

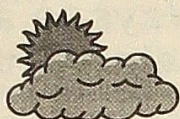
January 26, 1999

Issue 13

# The Almanian

## Weekly Weather

### Today



Partly Cloudy

High: 39°

Low: 19°

### Wednesday



Rain Showers

High: 43°

Low: 27°

### Thursday



Rain Turning to Snow

High: 40°

Low: 37°

### Friday



Snow

High: 30°

Low: 23°

### Saturday



Snow

High: 26°

Low: 13°

## Contents

World News .....	2
News .....	3
Entertainment .....	4
Feature .....	5-6
Sports .....	7-9
Opinion .....	10-12

Serving Alma College since 1907

## Alumni office moves to Kirk House

By JASON FISCHER  
Staff Reporter

For several years the Kirk House has housed Alma's International Education Office. Next Fall term it will take on a new role.

"Alma's alumni want a house, not a mere building," said Alumni Relations coordinator Bob Eldridge. "A house provides a friendlier atmosphere to preserve Alma's long history and to conduct meetings and receptions. When the International Office left the house vacant, I proposed the idea of renovating it into the Alumni House, and President Stone supported the idea."

Since the original structure dates from 1886, the Kirk House will undergo extensive structural, technological, and decorative renovation to become the new Alumni House. Besides housing the alumni office, it will have rooms available for visiting alumni to stay overnight, rooms for meetings and receptions, and cases to display historical memorabilia.

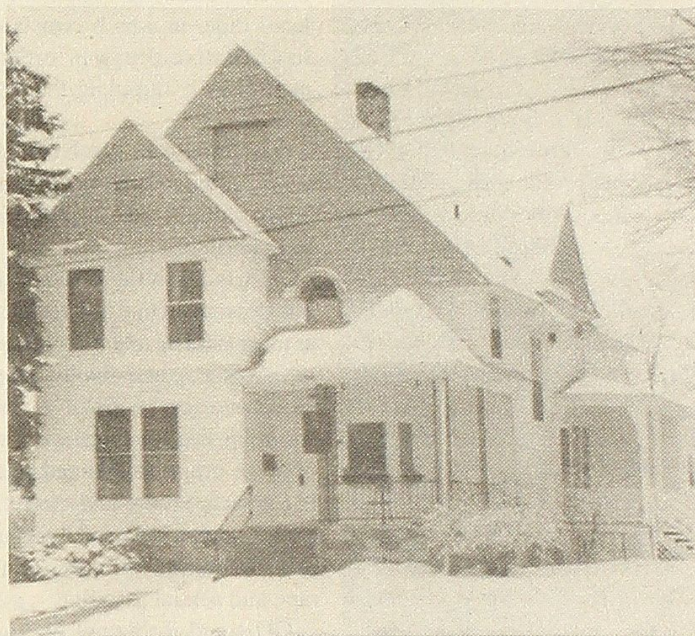
"The Alumni Office is in dire need of space," said Eldridge. "I have very valuable historical items just laying around in my office because there's no where else to put it. Just the other day, a man dropped off some original photographs from the 1920's, and I have nowhere to put them to preserve them."

Although President Stone supported the

idea, the \$100,000 required for the project could not be apportioned because this year's budget had already been set. Upon hearing of the idea, the Alumni Board chose to take on the project, including the task of raising all required funds through alumni donations only. Donations so far have exceeded fundraisers' expectations.

"About \$82,500 have been raised so far, and we haven't even gone public with the idea yet," said Eldridge.

To raise funds, the Alumni Board chose three distinct "giving opportunities." Alumni may purchase walkway bricks that will bear their names, their family's name, a faculty member's name, or another alumni's name for a \$100 donation or rooms that will be named similarly for a \$5,000 donation. Art and Carra Smith donated \$50,000 to receive naming rights, so the Kirk House will be renamed the Art



Presently known as the Kirk House, the structure above will soon be renovated into the Art and Carra Smith Alumni House. Photo taken by Maya Mackowiak.

and Carra Smith Alumni House.

"Hopefully we'll have all required funds collected by April. If that happens we'll be able to start the renovation this summer. Our goal is to dedicate the house by next Homecoming," said Eldridge.

"This new Alumni House will only enhance the campus; it will bring alumni closer to campus, which can only yield positive results."

## Senior class challenge kicks into gear

By AMY NOVAK  
Freelance Writer

The "Senior Challenge" is an Alma College tradition in which the senior class raises money to leave a gift for the school.

This year's graduating class has recently begun to meet this challenge. They have begun fundraising in hopes of donating a clock to be placed in McIntyre Mall.

The senior class officers have many fundraising events planned. These events include a security deposit donation telethon, "Switch a Day" with President Stone, and a board exchange.

"The easiest way for seniors to help is by donating their security deposit," senior class secretary Jill Georges said. "Every student pays a refundable \$100 security deposit while attending classes here. What we are asking seniors to do is to donate that deposit by filling out a pledge form."

Another way seniors can contribute is

by participating in "Skip a Meal" on February 26. By filling out a sheet prior to February 26, seniors can donate the money normally used for that meal to meet the challenge. Senior class advisor Mindy Sargent feels that "Skip a Meal" has the potential to be successful.

"We're having it on February 26, which is the Friday before spring break. Students shouldn't mind giving up a meal that they're going to skip anyway." She also commends Marriott on its help in the donation.

A final way for the senior class to raise money and the entire campus to help is by purchasing raffle tickets for "Switch a Day" with President Stone.

Raffle tickets will be on sale February 1 - 5 in Hamilton Commons. Students can buy one ticket for \$1 or five for \$3. On February 5, the winner will be drawn in President Stone's office. The actual switch will take place on February 9.

The senior officers are hoping that "Switch a Day" will bring in some needed money.

"Fundraising right now is moving slowly," says senior class president Ray Cochenour. "We have 13 people out of 300 who have filled out their security deposit pledge forms. 'However, coming soon is Switch a Day'. From past years' experience, 'Switch a Day' will bring in a lot of money."

The winner of "Switch a Day" will get the full benefit of being President of the college. Likewise, President Stone will experience life as a student at Alma.

"The event," said Cochenour, "is the whole nine yards. You get his [President Stone's] parking spot, office, and even his lunch date."

All of these events, along with a security deposit donation telethon in March, will assist the senior class in reaching its goal of raising \$8000.

### News

- Date rape drugs, p. 2
- Alcohol related deaths, p. 3.

### Feature

- Movie review, p. 4
- New greek members, p. 5

### Sports

- Swimmers stay positive, p. 8
- NCAA basketball, p. 9

### Opinion

- Point/Counterpoint, p. 11
- Judgment calls, p. 12



## News Briefs

## State News

**Proposal may lead to increase in state minimum wage**

**LANSING**—Democratic legislators are pushing for the increase of Michigan's minimum wage, from the current \$5.65 per hour to \$6.15 per hour. Led by House minority leader Mike Hanley (D), these representatives will introduce a bill on Labor Day that proposes to institute a new minimum wage on January 1, 2000. In addition, Hanley will introduce an amendment to the state constitution that would link minimum wage to increases in the cost of living.

## National News

**Worldwide abortion statistics released**

**WASHINGTON**—A recent report issued by the Alan Guttmacher Institute concluded that about half of all unplanned pregnancies end in abortion. According to the report, 38 percent of pregnancies worldwide are unexpected, with abortions taking place in 22 percent of the total number. The highest regional abortion rate occurs in Eastern Europe, with Vietnam experiencing the highest national rate. Spain, Ireland and the Netherlands possess the lowest abortion rates.

**Lyrics web site shut down over possible copyright infringements**

**NEW YORK**—A lawsuit filed by several American music companies alleges that the International Lyrics Server (ILS), a Swiss web site that contains the words to over 100,000 popular songs, violated copyright laws by publishing lyrics without the permission of those who hold the rights to them. The ILS, which is visited approximately one million times a day, has been temporarily shut down while litigations continue.

## World News

**Plans for Holocaust memorial revealed**

**BONN, Germany**—Culture Minister Michael Naumann unveiled on January 21 new plans for a Holocaust memorial to be located in Berlin. Initial drafts of the memorial had consisted of 2,700 concrete blocks to honor victims, but critics argued that this design did not provide educational opportunities for visitors. The new design retains the concrete blocks, but adds a research center and may incorporate interviews of Holocaust survivors taken from Steven Spielberg's Shoah Foundation.

## Date rape drugs increasing problem

By MARK ISZAK  
Staff Writer

A very serious issue has, and still is, gaining more attention and exposure worldwide. This issue is one involving substance-related rape, in which rapists utilize sedative drugs in order to control or manipulate their victims.

Recently, two sedatives have been in the spotlight: Gamma Hydroxybutyrate (GHB), and Rohypnol.

GHB is a central nervous system depressant that has been used as an anesthetic and for treatment of narcolepsy and alcoholism.

Rohypnol, or "roofies," is a prescription sleep medication. Both of these drugs are banned in the U.S., but are more and more frequently being misused by criminals to commit crimes, especially rape and sexual assault.

GHB and Rohypnol both appear in tablet form. They are tasteless, odorless, and colorless. In other words, if someone slipped them into a drink, the victim would be unaware. The drugs also dissolve in liquid very quickly. Rapists and sexual offenders crush the pills into powder, and then drop the powder into the exposed liquid with hardly any effort at all. The drugs take effect very quickly -- within 15-20 minutes.

What do these drugs do? They usually make a person feel tired and sleepy, and can make them appear very drunk. Usually the victim will pass out or fall asleep soon after.

GHB and Rohypnol also intensify the affects of alcohol. Actually, when mixed with alcohol, these sedatives can and have been proven to be lethal.

In addition to causing sleepiness and lack of personal control, GHB and Rohypnol cause a temporary amnesia. If a victim is drugged, they may be raped or assaulted, and never even remember a thing.

Where does substance-related rape happen? The truth is, it happens all over the world. However, recently many rapes and deaths have taken place in/around campus settings.

The parties and booze present a perfect scenario for a rapist. Keep in mind that these drugs dissolve in any liquid, so even pop, juice, or water can be drugged just as easily. According to the Wilcox Medical Center, not only do people who are drinking alcoholic beverages have to be careful, but anyone who takes a sip of anything have to as well.

At present, there have been no substance-related rapes reported at Alma College. However, a few have been reported at Central Michigan University in Mt.

Pleasant. According to the Center for Student Development, substance-related rape can happen anywhere -- small town or big city.

Gayle Pasaretti, assistant dean of counseling and student development warns students that as spring break approaches, it is important to be aware of what is happening. Florida and Cancun are two getaways with large amounts of GHB and Rohypnol usage.

"Safety and awareness will continue to be very important even on spring break vacations. Since these drugs are plentiful and easily available in these areas, students need to take extra caution," she said.

How can you protect yourself and others? There are many ways to avoid being drugged, the most important being never leave beverages unattended and never accept beverages from anyone during a party situation.

What should one do if they feel they have been drugged? "They should immediately call for help, and visit a doctor or hospital. GHB and Rohypnol are detectable in the human body from 12-60 hours after they are introduced into the blood stream. Immediate action is the best course of action to help yourself and others," stated Joe Gelina from the Wilcox Medical Center.

## Ways to avoid being drugged

Here are a number of precautions to take to reduce the risk of being drugged:

- Do not leave beverages unattended.
- Do not take any beverages, including alcohol, from someone you do not know well or trust.
- At a bar or club, accept drinks only from the bartender or server.
- At parties, do not accept open-container drinks from anyone.
- Be alert to the behavior of friends and ask them to watch out for you. Anyone extremely intoxicated after consuming only a small amount of alcohol may be in danger.

