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# The Almanian

October 7, 1997

Serving Alma College since 1907

Issue 5

## Science endowment raises \$4.5 million

By Rhonda Smith  
Staff Reporter

Recently Alma College secured \$4.5 million in funding for science programs through its "Cherished Ever" campaign.

The money will be divided into two parts. Initially \$1.5 million will be utilized for equipment and upgrades in the science departments. The remaining three million will be used as an endowment to provide for future funds for repair and maintenance. Science facilities underwent renovation and a million dollars worth of equipment were placed into the facilities. Now, however, the equipment is all ten years old.

The endowment will allow the college a reserve to replace outdated equipment in the future. The money for this fund was generated by the efforts of the science departments, the Development office and President Alan Stone. The departments presented their proposals for goals and equipment and the Develop-

ment office and Stone put it together and sent the document to various foundations.

According to Stone, the endowment has been very successful so far and proves "good things come

Kreskie Foundation challenges Alma to raise one million more for the endowment.

The various science departments have placed their orders and should be seeing their equipment delivered some time this year.

The biology department is requesting funds to establish an honors laboratory for introductory biology courses, equipment for undergraduate research and animal behavior, equipment for cell and molecular biology studies and renovation of the ecological station.

The biochemistry department proposes integrating current technologies into an interdisciplinary program. Requested equipment will provide opportunities for technological advancement between several departments involved in Biochemistry research.

The chemistry department will use the funding to enhance the Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrometer facility. The department also seeks to upgrade equip-

ment for environmental science studies and to acquire new computer facilities which would enhance research opportunities for students.

The exercise and health science department will utilize the money to equip the new laboratories currently being built.

The physics department will use the funds to make sweeping changes in their introductory-level laboratories.

The psychology department

will use the endowment to enhance their ability to study the relationship between brain chemistry and behavior.

Kay Grimmes, chair and associate professor of biology, commented on the endowment. "Great. Great opportunities. We can do a lot of things sooner than thought. New opportunities for student research," said Grimmes about the versatility of the endowment.

### Major contributors to the endowment:

Herbert & Grace A. Dow Foundation

Royland M. Gerstacker Foundation

Towsley Foundation

Kreskie Foundation

Matilda Wilson Foundation

Upjohn Foundation

from fund raising." A variety of fund raising ideas are being tested. Alma will conduct a campaign among its science alumni hopefully towing in a balance of one million dollars. Also, one of the foundations which donated began a challenge grant. The



A group of Alma College students work diligently in organic chemistry lab making the reagent lithium diisopropylamine. The chemistry department will be upgrading their NMR. Photo by Derek Warner.

## Campus News Briefs

The Alma College Theater Company is presenting *Hot L Baltimore* on October 9-11, at 8 p.m. and October 12, at 3 p.m. in the Heritage Center Presbyterian Hall.

Dr. Donna Lopiano will be speaking on Title IX sports funding rules and women's athletics in the Heritage Center for the Performing Art's, Presbyterian Hall on October 8, at 8 p.m.

Homecoming week opens on October 13 and ends October 18.

Fall term recess begins on October 16. Classes resume on October 20.

Second 7-week classes begin on October 20 and midterm grades are also due out the same day.

Last day to add a second 7-week class is October 22.

### Homecoming Schedule of events

Monday: Name that Tune, Jones Auditorium at 7 p.m.

Tuesday: Court Dinner, Hamilton Commons at 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday: Twister Tournament, Tyler-VanDusen 7 p.m.

Thursday: Bonfire, location to be announced 8 p.m.

Friday: Magician Dan Baker, Tyler-VanDusen 4 p.m. Concert, "They Might Be Giants" 8 p.m.

Saturday: Parade 11 a.m. Football Game 2 p.m.

## Weeks of practice to culminate on opening night for cast and crew of *Hot L Baltimore*

By Karin Shrum  
Staff Reporter

Thursday night the play *Hot L Baltimore*, by Lanford Wilson, opens at the Heritage Center after weeks of preparation and practice.

The play is set in the early 1970s in a broken-down hotel, The Hotel Baltimore. The play focuses on their interactions of 15 characters.

"It very subtly, with the ways the characters interact, weaves this picture of America in the early 1970s," stated Associate Professor of Theatre Joe Jezweski, who directed the play.

Wilson, the play's author, creates a metaphor about America through the interactions of his characters and their hotel.

To perfect Wilson's metaphor and their own interpretations of the play, the cast had rehearsal Monday through Friday from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. beginning at the start of fall term. Rehearsal increased to 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. this past Saturday with the addition of the technical crews.

"When a person sees a play

they see what is on the stage, but they don't see all the work that goes into it," commented Bethany Emery (01) assistant stage manager, on the technical contributions to the play.

Classes such as Theatre Company (THR 180) and Theatre crafts (THR 170), along with other volunteers began working on the set two weeks into fall term.

Hard work and effort went into lighting, sound, make-up, costumes and the character's personal artifacts as well.

Nonetheless, on Thursday night it will be the actors on the stage in the public eye. The group of fifteen rehearsed for a month, committing the entire script to memory just two weeks before opening night.

To help with the memorization process they would sit in a circle and call of scenes from the play and each actor would have to recite his or her lines instantly. The intensive rehearsal sessions used to help with memorization opened up time for the cast to perfect the movements and actions of the characters.

"We goof around, we joke, we bond really well. That helps the play itself because then we can all clique and play off each other more," commented Shaina Hewitt (01) on the cast.

Due to the subtleties that Wilson puts into the play the cast has to be able to maintain their character at all times even though they may not speak for several scenes. The ability for a cast member to respond to the other members movements and actions helps to move this play's plot along.

"You have to come with a readiness to be able to sit down and get into the play," stated Hewitt on the slightly complex structure of the play's plot. Hewitt feels confident, however, that the meaning will come through to the audience.

Weeks of work all come to an end on Thursday night in the Heritage Center Theater. Admission is \$5 for adults and free for students, but seating is reserved. For information call the Heritage Center Box Office at (517) 463-7304.



# Alma's rankings improve

By Cheryl Lenard  
Staff Reporter

In the past year, Alma College has received much publicity regarding the *U.S. News and World Report's* college ranking system. Alma College continues to be ranked in the third tier of national liberal arts colleges and has improved its rank by 11 points, moving from 104 to 93 out of 160 colleges. With the help of a research firm, the college investigated college leaders' opinions of the workings of the *U.S. News* ranking system.

Twenty-five percent of *U.S. News and World Report's* college ranking system relies on the opinions of college presidents, provosts and admissions directors from every ranked school in a specific category, such as national liberal arts colleges.

For instance, the other national liberal arts colleges in Michigan, including Albion, Hope and Kalamazoo along with all of the other national liberal arts colleges, yearly fill out questionnaires sent to them by *U.S. News and World Report*. In this survey they are asked to assign a rank for reputation on a scale from one to four (four being the best) to the other national liberal arts colleges.

Karen Roeper, director of public relations said, "[The rankings] are based on a false premise that you can rank quality. It simply isn't possible to quantify educational quality."

As it turned out, Alma was not the only school to question the ranking system. The college's investigation revealed that less than eight percent felt that the report accurately described their institutions. This finding, along with general disagreement about how the ranking system worked, prompted the college to propose

a boycott of the system.

In the rankings, Alma scored the worst in the areas of financial and faculty resources. Roeper stated were areas that are difficult to change quickly. Alma's best scores are found in the "Value Added" category. Alma's strong retention rate placed the college 20th out of 160 schools in this category. In "Student Selectivity," The college also ranks well in the

**"It simply isn't possible to quantify educational quality."**

**Karen Roeper,  
Director of Public Relations**

category of "Student Selectivity," placing 73rd. The academic profile of the entering class impacts this mark.

Other areas that affected the college's rank were endowment, student-to-faculty ratio and the use of part-time faculty.

The college's endowment, which is a group of monies that have been invested for the college, was up to \$89.8 million last June and is expected to be over 100 million by the year 2000. "It's kind of like the savings account of the college," said Roeper. According to Roeper, although this figure is good for Alma and serves its purpose well, the endowment will never be as large as that of Swarthmore or Wellesley Colleges.

Faculty resources is the second area in which Alma did not rank well. Although Alma's student-to-faculty ratio is higher than other schools at 14:1, the college's use of part-time faculty hurt their overall rank in this category. The college adds full-time faculty as

needed, while relying on part-time faculty fairly heavily.

Although Alma was not the first college to boycott the rankings system, they were the first to go public with it. Stanford University and Reed College are a couple of the colleges which simply do not participate in the survey. The college ranking issue is one of the best-selling issues of the year for *U.S. News* and provides very good publicity for those schools who do well.

According to Patricia McDonough, a researcher at UCLA, people like the rankings because they supposedly provide an impartial evaluation of colleges and universities. Roeper commented that some other schools are hesitant or unwilling to take part in the rankings boycott because they are somewhat afraid of *U.S. News's* power and influence.

When the news first broke about Alma's boycott, both the local and national media accused the college of being bitter and spiteful about the ranking system. Stone responded, "It's more than just that. If something is flawed and everyone says it is and [if] I can do something to change it, I will."

The latest college rankings issue of *U.S. News* came out on September 1. Alma has moved back up into the third tier of national liberal arts colleges. Stone stated that the improvement within the tier is probably partially due to all the press Alma has received.

"Alma has gotten a lot of press, and we are probably going to continue [to be vocal on this issue]. It's a question of integrity," said Stone. He also commented that "several outstanding schools are going to join us."

from private donors that aided in keeping tuition and fees down. Just as the government reduces aid to higher education, some private donors are donating with restrictions on their donation. Many of these donations can no longer be applied in a manner that will help keep college costs down.

In order to be competitive, colleges and universities must provide up to date technological equipment which adds additional costs to college budgets that may already be at their limit. Many colleges are adapting a specific technological fee in addition to their standard tuition and fees.

Many higher education programs have been eliminated at the federal government level. Newly enacted laws offer \$30 billion in federal educational incentives.

In the face of cutbacks and new tax credits that may prove to be a burden instead of a help, tuition and fees may continue to rise.

## National News Briefs

Hundreds of thousands of men held hands and prayed on the Washington Mall Friday led by their leaders to unite and convert the nation. Throughout the evangelical group Promise Keeper's six-hour prayer revival, Washington's historic Mall was packed with enthusiastic men of all ages. Organized by Promise Keepers, the fastest-growing Christian evangelical movement in America in recent years, the male-only gathering may have been the largest religious event ever held in the United States, said a source from America On-line.

The FBI reported on Friday that serious crime in the United States has dropped for a fifth straight year. The FBI has released its final crime numbers for 1996. It says the number of serious crimes reported to police declined by 3 percent from the previous year. The FBI says the 19,645 murders reported in 1996 represents a nine percent drop from the number of killings in 1995. The FBI says about half of all murder victims knew their assailants in 1996, 15 percent of the victims were killed by strangers and the relationship between the victim and killer was unknown in the rest of the cases.

