

College warns students about hazards of splicing cable

By BILL LOTT Staff Writer

Students have recently been learning the hard way that splicing cable does not pay.

"Our technology allows us to keep an eye on signals," said Michelle Hoisington of Alma's local branch of Charter Communications.

Leaks occur in several instances other than splicing, including when wires are jammed and when signals are weak.

If a technician from Charter Communications finds that a student has gained access to cable service for free, the technician will generally cut the service off to the student who has provided the illegal cable.

"Although it's determined on a case-by-case basis, we usually just cut off service after the first offense," said Hoisington.

According to federal law, anyone found splicing cable service or receiving such services is liable to pay up to \$50,000 in fines and/or spend two years in jail.

"I've seen people get jail time and pay fines of over \$2,000," said Hoisington.

For Alma students who illegally splice cable, there is also a potential for getting in trouble with the college.

If anyone on campus is caught splicing cable they are liable to pay a \$150 fine as well as any damages that may have occurred during the splicing procedure, such as holes drilled in the walls.

"People also run the risk of drilling through electrical wiring and water pipes, and it's not cheap to pay for those kinds of repairs," said Knecht.

If anyone on campus is caught splicing cable by a Physical Plant technician, the result is generally less severe than being caught by the cable company.

"If we find something, then we generally just cut the cable going between rooms and pull it out," said Knecht.

The Physical Plant, however, does not search out cable splicing, and thus a student is more likely to be caught by Charter Communications.

"They have all of the good technology to pinpoint this stuff," said Knecht, "and we try to respect the privacy of the students, so we don't deliberately go looking for it.

Red Cross hosts annual blood drive

Drive falls short of goal, not as successful as previous years

By BILL LOTT Staff Writer

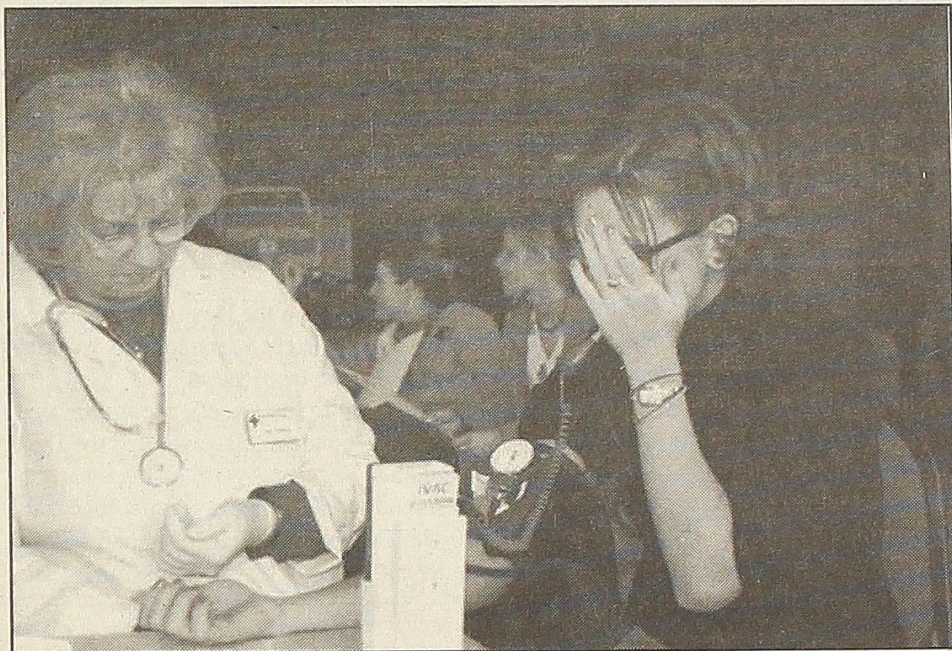
The Red Cross held their annual blood drive on campus on Wednesday, Mar. 14. The drive was not as successful as previous years though.

The goal was 80 donors, but only 71 donors volunteered, with only 52 of these being able to give blood.

"We didn't meet the goal because we didn't have advertising," said Martin Stack, associate dean of students.

The only form of advertisement that was given to students was an e-mail sent out on the day of the event.

"We sent out an e-mail," said Stack, "but that's the only thing that the students ever got. I'm sure that we



Dan Joyce

Ashlie Payne (04) has her blood pressure taken during last week's blood drive.

would have had a much better turn-out if students had known in advance."

"Considering that we only had the e-mail as notification," said Stack, "the turn-

out that we had was still quite impressive. It speaks really highly of the students that on such short notice so many people made an effort to donate blood."

Of the 71 students who went to give blood, eight were first-time donors and 15 were deferred donors. Marriott provided juice and cookies to the donors.

Stone appointed chief executive officer of Alzheimer's Association

By NIKOLE CANUTE Staff Writer

Alan J. Stone, Alma's former president, has been appointed president and chief executive officer of the Alzheimer's Association.

Effective Feb. 19, Stone became the leader of the organization dedicated to providing programs and services for people affected by Alzheimers, and will represent their interests on Alzheimer-related issues to the government and long-term health care providers.

By making commitments of more than \$100 million toward research into the causes, treatment, prevention, and cure of Alzheimer's, the Association has become the largest

private funder of Alzheimer research. During fiscal year 2000, revenues totaled \$59.8 million, a 5.1 percent increase over the previous year.

"We are in a race against time to stop this devastating disease from destroying the Baby Boomer generation of 76 million Americans, who are entering the period of greatest risk for getting this disease," Stone said in a statement to the Association.

The Association operates through a national network of chapters, the closest of which is located in Mid-

land, Michigan. Its programs include "Safe Return," which is a nationwide identification and registration program for people with Alzheimer's disease who become lost, both locally or long-distance. In addition, the Association operates the Benjamin B. Green-Field Library and Resource Center, which collects materials related to Alzheimer's to distribute to family members, educators, students,

health-professionals, social service agencies, and the general public.

NCAA Tournament Standings see pages 10-11

Table listing NCAA Tournament Standings: Clothesline Projectpg. 3, He said / She saidpg. 5, Oscar Previewpg. 8, Our Lady Peace Review . .pg. 7, Lacrossepg 12, Schmidtke Retirespg. 2

Dean of Student Development receives Excellence in Practice Award

By SUMIT YADAM
Staff Writer

Bob Perkins, Dean of Student Development, received the Excellence in Practice Award on Monday, Mar. 5, 2001. It took place at the Sheraton Boston Hotel in Boston, MA, and was presented by Jim Stepp of the American College Personnel Association (ACPA).

The ACPA Excellence in Practice Award is presented to the Student Affairs administrator or faculty who utilizes some of the best national practices in student affairs when creating programs for his/her campus. This organization honors those who have been responsible for achievements which have greatly impacted a campus for a long period of time, defined as approximately five to 10 years.

There are a number of things that count toward good practice in student affairs which can help a person receive recommendations and nominations. Engaging students in active learning, building supportive and

inclusive communities, and helping students develop coherent values and ethical standards are just some of the qualifications for which ACPA is looking.

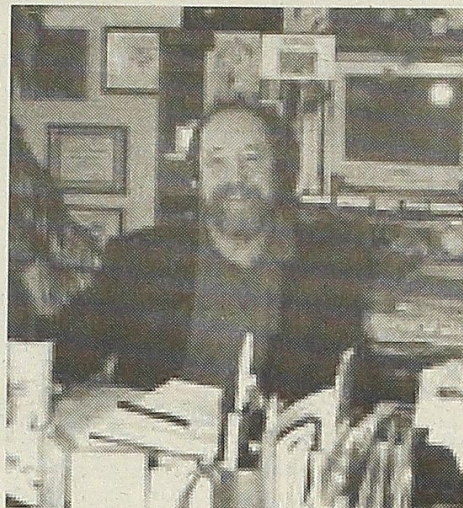
"I was very excited when I found out I had won," said Perkins. "The convention itself was fun too."

The ACPA is one of the oldest and largest organizations of student affairs professionals. Its first president was elected in 1924. This year about 450 schools are members, with 5,000 people at the convention and almost 10,000 individual members.

"It was great because when I found out I had won, I also turned 50," said Perkins. "I received the award where I was born, in Boston."

Perkins has been the Dean of Student Development for eight years and has worked at Alma for the last 18 years.

In addition to the Excellence in Practice Award, Perkins was also awarded the Distinguished Service Award. This award is presented to a Commission I member who has shown significant leadership and service to the activities of the Commission I Task



Force on Small College and University Concerns. Commission I focuses on administrative and leadership issues in student affairs, and Perkins received this award for his efforts in student affairs work at small colleges.