In addition to seeking medical help, it is advised that victims seek some sort of counseling or therapy. This help is available on campus. Students with any concerns should feel free to visit the Center for Student Development at X7225 and the Wilcox Medical Center at X7181.

## Candidates consider run for 2000 election

By TONYA SCHAFER  
News Editor

Speculation has begun in political circles as to who will receive the Democratic and Republican presidential candidate nominations for the 2000 election.

Michael Kranish of *The Boston Globe* predicts that Bill Clinton's current vice president, Al Gore, will be "a cautious front-runner" for the Democratic nomination.

Gore has filed his candidacy papers and has begun to raise money for his campaign. In the interim, Gore is delivering speeches nationwide in which he endorses the continued advancement of technology and promises to provide a healthy economy in the new millennium.

Gore's candidacy is supported by Alma Young Democrats (AYD) secretary Karla Greening (99), who stated, "Al Gore would be a good candidate because he has done a lot with the environment. I hope he gets nominated and beats the Republican contender."

Allyson Ham (99), AYD's co-chair, agrees with Greening, but holds little hope for an eventual Gore victory.

"I would love for him to win [the election], but he doesn't have much support. I don't think he's

a good campaigner," said Ham.

Although traditionally a sitting vice president has won his party's nomination, other potential Democratic candidates have appeared.

House minority leader Dick Gephardt is rumored to be considering a run for president, although many pundits agree that the chances of his doing so are slim.

"I don't think he has made a final decision yet," political consultant David Doak told Thomas Ferraro of the Reuters news agency. "But he realizes it would be difficult to beat Gore, who's already running hard."

However, Ham believes that Gephardt would be the best choice for a Democratic nomination. "He's been interested [in running] for a long time and has a lot of support from the party," she said.

Currently, Gore's only announced opponent for the Democratic nomination is former New Jersey Senator Bill Bradley.

Although a poll taken by New Hampshire television station WMUR concluded that Gore is currently leading Bradley by twenty percentage points,

Bradley's spokesman Eric Hauser maintains that the ex-Senator can, through "the power

of ideas and leadership," win the race.

Possible Republican presidential nominees include former vice president Dan Quayle, who announced his candidacy January 21. Quayle will introduce as part of his platform plans for a thirty percent reduction in the tax rate and an emphasis on foreign issues.

"I am uniquely positioned and prepared to be president. I can assure you, I am serious. I am committed," said Quayle on "Larry King Live."

Despite these assurances, Alma College Republicans member Aaron Simmons (01) believes that Quayle is not the best choice for Republican presidential candidate.

"Quayle has experience and he did serve as vice president. But if he's picked, I think we're looking at four years of an Al Gore presidency. Voters won't elect someone form the Bush administration over [someone] from the Clinton administration."

Quayle may be contested by Elizabeth Dole, who recently resigned as head of the American Red Cross to pursue, as stated by Gayle Tzemach of *ABCNEWS.com*, "other duties yet to fulfill."

Although Dole, the wife of

1996 presidential candidate Bob Dole, has not officially announced her intention to run, she has supporters.

"I think she brings a fresh perspective to national politics right now that I think a lot of people in this country would welcome," former Asheville, N.C. mayor Louis Bissette told Tzemach.

Simmons holds a different view of Dole's qualifications. "A lot of people support Elizabeth Dole, but I don't think she's a strong candidate," he said.

George W. Bush, the current governor of Texas and son of former president George Bush, may consider a run for the Republican presidential nomination, although he is worried about the possible effects a national campaign will have on his family.

"Our daughters...don't want to be put through the meat grinder of national politics. I understand that," said Bush in a press conference.

Simmons, however, supports a possible Bush candidacy. "George W. Bush has gubernatorial experience, which is needed to be a good president. He's turned Texas around."

However, Bush stated that he will form a committee to explore the idea of a potential presidential campaign.



# Alcohol-related deaths continue

By TONYA SCHAFER  
News Editor

The recent alcohol-related deaths of several Michigan college students have prompted university faculty members and students across the state to develop concerns about the potential dangers of substance abuse on college campuses.

In October, University of Michigan first-year student Courtney Cantor died after falling out of her sixth-story dorm room window. Cantor had been consuming alcohol at a Phi Delta Theta fraternity party hours before her fatal plunge; the fraternity's charter was subsequently revoked and several members were charged with misdemeanors relating to Cantor's death, including the supplying of alcohol to a minor and the purchase of alcohol with false identification.

In response to the incident, The University of Michigan's director of News and Information Services Julie Peterson issued a statement that was quoted in *The University Record*.

"We are not foolish enough to believe that if we say drinking is bad, that students will stop. We want to educate them about the issues surrounding abuse of alcohol and binge drinking. But students are not always ready to hear what we have to say. We do hope we have their attention now," said Peterson.

Alma College Dean of Student Development Bob Perkins believes that many problems relating to college drinking are connected to the Greek system.

"In the sixteen years I've been on this campus, the majority of the drinking and the majority of the problems relating to drinking have been in or related to the fraternities," said Perkins. "But in fairness, any campus where there are fraternities and sororities you're going to see that."

Michigan State University junior Bradley McCue celebrated his twenty-first birthday in November by consuming twenty-four shots of alcohol at a local bar. The next morning, friends found him dead of what was later determined to be alcohol poisoning.

Alcohol misuse is our most serious public health problem, both on campus and off. Yet the levels of ignorance, denial and indifference are profound. Incredibly, some even find humor in serious alcohol intoxication," said Ingham County Medical Examiner Dean Sienko in response to this incident, as quoted by *The State News*.

McCue's death illustrates what Perkins believes is a key issue relating to collegiate alcohol consumption.

"My biggest concern is with students who do shots, the rapid consumption of high-octane alcohol

that enters their system very rapidly. It is very easy to bypass all the mechanisms in our bodies that help warn us [that we have consumed too much alcohol]," Perkins said.

On January 15, Ferris State University sophomore Adriane Allen, after consuming a large amount of alcohol, fell from her third-floor apartment window and died hours later. This is an incident alcohol awareness organizations like BACCHUS would like to eradicate.

"We want to educate our peers on responsible drinking. We want to strengthen campus awareness. We don't say 'don't drink,' but rather 'drink responsibly,'" said Alma's BACCHUS chapter copresident Jenny Dulz (00). "We also focus on related issues like date rape drugs."

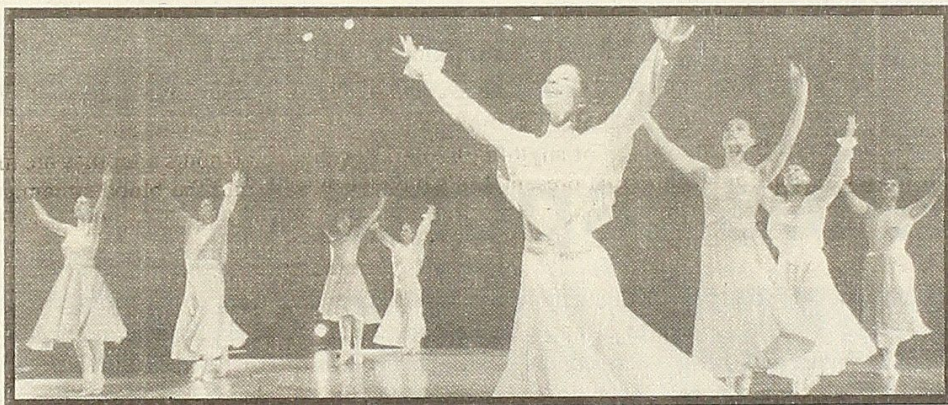
The effects of such substances as Rohypnol and gamma

hydroxybutyrate acid (ghb), which are often added to drinks so as to render the consumer incapacitated and susceptible to sexual abuse, are intensified when combined with alcohol. Investigators discovered that U of M student Cantor had amounts of ghb in her blood when she died, a disclosure that illustrates the possible fatal effects of such a combination.

Perkins urges students to be responsible in their consumption of alcohol. "Know that it's perfectly alright not to drink. But if you choose to drink, know something about alcohol. Understand what type of drug it is, how it affects the body," he said.

In addition, Perkins states that students who plan on drinking should do so on a full stomach and should monitor their state of intoxication so as not to let it get out of hand.

## Dance, Dance, Dance!



*Dancers perform in the student choreography show this past weekend. The show was coordinated by seniors Stacy Clapper, Heather Klepper and Merideth Yost as a requirement for their senior thesis in dance. Photo by Steve Nadeau.*

## Alma alumni to instruct students on career opportunities Jan. 27

By JASON FISCHER  
Staff Reporter

On Wednesday, January 27, 1999, the executive committee of the Metro Detroit Business Roundtable will be holding a seminar on networking and career planning entitled "Life Beyond Alma."

Activities will take place all afternoon at different locations across campus.

"The Metro Detroit Business Roundtable is a group of Alma alumni and parents of Alma students that are concerned with networking," said Bob Eldridge, alumni relations coordinator. "They are concerned with both helping students and helping themselves. They realize that networking is essential for students to get good jobs and for businesses to get good employees."

Students are encouraged to attend the day's events to gain interview experience, to find busi-

nesses that are hiring, and to explore career opportunities.

"There is a wide array of occupations that will be represented," stated Eldridge. "There will be people in the banking field, the legal profession, the medical field, advertising, computer technologies, international business and others. Also, the ages of the representatives will vary greatly. We'll have alumni that have graduated from 1957 through 1992. Lower-level representatives won't be the only people present, either. We'll have presidents and CEOs, too."

The program, sponsored by the Alumni Office, the Alma Leadership Alliance, and the Center for Student Development, was set up to expose students to career opportunities available.

At noon the Roundtable will have a luncheon with the faculty. From 1:30 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. a "Mini Career Day" will be held in Jones Auditorium. There, stu-

dents will talk with members of the Roundtable and receive advice about interviews, job qualifications, and job opportunities.

"Students will even be able to ask what proper attire is for an interview," said Eldridge.

At 7:00 p.m. in SAC 113 there will be a Roundtable Panel Discussion moderated by Bob Perkins from the Center for Student Development. It will be open to all students.

"It is really important for students to come to the events that are scheduled," said Eldridge. "This is an opportunity that can be utilized very successfully by all students here at Alma College, whether they are currently looking for employment or if they are simply looking for interesting careers."

Further information about the Metro Detroit Business Roundtable Seminar can be obtained by contacting Bob Eldridge at extension 7155.

## Student Congress Minutes

January 18, 1999

I. Call to Order  
II. Roll Call and Announcements  
38 organizations present.

III. Officer Reports

A. Treasurer — no report.

B. Secretary

1. All new representatives for groups please see me after the meeting to get your name on the mailing list and representatives list.

2. The new office hours for the executive committee were announced and will be posted on the Student Congress office door.

C. Vice President

1. All binders that needed to be picked up by individual groups were announced. See Kevin if your group does not have a binder.

2. There will be no budget finance meeting tonight.

3. Congratulations to all the class councils that participated at the Diversity Weekend events.

D. President

1. The deadline for sign up for the conference on January 30 is today. Three spots are still open. See Amanda by tonight if you would like to attend or to get information about the day's events.

2. Just a reminder that all meetings this semester will be in SAC 113.

3. Mark Starkweather will give a final presentation concerning Marriott for the congress to approve.

IV. Old Business — none

V. New Business — none

VI. Announcements —

Class of 2000 — Matt Kunkle was appointed the class Associate Trustee

Class of 1999 — Thanks to Marriott for the wonderful food on Diversity weekend and all the supporters who came out to participate. Also please turn in your pledge forms for the senior class gift as soon as possible. There will be a panel discussion tonight in the Heritage Center to finish off the weekend.

Homecoming — applications for the Homecoming committee for 1999 are available in the Student Affairs office and are due January 29.

