

NEWS

- Honor's Day schedule, p. 2
- News Briefs, p. 2

FEATURE

- Women's history project, p. 3
- Graduation speaker, p. 4

SPORTS

- Men's and women's track, p. 5
- Lacrosse, p. 6

OPINION

- Catty Corner, p. 7
- Letters to the Editors, p. 8

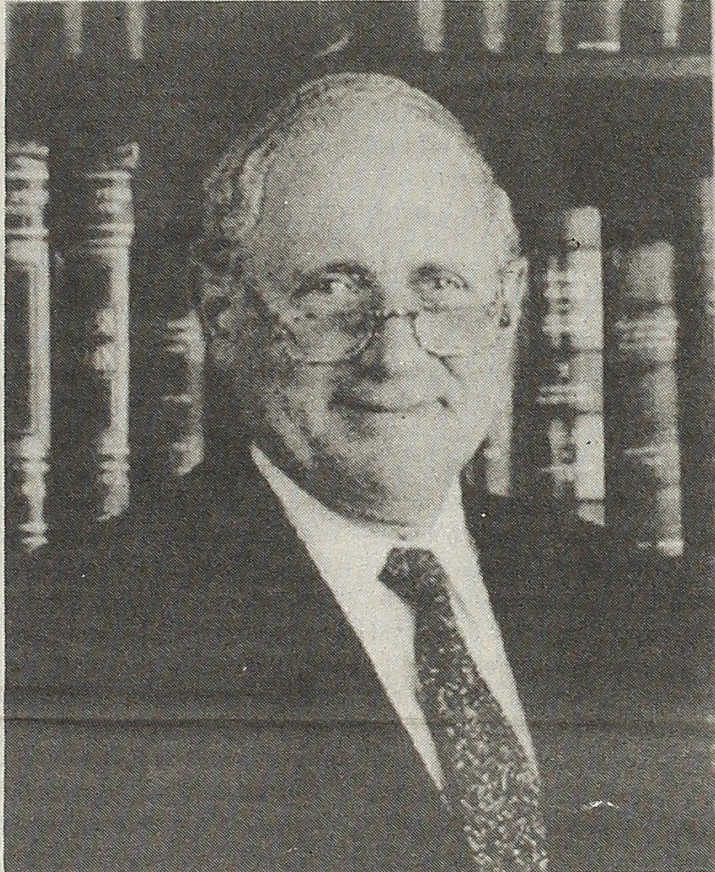
The Almanian

April 1, 1997

Serving Alma College since 1907

Issue 22

Levin speaks on Alma College campus



Senator Carl Levin (D-Detroit) as taken from his website (<http://www.senate.gov/~levin/>).

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

Speaking on topics ranging from tax laws to campaign finance reform, U.S. Senator Carl Levin addressed a crowded lecture hall full of students, faculty, administration and community members on Monday, March 24.

Speaking in Dow L-1, Levin's speech was focused on the many facets of higher education initiatives in Washington. Some of these initiatives are centered on Democratic proposals to revise the tax laws concerning education, including a tax credit, a deduction for tuition costs and the ability to withdraw from an IRA for education purposes without penalty.

Also being considered in Washington is the America Reads Challenge, a presidential initiative which would add one million trained tutors to our communities, drawing from seniors, work-study students and members of the Americorp pro-

gram.

On some of the tax-based areas of education reform, Levin commented, "There is a great thrust forward in the area of education, and part of that thrust is in the area of tax reform for education."

Levin also addressed the area of campaign finance reform. "What we've seen is total shambles in the way campaigns are financed," he said.

He followed this with a story from the last campaign.

"I just raised \$6 million in two years to win reelection. The election before I raised \$7 million. By the way, I didn't miss a vote, but I did lose some weight."

The two primary areas covered by Levin were soft money loopholes in the current campaign finance laws and the ability of tax-exempt organizations to be completely political and remaining legal under the guise of a politically-neutral agenda.

Levin also answered audience questions on campaign finance is-

ssues involving current bills under debate in the Senate, the role of foreign money and donations, the logistics of campaign finance reform, the possibility of restricting campaign length, First Amendment issues involved in campaign finance reform and whether these proposed reforms could possibly lead to a breakdown of the two-party system.

Summing up his thoughts on reform, Levin commented, "I totally disagree with [Speaker of the House Newt] Gingrich when he says there's not enough money in politics. I think there's way too much money in politics."

Levin has a solid record in the area of campaign finance reform. "Even the Senator's harshest critics concede that he is smart, effective and scrupulously honest," commented Alma College President Alan J. Stone in his introduction of the Senator.

Levin's stop at Alma was part of a week-long tour around the state while the Senate is in recess.

OΔK leader of the week

Jaami McClellan (97) has been chosen as this week's Omicron Delta Kappa (OΔK) Leader of the Week. OΔK, the national leadership honor society at Alma College, selects one non-OΔK member each week to receive this honor.

McClellan was chosen for her outstanding contributions on campus and in the community. She has been a leader on campus as a member of the women's bas-

ketball team and as a member of Students United for Nature. OΔK recognizes her contribution to the community as a volunteer at the Women's Aid Shelter and for her contribution to the Alpha Xi Delta sorority.

To nominate someone for OΔK Leader of the Week contact OΔK President Anne Murphy (98) at 225 Crane St., Vice-President Sarah Hypio (98), x7777 or Secretary Jen Bade (98), x7382.

Bump, set, spike!

Last week's warm weather called many students to Newberry Beach for the season's first volleyball matches. Photo by Derek Warner.



Three seniors prepare *Sight Unseen* for thesis credit

Performances:

Thursday, April 3, 8 p.m.

Friday, April 4, 8 p.m.

Saturday, April 5, 8 p.m.

Sunday, April 6, 3 p.m.

All performances take place in the Heritage Center.

By Erin Freeland
Staff Reporter

Soon to open at the Heritage Center Theater is the play *Sight Unseen*, written by Donald Margulies and directed by Joe Johnston (97).

Directing and participating in this

play will serve as the senior thesis for Johnston, for the play's senior actors Beth Bullmer and Mark Andrews and lighting and set design director April Emery.

Performances will be April 3-6. Each performance will begin at 8 p.m. except for the Sunday matinee which starts at 3 p.m.

Emery shared her thoughts about her experience of the play as a senior thesis.

"The play is going well, but it is a lot of work. I am hoping that everything I want to do will translate onto the stage the way I see it in my head. My original concept was that all of the scenes are part of [the character] Jonathan's life and should therefore reflect his

artwork. I am trying to make each scene look like watercolor, oil or acrylic paintings, since we do not actually see any of his artwork during the course of the play," said Emery.

The play tells the story of Jonathan Workman (Andrews), a Jewish artist who has reached super-stardom in America. During one of his exhibitions in London, he meets up with a former lover named Patricia (Beth Bullmer), the first model he had ever painted in his career. The two have not seen each other for 15 years. Patricia and her husband, Nick (junior Brian Papendick), are archaeologists working on a dig, sifting through a Roman trash heap in order to dis-

cover the secrets of the past.

While staying in their home, Jonathan discovers a painting he did of Patricia when they were young and in love. The couple and Jonathan argue over the painting, which brings unreconciled differences among the three to the surface. Patricia has never forgiven Jonathan for leaving her, Nick is not fond of Jonathan and his work, and Jonathan feels that he can never recapture the beauty and innocence of that early painting of Patricia.

The characters deal with issues of anti-Semitism, the Holocaust and assimilation, love and loss and the role of the artist in reference to these twentieth-century happenings.

The scenes dart from past to present, telling the tale of the artist and his search for purity and truth in a chaotic world. Confronted with these issues and feelings during an interview, Jonathan is forced to admit that he has lost the sense of innocence and truth in his own work.

"I think that it is coming along well," said Kristi Stariha (00), who plays Greta, the interviewer. "I think that Joe (Johnston) is really happy with it. It just needs a little fine tuning, but otherwise we are ready to go."

The actors and director of the play began rehearsing on March third and will be presenting selected scenes at Honors Day.

April 1, 1997

Honor's Day Schedule of Events

Wednesday, April 2

6-8 p.m.: Closed Reception, President's House
8 p.m.: Honors Day Address by Dr. Richard Selzer, Heritage Center's Presbyterian Hall; reception in DOW lobby immediately following.

