

Almanian

Alma College • 614 W. Superior St. • Alma, MI 48801

Alma fraternity loses some house privileges amid controversy

By **BILL LOTT**
Staff Writer

At 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 20, members of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity were informed that their house was being shut down and that those members living there had to find new housing by the February 23.

According to Martin Stack, associate dean of students and Greek coordinator, it was brought to his attention that a guest of the fraternity had broken into the house's attic earlier this term.

"The attics in all of the small housing units are strictly off-limits," said Stack. "It's for fire safety reasons because there is no escape."

According to the lease that the fraternity signed, if any person, whether an active member of the fraternity or not, were to enter into the attic then it would be cause for the immediate removal of all living there.

"The decision to close the house is a decision that is already made," said Stack.

Though the rules were written down, the decision has several members of the house upset. "We didn't do anything wrong," said Nick Scharer (01) who was forced to move into Gelston Hall on short notice. "It wasn't even an active member that did anything, let alone someone who was living there."

"It's ridiculous that they can kick ten people out of their house for something that none of them or their actives did," said Tom Danosky (01), who has now moved to Mitchell Hall. "When I went to bed at 4:30 in the morning nothing had happened and yet I'm still paying for it."

"The rules are clearly stated in the lease," said Stack. "All Greeks should know that they can't go up there and what the punishment is if someone does. They were not on any type of probation whatsoever; they just broke the rules and received the punishment."

Student Affairs was happy that the fraternity told them however. "I really give them credit for coming forward and not trying to hide it," Stack said. "Because of that

and the fact that it wasn't an active member that did this, we are giving them some leeway."

This includes opening the house for chapter events such as meetings on Sunday and Wednesday nights, as well as pledge events and initiation. Also, they are suggesting that the fraternity have members sign up for housing there next year, as they are expected to be able to return fall term next year.

"By giving us our meetings," said Scharer, "they basically only put the fraternity itself on strict social probation and went beyond that to

punish the ten people that lived there. We would have taken strict social probation and let them inspect us every night if they wanted just so that we could stay living there."

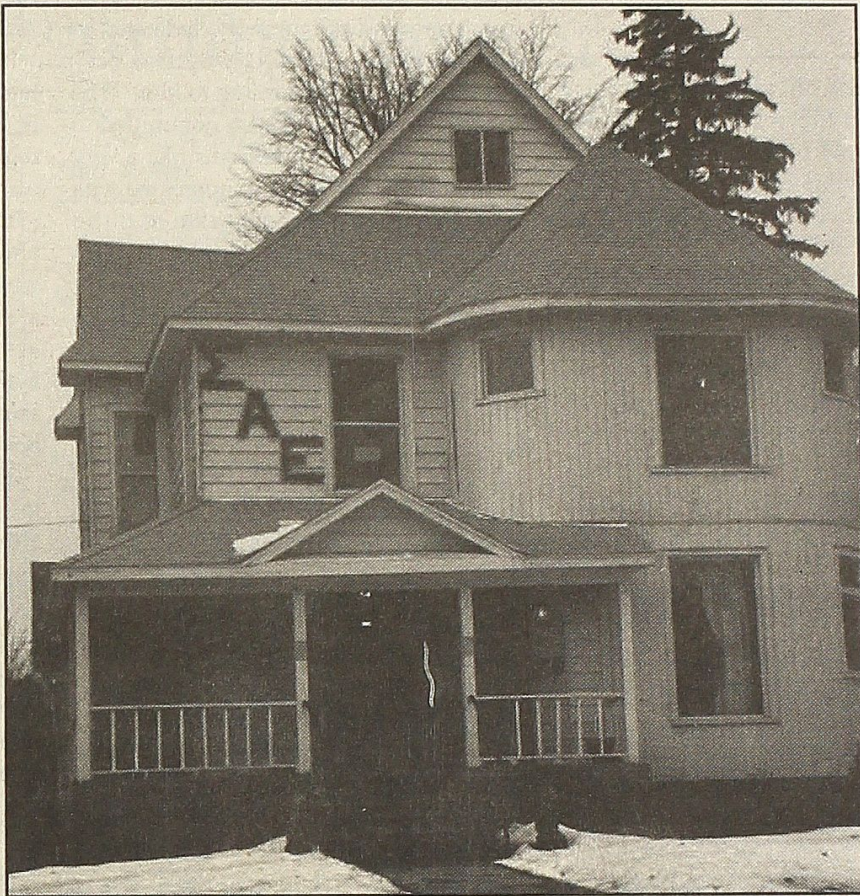
"We offered them a lot of scenario," said Danosky, "but they just wouldn't listen to us. As far as I'm concerned that's just not right."

"When I first came to Alma," said Scharer, summing up his beliefs about the issue, "one of the biggest things I liked was the administration claimed they would work

with the students on anything, but having been here for four years I have found that this is the exact opposite. This is just another example of that. It made me realize that all this school really wants is your money and won't work with you in any way."

To fuel the fire were the suspected leaks of information that occurred. "There were a lot of leaks," said Danosky. "We had a lot of people calling us asking where we were going to live, even before we knew we were being kicked out of the

(See **SHUT DOWN** on page 3)



Dan Joyce

Alma students reach finals in scholarship competition

By **ANNE MABBITT**
Staff Writer

For the second year in a row Alma College has produced two students as finalists for the prestigious Truman Scholarship.

The Truman Scholarship is designed to aid juniors who are going into public service by giving them \$3,000 toward their senior year of their undergraduate studies and the remaining \$27,000 toward graduate school. Each year, only 70-75 students nationwide receive this scholarship.

This year, Nicole Canute (02) and Chris Machnacki (02) are finalists for the scholarship. Last year the scholarship went to Jennifer Gibson (01) who became the first to receive the award at Alma College.

Canute and Machnacki are both in the process of mock interviewing in preparation for interviews conducted by the Truman Scholarship Organization. Canute is scheduled for an interview in Ann Arbor on Mar. 16. Machnacki is scheduled for

his mock interview in Washington D.C. on Mar. 26.

Canute is interested in pursuing a career in helping refugees in camps. She hopes to affect the United States refugee policy. She has applied to spend the summer interning for the Bureau of African Affairs in Rwanda. Last term she interned at the United States Mission to the United Nations in New York City.

"This has been a wonderful process for me to go through," Canute said, "and one that I will appreciate regardless of whether I win or lose."

Machnacki is interested in pursuing a career in foreign service dealing with arms control. He spent two months last summer in Poland working for a governmental agency. Last term Machnacki was in Washington, D.C. working with the State Department. He plans to go back to the Capitol this summer to work for a nonprofit organization, in the field of arms control and disarmament.

"As far as the Truman Scholarship goes," Machnacki said, "I am thankful for

all of the help from my advisor, Dr. Hulme, and Jen Gibson (01) and Jaena Wisniewski (01), who were finalists last year."

Both Canute and Machnacki are foreign service majors and three-year members of the Model United Nations team at Alma College.

The students who win the Truman Scholarship attend a week long leadership workshop at William Jewell College in Missouri. They then spend the weekend celebrating their success with a ceremony. Winners will also take a trip to the Truman Library in Independence, Missouri where they will receive an award for winning the Truman Scholarship.

Alma College has recently been able to enjoy more success in the area of competitive and prestigious scholarships. The recently organized Nationally Competitive Scholarship Committee seeks students who are eligible for several different competitive scholarships. Associate professor of political science, Sandy Hulme, is the faculty advisor for the Truman scholarship and has assisted

Canute and Machnacki in their effort toward achieving it.

"The faculty support at Alma College has been great," Canute said. "The time and effort that has been spent during this application process is something that I don't think faculty at any other school would be willing to give."

Testing SAT's?

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Permanent president yet to be named

Second candidate visits campus

By **OLGA WROBEL**
Staff Writer

Alma College is still without a permanent president, and there are many people applying for this position. The second candidate to visit campus was Philip Glotzbach, and he was here the week of February 19th.

Dr. Glotzbach is a very experienced educator, receiving his BA from Notre Dame, and both his MA and Ph.D. from Yale University. His degrees were in philosophy.

Glotzbach grew up in the Mid-western town of Dayton, Ohio. Since receiving his Ph.D., he has worked as an instructor at Yale University and Denison University as a dean at the University of Redlands in California, and he is currently employed as the vice president for academic affairs at the University of Redlands.

Professionals he was acquainted with nominated Philip Glotzbach for the position of president. He was interested in this school for many reasons. Alma has much to offer, and to him the most important was the

potential the school has, and the strong academic reputation. Glotzbach found the search committee extremely dedicated to their positions, and this was also very important to him. According to him, "The Search committee was very committed to advancing the school. It seems like a very special place." He was also impressed with the service learning program and the emphasis of planning material in student engagements.

However he felt that every school has a need for the president to work on good relationships with the students, faculty, and staff, and Alma's entire constituency. "The next president should be accessible, and interact with the folks on campus," Glotzbach stated. Of course every college campus has financial issues that need to be solved. Glotzbach would like to keep developing endowment here at Alma.

Glotzbach has a strong background in education, over 20 years to be exact, and portrays most of the requisites necessary to be a college president. He has experience in the way a high quality institution such as a college functions, and he also has a

national perspective on this. Glotzbach is the chair of the American Conference of Academic Deans (ACAD). He has contact with people all over the country, and in higher education this is very helpful. Since he lives in California, and he is aware of the regional differences, and Glotzbach said, "I can bring many new ideas due to this."

The part that Glotzbach would most enjoy about being president at Alma College would be the fact that the years at school are some of the most exciting in a person's life. He stated, "I enjoy working with people making that transformation. It is very satisfying to see the move and change from being a first year student to graduating."

He is an active supporter of the arts, and loves music, film and theatre. According to Glotzbach, "The arts should be a very important part of campus life." His wife is a voice and theatre teacher.

Some final thoughts that Glotzbach gave were that he would take the responsibility of being president very seriously, and he felt very privileged to be invited and spend time here at Alma College.

U.S. and World News in Brief



WASHINGTON - The House of Representatives passed a large portion of President Bush's \$1.6 trillion tax-relief package last Friday. With most Democrats opposing, majority Republicans predicted the 10-year, \$958 billion cut would pass. The tax-relief package still has to go through the Senate in May where it might not receive as much support.