Sigma Alpha Iota — will be sponsoring Jeanne Cotter, singer/songwriter, on January 30 at 8:00 PM, with proceeds going to the AIDS foundation.

RA applications are available in the Student Affairs office. They are due January 29.

Look for information about Bowling for Big Brothers, Big Sisters and get involved!

VII. Adjournment

## CAMPUS NEWS BRIEFS

The address for the online version of Alma College's Student Life Handbook has been changed. The book's new Internet address is: <http://www.alma.edu/officeservices/studentaffairs/SLHB.html>.

Student Barlow Cup Award invitation letters were sent out to qualifying students on January 25, 1999. Faculty received nomination material on January 26, 1999. If you did not receive a letter and believe you should have, please notify Karen McConkie in the Provost's Office (x7236). The nomination deadline is February 5, 1999.



## Movies

**Alma Cinemas**  
3002 Monroe Rd.  
463-4441

"Varsity Blues"  
rated R

"In Dreams"  
rated R

"Patch Adams"  
rated PG-13

"Mighty Joe Young"  
rated PG

"Stepmom"  
rated PG-13

"You've Got Mail"  
rated PG

Movie times vary

# DiFranco pleases listeners

By MANDY LONG  
Feature Editor

Folk-singer Ani DiFranco has once again offered up a new slew of songs to fans with her twelfth solo album, entitled *Up Up Up Up Up Up*, which was released on January 19. This album, which was recorded just a few months after her last album *Little Plastic Castle*, features live tracks with her signature acoustic guitar, and is sure to go up up up in sales.

The major change in this album is the addition of softer lyrics which play on her strong voice. Tracks like "Tis of Thee," "Up Up Up Up Up Up," "Come Away from It," and "Jukebox" all debuted during her recent concerts but changed immensely on their way to the album.

On this album DiFranco capitalizes on what she does best: looking at the world through her eyes. Several of the tracks, including the first one "Tis of Thee" and "Trickle Down," speak of the injustice that takes place in our country, whether it be racism or disease.

"Virtue," the second track on the album, finds DiFranco talking more about her own experiences. In "Angry Anymore," the listener gets the feeling that they are hearing the story of DiFranco's own childhood.

While many of the tracks seem to have a dark side, others tend to try to draw us away from that. In "Come Away From It," DiFranco sings about coming away from everything in our lives that seems to overtake us, including drugs, money, and bad relationships. This song, which is her own personal experience, along with her gritty voice and guitar send the message home.

The title track "Up Up Up Up Up Up," features a strong set of lyrics which question God and "His" work. The disturbing lyrics give the impression that DiFranco herself questions God and his workings.

This album is also rich with the unique sounds and rhythms for which DiFranco is famous. Not only does she spice up the album with her acoustic guitar, she adds a few sounds from water coolers



Ani DiFranco released her twelfth album entitled "Up Up Up Up Up Up," on January 19. Photo by Albert Sanchez.

and space phones every now and then. Even in "Angel Food" one can hear the sound of a toy in the background.

Fans of Ani DiFranco won't be

disappointed with this new album; it has all of her signature trademarks and represents the next phase in her ongoing evolution as a writer and musician.

## "Varsity Blues" sports first-rate cast

By WENDY HOLMES  
Copy Editor

"In America, we have laws..." explains Jonathan "Mox" Moxon (James Van Der Beek), the main character in "Varsity Blues."

"In West Canaan, Texas, there is another society which has its own laws." It is a society in which high school boys sacrifice their health and their futures to win football games for their sadistic coach, Bud Kilmer (Jon Voight), a man who has led the West Canaan Coyotes to two state championships and twenty-two district titles. This year, he means to continue his record, pinning his hopes on star quarterback Lance Harbor (Paul Walker)...until Lance is injured and second-stringer Mox takes over.

Kilmer does not appreciate Mox's attitude and threatens, "You disobey me and I will bury you." The rebellious Mox, who prefers reading Kurt Vonnegut Jr.'s *Slaughterhouse Five* to the team's playbook, just wants to survive the season's last five games and get away from West Canaan and football. His plans are sidelined when he must take over for best friend Lance, and suddenly, the fate of West Canaan lies in his hands. Pressure is added not only from Mox's family, but from the entire town, while his girlfriend, Jules Harbor (Amy Smart), is disgusted by Mox's quick rise to stardom. Ultimately, the boys of the Coyotes are faced with a choice: to follow Kilmer and be forced to play

like gods, or follow Mox and just have fun.

At one point, Kilmer calls Mox "the dumbest smart kid I ever seen." "Varsity Blues," ripe with adult themes and situations, is the oldest teenage movie I have ever seen. Billed as a comedy, this football film is yards above its contemporaries, which tend to rely on slapstick to further the plot (see "Necessary Roughness" as a case in point).

"Varsity Blues" is produced in conjunction with MTV Productions, which means it boasts an excellent soundtrack that includes the Foo Fighters, Third Eye Blind, Van Halen, Collective Soul, Green Day and Fastball. However, do not let this fact deter you; this is not a case when the soundtrack is the best thing about the movie. The soundtrack is not all this somewhat dark film has going for it. First and foremost, it has a strong and well-chosen cast.

Van Der Beek, best known to audiences as Dawson Leery, from the hit television series "Dawson's Creek," leaves Dawson off the field in favor of the rougher, tougher and wilder Mox. Van Der Beek survives the television to film transition and convincingly plays the complex character, proving that he has mastered more than the art of teenage angst. He could very soon be competing with the likes of other young idols such as Leonardo DiCaprio and Matt Damon.

Voight skillfully plays Kilmer,

adding more than a touch of evil to a man who can best be described with unprintable words. Also impressive are Mox's teammates, played with gusto and heart by Ron Lester (as the sensitive redneck Billy Bob), Scott Caan (as the hilariously outrageous Tweeder) and Eliel Swinton, who as Wendell (the lone African-American on the team and apparently the only one enrolled at West Canaan) makes his acting debut, following a short career as a professional running back. If he continues to turn in performances like this, his acting career is sure to be long.

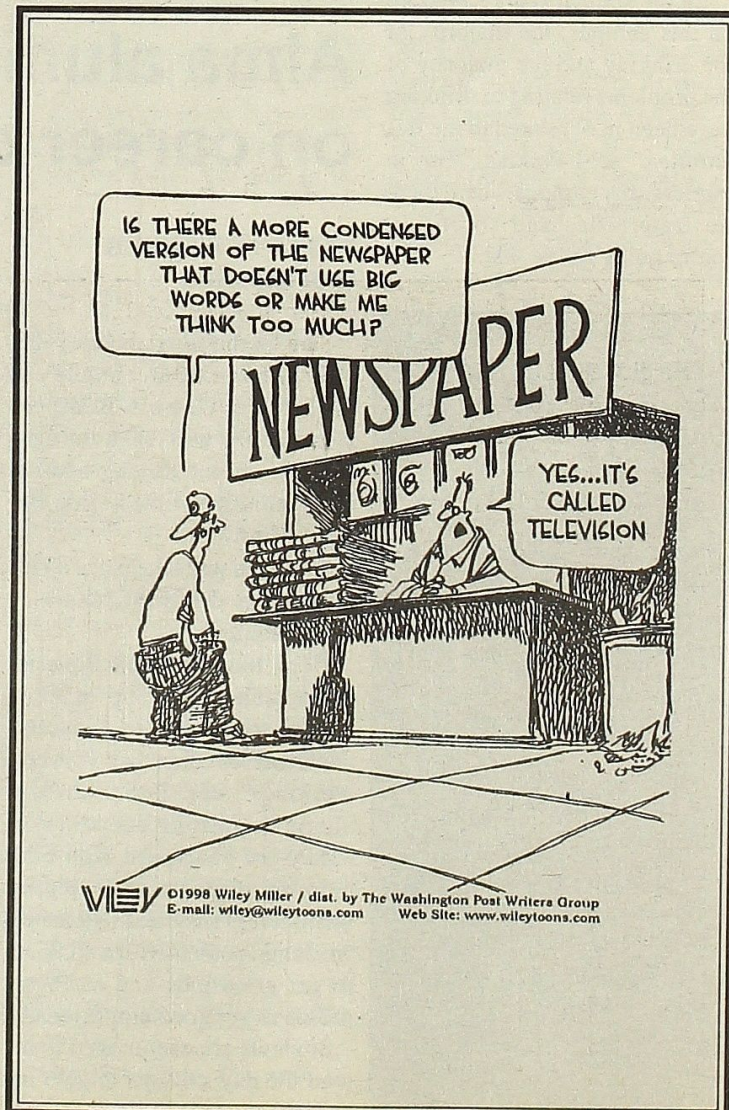
The male characters are all well-developed, albeit stereotypical at times, but there is little to be said of the females besides the fact that they make great scenery. Relegating the girls to the background is not uncommon in high school fare movies, although the rest of this movie is rather adult, with the girls sporting very mature whipped cream bikinis and driving around naked in a stolen cop car. The guys, for their part, live up to their wild sides, hosting all night drinking parties at strip clubs, stealing police cars, hooking up with the aforementioned girls, and, oh yeah, being heroes.

The film does make one glaring mistake with Voight's character. After portraying the man as glory-greedy and willing to sacrifice his players' health in order to move one step closer to his twenty-third title, the movie

does a 180 at its end, trying to make the audience feel sympathy for the man behind the great coach myth, one who is past his prime and will never see another title won under his leadership. However, based on the one-dimensional depiction seen so far, it is impossible for the audience to reverse their stance and see the

layers beneath the facade.

Aside from this flub, the film is enjoyable and certainly well-acted. The plot is occasionally a bit thin, but overall finely crafted. All in all, "Varsity Blues" is a fine film, one which its principals, particularly Van Der Beek and Swinton, can proudly add to their resumes.

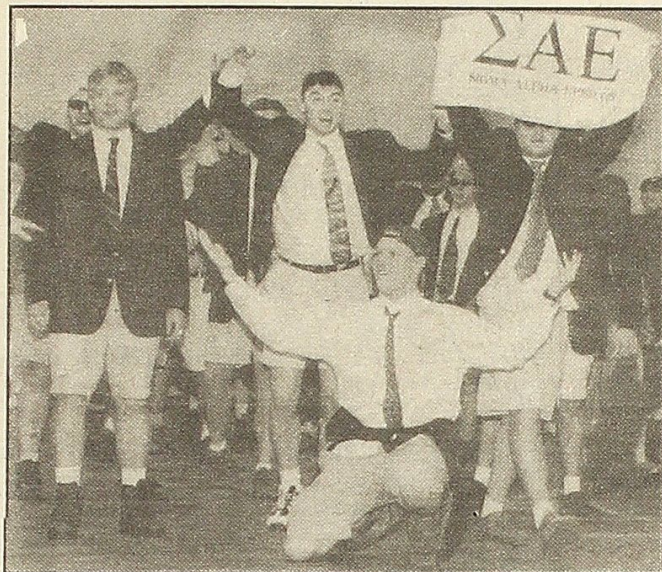


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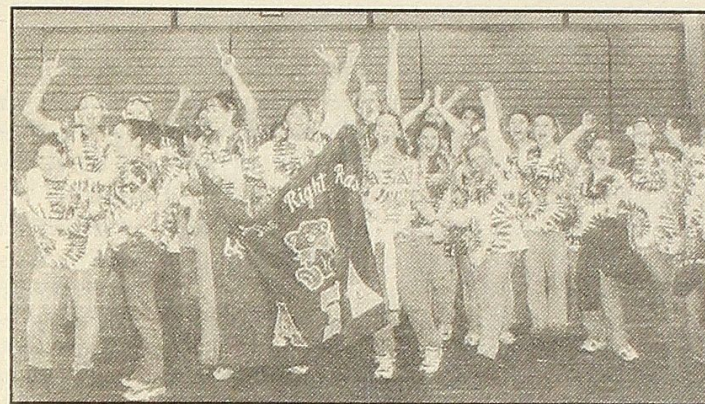
# Alma welcomes new Greek members

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SAE brothers wait anxiously for their new members during runouts. Photo by Steve Nadeau.

