

February 2, 1999

Issue 14

Weekly Weather

Tuesday



Rain Turning to Snow

High: 37°

Low: 34°

Wednesday



Mostly Cloudy

High: 43°

Low: 25°

Thursday



Partly Cloudy

High: 35°

Low: 28°

Friday



Showers

High: 40°

Low: 19°

Saturday



Snow

High: 38°

Low: 23°

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The Almanian

Serving Alma College since 1907

Woodrow Wilson Fellow praises Alma

By TONYA SCHAFER
News Editor

As part of the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship program, playwright Lavonne Mueller visited campus last week and spoke on a variety of topics to several classes of Alma students.

In addition to delivering speeches in an assortment of English, history, religion, theater, psychology, Spanish and communication courses, Mueller attended receptions, dined with faculty and students and put on a writing workshop for aspiring authors during her seven-day visit.

The Woodrow Wilson Foundation, which first selected Mueller as a Visiting Fellow in 1985, is an organization that sends professionals from diverse fields to lecture at colleges and universities across the country. It has had a working relationship with Alma for over 15 years.

"They [the Fellowship personnel] send us a list of people available [to give talks]," said the college's Woodrow Wilson coordinator Joseph Walser. "We choose someone to come every year. They vary in their disciplines; people from many different fields have been here over the years."

According to Walser, Mueller was chosen to come to campus because of feedback he received from students and faculty members.

"I sought input from different areas of the college. The consensus of opinion was that we needed to have a writer come to campus," he said.

A former high school English teacher and professor at New York City's Columbia University, Mueller has received several honors for her work, including a 1992 John F. Kennedy Center New American Funds Award and a 1994 nomination for best foreign play ("Little Victories") in Japan. She has travelled across Europe as a speaker and has authored textbooks, poems and articles for various publications.

Melanie Hood (02), a member of the Global Ethics class, attended one of Mueller's speeches and expressed admiration for the playwright's work.

"She has a passion for what she does. I love writing, and it's important to see that enthusiasm. Someday I hope to be able to do the same things she does in script form," said Hood.

Mueller herself expressed praise for the Alma College community.

"I love the students here. They are very alert, curious and well-read; they're not shy about asking questions. This is a wonderful atmosphere, where the faculty and



Playwright Lavonne Mueller visited campus and spoke in a variety of different classes. Submitted Photo.

students approach things together," Mueller said.

The benefits students receive from such a speaker, stated Walser, are an important part of the Fellowship program.

"We've had some marvelous folks here. They've become friends of Alma College and have given students good advice. We have flourished from our relationship with the Woodrow Wilson Foundation," said Walser.

"My colleagues are fantastic in working these speakers into their courses," he added. "[The program] builds in meaningful ways and improves every year."

FASFA filing an important process

By AMANDA MCKINNON
Freelance Writer

With next fall approaching, students will need to consider their financial aid situation.

Any student wishing to receive financial aid must file a Free Application for Student Federal Aid (FASFA). This form provides the opportunity not only for State and Federal aid, but also for consideration of aid from Alma College. For those who filed a FASFA last year, a Federal Renewal Application will be sent to the permanent address listed thereon. If one does not receive a renewal application after having filed last year, one must file a new FASFA to be eligible for aid this year.

Alma College also requires its own renewal form, that is due March 15, 1999. This form states a student's intention of

filing again and intended major. Indicating a definite major must be done because there are some scholarships and grants available only to certain majors. Along with this form, everyone must include a copy of their parent's 1998 tax return. Both of these forms are to be turned into the financial aid office.

The Director of Financial Aid, Christopher Brown, encourages every student to file a FASFA, even they might believe themselves to be ineligible. Brown states that, "situations often change; this may modify the status of a student's financial aid." There are also some low interest loans offered to those who file a FASFA. The financial aid office has a scholarship book that students may use. Students may copy the addresses, requirements and deadlines for various scholarships. The deadlines vary and run all year long.

The deadlines are a issue that Mr. Brown highly stresses. The deadline for the FASFA and the Renewal Application is March 15, 1999. He also suggests that all forms be mailed in by March 15, 1999 to ensure that they are received on time. This deadline is very crucial, because late filers may jeopardize receiving any aid at all, including Alma College aid.

Once all of the paper work is in, students will receive an award letter. This letter states all of the financial aid given. The letter must be signed and returned to verify acceptance of these funds. If a student chooses not to accept an award, they must draw a line through it before mailing it back. There is a period of 14 days within which to return this letter.

Any further questions or concerns can be directed to the financial aid office at x7347.

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D.C. consultant critiques college

By AMY TAYLOR
Staff Reporter

Bill Weary, Ph.D., returned to Alma on January 28 to present his report on the cultural climate to faculty, administrators and a select number of students. His findings were obtained from 29 interviews with approximately 185 people. These extensive discussions were conducted with participants ranging from the President to students involved with various organizations around the campus.

Weary is an outside consultant from Washington D.C. and is president of Fieldstone Consulting Firm. He received his masters and doctorate at Yale University and served a faculty position at Amhurst College, where he was a graduate student.

In his interviews, Weary aimed for a cross section of representa-

tives throughout the college in order to assess it. He was brought here last November and December by a task force appointed by the Board of Trustees.

President Alan J. Stone stated that he was very satisfied with the outcome of the report. He said, "It [the report] was captured from contingencies where various individuals are at in the school. It provides a road map for the college."

Weary's findings were divided into four main parts: a summary statement, an old agenda, a new agenda and a closing statement. According to the report, Alma nearly closed in the mid-1950's; however, from that period to present the college has improved drastically. Weary stated that the school should be proud of these achievements and it is in a strong position compared to other liberal arts institutions. However, the

college still has improvements to make.

"Everyone knows this institution can move forward with satisfaction and pride because it has endured hard times in the process," said Weary.

Completing a new agenda means moving beyond the old one. Weary concluded that Alma has not accepted this change and when it is addressed, then everyone in the college community can feel a part of it. In the past, people frequently placed the blame of problems on other parties and were unwilling to take the responsibility upon themselves.

Weary stated, "the college has little sense of a whole, only in their hazy dreams of the past."

Weary also noticed that with the old agenda, little tasks entailed long efforts and people were happier to settle for the status quo. These are only a few of the prob-

lems Weary shared with the group, but he did share his belief that one successful agenda opens the door for the next.

In his proposed new agenda, Weary claimed that the college does not have sufficient funds to carry out programs he deems necessary for total success. He concluded that the school has difficulties cutting out old programs but must do this in order to make room for new ones.

The student body has increased 50 percent within the last decade and a new agenda will adjust the infrastructure to meet the changing population and institution.

"It is important for the entire college to engage in the process of looking at its current situation of where it has been going and where it is going to go," said Weary. "It is called visioning with the intention for a new plan."

Profs on sabbatical continue education

By DONNA PAPPAS
Staff Reporter

Every seven years professors are able to take a sabbatical leave in order to study or travel. This term, four professors took advantage of this leave.

Those four—English professor Eugene Pattison, Communications professor Micheal Vickery, music professor Douglas Scripps, and exercise and health science professor Doug Seelbach—have used their leave to further their educational experience.

This is Pattison's fifth and last sabbatical. After his leave this term, he will return for only one

year of teaching.

Pattison is spending his sabbatical working on a project that focuses on the writings of Booth Tarkington. Tarkington lived from 1869-1946 and finished about thirty novels during his lifetime, which he spent in Indianapolis.

"I became interested in researching Tarkington after watching 'Magnificent Ambersons,' which was a movie made in 1942 from a book he had written," said Pattison.

Some of Tarkington's major works are novels on the lives of young boys who grew up in towns similar to Indianapolis. Another three of his books are

about Indianapolis industrial wealth and the change that industry brought to the city.

Pattison will be researching some of the places connected to Tarkington's life and his writings. He hopes to give a report on a couple of Tarkington's plays that deal with Midwestern impressions on people further east.

During spring term, Pattison hopes to return to Princeton to spend two weeks researching. He also hopes to do research in more Michigan libraries.

Pattison has been busy planning his spring term for 2000. He hopes to teach a course on Midwestern literature, which would include an eight to ten day field

trip around Indiana and Ohio.

This will be Vickery's first sabbatical in eighteen years. He taught at Texas A & M for four years before he began at Alma.

Vickery will focus on writing about the rhetoric of technology. He will mainly be concerned with understanding the role of technology as it shapes public discussion and policy, as well as its impact on health and environmental communication.

Reading, writing, thinking, and studying are Vickery's main plans during his sabbatical.

Scripps is currently taking advantage of his sabbatical overseas, conducting an orchestra at a university in Vienna.

Visiting theologian to host retreat for students

By WENDY HOLMES
Copy Editor

On Monday, February 8th, at 8:00 p.m. in the Heritage Center, Barbara Fiand, research professor in spirituality at the Institute of Pastoral Studies at Loyola University in Chicago, will present a campuswide lecture entitled "Cultural Development: A Call to Conversion."

