

The Almanian

Serving Alma College since 1907

Alma College, Alma, MI 48801

Issue 10

Tuesday, December 21, 2000



Nation and World in Brief

A new president should be elected before students return from break

By AMY TAYLOR
Managing Editor

Upon returning to Alma for winter term classes, a new U.S. president should be announced. Before this can happen, several issues are being battled out by the two candidates.

The final outcome boils down to either a surrender or a showdown in Congress or the Supreme Court. Here are some of the events that occurred over the past few weeks and what can be expected in the near future:

George W. Bush met with party leaders from Congress Saturday to prepare for transitional issues and on a 2001 agenda. However, all of the legal jargon would show that this election is not over yet.

Court hearings resumed Sunday over whether to count 14,000 disputed ballots. Gore's lawyers are contesting Florida's official election results saying a number of legal votes mainly in Palm Beach and Miami-Dade counties were rejected.

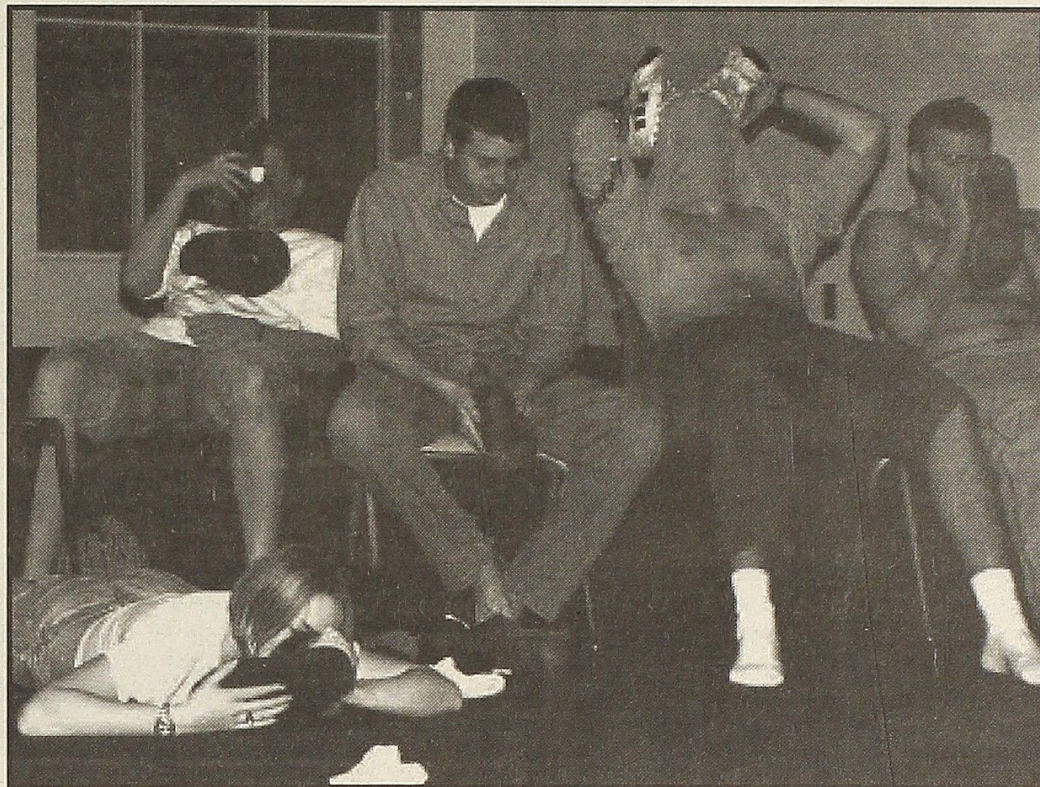
Yesterday, the U.S. Supreme Court remanded the case back to the Florida Supreme Court for further explanation for the basis of its ruling, which extended the deadline for recounts November 26.

Bush's lawyers are saying that no further recounting should be allowed, calling Gore's request as being contrary to the state's law. The Florida judge will listen each party's suggestions while considering whether the count should be done.

At this point, estimating when a final outcome will arrive is not as easy as it sounds. As the hearings continue on, having a newly elected president announced before students return to begin classes is more likely.

The upcoming One-Act Play Festival guarantees a good laugh.
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Listen to the sound of my voice...

Hypnotist Michael Anthony, took participants on a trip to a tropical island where they needed oxygen to breathe. Here, their shoes provided them with the oxygen.

Bryan Waugh

CMU professor provides insight into the Holocaust

By ANNE MABBITT
Freelance Writer

Professor Eric Johnson of Central Michigan University was brought to campus last Monday by Eta Sigma Tau (HST), the History Club, to speak at the Heritage Center about his recently released book, "Nazi Terror: The Gestapo, Jews, and Ordinary Germans."

He began his speech by posing questions such as: What was Nazi terror? How did the Nazi system work? What was the relationship between the police and the regular population? Who is responsible for Nazi crimes? What responsibilities did average Germans have?

The result of recent studies have affirmed the belief that German civilians had more to do with World War II and the Holocaust than previously thought. This led Johnson to search for the reason Jewish people would have stayed in Germany between

1933-39 when Hitler was coming into power.

Johnson studied in several cities of varying size during his six years in Germany. He studied Gestapo files on interrogations of defense. Johnson then studied case files on Jewish and ordinary families living in Germany which decided whether they would be emigrated.

Johnson's second type of research consisted of talking with ordinary Germans and Jewish Germans who had lived through the Third Reich. He also surveyed Gestapo officials to determine what their individual perception was before and after their involvement.

Johnson found that Nazi terror was never meant to apply to most Germans. This explains Nazi popularity until the last two years of WWII. When people began to understand the crimes of Germany, Hitler lost popularity. Many people Johnson polled claimed to have believed in Nazi ideals (an even larger

number than voted for him in 1933). Nearly everybody claimed to have been involved in minor illegal activity, during Nazi control.

Furthermore, Johnson discovered that most Jewish Germans did not feel the surrounding Germans were overwhelmingly anti-Semitic. However, had the German population been outspoken about the terror of which many were aware, it would not have happened. Johnson supports this view because when Catholics started letting it be known that so many handicapped children had been killed, euthanasia stopped.

Johnson ended his speech by explaining that Nazi officials had the ability to choose a person's fate. Usually murder was chosen.

"These people were the epitome of evil — they believed that they were good," said Johnson.

The History Club meets Thursday nights at 7:30 p.m. in the Bruske Blue Room.

Parking remains an issue for students

By AMY TAYLOR, Managing Editor and
CARDELL JOHNSON, Staff Writer

Parking, a policy that seems to be in the spotlight quite often, is there once again. This time it is the lack of spaces available in the non-preferred lots. Those who are registered for non-preferred parking often find that there are no spots open.

One reason for this is that more permits were sold than spots actually available. A memo however does inform first-year students of the fact that a permit does not guarantee an actual parking spot.

According to the College's policy, students holding non-preferred parking permits may park in the Bruske, Gelston, Newberry, New Dorms and small housing lots. While non-preferred holders, which mainly consist of first-year students, are only allowed to park in lots located by the Heritage Center, Superior St. apartments and the softball field.

A problem that students with non-preferred permits are experiencing is that there are not enough parking spaces in non-preferred parking lots. There are 149 non-preferred

parking spaces; however, Physical Plant sold 232 permits.

"I improvise and make my own parking spot and occasionally I get a ticket for it," said Chris DaCosta (04).

After DaCosta and two or three other students complained to President Alan J. Stone he suggested that part of the commuter lot near the railroad tracks be opened for non-preferred parking. Since this, DaCosta said available parking improved a little, but it is still annoying.

In the literature we send out in the summer about parking, it specifically states that there is no guaranteed parking," said Nancy Harger, Physical Plant secretary. "About five to six years ago, student congress designed the preferred and non-preferred parking plan. They felt that the upper-class should have first choice in selecting a parking space," she said.

When parking is not available for those in the non-preferred lots, there are no alternative choices available. If they park in the preferred areas, students will receive a ticket from campus security and due to a city ordinance, vehicles cannot be parked on the streets between 2 and 7 a.m.

See PARKING on page 3

After a tumultuous 12 1/2 years Stone says goodbye

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

After twelve and a half years as college president, Alan Stone will officially say goodbye to students during these last few weeks of fall term.

Stone, who was originally scheduled to retire on June 30, 2001, announced this fall that his retirement date had been changed to Dec. 31, 2000.

"I had asked the Board in September that if it were possible, I would like to leave in January, and none of us knew if it would be or not," said Stone.

The Board succeeded in finding an interim replacement for Stone and officially accepted his early retirement request at the October Board of Trustees meeting.

Search consultant, Bruce Alton, introduced a couple of candidates to the Board. Harold Kolenbrander, former president of Mount Union College in Ohio, was selected to preside for the winter term.

Kolenbrander will officially take residence on Jan. 2 after Stone and wife Jonieta move out of the president's house on Dec. 27.

"We're going to Scottsdale [Arizona]. We have a little house on a mountain, on one of the better golf courses in this country, with

years," said Stone.

As a president of Aurora University in Aurora, Illinois for ten years before coming to Alma, Stone has functioned as a college president for almost 23 years.

"Thirteen years is a long time to be the president of any place, twice as long as usual. I'd really enjoy doing something else in the last few years of my career," said Stone.

Eventually, Stone would like to take over the presidency of a foundation or association.

"Preferably [a position] half as fast," said Stone.

Twelve and a half years ago when Stone took the position of president, Alma College was in a downward spiral.

"It had a declining enrollment, had lost over 200 students and was running a deficit," said Stone.

Stone successfully reversed the trend during the first 3 to 4 years and raised the enrollment level back to 1400 students. Since then, he has concentrated on adding 10 more students/year in an attempt to keep the size of campus at a manageable number.

John Colina, former Chair of the Alma College Board of Trustees, credits Stone as being a major reason that Alma has been so successful in the past ten years.

