

The Almanian

Dec 14
October 12, 1993

Serving Alma College since 1907

Issue 512

Choir concert headlines Heritage Center dedication

By Kristen Miquel
Staff Reporter

Amid seasonal decorations, Christmas carols and a packed house, the newly built Heritage Center for the Performing Arts was officially dedicated during the 4 p.m. choir concert, Saturday, Dec. 11.

The choirs sang numerous traditional Christmas carols such as "Carol of the Bells," "Angels We Have Heard on High," and "The Cherry Tree Carol," along with some not so traditional such as "Heute ist Christus der Herr geboren" and "Salvation is Created." William Nichols, associate professor of music, along with his son, Wilson Nichols, sang a stirring duet of "O Holy Night" also.

The dedication ceremony followed the first half of the concert. It began with the choirs and the audience joining together to sing "O Come All Ye Faithful" followed by "Consecrate The Place and Day" sung by the Alma College Choir.

William Palmer, professor of English, then read an original dedicatory poem written in Fall 1993, which summed up the past, present, and future of the Heritage Center.

President Allen J. Stone then recognized the donors and all the people who made the Heritage Center a reality. He compared the building to the movie *Field of Dreams* when he said, "If you build a house they will come."

A dedicatory prayer was then read by Reverend Jesse Perry, and Lawrence Beck, chair of the Board of Trustees spoke on the beginnings of the campaign to raise money for the Sciences and Performing Arts.

"The excitement of today is only the beginning," said Beck.

The choirs then offered a musical tribute consisting of the donors names sung to the tune of "The Twelve Days of Christmas".

Ann Stuart, Vice President for Academic Affairs then spoke on the Performing Arts in Alma College's future, saying, "The building is wonderfully named to honor the heritage of the performing arts."

Beck, along with his family, were responsible for naming the Heritage Center and they did so, "in honor of his Danish parents and all immigrants who, in bringing their dreams to America, created the heritage of this great country."

The dedication closed with the audience once again joining the choirs only this time to sing "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing".

The choirs finished off the remainder of the concert with a Spanish carol, two Latvian carols, and a few old favorites.

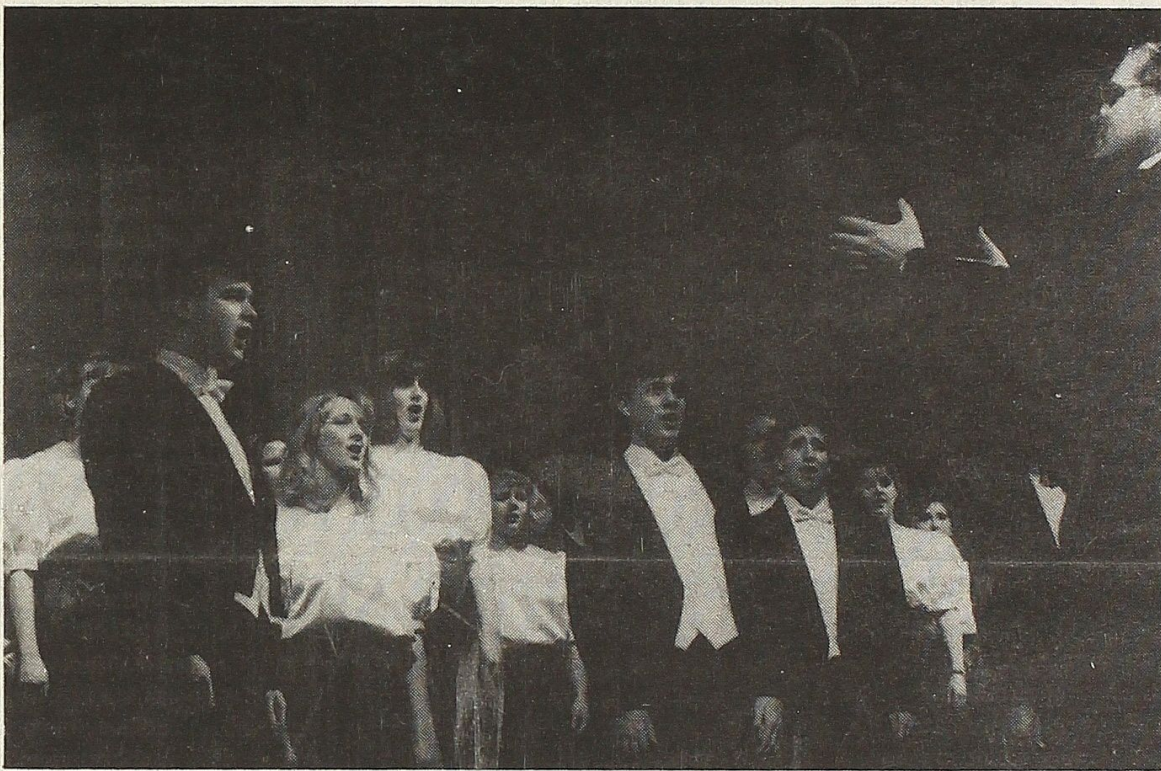
A reception followed the concert and tours were given to all the donors.