U.S. and World News in Brief

WASHINGTON- Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori met with United States President, George W. Bush Monday to discuss economic policies and last month's collision between a Japanese fishing boat and a U.S. submarine. Mori is considered to resign in coming months, but the two leaders are expected to discuss coordinating economic policy to avoid recession in both countries. The meeting is Bush's first with the Japanese leader since taking office in January.

WASHINGTON- Secretary of State Colin L. Powell called Monday for an end to the violence between Palestine and Israel. Powell's speech at the annual policy conference of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee reaffirmed the longstanding U.S. governmental commitment to Israel's security. Although the Bush administration will take a more relaxed approach to Israel and Palestine, Powell, still urged for peace talks to resume.

WASHINGTON- Potential flooding and drought is on the eye of United States officials as nears. On Thursday, they warned that spring rains would not alleviate drought in the Northwest and Florida. Florida is having its worst drought in 100 years and is expected to suffer from water shortages. Meanwhile, the Northeast and Midwest could experience flooding from being it by record snowfall.

NODAWAY, IOWA- On route from Chicago to California, an Amtrak train carrying 210 people derailed Saturday in Iowa. The wreck caused the death of one passenger and injured approximately 90 others. Investigators are trying to determine if shattered rails, snow-covered rails or a defect in the train caused the crash.

LONDON- The United Nations warned Wednesday that Foot-and-Mouth disease is a global threat. With more than 300 separate outbreaks of the disease, British authorities slaughtered 1,800 healthy sheep as preventative means. No country is safe from the disease that is hitting Europe. The U.N. is encouraging countries to adopt counter measures.

TETOVO, Macedonia- The Macedonian government ordered on Mar. 18 a general mobilization to counter a five-day-old ethnic Albanian guerilla assault and prepared to a wider conflict. Prime Minister Ljubio Georgierski declared that government forces are being doubled every day in Tetovo. He also rebuked the United States and Germany for not doing enough to stop the rebels from crossing from Kosovo into Macedonia, which is part of NATO's contingent there.

Barlow Trophy finalists announced

By SCOTT TIMMRECK
Staff Writer

Alma's students tend to benefit from tradition, and the annual Barlow Trophy is no exception to that tradition. As customary around the time of spring training and more sunshine, Alma's Barlow selection committee has nominated three outstanding seniors to contend for the award.

One of the three finalists, who include Jennifer Gibson, Keleigh Osborn, and Stacey Turschak, will receive the trophy on Honors Day and be recognized by the Alma community.

Gibson, a foreign service major, has worked in Nairobi to educate Kenyans about the dangers of HIV and AIDS, and she has served in the press department at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in New York

City. She has done work for this newspaper as well as the Alpha Xi Delta sorority, and she continues to work to advance the aspirations of Alma's students through her leadership on the Model United Nations team and her scholarly ambitions. Last year, she won the McGregor Scholarship and the prestigious Truman Scholarship.

"I am extremely honored to be nominated and really appreciate all the hard work and dedication of the faculty over the last four years," Gibson said.

Osborn, an art major and biology minor, resurrected Alma's life-drawing co-op in her freshman year.

As a club that hires models in order for artists to practice their drawing talents, Osborn believes the co-op is very valuable to the arts and hopes it will flourish after she graduates. She has also done drug prevention work in London and brought it back to

Alma in the form of class lectures and an Honors Day presentation.

"My goal in applying for the Barlow was just to be recognized. I've done that, and I'm honored," said Osborn. "I'm completely blown away."

Turschak has been active in environmental relations as the president of Students United For Nature. She lived in Madagascar during her junior year and has been credited for scholarly work regarding the environment.

The Barlow selection committee decided the three finalists after consideration of the stack of applications its members received. Of the 321 seniors, the top ten academic percent of the class was eligible to apply.

The application required a list of the candidate's activities at Alma as well as a statement describing how those activities have made a significant contri-

bution to Alma. Candidates also needed two letters of recommendation from faculty members.

"It's not based solely on whether this person is number one in the class," said Dave Lawrence, head of the selection committee. "The difference is based on what they have contributed to the campus community." Scholarship is the primary qualification for the Barlow Trophy, but candidates' participation in college activities is also very important.

Joel Barlow, the award's founder, believed that the recipient of his trophy should have made a real contribution to Alma not only in scholarly work but also to the college's life.

Students and faculty cast ballots for their choices on March 19, and President Kolenbrander will note those votes and make a final decision, culminating in the announcement of the winner at the Honors Day convocation.

SOS hosts annual awards ceremony

By AMY TAYLOR
Managing Editor

On Thursday, Mar. 22 the Alma's Service Learning Program and Student's Offering Service (S.O.S.) will be hosting the Fifth Annual Volunteer and Community Service Recognition Dessert.

Invitations were sent to those who are receiving awards, and

those who are part of a service organization are invited to attend. According to Alicia Allen (03), service learning assistant and a member of S.O.S., students and the campus community will be recognized for their outstanding contributions to community service, service learning, and volunteerism.

Those who are leaders on campus are also recipients of such

recognition. There are two or three awards for each service organization as well as two outstanding volunteer and two outstanding leadership awards that will be handed out. Donations of food cans for the Baby Panty, which is an organization that provides families with services such as food and diapers, will be accepted at the door.

The Service Learning Pro-

gram and S.O.S. provide most of their volunteerism to the Gratiot County United Way, the hospital, gerontology, and the Masonic Home.

For more information on the Dessert or the College's service learning opportunities visit <http://academics.alma.edu/servicelearning/> or contact the Service Learning Office at x7366.

Clothesline Project brings awareness of violence

Semi-annual event, hosted by Wilcox Medical Center, provides opportunity for community to adress violence against women

By OLGA WROBEL
Staff Writer

On Mar. 6-8 the lobby of Dow was strewn with a rainbow of t-shirts hanging up. These t-shirts had such messages as "MURDERED! By her boyfriend on 9-23-97. Only 20-years-old," and, "Victim no more. I WILL survive." Two times each year Alma College participates in the Clothesline Project, a straightforward and often uncomfortable way to address the issue of violence against women.

In this display, participants are able to voice their emotions about the subject by writing and drawing on different colored shirts, each representing a specific crime.

White shirts are a memorial for women who died from violence. Yellow and beige stand for women emotionally or physically assaulted as children or adults. Red, pink and orange represent women raped and sexually assaulted. Blue or green are for those who survived incest and sexual abuse as children. Purple and lavender stand for women attacked due to their sexual orientation, and black for those who know a victim. It may be a shock to some, while it may hit very close to home for others, but the pain is evident.

These shirts were created by friends, neighbors and even family members. They were in Dow as a part of National Women's History Month, and were used to help break the silence about domestic violence.

Joseph Gelina, Director of Health Services, introduced this project to Alma College five years ago after seeing it in Florida. It became a semi-annual event through Wilcox Medical Center. Not only are these shirts hung every March, they are also on display during National Domestic Violence Awareness Week in September.

In the past the project has been located in the lobbies of the dorms, but Gelina said the object of locating the shirts in the lobby of Dow was to show domestic violence can happen to anyone.

"[The reason to put the shirts in Dow was] to put the tragedy of society's problems in people's faces," Gelina said.

This is a growing problem in America today. Many people are aware of it but do not usually consider it something that affects them. Domestic violence and abuse of women is responsible for thousands of injuries and deaths a year, yet people do not think it can happen to them. Students at Alma College need to be aware if this growing problem.

The Clothesline Project is crucial in raising awareness about domestic violence. It also helps to heal the wounds of the victims. Hopefully by seeing this straightforward display twice a year people will realize the extent of the problem, and there will be less need for such displays in the future.

If you are interested in participating in the Clothesline Project, t-shirts can be decorated at Wilcox Medical Center. Anyone is invited to become involved. T-shirts are also accepted at all times.

Schmidtke retires after 29 years in history department

By ANNE MABBITT
Staff Writer

After 29 years of teaching at Alma College, Dr. James Schmidtke, associate professor of history, is retiring. Dr. Schmidtke came to Alma in 1972 from graduate school at Duke University to fulfill his dream of teaching European history at a small liberal arts college.

"Alma College has been absolutely wonderful to me," Schmidtke said. "It has given me the opportunity to meet wonderful students and colleagues, both of which have allowed me to grow as a person and student of history."

Schmidtke is the son of a Methodist minister and his family struggled for money. Throughout school, he worked at a local A&P grocery store. He attended a small liberal arts college in Missouri as an undergraduate, much like Alma College. He graduated first in his class and played on the basketball team.

