

# The Almanian

Tuesday, April 9, 1991

Alma College's Student Newspaper

Issue 20

## Students vote for officers and activity fee

By Stacie Herriman  
Assistant News Editor

Student Congress held its annual elections for the 1991-92 academic year Monday, April 8, in Hamilton Commons during both lunch and dinner. According to Mike Collins, Student Congress vice-president, both voter turnout and candidate

participation were higher this year than in previous years.

Collins offered an explanation for this increased participation. "More people were genuinely motivated to run for office, and [similarly] they were eager to vote for their friends," said Collins.

The new Student Congress officers for the 1991-92 academic year are: President Dave Woodruff,

Vice-president John David, Secretary Emily Shaw and Treasurer Drew Walker.

Class of 1992 officers are: President Heather Ruppel, Vice-president Patti Westphal, Secretary Dave Gilkey and Treasurer Amy White; Rick Lantz is associate trustee.

The Class of 1993 elected Mark Lauzon, president; Mark Wass,

vice-president; Robin Olson, secretary; and Jim Dial, treasurer. Meanwhile, Scott Schoessel was re-elected for a second term as associate trustee.

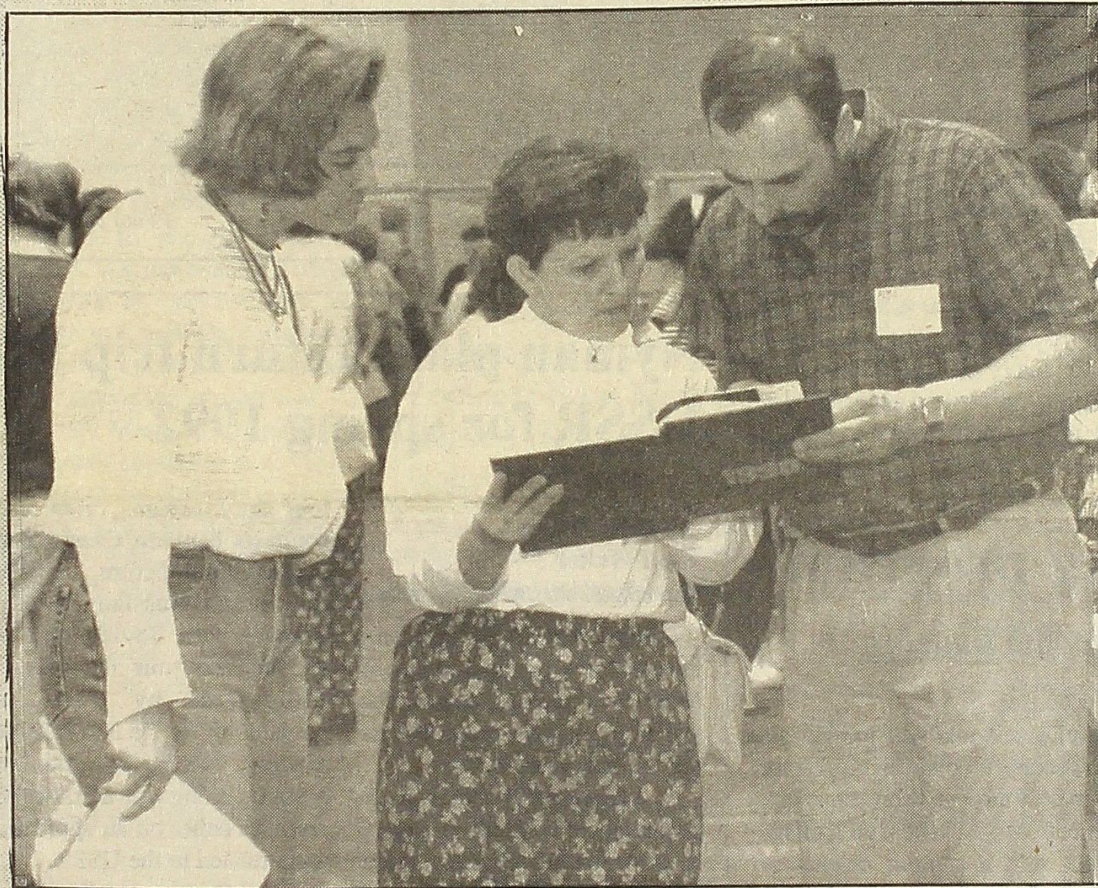
No president for the Class of 1994 was elected; a candidate's petition was lost in the shuffle after being turned into Student Congress. The election for this office is scheduled for Thursday, April 11, during lunch

only in Hamilton Commons.

The Class of 1994 new officers include: Jennifer Smith, vice-president; Rebecca Murray, secretary; and Randy Thelen, treasurer. Reggie Reed will represent the class as associate trustee.

The student body also voted down the increased student activity of  
*Continued on page 3...*

## Explo draws future Class of '95



Alma College hosted its annual Explo program for prospective students and their parents Saturday, April 6. Explo '91 began with registration, refreshments and opening remarks. Students then met with their Orientation Committee (OC) leader for an informal discussion, lunch and a campus tour. The day ended with a campus fair featuring the various student organizations and extracurricular activities.  
Photo by S. Traynor

## Valentine wins director position

By Tonya Frisbey  
Staff Writer

The Admissions Office, after a four-week search, hired Terry L. Valentine to fill the position of director of admissions.

Valentine, director of enrollment services at Spring Arbor College in Spring Arbor, Mich., will leave his present position and begin working at Alma College on April 15.

"He has very good management skills, and he's very student-oriented. He's read all the right books, knows marketing and knows Michigan," said Vice-President for Enrollment and Student Affairs John Seveland.

After Leon Washington resigned as the College's director of admissions in Aug. 1990, Seveland assumed the duties and responsibilities of the position until the College was able to find a new director.

According to Seveland, further information about Valentine cannot be released until he signs his contract.

## Scripps appeals dismissal

By Heather Laird  
News Editor

Music professor Douglas Scripps' contract has not been renewed for fall 1991. Reason for his dismissal is "failure to do academic responsibilities satisfactorily," according to Provost Ann Stuart.

Stuart declined to comment on specific reasons for the decision, but stressed that the decision was made after careful and lengthy consideration.

Scripps is appealing the decision. A committee hearing will be held sometime in late April or May; the committee, chaired by a member of the Board of Trustees, will consist of a faculty member appointed by Scripps, a faculty member elected at large from the faculty, and two administrators appointed by President Alan Stone. This committee is in the process of being formed; the general faculty member will be elected at the faculty meeting on April 15.

"I don't know the timetable (for the hearing) because that will be determined by Mr. Scripps, and the committee, and when people can get together," Stuart said.

Committee members will examine reasons for dismissal, listen to Scripps' position and make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees.

Stuart stressed that all music programs, including band and orchestra, will be in place in the fall. Stuart talked to members of these groups last week to discuss the situation.

## New English professors selected; physics search continues

By Julie Boltman  
Staff Writer

Two new English professors have been selected and will begin teaching Fall Term 1991. Michael L. Selmon specializes in contemporary British drama while Roseanne Hoefel will teach American literature courses.

Approximately 425 candidates applied for the positions. According to Eugene Pattison, English chairperson, Selmon and Hoefel stood out with excellent presentations.

Selmon currently teaches at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina where he has been since 1988. He received his master's degree in linguistics and his doctorate in English from the University of Maryland. Selmon completed his undergraduate work at Miami University in Ohio to graduate as a Phi Beta Kappa with majors in religion and mathematics. He continued his education at Miami to graduate with a Master in Science degree in mathematics.

Pattison was impressed with Selmon's multiple degrees and background in drama. He has visited London several times and "knows the London stage well," said Pattison. With this background,

Selmon will help to replace retiring English professor Joe Sutfin.

Roseanne Hoefel has spent the past year teaching at Iowa State University. Hoefel received her doctorate in English from Ohio State University with a dissertation on the works of Emily Dickinson and Virginia Wolff. Hoefel earned her master's degree in English, as well as her bachelor's degrees in English and French, from the University of Akron.

Pattison noted Hoefel's "general interest in the variety of ways English is appreciated."

Hoefel will teach Poetry (ENG 130) during fall term and Modern American Literature (ENG 366) winter term. Selmon will teach

British and American Drama (ENG 364) and Drama (ENG 132). In addition to these, they will both teach three courses in college rhetoric, including ENG 100, ENG 101 and ENG 200.

Pattison said, "(both Hoefel and Selmon are) as eager to come to Alma College as we are to have them."

Meanwhile, the physics department has not yet selected a new professor. An offer was extended to an applicant, but for personal reasons he could not accept. According to Physics Chairperson John Gibson, with over four hundred applicants for the position, "We are back to looking some more."

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## Epic hosts English career discussion panel of alumni

By William J. Johnston  
Assistant Feature Editor

Six Alma College alumni returned to campus on March 25 to take part in a panel on "What to Do with an English Major," co-sponsored by Epic and the Center for Student Development.

Gary Evey '81, Meg MacDonald '85, Polly Veder '85, Christa Drelin '87, Jennifer Dine '89, and Barbara Sutherland '89 returned to campus to speak about their trials and tribulations in attempting to find work with English degrees.

The six hold a variety of jobs in editorial and journalism fields: Evey is Corporate Communications Editor for Spartan stores, Veder and Drelin work as editors for Gale Research, MacDonald is editor of the science fiction magazine *Pandora*, Sutherland assembles the *Carson City Gazette*, and Dine works for Booth News Service.

Most of the speakers painted a

dismal picture for English majors—a picture of a market with few openings and low pay. Dine, however, disagreed. "You don't just waltz in," she said. "It's hard to get in sometimes. A two-week unpaid trial period is pretty common. If you can write, you can do anything."

MacDonald, who also works as a free-lance writer, doesn't get paid for her work with *Pandora*. "It's worth it for me," she said. "It's a labor of love for me. There is room for art for art's sake."

Evey provided helpful advice for people having trouble finding jobs. "Two things I found important for me were an 'information interview' and 'creating your own job,'" he said. "Sometimes you have to create your own job. I put together a dummy newsletter, brought it in, and convinced them of the necessity of having one."

All, however, stressed the benefit of their Alma English degrees. "I didn't appreciate how difficult Alma was until I started at Michigan State," Dine said. "English is looked upon more highly than journalism. They know English majors have done a variety of writing and have

been criticized more severely."

With his position, however, Evey said he wished "I had some art ability...computer experience would be helpful, too — terminology, desktop publishing. Political science and government are helpful, too."

The journalists in the group also mentioned speech classes as important for interviewing skills.

"When I was an English major at Alma, there wasn't a great deal of talk about what you can do with it," Evey said. "I think it's important that we shared our experiences. A lot of worthwhile information got presented here; I don't know how much the audience got out of it."

Junior Heather Jelley said she thought the panel went well. She said, "I found Gary really interesting because that's something I might like to do. I think people saw what you can do with the major."

Epic president Cheryl Learst echoed Jelley's comments. "I think it was really good because it gave people who went the opportunity to see there's more to do than being a teacher," she said. "I hope it will become an annual event."

## Bowker presents lizards



Richard Bowker, biology professor, presented his Last Lecture on heat dynamics of lizards.  
Photo by A. Mull

## Nyman plans return trip to USSR for spring 1992

By Erica Drews  
Staff Writer

Picture yourself strolling through the celebrated streets of Moscow or trading blue jeans for military medals with black-market street vendors.

Melvin Nyman, math professor, is currently planning to offer the travel/intercultural spring term to the USSR and Finland in 1992 (ST 012). The class would leave Michigan at the end of next year's spring term and would travel for approximately 15 to 18 days. Because of the late departure date, students would be allowed to enroll in another spring term as well.

"It's a chance of a lifetime," said senior Brian Carney, a participant in last year's program. "After all, the USSR is probably not someplace you'll be able to take the kids to for summer vacation."

The tentative itinerary includes: Moscow, Leningrad, Kilnius, Riga, Tallinn, Helsinki and possibly one or two additional cities in Finland. Participants will

tour art museums, view the contrasts between Czarist and modern architecture, explore Slavic and Russian culture, interact with Soviet student groups and tour the Soviet countryside by train. In preparation for the trip, outside reading will be assigned in advance, along with a first-draft research paper on an approved topic related to the USSR.