The dedication was originally scheduled to be with the opening of school, however it was postponed.

"We wanted to be sure that the building was complete," said Stone.

"We allowed ourselves time to complete everything and make sure that all the furniture was there and the plaques were up."

Stuart summed up attitudes best by saying, "The Heritage Center is one more commitment to achievement here at Alma College."



The Alma College mixed choirs and glee club performed their annual Christmas concert on Saturday. The Heritage Center dedication ceremony took place during the intermission of the 4 p.m. performance. Photo by L. Christensen.

Alma community park part of "Build-a-Dream-Park" project

By Kristin Allen
Staff Reporter

"What would your dream park be like?"

This simple question generated a potpourri of responses when recently asked to a group of hundreds of students at elementary schools around the city of Alma. The answers to this question began the preliminary plans for construction of a dream park right here in Alma.

As part of the nation-wide "Build-A-Dream-Park" project, Alma's Wright Park will undergo dramatic changes this spring as it is designed into a custom built playground for the community to enjoy.

"The idea to have Alma be the site of this project was originated by four local mothers who got together and decided this would be a good thing for Alma to have," explained Alison Jerome, Director of Alma College Alumni and Community Relations and fund raising co-chair for the dream park project.

Dan Burgin, an architect for the New York construction firm which will supervise the building of the park, traveled to Alma last week to

gather ideas from school children and finally unveil the tentative plan for the park.

"The kids are so excited—they are creating all sorts of ideas for the park, from castles to tunnels," said Jerome. "Although the plans are still waiting to be finalized, the park will definitely be handicap accessible throughout and will feature a big gazebo in the center where park visitors can sit."

Jerome explained that the "Build-A-Dream-Park" program has built thousands of such parks nationwide, with several in Michigan, including the cities of Coldwater and Lansing and plans for construction in Mt. Pleasant and Midland. The project is an effort of the entire community from fund raising to construction.

"We need to raise about \$70,000 in supplies to make the park happen. We need groups to sponsor raffles or other fund raisers to generate support," said Jerome.

One fund raising project which has already begun is a "Buy a Board" program where a person can donate three dollars and own one board in the project. Accord-

ing to Jerome, this is a "great stocking stuffer."

In addition to the fund raising aspect, Jerome and other participants in the program are searching for volunteers to take part in the actual construction of the park to be held sometime in May.

"It will be like an old-fashioned barn raising," said Jerome. "The entire park will be built in just five days, beginning on a Friday and ending on a Tuesday. We need about a thousand volunteers to help either in the construction or in related areas like child care, and food for the weekend."

Jerome is enthusiastic about the project, calling it a "grass roots idea." While she is optimistic that the dream park will become a reality, she encourages volunteers and asks that any group or individuals on campus contact her about possible interest in a philanthropic or fund raising event.

"We really would appreciate any type of help we could get—the end result will be well worth all the effort!"

Women's Basketball Dominate U-MD



Junior Jaime McCallister drives to the basket in the Scot's victory Saturday over the visiting squad from U-M Dearborn. The Alma women won convincingly by a 95-49 margin. Photo by A. Torrence.

Swimmers win as hard work pays off

By Tim Ketel
Staff Reporter

This past week, while most students were studying hard for finals, the members of the Alma Swimming and Diving Teams were busy practicing for their annual Christmas Invitational. While study efforts may seem marginally effective, the teams' countless hours of grueling practice have been paying off.

The women's team began the week with a home dual meet against Hillsdale College on Dec. 7. The Scots defeated Hillsdale with a score of 100-56. It was an exciting meet with plenty of great swims.