Schmidtke has seen other students accomplish as much in his 29 years at Alma. Last week he received a letter from an alumni thanking him and the college for helping to make him a success. Schmidtke takes much pride from such successful students.

"Dr. Schmidtke was a great professor and a lot of fun, said Andrew Garrison (02). "I'm said to see him leave, but I wish him good luck."

"I hope in the 29 years I have been here," said Schmidtke, "I have instilled in at least a few a love of history and a love of learning to carry into the future. I have been helped in this by a team of colleagues and administrators who make up Alma College."

When he came here in 1972, the chair of the history department was Dr. M.J.J. Smith. Smith's guidelines and principles were

shared with Schmidtke, the history department, and the college. This was that students come first — that they are better or can do better than they think.

Schmidtke enjoys getting feedback from students. He has won two student awards at Alma.

"I have won the Outstanding Professor in Social Sciences twice in my years here, most recently in 2000," Schmidtke said, "Because they are student awards, they have meant more to me than I can describe."

Schmidtke described the retirement process as bittersweet. For him every class and every lecture will be his last. During Spring Break, he spent a lot of time cleaning out his office. It was then that he donated nearly 300 books to the Monteith Library. Peter Dollard, Library Director, will keep those books that the library does not have and sell the rest at the next library sale, which will most likely be in the fall. This will generate money to enhance the colleges collection and, more importantly, provide good books to students at a reasonable price.

"We always appreciate being the beneficiary of these academic collections that our professors have acquired over the years," said Dollard.

Schmidtke kept one book due to his sympathy for the content. It was William Manchester's *Goodbye Darkness*. Manchester talks about generation gaps, the sense of right and wrong and patriotism.

Upon retirement, Schmidtke has several plans. The first is to get accustomed to a new rhythm of life. He has spent 50 years revolving around the academic cycle. Retirement will be quite a change.

His second plan is to reserve a corral in the library. He hopes to catch up on some reading and research that he has not had time for during his years of teaching.

Schmidtke's third plan is to golf.

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Staff Editorial

Professors: Popping the McWorld bubble

Americans wake up and turn to CNN's Headline News-quick, to-the-point material with little substance. They drink their Starbucks as they drive to work, cursing at red lights and pushing the pedal to the floor in order to be at work on time. On the job, they read their email-quick, fast and digestible bites, just like the McDonald's fast food they will eat for lunch. Later they might surf the web, clicking away as fast as humanly possible. Or they might turn on the radio and hear the compressed, quick, glossy sound of the latest pop trend, a fad that will be gone in a month.

It is a life of sound bytes and quick visuals, slick programming and 10-minute dinners. In our so-called bubble, we get to retain some sense of immunity from that sort of America by having lives outside the typical 9 to 5 humdrum. We go to lacrosse practice, Student Congress meetings, the library and Greek functions. Yes, we all know we are fast. The College's environment encourages us to be busy and active. Sometimes the "How are you? Good" sound byte is all we want to hear.

But sometimes we hear more. Those people that keep us in line-we call them professors-make us hear more. And everyone should be thankful for that. Why? According to National Public Radio, 42% of American adults cannot locate Japan on a map. One in 10 voters could not identify the candidates for president in 1996. The New York Times revealed that 40% of American adults did not know that Germany was our enemy in World War II. The U.S. Department of Education surveyed 22,000 students in 1995 and found that 50% were unaware of the Cold War and that 60% had no idea how the U.S. came into existence.

These statistics are sobering, and they continue. Of course, numbers never tell the

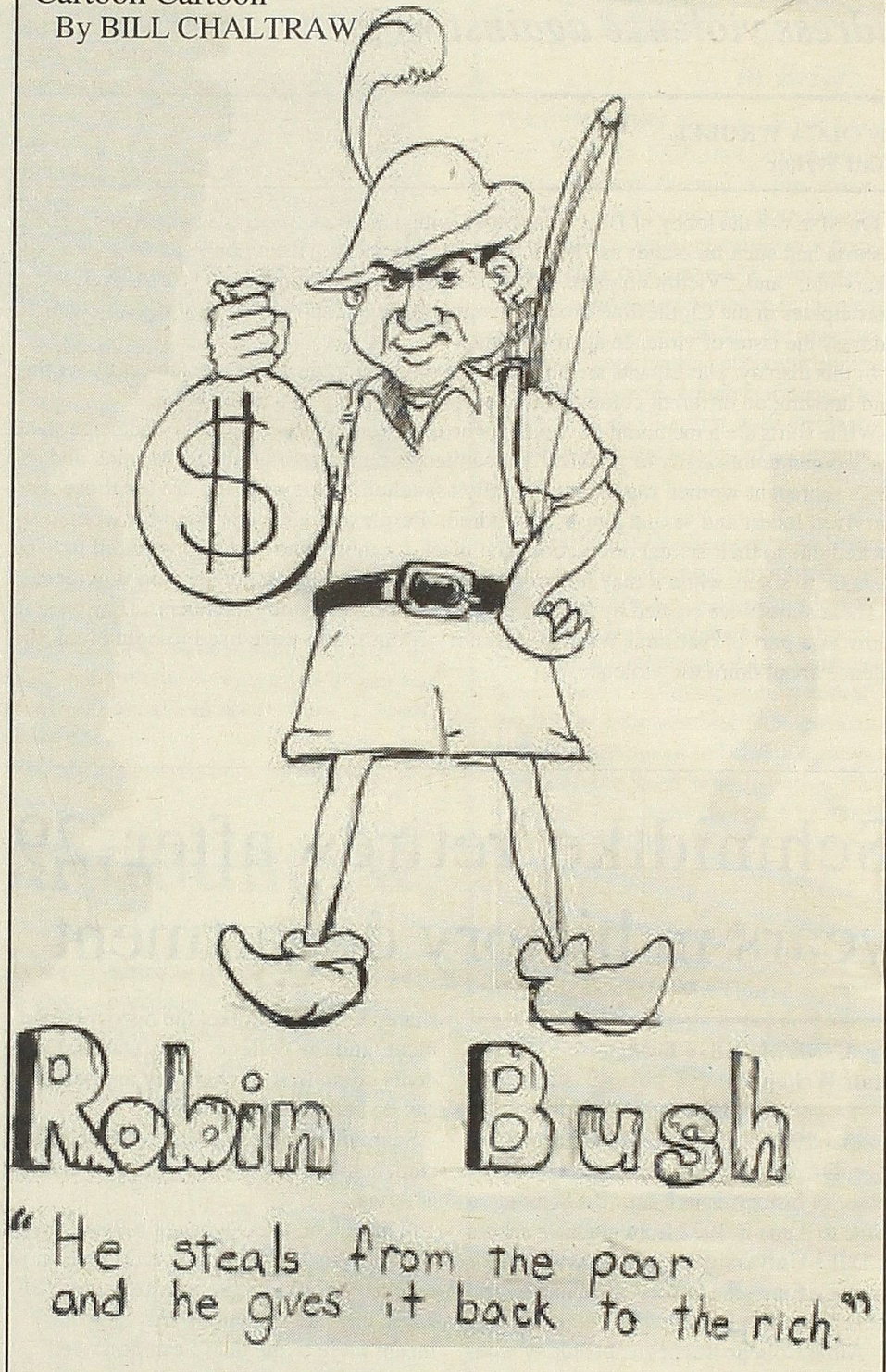
whole truth. But when we get outside this bubble, all we need to do is look around and note that some people are not exactly with the program. And there is nothing wrong with visual stimulation and bubble gum pop, unless those things become a lifestyle and always substitute for the occasional non-bestseller or independent film.

On our end, we are lucky enough to have the aid of professors to keep us away from the sound bytes of MTV all day and the web all night. We have some of the most gifted individuals in the country spending their valuable time with us when they could be playing golf. They are not on the green-they are advising us on classes, revising scholarship applications, critiquing papers and serving on committees to make Alma a better place. These individuals have the increasingly rare gift of knowledge and are willing to share it with students. They assign readings and papers for a reason, and they tell us when we have underachieved. Professors are our lifelines in a world that is drowning very fast in useless information and Carson Daly's monologues. We learn about Beowulf and nuclear disarmament, Afghanistan's plight and our maze of arteries.

Because we learn, we need to be thankful for our professors. We need to be appreciative of their efforts to keep us away from the plagues of McWorld and the infotainment that the media leads people to believe is the way of this planet.

Our professors at Alma are an invaluable resource, one often taken for granted in a world of marketable students where the resume is more important than intelligence, Starbucks' products are considered coffee and many people take their sound bytes, live by them, and then go watch TV again.

