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The Almanian

November 4, 1997

Serving Alma College since 1907

Issue 8

ΣΧ and sororities sponsor annual Derby Days

By Missy Crossnoe
News Editor

Sigma Chi (ΣΧ) hosted their annual Derby Days competition this past week to raise money for the Community Cafe located at the First Presbyterian church in Alma.

"Overall, the organization of Derby Days was much smoother this year compared to last," said senior Ben Tollenaar. "We raised over \$2000 to donate to the Community Cafe."

There are two goals of this philanthropy competition which is a nation wide tradition for ΣΧ chapters. The first goal of the competition is for all five sororities to try and raise the most money for the cause. Two ΣΧ's work with a representative from each sorority to try and raise more money than the other sororities. The representative that raises the most money is named the sweetheart of Sigma Chi.

Alpha Gamma Delta (ΑΓΔ) senior Kristine Pintar, this year's sweetheart, said "I raised most of

the money by going around the campus and community. We asked them if they would like to donate money or returnable cans to help our cause."

Junior Lori Carlson, Gamma Phi Beta (ΓΦΒ) representative for sweetheart, also collected money and cans on campus. "Being a representative for sweetheart gave me a chance to hang out with the guys more and to be a part of what they're doing," said Carlson. "I liked when they escorted us to our classes and meals on Thursday to show their appreciation for our help in raising money," she added.

The second goal of Derby Days is to try and promote participation between the five sororities on campus by hosting activities in which they can gain points to help them win.

The sorority with the most overall points, ΑΓΔ, was named the winner of the Derby Days competition on Saturday. Alpha Xi Delta (ΑΞΔ) came in second, Kappa Iota (ΚΙ) third, ΓΦΒ fourth

and Phi Sigma Sigma (ΦΣΣ) fifth.

This year's events included a brother auction where members of the sororities could buy a Sigma Chi. Most sororities bought brothers to do various household projects. The money was used towards the Cafe. ΑΞΔ bought the most brothers.

Sumo wrestling was another popular event in which ΑΓΔ's Alyson Ferris won this competition. Also, a haunted house was sponsored for the community on Halloween where each sorority decorated a room in the ΣΧ house. ΓΦΒ won. "The haunted house was awesome this year, it was a lot more fun," said senior Tim Lynott.

The ΣΧ's also helped bring the band Rubber Soul, which played at the Highlandaur on Thursday night. Tollenaar said, "the band was great, everyone who went had a good time."

"Derby Days was really well put together this year," said Pintar. "The participation has been great from all the groups."



Senior ΑΓΔ Alyson Ferris and junior ΓΦΒ Beth Rosenow battle it out in the sumo suits. Ferris went on to win the tournament for ΑΓΔ. The event was sponsored by ΣΧ as part of Derby Days. Photo by Derek Warner.

News Briefs

National News Briefs

The Senate Governmental Affairs Committee's probe of campaign fund-raising is being suspended. Chairman Fred Thompson (R-Tenn) cited declining support from fellow senators. He said the hearings will not be extended beyond their year-end deadline. Although, he might revive them if necessary.

Officials from Iraq said on Friday that it is ready if needed, to face United States military action over its banning of Americans from UN arms inspection teams. Russia and France express hope that the crisis will be resolved peacefully.

Mike Tyson, the 31-year-old former heavyweight boxing champion, punctured a lung and broke a rib when he took a spill on his motorcycle on Thursday. The police issued him a \$77 ticket for not having a license to operate the bike.

Campus News Briefs

Alma College students are no longer allowed to park on the streets overnight. If you park there your car will get towed.

Meave Leakey, paleoanthropologist, zoologist and head of the Division of Paleontology at the National Museum of Kenya will be at Alma tomorrow to present "The Search and Discovery of Our Earliest Ancestors" in the Chapel at 8 p.m.

The Gratiot County AIDS Resource team in conjunction with the Gratiot County American Red Cross will be holding a Candlelight Vigil to commemorate the 10th Annual World Aids Day November 23 at 7 p.m.

ACUB is hosting its annual Songfest competition on Saturday at 8 p.m. in the Chapel.

Alma College's annual Global Service Auction will be on Thursday, November 13 at 6:30 p.m. in Jones Auditorium.

Public affairs class organizes community conference

By Rhonda Smith
Staff Reporter

Environmental quality, parking/traffic and employment are just a few of the issues being discussed at the Community Conference today from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The conference will be hosted by Alma College's Public Affairs Colloquium, directed by Edward Lorenz, professor of history and political science, in Dow Science Center, room L1.

Students in Lorenz's Public Affairs class participated to put the conference together. Each student headed a committee, either planning the format, advertising, inviting speakers to the event or heading a break-out session.

Beginning with general introductions of speakers, the conference will include the approval of procedural rules, proposal of topics, followed by break-out sessions and, finally, participants will return to share as a whole the issues they discussed.

A panel of guest speakers will add to discussion of various topics concerning the Alma community.

For employment, students asked a coordinator of the Michigan Employment Security Commission (MESC) to speak and are hoping for a member of the Student Development staff to participate.

Murray Borrello, instructor of

"It's to help build civic literacy."

•Sara Bickler (01)

geology, will discuss the environment issues. For the parking/traffic issue Duane Knecht, physical plant director, will speak.

Senior Dan Scripps will lead discussion on Alma's energy concerns. Lastly, Susan Root, chair and associate professor of education, will discuss the state of education in Alma.

Sara Bickler, (01), a member of the class, stated that at 7 p.m. the speakers, class and partici-

pants will "have a mass discussion," after listening to the guest speakers' perspective on the issue. After that, everyone will split into groups to more thoroughly converse on a particular issue. During these break-out sessions participants will discuss the main concerns involved with their issue. Then everyone will reconvene into the larger group to vote upon proposals derived from the sessions.

"In the small groups, we find out what we think should be done about these issues and write it up into letters and send them to the proper community leaders," commented Bickler.

The Conference idea began, according to Bickler, when the Public Affairs class read *Building Civic Literacy and Citizen Power* by James D. Chesney. Chesney had hosted a day-long version of the conference in Detroit and wrote about his findings in the book.

As for the goal of the conference, Bickler stated, "It's to help build civic literacy."

Lorenz and his students strongly urge students and community members to attend.

Panhellenic council plans Hunger Banquet

Patricia Baldwin
Freelance Writer

Oxfam America, a non-profit organization, dedicated to creating lasting solutions to end poverty, hunger and injustices in the world suggests a Hunger Banquet as a fundraiser to raise monies for that effort.

"Using the guidelines of Oxfam America, the Panhellenic Council (Panhel) is sponsoring a Hunger Banquet at Alma College as a promotion to inter-sorority relations and to raise money to help combat poverty and hunger throughout the world," said senior Jen Corry. Corry serves as the education coordinator for Panhel and is overseeing the planning of the banquet.

The Hunger Banquet will be held November 24, 1997 from 7 to 9 p.m. in Van Dusen Commons. A minimum donation will be requested at the door. The meal will be provided by Marriott and Alma College students will be able to use meal exchange for the

dinner. It will also be open to the public.

Panhel, the governing body of the campus sororities, presented the idea of the banquet to four of the five sororities in September. According to Corry, the sororities have been fully supportive of the project. They continue their ongoing support and are participating in the planning of the banquet.

Students who choose to attend the hunger banquet will receive their dining status for the evening by a lottery drawing at the door. The lottery drawing will place diners into three income categories; high, middle and low. These divisions will be representative of the world's current population.

Fifteen percent of those in attendance will have the status of high income population. "They will receive a gourmet meal with all the fixings," said Corry.

Twenty-five percent of the diners will represent the middle income population. They will re-

ceive a meal of rice and beans. Seating will be provided for them but they will not necessarily be able to sit at a table.

Sixty percent of the diners whose status for the evening is low income will receive a meal of

rice and water. No dining space will be provided but the floor will be available.

Guest speakers will address the diners on the issues of worldwide poverty and hunger. World situations associated with continuing

poverty and hunger will also be discussed.

The intention of the sponsoring organizations is to remind people that poverty, hunger and injustices still are prevalent in the world.

Halloween scares!



Junior Jeremy Williams and two unidentified ghouls pose before a cauldron in the Mitchell Hall haunted house. The haunted house was sponsored by the Mitchell Hall Council and Mitchell Hall Resident Assistant staff. The haunted house was part of the Big Brothers/Big Sisters annual trick-or-treating event on campus. Photo by Derek Warner.

Recent stock market crash affects endowment

By Cheryl Lenard
Staff Reporter

Records broke last week in the world of finance.

Last Monday over one billion stocks were traded and the Dow Jones industrial average had its

biggest fall ever dropping 554.26 points to close the New York Stock Exchange at 7161.15. Although it was the largest drop in points, the drop was only the 12th largest in percentage terms at 7.18%. On Tuesday, the market rebounded

to have its largest point gain ever of 337.17 points closing the trading center at 7498.32. Monday was also the first day the New York Stock Exchange used rules designed to act as a circuit breaker to stop trade temporarily by closing the market when the market drops more than 350 points.

According to Susan Kadlec, assistant professor of business administration, the New York Stock Exchange is a place of trade for many large companies which have a lot of capital or money such as Ford, General Motors, IBM or Kellogg's. Smaller companies tend to trade on the NASDAQ or smaller boards of trade.

"The Dow Jones is the way we measure activity on the New York Stock Exchange," she said. The Dow Jones is a number calculated every day by looking at 30 different companies stock prices and where they were traded in any given day.

The reasons for the sharp decline are numerous, but one of the main reasons for the Dow Jones's fall are the problems in the Asian economy. Kadlec explained that the banks in Hong Kong credit ratings were devalued by U.S. agencies partially due to the turn-over back to China.

"Stock markets around the globe are all linked. The stock market in Hong Kong had a bad day which is what precipitated the fall in our stock market," said Kadlec.

