

Almanian

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Search narrows for new R.A.'s

By **BILL LOTT**
Staff Writer

As of Sunday, Feb. 4, two-thirds of the selection process was completed for new Resident Assistants (R.A.s) for the 2001-02 school year. Approximately 80 students took part in the Carousels, the latest selection event, held this past weekend.

"We have an incredibly large and talented pool of applicants this year," said Claire Brady, assistant dean of students and selection coordinator for this year. "We're thrilled to have so many wonderful applicants, but at the same time this will make it more challenging to make the final decisions. We only have about 20 openings and 80 applicants."

The number of applicants is slimmed down first during the application process.

"During the application process the student is asked to write an essay on their leadership skills, programming skills, assistance skills and why they want to be an R.A.," Brady said.

They are also required to include a resume and three letters of recommendation from a faculty or staff member, a student leader and the student's own R.A.

"It is during this process that we determine whether the applicant meets the academic requirements to become an R.A.," said Brady.

The next step in the process is the Carousels. Split into two days, the Carousels, led and evaluated by current R.A.'s, are separated into four activities. Participants must participate in a discussion on a "hot topic" that is of relevance to R.A. duties, interview with a current R.A., role-play a potential situation and participate in a group to generate program ideas.

"The Carousels are evaluated by the current R.A.s," said Brady. "Carousels are their chance to tell us what they think about the applicants. It's very important that they're involved in this."

"We have a wonderful group of people this year," said J.R. Logan (02), a second-year R.A. "It will be a hard decision, but everyone will benefit from the skills and knowledge that the new R.A.s bring with them."

After completion of the Carousels, selected individuals are asked back for the third and final portion of the process—the interviews. Those asked to come back for an interview, which will be held next week, will be asked questions by the various hall directors, as well as James Kridler, dean of students and Martin Stack, associate dean of students.

"I usually get most involved during the interview stage," said Kridler. "It's a lot of time out of your schedule, but I enjoy it because a lot of people answer questions in different ways."

The interviewers look for certain things in the applicant.

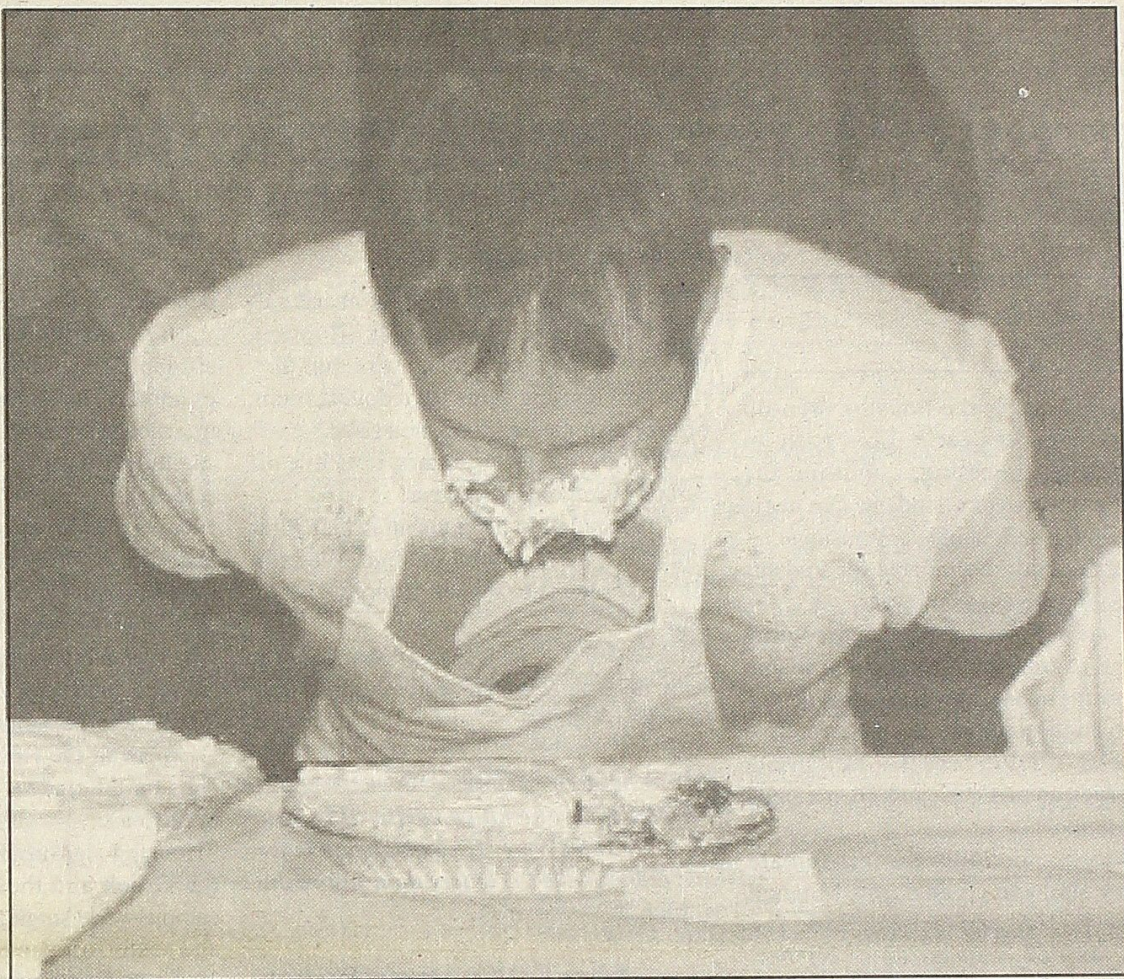
"We look for people who can be trained and have the ability to work in a group, but at the same time can show leadership skills, autonomy and creativity," Brady said.

"I really try to get a sense of the person," said Kridler. "I try to get a sense of their degree of self-awareness, maturity level and their common-sense."

In the end, there is not a formula for selection.

"This is not scientific," said Brady. "Each and every person is different and that's the way we like it to be."

A face full of pie in Hamilton Commons . . .



Dan Joyce

Frank Dudish, Gelston Hall Director, takes his turn during the pie eating contest earlier this week.

Alma closer to a new president

By **JENNIFER GIBSON**
News Editor

Alma College is one step closer to finding out who its next president will be after the Presidential Advisory Search Committee and the Board of Trustees' Search Committee narrowed down the pool of applicants from six semifinalists to two-three finalists this past week.

The Advisory Search Committee, which consists of six faculty members, two students, two members of the administration, two alumni and three Board of Trustees members, interviewed the six semifinalists at Detroit Metro Airport on Saturday, Jan. 27 and Sunday, Jan. 28. The committee then recommended their top choices to the Board Search Committee. The members of the Board Search Committee were scheduled to again interview the candidates during their annual Board of Trustees meeting in Detroit this past weekend and make the final decision sometime this week.

"We feel very positive about the whole process," said Carol Slater, professor of psychology and co-chair of the Advisory Search Committee. "Certainly, ones who we get to invite to campus are ones that we are excited about. Everybody we spoke with, though, struck us as someone who could be a president."

The six semifinalists, who originate from all over the U.S., flew into Detroit, where all 15 members of the Advisory Search Committee met and interviewed each of them individually for an hour. The committee then allotted each

candidate one half hour to ask any questions they may have had or to give a closing presentation.

"One of the candidates in his half hour looked at us and said 'Well, now you tell me why I should come to Alma,'" Slater said. "It was not meant to be condescending, but it is clearly the challenge that is before us on the table."

After the final decision is made on who the two-three finalists are, those individuals will be invited to campus to get better acquainted with Alma and the Alma community.

"Although nothing is settled yet, we hope to bring the first candidate to campus on Feb. 11 and 12, and then have the remaining finalists on the following consecutive weekends," said Burnet Davis, chair of the political science department and co-chair of the Advisory Search Committee.

While on campus, the candidates will meet one-on-one

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Housing options remain same in 2001-2002 academic year

Selection of living space for the 2001-2002 year begins on March 12th with the Greek houses and finishes with Newberry Hall on March 29th.

By BILL LOTT
Staff Writer

Monday, Mar. 5, the housing sign-up process for next year begins with an informational meeting. Within the following three weeks, students can begin signing up for their choice of housing.

Several options are available for students for the following academic year.

"There are eight dormitories, five sorority houses, five fraternity houses, six theme small housing units and several apartments," said Housing Coordinator Deb Moon. "We have a total of 1,196 beds that we can fill, 147 of which are in Greek and Theme small housing units."

The dorms include the all-female Newberry Hall and co-ed dorms Mitchell Hall, Bruske Hall and Gelston Hall. The South Complex, consisting of Nisbet, Brazell, Bonbright and Carey are co-ed by suite and are for upperclassmen only.

The theme small housing units include the French House, Spanish House, International House, McCurdy House, Model UN House and the Service Learning House.

Students are also given the option of "squatting" their room.

"Students can 'squat' their room and thus keep it for next year," Moon said. "However, to do that, they must make sure that they have two housing cards for a double room, one for a single and four for a suite."

Another option, for juniors, is to live off campus for their senior year.

"The stipulation for housing is that Alma College is a residential college. We only allow 50 seniors to live off campus," Moon said.

There will be a lottery on Tuesday, March 13 to determine which seniors will be able to live off-campus.

"We let everyone know earlier this year what the rules were. If you signed a lease and didn't make the lottery than you're out of luck."

James Kridler, Dean of Students

However, all students may, in special circumstances, live off campus.