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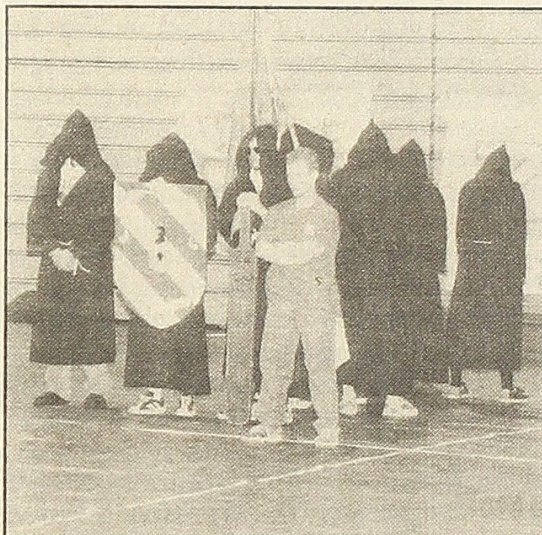


Members of the Alpha Xi Delta sorority fire up the crowd while they wait to welcome in their new members. Photo by Steve Nadeau.

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“  
Walkouts was very fun and more exciting than I thought it would be.  
”  
—Michelle DeGraaf, '02

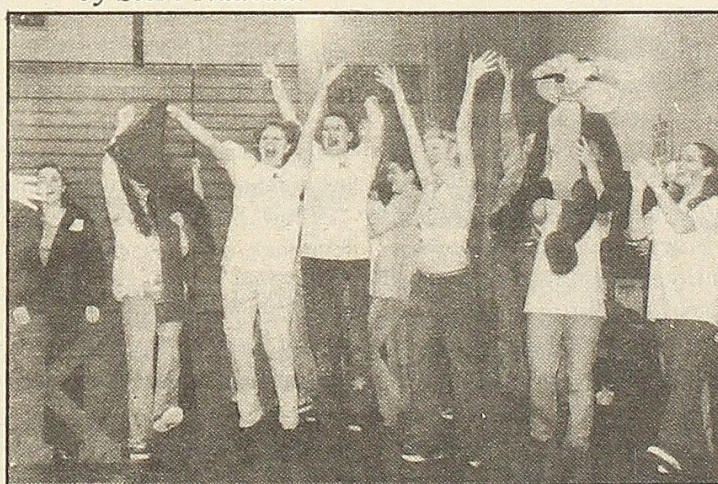


The brothers of Zeta Sigma wait silently for their new members to join them. Photo by Steve Nadeau.

“  
Runouts was a very enjoyable time. I really enjoyed the excitement and the energy of all the fraternities.  
”  
—Jason Pappas, '02

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“  
Walkouts was a great experience. I am very excited to be a new member of a sorority.  
”  
—Julia Skok, '02



Kappa Iota sisters show excitement for their new members at walkouts. Photo by Steve Nadeau.

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ΑΞΔ	Margaret Tucker (02)	Gabriella Olgine (02)	Jason Vesey (02)	Zachary Tomaszewski (00)
Heidi Wahl (00)	Sara Corneille (02)	Meagan Tripp (02)	Ken Donahue (02)	Mark Penzen (02)
Jessica Ross (01)	Mary Evans (02)	Sara Vaughn (01)	Aaron Weber (02)	
Amy Cazbala (00)	ΦΣΣ	ΣΧ	Tom Arbaugh (99)	ΖΣ
Tracy MacLake (01)	Cassie Stanton (01)	Nicholas Karchon (00)	ΣΑΕ	Seth Emerson (02)
Michelle DeGraaf (02)	Erin Caswell (01)	Matt Martin (02)	Marcin Bielecki (02)	Ryan McCallum (02)
Reannon Broekema (02)	Stacy Turshack (01)	Adam Blair (02)	Ken Carven (02)	Darnell Williams (02)
Lisa McGee (02)	Maureen Nugent (02)	Reid McGuire (02)	Brad DesNoyers (01)	Justin Fritz (02)
Christine Gutek (02)	ΚΙ	Brendan Conboy (02)	Timothy Elmore (02)	Erik Proulx (02)
Jessica Carpenter (02)	Robin Johnston (02)	John Chasnis (01)	John Emrich (01)	Justin Lilienthal (02)
Alicia Halligan (02)	Katherine Wibby (01)	Jacob Swidorski (02)	Derek Finkbeiner (02)	John Sciberrias (02)
Jessica Kotas (02)	Jessica Shrum (02)	Justin Wilcoxon (01)	Richard Harris (01)	Chris Gay (02)
Emily Testani (02)	ΑΓΔ	Andrew Pomerville (02)	Brock Kremer (00)	
ΓΦΒ	Angie Agren (02)	John Brostrom (01)	Todd Webb (02)	ΤΚΕ
Elke Betz (02)	Danelle Barber (02)	Matt VandenBerg (02)	Chris DeMaar (02)	James Parshay (02)
Ashlee Bohannon (02)	Jamie Hedrick (02)	Jason Grifka (02)	ΟΧ	Jason Pappas (02)
Christina Murray (02)	Stacey Keegstra (02)	Jared Falkowski (00)	Adam Lincoln (02)	Jason Firster (02)
Julia Skok (02)	Beverly Lucas (02)	Chris Harrington (01)	Bernard Brooks (02)	Dylan Mandeville (02)
Kathleen McCrudden (01)	Cara Malone (02)	Forrest Johnson (02)	Bill Dever (02)	Matthew Culver (02)
Katrina DiNallo (01)	Cecily Ogden (02)	John Logan (02)	Dave Schumm (01)	Bob Fox (02)
Laura Matthews (02)		Todd Swineheart (02)	Pat Reinke (01)	Ryan Jezdimir (00)
Danielle Guillot (02)		Dave Jordan (00)	Matt Singletary (00)	Jeremy Parish (02)
Amanda McKinnon (02)		Nick Zehner (01)		Jerrod Dohm (02)
		Chris Andrus (02)		Buckley Geno (02)



# Sociology class takes an in-depth look at aging

By AMY TAYLOR  
Staff Reporter

During Winter Term 1999, Catherine Fobes, professor of sociology, is conducting a new course called Aging and Health Institutions (SOC234). Currently, the class consists of thirty two students and meets twice a week. "Students at Alma appear to be service-oriented and concerned about aging," said Fobes as the reason for offering the class this term.

Fobes is from Florida State University, where she once studied at the Pepper Institution of Aging and Public Policy as part of her graduate training. She also taught at FSU, but Alma is her first faculty position.

Why study aging as eighteen to twenty year olds? Well, according to Fobes, "Because there is a huge change in age composition in the United States and globally as well."

Fobes also said that as of 1993, 12.7% of the U.S. population was over 65. By 2050, it is estimated that 21.4% of the population will be over 65. Fobes stated, "This change in population aging is not just unique to the U.S. It is also occurring world wide."

In 2021, spending on social se-

curity will exceed payroll taxes: therefore the nation will rely on trust fund assets to pay for benefits such as social security.

By 2032, trust fund assets will run out and the government will not have enough money to pay for social security. Younger people might have to pay more money to the government for social benefits.

The class also discusses the impact of medicine and health institutions such as hospitals, nursing homes, home care and hospice—attempting to answer the question of whether health institutions will cover the care of the elderly.

Fobes decided to teach a course on aging because she feels that it [aging] is one of the most important societal trends as we approach the 21st century.

She said, "It will have an impact on many parts of the social system."

According to Fobes, most professions will be effected by population aging. Medicine and Exercise and Health Science students will deal with older clientele. Also, English majors, journalists and reporters will need to be sensitive to the changing age.

Junior Heather Hodgson said, "I am going into medicine and I

want to work with cancer patients and this class will help out with that."

She added, "Everyone knows that we are getting older and the class keeps you better informed and offers the best way to deal with it."

The course covers how aging directly effects students because of their parents and grandparents.

Fobes generalized that the students at Alma are predominately from the rural population and they seem to have a close relationship with their grandparents.

Through the class students will find more effective ways to deal with their aging parents and grandparents.

"The class seemed really interesting, because aging is not a class you would normally take. Society needs to learn about it because we are all going to age," said Jessica Kotas (02).

Experiential and analytical learning are two aspects of the class. Already the class has done hands-on service-learning in the community.

They put on "An Afternoon at the Theater," where they showed a movie, prepared popcorn and pop, assisted the elderly into the theater, and conversed with them.

The students will also be meet-

## Life Expectancy at Birth by Sex and Race, 1900-1990, United States, National Health Statistics/U.S Bureau of the Census

	1900		1990	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
White	48.2	51.1	73	79.8
Black	32.5	35.0	68.4	75.6

The percentage distribution of U.S. Population by Age 1993-2050 (projected). The data shows trends in aging and life expectancy. The increasing percentage of the U.S. population will be over age 65 and the fastest growing categories is those age 85 and over.

Under 18		18-44	
1993 -	26.0%	1993 -	42.4%
2010 -	24.5%	2010 -	36.9%
2030 -	23.7%	2030 -	34.5%
2050 -	23.4%	2050 -	33.9%
46-64		65-84	
1993 -	18.9%	1993 -	11.4%
2010 -	26.2%	2010 -	11.4%
2030 -	21.8%	2030 -	34.5%
2050 -	22.3%	2050 -	15.6%
85+			
1993 -	1.3%		
2010 -	2.0%		
2030 -	2.5%		
2050 -	4.8%		

ing one-on-one with residents at the Masonic Home in order to interview them.

Since this is the first time Fobes has taught the course, she is feeling out the resources in the Alma area to see what will work

and what will not.

Fobes has one important aim for the class.

She said, "I would encourage people to be sensitive to the aging population. We are all a part of it—we are all aging."

# India Fellowship offers students chance to teach in India

By AMY BETH PLACE  
Freelance Writer

Alma students Jim Coe (98) and Jason Fischer (99), who adventured to India as part of the India Fellowship Program last fall, are finally back in the States with tales to tell of their term abroad.

The fellowship program provided an opportunity for both students to spend six months in Kerala, one of the most beautiful states in India.

They were sent to teach at an English medium school consisting of grades K-9.

Besides teaching kids at a boarding house, they also traveled the countryside.

They saw many beautiful and wonderful sights. They each were able to visit a Hindu temple and take a trip to the tip of the country where three bodies of water met. There they saw an amazing sunset and experienced some unusual behaviors.

Like most students who have traveled the world, these two experienced the ups and downs of being so far away from home.

Everything was different for them and they found themselves having to adapt to different cultures every time they turned a corner.

There was the different food and bedtimes to the different clothing and climate. But, besides all this they had an experience of a life time.

"It was an honor to receive the fellowship," said graduate Jim Coe, "and to represent the college by going halfway across the world."

The India Fellowship program was developed to provide conscientious teachers for foreign schools and also to provide meaningful international experiences for the students. Further, it provides opportunities for cross-cultural enrichments for the college.

Students received into the fellowship program are representatives of the best at Alma College.

Anyone who has strong academic credentials is welcome to apply.

They should also be open to new ideas and experiences and be able to approach the world with

self-confidence and enthusiasm.

Applicants who can teach and offer other skills to the school in India, especially a Bible courses, are highly looked at.

Fellows must represent the college and, at times, the United States.

While in India, they need to have a good appearance and a command of the English language.