WASHINGTON - The Census Bureau reported for the first time the number of Hispanics living in the U.S. has surpassed the black population. The 2000 survey showed that there are 35.3 million Hispanics in the country, up 60 percent from 1990. The black population only grew from 30 million to 34.7 million. The growth is a result of immigration.

WASHINGTON - Juanita Lozano, of Austin, Texas, was charged with mail fraud, making false statements to the FBI, and perjury in an attempt to secretly send a videotape of George W. Bush's debate preparations to Vice President Gore's campaign. As an employee at a media company that produced ads for Bush's campaign, she copied 120 pages of debate material and a videotape of Bush practicing with Gore. If convicted she faces 15 years in prison and a \$750,000 fine.

ISRAEL - Israeli Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon, received a letter of congratulations from Yassar Arafat, the Palestinian leader. Arafat said he was ready for a face-to-face meeting after considering the two leaders' personal history and Sharon's unstable political position. Peace talks were suspended prior to Israel's Feb. 6 elections.

AFGHANISTAN - Afghanistan's ruling Taliban movement issued orders to destroy the nation's most famous Buddha statues. The Taliban declared the statues as standing in the way of Islamic influence. The U.N. asked President Hosni Mubarak to try and influence the Taliban to spare the statues. Sri Lanka offered to fund transportation of the statues to India for shelter.

New faculty named in five departments

By **BILL LOTT**
Staff Writer

Five academic departments have hired, or are in the process of hiring, faculty for next term. The departments include chemistry, education, English, exercise and health Science (EHS), and history.

Dr. Mark S. Cubberly, currently an assistant professor of chemistry at the University of Texas-Austin, will be joining the chemistry staff next fall and teaching organic chemistry.

According to Dr. Scott Hill, chemistry department chair, Cubberly will hopefully help the department immensely.

"He'll be diversifying our field of chemistry," said Hill about Cubberly's interests in macro- and supramolecular chemistry.

The English department will gain two new faculty members next year, both of which

bring great backgrounds with them. Dr. Laura Kuske Von Wallmenick, currently teaching at the University of Washington, will be teaching courses in early American literature, while Dr. Robert Vivian will be added to the creative writing team.

"Both are very interested and committed to teaching," said Dr. Carol Bender, English department chair. "That's very important to us."

"Von Wallmenick's diverse range of interests and experiences from her exciting research in early captivity narrative to her expertise in writing and teaching with technology will bring excitement to our department," said Bender. Von Wallmenick has also been honored with the Joan Weber Prize of Excellence in Teaching.

Vivian, though still young, is an accomplished author and playwright. Several of his essays have been published, and his book of creative non-fiction and another essay will soon be published in

"Harpers." twenty of his non-broadway plays have been produced, and he has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize, one of the highest awards for authors.

"He will be a great addition to the creative writing team," said Bender.

The EHS department will gain Dr. Maurie Leutkemeier next year. Currently at the University of Utah, Leutkemeier is an exercise physiologist and will be teaching a broad range of courses including exercise physiology, nutrition, and physiology.

"He's a great teacher," said Dr. John Davis, EHS department chair. "He really enjoys teaching and interacting with students, which is one of the main reasons he's coming to a small school like Alma from a big university."

Next year, the history department will include Dr. Paul Crawford, who specializes in Medieval Europe, and the Crusades.

(See **FACULTY** on page 3)

Plans for regulation size soccer field in works

By **DONNA PAPPAS**
Staff Writer

The Scot athletic program has plans for a new soccer field. With the construction of this new field, the soccer teams will be able to play on a regulation size field next season.

The current soccer field is ten yards shy of a full size field. However, the grandfather clause has enabled the teams to play games on the current field.

The width difference has been a "significant hindrance since it is significantly different than other fields," said Denny Griffin, men's athletic director.

The new, full size field is scheduled to be completed by Sept. 1. "I am confident that it will be done... providing weather cooperates of course," said Griffin.

A fundraising program has been underway to raise money for the field. Donations have been received from parents, alumni, corporations and others with ties to the college. Some anonymous donations have been received as well.

The goal for the new field was \$150,000 which will go toward the field surface, bleachers, a score board and press box. The end date for the fund-raiser was March 1.

Field construction will take place out by the new baseball field, Klenk Park. The school owns 30 to 40 acres in that area, which leaves room for development as it is needed.

With an impressive men's record recently, Griffin hopes for the opportunity to host a regional competition.

"This year we will have an advantage to play on a larger field and at tournaments we won't be at a disadvantage," said Jake Olson, a senior member of the men's soccer team.

Griffin also looking toward the possibility of hosting the NCAA tournament in the future. The field may be open for high school teams to play tournaments as well.

Sophomore Kristin Shea from the women's soccer team said, "Finally having a home field will make it a lot easier for us to work as a team and keep our game consistent."

"I am excited the project is forthcoming, we have been talking about it for a long time," said Griffin.

National Organization of Women president visits

Students hear presentation on women's rights from feminist leader Patricia Ireland

By SCOTT TIMMRECK
Staff Writer

The Heritage Center buzzed with talk of women's rights issues last Monday as Patricia Ireland, president of the National Organization of Women (NOW), spoke out about birth control, reproductive freedom, and George W. Bush's controversial faith-based initiatives.

"Coming from a conservative background, I didn't really agree with everything she said," Jonathan Becks (04) said, "but I thought her presentation was very persuasive and informative."

Five days into National Women's Month, Ireland began the 90-minute session with her take on Indecision 2000 and the pardons surrounding ex-president Bill Clinton.

Ireland spoke on the costs and benefits of feminist activism before delving into her take on a woman's right to control her own fertility, which she called one of the greatest advances in history.

Ireland criticized Bush's faith-based initiatives, noting they would advance the anti-abortion cause.

In one of the more amusing moments of the evening, she compared Bush and vice-president Dick Cheney to the scarecrow and tin man in *The Wizard of Oz*, the first needing a brain and the second needing a heart.

Various quotes from the likes of John Adams and Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor were scattered throughout the speech, as were numerous statistics, including a survey that claimed 63 percent of Americans think U.S. law should remain

how it is or be more liberal.

The overall reaction to Ireland's presentation was favorable.

"It's very nice to have a female role model appear at Alma College," said Juliann Schaffer (03).

"She was very sensitive about all the issues," said Scott Sawyer (03).

Ireland began her work as a women's rights activist in the 1960s while serving as a flight attendant for Pan American Airlines. When her husband needed dental work, she discovered her medical coverage did not include spouses, though the male employees were given coverage for their spouses.

The U.S. Labor Department eventually took notice of her complaint, and she won the battle.

She performed some free legal work for NOW before serving as its secretary and vice-president.

Out of concern for abortion rights, Ireland developed the "Project Stand Up For Women" which includes training activists and lobbying with Congress.

She also began NOW's "Global Feminist Program," which has worked for human rights in developing nations.

Ireland's book is called *What Women Want*. In it, she offers a series of lessons for activists and others curious about the causes NOW works for.

Her cause Monday night was to inform Alma's students and staff about her beliefs and work.

"I was pleased with the turnout, especially considering it's the first day back from spring break," Ireland said. "The students were asking very good questions."

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house."

Though rumors have spread that several organizations on campus knew before the ΣAEs, Stack says that this has not panned out. "There was a lot of confusion about things happening that weren't even related to this."

Stack does admit, however, that some did learn of it before the ΣAEs. "I told Bill Devers, the Inter-Fraternity Council President, in my weekly meeting and told him that I was going to speak with Andy Garrison later that afternoon. However, I was unable to actually meet with him until that night and the issue was brought up in the Executive Committee meeting of the IFC earlier that night. That was not the intent and I am very sorry about it. The chapter should have known before that."

Though the house has been shut down, Stack still claims that the administration is pleased with the ΣAE fraternity. "The group has a long-standing tradition here and is supported fully by the administration. It is an unfortunate situation and everyone's trying to make the best of it. It's something that can be overcome."

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Crawford has extensive teaching experience and is currently at the University of Wisconsin-Osh Kosh. He will be teaching surveys of early European history, the Renaissance, and a new course on the Crusades.

"I think he will connect very well with the students," said Dr. Michael Yavenditti, department of history chair. "I think the students will find him very exciting, motivating and enthusiastic."

The education department is the only department that has not yet moved past the search phase.

"We have been working very hard to find the best candidate," said Dr. Anthony Rickard, department of education chair, "and we currently have an offer out to that person."

Accroding to Rickard, the search committee has been looking for a candidate with expertise in literacy and/or educational psychology. They are also trying to find someone who has experience working with student teachers and has a scholarly agenda. The department wants someone that has been engaged in working with teachers and on committees and organizations.

Former trustees fund new scholarship for undergrad summer research

By ANNE MABBITT
Staff Writer

A new scholarship has been established at Alma College thanks to former trustees, Eleanor H. Currie and her late husband Gilbert Currie.

The Currie Scholarship will be awarded to three students this year. It is available to sophomores and juniors who wish to work on a scholarly project over the summer with the help of a faculty sponsor. Students who receive this award will receive \$2,500 for work on the project.

The scholarship is a 25-year gift from the Currie family who have donated a cumulation of more than one million dollars in recent years. In honor of their generosity, the Curries are now members of the Alma College Wright Society.

Mr. Currie served as a trustee for nearly fifteen years at the college and was a trustee emeritus until his recent death in 1998. The Curries were members of the Midland Memorial Presbyterian Church for many years. Through their church, they became trustees and friends of the college.

For many years Mr. Currie served as an attorney in Midland and enjoyed wide recognition from his community.

Robert D. Swanson, president of Alma College from 1956 to 1980, knew the Curries well.

"He was a model for other trustees, by his good character and dealings with others," Swanson said. "He was well respected and had a great sense of humor."

This scholarship does not replace the previous MacGregor Scholarship, which ran out of funding last year. It is a new scholarship but follows many of the rules that the MacGregor Scholarship did. The Currie Scholarship will be a much longer lasting scholarship than the MacGregor.

One stipulation of the Currie Scholarship is that students who are awarded a stipend scholarship cannot receive the Currie Scholarship in the same year. Proposals for projects should include lab or field work in the sciences, library or archival work for the humanities or social sciences, or original performance or artwork in the performing arts.

