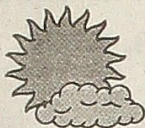


Tuesday



Mostly Sunny

High: 47°
Low: 29°

Wednesday



Sun and Rain

High: 47°
Low: 33°

Thursday



Rain

High: 52°
Low: 43°

Friday



Snow

High: 32°
Low: 20°

Saturday



Snow

High: 27°
Low: 13°

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Registrar releases fall term CPA's

By TONYA SCHAFER
News Editor

The college's mean cumulative point averages (CPAs) for fall term 1998 were recently released by the registrar's office.

Classified according to such categories as gender and year in school, the numbers deviate little from those earned in previous semesters.

"This is talking about the fall term grade-point averages, not the cumulative," explained Alma College registrar Karen Klumpp. "[The term 'CPA'] is used interchangeably in the registrar business."

First-year students attained a mean CPA of 2.93, slightly lower than last year's 2.96. The mean CPA for sophomores was 3.03, a number that remained constant from last year. Juniors attained a 3.14 CPA, compared to 3.17 the year before, and seniors reached 3.28, with 3.31 being the mean in 1997.

The average CPA for the college's 778 female students was 3.21, the same as the previous year, while 576 male students earned a CPA of 2.94, down from last year's 2.98. In addition, the school's 333 Greek students attained a 3.18 CPA, while 627 non-Greek upperclassmen had a mean CPA of 3.15.

"If you look back across many years, you'll see quite a variety of fluctuations. We always like them as low as possible

FALL TERM 1998 GRADE ANALYSIS

Courtesy of the registrar's office
Figures in parentheses are for Fall Term 1997

Category	Number	Mean CPA	% < 2.0
First- years	394 (359)	2.93 (2.96)	8.1 (9.7)
Sophomores	310 (342)	3.03 (3.03)	4.8 (6.7)
Juniors	297 (311)	3.14 (3.17)	5.4 (4.8)
Seniors	353 (319)	3.28 (3.31)	2.5 (6.2)
All Students	1354 (1331)	3.09 (3.11)	5.3 (6.2)
All Women	778 (750)	3.21 (3.21)	
All Greek	333 (339)	3.18 (3.16) (actives and pledges)	
All Non Greek (upperclass)	627 (634)	3.15 (3.16)	
All Men	576 (581)	2.94 (2.98)	

because we care about retaining students, and one of the key factors in retention is student success," said Klumpp.

CPAs were also configured for regular admits and ADEXes in first-year and sophomore classes.

"ADEX is 'admitted by exception,'" said Klumpp. "The student doesn't meet the standard benchmarks for his or her class. There might be some reason that the admitting committee would look at the

student's record and determine that even though they didn't meet the GPA in high school, they still had abilities and qualities that led the committee to make an exception."

Two hundred ninety-nine regular admits in the sophomore class earned a mean CPA of 3.07, while 11 ADEX students attained a 2.14. First-year regular admits, 365 in number, had a 2.99 CPA, while 29 ADEX

See CPA on page 3.....

Local phone charges to be eliminated

By DONNA PAPPAS
Staff Reporter

Thanks to Student Congress, next fall students will not be charged eight cents for local calls. The money to cover this charge will come from the revenue of the college.

The revenue is made up of four sources: tuition, room and board, gift income from donors, and endowment income.

"The college will be responsible for this small local charge so students will no longer have to be annoyed by it," said Vice President Jerry Scoby.

Scoby also said the college has looked into a flat rate for long distance calling, but they have not studied that option as closely as the local call charge.

"It's good that they're eliminating the eight-cent charge, but long distance rates

are still outrageous," said sophomore Angie Soltys (01).

Tom Danosky (01) said, "The eight cent phone charge is one of the many expenses that should be removed. It's a first step toward removing other costs that college students at other less expensive schools are not bothered by."

"The Student Affairs Committee is putting a lot of time and effort into hearing the concerns of the students and voicing those concerns to administration. Student Congress President Amanda Schafer has been especially concerned with what the students have to say," said Student Congress Vice President Kevin Main (00).

The committee is also looking at other options to eliminate additional extra fees. They are attempting to reduce the extra costs that students have to pay through inclusive costs or contracts.

They are trying to get all the little things that cost extra money added into tuition. The most common student concerns will be reviewed first, including things such as laundry costs, the computer activation fee, and cable.

For example, they are attempting to form a more up-to-date contract with the cable company to provide a more financially acceptable option for students.

"Nothing is guaranteed with these additional options, but the Student Congress is working hard to please students. They understand the concerns that we have," said Main.

Any students with concerns about extra financial issues should attend the Student Congress meetings and voice their concern. Meetings are on Mondays at 6:30 pm in SAC 113. Student Congress can also be reached by phone at x7122.

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News Briefs

State News

Family of six dies in house fire
COLOMA TOWNSHIP — A couple and their four children died February 4 when a late night fire broke out in their home.

There were apparently no smoke detectors inside the residence of Shane and Deanna Renee Simpson, located in the small town 60 miles southwest of Grand Rapids. The bodies of the couple and their children, who ranged in age from infancy to five years, were discovered when investigators searched the home. The cause of the blaze had not been determined at press time.

National News

Minority students sue university over admissions practices
SAN FRANCISCO — Black, Hispanic and Filipino-American students sued the University of California-Berkeley February 2, alleging the school employs admissions criteria that discriminate against minorities.

The suit claims that, by using such methods as SAT scores in determining admittance, the university gives an advantage to wealthy students able to afford test preparation clinics and to attend advanced placement high school courses. Berkeley maintains that it places little emphasis on standardized test scores in its admissions process and urges minority students to enroll in the school.

AIDS virus linked to chimpanzees

CHICAGO — Scientists presented research at a conference January 31 that linked the origin of the HIV virus to chimpanzees.

University of Alabama researcher Dr. Beatrice Hahn stated that HIV derives from the SIVcpz virus, which afflicts a species of the African primate. Scientists theorize that the disease is spread to humans through bites or exposure to contaminated blood. SIVcpz does not cause illness in chimpanzees, a fact that researchers believe may provide clues into the eventual eradication of HIV.

World News

Romanian woman sentenced after stealing 20 cents

BUCHAREST — A Romanian woman was sentenced to two and a half years in prison February 3 after being convicted of stealing the equivalent of 20 cents.

Adela Dirivan apparently took the amount from a man's pocket last year to pay for bus fare. The mother of four could have been sentenced to fifteen years in prison, but was given leniency because of her children and the fact that she has no prior criminal record. Her conviction is the result of newly-instituted laws that aim to reduce Romania's left rate

Texas dragging suspect trial begins

By AMY TAYLOR
Staff Reporter

Seven months ago, the remains of James Byrd Jr. were found in Jasper, Texas. During the last week of January, the trial for the capital murder's first suspect finally began.

The alleged killers, three roommates in their early to mid-20s, are ex-convicts already well-acquainted with racist crimes. They are facing federal hate crime charges, which can result in an incarceration of ten years to life in prison if convicted. Reports from acquaintances of the men claim that they had been trying to develop a racist gang and planned to commit a crime similar to the one of which they are accused. The evidence linking them to the location of the crime was a wrench with one of the men's last names etched into it.

"I'd like to see them get life imprisonment so they can spend the rest of their lives thinking

about what they did. The death penalty would be too nice for them—an easy way out," said Maggie Keegan (01).

Byrdo, a 49-year-old African-American, was on his way home from a family reunion when he received a ride from three white men in a pick-up truck. The men eventually chained Byrd's ankles to the back of the truck and dragged him down a road in a wooded area for at least two miles. A cigarette lighter with the Ku Klux Klan insignia was found among the remains.

According to *Time* magazine, "Byrd's body was found the morning of June 7, as if some wild animal had it. His torso was at the side of a country road. His head and arm were just over a mile away, ripped from his body as it hit a drainage culvert. Police marked a piece of flesh here, dentures there, his keys somewhere else—75 red circles denoting body parts belonging to a two-mile stretch of asphalt. Fin-

gerprints were his only identity."

Populated by 8,000 people, Jasper is located in Eastern Texas. What once was a quiet little town is now alive with perilous racial tension.

Karen Naile (01) said, "I think education or some kind of program for teaching why this happened and how to stop it in the future will help the people of Jasper, Texas."

Only recently, community leaders removed a fence that once segregated white gravesites from black gravesites. Government officials of differing ethnic backgrounds joined together in order to restore peace and ease the racial tension that has escalated over the past several months.

The case has ignited interest in reintroducing the Hate Crimes Prevention Act. Both President Clinton and Attorney General Janet Reno are strong supporters of passing the bill, which would make it easier to prosecute bias crimes and expand federal law to

Hate Crimes in Texas, 1997

Anti-black	167
Anti-gay	64
Anti-white	46
Anti-Asian	12
Anti-Hispanic	22
Anti-Jewish	21
Multiracial	7
Anti-Protestant	7
Anti-other ethnic group	4
Anti-Arab	3
Anti-other religion	2
Anti-multiple religion	2
Anti-disability	2
Anti-Muslim	1

*The Dallas Morning News
6/11/98

include attacks based on gender, disability or sexual orientation.

Tainted meat causes listeria outbreak

By AMY TAYLOR
Staff Reporter

According to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), an outbreak of listeriosis originating with listeria-tainted meat swept the nation beginning in December and has caused 11 deaths, 5 miscarriages or still births and 79 reported sicknesses in 17 states. The majority of these deaths have been traced to a meat plant located in Zeeland, Michigan.

The Sara Lee Corp. is expected to retrieve 15 million pounds of contaminated meat due to the recent outbreak of disease. U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) sources stated to the *Associated Press* that Bil Mar Foods, a division of Sara Lee Corp., will also be recalling 15 million pounds of hot dogs and luncheon meat.

At the start of the outbreak last December the USDA had estimated Bil Mar Foods would have to retrieve up to 35 million pounds of the meat, which would have made it the largest food recall in U.S. history.