"Students always have the option to apply for off-campus housing," said Moon. "The Dean receives them and makes a

determination.

"Besides the lottery, we only allow students to live off campus if there are exceptional situations," said James Kridler, dean of students. "I look at each case carefully and ask for recommendations from relevant departments."

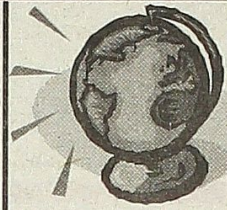
Those students who have already signed leases for off-campus housing next year also may be in trouble.

"We let everyone know earlier this year what the rules were," said Kridler. "If you signed a lease and didn't make the lottery than you're out of luck."

However, the Housing Office will make calls for the student to explain the situation to the leaser.

Housing sign-up begins on Mar. 12 with the Greek and theme small houses and campus-wide single rooms. The apartments and senior-off campus lottery are on Mar. 19. South Campus selections are on Mar. 20-21, Gelston on Mar. 26, Bruske on Mar. 27, Mitchell on Mar. 28 and Newberry on Mar. 29.

"Students must purchase a housing card from the Business Office before signing up for housing," Moon said. "It costs \$50, but that money is applied to your account."



U.S. and
World News
in Brief

WASHINGTON D.C.-- After the confirmation battle, John Ashcroft became the nation's 79th attorney general and went to work Friday. He won the Senate confirmation Thursday with a vote of 48-42. Eight Democrats joined all 50 Republicans in the vote in confirming Ashcroft. Ashcroft is the last of President Bush's Cabinet selections to win approval and came after the most bruising confirmation fight in a decade.

TRIPOLI, Libya- Thousands of demonstrators rallied outside the United Nations building in Tripoli Saturday to protest the conviction of Lockerbie bomber Abdel Baset al-Megrahi. A special Scottish court sitting in the Netherlands on Wednesday convicted Megrahi of the 1988 murder of 259 people on board the Pan Am Flight 103 and 11 people in the Scottish town of Lockerbie. Al-Amin Khalifa Fhimah was acquitted and returned home. The demonstrators also demanded immediate lifting of U.N. sanctions imposed in 1992 and suspended in 1999.

HYANNIS, Ms.-- A student at a Hyannis high school discovered a small piece of human thumb in her sandwich while eating. Officials determined the thumb to belong to a Sodexo Marriott Services cafeteria worker who had severed the top of her thumb in a vegetable slicer.

EAGLE, Colo.- A former ski-lift operator, Nathan Hall, was sentenced to 90 days in jail for negligent homicide involving a fatal high speed collision. Alan Cobb was skiing on an intermediate slope at the Vail, Colo. resort in 1997 when Hall, after his shift, slammed into him. The verdict marks the first time a US jury has convicted someone for such a death.

WASHINGTON- A world-renowned economist urged the Bush administration to pledge to fight AIDS in Africa. Globally, about 3 million people died from AIDS in 2000, 80 percent of them in Africa. Sub-Saharan Africa remained by far the hardest-hit region accounting for 25.3 million of the 36.1 million people living with HIV worldwide. If money is not pledged to combat the AIDS pandemic in Africa the consequences will be devastating for the U.S. and other developed countries.

Campus Haps



A lone deer wandered onto campus earlier this week and was caught by the stairs underneath the library.



Frank Dudish, Gelston Hall Director, surprises Bruske Hall Director Dave Blanford with a pie in the face during last week's pie-eating contest in Hamilton Commons.

Survey results in for class of 2004

Students rank raising a family and financial security among top life goals

Cooperative Institutional Research Program Results

This past fall, 349 first-year Alma students completed the Cooperative Institutional Research Program, a national survey conducted by the American Council on Education and the University of California. Listed below are the top results of that survey, along with the percentage of students who chose those answers.

Top Reasons for Enrolling at Alma 1. Academic Reputation (74%) 2. Job Placement (65%) 3. Financial Assistance (60%) 4. Size of College (58%) 5. Merit-based Scholarship (58%) 6. To Gain Admission to Graduate or Professional Schools (48%)	Plans for After Graduation 1. Pursue a Master's Degree (49%) 2. Enter the Medical Field (22%) 3. Pursue a Doctorate (13%) 4. Attend Law School (7%)
Reasons for Attending College 1. Get a Better Job (72%) 2. Learn More About Things (70%) 3. Make More Money (68%) 4. Receive Training for a Specific Career (65%) 5. Gain a General Education (64%) 6. Prepare for Graduate or Professional School (59%)	Top 15 Life Goals for the Alma Class of 2004 1. Raise a Family (71%) 2. Be Very Well Off Financially (68%) 3. Become Authorities in Their Fields (59%) 4. Help Others in Difficulty (58%) 5. Obtain Recognition From Colleagues (49%) 6. Integrate Spirituality Into Their Lives (44%) 7. Develop a Philosophy of Life (37%) 8. Become Successfully Self-Employed (34%) 9. Influence Social Values (30%) 10. Become a Community Leader (29%) 11. Have Administrative Responsibility for the Work of Others 12. Keep Up-To-Date with Political Affairs (26%) 13. Promote Racial Understanding (22%) 14. Participate in a Community Action Program (21%) 15. Become Accomplished in One of the Performing Arts (20%)
Intended Major 1. Education (15%) 2. Business (13%) 3. Pre-Med (12%) 4. Biology (10%) 5. Undecided (10%)	

PRESIDENT from page 1

with each of the Vice Presidents and Interim President Harold Kolenbrander. Davis said they are also tentatively planning a breakfast with each candidate and various student leaders and an open forum during the afternoon, where campus and community members can meet and ask questions of the candidate.

“We are hoping to bring each of the finalists to campus before break, so that we can make a final decision as soon as possible. We are working under a considerable time crunch because each of these people has other options,” Davis said.

Davis profiled the candidates as a wide variety of people from various backgrounds; some are former presidents who are looking toward a better school, while others are people who have had executive level experience as vice presidents and provosts.

“We want them to meet members of the community so that we can get a sense of their fit with our needs. The other thing we need to do is to sell them on the campus of Alma. I hope we can put our best foot forward and make them feel welcome,” Davis said.

After each candidate visits the campus, the Advisory Search Committee will meet with the Board Search Committee to discuss the candidates and then the Board Search Committee will meet to make the final decision.

“We are extremely excited for the candidates to come to campus,” Slater said. “We know that the campus is beautiful and that every student they meet is going to be an advertisement for Alma.”

College receives grant to enhance religious vocation

By NIKOLE CANUTE
Staff Writer

Alma recently received fifty thousand dollars to perform a study of several areas related to religious vocation.

The Lilly Endowment Corporation, which is a philanthropical organization funded by the pharmaceutical company Eli Lilly and Company, is offering grants to schools in order to help them enhance “theological exploration of vocation.”

After receiving an invitation by the Lilly Endowment Corporation, Alma submitted a planning proposal for the grant, including goals that would be pursued if the grant were to be received. These goals include: a study of the Christian education program, development of courses and programs aimed at exploring vocation, increased internship and practicum programs that encourage exploration of ministry as a vocation,

and an enhanced relationship with the chapel.

“The Lilly constraint on it is that they are clearly interested in programs that prepare people for vocations in the sense of religious ministry or religious education, but they are also interested in people living a life informed by that,” said Michael Selmon, assistant provost and professor of English.

Brian Stratton, assistant professor of religious studies, said that theological exploration of vocation’ is “trying to see whatever it is you are doing as having a sense of calling or purpose...it wants to encourage folks to think about what their particular career paths might be and how it might fit into a religious sense about that path.”

The Lilly Endowment Corporation is giving grants to thirty-five schools nationwide to performing studies aimed at designing programs to address problems discovered during the

study phase.

Generally, receivers of the grant have been schools with a historical affiliation to Christianity.

“What is nice about the grant is that we didn’t have to come up with the answers in the first phase—we had to come up with a set of issues we’d like to think about, and we’re now at the stage of beginning to ask those questions and look at the possibilities,” Selmon said.

The study includes bringing a consulting group to campus, holding on campus forums to discuss what needs there are related to the field, and having administration and faculty members visit other institutions. In addition, the school is planning to hire a coordinator for the grant.

Following the study and before Sept. 1, 2001, Alma will submit a proposed program to the Lilly Endowment Corporation. If the foundation approves

the proposed program, an additional five hundred to two million dollars will be granted within a three to five year period to carry out the program.

“They [The Lilly Endowment Corporation] are hoping that we will use that money to set up a permanent program,” Selmon said.

This is the first year that Alma has submitted a proposal to the foundation.

Both Selmon and Stratton stress that the program will not be aimed specifically at encouraging students to pursue vocations in the Presbyterian religious sector.

“We don’t want it to be a ‘Presbyterian religious vocation program,” Selmon said. “We want it to be something that encourages any kind of student we might have that might have some interest in some kind of religious vocation or understanding of vocation religiously.”

Staff Editorial

Register this: Give more time to sign up for Spring Term

Even though it is only four weeks into Winter Term, the time has come to register for Spring Term classes. Every spring, approximately one-third of Alma College students participate in Spring Term courses. Each student is required to take two Spring Terms, one of which must be designated as an "S" course.

As credit requirements to graduate and the difficulty of entering necessary classes becomes increasingly difficult, the importance of planning ahead for a Spring Term is essential.

Even though the atmosphere of Spring Term classes is more relaxed than those of a full term, the formal process of registering for Spring Term classes is the same. Students are still required to get their advisor's signature and, in many cases, the signature of the professor teaching the course before returning their registration forms to the registrar's office.

