

NEWS

- Crime wave hits Alma, p. 2
- Model UN victorious again, p. 3

FEATURE

- Jazz in Alma, p. 4
- Panhel/ IFC win awards, p. 5

SPORTS

- Women's basketball finishes season, p. 8
- Swim teams close successful season, p. 9

OPINION

- Guest Editorial by Lisa Radulovich, p.10
- Letters to the Editors, p. 12

The Almanian

March 11, 1997

Serving Alma College since 1907

Issue 19

Housing process begins

By Staci Hill
News Editor

Although many students talk about spending "all-nighters" studying for exams or hanging out with friends, eventually everyone must sleep in a bed in a room of their own. During the next three weeks students will decide where they will "crash" after these long caffeine-filled nights: the housing process has begun.

Unless students threw away the mauve colored booklet titled *Alma College Housing Selection Information* they know that March Madness is not only about basketball. It is about finding someone that they can live with for an entire year, asking where friends and significant others will be moving, and deciding where to move, if at all. Many factors affect students' choice of residence hall including the room space, furniture available, internet hookup, average noise level and reputation for strictness.

Although the process looks extensive and complicated on paper, it has proven efficient in the past three years. But of course there are rules that allow it to be so user-friendly. Jennifer (JJ) Klimkiewicz, Newberry Hall director, said "If I were to give housing advice to make

it run as smoothly as possible, [as a student] I would, one, get the housing deposit paid as soon as possible, and two, show up right at the very, very beginning, because it is such a quick, efficient process that it does not take the entire time allotted."

Klimkiewicz refers to the \$50 deposit that students must pay to the Business Office by the day of the housing sign-up they will attend for the residence hall they will live in next year. Upon payment students receive a housing card that they must have with them at the sign-up.

Students should be aware that to sign-up for a room, the room must be filled. In other words, people must have a roommate to sign up. Dean of Students James Kridler addresses this problem "There have been fewer roommate problems because students are the best ones to identify their own roommate rather than leaving the decision up to us."

In past years older students were placed with incoming students and many room changes occurred as a result. Choosing one's roommate eliminates potential concerns first-year students have about living with

see HOUSING—page 2

Housing Calendar and Deadlines

Housing cards must be in hand at the time of sign-up.

Monday, March 17:
Student Affairs Office

- Senior Off-Campus Option
- Greek and Small Houses
- Apartment Houses

The remaining housing sign-up takes place in South Van Dusen Commons.

Tuesday, March 18

- Single Rooms - Campus Wide

Thursday, March 20

- South Complex Selection - all rooms computer accessible

Sunday, March 23

- South Complex Open Lottery

Monday, March 24

- Bruske Hall Selection - all rooms computer accessible

Wednesday, March 26

- Gelston Hall Selection

Thursday, March 27

- Mitchell and Newberry Halls Selection

Monday, March 3

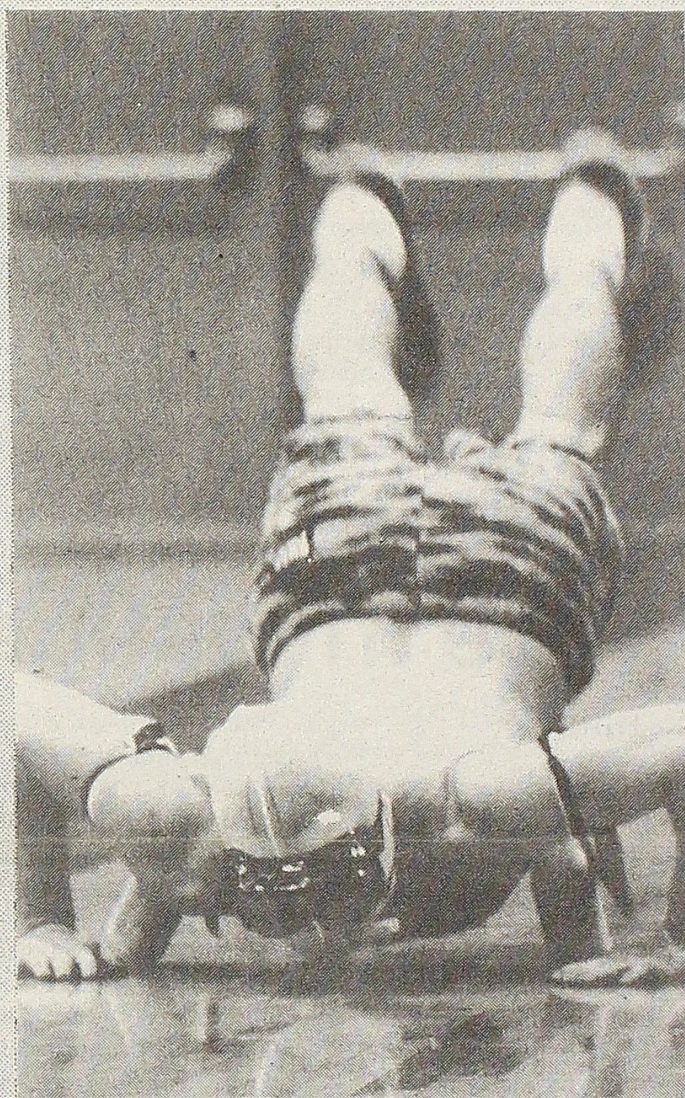
Student Affairs Office

- 1 p.m.: List of students without roommates available

Tuesday, April 8

Student Affairs Office

- 3-4 p.m.: Students without roommates lottery for campus-wide openings



Senior Derick Veale dresses up and "does the worm" at the first-round of the women's basketball tournament. Several Alma students showed their support for the team, which won that game against Kenyon (OH) before losing to Defiance (OH) in the next round. Photo by Derek Warner.

ACUB's Casino Night to replace annual Irish Pub

By Jennifer Hughes
Staff Reporter

Alma College's traditional Irish Pub, sponsored by the Alma College Union Board (ACUB), is soon to become a fading memory in the minds of students and alumni. ACUB has replaced the event with Casino Night, which will take place March 14 from 9-12 p.m. in Van Dusen Commons.

Irish Pub turnout was low to the last two years since green beer could no longer be served due to cost and insurance problems. Because of this, ACUB decided to try bringing a new function to the campus community and came up with the idea Casino Night.

ACUB is shooting for a turnout of 300-400 students with Casino Night and plans have been in the work since last term.

A variety of tables will be set up in Van Dusen for entertainment.

Students will be handed fake money at the door to play blackjack and Red Dog poker. A roulette wheel and other wheel games are also planned. With winnings, students will be able to purchase raffle tickets to win prizes. Numerous large and small prizes have been donated to this event by local businesses.

"We're hoping the prizes will lure more people in," said Kathy Taylor (97), ACUB president.

Free cups will also be handed out to those who attend. "Anybody who comes walks away with something and a chance for some really good prizes," said Taylor.

The Union Board expects a positive reaction to this new event and believes Casino Night may become a new Alma College tradition.

"I hope it's a positive reaction so people realize the Union Board is providing a wide range of activities for the student body. I realize that there maybe are a large portion of

people disappointed in not having Irish Pub, but we're trying to get a new event to replace that," commented junior Heather Myers, major events coordinator for all of ACUBs activities.

"We were disappointed not to continue Irish Pub. Everybody looks forward to that event ... but we think we got a really good replacement," said Taylor.

Live Wire, the communications club will sponsor a raffle at the event. Raffle tickets will be sold at the door of Casino Night and this Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights from 5-6:45 p.m. in Hamilton Commons. Tickets are \$0.50 each or three for \$1 and numerous prizes will be given with proceeds going towards bringing the AIDS quilt to campus.

ACUB expects great turnout and is expected for the first annual Casino Night, which will take place this Friday night.

Library's computer classroom opens

By Alyson Ferriss
Freelance Writer

The new library wing has added a great deal of room, convenience and resources. One of the newest additions is the Olofsson Computer Classroom. Patricia and Al Olofsson, who graduated from Alma in 1952, funded the addition of the facility.

This classroom houses 24 computers and is located on the main level of the library. There is an overhead computer screen and the walls are lined with dry erase boards. The computers contain Cricket Graph, Tel-net, Net Scape, turboGophor, and a new addition Page Spinner. Page Spinner is a program that helps create web pages. This program will be added to the

other computers on campus.

There is also the addition of Zip Drives, which are student accessible only in the Olofsson addition. These drives, which take cassette-like removable hard drives, hold much more memory than regular diskettes. This is advantageous when dealing with graphics and sound bites.

This new classroom has been used mostly as a computer lab recently, but the faculty is starting to reserve it more often. Many of the students are thankful for the extra space and computers—it has lessened the traffic in the SAC computer labs.

The computer classroom is open for student use during regular library hours, except when it is reserved by faculty members.

Alma Police close recent rape, suicide investigation

Crime shakes campus and community

By Erin Freeland
Staff Reporter

Gratiot County Prosecutor Keith Kushion has recently closed the case of an alleged kidnapping and rape followed by an apparent suicide which happened in Alma on Friday night.

Forty-two-year-old David Wayne Hinton was found dead of an apparent suicide on Saturday morning, when Alma and the Ithaca State Police Post served their search warrant

for his home on North State Street in Alma.

The incident occurred at about 11:30 p.m. on Friday night in the parking lot of the 300 Bowl, located at the intersection of M-46 and Alger Road in Alma. Hinton apparently asked the 19-year-old woman out and she declined. She attempted to leave the 300 Bowl and Hinton allegedly followed her into the parking lot. When he met up with her, he proceeded to ask her out again. She refused. He then physically forced her into her vehicle, drove to a country road outside of the city and sexually assaulted her. He then drove into Alma to his house on State Street, where he sexually assaulted her again. At 5:30 a.m., he forced the woman to drive him back to the 300 Bowl. Apparently, the woman then left him and was treated and released at Gratiot Community Hospital in Alma for "substantial injuries."

After the victim informed police of the whereabouts of the Alma residence in

question, Police obtained a search warrant for the residence on Saturday. At that time, Hinton was found dead of an apparent suicide. The suspect was the lone occupant of the house.

Police reported Sunday that the victim was still recovering from the traumatic experience. Police were never moved to investigate the woman as a suspect of Hinton's death.

Few details were released until Tuesday, pending a review of the incident by the Gratiot County Prosecutors office that eventually led to the closing of the case on Wednesday.

Police officer Matt Schooley stated on Tuesday that he did not believe the victim and Hinton were acquainted in any way prior to the incident. The victim only knew him as "Dave."

Rape Facts

- About 82% of all rapes are at least partially planned.
- One in three women will be raped in their lifetime.
- One in four of these women will be raped before age 14.
- An estimated one in ten men will be raped in their lifetime.
- Ninety percent of all rapes go unreported.
- Only about 2% of all rape and related sex charges are determined to be false.
- Acquaintance rape, like all rape, is an act of violence. It is not an expression of sexual desire. Men and women are equally capable of controlling their sexual urges.
- Fifty percent of men report that they would force a woman to have sex if they were sure that they wouldn't get caught.
- Forced sex is rape.
- Seventy-five percent of all rapists know their victim.
- Nothing a woman could do would make her deserve the terror of rape.