Cartoon Cartoon
By BILL CHALTRAW



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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 unpublishized; (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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Sports Track

Expanding Wastes

By **MICHAEL MURPHY**
Opinion Editor

The illustrious Vancouver Grizzlies basketball team's owner, Chicago businessman Michael Heisley, is currently shopping his team around the United States hoping to find a city that will accept his team that is estimated at losing over \$40 million per year.

The Grizzlies franchise, entering into existence in the mid-1990s during the NBA's attempt at expanding into Canada, is suffering from poor personnel moves and a city that is at best apathetic about its team.

The only reason the NBA decided to create a team in Vancouver was because of money. Looks like this bright idea did not turn out so well.

For the Grizzlies signify the plight of modern sports expansionism. Seeking nothing but money, professional sports keeps extending its claws to clench nearly

every major city in North America.

Yeah, sure, expansionism is making sports events accessible to nearly every household in America, including cities once considered to be the home of nothing more than minor league teams. This is its one benefit, if you think that it was wise of the NHL to place a team in the grand city of Columbus, Ohio.

On the other hand, you have to look at what expansionism has done to the sports industry as a whole: it has watered it down with less-than-spectacular talent. The best players in the leagues are neatly proportioned to about every team in every league.

Nowadays, it is rare that you will find a few superstars on one team. Nowadays, you get to enjoy watching one superstar play with material that is worth riding the pine.

The Pistons portray this scenario the best. Jerry Stackhouse, who is having a breakout season this year, has to shoulder the bulk of the scoring load and take a greater percentage of shots because he is The Man

in Detroit. Pair him with another one or two superstars, you will find him not needing to shoulder the entire load.

Furthermore, expansion has lowered the level of playing excitement. Watching a one man show (such as Stackhouse's) can become boring after the first 10 minutes. A team with players near or at the same level can greatly enhance the watching enjoyment.

Unfortunately, these types of players are a shortage in all of sports, and so we get stuck with seeing average play by average players. The level of competition is lower than expectations, and fans become apathetic to watching mediocrity abound.

Thus, fan excitement has been waning all too quickly. Expansion is great during the first year or two when the team is the new thing in town to talk about or go and see. Human interest can only be sustained for so long, and when you are putting out a shabby product, fans are unwilling to continue investing their time and money.

This is why you see half filled stadiums in many games with half good players, half good coaches and half good fans.

Furthermore, traditions are lost as a result of expansionism, as leagues realign to accommodate new blood. Ferocious rivalries are thus eradicated simply to obtain the dollar. For example, the Red Wings used to face off against the Toronto Maple Leafs six times a year a few years ago.

Games were fantastic as adrenaline pumped through players and fans at heightened levels. Now, they square off twice a season without the same flair or meaning.

Modern fans must concentrate on remembering the opponent rather than watching the game. They are stuck in the dark, for they do not know a single face on the team, they do not know their mascots and they certainly do not know one thing about the team itself except that it was created out of haste and greed. Out of that haste, we truly see the waste of expansion.

His Story / Her Story

Tourney Time: Too much fun or too much hype ?

By **BRYAN WAUGH**
Photographer/Staff Writer

Coming from a guy, this may shock you, but what the heck is the big deal with a bunch of guys getting together running around with \$200 shoes playing with a ball?

It is really sad when you actually think about and wonder why we spend so much money and time on something as miniscule as a basketball game.

But of course you are not a "real" guy unless you like to sit around watching a game, drinking beer and whining about how crummy the refs are. Maybe I am just incompetent and do not have the ability to understand, or maybe it is just a bunch of hype ignited by the media.

Everywhere I go, people keep asking me if I filled out a bracket and bet on it. First of all, isn't that illegal? Is there some underground gambling ring that just popped up that I did not know about?

Secondly, I am hoping to avoid having to watch one game let alone writing little names down on a bracket so I can prove to everyone else how miniscule my life really is.

The NCAA basketball tournament is a marathon of soap operas for men. It is something so over-hyped that it almost matches the Super Bowl (you cannot tell me that a six hour pre-game show is necessary for a four hour game).

This is what is wrong with our professional athletes. It starts with the essence of grandeur. Do you think these athletes are experiencing a true-to-life collegiate atmosphere?

An athlete that complains about only receiving \$30 million this year and does not

know how he will live only on that is a bleeping moron.

These people are not curing cancer; they are not running a country. Why in God's green earth can people actually think that they are worth millions simply because they can put a ball in a net?

By **RACHEL KUHLE**
Staff Writer

March Madness is here! The brackets, the upsets, the last second shots ... Is there anything better? I think not.

The NCAA Tournament is one of those



I will tell you why: because they are cocky. And they are like that because we make them like that.

Should athletes get respect for what they do? Of course. But do you really think that a basketball player should get more respect than a teacher should? Of course not, but the span of respectability does not even compare.

things that even the athletically challenged can enjoy and appreciate. It is action-packed, filled with upsets and centered around playing the game for the sake of the game.

So often these days, professional sports are centered less on the team and more on the individual. Each team has one or two players that dominate, while the rest provide a supporting cast to the stars.

The NCAA may have their outstanding athletes such as the Flintstones of Michigan State University, or the Fab Five of U-of-M not so long ago, but over all, you cheer for the team or the school, not the million dollar point guard.

The money issue is another part of why the Tourney is so great. You have the talent of future pros battling it out, but the prize is not the endorsement deals, it is the pride. Sure, money plays an indirect role in the future career of an athlete, but for the most part, the game is being played for the team to advance in the tournament, not to make a name for one's self.

Besides, everyone playing in or watching the games knows that the Tourney Gods are fickle. They giveth and they taketh away. So as a player and a fan, you better not get cocky about your talent or seed 'cause it don't mean a thing on the court. In contrast, many a Pro game has players that seem assured of their victory even before lacing up their Michael Jordan Nike sneakers.

A few rules of thumb for the NCAA Tourney: Every team has a chance to win. Every fan has a chance to pick the winner whether they have ever followed the teams before or not. There is always an upset between a five and 12 seed; the trick is picking the right one. And finally, enjoy the show, enjoy the thrills and excitement because you never know how the Tourney will go, and that is the best part.

Any questions or comments?
Make your ideas into stories by
sending all information to
ALMANIAN@ALMA.EDU

*Point / Counterpoint***Ban on Buddha: Afghanistan's destruction of statues**

Taliban rulers have vowed to destroy all statues in Afghanistan that are un-Islamic. This includes two historic Buddha statues in Bamiyan, which tower 170 feet and 120 feet above the desert. World efforts have been made to preserve these 1,500 year old relics. Should the Taliban government have the right to destroy these statues as they please?

By **MICHAEL MURPHY**
Opinion Editor

Afghanistan's Taliban regime's ruthless destruction of ancient Buddhist statues has come under sharp criticism by many political and religious world leaders.

Their outcry at the emotionless Taliban army's bombardment of cliff engravings of Buddha did nothing to prevent their destruction.

The Taliban's radical alleviation of the religious icons stems from their fundamentalist interpretation of Islamic teachings barring the existence of statues.

Those believing that destroying the statues is a travesty are saddened by the loss of ancient art from a culture no longer existing in Afghanistan.

Certainly, losing the artwork is disappointing, for major relics can never be taken back. However, the scorn greeting the Taliban from Western civilization underscores major cultural differences.

First and foremost, the Western culture belief in the importance of material things - things you can see, touch, feel and so on - all have their individual value based on how rare, how beautiful, how priceless the item is.

Understanding this allows us to understand why many Western governments expressed much contempt towards the Taliban for eradicating the rare statues.

The Taliban, however, under the direction of their religious convictions, believed that the statues conflicted with what they

believed in. And so they, placing higher value on their religious convictions, followed their beliefs and decimated the statues not related to their religion.

Western culture cannot understand this, for these statues cannot be replaced.

Well, Western culture, what about the lives of the impoverished Afghani people suffering through drought, countless years of war and under tyrannical? Do these people have any value?

Why is it that the material statues, when threatened by the Taliban (and then eventually dismantled), received much more attention by world leaders and the media than the plight of the average Afghani? Why is it that their slow but sure deaths are not grabbing the attention of Americans?

The answer is that we place an exorbitant amount of value on material things and do not look for what is most important - in this case recognizing the horror of Afghani life.

Furthermore, this scenario indicates our unwillingness to understand where the other culture is coming from. We only want to infuse upon the Taliban our beliefs concerning the material, thus dismissing their religious beliefs as being barbaric.