Unfortunately for us Alma students, the registrar's office does not make this an easy

feat to accomplish. Students living on campus received their Spring Term course packets in the mail Thursday afternoon; students living off campus could pick up their packets any time from Thursday on. The problem with this is that the slips were due Monday for seniors, Tuesday for juniors, Wednesday for sophomores and Thursday for first-year students.

This method of registering for classes is to ensure that graduating seniors can get the classes necessary for graduation. Unfortunately, a little more than one day is often not enough time for seniors to obtain necessary signatures.

Take, for example, a student who has class all afternoon on Thursday and does not check their mail until Thursday evening. They must decide on a Spring Term that night, and obtain the necessary signatures the following day. There is no guarantee that the professors whose signatures are needed will be in their office at times convenient to the student. Nor is there a guarantee that the

student will even have time on Friday, especially considering that many students go home and professors often leave early for the weekend.

Now the system is designed to help seniors, but it just adds rush and stress to their lives that are already hectic and confusing. Would it really be that difficult for the registrar's office to give students an extra day to obtain the necessary signatures? It would make students' lives much easier, not to mention reduce the bombardment of signature-requesting students that professors have to meet with on Friday.

The registrar's office already has enough trouble scheduling classes for students. For this Winter Term, the list of closed classes was longer than the list of open classes.

Even more frustrating, there are several cases of seniors unable to register for or even get signed into classes they need to graduate. That is ridiculous: there is no reason that sophomores and first-year students should enroll into classes seniors need, simply

because their last name is in the beginning of the alphabet.

Obviously, the registrar's office does not make all the decisions; it is often up to the specific department to decide who is admitted and who is not. However, the registrar's office needs to make more of an effort to ensure that enough of the needed classes are offered.

More and more students need an extra term or even a fifth year to obtain their degree. Many times this is because they cannot get into the necessary classes.

Although it means well, the registrar's office needs to seriously reconsider their process of offering and signing up for classes.

The current method may have worked in the past, but as enrollment increases, so will the number of problems. As the college grows, the departments and offices need to grow too. This will not only help the students, but the office employees and professors as well.

The Almanian

Serving Alma College since 1907

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

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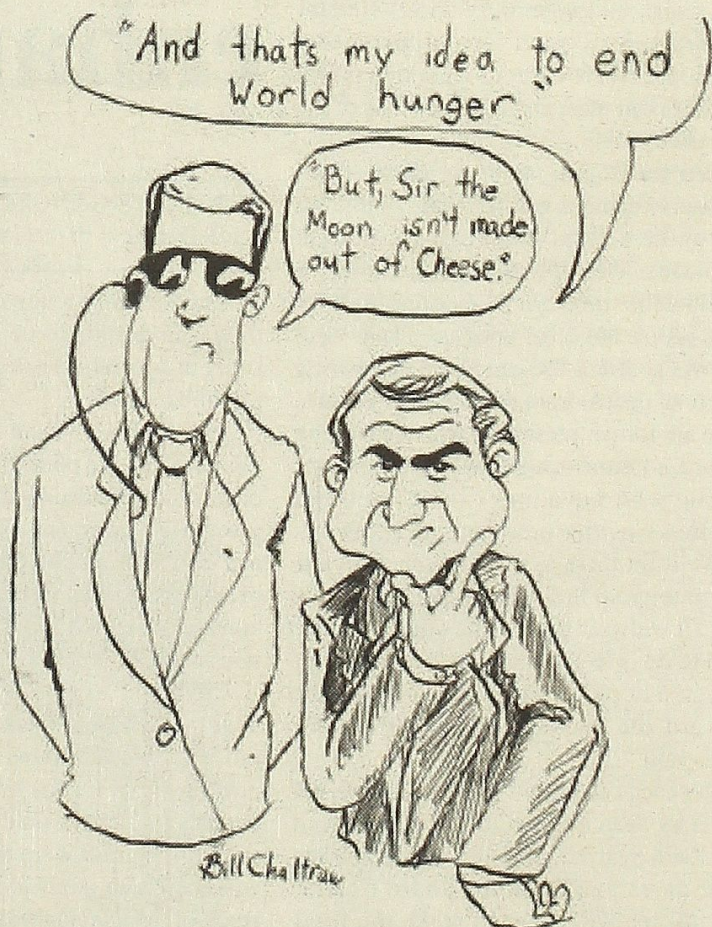
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All letters to the editors must meet the following standards of publication: signed, include the author's phone number and address, and pertain to the Alma College community. Letters are published as layout space allows with priority given to letters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

Cartoon Corner

By BILL CHALTRAW



Sports Track

Owed to fallen Cowboys

By MICHAEL MURPHY
Opinion Editor

Two weekends ago, a tragedy shocked collegiate basketball: an airplane flying 10 members of the Oklahoma State University basketball program crashed, killing all 10 people on board. Two were players, one a sports reporter, two pilots and five others left behind the game of life. They traveled from a basketball game on one of three OSU planes to their school, and soon left their lives as well. The following Wednesday, the university held a memorial service to honor the victims. Thousands showed up to honor the deceased. Most never met them. Those that had loved them because they were friends, or coaches, or

teammates, or family members. The rest of us outside the university were left feeling sad and hollow, not knowing how to react to the news. All 10 lost their lives much too soon. Two were our age. They were in college, just like us. They were taking classes, just like us. They were having fun, just like us. Of course, in all tragedies, we immediately turn to find someone, maybe something, to blame. Who is to blame? Is it the college? Is it the mega-machine that has turned college basketball into a business and not a game? Maybe it is both. Maybe OSU should have one large, solid plane to fly all the teams to their games instead of three separate planes, one of which was a prop plane - the one that

plummeted to earth. Maybe college basketball should not be so large, as Detroit Freepress Columnist Mitch Albom suggests. Maybe it should not worry about all the money it can make with television contracts on every school night available. Well, we can only question who is to blame. Maybe looking for whom to blame is not what we need right now. Maybe what we need is to take this tragedy and recognize that there is more to life than sports. When watching players on television, we sometimes think, at least I sometimes think, that they are only there for our entertainment, and that the rest of their lives do not matter. Is it only the game that counts? Is it how good a player is that counts? Before last week, that is what I

thought. Colleges, and all other schools, - whether large or small - must use this example to ensure that their transportation is safe enough to care for the lives of every single person associated with the team and college. Planes must be examined to ensure that they can perform the task needed. Buses and vans, including Alma College's must be taken care of and critically examined so they drive students to and from events safely. It is crucial that the standards for college transportation vehicles be held high enough so we can try to avoid another tragedy similar to what happened two weeks ago. For the sports world, the fans, the coaches and, most importantly, the families of those who perished, will not be able to handle another tragedy like the one that occurred just two weekends ago.

His Story / Her Story

Media meltdown: Where are you, Georgie?

By BRYAN WAUGH
Photographer/Staff Writer

What a mess the world is in. Everywhere you look, all you see are people bashing other people trying to prove their worth. Instead of listing their accomplishments, we tend to look at their shortcomings and flaws. But hey, it is the media's fault. Those punks! Ruining the world we live in; how dare they! We can't do anything but watch the nonsense and decide which are the two lesser evils. According to the media that is, I suppose I will just have to learn to live with it.

If I could swear I would, but I can't so you will just have to imagine what I really want to say. The only reason we have The Jerry Springer Show is because the public demands it. Now you are wondering how this relates to the trifling, trivial, worthlessness of what you just read. Well I will tell you. I think I am correct in saying that The Jerry Springer Show represents the true injured deterioration of the whole world. I don't believe I am going too far when I say that. Anyway, if you have peccant humor under your belt and it will sell one paper, someone will make sure everyone knows about it, because it is more exciting to the public. People are all bent out of shape over the latest election (I don't know who they are but they sure are bent). How could someone with such a horrible record get elected President of the United States? The most powerful nation in the world has a pot

smoking, crack head who gets his jollies out of driving drunk. He has his finger over the nuclear arsenal of the world! What the heck are people thinking? Well that is what I heard at least from the media. I really don't care. I am what they call on late night MTV talk shows a misplaced youth. However, did you know that Bush was a pilot in the Texas Air National Guard? Or how about after getting his Master's in Business Administration, he was rejected from the University of Texas Law School; I guess daddy could not help him out with that

However, did you know that Bush was a pilot in the Texas Air National Guard?... Now that's what I really, really want to read about in the Sunday Times.

one. Now that's what I really, really want to read about in the Sunday Times. This is exactly why we are currently hearing very little about old Georgie boy. The only thing that is going on is a few nominations, nothing very exciting. On the other hand, the media has to cover the oil spill and the quake in India, which is all much more pertinent than the White House minutes. So the moral of the story is, if you want to have a cleaner presidential race in the next four years, have the candidates actually talk about something besides regurgitating their breakfast every morning and saying the same thing they have for the last two months. When the media gets bored, the people get bored. So instead of giving us time to look at something more interesting, please George, distract us with something more engaging to listen too than the same old thing that you have every morning.