"It never happened, and what's more they deserve it."

-U.S. Army Slogan—1971

Police investigate parking lot vandalism

By Erin Freeland
Staff Reporter

Two cars belonging to Alma College students were vandalized on the Friday night before Spring Break was officially underway.

One of the cars was vandalized while parked in the lot next to Mitchell Hall, the other in the new lot located on Iowa Street.

Duane Knecht, Physical Plant Director, said Alma City Police informed him that there had been a rash of vandalizations in the Alma

area, about a half dozen of them reportedly occurring on the Alma College campus.

During one of the incidents that happened on Friday, a few witnesses saw a group supposedly attempting to vandalize a car. The witnesses were able to get the license plate of the suspected vandals and their report gave Alma Police a substantial lead in tracking them down. The Police are currently in the process of investigating that lead.

Knecht said that the few inci-

dents which did occur on the Alma campus have not been happening in one particular lot.

Dawn Smith, one of the victims of Friday's vandalizations, shared her story. Her car was parked in the Iowa Street lot. She received a call from the Alma Police saying that her car had been vandalized at 4:30 a.m. on Friday morning. The police had found the other vandalized car in the Mitchell lot and had decided to drive around to the rest of the lots in order to check for any other possible vandalizations which

may have occurred during the night. At that point they discovered Smith's car.

After she received the call, she and her roommate rode with the police to the lot and found her car with the driver's and passenger's side windows completely smashed in. The windshield was found with two dents in it which were approximately the size of a hammer, the tool that Smith said police suspect was used to vandalize the car parked in the Mitchell lot. The only windows left intact were the quarter

glass window on the driver's side and the rear window.

It was raining that night, and Smith's car was filled with water when she found it. She said there were around \$1,000 in damages done to her vehicle.

"I live six blocks from Detroit and nothing like this has ever happened to me," said Smith, "I am very angry about it."

Smith plans on making the vandals pay her back after they are caught. She has already repaired her car.

1997-98 RA staff announced

By Lisa Sherman
Staff Reporter

The student affairs staff has hired 27 students to be resident assistants for the 1997-98 school year.

To become RAs students went through a series of interviews, including a carousel interview and a formal interview with student affairs staff. During carousel, which is run by the current RA staff, candidates play out situations and are evaluated on how they handle them. The candidates are also evaluated on how they perform alone and in a group setting. Applicants who were identified as good RA candidates then interviewed with Dean of Students James Kridler and the hall directors.

Jamie Hickey, Bruske Hall director, commented that they look at all the candidates and how they do overall in the selection process. They take into consideration the candidates' answers to see that they want to become an RA in order to make a difference in other students' lives, not just to get a job.

Also the two Assistant Hall Directors (AHDs) for South Complex were announced. They are juniors Holly Roten and Julie Wilson.

The AHDs are similar to the Hall Directors in Gelston, Bruske, Mitchell, and Newberry Halls. They are in charge of the buildings and hold staff meetings.

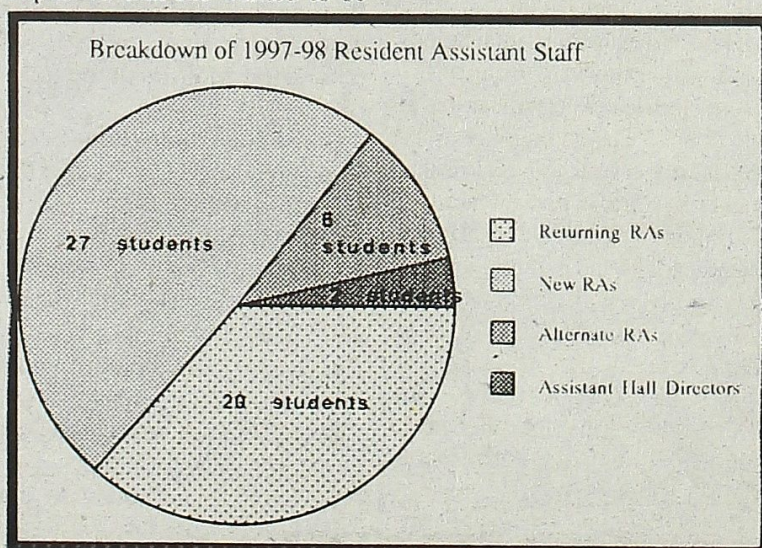
The RAs will arrive on campus this summer two weeks before classes start. They will receive one week of training before Pre-Term. This training teaches them how to handle different situations, general counseling skills, how to confront situations and team-building skills. "It is a really intense training," Miquel commented.

Sara Keinath (99), a new RA, explained that she wanted to be-

come an RA because she wanted to give something back to the campus. "I hope to make a difference in my residents and help other students have good experiences here at Alma," she said.

Hickey commented "it [the RA selection process] went pretty well this year. It's never an easy decision. I think we have a great group."

Martin Stack, Gelston Hall director, explained, "We had a lot of people who could do the job if we needed them." There were just fewer positions than qualified people.



HOUSING—continued from page 1

someone older.

To non-first-years, the process looks the same as last year. Many sophomores and juniors will attempt to move into Gelston Hall or South Complex, which have reputations for being more laid-back. New Assistant Hall Director, Holly Roten (98), commented "From the people I've talked to there are a lot of people trying to get into South Complex and Gelston. I'm very excited to see who's going to be over there and who's on my hall because they don't place Resident Assistants until after housing is over."

However, seniors will have another option this year. For the past two years a lottery has been held to allow 30 seniors to move into non-campus owned housing. This year all seniors will have the option. Many seniors want to take the next step to being on their own.

Yet, the decision is not as simple as moving away from hall directors and resident assistants. As the housing guide states, students must consider that they will "lose 25% of that part of their financial aid package that is made up of institutional dollars" if they choose to move "off-campus." This does not include the two college-owned apartment houses or other small housing units.

Kridler states the justification for this cut: "Room and board are approximately 25% of the cost of going here so if you are not on campus Alma will decrease your financial aid portion by the same amount because the college will not give you money to pay someone else rent."

Any senior who is considering this housing option should inform Dorene Lewis, housing coordinator. Students with any housing questions can contact her at x7333. Seniors with questions about how this cut might affect them individually should call the Financial Aid Office at x7347. Some students' packages will be affected while others may not, depending on the specific situation.

Also, seniors who sign-up for non-college housing will be held to that decision for the fall term. They may move back to campus in the winter. For seniors on campus in the fall, they will have the option to move off-campus in the winter.

Model UN wins in St. Louis

By Lisa Sherman
Staff Reporter

Members of the Model United Nations (UN) team spent their break working hard at the Midwest Model UN conference in St. Louis, Missouri. Alma College took three teams to St. Louis, one of which finished within the top five delegations at the conference and the other two in the top ten.

Individually, four Alma College students received Outstanding Delegate: Desiree Raleigh (96), William Doyle (00), Kevin Tunks (97), and Joshua Lincoln (96). Furthermore, Jennifer Corry (98), Gabriel Nguema (97), and Andrew Tallman (00) received Honorable Mention delegate awards at the conference.

In St. Louis, the delegates met in

committees for two days. The delegates worked on creating resolutions with the other schools' delegates "to build consensus with the committees on our topic," explained Corry. The next two days were spent in General Assembly, where they attempted to pass the same resolutions they had passed in committee. "Everybody did a wonderful job," commented Sandy Hulme, Model UN advisor and associate professor of political science.

Corry explained that in preparation the students "spent hours upon hours researching the different topics, writing resolutions and position papers, and giving presentations in class to get an understanding of the topics so we could compete effectively."

Hulme attributes the team's success to their hard work. He explained that the students develop tremendous research abilities and self-confidence in general and in their public speaking abilities.

The Model UN team will travel to New York City to compete at the world United Nations headquarters from March 25 through 29. Alma's UN teams will consolidate into one and will receive new topics and committees for this conference.

Hulme explained that Model UN is a unique opportunity for students, that it is a sort of combination of class and extra-curricular activity. He said that it has been a very rewarding experience for him as well.

Alma's 1997 Model UN Team

<i>Jamie Campbell '99</i>	<i>Sakina Hill '97</i>	<i>Amy Tcholakh '00,</i>
<i>Jennifer Corry '98</i>	<i>Josh Lincoln '96</i>	<i>Heather</i>
<i>William Doyle '00</i>	<i>Peter Muccio '99</i>	<i>Truskowski '00</i>
<i>Jason Fischer '99</i>	<i>Gabriel Nguema '97</i>	<i>Kevin Tunks '97</i>
<i>Julie Gerken '99,</i>	<i>Kevin Nielson '00</i>	<i>Katherine Zopf '00</i>
<i>Tom Glegola '98</i>	<i>Desiree Raleigh '96</i>	
<i>Justin Gustafson '97</i>	<i>Andrew Tallman '00</i>	

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Veggie Lover	7.99	5.00	11.89	7.00

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NEWS BRIEFS

• **Applications for Co-Editor-in-Chief of *The Almanian*, Editor-in-Chief of *The Scot*, and General Manager of WQAC** will be available in the Student Affairs Office starting tomorrow. The deadline for all applications is Friday, March 21.

• **Pre-Med Club** sponsors an admissions speaker from the University of Michigan Medical School tonight at 7 p.m. in Dow L-1.

• Wilcox Medical Center will hold a program titled "**Get Real: Women's Health Issues**" Thursday, March 13 at 6 p.m. in Jones Auditorium. Questions about the program can be directed to Denise Bouchey, R.N., x7181. Following their program in Jones, Wilcox will hold a **T-Shirt Making Night and Volunteer Training Session for the Clothesline Project** beginning at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 13. Women can come to make t-shirts (supplies provided) or volunteer; men can volunteer only. Volunteers are needed to support people as they view the line March 18-20 in the Dow lobby because it is a powerful experience.

• **The total cost of tuition, room and board to attend Alma College** for the 1997-98 academic year will increase 3% to \$19,288 from \$18,728 this year. This increase is Alma's lowest in 11 years and will qualify Michigan families for the 1997 state tax credit for parents of students who attend Michigan colleges that maintain cost increases below inflation.

• WQAC and Terry's Cycle and Sport are sponsoring a **contest to give away a mountain bike**. Every hour listeners can qualify for a drawing to be announced. Callers can qualify only once.

• **Dr. Margaret Geller**, professor of astronomy at Harvard University, will speak tomorrow at 8 p.m. in Dow L-1. Geller has mapped the nearby universe and will speak on "So Many Galaxies...So Little Time." Admission is free without ticket.

• The **Alma College Choir** performs Friday, March 14 at 8 p.m. in the Heritage Center Presbyterian Hall. Call the box office at 7304 for reserved seating.

• Twelve candidates for Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees present their work in the **Senior Show**. The exhibit is open from Monday, March 17 to Saturday, April 19 in the Clack Art Center, Flora Kirsch Beck Art Gallery. Admission is free to the show.