The crew of the U.S. space shuttle Atlantis is on its way back to Earth after a six-day visit to Russia's Mir Station. The shuttle plan is to land in Florida on Saturday, bringing home astronaut Michael Foale after a difficult 4 1/2 month mission to Mir. Foale was praised by NASA officials for his cool head in the aftermath of an orbital collision that badly damaged one of Mir's five main compartments. After a sometimes harrowing mission, Foale said he was looking forward to being reunited with his wife and children, said a source from America On-line.

U.S. officials remembered the day 40 years ago when the Cold War space race began. Sputnik, the world's first man-made satellite, sparked a global space race when it was launched by the Soviet Union on October 4, 1957. The size of a basketball and the weight of a man, Sputnik emitted a high-pitched beep that could be heard on short-wave radio as the craft orbited Earth.

A leading Republican critic of campaign finance reform legislation that is now before Congress launched an attack Friday on President Clinton and Vice President Al Gore. In the weekly Republican radio address, Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky said, "Bill Clinton and Al Gore advocating campaign finance reform is like Bonnie and Clyde endorsing banking reform." He was referring to ongoing Justice Department probes into fund-raising telephone calls made by the president and vice president last year. McConnell says Clinton and Gore "ruthlessly" broke campaign finance laws.

President Clinton hosted a day-long conference of scientists, economists and business leaders on Monday. They discussed the theory that industrialization is causing global warming. The president argued that the United States must work with other countries for a binding agreement to cut emissions of carbon dioxide gases released when fuels like coal and oil are burned. White House environmental advisor Kathleen McGinty says Clinton wants to drive home the idea that technology, energy efficiency and sensible policies can significantly cut pollution without wrecking the economy.

Spain's Princess Cristina married an Olympic athlete Friday in Barcelona, Spain. Monarchs from across the Middle East, Africa and Asia converged on Barcelona for the lavish wedding. Cristina, the younger daughter of King Juan Carlos I and third in line to the throne, married handball star Inaki Urdangarin. The wedding of a princess to a commoner was watched by an estimated one billion viewers on television worldwide.

## Federal aid changes in the works

By Patricia Baldwin  
Freelance Writer

This year's 3.5% increase for tuition and fees at Alma College is far below the national average. The increase at Alma College is expected to level off at 2-3% per year.

Nationally, university and college tuition and fees have risen by 5-6% this year. This trend is expected to continue. Some of the increase is due to the usual cost-of-living items. Most of the increase has to do with the federal government reducing its funding of higher education. At the same time, the federal government offers a new tax credit that may be used to offset the rising cost of higher education.

In January, parents of students at four-year college and students at community colleges or their families may qualify for a tax credit of up to \$1500. The tax credit is part of the \$30 billion federal educational incentives.

The tax credit is not cash, but it should reduce the amount of taxes to be paid.

The catch is that state governments are already anticipating that the tax credit will produce more disposable income in households with college students. The tax break may be gobbled up as state governments are expected to reduce state funds for colleges because of the disposable income increase. If the states reduce higher education aid, along with the federal reductions then tuition and fees are projected to stay at 5% per year.

Students at four-year colleges working toward their first Bachelor's Degree may find their financial aid reduced by much as 40% of the amount of the tax credit. There will be no benefit from the tax credit for community college students who qualify for and receive Pell Grants.

Universities and colleges have usually counted on endowments



# Nichols faces trial for Oklahoma bombing

By Wendy Holmes  
Staff Reporter

Terror went on trial again last week when the case against Terry Nichols, implicated in the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City on April 19, 1995, began on Monday, September 29. Nichols is facing the same charges Timothy McVeigh was convicted of this past June: conspiracy to use a weapon of mass destruction, use of such a weapon, destruction by explosives and first-degree murder in the deaths of eight federal law enforcement officers, who were among the 168 people who lost their lives. If convicted,

Nichols could face the same sentence McVeigh received: death.

Nichols's trial will be held at the U.S. District Court in Denver, CO, the same building where McVeigh's trial played out. The case will be presided over by the same judge, Richard Matsch. One of the key differences between McVeigh and Nichols's trials is that Nichols cooperated with the FBI. He talked with them for nine hours after his arrest, while McVeigh refused to answer any questions.

The 42-year old Michigan native has a strong defense team. They will claim that although Nichols was openly anti-government, he was never McVeigh's

partner in the bomb plot and was 240 miles away when the bomb went off. Nichols's lead defense lawyer is Michael Tigar, who has a history of defending infamous clients: the family of Teamster boss Jimmy Hoffa, Angela Davis, a radical black activist and John Demjanjuk, an alleged Nazi war criminal represent a handful. Tigar told *The Detroit Free Press*, "The reason I became a lawyer was to defend people's rights. I got out of school in 1966 and Civil Rights was getting hot. I set out and never looked back."

Sam Buffone, Tigar's former law partner, told *The Detroit Free Press*, "Michael was built to do

this. It's almost like his life until now was a work in progress waiting to represent Terry Nichols." The defense team also includes Ron Woods, who forced a hearing when he found out that FBI agents were examining Nichols's mail.

As strong as Nichols's defense team is, the prosecution's team is just as formidable. They will try to prove that Nichols helped McVeigh build the bomb that blew up the Alfred P. Murrah Building two and a half years ago. The lead federal prosecutor is Larry Mackey. He has been a Government prosecutor for 17 years and who delivered a con-

vincing closing argument at McVeigh's trial. The prosecution also includes Beth Wilkinson, who assisted at McVeigh's trial as well. She was also a part of the team that won a conviction against Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega for aiding cocaine traffickers.

There has already been speculation that this trial may prove even more controversial than was McVeigh's, over which Matsch kept a tight rein. Controversy swirled for weeks about whether Nichols would receive a fair jury. Now that the trial is underway, the nation, like Terry Nichols, will have to sit back and just wait.

## Alma College makes Honor Roll

By Cheryl Lenard  
Staff Reporter

Alma College has once again been named to the biennial *Honor Roll for Character Building Colleges*. Alma is one of only 134 out of 400 colleges and universities that applied for the awarded to receive this honor, which is based on character and value development in education.

The John Templeton Foundation has been sponsoring the honor roll since 1989. This is Alma College's second consecutive year on the honor roll.

"It is appropriate that Alma is one of the schools honored because so much of what we do here in the issues of character development is in keeping with the historical mission of the school," said Leslie Ellen Brown, provost and vice president of academic affairs.

The honor roll attempts to accomplish three main objectives.

It attempts to "recognize colleges and universities that promote character and value development," encourage and inspire other colleges and universities to consider emphasis in character development programs and give and overview guide of fine institutions for prospective college students, families and donors, according to *The Templeton Foundation Honor Roll for Character Building Colleges*.

Accredited colleges and universities are all invited to submit an essay to the foundation describing the ways in which their institutions incorporate character building into their curriculums. The essays address issues such as how students develop their individual and moral reasoning skills, how the institution encourages positive attitudes, spiritual growth, moral values, community building values and a drug free lifestyle. From these essays, qualifying entries were

sent to college and university presidents where they voted on as many as four institutions which they felt did the most to instill character in their students.

Alan Stone, president of Alma College, said, "It's a good list to be on. I've used it with some foundations to distinguish us from other schools."

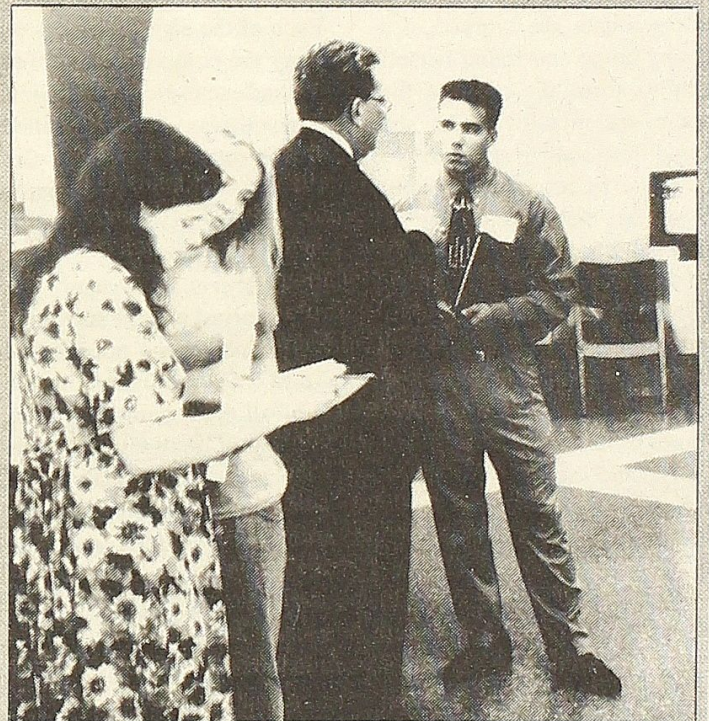
He also said the reason Alma made the honor roll is in part due to the service learning aspects of many classes and campus groups.

"Our trustees appreciate that foundations appreciate the volunteerism and service learning parts of Alma."

Brown stated that the service learning program is "a model program for assisting students in developing a sense of civic responsibility."

According to the public relations office, the 1997-98 honor roll is being distributed as a book to high schools, libraries and youth workers around the nation.

## Networking anyone?



Senior Chris Ahn talks with an Alma alumnus about future career opportunities at Career Fair 97. Career Fair was sponsored by The Center for Student Development and allowed students to network with past Alma graduates. Photo by Jon Croff.

## Religious groups offer diversity to Alma students

By Cheryl Lenard  
Staff Reporter

Many students have now seen the numerous signs up around campus promoting the active religious groups on campus, however, so often students are uninformed about the differences between the groups. A total of six different groups have been reported to Reverend Jesse Perry, the chaplain, including Chi Alpha (XA), the Chapel Committee, the Baptist Youth Outreach, the Catholic worship services, Inter-varsity and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA).

The need for these groups and different religious offerings stems from the fact that twenty-eight religions are represented on Alma College's campus. In addition, Perry stated, "Young people today are looking for a more exuberant worship and Baptists, Presbyterians and Methodists are more conservative. The other groups

allow for that and are usually student led."

The Chapel Committee plans the chapel services held every Sunday at 11 a.m. in the Chapel. They work off of the Presbyterian theology and attempt to attract students of every denomination. Sophomore Kelly Prill, said, "We're hoping to give the chapel service a new look and hopefully have the chapel committee extend its reach into other aspects of the campus community."

Every Wednesday night, the Baptist Youth Outreach group meets in Jones Auditorium. This group attempts to cater to the many Baptist students who attend Alma College as well as to give more diverse religious offerings to the entire student body. Baptist ministers from around the area come in to help with the programming.

The Catholic worship services, like the Baptist Youth Outreach group, attempts to give a differ-

ent offering to those students who would like to attend Catholic mass on campus. Father David Parsh from St. Mary's Catholic Church comes to the chapel on the third Sunday of every month to hold mass at 12:30 p.m.

Although not as active this year, Intervarsity is a national para-religious group which is according to Perry, "more evangelical" than some of the other groups in that it actively recruits other people to join in addition to programming activities. Many other groups do programming only and hope that people will be interested in joining.