By RACHEL KUHLE
Staff Writer

The media is fickle. They either love you, love saying bad things about you or they just don't care one way or the other. For example, isn't it interesting how there was so little attention paid to George W. Bush's past indiscretions during the election? Then there was all the hub-bub on both sides of the political line during the Florida debacle, and now it seems like no one gives a... Well, you get the idea. Now, I am a Democrat, so I will try my darndest to not slam Bush simply for principle's sake. I guess my beef is that, like any politician,

Bush comes along with a couple of DUI's, alcoholism, suspected drug abuse and a comparatively weak political record next to his opponent.

the man has done some really shady stuff, but the media seems to keep looking the other way. When the Lewinsky scandal hit, it was on every TV set from the morning shows to late night. Clinton was deservedly bashed, then bashed again. Bush comes along with a couple of DUI's, alcoholism, suspected drug abuse and a comparatively weak political record next to his opponent, yet the only things you ever saw about it was on Politically Incorrect or SNL. The real news, the real media seemed to have put on kid gloves. If Bush had been smart, he would have encouraged the bashing. I mean, let's look at it for a second: during Clinton's first run for office there were accusations flying about his wandering umm . . . eye. Yet, despite all the bad press, he defeated papa George by a landslide, and this was on the heels of Bush's Desert Storm victory. When Clinton ran for re-election, there was even more mud to sling: Paula Jones, Whitewater,

Travelgate; yet he still easily defeated Dole. Bad press has always worked for Bill Clinton; the man left office as a President who was impeached, but also a president who had one of the highest approval ratings ever. And that was after the whole "guess where he put his cigar" thing. Poor Bush; here he thinks he's gotten lucky because the press decided to ignore his past. He gets elected president after a long and frustrating election, and now no one cares. He is sitting there in the Oval office making decisions, filling out his cabinet and doing presidential things, but the general public is not paying attention. The media is as fickle as its audience is, and we have decided that the election mess was about all the excitement we could handle for a while. Now our attention has moved on to something else. For example, Bush revoked financial support for overseas clinics offering abortion as one of their services. Now, that is a pretty big thing to decide. Not only is it a controversial issue religiously, but it is also a hot topic for many feminist groups. Yet he did it. It was mentioned on the evening news, and that was it. No riots, no demonstrations, no nothing. I guess the time for public bashing has passed. The people are sick of it, reality TV is much more interesting and for those of us who follow politics, we already know it will be a long, dead-locked four years with little or no bi-partisanship. The same media who left Bush's past behind him is now leaving him behind as they move on to things the public finds more interesting.

Point / Counterpoint

Bush stirs up separation of church and state debate

By SCOTT TIMMRECK
Staff Writer

George Bush signed two executive orders and sent a legislative packet to Congress last week, effectively setting a course for charitable organizations to work in partnership with the federal government to combat poverty, addiction, abuse and homelessness.

The plan establishes a new White House office of faith-based and community initiatives intended to help the neediest Americans. Currently, 5.78 million people in the United States are on welfare rolls. As our red-hot economy ices over and the pink slips keep rolling out, many of the 6.5 million who are off the rolls will need to turn somewhere for aid.

Enter Bush's administration of less control from the Hill. By handing over billions of dollars to so-called faith-based organizations, our President of 17 days has effectively burnt the red tape and money filters that government organizations have to tolerate to aid specific social groups. Good job George.

Faith-based organizations are better equipped to handle certain problems and should be given access to taxpayer funds to deal with the problems. The government has long resisted charities based on their religious tendencies, but for no reason should money be kept from organizations

dedicated to the common social good.

Indeed, one may argue that this legislation violates separation of church and state. Perhaps that is true in the vague language of the United States Constitution. But honestly, the country is (gasp) bi-partisan (that horrid word, again) and the critics dumping violations all over this plan must recognize and accept that this country is split on many social issues and that everyone must accept the work of any institution with an open mind, religious or non-religious.

Bush is not promoting Christian beliefs with his plan. Rather, he is giving funds to what works. How many people can honestly say they are satisfied with the way the U.S. government handles social welfare, especially in the case of immigrants? How many people are sad that money will be in the hands of a local church group or charity instead of in the bills of congressmen who we often view as blinded by the whiteness of Washington?

Watching taxpayer funds slide out of the capital and into the hands of smaller organizations is nothing to be ashamed of. Bush is attempting to help the neediest of Americans, and he is going about doing so with an open mind and an attempt at reconciliation with groups the government has spurned for so long. Moving funds into the hands of groups who are most familiar with social aspects of their areas is a fine step for Dubya.

By DONNA PAPPAS
Staff Writer

Federal funding for religious organizations? This question which has been repeatedly turned down by the Supreme Court in our history is now being pursued by the President of the United States.

President George Bush has created the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives to help secure federal funding for religious organizations that seek to combat "social ills."

What makes Bush think he can get away with this obvious violation of the separation of church and state clause of our Constitution?

The establishment clause of our Constitution protects our society from a federally supported or established religious organization. This type of religious affiliation with the federal government would be a promotion of those specific religions chosen to receive part of the billions of dollars that Bush is proposing.

But what about the religious organizations that are not chosen to receive money for their charities? Are these religions not worthy of government support? Who has the right to decide which religions are better than others?

Surely not the United States government. Our Constitution makes this clear.

Religious organizations who act as charities have an unfair influence of their beliefs over those who are in need. And those religious charities who are granted this governmental aid will have an even greater influence over the vulnerable.

Beyond illegally funding religious organizations, this initiative is clearly discriminatory against non-religious groups. What about those non-religious charities who exist to combat "social ills?" Why are they excluded from this plan?

There is no reason to believe that a public organization such as the Family Independence Agency or Welfare system could not benefit society with this money. The government should not direct its money toward religious organizations when there are existing competent public organizations.

As students at a private, religious institution we are all aware of the differences between a public and non-public education. In fact, we each pay for that difference in our yearly tuition. Religious educational institutions are excluded from receiving any financial support from the government.

Both education and social welfare are the responsibility of the state. The church is not allowed to receive assistance from the government for education and should not be granted money for "social ills." It would be hypocritical for the government to now turn around and allow a church to directly receive federal money.

Righting away the dignity of people

By MICHAEL MURPHY
Opinion Editor

During October of last year, an interesting case came about concerning First Amendment rights and the Internet.

This scenario stemmed from what is known as the "Teacher Review," a forum designed by a student to post student opinions on professors at the City College of San Francisco. In other words, students obtained information on professors from the Internet and used information to decide whether or not to enroll in courses taught by the professor.

What sounds like a good idea quickly unraveled into a nasty affair. One of the professors, Daniel Curzon-Brown, an openly gay professor who has written award winning novels and dramas, became a scapegoat for homophobic slander. Students submitted reviews to the post carrying the stink of comments claiming homosexuals to be disgusting, threatening and atrocious beings. Profanity and vile language littered reviews.

Brown, along with another professor, brought the site's creator, Ryan Lathouwers, who did not submit any message concerning Brown, to court protesting the forum's slanderous comments.

The ACLU sided with Lathouwers claiming the First Amendment protected the site.

In the end, Lathouwers won, and the two professors had to pay \$10,000 for Lathouwers' legal fees. Without a doubt, this is a tragedy. Here we have a professor, one that has won numerous awards for his published work and has invested his time helping educate students, who has been slandered and ripped apart in a public forum. Countless lies and horrific language shredded him to pieces.

His heart broken, he challenged this. And he

lost.

He lost so that people could express themselves, even though they posted forum entries anonymously without one ounce of proof. His image is now harmed, if not destroyed. Students will view him with the false forum comments in mind.

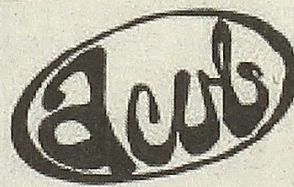
Part of this man's life is destroyed. His right to be looked upon normally is devastated so homophobes and other sick individuals can belligerently campaign against him.

Where is the justice in that? Where are his rights? According to Lathouwers, he reserved the right to delete any entry he considered contradicting to the site's guidelines. He admitted to deleting some reviews threatening physical harm of professors other than the two initiating the allegations.

However, he never removed any message containing the highly anti-homophobic language directed at Brown. Thus, he neglected to remove a message that did not necessarily threaten Brown physically, but instead threatened him psychologically.

But, what does that matter? After all, everything is okay if people can completely defile a person without any basis whatsoever; they can destroy his career; they can destroy his image; they can destroy his right to live normally. They can destroy all of this in the name of freedom of speech.

A change must happen, and Brown is doing something about that. He is raising money to lobby against false slander and horrific language on the Internet. People will argue that they have a right to express what they believe. Sure, they do. But they also have a right, and an obligation, to respect other people's lives - and that means others' rights to not live under the scrutiny of slander and filthy allegations.

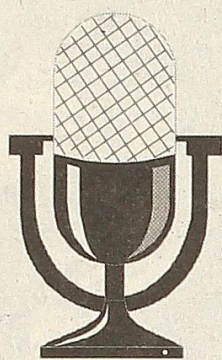


*Alma College Union Board
Presents:*

**Casino Night
Friday, February 9th**

Try your hand at 15 casino games and 5 slot machines. Gambling will take place from 7 - 9 p.m. in Van Dusen. Comedian Michael Somerville will perform at 9:00 p.m. Turn your poker chips in for a chance to win numerous prizes in a raffle following the comedian.

