

# The Almanian

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Issue 16

## Admission numbers soar

Alma College sees record applications, expects to close admissions earlier

By Brian Haara  
Investigative Coordinator

The Alma College Admissions Office continues to receive a near record number of applications for admission to the class of 1997. "We're very excited in the Admissions Office that people recognize that Alma is a quality institution" said John Seveland, Vice President for Enrollment and Student Affairs.

Reflecting the trend reported in the Jan. 19, issue of *The Almanian*, as of Feb. 4, the Admissions Office had received 1,074 applications with 850 accepted and 167 placing the required deposit.

These numbers dwarf the statistics from last year at this time. One year ago the Admissions Office had received approximately 890 applications for admission, had granted about 700 acceptances and had received about 178 deposits.

Typically, of those accepted, 33 percent actually enroll, according to Seveland. The unusually large class of 1996 resulted from an uncanny enrollment rate of 40 percent.

These percentages lead the Admissions Office to believe that they will have to close admissions earlier than even last year.

When asked to speculate on why Alma College has been so success-

ful during the past two recruiting seasons, Seveland emphasized that it is not the result of any one program, instead, numerous programs are finally paying off.

These approaches tend to be more scientific, such as "Geo-Demographics," according to Seveland. Additionally, Seveland finds that "everybody at Alma is a salesperson, prospective students get the feeling that faculty, students and

*"The increased popular image of Alma College is finally taking hold..."*

--President Alan J. Stone

staff all like it here."

President Alan J. Stone agrees that there are a number of aspects coming together. "The increased popular image of Alma College is finally taking hold, the College has increased scholarship awards for first-year students and the Admissions Office has done a marvelous job of recruiting."

Junior Suzanna Rocco, a student coordinator for the Alma Ambassadors, also agrees that the success is a result of numerous efforts. "We have outstanding Admissions coun-

selors and an active Ambassadors program which allows perspectives to talk with actual students."

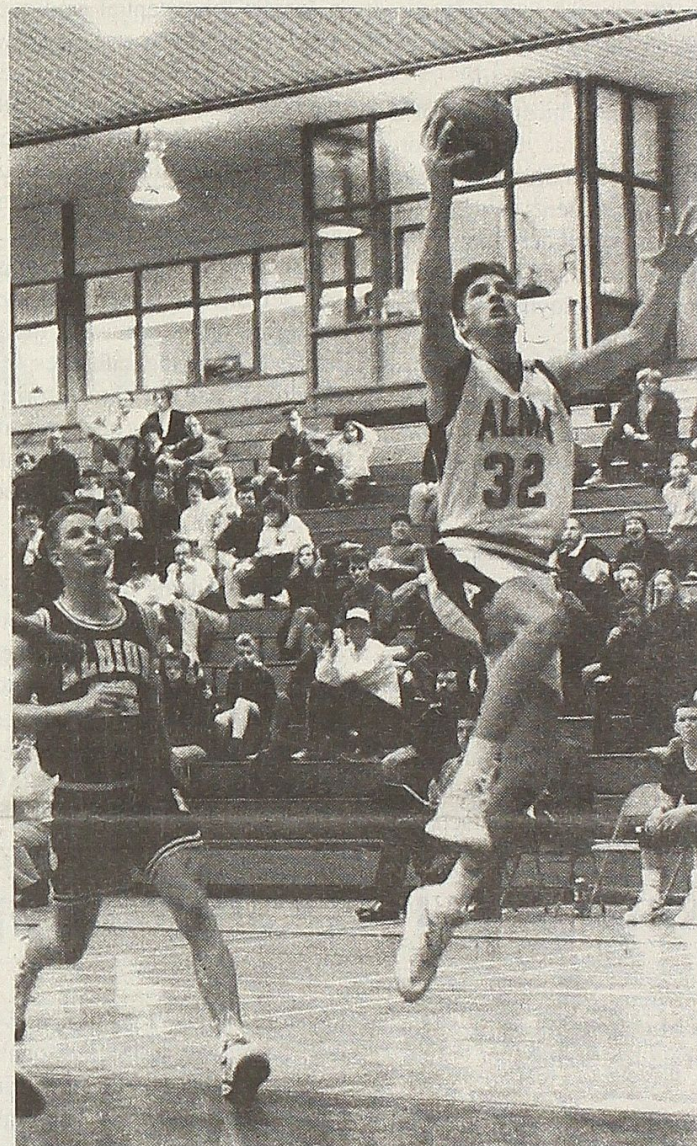
Rocco also added that Alma College has a reputation for having friendly students and that the overnight stay opportunities with Ambassadors is beneficial to prospective students.

John Chambers, a first-year Alma Ambassador, has hosted two prospective students along with his roommate Wesley Lyons. Chambers commented, "The Ambassadors program definitely is a key to the Admissions Office success." He added, "The perspectives were impressed with the tour and the overnight stay and left on a positive note."