So the real tragedy within this destruction of statues is not their loss from the face of the earth. Rather, it is our obsession with materialism that clouds from our eyes the most important things in life.

In this case, it is the struggle of the Afghanistan people that is most important. Unfortunately, we would rather concentrate our efforts towards saving stone carvings than saving the dignity of life.

By **DONNA PAPPAS**
Staff Writer

The demolition of the statues of Buddha is an aggressive tactic by the Taliban, a strict fundamentalist Muslim movement controlling over 90-percent of Afghanistan, in attempt to assert its control over the country. The Taliban has announced it will destroy all statues in the country.

The Taliban claims that these representations of the human form are un-Islamic. It claims "all statues are idols" and should be destroyed because they "idolize infidel gods."

United Nations sanctions demanding the Taliban hand over suspected international terrorist Osama bin Laden, who is wanted in connection with the 1998 bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, has hardened the Taliban's leaders against the outside world and its views. This persuaded the Taliban's leaders to agree to the destruction of the statues.

When the Taliban seized control in 1996, it continued to allow Hindus and Sikhs to practice their religions. The statue destruction, however, is an attempt to further push ethnic and religious minorities from the country.

These actions are ridiculous and the Taliban should be punished for its crimes against culture. The destruction also contradicts a 1999 decree preventing the destruction of Afghanistan's many archeological sites.

The 1954 Hague Convention protects cultural property in the event of armed conflict. But Afghanistan has never signed this document. In addition, the destruction did not happen during the time of war.

Should this allow the Taliban the right to destroy the historic Buddha statues? The director general of the United Nations Economic, Social and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is demanding new international laws to punish cultural vandalism. UNESCO has been powerless in preventing the destruction of the statues and has no way to strike back at those responsible.

"These cultural assets don't just belong to the Taliban or the people who live near them," U.N. emergency relief coordinator Kenzo Oshima told CNN. "They belong to the whole world. They are part of a common cultural heritage."

The destruction could not have come at a worse time for the people of Afghanistan. More than a million Afghans are considered to be in danger of starvation after three years of drought.

Despite appeals for aid by the United Nations, only a small amount of help has surfaced. Relief workers are blaming this reluctance to help on "donor fatigue" with Afghanistan and its problems.

The Taliban's destruction of pre-Islamic heritage may further deter international aid. The Taliban should consider this before it takes any further destructive actions.

In order to prevent future destruction, education is also necessary to inform people to respect what is sacred to others.

Campus and the community

By **RACHEL KUHLE**
Staff Writer

We pay good money to attend Alma College. Aside from the courses we take, meal plan and housing, there is still a great deal of money that goes toward the upkeep of campus grounds and equipment designed for our use. Now, not to discourage citizens of the city of Alma from enjoying the benefits of a college campus in the heart of their city, but is it too much to ask for a certain level of respect in their usage?

For example, there are set policies for the use of library services by a non-college student. Families or individuals may purchase a library card entitling them to computer and Internet use. Students may use the library for academic purposes without charge. It is a wonderful thing how high school, middle school and even elementary school students have access to all our library resources. However, it is not appropriate for those students to abuse those privileges. An example of this would be students using the library reference computers to play games rather than research.

First of all, college students often need

those computers for academic purposes. Secondly, if you have ever seen an eighth grader pound away at the keyboard while trying to reach "the next level," you will understand there is quite a bit of wear and tear inflicted on the hardware itself.

Another issue of wear and tear centers on the misuse of the railings and stairs by rollerbladers and skateboarders, most of whom are under the age of 14. While our campus is a safe place for them to be, it raises the question of appropriateness in abusing College property in the process. Not to mention the danger of the tricks and maneuvers the kids attempt tend to detract from the "safe place" ideal. It is enjoyable seeing non-College citizens walking through our campus, petting the dogs getting their evening walks through McIntyre Mall and witnessing school groups visit or Collegians bring their brownie troops or Big Brother Big Sisters kid to school.

The concern is the Alma community taking advantage of the resources the College provides and at times being destructive towards our property. In the same way Alma students are expected to respect the campus and all it has to offer, so to should College guests and visitors.



It's time to apply for Board Positions:

The Alma College Union Board is looking for smiling faces to fill any of the following Board positions:

President
Booking Coordinator
Technical Coordinator
Financial Coordinator
Major Events Coordinator
Representative Coordinator
Special Events Coordinator
Weekend Events Coordinator
Activities Coordinator
Publicity Coordinator
Graphic Design Coordinator

For more information, call Lindsay Pryor at x8365

March 20, 2001

ENTERTAINMENT

7

Entertainment
Briefs**It's about time...**

After five years away from the studio, Weezer will—finally!—release its new and still untitled album this May. The first single will hit the radio in April.

Bjork album release delayed...

The release of Bjork's new album has been pushed back until August. The Euro pop-star plans to ahead with a tour this summer in the U.S. and Europe.

And this week on "R&B Stars and Misdemeanors"

K-Ci, half of the duo K-Ci and Jo-Jo, was arrested for lewd conduct and indecent exposure earlier this week for flashing the audience at the Shrine Auditorium. Parents of young fans attending the concert are now suing. Perhaps this is the result of looking to George Michael for inspiration.

And for the weekly "Survivor 2" update...

Members voted off Alicia because they thought she was too good a contender. Jerri escaped dismissal by one vote, with Keith winning immunity for the second week in a row.

Actor faces trial for drug charges (oh, how original!)

Lawyers for Robert Downey Jr. could not obtain a plea bargain that would keep Ally McBeal's ratings booster out of jail. The actor will soon face a trail for drug charges.

Dave trumps Steven—for now...

In this week's battle for the top of the album charts, the Dave Matthews Band's new album *Everyday* — which the critics have hated and fans have adored — has the upper hand, temporarily, against Aerosmith's *Just Push Play* (Aerosmith's most creative album title in years). Due to the success of the new album, Dave and the gang have added six weeks worth of dates to their summer tour; times and locations to be announced soon.

Janet to pay her R-E-S-P-E-C-Ts

In what is arguably her best career move since her duet with Jack-O, Janet Jackson will appear in VH1's Divas live, which is scheduled to be a tribute to the ultimate diva — Aretha Franklin.

Puffy, Behind the Verdict...

After two days of deliberation, the exhausted jury for the Sean "Puffy" Combs trial was not any closer to reaching a verdict. Puffy and his lawyers did not appear concerned.

Another diva lands a film career...

During a break from shooting *Queen of the Damned* — based on Anne Rice's Vampire Chronicles — in Australia (you know, the country where "Survivor" is filmed), Aaliyah managed to finish a new album, although its release date is not yet set.

Album Review by Dan Joyce

Our Lady Peace looks toward future

Spiritual Machines, the new album from Canadian rock band Our Lady Peace is more than just a new album. It's more than new songs — vocals, guitars, bass and drums. It's more than effects and silence. The album is a true concept album based on conversations between R.K., a man in different years up to the present, and a machine from the future.

Lately, many bands have thrown in some non-musical tracks. Intros and outros that are just people talking are somewhat commonplace. Our Lady Peace uses them, but for a different purpose. These additions are used to challenge the listener.

The division between human and machine is questioned throughout the album. *Spiritual Machines* has a lot of basis in George Orwell's novel 1984 and even directly references it in one of the conversations.

Our Lady Peace challenges the idea of others knowing what is going on in anyone else's life in the song "Life:" "Have they ever seen your heart / Have they ever seen your pain / Life is waiting for you / It's all messed up, but we're alive."

Spiritual Machines keeps right in line with the previous Our Lady Peace albums in relation to song writing. Lyrically, many tracks are downers. Some of them show some hope. All remain a challenge. The first verse of "Made to Heal" says, "I gave up on you and your exercise / and the world that I knew / I fell back on you because I need more time / And I need an excuse."

Musically, the album is also much like that of the band's previous releases. Raine Maida still utilizes his sometimes screechy voice to really drive home the lyrics of each song.

The guitar is very well-done and gives each track a bleak futuristic feel. The drums also sound very mechanical.

The cover and liner art depicts a hospital with many patients, each with their own disease. Many of the people have mechanical

parts running them. Many of the treatments are mechanically based. One, for instance, is an AA battery IV plugged in by a normal two-prong electrical plug. This physically depicts the question of human versus machine.

The lyrics, sounds and communication between the man and machine keep the album very solemn. The titles of the songs tell much about the album.

For instance, "In Repair," "Made to Heal," and "Everyone's a Junkie" relay a very solemn and searching idea.