The weekend preceding the lecture Fiand, a sister of Notre Dame, will spend her time hosting a retreat for Alma College students at the St. Francis Retreat Center in DeWitt.

The retreat, whose topic is "Feminine Spirituality," will begin on Friday, February 5th at 8:00 p.m. and will conclude Sunday the 7th at 1:00 p.m. Fiand said the retreat will consist primarily of a "series of talks and reflections on feminine spirituality and consciousness and how it can change how we can relate with one another and relate with God."

Following the talks Fiand hopes to have time for discussions and questions.

Fiand added, "Both the retreat and the public lecture will be concerned with the conversion of our consciousness that is necessary if this world is to be a place where both men and women can feel at home."

Feeling at home is a major component of the retreat, according to Sandy Lopez-Isnardi, professor of Art and Design at Alma, who said, "A retreat allows the person not only to get input...but have a safe place to process that information and ask questions in a smaller, more intimate setting."

In keeping with the intimate atmosphere, the retreat is being limited to ten students, at a cost of \$85.00 each.

Fiand will be brought to campus for the Women's Studies class. Lopez-Isnardi chose Fiand because, as she said, "[her] topic, I think, is very important." Rather than focusing on just women and resorting to derogatory comments

regarding men, Fiand focuses on "what is needed to respect both ways of thinking because men and women do think and process differently," said Lopez-Isnardi.

Before she began teaching at Loyola, Fiand taught feminine spirituality and creation spirituality at St. Mary's Seminary in Ohio for 17 years. Creation spirituality, according to Lopez-Isnardi, claims that humans were

created "not just for procreation, but companionship....Instead of focusing on just how sinful we are, it says, 'Hey, wait. There's good parts of us, too.'"

Fiand has written several books, including Release, Wrestling with God, and the upcoming Prayer and the Quest for Healing: Our Personal Transformation and Cosmic Responsibility.

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Student Congress Minutes January 31

II. Roll Call and Announcements
45 organizations present

III. Officer Reports

A. Treasurer

1. There will be a contingency meeting on Wednesday at 6:15 PM.

2. All members of the contingency committee see Mike after the meeting tonight

3. The Alma Republicans requested \$522.50 for travel expenses to the Republican state convention this weekend. The contingency committee recommended \$250. There was a motion to accept the recommendation. A majority vote ruled in favor of the motion.

B. Secretary -- no report

C. Vice President -- Happy Birthday to Mike this week!

D. President

1. Students from the Student Affairs committee will be meeting with Mr. Scoby and Mark Starkweather this week to discuss plans for the new meal plans.

2. There will be a student affairs meeting directly following tonight's meeting.

3. The High/Scope Institution for IDEAS, a camp for disadvantaged teens will be recruiting for counselors on Alma's campus Friday February 5 in SAGA from 11:30 - 1:30, and in the Center for Student Development from 1:30 - 2:30.

4. Just a reminder that next week there will be a presentation with the Alma police force and Alma college security.

IV. Old Business -- none

V. New Business -- none

VI. Alma Web Site Presentation

Dr. David Lawrence provided the congress with a detailed look at the process and purposes of the Alma College web site. He asked for input on strengths and weaknesses of the current system and any changes that the students would like to see made.

VII. Announcements

CUB -- will be hosting Beyond Mock Rock in the P.E. Center on February 5th at 8:00 PM.

YD and the McCurdy House -- will be distributing ribbons for Rosa Parks/Civil Rights awareness on February 8th in SAGA

Class of 99 -- Ray will be selling Switch-a-day tickets after the meeting. Thanks to the Student Congress for the conference at Grand Valley this past weekend.

College Republicans -- will be attending the Republican State convention this Friday the 5th and Saturday the 6th.

KI -- will be sponsoring the Luxury Liner on February 12th. Tickets will be sold in SAGA and will be \$7.00 per person or \$12.00 per couple.

Student Judicial -- on 1-29-99 reported:

4 females alcohol \$25 and written warning

1 female guest policy \$10

4 males noise \$10

3 males alcohol \$25 and

***This Week.....
at the Movies!*****Alma Cinemas**
3002 Monroe Rd.
463-4441**"The Faculty" rated R,**
1 hour 45 minutes**"Varsity Blues"**
rated R,
1 hour 50 minutes**"In Dreams" rated R,**
1 hour 40 minutes**"Patch Adams"**
rated PG-13,
1 hour 55 minutes**"Mighty Joe Young"**
rated PG,
1 hour 55 minutes**"Stepmom" rated PG-**
13, 2 hours 10 minutes**Movies times vary**
daily**"Beauty and the Beast" a must see****By TONYA SCHAFER**
News Editor

"Beauty and the Beast," the gala musical being performed at Michigan State University's Wharton Center until February 14, remains faithful to the Disney animated feature that inspired its creation. And this is what makes the current national tour's performance so captivating.

As the Walt Disney Company has driven itself into the hearts and minds of captive consumers nationwide, it is likely that every American maintains a few sketchy details of "Beauty's" premise. The Disney version of Charles Perrault's fairy tale centers on the adventures of an intelligent and beautiful young woman named, appropriately enough, Belle. Our heroine is taken prisoner by a snarling prince-turned-Beast who was so punished by an enchantress for his conceit and cruelty.

The Beast's twisted curse extends to his servants, who have been transformed into common household items. These living, breathing objects and their surly master will become human again only if the Beast learns to love another and to earn her love in return by the time the last petal

falls from his enchanted rose. Thus, the arrival of Belle sends a thrill through the castle's inhabitants as they attempt to create a romance between the two headstrong and clashing personalities.

To most mature theatergoers and to those who have seen the movie, it is obvious that everything will turn out all right in the end (after all, it's unlike Disney to keep the Beast and his innocent servants in a perpetual state of disfigurement by some enchantress's perverted sense of justice). However, this musical possesses a keen sense of drama. Tensions and urgency build as petal after petal falls from the Beast's softly glowing rose with no romance in sight.

There are many reasons to love this play. One is the costuming, which is luxurious and detailed. Belle's frilly, floating ball gown is a sight to behold, as are the Beast's regal garments and the combination of prosthetics and human hair that give him a shaggy, feral appearance. Most impressive are the costumes worn by the castle's enchanted objects. Babette, the saucy duster, wears a form-fitting dress that flares into a clump of feathers at its bottom; former butler Cogsworth has been turned into a clock,

complete with pendulum and wind-up key on back. And Lumiere, the candlestick/coachman, uses butane fuel during each show to produce the curling licks of flame that occasionally creep from each of his arms.

"Beauty's" special effects and pyrotechnics are dazzling. The show uses a tremendous amount of sparks and flame that mesh well with the story, rather than seeming tacked on or excessive. The transformation of Beast into Prince at the end of the show is awe-inspiring; it is impossible to figure out how an actor can go from shaggy monster to handsome human in the space of a few seconds.

The music is, for the most part, stirring. All of the favorites from the animated movie are here; most impressive are the lavish group performances of "Belle," "Be Our Guest" and "The Mob Song." Several pieces were also added to the musical to increase its running time. These include "Human Again," a song cut from the animated movie; "How Long Must This Go On?;" and "Home." The additions are mostly cheesy Andrew Lloyd Webber-esque pieces that slow down the story's pace rather than improve its plot. The only excep-

tion is "Maison de Lunes," an eerie tune sung by Gaston, LeFou and Monsieur D'Arque as they plot to imprison Belle's father in the local insane asylum. Its haunting melody is of the same caliber as the songs from the film.

Roger Befeler is excellent in the role of the Beast, conveying emotion and heartache from beneath pounds of hair and latex. Erin Dilly bears a remarkable resemblance vocally to the animated feature's Belle, but her version occasionally lacks the spunk and determination required of such a dynamic character. Similarly, Heather Lee conveys little sexiness in her role as the flirtatious Babette. Jeff Brooks portrays uptight Cogsworth well, although the crowd favorite is David DeVries as Lumiere; his debonair and slightly goofy character, combined with his shameless pandering to the audience, makes him a joy to watch.

The Wharton Center's version of "Beauty and the Beast" is a monumental achievement. Rarely does a show appear that entertains young and old alike; this production does so successfully. Fans of the animated film will not be disappointed at this Disney foray into domination of American pop culture.

Movie Review by Wendy Holmes**Best to skip nightmarish "Dreams"**

Starring Annette Bening and Robert Downey, Jr., "In Dreams" is a murky, messy film, confusing from the start. The dreams that form its core make no more sense to the audience than they do to the film's heroine, psychic Claire Cooper (Annette Bening).

Claire receives these dreams, which contain messages about missing children, from murderer Vivian Thompson (Robert Downey, Jr.).

However, the audience does not know even this basic fact until halfway through the movie. The mechanism Vivian uses to share his dreams with Claire (as well as move a swing, turn on a radio, control her actions, etc.) is never explained, nor even hypothesized about by any of its characters.

