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Device breakdowns plague computing

Ryan Cannon
Staff Writer

Beginning three weeks ago, lights across the campus began to slowly flicker and die. Not the tungsten-filled 60-watt bulbs of dormitories and classrooms, but the green blinking lights of Ethernet ports and internet hubs.

A series of technological breakdowns harried the College's web server, at times bringing digital communication to a screeching halt.

The internet trouble demonstrates proof of the technological reliance of the campus community.

"It's literally like the electricity going out," said John Ottenhoff, professor of English and faculty technology coordinator.

"It was actually a series of three totally unrelated problems...that apparently happened in sequence purely as a matter of coincidence," said Director of Information Technology David Reed.

Connectivity problems began three weeks ago when two devices malfunctioned in the biology department. The two "airports" (wireless local networks) began to work as servers for an unknown reason. Computers accessing the Internet—especially student machines—requested network address from these devices instead of the College's server. Because these addresses were not valid to anything but the biology airports, the computers could not connect to the Internet.

These airports are not supposed to work in such a fashion, and took some time to detect, stumping even Apple Computer engineers. Once tracked down, the problematic devices were taken offline. To further compound the problem, computers that received a useless address continued to seek them from the offline devices and IT, behind Assistant Director Phil Warsop, who had to track down most of the machines individually.

The second problem occurred the weekend of Feb. 23, where the router that supplies the College with internet access—owned by the consortium of Michigan colleges, Merit Networks—began to sporadically malfunction. During these malfunctions the College's home page and entire network became unavailable to any computer off campus.

"These devices very very rarely fail," said Reed. The device went completely offline last Monday and the Merit sent repair technicians to have it back online that day.

Tuesday morning, the College's router, which connects all the computers on campus, went down as well, completely ceasing to function. By midday Tuesday the problem was diagnosed and the repair parts arrived the next morning.

The seemingly random failures and problems prove that Murphy's Law—whatever can go wrong, will—remains true in the computer industry. "Any event that has greater than zero probability eventually is going to happen, and we were just caught in a series of those low probability events," said Reed.

Reed added that the IT staff responded to the problems as fast as humanly possible: "It was a tribute to Phil Warsop that we could track these problems down and get them diagnosed as quickly as we did. He's very good at this stuff."

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Burgvall named new vice president of enrollment

Anne Mabbitt
Staff Writer

After two years of restructuring the administrative hierarchy, the College has finally found someone to fill the position of Vice President of Enrollment. Dennis Burgvall of Caldwell, Idaho, will begin his work here in late April.

Burgvall is considered a capable replacement for Alan Hill, who left Alma in 1999. Most recently, Burgvall has been working at Albertson College as the Dean of Enrollment Management. There he supervised a staff of thirty while working to improve admission, financial aid, and student services. Burgvall also created an outreach program for sophomores and juniors and expanded the college's influence in different areas.

"He is a person that has extensive experience in enrollment management including admissions, financial aid, and marketing," said president Sandra Tracy. "He has an excellent track record of accomplishment in these areas."

Previous to this work, Burgvall worked as Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid at Albertson College. As part of this job, he worked as a counselor for all of the international students at that institution. Burgvall also worked to enhance undergraduate recruitment and increase enrollment.

Burgvall also worked as the Dean of Development at Albertson College and as Director of Planned Giving at Whitman College in Walla Walla, Wash-

ington - his alma mater. Throughout his professional career, Burgvall has sat on various committees, including the Strategic Planning, Budget, Compensation and Personnel, and Presidential Search.

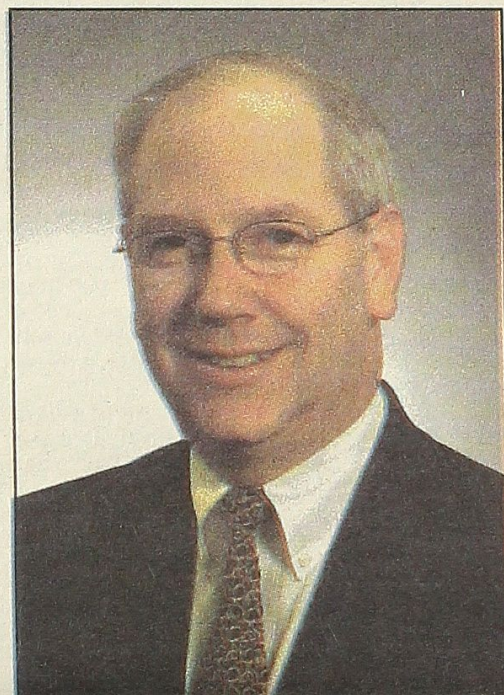
The search for the Vice President of Enrollment was extended in December after two candidates were passed over for the position. The extension was on a tentative schedule, but the search committee hoped to have hired a new vice president by the early summer. Sue MacGregor, interim vice president of enrollment, agreed at that time to stay at the college until a new Vice President could be found.

The search committee had originally determined that they would begin to conduct phone interviews with candidates in late March and April. The hiring of Burgvall this early has been a welcome surprise.

Scott Messing, professor of music and chair of the search committee, said of the decision, "I cannot recall the last time there was such unalloyed enthusiasm for a candidate from so many members of our community."

Also on the committee were Kay Grimmes, associate professor of biology, Carol Hyble, vice president of advancement, Tim Sipka, associate professor of math and computer science, Julie Will-

iam, associate dean of student development, and Mike Yavenditti, chair and professor of history. Lee Owens (02) was the student representative for the committee.



Courtesy photo

Dennis Burgvall has been named the new Vice President of Enrollment. He will begin his work at Alma in April.

2002 Barlow candidates announced

Jessica Greyerbiehl
Copy Editor

Faculty members and organizations in Student Congress will vote on the three finalists for the Barlow Trophy this week, capping off a selection process that began in early January and will end with the announcement of the winner on Honors Day. The three finalists for this year's award are seniors Emily Brookhouse, Alicia Halligan, and Andrew Oleszkowicz.

Brookhouse, a business administration major with a 3.8539 GPA, has been involved in numerous activities both on campus and in the local community. A resident of Alma, he works for the city's Brownfield and Economic Redevelopment Research and is a Central Michigan Youth for Christ volunteer and small group leader. On campus, Brookhouse is a member of the Jazz Ensemble, Kappa Iota sorority's executive council, an Alma Ambassador, and an Orientation Committee member. Brookhouse is also a member of Omicron Delta Kappa, where she serves as the secretary, a Rho Chi Epsilon Business Honorary member, and a teacher's assistant for the Business department.

"I was so surprised to be in the top ten percent of my class, and I never thought that I would make it this far in the process. I really am happy to have been chosen as a finalist. This is such a huge accomplishment," she said.

Brookhouse has also been involved in volunteer work, helping Habitat for Humanity, and has served internationally in a service learning experience in Honduras. She is currently the women's tennis team captain and is a member of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee.

When asked about what activity she was most proud of, Brookhouse said, "Definitely being an OC. The position sometimes gets overlooked because it is an intensive two weeks, but I think that helping the incoming students adjust to campus life is vital and an amazing process."

The two people she is most grateful to for helping her get this far are Murray Borrello and Randolph Jacques. "Both saw the potential in me and also realized that there is more to the learning experience than classwork. They have pushed me to look at the big picture and persuaded me to become involved in activities that have contributed greatly to my experience as a student."

Halligan is a history major with a

3.8539 GPA. She has been involved in numerous volunteer programs on campus, in the local community and internationally. In 2001, Halligan traveled to Arusha, Tanzania, through the Global Service Corps, where she was involved with HIV/AIDS awareness programs in several school systems. She has also volunteered in Scotland in a Third World Charity Shop and took part in the restoration of a Jewish cemetery in Poland. In the local community, Halligan has been involved in the Adopt-A-Family program, a children's reading program at the public library, the Lansing AIDS walk, Consumer's Energy Safety test and a leaf-raking program for the elderly. She has also been involved with Sigma Chi's Derby Days and a stuffed animal drive for local fire departments.

In addition to the volunteer work that Halligan has completed, she has been a member of the Alma Leadership Alliance, where she served as Secretary; a two-year veteran of the Model United Nations team, where she serves as lead mentor; one of three seniors who led the McGregor Colloquium, a member of Newberry Hall Council, and a member of Alpha Xi Delta, where she has been actively involved as the Academic

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NEWS

Scandal shakes Catholic Church

Chris Machnacki
Staff Writer

A month-long series of revelations regarding child abuse and sexual misconduct by Catholic priests, especially in Boston, has shaken the confidence of many Catholics in their church's leadership and tarnished the reputation of leading Catholic clergy.

The scandal came to light over one month ago, when Father Paul Geoghan, a veteran Catholic priest in Boston, was tried and later convicted of sexually abusing a minor. Investigations by Massachusetts authorities and the records of the Catholic Church indicate that Geoghan may have been involved in up to 129 other instances of similar abuse. Authorities in Massachusetts believe these incidents took place over a thirty-year period.

Cardinal Bernard Law, head of the Archdiocese of Boston, and his predecessor Cardinal Humberto Medeiros, had knowledge of Geoghan's acts but rather than informing the authorities, they quietly moved him from one parish to another, allowing the abuse to continue. Law admitted that he had knowledge of Geoghan's activities as early as 1984.

Since the allegations against Geoghan surfaced in the media, outrage among Boston Catholics has been intense and calls for Law to resign have grown strident. Law has dismissed calls for his resignation, noting that public opinion has never played an important role in Church decisions. Critics of Law charge that he has shown more concern for protecting the structure of the Church than in helping his parishioners cope with this difficult task.

Within the last month, Law has turned over the names of over 80 other Catholic priests in Boston accused of sexual misconduct. Many of these priests may be ineligible for trial due to the statute of limitations. High-ranking Catholic clergy in Maine, Philadelphia, New Hampshire, and other localities have pledged to follow suit.

Massachusetts Attorney General Thomas F. Reilly has criticized archdiocese cooperation with the investigation and threatened to subpoena further information if necessary. Although Church leaders had turned over the names of priests against whom allegations had surfaced, they failed to provide the names of victims, making further investigations difficult. Not until March 1, a month after the names were supplied, did Law provide the names of victims.

In response to the scandal, Law has created a Commission for the Protection of Children, with a mandate to review all Catholic policies toward child abuse. Current Catholic practice focuses on providing treatment for the accused priest and settling potential law suits with money and gag orders, which prevent the parties to the settlement from commenting on the case. Most Catholic diocese do not require clergy to inform the authorities of abuse, and do not report abuse to higher clergy.

In an unprecedented breach of church-state separation, Reilly has threatened legal action to involve Massachusetts in the screening of potential Catholic priests for Boston. However, Reilly has expressed hope that the Boston archdiocese can eliminate these problems without intervention from the state. Most states do not require clergy to inform the state of child abuse by their members, even when such abuse is punishable by law when committed by members of other professions or organizations.

According to John Gardai (03), the scandal in Boston has not been an issue for the Alma College Catholic Student Organization; it has not been discussed at meetings.

U.S. forces gain ground in Afghanistan

Brendan Guilford
Staff Writer

U.S. military officials have announced that the most recent attack on Taliban forces in Afghanistan, culminating in an eight-day battle, has secured large amounts of the territory formerly under Taliban control.

American soldiers participating in Operation Anaconda, the United States' most recent attempt to wipe out remaining Taliban forces, have reported great success.

Early reports suggest that over five hundred casualties were estimated of the few remaining Taliban/Al-Qaida forces.

Military officials stressed that while direct mass troop movement will be limited for the time being, Operation Anaconda is not over and will continue until the last Taliban fighter surrenders or dies.

American troops moved into the mountainous regions of Afghanistan near its border with Pakistan. Troop reaction after the battle was a mix of relief and exhaustion. Many troops reported not having properly warm clothing for the freezing temperatures and the Army reported multiple cases of hypothermia.

More importantly, U.S. intelligence had underestimated the number of remaining Taliban forces and Taliban sympathetic people in the area. Subsequently, the Anaconda troops ran into heavier resistance than anticipated.

The military has reported the deaths of eight American soldiers due to combat in the operation, in addition to three Afghani fighters' deaths. The deaths mostly came early in the operation during a surprise Taliban counter-attack.