Honors Day, Thursday, April 3—Classes Cancelled

8-9 a.m.: Concurrent Sessions I in DOW and SAC
9:30-11 a.m.: Honors Convocation in Cappaert Gymnasium—attendance required
11:30-12:45 p.m.: Luncheons—Convocation Honorees in the Heather Room, Honors Day Participants in Van Dusen Commons, and all other students in Hamilton Commons
1-2 p.m.: Concurrent Sessions II in DOW, SAC and Clack
2:15-3:15 p.m.: Concurrent Sessions III in DOW, SAC and Clack
3:30-4:30 p.m.: Concurrent Sessions IV in DOW, SAC and Heritage Center
4:45-5:45 p.m.: Concurrent Sessions V in DOW, SAC and Heritage Center
6-7 p.m.: All Campus Picnic in Hamilton Commons and on the lawn
8 p.m.: ACT Production of *Sight Unseen* in the Heritage Center Theatre. This production will be preceded by a poster session presented by Alma College Theatre students in the Heritage Center lobby.
8-9:30 p.m.: Art Department presentation of the Senior Show in Clack Gallery

Friday, April 4—Classes Resume

10 p.m.: All Campus Concert in Cappaert Gymnasium

Alma College Honors Day: A Celebration of the Liberal Arts

Program of Presentation

The day's program is listed in chronological order, by room. Each presentation is scheduled to last 15 to 20 minutes, including time for questions.

Concurrent Sessions I: 8 - 9 a.m.

IA - Dow L-4, Moderator: Dr. R. Anderson

Four sessions presented, highlighting the work of students Victoria Kissane, Michelle Roller, S. C. Reinbold, M. Campagna, L. Lawhorne and Lindsay Calcaterra, and professors R. L. Anderson and J. E. Davis, in the areas of psychology, EHS and communications.

IB - SAC 113, Moderator: Dr. R. Hoefel

Three sessions presented, highlighting the work of students Staci E. Hill, Larissa S. VanderZee and Debbie Mott, in the area of English.

IC - SAC 109, Moderator: Dr. P. Furlong

Three sessions presented, highlighting the work of students William Garchov, Katherine Kasprzyk and Daniel Werner, in the area of history.

Concurrent Sessions II: 1 - 2 p.m.

IIA - Dow L1, Moderator: Dr. G. Beagley

Four sessions presented, highlighting the work of students Christopher Girard, Cynthia Miller, Alicia Sanchez, Denise Vernon and Catherine Sinclair, in the area of psychology.

IIB - SAC 113, Moderator: Dr. J. Walser

Three sessions presented, highlighting the work of students Kathryn Taylor, Julie Wilson and Sarah Heyd, in the areas of religious studies and art.

IIC - SAC 109, Moderator: Dr. M. Monshipouri

Three sessions presented, highlighting the work of students Christopher Trebilcock, Brian Zollweg and Thomas Glegola in the areas of political science and business.

IID - Clack, Moderator: Ms. C. Parks-Kirby

Four sessions presented, highlighting the work of students Tuco Govinda Jakubowski, Emily Damstra, Kathy Hines Cooper and Joel Krautstrunk, in the areas of art and music.

III - Heritage Center Lobby, Education Poster Session

Conveners: Dr. S. Root

IIIF - Dow L-4, Moderator: Dr. R. Moilna

Four sessions presented, highlighting the work of students Jason Bandlow, Steve Vance, James Blum and Chad E. Husby, and professor Robert Molina, in the areas of math, physics, EHS, and math and computer science.

Concurrent Sessions III: 2:15 - 3:15 p.m.

IIIA - Dow L-1, Moderators: Dr. R. Roeper and Dr. D. Clark

Four sessions presented, highlighting the work of students Aaron S. Adams, Greg Merricle, Amy L. Brumm, Samantha Jacobs, Laura Byam, Rainy L. Inman, Sarah J.

Hypio and Rebecca A. Leonard, and professors Murray C. Borrello and Richard A. Roeper, in the areas of biology and environmental studies.

IIIB - SAC 113, Moderator: Dr. M. Vickery

Three sessions presented, highlighting the work of students Jessica Ann Bushore, Lora J. Bingham and Laura J. Gornicki, in the areas of religious studies and communications.

IIIC - SAC 109, Moderator: Dr. M. Monshipouri

Three sessions presented, highlighting the work of students Natasha Parassram, Thomas J. Glegola and Jennifer Ebnit-Brown, in the areas of political science and sociology.

IIID - Clack, Moderator: Mr. R. Rozier

Five sessions presented, highlighting the work of students John M. Chambers, Ryan C. Flesher, Eryn Hart, Chele Pippin and Susan Wood, in the area of art and design.

IIIE - Heritage Center Lobby, Education Poster Session

Conveners: Dr. S. Root

IIIF - Dow L-4, Moderator: Dr. K. Ball

Four sessions presented, highlighting the work of students Monique R. Averill, Mindy Call, Todd Ruiter and Beth A. Knapp, and professors Lawrence Wittle and Scott T. Hill, in the areas of biochemistry, EHS, biology and chemistry.

Concurrent Sessions IV: 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

IVA - Dow L-1, Moderator: Dr. L. Vosejпка

Four sessions presented, highlighting the work of students John F. Zielinski, Christopher Stapels, Patrick Carmody, Todd M. Corneillie and Curtis White, and professors Laura Smith Vosejпка and Eugene Deci, in the areas of biochemistry, physics and chemistry.

IVB - SAC 113, Moderator: Ms. S. Lopez-I snardi

Three sessions presented, highlighting the work of students Monica K. Hoeft, Stacy Burdette, Jennifer Ebnit-Brown, Erlin Freeland, Monique Averill, Jamie Doan and Anna Willman, in the areas of history, women's studies and communication.

IVC - SAC 109, Moderator: Dr. G. Petonito

Three sessions presented, highlighting the work of students John M. Chambers, Mark Skinner and Michelle Massey, in the areas of art, sociology and religious studies.

IVD - Heritage Center, Moderator: Mr. D. Scripps

Three sessions presented highlighting the work of students Suzanne Vetrone, Anastacia Clapper and Melissa D. Daniels, in the areas of theatre and dance and music.

IVE - Dow Lobby, Chemistry and Biochemistry Poster Sessions

Conveners: Dr. S. Hill and Dr. J. Beckmann

Five sessions presented, highlighting the work of students David Bartley, Cynthia L. Rand, Todd D. Clarke, Christina M. McGrain, Angie Smolarz, Emily Cameron, Nathan Fite, Nancy Gettel, Staci E. Hill, Dan Johnston, Michael Leach, Kristi Noyes, Johnathan Sheele, Jerry Stassinopoulos, LokMan Sung, Aaron Wyman, John Zielinski, and professors Laura J. Smith Vosejпка, James R. Hutchison, Scott T. Hill and Joe Beckmann, in the areas of chemistry and biochemistry.

Concurrent Sessions V: 4:45 - 5:45 p.m.

VA - Dow L-1, Moderator: Dr. J. Beckmann

Four sessions presented, highlighting the work of students Michael J. Leach, Neal E. Palmreuter, Emily Cameron, Nancy Gettel, Jerry Stassinopoulos, Daniel J. Johnston and Brandon J. Margolis, and professors Joe D. Beckmann and Scott T. Hill, in the areas of biochemistry and chemistry.

VB - SAC 113, Moderator: Dr. John Arnold

Four sessions presented, highlighting the work of students Julie Wilson, Lori L. McMann and Lynette J. Daig, in the areas of French, German and Spanish.

VC - SAC 109, Moderator: Dr. W. Potter

Three sessions presented, highlighting the work of students Stephen E. Wilson, Ryan Kidd and Christopher Trebilcock, in the area of business.

VD - Heritage Center, Moderator: Dr. W. Palmer

Readings from the Pine River Anthology

VE - Dow Lobby, Science Poster Session

Conveners: Dr. D. Clark and Dr. M. Strait

Sixteen sessions presented, highlighting the work of students Martha Degen, Anne Marie Nelson, Sakina M. Hill Richard Buszek, Andrew Scanlan, Sarah Cable, Dina Slakovic, Carrie E. Kaminski, Aaron J. Wyman, Judy A. Marcus, Jenny Souva, James M. Blum, Megan Graham, Rick Brands, Karin Konrad, Jennifer Bondy Griffin and William James, and professors Melissa Strait, Murray Borrello, Karin Grimnes and Lawrence Wittle, in the areas of chemistry, interdepartmental studies, biochemistry, biology, EHS and psychology.