Other desirable qualities are personal maturity-sensitivity to the needs and problems of others, resourcefulness in unfamiliar situations, empathy with people of a culture unlike America's, and patience in the face of sometimes exasperating and frustrating situations.

The application deadline for

the India Fellowship Program for 1999 is February 15.

Applications for this program are open to members of the junior or senior class. This would also include sophomores who will be juniors in the fall and seniors who are graduating.

There is a grant that includes round trip transportation, an allowance for personal expenses, immunization, room and board, and visa fees.

This support for the students chosen comes from Student Congress, the annual Global Service Auction, and the Alma College International Education Office.


The International Education Office is hoping to adapt another fellowship program in the near future. This program would be

based in Nepal. The difference in this program would be that students would have to pay their own air fare of about \$1300, but room and board, and an allowance would still be taken care of.

Programmers are hoping that this fellowship will be able to last one whole year instead of six months.

Also, with this fellowship, students would be asked to teach such courses as English and a computer skills program.

According to Chris Musick, director of the International Education Office, "[The college] is looking for adaptive people who are looking for adventure and want to experience different cultures to participate in these fellowships."



## BEYOND MOCK ROCK

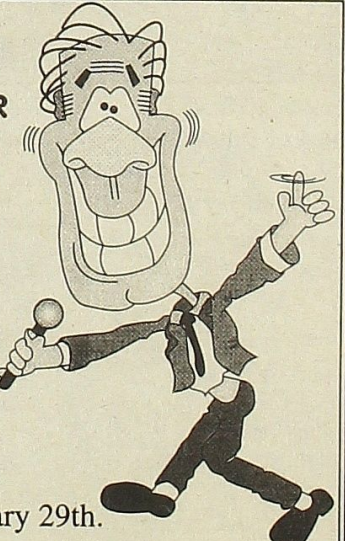
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# Men's varsity basketball not enough for Hope

By MARK ISZAK  
Staff Writer

The men's varsity squad, coming off a victory over Adrain last Saturday, took on Hope on January 20.

Standing 4-8 overall and 1-3 in league play, the Scots aimed for a win to regain some confidence, and to do something about that unsightly record looming over them.

Hope took an early lead (7-3)

in the first two minutes of play. Great defensive effort was put forth early by the likes of first-year Jeff Hossler and junior Seth Stapleton, as well as junior Jim Hanlin who dove around for loose balls.

Hanlin, who would finish with 12, also got the job done on offense, feeding junior Jeremy Hyler for an easy 2.

At the ten minute mark, Hope led Alma 18-13.

However, Stapleton, who

would go on to finish the night with 23, fought the system with a three point play and then a breakaway layup to tie it at 18.

Good offense by senior Pat Hoag, who would finish with 15, as well as Stapleton, put Alma up 25-20 with 5 minutes to go in the first half.

Then the Scots went on a run, improving their lead to 36-25, with good hustle and three-point shooting by Hoag and Stapleton. The score would remain at 36-25 going into the locker room.

After halftime the game continued at a fast pace. At 15:30, the Scots pulled ahead 43-37. Good things were happening all over the court, especially with a Hossler dish to sophomore Chris Seelbach for 2.

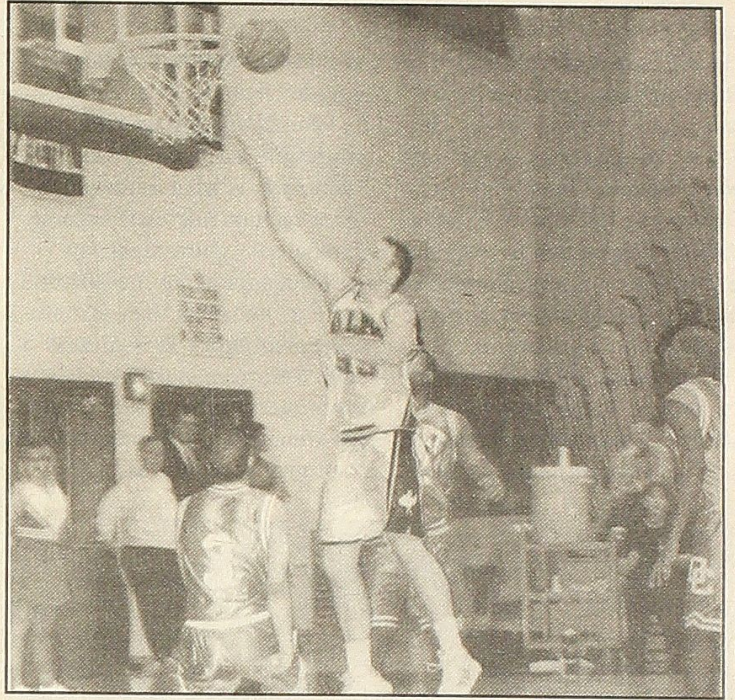
Junior Tony Colucci also helped the cause with a three point shot from downtown.

With ten minutes to go, the Scots were ahead by four, 52-48. The momentum quickly changed as Hope hit a quick three and a basket to go ahead. Hope pulled ahead leading 58-55, but Pat Hoag promptly hit a three to tie it at 58.

With five minutes remaining in regulation play, Hope led 62-60.

Coming off the bench was junior Joe Peters, who pitched in a bucket to help keep Alma in the game.

Another Hoag three point play kept the Scots in striking distance.



Chris Seelbach goes for a layup during the Olivet game last Saturday. The team came out victorious 88-84. Photo by Steve Nadeau.

With 1:30 to play, it was Alma down by two, 67-69.

With just seconds left, Hanlin drove to the hoop for 2, evening it up at 69. That was the end of regulation.

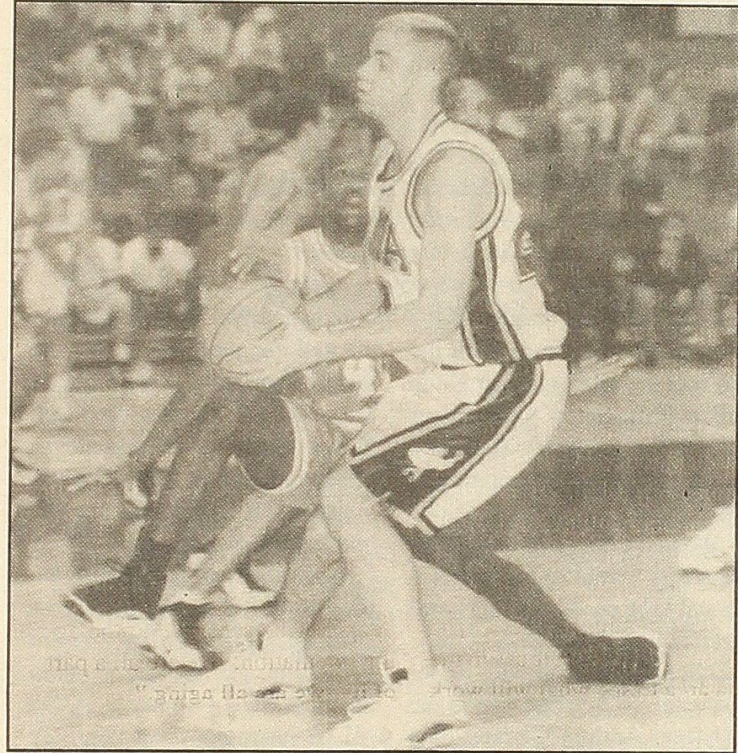
That meant overtime and overtime resulted in a Scot loss. Final score: Hope 83, Alma 72. With this loss Alma falls to 4-9, 1-4 in league play.

Coach Kevin Skaggs said, "As a team, we feel frustrated. Losing close games is frustrating. We'll just give it time, we'll come around."

Hossler said, "We just need consecutive wins to build confidence. We need to play a better second half. The main thing is confidence, knowing we can win."

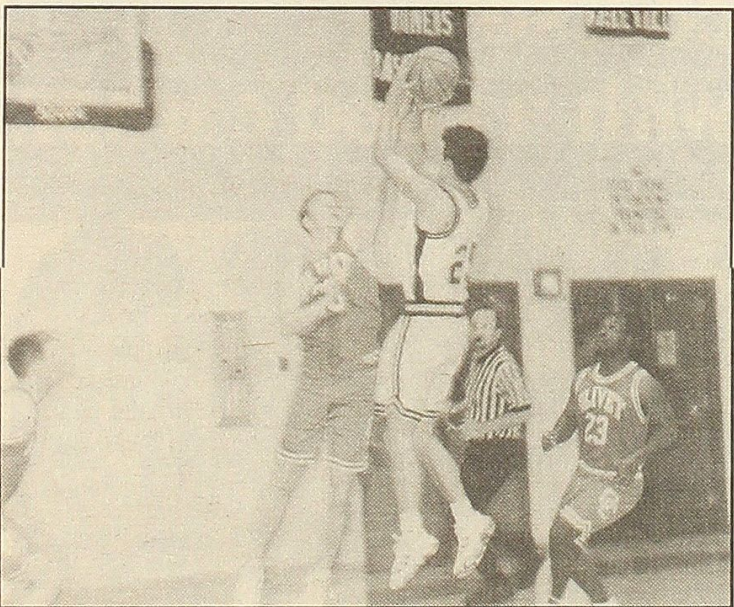
Senior Pat Hoag said, "We can't seem to play well toward the end of the game. We will keep our heads up and play hard, that's all we can do."

On Saturday, January 23, the Scots took on Olivet. As it turned out, Alma stood strong and came up winners, 88-84. The Scots now stand at 5-9 overall.



Alma tries again for a basket during the Olivet game. The Scots record is now 5-9 overall after Saturday's win. Photo by Steve Nadeau.

## JV basketball unable to "put the pieces together" against Hope



The junior varsity Scots go for two against Olivet. The team also scored a victory upping their record to 7-4. Photo by Steve Nadeau.

By MARK ISZAK  
Staff Writer

The men's J.V. basketball team faced Hope on January 20. Going into the game, the Scots stood 6-3 overall, and 3-0 in league play. A chance to improve to 7-3, as well as 4-0 in the MIAA made this a BIG GAME.

Hope took the lead early on, taking advantage of some missed Alma shots.

Good defense by the likes of sophomore Andrew VanSchoick kept the Scots in the game early.

A three pointer by first-year student Spencer Wideman, who would finish the night with 13, brought the Scots within one point with 11 minutes to go in the first half. Then, a rebound and a put-back by first-year student J.P. Cmejrek put the Scots ahead 12-11. The offensive attack was led by Wideman and Cmejrek (11

pts.), as well as first-year student Dan Chewning.

The defense played well, with VanSchoick and Chewning both blocking and stealing a Hope ball.

Some good play off the bench, especially by sophomore Jerry Hanks, brought the game to a tie at 26. However, with only a second left in the half, sophomore Chad Creevy hit a long three to make the score 29-26.

The Scots started off the second-half scoring with a Chris Maxwell basket. Maxwell, a sophomore, then added a three-point play to make the score 34-28. Maxwell went on to finish the game with 15 points.

The Scots continued to lead Hope. Good hustle on defense by sophomore Brian Pierce as well as Chad Creevy helped keep Alma on top until the five minute mark.

With 2 minutes to go, it was deadlocked at 59 apiece. It went down to the wire. The Scots pulled up a hair short, falling by 3, 59-62.

The Scots fall to 6-4 overall, and 3-1 in league play.