According to *Yahoo News*, the executive director of communications at Sara Lee said "the USDA figure was incorrect because it was based on total production and not all of the plant's products are subject to the recall."

Other companies such as Thorn Apple Valley in Forrest City, Arkansas and Oscar Meyer Foods Corp. and Boswell Foods Inc. of Cleveland, Ohio have had incidents of meat items being recalled because of listeria contamination; however, no conclu-

sive evidence has linked these cases. Some of the brands recalled have been from stores such as the Grand Rapids-based Gordon Food Service, Allen Foods of St. Louis, Missouri and Kroger.

Angie Smolarz (99) said, "I probably will be more careful of what I eat and check the brands on lunch meat until they are sure the problem is over."

Finding the listeria bacteria in the meat products has resulted in severe changes in the affected companies. On December 31, the Agriculture Department withdrew meat inspectors from Thorn Apple Valley Inc. and immediately closed the plant down.

As of the end of January, it remains closed. Also, Bil Mar Foods permanently laid off 241 of its workers, who comprised 19 percent their work force.

The layoffs are part of a year-long adjustment plan for the plant.

"I think that there should be some more regulation and if the companies put more quality into their work then they would not have these problems," said John Sciberras (02).

Listeria bacteria can be found in water and soil and causes the condition listeriosis. Listeriosis is not normally contracted by healthy people but can be fatal for infants, those who have weakened immune systems, diabetics, pregnant women, the elderly, people with chronic diseases and those who are infected with HIV or are undergoing chemotherapy.

A common symptom is meningitis, whose own symptoms include high fever, severe headaches, neck stiffness and nausea. The CDC reports that about 1,850

people become seriously ill with listeriosis each year; 425 of those infected die.

Listeriosis and other food related illnesses can be prevented by cooking meat thoroughly and washing raw vegetables before eating them.

A man from Memphis, Tennessee, along with the firm Kenneth B. Moll and Associates Ltd., filed the first wrongful death lawsuit

from contaminated meat in the U.S. against Sara Lee Corp. in Chicago. The man filed after his wife died from listeria allegedly contracted from contaminated Ball Park hot dogs.

Those with questions or concerns can call the Agricultural Department of Meat and Poultry hotline at 1-800-535-455 or Thorn Apple Valley Inc. at 1-800-839-2427.

CONGRATULATIONS!

ACUB congratulates those who participated in
Beyond Mock Rock

Talent/Entertainer Winners:

Karl Griggs, Phillisha Harden, Crystal Lee,
Amanda Sanders, and Marnell Sanders,

Lip Sync Winners

Trevor Francisco, Sharese McGee, Delvard
Newhouse, and Jacquese Smart

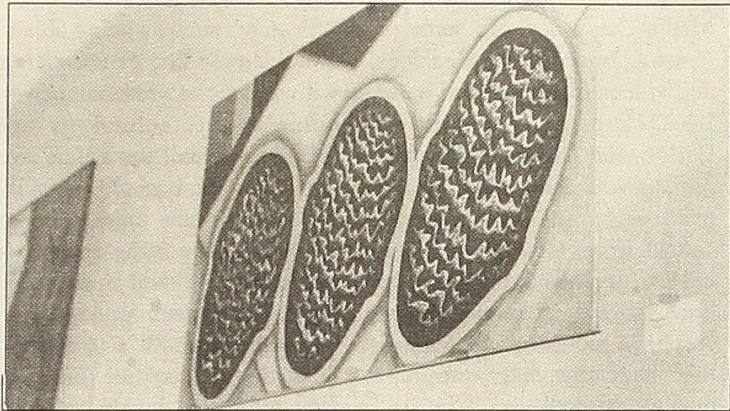
SPECIAL THANKS



Special thanks to Matt Kunkle and Kevin Stanley for their time and humor. ACUB appreciated your dancing capabilities and impromptu song about toast.



New display in Beck Art Gallery



Delanie Jenkins' art sculpture display can now be viewed in the Beck Art Gallery until March 11. Photo by Maya Mackowiak.

By JASON FISCHER
Staff Reporter

Delanie Jenkins, assistant professor of studio art at the University of Pittsburgh, is opening her sculpture display in the Beck Art

Gallery from February 8 through March 11. The display, entitled "Between Fear and Fascination," is the first to be viewed as one unit this year in Beck Gallery.

"It is a very unique show," said Mary Evans (02), Beck Gallery

assistant. "It is meant to be viewed as one work of art, not as several different works of art."

Jenkins has displayed her work in Alma before, and her work has been displayed all around the country.

Previous solo shows include one at the Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art, Colorado, and the School of Photographic Arts and Sciences Gallery at the Rochester Institute of Technology, New York. She obtained her B.A. from the University of Texas, Dallas, and her M.F.A. from the University of Boulder, Colorado. Jenkins's portfolio, listing all of her credentials and achievements, is available in the Beck Gallery.

"She uses very interesting im-

ages and materials in her display," said Evans.

"She created molds of navels made out of plastic, the same plastic used to make dental molds. She also used velvet pieces of cloth and hangs knots above each mold."

"Her art work is very abstract, and her use of color is very powerful and strong. It really gives her work its meaning," stated art student Heidi Grantham (00). "Her work is very minimal. It is blunt, but it gets her point across. Yet, it is hard to understand her message fully."

Anyone who wishes to find out more about the artist or her work is encouraged to talk to Sandy Lopez-Isnardi, associate professor of art, at x7286.

Newberry repairs and renovations

By MICHAEL MURPHY
Staff Reporter

Newberry Hall is the next residential hall in line to undergo renovations as a result of an ongoing five year plan to renovate all residential halls.

Following the renovations to Bruske and Mitchell Halls, Newberry Hall stands next to receive modular furniture, which has the capacity to be arranged in numerous ways. According to James Kridler, dean of students, Alma crystallized the plan four years ago to bring in the new furniture to all of the residencies.

The five-year plan to renovate all the halls was cited by Kridler as being necessary.

"The built-in furniture was once great, but it now is not personable or good. The buildings are 20 to 30 years old and have the original furniture. They are definitely due for a facelift," said Kridler.

First year student Dana Kozak said, "Alma should have made renovations to all halls at the same time. The beds and desks are so old and uncomfortable."

At the cost of approximately \$200,000, the remodeling process will be carried out by Physical Plant employees during the summer. Physical Plant will also be resurfacing Newberry's doors and plastering its walls.

Along with making the rooms more comfortable, the modular furniture will alleviate concerns over student-made lofts, which Kridler said was a major problem. "Some students liked old lofts, but there were more problems with storage. Putting [furniture] back, the wear and tear on equipment, and a lot of other problems are cleaned up," Kridler said.

Many students expressed concern that losing the ability to make lofts would take away from the personality of their rooms.

However, because the new furniture has the ability to be stacked in numerous ways, students can easily personalize their rooms without needing a loft.

Feedback from students residing in the already renovated halls has been positive. First year student Matt Bauman said, "The new furniture is really nice. It can be arranged many different ways."

According to Kridler, students familiar with the old room set-up really like the new modular furniture.

Current Newberry Hall resident Shannon Boven (02) is excited about the upcoming changes. She said, "It will make the room much nicer and I am looking forward to it."

Newberry Hall may not be the only hall seeing renovations over the summer. Kridler is 90-percent sure that Mitchell Hall will be converted into a co-ed hall for next year's school year.

Alma has been thinking about converting Mitchell from an all-male dorm to a co-ed dorm for a long time. According to Kridler, they have been "talking about it for the 12 years that I have been here."

Kridler said there has not been an abundant amount of male students requesting the all-male dorm. Turning the hall into a co-ed hall will allow Alma to open up many possibilities for Alma's male population. If Mitchell Hall does become a co-ed dorm, Kridler said that some restrooms will be remodeled.

Next summer, Kridler said that Gelston Hall will be scheduled to receive the modular furniture. "Gelston will be [remodeled] next year as long as the budget process continues to go the way it has," said Kridler.

Concluding the five-year residency hall remodeling plan will be renovations to the South Complex.

Student Council Minutes

February 8, 1999

I. Call to Order

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 p.m.
2. There was a contingency request of \$160.95 for the Math Society for reimbursement for a conference that was attended in San Antonio. Contingency committee recommended the exact amount. Motion passes.

3. There was a contingency request of \$900 for Pine River Anthology for money to insert a colored portion of art in the anthology this year. Contingency recommended this amount. Motion passes.

B. Secretary -- no report

C. Vice President

1. Budgets are due March 15. They will be voted on April 15. Mark your calendars.

2. There will be a budget/finance meeting directly following this meeting.

D. President

1. There will be a student affairs committee meeting after this meeting with a presentation from MORA.

2. Next year the college will be covering the 8 cents local phone charge for all students.

3. Issues of cable costs, parking, and laundry are still being discussed in the committee.

4. On March 8th at 1:30 p.m. there will be a meeting with Mr. Scoby concerning the parking issue on campus. Three students volunteered to attend the meeting. One student has non-preferred parking, another preferred and the third a commuter.

5. There will be a Trustee meeting this weekend in Troy. See Amanda if you have any concerns to be voiced.

IV. Old Business -- none.

V. New Business -- none.

VI. Alma Security and Alma Police Presentation

The presentation was made by Mr. Scoby, Dean Kridler, Dave Walsh, and Duane Knecht.

-- Security is on from 10 p.m. - 2 a.m. Mon. - Thurs. and Friday at 5 p.m. - Sunday at 8 a.m. 24 hours a day

-- Security is instructed to be non-confrontational. They are not licensed police officers. Their primary concern is to patrol the campus and be visible. After midnight they walk predetermined rounds electronically, scanning at different check points and completing a written log.

-- Both parking lots and buildings are covered in their evening rounds.

-- As of next week the security calls will be forwarded to a new cell phone instead of the current radio devices.

-- Security is open to considerations of bikes for the security, student volunteers, and security phone in the soccer lot.