VF - Thursday Evening: 7:00-7:45 p.m., Heritage Center Lobby

A session presented by students Jill R. Oprea, Mark Andrews, Elizabeth Bullmer, Rebekah Doyle, April Kaye Emery, Joe Johnston, Brian Papendick and Kristi Stariha, highlighting the design process, script analysis, research and design concept for *Sight Unseen*.

Boycott gets mixed responses

By Jennifer Hughes
Staff Reporter

Since January, Alma College received 24 responses to their proposal to boycott the ranking system used by *U. S. News & World Report* in their annual "Best Colleges" edition.

Sixteen schools agreed to join President Alan Stone and Alma College in boycotting the process used to rank schools, 18 schools responded that they did not wish to participate in the boycott at this time, and two institutions abstained.

"In our original research, all the tiers agreed," commented Karen Roeper, director of public relations. "Ninety two percent felt *U.S. News* was inaccurately describing their school."

According to Roeper, these results reflect how schools are struggling with this issue. She believes that these responses only go to show the power media holds and the importance of visibility and good rankings for many schools.

"On the one hand, they know there's a problem with how *U.S. News* ranks schools. On the other hand, they're trying to maintain a high visibility," Roeper said.

Many of the schools who decided against boycotting *U.S. News* decided that they have "more to lose than gain" while most of the "no" responses showed some support of the boycott.

"I think you have done us

a service....Those who are advantaged will almost certainly continue to participate. The withdrawal of others will only degrade what you so rightly characterize as questionable information," said one "no" response.

"I have long thought that the principal vulnerability of the *U.S. News* rating project is that it is bad journalism, certainly for a publication that purports to be a neutral news magazine," stated another "no" response.

Roeper added, "It's not that we're objecting to giving *U.S. News* the information. What we're objecting to is the ranking system."

Roeper said that this is "just the beginning" of where Alma hopes to go with the proposed boycott.

Stone has been invited to speak at the Education Writers National Seminar in Washington D.C. in May and at a conference in December along with Al Sanoff, special projects editor of *U.S. News* in Chicago.

According to Roeper, bringing this issue to the forefront has "raised the interest in this whole issue. There are a lot of people out there who are still discussing this."

"I think *U.S. News* is still open to listening to the issue and to other solutions," said Roeper.

Alma hopes large groups of schools will join together and take a stand against *U.S. News* placing such emphasis on ranking schools by opinions and reputations rather than based on solid facts.

• NEWS BRIEFS •

• **Student Congress Elections** take place this week. On the ballot are the Student Congress EC positions, all class officers and associate trustees, a proposed student activity fee increase and six changes to the Student Congress constitution. Voting takes place through Wednesday in Hamilton Commons and for commuting and off-campus students, in the Student Affairs Office.

• Shirley Bechill will present a seminar and demonstration in the **healing energy of Reiki** tonight at 7:30 p.m. at the MacCurdy House.

• **The Student Alumni Association (SAA)** encourages students to attend their meeting Wednesday, April 2, at 6 p.m. in the Rotunda. The topic will be the restructuring and revitalization of the group.

• **Tickets for commencement and graduation brunch** are now available at main switch in Reid Knox. Seniors can receive up to eight complimentary tickets for commencement and three for the brunch, including their own ticket to the brunch.

• **The Alma College Jazz Ensemble** performs Sunday, April 6, at 8 p.m. in Presbyterian Hall. The concert will feature student soloists in works by prominent jazz artists and arrangers from the past four decades. Admission is free.

• **Gordon Henry, visiting professor of English**, will give a reading of fiction and poetry Tuesday, April 8, at 8 p.m. in the Clack Art Gallery. Copies of his award-winning novel *The Light People* will be on sale at a reception following the reading.

• **Pre-med students** are eligible for Roberta B. Swanson Pre-Med Scholarships. Anyone interested in applying for this award, and have not already received the application, may pick up information at the Financial Aid Office. Completed applications are due by April 15.

Women's History Project a success

By Larissa VanderZee
Feature Editor

For a group of Alma College women, Women's History Month began last fall. Karen Garner, assistant professor of history, organized the efforts to create the first

Alma College Women's History Month Project. As one walks through some of the campus buildings, they can see the product of this project: four showcases of the women behind Alma College.

Back in October, a group of women dedicated to seeing this

project to fruition decided to create a display project that would represent the past twenty years of female involvement with the college. Eventually the project gained the title "The Women of Alma College: Weaving the Tartan."

After compiling all the information the women wished to include in the project, they constructed the four showcases that went up in the beginning of March to celebrate Women's History Month.

The display in the library highlights athletics, social life and academics.

There are two displays in the Swanson Academic Center, the first consisting of the women who have been financially supportive of the college and the second is a display of the histories of the literary societies turned sororities.

The final display is showcased in the Dow lobby, celebrating much of the support staff, some faculty members, some of the women in-

Rebecca Convoy (98) looks at the Women's History Project display in the library. Displays were also set up in Dow and Academic Center. Photo by Jon Croff.

involved in food service, as well as influential women from other campus offices.

The information was received through two main avenues: archival research and oral histories. Because the women being researched were all directly related to the college, much of the archival work was done in the library here on campus. Obtaining some of the oral histories was a little more difficult as it sometimes called for contacting women outside the Alma community. However, there were also oral histories gathered from women currently on campus.

Senior Jennifer Ebnit-Brown had served as the chairperson for the group interested in obtaining the oral histories. She also did some of this collection.

"It was so interesting to see how current faculty members who have been here for a while saw the changes of the college as positive—the changes toward women that is," said Brown about talking with people who have been able to watch the progression of the college.

Junior Sara Kampf was also very excited about the completion of the project, the amount she learned from her experience and the over-

all success of the project. The showcase of the sororities' histories was organized, researched and constructed by Kampf.

"Through looking at each sorority's archives, I found that each sorority had originally been a literary society—back in the 1890s—and eventually became more socially oriented as the years passed," stated Kampf. Although it took many months and many hours, Kampf is glad she dedicated her time to this project.

"Not only did I learn about these groups, I learned a lot about the history of the college itself. This has been one of my very favorite things that I have done here at Alma," said a resolved Kampf.

The Women's History Project will not be contained in the display cases it now occupies. On Thursday, Brown, sophomore Stacey Burdette and first-year student Erin Freeland will give an Honor's Day presentation on the construction of the project. And then in June, the three will be presenting the project in Madison, Wisconsin.

Women's History Month may have passed but the strong presence and influence of women on Alma's campus never will.



MacCurdy House sponsors breast cancer workshop

By Jennifer Hughes
Staff Reporter

"Be there or be ignorant" was an advertised theme of a breast cancer awareness session held last Tuesday in the MacCurdy House. Approximately ten people gathered to listen to a speaker and discuss breast cancer issues. The stage was a little different, however, in that the speaker was not the expected female survivor, but a male.

Brian Vaughan lost his mother to breast cancer in 1989 and is currently working to educate both men and women on the subject.

"Breast cancer doesn't just affect the person diagnosed with it; it affects everyone," he said.

Vaughan grew up in Petersburg, Virginia and now lives in Flint. He volunteered to speak at Alma during Women's Month in his quest to educate others on the subject.

"I was really impressed to have a

guy come and speak because it's generally known as a women's issue," commented senior Nicole Walsh.

Vaughan is working to establish the Gloria Vaughan Foundation in honor of his mother. The foundation will provide a safe haven for women and men who need someone to talk to and will work at increasing awareness of the issue. The Vaughan Foundation will also help provide financial assistance to those who need it, as surgery for breast cancer is often very expensive.

The American Cancer Society recommends that every woman over 40 have regular mammograms, but Vaughan urges people to do so much earlier as cancer strikes people of every age group.

"Don't wait until you're 40," Vaughan urged. "Do it now. It may seem a little uncomfortable, but it's worth it."

"I think the main thing his talk did was teach everybody that it's important to get tested regardless of your age," commented junior Laura Gornicki.