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes is a Christ-centered Bible based teaching group which has been in existence for over forty years. According to Men's Basketball Head Coach Kevin Skaggs, the group "studies the word of God and uses it to apply to situations in our lives." He continued to say that the group

can be a support group for some and that the group members attempt to spiritually strengthen one another. The group meets bi-weekly on Mondays beginning

September 29 from 9-10 p.m. in the Heather Room. On the Mondays that the group does not meet, there is a Bible study in the Bruske Blue Room at the same time.

## OAK Leader of the Week

Each week, Omicron Delta Kappa (OAK), Alma's national leadership honor society, honors one outstanding, non-OAK member who exemplifies the qualities of leadership on the Alma College campus. This week's honoree is senior Curt Schubert.

Schubert is involved in many areas of campus life. He is the President of Sigma Chi fraternity (SX), a member of Order of Omega and Beta Beta Beta (BBB), and he sits on the Food Committee and the Evergreen Planning Committee. He also contributes to the local community by volunteering at the Ma-

sonic Home. But it was his role as Orientation Committee co-Chair for the 1997 Pre-Term that Schubert feels he made his largest contribution. "It was exciting helping both our first-year students and the O.C. committee members succeed in pre-term and as co-Chair (along with senior Kristine Pintar), I was one person who was responsible for making decisions that affected the entire group." Throughout his various activities on campus, Schubert proves himself willing and able to provide leadership to his peers and for this reason OAK honors him as leader of the week.



## College hosts visiting artist

## Deetz displays art

By Karin Shrum  
Staff Reporter

This past Monday Kristy Deetz, assistant professor of art and painting at Miami University of Ohio, opened her show at the Flora Kirsch Beck Gallery in the Clack Art Center.

Beginning with a lecture, Deetz showed slides of her work from her undergraduate days to her contemporary pieces on display at Alma while she commented on the themes and inspirations of her work.

Prior to her lecture, Deetz visited many of the upper-level art classes to speak about her work as well as talk about many of the techniques that she uses.

Much of her work focuses on past experiences of her life. As an undergraduate she worked at a nursing home and found herself painting about the lives of the people she met there. As she moved from state to state later in life, she experienced changes in her subject-matter reflective of her new home.

"I think my work has changed a lot but it seems that ideas are being recycled," stated Deetz in her lecture. Each stage of her life brought new changes in her art; changes in subject matter as well as style and canvas. However, much of her work contains many

themes that have remained constant.

Most of her work centers on women's issues. In fact, Deetz has a collection of works called a book series. This series consists of in which several pieces are based on women she interviewed and a corresponding poem, accompanies the art.

"The exhibit supported the empowerment of female sexuality. I like that stuff," commented Jennifer Fish (01) after viewing Deetz's exhibit here.

On display in the gallery are eight of Deetz's pieces all containing common themes.

"Each painting uses a drapery motif to reveal or conceal a thought, feeling, or idea as well as refer to the body," explained Deetz.

Each of the eight paintings on display are composed of carved wood and encaustic paints (paints mixed with wax). In a few, melted solder or other metals are also added. The wood is either deeply carved or burned in almost all the paintings.

Greek letters, poetry and symbols are carved into the surface to suggest links to the present and the past. Another common feature of all eight paintings is the inclusion of realistic elements such as apples, pears and roses.

"The paintings seek to cover

and uncover, complicate and clarify, connect and separate in a continuing search for answers to human dilemmas," stated Deetz.

The exhibit runs through October 30 in the main gallery. The gallery hours are Monday through Friday 9 a.m. through 5 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. through 2 p.m.

Also on display through October 30 in the lounge gallery are the water color works of Brian Paulsen. All displayed pieces are on sale, their prices range from five hundred to two thousand dollars and are listed next to the painting.

## Paintings on Display

*Illumination in Pears*

*Spirit Moves*

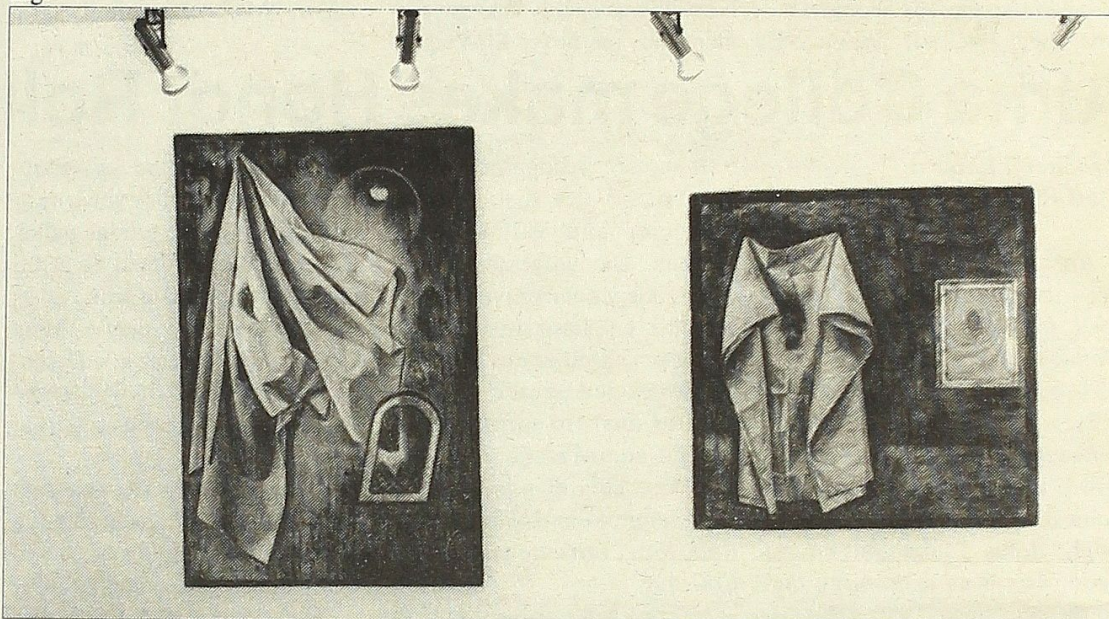
*Window to the Wind and Shadow*

*Oroborus*

*Pygmalion Rising*

*Transmigration*

*Unfathered Fruit*



Deetz's artwork is currently on display in the Flora Kirsch Beck Gallery located in the Clack Art Center. Photo by Jason Paetz.

## Movie Review by Rhonda Smith

Clooney, Kidman chase nukes in *The Peacemaker*

Containing levels of anxiety reminiscent of the Cold War, *The Peacemaker* seethes with action and suspense. Directed by Mimi Leder, director of the television show *ER*, and starring Nicole Kidman and George Clooney, the film dazzles the eye, if not the mind.

The plot revolves around the theft of Russian nuclear weapons by a terrorist group. The group detonates one of the missiles in the middle of Russia to cover the theft. Nuclear scientist Julia Kelley, played by Kidman (*Far and Away*, *Days of Thunder*), investigates the explosion with the help of military advisor, Thomas Devoe, portrayed by Clooney (*From Dusk 'til Dawn*, *Batman and Robin*).

The duo tracks the terrorist group across Eastern Europe and Russia to a Bosnian diplomat with a personal vendetta. The psychotic diplomat purchased just one of the ten stolen nuclear heads planning to transport it to New York City where, consequently, the United Nations meets.

Action continues non-stop throughout *The Peacemaker*. The film contains a lot of violence and bloodshed. The film was a clincher

from the start, when the terrorists detonated the nuclear bomb and demonstrated their destructive power.

One somewhat unrealistic car chase occurred which turned out to be more of a demolition derby. The murders in the film tended to be excessive and unnecessary at times, but served to exhibit the harshness of dealing with nuclear threat and terrorism.

The characters played by Kidman and Clooney were moderately interesting and sufficient for the situation at hand. The audience is not allowed into the souls of the characters. However, the way the two dealt with the loss of life gave the couple a connecting point.

Kidman's character, Kelley struggled with being authoritative and respected, especially as a woman. She demonstrated the intelligence and will power to maintain her position. However, after embarking on the mission with Clooney's character, Devoe, who has experienced the brutality of war, Kelley stopped wrestling against Devoe's suggestions on how to deal with the terrorists and accepted his knowledge.

Narrative was rare, and in this

film and was virtually barren of monologues. The deepest conversation that occurred between the protagonists was a discussion on the loss of lives and friends. Nevertheless, action more than makes up for the loss of words.

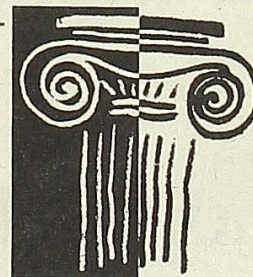
The villains in *The Peacemaker* were uninspired and typical. They wanted to destroy the international system which would change the status quo in their countries. Yet, they were played well—coolly and devilsly.

Overall, *The Peacemaker* was worth the price of the ticket and a large buttered popcorn. The characters, although somewhat shallow, were portrayed well. Also, the cinematography was beautiful. The film aptly exhibited the intensity involved in nuclear arms and the need to control them.

It also illustrated the simplicity with which such a plot could hap-

pen. Although the action within the film at times seemed surreal,

the possibility of nuclear threat is not so unreal.



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Keys to success in this position include solid analytical and proven relationship building skills. Responsibilities include analyzing middle market companies that are interested in financing, examining past performance and projecting future performance levels. This is an excellent opportunity to learn about a variety of industries. Analysts will complete a comprehensive training program to get them started on the path to success.

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We will be on campus for an evening presentation on Oct. 8 in the Center for Student Development at 7:00 pm. Interviews on Oct. 22.

Please contact your Career Services Office for more details. EOE

**OLD KENT**





Two Alma football players practice tackling drills in preparation for last Saturday's game against Defiance. The Scots lost to the Yellowjackets 29-24. Photo by Derek Warner.

## Defiance ends football team's winning streak

By Sean Babbitt  
Sports Editor

The Alma College Scots suffered their first defeat of the season on Saturday at the hands of the Defiance College Yellowjackets 29-24.

The first quarter went as has been the norm for the Scots jumping out to a 7-0 lead. Junior quarterback Jason VanDerMaas guided the offense on an 8 play 57-yard drive capped by a two-yard Ray Dawood run at 7:19 of the first.

The defenses then stopped their opposing offenses until 8:04 of

the second quarter, when Yellowjackets quarterback Jeff Eldred connected on a 36-yard pass to Kevin Jones. That score tied the game at 7 which is where it would stand until half time.

In the third quarter Alma bolted out to a 14-7 lead early on a 2 play 26-yard drive ending with a 16-yard touchdown run by Dawood, his second of the game. Rick Brands then nailed a 37-yard field goal to push the score to 17-7 Scots.

The lead was not enjoyed for long as the next four minutes would decide the outcome of the game. With 2:39 left in the third Eldred hooked up with Mike Groll on a 68-yard bomb to bring Defiance within 3 at 17-14.

On the Scots next possession they were pushed back to their own 10 yard line on three different penalties. VanDerMaas was then sacked in the end zone for a safety making the score 17-16. After the kickoff Defiance scored again on a short drive putting the Yellowjackets in the lead for good at 22-17.

The Scot offense was then stopped cold and had to turn the ball over on their own 47-yard line. Two plays and :15 seconds later Eldred connected with Mike Groll on a 44-yard touchdown pass stretching the lead to 29-17 Yellowjackets.