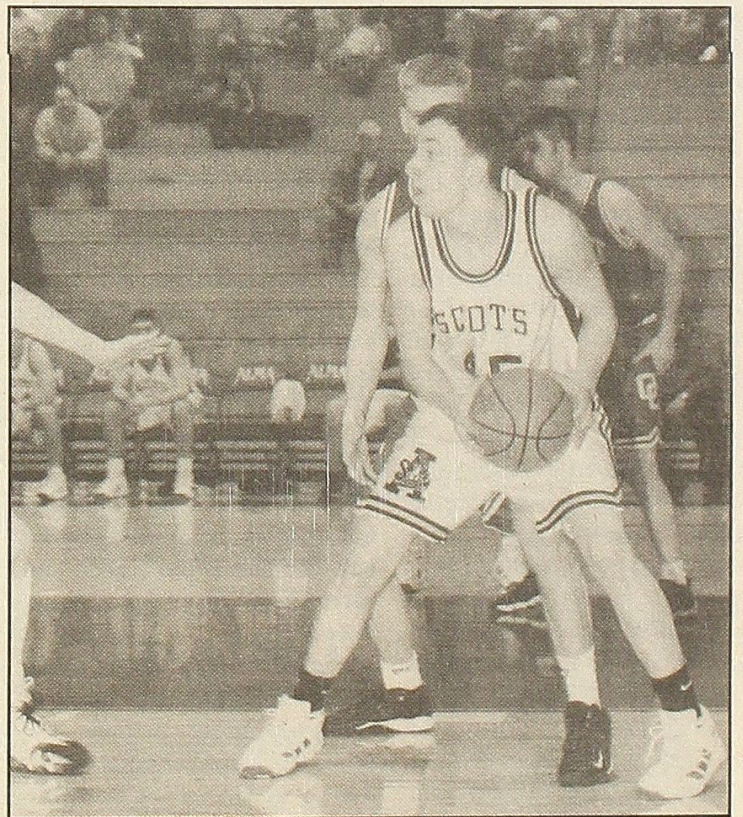
Coach Jeff Curtis said, "Hope outplayed us. We didn't execute down the stretch, and we just didn't perform tonight."

Chris Maxwell, who led the Scots in scoring with 15, said, "We have to forget this game, and use it to get ready for the next."

Brian Pierce said, "We just didn't put the pieces together to-

night. Poor shooting hurt us as well."

With a loss on January 20, the Scots came out and earned a victory over Olivet on Saturday, upping their record to 7-4.



The Scots hold on to the ball despite Olivet's attempts to steal during last week's game. Photo by Steve Nadeau.



# Scot swimmers stay positive during season

By KELLY McDONALD  
Staff Reporter

In a time of Latrell Sprewell choking his coach, Dennis Rodman's tattoos and Mike Tyson's obscenities to the media, it is nice to get away from all of the negative sports obstacles of the last year.

There was no arguing with officials, no whining to coaches, and no trash talking with the opponent in the men's and women's

swimming and diving meet last Tuesday against Kalamazoo.

Whistling, yelling, hollering, singing and cheering on your teammates is what makes swimming such an interesting spectator sport say many fans.

Spectators agree that there is more to the sport than just athletes swimming laps around a pool. Sitting up in the stands at a swim meet, you are left to wonder what drives these athletes to train so hard for so long.



Fans of the Alma swim team show their school spirit during Saturday's meet by displaying the letters A.L.M.A across their chests and rooting on the team. Photo by Steve Nadeau.

Alma brought their enthusiasm and inner drive to the pool against Kalamazoo in a key MIAA meet.

The men's team was up against the best team in the league and the Hornets proved why. Alma lost 154-80. Swimming well for the Scots were Mark Oberman (99), Justin Fournier (02), Mike Cox (00) and Joey Mead (00).

Oberman was first in the 50 free, Fournier was the best at the 100 free and Cox lead the pack in the 100 backstroke. Mead was good for two second places in both diving events. The 200 freestyle relay team of Fournier, Dan Schroeder (02), Chad Wisniewski (99) and Oberman also got a first place.

The women's team ran into a talented Kalamazoo club and also

lost, 164-79. They started off the meet on the right note with the 400 medley relay team of Katie Zellen (00), Sarah Vandermeer (01), Nicole Gentry (01) and Courtney Webb (02) bringing in a first place.

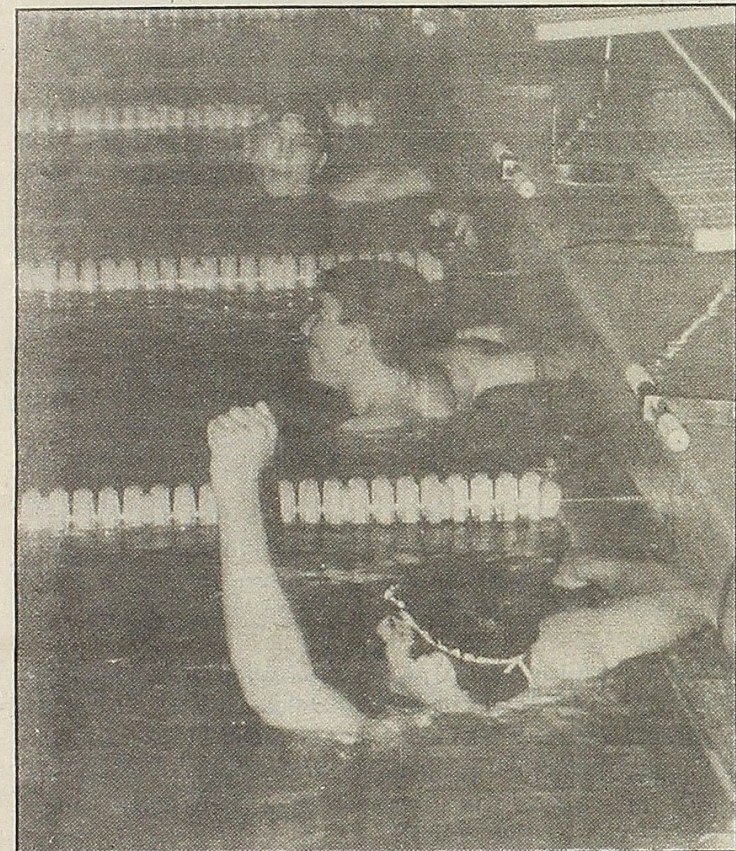
"We had a lot of great swims. We are at a time of tough training and to be performing this well is really nice," said Zellen.

Zellen swam well with a second in the 50 free and first in the 100 free. Andrea Carlsen (01) took two second places in the 1,000 free and 500 free.

"I definitely think we are stronger as a team. We did a lot of

training in Florida and our strokes are looking good. We are having fast swims," said captain Carrie Thomas (00). Thomas also noted Kristy Doyle (01) for having a great meet. Doyle swam the 100 breast and 100 back, placing second in both events.

To see athletes shake hands before and after competition and cheer an opponent when they are struggling, go see the Scots in the pool. They compete in the MIAA championships February 10-13. It is not always about money and prestige, sometimes it is just about pride and sportsmanship.



Alma swimmers rest while waiting for their scores during the meet on Saturday. While neither team won, both swam well. Photo by Steve Nadeau.

## Women's basketball survives scare

By KELLY McDONALD  
Staff Reporter

The best teams usually bring out the best in you, but sometimes the worst teams bring out the worst in you as well.

The women's basketball team had a slight scare Tuesday night at the hands of visiting Olivet, but the Comets hopes of an upset did not last long.

Olivet (3-16, 1-7) jumped out to a 23-15 lead and early foul trouble hurt the Scots. Olivet was shooting free throws for every Alma foul with nine minutes left in the first half.

Olivet played a suffocating box-and-one defense, keeping the Scots leading scorer, Ellen Bradbury (99), in check. Bradbury got only four shots in the first half because of constant double and sometimes triple teams from the Comets.

"Olivet is a much better team than they have been in the past and we came out a little flat in the first half. We didn't utilize our fast break and that's when we get into trouble," said Bradbury.

Somebody else had to step up

to fill the void left by Bradbury. Rebekah Barker (01) and Julie Whitmore (01) supplied the much needed offensive attack for the Scots. Barker took charge on the court and played a superb floor game while Whitmore provided the offense.

"Bekah and Julie really stepped up tonight. We need to do that to take the pressure off Ellen," said Missy Thorndyke (01).

The Scots sliced into the Olivet lead with three minutes left in the half. Barker kept pounding the ball inside and Bradbury started to catch fire. Two Bradbury field goals and a basket by Whitmore cut the lead to 28-27.

"They were double-teaming Ellen, so we did a lot of inside-out. The guards did a good job by making the open threes," said Thorndyke.

After exchanging baskets, some costly Olivet turnovers resulted into two more buckets by Whitmore and Alma grabbed the lead for good, 36-31 at the half.

"We got refocused and went over zone defense and fast break [at half-time]. We pushed the ball up the court which opened up lots

of different things," said Bradbury.

Alma came out of the locker room fired up and got off to a quick start. They went on an 11-5 run by the jamming the ball down the throat of their opponent. With Barker and Joy Horton (01) coming up with key steals, the Scots ran the floor well and proved to have fresher legs and more patience down the stretch. They won 80-61.

Bradbury was back to her old self again, dominating down low. She finished with 23 points and ten rebounds for her seventh double-double of the season to go along with three blocked shots and four steals.

Barker was everywhere and ended the game with 15 points, six rebounds, four assists and four steals. Whitmore tallied a career-high 17 points while Mary Barnhart (00) overcame early foul trouble to finish with eight points.

The Scots are back in action tomorrow when they travel to St. Marys at 7:30. Their next home game is against Hope on Saturday at 3:00.

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# Women's NCAA basketball in full swing

By DAVE JORDAN  
Freelance Writer

Women's College Hoops are in full swing, and everyone seems to be playing at the top of their game. With so much competition it's hard to surmise who will take the title.

The focus so far this season has been on the University of Connecticut and, of course, on the Lady Volunteers of Tennessee. The Volunteers, currently ranked number one, have been the focus of a lot of the news. After having their home winning streak come to an end, many fans feared for the worst. However, Tennessee rebounded with an impressive win over the Uconn on the road,

who, at the time, was ranked number one.

Some of the talented members of this year's NCAA Women's squad include Stephanie White-McCarty of the Purdue Boilermakers, Shea Ralph of the Uconn Huskies, and Megan Taylor of the Iowa State Cyclones.

According to the NCAA, Purdue's White-McCarty has been playing incredibly lately — even going so far as earning pre-season All-American status and gaining tremendous respect as the only Boilermaker to get a triple-double (double digits in three scoring categories).

According to Chuck Schoffner of the Associated Press, White-McCarty had this to say of her

success: "I was quite honored to be national player of the year. I knew a lot about all of those other players but it's a whole new ball game in college. I knew that. I wanted to go in and learn my role."

She hopes to take her obvious talent to the WNBA next year.

Ralph of the Connecticut Huskies has been another central figure in the NCAA Women's Basketball scene. Ralph is not a member of the starting five for Uconn but, according to the team, is the motivational and inspirational leader.

Averaging over 15 points off the bench and over 21 minutes of playing time, Ralph has been a much-needed spark to the Hus-

kies' offense. Although Ralph, along with teammate and starting guard Amy Duran, was injured in Uconn's last victory over Miami University, her team contribution remains invaluable to the Huskies.

A third player to keep watch on is Megan Taylor of the Iowa State Cyclones.

The Cygs are currently ranked 15th and have two very important contests in the next week: Clemson (#17) and Texas Tech (#7). Texas Tech has already defeated the Iowa State squad, but this time, on the shoulders of Megan Taylor, Iowa State hopes to turn things around.

As quoted in ESPN's Beth Mowin's review, Taylor and her

team are ready for the challenges: "We've been waiting for this week for a long time," spoke Taylor. "We heard from some people that we're overrated, so we want to let people know we're the real deal."

For the last couple months of basketball action, some teams to watch will be Virginia Tech, North Carolina, and Duke among others.