"Alma College has done far better than most colleges during the 90s," said Colina. He also adds that he is grateful to Stone for all that he has achieved during his term.

Stone said that he is happy with all of the goals that he has achieved since coming here, but said that there were two goals that he was unable to achieve.

"I wasn't able to increase the number of out-of-state students or minority students. Those still remain goals for the college," said Stone.

While president, Stone has served as chair of the Association of Presbyterian Colleges and Universities, the Michigan Campus Compact, the Michigan Colleges Foundation, the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association and as a member of the Executive Committee of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

He has also been very active within the Alma community and has served on a variety of committees, including the Gratiot County Strategic Planning Group's committees, United Way campaigns, the Chamber of Commerce and the Bank of Alma.

Throughout his time in Alma, Stone has had many memorable experiences, but believes the construction of the Heritage Center is one of his most important.

"I think it's one of the more noticeable things, it really allowed dance to take off. Choir and symphony, the band, everyone could just enhance their programs tremendously because of the facility," said Stone.

Stone will also take with him many memories of students.

"There are a lot of students who still contact me, only now they're bringing back their kids because I've been here so long. [I will remember] the student oriented things that are kind of cute and fun," said Stone.

Friends will be the one thing that Stone will miss most upon his departure.

"I have a lot of friends, in the school but also in the community. Some of those people have already been to Arizona and looked at the house. The friends are the thing I'll miss as much as anything," said Stone.

In honor of Stone's many accomplishments and long tenure as president, the new Student Recreation Center, which is scheduled to open in August 2001, will be named after Stone.

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.

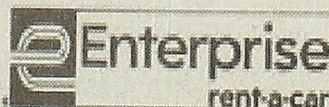
Letter Policy:

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.

Kristopher Swanson
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Stone's life at Alma

The successes of Alma College over the last twelve years include:

- ✓ Enrollment has increased from 1,000 to 14,000.
- ✓ Entering grade point averages have increased from 3.3 to 3.5 and entering average ACT scores from 24 to 25.5.
- ✓ The four-year graduation rates have markedly increased and the five-year rates went over 70%, which is among the best in the state.
- ✓ Annual giving to the college increased from an average of \$3 million to nearly \$4.5 million and the percentage of alumni giving moved from less than 30% to nearly 40%. Two major campaigns were completed at \$17 million and \$33 million.
- ✓ The college's operating budget increased from \$14.7 million in 1988 to \$33.5 million in 2000 and never showed a deficit.
- ✓ The college's endowment grew from \$37.7 million to \$124 million, now one of the largest in the state.
- ✓ The number of full-time faculty members increased faster than enrollment (62 to 87) on a percentage basis, thus lowering the student/faculty ratio and class size.
- ✓ Average faculty salaries increased steadily until they were the highest in the state among small colleges.
- ✓ Successful projects of long-term importance included the library enhancements, improved science equipment, technology development, and enhancement of the performing arts (the dance program, ballet, symphony, choirs and theater).
- ✓ In recent years, the college emphasized quality ethos, student research, student engagement, study abroad, volunteerism and diversity.
- ✓ Over the twelve years the college moved from a regional designation to that of a nation liberal arts college and it was invited to join numerous prestigious associations, including the Annapolis Group.
- ✓ During Dr. Stone's tenure, several new facilities appeared on campus including the Heritage Center for the Performing Arts, the Ronald O. Kapp Science Laboratory Center, the Colina Library Wing and the McIntyre Exercise and Health Science facility. Other facilities saw significant renovation (science center, dormitories and chapel) and campus acreage was expanded greatly with the purchase of many neighborhood properties.

PARKING

"This is ridiculous," said Grant McKinney (04). "Every time I leave and come back someone has taken my parking space and there are no other spaces available except for those in the preferred areas."

According to Duane Knecht, Physical Plant director, this policy will not change in

the near future since it is relatively expensive to add more parking spaces. Knecht could not explain why almost 100 parking spaces were sold than available. However, they will continue to sell more permits than actual spots available.

Therefore, the battle for spaces will carry on in non-preferred parking lots.

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Letters to the Editors

To the editors:

I am writing this letter in response to one written by a Mr. John Gardai, printed in The Almanian's November 21 issue. This letter regarding the SafeZone project made me sick to my stomach. The letter labels homosexual relationships as "socially destructive" and "morally evil." Who asked you for your morality? No one is requiring that anyone participate in the SafeZone project. The campus wide e-mail was meant to appeal to individuals who wished to become allies. This may be a surprise but these allies are needed because of people like this author. SafeZone is important because of the segment of society that wishes to discriminate against the GLBT community.

The last time I checked, the Constitution granted us the right to freely practice any religion we so choose or to refrain from practicing any. This, however, does not give us the right to force our beliefs on others. If you wish to be respected for your beliefs, then you must grant equal respect to the beliefs of others.

I believe that the letter views the world through a very narrow lens and that the author is laboring under the erroneous belief that it is his job to judge. The letter manages to section off and condemn an entire segment of the population, even going so far as to compare them to pedophiles. Then the author says that it bothers him when doing this is compared to discrimination against a biological factor such as race. There is an acknowledgement in the letter of the biological nature of sexual urge, yet it does not seem to realize that asking a GLBT individual to live a "chaste heterosexual" life is like asking an African American to change their skin color. Regardless of what he tells himself, this brand of discrimination is no less hateful or ignorant than racism.

A major focus of the letter is taking up the chalice of Christianity and leading others to a "straight and righteous" path. The letter states that SafeZone will make it easy for conflicted individuals to "fall into the dark pit of sin and vice." This notion of Alma College convincing people to become gay is absurd and the idea of straightness equaling righteousness is equally laughable. I am straight, but if SafeZone can help one GLBT individual feel less alone or uncomfortable with their sexuality, then I think it is well worth it.

Faith is a very personal, very diverse thing. There are such wide ranges of beliefs: Buddhists, Wiccans, Muslims, Christians and the list goes on. There are so many different moralities. Please do not define me by yours.

Mary Robinson (03)

To the editors:

I am writing in response to The Almanian story, "Money Troubles plague Student Congress."

I am very disappointed that the News Editor did not try to contact me about the missing Student Congress money since it involved the Class of 2000. I realize that it would have taken all of two minutes to walk over to the Smith Alumni House to get my contact information.

I would also like to correct a few errors in the article. Dean Kridler signed the purchase order for the flags for the senior class fundraiser in May of 1999. At that time, there was about \$8,000 left in the 1998-99 contingency fund. Also, the Class of 2000 filled out the proper paper work to repay Student Congress its money once the Class of 2000 received its pledge money from the college.

The budget problems are not the fault of the Class of 2000. No one group is truly at fault for Student Congress's money crunch, but a careful mid-year assessment should be done on all groups to make sure money is being spent on budgeted items.

Another solution is to raise the Student Activity Fee for the following years.

Steve Crider
President, Class of 2000

To the editors:

A response must be made to the mean-spirited, divisive and un-Christian letter written by John Gardai.

I was the guest trainer for the SafeZone Project at Alma College and it is clear that Mr. Gardai is both misinformed and misguided with his attempts to marginalize and consequently vilify gay and lesbian people at Alma.

The letter's arrogant and patronizing brand of preaching only furthers the intolerant climate toward gay and lesbian people.

First of all, the Bible is not "clear" about homosexuality by any stretch of the imagination. Scholars still debate this issue because the word "homosexuality" is never used in scripture. Jesus certainly never spoke on the issue at all. The only portions of the Bible dealing with anything even similar to homosexuality (e.g. Genesis, Leviticus and Romans 1) are refuted, contradicted or even blurred by other parts of the Bible. The phenomenon of homosexuality as it exists today did not exist in Biblical times.

Next, in the article's own words, homosexuals and our relationships are "socially destructive and morally evil" and "they degrade the sanctity of marriage" and "violate the tenets of Christianity." He further writes that homosexuals need to see their "failings" and need to avoid the "dark pit of sin and vice" and then equates homosexuality with pedophilia.

Finally, the letter makes the most offensive leap in logic by asserting that gays and lesbians are not a true minority and therefore cannot truly understand discrimination and oppression. I guess when Matthew Shepard was brutally beaten and killed in Wyoming that was just a way of welcoming him to campus. And the fact that gays and lesbians are losing their housing, jobs, families and lives every day in this country is just incidental. As a gay man, I challenge the author to walk a mile in my shoes; then maybe he will not utter such ignorant remarks.

The letter's comments are the clearest evidence of the need for the SafeZone Project and for ally-building at Alma and elsewhere. If Mr. Gardai had attended my discussion, he would have been faced with two things he most likely doesn't want to hear: 1) that religion has always been used as an excuse to justify bigotry. By hiding behind scripture, Mr. Gardai can avoid being criticized for his bigotry, instead he can consider himself a "loving Christian," and 2) that the people that are the most hostile to the acceptance of gay and lesbian people are probably struggling with their own issues of sexual confusion and self-loathing.

The SafeZone participants and the Triangle Foundation offer support for those people. We can be reached at 1-877-7-TRIANGLE.

Sean Kosofsky, Safezone Guest Trainer

To the editors:

I am writing this letter as a concerned student and athlete. Before coming to Alma, the administration told me this college prided itself on two things: academic and athletic success. I now find myself questioning this. As a first year student, I chose not to bring my car to college because I was told there were plenty of things to do on weekends. Well, as an athlete, I like toning my body and my skills. It is hard to do this when the gym closes so early on weekends. With no car to travel with, and no gym open, this leaves me with nothing to do except go to parties. This does not me as a student or athlete. Let's change this at Alma! Open up the gym so it benefits students when it is open, and not when it is closed.

David Mihalek (04)

To the Editors:

I could write volumes on the fallacies of the arguments against the GLBT community expressed in John Gardai's letter to the editor of two weeks ago. However, I want to address two very important and extremely personal sides of his testimonial: friendship and faith. My voice has been held in silence for far too long, and it is now my time to step up and throw myself into the forefront of this issue at Alma College.