A long 16 play 72-yard drive by the Scots concluded the scoring for the day as VanDerMaas hooked up on a 4-yard touch-

down completion.

The Scots fell short on two final drives trying to win the game. The defense forced Defiance to punt on two consecutive drives when they could have put the game out of reach. On the final drive of the game the offense drove the length of the field and had four chances on the Yellowjackets 14-yard line to score, but failed to put the ball into the end zone as time ran out on the clock.

"I was real proud of our team in the fourth quarter when the defense held strong and gave our offense a chance to win the game," said Head Coach Jim Cole.

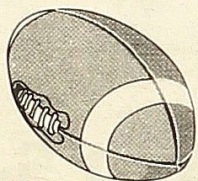
"We just did not execute when we should have and they [Defiance] did, and that was the difference in the game," said Cole.

VanDerMaas finished the day with 71 yards rushing to go along with completing 18 of 41 passes for 178 yards, one touchdown and three interceptions.

Dawood rushed for 116 yards and scored two touchdowns, upping his league leading scoring total to 72 points.

Junior wide receiver Rodney Barranger led the team with seven receptions for 55 yards, with one going for 15 yards.

The football team will try to turn things back in the right direction next week as they will travel to Adrian College in the first MIAA contest of the year, before returning back home in two weeks to battle Albion at Homecoming.



### FINAL TEAM STATISTICS

	ALMA	DEFIANCE
FIRST DOWNS		
RUSHING	15	3
PASSING	10	9
RUSHING ATTEMPTS	51	27
YARDS GAINED RUSHING	265	71
NET YARDS PASSING	190	235
TOTAL NET YARDS	355	296
THIRD DOWN CONVERSIONS	6/18	7/17
POSSESSION TIME	35:57	29:03

## Men's golf team falls to Olivet on home course

By Joey Mead  
Staff Reporter

Last Thursday, the men's golf team just fell short of winning their home tournament at Pine River Country Club. The Scots, with a total of 402, lost to Olivet by two strokes.

Thursday's weather was premium for a day of golf as Coach Brad Spathelf went into the tournament with high hopes and goals to meet.

"I had hopes that we would get under 400 strokes. Getting a 402 was a little of a let-down. I think the team was let-down as well,"

said Spathelf.

Winning the tournament with a total of 400 strokes, Olivet also took control of the individual standings. Oliver's Mark Raven (00) took first with 73 strokes.

Scoring for Alma was senior Mike McHugh with 82 strokes, junior Ryan Fahler shooting 80, junior Tim Shunsky with 79 and in first for the Scots, and third in the overall individual standings for the tournament was junior Kevin DeGroot.

"A 78 is right about where I wanted to shoot. I had a

good day, and the conditions were peachy," said DeGroot.

Fahler added, "I hit the ball pretty well. I missed a couple putts, but it was the best I've played in three tournaments. It was kind of windy, but a good day for a game of golf. I had a lot of fun."

The Scots are fourth in the Conference standings.

"Today's results will put us about 20 strokes behind Albion. The battle is really with them. It would take some phenomenal playing to take second. So we're shooting for third," said Spathelf.

"Our top players aren't playing to their ability, but our bottom guys are playing well. So we hope to work things out," he continued.

"The rivalry is definitely with Albion right now. I played alright. I started out pretty bad, but I pulled it together at the end. I didn't play

as good as I did last match," said Shunsky.

After four tournaments completed, the conference standing are Olivet in first with 1520 strokes, Hope college with 1543, Albion in third with 1593 and in forth are the Scots with a total of 1621 strokes.

After the fifth tournament at Pine River Country Club, Alma has 2023 strokes and has closed the gap between them and Albion.

In the individual standings as of tournament

four, Alma's Chris Dawson (99) is in the number 15 spot with a total of 321 and an average of 80.3. Right behind Dawson is Shunsky with 322 and an average of 80.5 strokes.

Tournament six is Tuesday, at Calvin College's new golf course, Thornapple Point.

### Stop by the BAKED GOODS AND APPLE CIDER SALE



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"A 78 is right  
about where I wanted  
to shoot. I had a good  
day, and the conditions  
were peachy."

• Kevin DeGroot (99)



# Former Alma track star wins MIAA scholarship

By Wendy Holmes  
Staff Reporter

Former Alma College hammer, discus and shot put thrower Rainy Inman (97) has won a National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Postgraduate Scholarship. The NCAA only awards 174 of these a year across all sports and divisions, which makes it a great accomplishment to receive one.

"It was really a great honor," she said. "I was excited not only for myself...but also because my sport was recognized."

By her sport she means track and field, but especially throwing.

"Throwing isn't that widely publicized," she acknowledges.

In her four years at Alma before her graduation last year Inman racked up an impressive resume. In addition to being all-conference in track for four years, she also made all-American twice, in 1995 when she placed eighth and in 1997 when she placed seventh. She currently holds

Alma College's records in discus and hammer, as well as records for the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA). Inman is also on Alma College's list for all-time shot-putters, where she ranks third. During the four years she competed in discus and hammer in MIAA, she was never beaten in any competition.

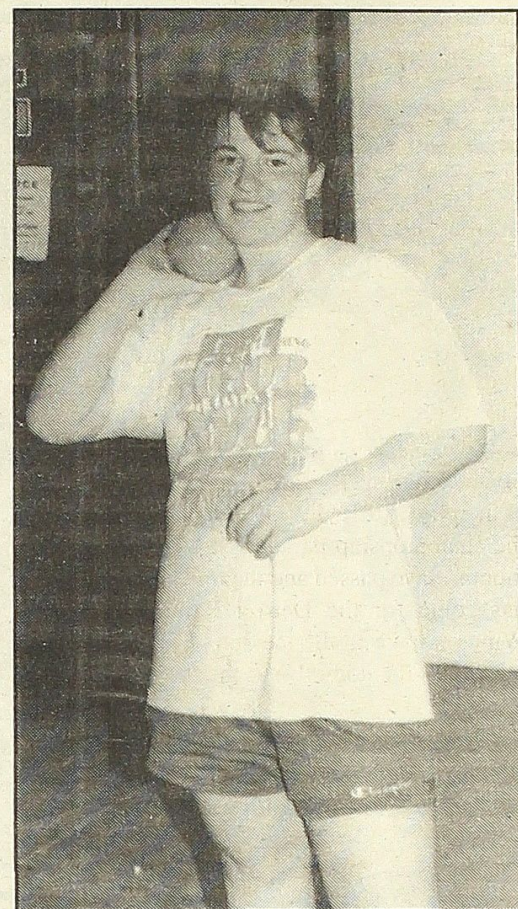
In addition to her athletic prowess, Inman was also chosen for the award based on her academic skills.

She graduated from Alma last April summa cum laude with a bachelor of science degree. Her cumulative GPA was "a 3.85, 3.9 or something like that."

She also received departmental honors in biology, in which she majored. She minored in both chemistry and environmental studies, which she put to use when, two summers ago, she spent a month working on wildlife management in Kenya. She said that it was the "greatest experience of my life. It was unbelievable; I loved it there."

The NCAA scholarship provides her with \$5000 to continue her education at the college of her choice. Inman is currently at Michigan State University, "pursuing my Masters of Science in the School of Natural Resources." She is studying for a degree in conservation and biology. She hopes to be employed at a federal or state agency or a non-profit agency doing field work. She would also eventually like to return to a university setting to use her experience for teaching.

While reflecting back on the athletic and academic standards she met in order to win the prestigious scholarship, she acknowledges Alma College's role in her success. She said winning the scholarship shows "...not only a lot about what I've done...but it's good for Alma too."



Alma graduate Rainy Inman (97) poses with a shot put. File photo.

## Men's soccer team continues to lead MIAA at 5-0

By Chris Porco  
Freelance Writer

The Alma College men's soccer team is doing exceptionally well this season. In a very close MIAA game on Wednesday at Olivet, the Scots shut out the Comets, 1-0. In more MIAA action on Saturday at Albion, the team brought home another win, with a final score of 3-1.

In the Olivet game, the lone goal was scored with about five minutes to go in the first half by first-year student Paul Aceto with an assist from senior captain Jeff Bateson.

According to Head Coach Scott Frey, "We controlled play in the second half but we couldn't finalize on our scoring chances... Olivet is always a difficult place to play. They're a much better team than in the past. They really came ready to play."

"Olivet was a tough game to play because it's a tough place to

play. We came in looking for a win and that's what we got," said Bateson.

"[Olivet] is always a tough place to play... We showed our focus really well. That's the big difference between this year and last year," added senior captain Tom Jewett.

Against Albion, junior Randy U'Ren drew first blood with a goal assisted by sophomore Matt Keller. Bateson also scored in the first half with an assist from U'Ren to put the Scots up 2-0 at the end of the first half. Albion scored in the second half on a free kick, bringing the score to 2-1. Aceto scored the final goal of the game with an assist from Bateson, with the game ending in a final score of 3-1.

"The game against Albion was one of the better games we've played this season. Our goal was to possess the ball more than our opponent and that's what we did," said Frey.

The Scots are first in the league through Saturday's games with a league record of 5-0. Hope College is not far behind with a league record of 4-1.

Today the team will play arch rival Hope College. Hope has won the MIAA

four out of the past five years. Alma College has never won the MIAA crown in men's soccer.

"This group has been looking for this game [against Hope] for a long time. This gives us a great opportunity to put

them two games behind us so they're chasing to catch up with us," said Frey.

"It's a great feeling... We've come so far," Jewett commented about playing Hope. "Truly, they were better in the past. But now we're better because we're hungry [for the MIAA champion-

ship]. We not only have great players, we have people who really want to contribute to the team... I've thought about this game all summer. It's all on the line. I'm so excited I'll play them right now. It's such a rivalry."

The team will host Adrian College on Saturday.

## PEACE CORPS

### Information Seminars

Swanson Academic Center, Room 106  
Tuesday, October 21 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

### Information Tables

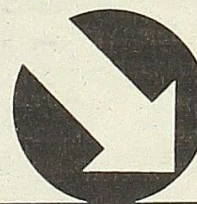
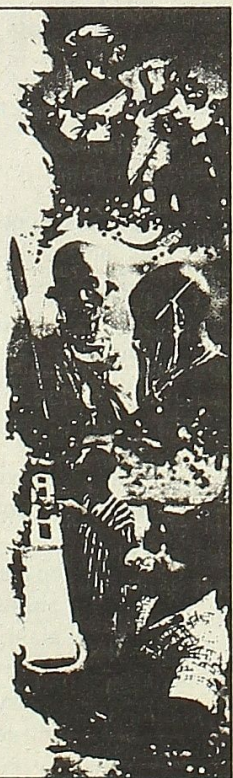
Hamilton Commons Cafeteria  
Tuesday, October 21 11:30 am - 1:00 pm  
Hamilton Commons Lower Level  
Tuesday, October 21 2:00 - 5:00 pm

Interviews will be conducted at  
Central University Friday, October 24.  
Call Annette at (517) 774-3068.