• The second exhibition of winter term for the **art department** is on display until Thursday, March 13 in the Art Gallery. Admission is free to see the work of Neil Mick who is showing a collection of drawings titled "Crossings" and drawings in color by Sally Warner.

• The **Michigan Collegiate Job Fair (MCJF)** will take place Friday, April 4 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Burton Manor, 27777 Schoolcraft Road in Livonia. Advance registration must be received by Friday, March 28, including a resume and a check for \$10 to MCJF, mailed to: University Counseling and Placement Services, 1001 Faculty-Administration Building, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI 48202-3622. For more information call the Center for Student Development at x7356 or write to <http://www.stuaffrs.wayne.edu/>.

• **Training for MEGA Mentors** will be held Thursday, March 13, in Jones Auditorium, Tuesday, March 18, and Sunday, March 23, in Van Dusen Fireside Lounge, all at 8 p.m. Call Amy x7373 or Andy x7814 with any questions.

• Kappa Iota will be sponsoring a **speaker addressing domestic violence** and the needs of the women's aid shelter. Madonna Atkins will speak in Jones Auditorium tonight at 8:00 p.m.

• The first meeting for **making new panels for the AIDS Memorial Quilt** will be held tomorrow from 7-9 p.m. in the Alma Public Library meeting room. Contact Jennifer Klimkiewicz at x7147 with questions.

Jazz concert to be held

Strand benefit scheduled for Wednesday night

By Daniel C. Scripps
Co-Editor-In-Chief

On Wednesday, March 19 the Strand Theatre in downtown Alma will be the location for "Jazz at the Strand." Lasting from 7 to 10 p.m., the concert will feature four different jazz bands from the Alma area, as well as a jam session to wrap up the evening. Proceeds from the admission cost, which is \$5 for adults and \$3 for students, will go toward the renovation of the Strand Theatre, which was recently purchased by the Gratiot County Players, a local theatre group.

The show will begin with the two jazz bands from Alma High School, both of which are under the direction of Kevin Smith. The Alma College Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of Don Metcalf, will follow, playing some tunes from their Blues and Pop show last Thursday. The band will once again feature senior Matt "Bubba" Groves on vocals. The last band to play is the spotlighted band of the evening, the Rob Smith Quartet. The quartet features Alma native Rob Smith on both trumpet and tenor saxophone, Terry Lower, from Battle Creek, on piano,

Saginaw's Ernie Buchanan on drums and Flint resident Nick Colandro on bass. The group has been around for a couple of years and the leader, Rob Smith, has been featured on a pair of CDs titled *Out on a Limb* and *Angst for the Spoiler*.

After graduating from Alma High School Rob Smith went on to Central Michigan University and then to North Texas State University. He has been a professional musician for ten years playing in New York City and throughout the midwest. He also spent a stint playing with the Woody Herman Orchestra.

"I think that something that is really unique about Rob," said junior Derek Boyer, "is that he has two completely different styles depending on which instrument he is playing. That, and he can solo like a mo'fo'."

The quartet will be the group used for the jam session as well, although certain members will sit out when other rhythm section members want the chance to sit in.

The idea for the show, according to John Ottenhoff, professor of English and the person behind "Jazz at the Strand," "came in part last summer when Sam [his son] and I heard

Rob [Smith] playing in Flint." Since Ottenhoff had been toying with the idea for about a year he thought "it might be nice to do something at the Strand."

While the Alma College group will be playing some of their Blues Brothers tunes, Kevin Smith said that his groups will "probably be playing what we played at the CMU jazz festival, but we're not 100% sure." These tunes include John Coltrane's "Impressions," Duke Ellington's "In a Sentimental Mood," "Brazil," by Ary Barosso, and "Donna Lee," by Charlie Parker. Featured soloists for the bands include trumpet players Chloe Ottenhoff and Ian Mapes and bassist Marco Frano.

Kevin Smith commented, "I'm really looking forward to the jam session. I'm hoping we get a lot of people up on stage." The jam session is open to the audience and all local musicians, and will feature a number of jazz tunes, including some original compositions by Rob Smith.

Advance tickets are available from members of the high school bands, and for more information contact Ottenhoff at extension 7138.

Joiner performs concert



Guest musician Leigh Joiner plays her violin in front of an audience at Dunning Memorial Chapel on Friday night. Joiner is a faculty member of Wheaton College in Illinois and featured music from various 20th century composers during her performance. Photo by Derek Warner.

Jazz Ensemble brings blues to Heritage Center

By Larissa VanderZee
Feature Editor

The Alma College Jazz Ensemble brought the Heritage Center to life with its "Blues and Pop Concert." Last Thursday, under the direction of Donald Metcalf, music instructor and director of the Jazz Band, the Ensemble performed before a seat-filled audience in the Presbyterian Hall.

Recreating the energizing music of the Blues Brothers' 1978 release of *Briefcase Full of Blues* the performance offered musical entertainment that was far from calm and peaceful. Had the concert not been held in an auditorium setting, one might have thought they were in a crowded, smoky club listening to feet stomping music. The show had pizzazz, energy, a refreshing sound and engaging performers.

"It was awesome; I can't say much more than that. I have al-

ways loved the music from the Blues Brothers and this band did an excellent job performing it. The Heritage Center has never been so much fun," stated senior Monica Hoeft, one member of the audience who could barely stay in her seat.

Sporting black suits, black hats, and sunglasses, the vocalists, senior Matt "Bubba" Groves on lead vocals and first-year student Jeff "Elwood" Potter on lead backup, looked and played the part of the famous Blues Brothers. Groves belted out the words to the nine tunes requiring a vocalist. During the first number, "Hey Bartender," he proved a hit, captivating the crowd with a hearty voice demanding attention. He gave a strong vocal performance free of missed lines, cues, or notes.

Also during "Hey Bartender" Potter demonstrated his skill on the harmonica (blues harp)—a true crowd pleaser—and as a competent backup vocalist. Although, one of

Potter's most entertaining moments happened during "Shake Your Tailfeather." As Groves sang the names of various dance moves, Potter demonstrated to all how each was done. He hit a groove and shook his tailfeathers.

The other key element to the concert was of course the musicians. For the intense musical sounds that floated in the air, it took 23 musicians and six different types of instruments. In keeping with the blues tradition, sunglasses were also worn by the players.

A lively trombone section proved that even while performing it was impossible to be still. When not assisting Groves, Potter joined the three other trombonists, setting into a rhythm. When the music did not call for their instrumental talents, juniors Dan "Slide" Scripps and Derek Boyer broke into a jive, dancing on the stage.

"Playing in the concert was great. I had a lot of fun," said Boyer. He

further stated that "it was very nice to see the crowd move around in their seats, really getting into the tunes."

Those individuals performing the musical solos proved they could play some mean blues either on their own or as part of the whole. After each soloist finished, the crowd let them know that they had done well. Spontaneous shouts of praise were not held back at this show.

The next big date for the Jazz Ensemble is April 6, the evening of their spring concert. Given the number and enthusiasm of this performance's audience, Boyer said he hoped it would "spur a little more support for the jazz band's upcoming events."

Joliet Jake and Elwood Blues, played by Matt "Bubba" Groves (97) and Jeff Potter (00), lead the Alma College Jazz Ensemble this past Thursday. Photo by Derek Warner.



Euchre tournament profits to help fund AIDS Quilt

By Laura Paetz
Freelance Writer

Newberry Hall Council is \$190 closer to bringing the AIDS Memorial Quilt to campus.

This year's euchre tournament netted almost double the profits of last year's competition, bringing them a little closer to raising the \$9,000 needed to show the quilt from September 25-28. Newberry Hall Council originally committed to donate \$300, but will now be able to contribute almost \$500 to their cause, said NHC president junior Cindy Miller. NHC received

final approval to show the quilt last Thursday.

The double elimination tournament, which took place in Hamilton Commons this year in order to accommodate more players, attracted 46 teams. Teams who signed up in Hamilton before Friday paid admission fees of \$4 per team. Teams that did not preregister paid \$5 at the door.

"This is the first year that faculty and staff played in the euchre tournament and they really had a good time," said Miller. "The students had a good time playing with them and I think more should sign up

next year."

Sophomore roommates Chris Gayer and Dave Brown won first place in the tournament. They won two \$30 gift certificates, one for Alma Cinemas and one for Chart Hits.

"We've played together a lot. We've known each other since high school and played together then, too," said Gayer. Gayer and Brown took second place in last year's euchre tournament.

Juniors Christi Bush and Rebecca Walter won second place and share a \$40 gift certificate to Wal-Mart.

This year's tournament also fea-

tured a 20-minute time limit per hand. Miller said she received mixed reactions to this new regulation: some teams didn't like it while others used it to their advantage.

"The 20-minute rule really helped to speed things up, especially through the early rounds," said Gayer.

Additionally, an ACUB decjay provided entertainment for the evening, and a door prize drawing gave everyone an opportunity to walk away with a prize. According to NHC vice president Elizabeth Jones (00), who coordinated the tournament with co-vice

president Amanda Burnett (00), various community businesses donated prizes for the drawing. These businesses include 7-11, Alma Cinema, Beach Combers, Chart Hits, Hair Benders, Marriott, Pizza Sam's, Scot Shop, Taco Bell and True Value Hardware.

"Some people left before their names were drawn, so winners who were not present will receive their prizes through the mail," said Jones.

Miller, who is in her second year as NHC president, said the Council will sponsor another euchre tournament next year.

Panhel/IFC recognized at conference

By Larissa VanderZee
Feature Editor

The Interfraternity Council (IFC) and the Panhellenic Council of the Alma College Greek community seem to be doing something right. After recently attending the annual Mid-American Greek Council Association (MGCA) conference held in Chicago on February 20-23, both councils returned with honors in recognition of council achievements.

The Panhellenic Council, governing body of all sororities, won three awards, while IFC, governing body of all fraternities, walked out of the conference having won two awards. Alma's IFC was the only council in their division to win any awards.

To win any of the awards distributed by MGCA, the individual Greek councils had to apply for them. The applications had to be compiled by only students. Their

council advisors could help them with finding documentation and could look over the applications, but could not be directly involved. Jennifer (JJ) Klimkiewicz, advisor for Panhel, said the application process is "student motivated. They do the work and this way the recognition is truly on the council and not its advisors."

According to Klimkiewicz, the Alma Panhellenic councils of the past have never applied for any MGCA awards. As first time applicants, this year's Panhellenic council felt confident enough to apply for three of the seven awards given. They won all three. These awards were in the areas of public relations/public image, council management and recruitment and retention.

Klimkiewicz further stated that winning these awards had more to do with recognition than competition. "It is about recognition for success, not so much that one

school's council is better than another. It's about recognizing councils that are successful on their campuses," she said.

