



Women's Basketball wins over Cornerstone but loses to Albion. See page 7B.



Looking Back: A Century of Alma College. See Feature pages.

Wednesday's Weather



**Cloudy
High: 46°
Low: 35°**

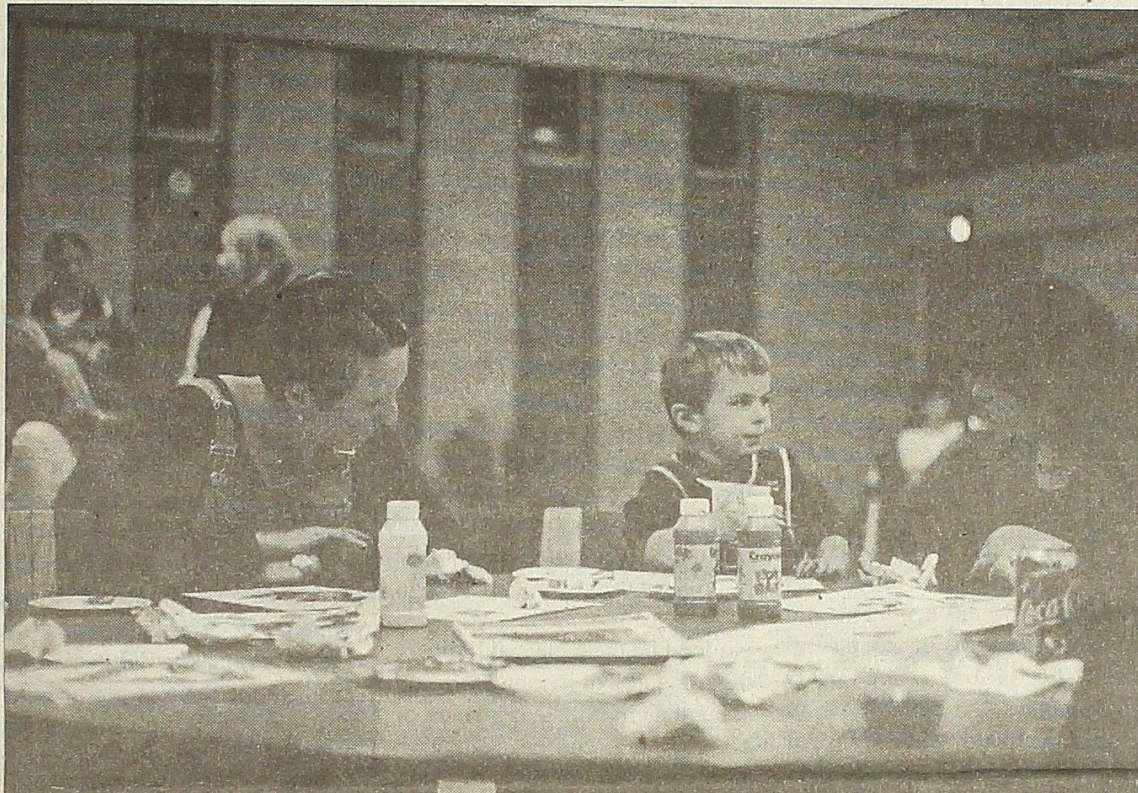
The Almanian

Issue 10

Serving Alma College since 1907

December 8, 1999

Little Siblings attend Christmas party



Renae Judd (00), president of Gamma Phi Beta, participates in Big Brothers Big Sisters Day.

Bryan Waugh

By AMY TAYLOR
Staff Writer

Big Brothers and Big Sisters is a national organization that provides children with someone older to engage in extracurricular activities with. Friday, December 3, little brothers and sisters of Alma students participated in an annual event hosted by the Gamma Phi Beta Sorority (GPB).

Alma students use this organization as philanthropies for sororities and fraternities or students pick it up as it pertains to their interests.

Keith Stoneman, senior, is 9 year Chad Anger's Big Brother. "We go to the basketball courts. I beat him once in Pig," said Anger.

Senior Jen Knight said, "We do two of these a year. We have a Christmas and Easter party where

we plan activities for the kids to do."

At the Christmas Party little siblings had several activities to keep them occupied and have a good time. There were approximately ten siblings who participated either with family or their Big Brother or Big Sister. Decorating ornaments with paint and glitter, making snowflakes, frosting cookies and finger painting were activities the kids could choose from.

Christmas music and two games such as musical chairs and pin the nose on Rudolph were also planned as part of the festivities.

Junior Kristy Nemec said, "It was enjoying to see the kids having fun and it proves that it only takes a little to make a difference in a kids life."

Anger won in the game pin the nose on Rudolph and said he could not have done it without Stoneman. He said that he remembered the trick Stoneman taught him before he came to the party.

Town meeting held to discuss Total's future

By AMY TAYLOR
Staff Writer

After the announcement of the Total refinery closing on October 29, 1999, questions still remain on several issues. An attempt to answer questions posed by retirees, former employees and citizens occurred Tuesday, December 1 in a public forum with a panel of several representatives. The decision was made to close shortly after UDS bought the Total refinery.

Panelists included Mayor McDonald; Assistant City Manager, Phil Moore; geologist, Eric VanRiper; Alma School Board representative, Bob Perkins; local

and federal political representatives; a union representative and a representative from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

UDS bought out Total then chose to close the refinery based on business decisions.

The decision, according to Jim Buchanan an employee of Total for 20 years, resulted in the loss of 425 jobs. This breaks down to approximately 120 employees from Wright Avenue, 180 hourly workers and 125 salary workers.

Furthermore, 100 retirees are facing the loss of their pensions and health insurance once the company vacates Alma permanently. These retirees are feeling the loss the most.

"Insurance was part of the package when retiring, but nothing was mentioned about the plant closing. We need some help, but no one is helping us. It is so unjust. It is a big benefit they are walking off with. It is devastating financially and also for our health," said Steve William a retiree who worked the pipeline for 42 years. He retired in 1992.

One instance of the troubles retirees are facing includes Bob Adams who had 22 years seniority. After trying to pick up a prescription for his daughter's eye injury, the pharmacist informed Adams that his insurance had been

See TOTAL on 3

Faculty call special meeting

By NIKOLE CANUTE, Staff Writer &
DONNA PAPPAS, News Editor

The role of the Presbyterian church on campus, as well as the role of the president in faculty searches, was the main focus of the special faculty meeting that was held on Monday, November 29.

Currently, seven faculty searches are being conducted. This meeting, held at the request of the humanities division and the election committee, focused on the search for a new religion professor to replace Joseph Walser, chair of the religious studies department, who is retiring at the end of this school year. Ron Massanari, professor of religious studies, will assume the position of chair following Walser's departure.

The first concern raised by the humanities division, chaired by Deborah Dougherty, was related to the procedural processes of faculty searches.

The manual of operations (MOO) states that "Any new or vacated position must be described and justified by the Department Chair on a Personnel Requisition Form. The form must be approved and signed by the Provost and then the President before a search can begin."

During the meeting, President Alan Stone said, "This search, without my approval, sailed right through in contradiction with the manual of operations."

The president had not given his signature to any of the seven searches, and denied receiving the requisition forms.

During the meeting, Brown said, "I did prepare documentation for these searches. I believe that they were sent forward." Brown clarified that by sending them forward, the documents were sent to the president's office through the mail.

The timing of the president's intervention in the search was also called into question, as the ad had been printed in September.

The second concern was in relation to a memo that Stone sent to the faculty on November 23. In the memo, Stone states, "Traditionally the Religious Studies department at Alma College has included Presbyterian representation. To depart from this tradition may very well create difficulties with our founding denomination with which the College continues to maintain a strong relationship."

Stone stated that the executive committee of the Board of Trustees as well as the denomination were responsible for the desire for Presbyterian affiliation. The denomination recently conducted a review of the college. Stone said, "The denomination said that they would hope that Walser's position would be filled by someone who would be a church leader."

The search committee was concerned with the legality and possibility of this request. First, they would be required to specify creed in the job criterion for the position, which would only be possible if Alma was a religious institution. This would have then forced the search committee to cancel the current search because the original job description had already been published in The Chronicle for Higher Education and Openings.

Also, as the search had already begun, only a small portion of candidates had provided their religion. It would be illegal to require a candidate to provide their religious preference for an academic position.

"We could not find out who was a Presbyterian and who was not unless they told us," said Massanari. Only a small percentage of candidates had stated their religion.

Stone also addressed this in his memo. He said, "This issue is not a matter of creed. . . The College is free to define the tasks of a position in its religion department in such a way that it would accommodate certain expectations of the Presbyterian denomination. The person fulfilling these tasks need not necessarily be a Presbyterian."

The faculty called the meeting in hope to resolve this statement with Stone's desire for Presbyterian affiliation.

During the meeting, Stone also claimed that the Board of Trustees would have to be consulted regarding the issue of religious affiliation in order for this search to continue. Because the next Board meeting was not scheduled until February, the faculty became concerned with

See FACULTY on 3

World Trade Organization under public attack

By CHRIS MACHNACKI
Freelance Writer

As protests against the current meeting of the World Trade Organization (WTO) continue, police have closed off forty six blocks of downtown Seattle in an effort to protect the city and the meeting from an estimated 50,000 protesters.

The colorful protesters are upset over everything from environmental to labor issues and from the plight of sea turtles, which enraged environmental

protesters swear the WTO has a vendetta against, to the export of US jobs to countries with lower labor costs. Protesters can be seen walking around with cardboard signs to symbolize solidarity with seriously endangered sea turtles. Other, more practical protesters came equipped with canteens, first aid kits, and video cameras to record the protests and police conduct.

The protests have been sufficiently disruptive to cancel the opening ceremonies on Tuesday, December 2nd, but trade ministers

were able to meet the next day and begin substantive work on creating an agenda for the conference. Over 500 protesters have been arrested in the past several days. Many protesting groups are outraged over police efforts to enforce a total curfew over the forty six block area, and have coupled vows to continue demonstrating with appeals for protection of their constitutional rights to free assembly and speech.

Sophomore Jennifer Heard supports the right of people to peacefully protest, saying "I think they should be allowed to demonstrate as long as they are peaceful. But that doesn't give them the right to cause riots or destroy things."

This view is shared by President Clinton, who also supported the right of people to protest while condemning the more unruly protesters in an admirable bit of fence-straddling.

Officials at the WTO swear that their organization does not endanger the environment and supports the rights of workers all over the globe. The WTO encompasses 135 countries from around the world. The purpose of the WTO is to break down barriers to trade around the world and promote the free flow of goods and services. The WTO has the power to enforce international trade agreements with judicial rulings handed down by a panel of judges from different countries. WTO director General Mike Moore of New Zealand has been quoted as saying that "Trade is the ally of working people, not their enemy. As living standards improve, so too does education, health, the environment, and labor standards. Critics of the WTO are

unconvinced by this argument, pointing out that some of the trade barriers are actually laws designed to protect the environment. For example, the United States lost a WTO case involving the use of dolphin-safe fishing nets. Intense lobbying efforts in the United States have managed to pass a law mandating the use of these nets as a way of protecting dolphins from ordinary commercial fishermen. The law discriminated against countries that did not mandate this level of safety by banning their fish imports. Several countries brought suit against the US by claiming that US law had no right to dictate to their fishermen, and that the US law constituted an unfair restriction on trade. The WTO agreed, and now there is less protection for dolphins.

Senior Kelly Battles is against putting environmental concerns like this above the expansion of trade. "I am very much in favor of free trade. It helps people, and the priority for the government should be to assist in enabling people to put food on the table and improve their standard of living. Worrying about the environment is more of a luxury that can be dealt with later."

Associate professor of political science Derik Hulme disagrees with this statement, saying "This can't be just about opening markets. It is important to respect international standards when formulating policy in this area. The trouble is balancing priorities between opening markets and managing trends so that sustainable development and international standards on labor and other issues can be maintained. Fundamental conflicts like this are not easily solved."

News
'At a glance'

Starbucks sued over crushed penis
MANHATTAN — A \$1.5 million lawsuit has been filed against Starbucks, a popular coffee shop, by a tourist who's penis was crushed by a malfunctioning toilet seat. When Edward Skwarek turned his body to collect toilet paper, the toilet seat shifted causing his penis to become crushed between the toilet seat and the bowl. Skwarek filed the suit based on the allegation that the coffee house was negligent by ignoring that the toilet seat was defective, causing unsafe conditions for the public. \$.5 million of the suit was filed by Skwarek's wife because she can no longer obtain his services.

Federal government to sue gun makers
WASHINGTON — On Tuesday the federal government said it was preparing to file its first lawsuit against gun makers. The suit is on behalf of the three million people who live in public housing projects, where shootings have taken a heavy toll for years.

Seventh-grader shoots four in Oklahoma school
OKLAHOMA — A seventh-grader opened fire on a group of students before he was pinned against a wall by a science teacher. The student claimed he did not know why he fired the shots, or who the students were in the group. He dropped the gun as the teacher approached and was then taken to court for a 15 minute arraignment.

Russian soldiers gain ground in firefight
RUSSIA — Russian gunships and artillery attacked the trenches of Islamic rebels. Russian troops encircled Grozny, the Chechen capital, which was being held by Islamic rebels. While they encircled the city, there was a ten-hour firefight. Rebels retained control of Grozny, but lost a rustic settlement two and a half miles from the outskirts of the city.

Microsoft prepared to take-on antitrust laws
WASHINGTON — The antitrust laws believed to be violated by Microsoft were outlined for a federal judge on Monday. "We disagree with the government's arguments, and we look forward to presenting our position to the court as this process continues," stated Microsoft spokesman Mark Murray.

The Almanian

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

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Opinions expressed weekly in the "Staff Editorial" reflect the vjews of *The Almanian* Editorial Board. These views in no way reflect the views of the entire Alma College community.

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

Doyle makes it to Semifinals of Rhodes Scholarship

By AMY TAYLOR
Staff Writer

Senior Willie Doyle, the third Alma student to apply for the Rhodes Scholarship in three years, qualified for the semifinals in Ann Arbor Wednesday, December 1. On the road to becoming a Rhodes Scholar, Doyle had to go through several processes before reaching the final destination.

The original application for the Rhodes Scholarship is a long process that requires candidates to write a personal statement, provide a list of activities they were involved with, awards received and six letters of recommendation.

"I was hoping to go as far as I could. I was disappointed I did not go beyond the semifinals," said Doyle.