Sophomore Meagan Karvonen, one of last year's participants, said, "It was an incredible experience. Not only did we get to see the history of the Soviet Union like a normal tourist, but we also got the chance to understand their culture through interaction with students."

The course is open to any student who would benefit from the experience, regardless of his/her field. No definite fee has been set, but the trip should cost approximately \$3000 to \$3500. This fee includes air fare, most meals, transportation and admittance to cultural performances and museums.

Interested students must contact Nyman by April 19.

## Ex-chaplain promotes housing program

*Habitat for Humanity provides non-profit, low-income housing*

By Maria Stephens  
Feature Editor

Rev. David McDaniels, former chaplain of Alma College, spoke to a sizable group of students, faculty, staff and community members about Habitat for Humanity International in Dunning Memorial Chapel on Wednesday, April 3, at 8 p.m. Habitat for Humanity International is an ecumenical, grass roots, Christian ministry which seeks to eliminate poverty housing.

McDaniels is currently director for campus chapters of Habitat for Humanity International.

"Habitat for Humanity wants to make shelter a matter of conscience so that, one day, there will be no

more shacks, no collapsing tenement houses, no homeless people sleeping on the city streets. Everybody will have, at least, a simple decent place to live," states literature on the organization.

**"Habitat for humanity wants to make shelter a matter of conscience..."**

Houses are built or renovated using as much volunteer labor and donated material as possible, and these houses are sold to a family too poor to afford a bank loan at no profit and no interest. The cost is repaid over a fixed period of time and these payments are used to build

new houses.

McDaniels told how individuals can become involved in Habitat for Humanity through short-term work projects, as well as how the College could start a campus chapter of Habitat for Humanity. The campus chapter could organize projects for students in the immediate community through cooperation with a community affiliate and arrange for students to donate money or labor to projects around the world.

Interested individuals signed a sheet to express their interest in forming a campus chapter. According to McDaniels, a "core" group of approximately six students and one or two non-student advisors are all that is needed to establish a campus chapter.

## The Almanian

staff positions  
open in the  
fall... Talk to  
an editor

### Attention Graduating Seniors!

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# Researchers present findings

## Michigan Academy promotes mentor relationship with faculty

By Tim Herbst  
Staff Writer

Twenty-four Alma College students and faculty members and two alumni presented papers at the 95th annual meeting of the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts and Letters on Friday, March 15, 1991 at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti.

The Michigan Academy is an opportunity for scholars and future scholars to present research projects, discuss academic issues and grow as professionals and students in their fields. Participants from Alma have worked on research presentations for the past year.

Ronald Massanari, religion and philosophy professor, said, "(The) point is to get students to present papers, and not for faculty to compete with students." It is a nurturing relationship; faculty promote the growth of students.

All papers, including those presented by students, can be submitted for publication. If accepted, these papers will be published in the "Michigan Academician" over the course of

the next year.

A new award in honor of Ronald Kapp, former College provost, was instituted this year. The "Ronald O. Kapp Undergraduate Award" is awarded to the student "presenting the most outstanding paper at the Academy each year." The award consists of a cash honorarium,

few sleepless nights. One student said, "I'm just glad it's over."

However, students and faculty may not have the opportunity to present papers in the future. The Academy is facing difficult times financially with a budget deficit of \$10,000. To combat this problem, Academy president Fritz Detwiler announced that dues would be

luncheon speaker was Arthur Levine, chairperson at the Institute for Educational Management, Harvard Graduate School of Education. Levine spoke on the need to look ahead and not be nostalgic in education. His theme was the crisis in education, confronting the challenges of a changing, global community.

and Linda Shane from the University of Minnesota, presented research in the botany section. Alumnus Tony Ruhlman also presented a paper in this section. Others giving presentations included: in medical sciences and human services, Brian Hitsman and Tom Batchelder; in music, Scott Messing; in philosophy, Andrew McLetchie; in political science, Mahmood Monshipouri and Dale Price; in religious studies, Joanna Beals and Tim Herbst; and in women's studies, Rachel Twining. Three groups presented in psychology: Marc Vanheynigan and Theodore Hertzog; Gerald Ross, Pamela Dhingra and Gwyneth Beagley; and David Modders and Tom Batchelder. Four groups presented in zoology: Scott Bouldrey and Karin Grimnes; Ben Grossman and Richard Roeper; Heidi Auman; and Lawrence Wittle, Kurt Caugh, Heather Ruppel and alumna Holly Rupprecht.

The Michigan Academy has historically been an important part of the College program. Several students and professors conduct projects together each year and present their findings to the Michigan Academy. In addition to giving professors opportunities to further their professional standing, it is an excellent opportunity for students professionally. The Provost's Office annually pays the fees for students and faculty to attend the Academy.

### College members attending Michigan Academy 1991:

**Botany:** Tony Ruhlman

**Medical Science and human services:** Brian Hitsman and Tom Batchelder

**Music:** Scott Messing

**Philosophy:** Andrew McLetchie

**Political science:** Mahmood Monshipouri and Dale Price

**Religious studies:** Joanna Beals and Tim Herbst

**Women's studies:** Rachel Twining

**Psychology:** Marc Vanheynigan and Theodore Hertzog; Gerald Ross, Pamela Dhingra and Gwyneth Beagley; and David Modders and Tom Batchelder

**Zoology:** Scott Bouldrey and Karin Grimnes; Ben Grossman and Richard Roeper; Heidi Auman; and Lawrence Wittle, Kurt Caugh, Heather Ruppel and Holly Rupprecht

recognition at the annual meeting and recognition in the "Michigan Academician." This year's award went to a student from Michigan State University.

The day was certainly a high point for many students. It was the culmination of much work and a

higher in coming years. In some cases, dues will more than double.

"Academic institutions which benefit from the Academy should consider giving more money to the Academy," said one student.

Both students and faculty had the opportunity to attend many presentations and symposia. The

Levine urged a constant monitoring of how much of the curriculum is vocational and how much is purely educational.

Those in attendance presented papers in nine sections. Two of Kapp's former colleagues, Gordon Synder from Schoolcraft College

## Women's Issues Board plans in advance

By Shay Norton  
Staff Writer

The Women's Issues Board, formed this spring by provost Ann Stuart from a list of volunteers taken at an initial meeting Jan. 22, is planning a campus-wide survey on women's issues to guide programming for next year.

The ten members of the board represent the five identified constituencies of the campus: administration, faculty, clerical, maintenance and students. Two representatives from each constituency serve on the board. Members include Deb Mapes, Emily Perl, Denise Shoup, Maria

Stephens, Shirley Crispin, Karen Lake, Jane Keon, Priscilla Perkins, Susan Dinwoody and Fran Groves.

The board has identified its purpose as three-fold: to identify issues of concern to women faculty, students and staff on the Alma College campus; to promote campus awareness of issues relevant to women's concerns; and to organize action to deal with issues relevant to women on the Alma College campus.

"I think (the board) got started because groups of women have been meeting informally (about women's issues)," said Perl. "We need to do more to address women's issues than we have been doing. We need to assess what the issues relevant to women and families are on campus and have a more comprehensive

approach than has been taken in the past."

Shoup, a student representative on the board, said she volunteered to serve because, "I'm concerned with women's issues and I'm interested in finding out how these issues affect this campus as a whole and in doing something to improve the situation."

An initial survey was taken of those who attended the Jan. 22 meeting. Thirty-seven surveys were returned; issues such as pay equity, family care and job equality received great response from those surveyed. The board plans to distribute a similar survey to the entire campus this spring, to aid the identification of key issues relevant to women's concerns on the College campus.

### Officers for 1991-1992 announced with activity fee defeat

From page 1...  
\$115.

Louis Cubba, Student Congress president, said the increase is a result of "the addition of five new student groups on campus — BACCHUS, the Pine River Anthology, United Coalition of

Students (UCS), WABM (changing to FM) and Epic. These groups have never applied to Student Congress because they didn't exist until this year. They applied to the Student Budget and Finance Committee... Increase was inevitable."

Cubba said, "A proposal of three ballot choices, one being across-the-board cuts, will be presented in Student Congress Tuesday night." If neither a student activity fee increase or proposed cuts pass, there will be "no activities next year."

## The Almanian

Would like to  
thank all of the  
businesses that  
have supported  
the paper during  
the year.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!!



## Just for the Health of it STRESS!

By Shay Norton  
Staff Writer

"Aaaaaahhhhhh! Two papers, finals, graduation—I'll never get it all done!"

This time of year tends to cause a lot of stress in the lives of college students. The pressure to get good grades and find a job is excessive, but there are many ways to identify and handle stressful situations.

Stress is your physical and mental response to changes in life. It occurs when the body does not adjust properly to internal or external stimuli. Bodily changes include quickened heartbeat and breathing, an increase in blood pressure, and muscle tension. If these symptoms remain for a prolonged period of time, headache, upset stomach, and irritability may occur.

Stress has not been positively linked to any illness, but studies suggest it weakens the body's defense mechanisms. Stress level may affect your immune and nervous systems, heart function, metabolism and hormone levels, making you more vulnerable to physical and emotional problems.

These are some signs of stress:

### PHYSICAL:

1. High blood pressure
2. Lack of appetite
3. Desire to eat when a problem arises
4. Inability to sleep
5. Feeling constantly fatigued
6. Frequent headaches
7. Daily need for aspirin or medication
8. Shortness of breath
9. Excessive nervous energy
10. Persistent sexual problems (Frigidity, impotence, fear)

### MENTAL:

1. Constant uneasiness
2. Boredom with life
3. Anxiety about money
4. Fear of death
5. Sense of suppressed anger
6. Inability to have a good laugh
7. Dread of the weekend
8. Feeling that you cannot discuss your problems with anyone
9. Inability to concentrate for a length of time
10. Inability to finish one job before finishing another

If you experience any number of these symptoms, see the people at Wilcox Medical Center, or try some of these methods:

**Relax** — Concentrate on a phrase or word and repeat it in time with your breathing, or close your eyes and picture yourself in a pleasant setting.

**Take a break** — Exercise or go someplace quiet to scream, yell, or cry.

**Ask yourself whether or not it is worth getting upset about** — Stay calm and ignore it, or confront it directly.

**Make a list of things to do** -- Prioritize the list and try to get only the most important things done on time.

Stress affects all of us, and college gives us an opportunity to evaluate the way we deal with it.

(Editor's note: Wilcox Medical Center provided the resources for the information in this article.)

## 'Pine River' sponsors reading

By William J. Johnston  
Assistant Feature Editor

"I thought it was the best poetry reading I've ever been to...it was filled with personality," said junior Louis Cubba, editor of the "Pine River Anthology," following a reading and slide show of the works published in the book.

Students, faculty and authors all gathered in the Clack Art Center Theater at 8 p.m. on April 4 for a reception and poetry reading celebrating this year's publication of the Alma College literary magazine.

The "Anthology" represents the culmination of many hours of selection, typesetting, layout and printing. The poetry, prose and artwork within the "Anthology" were judged the best of the over 140 submissions received.

Cubba invited the authors to attend the reception and read their published work, as well as any other work they felt like reading. He also suggested they offer background as to why they had written the poems and prose.

Of the 18 authors published in the work, 12 chose to read some of their poetry. Three others who

couldn't attend had their works read by substitutes.

"I thought it went great," said sophomore Kerrie Kemperman, who read two of her poems, "unscathed" (published in the "Anthology") and "the fetus dream." "I felt really nervous about the whole thing...if we could've sat on the floor in a circle it would have been cooler." Kemperman startled the audience when she read "the fetus dream," a poem she said she had composed, "earlier in the afternoon." The audience, expecting a short poem, sat enthralled as she read the 56-line work.

"I thought (first-year student) David Craig did an especially wonderful job reading his poems, as did everyone else," said Cubba. Craig's "Death Groom," published in the "Anthology," was written at the time when the author was in a "death mood."

Sophomore Reid Sisson gave an intense reading of his poem, "The Wolves' Song." "I thought it (the reading) went well," Sisson said. "We had some pretty good speakers and poems this year."