The three recipients of the Currie Scholarship will be notified Mar. 19. Applications were due Mar. 9, but will be in the Provost's Office next year for anyone interested. The scholarship is awarded based on the quality of the proposal and will be reviewed by chairpersons of the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences departments and by the Dean of Faculty.

"It's nice to have such generous friends of the college," Angela Soltys (01) said. "Scholarships like this help out a lot of students and give us excellent opportunities."

Alma student wins big during Spring Break

By OLGA WROBEL
Staff Writer

How often do people get a chance to be in the audience of "The Price is Right", get picked out of 300 people to play, and actually win the Showcase Showdown? Hardly ever, but this happened to an Alma College student.

First year student Darby Kennerly was lucky enough to have all of those things happen to her when she visited California over spring break.

Kennerly went to San Diego with her roommate to visit some friends, and on Mar. 1 they decided to go to Los Angeles and participate in "The Price is Right." They had to be there at 6 a.m. and stand in very long lines as the producer of the show interviewed each person.

Out of the 300 audience members, nine are chosen to be contestants. The contestants are not told this, so the television reactions are authentic.

Kennerly was interviewed numerous times, and in third meeting the producer secretly selected her as a participant.

When Kennerly was called down to Contestant's Row she bid on flatware. She won and moved onto the stage where she

played Blackjack in order to win a bedroom set. Kennerly had never played Blackjack in her life, yet she still won.

Next, Kennerly spun the wheel along with two other people, and with 60 cents she was the closest to one dollar without going over.

After this Kennerly was in the Showcase Showdown and bid on a trumpet, a digital camera, and a 2001 Jeep Wrangler. Kennerly guessed \$18,000 and the total for her Showcase was a close \$18,800, giving her the win over the other contestant.

She plans on donating the bedroom set she won to the Battered Women and Children's Center in Indianapolis, her hometown.

Kennerly will also either sell the trumpet and donate the money to other charities, or she will donate it to a music center.

She is currently undecided about what she will do with the other items.

"Its nothing like you'd expect," Kennerly said. "I was not nervous at all, but in complete shock."

"I couldn't have done it without the help of my friends and the audience," Kennerly said. "It still hasn't sunk in, and probably won't until the items are shipped to my house," she said.

The episode that Kennerly appeared on will air Mar. 30 on CBS at 11 a.m.

Staff Editorial

Housing for the 2001-2002 school year has arrived, and students are busy finding roommates, suitemates, housemates and vying for positions in dorms or small housing units.

Last year Alma College implemented a new part of the housing process for students, making it possible for only 50 seniors to live off campus instead of any senior which chooses to do so. Seniors are now left with very few options as they end their last year of college, which includes job and graduate school interviews, and for some, student teaching or internships.

Although Alma is considered a residential college, the College should consider changing their housing options for seniors until they can provide better options within College housing for upperclassmen.

Alma has a minimal amount of "campus apartments" available to students to live in. These apartments house a very small number of the student population. Those students, along with the fifty students chosen in the lottery, are the only non-commuter students allowed to live in an apartment situation.

This policy does a great disservice to Alma seniors leaving the campus and venturing out into the real world. In the real world your bathrooms are not automatically cleaned every morning, your dinner

does not appear cooked and ready at 5 p.m., and you are responsible for paying everyday bills, doing the grocery shopping, and taking out the trash.

Most students at Alma fondly remember living in the dorms and having fun with their friends. But as our minds mature, so does our need for a more mature living environment. Students working on a thesis, applying to graduate school, taking that important test for medical school or law school or waking early every morning for student teaching have needs that the college cannot meet with residential housing.

Students that have to get up early for student teaching or internships often complain of the late hours kept by other residents or the inability to eat dinner when it is convenient, not when Hamilton Commons is open.

Students appreciate the care and concern they received from the College during the first year or two at Alma, but as we mature so do our needs. In order for the College to truly prepare students for the real world, they need to let students live in the real world. There are currently future plans for more apartments for students. However, until this becomes a reality, students should not be punished for a lack of housing options at Alma.

Letters to the Editors

To the editors:

This letter is in response to the Staff Editorial of the Feb. 20 issue of The Almanian. Quality of the Security staff at Alma College was brought into question. Since not one staff member made an effort to inquire about our qualifications, we decided to take this opportunity to supply you with this information.

Our department consists of a four-person security team. As a whole, we represent 61 years of security experience, which includes police work, licensed EMT, industrial firefighting, strike duties and progress in acquiring degrees in the criminal justice field.

Furthermore, we are not an extension of Student Affairs. Our operations are out of the Physical Plant. When we are on shift, we are the eyes and ears of the maintenance staff.

The rounds we do consist of locking doors, checking mechanical equipment and reporting any suspicious activity observed. With the exception of on-the-job training, we are not offered additional training to handle any concerns of the students. To that regard, we currently do not possess a computer for our department to maintain an

accurate and useful record of campus information.

For the level of security experience we are required to possess prior to employment with the College, that experience is limited to minimal use. We are not consulted on issues pertaining to safety or security, such as lighting, placement of the security phone or the replacement of equipment that poses a possible security breach.

It needs to be remembered that everyone who works or lives on this campus has a responsibility to be security conscious. This includes locking doors, not propping doors open, being aware of where you leave your car and locking doors, calling security as soon as an incident occurs, etc.

The Security Department takes its job very seriously and we do as much as we can with what we have. However, as our campus grows, the Security Department remains a four person staff with limited resources. Only with the cooperation of administration, faculty, staff and students can security be an effective tool on campus.

Leslie Wadle
David Spratke
Ted Jaure
Jeremy Wilkins

The Almanian

Serving Alma College since 1907

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Statement of Purpose:

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

Staff Editorial Policy:

Opinions expressed weekly in the "Staff Editorial" reflect the views of The Almanian Editorial Board. These views in

no way reflect the views of the entire Alma College community.

Letter Policy:

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

Alarm: Students must know their protections

By RACHEL KUHL
Staff Writer

Most college students fully reside at their school of choice. Upon leaving home, their beloved bedrooms were taken over by younger siblings, turned into home offices or now amount to nothing more than a guest bed for when they return during Christmas and summer vacations. Keeping that in mind, as a college student, it is important to remember that most of your "stuff" is crammed into that tiny little dorm room you now call home; and that "stuff" may or may not be protected in the occurrence of fire, flood or theft.

It is appalling how little concern or consideration Alma College students have towards the policies designed for their protection. For example, look around your room. Do you have any idea how much your "stuff" is worth? I'm talking about your computer, clothes, compact disks, Playstation 2, refrigerator and even those books for classes that you shelled out at least \$200 for. If there was a fire in your building tomorrow, would you know the monetary value of what you lost? Do you have any idea how or if you would be reimbursed?

Most college students could not tell you how their tuition money is really dispersed; they just assume it goes where it should. In that same mindset, most college students could not tell you how they would be reimbursed if the worst case scenario occurred; they just assume they would be.

The fact of the matter is most Homeowner's Insurance policies (taken out by your parents) cover most, but not necessarily all of the damages incurred by fire, flood, theft or any other natural disaster. If the damages are incurred due to negligence or responsibility of the college, such as faulty wiring or a pipe burst, then the college would reimburse the Homeowner's Insurance Company, or the student depending on the amount of damage.

Even though Dean Kridler, dean of student affairs, said, "The college would do what is right," they technically take no responsibility for a student's personal belongings.

Residence halls are inspected once a year, while Greek and small housing are inspected once by the college and once by the city of Alma. There are also supposed to be fire alarm checks and drills at least once a term.

The fire alarm systems for the residence halls and Greek and small housing are all wired into a central system to help in a speedier response time in (See ALARM on page 6)

March 14, 2001

OPINION

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Sports Track

Stereotyping a culture: Team mascots

By **MICHAEL MURPHY**
Opinion Editor

For 20 years, various Native American groups have been protesting against college and professional sports teams for using their name and stereotypes for team mascots. A few years ago, Eastern Michigan University changed its name from the Huron to the Eagles in order to appease the Huron tribe.

Now, the University of North Dakota Fighting Sioux is battling with the Native American Sioux nation that is requesting the University to change their name and mascot.

This is a very touchy subject because it encounters race and ethnicity barriers. Tired of having demeaning caricatures of barely-clad crazed warriors representing university teams, Native American groups are outraged at the ways they are stereotypically depicted. Any reasonable person can understand why the groups feel that universities

are rendering a false image of the actual group, in this instance the "Fighting Sioux."

However, those disagreeing argue that Native Americans are not the only ethnicity stereotyped by team mascots. The Notre Dame Fightin' Irish is probably the most obvious example. Certainly, you will not find a bunch of Irishmen in South Bend protesting against a university that has made millions because of its football team and famous mascot depicting the Irish as short leprechaun with scruffy red beards and funky green suits.

And need I say, the Alma Scots?

Although these examples may seem plausible, they are not. The Irish and Scotch cannot feel the same outrage that Native Americans feel, for it may seem to them as though these professional sports teams - a product of a society that basically eradicated their culture - almost make a mockery of themselves.

Many mascots depict stereotypes of Native American culture: spears, war paint, long hair and so on. There was

more to Native American culture than those stereotypes.

However, I think that since sports - and therefore sports mascots - are so ingrained in our society, this conflict can actually be solved benefiting both sides. Native Americans can coerce the schools to alleviate the stereotypical caricatures of their mascots, but yet keep the same name.

By allowing schools to keep their name, Native Americans may actually bring more awareness and understanding to the history of their nation. For example, if the Florida State University mascot was not the Seminoles, it can certainly be maintained that not many people would know that the Seminoles lived in Florida and that Chief Osceola (a regular feature at FSU games) was one of their greatest leaders.

In other words, Native Americans can gain more recognition and promote their history. This history, which in some cases may be a terrifying one due to racism and ethnocentrism, will then allow people to understand the fate of an almost-forgotten culture that happened a century ago.

His Story / Her Story

Piercing piercing

By **BRYAN WAUGH**
Photographer/Staff Writer

Can just imagine waking up after a long week of late nights groggy and staggering, trying to sort through your things and get packed to make the flight back home. Stuffing your bags into some nasty cab which is the only thing that smells worse than you.