In preparation for his interviews by the Rhodes committee at the semifinals, Doyle worked with the Nationally Competitive Scholarships Committee on campus which includes several faculty members and the Provost. This committee held two sessions that lasted approximately a hour long each and consisted of mock interviews for Doyle in which they asked him several questions trying to find his strengths and weaknesses.

Doyle said "I think that the Rhodes will be successful for the college in the future especially with the establishment of the Nationally Competitive Scholarships Committee."

Doyle was introduced to applying for the Rhodes when

See DOYLE on 3

New facilities plan

By GINGER DAVIS
Staff Writer

This week, the Alma College Administration published the "Discussion Paper: Alma College Facilities Campaign 2000-2004 'Living and Learning at Alma College in a New Century.'" in response to a request from the Alma College Board of Trustees that they present a plan for the next five years at the Board's next meeting (February 12, 2000). This plan has two parts: "Learning in the New Century" and "Living in the New Century." Each section lists goals and necessary action needed to complete each part of the plan, as well as the financial requirements are listed.

"Learning in the New Century" focuses on technology and curriculum. It proposes "computer assisted labs" and a "teaching/learning center." This Center would be a new building, complete with classrooms designed to teach students to use interactive technology, multimedia facilities, learning suites, and Faculty offices. It would help students use new technologies in their academic endeavors and help them in this age of information.

The second phase of the plan, "Living in the New Century" addresses student life. It calls for a "new apartment-style residential complex." Between 100 - 200 students could live in this new location. Also recommended is a Student Recreation Center, which would give more space for sports, and a physical fitness center. Another step of the plan calls

for major renovation for Gelston Hall (with focus on electricity and plumbing), and some renovation for the Tyler-VanDusen building. This part of the plan is being proposed with the idea of making more inviting areas for students to socialize and live.

The price tag on the plan is between 19 - 24 million dollars. Due to increased enrollment and the college's low amount of debt, the Administration proposes that much of this money be borrowed (instead of the usual 50% upfront). Dr. Alan Stone commented, "The school has very low debt, compared to other institutions, and we have a very big endowment. So, while not all the trustees think that it's the way to go, a growing number of trustees feel that now is the time to do this."

The money for these buildings would not be borrowed all at once. As Dr. Stone says, "We would start the fundraising this year, looking for the very big gifts that would actually name the buildings, and then we would borrow a lot of the money - and you wouldn't have to borrow it all at once - because we're going to build the buildings beginning, hopefully, this summer. And then you'd need some for the next summer for the next building. So you would borrow the money in pockets."

If the Board approves the plan, construction could begin next summer. Students who wish to learn more, or have their opinions voiced to the administration may attend an open forum on December 8, 1999 at 7 pm in The Fireside Lounge (located in VanDusen).

"What's all the stink about?"

Greek Week offers competition, fun to Greeks

By AMY NOVAK
Online Editor

"What's all the stink about?" was this year's theme for Greek Week, which took place last week. Greek Week is open for participation by all of the fraternities and sororities on campus and gives each group a chance to engage in some friendly competition.

Each of the sororities was paired up with a fraternity to form teams for the week. This year's teams included GFB and SC, AGD and SAE, KI and ZS, FSS and OC, and AZD and TKE.

The week's events included dress up day on Monday, a Euchre tournament on Tuesday, bowling and karaoke on Wednesday, a Drag Show and dress drag day on Thursday, opposite letters day on Friday, the Greek Olympics on Saturday, and a competition to earn money that lasted throughout the week.

"The week went well and will lead to bigger and better things in the future," said Kat Nordin (00), former Panhellenic Council Special Events Chair and coordinator of Greek Week. "Those that participated had a great time, and we couldn't have done it without them or the help of Ray Cochenhour who helped us with the ACUB equipment." AZD and TKE won first place in the Euchre tournament and money competition, GFB and SC won first place in bowling and the drag show, while OC won the Greek Olympics, participating alone in the event. Points were awarded for the competitions throughout the week.

Overall for the week, first place was won by AZD and TKE, second place honors went to

GFB and SC, and KI and ZS finished third.

The most humorous event of the week was the drag show which was open to the entire campus. The event was hosted by Kevin Stanley (00) dressed in drag and teams dressed up as the opposite sex to perform songs for the audience. Performances were varied and included KI and ZS with Sir Mix A Lot's "Baby Got Back", AGD singing the Backstreet Boys' "I'll Never Break Your Heart" to Stanley of SAE, the brothers and sisters of FSS and OC were working hard singing Dolly Parton's "Nine to Five", the New Kids on the Block met the Spice Girls when AZD and TKE performed a mix of NKOTB's "The Right Stuff" and Spice Girls' "Wannabe", and GFB and SC choreographed and sang to a mix of songs from the movie Dirty Dancing.

The Greek Olympics finished off the week and were hosted by Katrina Dinallo (01) and Melissa Strikulis (00) of GFB.

"I had a lot of fun," said Dinallo. "There was a good turnout and everyone worked really well together. Even though there were groups that didn't show up, everyone filled in to participate. It was like we formed a bond throughout the week that culminated with the Olympics."

Events for the Olympics included an orange passing competition, a lay-up contest, tug of war, an egg toss, and finding pieces of candy in pie.

"Even though we took second in the Olympics, it was still fun to win for the whole week," said Jason Pappas (02) of TKE. "The events were fun because everyone could do them. I liked the Olympics even though I got robbed in the pie contest."

TOTAL from 1

canceled. UDS, when contacted, responded they never canceled his insurance and that Blue Care Network did. Adams asked Blue Care Network if they canceled his insurance and their response was they did not.

The refinery is also facing some other serious issues which include the environment, contamination and water rates. DEQ has been reporting and monitoring sites on possible contamination or violations.

Mayor McDonald said, "Naturally it has contamination since the company has been operating for several years."

The major problems consist of ground water contamination. According to VanRiper there are two major areas that are contaminated: one is located by Kensington Heights and the other is located by the expressway near Citgo. The site by Kensington is contaminated down to 15 feet and the other reaches to approximately 45 feet.

"We are not concerned with the levels of contamination in the ground water unless people are drinking it," said VanRiper.

FACULTY from 1

losing top candidates, the hardships both faculty and students would endure while the department was short-staffed, and a possible cancellation of the search.

During the meeting, Stone stated that all other searches, excluding the religion search, "would be fixed," the following morning. However, two days later, all seven searches had been signed.

"We did not want to curtail the present search for fear of not hiring somebody; we need

Other tests have been run to check for contamination in drinking wells. Out of the 15 that were examined only one was detected.

Of immediate concerns for the city will be water rates. Since Total was Alma's largest water consumer, city officials will dedicate immediate efforts toward ways to make up for this loss. The mayor claimed that water rates for the public will likely increase.

Decisions on what will happen with the plant are still under consideration. Possibilities include tearing down the plant, breaking up the property for redevelopment, or selling to another company. Any decision will be made on a long-term basis.

The Mayor said, "We would like to redevelop the site as much as possible and diversify it. That way we can get 4 or 5 smaller employers rather than attracting a large employer."

This event was coordinated by Edward Lorenz's, professor of history and political Science, Political Affairs Colloquium.

UDS declined to participate in the forum.

someone to fill Walser's spot," said Stone.

He continued, "I contacted several of the Board members to see how far they really wanted to take this issue with regard to this particular search. They concluded with me that it was probably better to let this search go ahead, but that does not negate the need to have the conversation to see what we do in the future with regard to the religion department in reference to the denomination."

DOYLE from 2

Sandy Hulme, professor of Political Science, mentioned to him this summer that he should start the application process. Hulme assisted Doyle by revising his personal statement focusing on the qualifications that are most sought after in Rhodes candidates. According to Doyle, Hulme was present at all the mock interviews asking him the toughest questions.

The Rhodes Scholarship is competed for at the state level until the finals. Doyle was one of the twelve candidates selected out of thirty or forty others into the semifinals. At the semifinals two students, including a Harvard residential to Michigan, were chosen to go on to the finals which then turns into the national level.

Another important figure in Doyle's preparation was Joanne Gilbert, professor of Communication who assisted Doyle with his speech patterns and communicating.

Doyle said, "Gilbert helped me out quite a bit on presenting myself and how to communicate better at the reception and in the interviews."

Those who receive the Rhodes Scholar are placed in Oxford Colleges based on the recipient's preference. Scholars will study two to three years as a full time student. Thirty-two Rhodes Scholarships are annually given to students in the United States.

"It was a valuable experience that will help me when I apply to graduate schools. Also, I am especially grateful to all the faculty members for their support and encouragement," said Doyle.

The Scholarship was named after Cecil Rhodes. Candidates and recipients are chosen based on intellectual and academic achievement of the highest standard. These requirements define the type of Scholar he desired. Candidates are also responsible for showing integrity of character, interest in and respect for their fellow beings, leadership qualities and using their talents to the fullest.



Looking Back:

A

Booker T. Washington Spoke to Large Audience in College Chapel, Friday

The Problems of his race Was the subject upon which he spoke with force and enthusiasm

The Chapel was filled to overflowing Friday afternoon, when Booker T. Washington, the great colored educator spoke on the "Problems of his Race." All realized that this was a great opportunity and none failed to take advantage of it. He began by saying, "The nation has perplexing problems to solve and my race has been a great problem to this nation for over forty years." He gave this as the reason for his founding Tuskegee Institute thirty years ago. He started this school with one teacher and thirty pupils in a little shanty that did not serve even to keep out the rain. Now the institute has sixteen hundred men and women from thirty-six different states and fifteen different nations. It has one hundred eighty-six instructors and trainers, three thousand acres of land, ninety-six buildings, and all except four of these were erected by students of the school.

He spent some time in traveling among the poorer class of his race, finding out actual conditions, eating and sleeping in their homes. This time was spent with the idea of finding out the best way to solve the problems of his people.

He claimed that while thus living he discovered a tremendous ambition among these people for book learning. That they might know how to read and write. He also found that they believed it a disgrace to work when they had gained any education. So seeing this tendency he decided that it was best to teach farming, sewing, baking, etc.: that is, he decided to teach the young people of his race to work as well as to be educated in books. So part of the day is given over to different kinds of manual labor and another part to study. They now have thirty-nine different vocations in the Tuskegee Institute.

He said, "We teach real farming and cooking not agricultural and domestic art. We train them to be real farmers and cooks." He said that when they began this work in their school it was very strongly objected to by many parents of the colored children, who said they had been worked for two hundred and fifty years in slavery and didn't want to do it now. His answer, "Yes, you have been worked, but we want to teach you to work."

In a sentence he said the greatest evident of progress in his race is the change in the spirit of work. "They are leaving the misery and disgrace of idleness and the pleasure and dignity of work. The boy has recently passed through our's. We are through it now."

He again turned back to some of the things done in his institute. He said they are now erecting a new hospital at the expense of fifty thousand dollars. Everything is done by the students from the drawing of the plans to the installing of the electric lights. They make their own brick in their brick yards. They do the painting, plastering, and all. They are doing something as well as learning a trade and getting an education.

They are now harvesting ten thousand bushels of sweet potatoes. The mathematics and chemistry of the school works in very closely with what they are doing. In mathematics now they will be figuring all kinds of problems that are concerned with potatoes. In chemistry they are finding out what is best for the soil to produce the best crops of potatoes, and so on with other things. Their aim is to be practical.

They used to have the same kinds of commencements that other schools have, where a graduate will stand up and in fifteen minutes, solve a problem that has mastered the ages, and about which he knows practically nothing. On their commencement programs they now have something that is practical. They will have some bright young woman give an essay on "The Preparation and Serving of a Model Farmer's Dinner." She will have on the platform the range, the table, and all that is necessary to do the work. As she gives her essay she will serve the dinner. A young man will give "How I Planted and Harvested an Acre of Turnips," having specimens on the platform with him. Many subjects like these are used.

Dr. Washington said, "There are two advantages in this kind of commencement. First, the student knows what he is talking about. Second, the audience knows what he is saying."

The Tuskegee Institute has sent out about six thousand men and women into different vocations. Those doing the greatest work according to Mr. Washington are the young men and women who are giving their lives to organizing in rural communities, where eight-tenths of the colored race live.

Dr. Washington said he was glad that he belongs to the black race, because his race has problems to solve. Therefore, giving him more opportunity for service. He said that he never felt that he made a sacrifice for his race, but rather that he had a great privilege. "The man to be pitied is the man who lives for self alone."

Dr. Washington was much appreciated by all. He has a special faculty of weaving the finest humor with the serious things that he has to say.



Pioneer Hall

Loss Which will near \$500 comes from conflagration Wednesday afternoon

The college sustained a severe loss last Wednesday afternoon when shortly after five o'clock, fire was discovered in Pioneer Hall. Henry Sage who lives in room 17, awoke from an afternoon nap, to discover that smoke was issuing from behind his radiator. He immediately called the Fire Department who quickly responded. The fire appeared to be a bad one for a time, and volumes of smoke filled the entire building, but the firemen soon discovered the root of the fire, and within a few minutes had the blaze under control.

The conflagration started in the wall between rooms 14 and 15 on the west side of the building. There rooms were located on the second floor and it was necessary to chop a hold through the floor and ceiling of the "Y" room. The cause of the fire is unknown, but without doubt, the furry dust between the rafters indirectly responsible.

The inmates of the building decided that the building was doomed, when the first smoke began to issue forth, and the halls were filled with freshmen hurrying up and down the stairways with trunks and suitcases. Aside from a couple of rooms, the building was suitable for habitation that evening.

The loss is estimated to be close to \$500. There was \$8,000 insurance carried on the building, and \$1,000 on the furnishings.

Notes on the Pioneer Hall Fire
(From the eyes of the eye-witness)

No doubt the freshmen received the greatest thrill of the year when the dorm began filling with smoke last Wednesday. One freshmen was playing, "There'll be a hot time in the old Town tonight," on his cornet, when the siren sounded.

Two days before the fire, Freddy Bliss sold a rug to a student on the third floor. It happens that the rug was sold on credit instead of cash. Freddy was busy packing during the blaze, when he heard someone-one remark that the fire had spread to the third floor. Freddy forgot all about packing his belongings, and tore upstairs and saved the rug.

Pioneer Hall has often been called a heck of a building. Wonder how Sage felt, when he awoke and found flames and smoke around him?

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1927

Century of Alma College

Trustees Elect 10th President

Detroit—Dr. Oscar E. Remick, Dean of Arts, Humanities and International Education at State University of New York at Fredonia and former President of Chautquau Institution, was elected 10th President Friday in a special meeting of the college's Board of Trustees at Detroit.