In addition to their three awards, Panhel won another award called the George Little Award. This was given to schools that had not previously applied for MGCA awards. By winning this award, the Panhellenic Council received a \$200 scholarship. While the exact use of this funding is yet to be determined, Klimkiewicz said they have a goal "to use it toward council management improvements and intersorority relations." She hopes that it can be used to "better the Panhellenic Council and body on campus."

Having applied for four awards, the IFC won two. For a second consecutive year IFC won the self-governance/judicial award and they also won the public relations/public image award.

Assistant Dean of Students and

IFC Advisor Bill Arnold said that senior Justin Burch, the IFC representative to the conference, had an important role in the winning of the P.R. award. Winning this honor was in part due to "a lot of work that Justin has been doing with the newsletter [regarding Greek activities and involvement] and his work on creating a web page," said Arnold.

Additionally, Arnold stated that the conference "is a good experience for our students to be able to go and meet with other Greek members from different institutions. It puts our Greek system in perspective and they can see that we are doing some good things."

The conference was not just for council members and their advisors. In addition to Burch, junior Sarah Isaacson (ΑΓΔ) went as the panhel representative. Other Greek members attending were sophomores Sara Peel (ΑΓΔ), Dana Reinke (ΑΞΔ), Chris Tapley (ΣΧ) and junior Eric Reed (ΣΧ). Each

fraternity and sorority on campus had the opportunity to send a representative to this conference. There were ample opportunities for these individuals to acquire education on various aspects of campus Greek life.

Sophomore Dana Reinke, a member of the Alpha Xi Delta sorority, felt like the conference was quite beneficial to her understanding of how Greek communities work. In talking with Greek members from other campuses and attending conference sessions, Reinke stated that she "learned a lot that would help the entire Greek community, not just my own sorority."

Reinke further stated that compared to many other campuses, "our Greek community is better than a lot of other campuses. We aren't perfect, but it seemed that we had a stronger and more unified community as a whole."

Perry implements chapel service changes

Sunday worship services move to Jones Auditorium due to chapel renovations

By Jennifer Hughes
Staff Reporter

New forms of worship are being added to Alma College's traditional Sunday chapel services led by the Reverend Jesse Perry. During the current chapel renovations, chapel services have been moved to Jones Auditorium.

Currently, the Chapel upstairs is being given a fresh coat of paint

and new carpeting and drapes are being installed. The organ has been moved out front and built-in risers for the choir have replaced the old risers.

"Jones lends itself to doing something that's more creative in worship," commented Perry.

He hopes to implement computer or video images that will illustrate Bible verses as they are being read. Meditation time and music will be

added to the end of the services also "giving people time to reflect on what was said and on the week to come," Perry said.

"We number somewhere between 40-50 students now. We may lose 4-5 the first week...I don't think there will be a great falldown. In fact, I think we may even gain some," he added.

Renovations are expected to be completed by the first Sunday in April but Perry hopes to continue these improvements to services even after returning services to the Chapel and expects a positive reaction from most students.

"I think it'll be favorable and what we start over there [Jones]

we'll continue," Perry said.

He also hopes to involve students in the process of preparing graphics for Sunday services. "Ideally," he said, "we'd like to have a group of students working on the slides a week ahead of time."

"This will be a little more work," he commented, "but with computer technology we can do that without too much difficulty."

Last Sunday was the first of the Jones services and covered John 3:16. This coming week, Sunday morning services will be held in the gymnasium along with Youth Mix '97.

Alma College will have a joint worship service with Youth Mix

which will include nearly 400 high school students from all over Michigan with 'TEAM' as the keynote speaker. Youth Mix is sponsored every year by the Presbyterian Church and this year's theme is "The Missing Link."

With the exception of the service in the gymnasium on Sunday, March 16, Chapel services will be held in Jones Auditorium Sunday mornings at 11:15 a.m. until renovations are concluded.

Any student interested in working on graphics or any other part of a service is encouraged to contact the Reverend Jesse Perry.

Students experience culture at Detroit Institute of Art

By Tiffany Hodge
Freelance Writer

This past Friday, various students and professors from the Alma College Art Department decided to expand their study of art history.

Changing their view of the lecture theater and the numerous slides it has to offer, they ventured outside of Alma to the Detroit Institute of Art. With their packed lunches they filed into the Alma College maroon van—thoughts of middle

school field trips were remembered by everyone.

As students walked through the museum, various works of art that had only been seen through a slide or text book, were now before their eyes—the texture, color, size, and the life of the work seemed more influential than any classroom experience on campus.

Works such as *Watson and the Shark* painted by John Singleton Copley and sculptures by Rodin proved to be even more powerful pieces of work than what was originally seen on a screen in a classroom.

Students not only studied the

works of art displayed on walls and floors, but the architectural layout of the museum itself, was a masterpiece. Each section of the museum was designed in congruence with the art it displayed. The Gothic style stained glass and cathedral architecture was set in a recreated stone pulpit and the American decorative arts were displayed in a restored 19th century American home. The Rivera Court exhibited the frescos painted in 1927 by Diego Rivera.

In this same court Alma College students found themselves next to a large group of elementary school children studying the same art work.

Sitting on the floor, viewing the breathtaking mass of art surrounding them, one could only think "why can't we take field trips more often?" Why are field trips obsolete after high school?

Of course, the college offers students the experiences of traveling to places such as Europe, Australia, and New York. But, on a smaller scale, short trips to places such as museums, businesses, hospital labs or theaters prove to be just as experiential and less costly than large excursions. Students and professors, alike, after a while find a touch of monotony in the classroom watching slides, chalkboards, and overhead projectors. There should be more opportunities to break the daily agenda and instead hop in a van and experience with one's own eyes and hands what there is outside of Alma for a day.

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Fun in the

Choir tours Florida for break

By Jenn Cornell
Opinion Editor

While the rest of campus took off for Spring Break expecting to relax and unwind, the Alma College Choir spent their break touring Florida, promoting music and Alma College throughout the state.

The choir, consisting of 45 members, sang six concerts in seven days at various Presbyterian churches in the Sunshine State and at Epcot Center in Orlando. With a repertoire including a range of songs from Mozart to the well-known classic, "I've Been Working on the Railroad," the choir worked hard to say the least.

While touring the state, members stayed at the homes of church members who volunteered to keep them for the evening.

Sophomore Carrie Reid said, "Choir Tour definitely gives us the chance to meet all kinds of interesting people," whether it be through evening home stays or interaction with church members for whom the choir performed.

Although a lot of hard work went into touring for the choir, time was reserved for fun as well.

"I've never seen a palm tree, never swam in salt water, never saw a live dolphin, never saw white beaches before tour," commented sophomore Karl Wolff.

Far from Alma, the choir was made to feel right at home by receiving support from alumni who

attended the concerts. President Alan Stone, who was vacationing in Florida, even put in an appearance.

Sophomore Marcus Evans added, "I never thought I'd hear Dr. Stone work Model U.N. into everything before tour."

On top of enjoying the beautiful weather and beaches while not performing, the choir also got a chance to support the baseball team who was there for training by going to see one of their games.

Musically, the choir was able to expand their horizons by learning difficult music and performing it successfully on a grueling schedule.

"I love to sing and choir tour gives us all a chance to promote Alma College and make each of us better performers," added Wolff.

Socially, Choir Tour helps the members to learn to get along with people, even after seeing everyday for an entire week. On a more positive note, it also helps to develop lasting friendships.

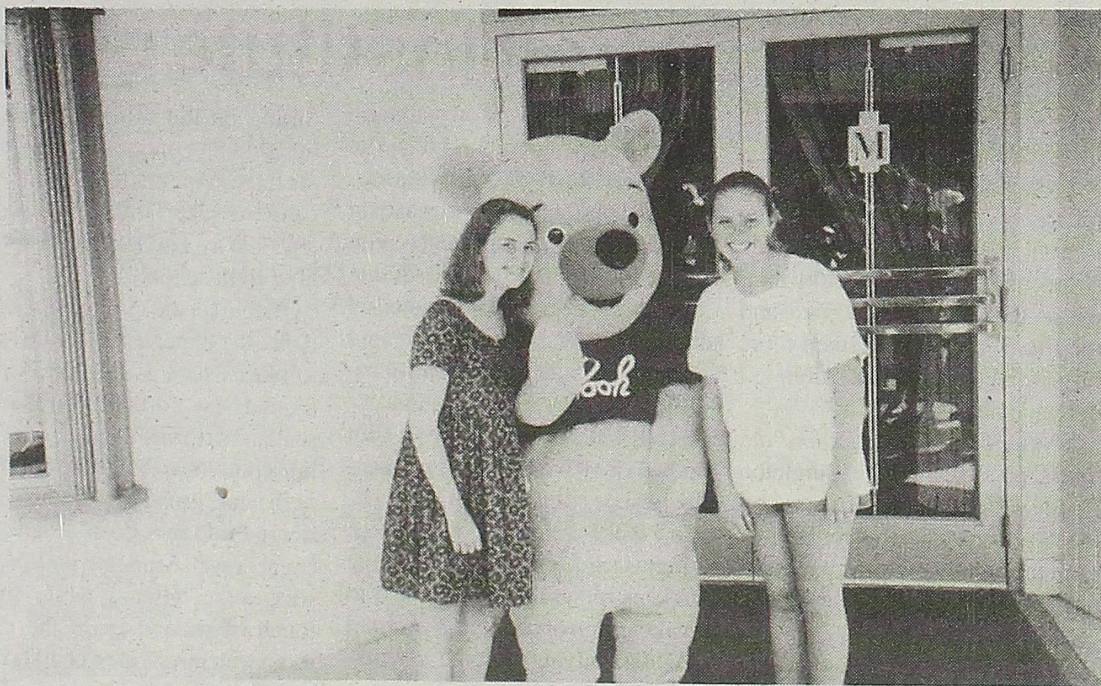
Junior Amanda Scott commented, "We experienced positive interactions with others because tour helps us learn to appreciate our differences and get along despite them. Tour also gave us a chance to see beauty throughout the state and give some back in the form of our music."

Songs from the tour can be heard at their concert on Friday, March 14, at 8 p.m. in the Heritage Center.



Tennis team members senior Jill Woehrmann, first-year student Betsy Keeler, junior Tricia Hannig and sophomore Jatell Driver take a break between matches. The tennis team also visited Walt Disney World. File photo.

First-year student Aaron Kerr, first-year student Jared Falkowski, sophomore Carrie Reid, first-year student Nicole Robson, sophomore Jeff Chowning and senior Amanda Scott pose with the cast of Beauty and the Beast. File photo.



Sophomore Carrie Reid and first-year student Nicole Robson spend some time with childhood favorite Winnie-the-Pooh during their visit to the Magic Kingdom. The choir sang at Epcot and then had the opportunity to go to either the Magic Kingdom or MGM Studios. File photo.



First-year student Betsy Keeler and junior Lisa Tessmer watch their teammates play during the tennis team's trip to Kissimmee, Florida. Over the course of the trip the women's team won two matches and lost two matches. File photo.

he sun

Scot athletes head south for spring break

By Chris Tapley
Sports Editor

Over spring break while most people were headed home or for a well-earned week of vacation many Alma athletes were headed south, not to party, but to practice. The men's and women's tennis teams, the softball team and the baseball team all made training trips to Florida over break.