In fact, the film is populated by skeptics, not the least of which are Claire's own husband, Paul (Aidan Quinn) and her psychiatrist, Dr. Silverman (Stephen Rea).

Silverman seems unconcerned with helping Claire interpret her dreams and instead spends the majority of his time trying to shut her up, both figuratively and literally, as he places her in not one, but two mental institutions, never stopping once to consider that she may be simply haunted, not crazy.

Rea's portrayal of Silverman is

actually more frightening than the film itself, but, then again, exactly how scary can apples be? Choosing to focus on the apples seems a laughable decision, but Bening does her best to look terrified of the shiny red fruit. Vivian's, and consequently Claire's, obsession with apples remains just another subject the film does not delve into. Nor does the film seem particularly concerned with Vivian's past, providing only brief glimpses into what could have made the man a monster.

The film chooses not to explain any of these mysteries, which are actually much more interesting than the plot; instead, it wastes far too much time engaging in various unneeded subplots. The "action" between the dream sequences (which were stunningly well-shot) seems hurried, perhaps because the filmmakers knew there was not enough plot to hold the audience's attention in between.

Because the audience is supposed to buy into the belief that Vivian is a cold, calculating, monster, Downey's portrayal of the killer is certainly off, as he infuses a silly, innocent lunacy into his character, who is not even seen by viewers until three-quarters of the film have passed. In fact, the younger Vivian, seen

escaping from his mental hospital, is much more frightening than the goofy man he became. The most frightening thing about Downey's Vivian is his ragged appearance (check out that hair!), which does not say much for the effectiveness of the script.

Although "In Dreams" purports itself to be a thriller, what it turns out to be is a great idea poorly executed.

Fortunately, the performances of Bening and Rea keep this

movie from degenerating into a campy comedy. The film's saving grace is in its exquisite use of camera angles and color (the red dress Claire wears in one dream sequence is absolutely brilliant).

However, these features can just as easily be seen on the small screen, which is where I suggest you catch this movie, if in fact you decide to catch it at all. It may be more interesting to simply fall asleep yourself and see what happens.

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Word Scramble

EXLFRE

NTOMIO

FPRNOAE

CSRPTUSOIMU

VTARLE

SLTURE

BHUUBB

CFTIONI

TONCOCC

TDAMAAN

answers will appear in next week's
paper

Award-winning pianist Schneider visits Alma

By MANDY LONG
Feature Editor

Andrea Schneider, award-winning pianist and 1997 Gilmore Emerging Artist, visited Alma College's Presbyterian Hall last Thursday, January 28.

Schneider, who has been recognized as a Presidential Scholar in the Arts, presented a solo recital to students and community members. The program, which was divided into two parts, included pieces from J. S. Bach, Ludwig van Beethoven, and

Modest Mussorgsky.

The first two pieces Schneider selected were *Chromatic Fantasy and Fuge*, by Bach and a collection of songs from Sonata, Opera 110 by Beethoven, which included *Moderato cantabile*, *Allegro molto*, *Adagio*, and *Fuga*.

After intermission, Schneider graced the audience with a collection of songs by Mussorgsky entitled "Pictures at an Exhibition," which included such pieces as *Promenade*, *Tuileries*, *Ballet of the Chicks*, *The Great Gate of Kiev*, *Bydlo*, *Baba-Yaga*,

Limoges, *Gnomus*, *Il Vecchio Castello*, *Samuel Goldenberg and Schmuyle*, *Con Mortuis in Lingua Mortua*, and several more.

Schneider received her Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance from the University of Southern California and is currently studying at the University of Michigan to attain her Master of Music degree. She has received many honors, including the Charles Cinnamon Career Grant, the Liberace Award and a Presidential Medallion, and was

named an Outstanding Girl by the American Academy of Achievement.

Schneider has also performed with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, on "ABC's Good Morning America," at the Kennedy Center and with the World Youth Symphony, the Buffalo Philharmonic, the Manitowoc Symphony, the Williamsburg Symphony, the Grand Teton Music Festival Orchestra, and several other symphonies. She has also completed two European tours and performed as part of the U.S.

delegation to the Soviet-American Piano Institute in Moscow.

She has performed solo recitals under the distinguished banner of the Steinway Concert Series in Tennessee and Illinois. Schneider has also made several guest appearances, which include WFMT Radio's 1997 "Live from Studio 1" series, and the 1996 Dame Myra Hess Concert Series.

"I thought it was great," said junior Joy Kilanowski, a student who attended Schneider's performance. "She's a very talented musician."

Bruske RAs plan programs

By JASON FISCHER
Staff Reporter

Like all Alma College Resident Assistants (RAs), Bruske Hall RAs are responsible for improving the quality of the college experience for all Alma students through hall programs.

This Winter Term, Bruske Hall Staff is putting on several hall programs that deal with community and personal issues.

Bruske Hall Staff is encouraging and helping residents to form fundraising teams for the Gratiot County Big Brothers/Big Sisters "Bowl for Kid's Sake" event to be held in mid-February.

This annual event, sponsored by area businesses, helps to provide local disadvantaged children with positive role models.

Also, Bruske Hall Staff and residents are going to send care packages to their fellow Bruske residents that have decided to travel overseas this term.

One of the larger programs that Bruske Hall RAs are organizing is a sexual issues awareness program scheduled for this month.

"The program is entitled 'Sex, Candy, and STDs,'" said Bruske RA Ryan Wilson ('99). "The program will be co-sponsored by the Medical Center and will raise awareness about pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases."

Another large-scale program being organized is a Global Religions program starting in mid-March.

"The purpose of this program is to challenge students' religious views; to increase students'

knowledge of their own faiths and of others' faiths," said Bruske Hall Director Dave Wagner. "Preaching and conversion are not the aims of this program; awareness is our goal."

The Global Religions program will include flyers in Bruske mailboxes explaining the precepts of different world religions. A continually expanding bulletin board in Bruske Hall will also be used for the same purpose.

The focal point of the program will be a panel discussion that will be open to the entire campus. Panelists will be of different religious faiths and have had different religious experiences.

"With the panel discussion," said Wagner, "we hope to show students that there are connections, not just differences, between all religions."

In April there will be a Bruske Hall Talent Show open to Bruske residents. It will be a general talent exhibition and will help residents to shake off pre-exam stress.

Bruske Hall Staff is working with the Hall Council to organize a snow sculpture event and a Valentine's Day event.

Bruske Hall Staff is also collaborating with the Center for Student Development to put on career planning and resume workshops.

"Student Affairs is trying to get hall staffs to plan developmental and challenging programs," said Wagner. Bruske Hall Staff has planned a busy Winter Term, with activities to meet and surpass this goal.

Trebesh Lectures at Ukraine Institute

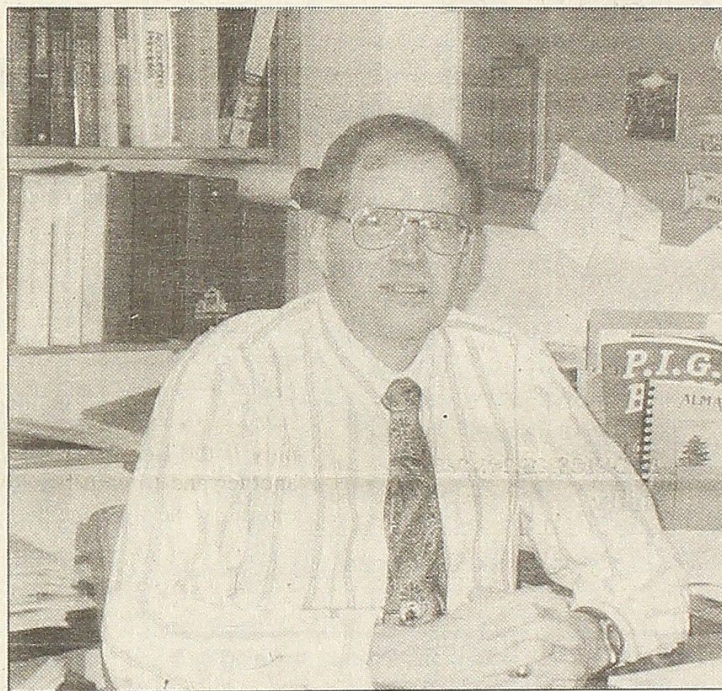
By EVA HECHT
Copy Editor

To explore strange new lands; to seek out new opportunities and new Spring Term possibilities; to boldly go where no Scot has gone before. This is no television mission; this is the real story of a recent trip to the Ukraine by Michael Trebesh, professor of business administration.

On December 8, 1998, Trebesh left for the Ukraine and a fifteen day visit to the Institute of Management in Yalta. He was invited to give 14 lectures during his time there and his own personal goal was to explore the possibility of future Spring Term exchanges with the Institute.