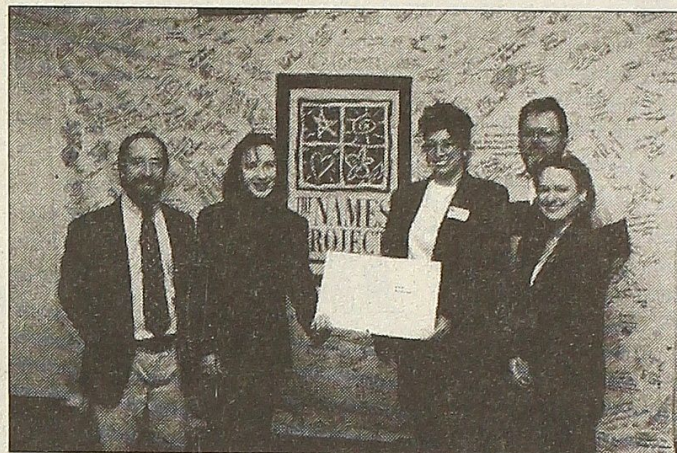
Dr. Remick, 47, will succeed Dr. Robert D. Swanson, Alma's President since 1956, who retires June 30. His election follows an 18-month search and selection procedure in which the qualifications of 289 nominees and applicants were reviewed.

The new President brings to the Presbyterian-affiliated Michigan college an extensive background as a churchman and theologian in addition to many years of experience as an educational administrator. Besides his present responsibilities as dean and as professor of philosophy at SUNY at Fredonia, he serves as theologian-in-residence at First Presbyterian Church of Jamestown, N.Y.

In his statement of acceptance to the board, Dr. Remick noted that "Alma is an institution of remarkable achievement which underscores the integrity of its affirmed commitment to academic excellence and the ideals and values of Biblical faith. I enthusiastically look forward to serving as Alma's President, eager to help relate creatively such a heritage to the challenges and opportunities in an era of emerging cosmic consciousness and responsibilities."

Gilbert A. Currie of Midland, Chairman of Alma's Board of Trustees, stated, "The election of Dr. Remick to serve as the 10th president of Alma College assures continuance of the strong leadership enjoyed under Dr. Swanson. As we move into the decade of the 80's, I am certain that Alma will find Dr. Remick to be the right person in the right place at the right time."

The Chairman of the Board's special seven-member Presidential Search Committee, Kenneth D. Plaxton of Alma, said, "We are fortunate to have found in Dr. Remick a man who so fully embodies the principles of Alma College. We are confident that he will in all ways continue the traditions of leadership and academic excellence which Alma College has enjoyed under Dr. Swanson, to whom we will always be grateful."



The Almanian
Tuesday, January 29, 1980

From Our Boys in the Service

From "Tulie" Johnson in France
On the Front, Nov. 4, 1918

Dear Professor Mitchell:

No doubt you will be somewhat surprised to hear from me; but as surprises are very much in order this year, I don't think the shock will be too violent for you.

I have been over here in France for six months and have been at the front for two months. Have been in the Soissons-Rheims sector. I joined the 77th division just before they crossed the Veale River and saw some very active fighting at the town of Fismes just on the Veale. Now we are on another very important front, taking part in what we think is a much bigger drive.

I can't give you a detailed account of what I have seen and gone through in the last two months. I have been under considerable shell fire, but so far luck seems to be with me. Have had several close calls, the closest which occurred a short time ago. Three officers, twenty men besides me, slept in a log cabin that had been occupied by the Germans on the previous day and thought it quite safe even though the cabin was on the wrong side of the hill to offer much protection. Shortly after we had retired we could hear the shells coming over occasionally, but as they were hitting about 800 yards to our right, we thought nothing of it. Finally we were awakened by a couple that hit awfully close and then which bang, another one, and in came the logs and dirt on us. It makes me laugh now when I think of it. I lay still about a twentieth of a second and in that time I figured out that I wasn't hurt. It took no more than a minute I'm sure for us to get down across the ravine and up the other hill, a distance of 300 yards. That is the closest call I have had but that is plenty close enough. The only thing that protected us from the splinters was the amount of dirt on the logs.

I have seen many killed and hundreds wounded, but hard as it may seem, we come to accept those things as things that have to be. I saw on battlefield in particular one morning just at dawn, where the afternoon before the French and Germans had fought it out. It was an open level field of about twenty acres, with an old apple orchard in the center. The Germans had left several machine guns with men to man them in it. The French had been forced to attack from a road that ran parallel to the field. Across this open space from the orchard they had charged. They had been successful, and the dead German machine gunners were there to prove it. There they lay that morning just where they had fallen, a rod or so apart, over 200 of them. Such a picture. It looked just as though they were sleeping. Of all the scenes, that one seems to stick in my memory.

You have heard and read of the hideous crimes that the Germans have done. This is what happened in my battery just a few days ago. We came into this position some days ago and where we picketed the horses there is a gas pipe about two inches in diameter leading from an old well on the hill down to the foot. It is supported by braces so that it is in the air about three feet. Our men were using it for a harness rack. Last Saturday morning some of the men were working around the harness; one man touched a wire that was sticking out of a broken joint in the pipe. There was an explosion. Three men were killed instantly, six others wounded and six horses killed; and yesterday we received notice from the hospital that two of the men sent to the hospital had died. We had a military funeral Saturday afternoon and the three were buried here on the side of the hill.

I have tried to give you a few plain facts in order that you may know what is happening over here. I have not told you of the worst casualties, but no one cares to write about them.

Give my best regards to President Crook and his family and to the students. Just what to say, I leave to you. Say everything, anything and I'll back you up in whatever it may be, just the way I used to like to defend old Alma on Davis Field.

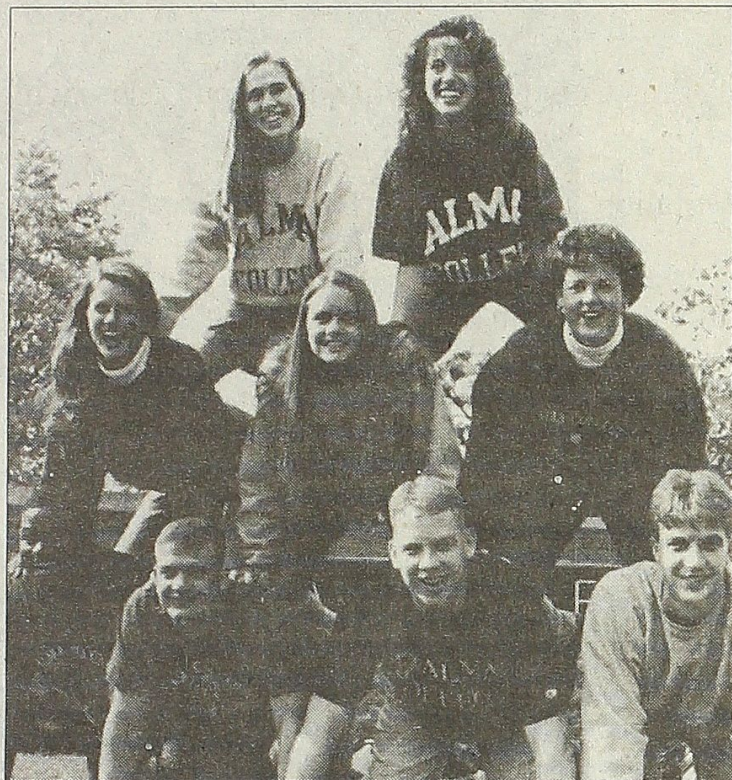
Sincerely,
Ed. Johnston

The Weekly Almanian
Tuesday, December 10, 1918



Looking Back

Continued...



Spirit Reviving for Albion Game

Good News, folks! We aren't licked! What if our team hasn't scored a point this season! What if they are weaker than any time since Coach Campbell came here! It is not true, as some have said, that the number of touchdowns the varsity has scored equals the school spirit, for Alma can and will support a team whether it wins or loses, if we know the boys have done their level best.

Last year, in spite of tough luck and superior opposition, our basketball team fought to the end of every game because the students were back of them even in defeat, and the students were back of them because they were fighting. Although we won only four games all season, the students never let up on the team.

Now, the question is, have the team done their part this year? Many of the players, realizing that we have no chance for the championship, have laid down on the job, both in practice and in games. But that is all over. They are going to work harder this week than they ever worked before, and they are going into the Albion game with the spirit to win!

Is Alma sick? Smitty has been perhaps too busy this year to work as hard as usual, but if the school will back him he will, beginning this week, be above par for the remainder of the school year. Our season's schedule has been such that is has been practically impossible to have a spirit equal to that of last year, but we must fight to overcome that handicap. Only a third of the student body has the spirit to support our team. Where were the other two-thirds the night of our Hillsdale pep meeting? We can indict the football squad alone, but the student body must take its share of the blame.

Let's be on our toes and inspire our team to win the remaining ones, including the one with Central State! Alma by far has not been Michigan's peppiest college this year, but it shall be.

Two years ago Alma lost but one game, and that was to Kalamazoo. The week following the game, the Kazoo students penned a poem, which is a real tribute to Alma's team, her band, and her student body, and which reflects the spirit of fine sportsmanship existing between the schools.

Alma, as friend to friend,
We send our heartfelt praise to you.
The spirit which you brought to us,
Nigh thrilled us through and through.
You sang and clapped your hands,
You came in goodly numbers, too;
And 'round that peppy band of yours,
Your spirit always grew.
So keep that gallant fight!
Support that wish to win and do!
For in one game, Oh Alma,
You lit the torch of old Kazoo.

The last four lines of the poem might be parodied to read:

Let's get back that fight!
Support that wish to win and do!
And light the torch of Alma
As we lit the torch of old Kazoo

BEAT ALBION!

WE'RE BEHIND YOU, TEAM!

The Almanian, Homecoming Edition
Tuesday, November 1, 1932

RETURNING STUDENTS

Campus Once More Looks Home-like—Many
Improvements About the Grounds

ENTHUSIASM AT ATTENDANCE

Opening Lecture Given by Rev. Williams of Ithaca—A Large
Number Attend First Chapel

The campus has never appeared more welcome to returning students than at present, and it is not alone that coats of paint on certain deserving portions of the buildings, the well kept lawns, repairs on Pioneer Hall, and new sidewalks that make our college home attractive but there's something in the air. Perhaps some of last year's enthusiasm is starting a vigorous growth. The first trains on Monday brought in old students who proceeded to enliven the campus with their greetings. Each train on Monday and Tuesday was met by eager students, who were busy welcoming old friends and new.

Wright Hall is once more the center of social activity. The greater part of the hall space has been replastered and the "stiddies" can again enjoy conversations in the parlors free from fear of falling plaster. A cement floor in the base of Pioneer Hall is being appreciated by the men. The cleaning out of the basement in Pioneer Hall should leave fewer hiding places for offenders fleeing from "dorm" justice next winter.

Tuesday was a busy day in the registration department. The exact number of those who have enrolled is not yet known. A few days will be needed yet to register the stragglers, but we feel sure that the enrollment will be greater than heretofore. A strong Freshman class is a certainty. An indication of the growing strength of the college is found not only in the larger size of the Freshmen classes each year but in the number of those who will graduate, this year's Senior class outnumbering last year's by four while the other departments show a greater increase.

The college is fortunate in its faculty changes this year. The new members are of well known ability and will greatly strengthen the teaching force. A full account of the new faculty members will be given in next week's issue. The only new chair to be filled was that of English Speech, established last year. Doctor Bruske's perseverance has obtained for this place Prof. John Quincy Adams, for three years instructor in public speaking in the University of Illinois. Under his instruction the forensic material in the college will develop surprisingly and Alma will have the pleasure of recording additional victories for 1907-08.

Perhaps none will appreciate more than the piano pupils, the strengthening of their department. Miss Ellen S. Ransom, the new instructor of Piano, is known throughout the state as one of the best teachers in the section. She has a wide and favorable reputation, having studied under some of the best teachers in Germany. Another new face in faculty row is that of Miss Lyle, who will be the instructor of Latin and of the commercial school, and judging from his successful experience he is just the man for our school. The biggest surprise and pleasure however is that Miss Eva Simms is to be the K. G. assistant. We hardly dare praise her at close range, but since she is so well known, you can do that yourself. Miss Laing and Miss Markham, of this year's class, will also assist.

The opening chapel exercises were well attended according to custom. The returning students entered into the exercises with the usual spirit manifested at such reunion times, making the chapel right with familiar hymns. The lecture was delivered by the Rev. Robert W. Williams of Ithaca, well known to Alma audiences. He took for his subject "some Great Men of Wales." Like all of Rev. Williams' discourses this was marked by deep thought, breadth of knowledge, and scholarly diction. The attention of his audience was close and their enjoyment of the historical incidents and character descriptions which the lecture contained was thorough.

The Weekly Almanian
Wednesday, September 18, 1907

Successful season ends in National Semifinals

By CHRIS HARRINGTON
Staff Writer

One word may be used to describe the Alma Scots men's soccer team this year: successful.

The men finished the year with a 16-5-2 record (11-2-1, MIAA). Accomplishments for the year included placing seven players on the All-Conference team, a conference championship and a trip to the national semifinals.

In the preseason, the team had high expectations and were expected to win the conference. Coach Frey said, "This was the best team on paper. The guys really met their expectations."

The Scots were so loaded with talent they placed four players on the MIAA first team; Paul Aceto(01), Chris Alexander(00), Jon Cullen(00), and Jeff Hosler(02). Alexander was also named the MIAA most valuable player. Mark McClutche(00) earned second team honors. Finally, Tom Aceto(03) and Joel Stewart(00) were awarded with the coaches Honorable Mention.

Talent is what a team needs to be good, although a team has to be careful it makes proper use of its talent to be successful. Fortunately the team came together.

Coach Frey said, "The team chemistry was great. It was tough with so many talented players. They did an excellent job of establishing their roles." A team can play a full roster of MVP caliber players, but if no one plays their role, the team does not get anywhere.

The end result showed everyone that these guys could play. After a somewhat slow start, the team exploded into conference play finishing with an 11-2-1 conference record and winning a championship. The strong play projected them into the national playoffs, a goal that Coach Frey ultimately shoots for each year.

The playoffs proved to be exciting. Alma won the Regional Semifinals over Otterbein in a shootout. The next two games proved the cliché that "Defense wins championships" after they shut out the likes of Wisconsin-Whitewater and Trinity, Texas. The victory over Trinity brought the Scots to the national semifinals where they fell just short of a chance at playing in the title game after losing to St. Lawrence, New York.

