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# The Almanian

April 15, 1997

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Issue 24

## Choirs end year with Bach's "Passion"

By Erin Freeland  
Staff Reporter

Friday night 115 Alma College singers filled the Heritage Center for the Performing Arts with their voices singing "The Passion According to St. John," by Johann Sebastian Bach.

The piece told the story of the trial and accusation of Jesus Christ as told in the Gospel of St. John. It is categorized as one of Bach's three most sacred works.

The singers are members of the Men's and Women's Glee Clubs and the Alma College Choir. Led by Will Nichols, professor of music, 11 instrumentalists, including a string quartet, a wind quartet and

a piano, accompanied the choirs.

Four students had solo parts in the piece. Matt Robertson (98) sang a bass aria and Curtis White (97), who sang the part of Peter, were joined by Melinda Towns (98) and Brian Martin (97). Three professional soloists, Christopher Cock, Jeffrey Foote and Vicki Walker, voice instructor, sang the parts of the narrator, Pontius Pilate and a spectator, respectively. Nichols sang the part of Jesus.

"It is a fabulous piece of music," said Nichols. "It is very dramatic in that it is a very active portion of the gospel leading up to the crucifixion."

Nichols further stated that he was happy with the way the singers had worked on the piece.

"It is technically very difficult and demanding. I think they have performed well. It has been a great learning experience for all of us, including me. I am proud of the way the kids have sunk their teeth

into it," he said.

Robertson commented on his experience working on such a challenging piece.

"It has been an incredible experience. Having to raise ourselves, and myself personally, to sing at this level has been incredible. Attaining this performance level is what has been really special about this piece," said Robertson.

"It's a heck of a way for a graduating senior to go out," said Martin. "All the singers are confident about their parts. It carries a very important message."

Erica Whichello, first-year member of the choir, shared her thoughts about the piece.

"It's been really fun and a challenge, but I'm really glad we are performing it because it's a great piece. It's great that even though we go to a small school with a small music department we can still do impressive works by famous composers," said Whichello.

"We've worked very hard this term to put it all together," said Melinda Towns (98) of Friday's performance. Photo by Derek Warner.

## Professors leave on sabbatical

*Fike, Hoefel, Jacques, Massanari, Palmer, Parks-Kirby and Selmon to research during sabbaticals*

By Staci Hill  
News Editor

Some familiar faces will disappear from the Alma College campus during the next academic year as seniors graduate and faculty members take sabbaticals.

The sabbatical allows professors a leave of absence to explore research or teaching opportunities, on or off campus. Sabbatical leaves are granted to professors for a half or full year based on their proposed work.

The following professors have been granted half-year sabbatical

leaves for part of the 1997-98 academic year.

Carol Fike, associate professor of theatre and dance, will travel this winter to Humboldt State University in California to choreograph an original work for the dance department's student dance company. The work will be performed in their spring concert. This term Linda Sievers, professor of dance at Humboldt, choreographed the piece "Recall the Lost Joys" for the Alma College Dance Company Winter Concert. Fike will also teach an intermediate/advanced technique class.

Randolph Jacques, professor of business administration, will study the field of environmental accounting with a global outlook for future course development. During the sabbatical he will look at current and proposed standards and standards of countries with accounting practices similar to those of the United States.

Ronald Massanari, Charles A. Dana professor of philosophy, plans to research the field of Western mysticism. He will focus on interdependence and the relation of religion or spirituality and science "as differing levels of knowledge and different ways of knowing." Massanari will carry out his research in several locations including the University of Hawaii.