The softball and baseball teams traveled to Fort Meyers, Florida for a week of practice and games. The softball team left for Florida on Tuesday of break and returned the following Tuesday. They chose these times because early in the week no other softball teams were in Fort Meyers. By delaying their departure until Tuesday they were able to play several teams later in the week.

The Scots were able to get on the practice field on Tuesday and had a scrimmage against Edison, a local community college, on Wednesday. The team split two games with Edison, losing the first 3-2 and winning the second 8-0. On Thursday, the team had the day off and most people headed for the shops and beaches for a little relaxation. On Friday, the team came back and started a series of double headers. The team played double headers on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

The women were 7-1 for the week defeating Tri-State University, Mercy Herst, Ohio Northern University, Rochester Institute of Technology and Madonna. The team's only loss came at the hands of Gannon University. The 7-1 record was the best by a softball team in seven years.

"We're very positive and very excited, the kids got some great experience and they played very well, we're going to build on that and go on," said head coach Denny Griffin.

The baseball team left for Florida on March 21 and played their first game on March 22. The team played double headers everyday they were in Florida and ended with a 1-6-1 record. The Scots defeated Capital College 17-1 and were defeated by Adrian College and Mercy Herst, which is ranked in the top 10 of division II.

"We had the typical first game jitters... as the week went on we became a pretty good team," said head baseball coach John Leister.

Leister went on to say, "We beat ourselves in some things. We probably should have only lost one game that we were out of."

Despite the somewhat disappointing record Leister is positive about the season.

"We have the makings of a nice ball club and to be competitive in the league," said Leister.

The men's and women's tennis team also traveled to Florida over break. Their final destination, however, was different than the baseball and softball teams. The tennis teams traveled to Orange Lake Country Club in Kissimmee, Florida. The teams were in Florida from February 22 through March 1.

The women's team split four matches winning two and losing two. The team defeated Hillsboro Community College and Florida Community College 5-4 and were defeated by Ekart College and Weber College 9-0. Ekart is currently ranked fourteenth in the nation.

Junior Sarah Hypio played a decisive role in both wins according to women's head coach Tammy Anderson. Hypio's game was the deciding factor in both wins.

While the teams were in Florida they weren't practicing or playing tennis all the time. Both the men's and women's team took some time off to visit the Magic Kingdom. This year is the 25th Birthday Celebration at Walt Disney world, so the teams decided to check out the festivities.

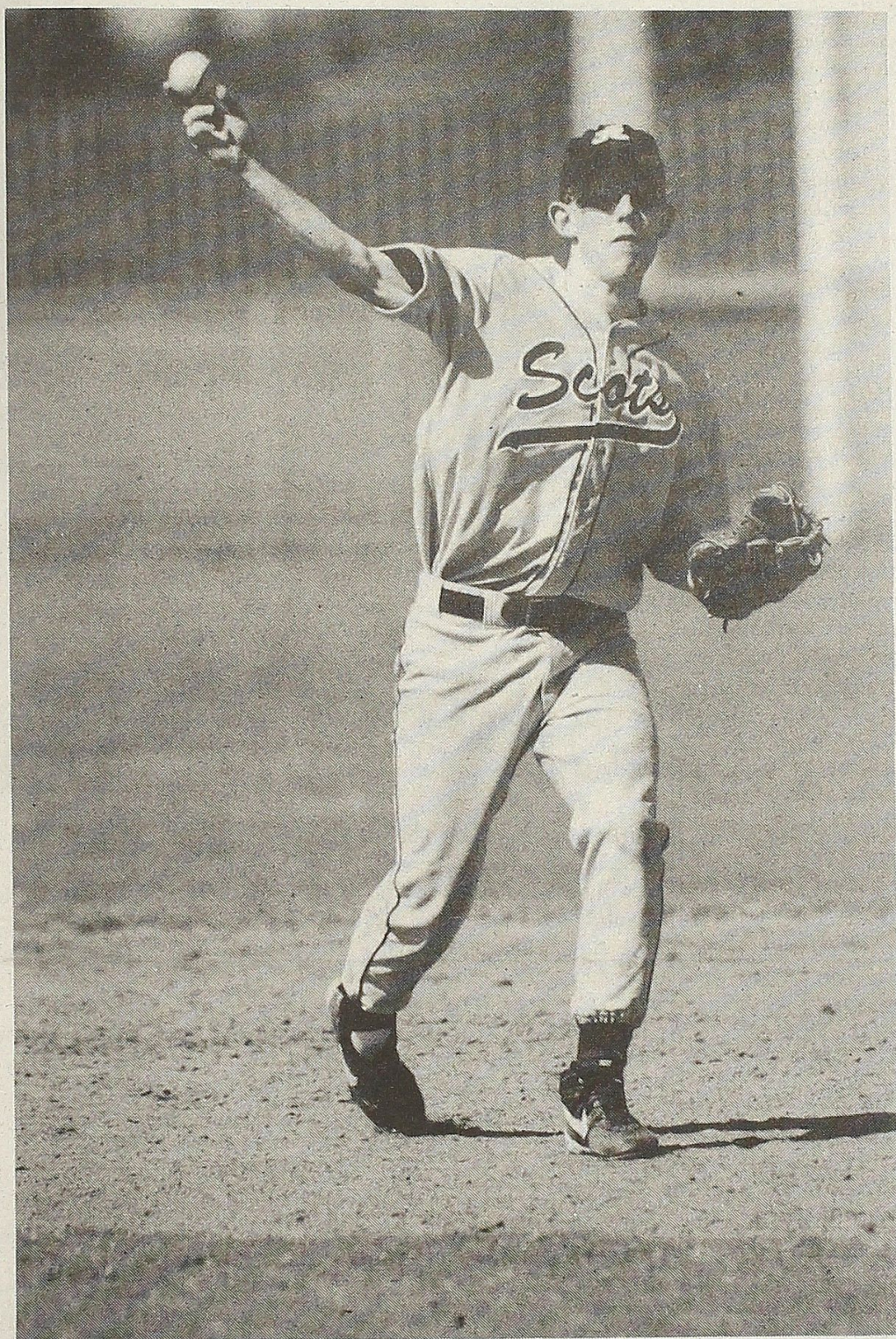
The trips to Disney World served other purposes also.

"I feel as well as the girls that this is the best year for camaraderie. The Florida trip allowed them to get very close," said Anderson.

The teams all returned to Alma this past week to await the arrival of warm weather and outdoor practices.

"It's a little bit of a bummer coming back from 90 degree weather to cold weather and indoor practices," said Leister.

The baseball team starts their season on March 22 at Marietta College in Ohio. The softball team's first regular season test will come on March 18 at home against Grand Valley State University while the women's tennis team starts action on March 5 at Aquinas college followed by the men on March 8 at Hillsdale College.



Senior Derek Zell, shortstop, attempts to throw out a runner at first base during the baseball team's trip to Fort Meyers held over spring break. Zell is a returning starter. File photo.

Five senior members of the baseball team pose for a picture: shortstop Derek Zell, pitcher Joe Poot, pitcher Andrew Jacobson, catcher Steve Vance and second baseman Jason Cotton. Playing double headers every day did not allow the team much time for relaxation, but they did gain experience. They were able to play teams such as Mercy Herst, which is ranked in the division II top ten as well as MIAA rivals Adrian College. They finished with an overall record of 1-6-1. File photo.



Scots fall in tournament

By Kari St. Bernard
Freelance Writer

The women's basketball season ended Saturday as the team fell to first-ranked Defiance 85-72 in the second round of the NCAA Division III tournament.

"We didn't start off very well. We kept getting down and having to dig ourselves out," said senior Michelle Olds.

The Yellow Jackets scored the first eight points of the game. The women battled it out in the first half, leaving Alma behind 41-31. In the second half, the women fought back, narrowing the deficit to only five points with five minutes remaining. But then foul trouble took players out of the game.

Foul trouble hurt the women's throughout the game. Alma went to the line 23 times, where Defiance had 36 opportunities. Senior Melissa VanDamme fouled out

with five minutes remaining in the game, followed by sophomore Ellen Bradbury.

According to Olds, the Yellow Jackets' pressure was also a problem. The Scots were not used to dealing with the sort of pressure that Defiance was applying and had a difficult time adjusting.

VanDamme lead the team with 18 points in about 20 minutes of play, followed by senior Jaami McClellan, who had 14. Bradbury came off the bench to add 12 points and 10 rebounds in 19 minutes, and first-year student Shannon Gross finished with 11 points. Olds also added 10 points and seven assists.

"As a team, it was very disappointing; we made it into the tournament, but we wanted to make it further," said VanDamme.

Over spring break the women won the MIAA tournament by defeating Olivet 89-52, Adrian 52-49, and Hope 65-56. Last Wednes-

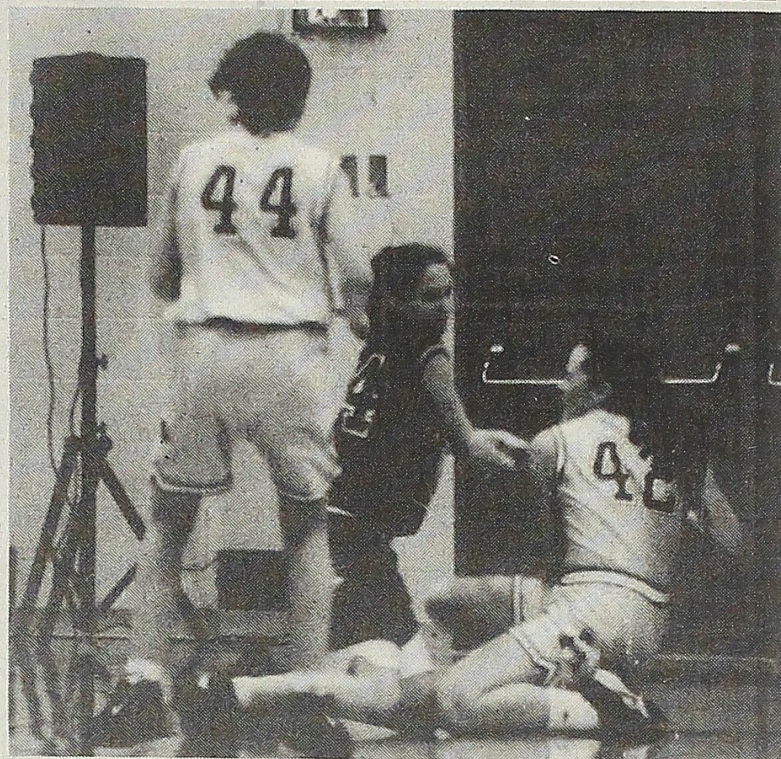
day the women continued that winning streak by eliminating Kenyon College 66-59 in the first round of NCAA tournament play.