The Scots played exceptional defense all year allowing just 18 goals in 23 games. The defense was even stingier in conference play with nine goals in 14 games. Offensive production was strong as well, placing them second in the MIAA for goals scored.

So whats on tap for next season?

Coach Frey said, "You can expect these guys to be working hard in the off season to maintain their level of excellence."

Softball team investigated by MIAA Commissioner

By KATIE BEAM
Staff Writer

Recently, the women's softball team was investigated for possible violations of MIAA and NCAA regulations. MIAA Commissioner Sheila Wallace-Kovalchik contacted President Stone and asked him to determine if the softball team had violated MIAA policies regarding "non-traditional" seasons and NCAA regulations regarding housing for athletes.

This is not how the situation is normally handled. The athletic director from the school with a question usually contacts the athletic director at the school in question instead of contacting the commissioner. Because the commissioner was notified rather than Athletic Directors Denny

Griffin or Penny-Allen Cook, she contacted President Stone directly. Stone then asked Dean of Students, Jim Kridler, to investigate the allegations and "draft a reply to the commissioner."

After interviewing head coach Denny Griffin, assistant coach Phil Hansen, Allen-Cook, and several team members, he concluded that, at most, the softball team "might have violated the policies, but on very technical grounds."

The softball team plays what is commonly referred to as "fall ball" which includes practices and tournaments during the month of September. Danielle Pease (01) said that "Anyone can come play. We just get together and throw the ball around. Guys come too." No practices or tournaments are mandatory. Amy Czabala (00) remarked that it is a great opportunity to meet the freshmen who have been recruited. The women designed their own uniforms and used college

bats and balls to play, like many other intramural teams do.

MIAA rules say that no practices, or games can be made mandatory during this "non-traditional" season. After the interviews, Dean Kridler was satisfied that the team had not violated this policy.

However, Kridler discovered that coach Denny Griffin had paid an entrance fee for a tournament at Northwood. MIAA regulations state that the college and/or the coaching staff cannot pay for entrance fees or provide transportation or meals for players during a "non-traditional" season. However, this fee was due in August, at a time when the players were not at school; upon arriving, they promptly reimbursed Griffin. Kridler believed that this reimbursement remedied the situation.

See SOFTBALL on 8

Women's basketball team splits games for the week

By KELLY McDONALD
Sports Editor

The women's basketball team beat Cornerstone University last Tuesday, then lost a tough game to Albion on Saturday.

At Alma, the Scots took care of business against the solid Cornerstone team. Alma jumped out to a 16-5 lead early due in large part to their three-point shooting, with a sizzling 67%. A Mary Barnhart (00) three-pointer put the Scots up a comfortable 34-16. But they would not see the end of Cornerstone as they cut the lead to nine with 1:30 left in the half. The scrappy Cornerstone team went into the locker room with new hope and Alma up, 43-32.

The Scots lead by as many as 17 points, but four minutes into the second half, they suddenly found themselves ahead by only six, 46-40. A basket by Shannon Gross (00) and two free throws each from first-year students Kristie Gehrs and Shelly Ulfig gave the Scots some breathing room. Gehrs and Ulfig would take over from there. Gehrs made a layup through traffic, and then Ulfig converted on a reverse layup to put the Scots up 60-50. The Scots went on an 8-2 run to hold off the feisty Cornerstone team. It was only suffice that the two Gehrs

would throw a nice lead pass to Ulfig for an easy bucket to secure the Alma victory, 83-69.

Ulfig finished with 17 points and ten rebounds, as Gehrs had nine points, three assists and two steals. Gross tallied 16 points and three assists while Rebekah Downing shot 5 for 8 from the floor for 14 points.

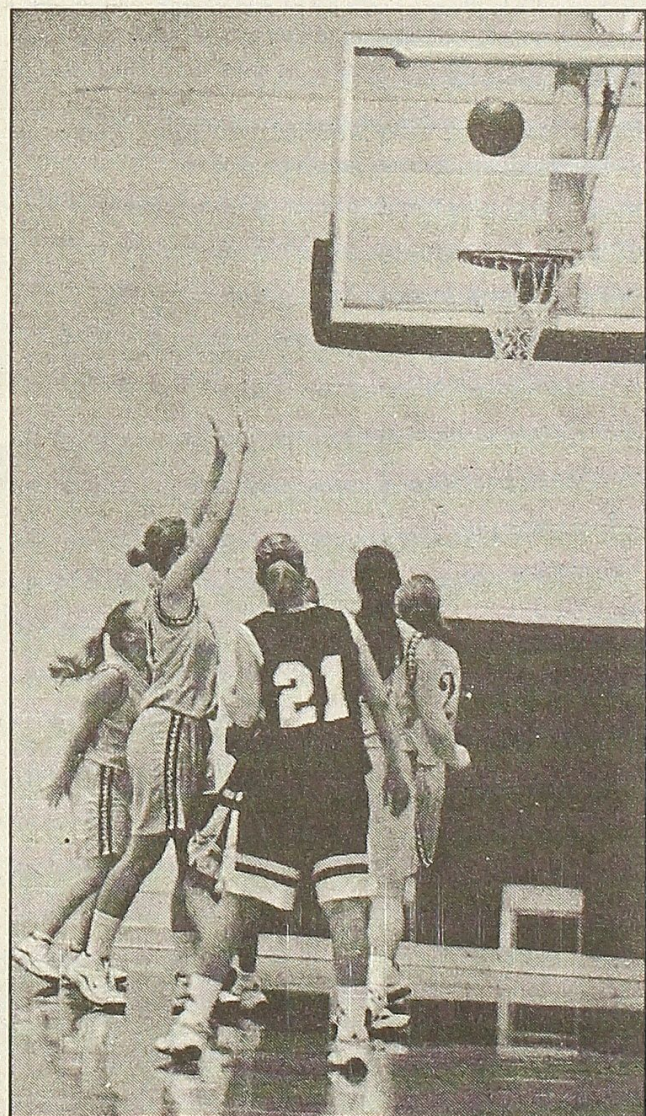
The Scots traveled to Albion on Saturday for their first MIAA game of the season. Alma has dominated this match-up, as coach Charlie Goffnet's squad has not lost there since January of 1994. It did not look good for the Scots right from the beginning.

Albion took control early, but a late first half run by Alma, including a buzzer-beating three-pointer by Gross cut the deficit to 34-32.

Alma cam out of the locker room with a spark and went on a 6-2 run. The second half saw many lead changes as Alma held its own and seemed to have control with just under ten minutes to play. But a late Albion run was too much for the Scots as they lost 71-64.

Gross and Downing tallied 16 points each for Alma as Ulfig grabbed 15 rebounds.

The Scots are back in action tonight at 7:30 at home against Hope. Saturday they host Defiance before preparing for their adventure out west to take part in the Next Level Desert Classic during break.



Tammy Acker

Shelly Ulfig (03) fires a shot at the Cornerstone game.

Men's basketball team stuns Cornerstone, makes way for Maine

By AMY NOVAK
Online Editor

The Alma College men's basketball team is now 3-2 after recording two wins and a loss last week. The Scots pulled an amazing overtime win last Tuesday over Cornerstone College in their season home opener before traveling to Waterville, Maine to defeat the University of Maine Farmington. They then lost to the hosts in the championship game of the Colby Invitational last weekend.

The Scots emerged victorious 90-82 in overtime play in their first home game on November 30. Aaron Kanitz (02) led the Scots with 31 points, seven rebounds, four assists, three blocks, and two steals.

The Scots were up 72-69 with just under 10 seconds remaining when Cornerstone, the defending NAIA champions, tied the game with a pump fake and a three pointer. In their last effort to score in regulation time, the Scots designed a play for Kanitz that resembled the jump shot Christian Laettner made to win the NCAA Southeast Regional against Kentucky in 1992. The gym was silent as Kanitz's shot rolled in and out to force overtime.

In overtime play, Kanitz scored three points and Joe Peters (00) scored a field goal and a three pointer to bring his game total to 12 points and five assists. The Scots shot 100 percent from the free throw line in the last minute of play, going 8 for 8.

"I think Tuesday night's game was the best we've played all year," said Jeremy Hyler (00). "We played that game with a lot of heart; we need to play every game like that."

"It's good to know that we can come out on top in tight situations," said Spencer Roecker (00). "In previous years, we couldn't pull off a win like that."

Another notable finish for the Scots was Seth Stapleton (00) who scored 24 points and finished with six rebounds in the victory.

The Scots celebrated their overtime win the next day by getting into vans and driving over 16 hours to participate in the Colby Invitational in Maine. The Scots defeated the University of Maine-Farmington 77-67 in the first round last Friday.

The Scots were up 42-25 at the half and never lost the lead. Although UMF was within 10 points in the second half, the Scots were led by Hyler with 19 points and eight rebounds. Peters and Stapleton were both in the double digits, scoring 12 points each, while Spencer Wideman (02) scored eight. Roecker and Kanitz had seven each, while Dan Chewning (02) led the team with six assists.

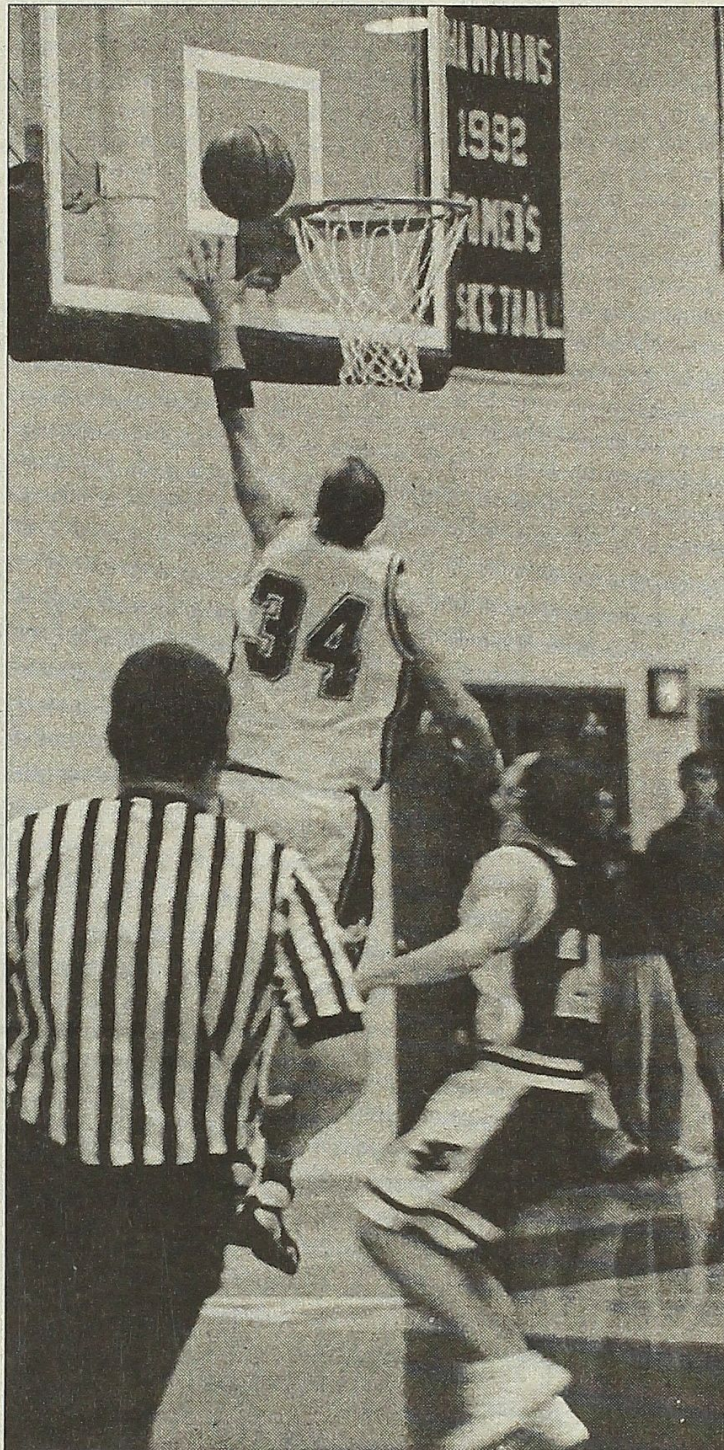
With their Friday night victory, Alma advanced to the championship game against host Colby College on Saturday night. Although the Scots only trailed 32-26 at the half, they could not catch up for the victory, and lost 68-53.

The Scots were led by Stapleton with 14 points and Hyler with 12 points and six rebounds. Sean Dick (02) also helped out with five points, three rebounds, and one assist.

"We played pretty decent over the weekend," said Hyler. "But not as well as we should have. We broke down too much on defense."

"It was a good experience playing out east," agreed Roecker. "But we have a little bit of work to do with offense and defense."

The Scots now have a few days off; their next game is on December 11 when they will host Spring Arbor College. Tip off is at 7 PM.



Bryan Waugh

Senior Seth Stapleton (34) converts on two of his 24 points against Cornerstone.

SOFTBALL from 7

Lastly, Kridler had to determine whether the softball team violated NCAA regulations regarding housing for athletes. Specifically, athletes cannot be given special housing options not available to other students. Alma College does not have a housing policy other than if a student is a senior he/she can live off-campus—it does not matter from whom they rent.

Last summer, assistant coach Phil Hansen purchased a house on Wright Avenue for rental purposes. In August, a few softball players who had previously lived in the Plaxton House no longer exists, still had no place to live. Coach Hansen rented the house out to several senior softball players and a fifth-year student.

The question was if coach Hansen had given the softball players special benefits regarding housing. Kridler said that this may have been an "inadvertent secondary violation" of NCAA regulations but then commented that the "NCAA is the most legalistic organization that I have ever seen in my twenty-seven years of higher education."

He immediately drafted a letter to the NCAA reporting the nature of the violation. Stone reviewed the letter and mailed it to the commissioner. Kridler expects to receive a reply from the NCAA acknowledging the self-reporting of the violation and recognizing the steps taken to correct the situation. He is confident that this will be the end of the investigation.

Scots look strong, ready for Florida training

By CARA BONINE
Staff Writer

The Scots men's and women's swimming and diving teams traveled to Indiana last week to compete in the DePauw Invitational. The men's swimming team finished fourth with a team score of 255 and the women were fifth with 371 points.

"The guys team started to come together as a group and we finally started to learn how to push and motivate each other," said Andrew Schade (02).

Washington University was first in the women's swimming events (608 points) and Wabash College finished first in the men's swimming events (830 points).