First-year student Danielle Sullivan had an exceptional 50 freestyle, easily taking first with a time of 26.82. A great swim was also had by first-year student Keisha Karlsen in the 500 Freestyle. Karlsen took first with a personal best of 5:43.09.

In the 100 Freestyle, junior Jen-

nifer Turnbull took first, closely followed by first-year student Sara Rumsey.

This victory got the Scots in the right frame of mind for their weekend meet, the Alma College Swimming and Diving Third Annual Holiday Invitational 1993, on Friday and Saturday.

Present at the meet were teams from Wayne State University, Ferris State University and Central Michigan University.

The meet was structured like a smaller scaled MIAA conference meet. There were 40 events and the meet took two days to complete.

It was a meet of high hopes and happy swimmers. Many best times were had, a school record was set, and a diver qualified for Nationals.

Junior Radu Danca dove his best this year, winning both the one and three-meter competitions. At the meet, he qualified for Nationals with a score of 396.90 on the one-meter and 437.95 on the three. Danca will be travelling to Boston,

Massachusetts, for the national meet in March and may be accompanied by several team members.

Senior Salena Williams easily won the 1650 Freestyle with a time of 19:01.14. Also doing well in the 1650 were junior Jill Murany,

"It was a great way to end the semester, and to get people ready for their finals."
--Greg Baadte
Head Swimming Coach

Karlsen and first-year student Emily Damstra.

For the men's team, Brett Martin came in second in the 1650 with a time of 19:09.25.

Sullivan took a definitive first in

the 200 Individual Medley with a time of 2:21.82.

Alex Gordon also earned first place honors in the I.M. with a time of 2:05.89.

In the women's 200 Butterfly, Turnbull took the first place spot with a time of 2:26.02.

Senior Scott Phillion swam his heart out in the 100-yard Breaststroke, earning an incredible first place with his best time of the year, 1:04.93. He was closely followed by first year student Geoff Guy who came in third with a time of 1:06.63.

The men's 400-Freestyle relay came in third but looked great with a time of 3:28.54.

Swimming their last race of the season, junior Karrie Bergin and sophomore Lesley Malzahn both had excellent races; Bergin in the 100 Free and Malzahn in the 100 Backstroke. The two of them are going to study abroad next term, Bergin in Spain, and Malzahn in Australia.

The coaches were as enthusiastic about the meet as the swimmers were.

"There were great races up and down the pool," says Head Coach Greg Baadte.

"It was a great way to end the semester, and to get people ready for their finals," continued Baadte. "All they need to do is carry their team spirit into the classroom."

First year student Tricia Rose was happy with the meet.

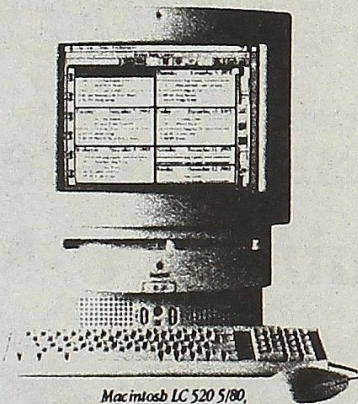
"It was a great meet, everybody worked hard and it paid off," said Rose.

The next big event for the Scots is their trip to Orlando, Florida the week after Christmas. The Scots will do some training in the sun and see the sights.

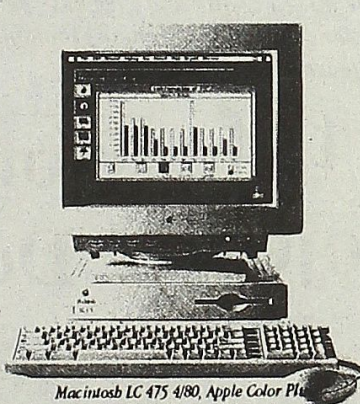
Rose commented, "Florida should be a lot of fun, but I think it's going to be hard as well."

The next home swimming meet will be on Jan. 15 at 1:00p.m. against Kalamazoo.

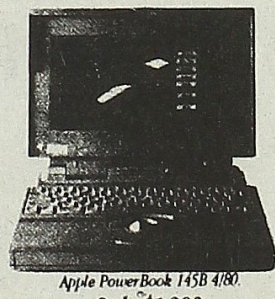
Buy a Macintosh now and you can organize your time, straighten out your finances or go completely ballistic.