The stage is set, and the road to the Women's Final Four should be full of heated contests and well-played games all-around.

As the season begins to wind down, distinction is made between who has what it takes and who doesn't to be a NCAA Women's Basketball champion.

# Bill James breaks career scoring record

By JOEY MEAD  
Sports Editor

"After four years of swimming, my personal goals are put second behind the team. I'd like to do well but I would rather see the team really succeed," said senior Bill James a co-captain of the men's swimming and diving team.

At this year's last dual meet for Alma's swimming and diving, James broke the career scoring record held by 1995 graduate Paul Schmidt. James received an award for the new career score of 769, which was four points higher than the record Schmidt had held for the past four years.

James came to Alma from Madison Heights where he had had a long and successful career in swimming already.

"I started swimming when I was eight. And when high school came around, it was the only thing to do so I joined the team," James said.

James attended Lamphere High School which was successful in winning the swimming and diving conference one of the four years James was there.

James was also successful in qualifying for States every year of high school. His sophomore year he was the 500 freestyle State champion with a time of 4:40.

Even though James' times were good enough to get him into Division I swimming programs he chose to come to Alma College.

James said, "I wanted to go to a small school. I didn't want to deal with the pressures of Division I. And I actually wanted to get an education."

"I liked the closeness of Alma's team. When I went out on recruiting trips, a lot of the other big schools weren't close at all," James added.

James' teammates will all attest to his value as a captain and appreciate his leadership qualities.

First-year student Dan Linsell said, "James is a big confidence booster to the team, and a valuable source to our success."

Head coach Greg Baadte said, "It's not everyday that you get someone that breaks the career scoring record. It shows consistency of his scoring ability from year to year. And it sets an example for younger athletes in the program."

"I have learned that not everyone is the same. What makes one person tick is not the same thing that makes another person tick. You have to know each person at their own individual levels," James said.

James' goals for the remainder of the season is that the men's team takes third in the conference and that his 200 medley relay team will make national cuts. They are currently three seconds away pretapped.

James has held on to a saying from when he was 13 years old that coach Jeff Wiseman once said as motivation over the years.

James said, "I guess it has always stuck with me. [Wiseman] was a really good coach—he left to go coach in Australia. He said, 'There aren't any rules around here, we're trying to accomplish something.'"

"What that quote says to me is do what ever you have to do to try your hardest. Nothing can hold you back," James concluded.

The swimming and diving conference meet is at Hope College February 10-13 and Nationals is March 18-20 in Minnesota.



Senior Bill James receives a plaque honoring him for his record career score of 769. Photo by Steve Nadeau.

## College basketball scores

Sunday January 24, 1999

Men's College Basketball

Final (OT)

(#2) Duke at 92

(#9) St. Johns 88

Final

South Carolina at 37

(#20) Syracuse 84

Final

Missouri at 71

(#19) Kansas 63

Women's College Basketball

Final

(#14) Iowa St. at 72

(#16) Clemson 81

Final

(#12) Rutgers at 99

Providence 52

Final

(#17) Alabama at 72

Kentucky 76

Final

Minnesota 42

(#25) Ohio St. 68

Final

Wisconsin at 56

(#3) Purdue 76

Final

(#11) Old Dominion 94

Rickmond 53

Final

Baylor at 51

(#21) Virginia 80

Final

Temple at 69

(#13) Virginia Tech 89

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*Guest editorial***Center can help students**

By GAYLE PASSARETTI,  
M.A., L.L.P.C.  
Assistant Dean of Counseling  
and Student Development



Asking for help can be one of the scariest times for a student. Society places so much emphasis on self-reliance that students often think they should be able to handle anything by themselves. While independence and self-reliance are qualities to be admired, they are not the only characteristics that give a person strength to live a well-balanced life.

In my work as a counselor, I talk to many students who want help with personal, academic, or career concerns. For some students, a few sessions to sort out feelings, learn new coping and communication strategies, make short and long-term goals, and feel listened to and understood are enough to give them a new perspective on their lives. Sometimes the counseling process takes a little longer, especially when a student is struggling to deal with non-sup-

portive family members, negative relationships, depression, anxiety, or burnout.

One factor that makes a big difference in how quickly a student can feel like his or her old self again is asking for help before the problem becomes unmanageable. For example, a student may have received a low grade in a course last term, and know help is needed. Old study habits from high school aren't working, and new study habits just don't exist. The student may wait to seek help from The Center until the very end of the term, a time when all the studying in the world won't help a feeble g.p.a. Had the student acted at the beginning of the term, and come to The Center's study workshops and/or asked for study help from us, he or she would be ahead of the game, with positive study habits in place from the start.

Denial of the problem plays a large role in keeping a student from asking for help. Who hasn't had a problem that we thought would go away if we ignored it? That's human nature.

However, we all have those glimpses of insight into our problems, which often occur when we least expect them. Friends and family can help break through denial by gently (and sometimes not so gently)

encouraging us to get help. But the choice to seek help belongs to the individual. It's up to him or her alone to get the courage to walk through those Center for Student Development doors and ask to see a counselor. Or pick up the phone and make an appointment. No one can do it for him or her.

When students come to me for counseling, I tell them that one of the most difficult obstacles they face is one they've already conquered - that is, asking for help. I emphasize that independence and self-reliance aren't always enough. A balanced and satisfying life also consists of knowing our limitations, honoring our connections with others, and listening to that inner voice that says, oh so clearly, "Houston, we've got a problem." And the best way to act on that inner voice is by making an appointment at The Center before the problem orbits out of control.

The Center for Student Development is located in the lower level of Hamilton Commons open Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m.-noon and 1:00-5:00 p.m. To make an appointment with a counselor, please drop by, or call Connie Boyne at 463-7225. The next Study Booster/Stress Buster workshop is on Tues. March 9, 4:00-5:00 p.m.

**A word from the editor by Missy Crossonoe****Live life to its fullest, while you can**

What's in at Alma College this Winter Term? According to my friends it's dying your hair, getting engaged and stressing out.

Well, since I have never done or plan on doing the first, and don't want to jinx the second by talking about it, in this column I'm going to concentrate on the rising stress level of the campus — especially among seniors.

While it is exciting to be a senior, it is also the most stressful year of your college career. Getting in all those final distributive classes while also taking senior seminars and completing theses for your major is no easy task.

I personally was looking forward to this term and hoping for

it to be my best ever but all this senior planning stuff like polishing up my resume, contacting job opportunities, setting up interviews and praying nightly for a call back seems to be taking up a lot of the time I thought would be spent with my friends.

However, my goal this term is not to let the stress of being a senior get to me.

Everyone knows that life isn't easy and when things get tough I think of a quote a good friend said to me this year. "You can either be happy and stressed or upset and stressed but either way you are going to be stressed."

Since I can't make my stressful situations disappear and I

don't know of any de-stressing medication, my plan is to live life one day at a time, to cherish every moment with my friends and to remember YOU ONLY LIVE ONCE. Although stressed, I will be happy.

So, I am writing this column for myself and to remind all my friends that life is precious and we can't let stress hold us back. We have to live this term to it's fullest!!! We are second term seniors so that should give us some sort of privilege to have fun, be crazy and enjoy ourselves these last few months. After all, we will be working for the rest of our lives — hopefully.

**— Murphy's Sports Track —  
Give Johnson  
a break**

By MICHAEL MURPHY  
Staff Reporter



It was an up and down week for the Miami Dolphins two weeks ago after their embarrassing

loss to the Denver Broncos in the second round of the NFL playoffs.

Head Coach Jimmy Johnson decided to retire due to emotional concerns resulting from his mother's death in mid-December.

Less than 24 hours later, Johnson was back as the Dolphins' Head Coach, saying that he is very excited about his task to bring Miami their first Super Bowl title since 1973.

This calling off retirement came after meetings with team owner Wayne Huizenga and future Hall of Fame quarterback Dan Marino. In addition, the hiring of Dave Wannstedt as assistant head coach also helped recall Johnson back to the head coaching position.

Johnson had been going through a whirlwind of emotions since his mother's death. One could tell that he was greatly disturbed during the Dolphins' Monday Night Football game against the Denver Broncos, which was played following her death just a few days prior.

Who can blame Johnson for suffering from emotional setbacks after the loss of a loved one? Every single person has experienced this sense of loss or will experience it during their lifetime. Johnson's reaction was singularly human. He tried valiantly to bring the Dolphins to greatness during the playoffs, despite his personal emotional trauma.

The sad part about Johnson's retiring and subsequent reversal due to emotional instability is that it will unfortunately bring up

questions about his commitment to the Miami Dolphins. Reporters and players will second guess everything that he does, from game-time decisions to post-game interviews to locker room emotional outbursts. Skeptics are already coming out and blasting Johnson for his "odd behavior" after his mother passed away.

This criticism is completely unfair and absolutely ridiculous.

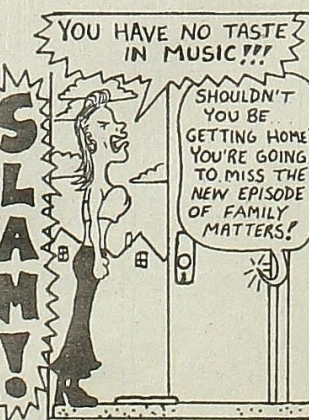
The man is going through a tough time and his erratic behavior is the result of a significant loss in his life. The Miami reporters must give Johnson time to recover from his mother's death. Constant questioning of his football decisions will not help the Miami Dolphins in any way.

Johnson, however, may have a few tricks up his sleeve. Hiring Dave Wannstedt as an assistant coach may be an essential element in his future plans. With his decision to hire Wannstedt, Johnson is pointing towards building his own legacy in the Miami Dolphins franchise.

Wannstedt, although having three consecutive terrible seasons as head coach of the Chicago Bears, is a respectable football man who has the capacity to be a quality coach when given good talent. This talent could come his way if Johnson decides to step down as head coach in a few years and enter into the Dolphin's general manager position, where he will be given the task to bring talent to the Dolphins.

If this is the case with Johnson, the Dolphins could be an excellent franchise for years to come.

Even if this is not the case, Jimmy Johnson is an excellent football coach who will not stand to see his coaching abilities dissipate. He will constantly strive to better his football team, which is a process he has perfected for many years. And his critics will be stopped.

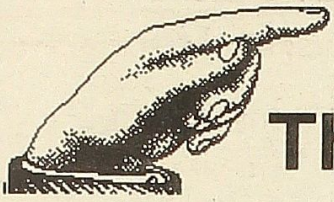
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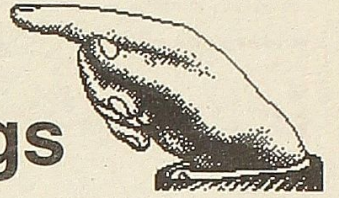
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1999

- 1:30-5:00 p.m. in Jones Auditorium
- Career Planning and Networking
  - Bring a copy of your resumé
  - Mock interviews available
- 7:00 p.m. in SAC 113
- Panel Discussion
  - Reception to follow





## Point/Counterpoint: The pros and cons of fertility drugs



### Abortion justified if used to curb multiple births

By MANDY LONG  
Feature Editor

"When I saw them for the first time, I was so amazed at what God blessed me with," Nkem Chukwu told a reporter from the *Chicago Tribune*. Chukwu is the mother of the octuplets born on December 20. Since then, many have been up in arms about the situation.

Chukwu and her husband, Iyke Louis Udobi, used fertility drugs to conceive the octuplets, and chose to bring all eight to term because of religious reasons. However, the smallest child, a little girl named Odera, died from heart and lung failure on December 27. The remaining five girls and two boys are in critical, but stable condition at the Texas Children's Hospital in Houston.