The sharp decline at the New York Stock Exchange will be felt virtually all over the economy, however, stocks which are more susceptible to Asian markets' falls and rises such as health care and

technology took the hardest hit.

According to Kadlec, Alma College will be affected because the endowment is largely invested in stocks.

"Any portfolio loses value when stocks are worth less than they were."
Susan Kadlec,
assistant professor of business administration

"Any portfolio loses value when stocks are worth less than they were," she said.

Jon Groteluschen, vice president finance at Alma College, said, "Our endowment is always affected when the stock market goes up and down." Alma

College's endowment is approximately 65% invested in stocks and 35% invested in bonds.

He explained that the markets hardest hit were the overseas markets and "[we] invest very little in overseas markets....most of our money is invested in domestic securities." Overall, the sharp decline in the stock market had a smaller impact on Alma College's endowment than it did on the market as a whole.

"We've all been waiting for a correction [in the market] to occur, and I think this is a correction," said

Groteluschen. Looking into next week and the future, both Kadlec and Groteluschen feel the market will recover with maybe a few upturns and downturns in between its overall recovery. Kadlec stated, "We probably shouldn't see [the Dow Jones] go below 7000."

OΔK Leader of the Week

Each week, Omicron Delta Kappa (OΔK), the national leadership honorary, chooses one Alma College community member who exemplifies the ideals of outstanding leadership. This week, OΔK honors senior Sarah Isaacson.

Isaacson is currently the vice president of the Alma College Panhellenic Council (Panhel), a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority (ΑΓΔ), historian for Beta Beta Beta, the national Biology honorary, and a member of Order of Omega. She has also contributed to the Alma College community with her role as an Orientation Committee member (O.C.) and is a member of the cross country team, as well as a member of Student Congress and she sits on the Student Affairs Committee.

Of all her roles as a leader on campus, Isaacson says that "I have probably made my greatest contribution with Panhel or as an O.C., but I am most proud of running—this is my first year running cross country and I just found out that I got my letter."

With her busy involvement, Isaacson clearly epitomizes the ideals of leadership in our college community. For this reason, OΔK is proud to honor her as leader of the week.

Interlochen Piano Trio performs at Alma

Joey Mead
Staff Reporter

Last Saturday Alma College's Heritage Center for Performing Arts was filled with music when the Interlochen Piano Trio (piano, violin and cello), performed Mozart's piano trio in b flat major, Faure's piano trio in c minor and Beethoven's piano trio in c minor. The members of the trio, who are three instructors from the Interlochen Arts Academy, include Hal Grossman, violin, Crispin Campbell, cello and Paul Orgel, piano.

Grossman received music performance degrees from the University of Michigan and the Eastman School of Music. Grossman has performed all over the United States and in Europe as Oxford String Quartet's first violinist. Grossman has also played with the Chester String Quartet and the New York Chamber Ensemble.

Campbell is an instructor of cello and artistic director of Manitou Music Festival. He also works with the Aurora Quintet and the Interlochen Chamber players.

Campbell taught at Lawrence University in Ithica, New York,

Chamber Music Institute and University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. He has also held positions with Milwaukee Symphony and the San Jose Symphony.

Orgel holds a bachelor of music degree from the New England Conservatory. He has a master of music in piano performance from Boston University School for the Arts and a doctor of music arts from Temple University.

Orgel's teaching experience is from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Wesleyan University and Swarthmore College.

The Interlochen Piano Trio was brought to Alma because another college had backed out. So Alma invited them to perform here instead. The group's next stop is Cleveland, Ohio. From there they are heading for an East Coast tour.

The performance lasted a total of about an hour and a half. Although, attendance was low the performance was a success.

Associate professor of music Raymond Riley attended the event. "It was excellent. It was really first rate, but it's a shame there were only 15 people in the audience," he said.

Bassoonist performs first senior recital

By Ryan Gall
Freelance Writer

As the year progresses, music performance majors begin to perform their senior recitals, a requirement for graduation. This recital can take the place of the traditional senior thesis for a Bachelor of Arts in Music, and it is also encouraged for music education majors. This year's first recital was performed by Elaine Gooding, a bassoonist, this past week and six more recitals will follow.

Erin Eames, a senior performance major said, "This is a great chance for music majors to show off what they have accomplished during their four years at Alma College. It is also a final preparation for performing students, because this is what they will ultimately be doing in the future."

The senior recital spotlights graduating music students as they perform alone, or in a combo, in front of peers, faculty and family. The musician performs a variety of music that best showcases their abilities. They can use their own discretion to select a range of music of their choice.

The music selected must first be performed more than a month in advance before the department faculty. The student is graded pass/fail based on how well they present the music. Pianists and vocalists must memorize all their selections

while other instrumentalists need memorize only one piece.

The first recital, held October 28, was "excellent and marvelously performed," said Gooding. Her program contained music ranging from classical to contemporary and closed with more light-hearted medleys. Performing with Gooding were Mary Beth Missis, professor of bassoon at Central Michigan University; Jennifer Dean, bassoonist; Eames, bassoonist; Erin Place, bassoonist; Sarah Keen (00), cellist; and Tony Patterson, accompanist and instructor of piano.

A typical recital will last approximately an hour and contain an average of six pieces. The recital is open to the public, providing entertainment as well as a cultural experience at Alma. "This seems like a really cool thing because these performers might be famous one day. I think I'm really looking forward to seeing one of these recitals. Alas, this is why I like Alma College, the enormous opportunity to be culturally enriched," said first-year student Zacchaeus Compson.

Other students performing senior recitals this year include Laura Ringle (piano), Jorge Livingston (vocal), Anne Murphy (piano), Marc Alderman and Eames (percussion) and Mark Petrocelli and Melinda Towns (vocal). The dates of these concerts are to be announced.

British nanny sentenced

By Wendy Holmes
Staff Reporter

British au pair Louise Woodward was convicted of second-degree murder Thursday for the death of Matthew Eappen last February.

The 19-year-old native of Elton, England, was charged with fatally shaking or slamming the eight-month-old's head. Matthew was taken to the hospital on February 4 after Woodward called 911, saying the baby was unconscious. Woodward said the child woke from his nap gasping for breath with his eyes half-closed. She said she shook the infant gently and then tried to administer CPR as he began to turn blue. The comatose infant died five days later. Woodward has been in jail awaiting trial since.

The three-week trial captivated both American and British audiences. Woodward maintained her innocence throughout, backed by her parents, Susan and Gary and residents of her hometown, who raised \$22,000 for air fair and hotel accommodations for her parents.

The prosecution, led by Gerard Leone Jr., contended that Woodward, frustrated that she had to bathe the crying, cranky baby last February 4, shook him once and then shook him again, slamming his head against a hard surface. This created the two-inch crack in his skull from which he died.

Medical experts for the defense said the injury was as much as

three weeks old and Matthew did not show any evidence of sudden brain trauma when he was brought to the hospital. They claim the baby died as a result of the old wound which reopened and caused catastrophic bleeding.

Woodward took the stand to defend herself Thursday, October 23 and cross examination

"I didn't do anything. Why did they do this to me?"
•Louise Woodward

was finished on Monday, October 27 when court reconvened.

Prosecutors pointed out apparent inconsistencies in her story, but Woodward remained composed, even when her character was questioned. The prosecution said she frequently kept late hours and lied about her age, using a fake ID to gain admission to bars around Boston. Because of behavior such as this, Matthew's parents, Deborah and Sunil Eappen, both physicians, issued Woodward a shape up ultimatum about a week before the alleged incident.

Woodward admitted that the demands placed on her as an au pair were sometimes frustrating, but that she never took her frustration out on Matthew or his

two-year-old brother. She thinks the crack in his skull may be the result of a fall he sustained near his playroom steps the day before he was hospitalized, in which he may have hit his head.

The defense, led by Barry Scheck, who gained fame during the O.J. Simpson case, rested its case midday on Monday, October 27. Apparently confident after Woodward's testimony, the defense asked Judge Hiller Zobel for an all-or-nothing conviction from the jury. Despite strenuous objection from the prosecution, Zobel agreed. The nine woman, three man jury was left with only three choices: convict Woodward of first- or second-degree murder, or acquit her. The jury entered deliberation on Tuesday, after being warned by Zobel to consider only the evidence in the case, not the issues the case has raised about the au pair system and the lifestyles of both Woodward and the Eappens.

After 27 hours of deliberation, stretching over 3 days, the verdict came back. Upon hearing it, Woodward cried "I didn't do anything. Why did they do this to me?" She was comforted by defense attorney Andrew Good, who has promised an appeal. Woodward was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole in 15 years. Her parents sat stoically behind her after the announcement. The Eappens were not in court on Thursday; they were said to have watched the verdict via television and been pleased with it.

Former Alma student undergoes second lung transplant

By Wendy Holmes
Staff Reporter

Imagine being so out of breath that you have to drag a portable oxygen tank around with you everywhere you go. Imagine being so ill that your only hope is a heart-lung transplant. Now imagine you're fourteen years old.

This happened seven years ago to Ithaca resident Tara Peters, who suffered from a rare hypertension

of the lungs. The right side of her heart was also enlarged and the left side was leaking.

She was diagnosed with these problems when she was 13 (although her mother, Betty Peters, says Tara knew as early as fifth grade that there was something wrong with her), and her miracle came on November 17, 1990, when she was fourteen. She was only able to have a double-lung transplant, however, because her heart was in better condition than the donor's when it arrived. She stayed in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania's Children's Hospital for four months, recovering from the eight-hour surgery.

The transplant carried with it a high cost, not only emotionally, but financially. In order to even start the process of receiving a transplant, the person in need must have \$10,000 to pay the cost of recovering the organs. At the time, the Peters family heard estimates of \$500,000 for the surgery alone, not to mention the costs of recovery and other after-surgery necessities, such as staying in the area for as long as recovery takes, medication, surgery, bills from home, etc.