The Scots are now preparing for their annual training in Orlando, Florida. Each year, after Christmas, they pack their bags and head south for specialized training in the very nice

environment of Florida.

The ten-day trip includes a two-hour, 50-meter long course in the morning and a 25 yards short course in the afternoon. Also included in the training are weight lifting and other land exercises.

"All we have to do is train and swim [in Florida]," said Captain Carrie Thomas (00). "We don't have to worry about homework."

In addition to their intense training, the Scots are also able to enjoy the sites around Orlando, including trips to Disney, Universal Studios, Hard Rock Cafe, Wet-N-Wild and Blazing Planos.

The trip costs each participant \$250 after the numerous fundraisers throughout the year. Some of these fundraisers include the fall raffle, Christmas wreath sale, swimming lessons, and swimming and diving camps.

"[The Invitational] was good practice for the conference meet which is what we are training for, but we still have a lot of work to do," said Jenni Troyer (01). "Our training trip is really going to make us focus on our events."

All you ever
wanted to know
about skiing

By RACHEL KUHL
Staff Writer

While skiing as a form of recreation or entertainment has only been popular for about the last 100 years, skiing itself dates back to around 2000 BC, where rock carvings of two people on skis were discovered near the Arctic Circle. Skis were originally designed to be used as transportation and hunting in snowy areas such as Norway, Sweden, and Finland. The oldest known skis, found in those areas, are thought to be nearly 5000 years old.

The idea of skiing competitively began in the 18th century. The first cross-country ski race was held in Tromso, Norway in 1843. Ski jumping followed soon after, first becoming popular in the 1860's. Skiing became a global pastime as Norwegian immigrants introduced the sport to countries such as Germany, New Zealand, Australia and North America in the areas where they settled.

Skiing was founded in the

United States in the mid-eighteen hundreds primarily in Wisconsin and Minnesota, where there was a dense Scandinavian immigrant population. Gold miners in California also took a liking to the sport and built the first ski factory in 1854. These same miners also held their own ski races and created the first type of chair-lift by having eager skiers ride up a conveyor in ore buckets to the top of the hill.

Ski races were officially added to the Olympic games in 1926, but only as men's nordic events. Women were not allowed to compete until 1936, when Alpine events were added. Today men and women can compete in many different types of ski events, both in the Olympics or otherwise. In addition to cross-country, downhill, and ski jumping, there is also freestyle, the most recent competitive event, and snowboarding, a combination of skiing, surfing and skateboarding. Whichever type you prefer, skiing is one of winter's best ways to stay in shape, have fun, and enjoy the snowy weather.

IM sports bring variety to campus

By RACHEL KUHL
Staff Writer

For those students looking for a way to get involved, meet new people, and show off their athletic ability (or lack there of), the Intramural Sports program is the way to go. This term has offered a Football league, won by the SAE team, three-on-three basketball, co-ed soccer, and a whiffle ball tournament coming up this week.

IM football always brings a big crowd because it is a tradition the school has... to bring in the school a little more, I tried something new this year [three-on-three basketball]," said IM coordinator Ray Cochenour (99), "For the teams, we had four co-ed and eight male. This mixture of men and women playing with and against each other seems to be a plus with those participating."

I like the IM sports because guys and girls can play together and that's the only time you get to do that," said Kristin Studemann (01), an IM soccer player.

Another plus to the IM sports is that skill is not a requirement. Many students who participate in the leagues have very little experience.

They provide opportunities for anyone to play, good or bad, it's meant to be fun," says Tim Zeedyk (01), who participated in the Football league and is currently involved in IM Soccer.

Overall, Cochenour has been pleased with the player turnout and interest for this term's IM sports, "I would like more people," said Cochenour, "but I guess you can only ask for so many."

Cochenour likes to think of the IM program as offering a continuous opportunity for students who want to be involved, to stay involved. He would also like to remind students that right after break, the five-on-five co-ed basketball league will be starting up, so be planning your teams!

USA TODAY/ESPN Top 25 Basketball Poll

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Cincinnati (5-0) | 9. Syracuse (6-0) | 17. Oklahoma St (6-0) |
| 2. Arizona (6-0) | 10. Florida (5-1) | 18. Temple (2-2) |
| 3. Stanford (5-0) | 11. UCLA (4-0) | 19. Maryland (6-2) |
| 4. Kansas (6-0) | 12. Texas (4-1) | 20. DePaul (4-2) |
| 5. Michigan St. (6-1) | 13. Duke (5-2) | 21. Wake Forest (5-0) |
| 6. Connecticut (5-1) | 14. Indiana (4-0) | 22. Kentucky (3-3) |
| 7. N. Carolina (5-1) | 15. Tennessee (6-0) | 23. Purdue (4-1) |
| 8. Auburn (4-1) | 16. Ohio State (2-1) | 24. Illinois (2-0) |
| | | 25. Utah (3-2) |

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Dilapidating schools must be razed

The following is part 4 of a 4 article series involving critical issues in the education of today's youth.

By **MICHAEL MURPHY**
Opinion Editor

Schools must be an environment conducive to learning.

This has been stated hundreds of thousands of times by almost any person in or related to the education field. This entails that the school's physical appearance must be clean, painted and repaired at all times.

Schools must not have dilapidated walls with cockroaches scrambling down them.

Schools must not have coal furnaces.

Schools must not have puddles of water under leaking pipes that have been dripping since World War I.

One would think that schools do not have these characteristics. Unfortunately, that is far from the truth. Many schools, especially those in inner-cities and rural areas, are in extremely rough physical condition.

Students attend school to learn, not to battle elements such as severe cold, smells of rotting wood and dripping water. How can we

expect them to write with a pencil when they are struggling to hold up an umbrella while trying to kill a beetle slithering on their desk?

This may seem like an improbable depiction but it indeed happens everyday in this country's schools.

Thousands of American students—not third world students—mightily try to learn in conditions that any businessman would flee upon sight.

But how can we expect 8-year-olds, 14-year-olds and 18-year-olds to stay in an environment where stench burns nostril hair, pipes leak rusty water and cracks scour walls and ceilings like the San Andreas Fault?

The answer is that we, as Americans, cannot.

Besides having horrendous physical appearances, some schools cannot even provide their students with textbooks as "new" as 1985. Students often have to share their textbook with a fellow student. Or two fellow students. Or four.

Students soon feel that administrators and state politicians do not care about their education. How

can we, as their fellow citizens, expect them to care about their own education if our society's leaders do not?

It is as if they have abandoned these kids. Funds do come into the schools, but they are not nearly enough to pay for books, repairs and educational necessities.

Teachers are expected to work 7, 8, 9, 10 hours straight in a dim, dungeonsque environment. How can they sincerely educate pupils in these atrocious conditions when they see that higher authorities are not giving a dime's sense of worth for their students' education? Before teachers actually teach the students, they have to instill within their students a will to learn and a caring for education. This takes time-precious, valuable time.

New reform must be implemented so that dilapidated school structures can be replaced with modern, state-of-the-art facilities. New schools are built in rich districts. Why are, they not be built in poor districts? States must recognize the discrepancies and make it their initiative to flow money into poorer districts.

Everyone is guaranteed an equal

opportunity for education. Equal opportunity for education does not constitute stumbling into a decaying school with crumbling bricks and shattered windows.

If reforms do occur, a renaissance in education in poor inner-city and rural schools will be seen.

Students will have new books. Students will have computers. Students will have appropriate lighting.

Students will have sound walls. Students will have hope.

Students will want to stay in school.

Student will want to learn.

When they want to learn, they will learn. Once they learn, they will become successful adults and contribute to today's society. This is a far cry from what is happening now where poor and decaying schools are a major reason why inner-city ghettos cannot be built up and why rural towns are ghost towns without a future.

The vicious cycle of school drop-outs and thus impoverishment can be negated with the help of education reform mandated by the states.

This must happen not in a year, not in a decade, but now!

Questions for the new century

Sports Track by Michael Murphy

The millennium has received tons of unwarranted publicity. No, the Sports Track has not succumbed to the hype of the new millennium. It has, however, fallen to the dawn of a new century of sports. So, here are some questions that may be answered in the next 100 years of sports.

Will the Yankees ever suck?
Will there be another Michael Jordan?

Will there be another Babe Ruth?

Will there be another Carl Lewis?

Will there be another Wayne Gretzky?

Will there be another Walter Payton?

Will anyone break Cal Ripken's consecutive game streak?

Will anyone pass Hank Aaron's home run record?

Will Pete Rose be reinstated into baseball?

Will NCAA Division 1 college football ever see a playoff format?

See QUESTIONS on 12

Do your homework on candidates

By **DAN JOYCE**
Staff Writer

With all of the ever-so-fine candidates running for President of the United States of America, how do citizens choose only one? Should we choose InhaloMan? Should we vote for a very liberal candidate? Maybe we should vote for a no-name who has always been the underdog, whose name no other candidates cared to soil with ever so complimentary commercials.

How much information about politicians, in reality, may be obtained by political commercials? You can always tell which candidate has the ability to hire a decent publicist with great investigative skills. Such a publicist has the ability to find the oldest and, most of the time, least important details about a competitor's past. Once found, this newly learned fact becomes part of the 'largest scandal of all time'! At least that is what we are led to believe in this person's reenactment of the 'great folly' in their mud slinging commercial.

These commercials are extremely overdone and unimportant. I do not wish to infer that all political advertisements simply refer to a candidate's past. Some of these commercials point out political viewpoints of another candidate. I do not recall ever seeing a commercial that said anything along the lines of "Mr. SuchandSuch believes that yahta yahta should be changed and I, Mr. Some-Other-Candidate, feel that he is correct." Of course this would never happen. Nor should it. But, allow me to set up another format for political commercials.

"I, Some Other Candidate, would like to be the supreme leader of this large plot of land and the oppressions that occur within its boundaries. Mr. SuchandSuch also wishes to occupy the same position. He believes that yahta yahta must be changed. I agree. Yet, his plan is not

as well thought out as mine. Not only should blah blah be changed to advance the accomplishment of this plan, but oobloo oobloo also needs to be altered. Please vote for me."

Even with the outright stupidity often displayed within the 30 second television commercials, many Americans still avoid doing their own research. Much of the time and energy of a candidate is exerted by trying to clear up misunderstood incidents from his or her past. Sometimes no clarification is needed. In these instances excuses are developed or cover-ups are created. Simple investigations conducted by average citizens would be of far greater value than any commercial and would waste less time.

Obviously no one candidate has a correct answer or solution to every question or problem divulged by all citizens. If such a person existed, there would be no contention for whom to vote. Political figures, elected or not, should simply take the advice of Russell Lynes, "The only gracious way to accept an insult is to ignore it; if you can't ignore it, top it; if you can't top it, laugh at it; if you can't laugh at it, it's probably deserved," and move on to important issues.

Most importantly, citizens need to choose that candidate who has the best ideas for our country now, not in years past. Every voter needs to know what position the candidate they are voting for holds on those issues the voter sees as important. How that candidate feels about unimportant issues or what he or she did in the past, within reason, should be of no difference.

I strongly encourage every voter to choose a candidate based upon his or her political standings that are important to voters. Simply voting by party or by what others tell you is not a good idea. Nearly every other opinion is one-sided. Research the political views of each candidate and decide for yourself.

U.S. investigates mass grave site

By **CHRIS HARRINGTON**
Staff Writer

Early last week in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, Mexican government officials found evidence leading to the possibility of over 100 buried bodies.

Ciudad Juarez, a town near the southwest Texas boarder has been the headquarters for the Juarez drug cartel, one of the most powerful drug smuggling organizations in Mexico. The cartel is so powerful that it included Mexico's chief of anti-narcotics forces, General Jesus Guitierrez Rebollo and other ranking officers. Guitierrez is now spending his days in prison serving a 32 year sentence after being arrested in 1997.

Much of the recent happenings are under speculation. Over 100 people, including 22 Americans, have been reported missing in the past three years from the area of the cartel. The FBI is saying the deaths are spread over four mass grave sites. The victims are believed to be people who have either witnessed drug trafficking or know information about the Juarez Cartel.

Political science professor Derek Hulme said, "The United States could legally go to Mexico without their consent and investigate the matter but it would not be a good thing. This would be bad practice and hurt our relations with Mexico."

In regards to the search and investigation assistant FBI director Thomas Pickard said "We've been getting outstanding cooperation from Mexico." This is very important to the matter because of Mexico's right as a sovereign entity. They control what happens inside their borders. Even though victims include United States citizens, the United States at this point has no jurisdiction inside Mexico's borders without their consent."

It is painful to know that we need clearance to investigate the murders of our citizens. Laws in foreign countries are different than ours, meaning that justice may not be delivered to the wrongdoers the way we perceive it as U.S. citizens. Although punishments for crimes may be harsher in other countries, the investigation processes may not be as advanced and accurate. This leaves room for error and the possibility of punishing someone who does not deserve it. Fortunately, in this situation, we have been receiving cooperation from Mexico to investigate the happenings.

We are lucky in this scenario but it is still important to remember that other countries want the United States barging across their borders as much as we want others doing the same in ours. The U.S. has had a reputation of being a superpower-bully of a nation that comes and goes as it pleases.

The U.S. does enter a lot of global situations, maybe too many, but this country is so initiative based it is almost impossible for us to be a bystander. Our country was founded on fighting suppression and we would never watch another nation get wiped out, especially if we would be negatively effected.

The U.S. will always look out for the best interest of itself as well as other countries, although we have easily made our interests a priority over others.

December 8, 1999

OPINION

11B

VIOLENT PROTESTING: Not the way to bring about change

By CARA BONINE
Staff Writer

Massive crowds of anti-free trade activists mobbed the streets in Seattle last week to protest the global trade talks held by the World Trade Organization (WTO). While the police tried to control the scene on the streets, delegates of the WTO began the construction an agenda for the trade negotiations.

Police in riot gear were forced to spray tear gas and shoot rubber bullets in attempt to clear the entrance to the convention center. Other protestors set fire to trashcans and looted local shops. Officers made 60 arrests on charges ranging from assault, inciting riot, and damage of property. Seventeen people suffered minor injuries.

Protestors chanted, "This is democracy in action. The WTO must go."

In addition to the city police, two

hundred national guardsmen were called in midweek and extra police from neighboring counties were called in to help control the aggressive crowds.

The purpose of protesting is to publicly demonstrate opposition and to voice an opinion toward a course of action. It is not, however, intended to turn into a playground for raging civilians to violently illustrate their frustrations.