William Palmer, Charles A. Dana professor of English, plans to co-

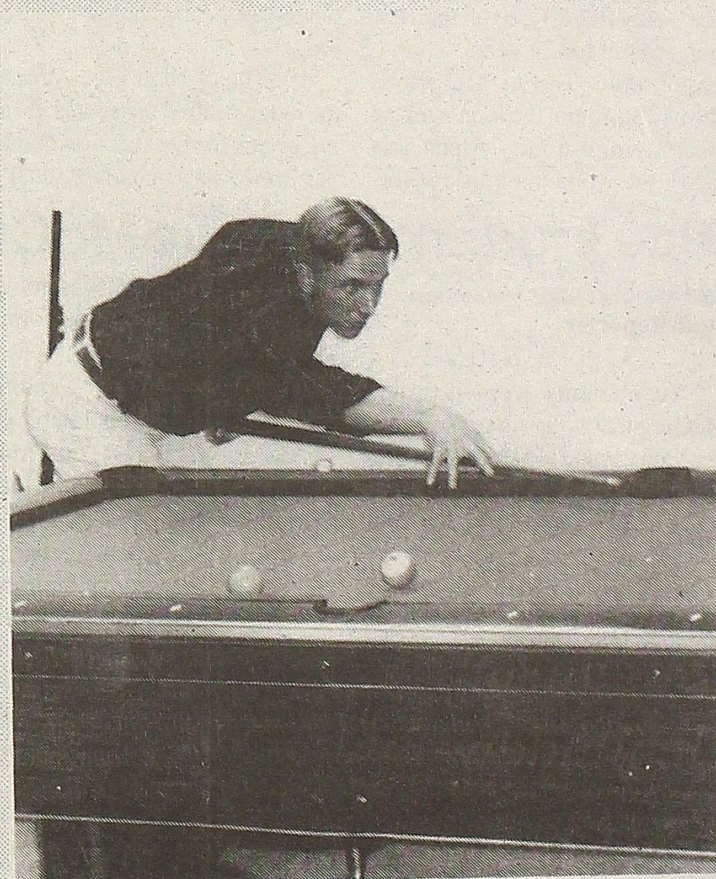
write a textbook entitled *Critical Thinking for Composition* for first-year student composition courses, with Dean Memering from the English department at Central Michigan University. Palmer will also continue to write poems and essays and complete his manuscript of poems for competition.

Michael Selmon, associate professor of English, will study the dramas of contemporary British playwright, Caryl Churchill. This book-length study will produce a manuscript revising studies produced for his dissertation.

The following professors have been granted a full-year sabbatical leave for the 1997-98 academic year.

Roseanne Hoefel, assistant professor of English, will first research American Indians at the Monticello College Foundation for Women through the Newberry Library in Chicago. Hoefel will then work to write about this research and prepare for her work with the Kellogg National Leadership Program.

Carrie Parks-Kirby, associate professor of art and design, plans to gain residency at a tileworks or industrial ceramics plant where she may produce a major work and begin new work for exhibition. She will also travel to England to study and photograph tiles from the collection at the Victoria and Albert Museum, as well as visit the potteries in Staffordshire.



Zachary Everitt (99) takes a break from studying for exams with a quick game of pool. Photo by Jon Croff.

## • NEWS BRIEFS •

• **Commencement** will take place at 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 19, in Cappaert Gymnasium. Seniors should plan to line up at 1:30 p.m.

• **Spring term classes** will begin at 1 p.m. on Sunday, April 27.

• **Marc B. Setterlund** will join the department of psychology as an assistant professor. He comes to Alma College from Concordia College in Minnesota and completed his Ph.D. work at Johns Hopkins University.



April 15, 1997

## Marriott sponsors jazz festival

By Jennifer Hughes  
Staff Reporter

Last Wednesday night, Marriott's traditional Midnight Breakfast became Marriott's Jazz Festival Under the Stars.

The Alma College Jazz Ensemble provided the evening's entertainment and several vocalists accompanied the band, adding to the entertainment.

Mark Starkweather, director of Marriott foods, commented that the jazz music really was the best part of the event.

"It was wonderful to listen to the wide variety of music," said senior Haley Heath. "The Jazz Band really added to the whole event."

Marriott provided the food for the event, which was held in Hamilton Commons. Alma College

President Alan Stone made balloon animals for students and art student Tuco Jakubowski (98) drew caricatures.

Students received tickets at the door to play games and win prizes. A ring toss, dart contest and color game were available for students to play and door prizes were also awarded during small breaks in the music.

A fortune teller was also available to foretell student's futures.

"I thought it was a lot of fun," said senior Rhonda Bunnin. "The food was good and the fortune teller was really good....She told me I was going to be a lawyer and wedding bells were in the future, it was really funny....We had a really good time."

The Jazz Ensemble played a combination of their music from two of

this year's concerts. While some of the music was more traditional jazz, much of their music was more rock and roll based on their Blues Brothers concert.

A dance floor was also set up in Hamilton for students who wanted to "shake their tail feather," as the song goes.