First, and foremost, I am a Christian. Somewhere farther down the line I'm also a homosexual. My road of Faith has been undeniably rocky throughout my life. I've constantly been faced with religious bigots. I've seen and heard hate come from the mouths of those who should be teaching, preaching and speaking of love, equality and acceptance. It's been hard to silence these voices, but through much prayer and thought, I'm now able to feel at home in my own skin. I spent my youth wishing...praying...hoping with all my might that I would wake and find myself "normal." However, that morning never came. I grew to fear and, at times, hate a part of myself. These feelings, when directed towards oneself, can be overpowering and even crippling. I couldn't take the time to love myself, but others could and did.

One thing that I thank God for is the support that I received from my family and friends. These friends were true allies, but were anything but "pushovers." Some had the opportunity to come to their own conclusions about the GLBT community long before my proclamation to them. Other encountered this arena for the first time with my announcement. They all took the time to think about me beyond this label and came to realize that, in spite of the former, I was still the same loving, compassionate person. Both, with time, and many questions, I came to accept and love me for who I am and the burden of truth, which I now bear. Without that strength, I cannot imagine what my life would be like. In fact, I have a very hard time imagining life at all. My true friends held my head above the rushing waters of forever.

I have found my salvation in the love of Christ, and look only for his judgement. I refuse to believe that I was created in God's image, doomed to live my life as a lie. The question of sin is not for moral minds to ponder, but one for the Lord to know. I end pleading that, before you take the time to condemn, you make the effort to walk a mile in that person's shoes, and perhaps you may think differently.

Chris LaCroix (02)

For more Letters to the Editors see page 7



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 by 5pm on Friday
before publication.

Sports Track

Cutting down the loyalty tree

By **MICHAEL MURPHY**
Opinion Editor

“They had their chance to sign me. They didn’t. There’s no loyalty in this business. I don’t expect any.”

These are the words found in *The Detroit Free Press*’s December 1 issue spoken by Philadelphia Eagles’ offensive lineman Jon Runyan describing his decision to sign a six-year, \$30.5-million contract with Philly over the summer instead of staying with the Tennessee Titans.

As if sports fans did not already know, “sports” is not spelled with a ‘g,’ an ‘a,’ an ‘m’ and an ‘e’ anymore. It only is a business and, as we see here so obviously, loyalty is nowhere in business.

Runyan is expressing that he felt unwanted by the Tennessee Titans. He felt they directed no loyalty towards him and that

prompted his departure to the land of cheesesteaks and Liberty Bells.

Without the loyalty he demanded, he wanted out.

What kind of loyalty are we talking about here? Once again, we must look up loyalty in today’s dictionary to see that it is spelled with an ‘m,’ an ‘o,’ an ‘n,’ an ‘e’ and a ‘y.’

Loyalty. It means money. It is money. Runyan here, when claiming that the Titans showed no loyalty, is in fact displaying his hypocrisy.

Titan general manager Floyd Reese, according to *The Free Press*, felt he had little time to compete with Philadelphia for Runyan’s talent.

In other words, Runyan did not give his team a chance to put together a deal.

And so he bolted for Eagle country.

And so he bolted from a team that came within 36 inches of winning the Super Bowl.

And so he bolted from his teammates.

And so he bolted from his city and his fans and his home.

Lost, shuffled away in the hurried pace to grab more dough.

I hate picking on one person, but Runyan’s quote is by far the sentiment of most, if not all, professional athletes.

The Steve Yzerman’s, the Cal Ripken’s, the Tony Gwynn’s are a species quickly approaching extinction.

However, we cannot stop here. We must look at it from a different angle. This angle is not about the game, but about life.

If you think of people and their jobs, how much loyalty actually exists?

If offered a job far from home in which you would be doing the same work but would be paid much more, would you leave, or would you remain at that top-notch firm?

If you felt other employees, newcomers

or even rookies perhaps, received more pay than you did, would you get angry? Would you look for a new job?

Some wouldn’t. Some would be content.

Many, however, would feel estranged from their employers. Bitterness settles in, and opportunities knocking at the door seem like whole new worlds.

Maybe Runyan, instead of reflecting the business of sports, is actually mirroring what most other people would do. People’s anger peaks when they see their team’s stars leaving for more money.

Yet, if faced in the same situation, they possibly would do the same thing. After all, loyalty is not found in the contracts they sign. It is only about the years, the treatment and the pay.

Nothing more, nothing less should be expected.

His Story / Her Story

It’s Christmas time in Alma

By **BRYAN WAUGH**
Photographer / Staff Writer

Home for the holidays: what a treat. Home cooked meals, your own room, no quiet hours, no more early morning classes and no more studying.

Not to say that Saga meals don’t hit the spot, but there is nothing like non-mass-produced food to keep you coming back for more. This is not saying that I don’t like turkey that looks like a chicken patty and tastes like fish. Nevertheless, everyone looks forward to returning home for the food.

I am sure that everyone likes a break from their roommate and it is always enjoyable to return home and see your old room. Unless you have to sleep in the den because there is now a big fat Jacuzzi in the middle of your bedroom. Although that only affects a small group of unfortunate souls like myself.

You can also look forward to not having R.A.’s come and shut your door every night insisting that everyone else is asleep so therefore you should be too, while half of the hall is in your room. However, they are just doing their job.

The most enjoyable part of break is not having to get up for classes. And so, the late mornings are very nice. Getting up just when your parents are going to bed is just about the perfect time for every college student to get out of bed. Unless your parents insist that you don’t work hard enough to need a break from school so they suggest that you get a job to be a productive young man and at the same time pay for your education. Well, maybe you can’t look forward to that.

The best thing about winter break is that there are no classes. No more boring

lectures on the unique mutations of south African frogs that are oh-so-relevant to your music major, however extremely important in a liberal arts education. No more labs training rats to pull a chain, to push a bar, to do a back flip and then using them to find a cure for cancer.

Now you can reminisce on how many times you wish you would have went to class, while gazing at your grade point while your parents consider why they are wasting so much money when in fact it is you yourself that is actually paying your way through school.

The most enjoyable part of the holidays is having good quality time with your relatives: visiting each other and having parties. It is great gathering in everyone’s homes, eating lots of food, drinking lots of wine and, of course, watching the family squabbles that develop over whether or not Uncle Fester’s new wife is really the money sucking . . . nice woman that everyone says she is.

Sure, the Holiday Season is full of joy and community well-being, prosperity and giving to the needy. At least for a week, when it is socially just to do as in the spirit of the season. But, as for the rest of the year, what’s the bother?

So when you are at home enjoying a good lecture on how socially inept college was when your parents were young, think of me enjoying my vacation.

By **RACHEL KUHLM**
Staff Writer

On the first day of Christmas my home life gave to me, a whole day of catching up sleep. On the second day of Christmas my home life gave to me, two days unpacking and a day of catching up sleep. On the third day of Christmas my home life gave to me, three home cooked meals, two days unpack-

ing and a day of catching up sleep.

On the fourth day of Christmas my home life gave to me, four calls from Grandma, three home cooked meals, two days unpacking and a day of catching up sleep. On the fifth day of Christmas my home life gave to me, FIVE DAYS OF SHOPPING! Four calls from Grandma, three home cooked meals, two days unpacking and a day of catching up sleep.

On the sixth day of Christmas my home life gave to me, six Christmas dinners, FIVE DAYS OF SHOPPING! Four calls from Grandma, three home cooked meals, two days unpacking and a day of catching up sleep.

On the seventh day of Christmas my home life gave to me, seven feet of snow, six Christmas dinners, FIVE DAYS OF SHOPPING! Four calls from Grandma, three

home cooked meals, two days unpacking and a day of catching up sleep.

On the eighth day of Christmas my home life gave to me, eight rolls of pictures, seven feet of snow, six Christmas dinners, FIVE DAYS OF SHOPPING! Four calls from Grandma, three home cooked meals, two days unpacking and a day of catching up sleep.

On the ninth day of Christmas my home life gave to me, nine hours of wrapping, eight rolls of pictures, seven feet of snow, six Christmas dinners, FIVE DAYS OF SHOPPING! Four calls from Grandma, three home cooked meals, two days unpacking and a day of catching up sleep.

On the tenth day of Christmas my home life gave to me, ten Christmas cookies, nine hours of wrapping, eight rolls of pictures, seven feet of snow, six Christmas dinners, FIVE DAYS OF SHOPPING! Four calls from Grandma, three home cooked meals, two days unpacking and a day of catching up sleep.

On the eleventh day of Christmas my home life gave to me, eleven pals a-calling, ten Christmas cookies, nine hours of wrapping, eight rolls of pictures, seven feet of snow, six Christmas dinners, FIVE DAYS OF SHOPPING! Four calls from Grandma, three home cooked meals, two days unpacking and a day of catching up sleep.

On the twelfth day of Christmas my home life gave to me, twelve pounds of chub, eleven pals a-calling, ten Christmas cookies, nine hours of wrapping, eight rolls of pictures, seven feet of snow, six Christmas dinners, FIVE DAYS OF SHOPPING! Four calls from Grandma, three home cooked meals, two days unpacking and a day of catching up sleep!

Happy Holidays everyone!

Point / Counterpoint

SUV? Is it what you want it to be

By **DONNA PAPPAS**
Staff Writer

ports' Utility Vehicles (SUV), originally designed for the purpose of off-roading luxury, are now more commonly found on highways. This big car fad is not temporary; SUVs increase driver and passenger safety, while positively impacting our nation's economy. Elimination of these big cars is unnecessary.

According to Terry Miller, spokesman for the National Safety Council, about 20-million drivers are involved in vehicle accidents each year.

This large number proves that the presence of a life-saving safety feature is important when shopping for a new vehicle. Granted, there is no single vehicle that can prevent the possibility of an accident; but some vehicles provide better protection than others.