-- Just a reminder that all cars need to be locked and checked frequently.

-- Police officers are in place on Superior to keep cars from speeding for the safety of the students.

-- There is a city ordinance against loud parties and loud car stereos. Police are capable of giving citations.

-- If students are unhappy about an officer's conduct in traffic stops or their actions in incident reports, please call Mr. Walsh at the county office and let him know.

VII. Announcements

ACUB -- will be hosting Bingo Night Friday 8 p.m. at the Hole.

AZD -- sponsoring a school supplies drive for students of Israel. Drop boxes will be in Hamilton.

FCA -- hosting Anthony Clark Tuesday Feb. 16, 9 p.m. in Van Dusen.

KI -- will be sponsoring the Luxury Liner, a formal dance open to all campus on February 12th. Tickets will be sold in Saga and will be \$7.00 per person or \$12.00 per couple.

Student Judicial -- on 2-8-99 report included:

one male -- alcohol violation \$25, non-compliance \$35, and noise violation \$10.

CPA continued from page 1.....

students earned a CPA of 2.26.

In addition, the registrar released statistics on the number of students dismissed or placed on academic jeopardy, probation, or given a warning because of low CPAs.

"All of those categories reflect that the cumulative grade point average, not the term grade point average, is below 2.0. Only first-year freshmen get a warning, and that's when their GPA is just below 2.0; we're not saying academic probation, but we're saying 'you need to re-assess what you're doing and get yourself straightened out,'" said Klumpp.

Ten Alma students were given warnings after last semester, a number down from the previous year's 18.

"The next level of severity is

probation," continued Klumpp. "And then jeopardy. With jeopardy, a student is not supposed to be involved in the Greek life of the college, to really evaluate what is taking time away from their studies. Students in jeopardy will not be eligible for financial aid."

Twenty-one students were placed on probation for fall term 1998, with 17 on probation in 1997; 18 students are in jeopardy, compared to ten the year before.

"Dismissals are typically for the student who has had a grade point average below 2.0 for some time or there's something dramatic going on, that we feel that it's best for the student not to be at the college at that time," said Klumpp.

Five students were dismissed

after fall term 1998, a number that remained constant from the year before.

Klumpp believes that these statistics are standard indicators of the functioning of the college.

"It will be possible to say more

once we see the full year and see how many students come back again in the fall," Klump said.

"I'd say we're looking about average. I certainly don't see anything really dramatic in these numbers," she added.

Check it out!

The Almanian Online

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

Website will expand your "horizon"

By MANDY LONG
Feature Editor

Let's see...www dot what? Anyone who has ever surfed the web has asked this question in their relentless pursuit to find...something? In between all those web pages devoted to the memory of Jim Morrison and the execution of Bill Clinton, some of us might be asking ourselves what the hype is all about.

However, one site, www.horizonmag.com, offers college students a site worth getting online for.

Horizon is an online magazine devoted to...well, not anything in

particular, which is one of the great features about it.

Updated monthly, it pursues everything from social questions to entertainment, and is dedicated to informing its readers.

This month's issue was devoted in part to the environment, with six different articles on environmental issues we should all be familiar with.

Whether its a paper company in the South Bronx that is polluting the environment, Paul Simon's struggle to end the pollution of our coastlines and waters, or a piece on Tom Horton and his work in Chesapeake Bay, the reader is enlightened.

February's issue also featured an interview with the controversial Spike Lee and a feature on Chuck D entitled "Louder than a Bomb." A truly moving piece on physical abuse called "No Black Eyes," was also included. It tells the story of physical abuse from the perspectives of a wealthy, college educated woman and a poor working class woman.

Horizon also has a few off the wall pieces, stories like "New Blood: Art for the People," which talk about beer and...road kill?

Whatever your tastes in reading, you're sure to find something. You can also look under their departments, which include

Media Cuts (there are some interesting books, cds, magazines, and videos recommended here), Local Heroes, a letter from the Editor, and...Sacred Cow Tipping? (You'll have to see this one.)

Aside from the eclectic pieces in Horizon, the editors have also done quite a job with creative graphics, pictures, and features that make this magazine more than user friendly.

Incredible graphics and pictures, which can be found throughout the entire site and tell a story themselves, are just one of the many plusses of this website.

Features such as being able to email the author of the article with a piece of your mind (welcome to the technology age folks!), to email the article to a friend you think would find it interesting, to click onto previous articles by the same author, or subscribing to their mailing list make it easy reading.

For those who like to do a bit of surfing in their free time, and even for those who are just looking for some free reading, www.horizonmag.com is a site worth visiting.

Oh, by the way, despite the road kill and cow tipping, this site doesn't test on animals.

World famous dance company to visit Alma

By LINDSAY ROBINSON
Freelance Writer

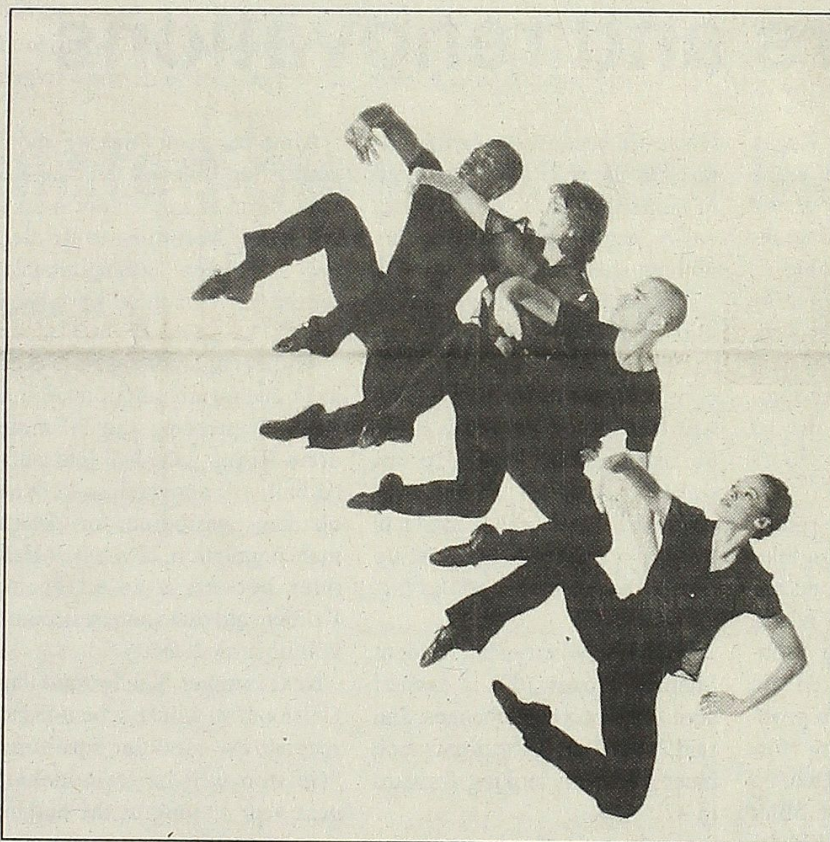
In the heart of its busiest season ever, the Parsons Dance Company, a world famous modern dance troupe, will perform at 8 p.m. Sunday, February 14, in Alma College's Heritage Center, Presbyterian Hall.

Since its founding in 1987, the Parsons Dance Company has given over 700 performances worldwide.

Composed of 10 full-time dancers, the company has entertained audiences in many of the most distinguished theaters in the world, and at many of the world's major dance festivals.

In the 1997-98 season, the company gave 81 performances before 28,000 people and completed its largest self-produced New York City season ever at City Center, one of New York's largest dance venues.

In addition to live audiences worldwide, the company has entertained television audiences on PBS "Behind the Scenes," the Bravo Cable Network and A&E



The Parsons Dance Company, a world famous modern dance troupe, will perform at Alma College at 8 p.m. Sunday, February 14. Courtesy photo.

Television Network.

The company maintains a repertory of over 50 works (20 with

commissioned pieces) by David Parsons, company co-founder. Troupe members perform mod-

ern dances to music ranging from Bach to the jazz of Billy Taylor, encompassing themes from AIDS awareness to life in a fast-paced society.

Parson's work is "very energetic, colorful and accessible," said Carol Fike, Alma College dance company director.

The Alma concert will include "Caught," the troupe's signature piece, in which a dancer leaps on a trampoline in a blackened theater, then is caught in mid-air by the flash of a strobe light.

"The effect is the dancer in air creating these marvelous shapes," says Fike.

The dancers use lights themselves in "Fill the Woods with Light," a work in which they illuminate fellow dancers, casting shadows and creating shapes

mimicking those in a moonlit forest. "Instinct," premiered in May 1998, features two dancers dressed as different halves of one animal. The dancers contort themselves creating the illusion that the animal is whole, not two different parts.

Also to be performed are "Reflections of Four," choreographed to Mozart's Adagio from "Serenade for Winds," and "Nascimento," a North American take on South America's most sophisticated pop music.

Parsons, who danced with the Paul Taylor Dance Company from 1978-1987, is one of only six choreographers in the nation chosen by the American Dance Festival to choreograph a new work for the Millennium Project.

He is also the first and only artist to have been featured twice as artist of the week on A&E Television Network's "Breakfast With the Arts."

Seating is reserved. Admission is \$7 for adults, students and children are free.

Call the Heritage Center Box Office at (517) 463-7304 for more information.

Gibson hits "Pay" dirt with new film

By WENDY HOLMES
Copy Editor

Mel Gibson has finally come full circle with his new film "Payback" which, along with his more recent "Braveheart," harkens back to his earlier violence-laced "Mad Max" days. In this film Gibson plays Porter, a thief extraordinarily adept at making his living by stealing other people's. The rest of Porter's life, however, does not run so smoothly. His wife Lynn (Deborah Kara Unger) is a junkie, his ex-girlfriend Rosie (Maria Bello) a call girl and his best friend Val (Gregg Henry) so desperate to pay his debt to "the outfit" that nothing—and no one—will stand in his way.