Macintosh LC 520 5/80,
Internal AppleCD™ 300i CD-ROM Drive,
Apple Keyboard II and mouse.
Only \$1,595.



Macintosh LC 475 4/80, Apple Color Plus
14" Display, Apple Keyboard II and mouse.
Only \$1,195.



Apple PowerBook 145B 4/80.
Only \$1,280.

Introducing the Great Apple Campus Deal. Now, when you buy any select Macintosh® or PowerBook® computer, you'll also receive seven software programs. It's all included in one low price. And the software package alone has a combined SRP value of \$596*. It was designed to

give you the kinds of programs you need most. Programs to organize your time and money. And some programs just for fun. So, why buy an Apple® computer? It does more. It costs less. It's that simple.

Introducing the Great Apple Campus Deal



Visit your Apple Campus Reseller for more information.

Mac STORE

Alma College - 614 W. Superior - Alma, MI 48801 - (517) 463-7303

© 1993 Apple Computer, Inc. All rights reserved. Apple, the Apple logo, Macintosh and PowerBook are registered trademarks of Apple Computer, Inc. Apple II is a trademark of Apple Computer, Inc. Based on the combined suggested retail prices (SRP) of the products in The Campus Software Set for Macintosh as of October 1, 1993.

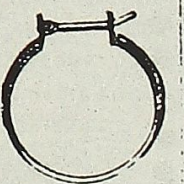
Agents No Experience

Company
Expanding-
\$12+hr. Send
SASE for Details
to: International
1375 Coney Island
Ave. Ste 427
Brooklyn, NY
11230

CRUISE JOBS

Students Needed!
Earn up to \$2,000+/month
working for Cruise Ships or
Land-Tour Companies.
World Travel (Hawaii,
Mexico, the Caribbean, etc.).
Summer and Full-Time
employment available. No
exp. necessary. For more
information call:
Cruise Employment Services
(206) 634-0468 ext. C5614

14kt
Yellow
Gold
Single
Pierced
Earrings



AS LOW AS
\$8.50
MANY STYLES

**GOLD-N-GEMS
JEWELERS**

110 East Superior, Downtown Alma
Member of the Alma Chamber of Commerce
463-5891



Seasons Greetings from BOB MOORE

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

ALASKA SUMMER EMPLOYMENT

FISHERIES - Students Needed! Many earn \$2,000+/mo. in canneries or \$3,000-\$6,000+/mo. on fishing vessels. Many employers provide room & board & transportation. Over 8,000 openings. No exp. necessary! Male or Female. Get the necessary head start on next summer. For more information call: 1-206-545-4155 ext. A5614
Student Employment Services

Miracle on 34th St. a joy for the whole family

By Cathy DeShano
News Editor

I'm not sure there is any better time of year than Christmas as an eight year old. Children seem to have a faith in things not shared by adults. They know that there will be snow on Christmas because they prayed for it the night before. They know that their favorite toy will be wrapped and waiting under the Christmas tree because they asked for it. And they know that Santa will have eaten all the cookies and milk they left sitting on the table because he ate them all last year.

Yes, Santa. Some may say we're too old to believe in Santa...but I say never. Of course, if you doubt Santa Claus exists, you need only watch *Miracle on 34th Street* to find out otherwise.

Miracle on 34th Street involves a young girl, Sarah, whose mother has taught her not to believe in fairy tales and Santa Claus. As the story unravels, the audience discovers that Sarah's mother suffered through a "fairy tale" marriage ending in divorce, thus her lack of faith in fairy tales. However, their next door neighbor and an elderly man, Santa Claus, help to convince Sarah and her mother that fairy tales do exist.

During the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade, the hired Santa gets drunk and is unable to perform his duties; the real Santa Claus, a witness to this, volunteers his services. He's so well liked by the Macy's staff that they hire him to play Santa for customers and their children. Santa Claus, believing he's real, runs into problems with Macy's psychologist. In order to have more control over him, Sarah's mother harbors Santa Claus in her home. During this living arrangement, their neighbor and Santa Claus convince Sarah that Santa Claus really does exist.