In a survey performed in the Flint area, Vaughan found that nearly 60% of those questioned knew nothing about breast cancer and 30-40% of those had no medical insurance to help if they were diagnosed.

"You really need to practice preventative health care.... It's essential," commented senior Monique Averill.

Another topic of Tuesday's discussion was that people need to realize that breast cancer is not just a women's issue.

"It relates to mothers and daughters as well as sons, husbands, family, friends," Averill said. "Raising awareness in everyone helps to alleviate the problem."

While breast cancer is a condition that affects men also, "most men won't come forward and say 'I have breast cancer,'" Vaughan commented.

Breast cancer also affects men in their relationships with the women in their lives who may develop the cancer.

"This is one women's health issue that women can make a significant impact in reducing," commented Joe Gelina, director of health services at Wilcox Medical Center.

Vaughan hopes his support group and increasing awareness will help both men and women deal with this hard issue.

"It's a hard road," Vaughan said, "But we can win."

Additional facts on Breast Cancer

—The Wilcox Medical Center offers free breast exams and provides demonstrations on proper techniques to interested groups

*In 1997, an expected 180,200 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer and 43,900 will die. 1,400 respective men will be diagnosed with breast cancer and 290 will die.

**This year, a woman will be diagnosed with breast cancer on average every three minutes and a woman will die from it every 12 minutes.

*A woman's chance of developing breast cancer increases by 25% if she smokes and rises in proportion to the amount smoked daily.

*One in 8 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer sometime during her lifetime.

**The majority of women diagnosed do not have a

family history of the disease.

**Over 80% of biopsied breast abnormalities prove to be benign.

**Breast cancer accounts for one of every three diagnoses of cancer in women (excluding skin cancers).

—ALL WOMEN are at risk.

—Early detection is the only known effective prevention.

—For more information about breast cancer visit the American Cancer Society's Breast Cancer Network at <http://www.cancer.org/bcn.html>

*American Cancer Society statistics.

**National Alliance of Breast Cancer Organizations statistics.

The
Strand
Theater

presents:

Grease
Starring John Travolta
and Olivia Newton-John

Saturday, April 5
7 p.m., 9 p.m., and midnight
Admission \$2.50

Located in downtown Alma 463-2585

Alumnae share career stories

By Cheryl Lenard
Freelance Writer

According to four Alma College alumnae, the were well prepared by the college and appreciate the education they received. These reassuring statements were shared by members of the "Life After Alma" panel, which was sponsored by the MacCurdy House and Gamma Delta Alpha, the women's honorary.

The purpose of the panel was to communicate to the audience a perspective of what course they could choose for their own lives following graduation.

The panel consisted of Jessica Argyle (91), Caryn Moreau (94), Susan Hubbard (80), and Leslie Love (84), part-time psychology faculty member. The discussion centered mainly around how the women juggled their family and personal lives as well as challenges in the workplace.

They felt that the hardest things about their lives after Alma included having minimal time to ac-

complish everything in their busy schedules, learning to deal with not getting these things done and finding time for themselves.

"Juggling a family life and a career forces you to be less compulsive.... My house is clean, but not neat," stated Hubbard who works as a bank broker.

The women agreed that juggling a family and a career is easier now that many companies are becoming more aware of working parents' need for flexible work schedules. Moreau, an accountant who is expecting her first child in July, commented, "I will have eight weeks maternity leave when the baby is born."

After Hubbard's child was born, her job enabled her to work four days per week, so that she could spend Wednesdays at home caring for her daughter.

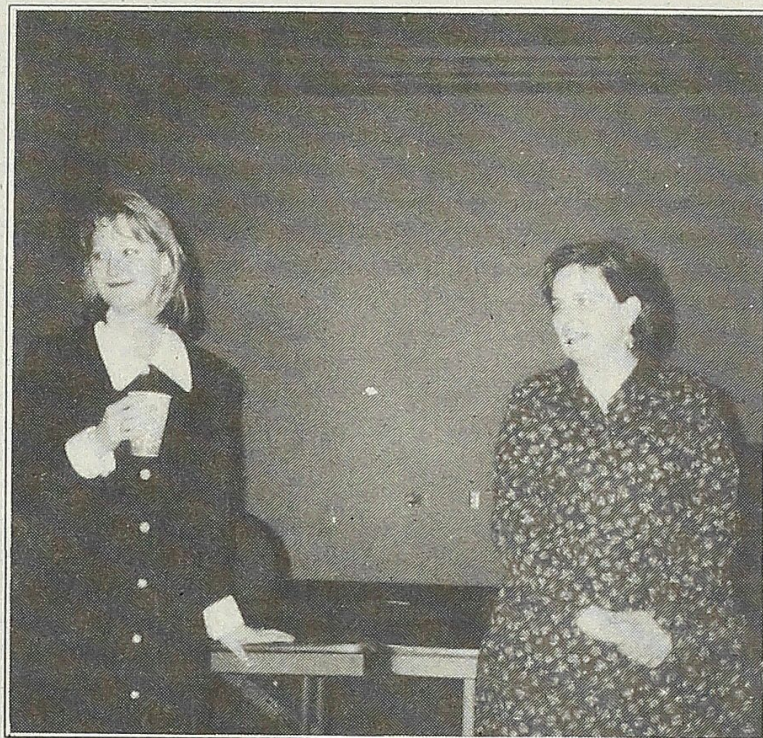
All of the women commented on the great support they receive from their husbands. Argyle, an accountant, is currently working on her MBA. She takes classes which enable her to work only 16-20 hours

per week. Her husband works full time to support them. Love commented that her husband is great at reading her and knowing when she needs a break.

Even though husbands are continuing to help with these families, many women still feel as if they are doing the majority of the work. The women on the panel commented that they feel men are simply unaware at times about what needs to be done. Additionally, the women on the panel thought that when men do help out, many feel that they are criticized by their wives. The women concluded that personality plays a big role in who takes responsibility and how much of the work gets completed.

When asked what other challenges they face in their careers, the women commented that the workplace is much better now for women than even just a few years ago. The upper levels of business, however, are still dominated by men even when the lower levels consist mainly of women.

"Psychology is dominated by



Panelists Caryn Moreau (94) and Susan Hubbard (80) chat before the discussion begins. Gamma Delta Alpha worked to bring women of a variety of ages back to serve on the panel. Photo by Beth Knapp.

women, but men still hold the upper, more academic-type positions," stated Love.

The discussion concluded with

an invitation to a reception where audience members could speak more personally with the panel members.

Greek awards recognizes achievements

By Lisa Sherman
Staff Reporter

Greek Week is a time to celebrate Greek unity and to recognize accomplishments of individuals as well as those of the Greek system as a whole. Sunday, March 23 Greek Week was kicked off with the Greek Awards Ceremony.

During the ceremony, each individual fraternity and sorority presented awards to individuals within their own groups.

The Panhellenic Council (Panhel) and Interfraternity Council (IFC) also gave out scholarship awards. Among the sororities, highest GPA awards went to Gamma Phi Beta during the Winter 1996 term and to Alpha Xi Delta during the Fall 1996 term.

Sigma Chi achieved the highest fraternity GPA both during the fall and winter terms, extending their streak of receiving this distinction to 16 consecutive terms.

Furthermore, the Outstanding Greek Man and Woman of the Year and the Senior Greek Man and Woman of the Year were announced.

Will Deeds, Tau Kappa Epsilon member, was recognized as the Outstanding Greek Man of the Year. In his chapter, Deeds has served as treasurer and assistant social chair among other offices. He is also the current IFC President. Deeds has also been involved in the business club, theater crew, football, and intramurals while at Alma. In the community, Deeds has been an American Cancer Society volunteer.

Julie Wilson (98), Gamma Phi Beta member, was named Out-

standing Greek Woman of the Year. In her chapter, Wilson has served as the administrative vice-president and scholarship chair. On Panhel, she has served as co-rush chair, rush chair and is currently the president. She is a Resident Assistant, Kiltie dancer, member of the Order of Omega, Sigma Tau Delta English honorary and Alpha Mu Gamma foreign language honorary. She has also worked for WQAC and is currently a copy editor for *The Almanian*. Wilson has volunteered as a counselor at a Muscular Dystrophy Camp and at the Gratiot Community Hospital.