The mere mention of the outfit (or "the syndicate," "the organization," etc.) should trip alarm bells in your head. "Payback" stays true to the old formula of movie + mob = violence. Because of this, it is best not to eat before you see this movie, unless you consider yourself to not be squeamish. The violence in this film, ensconced in well-shot action sequences, hits hard and heavy.

The premise of the film is this: Val rips Porter off, stealing \$70,000 and leaving him for dead. Porter decided to seek his revenge against Val and get his money back at the same time. This is when the violence begins, as Porter must make his way through various levels of the out-

fit in his quest for retribution.

Amidst all the blood and gore on which this film prides itself is a vein of twisted humor. The film certainly has its funny moments, although it is not a comedy in the traditional sense (as the trailer makes it out to be). Adding to the comedic factor is Lucy Liu (playing dominatrix Pearl), who spends a good deal of her time onscreen kicking (and punching and scratching and whipping) whichever man happens to fall into her path.

The performances in the film stand out even more than the brutal violence and sick humor. Gibson does an excellent job portraying Porter, making the audience feel sympathy for a man

who is basically a cold-hearted jerk. The various actors who play the minor and major players in the outfit are all appropriately smarmy and weasel-like. The backstabbing Val is nasty and wimpy all at once, a delicate balance Henry carries off with finesse. Liu easily elicits hoots of laughter as Pearl, and Bello is able to take her character beyond what could have been simply a wallpaper role.

Strikingly, and (at least for me) surprisingly, this is a good film. Fans of Mel Gibson will appreciate his return to his roots, and fans of dark humor and clever (although violent) films will cheer Gibson on as he treats his enemies to a little "Payback."

Word Scramble Answers

from 02/01/99 issue:

reflex
motion
profane
scrumptious
travel
luster
hubbub
fiction
concoct
adamant

February 9, 1999

FEATURE

5

Alma stars shine at Beyond Mock Rock

By JOEY MEAD
Sports Editor

From break dancing to way too much drag, the first annual *Beyond Mock Rock* hosted by Alma College Union Board (ACUB), was a big success for participants and spectators.

In the past *Mock Rock* has been solely a lip sync contest, but due to a low number of participants, this year *Mock Rock* added a talent/entertainment category.

Hence the new event title, "Beyond Mock Rock."

"We always have tons of people come to watch [Mock Rock], but not a lot of people want to get up and do it. In the past we have had about five acts, so we thought by adding the talent portion we'd get more people to do it—and it worked," said ACUB member Jennifer Cherniak (99).

The audience was entertained by five acts in the talent/entertainer category and another five

acts in the lip sync category.

ACUB advisor Dave Wagner said, "I thought the turnout was excellent. The crowd was energetic and we loved it."

Eric Grace (00) who performed in the lip sync competition said, "I think the participants did a hell of a job. They were beautiful. But I think the audience needs to participate more, they are 50 percent of the event. So I think we as an audience need to get into it more."

Though *Beyond Mock Rock* was fun for many, entertainment was not the only objective of the event. Donations for Habitat for Humanity and food for Community Cafe were collected at the door. In addition, half of the \$100 first prize of each category went to a charity of the winners choice.

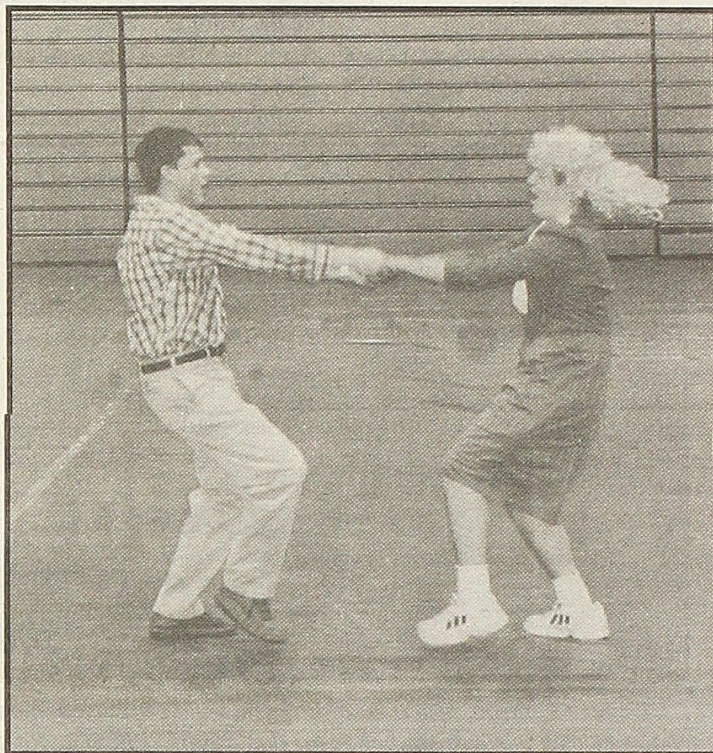
The four judges for the evening were Katherin Nordin (00), Mike Heying (99), and hall directors Ken Smith and Kirsten Cauchy.

The winners of the talent/entertainer category were the impressive pipes of Delvard Newhouse (02), Sharese McGee (02), Trevor Francisco (99) and Jacquese Smart (02) singing "Cheers 2 U" by Playa. They were chosen by the four judges to receive first place according to their talent, creativity, showmanship, audience response and the difficulty of performance.

Francisco said, "I thought the turnout was good, I thought the crowd was pretty lively. As long as you tried to venture out into the crowd and let them know that you care that they are there, and give them a little excitement."

Francisco's group selected the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) to receive half of their winnings.

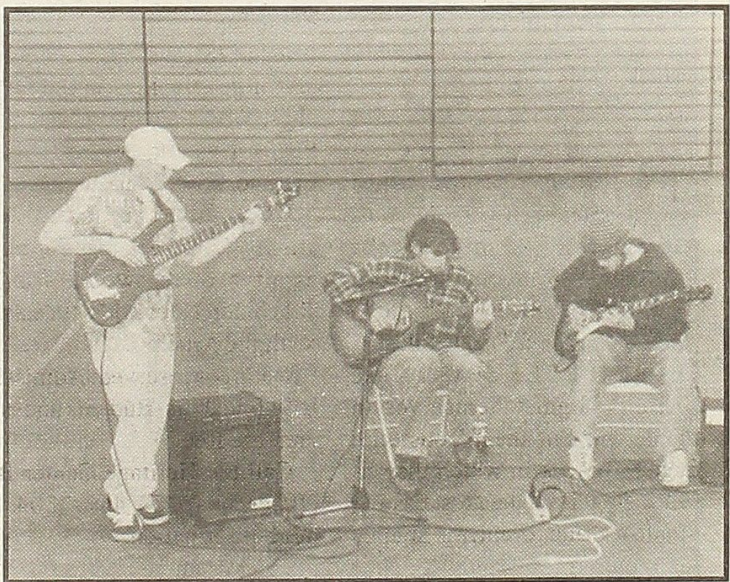
The winner of the lip sync category was based on synchronization, creativity, showmanship, audience response and lip sync. And the group of students that met these requirements with way too high high-heels and not enough clothing were Crystal Lee (01), Marnell Sanders (99), Karl Griggs-Vinyard (00), Jen Fish (99), Amanda Sanders (02) and



Kevin Stanley (00) and Matt Kunkle (00) dance to the soundtrack from the movie "Dirty Dancing" during Mock Rock. Photo by Maya Mackowiak.



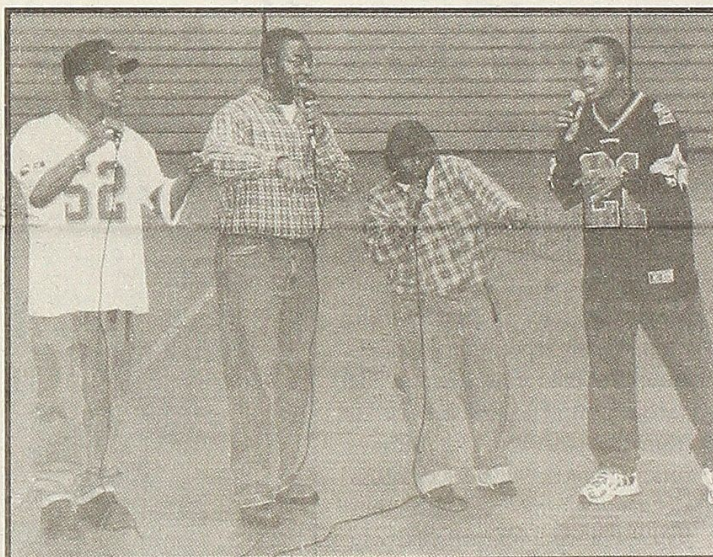
Ryan Fowler (01) plays the song "Toast," now famously sung by Kevin Stanley (01) at many ACUB events. The song is a favorite among Alma students. Photo by Maya Mackowiak.



They called themselves "The Trippin Phalls" and displayed their musical talent to all during ACUB's Mock Rock. Photo by Maya Mackowiak.



The sisters of the Phi Sigma Sigma sorority got in the groove with their lip sync of "Up Town Girl" at Mock Rock. Photo by Maya Mackowiak.



Jacquese Smart (02), Delvard Newhouse (02), Sharese McGee (02) and Trevor Francisco (99) were awarded first place for their rendition at Mock Rock. Photo by Maya Mackowiak.

Phillisha Harden (02) performing to a combination song of artists Diana Ross and Rupaul. Grace shared a few thoughts on what he would suggest for next year's *Beyond Mock Rock*. He said, "I think the host [Kevin Stanley (00)] did a hell of a job. I think they should bring Kevin back next year. He's going places."

"There needs to be more people, more frats, sororities, get the Greek organizations into it, get the different clubs into it. And if ev-

erybody participated we'd have twelve or thirteen different acts. I think that would be better," Grace concluded.