It piled up rather quickly, so Alma resident Virginia Shimunek, whose son had been through it, stepped in to help. Shimunek, who attends Alma United Methodist Church with the Peters family, began fundraising to help defray the cost. She was eventually able to raise \$45,000, which she says was merely "a drop in the bucket."

After recovering from the surgery, Tara was able to enjoy six quality years. Even though she was out of school for almost a year, Tara graduated with honors with her class in 1994. She entered Alma College in the fall of 1994 and was able to attend college for two years.

She was an active student who worked in the library her sophomore year and during the summer of 1996.

She started her junior year in 1996, but had to drop out after only two weeks. Although she didn't even have the strength to climb the stairs, she kept pushing herself to continue until "her friends and professors told her, 'Tara, go home and get well'," her mother remembers. "Tara's

never half-done anything in her life," Betty Peters explained. "It's all or nothing."

On June 2, 1997, Tara was forced because of chronic rejection and broncheolitis obliterans (narrowed airways) to undergo a second double-lung transplant. She was able to come home for two weeks in August and five days at the beginning of October. With the exception of those days, the 21-year-old has been in Pittsburgh with her mother, either in the hospital or living in a family home. She is currently fighting rejection, infections and bacteria, all of which commonly plague transplant recipients.

A shunt was placed in her lungs "to catch the fungus that's growing in there," said Shimunek, but Tara has problems with that as well, causing her doctors to have to repeatedly move it. She is not at full lung capacity right now, but her mother said, "She does the best she can."

Although she's had to bear many crosses in her young life, she carries them with dignity, never losing her faith in God. "Tara's faith is remarkable," her

mother said. "God's the only one that knows her future....He has been the one that's carried all of us [this] far."

"All of us" includes not just Tara and her mother, but her father, Ron and her brother, Derek, 19, who attends Eastern Michigan University. Her friends from home and members of her church, who send her cards and prayers, help keep Tara's spirits up. Tara works hard to maintain a positive attitude, although her mother acknowledges that "[Tara] does wonder now and again..."

Tara hopes to become either a transplant counselor or enter the ministry. "I'm not sure where God's going to lead her," Betty said.

A fund is being set up at the Alma Bank by Shimunek for Peters. Those who wish to make a donation can make checks payable to the Tara Peters Fund and send them to either the bank or to Shimunek. Those with questions can call Shimunek at 463-5112.

"[Tara] needs your prayers and she needs cards," Shimunek said. They can be sent to Tara Peters, Children's Hospital, Pittsburgh, PA 15213.

Correction

In last week's issue of *The Almanian* it was reported that the role of Keanu Reeves's wife in *Devil's Advocate* was played by Ashley Judd. The role, in fact, was played by actress Charlize Theron (*Two Days in the Valley*). We are sorry for any inconveniences this might have caused.

Did we make a mistake? Let us know and we will be happy to print a correction.

SOS serves community

By Charlotte Grant
Feature Editor

Almost every student at Alma College has a reason to be interested in volunteering, whether it be through their fraternity or sorority or to get experience in a certain job field. Students Offering Services (SOS) is an organization that can help students find volunteer opportunities in many diverse areas.

SOS President Heather Hodgeson (00) listed just a few of the options available. She said that "visiting the Masonic Home and volunteering at the hospital," were two of the most popular. She also mentioned PAAS (pronounced "paws"), which stands for Public Awareness/Animal Shelter. Each year SOS and PAAS raise money for the Gratiot County Animal Shelter by holding a dog walk and collecting donations.

SOS meets once a month so that Hodgeson can talk with the nine committee heads. They have

many plans for the upcoming year, including an open house and what Hodgeson calls an "alternative spring break."

"[The alternative spring break] is for Habitat for Humanity in Florida," Hodgeson explained. Participants will spend their spring break building houses for needy families. Junior Dawn Smith, a member of SOS, will attend a Breakaway Conference at the University of Michigan next weekend to discuss this project.

SOS will also send several members to the COOL Conference, which will take place in Washington, D.C. next March. This conference is intended to provide organizations like SOS with ideas on how to operate and promote volunteerism.

In addition to conferences, SOS is a member of the Michigan Campus Compact, a state coalition of volunteer organizations. The compact meets once a month.

Hodgeson said that getting started this year has been diffi-

cult. It is her first year on the job and there was little starting help. "There was no one to tell us what to do," Hodgeson stated. "Absolutely none. We had to figure out what to do on our own."

SOS did receive a lot of help this year from the class of 2001. Hodgeson said that 110 of SOS's 150 volunteers are first-year students. "They are unbelievable," Hodgeson stated. "They are very interested in helping the community."

Hodgeson said that many upperclassmen have already found their niche for volunteering. "Upperclassmen are involved in fraternities and sororities," Hodgeson commented. "[The Greek community] does things through us.... They're doing a lot of great things for the community."

Community service is the goal of SOS. Students who are interested in helping achieve that goal through volunteerism can call Hodgeson for more information.

Fire up the kiln!



Senior ceramic sculpture students Jennifer Tripp and Ryan Flesher unload the outdoor raku kiln. Photo courtesy of Ryan Flesher.

Chemistry groups bring science to local children

By Karin Shrum
Staff Reporter

This past month the Chemistry Club and Chi Epsilon Mu (XEM), the chemistry honor society, began their annual Future Generations project, performing shows for elementary and middle school classes with small exploding and interactive demonstrations that teach the students about chemistry.

Every year the Future Generations project sends flyers to 25 different elementary and middle schools reminding them that XEM is available as a resource. Schools then call and ask the group to either visit their class or to let their class visit the group on the Alma College campus.

Future Generations performs a 45 minute show for each class that consists of about six to seven actual demonstrations, depending

on how long the demonstrations run.

"We try not to just explode things and do big show things," commented Felicia Farr (98) coordinator of Future Generations. Instead of just performing experiments and demonstrations that will interest the students out of shock value alone, such as explosions would, the group tries to show the students how things that they see everyday work.

Each session with the students begins with an introduction and explanation of each demonstration and as the session goes on the students are asked to help explain how the demonstration worked and use their new knowledge. Lessons for the students are tailored to their age group and try to go along with what they might be learning in class, which is especially important for the younger groups of students who have stud-

ied very little science so far.

Currently, Future Generations has one working show that can be restructured and taught to all grade levels, second through seventh, that focuses on the different phases of matter- solids, liquids and gases. Plans for other shows are in progress.

The group is also hoping to expand its viewing audience to include high school students by the end of next year.

"We're looking through catalogs for teachers and they have some upper-level books for higher level demonstrations, for high school [students]," stated Farr. They are hoping to be able to try out the upper-level show around campus and in front of the Chemistry Club this year so that they can perfect the performances before taking them to the schools.

In addition to the Future Generations class shows, twice a year

the group also sponsors a science fun day or science blow-out for the campus and community. This program is designed to demonstrate what the different science departments are all about. The exhibits range from basic chemistry that smaller children can work on to physics and astronomy. This year, however, there will be only one science blow-out event near the end of the year, but it will be larger than previous years.

Both the future generations school trips and the science blow-out are planned and coordinated by the Chemistry Club which meets on Monday nights at 9:30 p.m. in the Dow Science Center Lobby.

"Anybody that would like to participate in this and help with demonstrations, even if you don't want to major or minor in chem-

istry, is welcome to come to our meetings," stated Farr. There are no prerequisites for joining the Chemistry Club or participating in the Future Generations projects, so all are welcome.

Cool Internet Sites

Hey movie buffs! Do you want to test your knowledge on two comedy cult classics? Visit <http://www.geocities.com/Hollywood/Lot/5480/> to take the *Caddyshack* and *Strange Brew* quizzes. Casual quiz takers beware: these tests are for people who have seen the movies at least 83 times. A typical *Caddyshack* question asks: What son of the Dalai Lama did Carl caddy for when he was in Tibet? A *Strange Brew* fan must answer questions like these: What was the name of the beer store clerk? and What is the license plate of their van? Good luck!

There are several Alma College spring terms going to England this year, and there is a perfect web site for those students who want to brush up their British lingo in advance. Visit <http://www.morrison.demon.co.uk/cockney/cockney/html> for a course in Cockney lingo. Learn such phrases as "a'right Joe?" and sound like a true Londoner. The phrases are listed alphabetically, and there is even a section on rhyming slang for those who want to sound particularly suave.

BACCHUS raises alcohol awareness on campus

By Wendy Holmes
Staff Reporter

How many of Alma College's undergraduates drink? How many of those drink responsibly? How have their lives been affected by alcohol use and abuse? These were some of the questions answered during Alcohol Awareness Week, October 20-24 at Alma College.

This event, which featured brochures for new faculty members and a chalking in McIntyre Mall, was sponsored by Boosting Alcohol Consciousness Concerning Health of Undergraduate Students (BACCHUS), a campus organization dedicated to safeguarding the health of Alma College's students.

"Our focus is on alcohol because it's such a big issue," said BACCHUS member Jennifer Dulz (00).

The theme for this year's Alcohol Awareness Week was "Majority Rules," which Dulz said was "a switch from the same because this [theme] looked at the positive. You hear all the negatives about how many people drink, but that's really not the majority."

Meetings are held on Thursdays at 7 p.m. outside Scotty's. The group is small, with about eight regulars who attend every meeting and anyone is invited to join. "Our [members] this year are really good," said Dulz.

Dulz, along with BACCHUS

president Angie Clark (99) and Dean of Student Development Bob Perkins, the group's advisor, will be attending a national BACCHUS conference in St. Louis, MO, on November 13-17. Dulz said they will meet with other BACCHUS groups and receive information on some of their programs.

"We'll get a lot of ideas from there," Dulz stated.

Upcoming events include Holiday Happy Hour, tentatively scheduled for the Friday before finals week. Decorations will be set up and students can have Christmas cookies and non-alcoholic drinks while they enjoy a little entertainment (provided last year by the jazz band).

