning and many new.

Members include Kristi Bartholomew (04), Andrea Celmer (04), Jennifer Cline (04), Shannon Conlan (03), Jennifer Fitzpatrick (03), Megan Freeland (02), Holly Huizinga (04), Liz Kunkle (04), Christina Leonard (04), Lynsay Masters (04), Jillane McDonald (01), Theresa Miller (04), Amber Nash (04), Brooke Palm (03), Sandy Patrick (04), Betsy Richards (03), Jennifer Sanders (04), Leah Shagene (02), Alice Sova (04), Hannah Stapleton (04), and Stephanie Zehner (03).

The team co-captains are McDonald and Palm. Palm originated the idea of forming the squad last year when she first came to Alma.

"I think it is going to be a really good year; it's nice starting fresh," said Palm. "Last year was a lot of fun; we had a good group of girls. I hope this year is just as good."

Twenty-eight girls tried out for the squad. Judges included Carrie Atkins, the Pom coach for Ithaca High School, Kelly Imrich, a junior Chippette at Central Michigan University, and the squad's advisor, Housing Secretary and Cheerleading Coach Deb Moon.

The eight returning members of the squad have the advantage of performing with the team last season. The thirteen first year students on the squad bring high school experiences to the squad.

"We have a lot of strong girls with backgrounds in poms," said Palm. "Last year it was so new for everyone."

The team received money from Student Congress to purchase new uniforms for the season. They will continue to wear last year's uniforms in addition to the new ones.

"We're really excited about our new uniforms," said Palm. "They are going to be a little more traditional, resembling cheerleading uniforms with a shell top and skirt."

The team begins practicing today and will have their first performance during halftime of the men's basketball game on Jan. 10, 2001.

## 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.**

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**Congratulations Donna! Love, the Almanian staff**

**Congrats to our very own Iron Rachel. Chop those mushrooms! Love, Mandy and Rebecca**

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