Music in Brief



Stories from the city, stories from the sea— PJ Harvey

Genre: Classic alternative

Wildly acclaimed as one of the best album's, stories deserves all of the praise it gets. This album is Harvey at her best. Some of her other albums were a bit too "out there" to be really enjoyable. This one is the right combination of inventive and entertaining. The songs all center around her adventures in New York City, giving them a focus lacking in her previous work. And, if that wasn't enough, there is a beautiful duet with Thom York. Grade: A-

In Blue—The Coors

Genre: Bubble-gum pop

In their second album since they have started receiving stateside attention, this adorable Irish band serves out more of what they do best—bubble-gum pop with a side of Irish instrumentation. The songs are just like them—sweet and bubbly. The lyrics are not really that deep, and their talent never lives up to the package it comes in, but it's impossible to dislike them. They're just too cute. Grade: B-

Suggested tracks: "Breathless," "Irresistible"

American Pearl—American Pearl

Genre: In your face hard rock

Copyright Wind-Up Records 2000

The Guitar solos are week and over distorted. The California theme is overworked in just two songs. This is just another over-noisy album.

The theme seems to be one of no hope. "Underground" actually sounds good. The guitar is not too overdriven. Heck, the track even starts slow. It isn't even hopeless!

Still, most of the album is an angry teen hit. Well, it could be if it had a little more difference from one track to the next (with little exception). The vocals are not even very special.

"Underground," "Bleed," and "If We Were Kings" are the only tracks with promise.

If these guys get voice lessons and learn to use more than a fully distorted guitar, give them a shot on a later album. Otherwise, forget it. Grade: D-

Suggested tracks: "Underground," "Bleed"

Movie Review by Olga Wrobel

Snatch succeeds as a great action flick

What do you get when you add up an 84-karat diamond, a ruthless four-fingered gambler, an Irish Gypsy living in a trailer, two bare knuckled boxing matches and a sneaky dog who is always causing some sort of commotion? What else but writer/director Guy Ritchie's new movie, *Snatch*.

Snatch is definitely not a movie for the faint of heart, or the extremely stupid. There are many plots taking place at once, but they are all tied together in one way or another. The film takes place in London, and begins with a group of gangster jewel thieves disguised as Orthodox Jews stealing a golf ball sized diamond. One of these men is the infamous Franky Four Fingers (Benicio Del Toro), known for his "quaint" obsession with gambling, which in fact earned him his nickname.

The audience is then introduced to the narrator of the story, boxing promoter Turkish (Jason Statham), and his faithful sidekick Tommy, played by Stephen Graham. These men work out of a dumpy trailer, so they take a trip to a gypsy caravan to purchase a new one. Here they meet Mickey O'Neil, an Irish gypsy with a knuckle that could knock anyone out and an accent much too thick to understand, played by Brad Pitt. Pitt loses his pretty boy image once he sports the tattoos and greasy hair that he plays in this role.

Meanwhile, cousin Avi (Dennis Farina) from New York is on a search for the diamond, as well as Russian murderer Boris the Blade (Rade Sherbedgia), and Brick Top (Alan Ford). The plot is much too complicated to fully explain,

but basically, the movie focuses on the diamond, all the men who want it, and the world of gambling, boxing and bookies. Other characters, such as Bullet Tooth, Vinny, Tyrone and Gorgeous George are also important pieces of the puzzle.

As confusing as it may sound, *Snatch* is definitely worth the watch. It is fun to experience and watch the many stories come together, and the ending is fantastic. Along with a lot of action and fighting, there is also a good amount of comedy throughout the film, especially the scenes involving the dog. All the characters have their own unique, often hilarious, qualities. Pitt especially gives a top-notch

performance in the film.

The soundtrack is very consistent with the film, and it is ironic that in two scenes Madonna's "Lucky Star" is playing...does it have something to do with the fact that she is now married to Guy Ritchie? One of the best parts of the movie has to be the cinematography—the camera angles, still shots, and the way the movie has moments in both slow and real time are awesome.

To point out the cons of *Snatch* is quite difficult, because there weren't many. For someone who has trouble with complicated plots and settings, a la *Pulp Fiction*, this may not be the movie for them. It is sometimes difficult to understand what the characters are saying, because the entire cast speaks in an English accent. Some parts in the middle also dragged a bit, but not much.

Overall, *Snatch* is fun, exciting, and stands out from most films.

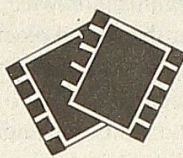
Movie Review

Snatch

Brad Pitt

Benicio Del Toro

A-



Album Review by Dan Joyce

Dust for Life

Do you miss the good old straight rock? You know, that guitar driven, often-distorted sound that is still contained? That part of the grunge era that didn't die but seemed to evolve into something else lately?

Well, it's back. Dust For Life's self-titled debut takes the rock edge from Papa Roach and the new metal groups and tones it back down to a more hard rock roots sound. Imagine Ted Nugent mixed with Papa Roach. You end up with more expressive guitar riffs and less screaming.

Wind-Up Records (Creed, Finger Eleven) seems to have a good grasp on what rock music is and should be. Dust For Life is sure to build Wind-Up's reputation.

Lyricaly, the album is very well done. Much of the album was written during relationships and other hardships. Still, it's not a pity and self-loathing album alone. It's more of a convicting album.

Almost every song has a Silverchair down look on life, but Dust For Life brings hope in each chorus. They deal with overcoming the difficulties, not just whining about them. The albums first hit single, "Step Into The Light," expresses this.

"Darkness grows around my heart and I let it go / I'll wait to see how this will end / Then I'll step into the light to find I'm not alone."

That particular track is a very good representative of the album as a whole. It pounds heated riffs down your throat and then lays back and lets you soak it in during the melodic chorus.

Many tracks use an acoustic guitar for at least part of the song. "Poison," and "Shadow Pool" contain sections that sound like Travis Meek's guitar from Days Of The New. The final track gets rid of the power cords altogether and utilizes the acoustic guitar alone.

It seemed over the past few months that the guitar solos were lost somewhere in the mix of new bands. Only Seventies bands that carried over to the eighties and nineties still use this key element. Not any more.

Dust For Life's ninth track, "Shadow Pool," dips sleekly into all forms of their musical pallet.

First of all, the song starts off with a very Days Of The New sounding acoustic guitar, moves on through the verse with pounding drums and power bass. It then goes to a heavy electric guitar with some awesome riffs, and then shoves a full minute of powerful guitar solo right into your face. Don't worry, you'll like it. The song then finishes off in

much the same manor as the rest of the album. That too, is not a bad thing.

The guitar work at the beginning of the tenth track sounds like a short part from a Joe Satriani lead. In other words, the guitar work is phenomenal. The drums are right there too.

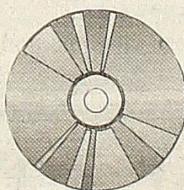
Over all, Dust For Life rocks, rolls, moves and grows. This is

one that gets better every time you hear it. Maybe that's how Dust For Life earned a chance to tour with the likes of Creed and 3 Doors Down.

Album Review

Dust for Life

A



Rating: A

Suggested Tracks: "Step Into The Light," "I Don't Mind," "Shadow Pool"

For fans of Ozzy Osbourne, Creed, Soundgarden, Straight Up, Silverchair

If you like Dust For Life, check out: Finger Eleven, Tourniquet, Bride

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<http://www.dustforlife.com>

Alma student puts a new *Slant* on success in the music scene

By SCOTT TIMMRECK
Staff Writer

Playing the guitar like no other, junior Chris Andrus has been sited lately in various clubs in the Grand Rapids area. And no, he has not been raving or moving to the sounds of remixed Backstreet Boys songs.

Instead, Andrus has been appearing on stage as the lead guitarist for the band Slant. The name means nothing, but the group is serious.

Formed last summer, the foursome started by playing some house parties in GR-Town before convincing administrative officials at Grand Valley State University to allow the band an evening at Kliner Commons, a gathering area on school grounds.

Slant sold the place out and moved 100 of its five-track EPs out the door that night, giving the band a name as well as \$500 through the CD sales. The band members quickly dove into the marketing side of the music business.

"We did lots of shameless self-promotion," Andrus said. Indeed.

Slant, comprised of Andrus (lead guitar and backing vocals), Tim Alexander (lead vocals and rhythm guitar), Mike Riske (bass) and Brenden Stark (drums) gave out demo CDs

to club owners around Grand Rapids and landed a gig at the Intersection, where bands including SR71, Sponge, and Limp Bizkit have appeared.

That show, as a supporting act for the band Molly, allowed Slant to make contacts with club owners and the hip radio executives of modern rock station WGRD.

Slant most recently played to a crowd of 1,000 people at the Intersection in support of Nineteen Wheels, a rock act of the day.

"I was glad to see some Alma students there," Andrus said when asked to comment on what sort of support he got from fellow Scots for their most recent show.

"I thought they were really good. They were really tight," said Slant fan J.R. Logan (02)

Slant will headline their own show at the Intersection on March 31 after a possible show on Feb. 16 with Molly and Taste.

As for Slant's tunes, they are noteworthy. WGRD apparently thought so too, because it gave the band radio time recently. 89ImpactFM in East Lansing has also given airtime to some of Slant's music.

And fine music it is. The five-track EP is available for \$5. Drop an email to Slant_news@hotmail.com or talk to Chris Andrus.



Courtesy photo

Chris Andrus (02) and members of the band *Slant* take a minute between sound checks to pose for a photo.

The first lady of Alma Laurie Kolendbrander part two

By RACHEL KUHL
Staff Writer

Laurie Kolenbrander is not cute. In fact, she hates the idea of being cute. She would much rather be thought of as "interesting, or better yet, striking." Laurie believes that every individual, including herself, has something to contribute, and that variety in the world is what makes it so beautiful.

"We are surrounded by so much beauty, which again, I swear some people never notice... It is so important to take time to smell the roses, take the time to not only appreciate other people, but your very own self."