The success of the Admissions staff, however, has not brought about complacency. According to Seveland, in March and/or April the Admissions Office will bring high school counselors to Alma in an aggressive effort to increase the awareness of Alma's programs. One target area mentioned by Seveland is the Southeast portion of Michigan, such as Monroe.

Summing up the success experienced by Alma College, Stone, upon returning from a conference of college presidents, said, "I can't find any college that's having this same experience."

## Scots squeak past Albion



Sophomore Todd Blomquist goes for a lay-up. Photo by J. Dial

## Residence halls seek new leaders for upcoming year

By Brett Powers  
Staff Reporter

Three Alma College hall directors will not return next fall: Teresa Cervantes, Mike Buell and Rebecca Spartz. They leave behind only Anne Rathjen, Bruske Hall director, who is also the Assistant Dean of Students, as the only returning hall director next year.

The hall directors are leaving for various reasons. "This was my second year as Newberry Hall director, but now that I have my masters at CMU (Central Michigan University) done I'm going to try and get a job at a bigger university," said Cervantes, Newberry Hall director.

Before she came to Alma, Cervantes graduated from Grand Valley State University with a psychology major. This August she will receive her masters degree in Human Resource Management from CMU.

Academic year 1992-93 marked.

Rebecca Spartz's first year as Gelston Hall director. "I wanted to get my masters from CMU, but the timing just did not work out right. I want to go on to get my masters in social work, but I'm going to have to do it somewhere else," said Spartz, who has an undergraduate degree in human services.

Mitchell Hall Director Mike Buell was unavailable for comment on his decision not to return next year.

Dean of Students James Kridler says the large exodus of hall directors will not be a problem. "We get most of our hall directors from the Oshgosh Placement Exchange that takes place in March. Last year we interviewed about 56 or 58 people for hall director jobs. Over 1,000 candidates were at the exchange last year; there is not a shortage of people for the job," said Kridler.

Kridler, along with Associate Dean of Students Linda Harleston and Vice-President for Enrollment and Student Affairs John Seveland, will attend the exchange in Wis-

consin and interview candidates for the vacant hall director positions.

"We are looking for people who have their undergraduate degrees and are interested in a career in student development, counseling or something similar," explained Kridler. "They usually have experience in residence life, like being resident assistants (RAs) or assistant hall directors."

Life as a hall director for Alma College is very busy; not only are they responsible for their residence halls, but they are also involved with the Student Affairs Office, which has its good points and its bad points.

"I really like being involved with the other parts of campus, not just with my hall. Because we are part of Student Affairs we are able to really be a part of the different aspects of this College. Plus, we have a great Student Affairs staff; we really worked well together," said Cervantes.

Frustration, lack of privacy and

sometimes excessive noise are some of the down sides of being a hall director, but many positive aspects do exist.

"I really enjoy the residents who live in Gelston. I learned a lot of positive things working with a co-ed staff. The Alma students are

dynamic—very active," said Spartz.

Rathjen commented on other job benefits: "We get our room and board covered which is nice. But the best part are the interactions with the students."



Hall directors Mike Buell and Rebecca Spartz. Photo by M. Stargardt

Feb. 9, 1993

# Alumni Council opens horizons for Chicago Trip

By Maria Stephens  
Freelance Writer

While most Alma College students were trudging up the stairs of Swanson Academic Center last Thursday and Friday mornings on their way to class, 41 juniors and seniors were scaling the stairs of corporate office buildings, maneuvering public transport systems and experiencing the unfamiliar world of downtown big-city life.

The second Chicago Trip of the 1992-93 academic year, sponsored by the Center for Student Development, took students to the Windy City to make career contacts, explore job options and interview for permanent employment or internship positions.

"I had to go through high security to get into the interview for one position—you have to give them all this identification, everything," said senior Christine Perez, who was seeking an internship in the public relations and advertising fields. "It really gave you a taste of the big-city life."

GINNA HOLMES, associate director of the Center, coordinated the trip, which cost \$80. "I make the interview contacts through a number of resources," said Holmes. "I try to make personal contacts with

several employers so that we can go to them year after year. I find out what types of positions students are interested in and try to meet those needs. Also, alumni are a major resource—especially with the new Alumni Council."

The Alumni Council, an organization of Alma alumni working in Chicago, has proved invaluable as a contact for potential employers and for job-search and interviewing strategy advice, Holmes explained. This trip, alumnus Mike Mulligan, who runs a career consulting firm specializing in aiding displaced corporate executives, gave a workshop for students.

"The workshop was excellent," said senior Keith Erwin, who was exploring opportunities in the finance and banking industries. "He [Mulligan] had five former top executives who gave us interview tips that were really good, and that I hadn't heard before. They stressed being creative and taking risks in interviews."

Many students had "informational" interviews with several employers, which provided them with career information and knowledge of several large companies, as well as contacts and interview experience.

Other students had "real" inter-

views for permanent employment and internship positions.

Senior Deb Lynch had a second interview with Jason Martin & Co., a consulting firm which first interviewed her on the Chicago Trip in November. She is seeking a permanent position in computer consulting.