President of Pakistan Gen. Pervez Musharraf and the Pakistani government have indicated that the government will grant amnesty to hundreds of jailed Islamic militants that have been incarcerated for up to two months. Many of the militants were placed under arrest for protesting Pakistani's pro-United States actions and for suspected consorting with one of the five Islamic fundamentalist groups that have been banned in Pakistan.

While many of the militants arrested have yet to be formally charged with a crime, public outcry against Musharraf and the government has been very light. However, the government has decided to grant the amnesties because the long detentions are setting a "bad precedent".

Since January, over two thousand people have been arrested for belonging to one of the five extremists groups that were banned including Sipah-e-Sahaba, or the Guardian of the Friends of Prophet.

Because of its allowance of U.S. planes using its airports and airspace, in addition to surveillance and information, Pakistan is a major member in the United States led coalition of countries responsible for the Taliban's retreat from Afghanistan.

Housing selection begins; language houses eliminated

Brendan Guilford
Staff Writer

The senior off-campus housing lottery occurred yesterday evening for the 2002-2003 term. For the next week, students will be finalizing their plans with roommates and where they plan to live beginning next fall. In order to take place in their respective lotteries for room assignment, students must first purchase a fifty-dollar housing card from the business office.

Deb Moon, the housing coordinator for Alma College is working with students in an attempt to ensure that every student on campus is satisfied with next year's living arrangements.

"I would (suggest) that anyone who hasn't purchased a (housing) card for next year and plans on returning to do so immediately. I can't allow them to reserve a room without (a card). If you don't have your card, you and your suitemates will not get the room you all want," said Moon.

Both Moon and the business office stressed the importance of purchasing a card as soon as possible, although neither could offer an estimate as to approximately how many students had actually done so.

Several RA's were asked if they had advice to offer to first-year students who have not experienced changing rooms or roommates.

"Most importantly, choose a roommate you can not only get along with, but spend a lot of time around. But also

consider who else is around you in the hall or in your suite," said Tim Throm (04).

Plans for the proposed alcohol and tobacco-free housing have been finalized. The south tower of Bruske Hall will now be available only for students who are willing to sign the contract agreeing not to possess or use those items in their hall.

Students currently living in South Bruske who will not sign the form must either live in North Bruske pending available space, or move elsewhere on campus. Additionally, those who will not sign the forms do not receive special squatter status and must choose rooms after those with squatter status in North Bruske.

The Spanish and French programs are no longer offering housing programs after this academic year. Next fall, the Model U.N. program will use the Spanish program's current house and the French house will be renovated and undergo "development of a new theme." The current Model U.N. house is scheduled for demolition this summer. Once the house is razed, the lot will be left empty until the college develops the space.

Finally, the Grant Street apartments are no longer available in the off-campus lottery. The apartments will only be available to language coordinators and married students for the 2002-2003 term.

Any questions or concerns may be addressed to Housing Coordinator Deb Moon at x7333.



Kmart CEO leaves company

TROY, Mich. --

Chuck Conaway, the reigning president and CEO of the Kmart Corp., was removed from his position yesterday. Conaway's departure came three days after Kmart, the nation's third largest discount retailer, announced that it was shutting down 284 stores nationwide and firing 22,000 workers. The shutdowns and layoffs are part of an attempt to bring the corporation out of bankruptcy by July 2003. Blame for the Jan. 11, 2002, filing of bankruptcy has been placed partially on Conaway. During his reign at Kmart, Conaway closed 72 underperforming stores, invested large amounts of money in new technology aimed at tracking inventory, and brought back Kmart's BlueLight Specials. Experts say his most costly mistakes involved the attempt to compete with Wal-Mart and Target stores in pricing. During Conaway's first year, he spent \$1 billion on capital expenditures while only \$641 million was generated, and during his second year, he spent another \$1 billion with no profits being recorded in the fiscal year that ended Jan. 30.

Baby tossed from third floor window survives

LANCASTER, Penn. --

Neighbors and passers-by caught 9-month-old Victor Castaner in a blanket after his aunt, Jennifer Lopez, 18, tossed him from a third floor window of their burning apartment building. Residents were not able to use stairways to escape the building because they were on fire. Some residents jumped from second floor windows while others, including Lopez and her twin sister Erica, Victor's mother, were rescued by firefighters. Lopez and her twin were treated for smoke inhalation and released from the hospital while Victor remains listed in fair condition.

Memorials held on six month anniversary of terrorist attacks

NEW YORK CITY--

Memorials including the rededication of a 45,000-pound sculpture that used to reside in the fountain of the trade center plaza in New York were held yesterday in honor of those who were killed in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg presided over the rededication of "The Sphere" in Manhattan's Battery Park, while a second memorial, called Tribute of Light, was illuminated at 6:30 p.m. near Ground Zero. Tribute of Light consists of two columns of light beamed upward in memory of the towers that once stood at the site. The New York Police Department honored the 23 officers killed in the World Trade Center collapse at a ceremony in the Bronx where their fallen comrades' names were read and a moment of silence was observed at 8:46 a.m., the moment when the first hijacked plane crashed in the north tower. Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani discussed the attacks on CNN's "American Morning," saying of those rescuers who died, "They died so we could be free." Memorials at the Pentagon and in Pennsylvania also took place throughout the day.

NEWS

Professors and faculty move up in the ranks

Anne Mabbitt
Staff Writer

The Board of Trustees approved tenure and promotions for seven faculty members on Feb. 9. David Lawrence will move up from an assistant professor to an associate professor of communication; Carol Zeile, associate professor of library science, received tenure; Liping Bu will move from assistant professor to associate professor of history; David Clark was promoted from associate to full professor of biology; Patrick Furlong was promoted from associate professor to professor of history; Karin Grimnes will be a full professor of biology, and Raymond Riley was promoted to professor of music from associate professor. Their promotions go into effect Jul. 1.

"I see this as a chance to be helpful at a larger level to the college, not just to my department and to my discipline," said Grimnes.

Tenure is available for faculty members in their sixth year at the College unless they have negotiated for a short-term track. Short track tenure is available for faculty who have worked at another institution for at least three years with the appropriate terminal degree (PhD or MFA). Short track faculty are then able to apply for tenure in their third year. Only full time faculty can receive tenure.

"It lets me know that my colleagues value my service to the college," said Zeile, regarding her promotion.

Faculty seeking promotion are not required to stick to a time table, although there is a suggested time period for each promotion.

Promotions can be applied for, or a person may be nominated. Typically, there is a six-year waiting period to make the move from assistant to associate professor. To make the rank of full professor, which is the final promotion before moving into administrative work, there is typically a twelve-year period from the start as an assistant professor.

Faculty applying for tenure or promotion must put together a file of material from their classes, such as syllabi and tests. The only required materials are those that come from classes the professors teach, but they often include additional materials like a curriculum vitae (CV or resume), a statement of

professional self-assessment, and letters from alumni and off-campus professional peers. Faculty are free to include student opinion surveys. This file is due to the Provost's Office by October.

Along with the candidate, the Provost

must then choose three colleagues from the candidate's department or a cognate department to write confidential peer reviews. The candidate also chooses up to three colleagues to observe classes of the

candidate's choosing. Two colleagues must observe at least two classes each.

The Faculty Personnel Committee (FPC) then looks at the information and makes a recommendation to the Provost by Dec. 1. The Provost then makes a recommendation to the President, who in turn makes a recommendation to the Board of Trustees. If the FPC and the Provost do not agree on a candidate, they are each able to make a recommendation to the President. If the President is going

to make a negative recommendation to the Board of Trustees, the candidate is notified immediately and receives a one-year contract to buy time to find a job elsewhere.

"With the professorship, there is a commitment to be worthy of that promotion. As professors you live up to those standards. It is a maturation process," said Clark.

With each level of promotions, there are certain criteria that professors must establish. Those include first a commitment to the institution, to the discipline, and to the community. For the most part, professors will publish a scholastic document and help students to obtain awards or make career decisions.

"The full professors are the faculty members who bear a special responsibility to share in the leadership of the institution and that is a responsibility which I take very seriously," said Furlong.

The system, which dictates tenure and promotions, is made available through the American Association of University Professors. Most institutions follow these practices.

"The system is deliberately designed with a lot of checks and balances to be fair to the individual," said Cameron Reed, professor of physics. "Pre-tenure reviews allow for development. People have the ability to improve before the real tenure review."

I see this as a chance to be helpful at a larger level to the college, not just to my department and to my discipline.
~Karin Grimnes

IFC one of the country's 20 best

Scott Timmreck
Editor in chief

The College's Interfraternity Council (IFC) was recently nationally recognized for its outstanding council management, self-governance and judicial affairs, and sponsorship of philanthropic activities. Representing one of the 115 colleges and universities at the 2002 Mid-American Greek Council Association conference Feb. 21-24, IFC brought home three of the five awards it applied for, and Alma College was recognized for having a Greek male GPA higher than its non-Greek male GPA. Alma's IFC was one of only 20 IFCs that received awards at the conference.

"We're by far better than many IFCs," said Joe Phillips (03), IFC's president.

IFC serves as the legislative body of the College's five officially recognized social fraternities. Made up of representatives from each fraternity, IFC decides the minimum GPA necessary to pledge and become a member of a fraternity and also holds chapters accountable for violations of the College's laws, as outlined in the Greek Life manual.

"IFC's purpose is to publicly support Greeks and lead the charge for the quality of Greek life," said Martin Stack, associate dean of students and Greek advisor. "IFC gives legitimacy to Greek life and provides uniform standards for the fraternities to follow."

"IFC also provides programming to the

campus it wouldn't otherwise be able to provide," Phillips said. "It allows people to further develop their social and interpersonal skills."

Despite its three awards, Phillips sees plenty of room for IFC to grow. "I'd like to make programs we put on better," he said, speaking of the philanthropic activities and Greek Week. He also said that last semester's can drive co-sponsored by Zeta Sigma and Sigma Alpha Epsilon was a hallmark for the kind of inter-fraternity relations he would like to see grow.

Phillips and Stack would also like relations to improve between the Greeks and the campus as well as the community at large. Stack has indicated that he does not want to cover up any problems in the Greek system, but rather make light of the solutions to the issues. He also wants to begin placing more emphasis on individual successes of Greeks and work further to squash stereotypes that pervade the Greek system.

"You can't apply the stereotype to the individual," he said.

Phillips echoed an interest in furthering the death of stereotypes of Greeks. "People who say the Greek system is a bad thing often have not taken the time to research its merits," he said. "They're basing their opinions on stereotypes. While the Greek system has faults, it doesn't have that many more than any other organization on campus."

Rep. Hummel speaks on politics

Matt Helmus
Staff Writer

Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) sponsored a visit by State Representative Scott Hummel (86th district) Thursday to speak to students about his life's work and politics in an hour-long presentation.

Hummel became involved in politics as a county commissioner in Clinton County.

As he was just elected to the state Congress last July in a special election, he considers himself a newcomer to the system. He emphasized how legislators continue their learning process throughout their tenure in office, as no lawmaker knows everything about politics.

Through questions put to the sizable crowd,

Hummel proved a point that many Americans have a negative view of politics. He claims that this view is tainted as "99.9% of lobbyists and politicians are right on target." He thinks that the public only notices the minority of public figures who abuse their power or get into some sort of trouble.

Hummel spoke of his election experience, encouraging students to

become involved in campaigns. The representative believes that more people should be involved in politics as citizens do not just have a right to vote but a right to vote intelligently. He also noted that the 2002 elections in Michigan are some of the most important in a long time. For the first time in 42 years all the "higher offices" (governor, attorney general, etc.) are open for elections. The legislature will

also face a large turnover with half of the house and two-thirds of the senate facing elections or retirement due to term limits.

Hummel spent a considerable amount of time covering his personal experiences in politics. He noted that in Lansing "it takes relationships to get anything done. It is a team effort." He went over some of the tactics Democrats and

Republicans use to get their legislation passed. His view on passing legislation is that it is "better that no law gets passed than any law gets passed."

Michael Trebesh, chair and associate professor of business administration, was pleased with the turnout. He also noted that in the next few weeks he is expecting a business reporter from WXYZ in Detroit to speak at the College.