Size matters. Arguably, it may be the most important provider of safety.

According to Kim Hazelbaker, Senior Vice President of the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, this is because the amount of car surrounding you fundamentally determines how much protection you have.

Smaller cars boast fuel economy and cheaper prices. But riding in smaller cars more than doubles the fatality risk of its occupants.

It can be scientifically proven that large cars are safer than small ones.

"The laws of physics dictate that, everything else being equal, the larger the vehicle the lower the crash forces reaching

the occupant compartment," said Hazelbaker.

This is because the energy in an impact has a larger area over which to spread and therefore dissipates more readily.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently addressing the emission standards of SUVs. In the 'light truck' category, SUVs may be required to comply with lower emission standards by the year 2004.

Currently, SUVs must meet the 0.4 grams of nitrogen oxides per mile standard. By 2004, the standards would be lowered to 0.2 grams per mile. In the year 2009,

SUVs would be required to meet the 0.07 grams per mile standard which will be imposed on all passenger cars in the year 2004.

The EPA has already begun the process of imposing these standards, and is encouraging light truck manufacturers to reduce emissions earlier. SUVs will be no more hazardous to our environment than standard passenger cars.

Finally, it is not economically smart to abruptly discontinue the manufacture of these cars, especially in our home state. SUVs account for the greatest amount of profit coming in for the Big Three in Michigan.

According to The Detroit News, last year, Big Three bonus checks accounted for \$2.8 billion in the local economy.

"They're the most profitable part of our state's most important export," says David Littman, chief economist at Comerica.

Like 'em or not, SUVs have proven that bigger is better.

By **MICHAEL MURPHY**
Opinion Editor

uch debate over oil prices grabbed numerous headlines over the past six-month period. Indeed, the United States is finally coming to the conclusion that it is too dependent on foreign oil, as was discussed in an earlier Almanian edition.

One portion of the debate concerned vehicles and under what requirements they should be made. Sports' Utility Vehicles, or SUVs, have indeed come under fire from many environmentalist groups because of their harmful environmental effects.

First of all, we must compare SUVs and their miles per gallon to that of average cars. The huge Lincoln Navigator gets 12 miles per gallon (17 on the highway), while the lighter Chevy Blazer gulps one gallon to get 15 miles (18 on the highway). In 1998, average cars got about 24.6 miles per gallon. This is a notable difference as SUVs burn twice the amount of gas as cars. Certainly this adds to the fuel shortage and current oil crunch.

Furthermore, SUVs emit 28 pounds of carbon dioxide gas for every gallon of gas they burn, which, combined with other gases, puts out 43 percent more global-warming pollutants into the air. This adds to the fact that SUVs create 47 percent more air pollution than average cars.

Owners of SUVs claim they own them because they feel safer due to their bulky masses. However, when it comes to automobiles, mass means more risk not only to the other car's driver, but also to the driver of the SUV. First of all, SUVs are more than

twice as likely than a car to kill the other car's driver. And SUVs are more than four times as likely to roll over in an accident. Furthermore, SUV handling is at times cumbersome. Due to their mass, they tend to wobble and roll in times when emergency maneuvers are necessary.

Compare this with average cars sitting lower to the ground. They are more easily maneuverable in emergencies and less likely to roll over.

Car manufacturers currently do not want to make them environmentally friendly because it will cost them more money. However, if Congress passes legislation raising fuel requirements for SUVs to that equal to cars, we would save about one million barrels of oil per day!

I also feel that people should look beyond their personal needs. I understand SUVs are critical in towing boats and trailers. However, rarely are SUVs seen towing these items. Many times, it is just one person in an SUV travelling to work or the local corner store. Here, the point of the SUV is lost.

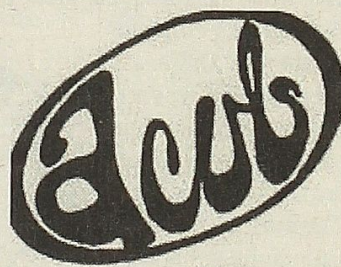
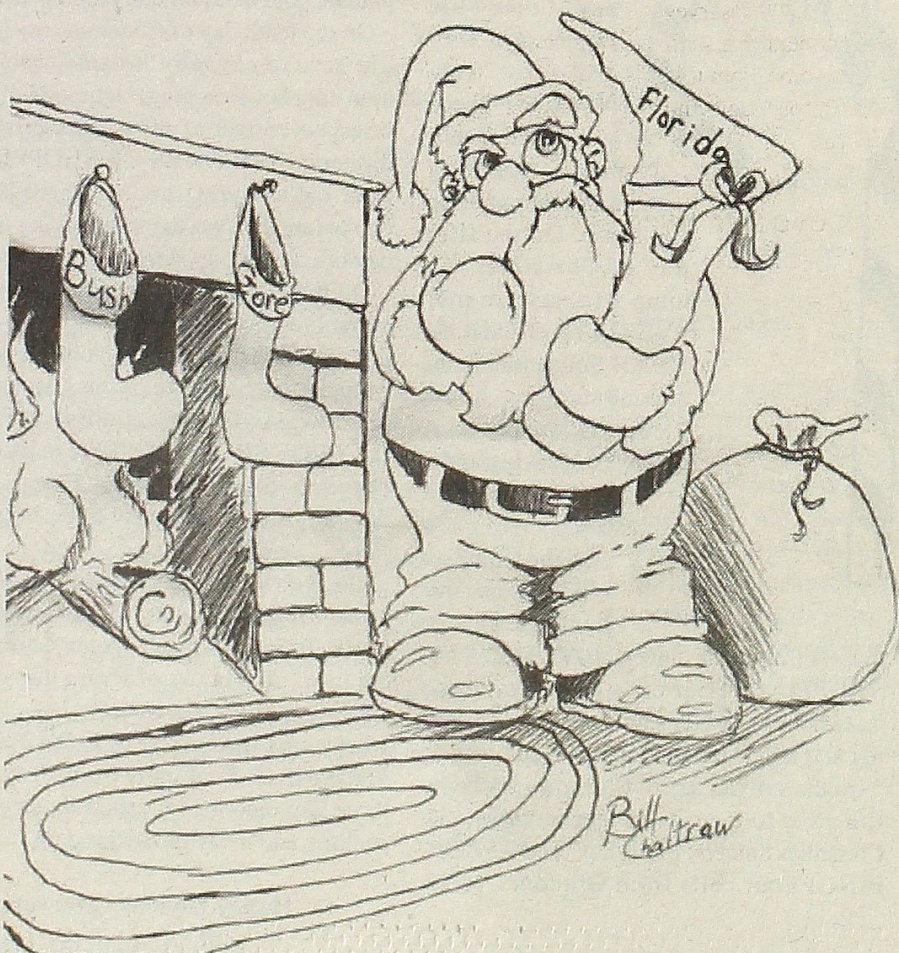
The reason why people want SUVs is the image. Let's be honest. Who is going to be noticed more: my friend in a Tahoe, or me in a Neon?

But we, as citizens of the world, should look past our images and surpass our egos to improve our world. Why not purchase a more fuel-efficient vehicle than an SUV? If you do not own a boat or if you do not need to tow things, what good is an SUV?

If people recognize smaller cars as better for everyone, and if people realize that SUVs consume too much fuel, maybe then we will not consume as much oil as we do today.

CARTOON CORNER

By **BILL CHALTRAW**



*The Alma College
Union Board
Would Like to Wish all
of Campus
a Safe and Happy
Holiday Break.
We look forward to
seeing you all again in
January.*

Staff Editorial

It seems that diversity is promoted almost daily on this campus. Is it really necessary to reiterate this ideal to college students? Shouldn't we know that this is the 2000s? Diversity is in!

But we all know that in reality, diversity is not accepted by absolutely everyone. It is a sad day when this is realized, especially within a liberal arts college, whose mission statement includes:

"The liberation of people from ignorance, prejudice and parochialism; the preservation and perpetuation of the knowledge, skills and values appropriate for free men and women; and the preparation of students for useful lives in changing society."

This institution's purpose also includes the idea of promoting an outlook on life of wholeness and openness.

Does Alma College sufficiently attempt to achieve these goals? We would say so. Projects such as "Bursting the Bubble" and "The Safezone Project" are just two examples of how diversity is presented and advocated within our community.

These goals toward attaining diversity cannot be realized, however, without the will of the students. There are some who refuse to consider the diversity campaign as 'good,' claiming that it promotes some adverse ideals.

But aren't those select, exclusive people a diverse group of their own? Should those groups that hold anti-diverse ideals be considered closed-minded? Or are those who consider these groups closed-minded, closed-minded themselves?

No matter how one chooses to look at this situation, we need to remember that we are not each other's judges. No one student at this school has any superiority over another to claim that there is a best religion, a greater race, a correct lifestyle or 'good' or 'bad' diverse groups.

It is simply ignorance which leads to closed-mindedness and exclusive ideals. We would like to challenge those who do not accept diversity to open their hearts and minds not only to diversity, but to the world that is full of unique individuals.

Who knows? Opening your eyes to diversity may change your life. If only one student is reached through this campaign, it is a necessary and commendable element of this college.

Letters to the Editors

To the Editors:

In last week's Almanian, John Gardai wrote a letter to the editor that stirred up a lot of controversy. In his letter, he states his belief that the act of homosexuality is socially and morally wrong.

I'd first like to address the letter itself. The letter was well written. It conveyed Gardai's opinion in a very intelligent manner. In his letter, Gardai stated his opinion. He did not, as happens all too often, try to force others to believe and think the same way he does.