Sisson's poem represents his idea of a translation of the howling of wolves. "I was trying to

formulate...not their philosophy, but what they feel — what makes them happy," he said. "It's from the wolves' point of view. Originally, I was intending to write a short story, with the poem in it."

Junior Heather Jelley read junior Erin Fenner's poems. Fenner, Jelley's roommate for the past three years, could not attend the reading as she is enrolled in school overseas this term. "I was nervous about it because they're not my own (poems)," Jelley said. "I didn't want to mess them up or misinterpret them. I was happy to read them and let people hear her poetry."

Faculty advisor Carol Bender praised the reading and the "Anthology." "I thought that was the most outstanding student reading we've ever had," Bender said. "They were outstanding readers in terms of their skills. They took their role seriously and truly tried to share the emotions of their work."

Cubba, who helped select 18 poems out of over 120 submitted, said "Sex and death (dominated the poems' themes). Students seem to be fascinated with writing about sex and death and I think the 'Anthology' reflects that. I wish students would turn their concerns

towards larger social and political issues, (and be as concerned with them) as they are concerned with their personal feelings. I think it's important to write about (all) of them."

Submissions were down this year from last year. "We lost a lot of really good poets last year and that has affected the magazine," Cubba said. "Maybe people felt frustrated because they weren't accepted last year. It discourages people, but it shouldn't. I encourage all submissions."

Bender, however, said she felt "the good poems are equal to any year's. The good ones are outstanding."

Cubba lavished praise on his staff, especially art editor Mike Barnes and art faculty advisor Carrie Parks-Kirby. "I thought the artwork was tremendous," Cubba said. "Carrie helps tremendously with the layout and she's the one who reduces the photos and artwork to the right size. It really helped make the magazine a quality issue."

Bender echoed Cubba, adding, "Mike Barnes had a lot more experience because he worked with it last year. Last year we were sort of experimenting; this year, things went more smoothly."

### Book Review

## Words come to life in 'Sleeping with the Enemy'

By Leigh Walker  
Staff Writer

Book: *Sleeping With the Enemy*  
Author: Nancy Price

If there's a movie you want to see, the most logical thing to do is to see it. Well, either something in Alma's air has been getting to me, or I'm just not logical to begin with, for in lieu of seeing the movie, I read the book. The movie/book in question is "Sleeping with the Enemy." It's one of those books that I'm not sure if I like or not. The story is, on the surface, a simple one: a young battered wife, Sara, desperate to leave her brutal husband, Martin, fakes her own death and resumes life elsewhere in disguise. She finds, as the blurb tells us, "a new love, a new life," her next door neighbor, Ben. When Martin realizes she's not really dead, he decides to track her down.

This is a good book: the writing is excellent, the characters come to life, the plot is suspenseful. If I wanted to fall back on the book reviewer's clichés, I'd call it a page-turner, for it certainly kept me up all night. From that level, it would make a good movie, and that's probably what movie-makers were considering when they decided to adapt it to the silver screen.

Harder to adapt to movies, but certainly adding to the quality of the book, is Price's sense of the ironic. She writes with an almost viscous panache, and her little details, which would fade into the

background in the hands of another author, linger in the mind when Price is writing. The reader remembers that Sara had a red kitchen, that she bought a green dress; the vividness of these details help bring the book to life.

The book is by no means simple. The blurb on the jacket is misleading when it claims that Sara finds "a new love, a new life." Price is telling the reader much more than a story; while the book made me think, it wasn't the kind of thinking I particularly wanted to do.

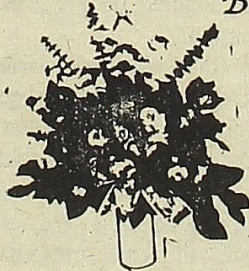
As the story progresses, I realized the book was about men and women in general more than about the runaway Sara. The problems between Sara and her husband were not the result of him being a cruel and brutal man; they were the result of the perceptions about men and women that the couple, especially Martin, possessed. Sara, as the victim, realizes that she needs the same things as her husband: dignity, freedom, self-respect. Martin thinks that women are "mysteries from another planet." It's okay to treat them differently, he reasons, because they are different. Even when Sara finally confronts him — "You don't want to beg someone for money, do you?...You don't want to live in someone else's house?...And clean up after someone else?...Could you make love to someone who beat you?" — Martin doesn't understand. He says of course he wouldn't, but he's a man. Women are different.

Sara's "new love," Ben, is no different. Sara angers him by her independence; he wants to marry her so that he can write the book he's been meaning to, since she'll keep after the house. He also thinks that "women are mysteries from another planet." Ben, like Martin, cannot understand what Sara means when she explains what a terrible burden womanhood is, and all its cultural baggage: "I don't want to be anybody's helpmate," she says, "I don't want to be kept...You want respect, your own job, your own house, your own money...That's what I want first, respect. Not the kind men 'give' women. I want the kind men get."

But while this is obvious to Sara and to the reader, Ben and Martin cannot see it at all. They see woman first, person second. And Sara has not escaped Martin; he's in Ben, and in every man she will ever meet. She's right where she started.

This is a depressing book, all the more so from the echoes of Ben and Martin I sometimes hear in my male acquaintances. I'm not saying I believe it; I don't. If I believed the picture was that bleak, I'd end it all right now. I do recommend "Sleeping with the Enemy," but if you read it, prepare to start thinking. It's not a book easily dismissed. As for the movie, perhaps I'll get around to seeing it someday.

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# Students learn by tutoring

By Amy McGinnis  
Staff Writer

Susan Root, assistant professor of education, has coordinated three programs in which Alma College students work with students of the Saginaw City School District. The programs, funded through a \$4756 Michigan Campus Compact Community Service Grant, are intended to provide students with positive role models and to increase these student's motivation to stay in school.

Alma College student-volunteers work with "at-risk" students in three ways. They participate in Writing Buddies, Project Success and Spring Fare, all of which encourage young students to continue their education.

In the first program, Writing Buddies, an Alma student is

matched with a middle school student in order to become pen-pals. The two then correspond throughout the year about topics and issues that concern them.

Alma College sophomore Maria Chalogianis has been in this program since January and said she finds it rewarding. Her pen-pal is a sixth-grader from Saginaw. "He seems very creative, and I'd like to help bring that out in him," said Chalogianis. "It's just great to have a friend like that who is younger."

Students also participate in the Project Success Program, developed by the Saginaw School District along with local churches, businesses and social service agencies to assist at-risk youth and their families. Students have been travelling to Saginaw to tutor students at an after-school study center every Saturday since the beginning of March. Root commented, "The program is going

very well and the participation is high." The Alma students, approximately 25 each Saturday, work with the at-risk youth from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m..

Root, who goes with the student tutors on Saturdays, said, "We have improved the program by allowing time for academics and recreational activities." The first part of the session focuses on academics and tutoring, and the second part deals more with creative, recreational activities and games.

First-year student Kimmer Popoff has gone with the group four times and said she enjoys the program. "We help them with whatever homework they have and also try to teach them other things, besides what their culture teaches them."

Popoff commented, "They experience things that I would never have experienced in my entire life. Their home life is so different." Project Success tries to encourage

these at-risk students to stay in school and the Alma student volunteers try to emphasize this goal.

After attending one Saturday session, junior R.J. Webber said that he thought the program was very beneficial. "I helped a preschooler, Charles, draw a sunset over a lake. I really enjoyed it and, all in all, the kids were very receptive to our help."

In the final area of the project, middle school students will have the opportunity to be a "college student" at the Spring Fare. During the spring term students will attend four short classes of interest to middle school students that are taught by the Alma faculty. The program will allow the students to see what college life is like for a day. Root also added that anyone interested in participating in the program should contact her for further information.

## Environmentally Speaking Earth Day

By Emily Shaw  
Staff Writer

Do you remember all the hype last year about the 20th anniversary of Earth Day? Have you heard anything about it this year, the 21st anniversary?

The first Earth Day, as most of us know, was April 22, 1970. In the 21 years of the movement there has been a lot of improvement in awareness of environmental issues. After the first Earth Day the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was created. Then Congress passed the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and other laws that changed the rules under which American enterprise operates. Since then, the government has not accomplished much in the environmental sphere. The Reagan administration made many cut-backs in environmental agencies, such as the EPA. Our country lacks vision and does not do anything to avoid future problems; rather we ignore problems until they become apparent. We need preventive actions because we have no idea how our actions now will affect the Earth later.

Earth Day was created so people could work together to help create a better world for future generations. When a multitude of people gathered in Washington for the first Earth Day they wanted the government to realize that people wanted changes made. This has had a great effect on the government; now most campaigns mention environmental issues. The environmental movement has created many jobs, particularly in pollution-control and waste-disposal. The number of conservation-oriented groups grew from approximately 200, with a combined membership of 4 million, in 1970 to 350 agencies and a combined membership of 12 million in 1990. Not only America, but the whole world, was affected. Strong environmental groups have started in Germany, Sweden, Italy, Belgium, Austria, Luxembourg, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Japan and Brazil. This is a good example of how the environment is an issue that concerns the whole world. If people do not work together to save the world, we will all perish together.

There are still many problems we face. If we do not do something about global warming soon, we will not have to worry anymore, because we will all be dead. As the ozone layer depletes, the Earth warms up and subsequently, living things die. If we don't die, then the polar caps will melt and half of the inhabited world will be under water.

As Earth Day 1991 approaches, people need to still remember the importance of Earth Day and all the reasons it was started. We must continue the efforts that were started 21 years ago.

# Task force continues recycling efforts

By Sarah Slater  
Staff Writer

"Recycling holds the edge in creating new jobs, protecting the environment, and conserving natural resources, but 40 million tons of paper still clog our landfills," reported the "Earth Care Annual, 1991."

Alma College developed the Recycling Task Force in the last two years to encourage the College community to "make a conscious effort to reduce the amount of paper, plastics, and glass, and to learn to recycle what is used rather than

toss it in the trash can," said Lisa Batterbee, Newberry Hall director. Batterbee is one of ten members on the task force. The force draws on personnel from administration, maintenance, faculty, and students. Batterbee, along with vice president of finance John Groteluschen, secretary Sue Deel, academic center secretary Ruth Ann Farrier, physical plant director Duane Knecht, physical plant staff member Gene Munson, physical plant assistant director Bill Steffes, associate professor of German John Arnold, French instructor Julie Arnold, senior David Kinsworthy and sophomores Emily Shaw and Maria

Stephens are all representative members on the force.

Each member realizes the need for recycling on campus. "I see people throwing away recyclables all the time, even pop cans that they can get money for," said Shaw. "It is just because people are lazy, and they don't think about it. It doesn't take that much energy to put them in the recycling bins. You just have to encourage people to do it."

Julie Arnold also feels a strong need to establish a recycling program at Alma. "Most of us who sit on the task force have been recycling for years and because of our own convictions, we decided to

do something for the college," she said.

The college community has tried to provide whatever financial support needed. Although the cost of the project has been greater in the past, Groteluschen said, "The cost to dump the recyclables is considerably less than it was."

In the fall of 1989, the Recycling Task Force established a workable program for the college. Presently, bins, boxes, and baskets clearly labeled for colored and white paper can be found in all the buildings on campus. Every Wednesday, Munson picks up and transports all recyclables to J.R. Smith Recycling in Ithaca. Steffes said that overall, recycling at the college has increased 25 percent since the program's start. In addition, it only takes physical plant workers one hour per week to collect and dispose of the recyclables.

In the future, the Task Force plans to expand its project from recycling only paper products to include the recycling of cans and glass as well. However, Groteluschen said that, "Our commitment is to try to make recycling paper run as smoothly as we can before we venture off into other kinds of recycling."

Over the past two years, Alma College's Recycling Task Force has proven its commitment to bettering the environment through recycling, but it takes the entire college community to make the project successful. At this point, the task force has not seen any extensive effort to make this possible. As Groteluschen said, "We got a nice start last year, but this year it's kind of leveled off. We haven't lost anything but we don't see where we've made a lot of progress yet. We don't see an overwhelming response on the part of students."