Although the team was plagued by injuries, the women finished the season with a conference record of 10-2, and a 23-6 record overall.

"With everything that has happened to the team, I am very pleased with the way it ended up," said VanDamme.

Olds added, "The incoming players added a good mix, we got along really well and had a lot of fun. I am happy about a winning season, but it is the friendships that we made that we will remember."

In MIAA news, McClellan, Olds and VanDamme were selected for the 1997 All-MIAA Team. VanDamme, who has been picked for All-MIAA three years running, was also named Most Valuable Player. Bradbury was chosen for second team.



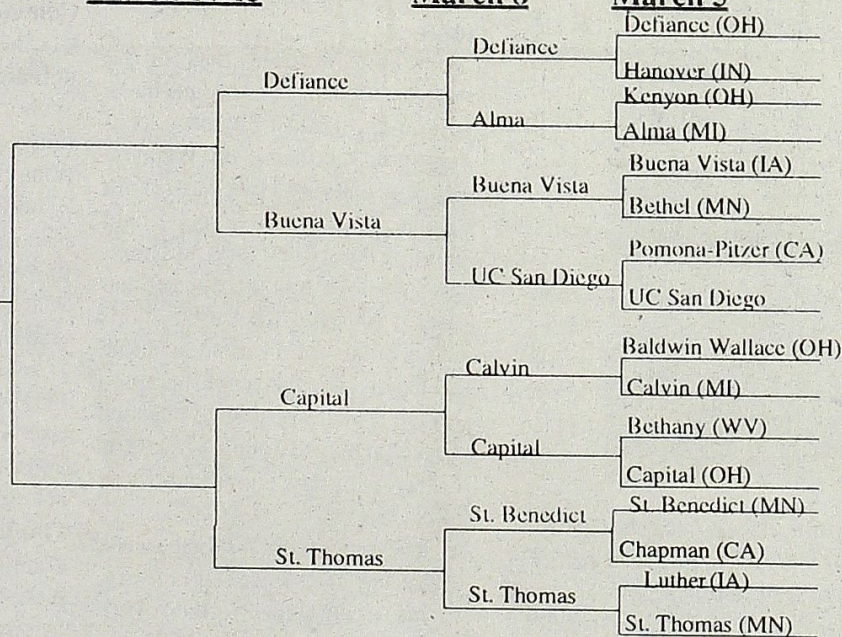
In the team's first round game against Kenyon, first-year student Shannon Gross fights for a loose ball as teammate Michelle Olds (97) looks on. Photo by Derek Warner.

1997 National Collegiate Division III Women's Basketball Championship

March 14-15

March 8

March 5



Great Lakes Region

Sports Notes

The Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) is sponsoring a logo design contest. The MIAA is seeking a new logo which will be introduced when the two new member teams are added. The rules of the contest are:

1. Anyone associated with a MIAA member school is eligible, this includes faculty, students, etc.
2. The winner of the contest wins \$500.
3. The new logo must be such that it can appear on printed material sent out by the MIAA
4. All entries become the property of the MIAA
5. It is preferred that the logo contains the following colors: Green (ink # PMS 334), Brown (ink # PMS 471), Black
6. Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Association and the letters MIAA must appear on the logo. The names of member schools should not. It is acceptable for either "Nation's Oldest Conference" or "Founded 1888" to appear on the logo
7. Nothing referring to the fact that the MIAA geographical borders extends outside the state of Michigan should appear on the logo
8. The MIAA reserves the right to reject any or all of the entries
9. The MIAA reserves the right to change the design with consultation of the artist
10. Deadline April 15, 1997

All entries should be sent to:

Commissioner Sheila Wallace-Kovalchick
Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Association
PO Box 643
Hillsdale, MI 49242

Sports Chat by Tom Glegola

Alomar pleads one more time for forgiveness

By Tom Glegola
Staff Reporter

In a recent interview, Baltimore Orioles Second Baseman, Roberto Alomar asked again for forgiveness for spitting in the face of umpire John Hirshbeck last season. He also expressed dismay over his sudden lack of popularity among baseball fans.

Before the incident, Alomar was one of the most popular players of the game. One incident changed that. Nine years of positive play were in a sense erased from the memories of fans by one ugly incident.

The scene of Alomar spitting on

Hirshbeck was broadcasted to millions. Umpires threatened to strike during the playoffs when Alomar was not suspended for the playoffs; only last-minute intervention prevented it.

Later on accusations of racist comments were made, along with a newspaper quoting Alomar on Hirshbeck's performance since the loss of his son.

Alomar quickly apologized, contributed \$50,000 to the charity named after Hirshbeck's son, and expected things to be back to normal. The negative reception he received quickly told him otherwise. The fans were outraged by what he had done.

Six months later, nothing has really changed. The incident is still fresh in the minds of many. Should he be forgiven?

That might be the case, but things cannot be what they once were, which is what Alomar wants. His act will forever change him, and fans' impressions of him. Right or wrong, that is the way the world is. People do not forget.

What Roberto Alomar needs to concentrate on is playing baseball. He cannot continue to whine. He cannot express dismay as to why he is still hounded by his mistake. He has apologized several times. His apology was accepted. Alomar now needs to move on. He must simply

ignore the outside influences and give 110%. Then fans might eventually again come to appreciate his tremendous talent.

Despite this incident, Alomar is one of the best players in the game. He consistently hits .300 or above. He is an excellent fielder. Alomar is a reliable run producer. He is a good team player. He has all of the tools necessary to

play the game well. He just needs to concentrate. He needs to remain in control of himself. He needs to remain healthy. Roberto Alomar simply needs to play baseball.



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Swim teams end record breaking year

By Chris Tapley
Sports Editor

On February 20 through 22 the men's and women's swim teams traveled to Hope College to take on the MIAA at the conference meet. Both teams ended the season in third place. With 363.5 points the women finished behind Hope and Kalamazoo. The men finished behind Kalamazoo and Hope with 300.5 points, narrowly defeating Calvin's 299.5 points.

"Both teams swam to win. The teams that beat us, beat us. We didn't lose to anyone," said head men's and women's coach Greg Baadte.

Both the men and the women broke nine team records at the meet. Breaking records for the men were sophomore Mark Oberman in the 20 and 50 freestyle; first-year student Mike Cox in the 200 backstroke; the 200 freestyle relay team

of Oberman, sophomore Bill James, sophomore Chad Wisniewski and junior Steve Taylor; the 400 medley relay team of Cox, first-year student Pete Straub, Wisniewski and Oberman; the 200 medley relay team of Cox, Straub, Wisniewski and Taylor; the 400 freestyle relay team of Oberman, James, Wisniewski and Taylor; Taylor in the 50 freestyle and James in the 200 butterfly.

Breaking records on the women's side were senior Danielle Sullivan in the 100 butterfly; junior Marisa Proctor in one and three meter diving; first-year student Amanda Barker in the 100 and 200 backstroke; first year student Carrie Thomas in the 200 breaststroke; the 200 freestyle relay team of junior Rence DeGraff, Barker, Sullivan and first-year student Katie Zellen; the 400 medley relay team of Barker, Thomas, Sullivan and Zellen; and the 200 medley relay

team of Barker, Thomas, first-year student Laura Camann and DeGraff.

"I think they met and exceeded our expectations. We met our goals," said Baadte.

Many of those goals applied to the men's team. The first was to put together a winning season, which, with a 4-3 record the men accomplished. The men accomplished much more than this, however. Cox became the first male swimmer since David Klyne in 1983 to be named to the All-MIAA men's team. The men also set a new team record for points scored at a conference meet. This year's 300.5 points was 88 points above the old record.

Some other accomplishments of the men's team came in individual achievements. Taylor and Oberman battled all season for the 50 freestyle record. In the end Oberman came away with the record, but not before the fourteen-year-old mark was

broken five times in the last week of the season. Another men's team accomplishment was breaking the 400 freestyle relay record. This record was the only relay record not broken since Baadte took over the head coaching position.

"We were very glad to see it broken," said Baadte.

The women had some accomplishments of their own. Three of the women were named to the All-MIAA women's team. Named to the team were Barker, Sullivan and Proctor.

The women also accomplished national standard times or points in four events. Barker made provisional cuts in the 100 and 200 backstroke while missing the standard for the national meet by less than half a second. The 200 freestyle

relay team of DeGraff, Barker, Sullivan and Zellen made B-cuts, missing the national meet by six tenths of a second.

"We're proud of them for what they did," said Baadte.

Proctor had already qualified for the national meet earlier in the season and will leave this morning for Miami University in Oxford, Ohio to compete in the one and three meter diving competition. She will dive in the national pre-qualifying meet on Wednesday with 42 other divers. The top 22 divers will then advance to the national meet. Proctor would then dive on Thursday and Saturday.

"It was a great season, when you break as many records as we broke. We keep just getting that little bit better," said Baadte.

Coaches' Corner Gibson leads a very busy life

By Chris Tapley
Sports Editor

This week's coaches corner features head track and cross-country coach Dan Gibson. Gibson is an Alma alumni. He currently splits his time between coaching at Alma College and teaching high school math.

Why did you become a coach?

I enjoyed competition and coaching is one way to stay competitive.

Where you an athlete in college?

That part goes back to the last question. I ran for Alma. I went here for four years and ran track and cross-country here. Dr. Gray [Professor Emeritus of EHS] was my coach so that is a pretty big influence when you talk about why I went into coaching. I think that has a lot to do with why I went into it because I was able to see what he accomplished and what kind of program he had.

Do you have a family?

I have my wife and five kids and we live about half a block away from campus so my family very much gets involved with what I do here.

Why did you choose to coach at Alma?

I coached high school track for about six or seven years before I came here. I came here specifically to work with Dr. Gray. I was his assistant coach for a lot of years, then when he retired I became head cross-country coach and head track coach just kind of followed when coach Cole switched over to football. I came here specifically to work with Dr. Gray. There's always something special about coaching at your alma mater too, I guess.

Where did you coach high school track at?

I coached high school track at Portland St. Pat's which is a Catholic school near Lansing and then I coached at a local high school around here over at Montebella.

What's your educational background?

I have a bachelor's degree in math from here at Alma and a master's degree in bio-mechanics from Michigan State.

What do you enjoy most about coaching?

I enjoy working with the athletes, and like I said I'm very competitive, so I like the competition.

What's your most memorable moment as a coach?

There's probably got to be two. When Amy Doucette [1995 alumna] won the national championship in the 1500 a couple of years ago, that was obviously a big event for us. But there's another one, a couple of years ago when our guys beat Calvin in a dual meet because we hadn't beaten Calvin in so many years that it really stands out for men's track.

What's the worst part of coaching?

It's a lot of time away from your family. The time commitment for me is huge because I only work part time here and have another full time job. During season I maybe work eighty hours a week.