Spiritual Machines does have its faults though. Sadly, some of the pauses between tracks and speeches often make you wonder if the album is done. The final track is 20 minutes. Musically, the track is just under four and one-half minutes. Next comes a 12 minute silence.

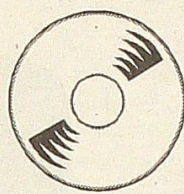
Finally, if you haven't already started the album back on track one, you hear a conversation between R.K., who happens to be an author, and a "machine" from 2099.

The conversation deals with machines being able to create music that people can't understand, and what exactly separates humans and machines.

Many of the speeches given are simply too soft. You can hear someone is talking, but can't quite make out what they are saying. This is too bad because one of the most interesting parts of the album is track 12, "R.K.'s Thoughts on Death."

Even so, the album is very interesting. It is not a passive, sit back and enjoy album type. *Spiritual Machines* really forces the listener to think.

This album may just lead a new wave in song writing and intros, which would force music into a much more searching and meaningful state. It once again offers social commentary through music.

Album Review
Our Lady Peace
Spiritual Machines

Grade: A-

Movie Review by Olga Wrobel

15 Minutes is too long

When one is looking for a moment in the spotlight, 15 minutes of fame, or a chance to be on television, it is not a hard task to achieve. With America being the land of tabloids and talk shows, almost anything can bring people notoriety. Yet some still take the good old approach of brilliant crime to make them famous. This is the basis of the new John Herzfeld film, *15 Minutes*.

15 Minutes begins with two Eastern European men arriving in the country of their dreams, the United States. Emil (Karel Roden) and Oleg (Oleg Taktarov) plan on making a fortune, one way or another, and becoming celebrities in this land of freedom. When they go to visit a friend who owes them money, they discover that this friend has spent it all, so Emil stabs him repeatedly in a fit of rage. His faithful sidekick Oleg has stolen a video camera from a vendor earlier that day, and with it in hand he films the whole murder. They also notice a woman escaping the crime scene through a window, so their mission is to find her and kill her so they don't get caught.

Meanwhile, detective Eddie Flemming, (Robert DeNiro), who is one of New York's heroes of the day, is looking to apprehend these two men and gain even more celebrity than he already has. Helping him out is firefighter Jordy Warsaw, who is played by an innocent and romantic Edward Burns. Warsaw does not care about the fame that his job could bring him; all he wants is to save a baby from a burning building, and become a hero in his own eyes. Together

these two men make use of their expertise and search the city of New York for the cold-blooded killers.

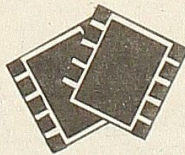
By this time Oleg and Emil have been involved in a few more murders and, of course, filmed it all. They have also devised a plan; once they are caught they will plea insanity and be sent to an institution, where they will profit from the millions of dollars the film

psychopaths get away with such a crime? In the *Natural Born Killers* sense, criminals get much more attention than they should. The media often twists the stories into their own little money markets, and this is what the premise of the movie is based on. The actors were the right picks for the roles they played; DeNiro never fails, and the villains were an exceptionally good pair.

One of the best-filmed and most intense scenes in any movie in a long time is when Warsaw is stuck in a burning building and has less than a minute to escape. It is very well done and keeps the viewer holding their breath for that moment in time.

However, these aspects did not make up for the majority of the film, which was quite a dud. First of all, it seems that today's filmmakers have forgotten the concept of the regular length film;

it seems that all movies today have to be at least two hours long. Unless it is a wonderful movie, which *15 Minutes* is definitely not, most viewers will become restless after watching so much non stop cliché action footage. The plot becomes a little too extreme towards the end of the film, and there are too many scenes that should have been left out. One of the worst is when fireman Jordy looks into the eyes of the woman that the killers are after, and they have a moment of passionate "staring" while the cheesiest music ever plays in the background. *15 Minutes* did not meet my expectations, and overall can be placed on the shelves of the thousands of action movies that are not gone, but definitely forgotten.

Movie Review
15 MinutesRobert DeNiro
Kelsey Grammar

Grade: C-

And the winner is . . .

It's that time again—the time when the term “Oscar-caliber performance” becomes the most cherished compliment an actor can receive. This year will be an especially hard year for the academy to decide just what actors deserve the compliment and which deserve the actual Oscar. This year was filled with good movies, but few—perhaps none—were truly great films.

BEST ACTRESS

Joan Allen for *The Contender* got an Oscar nod for her role as the first female named as Vice-President (apparently Glenn Close in *Air Force One* doesn't count), a brilliant and headstrong politician whose career in the White House is plagued by scandal. The story is both original and familiar—think the Clinton scandal with Hillary having the indiscretions and Bill as the long-suffering spouse—and Allen is amazing, combining power and integrity in a manner the makes it all the more poignant when her character finally breaks down.

The next actress contending for the Best award is Juliette Binoche who plays the thinnest single mother ever to see love and chocolate as the same things in *Chocolat*. The story is similar to *Pleasantville* but in this case Binoche uses chocolate instead of color to introduce the small French town she resides in to the joy of life and passion.

Ellen Burstyn receives a nomination for *Requiem for a Dream*, which she stripped off make-up and the Hollywood image of what women should look like to portray an addict with a rawness and intensity that is rarely captured on the screen.

The next contender is Laura Linney for *You Can Count on Me*. Linney has been the critics darling for the better part of the year for her subtle and sensitive portrayal of Sammy in the mesmerizing film on domestic problems.

Julia Roberts is next for her role as the spunky and sleazy legal assistant in *Erin Brockovich*. Although this role was not much of a stretch for Roberts—she just had to add brazen to her normal cute persona—it apparently impressed the Academy (or perhaps the Academy has never heard the phrase “this is not a popularity contest”).

Burstyn deserves the Oscar the most, simply because she worked harder for it than any of the other actresses, but Allen has the best chance of receiving it because *The Contender* is a more watchable film than the harrowing *Requiem For a Dream*, and because Allen's character exhibited power and broke norms—two essential ingredients for and Oscar.

BEST PICTURE

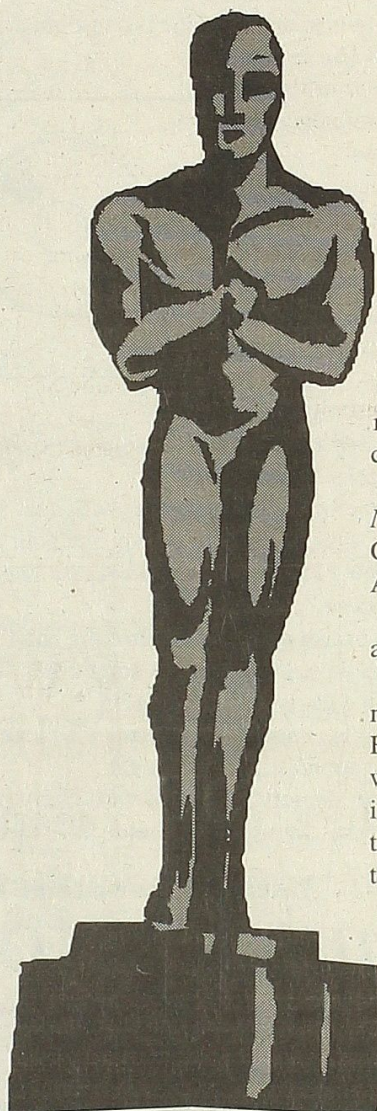
The Oscars aren't complete without one epic melodrama, and this year's nominee is the lavish superficial *Gladiator*. The cinematography may make up for the lack of depth and propel this film to the winners' circle.

Erin Brockovich received a nod. Although thoroughly likeable, this film does not deserve to win because it lacks anything in the way of greatness that Best Picture is supposed to be a reward for.

The sweet and savory *Chocolat* should come out ahead because it manages what *Erin Brockovich* does not: to be adorable and deep. Not all of the films vying for the Oscar are typical Hollywood films.

The quirky tale of the drug industry, *Traffic*, is this year's *Fargo*—offbeat, but it is so good that it just may win.

The action film *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* is really the only Oscar-worthy picture among the bunch. Although it suffers from a stupid trailer, the film itself is a mixed bag of culture, action, romance, and artistry. It is unusual because it is an Eastern film, but has all of the makings of a Hollywood classic.



BEST ACTOR

Russell Crowe receives an Oscar nod for this year's epic, *Gladiator*. This will undoubtedly be good for Crowe's career—it will give him a chance to be known for something other than dating Meg Ryan.

This was also the year of the film biography. Ed Harris played the painter Jackson Pollack in the film biography, *Pollack*. Harris rants, raves, drinks and paint the infamous artist into being with a candid view of the man and the artist.