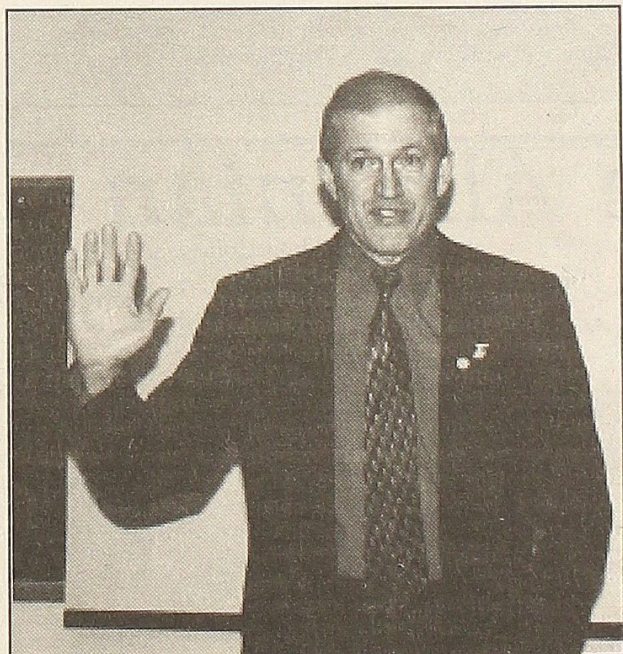


Photo by Dan Joyce

Scott Hummel, state representative, speaks to a group of students about his experiences in politics. Students for Free Enterprise (SIFE) sponsored Hummel's presentation.

ETHERNET from page 1

IT recently completed upgrading the network within the Swanson Academic Center to switched 100 megabit service, a faster networking method. Network redundancy helps prevent connectivity failures by having a backup device for when others fail. However, building redundancy saps resources from helping

expand and improve network capacity.

Still, IT is working on creating a balance of preventative measures while keeping costs down. "When we provide a service we're going to do it reliably—not 100 percent because that's not possible in this industry—but as close as we can," said Reed.

OPINION

ACUB's new president

Michelle Reinecke (03), the Union Board's newly elected president, has a tough job. With at least \$40,000 coming to her organization from the student activity fee, ACUB has the potential to be a magnificent force on this campus and in students' lives, assuming Reinecke can manage the Union Board correctly. The critical issue: How can ACUB, and the College as well, help break the apathy barrier that students so often construct against not only ACUB activities, but other events like Heritage Center speakers and athletic contests?

It's a rough issue, especially at a small college where the interest for an aerobics class or a specialty radio show may be limited to fewer than five people. Often ACUB coffeehouses in VanDusen and movie nights in Jones don't spark any interest whatsoever in the general student population, no matter how good the events' marketing may be. The fact remains that people go to events that have an established reputation, like the All-Nighter and Songfest. People like to be sure of what they are spending their time doing, and they know that when they go to Songfest they will get a rollicking good show. Reinecke, in addition to continuing the excellent tradition of already-good things, should take her opportunity to spend ACUB's money on quality acts that the organization can bring to campus in successive years. Spending effort and money on events that hardly anyone attends is not a good use of student funds. Although one of ACUB's yearly goals may be to sponsor a given number of events, it makes little sense at this point to go with quantity over quality. People enjoy one good event over eight mediocre ones.

But eventually, quantity may become ACUB's better option. For that to happen, the College needs to invest in a large gathering area for students to congregate. At one point, the Hole was in use every Friday night. Now, no one really cares that the Hole exists. It's too small for people to use and hang out, like they do at student unions at other small colleges. Jones is a nice little useful auditorium, but it could be so much more. There's the Rotunda, which is basically useless because it's a fireplace and a collection of chairs. Joe's is a good place to congregate, but it closes fairly early, and Van Dusen is useful for small concerts but useless in terms of a place for students to get together.

Yet the common thread between all these areas is that they're in the Tyler-Van Dusen Campus Center. Here's a plan: add an extension to Fireside Lounge and move the bookstore there, move the Student Affairs Office to where the Hole is, knock down all the walls that separate these tiny gathering areas, and you have a very large area to put in pool tables, air hockey tables, ping-pong tables, and a movie screen. Joe's can provide the food, the radio station can provide musical entertainment, and representatives from Student Affairs and ACUB can have offices in an area that they should govern.

Meanwhile, Reinecke and ACUB can wield considerable power in eventually giving this student union some life, especially considering that ACUB often is limited in the space it has to put large acts or events like the All-Nighter. If ACUB uses its funds to bring events to campus that attract large audiences, administration would see a good reason to give the organization some space, in addition to its current obligation to provide students with life on campus beyond the classroom and meetings.

Here's hoping Reinecke, with some help from administration, can advance the climate of student life on this campus.

A different kind of hero

Kristin Shea
Special to The Almanian

Can you imagine what it would feel like to be a hero? To have someone look up to you, admire you, and be excited by your presence? Imagine how you would feel knowing that you have the power to influence a person's life and create possibilities for his or her future. This is my future. This is reality.

I am studying here at Alma to become an elementary school teacher. Those words still sound bizarre to me—I never expected to become a teacher. For the past 15 years, I wanted to be a veterinarian. I have always had a weakness for animals and a strong desire to work in the medical field. When I came to Alma, I was told to take a full load my first semester, including Biology 121 and Chemistry 115. Although I did fairly well in biology, I was very disappointed with my chemistry grade. After my first year, I began to question my future. For the first time in my life, I was unsure of what lie ahead and less than confident about my abilities. I spent a lot of time thinking about what made me happy and what I enjoyed doing. I knew I wanted to help people and make a difference in their lives; I also realized, however, how happy children made me.

I decided to give education a try and switched majors in my sophomore year. It was a brilliant idea. Not only were my grades improving, but I also began to enjoy my classes. Imagine that—a college student who is excited to be in class and who willingly participates in the discussions! Although I was truly happy with my decision, I discovered a certain truth about this campus.

To some, my major is considered a joke. Fellow students view elementary education as "the easy way out" if you are struggling academically. When I mentioned to others the change I had made, I was met with ridicule and derision.

"What happened? You couldn't hang in the pre-med department?" was one response.

"Elementary education, huh? Getting paid to tie shoes and finger-paint..." was another.

Are they serious? Do some people really think teaching children is trivial and unimportant compared to earning a degree in business or law? Apparently so. Yet teaching is one of the most important jobs in the world. Without an education, the doors of opportunity would be slammed in your face and any chance for advancement would be stifled. Education begins at a young age; this is often the most important time to instill the desire to learn in the minds of children. At the age of five or six, a child's world is full of possibilities and they are eager to absorb everything they come in contact with. When a child first enters school, it can be an intimidating and overwhelming experience. The role of the teacher is to give the child confidence and motivate him/her to succeed. By creating a welcoming environment and allowing a child to develop his/her own skills and creativity in the classroom, the elementary school teacher plays a pivotal role in the growth process.

I had my first true teaching experience last term when I was a placement student at St. Mary's School in Alma, where I helped teach a class of developmental kindergarteners, a group of children who have passed pre-school but are not quite ready for kindergarten. Working so closely

with these kids for 14 weeks helped me develop intimate relationships with a few of them. Children at that age have the most incredible combination of innocence and curiosity. The most common trait I noticed in the children was honesty: their thoughts and responses were quite candid, which kept me grounded. It was interesting to watch the kids interact and learn about themselves and their own abilities. Most of the material I read in class correlated directly with the age I was working with, so my behavioral observations in the placement classroom sometimes directly mirrored my readings. Although this part was interesting, what I discovered about myself was astounding. I learned that the time I spent watching children and being in their company made me a better person. First graders are not concerned with exam scores, clothing, or music; instead, they simply try to understand their world and look forward to every new experience and opportunity.

During a science lesson one afternoon, Ms. Henry, my lively mentor, explained to the children the essential role dirt plays in our environment. She then passed around a cup of dirt for all to inspect. Next, she held up a glass of water and asked the students, "What will happen to the dirt when I pour this water on it?"

"It will get wet!" was the collective response.

Ms. Henry then poured the water onto the dirt and asked the kids, "What do we call this? What did I just make by mixing dirt and water?" This one stumped my young scholars. I saw Quentin pick his nose to avoid answering. I also noticed Selena in an obvious state of distress; her little nose was crinkled up and I could see the frustration brewing in her eyes.

"Do you know the answer Selena?" I inquired.

She glanced at me and then returned her intent gaze to the brown concoction on the table. I smiled and waited patiently for her response. Just as I was about to enlighten the children with the answer, Selena waved her arm frantically and grinned. "I know it Ms. Shea! I know what the answer is!"

"Yes, Selena? What do you get when you mix dirt and water?"

"Coca-Cola!" she shouted triumphantly.

Teaching not only allows me to educate and influence young children, but it also gives me the opportunity to grow and learn as an individual. Kids have a lot to teach adults about the simple lessons in life, especially that we need to slow down and discover life's true humor and happiness. The next time you are around young children, take time to notice their reactions and expressions when they learn something new, or perhaps how proud they are of the butterfly they just colored—and actually stayed inside the lines! It is the simplest of tasks that brings the most joy, and that is a lesson that everyone should learn.

Teaching and being a role model to children inspires me, and it is not a job responsibility that I take lightly. In order to be successful at this job, I must have patience, confidence, and be able to relate to children at their own level. The skills I teach them today will directly shape who they become in the future. I must also be able to adapt to many different situations, personalities, and work ethics of the class. Teachers have the responsibility of creating a classroom environment that is conducive to learning, but also a friendly, welcoming place for the kids. I must be very aware of each individual child; this includes his/her temperament, learning abilities, social interactions with peers, and even signs of domestic abuse.

It is a challenging and stressful job to be an elementary teacher; however, knowing that my presence directly affects many young lives is an incredible feeling. Aside from the work involved, the personal growth and character development I will experience each year by being exposed to their world brings me immense happiness. Some of the most important lessons of their lives will be learned in first grade, and I will be there to ensure that each experience is memorable and not wasted. One of the important things I have already learned from the kindergarteners is to find humor in everything, no matter how trivial. Especially mud!

The Almanian

Serving Alma College since 1907

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Statement of Purpose

The Almanian is a newspaper published not only for the students at this institution, not just for the faculty on campus, and not solely for the administrators who work for Alma, but for all people interested in Alma College and the lives it touches. The writers, editors, publishers, and distributors of this newspaper are dedicated to producing an interesting accurate, timely, fun, and error free newspaper on a weekly basis in order to inform and educate the people for whom it is intended about the culture and nature of Alma College.

Publication

The Almanian is distributed to Alma College's campus Tuesday evenings and is sent to subscribers the following day. The paper is published weekly, excepting College breaks.

Letter Policy

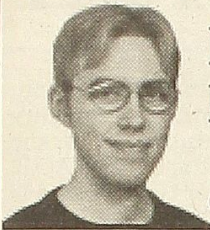
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Staff Editorial Policy

Opinions expressed in the "Staff Editorial" reflect the views of The Almanian staff. They in no way reflect the views of the entire Alma College community.

OPINION

Time to change Middle East Policy?



Chris Machnacki

Israelis and Palestinians have killed each other in ever-increasing numbers since October 2000. Over 1,000 Palestinians have died in the current intifada, along with over 300 Israelis. Civilians represent the vast majority of the dead on both sides, with many Israeli civilians killed by Palestinians in suicide bombings and gun attacks, and many Palestinians killed by errant Israeli firepower.

With the violence worsening all the time, despite a new Saudi Arabian proposal for a comprehensive peace between Israel and all other Arab states, we should consider the role of the United States in the current conflict.

Israel receives well over \$2 billion in direct military aid every year from the United States, despite the fact that its conventional military power dwarfs that of any conceivable coalition of Arab states. If conventional military power should somehow fail Israel, it still has its nuclear ace in the hole. In addition to military aid, Israel receives nearly a billion dollar's worth of economic assistance. Thus, Israel consumes nearly a fifth of all U.S. foreign aid every year, despite having a population of less than six million.