While they've worked magic on this girl, they have yet to convince other members of society. Sarah's mother included. Macy's psychologist, claiming to have been beaten by Santa Claus, takes Santa to court

to prove his insanity. Thanks to the strategies of Sarah's neighbor, a lawyer, and a judge who doesn't want to enrage parents, the case is thrown out because the lawyer proves Santa Claus is a real person. Although the court recognized Santa Claus' existence, it's not until the end that the neighbor and Sarah's mother truly believe in the jolly old man.

If you view the film in an adult mind set, *Miracle on 34th Street* will be a let down. After all, somewhere around the age of 10, most of us either saw our parents stuffing presents under their bed, the same presents which had a tag that said "From Santa Claus" on them, or we heard from some big mouth brat in the cafeteria that his mom and dad told him there's no such thing as Santa Claus. This movie has obvious gaps in its reasoning, the courtroom scene serves as one such example. But if you look at *Miracle on 34th Street* as a movie suggesting there are people unselfish enough to do good for others, then this movie offers nearly two hours worth of faith and hope.

The acting in *Miracle on 34th Street* works. Natalie Wood does an excellent job portraying Sarah, expressing well her disbelief and disgust over the idea of Santa Claus and her gradual acknowledgement of his existence. The actor portraying Santa Claus also performs well at making us question his sanity through various portions, but also at all times, his sincerity that he believes himself to be Santa. Of course, the movie offers several very corny moments, such as the ending scene between Sarah's mother and their neighbor. But, it's nice every once in a while to witness a kiss unlike that of *Basic Instinct*, which doesn't involve silk scarves or ice picks.

Miracle on 34th Street is a fairy tale movie for those who want to believe. If you're looking for a breath of fresh air and a reason to feel happy over the holidays, this is the movie for you.

Merry Christmas-break fun-tips

By Brooke Hansen and
Leslie Theisen
Feature Editor and
Investigative Reporter

Somehow you feel like you've been abandoned in a nightmare in Alcatraz. Textbooks surround you: the prison gates barring you into a hellish life of studying, studying, and more studying. But an end to this hell is in sight. With Christmas vacation only three days, five exams and a light-years' worth of studying away, why not start planning for your three-week escape from reality?

During your winter hiatus, why not set aside some quality time for building a fire in the ancient fireplace and curling up with a good book? To celebrate author Toni Morrison's recent acceptance of the Nobel Prize for Literature, check out her novels *Tar Baby*, *Song of Solomon*, *Beloved*, *Jazz* or *Sula*. Maya Angelou's *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* is also an excellent choice, along with Ayn Rand's *The Fountainhead*.

With easy access to an oven, you can break out the Nestle's Toll House Morsels and bake some cookies for the family. Who knows? Maybe your gallant efforts will pay off and you'll be dubbed the latest Betty Crocker.

Without R.A.s and the confine-

ment of dorm rules dangling over your head, you will be free to inhale the beautiful scents of candles and incense as you indulge in selecting the volume on your stereo.

The T.V. remote is now in your hands. Take a jaunt down to your local video retailer and pick up some of the classics. *Xanadu*, *Saturday Night Fever*, *Barfly*, *Two Moon Junction*, *Amadeus*, *The Incredible Shrinking Woman*, *Dead Poet's Society*, *The Mission*, *The Power of One*, *Better Off Dead* (or any John Cusack movie for that matter), *The Sound of Music* and *My Own Private Idaho* are among many laudable films to take in. MTV may be worth checking out; Madonna probably has a new hair color just for the holidays. "Another World," "As the World Turns," "All My Children," and "Days of Our Lives" are all at your disposal. Remember "The Price is Right," "Scrabble," "Supermarket Sweep" and "Wheel of Fortune?" Think about your bottom sinking into that Lazy Boy, your cramped feet propped up on the built-in footstool while you're screaming prices at the woman who's been stuck in contestant's row since the first time Bob Barker walked on stage.

For those of us who aren't fortunate enough to have a car here on campus, we may be going through driver withdrawal. Christmas break

is perfect for getting re-acquainted with the feel of the plush interior, the smooth leather steering wheel, the gush of heat on your frozen nose, the gas pedal...sit back, crank the stereo, and cruise. Maybe you'll run into some high school pals on the main strip in town.

Although Jack Frost has just recently poked his head through the clouds, ski resorts have prepared their slopes for the convenience of you eager ski buffs.

Weather reports indicate that we will be seeing some flurries within the next week, and with the snow comes snowmen, snow angels, fun-filled hours of sledding, skiing, ice-skating and snowball fights. And don't forget to hop on the Evinrude or the Arcticcat snowmobile for a spin through your backyard.