Upon arrival, Trebesh was met by a translator. He stayed in a home in Yalta for the duration of the visit. He led 14 seminars or roundtable discussions for first, second and third year students, each 80 minutes in length, on such topics as "Higher Education in the United States," "American Economic System: Outlook for the Future," "How to Start a Small Business" and "Management and Marketing Under Competitive Conditions." Trebesh encountered friendly people in Yalta, open to new ideas yet still harboring some old Soviet ideas.

"The old people are still old school, but the young want to learn real Western business. They want to model us [the United States] because we are a



Michael Trebesh, professor of business administration, recently traveled to the Ukraine where he gave lectures and sought out new opportunities for Alma College. Photo by Rachel Maness.

powerful nation," said Trebesh.

Trebesh said his goal while in Yalta was to lay the groundwork for possible Spring Term exchanges in the future. He stated that opportunities for business students overseas are very important and a beautiful place like Yalta, with its rich history and beautiful mountains, is an ideal location. Students would have the fortuity of learning new ideas while also being able to tour historical sites, museums or go camping or hiking in the mountains. He said it would provide a stimulating environment where students would still be learning and more importantly, becoming aware of the changing market

system.

"Studying abroad is very important and not just for business students. We are in a world community now. We can't concentrate on Michigan alone. We have to concentrate on the United States and the world, otherwise we'll be at a distinct disadvantage," said Trebesh.

This visit to the Ukraine was not his first international excursion. Trebesh has been to China and Japan three times each and all over Central America. Schools from around the world share news of professors who do traveling lectures. A postponed invitation to the Navigrad School led to the recent Yalta invitation. Trebesh said he enjoys visiting new and different cultures and had an unusual experience while learning about life in Yalta. He was not aware that the city occasionally turns off the power to save money, and his translator was caught in the elevator for an hour on her way to pick him up one day.

Despite this odd occurrence, Trebesh said he would like to go back to Yalta, possibly for an entire year. In the meantime, he is working to set up a two to three week Spring Term exchange, hopefully becoming available in the spring of 2000.

BEYOND MOCK ROCK

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Super Bowl XXXIII

Student predictions: talk trash or apologize

By JOEY MEAD
Sports Editor

Super Bowl XXXIII is over and the Broncos pulled off another championship title, this time over the Atlanta Falcons. John Elway gave us all something to smile about as he lead the Broncos to a 34-19 victory. But rather than re-capping the game that everyone just watched, we thought it would be fun to ask a few of Alma College's biggest football fans what their predictions were before Super Bowl Sunday.

Each of the students were asked; What team will win? What will the score be? And why do you think so? Then after the game, if they were correct, they could trash talk and claim their throne as the winner. But if incorrect, they were asked to apologize to the other fans of the winning team, or give some excuses why their team did not win.

• **Eric Wood (99)**
Pre-game prediction: "Falcons by three easy. Jamaal Anderson is going to rip it up. Terrel Davis is going to be shut down. It's going to be great."
Post game: "You know, when a guy throws three interceptions there's not much you can do."

• **Jason Haas (00)**
Pre-game prediction: "Atlanta Falcons will win the game. It's gong to be a close game, let's say about 27-23. The Falcons are playing with a lot of heart. They're this sub-par team, but they have put together this awesome season."
Post game: " Well, the Falcon's played a good game, they just blew a lot of opportunities, especially in the red-zone. The fumble and the three interceptions did not help them out a whole lot. They were just overwhelmed by Bronco's offense. I don't want to apologize, because they could have won. They pretty much lost the game for themselves."
• **Will Hill (01)**
Pre-game prediction: " I am saying Denver 35-30. I think it is going to be a close game, but Denver has a lot of good offense. Terrel is pretty much unstoppable. It's going to be a good game, it's going to be interesting."
Post game: " Like I said, Denver won. Second half was the big difference, Denver stepped up the defense and was aggressive. Atlanta just didn't have what it took."
• **Sharese McGee (02)**
*closest score prediction winner.

Pre-game prediction: "Denver is going the win. Why? Because they have a better team than Atlanta. My score prediction is two touch downs, at least."
Post game: "Denver came in with a little more experience then Atlanta being there for the first time. Atlanta said that the dirty bird was going to fly out, and they were right. The dirty bird flew right out."
• **Mike Stoneback (00)**
Pre-game prediction: "I am going with the Broncos. It is going to be a close game, I am saying 24-17. And Terrel Davis will be the difference."
Post Game: "I went down and watched the game with ACUB, which I thought was really great. I was surprised that Terrel didn't do any better then he did, but I was happy the Broncos won like I called it. And I really think Rod Smith should have got the MVP award."
• **Jason Paetz (99)**
*closest score prediction winner.
Pre-game prediction: "Although I am a big fan of the Falcons, I think the Broncos are going to beat the pants off of them. Probably about 32-17. I really hope the Falcons pull it off, but the Broncos are just too good.

They're the best team. You name it they got it baby."
Post game: " I am kind of non partisan in the matter. It's tough to talk trash when the team I wanted to win didn't win. I just knew the Broncos were better. I wanted the Falcons to win, but they didn't—too bad for me. I wished I would have predicted wrong."
• **Gavin McMacken (00)**
Pre-game prediction: " Denver is going to win 27-24. Denver is awesome."
Post game: " 34-17, nuff said."
• **Jon Croff (99)**
Pre-game prediction: " I think the

dirty birds are going to win it, 30-20. Because the Falcons haven't been there in a while and they are a lot stronger then the Broncos."
Post game: "I am not going to apologize to anyone, however the Super Bowl was a great time to take a nap, and I did."
Well, we have to give it up and congratulate both McGee and Paetz for the closest Super Bowl prediction award.
We hope that Alma College students enjoyed this year's Super Bowl. We'll see you all next year when we will find out once again who can talk trash and who can't.

EHS deptartment conducting creatine experiment

By KELLY McDONALD
Staff Reporter

Creatine is the up-and-coming dietary supplement that is proven effective in producing notable gains in strength and muscle. The Alma College Exercise and Health Science (EHS) Department is conducting an experiment to look at the creatine supplement.
Creatine is a phosphorus nutrient that bodies naturally produce. It is found in the muscles and used to store energy. The creatine dietary supplement is thought to replenish energy faster and helps in better recovery after physical workouts and in increased muscle hydration.
EHS majors Dustin Armstrong (00) and Scott Nemec (99) along with EHS faculty member Dr. Doug Seelbach are researching creatine with the help of 26 Alma students.
Armstrong and Nemec are using a double blind test to look at the supplementation of creatine and strength training. They have 26 subjects, all male students, who are taking part in the study.

"They are all guys because it is kind of hard to get girls to take part," said Armstrong. "Creatine is known to increase the weight of people who use it." Armstrong said he is considering more research with creatine next year and might use female subjects.
The subjects of the study were divided into two groups. One group is taking creatine while the other group is taking a placebo. The placebo in this case is an inactive substance used as a control in the experiment to determine the effectiveness of creatine. The double blind test prohibits the subjects of either group of being aware of which substance they are currently taking.
By using this white powder substance of creatine and complementing it with hard training, some researchers believe the muscles expand and grow at an accelerated rate. So, more work output results in more muscular power.
Under supervision from Armstrong and Nemec, the subjects are required to work out three times a week. They use the Cybex machines working strictly

with the legs. The goal is to find out if the subjects do more reps each time they work out.
"The workouts are tough. You have to give the subjects credit, we put them through a demanding exercise," said Armstrong.
Previous studies with creatine have reported gains of ten solid pounds in less than a week in users. Others have recorded large strength increases in only a day. A rise in energy levels and shorter workout recovery times have also been related to the creatine supplement. With all of these results, Armstrong and Nemec are hoping to find some evidence of their own.
"We're going to test a couple of times throughout the study to see if it's working We hope to wrap things up by spring break," said Armstrong.
The question now is if creatine should be legal for athletes to use. Steroids have been banned in every professional sport but creatine is still being used by major sports figures like Mark McGwire. Should it be legal in the professional sports realm?

NCAA men's basketball scores			
Jan. 30 & 31			
January 31			
(#11) UCLA	83	California	74
Washington	93	(#12) Arizona	91
(#15) Indiana	98	(#21) Minnesota	50
Penn St.	95	(#13) Wisconsin	61
Georgia Tech.	66	(#16) Syracuse	76
(#9) N. Carolina	75	Seton Hall	62
(#4) Maryland	72	(#17) Ohio St.	64
Wake Forest	85	Illinois	61
January 30		(#18) Iowa	81
		Michigan	68
(#1) Connecticut	78		
(#10) St. Johns	74	BYU	68
		(#19) New Mexico	78
(#2) Duke	80		
N. Carolina St.	61	Colorado	74
		(#20) Kansas	77
(#3) Stanford	73		
Arizona St.	63	(#22) Arkansas	81
		Mississippi	89
UAB	60		
(#5) Cincinnati	73	Texas A&M	61
		(#23) Okla. St.	66
LSU	62		
(#6) Kentucky	76	(#24) TCU	69
		Rice	76
(#7) Auburn	85		
Georgia	74	(#25) Miami Fla.	54
		Pittsburgh	60
Northwestern	48		
(#8) Michigan St.	65		

Men's varsity basketball team takes Grace, falls to Albion College

By MARK ISZAK
Staff Reporter

The Men's Varsity Basketball team took on Grace Bible on Jan. 25. Going into the contest, the Scots were 5-9 overall, and 2-4 in MIAA play.