Furthermore, he did not condemn homosexuals, just the act of homosexuality. He equated homosexual relations to sin. He says that the sin is evil, but he does not condemn the sinner. The sinner is someone who is tempted by sin, and deserves not condemnation, but rather, the help of those around him/her to overcome such temptations. A rather extreme analogy of this is the sin of murder. Murder is an act that is almost unanimously believed to be evil. The person who commits this sin, however, is not so unanimously viewed as evil. Many people, myself included, see the murderer as a person who has committed an atrocity and should suffer a proper punishment, but having served his/her punishment, can and should be rehabilitated and reformed to be able to reenter society as a beneficial part of that society; the person should not be merely condemned and forgotten about. Gardai went a step further than just the passive stance of non-condemnation, he stated that the hate and intolerance for homosexuals that stems from homophobia is not needed and is not right.

There is only one point that I think detracts from the letter: the generalization that he implies about the Christians on Alma College's campus. Gardai implies that all Christians on campus believe the same thing: that homosexuality is wrong. This is not true. Not all Christians believe the same thing, and to generalize and group all Christians together in terms of a specific belief is a mistake.

On the whole, however, I have to respect John Gardai for the way in which he communicated his opinion.

Now, to address the reactions that I saw to his article. I saw two main groups of people: those who read the article, thought about it and responded with rationality, and those who read the article and reacted instinctly to it without thinking about what they said. I would like to address the opinions of the latter group.

The majority of the people who I talked to had very negative reactions to the letter. At first, they all agreed on one thing: that John Gardai was close-minded and deserves to be treated badly. This, of course, was not stated in such mild terms. The first argument that I heard come from this group was that Gardai was condemning homosexuals and

that he was clearly someone who detested them. As I've already stated, this is clearly untrue. Secondly, this group condemned him as a worthless human being because he was so close-minded. This group believed that because he held a belief, he would nay-say anything else. This is not close-mindedness. Gardai based his belief on the Bible. The Bible could be described in an unbiased way as a piece of literature. The Webster's dictionary describes it both as a sacred writing for Christians and Jews, but also as a "reference work esteemed for its usefulness and authority." His belief has an intelligent basis. Truly close-minded ways of thinking, such as racial prejudice, are based on unreasonable and hostile assumptions. The way the group discounted him because of his close-mindedness is very hypocritical. In fact, this group can be described as close-minded.

As I continued discussing the letter with people, including my own viewpoint (mind you, that I did not mention my opinion until after they had stated their own), a portion of the group who had negative reactions to the letter had even more negative reactions to my opinion. In particular, when I showed the example of murder as a condemnable act, while the murderer should not be simply condemned, I was treated to a show of disgust. When asked about their opinions, this person simply stated that "I will not argue with bigotry." This offended me, both for clearly being called a bigot, but also because it was such a blatant show of hypocrisy. A bigot, according to Webster's Dictionary, is "a person who is extremely intolerant of another's creed, belief, or opinion." While I don't agree with John, I am not intolerant of his opinion on homosexuality. Moreover, it was this person's very statement that can be classified as bigotry. When I told this person about the offense I took to the statement, the reply was made "YOU offend me." Not only had this person gotten mad about Gardai's supposed condemnation of homosexuals, but this person continued to basically condemn me because I did not believe that Gardai was bigoted and worthy only of condemnation. Unfortunately, this was only one example of the hypocrisy I saw.

The major point I am trying to make is to allow yourself to disagree with someone, but do so in a positive manner: try to understand their viewpoint, contemplate the difference between your opinion and theirs, be content with the fact that you don't agree, then move on. Webster's defines an opinion as "a personal attitude." An opinion is not important enough to cause anger. It is only an opinion. Let that be your mantra: "It is only an opinion, it is only an opinion." Remember that and you will be much less angry with the people around you.

Mark Penzien (02)

Viewpoints

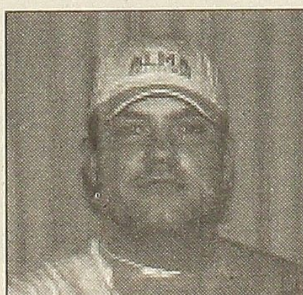
What is the worst Christmas gift you ever received?



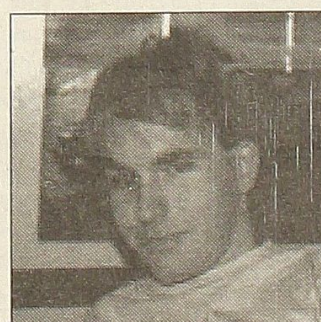
"Jumper cables."
Cathy Keppler (03)



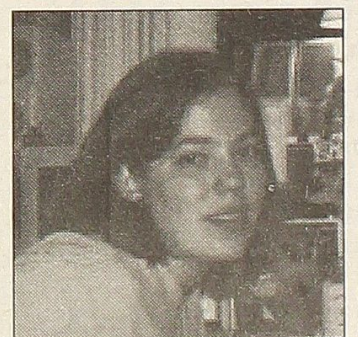
"Make-up"
Valerie Harris (01)



"The Glove by Nintendo."
Josh Vrooman (04)



"A hockey puck."
Travis Crawford (04)



"Underwear."
Kristin Staton (02)

Entertainment Briefs

Is that good news or bad?

Shania Twain recently cancelled plans to release a Christmas album this year so that she can focus on her new album, which is set to be released sometime in '01.

The Bogeyman? Jerry Fawell? No, that was the King of Pop...

Michael Jackson penned an essay that was supposed to appear on the religious website beliefnet.com describing how, in the early 1990s, he would do missionary work in disguise, ringing doorbells across America. After USA Today printed excerpts of the essay, a miffed Jackson refused to post the essay on the website.

Just what does it take to get a book contract these days?

Britney Speers and her mom, Lynn, are set to write a fictional book about being a poor mother and daughter in a rich world. In the book the little southern girl makes it big with a singing career. No word yet on why this is fiction.

Why Aimee Mann doesn't want you to buy her new record...

Aimee Mann has finally escaped from her old record company, but not unscathed. Hip-O-Records recently released "Aimee Mann—the Ultimate Collection" without Mann's help or permission. Because the album contains several songs that Mann herself calls "crap," she is suing and encouraging fans not to buy the CD.

Mike Myers meets the Pink Panther...

Mike Myers is now set to play Inspector Jaques Clouseau in a new film version of The Pink Panther. He plans to help write the script, as well as star.

How many TV cartoon series can we recycle this week?

Warner Brothers is finishing up casting for a live-action version of the Scooby Doo. So far the cast includes Freddie Prinze, Jr., Matthew Lillard and Sarah Michelle Gellar.

He must have been out of one-liners...

David Spade is recovering nicely from being attacked with a stun gun by his personal assistant last week. At the VH1 Music Awards, he commented the he was beat up and "tasared" by a friend, but OK. In a statement he expressed nothing but concern for his assistant.

Album Review by Dan Joyce

Breach: Nothing out of the ordinary

I was never a huge Wallflowers fan. *Bringing Down the Horse* had some real gems, but songs like "One Headlight" drove me nuts. The Wallflowers' third release, *Breach*, makes one wonder if Jakob Dylan and company were under too much pressure to release an album. *Breach* leaves much to be desired.

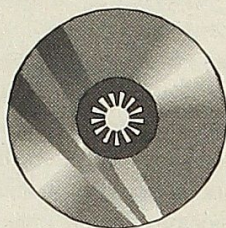
Breach contains a few songs that are your run-of-the-mill pop-alternative radio stuff. Even so, there is a big problem; most of the songs are not catchy enough to be radio singles. The album does have some songs-half or so-that are borderline good. The songs "Letters From The Wasteland" and "Hand Me Down" are pretty cool, even for top 40 Alternative. Rock.

I don't know where the string movement started in what we now call 'Alternative Rock.' Some bands use violins and the like very well, but everyone seems to be jumping on the bandwagon. "Up From Under" is one example of

this. Up From Under is an acoustic song. Most of the time, it's just Dylan and an acoustic guitar. The song sounds good and

the Petty style.

There are certain ballads that Dylan should not attempt. In part of "Mourning Train", Dylan's



Album Review

Breach The Wallflowers C

the strings are mixed well in the beginning, but are over used later.

The song writing, all of which is done by Dylan is not bad. Though, as in *Bringing Down the Horse*, many of the choruses are just plain annoying.

"Witness" sounds an awful lot like Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers with a trumpet section. Lyrics, vocals and all fit

voice sounds as though it is about to crack and he misses a few of the notes. "Up From Under" has a part like this also.

There are some songs that are just plain well done; catchy, but not annoying. "I've Been Delivered" is a very upbeat, happy kind of song with a carnival type organ in the background. You may not get the lyrics stuck in your

head, but the rhythm will be there for sure.

To praise The Wallflowers, the vocals fit very well in nearly every song, the album is very well produced and much of the instrumental work is very strong. Dylan's vocals are still very unique. He still has that rugged, classic rock sound.

Overall, if you have \$15 to blow, *Breach* won't be a total waste and at least it doesn't contain "One Headlight."

Rating: C

If you like The Wallflowers, check out: Naked, The Hazies, Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers

Suggested Tracks: "Letters From the Wasteland," "Hand Me Down," "I've Been Delivered"

Movie Review by Rachel Kuhl

"Unbreakable" is no breakthrough

An intriguing trailer makes for a not-so-intriguing movie

The movie trailer shows the scene of a horrible train wreck. Flash to a hospital emergency room where Bruce Willis learns that he is the only survivor and that he is miraculously unharmed.

The trailer is intriguing and makes sure that the audience does not have a clear idea of what the movie is about. All the audience knows is that the same people who brought you "The Sixth Sense", have once again teamed up with Bruce Willis, and Bruce Willis has once again teamed up with his "Die Hard With A Vengeance" partner, Samuel L. Jackson. So the movie has to be good, right?

Well, sort of. The plot was original and creative. It was not good because the plot is no where near as intriguing as the trailer. Now I'll try not to give to much away because, much like "The Sixth Sense" the story unfolds like a puzzle, and there is a big twist at the end that is admittedly the movie's saving grace.