One of the things she is most passionate about is learning. Learning for the joy of learning, learning from one's own mistakes and learning from each other.

"There is so much to learn out there and a lot of it comes from other people, if we just paid attention to educating other people instead of focusing our attention on rising up in the world or making money."

The idea of constantly pursuing knowledge is one that Laurie adheres to, although she is the first to admit that it is a life-long, never-ending pursuit.

"There is an old Greek saying about knowledge that says, 'he who knows not, and knows not that he knows not, is a fool.' My addition to that is, but why is it that its he who



knows not who knows it all."

"I'm really very curious, and I wish that some of us

thought more often about; if each of us knew we only had twenty-four hours to live, what would we do, who would we contact? We take an awful lot of things for granted."

"With my brain tumor, there are people who, and sometimes I'm one of them, but there are people who give me a lot of pity. 'Oh, to be in so much pain and have no balance, etc. etc.' But the blessings have been far more numerous, and no one is going to understand that. But each of us, day by day, hour by hour, minute by minute... There's an old story about a man who hadn't been feeling well so he went to see his doctor. The doctor took a few tests and he said, 'You're going to die.' The man said, 'No, that's impossible, I want a second opinion.' So he goes to another doctor and tells him, 'I've been told I'm going to die,' and the second doctor says, 'For that you needed a second opinion?' But its true, we only have so much time here to do the things that are important."

Laurie's sense of humor and love for life are probably the two most important things I left with upon completing the interview. She is determined to cherish and make the most of every day, and is very excited about being a part of and making her own contributions to the Alma College community.

"I think Alma is just incredible as a school. We've only been here a couple of weeks, but the people and the campus... I'm impressed."

We're looking for a few good spellers!

That's right, if you like to write and want to earn some extra cash, consider becoming a staff writer!

The Almanian is currently hiring staff writers and sports writers. Pick up your application at the Almanian office in Newberry Basement or call Mandy at x8053 for more information.

Career day successful, turnout disappointing

By **OLGA WROBEL**
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, Jan. 30, Alma students had the opportunity to research and get more insight on various careers and what their futures may hold. This opportunity was better known as Career Day, and it was a way for students to connect with alumni and learn more about themselves.

From 1:30 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. students were able to have consultations with Alma College alumni. There were nine alumni present, better known as the Metro Detroit Business Roundtable (MDBR). MDBR is a successful branch of the Tartan Club whose purpose is to bring speakers to Alma College and connect with students. These Alma graduates are involved in such careers as printing, public relations, accounting, international finance, and banking. Students talked to them for half-hour sessions.

After consultations, there was a casual reception at the Alumni house for student leaders. At 5:00 p.m. a dinner was held, to which such student organizations as the Communications Club, Leadership Club, Business Club, and Student Congress members were able to attend.

Following the dinner there was also a small panel discussion, where students could gather to get more information from the alumni.

According to Melinda Sargent, associate dean of Student Development, more students could have taken advantage of career day. The turnout was not as large as hoped.

“It is a great opportunity to meet with alumni and be able to network,” Sargent said.

Not only was this a way for seniors to make a decision about what they will do for the rest of their lives, it is also helpful for first year students who are still undecided.

Alumni shared the following tips with students to make the job search easier:

- 1) The most important priority is to schedule time to do the research. Searching for a career is something that is important, but not urgent, so students often put it off until the week before graduation, which is a big mistake.
- 2) Take advantage of the resources and directories in the student development office.
- 3) Browse the Alma College web site, www.careers.alma.edu, where you can sign up as either a job or internship applicant.
- 4) Talk to other students, the best ideas may stem from this, and it is a great way of networking.
- 5) Ask the faculty for ideas.
- 6) Explore the possible jobs in your area of interest, and find out what level you can get work at; even if you are only a cashier for an accountant, this is the first step to going further.
- 7) Remember that any sort of experience is good.
- 8) If you are interested in politics, find out about opportunities in the state legislature. Gary Peters, who is an Alma alumni, is a legislator of the state of Michigan.
- 9) Don't be afraid to work in a location far from home, this will expand your horizons even further.
- 10) Make sure to look for jobs and internships in the industries you admire.
- 11) Take advantage of off campus opportunities, such as the Urban Life Center in Chicago.

Students can also participate in the Alma College Career Expo, which usually takes place the week before Homecoming in the fall. Sargent urges students to make time, be excited about the opportunities available, and have fun and enjoy life!

Language students learn about career opportunities

By **GINGER DAVIS**
Feature Editor

It's that time again, time when all the seniors get college fever as they start to consider their job possibilities and the life they will lead outside the Alma bubble.

Alma alum Susan Garvey visited campus Tuesday to talk to foreign language students about how they can use their language skills in the job market. Specifically, she helped students answer the question, “What can I do with my language besides teach?”

Garvey (90) said there are lots of opportunities to work and travel for people with a technical skill or area of expertise—such

as accounting and business—in addition to the knowledge of another language.

She told students that they cannot expect to be sent abroad immediately simply because they speak another language. According to Garvey, after you have spent a couple of years with a company and have a good pool of knowledge as to its operations, you will be someone that the company will want to have conducting their business abroad.

Garvey also had a lot of advice about when and why to attend graduate school.

She believes that graduate school is more helpful to someone that has spent a few years gaining experience in the field than it is to someone straight out of college. She worked

as an international accountant for five years before returning to school.

This experience also helps you decide what you want out of a career so that you don't end up studying something you don't want to do.

“You have to have a basis to apply what you're learning. You get a lot more out of it,” she said.

Garvey now works as a Senior International Accountant with CMS Enterprises. Although she mainly works in the U.S. now, the company has sent her abroad on several occasions to places such as the Philippines, India and Morocco. She said that her experiences living abroad, more than her

language skills, helped her land this job.

Companies doing overseas business need people fluent enough to conduct negotiations, and culture-savvy enough to know how to conduct themselves outside the U.S., she said.

“I've lived overseas a couple of times—both as a student and as a professional—and I knew how to approach different cultures and how to treat people, and how not to be the ugly American.”

Overall, Garvey told students, the more experiences you have with other cultures, and the more skills you have to go along with your language skills, the more employers will want you.

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THE DAVID B. KINNEY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Supported by a generous gift from attorney and social activist David B. Kinney, class of 1943, Alma College is pleased to offer a unique opportunity for, as Mr. Kinney defined it, “independent and original study of any items, persons or societal trends relating to the birth or endurance of our precious Bill of Rights.” A grant of \$2,500 will be awarded to a promising student research project on the Bill of Rights, involving primary, especially archival, research into some particular civil liberties issue, historical event, legislation court case, philosophical/literary/economic/political aspect, personality, etc.

Criteria for the grant are as follows:

1. A candidate must be enrolled at Alma College, in his/her junior or senior year of study, with a grade-point average of 3.30 or better at the time of application for the grant.
2. Each candidate must present a detailed proposal to the Kinney Scholarship Committee by March 6, 2001. This proposal must contain appropriate information about
 - **the purpose of the study
 - **the current state of research/policy on the proposed topic
 - **explanation of the student's academic preparation to complete the study successfully (including a copy of a prior research paper)
 - **a proposed time-line and budget for the study
 - **a proposed plan for public dissemination of the study's results
 - **the names/phones of three references (at least one faculty and one off-campus person) for the Committee to contact.
3. Preference will be given to candidates who propose primary, especially archival, research into an appropriate civil liberties issue, historical event, legislation, court case, philosophical/literary/economic/political aspect, personality, etc. Travel to research sites and/or proposals which cross disciplinary boundaries are also encouraged.
4. Applications will be reviewed by the Kinney Scholarship Committee and the recipient announced by March 15.

For further information, please contact Professor B. Davis, SAC 353, x7269, or davis@alma.edu

XFL: Xcellent Alternative

By AMY NOVAK
Sports Editor

Despite the disappointing Raven victory that ended the 2000-2001 NFL season, football fans are not left high and dry. Feb. 3 marked opening day for the XFL, a football league created and sponsored by the World Wrestling Federation (WWF).

The idea for the XFL, which is not an acronym and does not stand for extreme football, was presented by WWF President Vince McMahon on Feb. 3, 2000. NBC joined in the ownership in late March of 2000.

McMahon's idea was to create a sport that is 100 percent competitive; he wanted to return football to its roots that would foster a wide open style of play and fast paced action. The XFL gives viewers an all-access pass to the game. There are cameras and microphones on the players as well as on the field and in the locker room. There are no restrictions and viewers can see all aspects of the competition.

The XFL consists of eight teams; there are two divisions, East and West, with four teams in each. The names, somewhat similar to those in the movie Basketball, include the New York / New Jersey Hitmen, Orlando Rage, Birmingham Thunderbolts and Chicago Enforcers in the East and the LA Xtreme, Memphis Maniax, Las Vegas Outlaws and San Francisco Demons in the West.

The teams each play a ten game regular season. In post-season action, the top two teams from each division advance to the playoffs. The final championship game, creatively titled "The Big Game at the End" will be played this year on April 21.

The XFL owns all of the league teams, which maintain a roster of 38 active and seven reserve players. All of the

players are experienced and have played in either the NFL, NFL Europe, the Arena Football league or the CFL. Most played at major colleges and all have completed collegiate eligibility. No XFL player may simultaneously play under any other contract.