•MIAA ROUND-UP•

Men's swimming

	W	L
Kalamazoo	4	0
Hope	3	1
Alma	2	2
Albion	1	3
Calvin	0	4

Men's Basketball

	W	L
Hope	12	0
Calvin	10	2
Kalamazoo	6	6
Albion	5	7
Alma	5	7
Adrian	3	9
Olivet	1	11

Women's Swimming

	W	L
Hope	5	0
Kalamazoo	4	1
Alma	3	2
Albion	2	3
Calvin	1	4
Olivet	0	5

Women's Basketball

	W	L
Calvin	11	1
Alma	10	2
Adrian	8	4
Hope	7	5
Kalamazoo	4	8
Albion	2	10
Olivet	0	12

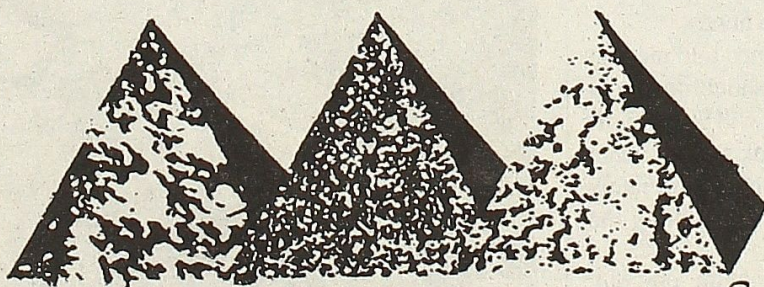
phi sigma sigma

Information Table: March 23-25

Hamilton Commons

Information Party: Monday, March 24 at 7:00 pm

Heather Room



ALMA's new Sorority Experience

Guest Editorial by Lisa M. Radulovich

Student opinions seem unwanted

Students should be given a greater opportunity to voice opinions on new sorority

I am concerned. We are adults; yet are we treated as such? I always thought when I went away to college I would have more control over my life, that I would be the one to make decisions concerning which group I belong to and what my interests are.

Not so.

I am concerned with the formation of the new social sorority, Phi Sigma Sigma, on this campus. It seems that for a campus of this size the current four sororities are more than adequate for the needs of the women who decide this type of group atmosphere is for them. It seems a good majority of the campus is involved with the Greek social system already; therefore, the formation of a new sorority will lead to even more people being involved in the Greek life.

I do not think belonging to a Greek organization is a horrible or awful choice to make, but it is only right for some people: not everyone. People have different feelings about the Greek social system. Some people feel that you are buying friendship while others disagree with this idea.

It strikes me as odd that the need for a new group arose. Why? Are there not enough choices already? It seems like there are.

It worries me that incoming first year students will feel pressured to join a sorority when they realize that a majority of the women on this campus already belong to one.

They may feel that the only way they will have friends and fit in will be to join a sorority. A good percentage of the campus is Greek and it seems that with a new sorority and a greater population of women on campus this number will grow even more due to this pressure.

The main concern I have about the formation of the new sorority is the way it is being pursued. Even though women could go to the presentations given by the competing groups, who actually picked these groups to come in the first place? I know I didn't. I did not see a survey sent to all the non-Greek women on campus listing the different aspects of the possible sororities and asking us to pick the ones we would like to see come to the campus. Was a survey sent out in the first place to see if non-Greek women even thought there was a need for a new sorority on campus?

There was not one.

Are we choosing for ourselves? I'm not sure anymore.

The first I heard of the possibility of a new sorority on the campus was when an article appeared on the front page of the *Almanian*. The article mostly stated that the search for a new social sorority has been narrowed to two choices and the

times they would be visiting the campus. Many of my friends and I were shocked; we had no clue this was even being thought about. Why were we not informed sooner? As a non-Greek woman I have that right, do I not?

Instead of picking a group to come here, why not let a group of women who share common

No one has considered that a group starts long before it is given a Greek name. It starts with friendship and common interests; something that is not present in this circumstance.

interests, common goals, and friendship get together and decide THEY would like to see a new social sorority on campus and THEY would like to decide which one that will be and THEY can ask that group to come to the campus to aid them in the formation of a new chapter?

I know of a group of women with a great love and respect for music who, upon arriving here as

first-year students about three years ago, discovered there was not an organization for women who love music. What did they do? They organized a local group, Omicron Psi Omega, with the intention of joining a national one, Sigma Alpha Iota, as soon as there were enough members. They did not sit back and wait to see if the national group

was invited by the college to start a chapter here; they took the initiative to form their own. That is what should have been done in this circumstance.

This fall a group of women are going to be thrown together and told to be a group. I wonder if they realize how difficult it is to start an organization and get it going? Apparently not, no one has considered that a group starts long before it is given a Greek name. It starts with friendship and common interests; something that is not present in this circumstance. A group should have an identity, something that gives it character, something making it stand out from all the rest. The existing sororities have done this, but it takes time. It can not be done in a term, a year or even two years.

Another point to mention is that the pledge classes this term are

smaller than usual for the existing sororities. Could this be due to a HUGE interest in Phi Sigma Sigma? Is this a hint that there is a lack of interest in the Greek system? Could it be that anyone who wants to belong to a Greek organization already belongs to one?

We might never know. We will have to wait until the fall and see what Phi Sigma Sigma's first pledge class is like.

Although there is an uneven number of social fraternities compared to the number of social sororities this should not be the main reason why Phi Sigma Sigma is coming to this campus. In an article in *The Almanian* on January 14, 1997, entitled "New Sorority to Colonize in Fall 1997" this was stated in defense of bringing the new sorority to the campus this fall: "More women attend Alma than men, and the ration of sororities to fraternities is only four to five."

Phi Sigma Sigma should come to Alma College only because there is a group of women who want to be a part of it due to its ideals and goals. I do not think this is occurring in this situation. I think Phi Sigma Sigma is being brought to this campus to even out the numbers to balance the social Greek system and to involve more women in Greek life. More women do attend Alma than men but do they all want to be involved in the Greek life? Why don't we ask them?

Catty Corner by Jenn Cornell

Honesty remains the best option

Honesty is a simple human trait that is so admirable in others because it is so difficult to maintain in our own lives. Sometimes, telling the truth is the hardest thing to do: Once you tell the truth about something you understand why so many people are not honest.

Even simple things like your own emotions can be difficult to be honest about. Think of it—when you are extremely upset about something and someone asks you how you are doing, isn't easier to just mumble, "Fine" and carry on with everything like normal? Isn't it easier when you are attracted to someone that you are not sure will return your feelings to just hide them? Isn't it easier when you know that you have really made a horrible mistake to lie about it and never have to deal with the truth?

Everyone has been in situations where lying seems like the best thing to do. Problems arise

when you fail to reason who lying would be best for. If you lie to spare yourself humiliation, embarrassment, even some sort of consequences, you are doing no one a favor but yourself.

Selfish? Yes. Understandable? No.

Lies will always catch up to you. It seems like a fortune cookie saying, but it is true. Somehow, somewhere, your lies will be found out by someone else. No matter what the situation around the lie may be, people will respect you and your actions more if you just tell the truth to begin with. Once someone has caught you in a lie not only do you have to deal with whatever you were avoiding by lying, but the fact that you hurt someone, maybe even yourself, by not telling the truth to begin with.

For whatever reason, lying almost always seems like the easiest way out. It is easier to lie to someone to spare their feelings, it is easier to lie to spare your own feel-

ings, it is even easier to lie because you do not want to deal with the consequences of telling the truth.

Lying is the coward's way out. Tell the truth and deal with the consequences, no matter what they might be. Have the strength of mind and heart to be yourself and live your life honestly. You will probably find that an honest person is a better person simply because they are honest.

A wise man once told me that the first thing we should do should be what we think will be the hardest. I always took that to mean different things, but for me lately it has come to mean telling the truth.

Lying is all about the old, "Mind versus Heart" debate—which one do you choose? Everyone knows in their hearts that it is not acceptable to lie. Not everyone has the courage to choose to tell the truth.

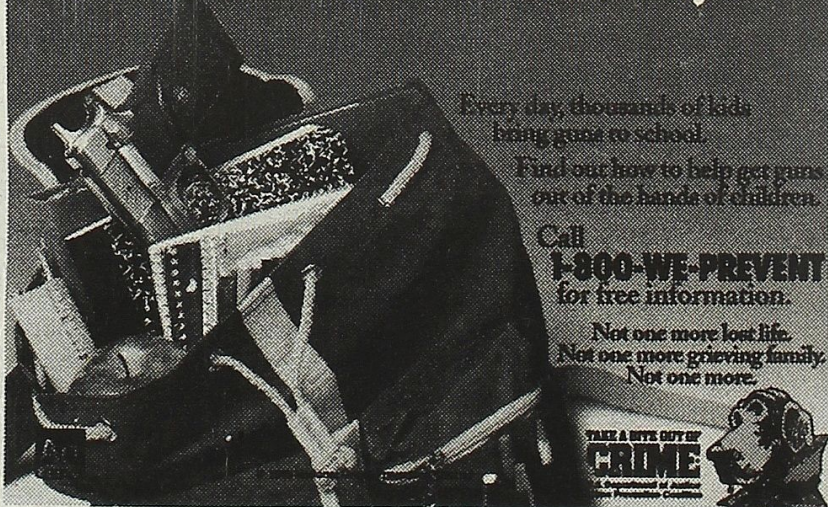
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Point/Counterpoint:

Is a Balanced Budget Amendment needed?

Balanced Budget Amendment should be implemented

By Tom Glegola
Staff Reporter

Studies show that between 70% and 80% of Americans support a Balanced Budget Amendment, yet by a vote of 66 to 34 in the U.S. Senate, the latest balanced budget proposal failed by one vote. It failed due to several Democrats, including Robert Torricelli, Harry Reid and Tim Johnson renegeing on campaign promises. All 55 Senate Republicans voted in favor of the amendment, keeping their promise with the American people.

The arguments against a Balanced Budget Amendment range anywhere from substantive misunderstanding to the naive absurdity that the government can balance the budget without it.

The government has failed to balance the budget for the past 28 years. Clearly this indicates some ineptness.

The debates over balancing the budget the past two years further shows that unless forced to, politicians will not attempt to balance the budget, and will try to make their opponents take the fall for making necessary reductions in various programs. Congressional Republicans submitted two budgets that balanced, yet both were vetoed by President Clinton. Clinton recently proposed another budget that supposedly balanced. Guess what, it does **not** balance.

The Clinton-Gore budget would leave a deficit of \$69 billion by 2002. Furthermore, 75% of the proposed spending reductions would occur in 2001 and 2002, when Clinton is no longer in office.

Clinton and Gore said their plan would cut

taxes for families- it does not! The \$500 per child tax credit would expire on December 31, 2000, 20 days before Clinton leaves office; so would the education tax relief proposal and the retirement savings tax exemption.

Despite the "end of the era of big government," and in spite of the recent welfare reform passed, the Clinton-Gore budget would increase welfare spending by \$21 billion, with much of the funding being spent on individuals that are not citizens of the U.S.

Clearly these examples prove that Clinton lacks the political will to balance the budget. Considering his lack of responsibility, how can Americans look to the President and Congress to balance the budget?