## ORCHESIS presents spring show

First-year students Molly DeLind, Carol Lingl, and Marya Parcheta perform "In the Mirror", choreographed by dancer Leslee Bartrem during the winter term Orchesis concert. Photo by A. Mull





# Alcohol

## Alcohol proves significant problem, affecting

By Heather Laird  
News Editor

National surveys indicate that drinking ages in the United States have decreased over the last ten years until the average starting point is between 12 and 14 years of age. Decreased drinking age, wider social acceptance of female consumption of alcohol and relaxed morals against use increase chances of abuse.

Survey of the Class of 1994 revealed that 61 percent drank wine or liquor before college. Overall, it was ranked the eighth most engaged in activity during high school.

"Having been on campuses where there was a serious campus problem, what you typically look at is a lot of vandalism, a number of students on academic probation or in academic difficulty, and a number of other related types of things — a large number of accidents, acquaintance rapes, theft," ex-

plained Bob Perkins, director of student placement. "When you look at it from that perspective, it wouldn't seem like we have a major campus-wide problem."

"What I've seen is a less problematic situation where I've had a large number of students that would overindulge in alcohol use over a time period," said Bill Clark, Wilcox Medical Center director. "But the ones I see are a lot more involved and a lot more progressive in the abuse process, and that's what's upsetting to me, that they come to school with a problem and it gets deeper as they progress in their educational careers."

Ten percent of personal counseling cases at the Center for Student Development are serious alcohol abuse cases. About six cases this year have been forced referrals due to academic or judicial problems. Ten to 15 cases per year are average rates for forced referral. Wilcox Medical Center has referred one student for counseling, and has not referred more than three per year.

While first year students tend to have more episodic drinking — one bad experience scares them and they decrease consumption — serious abuse is found in all

classes. Differentiation between male and female drinkers seems absent, although drinking patterns between the two may vary.

"We still end up with some pockets of serious drinking behavior on campus, where people get hurt, where people end up in the hospital with what could be deadly overdoses of alcohol, women getting sexually assaulted, accidents happening, and it'd be nice if we could head that off, but it's a college environment," said Perkins, relating how similar behavior has been described on college campuses since the 1800s. "I think it would be unrealistic to think that we could ever do away with the problems related with alcohol completely."

### Judicial Aspects

Nineteen of the 74 cases appearing before judicial this year were directly alcohol related. Two were successfully appealed, and one was unsuccessfully appealed. All others were unchallenged. Five or less of the students involved were repeat violators.

All cases involved males, a trend which carries over into other judicial concerns. In addition, Mitchell Hall has the most alcohol-

related write-ups, with Bruske Hall second.

"I don't know if things are taken care of a little more in-house with females or if the males are more visible," said McClure. "(Maybe) because they're seen, they're reported more."

Violations include open intoxicants in the hallway, noise violations leading to discovery of underage drinkers, one keg incident, supplying a minor, a personal property damage issue, noise violations, drinking in Cappaert Gymnasium at runouts, and one unauthorized fraternity party.

Some judicial cases are indirectly alcohol-related; offenders were not written-up for violation of alcohol policies. Of nine quiet hours violations, seven were alcohol-related, as were three of four insubordination cases and three of four personal property damage cases.

Two students were referred for counseling through judicial. Both were found guilty of alcohol-related charges, with one a repeat offender and the other a first time violator.

Correlation between date rape and alco-

## Personal trial highlights student's life

By Karen McDonald  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Several things come to mind when we, as a society, think of alcoholism. We sometimes consider alcoholics as weak individuals who somehow have lost control of their lives because they just couldn't cope. However, if approached with the accurate knowledge, it is easy to see how mistaken we are.

Amy Weise, Alma College junior, is an alcoholic. She serves as the president of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority and plans on attending medical school; yet she suffers from the disease of alcoholism. Since the age of 12, Weise has experienced the effects of alcohol and finally admitted herself into a clinic during her first year at Alma College.

"I thought I was going crazy; I thought I could maintain everything else and still drink like I did," she says as she recounts her process of dealing with the disease. "Admitting you are an alcoholic is admitting a defeat; you have to surrender to win."

Weise says she started experimenting with alcohol because it made her feel happy and less afraid to talk to people. Soon she realized that as a result of the alcohol she was experiencing a behavioral conflict in what she felt was acceptable when she was sober, and what she did when she was drunk. Her high school and college career soon perpetuated her use of alcohol. After a frightening experience with driving while intoxicated, she realized that she was in trouble. Since her admittance into the treatment center, she has been forced to deal with the problem which plagues her: alcoholism.

Weise is not alone. Statistics show that college students spend more money on alcohol than they do on books. With this in mind, it is not surprising that Weise has had a difficult time staying sober in a college atmosphere. A friend and past roommate of Weise's admits that their

friendship has had some difficulty due to the alcoholism.

"It's difficult for a person who can control their drinking to understand someone who cannot control their drinking," her friend states with a sense of frustration, "It's easy to forget every day that she is an alcoholic and what it must be like for her." This difficulty that Weise's friend speaks of contributes to the problems Weise has had adapting to an environment where many people do not understand the disease of alcoholism.

**"People don't understand sometimes that I have a disease. It's not a weakness, it's a disease. The American Medical Association has labeled alcoholism a disease and still people see it as a weakness."**

Amy Weise

"It's hard when people ask me if I want to get drunk; I want to do it, but a part of me knows that if I continue to drink — I'll die." Weise possesses a definite will to succeed. She speaks out of experience and it's easy to admire her strength.

"I can't really say what's going to happen beyond today. It's a fight every day; just because I'm sober today, doesn't mean I'm going to be tomorrow... I don't want to die drunk." Weise, who has only just recently reached the legal age to consume alcohol, yet it has been one of the most devastating elements in her life. She differs from most of her peers in ways that she feels separate her immensely.

"There is an unspoken peer pressure to drink; you're expected to. People who drink

want to be around other people who drink," she states matter-of-factly. Still, Weise maintains that it is a person's own sickness that causes them to be an alcoholic, not a decision. "It's not a moral problem, I didn't choose to be an alcoholic. I sometimes have a hard time convincing myself that I am a sick person trying to get better, rather than a bad person trying to be good."

However, Weise's friends seem to have a great deal of respect for her. When asked to describe Weise in one word, her friend replied, "Strong." After speaking with Weise, this "strength" is clearly evident.

Her manor is elegant and she speaks with an impressive amount of faith in her own life. It is clearly evident that her struggle has not been easy. Since Weise's admittance into treatment, she has suffered two relapses and often finds it difficult to relate to her peers. However, she has accepted her alcoholism and has learned to deal with a society that often encounters the disease in an unsympathetic manner.

"People don't understand sometimes that I have a disease. It's not a weakness, it's a disease. The American Medical Association has labeled alcoholism a disease and still people see it as a weakness." The frustration in her voice is evident when she speaks of the misconceptions people have about alcoholics as well as the use of alcohol. "I hear so many stories about how drunk someone got the night before, or how foolish they were acting and I just want to say to them, 'Why don't you do something real? Alcohol isn't real.'"

It is evident from her current lifestyle that Weise has still managed to live with a disease that she often views as limiting. She attends daily meetings in order to discuss her frequent problems in dealing with the disease. Perhaps her philosophy on life best reflects that of a recovering alcoholic; "I want to embrace the moment and share myself with other people; I can't do that if I'm drinking."

## Programs of

By Heather Laird  
News Editor

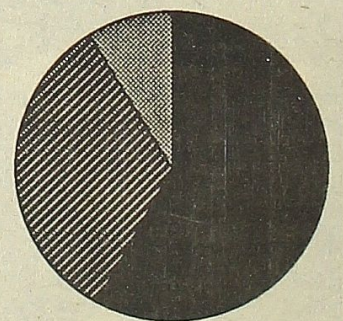
Alternatives to activities involving alcohol are as important as alcohol awareness programs, said Linda Harleston, assistant dean of students.

"(Alcohol awareness) doesn't always have to happen through people coming and sitting through a lecture and hearing about alcohol abuse," said Harleston. "It's about the idea of providing non-alcoholic alternatives for students." There's always that conscious effort even if our programming doesn't relate di-

## Batterbee exami

Lisa Batterbee, Newberry Hall director, conducted a campus-wide survey on alcohol use the week of Feb. 11 as part of a requirement for her master's program. The survey utilized many questions to deter-

When did you begin drinking?



■ in high school  
▨ in college  
□ before high school



# Abuse

## g academics and personal lives

national phenomenon which concerns administrators. Only one case has been reported on campus this year — a dramatic decrease from last year.

hoping that the dramatic decrease in incidents means there's a dramatic decrease in actual incidents," said Perkins, "acquaintance rape as the most direct serious problem related to alcohol abuse."

### elling Perspective

knowing the problem is the first major step in counselling. Of the ten percent of alcohol-related cases at the center, the issue usually arises out of conversation centering on secondary problems. Academic, judicial, and personal problems may all be alcohol-related.

the substance abuse field, we talk about it on your own agenda, or being on the agenda," said Perkins. "It seems alkyll-and-Hydish at times, and that's what makes it a real difficult process."

continued, "My favorite quote about alcoholism is that it's the disease that convinces you you have no disease. It's a very difficult disease to become aware of... You

have to help them understand where alcohol has played a negative role in various areas of their life."

After identifying the problem, several avenues are open. Rather than curtailing all drinking activity, Perkins recommends setting limits on consumption. One popular system is no more than three drinks per weekend and no more than two in one night.

"Loss of control doesn't interest me as much as an inability to predict how much you can drink," said Perkins. "Say, I'm going to go out tonight and decide to have a couple of beers. If (I) have a couple of beers, that's great. But if (I) don't remember how many (I) had the next day, that's a problem."

### Medical Perspective

Four College students were hospitalized this year with blood alcohol levels of 0.35 or greater (0.40 is typically comatose), while a Mt. Pleasant man died with a level of 0.38.

"Let's face it, you kill brain cells once you get your blood levels up to a certain point," said Bill Clark, Wilcox Medical Center director. "(The four students) saw themselves as invincible... Death was not a reality. Hospitalization

didn't do any good."

Approximately ten students per week report to the Wilcox Medical Center with secondary problems related to alcohol, according to Clark. He estimates that ten percent of the population has an alcohol problem, but has only seen between six and ten with alcoholic tendencies.

Clark also pointed out a change in drinking behavior among students. "When I first came, I think we saw a lot of people with hangovers on Mondays, now we've been seeing people throughout the week with gastritis, fatigue, headaches, all of these symptomatic complaints which can be related to alcohol."

Gastritis, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhea, headaches, fatigue, muscle aches and lack of strength are typical hangover complaints reported to the medical center. After prolonged and, in some cases, increased alcohol use and stress, duodenitis and hyperacidity may develop.

One risky behavior Clark noticed among students this year is induced regurgitation. It increases chances of aspiration and tearing of the esophagus and stomach sphincter from dry heaves. It also doesn't remove alcohol from the bloodstream.

## WARNING SIGNS

- Tolerance
- Personality changes
- Blackouts
- Academic problems
- Inability to predict not drinking
- Inability to predict amount of alcohol consumed
- Guilt associated with drinking
- Amount of money spent on alcohol
- Damaging property while drunk
- Drinking alone or throughout the day
- Drinking to get drunk
- Drinking before social events
- Drinking for motivation
- Desiring alcohol regardless of event
- Always getting drunk at parties
- Drinking to escape
- Drinking while angry or upset
- Thinking about drinking a lot
- Missing classes due to hangovers

## Alternatives fer non-alcoholic opportunities

to alcohol awareness.

We know that students under age are not to drink, but our plan is to provide alternatives, promote responsible drinking and definitely the drinking and driving issue since we've had some problems," continued Harleston. "You do what you can and hope students take advantage."

"I don't want a bunch of teetotalers who think there isn't a place for alcohol," added Clark, Wilcox Medical Center director. "It shouldn't be your only option."

Clark sees past problems regarding programming as a result of decentralization. "Everyone was kind of working out here on their own... You've

got to get them involved on a larger scale," he said.