Basically, Willis is your average guy blessed with a cute kid but a problematic marriage. Robin Wright Penn plays the role of his wife boringly and his son is definitely no Haley Joel Osmond. When Willis survives the train accident he and his family are of course relieved, but none of them think its anything more than luck until Samuel L. Jackson comes along.

Jackson begins to ask Willis some questions about his life that does not have easy or normal answers. Questions like, "How many times in your life have you been sick?" and "Have you ever been seriously injured?" Jackson appears to be a messenger of sorts, someone to help guide Willis on finding out his true pur-

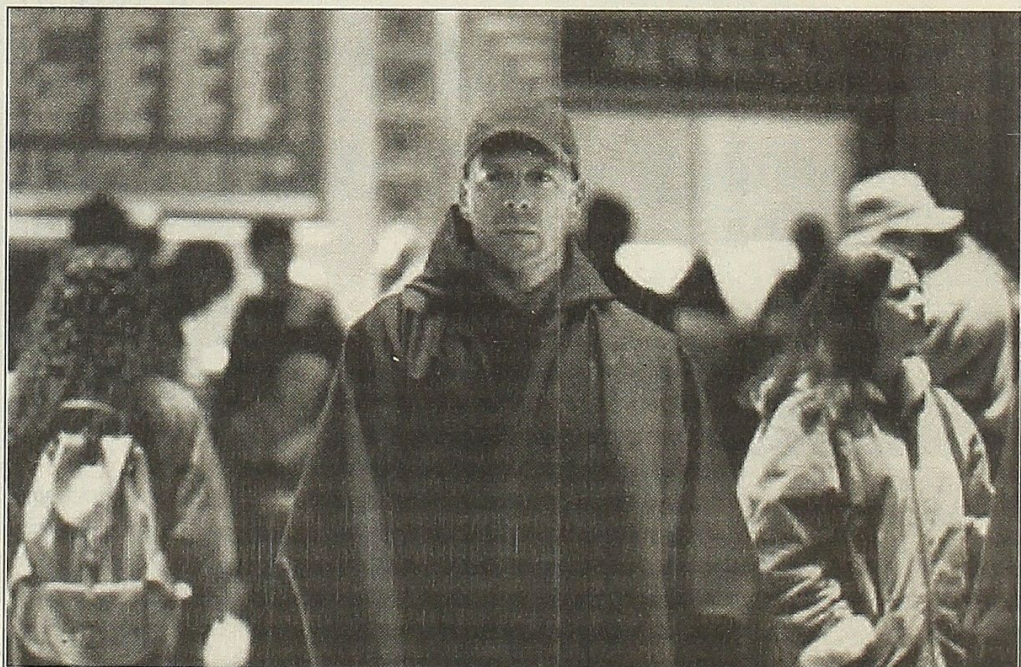
pose in life.

As always happens in suspense movies, things are not always as they appear. In the same way that "The Sixth Sense" gave the audience clues to the surprise ending, so too does "Unbreakable". Pay attention to the use of color, the significance of water, and especially Jackson's physical ailment and occupation as a comic book art conessuire.

Basically, the movie is worth watching, but

only if you go into the theatre with the right expectations. The acting is decent, the plotline original, but different, and the ending is a grabber. However, if you go into it thinking you know what kind of journey its going to take you on, you will be disappointed.

Grade B-
"Worth the Matinee price"



Touchstone Pictures. All rights reserved.

When a catastrophic train wreck laves David Dunn (Bruce Willis) the sole survivor and completely unscratched among passengers and crew, he begins a search to reexamine his life in "Unbreakable."

December 5, 2000

FEATURE

9

A snip and a story . . .

Alma through a barber's eyes

By DAN JOYCE
Staff Writer

"You writing good or bad things about us?" said Buck Dishaw.

"Hopefully good."

"Then it'll be short."

Good ol' Jerry's Barber shop. Jerry's is located at 219 W. Superior Street in Alma. The same place it has been since its construction in October, 1963.

According to Jerry Baker, founder, owner and barber, Jerry's is an "old-fashioned barber shop." He and his son-in-law Buck still use straight razors around the ears and the barber's chairs are still the originals from 1963. Buck has been working with Jerry for 11 years.

"We don't give shaves anymore," Jerry said. They find that the shave achieved at home, with a safety or electric razor is much more comfortable for both parties.

The setting of the shop is just what one might expect to see in an old movie; barber's pole, wooden chairs for people to wait in, hunting stories and the like. Around the top of the walls, numerous old-fashioned guns and ammunition litter the shelves.

The chairs on the perimeter rarely sit vacant. Numerous people sit waiting for their turn. Many don't really care about the haircut, but the socializing. The one that got away, or how many wives Jerry has had are often topics of discussion.

"A barber shop is a place where the truth is always distorted to some degree. I could probably tell stories about fathers of the kids seated here, but I better not do that," said Jerry.

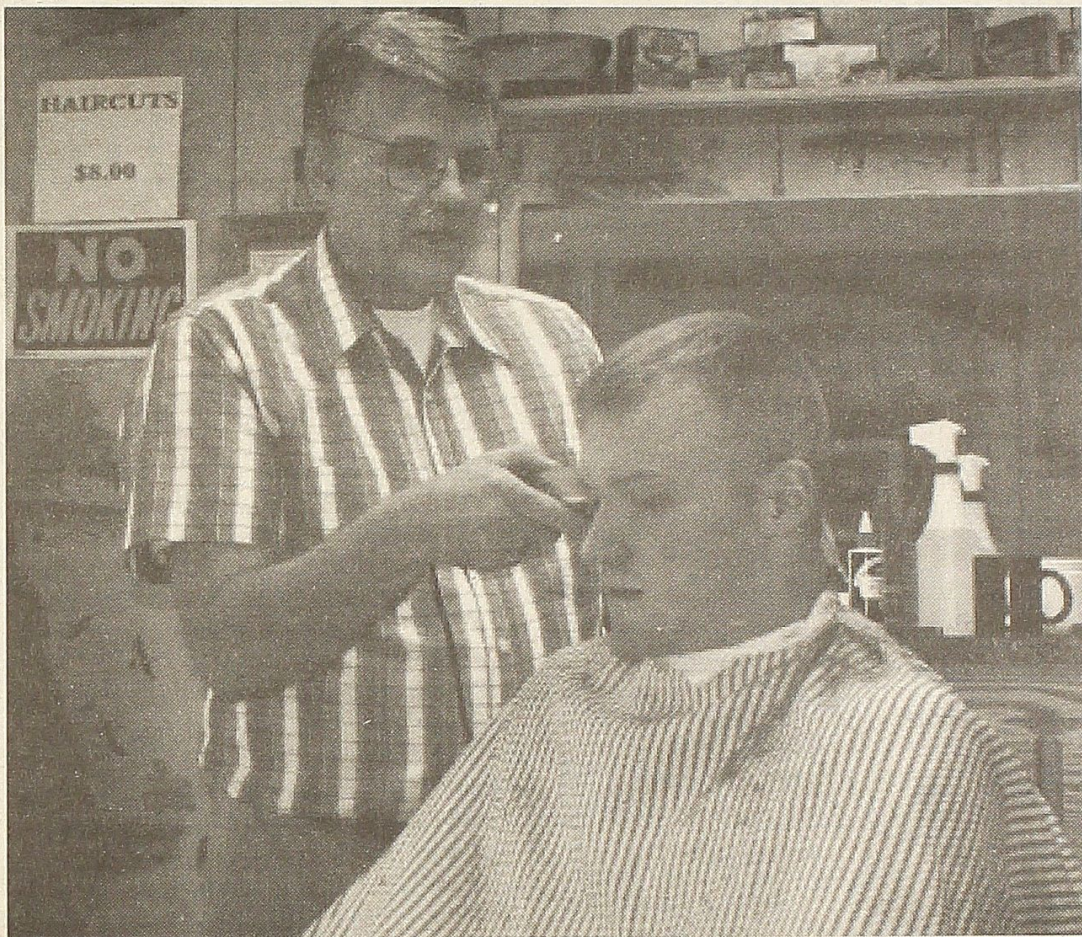
Stories he has. Want to hear stories about fraternity rivalries? Go to Jerry. He'll tell you about when all the doors to the TKE house somehow ended up in the back room of his shop.

"My barber pole was often taken and hidden for periods of time. Usually housekeeping at the college found it during a break in a student's room and returned it," stated Jerry.

President Stone will be the third that Jerry has seen come and go. He also watched Old Main, Wright Hall and some other campus buildings burn or otherwise be destroyed.

According to Buck, Jerry saw the last horse and buggy roll through town. One of the customers waiting for his turn remarked that he probably saw the first too.

Jerry moved to Alma after working in Ithaca, his home town, after three years as a barber. He attended school at the Flint Institute of Barbering. Buck received his degree



Dan Joyce

Jerry cuts Erik Feinauer's (03) hair. Jerry estimates that 25% of his clients are Alma College students looking for a great haircut and good conversation.

from Lansing Barber College.

"I decided to build here because this side of town didn't have a barber shop. Also, the campus includes many of my customers," said Jerry.

According to Jerry, about 25 percent of his customers are students at the school and the same percentage are faculty and staff.

Buck demanded a Florida recount to be sure.

Jerry's has been known in the past to give free haircuts to campus groups. He says that he made deals with sports teams in the past for free haircuts if they finished with a certain record.

Jerry claims he won't be working too much longer though. "Depending on my staying married, I'm retiring in 18

months."

Jerry will make good use of his retirement: lots of time hunting and fly-fishing at his cabin in Grayling.

"He really buys his trout at the trout hatchery," Buck remarked.

Jerry will also be spending time with his seven grandchildren and three children. (We won't talk about where they get their hair cut.)

"I have had a few mothers upset with me because their kids didn't get the cuts they thought they sent them to get."

Overall, the guys at Jerry's are very loyal to Jerry and Buck. Though, one older gentleman thanked Buck, grabbed his coat and hat, paid his \$8 and put on the hat before walking out in public. Go figure.