Also, a Health Awareness Week is planned for this spring. Details haven't been discussed as of yet, but last year members handed out bags full of items such as suntan lotion for spring break. They also had students sign drunk driving contracts, in which they promise not to drink and drive or ride with anyone who has been drinking.

Dulz said the main focus of Alcohol Awareness Week is to make students conscious of the statistics such as how many people drink, how many don't and how many drink responsibly. They also want to encourage those who do choose to drink to be smart about it and not take unnecessary risks with their lives.

Men's soccer wins first MIAA title

Scots' second victory over Hope seals championship

By Joey Mead
Staff Reporter

Not since 1988 has any male team from Alma College won a MIAA championship, but last week the men's soccer team broke that trend when they played two games that put them in the books as the 1997 MIAA champions.

Last Wednesday the Scots played Albion in a game that would guarantee them a share of the title. With the title in sight they destroyed Albion 5-0.

The Scots scored two goals in the first three and a half minuets of the game. Two minuets and 40 seconds into the game junior Randy U'Ren assisted senior Tom Jewitt for the first goal. One minute later, sophomore Joel Stewart assisted junior Matt Keller for another.

Jewitt said, "It went [well]. We came out in the first half with a lot of confidence. That was one of the best halves we had ever played."

Coach Scott Frey said, "We came out and got up on them early in the game. That pretty much took the fight out of Albion. We played some very good soccer."

Other goals were scored by Stewart with an assist from first-year student Kevin Gunns, sopho-

more Nate Spang also scored with an assist by senior Ben Hondorp, and the fifth goal was scored on a penalty kick by Jewitt one minute and 50 seconds into the second half.

"It was nice. Our offense was explosive, but we hadn't won the MIAA title out-right," Spang said.

Frey also said, "One of the players pointed out that we only gave up two goals all season at home. That says a lot about this group defensively."

The real battle for the title came last Saturday against the Scots biggest rival Hope College. By no means was it an easy victory for the Scots, but they clinched the MIAA title with a 4-3 victory over Hope.

Hope and Alma teeter-tottered

“It was the greatest feeling of my life.”
—Tom Jewett (98)

back and forth for the lead all game long. Scoring first for the Scots was Gunns with another assist by U'Ren. Sophomore Chris Alexander scored next with an assist by senior Jeff Bateson. The third goal was put in by Jewitt—assist by Stewart.

With the game tied 3-3 the final goal of the game was scored by Spang, sealing the victory.

"It was the biggest goal I had ever scored in my life, and the hardest fought game all season. It was an up and down battle," Spang said.

Jewitt said, "It was the greatest feeling of my life. Hope is our biggest rival. We were down 2-1 and we came back and showed

what it took. I thought it was really nice to have a guy like Nate Spang put in the winning point. He had been working hard all season."

A lot of hard work has been put in by all the players and by the coach. Frey has led the soccer program from fifth in the MIAA to first and he has only been at Alma for five seasons.

"I was fortunate with the players I had when I first got here, but there was no tradition of Alma soccer. I focused on getting the players to expect to be successful and to get more used to winning. It was just about changing attitudes," Frey said.

"I feel good for our seniors. They were the first class I recruited. They had a real desire to succeed. Their first year they took fifth in the conference and the last two years they took second. But the victory is really special for them," he added.

Alexander said, "I'm happy for Coach Frey. He turned the program around in four years."

"The program has gotten better. I don't think the first-year students understand where the program has come from. Coach Frey is the greatest coach I have ever had. The best thing about this victory is the great team unity," added U'Ren.

Hondorp said, "The soccer program has come a long way from where it was to where it is now. Winning the conference was one of the best things that has happened to me at Alma. And to win it in my home town in front of the people I grew up with was a great tribute."

"It's unbelievable to have come so far. It's been a great four years. I wouldn't have it any other way," Jewitt said.

Nationals is next on the list for the Scots.

Jewitt concluded, "We're excited. It's our first time there. But we're going to enjoy this victory for a few days, then get our heads on straight."

Senior goalkeeper Todd Ruiter makes a save in Wednesday's game against Albion. The Britons were held scoreless in the contest as the Scots secured a share of the MIAA title, winning 5-0. Photo by Derek Warner.



Above: An Alma College soccer player attempts to head in a shot.
Below: Senior Tom Jewitt hugs a team member in celebration. Jewitt scored two goals in the Scots' game against Albion and one against Hope. Photos by Derek Warner.

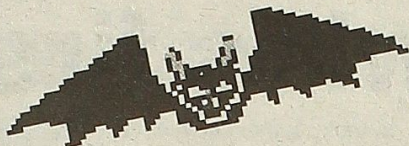


FINAL MIAA MEN'S SOCCER STANDINGS

	League						Overall				
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	W	L	T	GF	GA
Alma	11	1	0	22	39	10	14	3	1	49	15
Hope	9	3	0	18	29	11	14	4	1	50	14
Kalamazoo	7	3	2	16	26	20	8	7	3	33	36
Olivet	5	7	0	10	16	18	12	8	0	50	25
Albion	3	7	2	8	15	29	5	10	2	25	38
Calvin	2	8	2	6	12	26	4	12	2	18	32
Adrian	2	10	0	4	11	32	6	13	0	26	43
Defiance	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	14	0	42	81



ALMA COLLEGE GETS SP



Campus organizations provide spooktacular Halloween entertainment

By Rhonda Smith
Staff Reporter

Last week was spooktacular for Alma College. Ghouls, scary stories and haunting melodies marked the celebration of Halloween here on campus. Activities in residence halls for trick-or-treaters, poetry readings and songs by the Alma College choir were featured events for the week.

On Wednesday evening Newberry, Mitchell, Bruske and Gelston Halls opened up to Big Brother/ Big Sister's trick-or-treaters. Mitchell Hall also sponsored a haunted house in the basement of the hall. The recreation room was partitioned and housed the horrific scenes created by Mitchell Hall Resident Assistant (RA) staff and hall council members.

Newberry Hall and Bruske Hall witnessed costumed children, who wandered their corridors in search

of sweets. In Newberry Hall, residents who wished to pass candy out to the youngsters posted orange paper pumpkins on to their doors. This let the little goblins know which rooms to hit up for candy.

Thursday evening was EPIC's opportunity to frighten Alma College students. Congregated in Heritage Center for the Performing Arts' trap room, EPIC hosted a poetry reading. The event began at 7:30 p.m. with the classic Halloween favorite "The Raven" by Edgar Allen Poe. After that members of EPIC encouraged readings by audience members.

Examples of poetry read include "The Dog," Allen Ginsberg's "Haunting Poe's Baltimore: Parts I and II" and "You are Never Ready," and "Achilles" by Nicole Blackman. Original works by Alma College students were presented to audience members also.

Senior Maria Toscano, who headed the event, commented, "I was really happy people showed up. I think

everyone had a good time."

Finally, the choir concluded the week with their performance on Halloween night. "The Haunting" was performed twice, at 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. The first show of the evening entertained trick-or-treaters and their parents after they finished traveling the streets for candy. The second show, which concluded the Halloween celebration, catered to an older audience of students.

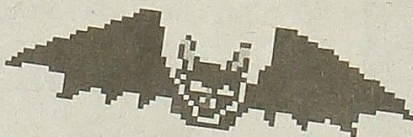
The choir sang a number of old favorites, spooky tunes and humorous renditions. Anne Galsterer (99) sang "Poor, Unfortunate Souls" from Disney's *The Little Mermaid*. Neil Diamond's "To All My Friends" was revised by seniors Tim Nester and Jim Coe as "Too Old My Friend."

Other songs performed by the choir included "Kiss the Girl," "Katy Cruel," "Buffalo Gals" and "Down by the Riverside."

Sophomore Heather Venema commented on the entertainment. "It was a good show. It was a lot of fun to watch," she said.

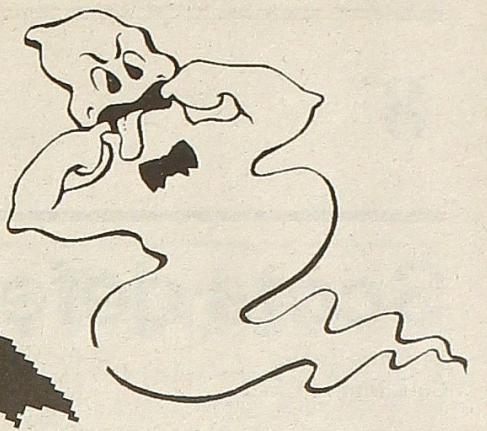


Choir members display their Halloween costumes at Friday's performance of "The Haunting." The concert featured Little Mermaid hits such as "Poor Unfortunate Souls" and "Kiss the Girl." Photo by Kathy Reed.