One of the Scot's necessities was to put together some consecutive wins. They did this, defeating Grace Bible 71-63.

Early in the game, Grace came out on top, leading four points to a goose egg. Then, baskets by sophomore Jim Hanlin and junior Jeremy Hyler turned things around. First-year Jeff Hossler then gave the Scots a 7-6 lead when he hit a three pointer. From there on, it was back-and-forth scoring.

The first-half was highlighted by some great offensive play by junior Seth Stapleton (25 points), as well as some key passing by Hyler and Stapleton. With a three by junior Tony Colucci, and a junior Joe Peters bucket, the Scots took the lead 30-28 going into the locker room.

The Scots dominated the second-half, as they maintained their lead throughout the game. Offensively, the Scots shot 40% for the second-half, and benefitted from good play by Stapleton and

Hossler. Also, coming off the bench was first-year Spencer Roecker with a couple of buckets to help the cause.

Sophomore Chris Seelbach, who pitched in 9 points, 2 assists, a block and a steal, also came to play.

"Grace came out, showed some talent, and played us tough. They are one of those teams that just doesn't seem to go away," Seelbach said.

Defensively, Stapleton led the way with six steals. Other impressive performances were put forth by Hyler (3 steals, 2 blocks).

"We got a couple wins in a row, and we feel like we are picking it up. It wasn't a strong victory, but we feel it will snowball into some more wins," Hyler said.

First-year Scott Eldridge also played tough by stealing a couple balls.

Grace just couldn't match up to the Scots. They lost gracefully though, 71-63. The Scots improve to 6-9 overall.

Jeff Hossler, who has been impressive all season, said, "We have a streak going, and we are anticipating the Albion game."

Now to the Scot's next challenge, which was Albion on Jan. 27. With two prior victories, the Scots pulled for their third

straight. Standing at 6-9, a win over Albion would be sweet.

The Scots came out on top early with baskets from Hanlin and Hyler. Also playing big was Seelbach, who scored 13 of his 15 in the first-half. However, Albion was able to go on some scoring runs, while Alma experienced some scoring droughts.

After the first five minutes of play, Albion took the lead for the remainder of the first-half. Going into the locker room, it was Albion up 28-24.

The Scots battled back. How-

ever, baskets by Seelbach and Hanlin were not enough to tame Albion, who took the lead and ran. And run they did, for the rest of the night.

The Scots shot 31% the second-half, as opposed to 40% the first. Final score: Albion 62, Alma 46.

Seelbach (15 points, 6 rebounds) led the Scots in scoring.

"We played tough the first half, but couldn't continue the second. Those periods when we couldn't get any points on the board really hurt us. We're looking for-

ward to playing them again," said Seelbach.

Hyler finished the night with 9 points and 9 rebounds. Also, Hanlin pitched in 8 points, 5 rebounds, and 2 steals. Defensively, Pat Hoag swatted a couple down, as did Hanlin. Hossler also pitched in 5 rebounds and 4 assists.

"We were pumped up to play tonight. They were tough, and they played tough to stop our offense. We're looking forward to the second-half of the season," Hossler said.

Cheer on the team!



Sisters of the Gamma Phi Beta sorority gather together at last week's basketball game to cheer on the Scots to victory. Photo by Steve Nadeau.

Lady Scots get past St. Mary's, but lose to Hope

By KELLY McDONALD
Staff Reporter

The women's basketball team traveled to South Bend, Indiana on Wednesday for an MIAA clash with St. Mary's and came home on Saturday for a key match-up against Hope.

Alma came out victorious against St. Mary's in a game of season-highs for the Scots. They shot 57.6% from the field in the game, including a fine 75% in the second half, made 20 free throws and forced 30 St. Mary's turnovers, all season-bests for the team.

Alma appeared to have control

of the game early, taking a 35-26 lead into half-time.

They were up by as many as 20 points but some questionable calls by the officials put the Scots in serious foul trouble and gave St. Mary's some hope.

The St. Mary's full-court press proved to hinder more than help them as Alma continually dismantled the defense scoring easy lay-ups. The Scots youth and speed helped to fend off the St. Mary's charge and came out victors, 92-71, for their seventh win in eight games.

"Last night, Shannon Gross came out of her slump and really stepped up. She was a key con-

tributor. We played okay but didn't play as best as we can," said Julie Whitmore (01).

The story of this game was Shannon Gross (00). She shot 10-13 from the field, 3-5 from behind the arc and 7-8 from the charity stripe. She finished with a career-high 30 points.

Ellen Bradbury (99) overcame early foul trouble to score 14 points and grab 5 rebounds in only 16 minutes of playing time. Whitmore, also frustrated with fouls, tallied 11 points and eight rebounds.

Rebekah Barker (01) and Mary Barnhart (00) did the dirty work, both finishing with nine points each. Barker dished out six assists and had six steals while Barnhart tallied five assists and three steals.

Joy Horton (01) and Shannon Boven (02) came off the bench to help the Alma cause with seven points each.

"We didn't play as well as we have been playing but we are hoping to beat Hope because it's a big game for us," said Barnhart.

Next up for the Scots was the league-leading Dutchmen from Hope.

They visited the Scots on Saturday for a big MIAA game for both teams. The last time these two teams met, Hope inched out a two point victory.



Ellen Bradbury (99) reaches for the ball at the start of the game. Photo by Tanna Lounds.

An excited Whitmore said, "We want this game really bad. Last time we played them, we were down 15 at half but came back and then lost at the buzzer."

It was evident how bad the Scots wanted this game but they just seemed to run out of steam at the end of the game. They were up by nine with 17 minutes to play, but a fierce Hope rally deflated the Scots. A 14-0 run by Hope proved why they are the best team in the league.

Alma just did not have enough at the end of the game to take care of Hope. Final score, Hope 72, Alma 58.

"We're just going to play them one at a time. And I'm just going to do whatever it takes to help my team be successful," said Gross.

Bradbury led the way with 20 points and 18 rebounds while Gross tallied 16 points and 6 rebounds.

Barnhart also had a good night, despite some questionable calls by the refs, with 13 points before fouling out. Barker finished with 5 points, seven rebounds and eight assists.

Tomorrow the Scots take on Defiance at home at 7:30.



Rebekah Barker (01) dribbles the ball past her opponent during a previous game. Photo by Tanna Lounds.

Track coaches look to successful season

By **DONNA PAPPAS**
Staff Reporter

The coaching staff for the track team has balanced their duties so that they are able to work with both the men and women on a daily basis in specific areas of training.

Dan Gibson is the head coach of the women's team, as well as the distance coach. Chris Curtiss is the head coach of the men's team and the sprinters and hurdlers. Scott Frey coaches the jumpers and Penny Allen-Cook is in charge of the throwers.

This is Curtiss' first-year at Alma. He was previously the head coach at Corunna High School for four years.

One of Curtiss' goals this year is to keep everybody on the team.

"We started with over thirty guys and we want to finish with over 30," said Curtiss.

His second goal is to improve everyday.

So far, Gibson has noticed the high work ethic of his team.

"Everyone is working extremely hard; the guys are looking to improve everyday. They come to practice focused," he said.

Gibson finds coaching most rewarding when he is able to form relationships with his team. He is able to watch them improve and know that he has helped in the process. "Everyone on the team has a goal and I want to help them attain their goals," he said.

Gibson said he feels that the team is well rounded in every event and his training goals for the year are to find out where everyone fits and put them together.

"Seniors Tom Arbaugh, Pete Muccio, Yaro Middaugh, Brian Lassey, and Drew Broaddus have stepped up and taken the leadership role with the team," said Curtiss.

Last year, the girls finished second in the league. This year, the team's goal is to maintain its position and win the league. Calvin is the team to beat, as they are expected to be Alma's toughest

challenge this year.

"We will be satisfied finishing in the top two, but our goal is always to be conference champions. We will also have close competition from Hope and Albion," said Gibson.

This is Gibson's seventh year coaching the girls at Alma. Every year they have finished in second place.

Gibson said, "So far the team is looking good. We have solid individuals in every event."

Half of the thirty members of the girls track team are first-year students.

"It is going to take a while to figure out who can do what. We're hoping to show a lot of improvement as people are learning a lot of new things," said Gibson.

"I think it is going to be a strong season. There is a lot of quickness and ability in field events. The participation of the freshmen class seems to be building our program up for the best," said first-year student Dana Kozak.