Class of 2003 gears up for date auction

By DARBY CORNELIUS
Staff Writer

What are you doing this Wednesday night at 8? Well, if you're not, like, busy or anything, would you like to maybe go to the chapel with me? If you've ever experienced the initial awkwardness of asking someone out, you will enjoy tomorrow's Date Auction. If you are so smooth that you have never experienced that uncomfortable pre-date tension, the auction will still prove to be an entertaining show.

The auction will feature twenty first-year students who are ready and willing to strut their stuff in front of an eager audience. These ten women and ten men will be dressed in semi-formal wear of their choice,

and will present themselves with style and a smile. The lucky twenty who are guaranteed a date include: Lindsey Kane, Bekah Noss, Jennifer Antoline, Colleen Trybus, Heidi Ventline, Jesse Rudlaff, Megan Wertz, Theresa Miller, Lynsay Masters, Emily Breczinski, Robert Boyes, Spencer Vereecken, Matteo Lopiccolo, Kevney Dugan, Cameron McCloud, Colin McLaughlin, Brook Bisonet, Eric Jones, and Pat O'Rourke.

These aren't the only people who are guaranteed a date. If you enter the building with dough in your pocket you could leave the building with a date on your arm. Any interested members of the audience will have a chance to bid on the participant or participants of their choice. The highest bidder will win a date with the person(s)

they choose. All the profits will go to the sophomore class.

Last year's date auction raised \$800, and the class of 2003 has high hopes for this year.

"We hope to increase the amount of money raised from last year. People are more aware of the auction this year and we are anticipating a high level of audience participation," said sophomore class president Janay Anderson.

The auction will be an amusing time for the audience, but how do the participants feel about it? Are they nervous or are they ready to get on that stage and sell themselves to the student body?

Colin McLaughlin said, "I'm excited because it will be a lot of fun and a nice break from the work we have throughout

the week."

"I'm really nervous and I hope that everything goes well. I really hope the sophomore class raises a lot of money," said Bekah Noss.

Kevney Dugan said, "I'm not nervous. I just wanna get a couple dolla' bills, yo."

The underlying idea behind the entire auction is to raise money and to have fun doing it. The participants should be applauded for their willingness and cooperation in this exciting event.

On Wednesday you will spot the twenty auctionees wearing bright yellow t-shirts that say "Buy Me" on the front. If you see someone you might be interested in purchasing, head on over to the chapel at 8pm. Even if you're broke, you can at least see who might be your competition.

One Act Play Festival gives students a chance to shine

By GINGER DAVIS
Feature Editor

Though this is yet to be proven, technology seems to be shrinking the attention span of the average American. If something doesn't download in seconds, or fit nicely in the space between commercials, we aren't interested. Fortunately, the Alma College Theater Department has a solution that will entertain even those with short attention spans: the One Act Play Festival.

The festival, which will take place next week, gives student actors, writers, alumni and directors a chance to shine.

Hallie Bard, class of 00, is wearing a new hat at Alma this year: she is the director for the one-act "St. Valentine's Day Massacre." The play is the story of an ex-couple who meet once a year—on Valentine's Day—to catch up. The woman wants to end their annual meetings, and the man believes that they should get back together.

Mark Penzine, who has the role of Kenny in the play, said that this play is quite a challenge for him, as an actor.

"It is pushing the envelope, at least for me, because I'm having to explore things I've never had to onstage," Penzine said.

According to Bard, directing has been "a good reminder of the process of being an actor." Bard said that she tries to avoid telling the actors what to do, instead letting them work out details for themselves.

"I want them to arrive at the realizations by themselves," Bard said.

The play counting change is a student process at all level. James Kuhl wrote the script and Quintessa Duffield, class of 2001, is directing.

"The story is about two off-kilter women who meet and have a friend for the first time," Duffield said of the play, which takes place on New Years eve.

"Dropping the Bomb"—also by James Kuhl—will be returning to the Heritage Center for a second time next week. The play, the story of a young couple pondering the question of marriage, was performed last year, but Kuhl has made some revisions and changes in the script that will debut this year.

The final one-act is "Sure Thing." This play is the story of a couple who meet in a cafe. Each time a bell rings they start again, trying to create the perfect conversation.

"They try on different personalities throughout the show," said costume designer Jennifer Zumpf, 01. "It's a comedy--it's uplifting--it's fun."

Overall, said Zumpf, the one-acts promise to be a lot of fun for the audience because they are lighter and funnier than some of the other plays the theater has put on.

Alma College Choirs sing campus into Christmas season

By OLGA WROBEL
Staff Writer

In light of the 2000 Christmas season Alma College celebrated in a traditional and joyful way. The Alma College Choirs put on a "Festival of Carols" at the Heritage Center December 1st through 3rd.

Every performance was sold out, and there was a wonderful turnout to see the choirs perform both popular, and less known Christmas songs.

The Choir, the Men's Glee Club, and the Woman's Glee Club provided the strong voices. Conducting them was Will Nichols, the choir director.

At his side was Anthony J. Patterson on the piano, who spiced up the performance with some incredible piano solos, including the Charlie Brown theme song which brought a smile to everyone's face.

The show started off with the choir coming on stage holding lit candles while singing an excellent rendition of "O Come All ye Faithful." After this the Christmas tree lit up and the stage looked magical.

The carolers performed many well-known Christmas classics, such as "God Rest You Merry Gentleman", "I Saw Three Ships", and their finale of "Joy To The World".

However, they also sang many carols are less popular, beautiful songs from such origins as French, Czech, and Haitian.

One of the highlights of the night was the West Indian carol, "De Mornin' Come", and with its funky beats and dance number, it definitely stood out. Another unforgettable number was the "Musicological Journey Through the Twelve Days of Christmas."

This involved pieces from numerous classical composers, and the voices stood out and gave the audience chills from their power.

Other than the choir and the pianist, for some songs there were violins, flutes, and trumpets played to give the carols a little more flare and festivity.

The songs chosen were an excellent reflection of the holiday season, and the voices that performed them were incredible. The Alma College Choir and Glee Club's sound amazing when put together, and brought a lot of pride to the school.

Overall the show was well worth seeing, and it sounded professional yet personal at the same time. The Alma Choir's have a lot of talent and the "Festival of Carols" showed off the beautiful sounds they combine.

Christmas is a wonderful time of year, and the show that was put on made everyone feel it inside.

Jazz Band gears up for concert

Concert includes swing, ballads and jazz favorites

By LAUREN ELIASON
Staff Writer

College is a time in a person's life to broaden his or her horizon's and experience what the world has to offer. Many students do this by attending a

school far from home, or even traveling abroad once they get there. This week at Alma, students only have to travel to the Heritage Center for a cultural experience that will be new to many and exciting to all. This experience take the form of the Alma College Jazz Band Concert

The Jazz Band has been working hard to prepare for this upcoming concert, which will take place tomorrow, Wednesday

December 6, 2000 at 8 PM in the Heritage Center.

At the concert the band will play a variety of pieces such as the upbeat songs "Struttin' With Some Bar-B-Que" and "Woodchoppers Ball". Another piece they will play that is popular among many is "What A

who play such instruments as trombones, trumpets, drums, a piano, and a guitar.

Don Metcalf is the bands director, and is a favorite among the band members. "I like being in jazz band because jazz is my favorite kind of music and Mr. Metcalf makes it really fun," said Ryan Downing (03).

They practice the entire school year, three days a week, to prepare for the three or four concerts that they will perform in over the course of the year. They get up bright and early for their practices, which are always held at 8:30, and although that fact

really isn't a big complaint among members, it shows a great amount of dedication. "Even though it is at 8:30 it is a great way to start off the day," Downing said.

For those who have never had the opportunity to hear the band play or even listen to jazz music, the concert is a great opportunity, so don't miss out.

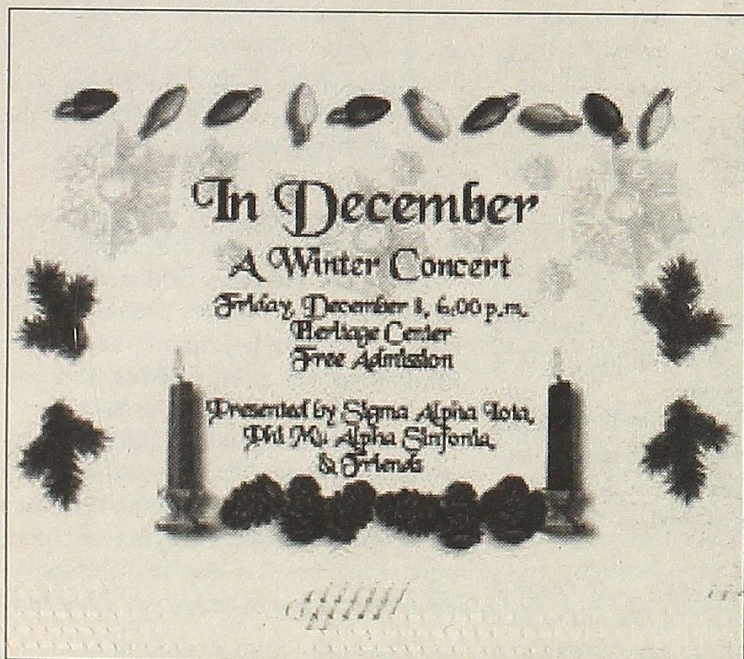
It's a lot of fun and worthwhile to check out. Everyone will have a great time."

Jeremy Olsen (04)

Wonderful World" by Louis Armstrong. Generally the pieces they play present a variety of sounds such as many upbeat pieces, swing, and ballads.

"Its a lot of fun and worth-while to check out. Everyone will have a great time," said member Jeremy Olsen (04).