"I have felt for years that (with) a campus like this in a fairly rural area, that it makes sense to put fairly significant monies into student activities," said Bob Perkins, director of student development. "And the college has put more money into student activities."

Perkins advocates activities like ski trips, mass bussing to plays and on-campus concerts.

Spring term programming is currently under consideration. With nearly 800 students staying on campus, an increase over past years, a programming need was identified.

"There's starting to be more of a trend of actual planned programs on campus during

spring term because the general focus has always been that spring term is this time to really relax and kind of bust loose," said Harleston. "It's one of those times when you want to really encourage alternatives."

Union Board, although not under contract, will present one program, a movie fest week of Rocky films and a picnic with entertainment coordinated with Marriott. A Co-Curriculum program is also scheduled, while plans for a canoe trip are on the drawing board.

Spring term activities can be a problem due to the need for advanced budget planning, but, "The need is there to provide those kinds of options," said Harleston.

## es alcohol attitudes through campus survey

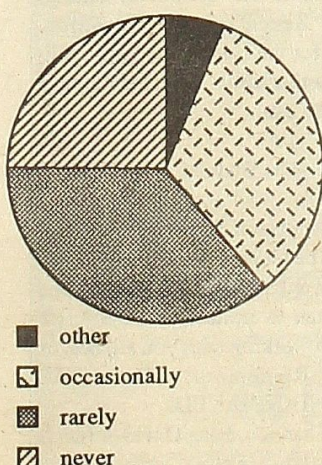
students' attitudes and backgrounds. 978 surveys, 496 were returned. Statistical error may enter since completion of the survey was voluntary, only about half the survey responded, and more females than

males responded.

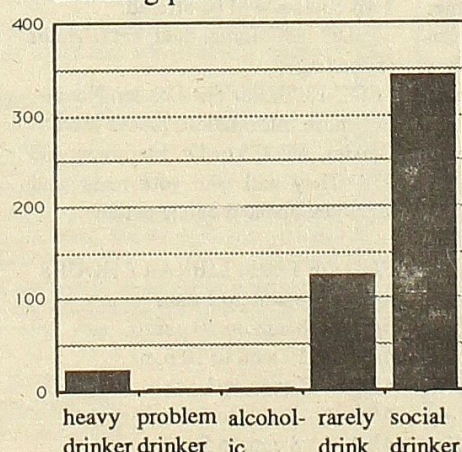
Fifty-one percent agreed there is a campus alcohol problem. The majority of students said they drink weekly, with 48.8 percent consuming one to three drinks; most studies classify

social drinkers as consuming four to six drinks per occasion. The most popular choice was mixed drinks, followed by beer, wine and straight liquor, respectively. National surveys indicate beer as the drink of choice.

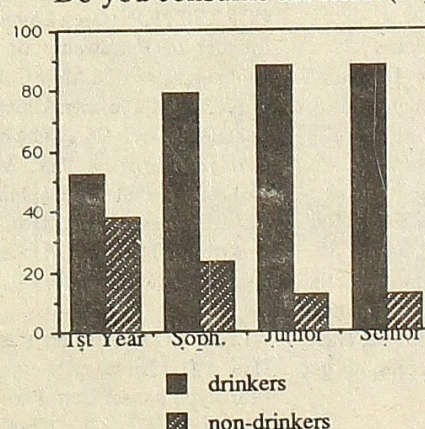
Do you feel pressure to drink from others?



How would you describe your drinking patterns?



Do you consume alcohol?(%)



## HEALTH TIPS

- Don't induce vomiting — this may cause aspiration or tear the esophagus and stomach sphincter without reducing blood alcohol content

- Drinking water after consuming alcohol doesn't not "sober you up." Drinking a sweetened drink may speed the recovery process but it will still take several hours; to displace blood alcohol of toxic levels, high concentrations of sugar are given intravenously.

For hangovers:

- Avoid bright lights, loud noises and upsetting foods
- Drink clear liquids
- Take aspirin or Tylenol
- Give your body time to recover
- Other home remedies are not scientifically proven

For dry heaves:

- Prescription medication in shot, pill or suppository form can halt
- Emetrol, an over-the-counter, herbal-type antemetic, may help
- Avoid dairy products which stimulate the pancreas and may stimulate vomiting
- Home remedies like epsom salts or baking soda may help





Album Review

# REM returns to its roots

By David D. Woodruff  
Staff Writer

Album: *Out of Time*  
Group: REM

Eclectic at best, rarely predictable, but always subdued and a bit unimposing even during the "louder" songs, REM proves once again that they are the little band that could. The album is filled with string sections, mandolins, abrupt cadences and everyone playing everyone else's instruments. From its home base in Athens, Georgia, Bill Berry, Peter Buck, Mike Mills and front man Michael Stipe have once again bucked the establishment and surprised many who assumed that REM had "sold out" after hearing their 1988 release "Green."

"Out of Time" is made up of 11 songs that sound as if they were written to prove to the world that REM is still the benchmark that other progressive and alternative bands are compared to. Album reviewers will often refer to a band sounding like a cross between "old REM" and whatever. With the release of "Green" and the subsequent heavy airplay of songs such as "Pop Song '89," "Orange Crush" and "Stand," many saw the album as a confused attempt at making thin political and social statements while trying to attain

commercial success, something they had a small taste of with "Document."

"Losing my Religion," the first release off the album, has been in heavy rotation on MTV since its debut. With its acoustic guitar, string section and heavy emphasis on the mandolin, REM has created a song which typifies the new album; a sound called Baroque by some, acoustic by others, classic REM by most. Michael Stipe's monotonal voice is clear and rich, a obvious change from the muffled lyrics and voices of earlier albums such as "Fables of the Reconstruction."

The album includes two guest performers, another change from typical REM pace. B-52's vocalists Kate Pierson is featured on the song "Shiny Happy People" and "Me in Honey." A feminine sound adds a twist to the album, providing a change to the traditional all-male vocals. Her distinctive sound bodes well with the low, droning voice of Stipe, creating an interesting musical impression on both songs.

Another surprise for listeners is the sound of rapper KRS-1. He is heard before the album gets underway in a short message that leads in to the first track, "Radio Song." This rollicking song features over eight performers, which helps add to the rich, funk beat that even has a rap section on it. The thought

of someone rapping on an REM album has caused many long-time fans to cringe, but after listening to it, it actually sounds quite good.

Other standouts on the album include "Belong," a slow, melodic piece which centers around a distorted Stipe sounding as though he is singing through a cheerleader's megaphone. With a deep bass line and a series of finger snaps, the song is so clear, listening on a CD one could be tricked into thinking REM was in the room. "Low," another track on the album, is a slow, haunting piece that sounds very much like "Oddfellows Local 151" from "Document." "Country Feedback" is a whining piece with country and blues influence and even features a steel guitar.

"Out of Time" is what "Green" never was but should have been. Their first major-label release should have been eclectic and vibrant, showcasing the band's creativity and talent.

This is the real REM, a band out to make music for itself and for fun, charting new waters for others to be compared against. It sounds as though they went back and listened to all of their old records and said, "Let's do that again." What they have produced is a package that shows that REM is still the band that we heard singing classics such as "Radio Free Europe" and "Driver 8." It is good to have them back.

## Events Calendar

Week of April 9 - 29

### On Campus:

Newberry Program:  
Massage Workshop  
Thursday, April 11, 8 p.m.

ACUB Film:  
"Good Fellas"  
Friday, April 12, 7 p.m. & 9 p.m.  
Sunday, April 14, 8 p.m.

International Film Series:  
"Blue Angel"  
Saturday, April 13, 7 p.m.  
Tyler Student Center - Jones Auditorium

AIU Rock Around the World  
Dance  
Saturday, April 13, 9 p.m.  
Jones Auditorium

Alma Choir Spring Concert  
Sunday, April 14, 3 p.m.  
Dunning Memorial Chapel

Exam Treats  
Sunday, April 14 - Tuesday,  
April 16  
9 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Winter Term Exams Begin  
Monday, April 15

Commencement  
Saturday, April 20, 2 p.m.

Residence Halls Close  
Saturday, April 20, 5 p.m.

Residence Halls Open  
Sunday, April 28, Noon

Spring Term Classes Begin  
Monday, April 29, 11 a.m.

### Midland:

Midland Art Council features:  
"Woodlands: Contemporary  
Art of the Anishnabe"  
March 16 - April 21  
Perimeter Gallery,  
Midland Center for the Arts

Violinist: Peter Zazofsky  
Midland Symphony Orchestra  
Saturday, April 13, 8:15 p.m.  
Auditorium of the Midland  
Center for the Arts

## Classified

Classifieds must be turned into The Almanian office by Friday at 5 p.m. to be printed in the following edition. They must be 50 words or less or will be subject to editing. Classifieds will be published by first submission.

### ROOMMATE WANTED

2 Bedroom apt., washer/dryer. \$140 a month plus half of the utilities (very reasonable) 1/2 mile from college 517-463-6745.

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Employment opportunities are available for young adults (18 years of age and older), interested in working at one of the summer camps sponsored by the Prebytery of Detroit. For additional information, contact Dick Grant, (313) 345-6555. Students may pick up their copy of the PINE RIVER ANTHOLOGY all next week in the library and bookstore. There are limited number of copies, so get yours soon.

HELP WANTED: Student worker to

assist Associate and Assistant Dean of Students with summer projects, including Co-Cur and Preterm publicity. Qualifications: Computer skills, creativity and artistic ability, work study status, able to work 40 hours per week all summer. Contact the Student Affairs Office in Tyler Student Center.

To the ever esteemed Suicidal Sixteen: I will miss you all. Thanks for being there for me through thick and thin, you guys set the example of brotherhood for all to follow. There will never be friends like you again in my life. I can not express how special you guys have made the last four years.

Phi Alpha and God bless,  
Rapunzle

CORRECTION: Greg Layne Hatcher, founder of Fellowship of Christian Athletes, was in the Alma College class of 1983, not "a former Albion student" as stated March 26. FCA's first two advisors were the Rev. Mr. David McDaniel, college chaplain and the Rev. Dr. Eugene Pattison, English department. The Rev. Dr. Joseph Walser became advisor in 1984.

ATTENTION: Adriana Rasche Happy 21st Birthday!!! I send you a toast from Paris! "Bonne Sante", "Chin Chin" as they say here. I wish I could be there, but I'm

there in spirit. I send you all my laughter and love. (And you thought I could let your birthday go without doing something!) Miss you lots, your sister in Paris, JODI

DEADLINE EXTENDED: Applications for the 1991-92 Jerry Smith Africa Fellowship Program are still available in the Provost's Office. Deadline for all applications materials is now May 1, 1991. Applicants must be junior status. See Georgene Slagle, Assistant Provost, for an application or for further information.

Spring Term 1992  
Students interested in education and English, keep this in mind: Language and Literature in Britain. Two courses will be offered: EDC 180 Lang. and Lit.: Britain (Schoding) EDC 180B/380 The London Novel For more information, please see Dr. Bender, AC 335 or Dr. Markham, AC 238. They will take your name and keep you updated on the details.

END OF TERM LIBRARY HOURS  
4/8-11 - 8 a.m. to 1 a.m.  
4/12 - 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.  
4/13 - 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.  
4/14 - 1 p.m. to 1 a.m.  
4/15-18 - 8 a.m. to 1 a.m.  
4/19 - 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

4/20-21 - Closed  
4/22-26 - 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
4/27-28 - Closed  
4/29 - Begin Spring Term Hours

Congratulations and thanks to the 1990-91 Almanian staff!! Your dedication and hard work has been appreciated; thanks for a great year.

Alpha Xi  
Congrats SENIORS! Charlene, Sue, Gayle, Tammy, Amy G., Maga, Kelly, Hammer, Sparky, Katrina, Treeter, Lisa K., Kris K., Tupper, Debbie Marsh and Mertz, Sprout, Shannon, Marna, Chrissy, Tee, Paula, Jill, Christina, Rachel, Julie K., Yoder, and Zick. WE LOVE YOU AND WILL MISS YOU TONS!!!!