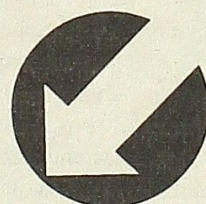


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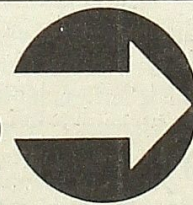
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October 7, 1997

## FEATURE

5

## Center sponsors annual Career Fair

By Charlotte Grant  
Feature Editor

Last Saturday the Center for Student Development hosted Alma College's annual Career Fair. This year the event included two panel discussions in addition to the usual set-up of tables and displays presented by alumni.

The Career Fair this year brought 26 Alma College graduates to campus. A wide range of career fields were represented, including such areas as industrial chemistry, occupational therapy, law and accounting.

In past years the alumni turnout has been better. Mindy Sargent, associate director of the Center for Student Development, said this was due in part to the change in date of the Career Fair. She estimated that alumni turnout was down 25% this year.

Usually held on the Friday before Homecoming weekend, the Career Fair was moved this year because Homecoming weekend falls during fall break. Sargent said this did not affect the planning hugely, but merely dictated changing "little things."

One of the small changes was

the necessity of paying the staff overtime for Saturday work. Sargent also stated that, in retrospect, she would like to have asked the Scot Shop to stay open for the visiting alumni.

Sargent feels that the change in date was responsible for a lower student turnout. However, Sargent also said that she is never satisfied with the number of students attending.

"I always want more," she stated.

In order to deal with the low turnout, Sargent is exploring new publicity options, including direct e-mail to students.

The Career Fair was still enjoyed by alumni even though there was a low student turnout.

Polly Vedder (85) said that she returned this year because she had enjoyed the event in past years. Vedder graduated with a double major in art and English and now works for a publishing company based in Detroit.

Vedder stressed the benefits the Career Fair provides for students. "I think it's a good opportunity

*Jon Makela, a 1997 Alma graduate, stands in front the booth for Citizen's Research Council, where he is currently employed. Photo by Jon Croff.*



Seniors Amy Batch and Becky Conboy scan the list of Career Fair attendees. Photo by Jon Croff.

for students to talk to people who actually work. A lot of students don't know what it's really like," she said.

Students were also given the benefit of being able to network with employers in their intended career fields and explore possible job opportunities.

Junior Emily Lewis said com-

ing to the Career Fair was beneficial, also adding that she felt the wide variety of career fields represented was particularly useful for students who have not yet chosen a career path.

Overall the Career Fair was considered a success by the students who attended. Lewis called it "definitely worthwhile."

## Alumni panel advises students at career expo

By Rhonda Smith  
Staff Reporter

The Career Expo on Saturday began in the morning with a chance for inquisitive students to hear from alumni and faculty members in the form of panel discussions.

Two topics were explored: "Ethics and Expectations" and "Networking Strategies."

"Ethics and Expectations" was comprised of Jim Goodrich (70), Bob Eldridge (71), director of alumni, Lynn O'Rear (94), and Joanne Gilbert, assistant professor of communications.

Goodrich is a district agent for Northwestern Mutual Life. He expressed his belief concerning the ethics of interviewing in the Ten Commandments and the Golden Rule. He said that compa-

nies are interested in potential employees' values and that and that students should be able to express them honestly to a potential employer. Goodrich suggested "think about your own mission statement."

Eldridge suggested to panel viewers to be honest, be yourself and project integrity. "You have to be you and you are selling yourself. You have to be able to communicate," said Eldridge. He maintains that virtues like integrity, loyalty and honesty are necessary to gain a job. "I look for someone who is loyal, first," he said.

O'Rear is an administrative assistant for Electronic Data Systems. She too spoke about the concept of loyalty to a company and the Golden Rule. She advised "treating the company as you would have it treat you." She also commented on the fact that an interviewee must be knowledgeable about the company.

"You need to know the market and the company you're interviewing in," said O'Rear.

Gilbert discussed the various steps of interviewing. The progression includes preparation for the interview, the interview itself and a follow-up after the interview. Some suggestions made by Gilbert include assessing your skills, interests and accomplishments, sending a well-written cover letter and professional resume and lastly sending a thank-

you note to the interviewer.

The "Networking Strategies" panel discussed how future interviewees can network their way to job positions. The panel included Brian Reynolds, assistant professor of biology, Eldridge, Tom Scholl (57), Susan Garvey (90) and Karen Ball (87), assistant professor of exercise and health science.

Speaking first was Ball who discussed a few points concerning the pursuit of graduate schools for science majors. She stated that an interviewee should be informed about the interview process. Visiting the institutions and identifying specific individuals is a good idea.

Ball also suggested practicing critical thinking—the ability to answer on the spot. She also commented that "networking is absolutely crucial" if you want to ascend the position ladder.

Garvey, senior international accountant for CMS Energy, also stressed the point of knowing the company. Interviewers do not appreciate interviewees who come in asking to be told about the company. Using the Internet to research interview targets is a useful tool. Garvey also recommended finding a mentor once you land a position; however, the mentor should not be someone in one's department.

Scholl is the coordinator of the Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Program for Renaissance

West Community Health Services. He stressed the utilization of professional associations. By attending meetings or functions people can meet professionals in their field who may be able to guide them to job opportunities. Scholl also commented on the necessity of being forward and introducing oneself. However, he stressed it was important not to impede upon their business time.

Eldridge also spoke on this panel about the opportunity to network here on campus. He suggested "utilize your alumni" through the career center and alumni office. Another tip for career seekers was to make sure you have references available and not "upon request."

Lastly, Reynolds also reiterated the idea that students should meet alumni. He suggested using alumni as testing ground calling them for information on job availability and perspective. Reynolds also pointed out that a job applicant should be flexible and willing to explore new areas.

Junior Byron Coffman commented on the success of the two panels. "I found the informational sessions in the morning to be useful in many respects, not only did they set the tone for the rest of the day, but they also prepared us for asking selected questions and providing valuable information that encompasses the necessary depth rather than a simple blanket."

## Center Corner

**SENIORS:** For information regarding on-campus interviews pay close attention to the "Careers Newsletter" that you receive bi-weekly. This newsletter will provide you with interview information, as well as current job postings and other important job search information.

**ON-CAMPUS INTERVIEWS:** The October 8 interview with **John Hancock** has been rescheduled for November 5. The Marketing Representative position is located in Grand Rapids or Kalamazoo and is applicable to any type of business orientated major. Interested students should schedule an interview at the Center.

**Old Kent Bank** is having an informational meeting on Wednesday, October 8, at 7 p.m. in SAC 103. Any students who are interested in learning about

the banking industry, or would like to interview with Old Kent on October 22, should attend.

On Thursday, October 23, **Electronic Data Systems (EDS) Corporation** will be interviewing for Customer Service Representatives. Resumes need to be submitted to the Center today!

**WORKSHOPS TODAY:**  
**Using the Web as a Career Guide:** 4:00 p.m. in the Center.  
**Getting Into 1stPlace:** (Disk Resume Workshop: 6 p.m., SAC 113, Approx. 2 hours or less) 1stPlace is a disk resume, cover letter and database tool available to all students. Seniors who wish to interview on-campus need to have their disks downloaded into the Career Services databases. Students should come to the Center to purchase their 1stPlace! disk.



## Season begins for Alma Symphony Orchestra

## ASO performs first concert of year

By Charlotte Grant  
Feature Editor

This weekend the Alma Symphony Orchestra (ASO) held its first concert of the season, with performances on Friday evening and Sunday afternoon.

Made up of both Alma College Students and members of the Alma community, the ASO is conducted by Douglas Scripps, professor of music. Wei Tsun Chang, instructor of music, is the concert master.

At their concert the ASO played three pieces.

The first piece performed was Franz Schubert's Overture to *Rosamunde*, D. 797. A piece in the Italian style, this overture was performed along with another in March of 1818, the first of Schubert's pieces to be performed in public.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *Sinfonia Concertante*, K. Anh. 1/9 was the second piece performed.

The *sinfonia concertante* is a mixture of symphony and concerto pieces and usually includes between two and seven solo instruments. This style was very popular in Paris in the late eighteenth century.

This weekend the four soloists in the *sinfonia concertante* were sophomore Roxanna Weisenbach on French horn, junior Donna Thieme on oboe, senior Daniel Johnson on clarinet and senior Elaine Gooding on bassoon.

The solos were performed well, and the soloists themselves were pleased with their work. "I was very proud about the way the whole concert went," said Weisenbach.

Johnson agreed. "Overall, I think it went very well. It was the best performance of the quartet," he said. Johnson also noted that the performance was very ener-

getic. "It was a very awesome experience," he stated.

After a brief intermission, the ASO played the final piece of the

The Suite consisted of five smaller movements. Interestingly, although today *Carmen* is considered to be a well known and popular piece, when it first ran in 1875 it was a failure.

The works for this concert were chosen based on several criteria. The piece by Schubert was chosen in celebration of the bicentennial of Schubert's birth, which occurs this year. Mozart's *sinfonia concertante* was chosen to give seniors Johnson and Gooding an opportunity to play solos. They have been the principal clarinet and the principal bassoon, respectively, for the past three years.

Parts of *Carmen* were chosen because they could be learned in a short amount of time. This is necessary because the ASO will perform this concert again in Flint on Saturday and in the Masonic Home's new chapel on October 30.

Future performance of the ASO include *The Nutcracker*, which the ASO is performing in conjunction with the Alma College Dance Company (ACDC) on the weekend of November 14 through 16. Also in February violinist Wei Tsun Chang and Seanad Chang will perform a *sinfonia concertante* for the violin and viola. To reserve tickets, contact the Heritage Center Box Office at 463-7304.

"Overall, I think it went very well. It was the best performance of the quartet."

• Dan Johnston (98)

concert's repertoire, Suite No. 2 of Georges Bizet's opera *Carmen*.

## Phi Sigma Sigma welcomes 17 founding members

By Wendy Holmes  
Staff Reporter

A balance between the numbers of sororities and fraternities on campus was finally achieved a few weeks ago with the addition of the sorority Phi Sigma Sigma ( $\Phi\Sigma\Sigma$ ).

The sorority currently boasts seventeen members: Debi Banwell (00), Libby Bequette (99), Terra Blanford (99), Amy Jo Craig (00), Katrina Dennis (99), Jennifer Dunham (99), Heather Grant (00), Katie Hammack (00), Heidi Irons (98), Stephanie Lehnert (00), Ollie Leiterman (00), Lonna Lutze (00), Amy Pickelmann (98), Dawn Smith (00), Allison Solts (00), Krista St. Andre (00) and Kathi Svenson (00).

"It really does surprise me that we got seventeen girls to start," commented Craig, "because the campus was hard on it last year." However, she added, "The Greek system as a whole has been very supportive this year."

The sorority hasn't officially started yet because it needs 25 members in order to do so. Recruitment is currently underway to add eight new members.

"We're opening bidding right now," said Irons. "...if there's any women who are interested, they can come by."

Craig, for one, is enjoying the recruitment process. "I'm looking forward to Winter Rush for our recruitment," she said, because this year she'll be on the other side of the process.