Walking into the airport through the metal detectors and having to continually empty your pockets until finally getting swiped by that wand and having it center on that certain area where it never should. Then as it jumps into your pounding brain you remember and then you think to yourself who talked me into this.

Having the embarrassment of dropping your pants to your knees so that an ogre like security guard can look for jewels, finding only the brutal spearing of your dignity: this is not what I want to realize on the plane, especially with those small dimly lit bathrooms.

It is interesting seeing people with 20 rings in one ear, 30 in the other, two in the brow, one in the lip, two in the hip, and one in the, well you can imagine.

I think it is funny how crazy parents get when one of their kids get an earring or something pierced. While at the same time they are teaching their children not to stereotype others, they don't want their kids to get an earring because it will make them look like a little hoodlum. Ironical as it may be, adults beyond our generation are not as flexible as to what a so-called nice or good person should look like.

However there are a few exceptions. I mean Harrison Ford has an earring and some other middle aged want to be 25 again, mid life crisis people are lining up to get poked.

Some types of piercing are just not made for both sexes to enjoy. For example, if I were to see J. K. Rowlings walking down the beach with her belly button pierced I would think, hey that's kind of cool. But I

wouldn't feel the same way if I saw Mr. Belvedere strutting his stuff with a skull hanging from his navel.

All things considered I don't really think that a little hole made when you are a kid fooling around is going to make a whole lot of difference when you grow up. Someday you will realize that you are too old for nonsense like piercing. Ya whatever, when I turn seventy whatever doesn't work anymore or I just can't feel, is going to get a ring through it, why not?

Stop being so snooty and let people express themselves anyway they want. The world tries to be so damn politically correct

no one can have any fun. What harm is it going to do if some one gets a "questionable" piercing. It's not like getting my tongue pierced is going to make me go Jeffrey Dahmer on someone.

All of a sudden I am going to have the urge to start stacking severed toes into brief cases.

How about the rumors that if you get your tongue pierced you will never be able to taste anything again. What a load of crap! What kind of idiot would believe that. That is about as logical as someone telling you the devil is making you do it. Like he has nothing else to do but force people to get needles stuck through themselves for a decorative effect.

All in all, there are morons everywhere and if you don't agree with me, well you may just be one too. Don't listen to what other people say, listen to what you say!

By **RACHEL KUHL**
Staff Writer

Why would you deliberately want to poke holes in the most sensitive nether regions of your body? Now I'm not talking about the basic spots like your ears and belly button. I am talking about nipples, genitalia and yes, even your tongue. I just don't understand it. First of all, OUCH! Second of all, WHY?

Your ears are not that painful to do, and it's decorative, at least in most cases. Your tummy: hey if you've got the ab's, flaunt

them. And I can even understand the argument for nose and eyebrow rings being a further style statement. But the puncture wounds that only you, your lover and God see confuse me.

Nipples and genitals were not meant to have rings dangling from them. They weren't genetically designed for it, and I can just imagine the unexpected perils involved once you have the procedure.

Depending on the location of the genitalia piercing, you could poke an eye out. And you better make sure you remove all buttons and fasteners off your shirts so they don't "nip" anything when dressing.

Fellas' watch those zippers! And hello,

Michigan is a cold state; doesn't that chilled metal create at least a little discomfort in those oh-so-sensitive spots?

As for the tongue thing, I just worry about the upkeep and infections involved. From what I understand, you have to gargle after every meal (hope your tastebuds don't go numb), and try not to chip your teeth when talking, eating, drinking, laughing... well, you get the idea.

There are more creative (and less painful) ways to express yourself. Tattoos hurt and are permanent, and while you love Tweety Bird on your butt now, think how you'll feel when you're 40 and Tweety now passes for Big Bird

Piercings are a little bit better in that you can remove them when you outgrow that phase of your life. Even then, is a piercing for the sake of style or rebellion really worth it?

Even some of the more common areas like ears and stomachs have their share of medical and painful hassles. There is bleeding, soreness, swelling, infection and a host of other possible complications. Now do you really want to deal with those risks when considering more private piercing locations? Well, maybe the swelling part is appealing to some.

Maybe it is one of those things I was not meant to understand. I only have my ears pierced, and even those I've only pierced once which is enough for me. The thought of metal things protruding out of any other places on my body sends a not-so-pleasant shiver down my spine.

I have a low tolerance for pain, I'm too safe, and not quite adventurous enough. I'll settle for expressing myself in more productive ways, like discussing genitalia and nipple piercings in the college newspaper.



If you would like to see an issue debated between the sexes than email your suggestions to ALMANIAN@ALMA.EDU

Point / Counterpoint

Testing SATs

Richard Atkinson, president of the University of California system, has proposed making the SAT an optional part of the application for all students who wish to attend the University of California. Should the SAT remain an important aspect in the admittance process for colleges?

By SCOTT TIMMRECK
Staff Writer

Few people enjoy the SAT. I did not. No one I know found joy in waking up early one Saturday morning to fill in small bubbles with the ubiquitous #2 pencil. In the next few years, we will see - like at the three selective colleges of Bates, Bowdoin and Mount Holyoke - many large universities drop the SAT as an admissions requirement on the grounds that the examination measures absolutely nothing about how a student will perform in college and beyond.

But the Standard Achievement Test is not completely useless. No institution should kill it. Granted, that Saturday morning is rough, and so is the \$800 price tag the Princeton Review pastes on six-week SAT classes. Yet imagine you are a student in a rough part of Detroit or a ghetto of Boston. More than likely, your learning environment-apatetic peers, underpaid teachers, crumbling infrastructure-will lend itself to a poor education and consequently a poor high school transcript. And what will the small, elite, liberal arts schools or the upstanding universities do with a transcript that reads "2.2?" Guess what-it's headed for the reject pile.

But wait. Your SAT score was in the 1300s, just like Stephen King's. Are you less - deserving of an education than someone like the famous novelist? No. The SAT allows students who attend schools in poor neighborhoods to shine and be considered for placement in an elite institution.

In the same manner, the SAT allows students who attend a competitive high

school to strut their intelligence, which often is not accurately measured in an environment with future Duke and Harvard students. In a high school in which a 3.7 garners a class rank of 65/200, an SAT score can substitute for the 2/200-rank a student might obtain at a less competitive school in which most students do not particularly care about grades.

The same principle applies not only for admissions procedures, but in scholarship consideration. Sure, a student in a school with a graduating class of 16 and low academic standards can finish with a 4.0 and a valedictorian robe, and get a full ride to a relatively good institution. Yet the same student in a class of 250 with higher academic standards could finish with a 3.5 and a rank of 37; and look, that person gets only half of the valedictorian's scholarship. SAT scores provide some indication of where the student really stands in comparison to the rest of the nation.

And honestly, a good score doesn't really hurt. Vanderbilt will certainly admit a student with a 3.9 grade-point-average and a 1450 SAT over a student with a 3.9 grade-point-average and a 1050 SAT, assuming their other qualifications are relatively similar.

The SAT does indeed have some faults, but no educational institution needs to get rid of the exam. The school may pass over qualified and exceptionally bright students on account of their transcript, but the SAT provides an indication of where students really stand not only in the nation, but also in their high schools. Colleges and universities should not rid their admissions procedures of the SAT-doing so would be unfair.

By DONNA PAPPAS
Staff Writer

The SAT has become a hypocritical method of testing in our nation. Initially created to level the playing field for all students in the college admissions process, it is now an element of discrimination.

Intended to give bright students from poor schools a greater chance to gain admittance to college, the SAT now only benefits those wealthy students who are able to pay for coaching sessions to better prepare for the test.

SAT scores measure a student's ability to take the SAT. With a little money, this skill can be improved.

The SAT may provide a standard factor in the admissions process, but these scores reflect more accurately a student's socioeconomic status and school quality than they do a student's success in college.

The test is also racially biased. Today, a black student whose parents have the same level of education and income as a comparable sample of whites score about 120 points lower on average.

Maybe there wouldn't be a discrepancy if the test writers weren't white and did not impress their cultural biases into SAT questions.

In addition, the SAT has been expanded to uses far beyond its original intent. The PSAT, made up of retired SAT questions, is usually given to 11th graders for practice. Today, eighth graders taking the test has increased by 125 percent from 1995 to 1999.

For some of these young students, practicing for the SAT becomes an unhealthy obsession. Some classrooms are setting aside hours each month to prepare for a test four years down the road.

This eliminates classroom time for students to concentrate on academics. Students divert their focus from learning chemistry or poetry and spend time

practicing word games and math riddles instead.

"The time involved was not aimed at developing the students' reading and writing abilities but rather their test-taking skills," said Richard Atkinson, president of the University of California, to the Associated Press.

The SAT is also being used as a tool for determining "school report cards." These report cards are used to compare or evaluate teachers, schools, districts and states. So how are these targets supposed to respond? Teach to the test.

For a fee, a school may purchase a PSAT Summary of Answers Report to direct their curriculums toward the test material in an attempt to improve their students' performance on this "curriculum-neutral" test.

"I concluded what many others have concluded: that America's overemphasis on the SAT is compromising our educational system," said Atkinson.

Atkinson is proposing dropping the requirement for University of California applicants to submit SAT as well as ACT scores. He aims at continuing to require the SAT II which tests students in subject areas.

Already, about 280 of our nation's 2,083 four-year colleges and universities make the SAT optional for some or all applicants. These schools realize that we should reward the achievements of each student's life, not the innate intelligence they have gained through their genes.

We should shift importance from testing the intelligence of prospective students toward determining the student's potential and the adversity that they have overcome.

Is it true that we were not "just another number" when we enrolled in Alma College? Wasn't it "just a number" that got us in? This institution should join in the force against standardized testing and live up to it's own claims that we are students not numbers.

If there is an issue that you, the reader would like to have discussed through Point/Counterpoint please email the Almanian at ALMANIAN@ALMA.EDU

(ALARM from page 4)

case of a fire on campus. All residence halls meet current fire safety standards for the age and type of building they are; however, none of the residence halls have sprinkler systems.