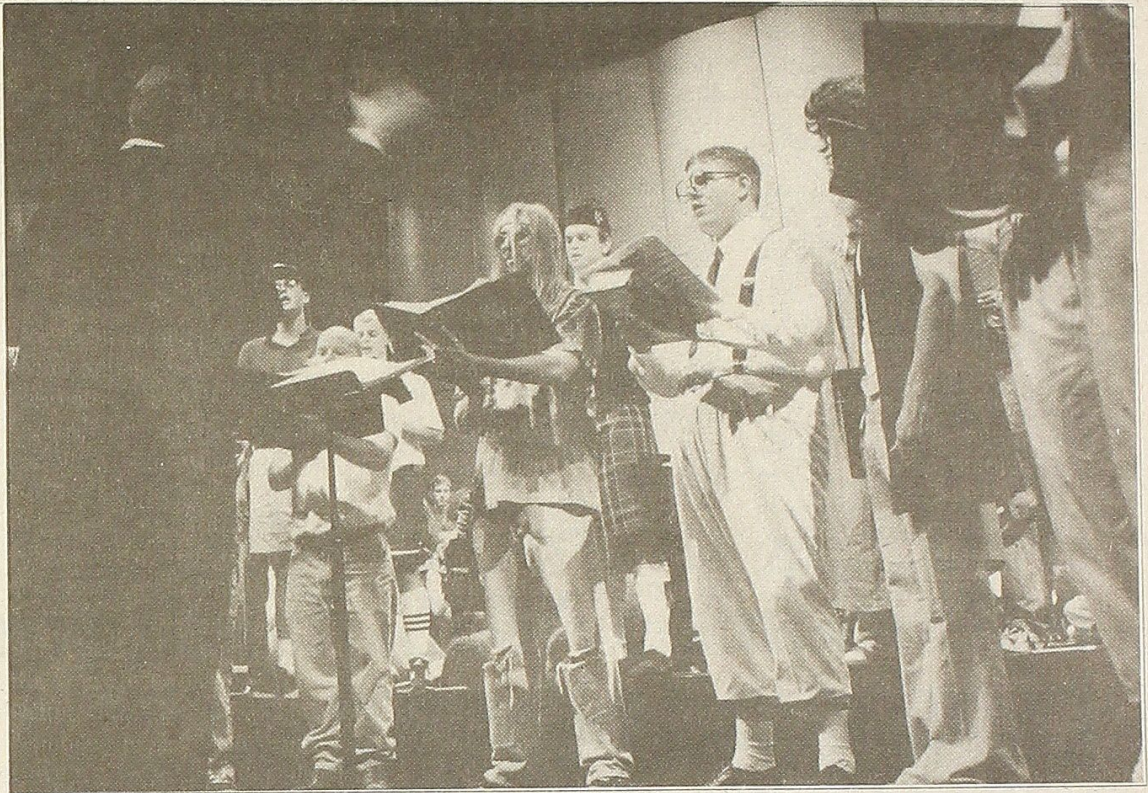


As Big Brothers/Big Sisters participate in trick-or-treating, juniors Martha Schaefer and Mark Oberman work the Gelston Hall refreshment table. Photo by Derek Warner.

OOKED FOR HALLOWEEN



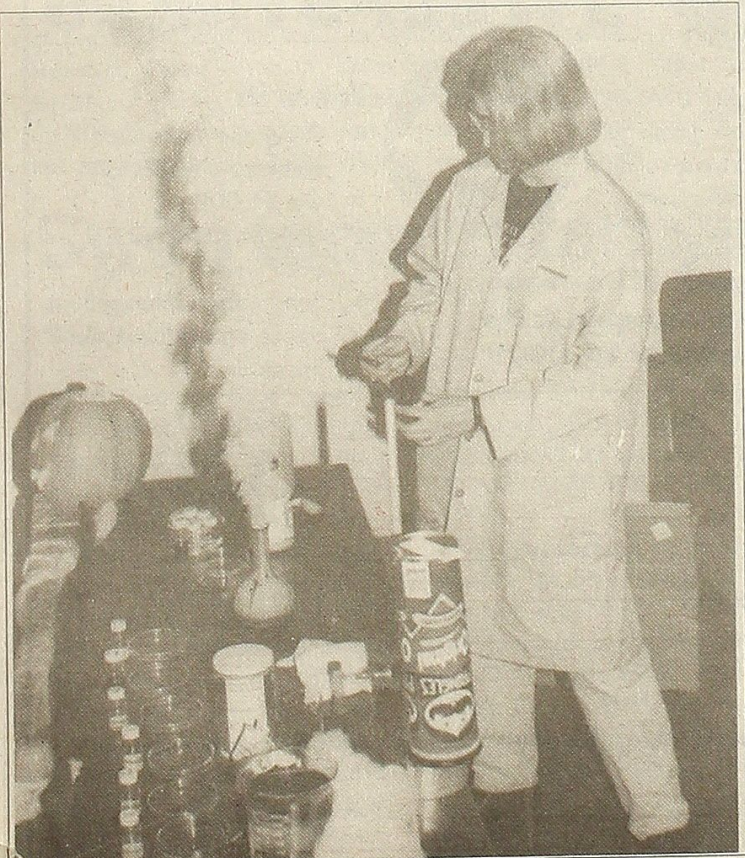
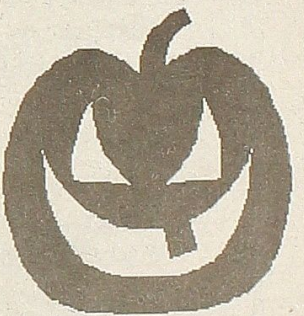
First-year students Zacchaeus Compson and Dede Frey set up for the Gelston Hall haunted house, which was held on Wednesday. Photo by Derek Warner.



William Nichols, professor of music, directs the choir in Friday's concert. The choir performed two performances on Friday, one at 8 p.m. and the second at 11 p.m. Photo by Kathy Reed.



Sophomore Jeff Fox escorts trick-or-treating "littles" from Big Brothers/Big Sisters through Gelston Hall. Photo by Derek Warner.



Senior Nancy Gettel, a member of Chi Epsilon Mu, the chemistry honorary society, performs a "Halloween demonstration" for community children. Photo by Derek Warner.



Scots defeat K-zoo, 20-16

By Chris Tapley
Co-Editor in Chief

Despite rainy weather, the Scots kept their football home winning streak intact Saturday by defeating Kalamazoo 20-16.

Both teams started slow, going four downs and out on each of their first two possessions. However, the Scots drew first blood when junior quarterback Jason VanDerMaas found first-year student Jake Golden in the end zone for a touchdown. Junior Rick Brands added the extra point, making the score 7-0 in favor of the Scots with 5:18 left in the first quarter.

The Scots held the Hornets off until early in the second quarter when Kalamazoo quarterback Auric Hall found receiver Wade Thompson open in the end zone

for six points. Mike Nishizawa added the extra point to tie the game at seven a piece.

The tie did not last for long, as VanDerMaas ran seven yards for a touchdown just seven plays later. Brands's kick was good, bringing the score to 14-7 Alma. The Hornets would add a 26-yard field goal late in the second, sending the teams to the locker rooms with the score Alma 14, Kalamazoo 10.

Early in the second half the Hornet's Ian Palrymple broke into the open field and ran 62 yards for a touchdown.

"We missed the tackle at the point of attack," said Alma Head Coach Jim Cole.

Alma bounced back when Brands's kick split the uprights on a 21-yard field goal to make the score 17-16 Alma. The Scots

never looked back adding one more 40-yard field goal while holding Kalamazoo scoreless.

Alma's style against Kalamazoo was different from previous games. Alma is typically a team which depends heavily on the pass, but in this game they depended equally on both their passing and their running game to defeat the Hornets.

"VanDerMaas made just enough plays for us to win," said Cole.

Ray Dawood led the Scots' rushing attack. Dawood ran for 129 yards in the game with VanDerMaas the next closest rusher with 39 yards.

Brands also added to the offensive effort. Brands had two field goals, two successful point after attempts and two unreturned kick-offs.



Three Alma players tackle a Kalamazoo Hornet. The Scots' defense held Kalamazoo scoreless for the majority of the second half as they continued their home winning streak by defeating the Hornets on Saturday by a score of 20-16. The Scots will travel to Olivet next weekend to play the Comets in their final game of the season. Photo by Jon Croff.

FINAL GAME STATISTICS

	Alma	Kalamazoo
First Downs	23	18
Rushing Yards	241	166
Passing Yards	202	151
Total Yards	397	290

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing

Ray Dawood 25 attempts / 138 yards
Jason VanDerMaas 13 attempts / 63 yards

Passing

Jason VanDerMaas 14 passes / 29 completions
202 yards 1 TD

Recieving

Jake Golden 2 catches / 71 yards, 1 TD
Tony Elliot 4 catches / 42 yards

Field Goals

Rick Brands 21-yards 40-yards

"[Brands's] confidence is growing with every game," said Cole.

Senior John Streeter, sophomore Tim Webb and Dustin Armstrong led the defense with 11, 9 and 8 tackles respectively.

The Scots face Olivet next week in their final game of the season. They need a win to end conference play above .500 at 3-2.

SPORTS BRIEFS

National Sports Headlines

Michigan stops Minnesota

Number four Michigan allowed a 90-yard opening drive for a field goal on the Gophers first possession, but then settled down, allowing only 60 yards total the rest of the game. Michigan went on to post a 24-3 victory, setting up Saturday's showdown with Penn State at Happy Valley.

World Cup Qualifying

The United States National Soccer Team earned a scoreless tie on Saturday with Mexico in their quest for a berth in next year's World Cup in France.

New York City Marathon

Kenya's John Kagwe ran 2:08:12 over the 26.2 miles, outdistancing Mexico's German Silva to record his first New York Marathon title. The women's race winner was Franziska Rochat-Moser

from Switzerland, running the course in 2:28:23. Both runners earned \$40,000 for the win.

Florida Marlins

In a salary move, the World Series Champion Marlins decided not to pick up the options on original Marlin Jeff Confine and veteran Darren Daulton. This was the first of many expected salary related moves by the suddenly cash-strapped Marlins.

Sun Devils Spoil Washington State's Perfect Mark

The Cougars magical run under sophomore Ryan Leaf ended on Saturday as Washington State was upended by defending PAC-10 champion Arizona State. The loss drops the Cougars to 7-1 and opens the door for cross-state rival Washington to move back into the race for the Rose Bowl.

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Red Wings' Corner by Scott Ferrante

Wings continue to win without Fedorov

The Detroit Red Wings have begun what looks like will be another stellar season in the National Hockey League. Yes, the season is very young, but you have to admit that they do look very impressive right now. If there is an irony to the Wings' early success, it would have to be that they are experiencing their success without the assistance of superstar Sergei Fedorov.

The Wings have not skipped a beat yet in a young season that has been anchored by the usual stingy goaltending. Chris Osgood has begun what looks like will be another all-star year. Kevin Hodson, in his first year as a backup goalie in the NHL, has made a worthy impression on many loyal fans. The defense con-

tinues to shut down opponents on a regular basis, even without Fedorov.