Much of the military aid received from the U.S. is used against Palestinians, whose armament consists largely of rifles and rocks. Israel uses cutting-edge American-built F-16 fighter planes and Apache attack helicopters to raze Palestinian police stations and other government posts with increasing regularity. These attacks kill innocent Palestinians with great regularity, and few Americans would be pleased to know that bombs manufactured in Texas are killing infant Palestinians.

This is not meant to condone Palestinian terrorism against innocent civilians in any way. Suicide bombings

Left is Right

against children and other helpless targets is a loathsome tactic. Israeli casualties have surged upward in recent months due to an increase in precisely these suicide attacks.

The fact remains, however, that something is driving the Palestinians to do this: rational people do not blow themselves up if other avenues of achieving their goals exist. Many Palestinians are convinced that this extreme form of violence is the only way to force the Israelis to admit what should be obvious: occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip is not a tenable policy.

The only thing that our military aid to Israel has accomplished is a high-tech stalemate. The Israeli military is far too strong to ever be defeated by the Palestinians or Israel's neighbors, but it cannot protect Israel from those willing to blow themselves up on crowded streets to accomplish political goals.

Continued military aid to Israel may actively hinder the negotiation of a peace agreement. As long as Israel can count on yearly U.S. largesse, its incentives to negotiate a real agreement with the Palestinians decrease. Conversely, a hint that military assistance is on the chopping block may spur real progress.

As a precondition of further aid, the U.S. should insist that Israel begin dismantling its settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Israel's decision to build these settlements in lands it occupied after the 1967 Arab-Israeli War blatantly violated international law and must rank as one of the worst public-policy decisions of the 20th century. Planting 200,000 reactionary Israeli settlers in the midst of millions of Palestinians has been an unending headache and is one of the principle obstacles to peace in the Middle East. Indeed, providing financial support to Israel to relocate the settlers would be one of the best possible uses for U.S. assistance anywhere in the world.

Israel has received tens of billions of dollars from the U.S. over the last few decades, and we have precious little to show for it except a continuous state of siege in the Middle East. Acting as a true impartial mediator in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, rather than one that supplies one side with billions in aid every year, would do more to boost our standing in the Arab world than any other action, and may actually show some results.

Dispelling the misconceptions of Ebonics: part 2 of 2



Tim Slade

Last Tuesday evening at 8:30, I had the pleasure of sitting down with the Alma College Black Student Union to discuss the matter of Ebonics and their thoughts on the subject. Most of the individuals in attendance at the meeting expressed very strong opinions on the topic, especially regarding

the racial attitudes and biases underlying the idea of Ebonics and the teaching thereof. In addition to the founder, Del Newhouse (02), the group included Phillisha Harden (02), Sharese McGee (02), Annie Robbins (03), Amanda Sanders (02), Elizabeth Knoche (02), Kolorean Kershaw (05), and Erin Brantley (05).

Without exception, members of the company felt that the concept of Ebonics was a foolish one, perhaps none more strongly than Sharese, who said, "It's stupid. It's like saying 'Let's talk black slang' - I think even putting a name to the way African-Americans speak is stupid."

The initial negative reaction towards the topic, while partly due to genuine feeling, was partly my fault as well. Having failed to define Ebonics as something other than black slang, as a "valid dialect" (according to linguists), a number of statements were made against the stupidity of trying to quantify black slang. Phillisha said "What they consider Ebonics changes every few weeks - whenever a new song comes out with a new word in it, it gets picked up."

One of the statements made based on the assumption that Ebonics is just "black slang," however, is equally telling when Ebonics is seen as a separate dialect. "It's kind of saying all black people talk the same," Del said, "but it's just like any other dialect - [saying it's universal] is just a bad stereotype." Overall, the members of the Union felt that despite calling Ebonics a dialect and not a collection of slang, the concept is still way off base. Sharese spoke for all when she stated

that it exists on a geographical basis; variations exist all over the United States, and an African-American in the South will speak more like his southern Caucasian neighbor than like an African-American in Seattle.

"Another thing I find offensive," Del said, "is that the way they're advertising it is that only black people speak that way - there's probably more people [who speak Ebonics] of a different race in a different region."

Without fail, the group disagreed with Ebonics having a cultural basis or a direct economic basis. Amanda Sanders said, "It may be based on the level of education." Referring to the fact that the members of the ACBSU all speak correct and proper Standard English, she said "If we all got it, if we all understand, then what's so hard? They need to evaluate the teaching strategies and the teachers," instead of claiming there is a cultural communication barrier to cross.

Del pointed out that if he were to make a sentence saying "He be doin' whatever..." it may sound wrong, but there is no communication barrier.

Phillisha agreed, saying, "I think the teachers [who claimed to be unable to communicate with their Ebonics-speaking students] were overreacting when they said they couldn't understand."

After discussing Ebonics at length, we arrived at the crux of the matter: is Ebonics a problem? If so, how do we correct it? Sharese unequivocally condemned Ebonics with a "Hell, yeah. The word 'Ebonics' is a problem - trying to teach it as a language is a problem...[it encourages the mentality that] it's always going to be 'them' and 'us' - black and white."

Other members of the group agreed, expressing the feeling that the American public is never going to leave the past alone, and will continue to overcompensate for it (as in the matter of potentially teaching classes on Ebonics).

Referring to the concept of Ebonics language classes, Erin asked, "If they are going to teach it, who's going to teach the teachers?"

In the end, Amanda summed it up the best: "It's a social problem, and it needs to be addressed on a much larger scale."

Every day, all around you

Bruce Lack
Special to The Almanian

She's gone. It's one of those things I didn't believe because I didn't want to, but I packed her up and took her home, and now I don't have a clue what I'll do with myself.

She's not coming back because she has a problem that can't be resolved by staying here. And she is not the only one. With the scantest observation one can find an alarming number of women on this campus, our campus, right here in sheltered Alma College, with the same problem. She has an eating disorder.

I don't understand all the subtleties of the thought process that produces an eating disorder, but I know what I can see in her. When she looks in the mirror, she doesn't see the smiling, too-skinny, absolutely beautiful girl that I see every day—she sees someone she's not satisfied with. She's not satisfied with herself because of you, because of me, because of society as a whole, that teaches girls from as soon as they can watch Victoria's Secret commercials on television that they have to be rail-skinny to be attractive.

There are a million studies on eating disorders out there. Read them if you like, but the farthest you have to go for firsthand observation is the next table in Saga. Maybe in the seat right next to you. Just pay attention, for God's sake, because all of these girls are crying for help if you'll only listen to them.

She's my best friend. She made my life here complete just by being around. I have trouble remembering what my life was like without her, and I'm having serious trouble adjusting to life without her in a place where everything reminds me of her. I know all there is to know about her, and still I didn't start paying attention to her illness until it became a problem. All the jokes that weren't really jokes about societal standards for women, all the times she was disgusted at the television advertisements, all the meals I

watched her not eat, and I just didn't notice. Some best friend I turned out to be.

Once I'd found out, I tried everything I could think of to help her. I offered to make special time to eat with her, away from everyone else, because these girls compete against each other all the time to see who can eat the least and stay alive, to see who has to buy the smallest jeans. I tried to get her away from that, but it was just too hard. We still had to go to Saga. We still had to be a part of the world. I offered to cook for her, and I would have, every meal of every day if she would have let me, because I would have done whatever it took to make her better. I turned myself into the man it took, bettered myself until I could help in some way, but still I couldn't change you people, and you people are the factors that she paid attention to.

There are girls on this campus, everywhere you look, who have this same problem, and they either don't know they have it or they've had it so long it's become a way of life. And you watch it happen every day, every meal, and you don't even know you're not recognizing it. Don't you see that these people need your help, these people who are wasting away right in front of you?

A lot of people have never even thought about this before. Or thought about it and passed it off. I know I was one, before I met her. A lot of people are totally oblivious, and the truth is that I would trade each and every one of you without batting an eyelash if it would bring her back.

She's trying to get better. She's trying so hard that I can't help but be proud of her. But no one else around her is. That's why I had to take her home. And God, I want what's best for her, but it's killing me to watch her go. I failed her. You failed her. We all failed her, and it's going to take my best effort not to hate all of you, not to hate myself, for what I watched her become. She's gone, but she left behind a lot of girls just like her. Please, you people who call yourselves caring human beings, do what I couldn't. Help them.

Symptoms of Eating Disorders

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| The person thinks he or she weighs too much | Excessive thirst and frequent urination | Irregular menstrual periods |
| Skipping meals | Dehydration | Clinical depression |
| Moving food about on the plate and cutting it into tiny pieces, or not eating with the family | Lower body temperature | Anxiety |
| Brittle nails and hair | Clinical depression—extreme feelings of sadness, dejection | Eating large quantities of food until one is uncomfortably full. |
| Dry, yellow skin | Cold intolerance | More difficulty losing weight, and keeping it off, than others with serious weight problems |
| | Mild anemia | |
| | Swollen joints | |

Information courtesy of <http://content.health.msn.com>

FEATURE

ACUB acts to create ubiquitous fun

Hannah Alexander
Staff Writer

The Alma College Union Board, known to most students as ACUB, is a student organization whose mission on campus is to provide fun activities for students in a safe environment. All activities are alcohol free.

ACUB is made of a eleven-member student board. Each board position is specialized, which puts everyone completely in charge of his or her area. Each person has a different set of responsibilities to ensure that every program is interesting, diverse, safe, well organized, and well publicized. The board positions are paid, requiring two office hours and one hour to be spent in a general business meeting each week. Depending on the scope of the position more hours exist above this minimum requirement. This year's board members are Jessica Greyerbiehl (02), Delvard Newhouse (02), Julie Plasencia (03), Aaron Rycroft (03), Susan Hamilton (04), Lindsay Pryor (02) (fall), Jenny Greyerbiehl (02) (winter), Angela Banet (03), Jen Towns (04), Noelle Harkiewicz (03), Michelle Reinecke (03) and Katie Douglas (02). In order for the board members to be knowledgeable and well prepared for their positions they must have participated for one semester as a student representative and attend workshops concerning their particular area.

Along with the main board, there are 25 student representatives who participate in decision-making, publicity, and program preparation. These members participate on a volunteer basis and anyone who is interested in getting involved with ACUB may be a student representative. These people play an important part in getting feedback from the campus about events and relaying it to the board. Being a representative gives students the opportunity to develop leadership skills and become prepared to take on larger roles within ACUB.

As with most student organizations, ACUB has an advisor who acts as a supervisor to the group. The dean of students appoints the advisor for ACUB, and the organization is a big priority for the advisor. He or she is responsible for overseeing budgeting issues, leadership development, and acting as a liaison between the students and faculty. Claire Brady, Newberry Hall Director, is the current advisor of ACUB. She attends all meetings

and events. She says, "I try to work closely with the president to look at the big picture for ACUB concerning planning, budgeting, and publicity." Brady explained that the board attends the National Association of Campus Activities to strengthen the leadership skills of the members, share ideas with other schools, and check out what is available to bring back to Alma. This year the conference was in West Virginia. Alma was nominated for "Excellence in Programming" at the conference and was seen as a leader among small schools. Students from other colleges came to ACUB members to get information on making their own programs more successful.

There are numerous performers who pay to attend the conference in hopes of impressing campus organizations enough to be able to come on campus and perform. Brady adds, "Alma is included in one of the largest regions, the Great Lakes Region, so we are heavily solicited." This is convenient for the performers because the schools cooperate so that the groups can visit a number of schools in one trip. This makes the overall cost of the shows more affordable for the colleges. When ACUB attends this conference, they try to keep their eyes open for shows that are less traditional and would bring new experiences to campus.

ACUB offers four traditional events to students: the Annual All-Nighter, Songfest, Casino Night, and then a spring event that changes depending on the student response. In the past, the spring program has been a Mock Rock competition and a Campus Olympics. Besides the big four, the group also tries to sponsor at least 25 other events throughout the course of the academic year. Examples of the smaller events are euchre tournaments, movie nights, and concerts by local bands such as Homegrown and My Cousin Leonard. Julie Plasencia, activities coordinator, says, "We try to choose activities that we think people will want to come to." Also, ACUB is one of the only organizations that begin their programming during pre-term, where they try to welcome first-year students to the campus with some fun events. When asked about the ACUB All-Nighter, first-year student **Lauren Dart (05)** said, "I loved it, I had so much fun!" **Anne Fuhrig (05)** adds, "All of the ACUB members were visible in yellow shirts, so it was nice to know all of them cared that we were having a good time."