There are several questions at hand. First and foremost, should fertility drugs be used as extensively as they are? Secondly, if a woman should conceive multiple fetuses, why isn't selective reduction opted for more often?

In the case of Chukwu and Udobi, it is difficult to judge their actions. After all, many couples across the country use fertility

drugs and conceive one or two children, no more. How then do multiple births happen? While there is always a chance of multiple births, physicians say that if women who are using fertility drugs are monitored correctly, they could avoid conception during months when they release multiple eggs.

Should a woman conceive multiple fetuses, however, there is always the option of selective reduction. In selective reduction the physician aborts a certain number of the fetuses, leaving only a manageable, healthy number (perhaps two or three). This option was denied by Chukwu and Udobi.

In the end, one must look at the children. Of the remaining seven, two are in warming beds and the other five are in incubators. The two smallest, Ikem and Gorom, are receiving three-fourths of their nutrition intravenously. The earliest release date that physicians see is late in March. Of anyone, these children have suffered the most. The largest child only weight one pound eight ounces at birth, while most healthy babies where anywhere from seven to ten pounds.

While Chukwu and Udobi surely had the best interest of the children in mind, the odds were against them. Children of multiple births are rarely ever completely healthy, despite the few successes that have been highly publicized. Anyone who risks taking fertility drugs and not monitoring the release of eggs should expect that a situation like this could occur. In that case, the only real choice should be selective reduction. Bringing eight children into this world who will be plagued with health problems and have a great chance of dying is not the morally right decision. While the end of this story is not written, of the three previous sets of octuplets, two had all eight die.

Chukwu and Udobi spoke of God's will to have these miracle babies. However, perhaps they should have recognized that God's will works in many ways. If they feel strongly against selective reduction, then perhaps they should realize that in that same light, fertility drugs are against His will too. Perhaps the pregnancy should have never been. Many are praying for these babies, however, the outcome does not look good.

### Fertility drugs cause multiple births

By LINDSAY ROBINSON  
Freelance Writer

To think of the devastation a young couple faces when told by their doctor that they will be unable to have a family of their own is heartwrenching. To think of the countless numbers of heartbreaks that a husband and wife feel when time and time again they miscarry yet another child makes one's heart heavy. If a miracle could happen for any of these couples, it would definitely mean the difference between happiness and despair.

Medical technology has partially made that miracle a reality thanks to in-vitro fertilization and fertility drugs. Now, if a young couple finds themselves in that desperate situation, unable to conceive on their own but wanting wholeheartedly to become parent, they can indeed make that dream a reality. But unfortunately, the path that lay ahead of them can be a long and difficult one, facing them with many decisions that could mean the difference between the life and death of a child.

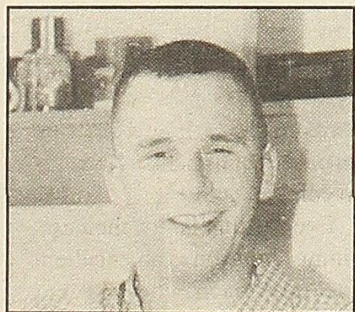
The American public in recent history has shared in the joy of the now famous families blessed with septuplets and octuplets. But one thing that the public has not shared with these families is the behind-the-scenes decisions that these families have had to make.

Once these families found out that their dream of a family will come true, seven and even eight-fold, they were forced to make an extremely serious decision- what can we do to ensure that we can safely and successfully survive the pregnancy and the years beyond. One of these decisions is whether to try to carry the large brood of children to term, or to terminate a few of the lives within the mother, making it more likely that the mother will be able to carry the babies safely and successfully to term. The decision is obviously a gut-wrenching one for the parents. Just imagine one day wishing for just one child, and the next day, having to possibly decide which child to not have.

Fertility drugs and in-vitro fertilization offer a tremendous amount to parents-to-be. A tremendous amount of hope, a tremendous amount of happiness, but also a tremendous amount of sorrow. They have brought immeasurable joy to parents who once had no hope, but why must they have to go through such grief to have a family of their own? Nature obviously decides whether or not a couple can conceive, hopefully medicine will be able to find an alternative to the needless destruction of lives that happens as a result of these man-made miracles.

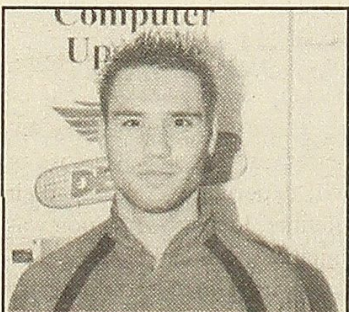
## Campus Viewpoints

The Almanian asked the following question to eight Alma College students:  
What is your opinion about the use of fertility drugs?



Neil Drzewiecki (01)

I don't agree with them unless its the last alternative a person has. I don't agree with the idea of multiple births either.



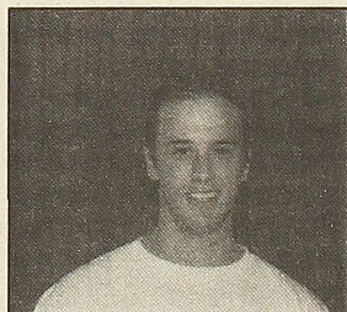
Jeremy Higgins (00)

I think you have to be really careful with bio-technology because the health of kids being born from these drugs is at risk.



Barb Knuste (00)

It's nice that people are able to have children, but there are so many unwanted children in the world that adoption would be a better option.



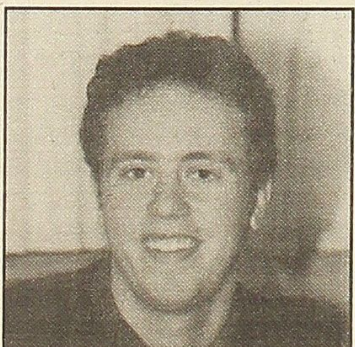
Greg McQuillian (99)

I'm not really in favor of them but at the same time it could be a way for deserving parents to have children.



Julie Skok (02)

I think people should just let nature run its course.



Chris Andrus (02)

I think they are positive for people who have a hard time having children.



Melissa Brucker (99)

I don't think they should be banned, but adoption would be a better idea.

Compiled by Donna Pappas  
Photos by Steve Nadeau

## Check it Out!

Visit *The Almanian* online at

<http://cicero.com.alma.edu/almanian>

Updated weekly on Tuesday evenings.

E-mail us at [ALMANIAN@alma.edu](mailto:ALMANIAN@alma.edu)

with suggestions or comments.



## Staff Editorial

## Run-outs improved but lacked interfraternal spirit

Rush '99 concluded this Saturday with a bang, as all five fraternities accepted their pledges in an adrenaline-filled atmosphere at Caepert Gymnasium.

Unfortunately, this year once again saw a repeat of years' past where interfraternal spirit was indeed lacking. Compared to last year's run-outs, however, this year's run-outs did not see any major fights. True, there were many altercations, but they did not escalate to the brink of eruption.

We, the editorial staff, feel that the IFC security did an excellent job in preventing any fights at

all. There were shouting matches between several people - whether Greek or non-Greek - but no physical harm was done. Security did a great job in not allowing anything to get out of hand. They regulated the run-outs fairly and respectfully.

It is a great pity that such confrontations on Saturday had to take place. It was a sadness to have all of the pledges staring in awe at a system which at times displays animalistic behaviors. In a system which is supposed to upgrade an individual's self, the example of true manhood was lost in several instances.

We would like to take time, however, to congratulate the way in which sorority walk-outs were handled on Friday. There were no threats of physical violence or hatred towards each sorority. Instead, Pan-helanic comradery was found to be especially prevalent during the night which saw the sororities receiving their future sisters.

The women held themselves to a very high level. This high level must be met by the IFC during next year's run-outs. They must take their cue from the sororities and act maturely in the following years. This will help run-outs

function more smoothly in the future.

It is obvious that there are enormous tensions running between several fraternities. Each fraternity must set aside these discrepancies that they have. This proper behavior will help run-outs to become even more memorable than what it is currently.

This year, although containing many tension-filled moments, was an improvement from last year's run-outs. Hopefully the fraternities can build upon this improvement and continue to grow for years to come.

## The Right Side

## Republicans agree on agenda

By SHANNON CASEY  
Opinion Editor

With the president of the United States on trial in the Senate, the country must be in a

shamble. Right? Wrong! The state of the Union is strong. President Clinton mentioned it in his State of the Union Address and Steve Largent and Jennifer Dunn echoed it in their Republican response.

How can a country survive when its chief executive officer is barely staying afloat? It's simple; the people of this great country make it strong. The founding fathers designed our government to gain its strength

from the people, not the other way around.

Regardless of how the impeachment trial ends, this country will survive. However, with the impeachment trial in full swing, is the Congress still working for the people? The answer is a resounding yes!

In his State of the Union Address, Clinton set the groundwork for his agenda. Unfortunately, his agenda sounded like a rehash of his 1994 agenda, which led to a Republican takeover of the House and Senate. In his speech to a joint session of Congress, Clinton promised more government programs and more government interference. Has this president learned anything in the past four years?

He wants the government investing our social security dollars for us, since he does not think that

people should control their own retirement accounts. The only thing that he did not propose was government mandated health care, a plan that almost got him laughed out of the White House in 1994.

Luckily, there will be two agendas to choose from in 2000. Gore's agenda, which will echo Clinton's more is better mentality, where the more refers to government intervention, and the Republican agenda of more personal responsibility.

Largent and Dunn talked about their plan for the Republicans to carry the country through the millennium. They propose to put people back in charge of their money and of their future.

With forty percent of your money going directly to the government, you are only keeping slightly more than half of the money you earn. No one argues that there needs to be taxes, because we all need to chip in for public goods.

The problem lies in paying for all of these new feel-good programs that are only helping a select few recipients. People know how to spend their money much better than the government.

The federal government is expecting a \$63 billion surplus this year. The question remains as to what to do with that extra money? The Republicans are proposing an across the board ten percent tax cut. The money came from the American people and belongs to the American people. The

president has no business using that money for new government programs.

Social Security will be bankrupt in fifteen years. Older Americans were promised that they would receive Social Security checks when they retired. We need to keep that promise, but in order to do that, we need to save Social Security. Not only do we need to save it, but we also need to update it. Updating Social Security will keep it solvent for future generations.

Currently Social Security money is being invested at under three percent per year. Both the president and Congress understand that this money could be invested at a much higher rate. The difference is the president proposes for the government to invest the money, while the Republicans propose to allow individuals to invest in their own retirement funds.

Do we really want the government to be making investment decisions for us? Remember, the government is making those choices now and repaying us a whopping three percent. It is about time to put common sense back into government and allow people to make the decisions that affect their lives.

The Republicans are finally realizing that they will have to get back to the philosophy of Lincoln and Reagan if they want to be the Party of the future. By the looks of their new agenda, they are doing just that.

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## The Almanian Judgment Calls

**Thumbs up** to Marriot for labeling and providing nutrition information on their food.

**Thumbs down** for labeling the common food, but leaving the unrecognizable food unlabeled.

**Thumbs up** to the new spot color in *The Almanian*.

**Thumbs down** to that ugly staff listing box on the back page in the last issue.

**Thumbs up** to the melting snow.

**Thumbs down** for it freezing again and turning to ice.

**Thumbs up** to the diversity panel.

**Thumbs down** that we only recognize diversity one week a year.

**Thumbs up** to a successful Bursting the Bubble Weekend

**Thumbs down** that there is a bubble to burst.

**Thumbs up** to *The Almanian's* new weather report.

**Thumbs down** that it doesn't promise warm weather soon.



**Eucher Tournament**

**THE HOLE**

**This Friday!**  
**8 PM**