Clearly the government needs to be forced to balance the budget. The only way to force the government to balance the budget is to place a provision in the Constitution. Few politicians would act in an unconstitutional manner.

A Balanced Budget Amendment clearly is a deterrent to continued deficit spending. The enforcement mechanism is the force of the Constitution itself. After taking this first step, the government would have no choice but to balance the budget. Compromise would have to be reached, for no other reason than public relations.

In theory, one might be able to argue that the idea of a Balanced Budget Amendment is unnecessary. This is not, however, a theoretical world. This is reality. Reality proves why a Balanced Budget Amendment is necessary.

Balanced Budget Amentment would hurt Americans during periods of economic stagnation

By Daniel C. Scripps
Co-Editor-In-Chief

Recent polls show that the majority of Americans are in favor of the government balancing its budget by whatever means it has to take. This includes altering the U.S. Constitution by adding a Balanced Budget Amendment.

The basis that drives this push for a Balanced Budget Amendment is in the line of thinking that argues ordinary Americans have to balance their budgets, so why can't the government balance its budget? From there the thinking goes on that even though President Clinton has reduced the federal operating budget every year since he took office, something that hadn't been done in the twelve years of Reagan/Bush that preceded his administration, the budget is still not balanced and the only way to balance the budget is through an amendment to the Constitution.

This thinking is short-sighted and places the nation in a position where it is impossible to use the economic clout and borrowing power of the national government to assist the country in times of economic crisis. In many cases it is also flat-out wrong.

The most popular metaphor for the balancing of the national budget is that of the budget of the household. But what most people leave out of this scenario is the fact that most Americans borrow enormous

amounts of money for things such as houses, cars and other high-priced items. We do not think of this kind of long term borrowing as fiscally irresponsible, yet it is proportionally much greater than the deficit spending of the government. The simple fact is that if individuals were forced to balance their budgets in the same manner that they are calling for the government to balance its, most of the high-priced necessities we often take for granted would be financially out of reach for the majority of Americans.

Going on, consider for a moment what would have happened had the federal government not been able to borrow the money that it did to bail the country out of economic downturns in the past. If we as a nation had been forced through a Constitutional amendment to "live within our means" during the early 1930s, the Great Depression would have lasted much longer than it did. While a Balanced Budget Amendment always seems to be a good idea during times of economic stability and growth, it would be a great disadvantage during times of economic stagnation.

The representatives we have elected to look after the long-term national interest need to remain above the irresponsible call for a Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution and continue to truly serve the American people as a whole.

Staff Editorial

Administration ignores student opinion on off-campus housing issue

Two years ago *The Almanian* ran the lead story "Off-Campus housing policy causes concern," which outlined the college's policy of reducing college financial aid by twenty-five percent for those students who choose to live off-campus. At the time of the printing of that week's *Almanian* there was an outpouring of outrage at the policy.

While it has been two years since those in charge of housing unveiled this policy, which, though it was not to be found in the *Alma College Housing Selection Information* booklet, had supposedly been in effect for three years prior to the publication, little has changed. The policy continues to exist and students continue to be confused and angered at the college's stance on off-campus housing. And while this has been since added to the housing booklet and included in a memo from James Kridler, dean of students, which also stated that all seniors have the option of living off-campus, that fact that the housing authorities told the students early on this year instead of surprising them at housing sign-up, as was done in years past, is only a minimal improvement. The fact that Alma students were made aware of this ridiculous policy this year does not in any way change the ridiculousness of the policy.

When looked at with any analysis beyond a superficial overview, it becomes clear that this policy says little more than the fact that Alma College needs its students to stay on campus. When stipulations are made on the institutional funding that is effected through this policy, they include maintaining a certain grade-point average or continuing to enroll in music, drama or the visual arts. Nowhere is the stipulation made that the student also has to remain residential. Yet, in effect, that is exactly what this policy is stating. Alma College provides its students with these scholarship monies because of their academic performance or artistic talents, yet to get them fully renewed also requires the students to remain living in

campus housing, and making their checks payable to Alma College.

However, this story is about far more than housing. If it was only about housing then we could simply run the staff editorial from two years ago, or maybe a collection of comments that were heard in different areas of the campus when this first became an issue. The problem is that those in charge of the housing process at Alma have already heard the arguments. They know what has been and is being said. They realize that the student voice is unified against this policy. Yet the policy stands. It is not at all out of the question to infer that student's views, even when expressed as vocally and uniformly as they have been on this issue, do not matter to those who are behind this policy. The fact that students are being blatantly ignored throughout this entire process speaks much louder than the fact the college has a housing option which penalizes those who take advantage of it.

It is this complete lack of concern for the views of the students which makes this issue as important as it is today. In 1995 the college had an unfair housing policy which was sprung on the students at the last minute; in 1997 the policy, unpopular as before, remains, and those who have lifted their voices in dissent have been completely ignored by those who set the policy.

The behavior of the housing division of the Alma College administration has been unconscionable on this issue. It is well past the point where this issue should have been resolved through those in charge listening to the opinions of the students who are effected by the policies they make and removing this punitive aspect from the housing process. The fact that the issue remains shows a blatant disregard for the voices of the students on the part of the branch of the administration that is in charge of housing them.

The Almanian

Newberry Hall
Alma College
Alma, Michigan
48801

(517) 463-7161

ALMANIAN@alma.edu

Editors-in-Chief:

Beth Knapp

Dan Scripps

News Editor:

Staci Hill

Feature Editor:

Larissa VanderZee

Sports Editor:

Chris Tapley

Opinion Editor:

Jenn Cornell

Editorial Cartoonist:

Tuco Jakubowski

Copy Editors:

Eric Reed

Julie Wilson

Staff Reporters:

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Tom Glegola

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Manager:

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The Almanian Letter Policy

All Letters to the Editors must meet the following standards for publication: signed, include the author's phone number and address, and pertain to the Alma College community. Letters are published on a first come, first served basis, up to three per week. Letters not printed will be reconsidered upon resubmission. We reserve the right to condense letters for layout purposes. Deadline for publication is 5 p.m. the Friday before requested publication. Address letters to: The Editorial Board, *The Almanian*, Newberry Hall, Alma College, Alma, MI 48801, or e-mail at ALMANIAN@alma.edu.

Letters to the Editors

Letters to the Editors reflect the views of those who author them. These views in no way reflect those of *The Almanian*: staff or the entire Alma College community.

To the Editors:

I would like to respond to the two letters published in the February 18, 1997 issue of *The Almanian*. In these letters, there were several references to my letter published on February 4, 1997.

In the first letter written by Ms. Miquel, et al., there is the comment that I made 'a direct misjudgment of the Alma College Community' and how the letter written by Ms. Horton pertained to it. I still maintain that Ms. Horton's letter, published in the form which it was published, was not pertinent to Alma College. In fact, at the most recent Communications Committee meeting, it was discussed that the Editorial Board was simply publishing the first three letters they received, regardless of content. Had Ms. Horton's letter been accompanied by an article about the Michigan Militia and Tom Wayne's appearance here, then I could see how the letter pertains. However, nothing like that appeared with Ms. Horton's letter.

Also in the letter from Ms. Miquel, et al., I found the completely contradictory statement that included a quote from the Alma College Mission Statement saying:

"These goals seek the liberation of people from ignorance, prejudice, and parochialism..." By members of the faculty and student body not supporting *The Almanian's* decision to print this letter they blatantly contradict the first premise of the Mission Statement."

I fail to see how the publication of a

completely false letter designed to promote racism and hate, without comment, is supported by the Mission Statement when it explicitly seeks to liberate people from ignorance and prejudice.

In the second letter published on February 18, Ms. Susan Jacobs and I share an opinion. I would applaud any effort to bring the paper out of the category of reporting the status quo. As soon as I witness this, I'll clap!

Next, Ms. Jacobs takes on the decision of Alma Professors to oppose publication of Ms. Horton's letter. Saying,

"What do you think the response would have been in Nazi Germany had a college community decided to expose the hatred and ignorance present during the Nazi Holocaust..."

I believe there would be nothing to expose. Every German saw Hitler come to power. He was given complete control of the country by the people in 1934 when voters approved the unification of the presidency and the chancellorship. The people of Nazi Germany witnessed open and flagrant Anti-Semitic laws passed and enforced. The hate could not be exposed for it was already clear and present.

I also believe that a letter such as Ms. Horton's does not educate the campus as Ms. Jacobs states:

"Quite possibly the Professors at Alma and Jim Blum have over-reacted to a controversial topic and chastised students for their effort to educate the campus."

To publish lies on one side of an issue with no regard for the truth is not education—it is propaganda. Inherently, it discredits the paper which publishes it to the educated, provides an in-print reference to bad information for someone who believes the lies, and it helps provide those lies to the

ignorant, turning them from the ignorant to believers of the lies. Something I consider to be much more dangerous.

Sincerely,
James M. Blum (97)

To the Editors:

Regularly, I read *The Almanian* with great interest. It is a remarkably good and interesting college newspaper, much better and more interesting than *The Almanian* of which I was editor way back in 1929. Recently, however, I have read it with some concern.

To me, and perhaps to others, a college newspaper reflects the quality of life and thought on the college campus. I have a great affection and respect for "my" alma mater — that struggling little college of the 1920s gave me a splendid liberal arts education, and I am grateful. That is the reason I burden you with still another letter protesting your recent publication of that hateful, bitter Horton letter, and especially your omission of any accompanying explanatory statement for the publication.

Recognizing that even wise Homer nodded on occasion, I had thought to postpone any criticism of mine until our Alma alumni luncheon here in Florida next week. But then today I received *The Almanian* of January 28, 1997, and read with disappointment and some surprise and sadness your strangely worded "Staff Editorial" headed "Horton Pertains to Alma College."

La dame Horton does not pertain to the Alma College I know! And may I say with all due respect, and as your

friendly lawyer, that your intended defense in expiation of your journalistic sin begs the whole question. The question is one of good taste, sensibility and journalistic ethics.

Long ago when I taught journalism while writing for newspapers, I'm afraid I would have had to give your editors a very low grade for both the original publication and the subsequent rationalization. How proud of you I would have been had you simply confessed error instead of grasping at the straw of your own publication policy. If I were you, I would think about a different implementation of that editorial policy.

Perhaps you will gauge from this letter the depth of my feeling about Alma College and anything, like *The Almanian* or *U.S. News and World Report*, for instance, that would intentionally or unintentionally denigrate "my" alma mater. I was present at the creation of *U.S. News and World Report* as legal counsel, and I knew well its great founder-publisher-editor, David Lawrence. He would be the first to decry the magazine's superficial surveys for college rankings which it does solely for the purpose of increasing its circulation. Arriving at the truth is a matter of little consequence. Millions of college alumni are interested in any ranking of their colleges, no matter how determined. Presumably, one criteria the magazine may use is the quality and maturity of the college newspaper. That is a sobering thought for any college editor.

I have every confidence you have the stature and maturity on second thought to recognize that Horton does not pertain to Alma College!

Joel Barlow

Class of 1929