Student Congress determines ACUB's budget, and the

money for the budget comes from the Student Activity Fee. ACUB uses their budget to find and secure quality programs, to purchase the necessary equipment for the shows, and to make possible free admittance to all ACUB activities. The technical equipment that is purchased is then loaned out to other organizations on campus.

As with most organizations, there is some frustration that goes along with success. Sometimes members of ACUB will plan a program to great length, and the turnout at the show will often be no more than 16 people. Reinecke says, "This is disappointing for both the members who worked hard on the project and the performers." She also feels that ACUB has a bit of a "bad rap" because some people don't consider ACUB events to be "cool." Reinecke explains that because there is no drinking involved it can sometimes be hard to get people to come. She is very supportive of alcohol-free programming, especially on college campuses, where reports of drinking problems are all over the national news. It is also difficult to continue to come up with new and original ideas year after year. The group tries to rely on student feedback as much as possible to keep the programs that students enjoy and make decisions about new programs. Jessica Greyerbiehl, President, says, "We try to get rid of the programs that haven't worked in the past, and replace them with new, more creative events."

Members of ACUB feel that in a small town such as Alma it is necessary to provide students with diverse entertainment. The continual goal of this organization is to increase attendance at their functions. Greyerbiehl says, "We have a loyal following and the people who fully utilize our organization have enjoyed their time at the events." Most of the major events draw a crowd anywhere from 300 to 500 people and in the smaller events the numbers vary greatly. ACUB tries to schedule their events on days when they think there will be a large student turnout and they try to work around conflicts with other groups. Saturday nights are usually avoided because of the large attendance at fraternity and sorority functions.

The spring major event currently in the works is going to be a "Psychic Fair." There will be a tarot card reader, a palm reader, aura interpretation, a numerologist, a name analyst, and henna and body art. The Psychic Fair is scheduled for Friday, April 5, 2002.

WQAC Top 30

- 1 THRICE The Illusion of Safety
- 2 SCOOTERSI Can See Your House From
- 3 ONESIDEZERO Is This Room Getting
- 4 PHANTOM PLANET The Guest
- 5 NINE INCH NAILS And All That Could
- 6 MINIBAR Road Movies
- 7 SOUTH From Here On In
- 8 SOMETHING CORPORATE Audioboxer
- 9 19 WHEELS Sugareen
- 10 SOUL HOOLIGAN Algebra
- 11 KATNAPPING Broadcast Day
- 12 INCUBUS Morning View
- 13 SMASHING PUMPKINS Rotten Apples
- 14 ZERO 7 Simple Things
- 15 SNEAKER PIMPS Blood Sport
- 16 UNWRITTEN LAW Elva
- 17 OH MY GOD The Action Album
- 18 KEEPERS OF THE CARPET Keepers of
- 19 BENT Programmed To Love
- 20 BEN FOLDS Rockin' The Suburbs
- 21 FAMOUS Famous
- 22 SEVENDUST Animosity
- 23 RED SHIRT BRIGADE Home of The
- 24 TENACIOUS D Tenacious D
- 25 JOSH ROUSE Under Cold Blue Stars
- 26 NITIN SAWHNEY Prophecy
- 27 BISCAYNE You'd Build A Robot
- 28 MERSEY SIDE Step To Where It Shines
- 29 PARK No Signal
- 30 OCEAN COLOUR SCENE

Harvard groups evaluate Disney films' female stereotypes

Nalina Sombuntham
Harvard Crimson (Harvard U.)

(U-WIRE) CAMBRIDGE, Mass. - The animated figure smiles coyly, bats her long eyelashes and swings her hips, using her feminine charms to distract the villain and allow the hero to save the day.

According to the 2001 documentary "Mickey Mouse Monopoly: Disney, Childhood and Corporate Power" -- screened to a 20-member audience at Harvard University's Boylston Hall on Saturday -- this familiar scene from Walt Disney's "Aladdin" perpetuates stereotypes of women as little more than temptresses.

The film festival, "Gender, Ethnicity & Disney," organized by Women IN Color (WINC) and funded by the Harvard Foundation and the Ann Radcliffe Trust, featured the documentary and Disney films "Aladdin," "Mulan" and "Pocahontas."

Faculty members led discussions following each film.

Through a series of interviews with children and experts -- including Harvard Medical School's Carolyn M. Newberger, assistant clinical professor of psychiatry -- the documentary contended that Disney's animated films reinforce gender, class and racial stereotypes under the guise of fantasy.

WINC members said they thought the film festival would be an enjoyable introduction to their organization, which seeks to raise awareness about these issues.

WINC President Annie Wong said that although Disney has tried to incorporate stories from a variety of cultures, she is still wary that Disney's portrayal gives children false impressions of other cultures.

"The danger is that kids will think about

these cultures in a certain way," Wong said.

Event organizer Heather J. Thomason, who described herself as "mildly obsessed" with Disney movies, said Disney needs to take responsibility for the images it encourages -- but said she acknowledged these stereotypes are a reflection of larger society.

"Disney doesn't create these stereotypes, they reinforce them," Thomason said.

Students who attended the event said the documentary changed their perception of Disney films.

"It was kind of disturbing seeing the effect they had on the kids and our whole society in general," Michael W. Chen said. "I usually watch them for entertainment and when you look deeper into it, it was disturbing."

Chen attended the event with Sharon L. Fong, a senior at the University of Pennsylvania, who said she is currently taking a class that deals with feminism and fairytales.

She said she was particularly interested in the documentary's claim that these films influence the way children interact.

"The kids on the playground would unconsciously play out the gender roles that have been set for them from the movies," Fong says.

But some members of the audience said they were not as interested in the greater implications of Disney movies.

"I came because I'm one of those crazy Disney fans and I really like seeing the movies on the big screen," said Megan E.M. Low.

She said Disney movies are entertainment -- and should be taken at face value.

"I think fantasy is all good. The reason people respond to Disney is because they love the magic and they love that sort of escape," Low said.

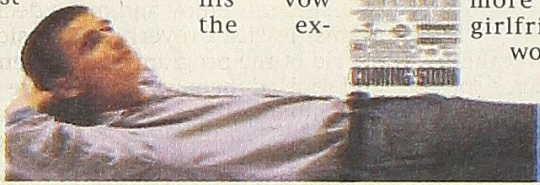
FEATURE

“40 Days and 40 Nights” has raw but enjoyable humor

Olga Wrobel
Feature Editor

The Catholic religion is known for its sacred traditions and rituals, one of these which is giving up a vice in the period of Lent. People often abstain from certain foods, or swearing, or other day to day “temptations.” In “40 Days and 40 Nights”, Matt Sullivan (Josh Hartnett), a young Catholic man, decides to go against nature and give up sex for this time period. It is not only sexual intercourse that he cannot have, but also any sort of intimacy and masturbation as well. To most young men this may seem like a ridiculous vow, one that is self-torturous and illogical. Matt is out to prove them all wrong, but it wasn't easy.

Matt has been single for six months. His ex-girlfriend Nicole (Vinessa Shaw) broke his heart, and he has yet to recover. Matt and his best friend/roommate Ryan, played by “Road Trip's” Paul Constanza, spend every night hunting down women to sleep with. However, instead of enjoying the single life, Matt's sexual encounters only deepen the hole within him. No woman can replace Nicole, and no amount of sex can bring true gratification and fulfillment.



Matt decides to give up sexual activity for Lent, mostly to simplify his hectic life. When his co-workers hear this, no one can believe it. They make a betting pool, and by the end cash sits at not swayed their lack of set on what himself and God.

No sex is discovered as to not think. However, becomes when he (Shannyn) connection and they Not only his vow the ex-

borderline insanity. Watching the young man squirm and sweat every time a female walks by is quite amusing.

By the end if the film, some unexpected

occurrences take place. Does Matt keep his promise? Watch and see.

“40 Days and 40 Nights” is a romantic comedy, but it is also full of naked women and sexual innuendo. Those who feel uncomfortable with this raw humor may want to avoid the film. There is also a lot of discussion of the Catholic religion, and this may offend some. However, all in all Matt is a kind-hearted person. The audience finds themselves on his side, rooting him on.

There are some hilarious scenes in the film, one which involves Matt's parents discussing the new sexual positions they partake in due to his fathers hip replacement. Ryan is a good second man whose careless demeanor makes the film less serious.

The film is unrealistic in many aspects, especially since every single woman in the movie is thin, big breasted, and gorgeous. The entire world revolves around sex in this film, though it is obvious that in today's society there are much more important issues to deal with.

Putting this aside, “40 Days and 40 Nights” is a good comedy with a romantic story line. Josh Hartnett plays Matt perfectly, and though the film is in no way a breakthrough of any sort, it is just right for those who feel like laughing rather than thinking.

Grade: B+

St. Patrick and his heroic beginnings

Anne Mabbitt
Staff Writer

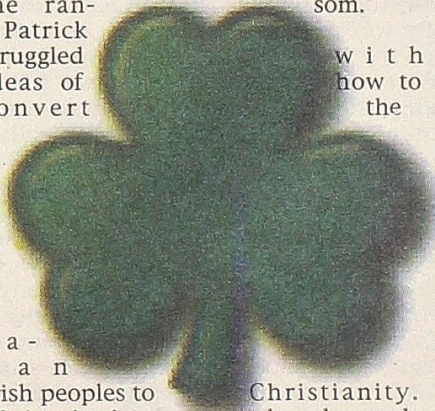
The history of the legendary St. Patrick (expeller of snakes) is a bit of a mystery to modern historians. During his lifetime, St. Patrick may have been known as Succat or Maewyn Succat. He was born in either England or Scotland and probably around the year 390 A.D., although no one is actually sure.

His parents were Christians, but he did not grow up a very religious man. During his early teens, Succat committed some unknown sin, and when he was 16, Irish invaders raided his town. Succat was kidnapped and taken to Ireland, where he worked as a slave for King Milchu. During his time as a slave, Succat began to devote time to prayer.

In his early 20s, Succat ran away from Milchu as was directed from a vision from God. He returned to his family. However, he later had more visions and believed that the Irish people needed his assistance. He became a priest and returned to Ireland after some work at persuading the Catholic Church in Britain. It is likely that at this point he changed his name to Patrick.

Patrick traveled to Ireland with twenty-five followers and won the affection of Prince Dichu, who was his first convert to Christianity. Patrick then traveled to his former enslaver, Milchu in an effort to pay the ransom he felt he owed to the king. Unfortunately, Milchu was terrified of the Christian religion and presumably set himself afire rather than receive the ransom.

Patrick struggled with ideas of how to convert



pagan Irish peoples to Christianity. His inspiration came when he realized that using their own holidays might create interest for a new religion. Thus, on a pagan holiday in which the high King Laoghairre was to light a bonfire on a hilltop which would then be copied on hilltops around Ireland. Before Laoghairre was able to light his bonfire, Patrick had lit his Easter bonfire in view of the king.

Laoghairre, who was upset about having lost the prestige of lighting his fire first, actually found Patrick to be quite charming. Patrick was given the go-ahead to continue his missionary work after supposedly asking God to make it snow, which, of course, God did.

Patrick was able to convert almost all of Ireland through his missionary work and is credited with bringing Christianity to the formerly pagan nation. Today he is honored as the patron saint of Ireland.

Myths about St. Patrick are that he expelled all of the snakes from Ireland in a moment of divine grace. It is not known whether or not he actually used the shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity to the Irish people. What is likely true was his mingling of the Christian crucifix with pagan symbols which today make-up the intricate Celtic crosses.

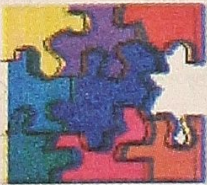


ACUB

ACUB would like to congratulate the college bowl team that placed 7th in this year's Regional Tournament.

Also, start thinking about applying for board positions.

You can add a piece to the puzzle!