Some other events ACUB is planning for the future is a Casino night on March 12, a Band Bash on April 9, which will feature a local and two regional bands. Every Friday night ACUB runs The Hole, which is outside of Joe's Place, where students can hang out and get involved in activities.

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Pattison named to TKE Hall of Fame

By AMY NOVAK
Staff Reporter

Dr. Eugene Pattison, professor of English, and advisor for the Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE) frater-

nity, will be inducted to the TKE Advisor Hall of Fame this August at the Inauguration of the Hall of Fame for the TKE Centennial Celebration.

Pattison has been the advisor

for the fraternity for 34 years. He was named to the Hall of Fame after an extensive interview at the regional conference in Bloomington, Illinois. The criteria to be named to the Hall of Fame is that one must be an advisor to the fraternity for at least 10 years and that the fraternity must keep satisfactory operation during the advising.

Pattison is a 1956 graduate of Alma College, where he was a member of the local fraternity Phi Phi Alpha. Two years after he graduated, the fraternity went national and became the TKEs. Pattison was initiated as a TKE in the winter of 1958. He became an advisor to the fraternity in December of 1965.

"My favorite aspect about being an advisor to the fraternity is watching them grow. It's really remarkable watching young men grow up," Pattison said. "You're

watching these men and what they make of their lives. It's really fun to see how they have come along."

Also attending the regional conference with Pattison were fellow TKEs Jeremy TerBush (00) and Craig Freestone (01).

"We're all really proud of Doc (Pattison)," TerBush said. "He's a great advisor and he has really helped us a lot over the years."

One of the things that Pattison takes pride in is the closeness he shares with the fraternity.

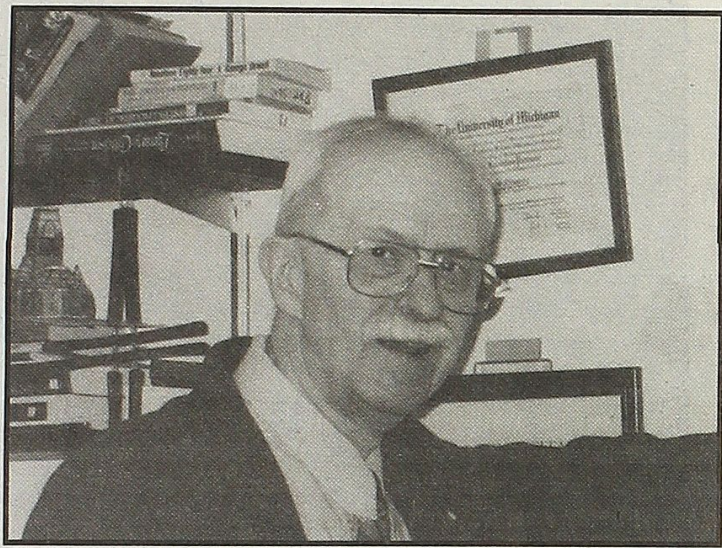
"If you can get yourself close to a group of students like that, you can really make a difference in their lives," Pattison said. "It's nice to know that you can work so closely to a group that is so close within."

Pattison not only helps around campus by advising the TKEs, he is also active in many other Alma activities. He has a divinity de-

gree from Harvard Graduate School, and has helped out in the Dunning Memorial Chapel for several years. More recently, he has been committed to beautifying the campus by personally planting hundreds of flowers around the school.

Senior Jim Townsend, a member of the TKE fraternity, said, "Doc is always willing to help. Considering the differences in age between him and the fraternity, he is one of the most patient people. He always supports us with whatever we want to do."

Pattison also holds big plans for the fraternity in the near future. He is helping the fraternity plan a local reunion as part of the national Centennial Celebration. He is also in the process of implementing a mentor system for actives in which alumni can assist the current members in three different aspects of life.



Dr. Eugene Pattison, professor of English, will be inducted into the National TKE Advisor Hall of Fame this August. Photo by Rachel Maness.

Wang brings his computer expertise to Alma College

By SCOTT TIMMRECK
Freelance Writer

New to campus this year, David Wang has accepted the position of Director of Computer and Media Services. Originally from China, Wang received most of his undergraduate education in his native country, and his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota, where he was educated in electrical engineering and computer science with a specialty in statistical computing. After receiving that honor, he took a job at the University of Wisconsin under the title Faculty Technology Application Supporter, where he worked on his idea of distance education.

Distance education is the idea of the classroom in the computer. As with the forums most Alma students are now familiar with, there would be a sharing of ideas by posting them on the computer, in addition to actual discussion in real time through chat rooms. However, not only would students benefit through these actions, professors would as well. They would be able to post lesson plans for their students to view on the web, students would be able to send their professors their papers through e-mail, and the basic format of teleconferencing would be adapted to work for the classroom. This way, the professor could teach the class while sitting in his or her living room. Students could either attend in real time or view the class later that day by accessing it on the internet.

Wang accepted his current position at Alma because he felt there was a "warm relationship" between the faculty and the students, and that the academics far surpassed many he had experi-



David Wang has accepted the position of director of Computer and Media Services at Alma College. Photo by Rachel Maness.

enced. As a gift to the college, upon arrival, Wang donated 123 books worth \$4019 to the library, and continually contributes to the Alma College Scholarship Foundation as well as the United Way. He enjoys long-distance swimming, running, table tennis, and reading as well as, obviously, computers. They are his passion and this drive has caused him to produce a master plan for the college's computer, which he plans on carrying out between now and 2004. Some arts of the plan include updating the college's network to the better and more modern NT network, making the network available to all students on campus from their rooms, setting up a dedicated training facility to be used regularly for faculty and administrative staff, as an alternative to off-site commercial professional

training; installing firewall systems to enhance data sharing and network communication security; and going through the five-year hardware replacement cycle.

In Wang's ultimate vision, every student has access to the internet from his or her room through a network that will allow them to pay their college bills, register for classes, view their grades, and participate in classes, all while online. He hopes to do this by continuing along his present course of rigorous research, meeting with computer executives to get the best hardware and software at the lowest prices and meeting with various members of the faculty, all of which aids him in carrying out his master plan: a completely networked college where most of the learning is done in front of a computer screen.

Bowl-a-thon to raise money for Big Brothers/Big Sisters

By SARA TRAVIS
Staff Reporter

College students looking for a fun and inexpensive way to spend an evening can find a night of free bowling and a warm, fuzzy feeling at the 300 Bowl on Wednesday, February 10 at the Big Brothers-Big Sisters college night "Bowl for Kids' Sake" bowl-a-thon.

To participate in the annual event, interested persons must assemble a team of four bowlers, call Becky Myers at 466-8465 and pick up a collection envelope for each member from Deb Moon in the Student Affairs Office. A registration table will be set up the night of the bowl-a-thon to collect bowlers' envelopes. A minimum pledge of ten dollars is all that is required to participate; shoe rental and bowling is free.

Collecting twenty-five dollars earns bowlers "Bowl for Kids' Sake" t-shirts, forty dollars earns the chance to be in a drawing for a restaurant gift certificate, and one hundred twenty-five dollars earns a "Big Brothers-Big Sisters" sweatshirt. The team raising the most money

will receive dinner and a movie donated by the 300 Club and the Alma Cinema. Each participant will also be entered into a drawing for a chance to win door prizes that will be handed out throughout the evening.

"It's for a good cause. When you're helping kids or helping give kids role models and having fun, it's great. You basically get to bowl for free with your friends. All you would have to do is go around to local businesses and they are usually happy to give pledges," said sophomore Melinda Messmer.

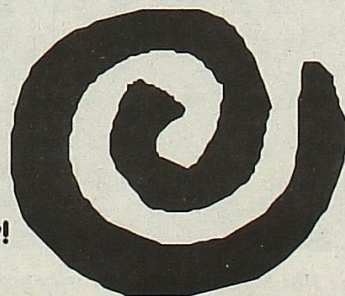
Big Brothers-Big Sisters of Gratiot County is an affiliate of Big Brothers-Big Sisters of America. More than half of the local program volunteers are Alma College students. The local agency is run solely from private donations received from individuals and local businesses and from local United Way funding.

For more information about this program or other Big Brothers-Big Sisters programs, or for information on becoming a Big Brother or a Big Sister, call the Big Brothers-Big Sisters office at 463-3434.

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Defiance no match for JV team

By MARK ISZAK
Staff Reporter

With four more league games to go, the men's j.v. Basketball squad continues to battle to keep their MIAA first place standing.

The men stood 9-4, 6-1 going into the February 6th game against Defiance.

The Scots continued to succeed, topping Defiance 74-55. Here is how it happened...

The Scots came out fired up, shooting 45% the first half. Great

offensive performances were put forth by the likes of sophomore Chris Maxwell (16 points), first-year Spencer Wideman (13 points), and first-year Rich Walters (12 points). Sophomore Brian Pierce had 5 assists, and first-year Ken Knudsen had four of his own to help the Scot effort.

Pierce also looked good defensively with 3 steals and a block. The Scots were up 35-24 leading the way into the locker room.

During the second half the

Scots shot 40% and benefitted from good play by the likes of Pierce and first-year J.P. Cmejrek.

The Scots continued to play well the rest of the game, which is no surprise; they've been playing well all season.

The Scots proved too much for the Yellow Jackets to handle and put them to bed, 74-55.

The bus ride back to Ohio was probably a long and quiet one. Oh, well.

The Scots improve to 10-4

overall and 7-1 in league play.

"We're taking things one game at a time, and we're looking forward to playing Hope. We feel that we are playing well," Pierce said.

Wideman said, "The team as a whole is playing well, and we are all looking forward to the rest of the season. Our sights are set on going undefeated the rest of the way and to finish first place in the league."

With a rematch between Hope and Alma set up for Feb. 13, the

Scots will do no different to get ready for the obstacles in their way.