"We're all excited," commented jazz ensemble member Joanne Howd (98). "We like getting an opportunity to play in front of everyone."

Marriott decided to try a new slant on their traditional Midnight Breakfast after a low turnout last year.

"Last year we did a Midnight Breakfast and we didn't get as many people to come," Starkweather said. "We thought if we changed it, we'd get a better response."

He was pleased with the turnout at the event. While they expected around 400 students, 300 showed up, outnumbering last year's turnout.

"I had a blast," Starkweather commented. "The students I talked to had a good time. We're going to try to do the same thing next year."

"I was surprised to find so many people there," commented sophomore Erin Glomski. "It was a good chance to interact with the Alma College community outside of the classroom."



Junior Sarah Chambers and senior Kristen Miquel wait in line for a balloon animal from President Stone. Photo by Derek Warner.

## Music sorority, fraternity sponsor all-day Jazz Festival

By Larissa VanderZee  
Feature Editor

And then there was jazz. Jazz, a twentieth century art, music and philosophy, overtook the Eddy Music Building this past Saturday. The Alma College Jazz Ensemble, various high school jazz bands and even some professional jazz musicians played the day away at Alma's first all-day Jazz Festival.

Don Metcalf, director of Alma's jazz band, got the idea from Central Michigan University's annual jazz festival—a festival that has been around for 25 years.

Sponsored by Phi Mu Alpha (ΦΜΑ) Sinfonia, the men's music fraternity and Sigma Alpha Iota (ΣΑΙ), the women's music soror-

ity, the festival hosted six high school bands and one middle school band from around mid-Michigan.

"The purpose of this festival is to give high school jazz bands a chance to come and play their music. It also gives them a chance to hear other jazz bands and to interact with professional musicians," stated senior ΦΜΑ member Brian Martin.

St. Louis, Roscommon, Ogema, Harrison, Alma Middle School and two Alma High School bands competed for the many awards promised to the musicians. Each band played four songs before a panel of judges.

After each band's performance the judges tallied the scores, awarding prizes for best section and best performer on each individual in-

strument. Also awarded were awards to the most promising young musician and the best soloist. These awards went to Kenny Smith of Alma Middle School and Marco Frano of the Alma High School 9 o'clock jazz band. In addition to the plaque, Franco was offered a \$1500 music scholarship to attend Alma College.

The judging panel consisted of Metcalf, Rob Smith and Chris Bickley. Smith and Bickley are both professionals from Central Michigan who travel around the state and country to perform.

After the judging was finished, the Alma College Jazz Ensemble played some of the music they recently performed in their past two concerts. The band featured Smith

and Bickley on two tunes in addition to their regular soloists.

Much of the coordinating responsibilities fell to first-year student Mike Slater. He worked on the planning committee with Metcalf, Kevin Smith, director of the Kiltie Band and sophomore Nicole Deja.

"It was really rushed. Something like this usually takes a year to plan and we did it in about three months," commented Slater. "But for the most part, everything went really smoothly. We are testing things so that we can make this event better."

The planning committee hopes to continue this festival, moving to 12 bands next year.

Additionally, Slater said the festival was one way to recognize the

greatness of jazz music, "Jazz is the major musical movement of the 20th century. One reason why it has become so popular is because it incorporates all forms of music."

Sophomore Eric Grace, a member of ΦΜΑ who assisted with the days events, commented, "music isn't as appreciated on this campus as it should be. It needs more respect. People need to stop seeing it as just a hobby and recognize it as a profession."

The day was specifically about jazz but it was also about music in general. It gave professionals and students from college, high school and middle school a chance to come together and celebrate the music that makes them swing.

## Five students receive McGregor Scholar Awards at Honors Convocation

By Lisa Sherman  
Staff Reporter

Five students were awarded McGregor Scholar Awards at Honors Convocation held on Thursday, April 3.

This year James Blum (97), Tom Glegola (98), David Jakubowski (98), Anne Murphy (98) and Kathryn VanCise (99) were granted the award.

Blum, sponsored by Myles McNally, associate professor of mathematics and computer science, will be working on a project titled "Developing a Model for Universal Medical Information Exchange on the Internet."

Glegola will be researching "the Czech Republic's Use of a Triangular Relationship to Gain Entrance into NATO," and is sponsored by Sandy Hulme, associate professor of political science.