2001 / 2002 Outstanding Commitment to Service NOMINATION FORM

This year SOS and Service Learning will honor an administrator, support staff, student organization that has demonstrated an active commitment to volunteerism, service learning, and community service. Please complete the information below and return to the Service Learning Office (LL-Library) by Friday March 22, 2002. Please feel free to make additional copies for multiple nominations. Applications available in the Service learning Office.

1. Name of Nominee
2. Name of Nominator
3. Award: Administrator Support Staff Student Student Organization
4. Brief statement or list describing the nominee's service activities.
5. Explain you reason for this nomination.

The Student and Student Organization awards will be announced at the ALA Senior Leadership Banquet, April 11, 2002. The Administrator and Support Staff awards will be announced at the President's Administrative Award and Recognition Ceremony in May, 2002.

FEATURE

Getting rid of the sabbatical myth

Hannah M. Alexander
Staff Writer

When a college student hears that a professor is going on sabbatical, most probably picture that professor on a sunny beach in Tahiti, skiing the slopes of Austria, or frequenting trendy nightclubs in London. In fact, although some professors do travel to exotic places and have wondrous adventures, none of these "vacations" involve drinks in coconut cups and days spent lazing on a sunny beach. What do they involve? That all depends on what sort of research the professor plans on doing.

The word sabbatical is defined as "a leave of absence, often with pay granted, usually every seventh year for rest, travel, or research." At Alma, professors may apply for sabbatical in their sixth year of teaching, to be granted in their seventh year if they make it through the rigorous sabbatical application process. The professor must fill out an application that states what they plan to accomplish, how it is going to benefit their teaching and the students, and a plan of activity. They must also outline the relevance of their activities to their own scholarly and professional growth. Then the application must travel through three stages of examination. First, the faculty personnel committee, then the Provost, and finally the Board of Trustees must approve the application. As Professor of English and Technology Coordinator John Ottenhoff stated, "You cannot just say that you want to take a sabbatical because you think it would be good for you...you have to clearly define how it is going to benefit Alma students."

Ottenhoff is planning a sabbatical for the 2002/2003 academic year. He cannot stop talking about all of his plans, and where he is going to travel. What is all this enthusiasm for? Studying the enhancement of the liberal arts education process with technology, and 16th and 17th century English devotional poetry. The first subject satisfies his position as technology coordinator, and the second is for his "English professor side." Although most sabbaticals are only granted for one semester, Ottenhoff hopes to receive the full year because of the scope of information he wishes to study. For the fall term, he is working on an association with Wabash College in Crawfordsville, IN, where a sort of liberal arts "technology think tank" is being developed. And because the college offers only one semester of full pay on sabbatical, he hopes that Wabash College will help to chip in some sabbatical support. Optimistically, he will spend the fall semester reading, thinking, and developing better ways to utilize technology in the classrooms here at Alma.

For the winter term, Ottenhoff is working on obtaining positions as a visiting professor at both Oxford Brookes University in England and the University of Groningen in Holland. This would be his opportunity to make use of the excellent libraries, and to live, work, write, and think among some of the top Renaissance scholars. He hopes to research not only the devotional poetry but also women's literature during the Renaissance, and the forms in which women were allowed to write. All in all, Ottenhoff views this time as a chance to become an active scholar and to gain new energy and insight to bring back to the classroom.

Another professor, Dr. Elizabeth Cameron of the Business Department, affirms that energy and insight are exactly what a sabbatical allowed her to acquire. She is just returned from a one semester sabbatical that she took during the fall semester of 2001. She says that if she had to pick three words to describe sabbatical, they would be, "renewal, engagement, and research." She managed to publish a research paper entitled "Employee Use of the Internet: Where Voyage is Forbidden," with a business colleague. The paper was about employees who use the Internet for personal reasons that are not acceptable in the workplace. They presented their work at a conference in Indianapolis, where their presentation was the hit of the show. She pointed out that these types of conferences and publications are good visibility for Alma College, considering that the University of Michigan and Indiana University were just two of the schools attending. Cameron also managed to write two other research papers, and attend three other conferences. She was bubbling with excitement as she talked about how much she learned, and how her students were complaining about being overwhelmed because she has so much she wants to share with them.

The professors at Alma are truly excited about what they do. A sabbatical gives them a chance to stay on top of their fields and continue to do research in the areas they love. They come back refreshed and ready to instill even more knowledge in young minds. A word of advice to Alma students; perhaps avoid classes with professors who have recently returned from sabbatical. You may learn more than you ever wanted to know!

Women's month fun at the College

Kari Joy Johnson
Staff Writer

In order to help celebrate the accomplishments of women and to help educate others about women's issues, the month of March is nationally recognized as Women's History Month. To encourage an educational community to foster on Alma's campus, the Women's Issues Advisory Board (WIAB), consisting of women from various sectors of the college, has scheduled events throughout the month.

As co-director of the Women's Studies Department, Dr. Joanne Gilbert served as this year's chief contact for organizing various activities and speakers throughout Alma College's Women's Month. In past years, Women's Month has included speakers, performers, discussion panels, educational programming, and student interaction. This year, however, "is the most extensive women's month since I have been here [at Alma]," said Gilbert.

Individual guests scheduled for Women's Month include Senator Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., Magdalen Hsu-Li, an Asian-American singer-songwriter, Kathy Kosins, a jazz singer, and Glenda Price, president of Marygrove College. Various activities planned for students include weekly WIAB luncheons to discuss a certain aspect of Women's Month and a candlelight vigil in memory of the victims of domestic violence. The schedule of what Women's Month includes is available on the College's web site.

All of these scheduled events were organized by WIAB in hopes of facilitating an environment where the celebration of Women's Month would be possible. In encouraging students to take advantage of the activities, Gilbert says, "All events are offering unique opportunities that larger universities do not get to see."

Founded by Klara Zetkin and Aleksandra Kollontai, International Women's Day, declared on March 8, 1917, began initially as a strike for bread and peace led by Russian women in St. Petersburg, Russia. The strike evolved into riots that spread through the city between Mar. 8-12 and became known as the "February Revolution."

Kollontai eventually persuaded Lenin to make Mar. 8 an official communist holiday celebrating "the heroic woman worker". Still celebrated today as a Russian holiday, International Women's Day consists of the appreciation for women in people's lives.

International Women's Day was commemorated in the United States during the 1910s and 1920s, but then dwindled. However, it revived itself during the women's movement in the 1960s and in 1975, the United Nations began sponsoring International Women's Day.

Some of the issues the U.N. and International Women's Day focuses on include women who have been raped or killed by their families to preserve the family's honor, recognized as 'honor killings' or victims of female genital mutilation, a practice carried out in 28 African countries, despite the fact that it is outlawed in a number of these nations.

In 1981, the U.S. Congress passed a resolution making the week of Mar. 8 a national celebration, and in 1987, Congress expanded into the full month of March and aimed to promote the teaching of women's history and to also encourage the celebration behind being a woman.

For more information regarding the history behind women's month, visit www.infoplease.com under the heading "women's history." Also, to become more involved in the Women's Studies program or Women's Month, visit the Women's Studies web page for information on whom to contact or attend the bi-weekly meetings for WIAB at the MacCurdy House.

Alma's Black Student Union

Matt Helmus
Staff Writer

Founded: Fall term 2001
Active Members: Currently 9 regulars, but there have been up to 15
President: Delvard Newhouse (02)

Activities: The members have weekly meetings on Tuesday at 8:30 p.m. in the Rotunda in VanDusen. They recently held a movie night. They would like to hold another and follow it up with discussion on the topic of the film. The group also recently held a bake sale. They hope to take the proceeds to help fund a poetry competition on campus.

Purpose: A relatively new organization on campus, the Union was formed to "expose campus to a different viewpoint." The group is not militant nor "an exclusionary group for black students," according to founder and president Del Newhouse. He would like to see the group have the same kind of influence as traditionally black or Hispanic organizations have at larger schools, namely, to make the campus more aware of diversity and the issues which come with it. Newhouse also noted that some black students had transferred to other schools due to social reasons. The Union would act as a support system to allow students to get together and talk about issues. Newhouse would also like to see the Union become a permanent organization on campus.

History: The Black Student Union had a forerunner in the early to mid 1990s. There was a black student organization which folded due to pressure that it was not needed. Alma was one of few schools to not have such an organization. Large schools like organizations such as the Black Student Alliance (Michigan State) and the Organization for Black Unity (Central Michigan). Even other schools in the MIAA have had such groups. Hope has had a Black Student Union since 1967. Albion has a Black Student Alliance while Adrian has ALPHA - African-American Leaders Promoting Higher Achievement. Newhouse would like to see Alma's Black Student Union become the next in a long tradition of such organizations.



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Lattes, Teas, and Mochas!

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Sandwiches on bagels, bread,
muffins, bagels with butter and cream
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Hours
Mon, Tues, Wed
7:30a.m. - 5:30p.m.
Thurs, Fri
7:30a.m. - 8:00p.m.
Saturday
10:00a.m. - 5:30p.m.

OPINION

Spring break at Ground Zero



The final leg of the school year is upon us, and after spring break most students are ready to tackle the term papers and exams towering before them. The break brought much needed rest and freed us from any sort of in-

**Reannon
Broekema**

depth thinking we do while here at Alma.

I can't say that I am not jealous of all the people who got to sunbake on the beaches of Mexico and Florida or the people who got to go home and do absolutely nothing during break. I can say, however, that I went somewhere that I will never forget. I saw something that will forever chill my blood and remind me of the heroic acts so many Americans performed on Sept. 11. I stood at Ground Zero.

Feb. 24 was a gorgeous day in New York City. My friends and I walked the streets of Manhattan with our sunglasses and spring jackets on—unusual for a mid-winter day. We saw so many memorable things in New York, from Carson Daly and TRL's home to the Ritz Carlton hotel. We experienced what it was like to drive in New York traffic, and just how expensive everything in The Big Apple is. From Central Park to Fifth Avenue, everything was a huge deal for us, but nothing could have prepared us for what we saw at Ground Zero.

While trying to find a parking spot (not an easy task in New York), we had caught glimpses of the site between buildings. You could see some machinery and slivers of the area, but the actual site was pretty well blocked off. Everything in the surrounding area looked dusty, like a wind storm had just blown through. Streetside merchants sold commemorative items abundant with symbols of

American patriotism. Though there were people milling everywhere, the area was as desolate as a ghost town.

After finding a parking garage and grabbing a burger at a local café, we made our way to Ground Zero. A police officer manned the entrance gate, and we could barely see anything between the blockades guarding the site. We asked the officer if this was where we could see Ground Zero, and he informed us of the process one needed to go through to see the site – obtaining a ticket (at no cost) and returning the next day at a certain time designated on the ticket (for crowd control purposes). He also explained that this particular viewing platform was reserved for family and close friends of the disasters. Respectful yet somewhat disappointed, we readied ourselves to leave. The officer then asked us what country we were from, and as we replied "Michigan" he answered "Yep, that's a different country." After a chuckle and a quick thought, he said something I will never forget. "Well, if you guys are very discreet and not too long, you are welcome to go up to the platform and pay your respects."

I held my friend's hand

as we walked through the barricades and up the platform steps. My blood ran cold as I took in the sights. Right there, right before my eyes, was a huge area of nothingness. The things I had seen so many times on TV, the pictures of the proud World Trade Centers and the chaotic aftermath and acres of rubble after the attacks, had finally hit home.

Exactly five months and 13 days after the World Trade Center attacks, you can't tell whether Ground Zero is a new construction site or the site of America's single most devastating tragedy. There's not huge piles of rubble strewn everywhere. It's not a mess of people and craziness – things are pretty low-key. But you can't ignore the drone of bulldozers and cranes – a mere background to the chilling

sight of what used to be the underground floors of the World Trade Centers. You can see their exact location and all the wall supports and piping from the buildings, and then you think about all of the lives lost.

Buildings surrounding the site, most taller than any in Detroit, have entire sides covered by construction sheets. A huge American flag hangs from the side of one building. But the most noticeable thing about the surroundings is the dozens upon dozens of windows boarded up in each and every building around the site, and you realize the crushing amounts of force the Twin Towers carried when they fell.