Gentlemen,  
To those who challenged the superiority of Suicidal, you stand corrected. Congrats new officers, may your term be positive and productive. The seniors are proud of you all, and will miss you; do not forget the lessons we have learned. Get set for Charlie Brown, Sendoffs, and Hawaiian. Thanks for the ride, it has been a trip like no other could ever be! Love it while you can...

ΦΑ  
The Buddha

To the Almanian Staff;  
Sorry to be leaving you to the mercies of Karen & Kris, we have tried as hard as we can to protect you. Truly, it's been fun working with you all, best of luck! Remember, Do THE ALMANIAN NAKED!  
Deb, Shannon, Jane, David & James



## Alma Scots have bats cracking

# Baseball opens season by sweeping Nazareth

By Troy Jaffe  
Staff Writer

The Alma College baseball team opened the season with a roaring start, winning two crushing victories against Nazareth College and Kellogg Community College two weeks ago, but then slowed down the pace in losses to Oakland University and Albion College.

The varsity team destroyed Nazareth College in a 13-2 romp in Kalamazoo. The second game of the double header two Saturdays ago was cancelled in the third inning because of excessive rain.

The Scots played impressively. Tom Harris, a right-handed junior from Mt. Clemens, pitched an outstanding game, registering 11 strikeouts.

Alma dominated offensively as

well. The Scots belted four home runs, with sophomore Brandon Kalina, junior Jeff Payne and seniors Tom Essian and Rob Ronk each contributing a homer. Essian, in fact, had an excellent day at the plate, batting three for three with one home run.

Starting first-baseman Jake Boss, a sophomore from Lansing, put the game into perspective. "It was a good game for the beginning of the season," the sophomore said. "It was a great warm-up for the year."

The junior varsity team won a hard-fought game in the 14-7 defeat of Kellogg College two weeks ago. Jeff Pratt, a promising freshman from Lansing, performed well, allowing no runs and only one hit in the three innings he pitched. Pratt was credited with the win.

Dwight Pierson led the team offensively. The St. Johns junior batted three for three, with two doubles, four RBI's and one walk. Dan Jacoby showed his potential

by also batting three for three with one RBI. The Saginaw freshman pitched a scoreless inning as well.

Alma dropped both games of a disappointing double-header Thursday against Oakland University. In the first game, the Scots managed only two runs against their opponents' nine. Brandon Kalina again showed his offensive strength by smashing a home run in the fifth, driving in both of Alma's runs.

In the high scoring second game of the double-header, both Alma and their opponents scored 13 runs. The Scots' last run of the game, when Ronk scored in the seventh, was not counted, though, and Oakland won 13-12. Sophomore Dustin Ducham hit a home run in the second and earned three RBI's in the game. Essian and Payne each contributed two RBI's.

Alma had some problems with pitching. Essian said, "We have a bad habit of giving up a half dozen

runs or more in an inning."

"Basically," he added, "the pitching is what killed us."

Alma split the double header Saturday with Albion, winning one 2-1 and losing the other 6-0. In the win, junior Mike Yard led off the third with a single and scored on Boss's sacrifice out. Ducham tripled in the next inning and was driven in by Essian's base hit. Jamie Fought pitched an impressive game, going all the way for the Scots and giving up only one run and seven hits in seven innings.

Albion's Smith dominated the other game of the double header, pitching an impressive no-hitter against the Scots. The Britons combined for six runs against Alma pitching in the 6-0 shutout.

Heavy wind was responsible for the games' low scores. Boss said, "A lot of balls that should have been homers only ended up as doubles or singles."

Head coach Bill Klenk is pleased

with his team's performance so far and is looking forward to the rest of the season. His biggest concern is pitching. "Our pitching has improved since last year," he said. "If we get consistent pitching this year, we should be a good ball-club."

"The rest of the field," he explained, "is experienced and good." The players are so evenly matched in skill, he said, that "there is a tough fight for spots in the outfield. All the players out there have done a good job."

Klenk predicts that conference play will be difficult. He points to Hope, the defending champion, and Kalamazoo, the second in the league last year, as teams to beat. Albion, Calvin, an improved Olivet, and a freshman-filled Adrian also will present the Scots with tough challenges.

"It all comes down to how well you do head-to-head," he concluded.

## Wallace named MIAA Commissioner

By Shannon Nichols  
Sports Editor

Sheila K. Wallace has been appointed the new MIAA commissioner effective July 1. Wallace will be replacing Albert L. Deal who will retire as commissioner after 20 years of dedicated service. Wallace is currently the assistant athletic director and senior women's athletics administrator at Ohio Northern University.

Wallace received her bachelor's of science degree from Central Michigan University and her master's degree from Bowling Green State University. She has been on staff at Ohio Northern since 1969.

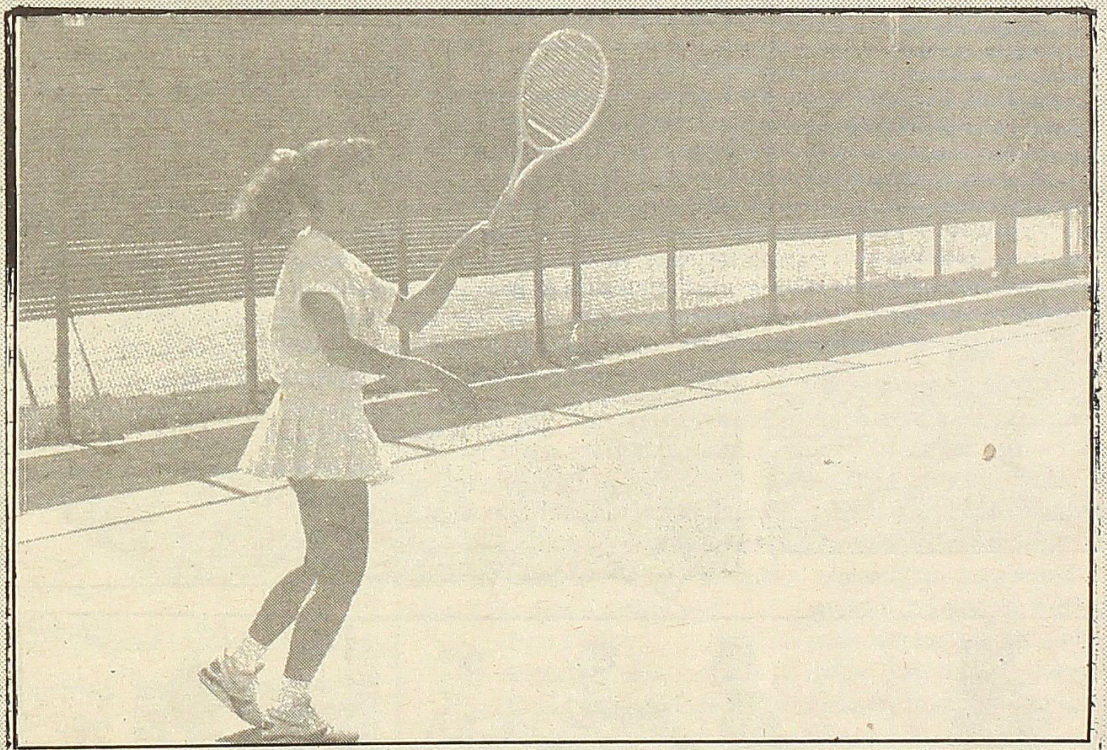
Wallace has done a lot for the women's programs at Ohio Northern. She retired from coaching volleyball as the second most successful—most wins—coach in Division III

volleyball. In 1987, she was voted the national women's volleyball coach of the year in Division III.

In 1988, she received the Women's Sports Foundation Coaches Award for her involvement in women's athletics. Wallace was also a speaker at the luncheon celebrating the tenth anniversary of NCAA women's championships.

Wallace is fully qualified for the position and has the full support of the past commissioner. "Sheila Wallace brings to the MIAA an outstanding record as a coach and as an administrator of intercollegiate at the Division III level," said Deal. "Her experiences have provided a solid understanding of the distinctive role that athletics hold on the educational programs offered by our liberal arts colleges. I am confident she will provide eminent leadership as conference manager."

## Women's tennis team loses to Albion



First year student Amy Ceaser attempts to defeat her opponent in singles competition.

Photo by J. Steffee

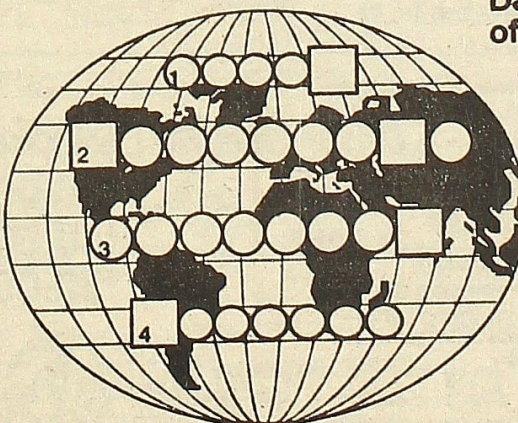
## PEACE CORPS WORLD WISE PuZZLE

For further information about Peace Corps, write Box 896, Washington DC 20526

**INSTRUCTIONS:** The U.S. Peace Corps has volunteers serving in more than 70 nations around the world. By solving this puzzle, you will learn about one of these countries. Solve the four numbered puzzle words and then unscramble the letters in the squares to produce the name of the country darkened on the map.

Daniel Arap Moi is the President of this former British colony

--	--	--	--	--	--



1. The U.S. has banned the importation of this product
2. A unit of measurement
3. Large lake named after English Queen
4. Capitol of this nation

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## Softball sweeps first MIAA competition

By Shannon Nichols  
Sports Editor

The Alma College softball team opened up its' MIAA season by sweeping a double header against the Albion Britons. The Scots beat the Britons 9-0 and 4-1 with Treeter Johnson pitching the first and Shannon Pingston pitching the nightcap. The 9-0 win for Johnson was her third shutout since returning from the Florida trip. Pingston is pitching well after coming off an injured shoulder. Besides the outstanding pitching performance, there were also some hitting

displays put on by sophomore Lisa Shoemaker and junior Lisa McCarthy both having key hits for the Scots. As for defense, McCarthy played a very strong shortstop for the Scots and Chris Komperda had a great day in left field.

Shoemaker the teams sophomore third baseman said, "I think we played really well, sure there are some things we need to work on but if we can continue to play as well as we did against Albion I think we've got a shot at the league title."

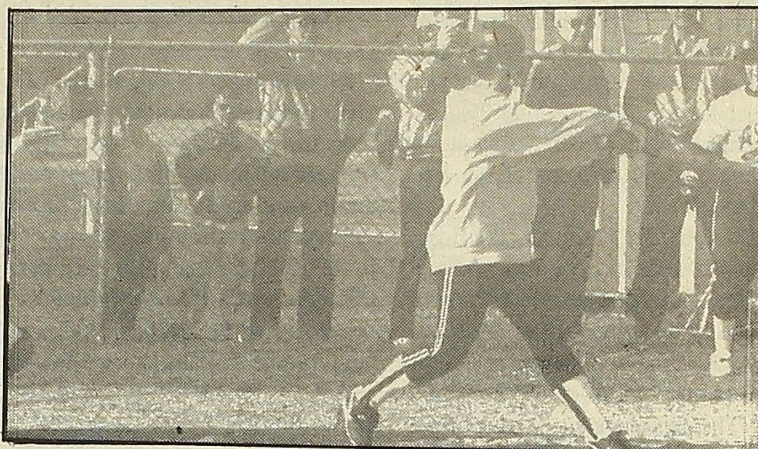
As for the Scots other games since their return from down south, they have played well but have not always come out on top. In non-league play, the team has faced Northwood Institute with whom they split a double header, the win

went to Johnson. The Scots have also faced Lake Superior State with whom they also managed to win the opener and drop the nightcap.

Regardless of whether they are league teams or not, the wins and losses are important in the quest for a national bid. Johnson said, "We've

got to start winning both games of our double headers and if we continue to play as well as we have been, that is going to happen for us."