Sponsored by Sandy Lopez-Isnardi, assistant professor of art and design, Jakubowski will conduct a "Performance Art Project."

He explained what he was going to do as "a collage of the performing and visual arts."

Murphy's project, "Establishment of an Instructional Ecological Field Station at Forest Hills, Michigan" is sponsored by Murray Borrello, instructor of geology, and

Richard Roeper, professor of biology.

VanCise will research "The Literature of Mark Twain and Gwendolyn Brooks." She is sponsored by Roseanne Hoefel, assistant professor of English, and Carol Bender, associate professor of English.

The McGregor Scholar Program is

new to Alma College this year. William Potter, dean of academic affairs, applied for the grant given by the McGregor Fund in Detroit. The administration decided to implement the program at Alma because they wanted to provide funding for students' academic efforts. "We wanted to promote scholarship—scholarly efforts—by students in all disciplines," Potter explained.

The McGregor Scholars Program does just that. It provides Alma College with a \$75,000 grant. From this grant, five students each year for the next four years (this year being the first) will receive a \$2500 stipend to help support their scholarly project.

The students selected can use their stipend in any way to fund their project.

Jakubowski said that he plans to use his for the art supplies needed for his project, which can be rather expensive.

The students are required to share their scholarly project in a forum beyond that of the Alma College campus, as well. The program is open to sophomore and junior students in all academic disciplines. In

**We wanted to promote scholarship—scholarly efforts—by students in all disciplines.**

**• William Potter, dean of academic affairs**

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# Softball team boasts national ranking

By Tom Glegola  
Staff Reporter

With two more mercies, this time over Adrian, Alma's softball team improved its overall record to 23-3, and its MIAA record to 8-0, earning a highest-ever national ranking of fifth.

Alma is tied for first in the MIAA with Calvin (4-0).

On Thursday, Alma defeated Adrian twice in a double-header, 11-2 and 9-0. The winning pitcher of the first game was senior Andrea

Hill, who won her twelfth game against no losses. First-year student Becky Pierce pitched a shut-out the second game, improving her record to 9-2. Both pitchers have earned run averages (ERAs) below 2.00.

"We were focused and knew what we had to do," said Pierce. "And we did it."

Two other games were scheduled for last week, one at Calvin, and the other at home against Defiance (Ohio). Both were canceled due to inclement weather. The game

at Calvin has been rescheduled for Monday.

The team will now shift its focus to the Calvin game.

"We are a better team than Calvin," said sophomore Holly Bruder. "I am confident in beating Calvin twice this year."

The key to defeating Calvin is being able to hit its tough pitching staff, with its staff ace, junior Shauna Koolhaus.

"We have great defense and everybody can hit," said Bruder.

Because Calvin does not score

many runs, it will have to halt Alma's run-production ability, a daunting task. With a team average above .300, two players hitting above .600 and another hitting above .500, stopping Alma's hitting will be a difficult task for the Knights.

Calvin only beat Adrian by scores of 1-0 and 5-4, compared to the Scots' recent mercies. Since Alma's pitchers also fared better against Adrian, the Scots have further reason for confidence.

"We have a good team, we work

hard and we have talent," said Bruder.

Being ranked first in the region and fifth nationally should also add to the Scots' confidence, since no other Alma team has ever received such a high ranking. The 1994 team finished the season ranked ninth nationally.

The team is also looking beyond Calvin to the regional tournament.

"I see us going far [in the tournament]," said Bruder. "I know we can win."

## Mens, womens track teams suffer loss to Calvin

By Chris Tapley  
Sports Editor

The men's and women's track teams competed against MIAA ri-

val Calvin on Wednesday.

Both teams came away from the meet with their first dual meet loss. The men were defeated 89-64 while the women lost 101-39.

"The guy's meet was really pretty close. We had our chances, we just lost some close races," said Head Men's and Women's Track Coach Dan Gibson.

Sophomore Greg Knight turned in an outstanding performance for the Scots, winning the 100 meter in 11.06 seconds and the 200 meter in 22.8 seconds. He was also a member of the winning 400 meter and mile relay teams.

Senior Jason Nordbeck, who returned Wednesday after recovering from an injury, turned in another strong performance. Nordbeck won the triple jump and took second place in the 110

meter hurdles.