If protestors want to have an impact on the issue at hand, violence will get them nowhere. Government officials will not seriously consider any protestors that only voice their opinions through violence. Instead, protestors are considered pesky complainers with no solutions to their frustrations.

The only way for these protestors to be taken seriously by the government or group they are protesting against is to be calm, and offer helpful suggestions to the issue at hand.

Yes, it is true that in a democracy it is the public's right to free

speech and assembly, however, these are also privileges that we must utilize in a civilized manner. Anyone who is not happy with the status quo can demonstrate his or her frustrations with violent protest, yet someone willing to compromise and introduce feasible solutions to the problem will create real change.

If the demonstrators want to be pro-active and demonstrate opposition, there are other alternatives than violent protest. Perhaps a letter to the WTO offering the suggestions and concerns of the protestors would be an advantageous way to create change within the organization. Even gathering signatures on a petition would be a more effective way of grabbing the attention of the WTO.

Our world is full of complainers, however, it lacks courageous and determined citizens willing to offer feasible solutions.

Musically Inclined by Scott Timmreck

No more partying like it's 1999

And so we stick another year into the history books and put it onto our shelves to collect dust next to *The Catcher In The Rye* and a couple old tapes that were our prized possessions when Mario ruled the screens and New Kids On The Block ruled the airwaves.

This time around, we found that the airwaves were covered with music that we could scrape right out of cyberspace and burn onto our own compact discs or "ICQ" to a friend who lived in the room right above ours. What fun. What great magnificent fun this year held for such music, those not necessarily good but usually fun anthems that get smeared all over pop radio and all over your brain until you're at the point when TRL is actually fun to watch. So...

While livin' la vida loca, some people were giving it to the Backstreet Boys however those guys wanted it, and some people got their fun thanks to a girl named Britney, sometimes going crazy and hitting her one more time. 'N Sync tore up some hearts, and Jennifer Lopez and Christine Aguilera gave us good reasons for hitting the mute button. Smashmouth gave baseball stadiums something fun to play, and Lenny Kravitz flew away with his American woman. Len stole some sunshine from LFO, much to the dismay of girls who wear Abercrombie and Fitch, and Sugar Ray decided that every morning would qualify as someday. Oh, and we all did the mambo. But I'm still waiting for numbers one through four.

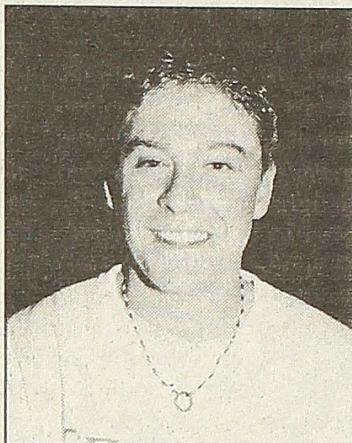
TLC showed the world that a song about male failure in the fields of women will never get too old to be on pop radio, and Puff Daddy showed the world that his music doesn't necessarily have to be on pop radio to be cool. DMX and Mary J. Blige showed up to make new records, and Eve and Ja Rule did too, representing the Ruff Ryders like no other. And yes, Will Smith sang Wild Wild West.

Rock proved that it was not dead but was only peeking around different corners, as everybody's

best friend and plywood-surfing fool Fred Durst gave disgruntled teen males a new word for the thing they strive for most but have the most difficult time obtaining. Eminem wanted everyone to know that his name is, his name is Slim Shady. The Red Hot Chili Peppers learned some anatomy and the Foo Fighters learned to fly. Gavin Rossdale of Bush concocted some chemicals, Our Lady Peace made an army, and the Stone Temple Pilots had a song about the direction of their career (hint: it's the opposite of up). Rage Against The Machine battled Los Angeles while making their finest record, Beck looked for vultures at midnite while doing some of his finest work, and Trent Reznor of Nine Inch Nails promised fans a good album and delivered. Chris Cornell of Soundgarden decided that he couldn't change even though he did, Blink 182 became the Green Day of the moment and was happy with all the small things and not knowing their age, Kid Rock came straight out of his trailer and decided it would be neat if everyone got into the pit and tried to love someone, and Creed and Third Eye Blind, well, released sophomore records. Counting Crows hung around in the desert and Santana, nearly supernatural at his age, picked up a guitar and sounded smooth. Dave Matthews Band, Metallica, Natalie Merchant and Alanis Morissette released some live material, and Alice In Chains released a compilation, proving that they would like a little more money.

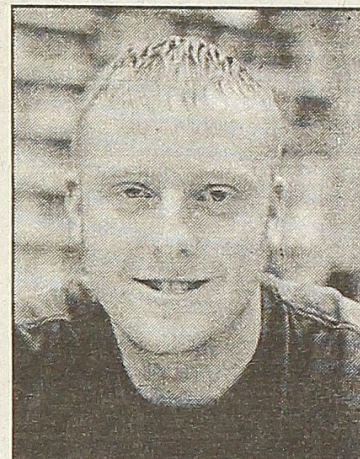
So popular music goes in the year of the Bizkit and the Kid, the year that everyone got on the Internet and everyone heard the word "millennium" more than they will in 2000. So pop music goes in the year of the Backstreets and the Britneys, the year that made Tom Green famous and everyone hyped Y2K to the point where it died. So goes popular music in 1999. I'll see you in the next century and we'll have just as much fun as we did in this one, okay? Happy 2000.

Campus Views



"I like the Evergreen Plan, its good growth for Alma College, Ya!"
Justin Lilienthal (02)

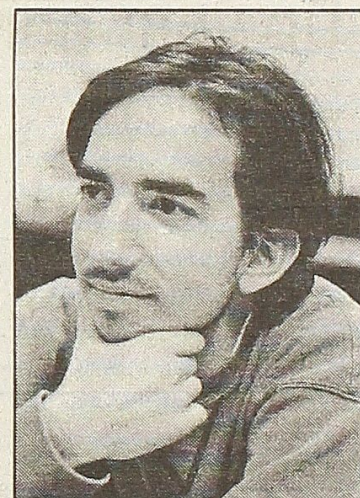
How do you feel about the development of the "Evergreen Plan?"



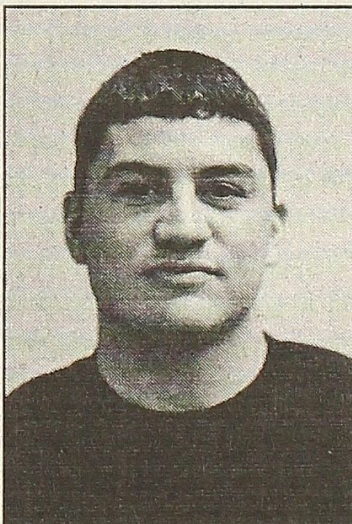
"I am upset about the lack of progress and apathy of developing these new buildings."
Nate Seiferlein (00)



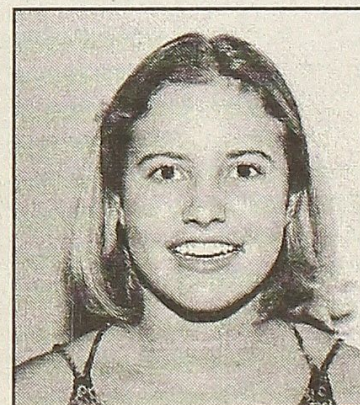
"A new recreation building would organize the I.M. system, positively benefitting student life."
Brian Priehs (03)



"It's really too bad, all the nice trees will be gone."
Zaccheus Compson (01)



"New buildings would provide more convenience and organization for the students."
Bob Simon (03)



"I think that we need an IM building because the gym and weight rooms are so crowded already that students need some other place to go."

Thyra Folk (03)

By Chris Harrington, Staff Writer
Photos by Tammy Acker & Bryan Vaughn

Staff Editorial

Don't worry, be happy! It's 2000!

Surfing the Internet, flipping through channels watching TV, or reading your favorite magazine, you are bound to hear something about Y2K. Some are predicting a few computer glitches while others are talking about apocalyptic disasters.

If we could fast forward to January 1, 2000, what would we see? Some would have us believe that planes will be falling out of the air, ATM's will be spitting money out onto the streets, and riots will be everywhere.

However, anyone that has looked into Y2K is aware that the "millenium bug" will be far less catastrophic than anyone has predicted thus far. As people hurry out to buy generators, canned tuna, and enough bottled water to sustain an army for a decade, the experts are telling a different story.

No one denies that Y2K is a potentially disastrous situation. All

computers that use two numbers, such as 99, to refer to the year instead of four numbers, 1999, will be confused when the year 2000 rolls around. The computers will read the date as 1900, and as the experts point out, the potential problems are numerous.

Despite this fact, becoming Y2K compliant is relatively easy. Personal computers can easily deal with Y2K with a few downloads, free and available on the Internet. Corporations face a bigger problem, and though they must invest time and money to solve the problem, it is solvable. The federal government has even been preparing for Y2K with various deadlines that had to be met within the last year. With these deadlines met, the United States should be ready for Y2K.

All said, a few glitches should be expected on January 1, 2001. Your credit card may not work for a day, cities may lose power for a

few hours, and that flight may be delayed. Is this enough to make any sane person run for the hills? Hardly. Although technology has many benefits, it also has a few consequences—one of which is Y2K.

So what is all the hype about? Everyone loves a good disaster, and Y2K mania is no different. Although some are honestly paranoid, most are just trying to play on the paranoia by talking about the end of the world and the apocalypse. What many do not realize is that many of them are making a profit—at our expense.

On New Year's Eve there will no doubt be disappointment as 12 o'clock comes and goes and the world around us is still standing. The beginning of a new millenium will only happen once in our lifetimes. Instead of worrying about Y2K and your credit card, have fun, drink champagne, and party like it's 1999.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editors:

I'm writing in response to your Staff Editorial "Two ovens a heated issue." This is the poorest example of writing I have seen in my three-and-a-half years at Alma College. Let me break it down for you.

Twice you tell us the only ovens on campus are in Gelston and Newberry. Once would have been fine.

You write, "The oven in Newberry screams out, 'Hey! Girls live here! Let us give them an oven so that they can become good homemakers'" About the Gelston oven, you write, "It says to me, 'Maybe there are people here that would like to cook.'" I want to know what makes the Gelston oven more polite than the Newberry oven. Where can I get one?

Your solution to this "heated issue" is written as follows: "Whoever is in charge of furnishing the dorms should either find a way to put an oven in all of the dorms." That is not a sentence, but we'll go with it.

You support your solution with the following five statements:

1. "I don't even know why the oven is down there. It's been used probably three times this year." This is not a good reason to buy more ovens.
2. "How many people really have a place in their tiny refrigerator to keep the necessary things to actually cook?" This is not a good reason to buy more ovens.
3. "Every once in a while there maybe someone who does want to cook a meal." This is not a good reason to buy more ovens.
4. "No one really has the time to cook real food?" As opposed to the fake food? This is not a good reason to buy more ovens.
5. Some students may want a romantic dinner, but the basements of Gelston and Newberry aren't "pleasant." And the other basements are? This is not a good reason to buy more ovens.

In conclusion you write, "Perhaps the campus should consider getting more ovens." After reading this fine piece of persuasive writing, I can't imagine why the Physical Plant isn't busy installing new ovens now! Six-year-olds can formulate better arguments than this. I'm amazed and embarrassed that

someone got paid to write this trash. Blank space on the page would have looked better! You were right about one thing: most of us didn't know there are only two ovens on campus. We didn't care and still don't.

Paul Krueger (00)

Dear Editors:

I would like to express my extreme displeasure and disappointment in the "www.WHAT?!" column you placed in the 11/23/99 issue. Your information about the on-line Pig Book is not only wrong but insulting. It is unfortunate that a newspaper cannot interview the appropriate sources to get its facts straight.

The on-line Pig Book is NOT a creation of the year-book staff. I was not even aware that it would be on-line until the webmaster called me last Monday with a question about it. The staff, including myself, had no part in this project. Do not attach a name to a project until you get your facts correct. Our office is next door to your own. Would it have been that difficult to walk over during our office hours and ask the questions that would get you the truth? As for the Marriot ID photos, that is what is used in the book this year. Everyone on this campus was made aware of that fact and had the chance to retake the photo. If it is the size that is a problem, why not mention it to a person that could change it, rather than whining about it in your newspaper?

Furthermore, when will the Pig book be satisfactory? The on-line Pig Book was an addition to this year to make it more accessible. It did not have to be put together at all, with a lot of hard work, I might mention, by the webmaster and other computer/media services personnel.

I look to the *Almanian* to tell the correct news — not news that is neither true nor complimentary to the people that put it together to serve the students.

I trust that if you plan on writing more articles about the Pig Book, you will do some research.

Megan Thurber (01)
Editor-in-Chief, *Scot*

Classifieds

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS! Students earn \$375/\$575 weekly processing/assembling medical I.D. cards from your home. Experience unnecessary... we train you! Call MediCard 1-541-386-5290, ext. 300. Spring Break Reps Needed! Free materials provided. Earn easy \$\$, travel free! 1-800-367-1252 or www.springbreakdirect.com GO DIRECT! #1 Internet-based company offering WHOLESALE Spring Break packages! Guaranteed Lowest Price! 1 -800-367-1252 www.springbreakdirect.com	SPRING BREAK! Cancun, Bahamas, Jamaica, Florida & South Padre. Call USA Spring Break for a free brochure and rates and ask how you can EAT, DRINK & TRAVEL FOR FREE! CALL 1-888-777-4642 www.usaspringbreak.com #1 Spring Break Vacations! Cancun, Jamaica, Bahamas, Florida. Best Prices Guaranteed! Free Parties & Cover charges! Book Early & Receive Free Meal Plan! Now Hiring Campus Reps! 1-800-234-7007 www.endlesssummertours.com
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Salvation Army/Gratiot County Reading Program
Children's Book Drive
Purchase Children's books at the Bookstore between December 6th-10th and recieve 10% off. S.O.S. and AΦΩ

- Will Michigan Stadium ever seat 200,000 people?
Will the Lions ever win a Super Bowl?
Will Barry Sanders ever speak?
Will Byron Scott ever retire from basketball?
Will anyone score 100 points in a basketball game again?
Will Scott Mitchell ever start for an NFL team?
Will Scott Mitchell ever go through a quarter without throwing an interception?
Will his rating ever be higher than his jersey number? (19)
Will there ever be another Bad Boys team?
Will there ever be an NHL season when there is no hockey team in Canada?
Will there ever be an NHL season when they have a hockey in Mexico?
Who will sign the first billion-dollar contract to play sports?
Will Wayne Fontes ever get workers' compensation?
Will he ever share one of his cigars with Bill Clinton?
Will Brent Musberger ever shut up?
Will there be another Ernie Harwell?
Will soccer ever surpass one of the four major professional sports?
Will there be a phenom golfer named Lion Forrests?
Who will replace Dick Vitale?
Will college players ever stay for a full four years?
Will they ever stay for two years?
Will there still be college basketball, or will it just be the minor leagues for the NBA?
Will the Olympics ever be held in Detroit?
Will there still be scandals in the Olympics?
Will there still have to be drug tests given to athletes?
Will there be a Saturn 500?
Will professional players ever play for their team or just for themselves?
Will there be a professional player that stays with his team for longer than 5 years?
Will the Tennessee Titans change their ugly uniforms?
Will the Atlanta Braves and Dallas Cowboys still be America's teams?
Will players still threaten and attack their coaches?
Will there still be Monday Night Football?
Will there be talk of new stadiums for the Tigers and Lions in the year 2099?
Will baseballs be hit 600 feet on average?
Will the dead ball era ever be seen again in baseball?
Will taking a family of four to a basketball game, buying each member a cola and a hotdog cost \$1,000?
Will Alma have a professional sports team called the "Townies"?
Will the Montreal Canadians win the most championships in all of sports for a second century in a row?
Will there be another Fab Five at Michigan?
Will hitting 50 home runs be considered a bad season in baseball?
Will having a 5.26 era be considered Hall of Fame material?
Will people attend sporting events?
Will sports exist?