The Outstanding Senior Greek Man was Justin Burch, member of Theta Chi. Among the offices he has served in his chapter are vice president, risk manager and scholarship chair. Burch has also held a number of IFC offices, among them public relations chairman and judicial chapter representative. He has also been a member of the association of computing machinery, mathematical society, Students United for Nature, Alpha Psi Omega theater and dance honorary, theater company, Order of Omega and once served as freelance writer for *The Almanian*. Around

the community, Burch has been involved in Adopt-A-Highway, Adopt-A-School, Community Cafe, Crop Walk and blood drives.

Allison Shoemaker, Alpha Gamma Delta member, was awarded the Outstanding Senior Greek Woman honor. She has served as ritual coordinator, president and Panhellenic representative in her chapter. She has been involved in Newberry Hall Council, Vespers/Chapel Committee, Students Offering Service and Gamma Delta Alpha. In the community, Shoemaker has been and Adopt-A-School volunteer and

Young Writers Workshop leader.

"I was surprised, but pleased to receive the honor. . . The Greek system has definitely been part of my best memories," Shoemaker reflected.

Jennifer Klimkiewicz, Newberry Hall director and Panhellenic advisor, and Bill Arnold, assistant dean of students and IFC advisor, explained that these men and women were chosen by the Greek advisors and faculty, John Seveland, vice-president for student affairs and enrollment, and Mindy Sargent, associate director of the Center for Student Development.

Michelle Engler chosen as graduation speaker

By Lisa Sherman
Staff Reporter

With commencement just two weeks away, everyone including Michigan's First Lady, Michelle Engler, is getting ready for graduation. Engler has agreed to serve as this year's commencement speaker.

Though her speech as of yet does not have a title, Engler will be speaking generally on volunteerism and community service. President Alan Stone described Engler as a leading spokesperson on volunteerism.

Engler has worked for and supported a number of volunteer projects. She is the chair of the Michigan Community Service Commission, which encourages volunteerism to help solve public problems. She is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Points of Light Foundation in Washington, D.C. and the Michigan Non-profit Association.

Additionally, Engler leads in the promotion efforts of the Michigan Harvest Gathering, which helps support the Food Bank Council of Michigan and is a strong advocate for the March of Dimes.

Michigan's First Lady is also a member of the Michigan Cities in Schools Board of Directors, part of a national nonprofit organization which works toward dropout prevention.

Stone stated that Engler represents women very well. She has been recognized in her efforts to advocate women. She received the Karmanos Cancer Institute "Award for Leadership" for her efforts to promote breast cancer awareness. Engler also received the Northwood Distinguished Women's Award for "outstanding leadership and achievement."

In 1995, she also received the "Mother of Young Children Award" by the Michigan Chapter

of the American Mothers Organization.

Engler is a Texas native, earning a law degree from the University of Texas Law School. Currently, she is on leave from the Grand Rapids law firm of Varnum, Riddering, Schmidt & Howlett.

Engler will receive an honorary degree from Alma College. She will be bestowed with a Doctor of Letters. Her honorary degree is the second to be given to an Engler from Alma College. Governor John

Engler received an honorary Doctor of Letters degree in 1984 while he was a state senator.

Stone explained that "We [Alma College's Board of Directors] wanted to try to find one of the outstanding women in Michigan" to speak at commencement service. They chose Engler because of her leading involvement in volunteerism. Stone described it as a "coup" to have her speak at Alma since she is so well known.

The Cutting Crew

Nail Specials
\$ 8 manicures
\$25 full set nails

463-6494

134 W. Superior

Track Notes

Results of the Hope Invitational

Men's Results

First Place Finishes

- Greg Knight
100 m
200 m
- Jon Hanson (98)
400 m
- Knight (99), Chad Mills (97), Hanson, Ben Witte (98)
400 m relay

Other Finishes

- Kyle Kristin
10,000 m 4th place

Women's Results

First Place Finishes

- Rainy Inman (97)
Discus
Hammer Throw
- Joy Engblade (98)
10,000 m
- Joann Brnjac
Shot Put

Other Finishes

- Torri Stenbul(97)
Javelin 2nd place
Discus 3rd place
- Meredith White (98)
100 m hurdles
2nd place

Track teams compete well despite weather

By Chris Tapley
Sports Editor

Despite near freezing temperatures the men's and women's track teams braved the elements to participate in the Hope Invitational at held in Holland, Michigan this past weekend.

Weather for the meet was anything but friendly with temperatures in the 30s and a strong wind off of Lake Michigan.

The teams were both able to turn in respectable performances despite the weather. The women finished in second place overall while the men finished in fourth place overall.

Neither the men's or women's team were at full strength for the meet due to early season injuries and other absences. The teams also pulled some individuals out of races due to the cold weather to avoid further injuries.

"We were missing some key performers and we did well anyway. We should do really well when it comes down to league performances," said senior Jason Bandlow.

and the meet really did not count for much," said senior Rainy Inman.

Even with the weather and missing people the Scots turned in some impressive performances for the day. Inman took first in the disk and hammer and second place in

sophomore Greg Knight placed first in both the 100 and 200 meter sprints. junior Jon Hanson won the 400 meter and the mile relay team consisting of Knight, Hanson, senior Chad Mills and junior Ben Witte.

The team does still have things to work on in practice.

"I think in general people may have been a little disappointed with how they did. I think the weather had a lot to do with it," said senior Jason Bandlow, "it was a good showing of the competition were going to face in conference with Hope and Calvin."

The team will get a chance to see if they have improved next weekend in front of a home town crowd. The men's team will take on Olivet and Hope in a triangle meet on Saturday.

Due to Olivet's lack of a women's team the Scots will only be facing Hope. Hope's women's team is expected to have a strong sprint crew and a few strong distance runners, but Alma feels they are stronger in the field events.

"We're looking for another win against Hope this week. We beat them at their own invitational so hopefully we can beat them one-on-one," said Inman.

We were missing some

key performers and we did

well anyway. We should do

really well when it comes

down to league performances.

• Jason Bandlow (97)

the shot put. Juniors Jo Ann Brnjac and Joy Engblade took first in the shot put and the 10,000 meter respectively. Senior Torree Stembol placed second in the javelin and third in the disk while junior Meredith White placed second in the women's 100 meter hurdles.

We didn't really try to go all out at this meet because it's early

"It was a really good team effort on the women's part," said Inman.

On the men's side of the meet

Softball team ends Alma Invitational 2-1

By Mike Traywick
Freelance Writer

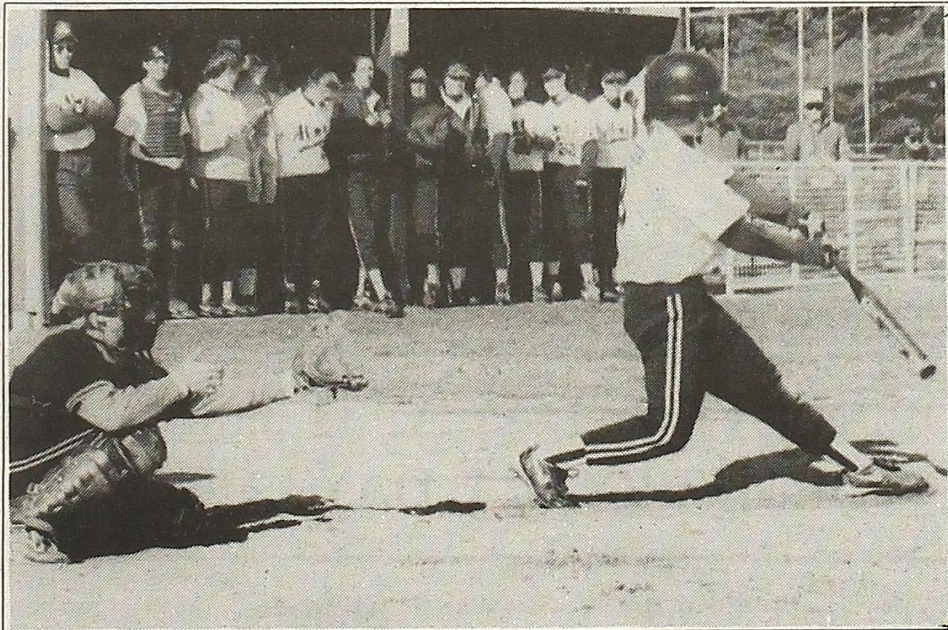
The Alma Softball team held the Alma Invitational this past weekend. Over a two day span, Alma played St. Mary's, Lake Superior State and Ferris State University. Alma defeated Lake Superior State and St. Mary's, but lost to Ferris State in extra innings, 5-3. Alma had a fine showing at their Invitational with a 2-1 record.