Fedorov was claimed to be the best defensive forward in the league over the last few seasons. However, Nickolas Lidstrom fires shots from the blue line that somehow find the five hole more times than not. Igor Larionov hustles into position to stop a breakaway with the speed he seemed to have on the Russian Red Army national team almost twenty years ago.

Aaron Ward and Jamie Pushor have not only gained "on the job" training from the Wings' experienced talent, but have also added youthful energy and attitude to the team.

The offense, like a fine wine,

only gets better with time. How can this be without Fedorov? Are you kidding? Well, Steve Yzerman looks as amazing as he did when he came to Detroit from the Canadian junior hockey program 14 years ago. He shows his leadership, his courage and his champion attitude in every game he plays.

Brendan Shannahan, perhaps the Red Wings' next captain once Yzerman retires (god forbid), proves night in and night out that he is one of the game's best.

And any young hockey fan can not help but to root for Chris Draper, Martin Lapointe, Joey Kocur and Darren McCarty. The spirit of youth and the heart of a champion shine through their jerseys when they take the ice. Some-

how their fists seem to give shine to opponent's eyes every now and then as well.

All this leads Red Wings' fans, that have seen the early success to believe that their success in absence of Fedorov is not ironic at all. Why should it be, though? Have they continued to play at the same level they did last spring? Yes. Does the team chemistry seem to be as strong, if not stronger, now than when they had Fedorov? Yes. Have the Detroit Red Wings shown they are the best team in the NHL right now? Yes. So where does the irony come in? When do the Red Wings begin to play bad because of Fedorov's absence?

The question more people

should be asking is: Why should a team sitting at the top of the National Hockey League sign a player asking for no less than \$7 million per year? Right now, I can't think of any reasons. I don't think Red Wing's management can either. Don't get me wrong, I, like many other hockey fans in Detroit love Sergei Fedorov. Not only has he contributed greatly to Detroit hockey and its creation of a champion, but he has changed the entire face of hockey in general.

I would love to see Sergei Fedorov in a Red Wings uniform again one day. But at a price tag of \$7 million annually and with a first place team already on the ice, I just don't see it happening anytime soon if at all.

Cross country teams finish MIAA competition

By Beth A. Knapp
Co-Editor in Chief

Under cool and overcast conditions, the men's and women's cross country teams battled the best of the MIAA in the conference championship on Saturday. The women's team finished fourth and the men's finished fifth in the overall league standings.

"Obviously the weather wasn't the best," said senior Joy Engblade. "The course was soggy."

"As usual, it was raining or snowing. It seems like our conference meets are always in the rain or snow. It's never a nice day," added senior Ben Witte.

Engblade led the women's team, finishing fifth with a time of 18:30. Other top runners included sophomore Anne Grimaldi, who finished 13th in 19:14, junior Amy Burns (28th in 20:09), senior Katie Rodgers (29th in 20:11) and Rebecca Walter (30th in 20:20).

"We ran well as a team, but are capable of much

more. Hopefully, we will do just that at regionals," said Grimaldi.

Both Engblade and Grimaldi received all-conference honors. Engblade was named to the first team and Grimaldi to the second team. This is the first time in seven years that the women's team has had a runner named to the first team all-MIAA.

On the women's side, Calvin won the meet, accumulating only 31 points, Hope finished second (46 points) and Albion finished third (96 points). The Scots accumulated 105 points.

"We really wanted to beat Albion and we didn't, so we were kind of disappointed," stated Engblade. "[However], we were proud of Hope for remaining competitive with Calvin."

According to Engblade, Calvin usually dominates the sport.

The men's team was led by senior Jerry Howard, who finished 18th with a time of 26:32. Other scorers for the team were junior Pete Muccio, who finished

20th in 26:46, first-year student Mark Williams (29th in 27:19), first-year student Brent Warner (35th in 27:58) and Witte (36th in 28:13).

Calvin's men's team also finished first in the conference, accumulating only 21 points in Saturday's meet. The Kalamazoo Hornets finished second with 48 points, followed by Hope with 80 points. Albion ended up in fourth place (120 points), just ahead of the Scots (138 points).

The teams will not compete again until November 15, when they travel to the NCAA Great Lakes Regionals in Terre Haute, Indiana.

Witte thinks that two weeks off will benefit the teams. "For most people it will be a good break," he stated.

Engblade echoed his sentiments. "We need it mentally," she stated. "We're really going to focus there next two weeks. We really want to peak at regionals."

Final MIAA Standings

WOMEN'S

1. CALVIN
2. HOPE
3. ALBION
4. ALMA
5. KALAMAZOO
6. ST. MARY'S
7. ADRIAN
8. DEFIANCE
9. OLIVET

MEN'S

1. CALVIN
2. KALAMAZOO
3. HOPE
4. ALBION
5. ALMA
6. ADRIAN
7. DEFIANCE
8. OLIVET

Swim teams start year off with strong performances

By Cheryl Lenard
Staff Reporter

"It's going to be a big year," said Men's and Women's Assistant Swim Coach Paul Griffin following the teams' meets at Grand Valley State University (GVSU) on Saturday. Seven teams competed at the GVSU relays Saturday including Calvin College, Alma, GVSU, Wayne State, Albion College, Hillsdale College and Olivet College.

The men's team had its best finish ever at the relays capturing second place overall with 92 points coming in behind Calvin

College.

Swimming in a victory for the men's team were junior Bill James, sophomore Mike Heyd, sophomore Mike Cox and first-year student Nick Holliday in the 400 IM relay with a time of 4:05.48.

"We are looking forward to possibly the best season we've ever had in the history of Alma College guys' swimming," said Heyd. "For some of us, our first swims were relatively mediocre, but we ended up having some truly exceptional swims."

"The men's team was a very pleasant surprise. As the meet

went on, I could not believe they were there. There were just some spectacular swims, Bill James and Mike Heyd in particular," commented Griffin. "Bill James did a stand-up job in the 400 IM relay."

Men's and Women's Swim Coach Greg Baadte reflected similar feelings about the meet.

"The guys were a big surprise for us. They came out and swam really well," he said.

The women's swim team won the relays for the second year in a row with 116 points. They beat Grand Valley State University by

only two points.

The women's team came home with victories in three relays.

The 300 meter butterfly relay consisting of Jenni Troyer (01), Nicole Gentry (01) and Laura Camann (00) finished with a time of 3:17.82.

Libby Beckett (99), Katie Zellen (00) and Amanda Barker (00) won the 300 meter backstroke relay with a time of 3:13.59.

The 400 meter IM relay also captured a first place with a time of 4:31.04 and included first-year students Sarah Vandermeer and Andrea Carlson in addition to

Troyer and Gentry.

"Everybody swam well," commented Griffin. In particular he noted performances by senior Renee DeGraaf and sophomore Laura Camann.

"Renee DeGraaf had a great meet. We saw times that we didn't see until deep in the season last year." He also noted Carlson's finish in the 3x500 meter swim. Anchoring the race, she picked off a swimmer in the last leg of the race.

Regarding both teams, coach Baadte concluded, "It's a really good start to the season for us."

Sports Uncovered by Tim Caister

Marlins buy themselves World Series Ring

For this week's column, it's necessary to finalize the Major League Baseball season, and update an earlier report which came out of the National Basketball Association.

•A week ago Sunday, the Florida Marlins won the deciding game seven in the 1997 World Series, provoking many thoughts of (gee, think about it), MONEY! Welcome to the newly discovered idea in South Florida, money can buy happiness. Outside of South Florida, criticism is swirling about the manner in which the Marlins got to the World Series and eventually won it. Wayne Huizenga, practically owner of the South Florida

region, helped to fund the spending spree last off-season which brought players Alex Fernandez from the White Sox, Moises Alou from the Expos, Bobby Bonilla from the Orioles, and finally, manager Jim Leyland from the Pirates. All these factors aligned with previous players like Kevin Brown and Gary Sheffield make for a quick-fix pennant winner.

Congratulations Florida Marlins, you've alienated the baseball community with this sleazy way to win a World Series.

Oh, but that's not all about the Marlins. It seems this sneaky plan by the Marlins has finally hurt the hand that has fed them, Huizenga. He now wants a \$350 million stadium from the state legislature in order to help him decide whether or not to remain as the

owner.

Make up your mind. You have your ring, now pay the price for it. He has also made threats that the Marlins may have to cut down on their payroll from the existing \$54 million down to \$20 million. This would be an amazing cut-back and accomplishment if it can be done.

Presently, the only team under a \$20 million payroll is the Pittsburgh Pirates. Looks like Leyland is right back where he started. Also, Sheffield and Fernandez have a "no trade" clause within their contract, which leaves only \$3 million of the \$20 million to spend on the rest of the team.

Good luck Marlins, looks like you're paying the price now.

One final note on the World Series. A great deal of recogni-

tion is deserved towards Jim Leyland. Four decades in professional baseball and he finally won his ring. Joe Torre last year, Jim Leyland this year, who's next?

•In my last column, I described a report which said that somewhere around 60 to 70 percent of the players in the NBA use marijuana. Well, now there's one more important item to add. It seems that the players' union wants to use this as a bargaining tool.

Since the substance abuse policy in the NBA doesn't say anything about marijuana, the league would like to add this in, but the players' union has different ideas. They want something in return from the league for adding in this clause, or else it won't sign the collective bargaining

agreement.

Excuse me?! Is the union defending the players' use of the drug? Do they see its use vital to a player's performance on the court? I think the union needs to re-examine this argument before it gets itself into hot water.

•Finally, there can't be a conclusion to a baseball season without a little optimism for the Tigers. There are a lot of free agent pitchers out there, Ilitch has the money, G.M. Randy Smith knows how to spend it and the Tigers are all but in the American League Central division. Things are looking up for the Tigers.

Reagan administration led decade of prosperity, growth

By Shannon Casey
Staff Reporter

Were the 1980s a decade of greed or a decade of prosperity? Many regard it as a time when the rich got richer at the expense of the middle and lower-classes. These people conveniently forget to mention the economic boom that started in the 1980s and will continue into the next century benefiting people of all income levels.