The Almanian Inside Edition

Special Issue December 8, 1999

Leadership

Teamwork

Confidence

Trust

Turmoil leads to Board resignations

By DONNA PAPPAS, News Editor and
SCOTT TIMMRECK, Staff Writer

Shortly following the departure of three vice-presidents in 1998, some members of the Board of Trustees began to question the leadership of the chief executive officer of the college, President Alan Stone.

"I've never experienced anything so undisciplined," said James Goodrich, former Board member who resigned on November 19, 1999, referring to the recent turmoil within the administration and the Board.

Indications that there were problems are documented as early as March 1998; the Executive Committee of the Board stated in its minutes, "There is concern that some Trustees did not feel comfortable going to Alan directly with concerns and problems."

Stone's contract was up for renewal in May 1998. An evaluation of Stone was conducted by the Executive Committee, which resulted in a renewal of his contract as well as a four percent salary increase, making it \$175,900 plus benefits.

In response to administrative turnover and issues of management style contained in the June 8, 1998 Executive

Committee's evaluation of the president, Stone stated, "I agree that there is a particular need to build trust this next year. I realize that I have not been as forthcoming with the Trustees as they would wish. This was done less to protect myself than it was to resist attacking good people."

"I appreciate the time and effort given to this spring's presidential evaluation.

Having learned from it, I will adjust my behavior and leadership manner accordingly in the coming year," stated Stone in his June response.

He continued, "I do not believe there

is a general mistrust of me by faculty, administrators or Trustees. My staff relationships, day-to-day interactions, and conversations lead me to think otherwise."

The departure of the third vice-president and concerns about the management style and leadership of Stone prompted the Executive Committee to meet on June 16, 1998, when the committee voted 5-0 in

favor of a resolution stating, "The Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of Alma College lacks confidence in the leadership and management abilities of its President, Alan Stone." Two members were absent: John Colina, chair of the Executive Committee; and Martin Johnson.

A vote of no confidence means that those in favor have no confidence in the

ability of Stone to carry out his duties as the president of the college.

This motion led Colina to call a special meeting of the full Board to be held on June 23, 1998, where those who had previ-

ously voted no confidence made their reasoning for the vote public. Complaints included, but were not limited to, the departure of the vice-presidents, the management style of the president, issues with the Provost, the president's relationship with the students, and fears expressed by the faculty.

The Board failed to pass the motion of no confidence at this meeting, in a 10-24-1 vote taken by a show of hands. A motion was made to vote through secret ballot, but this motion, which was also taken by a show of hands, failed.

Actions taken because of this vote included the ideas of developing precise job descriptions for the president and vice-presidents, as well as evaluations of the organizational culture of the college.

Questions pertaining to the presidential leadership persisted. In a memo to the Board dated April 28, 1999, titled "Leadership Skills Assessment" from Lisa Anne Tomei Mithen, an organization development professional and former head of the alumni association, she stated, "When asked by a faculty member about his vision for the college, President Stone remarked that he doesn't bother with vision and mission. He claimed to be 'a task person.' This response does not exemplify the modeling of vision and values that is expected of an executive-leader."

An additional vote on the administrative leadership of the college was taken at a May 1999 Board meeting. In a public vote, this motion passed 31-9. Four of the nine members who did not support this vote were the four faculty representatives.

See BOARD on 2A

Provost Brown's contract not renewed

By NIKOLE CANUTE, Staff Writer and
DONNA PAPPAS, News Editor

Provost Leslie Brown, the only one of four vice-presidents to have been at Alma College over two years, will soon be leaving her position as well.

In a November 4, 1999, memorandum from John Colina, chair of the Board of Trustees, to the faculty and administration, it was stated that one purpose of the memo was "to inform you that the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees had recommended that the president not reappoint the provost after the end of this fiscal year, June 30, 2000."

The memo went on to say that "The President has agreed with the recommendation and has notified the provost of his decision." These statements have caused controversy regarding where the decision was made, because the bylaws of the Board of Trustees states in Article IV, Section 7 that the provost is an employee at will, which means that the president makes the decision regarding her employment status.

This memo concerned former Board member James Goodrich, who sent a memo to Stone questioning who made this decision.

Stone responded in writing, "I made it clear that this decision was mine."

The reasons why Brown's contract was not renewed stems from her relationship with the president.

According to Goodrich, the relationship between the president and the provost is strained because the president feels that the provost, "could not keep the faculty in line."

In an April 22, 1999, memo to the trustees and emeriti trustees, Colina states, "Issues of governance are not being addressed in a civil fashion, as is shown by the recent faculty resolution led by the faculty associate trustees."

The resolution Colina was referring to was passed on April 19, 1999 with a vote of 66-9, and addressed two proposals. The first was a proposal to "downsize and reconfigure the Board of Trustees and to abolish direct faculty and student reports to the Board." The second was a proposal to "conduct an annual evaluation of the president without input from the campus community." The faculty resolution continued, "The substance of these proposals disenfranchises faculty, student, alumni, and parent members of the Board, the constituencies that they



Submitted Photo

See PROVOST on 2A

Provost Leslie Brown, vice-president of academic affairs.

Three vice-presidents depart from college

By SCOTT TIMMRECK
Staff Writer

The Executive Staff of the college went from five to two members in 1998, after three of the four vice-presidents left their positions. This created a hole in the administration that governs numerous aspects of student life.

Bill Biebuyck, vice-president for development, John Groteluschen, vice-president for finance, and John Seveland, vice-president for enrollment and student affairs, had vacated their positions by the end of the summer for various reasons.

Biebuyck was replaced by Carol Hyble after leaving Alma in May 1998. He took a position in Florida but has recently transferred to Chicago.

"He was disappointed in that he had expected to make more money at Alma," stated Stone in his June 8, 1998 response to his evaluation by the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees.

President Alan Stone offered a contract to Biebuyck that promised him \$100,000 for a year of service, but he turned it down. In a memo dated April 1, 1998 from Stone to the Board, he said, "We are making a very strong counter-offer and several personal appeals to try to coax him into staying, but I think we are too late."

Groteluschen, replaced by Jerry Scoby, announced his retirement effective June 30, 1998.

Among his accomplishments, Groteluschen arranged construction and finance of the football stadium, Kapp Science Center, Heritage Center, the Colina Library Wing, and McIntyre Mall.

He was also able to maintain balanced budgets and "support the development of a beautiful campus," according to the minutes of the March 30, 1998 meeting of the Board of Trustees.

James Goodrich, former Board member, said, "[Groteluschen and Stone] were at odds because of Stone's top-down management style," which gives Stone the most power of any college official.

Seveland, replaced by Alan Hill after departing at the end of summer 1998, stated in an e-mail message that he "needed to get away from the ghosts of Alma" due to problems that arose within his family, specifically, the death of his wife.

He continued, "Ultimately, it was a difficult decision because two other VPs had already departed. I did inform Dr. Stone at the beginning of the school year that it was my intention to make that my last year at Alma." Seveland is currently at the University of Texas at El Paso.

Seveland's pay increase for the 1998-99 school year, which would have been ten percent if he had stayed at Alma, would have made his yearly salary \$110,200. The provost and the president received only four percent raises for the year.

According to the May 13, 1999 issue of the *Morning Sun*, "One vice-president who left the college last year, could not discuss what has been going on at the college because his departure agreement included a non-disclosure clause."

According to both Gigliotti and Goodrich, this article is referring to Groteluschen.

In the past ten years, only two other vice-presidents have left the college: Ann Stuart, who left to take a presidential position at another institution, and Rick Wormbold, who was terminated due to staff budget cuts.

A Decade of GROWTH

ENROLLMENT

1989: 1,198

1999: 1,442

NET COLLEGE ASSETS

1989: \$72 million

1999: \$165 million

FRESHMAN STATISTICS

1989: 3.27 gpa/23.7 ACT

1999: 3.51 gpa/25.3 ACT

ANNUAL BUDGET

1989: \$16.7 million

1999: \$32.4 million

FACULTY (FTE)

1989: 77

1999: 101

FINANCIAL AID

1989: \$3.1 million

1999: \$8.7 million

STUDENT/FACULTY RATIO

1989: 14.9:1

1999: 13.5:1

PROVOST from 1A

encies that they serve, and illustrates a disturbing pattern of failing communication, collegiality, and civility. Moreover, to adopt these proposals without informing the campus community is deplorable... We the faculty urge members of the Board to reject these proposals."

Ston wrote a response to concerns that were raised at the June 23, 1998 Board meeting. In reference to the provost in this response, he states, "The information about verbally harassing or threatening the provost about her interviewing for other positions is not accurate. I never raised my voice. I calmly explained to her that it was important that she keep me appraised of such activities."

Discussions concerning Brown's contract took place over a period of time. Stone said, "It's been discussed with the Executive Committee of the Board for some time... It's been discussed over several months."

Brown's future plans remain undecided. She has tenure in the music department of the college, and Stone said, she "told me she plans on staying."

Brown's contract to remain provost extends until June 30, 2000. When asked whether Brown would remain as provost

that long Stone said, "I don't know."

According to Stone, the provost could break the contract with thirty day's notice, or he could decide to ask her to leave before the contract ends. In both cases her responsibilities would be dissolved, but the college would still have to pay off the contract.

Should Stone decide to ask her to leave earlier, he said that he would inform the Executive Committee. Stone said, "It's my decision, I don't have to take it to the Executive Committee. I would take it to the Executive Committee just so nobody's surprised."

Brown declined to comment on the situation.

A search committee has been formed to find a new provost. The committee includes faculty members Karen Ball, assistant professor of exercise and health science; Gene Deci, chair of the physics department; Deb Dougherty, associate professor of foreign languages; John Ottenhoff, professor of English; Priscilla Perkins, associate professor of the library; and Michael Yavenditti, chair of the history department. Administrators include Jerry Scoby, vice-president of finance; Alan Hill, vice-president of enrollment and student affairs; James Kridler, dean of student affairs; Alan Stone, president; and Rev. Jesse Perry. Melinda Messmer is the lone student representative.

BOARD from 1A

In attempt to bring harmony to the Board, a resolution was considered at the May 8, 1999 meeting which stated, "the best interests of Alma College require the resignation and withdrawal of any and all Trustees, who are unable to put this matter to rest...in accordance with the vote of the majority of the Board."

Stone said that the departure of the vice-presidents, "was kind of the incident which precipitated a lot of the strife within the Board itself. Probably some of [the other issues that led to division within the Board] had to do with personal feelings and egos."

Board turmoil has caused the resignation of at least five members since Stone's leadership abilities have come into question.

"My concern is that a Board cannot function properly if some of its members do not trust the President and cannot work with him," stated Colina in a memo to Board members dated April 22, 1999.

Jane Morley, a former Executive Committee member and Board member since 1991, resigned this past May because of Stone's leadership style. "You just can't trust the word of our leader," she said.

Robert Gigliotti, Board member from 1986 to November 1999, and former Executive Committee member and Board vice-chair, described Stone's management as "top-down," a style Gigliotti does not believe can work in today's business world.

"It kind of flew against the environment

of today. Things that the faculty had always been in charge of: electing provosts, setting class schedules, and determining hiring policies were being handled by the President."

In Gigliotti's resignation letter he stated, "It is because of Alan Stone that I resign."

William Weary, a consultant hired by a special task force on campus culture and climate, released a report in February 1999. He states in the report that the Board itself has become "unaccustomed to taking action, even lacked the structures, bodies, procedures, and size necessary to handle large and critical issues...the issue of Alma's institutional agenda never arose."

In response to Weary's report, the Board considered the elimination of student and faculty representation on the Board. Before Stone became president, students and faculty were already seated on the Board but they did not have a vote. It was Stone's suggestion that they be given a vote. The Board agreed.

"Then Stone proposed to eliminate them from the Board and take their votes away," Gigliotti said.

However, the proposition to eliminate their representation was rejected by the Board on October 9, 1999.

According to Stone, the Board says that it is now ready to head forward. "The Board was wary with regard to the tensions that are here on campus. But the Board which was split over some issues earlier is now very much together. I don't think that there is any divisiveness on the Board at this moment."

Executive Committee conducts evaluation of president. Stone's contract is renewed for another year with a 4% increase in salary.

Vote of no confidence in the president fails at Board of Trustees meeting, 10-24-1.

Spring

June

August

October

December

February

May

July

September

November

January

Three vice-presidents depart.

Executive Committee passes 5-0 vote of no confidence in Stone. Two members absent.

Special task force invites Bill Weary to evaluate the campus climate.

Weary

Staff turnover cause of enrollment drop

By CARA BONINE
Staff Writer

The enrollment of first-year students at Alma College at the beginning of this school year was 389 students, 31 students below the goal of 410, as a result of significant employee turnover in the Admissions Office, according to Alan Hill, vice-president for enrollment and student affairs.

"We are a tuition driven institution," said Hill. "Thirty one students times the 15,000 for tuition - that is close to .5 million dollars."