The top three batters in the lineup were sophomore Sarah Lefke, junior Kristin

Gardner and senior Lisa Meyer. They went a combined 5 for 30, with three runs and three runs batted in (RBI). Freshman Stacie Vietzke went 3 for 8 with one RBI and two runs during the Invitational. Trish Archer, batting cleanup, went 5 for 9 with two runs, one homerun, and two RBI's. Junior Carolyn White went 3 for 10, with one run. Heather Bruder, batting sixth, went 4 for 8, with 4 runs, 3 RBI's, and two homeruns. Freshman Brandy Brower went 2 for 7 with one run. Sophomore Holly Bruder, playing third base, went 7 for 10 with three runs and four RBI's.

Senior Angie Ahac went 2 for 3 against Ferris State University.

On Wednesday, Alma travels to Kalamazoo to take on Kalamazoo College. On Saturday, they play Albion at home.



Sophomore Heather Bruder takes a swing as the team looks on from the dugout. Photo by Jon Croff.

LUCKY BRAND
AMERICA'S FAVORITE BLUE JEANS
martin's

**OPEN
7
DAYS**

Stadium Mall • Mt. Pleasant
775-8585

Downtown Alma
463-4311

Applications for *The Almanian* are now available. They can be picked up outside *The Almanian* office, located in the basement of Newberry. All positions are open.

Complete Jewellery Repair

-rings
-watches
-earrings
-bracelets
-necklaces
-pendants



Monday drop offs
will be ready Friday.



**Gold-n-Gems
Jewelers**

110 E. Superior
Downtown Alma
463-5891 or 463-2420

Lacrosse team continues their learning experience

By Chris Tapley
Sports Editor

On Thursday, the men's lacrosse club traveled to Albion to face Albion's lacrosse team. Albion's program has been long established and proved to be a challenge for the Scots. Alma was defeated 12-4 by the more experienced Albion.

The Scots scoring came in the form of junior Jay Swan with two goals and one assist. Sophomore Craig Wassen and junior Todd Ruiter each added in one goal. The Scots were pleased with the performance of the team if not with the final score.

"Overall the team played well and improved in play," said student coach John Zielinski (98). For most of the team this is the first time they have ever played lacrosse

and so everything is coming as a challenge.

"One wouldn't expect us to be as competitive as we are, we're very good for a first year team," said Eugene Deci, chair of the physics department.

Adding to the challenge was the fact that the game against Albion was a different style of play than what the Scots have encountered before.

"Compared to the other two games this was a more physical game than the before. We stepped up to the physicalness of the game. There were some good hits on both sides," said Zielinski.

Despite the physical style of play the team was able to stay in the game.

"It's surprising how competitive

we are. We're competitive with all the teams we played," said Ruiter.

"We're essentially at the stage where the guys have got the skills down and now we need to work on team concepts," said Deci.

Leading these young players in learning the sport are Deci, senior Steve Didocha, Zielinski and first-year student Eric Didocha.

Deci is serving as both the teams advisor and as a coach. Deci played lacrosse in college for four years and when he found out that some people were trying to start a club at Alma and that they needed a faculty advisor he got involved.

Zielinski, Eric and Steve Didocha all three played in high school and wanted to continue to play in college. The lacrosse team was started this year as a way for

them and others to continue or start to play. The lacrosse club is considered a student organization rather than a part of the athletic department and therefore is funded by Student Congress. They play other non-varsity clubs from throughout the state.

The club will get their next chance to prove themselves this Friday against Calvin College. The team will face the Knights in Grand Rapids with the game starting at 4:30 p.m.

"Calvin is a very good and very structured program," said Zielinski.

1997 Lacrosse Schedule

4-1 Calvin A 4:30 PM

4-4 Hope A 5:00 PM

4-7 Calvin H 5:00 PM

4-9 Albion H 5:00 PM

4-12 Tournament
@ Hope * 11:00 AM

* Alma, Albion, Calvin, Hope, Grand Rapids, Oakland, Western Michigan, Michigan State University

Baseball team sweeps defending MIAA champs

By Sean Babbitt
Freelance Writer

The Scot baseball team has shifted into high gear this spring with five games in the last two weeks. On the weekend of March 22-23, the team embarked on a road trip that took them to Marietta College in Ohio and Point Park College in Pennsylvania. A three game series with Albion then kicked off MIAA Conference play this past weekend.

At Marietta College, a traditional Division III power, the Scots were roughed up 15-2. Pitcher Andy Jacobson (97) was touched for 9 runs on 6 hits while giving up 5 walks and recording 1 strike out in four innings of work. The Alma bats were also

held in check, only able to muster 2 runs on four hits by Scott Thomas (99), Shawn Grant (00), Scott Heymoss (98) and Andy Meeter (00).

"The team is working very hard, but surprisingly enough the pitching has not yet been up to par," said Jacobson.

The team then traveled to Point Park College, a NAIA Division II opponent, for two games. In cold and wintry weather the Scots dropped their second straight while giving up

double digit runs for the second straight game. The 14-7 decision did have an upside in that the Alma bats came alive in the game. A two run home run was hit by first-year student Ryan Janis and a solo shot was provided by sophomore Scott

Mantyla, who also added two other hits in the game. Senior captain Derek Zell also added three hits. The second game was canceled due to a severe winter storm.

"We hit the ball well, and played solid defense but we just need to put it all together at the same time," said senior Steve Vance.

Over the weekend, the Scots battled conference foe Albion with one at their place on the 28th and two Balkhe field here at Alma. The Scots won all three games, 5-1, 5-2, and 5-3, on solid pitching with complete games being thrown by Jacobson, senior Joe Poot and junior Matt MacDonald. The Scots

improved their record to 4-8-1 and 3-0 in conference play for the season.

The team has two home dates this week with SVSU on Tuesday at 3:00 p.m. and one with Kalamazoo on Friday at 4:00 p.m. before traveling to Kalamazoo on Saturday for a pair.

*...We just need to
put
it all together at
the same time.*

*•Steve Vance,
'97*

Pizza Chef

463-2433

OPEN EVERY DAY AT 11 a.m.
FREE DELIVERY ALL DAY LONG!

Subs-each only \$3.69

Italian
Ham & Cheese
Vegetarian
Turkey
Chicken Breast
served cold with
mayo on the side

Salads

Small Tossed \$1.69
Large Tossed \$3.29
Small Antipasto or Chicken \$1.99
Large Antipasto or Chicken \$3.79
Dressings: Ranch, Italian, 1000 Island,
Fat Free Ranch, Fat Free Italian

Pizza Pricing	10" Small	Get another 10" for	14" Large	Get another 14" for
Cheese	4.99	3.00	7.89	5.00
One topping	5.74	3.50	8.89	5.50
Two toppings	6.49	4.00	9.89	6.00
Extra toppings	.75	.50	1.00	.50
Chef's Special	7.99	5.00	11.89	7.00
Veggie Lover	7.99	5.00	11.89	7.00

Free delivery to Alma College

PEACE CORPS NEEDS YOUR SKILLS

We are recruiting students who will graduate in 1997 and 1998 for volunteer positions in Education, Environment, Agriculture, Business, Health, Youth Development, and other areas.

Call today to discuss your qualifications.

FOR MORE
INFORMATION CALL
1-800-424-8580



Visit Peace Corps' WEB site:
<http://www.peacecorps.gov>
Online application available at:
<http://www.peacecorps.gov/vrs/kita.html>

Catty Corner by Jenn Cornell

Bad drivers take fun out of driving

Driving is an activity which can be very relaxing and enjoyable. Taking a wonderful drive through the country on a Sunday afternoon, or driving around just to get off of Alma's campus, is something that many people look forward to.

Joy can certainly turn to sheer frustration when considering the intelligence level of some people who were able to obtain a license and legally drive.