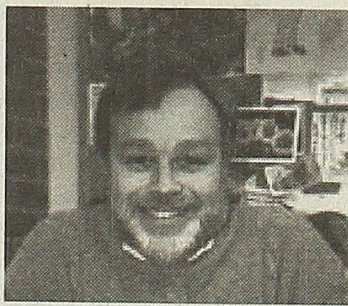
Another concern students should be aware of is the threat of Carbon Monoxide poisoning. Carbon Monoxide detectors are not provided by the College for Greek or small housing units. However, they are recommended due to the age of most homes and living units available for students. Aside from monetary concerns involving your things, you

should also be aware of the issues that might mean the difference between living and dying.

Any responsible homeowner knows the facts about their home. They know what has been done, what needs to be done and how they are protected should something go wrong. Alma College, for most students, is home and the same rules should apply. It is the student's responsibility to know and understand their living environment, and know where they stand if there is ever a situation placing their safety, belongings and even their life in jeopardy.

Viewpoints

What do you think about body piercings?



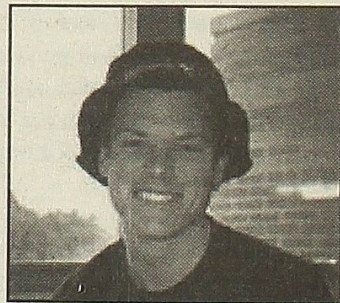
"They give me the creeps!"

Steven Vest



"They look good on some people but not on others."

Katie Appold (04)



"Anything that is visible wearing normal clothes is okay."

Derek Finkbeiner (02)

March 14, 2001

Entertainment Briefs

This week's "Survivor" update...

Both tribes merged to form a new group, and the first member of it was voted off after a tie down tribe lines. In the end Jeff was voted off because of a past vote cast against him and Colby — who also had five votes against him — was spared.

Puff Daddy to face more litigation...

Jurors in the Sean "Puffy" Combs trial will begin deliberating today. Next, Puffy will face lawsuits from four of the witnesses who testified against him.

Finally, some good news...

Jason Alexander — "Seinfeld's" George Costanza — plans to return to television in an ABC sitcom about a motivational speaker who has problems practicing what he preaches.

Altogether now, "It's about time!"

Sporty Spice — reputedly the biggest vocal talent in the Spice Girls — recently announced plans to leave the once-beloved girl group and start a solo career.

Need a getaway vehicle?

JFK Jr.'s jeep is now for sale on eBay. Bidding will end Mar. 18. Exactly who put the SUV up for sale remains unclear.

Sequined bandannas for the whole family

Chris Kirkpatrick — better known as the funny looking member of N'Sync — has become the next celebrity to capitalize on his fashion sense. He plans to release his own clothing line.

Eric Clapton goes on tour

Eric Clapton will hit worldwide stages soon with his first tour in a decade to promote his new album, *Reptile*.

Radiohead named as artist of the year

In a protest of commercial radio, *Spin* Magazine named Radiohead, Outkast and PJ Harvey as the top three artists of 2001.

Too much of a good thing?

The Recording Industry Association must have been impressed by the reverent-if-unenlightening "Me and My Shadows: The Judy Garland Story" miniseries because they named "Over the Rainbow" as the #1 song of the century.

Music Review by Dan Joyce

Chalk FarM's talent shine through in *Notwithstanding*

Notwithstanding is a pure rock gem. It's not hard, distorted rock, nor is it Michael Bolton. The album rocks.

Notwithstanding gained Chalk FarM a spot on tour with bands like Dishwalla, The Refreshments, Goo Goo Dolls, and Better Than Ezra. Tom Lord-Alge, one of the record industry giants who mixed the album, was produced by the same person who produces Porno For Pyros.

Though Chalk FarM received only limited radio play in our area, they did hit #13 on the Billboard Rock Chart for their single "Lie On Lie" from their first and only album.

Chalk FarM hits hard with songs like "Lie On Lie," "Live Tomorrow" and "Don't Believe." They have something to say and they're going to say it. But don't worry, you'll like it.

"Lie On Lie" realizes that many of the things we are told about the world around us are just one point-of-view and that there is more than one answer to most questions. It also says that laws and wars are a last resort and often don't really accomplish anything:

"I will not run away / From the battle now / If it seems that's the way I'm fighting . . . I think it will take us more than legislation / I think it will take us more than filling graves / Lie on lie"

The guitar work on the album is often acoustic. When the sound is electric, it's far from distorted. The songs are mostly free from effects, loops and other such studio overrides.

The album and the band did not go unnoticed in all areas. On tour, the band sold nearly 2,000 copies of *Notwithstanding* per week for eight consecutive weeks. They also played 53 shows in 60 days in

front of more than 45,000 fans. The opening acts included Tonic and Expanding Man.

Their talents earned them not only large-scale tours, but also an invitation to pay charity events. Chalk FarM was invited to play at a charity event just before a speech from Hillary Clinton.

The album deals with relationships, decisions, hope, trust, and open-mindedness. All these are brought out by in-your-face lyrics chased by great guitar, drum and bass leads. The guitar and drum work in "Wonder" should not go overlooked. Also, one of the most interesting openings occurs in "Lie on Lie." The guitar and bass opening grabs your attention because of its soothing qualities.

The songs "Live Tomorrow" and "I'm Awake" deal with responsibility and following your heart. "I'm Awake" says, "It's all or it's nothing / Are we so blind / And I say hey / Is it time to see and I can't believe / That we're standing here / With our hands on our eyes and ears / Hoping it goes away / This is not a dream."

"It's Up To You" is almost a surreal encounter. It is taken from the point of view of a young man who is confused and is often told "It's up to you / Johnny you must do / What you have to do." He then crashes his car and visits his own funeral, realizing what he meant to everyone. The strings in the background add enormously to the song.

This is one of those albums that sort of slipped through the cracks. Whether it was due to an apathetic audience, bad timing of release, or being under advertised, the album was sort of overlooked in our area. This is one of the two great albums of the 90's and well worth a listen.

Movie Review by Ginger Davis

The Mexican succeeds with great cast, cinematography and sound editing

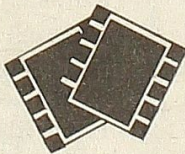
Perhaps she was tired of being PG or perhaps she wanted to prove that she's more than just long legs and a world-famous smile, but whatever the reason, Juila Roberts took a chance—and a hefty pay cut—to work on a gangster-comedy with a virtually unknown director and it paid off in spades, or more accurately, in pesos.

Roberts, along with Brad Pitt and James Gandofini, stars in *The Mexican* — a quirky but endearing tale of an accident prone wanna-be gangster (Pitt) who is sent to Mexico to retrieve a legendary pistol. His neurotic girlfriend is kidnapped by the scene stealing Grofini on the condition that he hand over the gun.

The plot of *The Mexican* is a lot like the gunsmith in the movie—it fires lots of hits and misses. Who Gandofini works for is never really clear, and everyone has a different story about the pistol but in the end this works to the film's advantage—each story about the pistol is told in black and white melodrama style, and it is quite amusing to watch the characters try to determine the truth from all of different versions of the story they hear. In fact,

some plot holes and the fact that this film runs a bit on the long side are the only two real flaws in the film.

In the end, it is chemistry—not plot—that drives the film. Roberts and Gandofini have a wonderful rapport. In one scene Grofini tucks Roberts in and—



Movie Review *The Mexican*

Julia Roberts,
Brad Pitt
Grade: A-

too quickly to even catch—he handcuffs her to the bed in a not so subtle reminder that although they are friends, she is still his victim.

Equally enjoyable is the chemistry between Roberts and Pitt. It is almost a shame that it took Hollywood so long to untie these two—they are truly a match made in entertainment heaven. Roberts has no end of problems with Pitt—as evident in a wonderfully sequenced bit where she

sits in a mall listening to "These Boots are Made for Walkin'" reading a book on problematic men, nodding in agreement and highlighting passages as she reads—but still manages to convey the fact that they were meant for each other.

Pitt is perfect as a bumbling gangster. Bad luck seems to follow him everywhere and he struggles to overcome it, but he does so with charm. When he is

given an assignment he nods and smiles with a goofy grin and his boss shakes his head, throws him a notepad and growls, "You should be writing this down."

The setting also makes this movie memorable. Pitt has no end of problems in Mexico because he has no knowledge of the language or the people and is blissful in his ignorance. When the clerk at the rental car place asks Pitt, in Spanish, if he learned all of his Spanish by watching

"Speedy Gonzalez" Pitt grins in agreement and says, "Sí, sí—'Speedy Gonzalez.'" From then on, things are downhill.

Gandofini is one best parts of the film. He is a perfect gangster—clever, careful and calculating—but he is also endearing. Because of Gandofini, this is not a typical-gangster film with clear cut heroes and bad guys—instead it is just a bunch of unlucky people in a messy situation. Gandofini does his job well, but he does it with compassion, and that ability helps him rise above the single-dimension personas of most of his cinematic counterparts.

In the end, the film is a success because of a near perfect cast and attention to details. The sound editing is wonderful—music changes in volume to keep pace with the feel of the movie, and as Roberts walks through the mall, you can hear exactly where and what the music is coming from. The cinematography is also a treat—each scene in the movie looks like a well constructed photograph and the dialogue is perfectly crafted. And, most importantly, each actor makes you truly care about their character.

Award winning author visits campus

Jewell Parker Rhodes, author of Voodoo Dreams and Magic City, share her writing and life with students and faculty

By GINGER DAVIS
Feature Editor

What would happen if a historical fiction writer put on a special pair of glasses that allowed her to see the world of her novel through the eyes of magical realism? In the case of novelist Jewel Parker Rhodes, the result would be *Voodoo Dreams* - an eclectic web spun of fact, fiction, spiritualism, and the surreal.

Recently, Alma College got a chance to examine and share insights regarding the works of this acclaimed novelist when she visited campus last week.

Although she is now working on a theatrical version of *Voodoo Dreams*, just finished a non-fiction book on writing technique, is just finishing a new novel and is busy with speaking engagements, her career did not always flow as smoothly, Rhodes said.

As Rhodes told students and faculty, when she sent her first book, *Voodoo Dreams*, out for publication, nothing happened. The book was rejected again and again. One publisher even held on to the novel for a year with no word.

At first, Rhodes said, she let the lack of success keep her from writing. After her daughter, Kelly, was born, Rhodes knew that giving up was not the example that she wanted to set for her daughter.