The teams were created by two drafts, referred to as the Player Allocation Selection System. In the first, the teams chose eleven territorial players from three assigned universities. In the second, the teams brought their rosters up to 70 players from a central talent pool. The teams could then alter their rosters with free agents and trades as well as a December draft. Team camps began the first week in January and rosters were cut down to 45 players before the start of the inaugural season.

Players are paid to play, but paid more to win. The average base salary for players is \$45,000 for a ten game season, with quarterbacks earning closer to \$50,000 and kicking specialists earning about \$35,000. There is a bonus pool of \$100,000 for each regular season game that is divided among members of the winning team. The pool for "The Big Game at the End" is one million dollars.

NBC broadcasts the Saturday night game; play begins at 8 p.m. with play-by-play from Matt Vasgersian and analysis by Jesse Ventura. TNN airs the Sunday afternoon games at 4 p.m. and UPN broadcasts the Sunday night competition at 7 p.m. "The Big Game at the End" will be broadcast on NBC.

And what football game is complete without cheerleaders? According to XFL officials, the cheerleaders will play a vital role in the competition, both live and on television. Viewers should expect to know their names and personalities.

As for the rules of the game, they are a bit different than

those traditionally used in professional football. There are no fair catches, but receivers are offered a five-yard protective "halo" until the punt is caught. Also in terms of punting, any punt over 25 yards is a live ball for both teams.

There are no point-after-touchdowns. Instead, teams are offered the chance to run or pass from the two yard line to score a point. Unlike the PAT, the clock runs during this attempt so fumbles and interceptions can be returned for a point for the opposing team.

Receivers and defenders only need one foot inbound for a reception or interception. Quarterbacks are considered down when their forward progress is halted; there is no "in the grasp." Quarterbacks are also protected if they slide or give up; headslaps are illegal. One man on offense may be in forward motion outside of tackles and returning teams must run kickoffs back out of the end zone unless the kick carries through the endzone.

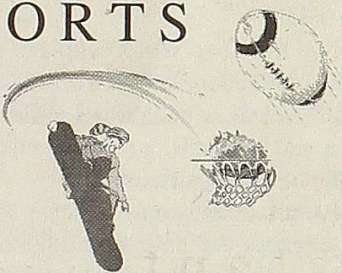
Defensively, the XFL allows a pass defense so backs can bump and run. There is 35 seconds between plays when the clock is stopped and 25 in-between when the clock has not been stopped.

No game can end in a tie. Instead, overtime consists of each team allowed four downs to score from the opponents 20 yard line. However, if the first team scores in less than four downs, the other team only has that many downs to score their touchdown.

Overall, the XFL provides football fans with a new twist on a traditional sport. The ownership and rule changes provide for a more intensive and physical competition, where athletes are motivated to win for the team, not for politics. The vast number of cameras and microphones give viewers an all-access pass to the action and emotion of the game.

SPORTS

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Bryant questionable for All-Star game

Lakers guard Kobe Bryant said he may not play in the NBA All-Star game next Sunday due to a sore right shoulder. Bryant stressed that benefiting the Lakers is more important to him than playing in the All-Star game. The NBA commissioner David Stern has threatened players with fines and suspensions for not participating in the game, but Bryant says he would rather take the fine.

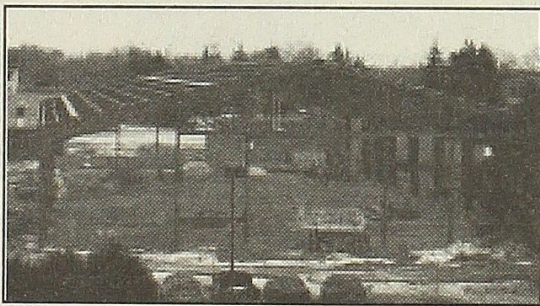
Chmura acquitted of charges

Former Green Bay Packers tight end Mark Chmura was acquitted last Saturday of sexually assaulting a former babysitter. The jury deliberated for two hours and 15 minutes before returning with not guilty verdict on charges of third degree sexual assault and child enticement. Chmura was accused of pulling the former babysitter of his two sons into the bathroom and having non-consensual sex with her during a post-prom party on April 9, 2000.

X Games a success

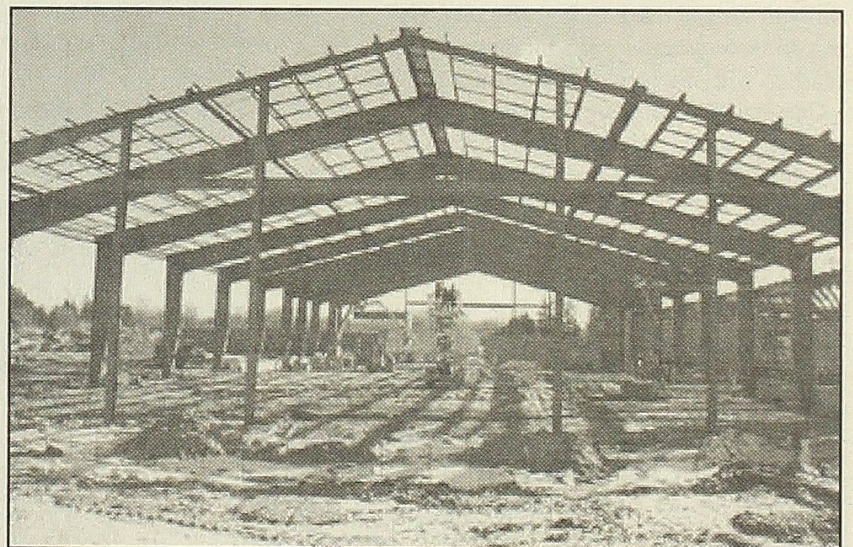
The second annual ESPN X Games were held in Vermont at Mount Snow Resort from Feb. 1-4. The games featured the talents of over 350 international athletes competing in alternative sports like snowboarding, snowmobiling, snowcross and skiing. The X Games were televised from Feb. 2 until tonight on ESPN, ESPN2 and ABC and include over 18 hours of original programming. The Games are broadcast to over 20 million viewers in over 180 countries worldwide.

New rec center proceeds as schedule



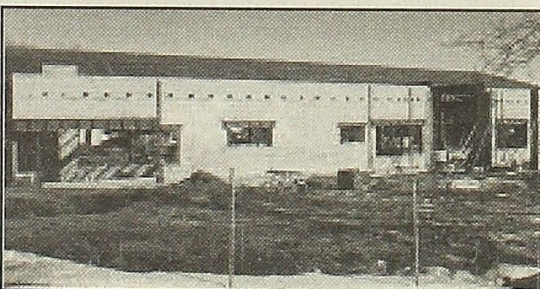
Dan Joyce

Work continues on the Alan J. Stone Center for Recreation.



Dan Joyce

Construction workers have almost completed the frame of the rec center.



Dan Joyce

Workers have begun on the cinderblock wall that will eventually become the lobby of the center.

By AMY NOVAK
Sports Editor

Construction of the Alan J. Stone Center for Recreation is proceeding as scheduled according to Duane Knecht, Alma College Physical Plant Director. The construction began in October, has progressed smoothly over the last few months and should be completed as planned in the fall of 2001.

Construction workers finished setting the building's foundation in December and are currently working on completing the steel frame. Masons are currently

building cinderblock walls that will become the lobby for the building. The steel frame will eventually become the court areas and indoor track.

Once completed, the recreation center will include four courts and a suspended three-lane indoor track. Three of the courts will have lines for tennis, volleyball and basketball while one of the courts will have lines for in-line hockey and indoor soccer. The building also includes a fitness room, a climbing wall, a multi-purpose room and several locker rooms.

FAST
Stats

Men's Swimming

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

Women's Swimming

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

Men's Basketball

1. Calvin	6-2
2. Hope	6-3
3. Albion	5-3
4. Adrian	4-5
4. Olivet	4-5
6. Kalamazoo	3-6
7. Alma	2-6

Women's Basketball

1. Hope	10-0
2. Alma	9-1
3. Olivet	5-5
3. Calvin	5-5
3. Kalamazoo	5-5
6. Albion	3-7
7. Adrian	2-8
8. Saint Mary's	1-9

Men's basketball team
loses 83-71

By **DARBY CORNELIUS**
Staff Writer

The Alma men's basketball team fell short in another MIAA contest last Saturday. The 83-71 loss to Kalamazoo dropped the Scots to 2-6 in the conference and 7-12 overall.

In this third straight league loss, the Scots showed a similar pattern of falling behind early on and failing to regain a competitive score. With a 44-28 deficit at the half, the Scots could not catch up to the Hornets, who outscored and outrebounded the Scots 38-20 and 51-35, respectively.

Despite their overall performance, the Scots had several key players who came through where they were needed. Sophomore Bill Johnson

scored a game-high 20 points on 7-for-9 shooting in just 16 minutes of play. Senior Sean Dick added 14 points, while sophomore Rob Taylor contributed 13 points in the loss.

Sophomore Matt Johnson led the Scots with seven rebounds, while Dick posted five assists.

"The rebounding edge for Kalamazoo was the deciding factor in the game," said coach Kevin Skaggs. "We got behind early and continued to play catch-up for most of the game. This is a tough loss for us."

"We haven't been living up to the expectations we set at the beginning of the season," said B. Johnson, "But we are sticking together as a team and there are better things to come."

The Scots will take on Olivet on Feb. 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the Cappaert Gymnasium.

The search for Scottie

By **DONNA PAPPAS**
Staff Writer

The class of 2002 held auditions last week for a body to occupy the Scottie costume.