All this I took in within the first few seconds, then I turned around to see the display of flowers, pictures, letters, cards, stuffed animals, anything you can imagine, written to those lost in the tragedy. The memorial listed all of the different countries victims were from, showing that the attacks were not only an American tragedy. My eyes immediately filled with tears as I read messages from children to their parents, sisters to brothers, husbands to wives. I will never forget one man's goodbye to his fiancée, "To my one and only, the love of my life..."

We all left Ground Zero as changed people. One of my friends said that the events of Sept. 11 had never really sunk in for her – she had never really understood the magnitude of the events until seeing it first hand. I think this was true for all of us. Unless you see the dusty remains, hear the clattery silence of machinery and feel and smell the chilly breeze coming from that huge empty space in the middle of Manhattan, Sept. 11 will just be something that happened in our country, but not to you.

The Almanian's thoughts and prayers go out to those who lost loved ones in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11.



Photo courtesy of Kathryn Douglas

Ground Zero on Feb. 24. You can see the scaffolding on the sides of the building in the middle, boarded up blown-out windows on each of the buildings and the cement remainders of the World Trade Centers in the middle.

The Board of Advisors (Corporate Trustees) of Zeta Delta (Phi Phi Alpha) Chapter Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity and the Board of Directors of the Zeta Delta (Phi Phi Alpha) Chapter Alumni Association

welcome our new candidates for winter 2002

**JASON FISER
MICHAEL HANSEN
JOHN RAPPAPORT**

**WESLEY RASDORF
BART RIZZO
RYAN SLEZAK**

These men were invited to join by the undergraduate chapter. They were chosen "not for wealth, rank, or honor, but for personal worth and character." Tau Kappa Epsilon has never used family background, economic status, race, national origin or religion as a standard for membership.

Among our principles is that "Above all else, this fraternity stands for Men. We believe in their quality in those things which the Creator has decreed they should equally enjoy. We consider no man from the standpoint of those qualities and advantages he has not attained by personal effort. We stand for men whose manhood has withstood the test of trying conditions. We deem sterling character and staunch uprightness to be necessary qualifications for membership in this fraternity."

These men are backed in their personal effort by more than 900 alumni of Alma College who have been members of Phi Phi Alpha Fraternity and/or Zeta Delta Chapter of TKE. They are supported in their local endeavors through an endowment fund managed by the Chapter's Board of Advisors. Its income is used to support Chapter activities. They also qualify for scholarship aid through the International Fraternity's educational arm, the TKE Educational Foundation, both from an endowment provided by alumni of Zeta Delta Chapter and from general fraternity endowments.

Zeta Delta Chapter strives in all its undertakings to be a campus leader, a good neighbor, and a credit to the community.



Photo courtesy of Kathryn Douglas

Memorials to those lost in the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Centers. Each card, flower, picture and letter remembers a life lost in the attacks.

NEWS

Reinecke named ACUB president

Hannah Alexander
Staff Writer

Michelle Reinecke (03) has been named the new president of ACUB for the 2002-2003 school year. Reinecke will follow in the footsteps of is Jessica Greyerbiehl (02), who graduates in April.

Reinecke is currently the Major Events Coordinator for ACUB and has been the primary person in charge of planning the Annual All-Nighter, Songfest, Casino Night, and the Psychic Fair that will take place in April. She has been a member of ACUB since her freshman year, when she began as a student representative. Her first year serving on the board was her sophomore year when she held the position of Weekend Events Coordinator.

Reinecke said, "After learning more and more each year about this organization, I just felt that running for president was my next step."

Reinecke also participates in Alpha Gamma Delta, Kiltie Marching and Concert Band, and is a resident assistant in Newberry Hall. She is a psychology major and sociology minor, and she interns at Gratiot County Juvenile Court. In the future she wants to work more with the troubled juveniles to get to the root of their problems and help them find solutions.

Reinecke is excited about beginning her new position and hopes to continue the tradition of quality programming. Her main goal is to increase campus enthusiasm about ACUB activities, with the hope that this will in turn help to increase attendance. One hurdle that she will face next year is the loss of the experienced ACUB advisor, Claire Brady, who is also the Newberry Hall Director.

Reinecke said, "She adds so much to ACUB...she usually stands back and really lets us use our creativity, but when we are getting a little out of focus she always reminds us of the what the big picture is." Despite this hitch, Reinecke is still hoping for a really successful year for ACUB.

Current president, Greyerbiehl, is happy to see Reinecke stepping into this position. She said, "Being the president puts a whole new spin on things." She is fully confident that Reinecke has the knowledge and ability to tackle the huge amount of work it takes to make ACUB successful. Her advice for the new president is, "Just be enthusiastic and help everyone to realize their own enthusiasm...Always strive to bring numerous high quality events here for the campus to enjoy."

The presidential position includes numerous duties such as planning and carrying out fall training for the new board members, being a member of the college's co-curricular committee, evaluating board members, working closely with the advisor, planning the trip to the NACA (National Association of Campus Activities), and generally overseeing budgeting, planning, and publicity.

Reinecke is looking toward the next year for ACUB with the hopes that it will help her to learn not only about the organization, but also about herself. She also looks forward to development of her leadership and teamwork skills. Her primary goal is "to keep bringing exciting, enjoyable entertainment to Alma's campus." Fellow ACUB board member, Aaron Rycroft (03) said, "Michelle will do great, she has the experience and knowledge needed to do a good job."



The Anderson Reading Area of the Kehrl Library was dedicated Thursday, March 7, 2002. President Sandra Tracy, Vice President for Advancement Carol Hyble, and Chaplain Jesse Perry spoke at the ceremony dedicating the area in memory of John R. and Kathryn Berry Anderson, alumni from the class of 1933.

Photo by Dan Joyce

—BARLOW from page 1

Achievement chair, the Fraternity Heritage chair, and the Philanthropy chair in addition to serving on the slating, by-laws, and programs committees. She also participates in Phi Alpha Theta, the national history honorary, and Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honorary. She has also been the recipient of many other academic awards and scholarships.

When asked about this experience, Halligan said, "I am extremely honored and excited to be a Barlow finalist. There are so many talented and hard-working people in the class of 2002, so it means a lot to be recognized amongst them. With the support and encouragement of professors and friends, I have had wonderful experiences and realized my potential along the way."

Exercise and health science major Andrew Oleszkowicz is the third candidate for the Barlow award. "My goal in attending Alma College was to get into medical school, which I have accomplished," said Oleszkowicz. He has attained this goal and contributed to the campus and community in a big way along the journey.

Oleszkowicz has a 3.9212 GPA and plays a major role on campus through his involvement in organizations, which include: Trinity Bible Fellowship, where he serves as a leader, WQAC, where he is a disc jockey, Bruske Hall Council, where he was an advisor, Alma College Republicans, where he served as Vice President, and Alma Ambassadors.

Oleszkowicz, a McGregor scholar, is also a member of the exercise and health science honor society, and Psi Chi, the psychology honor society. In addition, he has been a member of intramural basketball, tennis, and hockey teams. Oleszkowicz also serves the college as a Resident Assistant in Bruske hall and is a student tutor in a variety of subjects for the Center for Student Development. Oleszkowicz also works within the local community as a member of the health committee of the Pine River Citizens Superfund Taskforce.

Oleszkowicz said, "I'm really excited about being nominated as a finalist. This honor is one that I have been hoping for and thinking about since my freshman year." When asked about the limited information presented on the candidate summary forms, Oleszkowicz said, "I don't think that the sheets given out are very representative of the candidates as a whole. They are a good start, but the process could be improved. I would like to see the finalists have a chance to speak briefly to the members of Student Congress and the faculty at a meeting so that they would have a chance to see the candidates personalities and find out what is most important to them and what types of students they really are."

Determining the finalists for this award is a process that begins at the beginning of the winter semester when the Registrar's office turns in a list of the seniors who have GPAs in the top 10 percent of the class to the Provost's office. Then, those seniors are sent a letter notifying them that they are eligible to compete academically for the Barlow award. Faculty

members also receive a list of these students and are encouraged to nominate any of the students. From this point, students have to respond to the Provost's office indicating whether or not they are willing to go on in the process.

If they choose to do so, they are asked to have two letters of recommendation written by professors and turned into the Provost's office. Additionally, they are asked to provide the office with a list of the campus and community activities that they have been involved in and asked to briefly explain three of the activities they see as most important. From this point, all of the candidate information goes to a meeting of the Academic Standards Committee who determines who the three finalists are.

Then, each organization on campus is asked to submit a vote for one of the finalists, and each faculty member is also asked to submit a vote at the faculty meeting. Becky Webster, the president's personal assistant and Kathy Wilk, the provost's secretary, then tally the votes and the winner is announced at Honor's Day Convocation in April.

The criteria established by Joel Barlow concerning the Barlow award includes a high level of scholarship, which is evidenced by the need to be in the top 10 percent of the class, participation in a variety of student activities, with very little emphasis being placed upon athletics. In addition to these requirements, the underlying principle of the award is that, "he/she has made a real contribution to the life of the college."

Seniors...a whopping 39 days until graduation. Four years of good times and amazing people. The curtain's closing.

Your friends at the Almanian are planning to chronicle the last four years in the school year's final issue to appear April 9.

We want your thoughts, your emotions, your testimonies to Alma College and the times you've had here. Make them moving, make them funny, make them thought-provoking, or make them just plain fun.

Submit anything...a poem, pictures, a piece of art, a simple one-liner you've tossed around the dorm or sorority house. Perhaps a simple thank you to your professors, your friends, or an administrator who has helped you through tough times. Embarrass a friend with a gooey gush of sentimentality.

Send your material to the Almanian no later than March 31 via almanian@alma.edu or straight to the office in Newberry's basement. And thank you.

SPORTS

- Sports Line -

The tourney begins



It's tournament time ladies and gentlemen; a sure sign that spring is just around the corner. So grab a seat on the couch and enjoy the next twenty-one days of upsets and Cinderella stories as we embark on a journey that leads to the Mecca of college basketball: the NCAA Final Four.

I know there is many inquiries circulating about what teams will play for the national championship, so let's start in the West. Cincinnati, the only 30-win team in the tournament, and the only team where two felonies are mandatory in order for a spot on the roster, is the #1 seed out west. The Bearcats got the nod over Oklahoma, even after the Sooners upset Kansas in the Big 12 conference tournament. The two teams could settle the controversy in the semi-finals of the West as Oklahoma holds the #2 seed. After not being invited to a bowl game in January, the Warriors of Hawaii will be looking for some respect in the states and could pull off an upset of #7 seed Xavier. But the road to the Final Four out west goes through Spokane, Wash., and a little school named Gonzaga. The Zags return to the tournament after surprising runs in '99, '00 and '01, but receive no love from the selection committee as they get the #6 seed.

In the East, #1 seed Maryland looks to advance to their second final four ever, but enter the tournament with a sour taste in their mouth after losing to NC State in the ACC tournament. Bobby Knight returns to the big dance for the first time after being dismissed from Indiana two seasons ago, and brings with him an overachieving Texas Tech team. Michigan State receives the #10 seed in the East, and will pull off an upset of #7 seed NC State. Another team to watch in the East is tournament-tested Valparaiso. Valparaiso will give Kentucky a good game in the first round.

Duke will open defense of its national championship as the No. 1 team in the South. Pittsburgh is a questionable #3 seed in the region; especially after star point guard Brandon Knight injured his knee in the Finals of the Big East conference tournament. If Knight cannot play at 100%, Pitt could be taking the first bus out of town. Penn takes the pride of being the only Ivy League school in the tournament, but unless they can outsmart California, Penn's tournament stay will not be long.

That means there can only be one region left: the Midwest. Kansas was rewarded the #1 seed in the Midwest, and should have an easy time advancing to the Sweet Sixteen. The pride of the Big Ten meets an old friend as Illinois takes on San Diego State and Steve Fisher, rosy cheeks and all, in first round play. Boston College goes back to the tourney after flirting with the bubble, but will learn why they should have not been invited to the tournament with a first round loss to Texas.

So there you have it, a brief run down of the NCAA tournament. But of course, no sporting event is complete without a prediction. The final four will look like this: Maryland, Kansas, Duke and Gonzaga. The championship game will feature Duke and Kansas, with the Jayhawks taking home the hardware. And you can take that to the bank!!!