Coach Curtis said, "The team is looking good. We've got a tough three-game week of ball coming up. We've got Adrian at home and Hope at their place. This is a big week, but we will be ready. We'll just go about things the way we have been."

Sounds like a plan. The Scots take on Adrian on Feb. 10 and Hope on Feb. 13. Paybacks are ... well you know.

Superbowl MVP Elway talks retirement

By DAVE JORDAN
Freelance Writer

After a well-deserved victory over the Atlanta Falcons, the Denver Broncos were crowned as the champions of Super Bowl XXXIII. Everyone contributed equally and made the victory a proper result of team effort. The leader of the pack, Pro-Bowler and 15-year veteran John Elway, played an outstanding passing game for 336 yards on an 18 of

29 passing night — the third highest total in NFL history.

A unanimous decision for MVP, Elway left with pride, for he had led his Denver Broncos to the Super Bowl for the fifth career time and captured back to back NFL titles...

...And then he said the word...

Retirement.

After 15 long years in the NFL, John Elway is recognized as one of the best quarterbacks to ever have set foot on the field. His to-

tal yards trail only Dan Marino and his scoring touch remains indisputable. Even legends, however, have to throw in the towel someday.

Well, that day may have finally come.

"It would be great to come back and three-peat," Elway said to ESPN, "but also it would be nice to walk away forever after the way I'm playing right now. There's such a fine line, because as a football player, I'll never

want to not play football. It's just such a fine line. I'm one of those guys — I don't want to walk away too late. But I also know that if I played like I played last night, then I could play a little bit longer."

Elway has raised eyebrows throughout his career, beginning with his controversial entry into the NFL in 1983, when conflicts with the Baltimore Colts arose, and continuing up to the present day, being named MVP of the

Super Bowl for the Denver Broncos.

Looking back on the eventual trade from the Colts to the Broncos, Elway put into perspective his present "to retire or not to retire" dilemma in an interview with ESPN's Greg Garber.

"It had nothing to do with the people in Baltimore," said Elway. "You know, you go with your heart. Your heart tells you, right

ELWAY Cont. on page 9...

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February 9, 1999

SPORTS

9

Maxwell sets good example for JV team

By MARK ISZAK
Staff Reporter

The Men's J.V. Basketball team continues to improve and excel as the season progresses. With recent wins over the likes of Albion, Kalamazoo, and Olivet, the Scots are still looking sharp. One of the reasons for this success is the team's outstanding play and leadership on the court.

Chris Maxwell, one of the starting forwards on the squad, and the usual scoring leader, has demonstrated this all season. Let's take a closer look at this 6'4" sophomore out of Kalkaska.

In high school ball, Maxwell's team went to the district finals. He was also named All State Third Team. He played basketball for all four years, and football for one year. As for college, Maxwell chose to attend Alma because of the nice atmosphere it presents.

Maxwell was voted a captain of

the team this season, and the task was to be a leader and to set example for the team. He has done just that, averaging around 19 or 20 points per game.

Maxwell recently tallied 14 against Calvin, and led the team to victory against Albion by scoring 30 points, including two clutch free throws which secured victory in the closing seconds.

"Every game I try to go out and play and do the best I can," Maxwell said. Many know about Maxwell's performance and achievements on the court, but many do not know about him outside the gym.

Maxwell is a business major in his second year at Alma. His current courses include sociology, accounting, econ, and environmental geology. One day he hopes to own and run his own business.

In his spare time, Maxwell enjoys watching sports on the tube,

such as hockey, football, and baseball. He has been active in sports since he can remember, when he played recreational ball with the city.

Maxwell's success on as well as off the court have been sweet. This season has been great so far, and I have fun playing together with the guys. As for the rest of the season, we're looking to take the J.V. title," Maxwell said.

Coach Jeff Curtis spoke highly of Maxwell as a player and an individual. "On the court, he is a joy to coach. He's a hard worker, and a good listener. He is always willing to suggest what he would do or what he feels would work for the team"

"Off the court, he is a gentleman, and an all-around nice individual," Curtis said.

With Maxwell and the rest of the squad on a roll, the excitement continues as they look to capture a first-place finish in the MIAA.

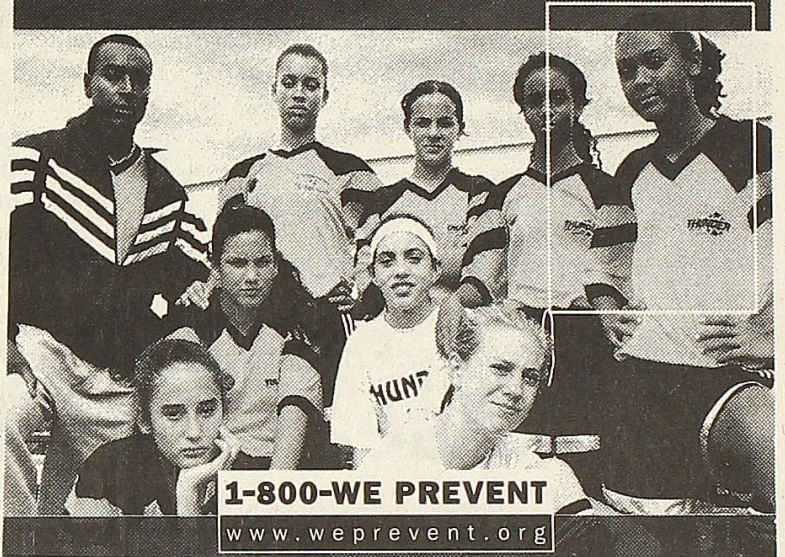
She's a gang leader... with a goal.

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Scots baseball steps up to the plate

By AMY NOVAK
Staff Reporter

The Scots 1999 baseball team began practice on January 15, 1999. They will travel to Fort Meyers, Florida on February 28, to play 10 games during Spring Break.

The goals for the team this year are set high. Coaches and players are all hoping for a league title and chances at a tournament bid.

The team is working to make this chance a sure thing with the addition of a new coach, Jake Boss. "Our goal this year? To win it all. We play to win," Boss said. "But to keep goals reasonable, we

try to get better each time out. We want to get better with every practice and every game. If you take this goal individually and as a ball club, the results will speak for themselves."

The Scots will also begin the year with their entire infield returning. The pitching is also coming along. Going into the pre-season, the Scots did not know who their pitchers would be.

When things started, we didn't know who was going to pitch," said Shaun Turkelson (01). "With Spencer Roecker (02) playing basketball, he doesn't get down there a lot to practice. But things are really taking shape, a lot of

guys have stepped up."

The Scots lost four players from last year. Scott Heymoss, Jeremi Peace, and Ryan McDonald all graduated. They also lost rightfielder, Ryan Janis who transferred.

"Things are going good," said sophomore Jeff Lane. "We're trying really hard. Once we get our pitching going, we'll be better."

Many players and fans waited in anticipation for the 1999 season to start with hopes that it would be played on the new field, Klenk Park.

Even though construction has begun on the park, the season will not begin by playing there. With

the scoreboard being put up last Thursday, it may be possible to play the final games in the park.

"We're looking forward to starting the season. We'd like to play on the new field, but chances

of that are still up in the air," said senior Griff Woodman.

"Things are really falling into place with the infield returning and the guys who are stepping up to pitch" Woodman added.

The Almanian is currently seeking freelance photographers, especially for sporting events. If interested please call Missy at X8346. This is a paid position.

Winter sports course different yet challenging

By KELLY McDONALD
Staff Reporter

Look out Alma College sports fans; the next Picabo Street might be evolving right before our very eyes. For those who lack knowledge on the winter sports scene, Picabo Street is arguably the best female Olympic downhill skier ever.

The Exercise and Health Science (EHS) Department is offering a class this term that might very well encourage Alma students in the "not-so-popular" winter sports. EHS 165W entitled, rather appropriately, Winter Sports, is not your usual college course.

In the academic catalog, the course is described as an independent group activity designed for a group of students to contract for

a specific goal. That goal for this particular class is simple...to do something different. That is exactly what they did.

Brandon Peters (99), a biology major, said, "It's my senior year and I wanted to do something different. This class is a lot of fun." Winter Sports is considered an activities class which means everything is based on participation. The class meets once a week for three hours, so it takes a lot of dedication on the students part. With all of the other "normal" sports classes offered, like basketball and baseball, why would someone want to take this course?

"I read the [course description] and didn't know a whole lot of what we would do but I just wanted to try it. It is something I probably wouldn't do on my

own," said Kevin Forbing (99), a biology major.

The instructor of the class, Penny Allen-Cook said, "The goal of this course is for the students to gain an appreciation for the variety of winter sports." The class time is devoted to traveling to various places to participate in the sporting events.

"Other than ice skating, there's no place in Alma to do anything," said Allen-Cook. At each place, they have to get suited up and have a short lesson to teach them how to do the event. Then they are let loose to see what they have learned. Some of the sports include downhill as well as cross country skiing, luge, and ice skating.

"At some of the places, I'm actually giving the lesson and then off we go for a couple of hours,"

said Allen-Cook. In order to go luge, the group took a field trip to Muskegon to use one of only two luge tracks in Michigan.

Allen-Cook said, "I told them they had to try luge. It is kind of scary but it's fun."

Luge is an Olympic sport when the participants lie on their backs on a sled and go down a tube of ice. The Olympians make it look much easier than it actually is.

This class definitely allows for your perspective of sports to be explored a little bit. The whole concept of liberal arts is to increase awareness in all areas of academics. In order to broaden your horizons in sports, you have to see what else is out there," said Allen-Cook

Luge as an intercollegiate sport, anyone?

ELWAY continued from page 8...

or wrong, what decisions you think you should make. I'll probably do what's right here."

His teammates do not think a decision needs to be made at all — according to the Denver Broncos consensus, staying is the only option. In a press release, Denver head coach, Mike Shanahan, expressed his feelings toward Elway's potential retirement.