The relative unknown Javier Bardem received his nod for *Before Night Falls*, in another biography—that of a homosexual writer from Cuba who was persecuted for his writing and lifestyle and died of AIDS in New York.

Also, Geoffrey Rush got a nod for playing the lead in *Quills*, an adaptation of a play about the Marquis de Sade.

Tom Hanks is up for yet another Best Actor nod for *Cast Away*, the much-hyped tale of a UPS man who is stranded on a desert island. Hanks spends a good half hour of the film without speaking and when he does, he often addresses a volleyball, but his performance in *Cast Away* does not compare with the work that he has done in the past. In fact, the only truly clever thing about the film is that it is titled *Cast Away* and not *Castaway*.

This will be a hard pick for the Academy. It would be nearly impossible for them to single out a winner among the biographies, so they are left with Hanks and Crowe. Unless they chose to award Hanks for past performances, Crowe should get the Oscar by default.

BEST DIRECTOR

Stephen Daldry, *Billy Elliot*
 Ang Lee, *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*
 Ridley Scott, *Gladiator*
 Steven Soderbergh, *Erin Brockovich*
 Steven Soderbergh, *Traffic*

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS

Judi Dench, *Chocolat*
 Marcia Gay Harden, *Pollock*
 Kate Hudson, *Almost Famous*
 Frances McDormand, *Almost Famous*
 Julie Walters, *Billy Elliot*

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR

Jeff Bridges, *The Contender*
 Willem Dafoe, *Shadow of the Vampire*
 Albert Finney, *Erin Brockovich*
 Joaquin Phoenix, *Gladiator*
 Benicio del Toro, *Traffic*

TOP TEN MOVIES

- (from)
- 1. *The Mexican*
 - 2. *Fifteen Minutes*
 - 3. *See Spot Run*
 - 4. *Hannibal*
 - 5. *Down to Earth*
 - 6. *Wo hu zang long*
 - 7. *Get Over It*
 - 8. *Traffic*
 - 9. *Chocolate*
 - 10. *Recess: School's Out*

TOP TEN VIDEO RENTALS

- (from)
- 1. *Meet the Parents*
 - 2. *Bring It On*
 - 3. *Nurse Betty*
 - 4. *Book of Shadows: Blair Witch 2*
 - 5. *The Watcher*
 - 6. *Bless the Child*
 - 7. *Bedazzled*
 - 8. *The Contender*
 - 9. *Dr. T and the Women*
 - 10. *What Lies Beneath*

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- (from)
- 1. Dave Matthews Band: *Everyday*
 - 2. Aerosmith: *Just Push Play*
 - 3. Shaggy: *Hotshot*
 - 4. Eve: *Scorpion*
 - 5. DJ Clue: *DJ Clue? The Professional 2*
 - 6. Dido: *No Angel*
 - 7. The Beatles: *1*
 - 8. Lenny Kravitz: *Greatest Hits*
 - 9. Project Pat: *Mista Don't Play Everythings Workin...*
 - 10. Ja Rule: *Rule 3:36*

Discovering the history and heritage of Alma

By SUMIT YADAM, Staff Writer and GINGER DAVIS, Feature Editor

Do you feel proud to be an Alma Scot? Ever wonder about Alma College's Scottish heritage and history? I was pretty interested at first, until I found out there is no real connection between Alma College and its supposedly Scottish heritage. In 1885, the Presbyterian Synod of Michigan appointed a committee of nine men to consider the establishment of a Presbyterian college in Michigan. Presbyterians were also ardent supporters of public education during many of the first decades of the state constitution. Although there is a relationship between Scotland and the Presbyterian Church,

there is no link to a Scottish heritage. The mascot for the school was named the Fighting Presbyterians. However later on, there was a contest held to find a new mascot. "Its kind of interesting, a student that entered knew that most of the people on the board were of Scottish ancestry, so he decided to choose the Scots," said Librarian Stephen Vest. If this means that Alma College had nothing to do with Scotland, then why is the city of Alma called "Scotland U.S.A.?" The answer is simple — Alma was capitalizing on a good idea. The city of Alma simply liked the new name Scot, and since the city is the same name as the college, they decided to nickname the city Scotland, U.S.A. Since the college adopted the kilt-wear-

ing mascot, it has added many unique and memorable Scottish traditions to the Alma experience. Now the Alma Kiltie Marching Band wears traditional MacPherson kilts — a garment dating back to its use by the British military highland regiments as early as the 1720s — to each game. Because each pattern of kilt belongs to a specific clan, Alma has even registered its own version of the kilt so that all kilt enthusiasts will be able to know an Alma Scot when they see one. Students can take classes in highland dancing and bagpipers serenade students during convocations. Alma is even listen in a national directory of *Nutcracker* performances for adding Scottish flare to their version of the oft-performed ballet.

www.what?!?

Interested in learning more about Scottish heritage and culture? Check out these sites:

- Is by far the most thorough source of information on kilts, tartans, clans and Scots on the web. This site even gives you a chance to e-mail questions to historians, and links to Scottish online publications.
- Confused about the who-what-and-whens of Scottish history? This site has a complete, detailed timeline that will help you put all things Scott into a more chronological perspective.
- is a must visit site for history buffs and even gives you a chance to enter information about your own Scottish heritage into a database to share with Scots everywhere.

Shamrocks, leprachauns and green beer: the history of St. Patrick's Day

By ANNE MABBITT
Staff Writer

St. Patrick's Day is a cause for celebration here in America. But does anyone know why? Of course not, we like to get rowdy — to heck with rationale. St. Patrick is the patron saint of the island of Ireland and credited with bringing Christianity to the people. He is also one of Christianity's most widely known figures. For as much celebration as this figure receives, no one knows too much about his life. What we do know about St. Patrick is obscure. The facts don't match up in many cases. We don't even know if the reason we celebrate St. Patrick's Day on Mar. 17 is because of his birth, his death, or something totally different. St. Patrick, which became his name later in life, was born in Britain or Scotland. His parents were most likely Roman and very wealthy. St. Patrick's father was also a Christian deacon, but most likely took the role for tax incentives rather than being particularly religious. Patrick was abducted around the age of 16 and taken to Ireland (most likely the County of Mayo, near Killala) as a slave. He spent six years in Ireland. Here he worked as a shepherd — outdoors and alone. During this time, Patrick turned to religion for solace, becoming a devout Christian. He may have had aspirations of converting the Irish people during this time. He was a truly ambitious boy. When St. Patrick was about 22-years-old, he escaped from captivity by walking nearly

200 miles to the Irish coast. Patrick spent 15 years studying in Britain before he returned to Ireland due to visions he had of God. It was apparently going to be Patrick's job to bring Christianity to the Irish people. Another theory is that Patrick just wanted some attention and made up stories about having visions. Patrick's plan did work, so I suppose what he says was true. Patrick incorporated some of the pagan beliefs of the native Irish into Christianity. He used bonfires to celebrate Easter because the Irish were used to honoring their Gods with fire. The sun, also an important Irish symbol, was used in worship. Meshing the sun and the cross together gives us the Celtic cross. Since Patrick's invention of the Celtic cross, it has never dropped in popularity. I don't suppose even Patrick could have foreseen the success of his symbol. St. Patrick is credited with building over 300 churches in Ireland, all of which contained a school. However, his most compelling story is that of banishing the snakes of Ireland into the sea by beating on a drum. Due to the pagan tradition of oral storytelling, this story is most likely blown way out of proportion. The Black Death of snakes is more likely. Does this mean that there are absolutely no snakes in Ireland? If that's the case, sign me up for a Spring Term in Dublin. Patrick also used the shamrock — seen everywhere on St. Patrick's Day — to explain to the late person how the Holy Trinity existed. Today, millions of shamrocks are grown in County Cork, Ireland, and distributed around the world. I was convinced the shamrock was a flavoring for beer. I guess that's just for McDonald's shakes.

And it's down to Sweet 16

NCAA tournament has it all on the road to Final Four

By AMY NOVAK
Sports Editor

And then there were sixteen.

The first round action of the men's NCAA Tournament once again filled the reputation it holds: surprise, drama, intrigue and most importantly, upset.

Well maybe not that much upset. In the Midwest, all four of the top seeds advanced to the Sweet 16. Call it talent, call it luck, but definitely do not call it upset. After the unexpected three-point shot by Jason Harrison that gave Mississippi the win over Notre Dame, all four Midwestern top seeds pulled through to advance to the Sweet Sixteen. Arizona's defense played at its strongest to hand Butler a 73-52 loss. Number one seed Illinois trounced Charlotte and number two Kansas crushed Syracuse.