Eventually, Rhode's dream was realized. *Voodoo Dreams* went to print. The novel, a fictionalized account of the life of Marie Laveau — a black Voodoo priestess considered the most powerful woman in New Orleans for her time—was embraced.

Many critics consider *Voodoo Dreams* to be a feminist novel because it is the story of the strength of a line of female descendants in a world dominated by black males. In her next

novel, *Magic City*—a fictional account of the real story of an Oklahoma town that was destroyed and rebuilt by racism and hope — Rhodes took an entirely different route.

"I wanted to write a book in praise of men," Rhodes said.

This interest in accurately capturing the male voice was the result of the birth of her son, she said. According to Rhodes, writing this voice has been her greatest literary challenges to date.

In *Magic City*, she chose to fictionalize the tale of an Oklahoma town that was bombed by the National Guard after a racial riot that took place when an innocent black male was threatened with lynching because he allegedly attacked a white female during an elevator ride.

It took six months for her to capture the voice of Joe, the protagonist in *Magic City*, she said. Joe was a black shoe shiner from a prospering black community who was accused of raping a white woman named Mary.

Although Joe was innocent, he was presumed guilty, jailed and beaten because of the color of his skin.

His grandfather was killed, and his father was blinded by whites whom were enraged by the alleged rape as well as the success of the blacks in this small community.

Rhode's visit was more than just a chance for students to hear her read her works. Rhodes also met with several literature classes in order allow students to get direct feedback from the author regarding her works.

Rather than lecturing, Rhodes wandered among the students, asking and answering questions.

Rhodes ended her lecture by thanking students for reading her works.

"Without readers, there is no story," she said.



Dan Joyce

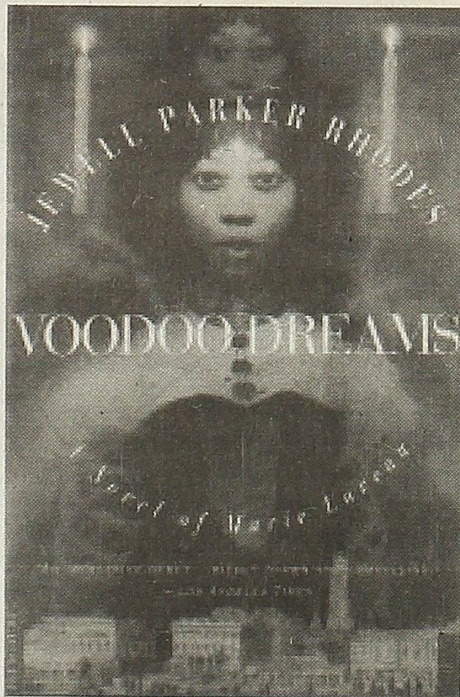
Jewell Parker Rhodes visited campus last week sharing encouragement and inspiration to the Alma community

Voodoo Dreams

Picador, 1993

In this enchanting and rather surreal novel, Jewel Parker Rhodes fictionalizes the life of a famous New Orleans Voodoo priestess, Marie Laveau. She manages not only to beautifully recreate the time period, but manages to create an unforgettable heroine. By presenting Leveau as both a true miracle and a charlatan, Rhodes shapes Leveau into one of the most believable and intriguing females in modern literature.

The book's only flaw is the fact that the heroine often waits for frustrating lengths of time before learning from her mistakes, but this may not be a flaw because it is impossible to put this book down until Leveau has escaped the confines of her past. This dark, rich and mystifying novel is sure to bewitch any reader.



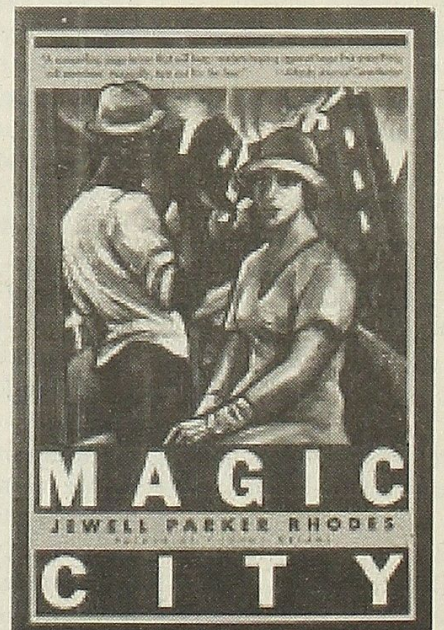
Magic City

HarperPerennial, 1997

This novel is a candid and poignant tale of the effect of racism in America. It parallels the lives of Joe, a young black shoeshine and Mary, a poor and extremely naive farm girl and the results of a chance encounter between the two of them.

This book showcases Jewel Parker Rhodes ability to portray male, female, black and white characters all with equal clarity.

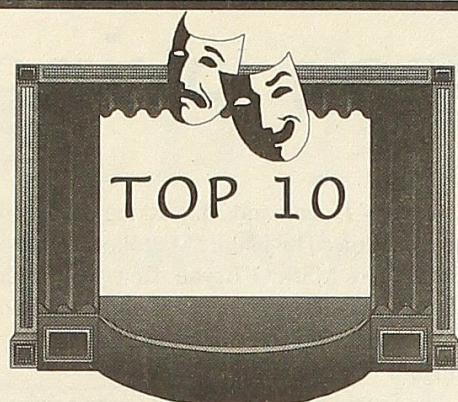
Overall, the novel traces a sad but empowering journey that captures the art of being human.



March 14, 2001

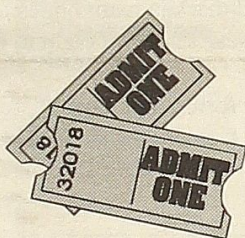
FEATURE

9

TOP TEN FICTION
BESTSELLERS

(from www.newyorktimes.com)

1. *A Painted House*: John Grisham
2. *The Bonesetter's Daughter*: Amy Tan
3. *A Day Late and a Dollar Short*: Terry McMillan
4. *Edge of Danger*: Jack Higgins
5. *The Mark*: Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins
6. *The First Council*: Brad Meltzer
7. *The Vendetta Defense*: Lisa Scottoline
8. *Hidden Passions*: Compilation
9. *A Darkness More Than Night*: Michael Connelly
10. *Mystic River*: Dennis Lehane



TOP TEN ALBUMS

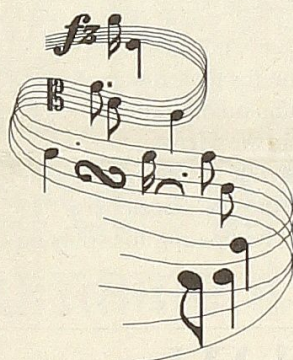
(from www.ard.com
www.billboard.com)

1. *Everyday*: Dave Matthews Band
2. *Hotshot*: Shaggy
3. *The Professional 2*: DJ Clue
4. *Mista Don't Play...*: Project Pat
5. *No Angel*: Dido
6. *1*: The Beatles
7. *Save the Last Dance*: The Soundtrack
8. *Rule 3:36*: Ja Rule
9. *WWF Music Vol. 5*: Jim Johnston
10. *Greatest Hits*: Lenny Kravitz

TOP TEN MOVIES

(from www.imdb.com)

1. *The Mexican*
2. *Hannibal*
3. *See Spot Run*
4. *Down to Earth*
5. *Wo hu zang long*
6. *Traffic*
7. *Chocolat*
8. *Recess: School's Out*
9. *3000 Miles to Graceland*
10. *Sweet November*



Modest Mouse

By KELLY PRILL

Guest Reviewer

Before Modest Mouse's album was released during the summer of last year there were rumblings in the industry that they might become the next Nirvana. These claims put serious pressure on the debut of their major label The Moon and Antarctica.

The Moon and Antarctica is not so much a new Nirvana as it is a logical conclusion to the year that punk broke started. Present in the album are the Sonic Youth-influenced dissonance, My Bloody Valentine's mastery of soundscapes and a healthy dose of post-modern, neurotic lyrics. All this comes together to offer a sound that is at once psychedelic and punk, pop yet rootsy.

Further adding to this album's depth are lead-singer Isaac Brock's intriguing observations about existing in post-modern society. Themes of self-loathing, internal conflicts, cosmology, and voyeurism are recurring and interweaving in the album.

Perhaps the best representation of Brock's songwriting ability is the 9-minute epic "The Stars are Projectors." Lines like "In the last days of your life/they're gonna show you how they run this show," and "The Stars are Projectors/Projecting our lives down to this planet Earth," linger with the listener for days after absorbing them.

Modest Mouse: The Moon & Antarctica

Epic 2000

For Fans of: Sonic Youth, My Bloody Valentine



The Alma College Union Board
would like to welcome
everyone back from
spring break.

The event that is coming up is:
A carnival/ice cream social
LITTLE SIBS WEEKEND
on Saturday March 24th
from 7:00 to 9:00 P.M..
In Van Dusen Commons

Come for -
Clowns, Games, Prizes, and Fun

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You are invited to attend an information session
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PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM

Friday, February 23, 2001

Friday, March 23, 2001

Friday, May 18, 2001

Friday, April 20, 2001

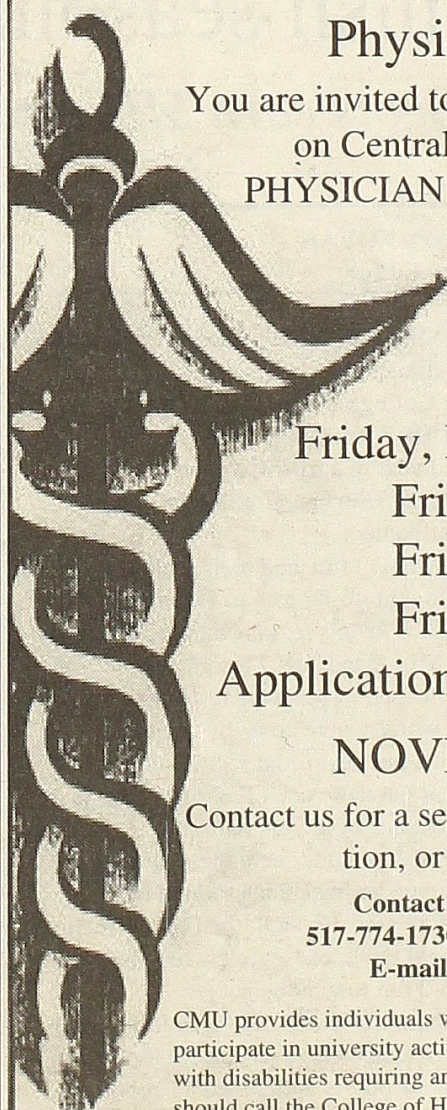
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Baseball ends successful spring training season

By DARB Y CORNELIUS
Staff Writer

The baseball team brought home an 8-4 victory over Capital University after Saturday's Gene Cusic Collegiate Tournament in Fort Myers, Fla over spring break.