J.V. continues to succeed

By **MARK ISZAK**
Staff Reporter

Fresh off a victory over Olivet on Jan. 23, the Men's Junior Varsity Basketball squad next clashed with Albion on Jan. 27. Standing an impressive 7-4, 4-1, the Scots looked to put another win under their belt. At the end of the night, the Scots boasted a record of 8-4, and 5-1 in MIAA play. Very impressive.

What is so impressive about that, some may ask? The Scots are currently in first-place in the MIAA J.V. division. And so, with the second half of the season approaching, the Scots look to continue their caliber of play.

Here are some of the factors of the team's success.

First off, sophomore Chris Maxwell, who scored 30 pts. against Albion, has been a real asset to the team. He's led the team in scoring for more than a

few games, and has been a catalyst on the court.

"The Albion game was very exciting. Coming back like we did really means a lot. As for the remainder of the season, we're looking forward to competing and excelling. We'll play to win every game," Maxwell said.

First-years Spencer Wideman and Dan Chewning have played well at the point.

"It feels great to be in first-place. As for the future, we're going to come out and play tough, and take it one game at a time," Chewning said.

Also, first-year Ken Knudsen and sophomore Chad Creevy have excelled as starting forwards.

Off the bench, the Scots have been up to par. No matter who is in, the job will get done.

What should we look for the second-half of the season?

Tough games, such as

Kalamazoo, Calvin, Defiance, Adrian, Hope, Olivet, and Albion indicate the action to expect. One of the Scot's main goals is to go undefeated in the MIAA. The way they are playing, it is very possible.

Another goal the Scot's have set their sights on is to repay Hope.

The first time around, Hope edged out Alma in the game's closing seconds. Keep in mind that the Scots won all but one game in MIAA play, and Hope was the homewrecker. However, looking to the future, the Scots will be ready.

Coach Jeff Curtis, who is in his first year coaching the Scots, was excited when he got word of his team's success.

"With the team in first place, we feel confident and excited. We're ready to start the second-half of league play. The team is playing well," said Curtis.

Intramural basketball teams gear up for season

By **AMY NOVAK**
Staff Reporter

The Alma College Intramural basketball season gives students who love to play basketball competitively, but do not want to play on the junior varsity or varsity teams, a chance to compete amongst themselves. The 1999 season began Monday night.

The college's I.M. Director, Kurt Sutton (99) said, "the reason that the season is so late getting started is because we are having difficulty getting gym time. We have both the men's and

women's basketball teams, along with the baseball and softball teams practicing in there."

The season typically lasts six or seven weeks, with a championship round at the end.

This year, Sutton is also trying to organize a three-on-three tournament in addition to the regular season.

I.M. basketball is open to all students, male and female.

It consists of three leagues, A, B, and C. The A league is for the best, most advanced players, B league is for the intermediate players, and C league is for be-

ginners. There are 30 teams signed up to play this year, most playing at the intermediate level.

"There wasn't enough interest with all-girl teams to have a separate league for girls," Sutton said. "So the all-girl teams will be playing in the C league."

I.M. basketball games use the short courts in the gym. By using these courts, two games can take place at the same time.

Since the games are refereed by students, one of the biggest problems in the previous years was finding students to referee the games each night.

Life in the NHL: A Matter of Contention

By **DAVE JORDAN**
Freelance Writer

The National Hockey League season is about halfway through, so it's now time to predict who looks to be a champion. The 1998-1999 hockey season has been one of many statistical surprises: The Detroit Red Wings just a couple games over the .500 win mark; the Ottawa Senators looking to be one of the most dominating teams in the league; a goalie with 13 shutouts at the midway break. You name it. It's happening.

Any hockey player will tell you, however, that the first 80-odd games mean little or nothing in the long run. There is only one ultimate goal: the revered Stanley Cup.

With this in mind, we must take a look at the early favorites and some potential surprises.

First off, no one can deny the impressive record of the Dallas Stars. On pace for a 122-point season, the Guys in Green are looking impressive — off to the best start in Stars history.

With leaders such as goaltender, Ed Belfour, and first-line center, Mike Modano, it's no wonder the team has the best record thus far, posting an impressive 27-9-7 mark. Modano, a Michigan native, has accumulated 49 points in 45 games, while Belfour has been solid between the pipes, with a Save Percentage of .912 and a Goals Against Average barely above 2 (2.02).

Another favorite is last year's Stanley Cup champions, the Detroit Red Wings. Although far less impressive in record than last season, the champions have retained the poise and presence of

a winning team. The impressive defensive units of the Red Wing's have also played an intricate part, holding the aforementioned Stars to a career record of 3-17-2 at Joe Louis Arena.

Detroit captain, Steve Yzerman, who was nominated as a starter for the North American hockey team, is one reason for Detroit's success.

As quoted in the Hockey Scouting Report, "No one excels in as many areas of the game as Yzerman. He has great balance and quick feet, and is adroit at kicking the puck up onto his blade for a shot in seamless motion."

A final, and most surprising addition to the Playoff Contender list, are the Ottawa Senators. The Sens serve as a good example of what a balanced scoring attack can do. With no real standout players, statistically speaking (aside from, arguably, Alexei Yashin), Ottawa attacks their opponents with many less visible weapons — as opposed to a typical dominant few.

The Senators have a current record of 25-15-6 and trail only the Toronto Maple Leafs for the division lead.

With all of the hype surrounding the NBA strike, many fans have turned deaf ears to professional sports.

However, the hockey season, though quietly subdued, goes on. The number of scorers continually increases, while at the same time, the improvement of goaltenders grows increasingly noteworthy. Why settle for anything less? It's fast-paced and strike-free.

The Almanian can now be
found online!

Check it out at:

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

Guest Editorial

Rosa Parks Day a celebration of civil rights

By ANNE HENNINGFELD
Alma Young Democrats

In 1998, the Michigan State Legislature declared the first Monday after the 4th of February to be Michigan Rosa Parks Day.

This year Rosa Parks Day falls on February 8th. Almost all of us know the story of Rosa Parks. She was the tired woman who refused to give up her seat on the bus to a white man. At the time, in Montgomery, Alabama, she didn't have the right to do that. She used the moment as an opportunity to take a political stand and she was arrested. The Mont-

gomery bus strike of 1955-56 began shortly afterward, leading to a Supreme Court ruling that segregation on transportation is unconstitutional.

This story of Rosa Parks is not unfamiliar to us, but how often do we really think about the impact of her actions?

Most of us at Alma College have not faced the type of adversity African-Americans faced in the South in the 1950's. I feel that many of us have a tendency to dismiss the civil rights movement as something that happened to other people in another time. On a predominantly white campus, I feel we have a tendency to dis-

miss Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, and other African American leaders as a part of African-American History, not American History.

African-Americans are not the only people who benefit from the work of civil rights advocates; we all do. In celebrating Rosa Parks Day, I ask you all to think about the civil rights we enjoy.

There will be ribbons to wear to show your support of civil rights available during meals at Hamilton, Van Dusen and Joe's Place on February 8, supplied by Alma Young Democrats and the MacCurdy House. I know some of you are still thinking, "Why

should I wear a ribbon?"

Wear a ribbon if you are female; celebrate that you can vote, that you yourself could be on the ballot if you desired.

Wear a ribbon if you are Christian, Jewish, Muslim, or you choose not to practice an organized religion; celebrate that you have the right to worship as you wish.

Wear a ribbon if you once were a legal minor; celebrate that you were kept from working devastating hours, that you had the opportunity for a free education, that you had rights in a court of law. Wear a ribbon if you are a Democrat, a Republican, a social-

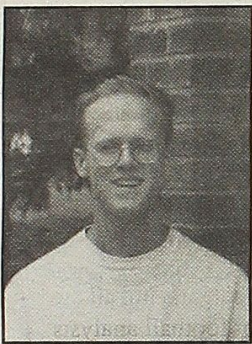
ist, a libertarian, a communist, or an independent; celebrate that you have the right to voice your opinions, no matter how extreme.

Wear a ribbon if you are reading this paper; celebrate that you not only have the right to voice your opinions, but you have the right to print and distribute them as well.

Wear a ribbon if you have ever been in a situation where you were a racial or ethnic minority; celebrate that although majority rules, we have laws to protect the minority. Wear a ribbon to celebrate Rosa Parks Day; wear a ribbon to celebrate your civil rights.

Sports Track by Mike Murphy

Wings' slump may not be that bad after all



I will admit that I have been worried about the Detroit

Red Wings and their apparent loss of the victory flare that they had throughout the past two years.

Something has been missing for quite some time, and it is very hard to put a finger on what it exactly is.

Maybe it is a loss of motivation. Maybe players are concentrat-

ing on other things than the games themselves, such as star defenseman Nicholas Lidstrom contemplating a move back to his homeland in Sweden to spend more time with his family.

Maybe it is a loss of the hard-nosed, in-your-face grit that the Wings have demonstrated defensively for so many years.