In the South, number 12 seed Gonzaga once again proved their tournament worth by advancing to the Sweet 16 after an 85-68 win over Indiana State. Seventh seeded Penn State used turnovers to their advantage and pulled an 82-74 win over second seed UNC, who just last year was playing in the Final Four. The win marked the first time the Lions advanced to the Sweet 16 since 1955. And speaking of upsets, the Temple Owls defeated third seeded Florida. Meanwhile, the Michigan State Spartans continued defending their title by defeating Fresno State.

In the East, first seed Duke defeated Missouri 94-81 while fourth seed UCLA crushed Utah State 75-50. Robert Hutchison came in off the bench for Southern California in the final minutes of the game to score some crucial free throws for a 74-71 victory over third seeded Boston College. Meanwhile, sixth three-pointers from Tayshaun Prince helped lead Kentucky to an easy 92-79 win over Iowa.

In the West, tenth seed Georgetown moved to the Sweet 16 for the first time since 1996 after a 76-57 win over Hampton. And the size and depth of Maryland's team was too much for Georgia State as the Terrapins advanced with a commanding 79-60 win. Ninth seed St. Joseph's gave Stanford a scare as the Cardinals avoided their third straight second round knockout with a 90-83 win over the Hawks. The fifth seed, Cincinnati, dominated the Kent State Goldenflashes for a 66-43 win and their first trip to the Sweet 16 in four years.

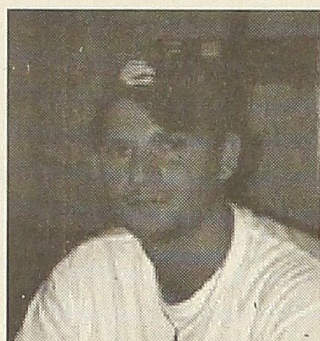
After the first two rounds of play, the PAC-10 has four teams advancing to the Sweet 16: Stanford, UCLA, USC and Arizona. That's one quarter of the remaining teams. And the ACC continues their streak of sending at least two teams a year to the Sweet 16; this time around it is Duke and Maryland.

The next two rounds should provide the same excitement as the previous; surprise, drama, intrigue and upset - not to mention just plain-old good basketball. Stay tuned to see who advances to the Final Four; this week's action begins on Thursday.



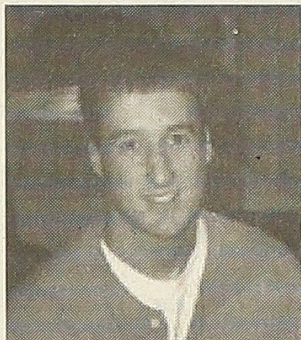
Campus Viewpoints

Why is the NCAA Basketball Tournament so popular but the regular season is barely watched?



"There's money involved."

Mason Koffman (01)



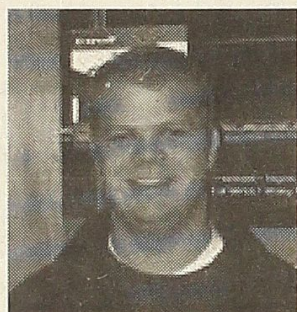
"Because there is a countdown to the championship game."

Cliff Hearth (03)



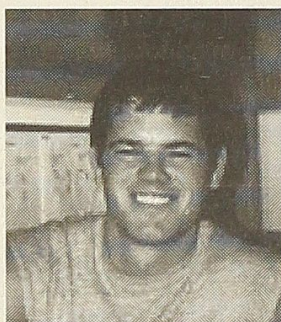
"Because there are higher stakes."

Jared Evans (03)



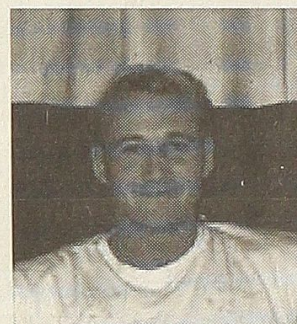
"Everybody goes 100%. It's their last chance."

Nick Carmen (02)



"Most Americans pay a lot of attention to the final four."

Dan Draper (03)



"Everybody's money is riding on it."

Jon Nugent (03)

Looking for a little extra money and great experience for the future?

The Almanian is currently accepting applications for the 2001-2002 school year for the following positions:

News Editor
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Sports Editor
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Layout Editors
Photographers
Online Editor
Advertising Manager
Distribution Manager
Business Manager
Graphic Designer
Staff Writers

For more information or an application contact Scott at x8543.

Men's tennis still hopeful despite loss

By DARBY CORNELIUS
Staff Writer

The men's tennis team suffered a 9-0 loss to Aquinas College in Grand Rapids on Saturday. With three of their top men injured, the Scots put forth their best effort, but they couldn't overcome the competition.

Kevney Dugan (04), Mark O'Bryan (03), and Denis Busque (02) were the "wounded warriors" of the day, each suffering from hurting wrists or arms. Dugan lost 6-3, 6-0 to Justin Crain, O'Bryan fell 6-0, 6-2 to Tom Huizing, and Busque was defeated 6-3, 7-5 by Nate Lavoie.

Jon Boyer (02) had a decent 6-0, 7-5 showing against Jason Winegar. Matt Piper (02) had a 6-2, 6-4 effort against Nate Price in the loss.

In doubles play, Piper and Boyer handed the 6-0, 6-4 victory to Price and Huizing while Dugan and Krieg struggled for the 6-4, 6-4 loss to Kurt Brummel and Crain. O'Bryan and Chris Riebel (04) fought for the last chance of the day with an eight game pro-set due to time restraints. They ended up losing 8-3 to Winegar and Lavoie.

"Aquinas is certainly one of the toughest teams we'll run against and they beat us pretty good," said coach Bob Harris.

Harris has high goals for the team regardless of the loss. The men are currently 2-4 with no conference play. Harris is confident that they will be ready for league action soon.

"We're a young team, and we will gain more experience as the season goes by," he said. "This team has a lot of potential and once the injuries get better, our game will pick up quite a bit."

"This loss will only make us stronger and more ready for MIAA matches," said Boyer. "We knew Aquinas would be good, and they came out stronger than we'd expected."

The men's tennis team will return to Grand Rapids to scrimmage Grand Rapids Community College on Saturday, March 24.

Low numbers hands lacrosse team first loss

By AMY NOVAK
Sports Editor

The Alma College Lacrosse team opened the season with a 3-6 loss to the Ferris State Club team. Small numbers due to many other commitments made by players was definitely a contributing factor to the loss. The Scots had just the minimum of ten players for the competition.

The Scots started the game well; the score was tied 2-2 at the end of the first half. But the full squad for Ferris proved to be too much for the team in the second, scoring four goals to the Scot two, and handing Alma their loss.

"It was a good game," said senior Jared Fritz. "We played hard but were just too tired in the second half. If we had a full squad, we could have won."

Fifth-year senior Justin Modryzinski scored two goals for the Scots; Fritz scored the other.

Last Thursday the Scots scrimmaged against the Central Michigan University Club Team in extremely muddy conditions. The melting snow and rain combined to create almost one foot of mud on the playing field. Despite their loss, it was a good chance for many of the players to gain experience on the field, especially considering the extremely muddy conditions.

"It was a good learning experience for the players," said Fritz. "We played all of our players and it was good practical experience for the whole team."

The Lacrosse team is a club team for the College. This means there is no fee to play, however, players must provide their own equipment. The money budgeted for travel and other expenses comes from the Student Activity Fee and Student Congress. Members of the team generally pay for their own travel, however Alma does pay for the referees for home games.

"The Student Congress money supports additional fundraisers for the team to maintain itself financially," said Fritz. "It helps."

The Alma team is still young but shows promise. One of the biggest obstacles facing the team is attendance, as games are often scheduled at times when members have previous conflicts. Because it is not an official Alma College sport, students cannot be excused from class for games.

The team will travel to Albion on Thursday and then play at home Sunday at 2 p.m.

The Admissions Office is now taking applications for Alma College Ambassador Coordinators

Positions are available for the 2001-02 school year. These **paid** positions will involve working approximately 10-12 hours per week and 4 Saturday mornings per term.

Applications and a complete job description are available in the Admissions Office beginning March 11 through March 23.

Completed applications are due back to Jeff Pate in the Admissions Office by:

**Monday, March 26, 2001
at 5:00 p.m.**

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Congratulations to the Gamma Phi Foxy 15 ! You girls make us so proud!