Once you've been home for a day or two, perhaps you'll have an itch to get away from the homestead. Trot over to the nearest bar and greet the local yokels. Nothing like keeping with the old while bringing in the new—and that certainly applies to enlarging your circle of friends.

Finally, you'll have some time to loll around; savor the fleeting moments; dabble in some fun. Catch up on gossip with friends and family, help decorate the Christmas tree (if it hasn't been decorated already), sleep, eat and be merry!!!!

Music Review

Mellow out this holiday season

By Chris Sienko
Music Editor

As the Christmas season is fast approaching, it seems only appropriate that I review a Christmas album. However, as I looked through my personal collection and the radio station's library, I realized that Christmas albums are hard to come by.

Being strapped for cash in this particularly monetarily draining season, I made a beeline for Alma Discount to do some of my Christmas shopping. It was here that I came upon *A Light Jazz Christmas*. Perfect! I love jazz and jazz renditions of "Carol of the Bells" and "Silent Night," sounded like it could be fun. Little did I know that "Light Jazz" was a euphemism for "Fusion."

Let me preface this review with a disclaimer. "Jazz," and "Fusion," are two completely different things, and those getting ready to run to Alma Discount to pick up the remaining copies of this tape expecting be-bop or swing are going to be mighty disappointed. Those fans of musicians like Kenny G, Dave Grusin, Chick Corea, and Spyro Gyra will love this album, but John Coltrane and Ornette Coleman fans will be scaling the walls for relief. I myself am not much of a fusion fan, but I will write this review as objectively as possible.

Musicians on this album are such luminaries of the field as Mark Douthit, Jeff Kirk, Dan Huff, and

Craig Nelson. (No, I've never heard of any of them either.) All of the musicians have excellent chops, and have obviously been playing their instruments for years, but they have a distinct lack of soul on this album, playing each song swiftly and succinctly, leaving just enough time in each composition for a short solo. On the whole, the album is far too structured to be taken seriously as a jazz album.

On the other end of the coin, the album does serve its intended purpose, namely setting a rather mellow mood. The music is relaxing, unobtrusive, and melodious. Perfect music to play in the background at your next low key family Christmas party. It's guaranteed not to offend Grandma.

Although I have never actually heard any of the following albums, I have some catalog blurbs of some other Christmas albums that might be worth checking out. For those of you wondering about the possibility of an alternative Christmas album, I can recommend *The White Christmas Album* and *A Lump of Coal*. They each contain a nice portion of jangly, energetic, and generally reverent renditions of traditional Christmas tunes by groups like the Cadillac Tramps, the Young Fresh Fellows, the Tiny Lights, and Henry Rollins (Gasp!).

For that horny toad on your list, there is always Mojo Nixon and the Toadliquors *Horny Holidays*, which is described as "A collection of nasty Christmas songs."

For a dose of regular jazz, try the Royal Crown Revue's *Hey Santa* for some "Cool bop that swings out the Christmas magic." The most interesting entry has to be a single by the New Duncan Imperials called *Santa Claus is a Lie*. The blurb says something like this: "Children will cry at night when they learn the truth about Santa...Also includes 'Chanukah Song (Have a pretty good Christmas).'"

Before I go, let me just say that I hope you find a Christmas album that perfectly suits your tastes in music. Heaven knows there is one out there for you. Happy Holidays.

Alma College Faculty and Staff

Many of your fellow employees have taken advantage of

MEEMIC

(Michigan Educational Employees Mutual Insurance Company)

You should too!

Auto and Homeowners Insurance.

Low Rates And

Excellent Claims Processing

Exclusively For School Employees!

For A Quote Call:

John or Pam Knowlton, 463-5347 or 1-800-783-0817

Also offering Life, Boat, Motorcycle and Commercial Insurance
Michigan Education Ins. Agency



For Alma's best pizza call...

PIZZA SAM'S

ANYTHING ELSE WOULD BE UNCIVILIZED.

463-3881

463-3910

Open:

Weekdays at 3p.m.

Sat. & Sun. 12p.m.

Staff Editorial

Improvements needed to ease transition for returning students

Alma College offers an excellent variety of overseas and off-campus educational programs. Students are encouraged to participate in semesters at international universities, internships in other states and exchanges with other American institutions. These programs generate an excitement for diversity, cross-cultural understanding, career decisions and, perhaps most importantly, a sense of independence and individuality.