"I'm hoping he sits back and says, 'Hey, I'm going to give it one more shot,'" Shanahan said, "I'm hoping that he gives me one or two more years."

If Elway stays on for another couple years and does, in fact, bring home another Denver championship, he will become the oldest quarterback ever to lead his team to a Super Bowl victory. Who's record will he be overtaking? His own.

Guest Editorial

Alma continues to oppose U.S. News survey

U.S. News' rankings miss the true nature and quality of the nation's liberal arts colleges.

By ALAN STONE
President, Alma College



Since 1996, Alma College has taken the lead in opposing the U.S. News and World Report rankings of

national liberal arts colleges. In a survey conducted that summer, Alma College found that 46 percent of the respondents were unfamiliar with the institutions which they ranked for the survey; nearly one-fifth reported supplying "best guess" and 84 percent said they were unfamiliar with some of the institutions they were asked to rank. Less than 8 percent of the national liberal arts college presidents, provosts, and directors of admissions thought the U.S. News survey depicted their schools accurately.

In several national debates with U.S. News editors, I have pointed out statistical inconsistencies and misleading assumptions con-

tained in the survey. My urging of fellow college officers to forego participation in the rankings has managed to decrease overall participation from 65 percent to 59 percent. Many schools find it difficult to criticize the powerful impact of US News' promotional benefits and are careful not to be too vocal.

Several high profile schools, such as Stanford University, have joined the boycott effort in recent years. While U.S. News continues to make modifications in response to Alma's and other criticisms, there is no indication that they are about to give up their highly profitable college ranking issue.

This year, Alma College modified its attack on the U.S. News rankings, focusing less on technical and statistical problems of the survey and more on what really counts in measuring college quality.

In keeping with Alma's emphasis on quality ethos, Director of Public Relations Karen Roeper argued that quality education is a personal endeavor at the National Association of Admissions Counselors meeting in Indianapolis in October 1998. By reducing quality to a few quantifiable statistics, college guides do the public a mis-service. "Facts about colleges cannot take the place of a student's adventure

with education," she contended. "A number cannot adequately describe the lasting impression of a professor's one-on-one interaction with a student as they tackle a research assignment or discuss an ethical question."

This emphasis on measuring quality education as engagement (study abroad, research, independent study) rather than statistics about inputs is in keeping with both Alma's quality ethos and the emphasis which the good national liberal arts colleges are now asserting nationwide. U.S. News' emphasis on a numerical count misses the true nature of quality at our nation's liberal arts colleges.

Sports Track by Micheal Murphy

Rare disease taking toll on football great



world.

What a terrible myth to believe. This myth is shattered by the man deemed by many as the greatest running back of all time. His name is Walter Payton.

The Hall of Famer and the NFL's all-time leading rusher has been stricken with a rare disease. The man who once graced Wheaties boxes and lived in the hearts of youngsters as a football hero is now in a serious battle for his life.

Tragedy never seems to hit those that have lived long in the fame-filled spotlight of the sporting

According to the *Detroit Free Press*, the 44-year-old Payton suffers from primary sclerosing cholangitis. This disease, infecting approximately 3 out of every 100,000 people across the world, causes the bile ducts, which carry bile to the small intestine to aid digestion, to become narrowed because of inflammation and scarring.

They eventually close, resulting in liver damage. According to doctors, patients survive an average of two years without a transplant.

Payton needs a liver, and the odds are stacked against him. The *Free Press* reported that in 1997 there were 1,131 people in the USA who died while waiting for a liver. If Payton, who will not receive preferential treatment because of his celeb-

rity status, does receive a transplant, the survival rate is 88 per-

cent for the first year. Payton is married and has two children. He is not known to be

The man who once graced Wheaties boxes and lived in the hearts of youngsters as a football hero is now in a serious battle for his life.

of the greatest records in all of sporting. Question upon question has been levied upon Payton. And with each question Payton hears, he sits back, smiles, thinks, and then pays some sort of complement to Sanders. Payton complements Sanders's running style, greatness, or humility, and never disrespects Sanders who may possibly break his hard-earned record.

Payton is not flustered by the record breaking. He knew that it could happen, and wants to be the first in line congratulating Sanders.

Whether or not he will be there on the momentous day is a tear-jerking question to ask. One cannot help but feel sorry for Payton and his family who have been stricken with this tragedy.

This pity for the ill-stricken Payton must not stop at Payton himself. The pity must be spread out to those other 1,131 people and families in 1997 alone who suffered the grave tragedy of death because they did not get a liver transplant.

This is where the real tragedy lies. The fact that those 1,131 individuals in one year alone died from a disease that could have been cured from a transplant from an organ donor is heart-wrenching. The fact that this celebrity needs a life-giving liver is a call to outsiders to seriously consider organ donation. We do not realize that this organ donation scarcity is such a misfortune until some celebrity is stricken with a disease that requires one. It is time that we do something about this.

We must do it for Walter Payton.

We must do it for every man, woman, and child waiting out their final months hoping to receive an organ.

A Word from the Editor by Missy Crossnoe

Wings will soon fly high once again

The critics have been saying it, softly and subtly, for a while, the Detroit Red Wings are no longer dynasty. Instead, they are a riddle strapped in skates and not playing up to their capability this season.

Red Wings fans do not fear, the Wings are not on a downward spiral into oblivion and they will not be called the Dead Wings any time soon. The Wings are in a slump right now and all they need to get out of it is the playoffs. The question haunting Wings fans around the state is how could they be 5-15-2 against teams with a .500 or better and 2-8-0 against division leaders?

The nucleus from the Stanley Cup winning teams is basically the same but the team is losing. Fans need to remember that the

Wings have played more games during their Stanley Cup run than any other team in the NHL. The likes of Steve Yzerman and Nick Lindstrom were circling the ice with Lord Stanley in mid-June, while Mike Modano and Peter Forsberg were playing golf.

Secondly, the Red Wings are a marked team in the NHL. The reason for this is their insurmountable success the past two years and every team wants to beat them. Each team in the NHL know when they play the Wings and they bring their "A" game when they play the defending champs. The motivation to beat the Wings has made it difficult for them to keep a stellar record.

A third reason for the Red Wings dismal season is the lack of production from their elite

players. Sergie Federov and Brendan Shanahan have been shadows of themselves this year. Instead of playing to their ability status, both have played like third line players, as a result their production has been lacking. Scotty Bowman has agreed to give both more ice time and better production should result.

The Wings' defense is not nearly as strong as in previous years, nor is it as strong as it was supposed to be. Uwe Krupp was supposed to shore up a defense that would be without the capable Bob Rouse and the steady Slava Fetisov. Instead, he has been hampered by a back injury. Now with Todd Gill going down the Red Wing defense is not deep and they are being pushed around. Look for the Red Wings to make a move for a tough

defenseman and the return of Krupp will help shore up the suspect defense.

Red Wings fans should not worry when playoff time comes around. The Wings know what it takes to win in the playoffs and they know how to step it up when the most exciting time of the year comes. Watch for Scotty Bowman to get the wheels turning and before you know it Shanahan will go to the net with the same intensity and reckless abandon that we are used to.

Get ready Red Wing fans, the snow is melting and playoff time is around the corner. The Wings are still one of the elite teams in the NHL and watch for them to make a run at the Stanley Cup again this year (hopefully beating the Avalanche on the way).

January 19, 1999

OPINION

11

Sex Offender website violates personal rights

By JASON FISCHER
Staff Reporter

The new Internet website that lists the names of convicted sex offenders does promote a noble cause, but it is also a dangerous violation of personal rights. This website provides the names of persons proven guilty of a sexual

offense at least once. Although this website gives ample opportunity to propagate blackmail and discrimination, that is no reason to oppose it. Rather, it assumes that people are guilty until proven otherwise and shows an inadequacy in our criminal justice system.

The intent of this website is to

give people information to protect themselves and their families from harm. Personal protection is indeed an important issue, yet some would argue that this service can be used in a way that is not consistent with this intent. For instance, people that are listed on this website can be discriminated against at work or in public situations that may have nothing to do with personal protection.

The fact is that sexual assaults can happen anywhere, to anyone and by anyone, regardless of age, race, gender, or prior conviction. This website may give some people a false sense of security by thinking that they know all of the convicted sex offenders in the area and are, as a result, safe. This is the fault of the website user, however, and not the fault of the website itself.

The main reason that this

website should be opposed is that it defies a very important concept in our criminal justice system. While persons entering the criminal justice system are considered innocent until proven guilty, this website renders those people on the list guilty of a second offense before there is even a hint of wrongdoing. Repeat sex offenders are common, but that is hardly a reason to label them all repeat offenders. This is clearly a violation of personal rights.

Moreover, a key part of our criminal justice system is rehabilitation. It does not benefit society at all to put a sex offender or any other criminal in prison just that he or she can be released and still pose a danger to society. However, that is exactly what this website seems to express. This website acts as an official warning that potential threats to

our society are among us even though they already went through our criminal justice system.

As a result, this website is an indicator that our criminal justice system does not provide the psychological help and rehabilitation that many criminals require. Certainly, this is not a reason to oppose the website per se, but it is a reason to protest the fact that our officials allow this band-aid solution to dealing with repeat sex offenders.

Our society should be cautious in condoning anything that appears to benefit the common individual but really violates personal rights and covers up an inadequate criminal justice system. This website does just that. On the surface it allows people to better protect themselves and their families, but at a significant cost.

Campus Viewpoints

The Almanian asked eight people if they thought that a sex offenders list should be made public and posted on the Internet.



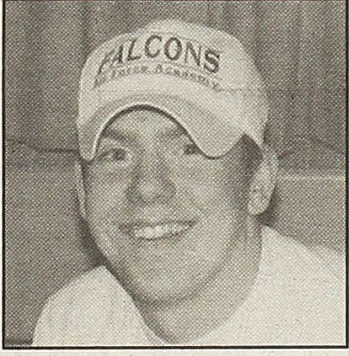
Kirsten Porter (01) "I think it is a matter of public record, but putting it on the Internet is a violation of basic personal rights."