In 1998, the former vice-president for enrollment and student affairs John Seveland, the former director of enrollment and several other staff members in the admissions department left Alma College.

"I left Alma College because it was my time," said Seveland. "I had been there for ten years and accomplished the goals I had set for myself."

Prior to Seveland's resignation, two of the five admissions representatives for the college also resigned.

When several of the recruiters for the college leave, all relationships with prospective students that have been acquired between the students' junior and senior years are lost. New recruiters must then

start over and build new relationships with those students as well as obtain new prospective students.

There may be a "weaker yield than usual due in part because financial aid may have been leveraged differently and the loss of four administration counselors during the course of the year had probably contributed to less personal contact," stated President Alan Stone in the October 3, 1998 Board of Trustee minutes.

Kalamazoo College met its enrollment goal and could not accept any other applicants for the 1999-2000 year. Hope College was able to recruit enough students. However, Albion College was slightly short of its goal.

When applications are received, they are considered to be in one of three categories. The first category is made up of those students who are regular admits, or who have approximately a "B" average and a 22 ACT score as stated in the college catalog.

The second category is made up of those students whose acceptance is normally decided at the discretion of the vice-president of enrollment. These are usually those students who fall below the "B" average and 22 ACT, but above a 2.6 gpa and 18 ACT.

Finally, the third category is made up of those students who fall below the 2.6 gpa and the 18 ACT. They must be re-

viewed by the Reading Subcommittee of the Academics Standard Committee. If any applicants from the second or third category are accepted, they are considered to be accepted by exception.

The committee reviewed 370 of the 1400 files of applicants for the class of 2003 because they failed to meet the minimum requirements. The numbers were even greater for those who were admitted by exception in the class of 2002.

In a memo written by Lisa Anne Tomei Mithen, an organization development professional and former head of the alumni association, to the Board of Trustees on April 28, 1999, she states, "Alma College describes itself as having a '... vigorous academic pace and rigorous demands,' yet the 1998-99 freshman class is populated with students who were accepted 'by exception.' They did not meet the standard entrance requirements, nor did many of them participate in the standard screening by faculty/staff reading committee normally employed in cases of exception."

She continues, "It should be noted, however, that this class met Stone's goal of bringing to campus one of the largest entering class in Alma College's history."

"Because so many admissions people left, there has been some loss of trust [in admissions]," said Hill, "That is why last year my discretion was taken away."

The Academics Standards Committee felt comfortable with the performance of Hill last year and is now allowing him discretion in the admissions process for the class of 2004.

If 425 first year students are admitted next year and the following year, the college would be back to the desired number of students and would be able to meet the goals of the Evergreen Plan. However, the President's Advisory Committee and the Executive Staff are presently considering whether a 425 budget is realistic.

"Retention is very important," stated Hill. "For every one that leaves, I have to get at least two to replace [the departing student]."

To increase enrollment at the college, the Admissions Office has carried out joint receptions with admissions, development and the Alumni Office to re-establish the alumni program for recruitment and has re-established the Alma Ambassador program. In addition, they have created competitive financial aid programs and a scholarship competition for full tuition and \$10,000 scholarships. The telecounseling program has also been reaffirmed and all members of the faculty have returned.

"We are lucky to have a class of 389," said Hill. "Did we fail? No, in some ways we held together."

Weary Report addresses campus climate

By STEVE NADEAU
Editor-in-Chief

William A. Weary, a private consultant recommended by the Association of Governing Boards, was hired by the special task force following a special meeting of the Board of Trustees in June of 1998. Weary reviewed, evaluated, and reported on campus climate and the organizational structure of the Alma College community after 29 interviews that included more than 180 people.

In the opening of his February 1999 report Weary states, "By objective measurement, Alma College is strong. Indeed, in comparison to most liberal arts colleges around the country, Alma's position is enviable." However, he goes on to say, "Yet, last spring, considerable turmoil struck the College, and continued through the summer." Weary goes on to point out a number of themes he perceived to be running throughout the College.

One idea stressed in the report was the concept of a changing institutional agenda. "In simplest terms," said Weary, "the College's 'institutional agenda' has begun to shift, perhaps for the first time in nearly 50 years, and certainly within the last ten; a new one has yet to be recognized and tackled, even though, in reality, it already has begun to emerge."

Weary also addressed concerns with faculty. He points out a number of issues and recent changes they have had to deal with, including more stress on scholarship, community service, and new programs such as student research. "Lifting the performance bar has meant greater pressure and greater accountability. Faculty, in short, are feeling stretched and pressured," said Weary.

According to Weary, faculty were not the only ones feeling overloaded. Personnel, he stated, were also experiencing an increasing workload.

"We've added quite a few [personnel] since the report," said Alan Stone, presi-

dent. "There still may be areas where people feel they're stretched. That's one of the things we have addressed and will continue to address."

Another focus of the report was on the Board of Trustees. Weary states, "In view of the College's overall situation, there can be no surprise that the board fell apart last spring and summer and that division remains within it."

When asked what the Board members were divided over, Stone said, "The presidency was one of those issues. There was this minority that really wanted to look at hiring a new president, replacing me. The majority of the board—the overwhelming majority of the Board—said no, we don't want to do that. That was probably the major issue, it certainly wasn't the only issue."

Since the report, there have been changes in the Board. Members have resigned, and the Board's bylaws have been rewritten.

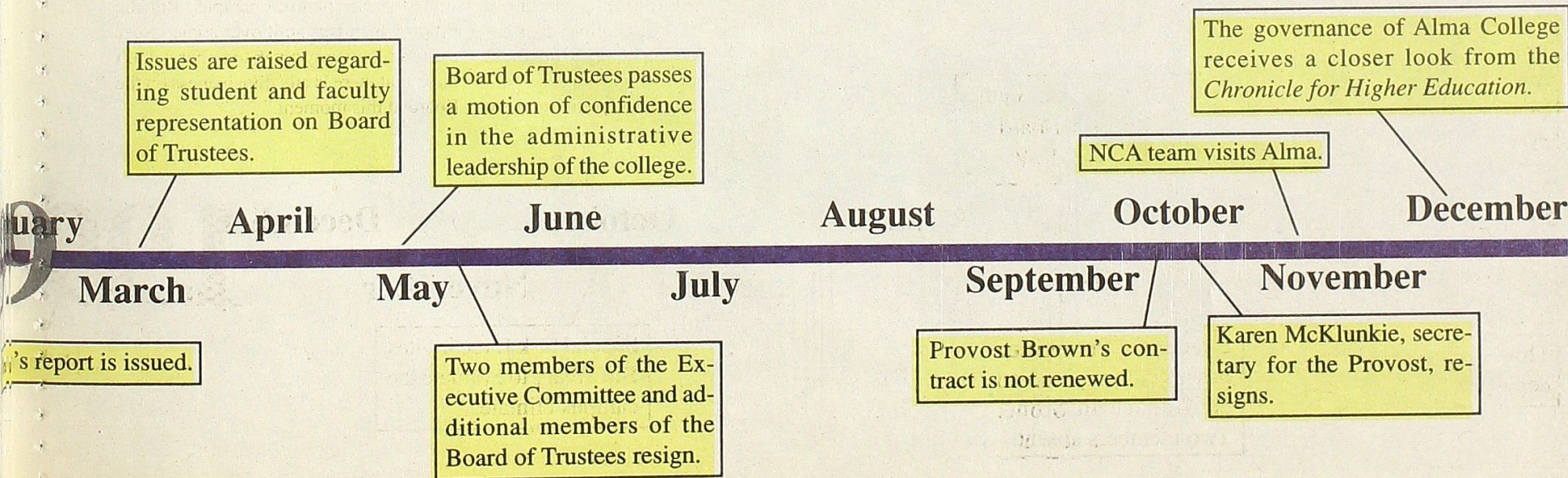
According to Stone, the Board is now

ready to move forward. He said, "The Board has been downsized. . . Now the Board is very unified for the first time in a year and a half. They're now ready to do things like that facilities plan, to take on some major projects for the institution."

Other changes have resulted from Weary's report as well. A long range plan for the College has emerged, part of which addresses Weary's concern about the emerging new institutional agenda.

Stone said, "The new [institutional agenda] would be in the long range plan. It's the push towards more globalism, more diversity, more out of state students, more student research, those are all of the things in the new agenda—The Evergreen Plan."

Other concerns remain as well. Weary states in his report, "Dramatic change and growth create their own turmoil. America's expert on institutional change, Bill Bridges, points out that most of our organizations are expert at 'change' . . . and failures at 'transition.'"



Staff Editorial

Stone-Cold Truth

Following these investigations regarding the administration, we find ourselves to be disappointed with some aspects of the leadership of Alma College.

After giving students a survey, we were very surprised at their lack of knowledge regarding administrative affairs. However, the blame for this communication gap cannot be placed entirely on the administration. Students must take responsibility for their own apathy. For example, the fact that students and faculty representation on the Board of Trustees was at stake ran as a front page story in the *Almanian* on November 17, 1999. In addition, the administration has made an effort to update students on campus events through e-mail. The North Central Accreditation was the subject of one of these e-mails.

However, we also recognize that when students take an interest in these issues, it is imperative that they are able to trust the information that the administration provides.

As staff writers for the *Almanian*, it was difficult for us to obtain the full facts necessary to complete some of these stories. In order to establish trust between these two groups, the administration must be more willing to share information and be honest with the student body. The students are the basis of this institution, consequently, they deserve to be aware of how this institution is governed.

There are other relationships of importance beside that between students and the administration. We have noticed a tension between faculty and the administration, as was seen at the special faculty meeting that was held on Monday, November 29. We believe that this tension is detrimental to the school as a whole.

The close contact between faculty and students emphasizes their importance. What affects the faculty ultimately affects students, therefore, they must also be able to trust the administration. For example, the recent turmoil regarding the search for a religion professor would have been detrimental to the needs of students, as was asserted by faculty members. If the search had been halted, the department would have been made up of only one full-time professor who also devotes time to the philosophy department. This would have limited student education.

The recent departure of numerous faculty members definitely does not lead to a trusting relationship between the faculty and the administration either. Recent faculty departures include: Theodore Hertzog, professor of math and computer science; Denise Johnson, professor of economics; Susan Kadlec, professor of business; Lynda Ludy, professor of education; Mahmood Monshipouri, professor of political science; Gina Petonito, professor of sociology; Brian Reynolds, professor of biology; and Laura Smith Vosejka, professor of chemistry.

Throughout our education, we have been taught the importance of teamwork. From learning the concept of sharing in kindergarten to working on group projects in college, there has been no other theme emphasized as much. Therefore, we find it troubling that within our administration we have seen little evidence that teamwork is a priority. Should some members of our administration be in a sandbox, we believe that they would bury their toys in the sand and deny their existence, rather than share them with others.

Teamwork is definitely not a priority within our Board of Trustees. Teamwork may exist when the minority who hold an opposing view are strategically eliminated from the Board, but this is not the type of teamwork that a high class institution should desire. Opposing views should be able to be resolved without such drastic measures as suggesting the resignation of Board members who are unable to "put the matter to rest." Maybe we should re-examine the source of the problem, rather than eliminate the problem itself.

We do, however, recognize that the Board is aware of a problem regarding trust. Stone acknowledged the issue of trust at the May 8, 1999 Board meeting when he stated, "Trust is rebuilt through work, accountability, careful communication and written understandings. As a Board, we have a unique opportunity to do something very good today, particularly to those we are charged to serve - the students."

But let's face it - this is a Board made up of only those who are willing to follow the recommendations of Stone. Opposers are asked to resign in "the best interests of Alma College." This leads us to question, does this really serve the best interests of Alma College?

Survey says...

Members of *The Almanian* conducted a door-to-door survey of 391 students, addressing the following questions. 14% of those surveyed were seniors; 24% juniors; 29% sophomores; and 33% first-year students.

1.) Do you feel that the administration should have more communication with the students?
82% YES, 18% NO

2.) Are you aware that the Provost's contract will not be renewed after this school year?
53% YES, 47% NO

3.) Are you aware that student and faculty representation on the Board of Trustees was at stake?
33% YES, 67% NO

4.) Are you aware that in 1998 three out of the five members on the Executive Staff of Alma College departed?
36% YES, 64% NO

5.) Are you aware that the endowment of Alma College is \$115 million?
27% YES, 73% NO

6.) Do you know what the NCA report is?
21% YES, 79% NO

7.) Are you aware that the Board of Trustees has been downsized from 48-36 members?
20% YES, 80% NO

8.) Are you aware that in 1998 the Board of Trustees voted on a motion of "no-confidence" in the president which failed 10-24-1?
26% YES, 74% NO

Inside Edition by:

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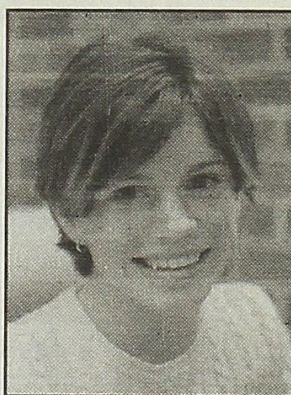
Jen Klaiss, Managing Editor

Bryan Waugh, Photo Editor

How do you feel about the communication level between administration and the students?



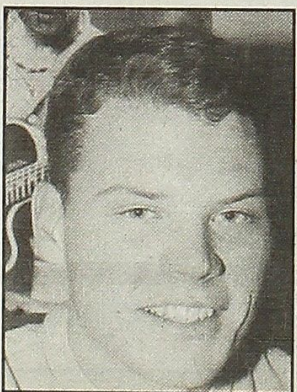
"Communication is adequate but could be a lot better. Students are not contacted directly enough." Jamie Rowe (01)



"If you don't make much effort to communicate, you aren't likely to get much dialogue back." Kristin Stuedeman (03)



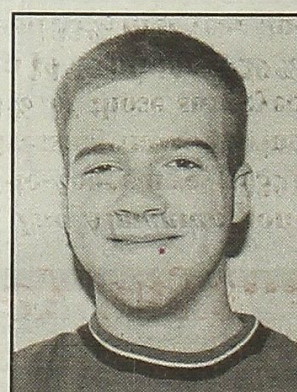
"Very low level of communication, only those annoying e-mails. The communication level is a one way street." Jenna Martin (02)



"Professors and students are at a good level, however the communication between students and administration could be better." Derek Finkbeiner (02)



"I think that there is no communication between students and administration because I never talk to them." Jorie Creevy (02)



"The communication level with professors is exceptional. . . However, the administration stays shielded from the views and ideas of students." Sean Kassen (02)