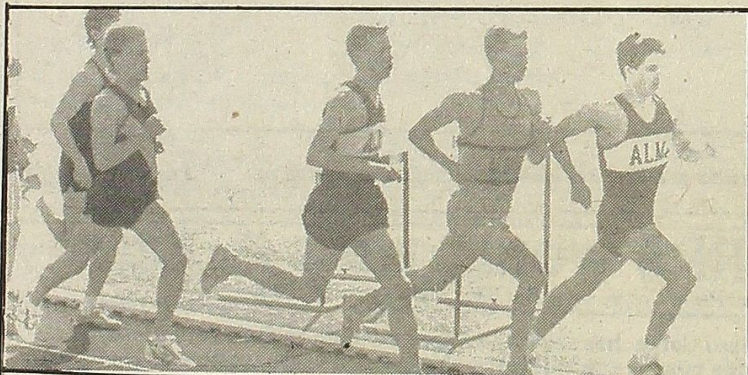
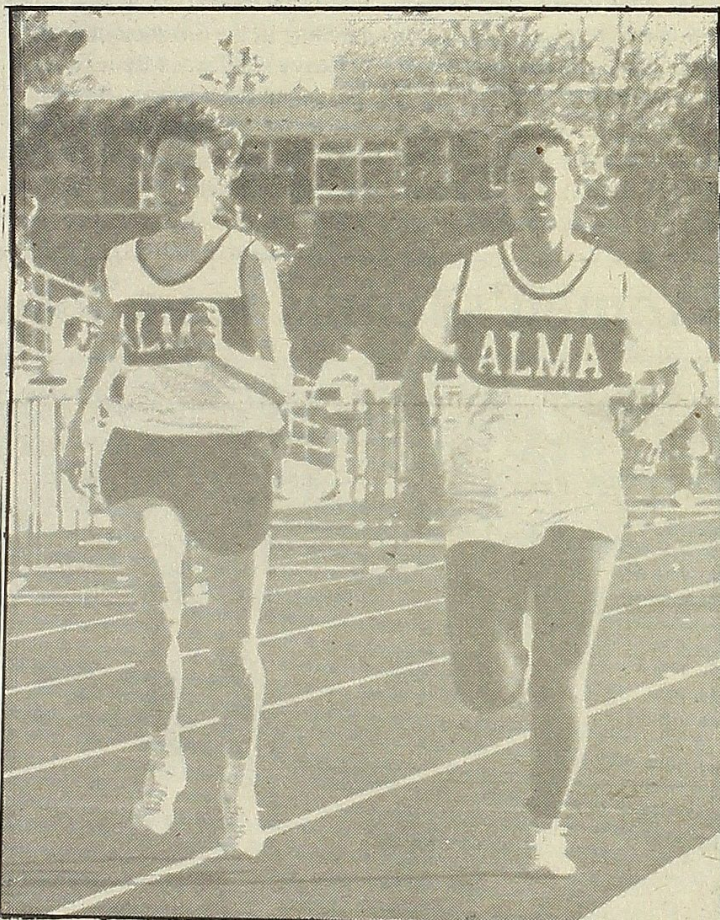
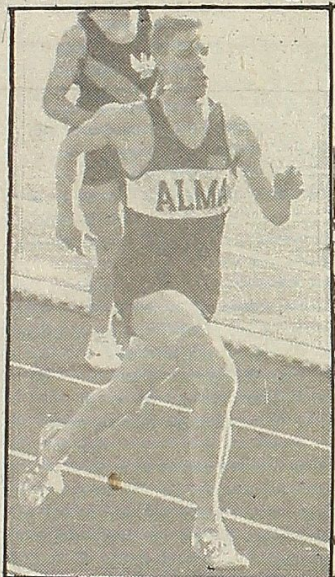
As for the rest of the season, the Scots are nothing but optimistic. The team is looking toward a league title and possibly a national bid. "The team is playing really well together. People are really hitting the ball and we are getting better every game. The goal of a league title is there but right now we are working at winning one game at a time. There are three seniors on the team that have worked hard for three years we want a shot at being league leaders and I think this could be the year," said Laura Holmes the teams senior second baseman.



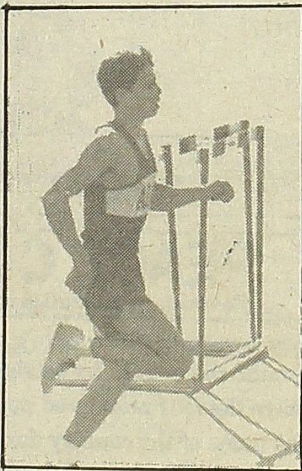
Freshman catcher Becky Pingston makes the connection against non-league opponent Lake Superior College.  
Photo by J. Steffee

### Track teams meet Albion and Adrian

Juniors Michelle Snyder and Kerry Radcliffe run neck and neck. Junior Chris Jonas pulls ahead of the pack. Photos by J. Steffee.



Senior Steve Cassar and junior Chris Jonas battle for first with Albion opponent. Senior Steve Cassar warms up before an event. Photos by J. Steffee.



### Spring term sports schedule

<b>Men's Baseball</b>		<b>Tourney @ Calvin</b>
Wed. 10 @ Adrian	2:00	
Wed. 24 Hope	2:00	
Sat. 27 @ Olivet	1:00	
Wed. 1 Calvin	2:00	
Sat 4 Kalamazoo	1:00	
<b>Women's Softball</b>		
Tues. 9 @ Calvin	3:30	
Thurs. 11 Adrian	3:30	
Tues. 23 @ Hope	3:30	
Wed. 24 Olivet	3:30	
Mon. 29 @ Kalamazoo	3:30	
Thurs.-Fri. 2-3 MIAA		
Tourney @ Adrian		
<b>Men's Tennis</b>		
Wed. 10 @ Adrian	3:00	
Fri. 19 Kalamazoo	3:00	
Wed. 24 Hope	3:00	
Fri. 26 @ Olivet	3:00	
tues. 30 Calvin	3:00	
Thurs.-Fri. 2-3 MIAA		
<b>Women's Tennis</b>		
Tues. 9 @ Calvin	3:00	
Thurs. 11 Adrian	3:00	
Mon. 22 Olivet	3:00	
Tues. 23 @ Hope	3:00	
Sat. 27 @ Kalamazoo	11:00	
Thurs.-Fri. 2-3 MIAA		
Tourney @ Calvin @ K-zoo		
<b>Men's Track</b>		
Wed. 10 @ Hope	2:30	
Sat. 13 @ Calvin	12:30	
Fri. 19 Olivet	2:30	
Thurs.-Fri. 2-3 MIAA Field		
Day at Alma		
<b>Women's Track</b>		
Wed. 10 @ Hope	2:30	
Sat. 13 @ Calvin	12:30	
Thurs.-Fri. 2-3 MIAA Field		
Day at Alma		

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## With graduation comes realization

By James A. Reis  
Layout Editor

Memories. Soon, that is what Alma College will be for the class of 1991. It seems like yesterday we were arriving here for pre-term. Herb Nauss welcomed our class first, then Dr. Kapp, then Chip Hardwick and Beth Anderson, and then every other person who got near a microphone took perverse pleasure in being the such and such number person to welcome us to Alma College.

We were enthusiastic, yet scared. College seemed to be a gigantic change, so intimidating, but we were so proud of ourselves as we forged ahead in this new world. It was a huge change, and we were right to be proud.

We met our RA's and roommates in the dormitories. We went to *Saga*. We were *Freshmen*. We learned, we tried to make our place and some new friends, and we started to get comfortable.

Then pre-term was over and the upperclassmen arrived. Whatever confidence we had left was erased. They were so comfortable and at home here, and they knew all of the accepted rules of Alma etiquette. We went to opening convocation,

and we walked the gauntlet before the entire campus community to our seats in the front rows. We were welcomed, yet again, by Gary Garner, Senior class president.

We were in the midst of the presidential search, as the Big O had just left and Mr. Gordon Areen was serving as interim President. How great it had been with Oscar Remick here was all we could surmise through the endearing stories that were told.

We went to our first classes. We heard the horror stories. How instructors would know instinctively when we hadn't prepared for class and how humiliating it would be when they crucified us. We tried in vain to be well prepared, but it certainly was not high school. They nailed us anyway, and we learned.

Fraternities were allowed to have kegs at parties. The members of the fraternities complained because they couldn't charge admission to cover the cost of beer anymore, and so parties were limited to 3 or 4 barrels. A lot of us got drunk; too stupid, falling down drunk, and most of us learned not to do it anymore, at least not as regularly.

We did idiotic things, and got written up for noise. We had so much energy that we bounced off

the walls, and just shrugged it off when upperclassmen looked at us with that strange look of annoyance and amusement. Eventually, we got tired.

We finished off the year much different people than we started it as. We went home and our parents were quietly proud of the adults we were becoming. We knew some of the people that graduated that year, but we generally were undaunted by their exodus from Alma. To us, it would continue to be much the same place, with the same atmosphere that we now were accustomed to.

When we returned, we returned as the people we were astonished by the year previously. We had the opportunity to see fledgling wings stretch for the first time. We all saw the apprehension in the eyes of the freshmen, and were sympathetically amused by it. We marveled at how energetic and inquisitive they were, and were puzzled by the excitement they found in Alma College. We laughed privately at how cool they thought they were, not really remembering that it had been us only a year before.

We had a new president, and the wheels of change started turning. Faculty and staff changed a bit, as

did the general direction of Alma College. Growth took root, and new buildings seemed to be springing up everywhere.

It was strange being back however, as "sophomore slump" was in the air. Alma was boring, nothing fun to do anymore. The highlight of campus excitement was the stalker. Our classes were still hard, and we didn't get the slack that we had as first year students. As the year ground on, we grew even more tired than we had at the end of our first year. Our educators saw this, and many of us developed relationships with them that gave us the support we needed.

Sophomore year ended, and again we looked at the people leaving Alma permanently. We knew more of them, and it hit us a little harder that they would not be returning. More often than not we took it in stride and saw opportunities arise in the vacuum they left.

As juniors, we worked harder yet, and did more than we ever thought possible as sophomores. We struggled with the passing of Dr. Kapp, and saw Alma differently without his presence here. We grew closer to people as we got to know them as adults. We started to see ourselves as truly being adults for

the first time.

Our love for Alma grew deeper through our frustration with it. We did not find true appreciation of Alma College until we saw its strengths and weaknesses, and it really took many years and a lot of experience to see them clearly. When graduation came around, some true friends and mentors departed. We all realized that our tenure here would come to an end.

As returning seniors we learned that the stress of the previous three years was warm up for this one. Finding a job, finishing our majors, discovering some obscure distributive that we vaguely remembered blowing off as a first year student. The rewards of our undergraduate education are as different as the members of our class, and we each leave here with a different perspective.

Dave Buchanan made a comment the other day that I find most appropriate regarding the ambivalence that surrounds graduation. To paraphrase, Alma College is a great place, one that people want to stay at forever. But, four years certainly is enough.

We leave Alma in good hands, as it was left to us in the continuation of the cycle that is college.

### The Almanian Letter Policy

All Letters to the Editor must meet the following standards for publication: The letter must be signed and include the author's campus phone number and address, and it must be pertinent to the Alma College community. Letters will be published on a first come, first serve basis, and will be limited to three per week. We reserve the right to condense letters for layout purposes. It must be received by 5 PM the Friday before requested publication. Address letters to:

The Editorial Board,  
The Almanian,  
Newberry Hall,  
Alma College, Alma, MI 48801

### Letters to the Editor

#### Blood Drives successful

Dear Editor,

The college blood drives collected 422 units of blood this year. The drives contributed about 20 percent of the blood donated in Gratiot County this year. The Gratiot County Chapter of the American

Red Cross would like to thank the students who took time from busy schedules to give so unselfishly.

We would also like to thank the men and women of Sigma Chi and Gamma Phi Beta for their assistance as sponsors of these blood drives.

We appreciate the college administration for allowing the use of the Rotunda and Jones Auditorium, and Marriot Food Services for their donation of cookies and coffee.

Each of you play a part in helping us assure that our area will always have an abundant supply of safe blood. We thank each of you.