Several others added notable performances. Senior Chad Mills won the 400 meter hurdles while another senior, Chad Millettics, won the javelin. Sophomore Peter Muccio added a victory in the 1500 meter to round out the list of winners for the Scots.

Despite the strong performances of many on the team the men were unable to upset the powerful Calvin team.

"We outscored them on the track, we just couldn't keep up in the field events," said Gibson.

Many team members had to compete against Calvin's national decathlon champion, who performs many of their running and field events. This complicated matters for the Scots.

The women also had some problems, but in a different way. They

performed very well in the field events, but were somewhat lacking on the track.

The Scots swept both the shot and the discus with junior Jo Ann Brnjac winning the shot and senior Rainy Inman the discus. Junior Sara Pettee won both the long jump and the triple jump, giving the Scots a quick lead.

Then disaster struck for the women's team as they failed to win a single running event.

"They just dominated us on the track," said Gibson.

In all of the events from the 800 meter race and up Calvin's women's team had at least one All-American entered and it proved to be too much for the Scots to overcome.

The teams were scheduled to compete again on Saturday at the Alma Invitational, but mother nature was uncooperative as she blanketed the track with a layer of snow. The invitational will not be made up.

The teams now must both turn their attentions to the rest of the season. Both teams have dual meets left against Albion and Adrian.

According to Gibson, the women's team is not expected to have any problem with either of those teams. If the women win both of these meets they will most likely claim second place behind Calvin in the MIAA.

The men may have more of a battle on their hands. According to Gibson, Albion has been looking very strong this season. He expects the battle for second place to come down to Alma and Albion.

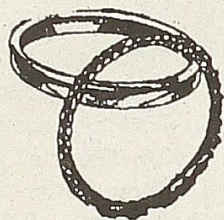
"It's a huge meet. We haven't beaten Albion in years," said Gibson.

The men may also have another chance to beat Calvin at the league meet on May 2 and 3.

The track teams are next in action on Saturday at the Saginaw Valley Invitational. Competition begins at 10 a.m.

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## Staff Editorial

# End of year reflections show growth

Yet another year is coming to a close. The end of anything—a school year, that psychology class and for some an entire undergraduate career—is accompanied by a time of reflection. Despite the very long winter, it has been a short eight months since September when we began classes. Have we grown as individuals in light of our experiences?

In September, Gwendolyn Brooks challenged us to never “fit in.” The first-year students eventually grew accustomed to dorm life and Pizza Sam’s. The seniors began planning for life after Alma. And the Alma community experienced the atrocity of the burning of the Byrds’ home.

Along with homecoming and the kick-off of the “Cherished Ever” campaign, October brought a lot of talk about hate groups and militia movements. Martin Lee’s talk and the Michigan Militia’s counter talk forced us to think about fanatical groups and conspiracy theories. But nothing haunted us more than the theatre company’s production of *God’s Country*. We realized that the world is cruel and that we have a responsibility to effect change. If we had not yet lost our innocence, it fell away with the falling leaves of autumn.

Finally it was November and time for the election: it happened; we moved on. The largest political debate on campus revolved around the funding of Model U.N., driven into 1997.

Winter term welcomed several students to the traditions of Bidfest and Runouts, as well as Pride Week’s Blue Jeans Day. As students questioned Greek life and activism, the administration investigated Alma’s ranking in *U.S. News and World Report*’s annual review of the nation’s best colleges.

In February, the campus learned of more important debates as Black English, or Ebonics, reached across the country.

As March approached students made plans for the future, struggling to fill the “S” course requirement and wondering why they would lose scholarship money to live off campus. Seniors searched for acceptances and interviews.

With spring fever the campus celebrated Women’s Month and educated themselves about gender issues. Many were surprised to learn that even Alma is affected by domestic violence, displayed by the dramatic Clothesline Project.

Another new tradition began with Honors Day. We celebrated the liberal arts for a day, taking time out to hear student presentations, senior thesis works, dance performances and a theatre production. Honors convocation recognized the benefits of our education, while students argued whether or not it was truly liberal.

Given the issues faced this year at Alma College, we cannot possibly find closure by mere reflection. We must forge ahead with what we know as students, as people.