There were about seven candidates who showed up to present their spirit and try out for the position of Scottie. The costume measures 5'8" to 6'1", in the range of 150 to 180 pounds, with a shoe size of a men's 10 1/2.

"It has been challenging to find someone who fits into the costume, but some people have come in with so much school spirit that we can't turn them away," said junior Matt vandenBerg.

The judges included the 2002 class officers who are president Virginia Cloutier, vice president Mindy Booth, secretary Christine Gutek, treasurer Stefanie Pushies, and last year's class president vandenBerg.

"It is important that someone with a lot of animation be inside Scottie so we can see how fun and cartoonie he is," said junior JR Logan.

The new Scottie is modeled after Michigan State's "Sparty." Scottie's true existence will be kept confidential from the student body. Scottie will also be accompanied by at least one bodyguard who will be known as the Friend of Scottie.

The auditions consisted of a series of questions such as, "What do you feel is the importance of Scottie?" Candidates were also

asked for their reactions to possible scenarios that Scottie may face. Scottie candidates were then able to put on the costume head and with musical inspiration, show the judges how they would pump up the crowd.



Bryan Waugh

Even after the choice is made the identity of Scottie will remain a secret.

"Scottie brings an element of school spirit to the events he attends," said vandenBerg.

Scottie will attend home football games, many men's and women's basketball games, the Homecoming Parade, Parent Day, recruitment days and other various functions which involve parents, students and potential students.

"Scottie will benefit our student body as a whole in gaining support for athletic events," said sophomore Janay Anderson.

There are a couple of rules that Scottie must adhere to, such as absolutely no talking, no drinking while on the job, and no physical or verbal revelations of who is behind the costume.

The judges are hoping to make a decision soon on who will occupy the Scot-

tie costume.

"We hope to make Scottie available for events as soon as possible," said vandenBerg.

Anyone interested in more information about auditions can contact vandenBerg at x8270.

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Friday, March 23 4:00 p.m.

Friday, April 20 4:00 p.m.

Friday, May 18 4:00 p.m.

*All sessions will be held in Foust 133

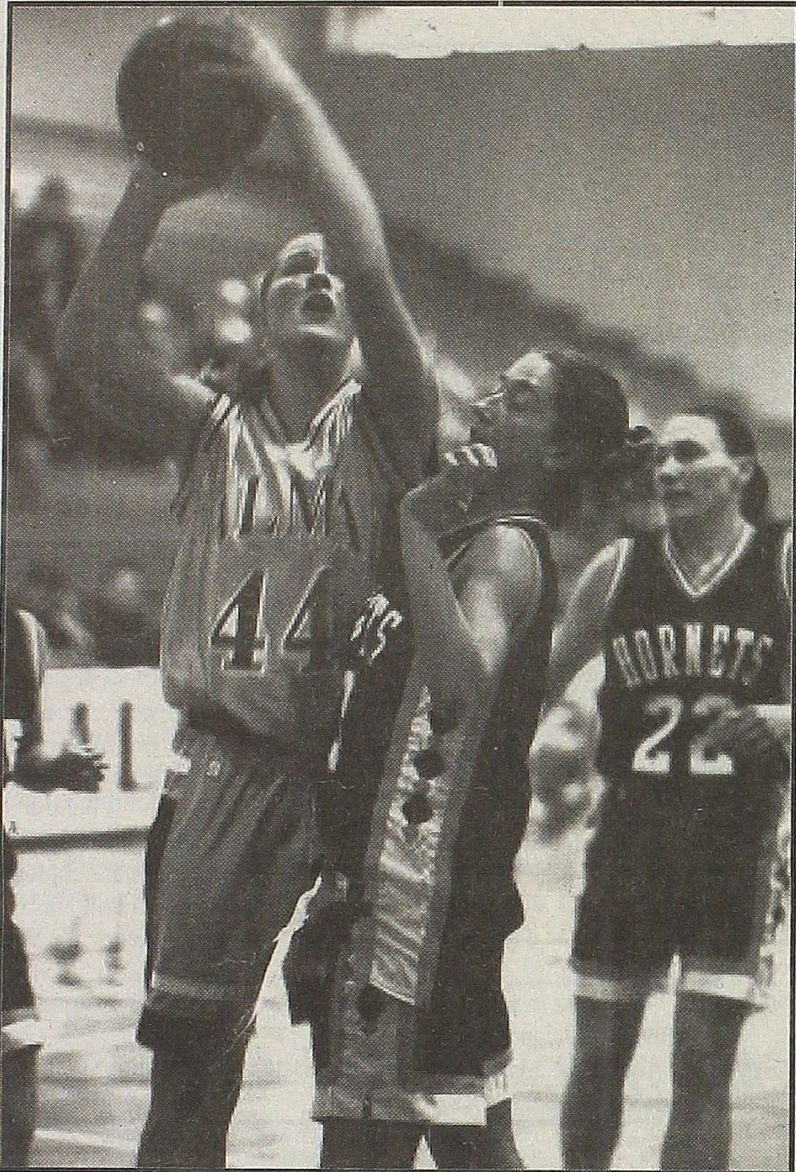
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Women's basketball continues strong for fifth win in a row



Shelly Ulfig (03) scores two in the last Saturday's victory over Kalamazoo. Bryan Waugh

By **DARBY CORNELIUS**
Staff Writer

With their fifth straight conference win, the Alma women's basketball team (14-5 overall) is riding the victory wave. The 64-54 win over Kalamazoo College on Saturday afternoon in Cappaert Gymnasium brought the Scots' record to 9-1 in the MIAA. They trail first-place Hope (10-0) by one game and continue to hold the fifth spot in the Great Lakes Region; the top six teams go to the NCAA Tournament.

At halftime last Saturday, the Scots were up 29-25 and the game stayed close to the end. Kalamazoo had a 10-0 run with 4:03 left in the game, but Alma still held a slim 53-51 lead. Alma dominated the final four minutes to outscore the Hornets 11-3 for the win.

Sophomore Shelly Ulfig led the Scots with 14 points and recorded six rebounds. Sophomore Janell Twietmeyer added 12 points and a team-high seven rebounds. Sophomore Kristie Gehrs' two assists midway through the second half landed back-to-back Twietmeyer three-pointers for a comfortable lead. Senior Joy Horton posted 12 points in the victory.

The Scots out-rebounded the Hornets 38-25 and held them to 28 percent shooting (15-for-53) from the field and 23 percent from the three-point line (3-for-13).

"This was a solid win over a very good Kalamazoo team," said coach Charlie Goffnett. "It was another victory in our quest for an MIAA title and a possible NCAA Tournament bid."

In last Wednesday's home contest against St. Mary's, the Scots came out on top with a 56-49 win. At the end of the first half, the Scots led 30-27, and the second half called for tough defense from Alma. With 2:00 left to play, the Scots were up by five (50-45) when Senior Rebekah Downing made two free throws to bump the lead to seven. Senior Julie Whitmore sunk two more free throws for the 56-49 win.

Ulfig led all scorers with 22 points, shooting 9-for-16 from the field, while Twietmeyer added 13 points. Ulfig also had her eighth double-double of the season by adding 10 rebounds in the win. First-year student Julia Payne posted three blocks to total eight in the last two games.

"Once again we didn't shoot the ball well, but used our solid defense to give us another strong victory," said Goffnett.

The Scots head to Olivet on Feb. 7 for a 7:30 p.m. game.

North America defeats the World NHL All-star game still action packed despite new format

By **AMY NOVAK**
Sports Editor

Despite the new format, the 51st NHL All-Star game still proved to be a battle of the goalies. 2001 marked the first year in which North America battled the World instead of the traditional East versus West competition. North America emerged with a 14-12 victory over the World Stars.

Boston Bruin Bill Guerin earned MVP honors with a hat trick and two assists, while hockey great Mario Lemieux added another to aid in the win. Colorado's Patrick Roy took the win, starting in goal for North America, while Buffalo's Dominik Hasek started for the World Stars.

Many expected to see a much lower scoring game due to the new format, but the final score speaks for itself; there was not that much of a difference. And so the eternal debate continues: Which format is better?

The new format pits the North American all-stars against those from the rest of the world, mainly Europe. Many argue that the advantage for this format is an increased level of competition due to teams formed by nationality. It also provides somewhat of a preview for Olympic competition to come. This

new format also grabs the attention of international audiences and hockey fans, not just those in the United States and Canada.

The old format had the East play the West. Many argue that the intensity level of this match-up was low because all of the players were friends with players on the other team. It made the competition more fun, rather than a serious and intense game. But still, it provided a little cross-country rivalry, not to mention a reunion for the NHL greats.

The NHL SuperSkills competition that took place on Saturday also worked under the new format, with the North emerging victorious in the competition. Sean Burke of the Phoenix Coyotes stopped 11 of 15 shots to win the goaltending competition while Boston's Bill Guerin won the title of Fastest Skater. Ray Bourque of the Colorado Avalanche netted the Most Accurate Shooter title to aid the North American team in the 15-13 overall win.

In terms of hometown heroes, Sergei Fedorov earned third in the fastest skater competition and was one of two competitors to hit the century mark at 100.7 mph. Despite these victories, both Fedorov and teammate Nicklas Lidstrom were booed when introduced at the All-Star game that took place in Colorado.

Classifieds

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Lisa: Thanks for leaving your room this weekend. I had so much fun!!

Happy belated 21st to our fearless photo god, Bryan Waugh! We love you!

Happy 40th Frank! Congratulations on passing that stone! Bruske Hall Staff

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