How many times have you been driving down the road behind someone who obviously does not know their numbers? These people are easily recognizable as they tool down a road with a 45-mile-per-hour speed limit at 25 mph. Not only are these people frustrating to be caught behind, but they are dangerous drivers as well. The speed limit is in place to insure that drivers will maintain a basic speed that is safe for all drivers to travel at. These number-challenged people obviously have nothing better to think about than themselves.

Driving faux pas numero deux: Driving down the passing lane of the freeway at 65 mph or lower. These people will quite often not move for anything. I think it is a power trip type of thing. I have actually heard my older relatives say, "No one needs to go that fast anyway. Let them drive behind me." A herd of caribou can jump out into the passing lane in front of them and they still won't budge—they will most often just slow down further. These people can be spotted on any expressway at any given time of day. They are usually driving vehicles which are light blue in color or mini-van shaped. They can also be picked out by the line of ten other cars behind them, all trav-

eling at a very fast speed, bumper-to-bumper. If you are not passing someone, or at least driving at a speed higher than the rest of the traffic around you, give up control of the passing lane. Let the people behind you pass by and then you can resume your place in the lane that you love so much.

The myth of the left hand turn lane is one that actually stumps some licensed drivers as well. The left hand turn lane is designed to be occupied by people who are going to turn left. The turn lane is not to drive down just because you cannot find a break in traffic during which you can enter a normal driving lane. This is a driving technique I have witnessed (alarmingly) more than a select few times while driving down Wright Avenue. A good rule of thumb: Do not drive between two yellow lines.

While driving down a busy road, do not slam on your breaks if you spot a cop. I have

come terrifyingly close to rear ending drivers who decided that they must come to a near stop at the sight of police officers. If you are going to be completely paranoid about law enforcement agents, do not take the chance of speeding—especially down a road that is as heavily patrolled as Wright Avenue.

Although the Department of Transportation is not as careful about giving licenses as I would like them to be, by being courteous and thoughtful when we drive we can reduce accidents and make driving pleasurable for those around us. If not, do not be misunderstood about the funny little wave that you seem to be getting from other cars who pass by—you probably deserve it.

Joy can certainly turn to sheer frustration when considering the intelligence level of some people who were able to obtain a license and legally drive.

• CLASSIFIEDS •

COMPUTER FOR SALE: One year old Epson Action Tower 7500, IBM compatible. AMD D4 100MHz, 8 MB ram, 850 MB hard disk. Includes DOS and Windows 3.1, Quicken and Claris Works, several CD ROMs. Epson monitor and sound card with speakers. 14.4 internal fax modem with speaker phone. Price: best offer. Call x7563 or stop by 229 Carey and ask for Melanie.

The Women's Studies Program needs someone to transcribe oral history interviews during the Spring Term. The task requires someone who is a good listener, a competent word processor, and is detail-oriented. The work can be done for Women's Studies practica credit, or as hourly-wage work. If done as hourly-wage work, preference will be given to work-study students. Contact Dr. Karen Garner, SAC 321, ext. 7179, garner@alma.edu.

Men/Women earn \$480 weekly assembling circuit boards/electronic components at home. Experience unnecessary, will train. Immediate openings in your area. Call 1-520-680-7891 ext. C200

Cloning threatens diversity

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

The issue of cloning has been in the news spotlight recently as a result of some breakthroughs in the area of genetics. But with these advances comes the question of whether all of these innovations are going to benefit the society in which they being pursued.

The answer, clearly, is no.

Since the dawn of the industrial revolution, Western society has placed great importance on the advances that increased technology can give. And it has, in large part, been successful. We have seen the health of every nation's citizens improve, the average life expectancy increase and many diseases once incurable now are treated on an outpatient basis.

But there have also been some major drawbacks. This increase in technology has erased many species once common to the earth from its surface, and, more generally, it has severely harmed our environment. Some of the very advances noted above have created a global crisis of overcrowding that further harms

the earth.

The basic problem now being faced is the fact that society in general, and the scientific community in particular, have been working so hard to prove that we *can* that no one has bothered to ask whether we *should*.

This debate has once again been resurrected by the fight over cloning. It now seems only a matter of time before we as a society are able to clone humans and pick and choose which characteristics we want in our offspring.

Therein lies the problem. When the process of bringing certain traits into the world becomes more desirable than other traits, we risk placing ourselves into a position where characteristics that are already divisive can become even more so. With everybody attempting to create the "perfect" baby, diversity will become more and more uncommon.

But it is precisely this diversity that serves to strengthen the human race. When we are forced to accept differences in one another as a matter of course instead of looking at them as something that

could have potentially been avoided, we become stronger and better as a people. When we are forced to accept the differences among us, we are all the better for it.

Cloning very seriously threatens this. Not only will individuals who do not possess these attributes be isolated from the society, but this isolation will be seen as their fault. The fact that somebody does not quite measure up to the ideal that society has constructed will be looked upon as a mistake that could have all too easily been avoided.

This means of reference—of looking at differences as faults to be avoided—divides us even more deeply than we are now. When we stop seeing differences as aspects of life that add color and spice to life, when we add to the devaluation of individuals based on the traits with which they were born, when we create an ideal and expect everyone to conform, we are hurting ourselves.

We have come to the point where we can all look like one another, but that is not sufficient to say that we should.

Missionary work reveals beauty

By Amy Isom
Guest Editorialist

My romance with the cliff began in December. Twelve of us, American and speaking no Spanish, arrived in the tiny rural village of San Isidro, Honduras, many miles from the nearest paved road. Our group had come to help a sister church build an addition onto their building for Sunday School classrooms.

On the first work-day, Martha, a member of the Honduran church, tried to ask several of us for some help. Pointing to a large rock near her feet, she held up three fingers, then gestured to those of us standing there to follow her. We interpreted her instructions to be a request for three people to carry three rocks back to the building site. Happily volunteering, four of us followed her up the stairs (apparently we had forgotten how to count as well).

After passing several large rocks along the side of the road, we began to question our mission. We glanced at each other; obviously, something was wrong with our interpretation. She led us down the road, which began to rise sharply. Soon, we were panting from the climb. The sun was high in the cloudless sky; the heat poured onto our sweaty backs. None of us had water bottles. I began to pray for strength, for we still did not know our destination, and we had not told anyone else we were leaving. As I mopped my face with my sleeve, I tried not to imagine carrying a big rock back down that slope. Instead, I tried to envision Michigan, where snow

was falling in temperatures more than eighty degrees cooler.

At last, we stopped. Below us, above us, and all around us were rocks. Millions of sharp gray edges poked through the red soil of the mountainside. Martha explained that a truck would arrive at the bottom, and our job was to move the pile down the mountain to load up the truck. The heat waves made me dizzy. I picked up a boulder and heaved it awkwardly from my shoulder. It landed a few feet down the slope. With each rock we threw, we walked down the slope, throwing it several times to reach the bottom. This went on for what seemed like hours. None of us had a watch. Our group back at the church would be worried about us if we weren't back by lunch time.

When we had gathered a large pile at the bottom, we climbed back up to the top of the cliff. Sitting on boulders, we smiled at each other, too exhausted to speak. It was then that we took in the view before us. For miles in each direction, lush green hills and valleys carved the landscape like a gently folded emerald blanket. The mountains seemed to touch the sun, and cows grazed lazily at their feet.

When the truck arrived, it was not the little 5-10 or Nissan that we were expecting (the preferred Honduran mode of transportation), but a commercial dump-truck. We threw each rock over the side of the truck, which was nearly as tiring as throwing them down the mountain had been. When the last of the pile disappeared, we sighed in relief,

shaking out our rubbery arms.

It was not enough. We had over two hundred rocks in the truck, yet we needed more. I faced the mountain, visualizing the entire thing collapsing into a red pile of dust as we removed every pebble from its structure. Village boys had gathered to watch us work, and they joined us in an assembly-line up to speed the moving process. We should have thought of this sooner.

Finally, the truck was full; gray peaks rose high above the top of the truck. Our arms trembled as we pulled ourselves up over the back and balanced on the edge for the ride back. As we drove away, I stared at the quarry, watching as it disappeared around the bend.