These are harsher possibilities for the Wings' recent slump, which saw them lose 10 of their last 18 games preceding the All-Star break.

I feel that there are a few other reasons that will help ease our worries concerning the reasons for the Wings' odd season.

It could be the fact that every single team seems to step its game up several notches to play against the two-time Stanley Cup

champions.

It could also be that the Wings get tired of playing the regular season, as they know from experience that the regular season means absolutely nothing when it comes to the Stanley Cup Playoffs.

Maybe Head Coach Scottie Bowman has been tinkering with the line-up trying to find the perfect combinations heading into the playoffs. This sometimes hurts the lines' ability to function correctly together.

It could also be that some Wings have suffered injuries and we have not yet been able to see them heal all the way through.

Defenseman Uwe Krupp, Detroit's huge free-agent signee during the summer, has been out for nearly the entire season be-

cause of an injury. These injuries take time to heal, and cripple the cohesiveness that the Red Wings always seem to find when it comes down to crunch time.

I am looking at these reasons as being the factors behind the Wings' slump. There are definite indicators that the slump may soon be eradicated for good.

Following the All-Star break, the Wings came out on January 26 and beat the Nashville Predators on the road with a typical Red Wings' style 4-1 victory. And this is giving Hockeytown fans something to look forward to.

The Wings were in a terrible slump, but I feel that the All-Star break is all that they will need to get back on track while preparing themselves to possibly threepeat as Stanley Cup champions

and form what sports historians will call the Red Wings' dynasty of the late 1990's.

On January 28, the Wings visited President Clinton in the White House and Clinton congratulated the Wings on their Stanley Cup victory.

This, along with the nice All-Star break, can be more than enough to get our Red Wings refocused on bringing Lord Stanley back to Hockeytown.

Besides, why should we even worry? After all, it is only the regular season.

Although they may have been slumping, they are still in first place in the Western Conference's Central Division.

Yeah, the Wings will be fine. And it will be fun seeing their drive towards the Playoffs.

A Word from the Editor by Steve Nadeau

Is tuition increase justified?

Surprised reactions and sharp criticism are thundering throughout the campus as students fear the oncoming threat of two single words: more money. Many express disbelief and are voicing what they believe to be flaws with the proposition.

"I find it funny that Dr. Stone says that inflation is part of the increase when inflation is going to be at one of its lowest points in history—under one percent—and our tuition is going up four percent," said sophomore Dave Schumm in reaction to the article that was printed on the front page of *The Almanian* on January 19.

Not only are many students hesitant, some believe the swelling number may shove them away from the secluded "Alma bubble." First year student Leah Shagene stated, "If they raise tuition, they're going to have to give out more scholarships because I'm not going to be able to afford to go here." Other students agree.

"[The scholarships] should be proportional," Brandon Margolis (00) said, "The tuition increase is reflected in next year's bill, but your scholarship doesn't get increased to compensate."

Although we may complain loudly about having to shell out more money, we also exhibit disgust for current conditions on campus. For example, residents in Newberry hall are anxiously awaiting the new furniture and some dislike the fact that they are one of the last to receive it.

A move on the college's part to put new furniture in all the residence halls at once, though, would have put a strain on the budget. Also coming down the pipes is the Master Plan—a series of new buildings and changes to the aesthetic properties of the campus. If these changes are to be made, more money is needed. Senior Joel Sandersen commented on this point.

"Tuition increases are frankly a reality of life. For quality edu-

cation we need to bring in professors in a market where salaries have gone up—we need more money. On the issue of parking, people say they don't want to pay money for parking spots, but at this time last year we were all complaining there wasn't enough parking. At some point, the reality of the world is that there is a cost to things and we have to cope with that cost."

No matter how one sees it, we all have to face it; in the end we probably will have to pay more. Does it have to be that much more, though? At what point will students be driven away by such high costs? With competition such as Hope and Albion close by, Alma could start losing potential students.

One has to wonder if anyone is asking the question, "are the improvements that are driving these greater financial needs in balance with the willingness or ability of the student body to pay for them?"

Letter to the Editor

To the editors:

The International Education Office Judgment Calls:

Thumbs Up to *The Almanian* for welcoming back the students who have studied abroad.

Thumbs Down to *The Almanian* for making a judgment call based on no, little or incorrect information and to perpetuating the myth of international study being expensive.

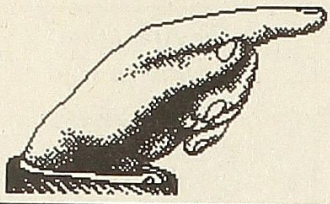
In almost all cases, financial aid applies to study abroad programs taken during the Fall and Winter terms at Alma. There are additional scholarships awards of up to \$500 made each term through the International Education Office. Spring Term overseas study has a separate scholarship available through the Financial Aid Office. In many cases, studying abroad is approximately the same cost, or **EVEN CHEAPER**, than studying at Alma.

Only three of the Alma Study Abroad Programs are more expensive than if you were studying on campus. The programs in Paris, Madrid, and Aberdeen are a whole \$305 more expensive

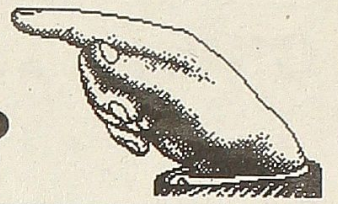
than studying at Alma for a semester. This "costly amount of money" is worth an experience which could potentially change your life or at the very least change your perception of it. Did you know you could be studying in Kassel, Germany or Mexico City for a few thousand dollars less than studying at Alma? Studying overseas does not need to be a costly endeavor. International studies will bring you a wealth of understanding—of your self, your host country and what it means to be "American." I ask *The Almanian* to help my office in ending the myths surrounding studying abroad by making "judgment calls" based upon fact, not stereotypes and misperceptions. I ask the author of "Judgment Calls" to do a little basic research before his or her fingers hit the keyboard.

Oh, while I have the opportunity, the deadline for applications for (low cost) study abroad for Fall, 1999 and for the Global Service Program (no cost at all) is February 15, 1999.

Chris Musick
Director, International Education



Point/Counterpoint: Is Super Bowl hype necessary?



Super Bowl hype part of the game

By JASON FISCHER
Staff Reporter

The Super Bowl is here again. For over three decades, this single football game has drawn more attention than any other sporting event. Truly, it is appropriately named the Super Bowl. Super-hype. Super-publicity. Super-coverage. Super-advertising revenue. The only things that change each year are the teams that play in it.

Some people are disturbed by the hype and publicity that the Super Bowl generates. This displeasure is understandable to a certain extent. Money is spent on tickets, athletes' salaries, and broadcasting and advertising rights that could be used much more effectively elsewhere. Even in this country, there are poor and homeless people that could be helped with that money. It's a shame that they aren't.

The same can be said of any other form of entertainment, however. No movie, six-pack, or game of bowling is more important than helping the poor and homeless. Everybody knows that. However, we all find a way to entertain ourselves. Entertainment is something that all humans want, and may in fact need. Different people find entertainment in different forms, that's all.

As a result, it is silly for someone to complain about the hype that surrounds the Super Bowl. Like all other professional sports, professional football is a business that seeks to entertain people. Some people find entertainment value in watching pre-game reports, even when those reports

occur several days before the actual game. They enjoy watching player comparisons, hearing about sideline reports, and finding out about behind-the-scenes dealings between players and coaches. Is this wrong? No, it is just one way that some people choose to pass their time.

News agencies and networks, especially sports networks like ESPN, know that pre-game hype gets ratings. Ratings generate advertising revenue. As a result, these networks cash in on pre-game hype. Drama, statistics, and analysis are all a part of this hype. As long as people watch it, news and sports networks will broadcast it.

As stated earlier, professional sports is an industry that seeks to entertain people. Sports networks also entertain people by bringing different kinds of sports within reach of the average person. As a result, professional sports and sports networks are in the same business. Why would anyone criticize a sports network for entertaining people yet not criticize professional sports for doing the same?

There is just one simple piece of advice for people who think that the hype surrounding the Super Bowl is excessive. If the talking head on the television set is spouting off about the Super Bowl and you don't want to hear it, change the channel. If the newspaper headline describes the latest Super Bowl statistic or analysis, and you don't want to read it, then turn the page. For those who find media attention of the Super Bowl interesting, then more power to them.

Good riddance media bombardment

By MICHAEL MURPHY
Staff Reporter

Finally! It is done!

The constant media bombardment of the Super Bowl has finally come to an abrupt halt.

Following the AFC-championship football game on January 17 that saw the Denver Broncos' victory over the New York Jets, people have been blasted with constant information, spotlights, statistics, and who knows what else concerning the supposed "Greatest Game of the Century."

The media-spawned height of Super Bowl XXXIII has continued the recent trend of overhype of the National Football League's championship game.

For the two weeks preceding the Super Bowl, analysts — those supposed "football experts" — began presenting viewers with every angle of the game pitting the Atlanta Falcons against the favored Denver Broncos.