Liberals attack Ronald Reagan as an evil man who disregarded the poor, catered to the rich and elevated the deficit because of his defense spending. In reality, President Reagan made difficult decisions that resulted in unparalleled American prosperity and, in the long run, the demise of the Soviet Union.

When Reagan entered office in

1981, the country was in a downward spiral of economic well-being and global influence. He inherited a 12 percent inflation rate and interest rates that peaked at 21 percent. From day one, President Reagan advanced his agenda of across-the-board tax cuts, government deregulation and inflation fighting policies in order to get the economy back on track.

The Reagan administration's first official act in office was the elimination of price controls on gasoline. As a result, gas prices fell dramatically and have remained relatively low. The energy crisis was ended with a stroke of a pen.

Reagan's goals were simple: improve the economy and transcend communism. To accomplish these tasks, he was forced to set priorities and make difficult choices.

The economic crisis Reagan inherited took a long time to create and wasn't going to be solved in a year. Nonetheless, he advanced his agenda of economic prosperity.

In order to improve the economy, Reagan reduced taxes 25 percent across-the-board during his 8 years in office. He also relaxed government regulation and encouraged venture investment. In 1981, venture capital for new industries was at \$5.8 billion. Venture capital skyrocketed to \$11.5 billion after the tax cuts of 1983. Reagan knew that letting people keep more of their money encourages investment.

For these reasons, Reagan's administration was highly successful. Between 1983 and 1989, 20 million new jobs were created and 10 million have since been created. During President

Reagan's second term the United States experienced an average inflation rate of 3 percent.

People who despise Reagan always complain that his economic policy favored the rich because he decreased the top marginal tax rate from 70 percent to 28 percent. They conveniently leave out the fact that taxes collected from the top 1 percent of income earners increased from 18 percent of all revenues in 1981 to 28 percent in 1988.

The top 5 percent of earners paid only 35 percent of all the tax collected in 1981, but in 1988 they absorbed 46 percent of the tax burden. During this time, the tax shares of middle and lower-income Americans declined.

With less of their income going to the government, Americans donated more money to charity. After adjusting for inflation, only

\$65 billion was given to charities in 1980 as opposed to \$100 billion in 1989. Where is the greed everyone keeps talking about?

Although Reagan is often blamed for running huge budget deficits, the deficits during Reagan's last year in office were only 30 percent of gross domestic product; this is almost the same as when he was first elected.

The deficits the administration ran in the 1980s was a great investment in ending the Cold War. Under Reagan, the United States was able to beef up its military. This allowed the United States to deal with the Soviet Union from a position of strength, which eventually lead to its demise. With the Soviet Union eliminated, the threat of nuclear war greatly diminished. Americans could finally live without worrying about a nuclear holocaust.

Library needs additional funding to remain competitive

By Brandon Edward Miller
Freelance Writer

The library is the heart and soul of a liberal arts institution. More than just a collection of books and computer terminals, it is a laboratory in which students realize their quest for knowledge.

The Alma College library is in dire trouble. Our book collection is especially weak in areas such as literature, foreign language, political science, computer science and history and desperately-needed periodicals cannot be purchased. For example, request after request for the *Washington Post*, arguably the country's second most important newspaper continue to be denied because of lack of funds.

The Great Lakes College Association, which is a collection of institutions including Albion, Hope and Kalamazoo College

provides a benchmark for Alma to measure itself against.

Out of the 13 colleges in this association, Alma ranks 12th in amount spent annually on the library (we only fare better against Antioch College, a school with only 565 students), last in the amount of money spent per student and 11th in the categories number of volumes added, volumes added per student and the number of professional staff. Finally, our collection of 212,000 books ranks last. Wabash College, with a student body half the size of ours, is the closest with over 40,000 more volumes.

If we are genuine in our quest for quality, this problem must be rectified. We cannot claim to be Albion's equal when their library collection is over 25 percent larger than ours and they spend 15 percent more annually on their students. We cannot continue to in-

fer that we are superior to Hope College when they exceed us in almost every category.

I read with great enthusiasm that the natural sciences departments have received over \$3 million to update their laboratories. I submit that the library is the laboratory for students of the humanities and social sciences. Over 78 percent of library usage, measured as materials checked out, is by these students and faculty.

While most small institutions of high quality spend about 4 percent of their annual budget on the library, Alma spends just over 3 percent. The cost of books and periodicals rise annually over the rate of inflation, yet the library's budget increases at an annual rate of 3 percent. We are falling behind. In 1977, the ratio of spending on periodicals to books was 32.9 percent. For 1998, 65 percent of the library's print materi-

als is devoted to periodicals, leaving only 35 percent for books.

I propose that the administration and the board of trustees seriously consider a one-time "grant" of at least \$1 million solely for the purpose of purchasing books. This is the only way that we can seriously begin to compete with our peer institutions. Then we must seriously consider how to permanently fund a quality library.

Critics will argue that the advent of on-line periodicals and books makes spending on libraries obsolete. I submit that there is nothing further from the truth. While technology is important, advances that do not require one to move for more than a fleeting moment away from the revered computer terminal and into actual library shelves are years away—if we accept the premise

that this is our goal.

I also question the administration's priorities. Through a process administered by the Evergreen Committee, extra monies are allocated to different departments of the college if they are available at the end of a budget cycle. If available this year, an extra \$50,000 will go to the library and \$100,000 to computers. I think that our priorities are not in order.

The Alma College library is in deep trouble and is plunging further behind. Without a real financial commitment by the administration, we will continue to fall further and further behind, forever sealing our fate as a national liberal arts third tier institution. I strongly urge the administration to consider this a priority and seek funds to fix it, as it has been so successful in the past on other projects.

November 4, 1997

OPINION

11

Term limits will end campaign confusions

By Shannon Casey
Staff Reporter

Politicians repeatedly blow hot air regarding two issues, but refuse to confront them: campaign finance reform and term limits. These two issues, if approached correctly, would end much of the corruption that surrounds politics in this country.

It is typical of most politicians to pass laws affecting everybody else, but if a law affects a member of Congress it is generally dead before the final vote. The reasons are obvious; members of Congress have a great career, why put that career in jeopardy by challenging the status quo?

It is obvious that illegal money finds its way into their campaigns. Some members of Congress want to pass meaningless laws that will accomplish nothing more than give them free media coverage. Others want to pass campaign finance laws that will primarily hurt their opponents' political party, but do nothing to improve the system.

The only way to end campaign finance abuses is to change the system in a way that would make it unprofitable for individuals and foreign countries to funnel large amounts of money into campaigns. There is only one logical way to accomplish this seemingly impossible task: term limits.

Term limits would create more competitive elections and significantly diminish the impact of money on campaigns. Illegal contributors look for long term investments. It is not profitable to invest in candidates who will be

out of office in six or eight years. When the big money leaves elections, the corrupt politicians follow.

The problem with enacting term limits legislation is that members of Congress would be voting themselves out of a great paying job. On top of the \$150,000 plus salaries, members of Congress receive great retirement benefits and the prestige of the office.

Without term limits, the incumbent re-election rate is over 90

percent. In the 1996 elections, 94 percent of incumbents were re-elected in the House of Representatives and 95 percent of incumbents were re-elected in the Senate.

Why the overwhelming re-election rate of incumbents in a time when America has so little faith in government? The incumbent candidate has a major advantage over the challenger in most Congressional elections. Name recognition, instant media attention,

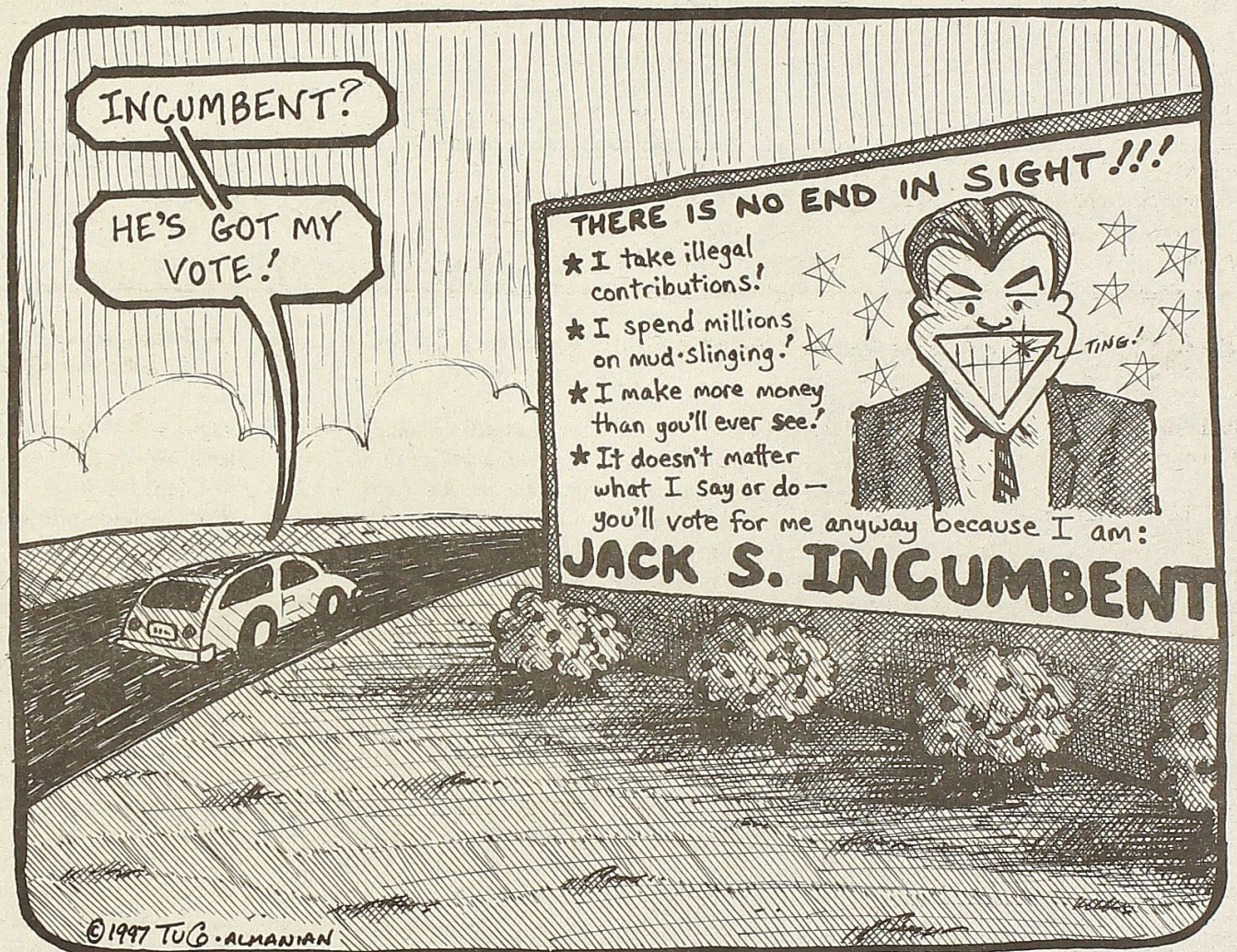
full-time staff paid by taxpayers and franking privileges makes it hard for a challenger to compete.