Joan Clarke  
Blood Services  
Coordinator, G.C.A.R.C.

a sport and you had "the home court advantage" and you looked up in the stands and no one was there to cheer you on? Spirit grows in numbers.

Scott Phillon  
Class of '94

#### Women's roles vary

Dear Editor,

Regarding your opinion article titled "Women's History: More than Betty Crocker":

I find it disturbing that you would say that our display was "blatantly insensitive and ignorant towards the women that made women's history what it is today." Our display was neither blatantly insensitive or ignorant of women.

I am fully aware of Women's History Month and what it stands for. In my opinion, society is too quick to demean the role of a woman in the home.

Throughout history women in the home have always played an important role. We displayed a small glance at the history of women along with "Women's History". Being a business woman with a family and many other activities to fulfill, I would be honored to utilize more often the items in the display of which you spoke so critically. Contrary to your opinion, our display was done to honor, not demean.

If you, the viewer would like to utilize the space of one of our cubicles for an issue that you feel important, please feel free to ask.

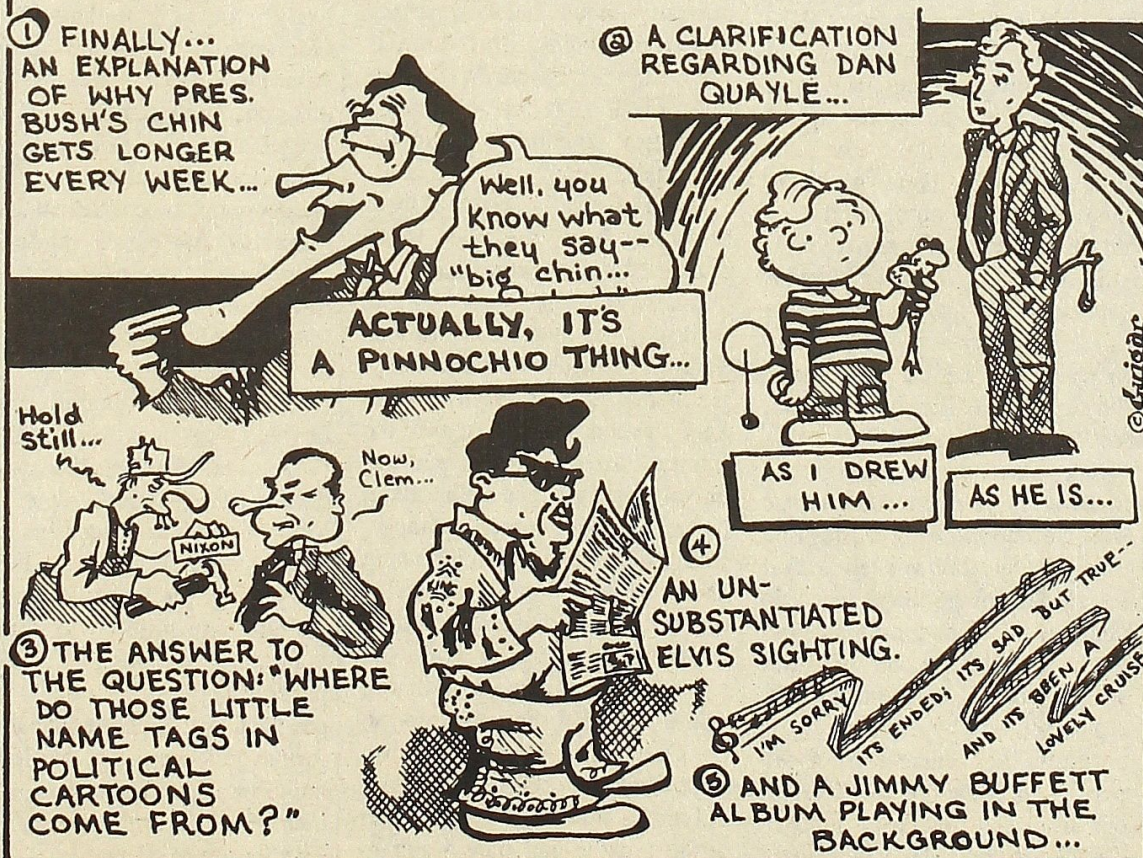
Pat Nelson  
Scot Shop

## Guigar

by Brad Guigar

### THE LAST GUIGAR CARTOON

IN MY OPINION, THE LAST "GUIGAR" SHOULD CONTAIN:





#### Staff Editorial

## Seniority system needed to solve housing dilemma

By now all returning students should have their housing card for the 1991-92 academic year completed. For some this was any easy and efficient process, but for others it was a source of stress and anxiety. Isn't this typical? Everyone knows that housing sign-ups are always aggravating. Why?

Since anyone can remember, we were taught that there exists three necessities for survival: food, shelter and clothing. Each spring the Student Affairs housing process places Alma College students' shelter in jeopardy. Of course a place to live is guaranteed, but the uncertainty that surrounds that "place" is enough to cause anyone stress. In addition to a natural response to panic, Alma students have learned to expect problems, to be stuck with their current housing assignments, to be displaced. It happens every year.

This cannot occur in the future. It is simply unacceptable.

The most significant problem with the housing process stems from Student Affairs futile urge to reserve an allotted number of beds per residence hall for perspective first year students.

The philosophy behind this methodology is admirable. They want the campus to be integrated by age as well as culture, race and natural origin. People are to learn from one another. First year students learn from the experience of the senior and the senior learns from the first year student. Theoretically, an atmosphere conducive to promoting this goal cannot occur with the creation of a first year student residence hall. Thus, beds are reserved.

However, the methodology of housing is unjust. Beds for perspective students do not need to be reserved. A residence hall with 100 percent first year students will never exist. First, South Complex only houses a limited number of

students. In most cases, one must have a senior class standing to move there unless otherwise pulled in by a current resident. Consequently, there will still be no first year students in South Complex and a large populous of upperclass students will be residing on North campus. Second, all of those living on North Campus are not likely to select the same building. Everyone has a preference to where they will be living (and this even includes Newberry). The integration of campus can be natural if it is allowed to happen.

Other facts diminish the credibility of the save-the-space policy. We live on a small campus. With all of the various campus organization and high percentage of student involvement, it is impossible to avoid interaction. Even if a first year student lived on a corridor or a quad with relatively few upperclass students, the desired inter-personal relationships would

still develop.

Another intrinsic fact becomes evident when one considers the dollars and cents angle of the housing dilemma. Current students have cumulatively paid more for housing than an entering first year student. This is equivalent to seniority; a system that determines everything from spring term registration to storage space availability on campus. Thus, shouldn't the seniority system which affects the housing policy to an extent be thoroughly consistent instead of inverting just to save space for those with no seniority?

Finally, everyone needs to be housed. There is no way around it. Currently, upperclass student housing is manipulated by perspective first year students. This is wrong. First year students should be placed in the interstitial spaces created by the lattice of the returning student body.

#### From the Editors

## Grads should leave with more than degree

A college education provides the very elements that develop responsible, mature citizens. Yet, as I evaluate myself and my peers, I cannot help but think of the tendency not to really benefit from the atmosphere of college and its experiences.

The individuals who graduate in two weeks should be commended; four years of academic achievement is something I think everyone should be proud of, regardless of the degree of one's success. I wonder though how many of us, including underclass students, will actually be prepared to encounter the real world. Everyone is aware of the benefits of a small school; fewer hassles, more personal attention, stronger personal relationships are formed. I am a strong advocate of a degree that comes from a private, liberal arts institution. However, there are vital issues that sometimes we are sheltered from as a result of such an intellectually limited environment.

Issues such as homosexuality, diversity and sexism are prominent sources of debate and controversy in the outside world that are often clouded by our instinct to bury our interests in our own concerns. Seeking an education signifies a general quest for open-mindedness. It indicates that we are motivated individuals who wish to succeed and, in most cases, contribute positively to society. However, it seems that if we truly desire to get the most out of a college education, we must open our minds in order to give us the opportunity to consider variations to the common, average method of doing things. After graduation, it won't be as easy to ignore someone else's opinion simply because it differs from our own. We will most likely be forced, depending on what field each of us pursues, to deal with individuals who are very different from ourselves. Their sexual preference, skin color, and basic political and social beliefs are not going to be identical to the majority of Alma students. Therefore, it is essential to not shut ourselves off by becoming intolerant of others' beliefs, views and opinions.

All of us will hopefully earn a degree. I think, however, that there is more to that process than taking classes, having a good time, getting a job and purchasing a conservative navy blue suit. If we are interested in "getting our money's worth", we must push ourselves to do more than that; to consider another person's perspective — the perspective of someone outside our own experience — whether it be a homosexual, a black man, or a member of the opposite sex.

• By Karen McDonald  
Co-Editor in Chief

#### Environmental Commentary

## Toxic chemicals endanger biosphere

By Tim Herbst  
Staff Writer

Between Love Canal, Three Mile Island, acid rain, oil spills, and the Alma College landfill, there are many poisons entering the biosphere we call home. The poisons which humans are introducing into the earth are either specifically manufactured or are by-products of other technological processes. The problems really arise when these are improperly disposed.

It is estimated that there are 70,000 different chemicals which are being introduced into our environment. U.S. factories alone emit 1.2 million metric tons of poisonous chemicals into the environment annually.

There are three main sources of this poisoning of the biosphere: industry, agriculture, and incidental spillage. We can roughly divide the biosphere into three major sections into which humans are introducing poisons: water, the air, and land. Consumers are the underlying cause for this problem, demanding more and more products from the market.

We have almost become accustomed to the kind of oil spills we saw from the Exxon Valdez and, more recently, in the Persian Gulf. The Swiss government has estimated that the Rhine River ecosystem is all but dead from the accidental spill of 22 tons of pure mercury into the river. Every year, 500,000 seabirds are killed in Western Europe alone due to "incidental" spillage.

Atmospheric pollution is easily seen in major cities. In fact, air

pollution has been known to be a problem in urban areas for close to a millennium, especially in Western Europe. Immediately after the Industrial Revolution, the problem grew to obscene proportions. Smog and soot were common health hazards. The earliest pollution problems were localized and mainly from factories; today, the problems from pollution — unbreathable air, planetary warming, and an increased threat of cancer — are global in scale and mainly from transportation.

The biggest atmospheric threat is probably from carbon dioxide, one of the infamous greenhouse gases responsible for global warming, and from chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) responsible for the breakdown of the ozone layer. Although scientists disagree as to the extent of the impact of these and the time scale over which the effects will show, there is virtually no disagreement that higher levels of carbon dioxide will result in climactic changes worldwide and that the breakdown of the ozone layer will result in an increased threat of cancer. Clearly, the atmosphere is in grave danger.

The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that in the United States alone there are 50,000 toxic sites currently leaking wastes into the earth. Only 22 have been cleaned up so far. In addition to toxic dumping, acid rain poisons both the earth and trees and industrial spills kill many plants and animals. Land pollution by toxic wastes is perhaps the scariest of these poisons: it is the one that touches our lives the quickest. In Love Canal, for example, where toxic waste was improperly disposed,

there were 18 pregnancies. Of these 18, there were two normal children. Three fetuses were stillborn, there were four spontaneous abortions and nine children were born with birth defects such as incomplete skull closure, multiple rows of teeth, cleft palate, and congenital heart defects. Every human at Love Canal received some degree of genetic damage. We may be able to clean up water and land, but we can't clean up our genes.

Individually, these poisonings are scary enough. Perhaps the most frightening fact of all, however, is that at least 80 percent of these chemicals have been inadequately tested as to their effects upon humans, animals, and other parts of the environment. And there is virtually no research on the combined effects of these chemicals, something called the "Cocktail Effect."

It can be clearly seen that there are many toxic chemicals being dumped into the atmosphere by humans, endangering the whole world. While awareness of these issues is growing and some action is being taken, not enough has been done. As concerned citizens of the planet Earth, we can educate ourselves as fully as possible about the possible environmental dangers facing our planet through reading and listening. We can also help the cause of the environment by cutting down on our use of polluting substances: car-pooling, using "earth-friendly" shampoos, and so on. Only by taking action can we hope that our children and our children's children will have clean air to breathe and pure water to drink.

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