Every day for two weeks straight there was some sort of special report about the Super Bowl. Topics that analysts covered included the comparison between Atlanta running back Jamal Anderson to Denver running back Terrell Davis and the major controversy featuring Atlanta Head Coach Dan Reeves's bitter past and current relationship with the Denver Broncos. This does not include the 138 other "important stories" originating in Miami.

Analysts picked apart every single word that the players said, always trying to spark up another controversy. They hoped this controversy would add another story to the long list of what should be labelled as "stuff you just don't care about learning before the Super Bowl."

This bores people when hearing about the Super Bowl continually. There were many other things in the sports world, and real world for that matter, to place individual concerns on.

Hearing about the Super Bowl and all of its "mini-soapoperas" takes away from the interest in the game itself.

Interest in the game wanes every time people hear, "Dan Reeves's hatred of the Denver Broncos began when..."

People convulse when they hear a reporter repeatedly saying, "Next, an in-depth report on the fifth day left before the Super Bowl!"

The phrase "Those Dirty Birds" has become one of the most used phrases in the English tongue over the past few weeks.

It is monotonous when those "major reports" come ten days before kickoff. It is irrelevant to know about such matters more than a week before the teams square off on the football field. The only thing important is the game itself and not all the sappy controversies that football analysts enjoy digging up.

It is a laughing matter to hear that live Super Bowl coverage on gameday would start at 11:30. That is approximately six hours of coverage before the game.

The Super Bowl itself took a little more than three hours. Why would anyone in their sane mind want to watch a game preview that is two times longer than the actual game?

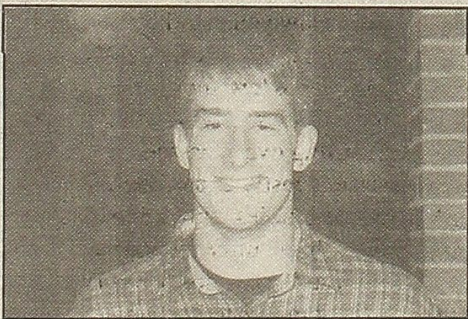
This is probably going to be a perpetual question that will be asked until Super Bowls become extinct. The media-hype will continue, which takes away from the game itself.

To be sure, all of the Super Bowl hype was just a waste of precious time.

Campus Viewpoints

The Almanian asked eight Alma College students their opinions about the hype surrounding the Super Bowl commercials:

Information compiled by Shannon Casey. Photos by Maya Mackowiak.



Mike Reed (00) "If I watch the Super Bowl this year, it will only be for the commercials for the commercials."



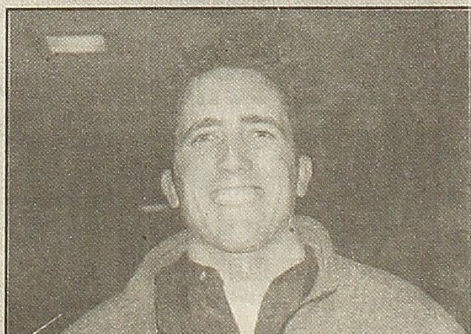
Eric Eppensteiner (01) "The commercials are half the reason I watch the Super Bowl."



Julie Gerken (99) "I think the hype encourages people to watch them."



Sara Peel (99) "I could not care less about the commercials."



Scott Hill (00) "It's great for marketing, but all the hype is amazing."



Sarah Seiler (02) "I think they're awesome."

Staff Editorial

Olympic scandal reveals more than corruption

The recent scandal involving Salt Lake City, Utah and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) members is indeed a shocking one. Salt Lake City allegedly gave bribes, gifts, and even prostitutes to IOC members in order to host the 2002 Winter Olympic Games. Yet, even though these allegations are shocking enough, the wider scope of this scandal and the attention brought to the IOC selection process reveals even more disturbing issues.

Salt Lake City had wanted to host the 1998 Winter Games, but Nagano won by only four votes in 1991. The Salt Lake Organizing Committee, the committee responsible for soliciting the IOC for the Olympic nomination, suspected bribery on part the of Nagano city officials. Many members of the Organizing Committee allegedly felt that in order

to win the 2002 nomination, Salt Lake City had to play the game the way other cities played it.

As a result, IOC members and their families were allegedly given gifts and perks that few others can enjoy, including land deals, scholarships, jobs, campaign contributions, and free medical care. Certainly, these gifts cost money, but the Winter Games bring huge amounts of money into the host city's economy.

Over \$1.4 billion will be brought into the city's economy in broadcast rights, licensing, ticket sales, and other sources. Approximately \$2.8 billion would be raised in consumer sales alone, boosting employment drastically.

The main issue at hand is that if the Olympic Games were purely a business, then spending a few million dollars on some

delegates to win the Olympic nomination would be all right. However, the Olympic Games are not supposed to be a purely revenue generating event. The Olympic Games are supposed to bring athletes of different countries together to compete and to increase understanding and peace between nations. The Olympic Games are supposed to glorify the athletes and the sport they compete in not because they generate revenue, but because they are a testament to human will and determination. Both the Organization Committee and the IOC betrayed the spirit of the Olympics, tarnishing the images of both Salt Lake City and the Olympic games.

It also reveals something just as sinister about the human spirit. If the allegations are true, then the Organizing Committee couldn't rely on its city's beauty, infra-

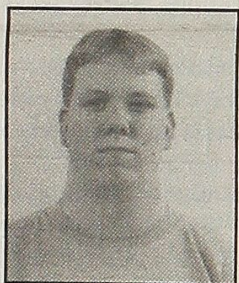
structure, and culture to win the Olympic nomination. The Organizing Committee had to rely on bribery and graft, things that have nothing to do with making Salt Lake City a great place to host the Games. Moreover, this scandal, if true, shows that the IOC members were more interested with their own condition than with the condition of the Games. This scandal reveals that some people don't base decisions on facts, but on their own self interest.

However, the Games will go on. To be sure, one of two things will happen: either corruption will be eliminated from the Olympic Games or the bribe-givers will get more intelligent and not get caught. For the sake of the spirit of the Olympic Games, we, the editorial board, hope that the former and not the latter will happen.

The Right Side

Getting involved in politics is easy

BY SHANNON CASEY
Opinion Editor



Politics is what makes the world go around. Whether or not

we realize it, politics affects us every day. Unfortunately, this is a universal truth that many college students ignore.

Voting is down by college students. It is unfortunate because it is very easy for students to vote. They can vote by absentee ballot or by changing their registration to their school address. Many stu-

dents do not vote because they are not registered. Registering is as easy as going to the local Secretary of State office and filling out a postcard size form.

Although voting is important, there are many other ways that college students can get involved in politics. Politics is campaigning, legislating and opinionating.

The laws that we live by are often debated in the public before legislators pass them in the Congress. Students can get involved by participating in the debate. We are lucky to have political groups at Alma like the College Republicans and Young Democrats.

These two groups are made up of idealistic young people who believe in a certain ideology and want to offer their beliefs to the campus.

They bring in speakers, take tours of the Capital, work with legislators, and learn about the issues. Getting involved is as simple as talking to their members.

We are also lucky to live close to Lansing. Legislators are always looking for interns. It is a mutually beneficial opportunity. The member of the House or Senate can use interns to work on special projects and help around the office. The intern makes connections, gains valuable work experience and learns more about politics than they ever could in a classroom.

There are two alumni from Alma College currently in the State House and Senate. Representative Terry Geiger and Senator Gary Peters both used their

Alma education to try and better the state. I am sure that both of them would love to have Alma students intern in their offices.

You can also get involved by joining a group that may have political connections. Students United for Nature (SUN) lobby for the protection of our natural resources.

Alma Pride works towards breaking down the barriers between homosexuals and heterosexuals. These and other groups on campus are just smaller versions of national groups who try to influence lawmakers.

Politics is all around us and students have a multitude of opportunities to get involved. I encourage all of you to get involved in some small way to try and make a difference in this world.

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Letter Policy:

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

The Almanian
Judgment Calls

Thumbs Up to the new millennium.

Thumbs Down that it could possibly crash all of our computers.

Thumbs Up to the seniors wanting to give the college a new clock.

Thumbs Down that we already have chapel bells that provide the campus with the time--every hour.

Thumbs Up to the Physical Plant for keeping the sidewalks free of snow and ice this winter.

Thumbs Down to the weather that keeps flooding McIntyre Mall despite the Physical Plant's efforts to keep it clear.

Thumbs Up to the NHL All-Stars game.

Thumbs Down that the Backstreet Boys sang the National Anthem.

Thumbs Up to having small housing available on campus.

Thumbs Down that small housing units specialized for specific organizations are boarding people outside of those organizations.

Thumbs Up to the Highlandaur for providing Alma students with a place to hang out.

Thumbs Down that it will lose most of its business because of the recent change in their age limit.

Classifieds

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