## 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.

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To the Editors:

I am writing to express my concern over the ban of halogen lamps. Understanding that there exists a potential fire hazard with the floor lamps, I would like to see some changes made to the rule. I presently live in Bruske and I believe the same is true for all the dorms, the lighting that the ceiling light provides sucks. When my father came to visit, he turned on the light and laughed. The rooms

are dark and the halogen floor lamps provide an inexpensive and effective solution to a true problem.

Understanding that my simple whim will have little over the administration’s stand on halogen floor lamps, I would at least like to see an exception made for the smaller 40-watt halogen desk lamps. These smaller cooler lights have a glass cover to protect themselves. And for those individuals who point out the small fluorescent lights, how many of you can sit there for an hour listening to the sound of a hundred buzzing insects that they produce. The fact remains, for the amount of money the students pay, I see no reason that we should be stuck with these “night lights.” At least when I turn on my halogen lamp I can tell its

on.

Devin Ripmaster '00

...

To the Editors:

In response to Jenn Cornell’s letter in the April 8th edition of *The Almanian*, I find this sort of criticism a sign of insecurity or intolerance. Since when is a 70 degree day considered cold? Being located on 2nd East Gelston and having an Indoor/outdoor thermometer, I can tell you that the temperature was above 70 for the majority of the time people were out in bikinis.

Also, Cornell stated that, “To wear a bikini in Michigan at the beginning of April almost seems to cry, ‘Hey! Look at me! See my

body? You know you want to look.” If that is how she sees it, that’s fine.

Being a first-year student from the south, I can tell you that there is an incredible lack of sun which results in an incredible lack of tan. A tan is a nice thing to have these days (ignoring the obvious health risk) and is something that most people our age like. Is this a sin? I think to wear a bikini in Michigan at the beginning of April seems to cry, “Hey! Look at me! I’m comfortable with my body, it’s unusually warm out here, and I am going to celebrate. I’m going to get up and enjoy the weather.” Weren’t we all enjoying the spring weather? Well, I guess not all of us were.

Paul Krueger '00

Catty Corner by Jenn Cornell

# Happiness is found in self, not in studies

*Good grades can make you look good, but can they make you happy?*

There are instances in everyone’s life where they need some time to just be themselves, to do what makes them happy, to do what makes them feel satisfied. All too often, when caught up in the whirlwind of studying, extracurricular activities, even making time for friends, we ignore the fact that we just need to be ourselves.

Time well spent can be time spent figuring out what it is that you need to do to keep yourself sane. I know a girl who has devoted her entire college career to getting the best grades possible, even at the expense of having any kind of social life whatsoever. Bugged down by homework and responsibilities around campus, this girl never has any time to spend an entire evening vegging out with friends, even vegging out on her own. Schoolwork has become her life.

College should not be just homework.

The best learning that many of us can do is learning what it is that can bring a smile to our faces. This type of learning is not found in any lecture, textbook or homework assignment. Happiness is learned by really letting yourself go, even if it is for just one glorious day.

Doing what makes you happy can be as simple as pulling back the curtains in your room, letting the sun shine in and listening to your favorite CD. Happiness can be found in taking your shoes off and walking through mud, feeling it cold and thick between your toes. Never mind the fact that you are getting dirty—just think about how nice it feels to do something so out of the ordinary, something that you have not done since you were a child.

It is strangely ironic that many of

us spent time as youngsters trying to be grown up. As grown-ups, it is that child-like innocence and love for sheer pleasure that can make us feel entirely whole.

The key to happiness is something that only you can find for yourself. We all have a special place in our minds where we are truly free to be who and what we want to be. The trick to being happy is to realize these crazy flights of fancy and actually grabbing them and letting them take hold of our planners and “to-do” lists once in a while.

A life built around having stellar grades and extracurricular activities will look wonderful on a resume, but in the real world, the one in which after we come home from work everyday each of us have to deal with ourselves realistically, these fine attributes will get you nowhere. Knowing the chemical com-

position of an unknown substance or the exact dates and locations of every major war will certainly wow and impress everyone for whom you work, but this satisfaction, in the long run, is extremely short-lived.

What do we have if we do not have happiness? A home, a family, a career, a planner full of appointments and important “dates to remember”—happiness can be found in these things. True happiness however is only found in one place: You.

Having the self-assurance and courage to actually take the time to do what makes you happy is an experience that you will never learn with your nose buried in a textbook. Rather, happiness is something that is a hands-on learning experience in which we must be self-motivated enough to take the time to find.

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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.