So far Phi Sigma Sigma has had only one official meeting. "We haven't planned anything as of yet," said Kathi Svenson. They have, how-

ever, been meeting a lot with the Phi Sigma Sigma chapter at Central Michigan University, she added. The opportunity to work so closely with a chapter at a different school has been very exciting. "That's been a lot of fun," Craig said.

join the sorority. "It seemed like an exciting opportunity for me," Svenson said.

Irons agreed and added, "I think it'll be a great experience to start something new on the Alma College campus."

Svenson also said she joined because the sorority's ideals and goals, which she was informed of during her interview, mixed so well with her own.

Craig said, "I don't know why I joined, honestly."

Elections for officers were held this past Sunday because, as Svenson said, "We need to get all our officers taken care of before we start planning things."

Those involved agree that although it might be difficult to start a brand-new sorority, it will also be lots of fun.

"We have a really good group of girls to start it," said Craig.

"We've got a lot of leaders," Irons said, "I just want to get started and get off the ground".

"It seemed like an exciting opportunity for me."

• Kathi Svenson (00)

Sunday, September 30, the pinning ceremony was held for the founding members. "We all have founding member pins," said Svenson. "They're neat."

The opportunity to be founding members was a factor in both Irons and Svenson's decisions to

 $\Phi\Sigma\Sigma$  Phi Sigma Sigma

The women of Phi Sigma Sigma would like to thank Alma College for its support and we would also like to introduce our new founders. Phi Sigma Sigma has pinned seventeen wonderful women. The seventeen founders of Phi Sigma Sigma as of now are:

Debi Banwell Libby Bequette Terra Blanford  
Amy Jo Craig Katrina Dennis Jennifer Dunham  
Allison Folts Heather Grant Katy Hammack  
Heidi Irons Stephanie Lehnert Ollie Leiterman  
Lonna Lutze Amy Pickelmann Krista St. Andre  
Dawn Renee Smith Kathi Svenson

If you are interested in learning more about Phi Sigma Sigma and being a founder, contact Cindy Contreras at 463-7418

## — Pizza Review by Patricia Baldwin —

## Local pizzerias deliver fast nourishment

Students at Alma College who find themselves with a craving for food in the afternoon, evening, or the early hours of the morning are only a telephone call away from a delicious snack: PIZZA.

In an informal survey Alma College students were asked, "How long could you go without pizza?" A few students said they would panic at the thought of going without pizza for more than a day or two. Some said that they had just had pizza yesterday and they were going home to order another pizza immediately. A week was the time limit for most. There were two students who claimed not to even like pizza, but when pressed as to how long they could go without a pizza, one said two weeks and the other said a month.

Pizza is incredible. It's easy to fix, just call for delivery. Pizza Sam, at 463-3881 or 463-3910, begins delivering at 5p.m., at no charge. Pizza Hut, at 463-1060, begins delivering at 11a.m. on orders costing a minimum of \$7. Little Caesars at 463-2167 begins deliveries at 4p.m. for a delivery charge of \$1.50.

The pizza arrives, the aroma fills the room. Grab a plate—no, just reach into the box and pull out a tantalizing slice of thick, chewy crust, spicy tangy sauce,

stringy mozzarella, thin sliced onion, green peppers, ham and pepperoni. Wait, where are the mushrooms?

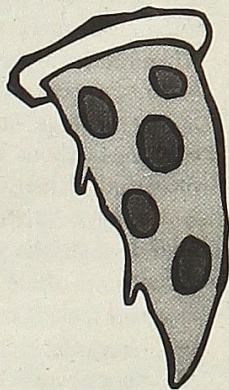
The best pizza is homemade. Gather the ingredients for the crust (flour, oil, water). Mix them in a huge bowl so the ingredients won't jump out. Throw away the spoon. Knead batter with hands

until it's dough. The batter has become dough when it sticks to hands and coagulates under fingernails. Grease hands to work the dough and while handling the grease do the pizza pan. Form the dough into a ball. Gently apply pressure and work the dough to the edge of the pan if there's a hole in the dough make the necessary repairs

so the sauce will not be under the crust. What would that be? Upside-down pizza.

Pour on the sauce. Sprinkle on the cheese—heavily. Add pepperoni, mushrooms, olives and all other ingredients necessary for a fabulous pizza.

Try not to add dog or cat hair, fingernails, toenails, pet food or flea powder. The oven is heated, the pizza goes in. It will only be another twenty-five minutes and the pizza will be ready. After eating the pizza, it's clean-up time. The next time a hunger for pizza develops don't be fooled by the temptation of home-cooking. Remember the first plan; call to have a pizza delivered.





Redwings Corner by Scott Ferrante

Red Wings look for second championship

We all have our on memories of what was, perhaps, one of the greatest championships the city of Detroit has ever seen. Steve Yzerman hoisting Lord Stanley's Cup above his head, Scotty Bowman winning his sixth championship of his brilliant career or one million fans crowding the streets of Detroit trying to get a glimpse of their favorite Red Wing during the championship parade. Three months have passed and the time has come for the Detroit Red Wings to take to the ice and attempt to do something much harder than winning the Stanley Cup: defending the Stanley Cup.

The Red Wings enter the 1997-1998 season with two "big name" losses. Mike Vernon, the Smyth trophy winner, was traded to San Jose for two draft picks. Although criticized, Red Wing management made a smart move to free up salary cap money and commit to Chris Osgood, a former all-star, as the number-one goalie. A solid Kevin Hodson will back up Osgood.

Secondly, all of us know of the career-ending accident of Vladimir Konstantinov, one if not the most talented defense man in the league. This will be the loss the Red Wings will be hurt by the most. Center, Tim Taylor, was also let go last week and acquired by the Boston Bruins.

To add to the bad news, Sergei Fedorov remains unsigned and it



looks as if he may not reach an agreement until several weeks into the season.

So where does this leave the Red Wings? Well, ironically enough, not too bad. In a smart move, the Wings acquired Brent Gilcrest from the Dallas Stars. Gilcrest will add needed talent to a Konstantinov-less defense. No other significant moves were

made and that is why the Red Wings are in fine position entering the new season. The one quality that shined throughout the Wing's playoff run was their chemistry and that has not been altered at all. The big guns, Yzerman, Brendan Shanahan and Vyacheslav Kozlov, each return to score at least thirty goals. A defense, led by Niklas Lidstrom,

Igor Larinov and Larry Murphy, attempt to keep the Wing's goals against average in the upper echelon of the NHL. The "grind line," Chris Draper, Darren McCarty, Kirk Maltby and Joe Kocur, has emerged as a dominant force in the league, and will score a good number of goals while utilizing their pugilistic talents. Add the fact that all of these players have experienced a Stanley Cup championship and you have yourself a contender once again.

However, the Colorado Avalanche do enter the season as the favorite to win the Stanley Cup. Steve Yzerman commented on the Avalanche as the favorites in a national interview, "You have to look to [Colorado] as a favorite... they are just too deep." Colo-

rado committed themselves to winning by matching the New York Rangers offer to Joe Sakic and resigned him. Colorado's depth is evident and the Avalanche will win many hockey games this year, maybe even more than the Red Wings in the regular season. In the Eastern Conference, there would be no surprise to see the Philadelphia Flyers in the finals once again. Their experience, talent and depth make them the hands-down favorite in the east. The road to defending a championship is a hard and exhausting one. There will be hard times, tough losses, and losing streaks as every team in the league experiences on the road to the championship. The Detroit fans need to be as patient as they were last year. The Red Wings will not break the record for wins as they did in 1995-1996. Nor will they walk away with the Central division of the western conference. They will though, show their true colors, desire, and Stanley Cup experience in every game they play. It's their style. Their championship style. Don't be surprised if Detroit once again enters the playoffs this year no higher than their number three spot of last year. However, don't be surprised, either, when you see Hockeytown, USA celebrate yet another world championship and relive all those memories we did only a few months ago.

Sports Column by Scott Ferrante

Eight teams enter division playoffs for Major League Baseball

Mariners, Orioles, Yankees, Indians, Braves, Giants, Marlins and Astros look towards World Series

The Division Playoffs have officially started as of last Tuesday, September 30.

Eight teams will begin the battle to get to the 1997 World Series.

The number-one team from the American League West is Seattle Mariners with a record of 90-72.

The Mariners are up against the Baltimore Orioles, who some speculate to be the strongest team in the league. The Mariners have both an intimidating and strong offense with Ken Griffey Jr. and the dominate pitcher in the majors, Randy Johnson.

Griffey fell short of home run history, with his 55th home run on Monday. He has surpassed Mickey Mantle for the all-time-season home-run list, putting him in seventh place. Griffey's hitting, coupled with Johnson's power pitching, will make the Mariners a team to reckon with.

With a 98 wins and 64 loses, the Orioles stand on top of the record list this year. Orioles have beaten the Mariners 6 out of 8 during the season, which gives them some confidence in their Division Series.

Facing the New York Yankees in the Division Series are the

Cleveland Indians with a record of 86-75. The Indians are the American League Central champions for the third year in a row.

The Indians ace pitcher is 21-year-old rookie Jaret Wright, son of former major leaguer Clyde Wright, and is the youngest pitcher ever to start in a Division Series.

The New York Yankees were 96-66 at the end of the year, and were just short of the Orioles top record for the AL East. The Yankees are a tough team as was shown in the first Division Series game against Cleveland

The Indians had 5 runs in the first inning, but that didn't seem to faze the Yankees. They came back and won 8-6.

National League East champions, Atlanta Braves, have claimed the title for the sixth straight year. Six straight titles has never been accomplished in the history of baseball.

The Braves with a record of 101-61, are up against Houston Astros.

A record of 84-78, the Houston Astros are the National League Central Champions, and hope to have better luck against the Braves.

The San Francisco Giants (90-72) and the Florida Marlins (92-70) are head to head in their Division Series. Both are strong teams and should make for a good series.

Another thing to look for during the playoffs is some respect for the umpires. As of Monday the baseball umpires have re-emphasized their rules. They will eject anyone arguing within an "arm's length" during the

postseason. Player have assaulted, sprayed tobacco in umpires faces and cursed them for many years.

Umpires are taking a "no tolerance" approach to put the respect, integrity and the focus back into the field of play.

Umpires are not permitting spitting, spraying tobacco, any objection, disagreement or argument made within a "safe zone" of an arm's length of an umpire, and

any physical contact of any kind, be it intentional or not.

Umpires also said they won't allow threats, animated, energetic gestures, personal derogatory attacks or insults, abusive language, extended argument or throwing objects.

These were the same rules set last year, but amount of ejection's were the same this year.

IM FOOTBALL A - LEAGUE STANDINGS

(as of October 3)

Rank	Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
1	Thank You, May We Have Another	7	1	.875	—
2	Tau Kappa Epsilon	6	1	.857	.5
3	Tartar	5	2	.714	1.5
4	Sigma Alpha Epsilon	4	3	.571	2.5
4	Sigma Chi	4	3	.571	2.5
6	Armadillos	3	4	.429	3.5
7	Robot Stallions	2	4	.333	4
8	Fighting Woodsmen	2	5	.286	4.5
9	Zeta Sigma	1	6	.143	5.5
9	The Train	1	6	.143	5.5
10	The Mofos	1	7	.125	6



Sports Uncovered by Tim Caister

## Sports trends change with season

It's now October, and some interesting events have happened in sports which raise some interesting discussions.