The victory marked the Scots' first winning record on a Florida trip in ten years.

Senior Sean Dick pitched in relief of sophomore starter Mike Holes for the Scots' victory.

Dick gave up two hits and one earned run, while striking out four to gain his first win of the season.

Junior Jason Biehl went 2-for-4 with two runs, while junior Jeff Lane went 2-for-3 with two RBIs.

Sophomore Steve Slowke battled 1-for-4 with two RBIs in the win.

Coach John Leister said that juniors Bob Barber, Ben Wright and Jerrod Dohm re-

"A lot of guys stepped up and played hard; we proved that we can be better than we thought we could be."

~ Steve Slowke (03)

ally hit the ball well, and sophomore Nick Duflo pitched for three wins.

"They played really well," said Leister. "Jeff Lane played second base extremely well for coming off knee surgery."

"A lot of guys stepped up and played hard," said Slowke. "We proved that we can be better than we thought we could be."

The team's unity is a factor that may determine much of their season's success.

The team bonding that comes from a trip like this one often provides a base to help start the season strong, especially with the win.

"We could have done better, but we've made great strides from years past," said Barber.

Barber said that the Scots expect to win the league and make the playoffs. Slowke added that they will do well as a team if they "put everything on the line."

"We lost a lot of talent from last year, but these guys will step in and play well," said Leister. "We're not going to run away with anything, but we'll play some good baseball."

The Scots are ready to start MIAA play as they take on Sienna Heights, Tri-State, and Indiana Tech at home on Saturday. The MIAA/WHAC Tournament begins with a pair of games against Sienna Heights at 10 a.m.

Tennis starts season swinging

By DARB Y CORNELIUS
Staff Writer

The men's and women's tennis teams are swinging their way into the season with high expectations. The men's depth gives them a competitive edge while the women face the field without two of last year's top players.

Over spring break, both teams traveled to Hilton Head, North Carolina to compete in pre-season matches.

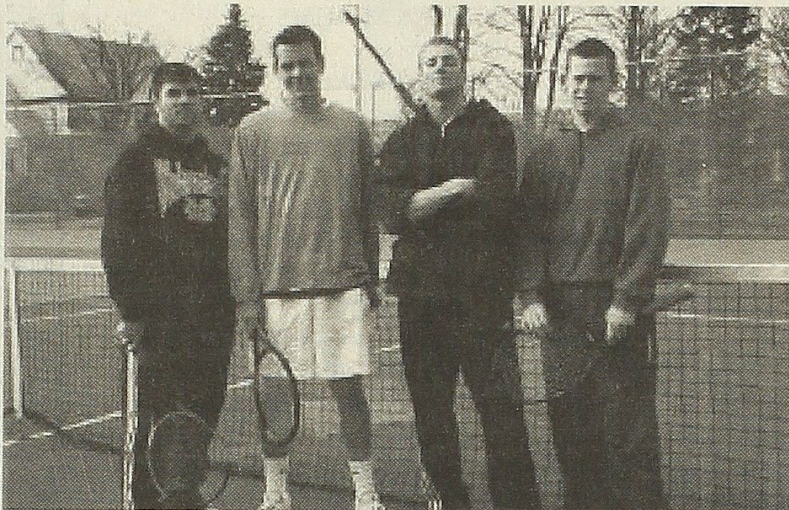
The men finished 2-3, losing by one point in each of three matches.

The Scots beat Lake Forest and York College, losing to Ohio Northern, Capitol University of Ohio, and Savannah School of Art and Design. Junior Denis Busque and sophomore Mark O'Bryan finished undefeated in singles.

Men's coach Bob Harrison said that the Scots plan to win and give other teams in the league "a run for their money." Many of the guys on the team are young, but he is confident in their talent, and hopes to finish at least second in the MIAA.

In his six years of coaching the Scots, Harrison said that this year's team has the most potential since he's been here.

"We have a strong group of guys competing for spots on the team," said Harrison.



Bryan Waugh
Mark O'Bryan (03), Dennis Busque (02), John Boyer (02) and Matt Krieg (04), members of the Men's Tennis team, practice for their upcoming season.

Kevney Dugan and Matt Krieg are two leading first-year students, followed by juniors Matt Piper, Jon Boyer and Denis Busque, sophomore Mark O'Bryan, first-year students Tim Slade, Chris Riebel, Rob Nicholson and sophomore Ben Zilz.

"We want to have fun while competing at a high level," said Dugan.

The Scots are ready to excel in the conference, with sights set on beating Hope, Calvin, Albion, and, most importantly, Kalamazoo.

"Kalamazoo is going to be the toughest match," said Harrison. "They have the longest winning streak of any team in any sport in the country."

"We are playing really well right now, and we hope to win the conference," said Busque, "to end Kalamazoo's 76-year winning streak."

The women's tennis team is looking forward to a strong season with junior Emily Brookhouse, senior Amy Laguire, and junior Melissa Bobier leading the Scots in the absence of senior Marisol Diaz and junior Deb Bacon, both out with injuries.

Three first-year students provide needed depth for the Scots: Sara Pippas, Sara Halbert, and Leighton Thomas. Coach Chi Ly said that the team hopes to improve their overall standing from last year's sixth of eight to fourth in the MIAA.

"We are very optimistic and looking forward to a successful season," said Ly, "and once Marisol and Deb are back, we will have an even stronger lineup."

Men's and Women's basketball teams finish seasons with losses to Hope

5 Scots earn MIAA team honors for 2000-2001 season

By AMY NOVAK
Sports Editor

Both the men's and women's basketball teams finished their seasons with losses to Hope College during the MIAA tournament. The women lost in the finals for the second year in a row while the men lost to the Flying Dutchmen in the first round of the tournament.

The women finished their season with a hard-fought 46-59 loss to Hope. The loss ends the women's season with a 12-2 record in the MIAA and a 19-7 record overall; both of the league losses were to Hope.

The women were down by one at the half (35-34), but began the second with a 9-0 run that gave them a 43-37 lead after just four minutes of second half play.

The Scots maintained a lead until there was just under five minutes left in the game. Up 59-58 with 4:40 left, the Flying Dutchmen held the Scots scoreless as they went on a 6-0 run to win the game.

Sophomore Shelley Ulfig led the Scots with 15 points; first-year student Karen hall scored 14 points and added 11 rebounds. Senior Julie Whitmore scored 11 points.

For team stats, the women out-rebounded the Dutch 36-29 but lacked from the field, shooting only 41 percent on the game.

Scot ballers earn top honors

All MIAA First Team

Shelly Unfig (03)
Janell Twietmeyer (03)

All MIAA Second Team

Rebekah Downing (01)
Joy Horton (01)

All MIAA Honorable Mention

Andrew VanSchoick (01)

From the line, the Scots shot 14 of 17 for 82 percent.

The men finished their season with a 84-70 loss to Hope in the first round of the tournament. They end with an 8-17 record overall and a 3-10 record in the MIAA.

The Scots fell behind early in the game and never caught up. Down by 11 at the half; they came close to challenging the Dutchmen but never quite made it.

The team was led by sophomore Corey Heitsch with 17 points that included a 5 for 9 finish from behind the three-point line.

First-year student Chris Slater, who moved up from the junior varsity team for the tournament, scored 11 points, while senior Andrew VanSchoick added ten and senior Sean Dick added eight points and two rebounds.

With the completion of their seasons, five Scots were named to the All-MIAA teams for the season. From the women's team Ulfig, and sophomore Janell Twietmeyer earned first team honors.

Seniors Rebekah Downing and Joy Horton both earned second team honors for the 2000-2001 season. For the men, VanSchoick earned an honorable mention bid.

March Madness begins

Tournament shows NCAA Basketball at its best

By AMY NOVAK
Sports Editor

The Duke Blue Devils along with Michigan State, Stanford and Illinois, took the number one spots in the NCAA tournament seeds on Sunday. The top seed marked the fourth year in the number one position for Duke, as well as the third year in a row for the Spartans.

Competition began last night, when Northwestern State took on Winthrop for the 64th spot in the tournament. The winner, which was not known at press time, will take on Illinois in first-round play for the Midwest Region on Friday. Duke will play in the East, taking on 16 ranked Monmouth on Thursday. Stanford, who earned the unanimous vote as the nation's top team, will take on North Carolina-Greensboro for the West also on Thursday. The Spartans will play Ala-

bama State on Friday to begin defending their title in the South.

The number two spots went to Kentucky, North Carolina, Arizona and Iowa State. Once again, the top six conferences dominate the tournament, occupying 29 of the 34 at-large berths. The seven teams from the Big Ten marches the record for the most ever in the tournament. The Atlantic Coast Conference, Big 12 and Southeastern Conference have six teams each; the Big East and Pacific Ten have five teams each.

Alabama State, Cal State-Northridge, Hampton, Northwestern State and Southern Utah are all making their first NCAA tournament appearances.

The East and West Regionals will be in Philadelphia, Penn. and Anaheim, Calif. respectively on March 22 and 24. The Midwest and South Regionals will be held in San Antonio Tex. and Atlanta Georg. respectively on March 23 and 25. The Final Four is March 31 and April 2 in Minneapolis, Minn.