Tiffanie Taylor
Staff Writer

Baseball team falters in Florida

Lounging in the Florida sun was not in the lineup for this group of players. The Alma College baseball team meant business when they traveled to Fort Myers to compete in the Gene Cusic Collegiate Classic over spring break. After five days of competitive play, the Scots finished the tournament with a record of 3-6.

Alma split the wins in their first day of action. On Feb. 24 in the opening game against Rose-Hulman Tech, junior Chris Krebs(03) tossed a complete game, and Jason Biehl (02) cranked a home run, contributing to the Scots' 5-1 victory. In the second game against Saginaw Valley State University, the Cardinals handed the Scots a tough 15-4 loss.

The second day of play brought bad luck to Alma, as they dropped two games to Capital University. Although the Scots lost the first game 6-3, individuals still showed their talent. Matt Piccirilli(03) finished with three hits and two RBIs, and Steve Slowke(03) had two hits. In their second showdown,

the Scots fell 7-3.

On Feb. 27, the Scots went back out to the diamonds to try their luck against St. Vincent College. But they were handed their second doubleheader loss in two days. Kenneth Carver (02) had three hits, and Nick Duflo(03) and Kevin Vermeersch (04) both had two hits in the first game. But this wasn't enough to give Alma the advantage, as they took a sore 13-5 defeat. In the second game, the team worked hard together to try to pull off the win. Remarkably, seven different players smacked one hit apiece for the Scots, and Pitcher Bill Sterling (05) pitched a strong game.

"He pitched a complete game and pitched well," said Alma head coach John Leister of Sterling's performance.

But the Scots just couldn't pull off the win, as they fell 5-4.

Feb. 28 turned out to be a brighter day, as Alma took two games from Augustana College. Chris Krebs pitched the opener, allowing six hits and four runs. He struck out seven and walked six. Robert Barber (02) went 2-3 at the plate with three RBIs, and the Scots picked up the 5-4 win. In their second game of the day,

Alma's bats went to work: they hit in two runs in the fourth inning, added three in the fifth, one run in the sixth, then smacked in four runs in the top of the seventh to take the well deserved 11-8 victory.

On their final day of play, the Scots took a loss to St. John's College in Minnesota, with an unusually high score of 19-13.

"Pitching woes for both teams caused a high scoring game, said coach Leister. "The silver lining may be the performance of Mike Holes (03). And Ben Wright (02) had a good day at the plate."

Holes entered the game in the sixth and pitched three innings. He only gave up one hit, struck out four and walked one.

After getting some games in the warm Florida sun, the Scots are now ready to face their competition for the season. They travel to St. Mary's in Orchard Lake on March 22 for a 1:00 doubleheader. Then they return to Klenk Park March 23 to take on the Cardinals from Saginaw Valley State University for a one o'clock face-off.

Swim and dive teams have successes in MIAA conference meet

Jessica Greyerbiehl
Copy Editor

The swimming and diving team attended its last guaranteed meet of the season Feb 21-23 at the MIAA Conference meet at Holland Aquatics Center in Holland. The meet determined which athletes would qualify for the Division III National Swimming and Diving competition.

One athlete, Morgan Hansen (05), has gained the opportunity to compete in this competition. She won both the women's 1 and 3 meter diving competitions, where she also broke freshman records and qualified for nationals next weekend in Oxford, Ohio. Hansen has also picked up the honor of being selected to the All-MIAA team.

"I learned throughout the season and tried to put all the pieces together at the meet," she said. "I am very proud of not only my accomplishments, but also those of the entire team. Everyone did well."

The women's team, led by Hansen's accomplishments, finished sixth overall at the meet. Julia Fantone (04), the women's team captain, said, "The meet was a good experience for the team, everyone had good and bad races, but overall, many women did well and I am especially excited to be able to have everyone back next year."

The team's highlights include Kate Kohler's (05) fifth place finish in the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 1:03.91 and eighth place finish in the 200-yard backstroke. Elizabeth Smith's

(04) appearance in the 200-yard IM Final, where she swam a time of 2:22.12 and placed sixth was another large accomplishment. Smith also had a tenth place finish in the 200-yard backstroke. Brianne Hauser (05) placed ninth in the 200-yard IM and picked up sixth and seventh place finishes in the 200- and 100-yard butterfly races respectively, turning in an outstanding performance.

Meredith Henry (03) turned out another outstanding performance by placing third in the 400-yard IM with a time of 4:57.14. Henry also placed seventh in the 1650-yard freestyle and tenth in the 500-meter freestyle, adding to the team's success.

Other high accomplishments at the meet were turned in by Stephanie Druskinis (04), who placed seventh in the 50 -yard freestyle and eighth in the 100-yard freestyle; diver Lyndsy Carr (05), who took sixth place in the 3-meter dive, and Fantone, who was eighth in the 1650-yard freestyle.

Finishing fifth overall in the competition, the men's team also had some major highlights at the conference meet. Many swimmers produced lifetime and season best times. Finishing fourth in the 800-yard freestyle relay, Justin Fournier (02), Daniel Linsell (02), William Heyd (05), and Andrew Schade (02), broke the school record with a time of 7:12.55. Fournier also broke his own school record in the 100-yard freestyle, earning a ninth place finish and swimming a 47.76.

Schade earned eighth place finishes in

the 400-yard IM and 200-yard backstroke and a ninth place finish in the 100-yard backstroke. Fournier also further contributed to the men's success turning in eighth place finish in the 100-yard backstroke. Heyd broke the freshman record in the 200-yard freestyle, placing 11th with a time of 1:48.57. Two other top finishes were given by Mike Porter (03), who placed seventh in the 200-yard backstroke and 10th in the 100-yard butterfly. In the 1650-yard freestyle, Linsell placed seventh, swimming his lifetime best 17:08.89. Also contributing top swims were Chris Porter (03), who earned 10th place in the 200-yard backstroke, and Keith Hansen (05), who earned tenth in the 200-yard breaststroke.

According to team captain, Schade, "Overall, the men's team swam impressively. Even though some of the men didn't place as high as we would have liked, many of them swam personal bests, which are excellent accomplishments. Throughout the season the team has made great strides in the right direction, and I hope that they continue to head in that direction next year."

Colin McLaughlin (04) had an impressive meet as a first year addition to the team and Joseph Harris (02) gave two lifetime best performances. The team's only diver, JJ Westgate (05), also turned in two sixth place finishes, a major accomplishment for someone who only began diving in the winter of this year.

ROBERTA B. SWANSON PRE-MED SCHOLARSHIPS

Sophomores, juniors and seniors undertaking in the College's Pre-med curriculum for the 2002-03 academic year are eligible for consideration for a Roberta Swanson Pre-med Scholarship. If you are interested in applying for this award, please stop by the Financial Aid Office for an application.

Completed applications are due in April.

SPORTS

Women's Tennis Team Profile

Tiffanie Taylor
Staff Writer

The women's tennis team swings into a new season with strength and confidence. This season, the team can enjoy the benefit of having many returning players and almost equally as many young new faces on the court. Of the eleven players on the 2002 roster, four are first-year students. These members will play an integral role in this year's team, especially **Megan Hlavaty (05)**, who has the potential to play in the top 3-4 singles. "They'll help us with strength in terms of depth," Coach Chi Ly said about his new players. "It's a good building year for the team."

Coach Ly counts on the returning players to offer steady play and consistency throughout the season. This fine balance of talent, he feels, will benefit their lineup. "We're really strong all the way through our lineup," senior captain **Melissa Bobier** added. She and her co-captain **Emily Brookhouse (02)**, will play an important leadership role in the development of this new team. The Scots aggressively train for their season. In addition to practice five days a week, the team made a spring break trip to Hilton Head, S.C. There, they picked up their first win of the season, beating Hanover College 8-1. The trip not only gave the women a chance to play outdoors, but it also gave Coach

Ly the opportunity to find areas for improvement before the season started. "We need to improve our doubles play and work on our aggressiveness," he said. But, besides a few aspects of the game that need tweaking, Coach Ly has high hope and expectations for his team. "We want to improve our overall record and improve our standing in the conference," he said. "We're better than in the past, but our record doesn't show it yet because we have much tougher competition this year." If record follows good talent, team is sure to have a successful season. They begin league play on Saturday at Albion. The match starts at 1:00 p.m.

Women's Tennis Team Roster

Debra Bacon
Melissa Bobier
Emily Brookhouse
Allison Couturier
Bethany Doran
Anne Fuhrig
Sarah Halbert
Megan Hlavaty
Sarah Keller
Sarah Pipas
Kelly Ross

Softball team rocks invitational

Kevin Goodwin
Staff Writer

The Alma College softball team went to Florida for spring break, but it wasn't a vacation they were seeking. From Feb. 24 through Mar. 1, the Scots participated in the Gene Cusic Collegiate Classic and played teams from Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Vermont and Rhode Island. They posted an 8-2 record to start the season, and hope to again make a run at the Division III National Championship. The Scots began play on the first day of competition posting a 1-1 record after defeating Augustana (Ill.) 4-1 and losing to St. Thomas (Fla.) 6-4. "Overall I was pleased," said Alma head coach Denny Griffin. "We played two good games and were a whisker away from a sweep." **Paula Stanford (04)** pitched the entire game for the win against Augustana, allowing four hits, walking one and striking out two to get the win. **Liz Knochel (02)** had a solo home run in the loss to St. Thomas, while **Leigh Ann Favre (05)** pitched her first collegiate game. Favre allowed 11 hits including three doubles, struck out two and did not

walk a batter but recorded the loss. Griffin said that Favre pitched well but had just one bad inning. The Scots recorded a pair of wins the following day, topping St. Michael's (Vt.) 3-1 and then edging out Ohio Northern 7-6. **Melissa Tavidian (05)** earned her first collegiate win against St. Michael's, allowing six hits, striking out four and walking four. Stanford pitched all seven innings for her second win of the season against Ohio Northern, allowing three earned runs, striking out five and walking two. **Julie Wiest (03)** and **Laura Rochon (04)** both homered to improve Alma to 3-1 on the season. "We have a really young team," said Weist, "and pulling together is our main goal." The Scots set two school records and tied another as they recorded a pair of victories on the third day of competition. They set a school record with 22 hits in a game and three home runs in the same inning in a 17-1 win over Johnson & Whales (R.I.). The Scots also shut out Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology (Ind.) 5-0 and improved to 5-1 overall. "Every one of our players are good hitters," said **Stephanie Smith (04)**. "We have strong hitters in po-

sitions one through nine in our lineup." "We are going to give teams a lot to handle with our hitting power," added Weist, "and our pitching is not far behind." Alma's 22 hits broke the previous record of 19 hits in a game, set in 1999 against Hope and tied last year against Johnson & Whales. **Erin Carson (04)**, **Smith** and **Jennifer Herbert (04)** all hit home runs in the same inning to break the school record of two home runs in an inning. Tavidian and Stanford pitched the Scots to the two victories. The Scots won three of their next four games and ended the Florida road trip with an 8-2 record. In their first 10 games, the Scots have hit 9 home runs. The school record for home runs in a season is 12, set in 1995. "We got ousted from the regional tournament a little early last season," said Weist, "and we could have went further. Our main goal this season is to go back to nationals and compete for a national championship." "Our biggest concern going into the season was learning how to work together and communicate effectively," added Smith. "I think we worked all that out in Florida."

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The Michigan Historical Museum system has summer positions (May15-mid-August) for historical interpreters in the Upper and Lower Peninsulas. Must be 18 years or older, able to pass drug test and enjoy working with children and adults. Positions start at \$7 an hour. Application deadline is March 1 or until all positions are filled. For details call 517-241-2381 or email JoAnn Carroll at CarrollJA@mi.gov

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Wednesday
WIAB luncheon
11:30 p.m. Van Dusen

Thursday
Detroit In-City Interview Info Mtg. Fall Term Pre-Registration begins
4 p.m. The Center

Greek God Competition
8 p.m. Van Dusen

Friday
Magdalen Hsu-Li
8 p.m. Chapel

Monday
Senior Art Show begins
Clack Art Center, 9-5 p.m.

Candlelight Vigil
7 p.m. Chapel