The education gained from these programs is a significant addition to the development of self-sufficiency that one learns here at Alma College, but often self-sufficiency requires some institutional assistance. Although the overseas and off-campus experiences themselves are outstanding, many students find it frustrating to continue their education once they return to Alma College.

One of the major problems returning students have is campus housing. Most students who study away from Alma College live either in an apartment, with a family or in international housing. Living independent of an American residence hall teaches one about living on your own, without a Resident Assistant or quiet hours, with the responsibilities of finding living quarters, paying bills and budgeting a fixed income.

Having had the experience of living on one's own, many students find it difficult to come back to residence hall life. Used to the autonomy and privacy of living off-campus, some students have trouble readjusting to living in a large residence hall. Once returning to Alma College, though, these students have no choice but to live on campus. Off-campus housing is available only to those with medical, mental or other extenuating circumstances. The experience and satisfaction of living a mature, independent life for a semester is not enough reason for the college to allow one to move off-campus when they are enrolled in on-campus classes.

Thus, returning students are forced to comply with on-campus housing. This is another difficulty in itself. Returning students are put on the bottom of the housing list and their needs are attended to last. Room changes and transfer students are established before returning students are

placed into rooms. Seniority by class has no effect on the placement of students in housing. Underclass students can change rooms before a upperclass student returning from an encouraged program off-campus can choose or be placed into a room. The returning students are then left with no choice but to be stuck into whatever leftover beds or rooms are available.

Another problem with the international and off-campus studies are misconceptions about courses and scheduling, both for the off-campus studies and for the semester of return. Firstly, the scheduling of classes for students travelling abroad is a confusing process. Students and advisors alike are uninformed about which classes will successfully transfer onto Alma College transcripts and what distributive or major requirements they will fulfill. Many times students cannot know until they enroll or participate in the courses abroad what types of requirements that course will cover. A greater understanding of the types of courses offered at the international institutions would help in this area.

Scheduling is further complicated when the student returns to the Alma College campus. Students are asked to leave their planned schedules for their returning semester with their advisors before they leave campus. It is then up to the advisor to turn the pre-registration form in to the Registrar's Office. There are many problems with this process. For one, advisors are busy people; they have a number of advisees, classes and responsibilities, and remembering to turn in one student's pre-registration information at the end of a semester in the student's absence is just another thing to do.

Also, the official schedules undergo many changes before and while they are delivered from the Registrar's Office. The classes one wished to register for when they returned to campus may no longer be offered once they return. Or, the student may decide on another course of study while they are off-campus and the pre-registration schedule they left may not contain the correct courses.

Students who wait until they return to campus to register for classes find many courses closed before they even had the opportunity to sign into the courses. There are no leniencies for returning students to sign into closed classes, either. Instructors take in students on a first-come, first-served basis, and returning students

cannot approach the instructors until well after the course has been closed.

A final dilemma that could solve most of the other complications in the overseas and off-campus programs is communication. Students who are studying off-campus receive very little correspondence from the College. Once one reaches their destination, they are pretty much on their own. Many students studying abroad are included on *The Almanian* mailing list, but often we don't receive the names of the students studying in the U.S. in programs such as the Stillman Exchange or the Philadelphia Center. And *The Almanian* can only provide so much information. Students off-campus need updates on the scheduling and housing processes and corrections, (campus memos could help clear up confusions about new Alma policies,) and personal correspondence would answer questions each individual may have about their own programs, scheduling and housing.

If the international and off-campus programs included a more intimate communication between students and their program directors, then most of the misconceptions and difficulties could be alleviated. Students could then directly deal with their housing choices or scheduling conflicts as the process was occurring on campus.

Also, students planning a semester off-campus could be allowed to secure their definite housing arrangements before they leave campus or at least be put above new or incoming students on the housing priority list. Who wants to experience a semester abroad when they know that once they return they will have lost all seniority in housing and scheduling processes? Shouldn't students who have spent at least two years at this college and have chosen to act as ambassadors for Alma College on other campuses across the nation and the world have some sort of respect or priority upon their return to the campus? We hope to see a program that offers so many exceptional learning opportunities abroad develop those same opportunities here at home. With some fine-tuning and improvements, the transition for returning students can be made less stressful and more accommodating. Some basic improvements will make a good program even better and possibly attract more students to the programs.