Dana Kozak (02) "Yes, it should be posted. If they did a crime, they should have to suffer the consequences."



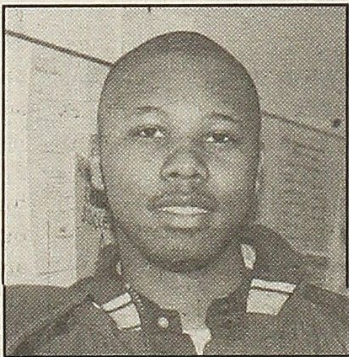
Margaret Tucker (02) "If I had a daughter, I would want to know if she is in danger."



Denis Busque (02) "Yes, I think people should be aware of it."



Emily Weston (01) "People should be aware of the people around them for the safety of their children."



Cardell Johnson (02) "Yes, they should be put on the Internet because people need to be aware of who the sex offenders are."



Ryan Fahler (99) "No, I don't see why it should be any different than other crimes."



Jamie L.H. Brown (Student Affairs) "I don't think the Internet is the best place to publish that information."

Photos by Maya Mackowiak
Compiled by Shannon Casey

Students lose money on meal plans

By SARA BICKLER
Freelance Writer

It is required that residential schools like Alma provide their students with adequate meal service options, but what is the cost to the students of the food that they eat?

Alma College requires all students not living in apartments to be on a food plan. This plan costs students \$1,325 per term. For most students there are two options: 14 meals a week (196 meals a term) plus 139 dollars in munch money or 19 meals a week (266 meals a term) plus 71 dollars in munch money.

If a student has a medical condition, or is student teaching, he/she can get put on the seven meal plan. These students will then get approximately 700 dollars credited to their account in the business office which they can apply towards tuition or get back in a check.

These students must have a documentable reason to be on this food plan, like being allergic to the cafeteria or a medical condition. A busy schedule or the mere convenience of eating in do not constitute good enough reasons to

be taken off the meal plan.

Now why is it that a student has to have special circumstances to be put on the seven meal plan? Sure, there are many students who are on the 19 meal plan and use every single meal allotted. Some students use all the meals on the 14 meal plan as well, but a majority of students do not use all of the meals allotted.

There is the question of students living in small housing. The sorority houses, the foreign language houses and a variety of other small housing units all have fully functional kitchens. Why is it that these students must pay to eat in the cafeteria when it is just as convenient, and sometimes easier for them to eat in their own homes?

The seven meal plan seems ideal for these situations but only those living in foreign language houses are allowed on this meal plan without extraordinary circumstances.

As for dorm students, many of them go home for the weekends. If they leave after dinner on Friday and return for dinner on Sunday that is at least three unused meals, approximately 19 dollars. Students may have an evening

class, a student activity or something else that may keep them away from the cafeteria. Those are extra meals the student may miss out on. In these cases a student may not need 14 meals but would certainly need more than 7.

What if the student is entertaining visitors from another school? If a friends come to visit students have to pay for them out of their munch money. Why are they not allowed to use one of their extra meals on their friends?

The food service department is considering a new food program to address some of these issues. Planning is still under way, but as of now, the program would be a block program of 140 meals per term to be used at anytime by anyone, plus 71 dollars munch money. This is a good first step, but it seems like it will be a rip off if it costs the same amount. Spending \$1,325 for 56 less meals and 68 dollars less munch money. Even if it does cost less, the new program does not address all problems. It seems like the college needs to review its food policies to protect the interests of the students who are paying for it.

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Staff editorial

Winter blues get many students down

Have the "winter blues" been bringing you down this winter?

Most people find they eat and sleep slightly more in the winter and dislike dark mornings and short days. Sometimes these symptoms disturb people so greatly that they begin to suffer from Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD).

SAD is characterized by symptoms including sadness, depression, lethargy, difficulty concentrating, carbohydrate or sugar cravings, difficulty waking in the morning, sleep disturbances, social withdrawal, reduced productivity, and irritability.

SAD results from an imbalance in important brain chemicals—serotonin and melatonin—due to the

decreased availability of light. Light passes through the eyes, which inhibits the release of serotonin. If not enough serotonin is released, or the brain releases too much melatonin at the wrong time, depressive symptoms to occur.

The shorter day length in winter cause a lack of light, which is currently affecting the moods of many students: twenty five percent of the population suffers from mild winter SAD, and 5% suffer from severe winter SAD.

It has been found that people who spend too much time indoors with low qualities of light can suffer similar symptoms to SAD year round.

The standard treatment for SAD

is light therapy. Light therapy signals the brain to release sufficient amounts of serotonin and to reduce the daytime release of melatonin.

The winter blues can happen to anyone. The symptoms occur often in dorm life, since everyone is cramped inside with an absence of sunlight. When one person becomes short tempered or irritable, others are brought down with them.

The winter blues are very real. Students should pay attention to their body's signals. If you are feeling tired, then plan more sleep into your daily schedule. Exercise is also essential in overcoming these blues.

If these symptoms sound famil-

iar, there are many options to beat the blues. The best remedies are to keep yourself busy, exercise, sleep more, and plan more activities with friends. Other blues buster include: writing down your frustrations, talking with people you care about, laughing, trying new things, dancing, surfing the net, organizing your closet, renting a funny movie, watching cartoons, attending sporting events, stretching in the morning, and making a gift for a friend.

However, if these effects last more than three weeks, or if depressed symptoms prohibit you from attending classes, your first stop should be the Center for Student Development.

Letters to the Editors

To the editors:

I am responding to recent coverage of a 4% tuition increase for next fall. As a member of the President's Advisory Council, which includes administrators, faculty and students, I have watched closely the discussions shaping tuition increases. It is unfair to allege, as some have done, that President Stone is thoughtlessly increasing tuition. On the contrary, he has championed keeping tuition increases low. PAC members are all concerned that students will not be able to afford an already high tuition rate, but much-needed improvements cost money.

One students suggested that those who cannot afford Alma will go to competitors Albion or Hope. But in the 1990s, Albion and Kalamazoo have become

several thousand dollars more expensive than Alma! Hope, previously cheaper, is today \$900 more expensive. Alma is therefore now the least costly of Michigan's four selective Liberal Arts I private colleges.

I previously taught at a much less expensive (and less selective) private college; tuition was kept down by paying faculty so poorly that their children at times qualified for school lunches, having Math and English programs with two faculty each, freezing department budgets and buying NO additional library books for years, and restricting technology support to one computer staff/faculty position. At small private schools, you definitely get what you pay for.

Students cannot seek more faculty positions and courses, better computers, library and dorms, new parking lots, and fewer part-

time instructors if they will not help foot that bill. Only the wealthiest small schools can avoid depending primarily on tuition; we are not one of them.

In short, improvements require tuition increases beyond the inflation rate. Moreover, many college expenses come not from buying general consumer products, which shape the now very low national inflation rate, but from buying items which often increase in price at a much higher rate: books and journals, scientific equipment and supplies, and computer technology. This is why colleges and universities use their own higher education inflation index.

Alma provides a superb education, but it comes at a price. Ad-

ditions and improvements involve painful and carefully considered decisions about how to pay for them. If you want to freeze tuition or to keep increases to the national inflation rate, you are voting for stagnation.

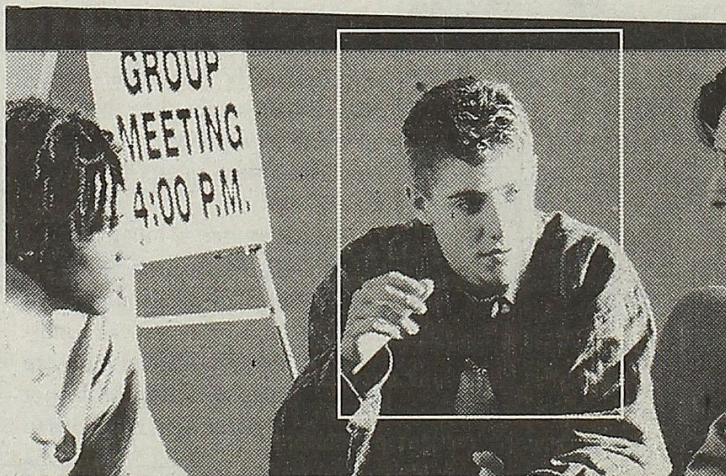
Sincerely
Patrick J. Furlong,
Associate Professor of History

* * *

To the editors:

Enough with the Judgment Calls. They are obnoxious and bothersome. In fact they are not worth the space given to them.

Drew Downs (99)



What's
he high
on now?
Support.

It was Eddie's first day back from drug rehab. He'd been clean and sober for thirty days. He was scared about making it outside. But he found support in the community. Treatment programs and people like you he Eddie and kids like him stay away from drugs. Eddie knows it's one day at a time. He also knows he doesn't have to do it alone.

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Call 1-800-WE PREVENT, and we'll send you a free booklet on how you can support programs in your community that keep kids away from crime and crime away from kids.

1-800-WE PREVENT
www.weprevent.org

The Almanian
Judgment Calls

Thumbs up to the groundhog for not seeing his shadow and therefore giving us a shorter winter.
Thumbs down to such a silly superstition.

Thumbs up to those who take the time to write letters to the editor.

Thumbs down to those who write letters to complain about Judgment Calls, but still read them every week.

Thumbs up to the new table tents at Marriot promoting new and exciting foods.

Thumbs down to the new and exciting foods.

Thumbs up to the new En-

ertainment page in *The Almanian*.

Thumbs down to *The Almanian* for not running a spell check before going to print.

Thumbs up to the new lights by the Chapel.

Thumbs down to the ice that makes you need the new lights.

Thumbs up to the new Greek members.

Thumbs down to the hazing that goes on in some groups.

Thumbs up to the Miss USA pageant.

Thumbs down to a society that encourages anorexia.

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