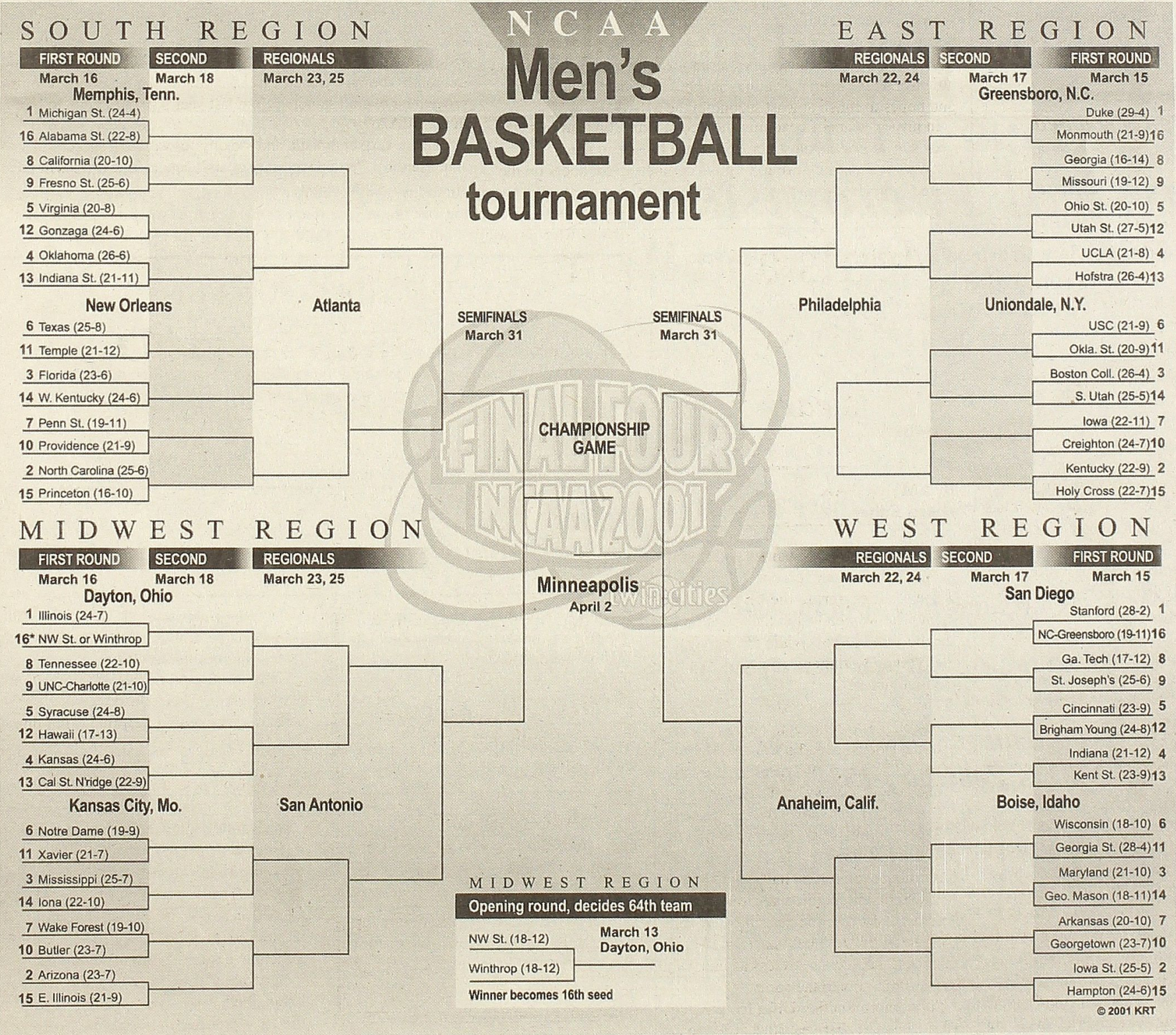
NCAA Top Seeds

Duke Blue Devils
East Region

Michigan State Spartans
South Region

Stanford Cardinal
West Region

Illinois Fighting Illini
Midwest Region



Track team looks towards upcoming season

By SUMIT YADAM
Staff Writer

Both the men's and women's track team hope to have a much better season this year as opposed to the last few. The men's team had a record of 2-3 last season, finishing fourth in the conference, following Calvin in first, Hope, and then Albion.

Also last year, they placed second in field events with returning runners Charlie Smith jumping a 6'6 in high jump, and was named first team all performer by the coaches. A.J. Smith was fifth in the league in the 200's.

This year there are 24 first-year students and sophomores, as well as one senior on the team. They hope to place in the top three of the conference.

"Right now we are trying to improve on the efforts made last year, and basically we are picking up where we left off," said head coach Chris Curtis. "Last season it was as if we were outside, looking in on the competition."

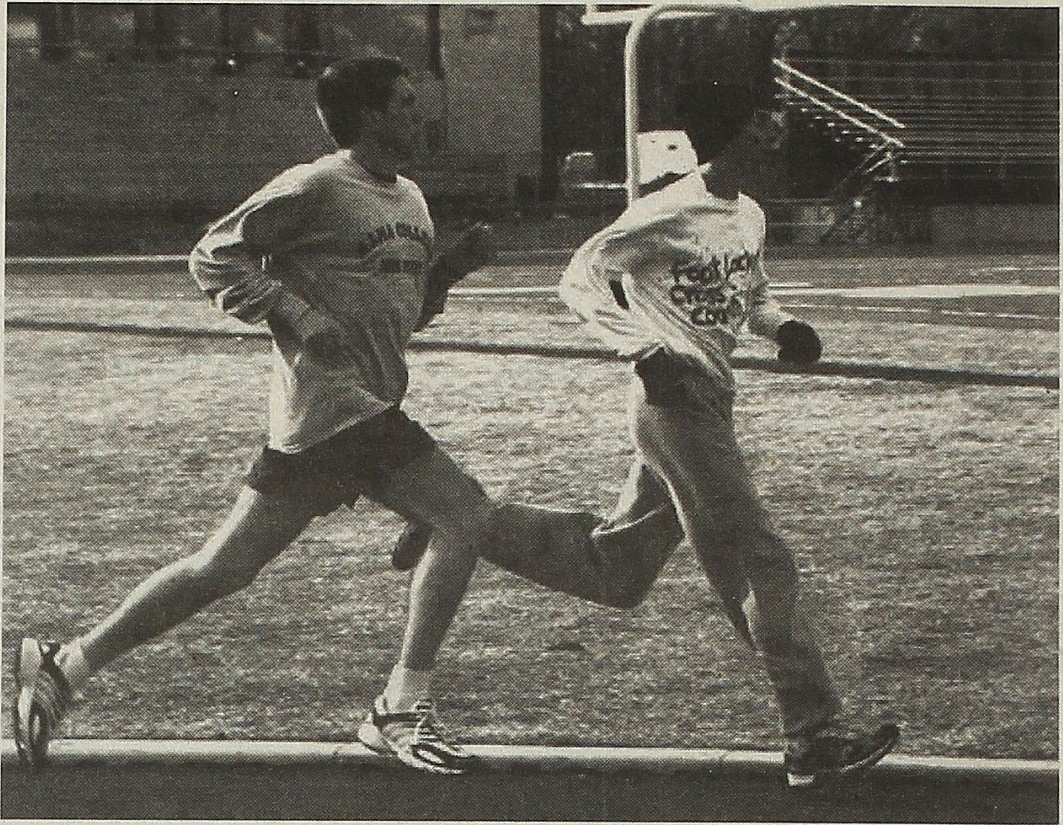
The improvements the team is making is paying off nicely. So far the men's team has done very well in the two indoor events they ran this season. C. Smith is jumping up to 6'8" in the high jump, while first-year student Michael Palmer is jumping 15 feet in the pole vault.

Sophomore Andrew Kibbe, who runs the 3000m and 3000 steeple-chase is looking to improve to under 9:10 and under 10 minutes, respectively for the events.

"Calvin has always been good, so it is going to be hard going against them," said Kibbe. "But Hope and Albion should not be too much of a problem."

The women's team fared rather well last season did, with a record of 4-2, placing the women third in the conference, following Calvin and Hope. Their primary goal this year is to improve their finish to at least second place. The work and improvements the team is making in preparation for the season looks promising.

"We are a little bit ahead this year as opposed to last year," said head coach Dan



Brent Warner (01) Ryan Triplett (04) practice for the 2001 track season.

Bryan Waugh

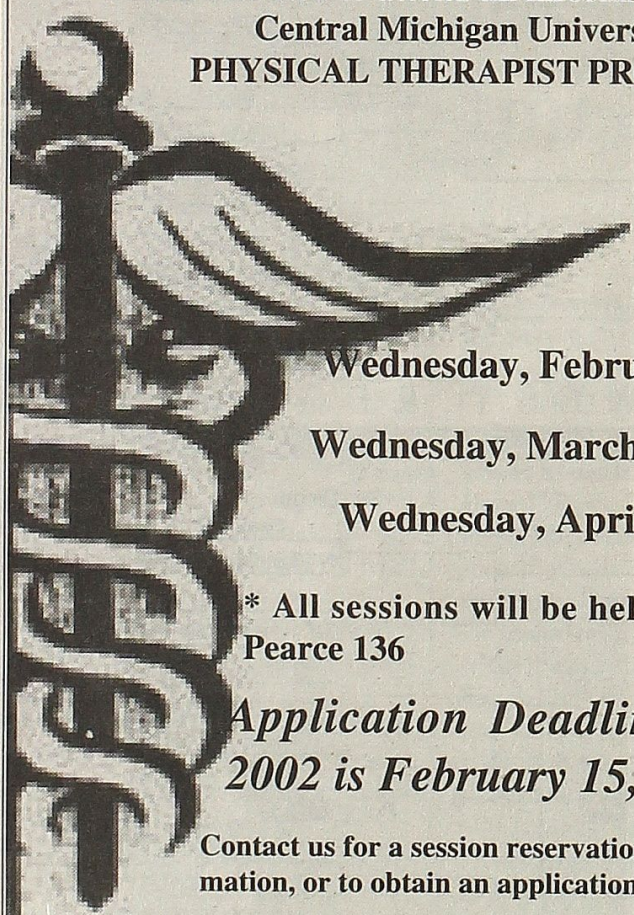
Gibson. "We mainly are doing better in the field events, such as pole vaulting and high jump."

"Calvin will be big competition in some events," said sophomore Thyra Folk, who participates in pole vault, 400m and 400 hurdles. "We hope to move up one spot at conferences."

Both the men's and women's teams are looking forward to the upcoming season. They will compete this Saturday at Indiana Wesleyan University.

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**Application Deadline for Fall
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