Since 1980, members of Congress have sent 8 billion pieces of mail to voters; only 10 percent of the mailings were in response to constituent calls or letters. The other 90 percent are used for self-promotion.

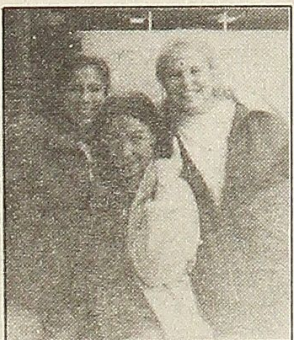
With the high rate of re-election, there is no wonder illegal contributors find Congressional

men a great long-term investment. Term limits would end this cycle of career politicians and take most of the illegal money out of our political system.

There is hard proof that term limits works. In 1990, California voters enacted term limits for their state legislature. In the next two elections, the average spending on state campaigns was down 44 percent. How much more proof do true believers in campaign finance reform need?

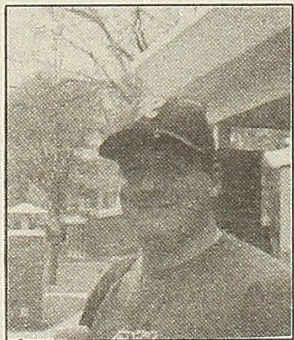


Do you think that Alma College currently spends enough money on library resources?



"I think that Alma needs to spend less money on library resources and more money on fixing all the broken machines in the workout room."

Jaclyn Sauter (99)
Royal Oak
Stephanie Craig (98)
Saginaw
Stephanie Yatch (98)
Midland



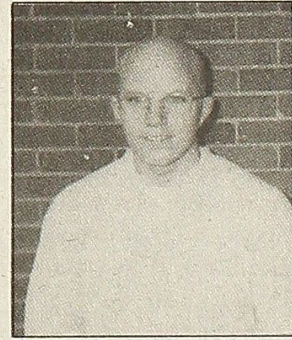
"I think its pretty good because I can get anything that I need. Although, I do think that they need to have more computers in the library and around campus."

Steve Bouvy (01)
Reese



"No! I never find anything for communication which is my major. They don't have anything that is up to date and they don't have a lot of journals that I need for my classes."

Karen Steeno (99)
Big Rapids



"No, they don't. They don't have any car magazines, even small public libraries have automobile magazines. Alma has great real intelligent magazines and they even have Cosmo and Glamour, but no Road and Track. I even put in requests, but they said no."

Devin Ripmaster (00)
Grand Rapids



"No, we basically don't have the same resources as most other colleges in the state. We need to spend more money on it, so that we don't have to go to other libraries to get the materials that we need."

Jen Corry (98)
Port Huron

Staff Editorial

Microfilm machines cause confusion

The end of Fall Term is nearing which means many Alma students are beginning to prepare for their final research papers. Most of these students will use Alma's library as their first step in the research process.

Our library holds thousands of books, periodicals and journals that students can use for their research. There are computers available to help students find useful articles and to search for materials that our library does not have. Also, the addition of a new computer lab in the library has been very beneficial to students when it comes time to put the research together. But, the issue that our editorial board would like to address is the microfilm machines.

The library keeps back issues of many influential magazines and newspapers on microfilm to save space and allow for more issues to be available. But, when students find out the article they are seeking is stored on microfilm, they cringe. This is because of the machines that run the microfilm.

First off, it's almost impossible to figure out the correct way to thread the microfilm onto the machine. Once that is done, right side up, learning to focus, zoom and rotate the article is an even bigger task. It would be nice if directions were provided on how to accomplish these feats. The worst problem though is that when students finally find the article they have been diligently searching for, printing it out is impossible.

One student tried each of the three microfilm machines located in the basement of the library that were supposedly in working order, one was not. The first machine stole that student's money, it costs ten cents per page, and both of the other two printed but the machines were out of ink. Thus, they spent an hour, and thirty cents, finding an article only to realize that they would not be able to print it out.

Our concern is not to criticize the library as a whole but we just ask that better care be taken of the microfilm machines. Please check to see if there is paper and ink in the machines, try to post more comprehensible directions for students to use and if one machine does not work properly . . . get it fixed.

Letters to the Editors

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

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To the Editors:

My note will hopefully serve two purposes. First of all, on behalf of the entire football program I would like to thank everyone in the campus community for the support and enthusiasm they showed during the Homecoming festivities. The weekend turned out to be wonderful and we were pleased that we did our part too. The support you give provides incentive for our players and staff.

Secondly, the fact that Homecoming and fall break happened at the same time, occurred only after painstaking efforts by many people, over a three year period, to avoid it. Our President Stone, Athletic Director Denny Griffin and Director of Alumni Bob Eldridge wore out all avenues of appeal prior to turning their collective attention to making it the memorable, wonderful weekend that it was. We will all try to avoid this scenario in the future, as having the student body on hand for our contests is very important to the team. For now, thanks to the many students, faculty, staff, band and community members who worked so hard to make it work.

Coach Cole

...

To the Editors:

This is in response to "Arts will thrive without NEA support" by Shannon Casey in the Opinion section of the Oct. 29, 1998 issue of *The Almanian*.

The NEA, while mishandling funds, is an agency that supports the arts. Set aside the facts that they do not manage themselves well and look into their goals. The NEA provides grants to art-

ists. These grants enable artists to provoke the thoughts of the public through their work. This work, art, is the cause of much controversy.

Controversy has surrounded and been intertwined with art since the dawn of mankind. Art is not merely the canvas of perverts and anti-religious cults. The Sistine Chapel and Michelangelo's David are two prime examples of legendary works that were and are often considered controversial.

If art offends you, try to understand it rather than claim it "anti-religious, pornographic material and just plain bad art." It is this close mindedness that make people blind of their surroundings. Art is very often a reaction to society. While you say art is protected under the First Amendment, you must not truly believe the meaning of free speech. How do you know that a NEA funded work is offensive to the majority of Americans? You don't until you ask and I highly doubt you asked anyone before you made these accusations.

In speculating, your ideas concerning art would probably place my own art within this vague "anti-religious, pornographic and just plain bad art" black hole. I may as well burn in hell since I am now a pervert destined to rule the occult while creating bad art.

As an artist I see your views as naive and afraid to confront what is set in your pathway. Sometimes you need to investigate a subject more thoroughly before writing about it. Your opinion concerning the arts and the NEA is very superficial and lacks insight to be considered even reasonable to me. While the arts will thrive regardless of political oppression or bureaucratic red tape, the elimination NEA funding will be a blow felt for years to come.

Ryan C. Flesher (98)

Stock Market needs correction to end volatility

By Timothy R. Caister
Opinion Editor

A couple of months ago, there was a high amount of speculation concerning the stock markets worldwide, especially within the United States. There was a concern that the rate of increase that the markets have enjoyed for a couple of years, mostly since 1991, has caused some grave speculation. Now the stock markets have shown a greater volatility after the trading within the past two weeks, and there is a need for greater stability.

Analysts have seen this trend, and claimed that the stock's value on the market, and their "true" value could be somewhere around a 20 percent discrepancy. These over-valued markets are a concern; however, the speculation is part of the problem.

The stock markets worldwide have enjoyed a large increase over the past couple of years. The New York Stock Exchange is only one of them. The Dow Jones, the top 30 blue-chip stocks who serve as an indicator for the NYSE, had risen over 8000. This has led to some optimistic speculation. Although, speculation of any kind can serve negatively no matter what attitude it wears.

The great crash of 1929 proved that speculation was costly. By no means does the great crash become analogous to the recent changes on the markets, but there needs to be an understanding

about the harms of speculation. Speculation about the market occurs in all channels leading to the trading table, from Alan Greenspan to your local broker. People involved in the market love to put their two cents in the discussion.

Although the markets do show some signs of becoming stable again, there is still a feeling by some that the market still needs a "correction" to help displace this over-valued gap. This is true. Corrections are needed by the markets in order to "start over." With the hasty increases of the markets, it is bound to become a speculation market, rather than a stock market. It is this over-valuation of the price of stocks which causes problems. A correction is needed, and without it, the volatility of the markets will continue.

The NYSE on a week-ago Monday lost over 554 points, and turned around on Tuesday by increasing 337.17 points. This is not going to provide a positive outlook. Whether or not you have an interest in the stock market, remember that the market does severely effect our economy. We need stability, not volatility.

A correction in the market is needed. When this correction occurs, speculation will most likely become muted, and a new era in the markets will occur. At this rate, the Dow could reach 55,000 by 2022. If investors need security, they need a correction.

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