That night, as I lay in my sleeping bag, my muscles aching and my face scorched and puffy, all that came to mind was the majestic beauty of the view. My thoughts were not on the hard work, the dusty red of the cliff, or my gouged hands. My mind was calm, and I felt the peaceful coolness of the jungle-covered valley. Smiling in the dark, I recalled how the mountain tops had disappeared into the rays of the sun.

My thoughts then drifted to the rocks, which had been layered into the foundation of the church's new addition to save on the cost of concrete and to add stability to the structure. I thought about how perfect this was, that the church had been built on a foundation of loving human labor, along with pieces of that divinely-created heaven on earth.

Staff Editorial

Honors Day: an opportunity, not a vacation

This Thursday marks the date of the college's first ever Honor's Day—an entire day dedicated to the celebration of the liberal arts as studied by the students of Alma College.

With the exception of Honor's Convocation at 9:30 a.m., everything during Honor's Day is optional.

In trying to entice students to attend the presentations of their peers, incentives such as admission into a three-band concert this Friday are being offered based on the number of presentations attended. These incentives, however, should not be necessary.

Presumably, the reason that students chose to attend Alma, or any institution of higher learning, is just that: to learn. While this learning takes on a number of different forms, one of the best ways to learn is through the work of your professors and peers.

Yet all too many Alma students are looking forward to Honor's Day as a chance to get away from classes and catch up on sleep. Too many students see Honor's Day not as an opportu-

nity to learn from the work of their fellow students, but as a vacation day before the last week of classes.

It is this apathetic attitude—the attitude that is shared by too many students—that they are at Alma College to have a little fun and leave four or five years later with a slip of paper that enables them to make more money. If they learn something along the way, that is an added bonus.

But this is not the reason behind the idea of a liberal arts education. To leave knowing a tremendous amount about one's particular field of study is admirable, but what sets a liberal arts education apart is the opportunity to learn a little about everything—to become well rounded.

This is the idea behind Honor's Day. While it is all too tempting to stay home and sleep or to attend presentations only because of the incentives offered, is to miss the point not only of Honor's Day, but the ideology behind the liberal arts education that Alma College offers.

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:

This letter is in response to Chris Sargent's March 25, 1997, letter to the editor pertaining to Dr. Stone's interest in student lives. I disagree with Mr. Sargent's opinion that Dr. Stone is not concerned with the welfare of Alma College students.

Recently I went to Dr. Stone with a problem because I felt that I had no place else to go. He took time out of his busy day—the very same day I called for an appointment—to meet with me. I found Dr. Stone to be understanding and helpful. Dr. Stone did not treat me like a number, as Mr. Sargent feels students at Alma are treated like. The very fact that I could meet face to face with the president of Alma College proves that I am not, nor are other students at Alma College treated as numbers, and that despite what Mr. Sargent thinks, Dr. Stone is concerned with the welfare of the students at Alma College.

Joanne Howd (98)

...

To the Editors:

After reading an article in the March 25 issue of "Catty Corner," I found myself in a position to explain the point behind Greek Week and the benefits to the campus, local community, and Greek community. I, Samantha Jacobs, happen to be the Special Events Chairman for Panhellenic Council, and find the letter featured about Greek Week a bit alarming, perhaps because a great deal of time and effort goes into the planning and organization of Greek Week and the title, "Purpose of Greek Week remains confusing," just "eludes" me. The purpose of Greek Week is to promote intersorority and interfraternity

relations upon the Alma College Campus while giving back to the Alma College community as well as the local community.

I find it a bit alarming when one writes that they don't understand the purpose, because it is most likely that they have not joined in the events and it is difficult to understand the purpose of something when you don't participate. I might find it difficult to understand the purpose of a Philosophy class if I don't attend. I don't see the world through "rose-colored glasses," but what choices are there? One, we could sit back and watch the entire Greek community fall apart. Two, we could wait around for some "change to happen" (but without effort, face it, change doesn't happen), or, we could make a valid attempt at promoting Greek unity and sharing with the community and campus.

The Greek community, as a whole, raised \$253.50 (in a period of 36 hours) to be donated to Habitat for Humanity (a non-profit organization), sponsored and worked a blood drive, attempted to complete 24 service projects for The Commission on Aging (some of the projects were canceled due to weather), and co-sponsored with ACUB an all campus bowling party held at the Ithaca Town and Country. Perhaps I am a biased source considering that I am one of the chairpersons for Greek Week, but personally I think that the purpose of Greek Week is quite apparent.

I do understand that there is a competition during Greek Week, but I believe the phrase goes "it is all fun and games." The competition includes banner making, egg tosses, bowling, tug-o-war, etc. None of the previously mentioned events are extremely "competitive" events. However, I will acknowledge that some of the unity promoted during Greek Week is lost after the events end, but whose fault is that? Do you keep in contact with everyone you met during pre-term? It is not feasible to say that every individual a Greek member encounters during Greek Week will in-turn become their best friend, but it is feasible to

say that if one new friendship occurs during Greek Week, we are making a positive step towards Greek unity. I do have a suggestion for those individuals that are in the Greek community and don't understand Greek Week, ask someone, or better yet, attend some of the Greek Week events. I do not mean for this letter to be taken offensively, but I did feel that it is only fair that Greek Week get the credit that it deserves.

Samantha Jacobs (97)

...

To the Editors:

I generally do not respond to letters in *The Almanian*, but since Mr. Chris Sargent chose to criticize me by name, I felt compelled to respond. If Mr. Sargent does not see me about campus or in attendance at campus events, perhaps it is because he has chosen not to look or he is not himself present.

My office continues to have open hours for students from 3-5 p.m. on Mondays and I see students by appointment regularly. As always at this time of the year, I write numerous student recommendations, do mock interviews, and aid students in their job searches. Most seniors, including Mr. Sargent, will be coming to my home for dinner this month. Admittedly, my schedule does not permit casual strolls about the campus as often as I would like, but between appointments at various sites, I regularly meet and greet students.

A cursory review of my calendar indicates that my attendance at student events this academic year included: all home football games, most volleyball matches, one golf meet, most women's and men's basketball games, part of a swim meet, plays, most symphony concerts, five choir concerts, the Student Leadership Dinner, Trustee Honors Dinner, seven senior dinners for 250 students in my home, two first-year student receptions at the house, student congress, Spanish house dinner, College Republicans, trustee and campus-wide committees with

student representation, freshmen honors class, Traditions Dinner, Pre-term events, Labor Day Picnic, Parent's Day, CROP Walk, Homecoming events, WIAB discussion, R.A. conference keynote speech, Dessert Theater, Admissions Open Houses and junior days, athletic recruiting events, and several other student-related events.

While I have had to make a substantial time commitment to the "Cherished Ever" campaign which funded the new library wing and the EHS laboratories and will fund new science equipment, technological advances, and residence hall refurbishing, I believe I have continued to divide my time appropriately between all college constituents—students, faculty, administration, executive staff, custodians and maintenance, secretaries and clerks, the Presbyterian denomination, the Alma community, Trustees, and friends of the College. These commitments and my other duties have required every day and most from January-May save for two family weekends.

I do have institutional responsibilities for the Michigan Colleges Foundation, the Michigan Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, the Annapolis Group, the Association of Governing Boards, the Association of Presbyterian Colleges and Universities, and the ACE/NIP project for the advancement of women in higher education—but those are secondary to the constituent responsibilities.

Students always have been and will continue to be the college's and my first priority. The time I spend with students is the most enjoyable time I have. To any student who feels, as Mr. Sargent evidently seems to feel, that he needs to see more of the President, I offer an invitation to come to my office to chat on Mondays or make an appointment for any time.

Alan J. Stone, President

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:

Erin Freeland
Tom Glegola
Jennifer Hughes
Lisa Sherman

Photo Editors:

Jon Croff
Derek Warner

Graphics Editors:

Brian Crum
Laura Paetz

Business & Distribution Manager:

Lesley McDougall

Advertising Manager:

Eric Reed
Assistant Advertising Manager:

Kari St. Bernard

Faculty Advisors:

David Lawrence

Eugene Pattison

Staff Editorial Policy

Opinions expressed weekly in the "Staff Editorial" reflect the views of *The Almanian* Editorial Board, which includes section editors and the editors-in-chief. These views in no way reflect the views of the entire Alma College community.

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.