The band features 22 members



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. Olivet0-2	

Women's Swimming

1. Calvin	3-0
1. Hope	3-0
3. Kalamazoo	2-1
4. St. Mary's	1-1
5. Alma	0-1
6. Albion	0-2
7. Olivet0-4	

Men's Basketball
(Overall records)

Adrian	4-0
Albion	4-2
Alma	4-0
Calvin	5-1
Hope	2-4
Kalamazoo	2-1
Olivet	1-4

Women's Basketball
(Overall records)

Adrian	3-2
Albion	1-5
Alma	2-3
Calvin	3-2
Hope	4-1
Kalamazoo	3-0
Olivet	5-1
Saint Mary's	4-3

Men's basketball improves record 4-0

Scots bring home championship to remain undefeated

By DARBY CORNELIUS
Staff Writer

The men's basketball team came away with the championship at the Penn State-Behrend Tournament this weekend in Erie, Penn. They worked their way to the top by defeating D'Youville and Medaille.

Alma pounded Medaille 83-62 in the championship game on Saturday. The Scots' victory bumped their record to 4-0 for the first time since the 1987-88 season.

Senior Sean Dick was named tournament MVP after posting 20 points in the final game.

The Scots trailed 44-43 late in the game. The clock read 17:16 when Alma broke away on an intense eight minute 16-0 run. Medaille packed their bags as the Scots drove the bus home for another three minutes of relentless scoring.

The score remained in Alma's favor at 65-46 with 6:40 left to play. Junior Dan Henney capped Alma's points with a three-pointer in the last 30 seconds to seal the 83-62 win.

In the championship game, Dick led all scorers with 20, followed by junior guard Ryan Knudsen with 13 points. Knudsen earned All-Tournament honors for his tally of 23 tournament points.

Sophomore guard Brian Kujawa added 11 points in Saturday's game to total 23 points. Knudsen's nine rebounds led the team.

The Scots shot 54 percent from the field (34-for-63), out-rebounding Medaille to

remain 44-29. Alma posted 16 assists in the winning game.

Coach Kevin Skaggs attributed the win to the team's attitude and chemistry. He said that this year's group of men have a commitment and camaraderie that, coupled with their talent, gives them an edge.

"If we have a couple that aren't playing well, we are always able to pick players off the bench who will step up at the right moment and make the right plays," said Skaggs.

In tournament action Friday, the team downed D'Youville 84-78 in overtime.

After a 37-30 lead going into halftime, the Scots continued their battle for the lead on overtime. The Scots pulled away with a layup by sophomore forward Matt Johnson, followed by 5-of-6 Kujawa free throws in the final minute to secure the OT win.

Johnson led the team in scoring with 15 points on 6-of-8 shooting from the floor. Junior forward Aaron Rienas tied Johnson with six rebounds. Kujawa posted 12 points, while Knudsen added ten points, and junior center Andrew VanSchoick tallied four points, four rebounds and led the team with two blocks.

"I was especially happy with Matt Johnson and Brian Kujawa's play. Matt shot the ball and rebounded well, while Brian made key free throws down the stretch," said Skaggs.

Skaggs is confident with the team's ability to move up in conference play this year. He said that other teams in the league

may be surprised with the team's performance so far in pre-league competition, but he knew the team would be much better than what other teams expected.

"I know what we have here—a lot of hard-working guys who are committed to the game," he said. "Winning these games gives us confidence going into league play."

Skaggs said that one example of their standings is that Spring Arbor College, whom Alma just beat last Tuesday, defeated Calvin. Spring Arbor's win demolished Calvin's 27 game winning streak.

He also said that Spring Arbor's team is presently coached by Alma's previous assistant coach.

The men were pleased with this weekend's performance and are anticipating a great season.

"We expect to win every game we play, but we're taking it one game at a time," said Kujawa.

"We showed a lot of character to go on the road and come out with a championship win early in the season," said sophomore Corey Heitsch.

The Scots enjoyed the opportunity to travel to Pennsylvania. They bonded as a team and established a core of teamwork to set the mood for the rest of the season.

"The best part of the trip was getting to know 'Slaughter' and Eric Jones," said Heitsch and Kujawa.

The Scots travel to Grand Rapids Dec. 9 for a game against Cornerstone College.

Jocks prepare to rock the Chapel

By DARBY CORNELIUS
Staff Writer

How would you like to see a whole lot of foolish people pretending they can sing and dance? Get ready to laugh and cheer for the craziest performers at JOCK ROCK on Friday, December 9 at 7:30pm in the chapel.

Jock Rock is a lip-sinc competition between varsity athletic teams.

Each team will be allowed ten minutes to perform as many songs as they can fit into that time slot.

The teams will be judged on creativity, time length, and audience reaction.

Any and all interested athletic teams, as well as the athletic department staff will be involved in this wacky performance.

The entire student and faculty body is encouraged to attend the event.

Any individual varsity athletes who are interested in participating are invited to perform either with another

team or on their own.

An open practice is scheduled for all teams and interested participants on Thursday, Dec. 8 from 8 p.m. until 10 p.m. in the chapel.

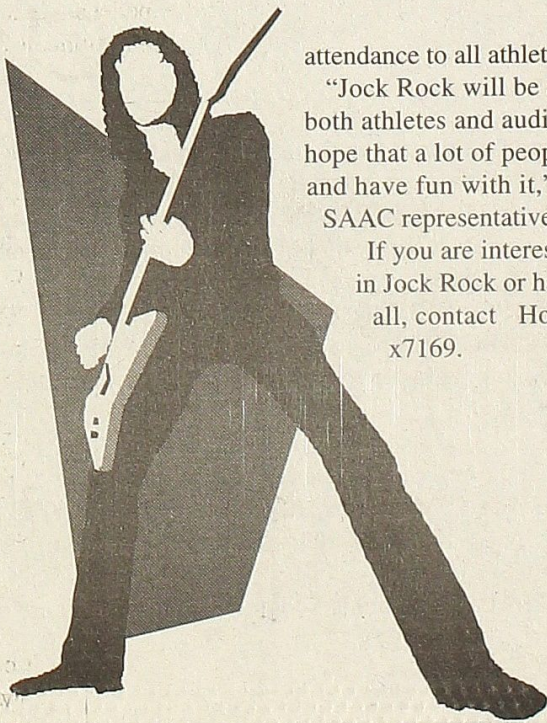
Donations of money and non-parishable food items will be accepted at the door and all proceeds will go to Adopt-A-family.

Jock Rock is sponsored by the newly formed Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC).

The SAAC consists of selected members of all varsity athletic teams on the Alma College campus.

These members meet bi-weekly to discuss campus concerns regarding athletics and the community, as well as concerns with the MIAA.

The main objective of the SAAC is to promote athletic involvement and relations between teams while encouraging



attendance to all athletic events.

"Jock Rock will be a hilarious time for both athletes and audience members. We hope that a lot of people just get up there and have fun with it," said a sophomore SAAC representative.

If you are interested in participating in Jock Rock or have any questions at all, contact Holly Baumgartner at x7169.

Tight loss drops women's record to 2-3 on the season



Dan Joyce

The Scots suffered a hard fought loss to Concordia last Wednesday

The Alma College women's basketball team suffered a 67-62 loss at home to Concordia College last Wednesday. This loss marks the Scots third straight of the season.

Senior Joy Horton led the Scots with twelve points; senior Rebekah Downing tallied eleven. First-year student Karen Hall added six points and nine rebounds in the game.

The game remained close throughout its entirety, with the Scots trailing by only three at the half and again by three with just under 20 seconds left in the game.

A missed shot with only nine seconds gave the Scots the loss, dropping their record to 2-3 for the season.

The women play at Cornerstone College tonight at 7 p.m.

Individuals shine despite team loss

Swimmers near breaking records at Depauw Invitational

By **OLGA WROBEL**
Staff Writer

This weekend the Alma College men's and women's swim team performed strongly at the DePauw Invitational in Greencastle, Ind. The women's team came in fifth of eight teams, with a score of 416, and the men's team came in sixth of nine teams with a score of 221.

The women's team swam very well, with Megan King (04) coming out on top once again. On Friday, Megan won the 500 yard freestyle with a time of 5:20.52. She placed third in the 200 yard freestyle and second in the 1650 yard freestyle, known as the mile, with times of 2:03.21 and 18:18.90 respectively. In the 1,650 King broke yet another first-year student and school record.

"I was really happy with my times at this point in the season," said King.

Another swimmer with strong times was Meredith Henry (03), who earned fifth place in the 200 yard freestyle with a time of 2:04.76, and sixth place in the 200 yard IM with a time of 2:22.90.

"Even though the meet took place in Indiana and lasted two days, the swimmers were not disappointed," Henry said. "The meet was a lot of fun."

Elizabeth Smith (04) swam strong in the 200 yard backstroke, coming in sixth with a time of 2:23.55. Jenni Troyer (01) placed seventh in the 400 yard IM with a time of 5:03.36 and came in eighth in the 200 yard butterfly with a time of 2:30.50. Sarah Vendermeer (01) made a great comeback after taking a year off, earning eighth in the 200 yard breaststroke with a time of 2:36.11.

The men's team also had some very strong performances, especially from Nick Holliday (01). Holliday placed seventh the 200 yard backstroke with a time of 2:03.88, and placed fourth in both the 100 yard backstroke, and 100 yard butterfly, with times of 54:65, and 53:68 respectively.

"Holliday was only tenths of seconds off the team records," said Coach Greg Baadte. "He had an outstanding meet."

The men also placed fourth in the 400 yard medley relay with a time of 3:51.25. Holliday, Mike Porter (03), Joe Harris (02), and Justin Fournier (02) swam this relay.

Overall Coach Baadte was quite pleased with the results of all the swims.

"It was a very good meet, a lot of people placed in the finals," said Baadte.

The swimmers will be in Florida for training from Dec. 28 to Jan. 6.

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 to Chris LaCroix on his Songfest victories! You are my serenading hero! Love, Rach

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