In college football, as with every season, the Heisman watch begins too early. Yes, the debate is needed to help critique the players and help further evaluate the best college football player, but the hype is getting out of hand. Peyton Manning = Overrated. The consequence for him is that he should have gone professional last year. Already, running back Tavian Banks from Iowa is stealing "his" spotlight, and I imagine it's not helping Peyton's future

contract negotiations. Remember the heisman jinx? Well, if you don't, remember the likes of Gino Torretta, Andre Ware and Rashaan Salaam. Any Questions?

In baseball, the playoffs have begun with some unfortunate twists. I feel the placement of the teams into their brackets for the playoffs has gone off the deep end. Why do the owners deem it necessary for the AL West champion to play the AL East champion at the East's home field? The Baltimore Orioles had the better season record, and gave up home field advantage in the first two games to the Seattle Mariners. Why?

Also, there is a team possibly

moving to the Carolinas. The Minnesota Twins are ready to sell to a buyer there if the Minnesota state legislature doesn't provide a new stadium, and at the expense of the taxpayer. That seems to be the new trend in sports, demanding a new stadium financed through the state, and the burden placed upon the taxpayer. Oh yeah, that realignment plan, better wait until the Twins' situation is resolved because you know Bud Selig won't want the Carolina Twins in the same division with the Kansas City Royals.

Last Friday night, number nine, Gordie Howe played fifty-six seconds on the opening shift of the Detroit Vipers game. Although

he didn't even touch or get close to the puck, that was his sixth decade playing professional hockey. Does it matter to anyone? Nothing against the greatest Red Wing ever, but was it for publicity, or for the record? Either way, it seems insignificant to achieve such a goal. Maybe he wanted to prove to Gretzky that he's still better in one category, playing out of a retirement home.

One hundred, twenty-five million dollars, and 00/000 cents. Wouldn't you love to endorse that check? Kevin Garnett, forward for the Minnesota Timberwolves just signed for that much over six years. It seems to

me that a person who couldn't get into college because of his poor entrance exam, wouldn't be able to comprehend even how to sign his own paycheck. Oops, forgot that he probably had nothing to do with it, his agent did all the work. Why doesn't the owner of the Timberwolves trade the franchise to Garnett for his contract. It would probably be worth more!

The change of seasons in October tend to provide some twists in sports. These are only a few kinks in sports, but I'm sure there's more to come.

## Educational standards should be left to states

By Shannon Casey  
Staff Reporter

In his Annual State of the Union Address, President Clinton called for national education standards as well as national testing to ensure these standards are met. This sounds like a great proposal, right? Wrong. This proposal will do nothing more than let the federal government reign over state and individual rights.

Educational standards have been around for many years. States and local school boards set these standards. Colleges also influenced high school standards by adhering to strict entrance requirements.

In 1892, the Committee of 10, established by the National Education Association (when it was strictly a professional organiza-

ers for the following years.

If the federal government takes charge of setting national educational standards, what precedent will it establish for federal legislation regarding types of textbooks, teaching methods and research findings that may be presented? The federal government can restrict every aspect of education by putting strings on all federal funds used for educational purposes.

Federal standards are a blatant disregard of rights reserved for the state under the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution. "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution...are reserved to

the States respectively..."

Federal standards will surely lead to federal testing. This needless redundancy makes no sense because over 40 states now administer standardized tests to their students.

The problem with federal tests is not so much the tests themselves, but the question of who will design the tests? The Board of Governors? The Department of Education?

There is a problem with both of these choices. The Board of Governors would never be able to agree on a standard test. They have a hard enough time agreeing on a political agenda. The Department of Education is nothing more than an oversized and inef-

ficient bureaucracy that already has too many useless regulations to administer and enforce. The creation of The Department of Education in the 1980s directly correlates with the decline of schools. Do we really want an unaccountable bureaucracy in Washington, D.C. to have ultimate authority over educational standards?

The logical solution is to return all educational authority to the states where it belongs. The states are more easily held accountable for educational shortcomings than the federal government. Isn't it time we take politics out of our educational system and finally put the well being of the students first?

*The powers not delegated to the United States by Constitution...are reserved to the States respectively...*

tion), prepared a concise report on the expectations of nine high school subjects. This report served as a manual for curriculum writ-

## Supreme Court to revisit some old territories

By Timothy R. Caister  
Opinion Editor

The Supreme Court of the United States is about to endeavor on a new term. On its present agenda, there are some intriguing cases about to be tried which will affect every one, especially in terms of affirmative action. There is one case which may have some serious repercussion upon those seeking and keeping a job in the marketplace.

*Piscataway Board of Education v. Taxman*. This might be the case that could mark a new trend in affirmative action. A New Jersey school system laid off a white teacher rather than an equally senior black teacher to promote diversity. The teacher who was laid off, Sharon Taxman, is suing because she feels she was laid off due to racial discrimination. The lower court which heard this case agreed with Taxman. The case is now on the docket of the Court for winter.

Affirmative action has been engulfed into a heated debate

about its grey areas. An answer is needed to resolve many of these grey areas. The answer may come soon.

Affirmative action has gone too far. When employees are laid off their jobs due wholly to being white, they are being racially discriminated against. This is not right. Granted, affirmative action was developed in the wake of the civil rights movement where a change was needed, it has now shifted too far to the left. Presently, there seems to be a system in place where equally qualified persons of different race are given an opportunity of employment based upon this race. Employers deem it necessary to promote diversity by inheriting a quota system of race.

Justice Clarence Thomas, the only sitting black Justice on the Court, and who has quite possibly received his status due to his color, disagrees with the present trend of affirmative action. As he states, "These programs stamp minorities with a badge of inferiority and may cause them to de-

velop dependencies or to adopt an attitude that they are 'entitled' to preferences." Admissions or hiring based upon race is headed in the wrong direction.

Another pivotal case about to be heard before the Court is *Oncale v. Sundowner Offshore*. The constitutional question in this case is whether laws prohibiting sexual harassment in the workplace encompasses harassment between members of the same sex.

What? Do sexual harassment laws cover same sex confrontations? NO! The Court may very well be in the future spotlight concerning this very case. The remote idea that same sex confrontations within the workplace might entail sexual harassment is preposterous. Since when do men/women degrade their own gender? Are they ashamed of being that gender? These questions

are only the beginning. Having one person sexually degrade another of the same sex is a sign of something different than sexual harassment. There are quite possibly more details which need to be taken into consideration, but the overall question in this case is

unbelievable.

These two cases may provide a long legacy within the workplace. Issues about affirmative action and sexual harassment do come with fireworks. Americans will have to wait and see whether they provide a good show.

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October 7, 1997

## OPINION

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## Clinton needs renewal of fast-track authority

By Shannon Casey  
Staff Reporter

President Clinton wants Congress to renew his "fast-track" authority in trade negotiations. The fast-track authority would give the President the power to personally negotiate trade deals with nations and to submit the treaties to Congress on a take-it or leave-it basis.

Congress has granted fast-track authority to every president since Richard Nixon. This authority is a symbol of power the President may use while negotiating trade deals with other nations. It gives an assurance to his colleagues that he is in control of the trade deals.

Giving the President fast-track authority is the first step in expanding the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). President Clinton has finally broken his political ties with organized labor and supported the expansion of NAFTA.

It is no wonder unions adamantly oppose the expansion of free trade; they are in the business of defending the status quo. Unions are worried that expanding free trade may result in more competition in the local markets, which in turn leads to lower prices.

That is exactly what an expansion in free trade will accomplish. The expansion of free trade is good economic policy in the long run. More competition leads to higher efficiency and ultimately lower prices for consumers.

Far more Americans benefit from trade than are hurt by it.

One-third of America's recent economic growth can be attributed to exports. Twelve million workers depend on these exports for their jobs.

Foreign competition also helps American consumers by forcing domestic companies to produce better products for less money. Take the automobile industry,

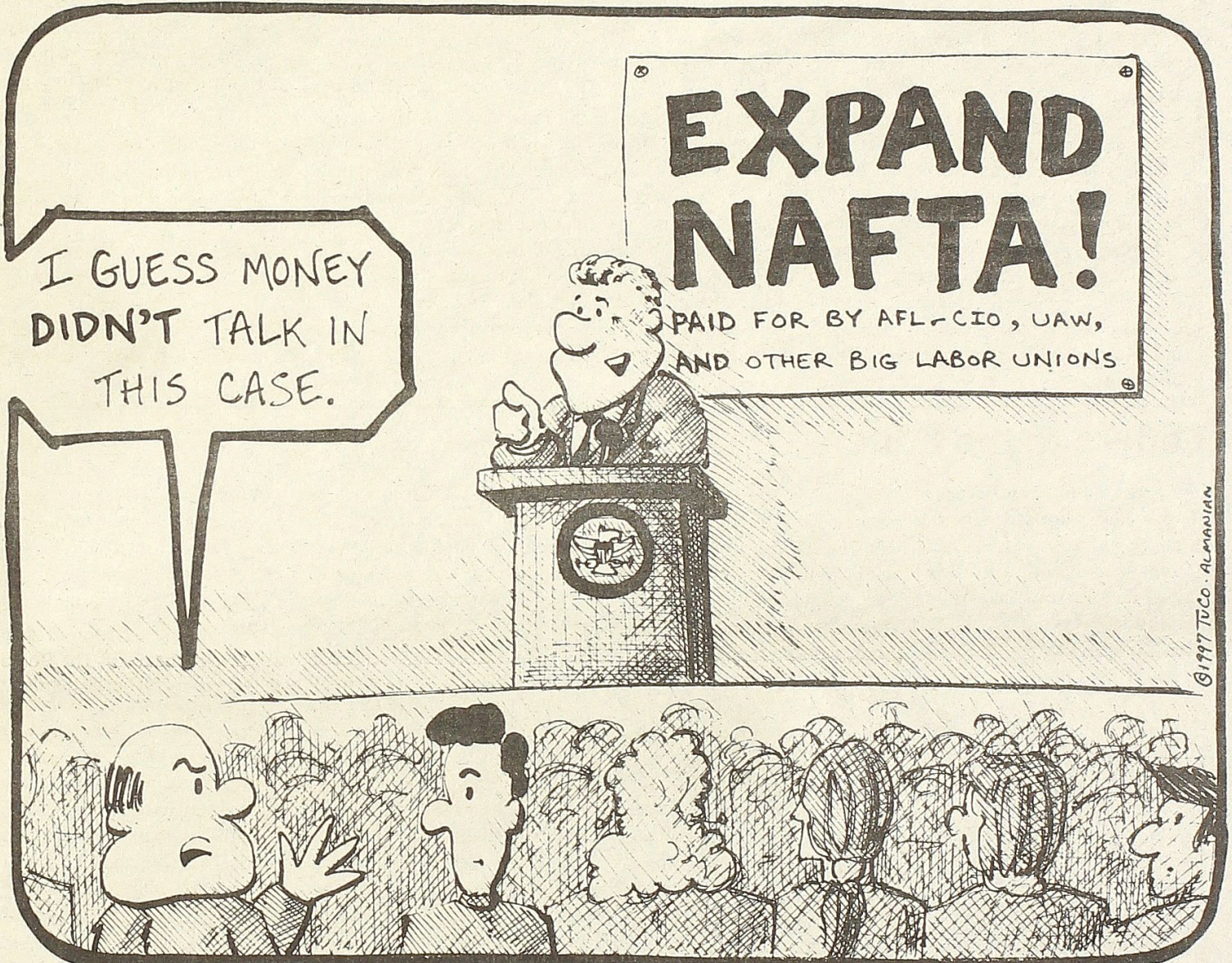
for example. When US automakers lacked competition, their cars were poorly made and their prices were inflated. Since the U.S. opened the market to foreign competition, prices dropped dramatically and the quality of domestic cars improved significantly. U.S. workers have proven time and again that they

can compete on the world market.