The Almanian

Newberry Hall
Alma College;
Alma, Michigan
48801
(517) 463-7161

Editors-in-Chief:

Sara Groves

Ganesa Wegienka

Senior Editor:

William J. Johnston

News Editor:

Cathy DeShano

Feature Editor:

Brooke Hansen

Sports Editor:

Julianne Thomas

Opinion Editor:

Shannon Garrett

Investigative

Reporter:

Leslie Theisen

Copy Editor:

Laura Rice

Staff Reporters:

Kristin Allen

Kristen Miquel

Anne Buyze

Tim Ketel

Photo Editor:

Kerrie Kempermyr

Photo Staff:

Paige Sandberg

Andy Torrence

Graphics Editors:

Brent Oeschger

Jason Ricks

Business Manager:

Chris Wiederman

Office Manager:

Kim Goetz

Advertising Manager:

Stacy Schattschneider

Assistant Advertising

Manager:

Bonnie Palmer

Distribution Manager:

Sarah Barclay

Advisers:

John Ottenhoff

Eugene Pattison

Staff Editorial Policy

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

Letter Policy

All Letters to the Editor must meet the following standards for publication: signed, include the author's phone number and address, and pertain to the Alma College community. Letters are published on a first come, first served basis, up to three per week. We reserve the right to condense for layout purposes. Deadline for publication is 5 p.m. the Friday before requested publication. Address letters to: The Editorial Board, *The Almanian*, Newberry Hall, Alma College, Alma, MI 48801.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to the article by freelance writer Matt Groves in the Dec. 7 issue of *The Almanian* titled: "Capitalism ruins American dream for middle class." Mr. Groves claims that in American society today, "...we have a handful of people who decide what is right and what is wrong." In case no one has noticed, the huge government bureaucracy running things today constitutes much more than just "a handful." Furthermore, "John Q. Public" does indeed have a say in what goes on around him, even if he does not have a fat wallet. It is called a vote. Not only that, "the people with the very least" DO NOT foot the bill for everyone else. Where is the proof for that statement? Mr. Groves should check the tax brackets for low-income people as compared to those with six figure salaries. The author also complains that "the very rich" are not "giving up

their goods." The United States is NOT a communist or socialist society. Giving up one's wealth in favor of all-around equality strongly conflicts with the American spirit of individualism. And this individualism fuels capitalism, which makes the U.S.A. arguably one of the best nations on this planet. The American Dream *cannot* exist without capitalism, because it is based on capitalism. Instead of Groves' title, a more truthful one would be: "Capitalism runs American dream for middle class."

Emily Damstra '97

Dear Editor,

In light of the recent discussion concerning the "Brett and Brad Show", we feel it is important to define and clarify the issues at stake. In our opinion, the issues are as follows: The difference between an editorial and entertainment, limits on free speech, and the interpretation of

the Alma College Mission Statement. In order to effectively direct future discussion of these issues we would like to present some thought-provoking questions.

What is the basis of assuming that the "Brett and Brad Show" is an editorial? Do we at Alma College want to limit the exercise of free speech as guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States? Do we want campus media organizations to conform to the Mission Statement of Alma College? Does conforming to the Mission Statement limit evolution of the college according to societal values?

WQAC intends to break the proverbial "Alma College bubble." The discussion surrounding the "Brett and Brad Show" is a step toward accomplishing our goal. We argue that the issues stated above constantly challenge American citizens. The freedom to explore our rights and values is a very important part of our existence.

Let us clarify that the concerns brought to the Executive Board of WQAC have been taken very seriously. The "Brett and Brad Show" is

constantly evolving and changes are already noticeable. Editorial air-time is a very real possibility for Winter Term. Anyone who has interest in airing his or her views should notify Nate Pawlicki or Brad Engel as soon as possible. We would also like to invite all members of the campus community to attend an open forum hosted by the Communications Committee at the beginning of next term. The date and time are to be announced.

We hope we have made the issues clear in this letter so that further discussion is possible. We encourage students and faculty to keep talking and writing about this controversial subject. There are no clear cut answers and we hope that the discussion will continue for the sake of education.

Karen A. Haviland
General Manager, WQAC
Fall Term, 1993

Nathan Pawlicki
General Manager, WQAC
Winter Term, 1994