The only losers in free trade negotiations are those companies who are producing inefficiently. In a market-based economy, inefficient producers will eventually be shut down and their resources, such as labor and materials, will be shifted to their next

best use. This shifting of resources boosts our economy because inefficient resources are converted into efficient resources.

Americans need free trade to sustain the growing economy, provide a market for their exports and force domestic producers to make quality products at an affordable price.



Column by Tim Caister

## Rising college costs reveal questionable practices

## Tuition inflation further burdens students

Tuition increases are and have been affecting every one of us. It is not a matter of where you get the money to pay for college whether it is your parents/family, loans, scholarships, grants, etc. What I am concerned about is how much you are required to pay.

Give or take a few points for public versus private institutions, a tuition increase nationwide is near five percent each year. This is practically double the percent of inflation, and sometimes more.

There are a couple of points which need to be reexamined. Before I do this, I need to state that I am speaking nationwide, and not specifically referring to Alma College, but this does not mean they are not involved.

First of all, the amount of financial aid given to an individual student is not keeping up with the pace of tuition increases. The financial funding from Uncle Sam has risen significantly since the early 1980s, from \$32 billion to \$55 billion. Yes, this increase is

fine, but it has not kept up with the five to six percent increase of tuition every year since then.

Secondly, inflation seems to be presently hovering at a low rate. The tuition increases are not following this trend either. There is still a nationwide trend to continue raising tuition prices, and keeping that rate at a status quo.

Finally, students as a whole are now, more than ever, using loans to help finance their college education. This has frightening consequences once a graduate is placed into the world with a financial burden anywhere from thousands to the tens of thousands of dollars.

There was a time when before the large tuition increases occurred in the 1980s, that students needed to pay in the lower thousands of dollars for a college education. After these students graduated in the late seventies, and some in the early eighties, they did not have the great burden of paying off a huge financial debt

from their college education.

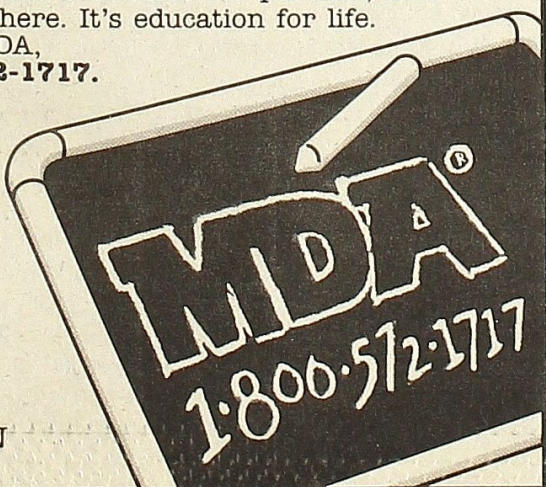
One last point I would like to state is concerning the overhead on tuition costs. Why do institutions charge for tuition and board at a cost of say \$19,000, then provide scholarships for \$6,000. Why can't they just say the cost is \$13,000? There must be something I am missing. Does this not scare prospective students away? Would they not be able to compete with other institutions better if the initial cost was lower? I fear there are other factors involved which allows the institution to get more federal/state aid when they do this. If this is true, they are seriously alienating the students when this does occur.

Yes, other factors are involved, but the basic points can not be avoided. Financial aid is not keeping up with tuition increases, and tuition increases are not staying in touch with inflation. These two factors alone provide for future financial repercussions upon the graduate.

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*Staff Editorial***Temperature issues heat up on campus**

Everyone has heard all the complaints about how unpredictable Michigan weather is.

Literally a person can wake up one day and throw on our smallest T-shirt yet don their heavy winter coats the next. Since the majority of students here at Alma have grown up with these crazy weather patterns, they have become used to them. Students all joke about it being seventy degrees and snowing in the same day.

Here at Alma college though, students deal with Michigan weather and the irregular climates of the college buildings. We, the editorial board would just like to ask why.

Let's start with the dormitories. It is a known fact that heat rises, thus third floors are always the hottest. Many students have been there, trying to sleep in stifling, stuffy rooms. So, when it's still warm enough outside that the ground and first floors of the dorms are comfortable, why turn on the heaters to roast the third floor dwellers? The heaters contain switches so that the amount of heat that comes into your room can be controlled, but there is no way to keep all the heat out. Even with the switches off heat still comes in.

Michigan weather, usually, stays moderate until October. Why, then, have many of the heaters in the dorms been turned on throughout September? Is there some sort of system that could be devised to give the necessary amount of heat to each floor individually? Even if not, most students would rather the heaters be left off until needed.

The Swanson Academic Center(SAC) is a separate story all together. SAC has air conditioning. Students all love it during these first months of school and when spring term comes around, but, does it only work on the first floor? To attend first floor SAC classrooms, minus the computer lab, students often bring sweatshirts. Then, afterwards, when they head to their third floor classrooms, off come the sweatshirts and out come the sweat towels. Again, heat rises, but many students have become sick because of daily fluctuating temperatures.

The clocks in SAC also cause problems. Not one single clock in the building is set for the same time. A student can leave their room for class with ten minutes to spare, but arrive on first floor SAC and have five minutes, stop by second floor real quick and suddenly have seven minutes, round the corner and have three, race up to third and discover they are two minutes late! Many students are already stressed from homework, meetings and the uncomfortable temperatures and screwed up clocks are not helping any.

We, the editorial board would also like to say that the portable air-conditioners that have been added to Hamilton commons have helped this year to cool the dining room off while we eat. Maybe those machines should also be installed in third floor SAC.

As the term progresses, many students are trying to put off winter as long as they can. At least we know one thing is for sure, when it's winter in Alma it's always cold.

**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.**

...

Dear Editors:

In the September 30 issue, Cindy Fiedler wrote a letter which stated that "Sigma Alpha Iota (SAI) was established with the help of the men's professional music fraternity, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia." While we as Sinfonians believe that we have done much to promote music on this campus, we can by no means take any responsibility for the introduction of Sigma Alpha Iota onto this campus. While both organizations share similar goals and have cooperated with one another on several projects, Alma College's chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota was founded through the hard work of a group of women who believed in promoting musical ideals. They should receive full credit for their efforts.

Also, Phi Mu Alpha is not on the waiting list for a house because no such list exists. As far as I have been able to determine, no organization may make a bid on a house until one becomes available. The key then to acquiring a house is to be well informed. Since Phi Sigma Sigma as a social organization has closer ties to the Student Affairs office than do the professional music organizations (which operate more directly through the music department), I see this as one reason why they may end up with a house first.

Perhaps this is one reason why there should be some sort of waiting list or at least a more public announcement when housing becomes available.

There has been some confusion in the past as to whether or not housing has become available, not only among members of Phi Mu Alpha, but also within Bacchus and several other campus organizations.

At this time, the members of Phi Mu Alpha are not sure whether we would accept a house if it were offered, but it would be nice to know that we as a professional organization were offered the same opportunities as any other organization on campus. If someone from administration could help to clear up some of these issues, it would be appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Scott Sanderson (98)  
Fraternity Education Officer  
Iota Alpha Chapter  
Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia  
Fraternity of America

...

Harry H. Pattison  
Sept. 19, 1903 - Mar. 30, 1968  
Dora L. Pattison  
Oct. 30, 1905 - Sept. 15, 1969  
Richard J. Pattison  
April 10, 1928 - Mar. 3, 1971

In 1972 I commissioned a cross to be built for Dunning Chapel to remember these three, my parents and older brother. It was dedicated on Palm Sunday 1973.

Last October, at an Athletic Hall of Fame reception, I was asked if I would agree to let the cross be taken down and replaced by something smaller and more "fashionable" as the choir area was renovated. For that and other reasons, that Hall of Fame Induction was not the pleasant time I had hoped to spend with friends and contemporaries, recording and celebrating their honors for an alumni newsletter which I have done for some time now.

My family memorial was not altogether lost, though, for in February I got permission to rebuild the cross in a simpler design, to hang closer to the organ grill. Physical Plant carefully took it down in April and dismantled it, and in July they took the boards to a mill, which planed them for joining together.

I finished this work early in August. I had a lot of time to reflect on the meaning of the cross in Christian faith, and a wonderful chance to learn how much carpentry I could do with my own hand and power tools. I discovered for myself what overwhelming demands are placed on Physical Plant during the summer months. I did almost all the work myself, except for one bandsaw cut in the college carpenter shop, and some custom wood plugs to fill bolt holes, carefully cut and shaped by Professor Emeritus Wesley Dykstra.

When I finished the work, Physical Plant finally came and looked at the cross, and then inspected the chapel wall, to see how they could rehang the cross. That was in August, and two months later we have not yet had time to bring the cross to campus from my home across the street.

I undertook this carpenter work in confidence that my memorial to family members would not be lost to the campus. In 1971, when I commissioned the cross, I considered the college my "church home," as congregations were home to my two brothers and their families, the place where we would make memorial gifts.

Since then, that consideration of simple gifts gets lost at the college. Corporate social etiquette, possibly, considers the cross of 1973 a cross from the 1950's." A decorator's view considers it "heavy," and of

course it would be: before Jesus was crucified, his executioners had a stronger man than He, drag the cross to Calvary.

The 1973 cross was our way of expressing what Dr. Robert Swanson, then Alma's President, called for, a cross to "tell it like it is" a horrible means of execution. Apparently that is too gross for today's sense of "gracious living."

In rebuilding I have made accommodations to that, but I am grateful that in a recent memorial service for a college staff member, we sang "The Old Rugged Cross." Not many modern designer crosses are "rugged," I'm afraid, and I wonder if that because those wealthy enough to donate heavily to the Cherished Ever campaign do not like to be reminded of the rough edges of suffering.

The rebuilt chapel cross has stood on sawhorses in my driveway across from Tyler for ten weeks now, apparently waiting for review and approval I supposed was given before I rebuilt it, and more obviously waiting for Physical Plant to come get it so they could build the brackets to re-hang it.

I still hope it can be re-hung, to share in remembrance and honor with planted trees, a victory bell, expensive playing fields, and the rock and future plaque placed, and to be placed, in memory of our friend Dan Nichelson.

When it is, that may reaffirm my nearly 40 years of association with Alma College, so that I can again begin to consider it "my home." And then I can continue to support efforts to meet financial needs of students, as I have been doing with contributions for a long time now.

Sincerely,  
Eugene H. Pattison (56)  
Professor of English

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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.