"I would definitely recommend the [Chicago] trips—you get interviews with companies that you otherwise would not get, because they will not come up to Alma because it's so small," she said. "With consulting, you pretty much have to go to the big cities, so this trip was perfect for me," said Lynch.

Senior Amy Schusslein, seeking a permanent position in business administration and marketing, also attended both Chicago trips this year. "The first trip, I had more 'informational' interviews, and that was good because I could get some information and a feel for 'big-city' life without the pressure of 'real' interviews. But this time I was ready for some employment interviews," she said. She had five interviews with employers ranging from consulting firms to insurance companies to publishing companies.

Several juniors also joined the trip this time, seeking internship



Ginna Holmes and Bob Perkins prepare to leave for Chicago Wednesday afternoon. Photo by A. Mull

positions. Junior biology major Eric Newman interviewed with Wetlands Research, Inc., which specializes in freshwater ecology and restoration of wetlands. Although they could not definitely hire him until March, they were very positive about offering him a summer internship position.

"I just decided that I needed more

research experience, so when I got the letter sent out to all juniors I signed up. I would definitely recommend it to all juniors and seniors—if for nothing more than the professional experience, and the experience of getting around on a schedule in a big city," said Newman.

## Rape survivors show support for group

By Maria Stephens  
Freelance Writer

The Center for Student Development recently announced the formation of a Rape Survivors Support Group through a memo to all women students. The group met for the first time last Tuesday, Feb. 2.

"Many women students recently expressed the need for the formation of this group—some had come to the Women's Issues Advisory Board, others to Student Affairs and other administrators," said Edie Sample, assistant director of the Center for Student Development and co-facilitator of the group.

"We always knew there was a need for this kind of group—but the question was whether there was the desire. We have known that there are many rape survivors on this campus, many of whom we counsel individually, but we did not know if there would be interest in a support group of this kind," Sample said. "Several things just came together—concerns expressed from many sides—to make this happen."

Sample explained that support-group counseling can be ideal for rape survivors past the initial "crisis" stage, who are dealing with the long-term effects of rape. "Often they [survivors] are think-

ing at this point, 'I should be over this,' but they are still feeling lonely, isolated—experiencing post-traumatic stress syndrome," she said.

Continuing, "Much research and anecdotal evidence indicates that support groups can be as or more effective than individual counseling for survivors past the initial

survivors to empower themselves, to see how they can do that for themselves and each other," she said.

She added that the Center does provide services for those who are counseling or supporting a survivor. This support can be both educational, in the form of infor-

*"It is incredibly affirming to learn that you are not the only one. There is a support that comes from someone who knows exactly what you've been through..."*

*--Edie Sample, assistant director of the Center for Student Development*

crisis stage. Family members and friends may not be able to give the survivor the support she needs—they may think, 'Why is she telling me about this again?'"

"It is incredibly affirming to learn that you are not the only one. There is a support that comes from someone who knows exactly what you've been through, which a professional [counselor] just can't give," said Sample.

Sample said that at this time the group is open only to survivors, not to those who are interested in helping or counseling survivors. "I think right now it is important for the

mation the friend can offer the survivor, and also as an emotional support for the friend who is supporting the survivor.

"The group is very small right now, but we know that there are more survivors on campus," said Sample. She emphasized that any survivor can come to any meeting, even if she has never attended before. The group meets from 4 to 5 p.m. in the west room of the Chapel basement, and is facilitated by Sample and Mindy Sargent. Contact either at 7225 with any questions.

## Security memo distributed

By Steve Rummel  
Freelance Writer

Last Thursday, Physical Plant distributed a Security informational memo to Alma College students. The pamphlet resulted from students' questions and concerns of safety after report of an alleged third-degree criminal sexual conduct incident involving an Alma co-ed and a part-time College Security officer over the holiday break.

The pamphlet included pictures and descriptions of the four full-time security staff members: Steve Edwards, Randy Ferguson, Dan Martin and Brian Nesen. The memo also listed the hours that Security is available with emergency numbers of where they can be reached (ext. 7157). Also included were sections describing "How to Report a Problem," "The Hiring Process" and "Security Staff Daily Duties."

All prospective security staff members go through a complete interview process. The process includes a thorough personal record screening conducted by the Alma Police Department, a

reference check conducted by the College's director of personnel, a physical examination administered by the College's health services staff and employment interviews with several directors involved in the hiring process.

After hiring, all new Security employees complete a 90-day probationary period while undergoing further training by qualified College personnel. Training sessions, in the operation of fire and burglar alarms and familiarization with critical functions of several pieces of mechanical room equipment, are required along with administrative instruction on how to deal with faculty, staff, off-campus visitors and students.

Administrative instruction includes specific guidelines and restrictions of their personal relationships with both students and the College community while on duty.

Finally, new staff members go through a two-week, on-the-job training period with other members on the Security team.

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# Doors open for academically challenged students

By Cathy DeShano  
Staff Reporter

When students go off to college, they often hear people tell them they will have to "make the grade" and "make the adjustment." College can be a challenging and trying experience for any student; you're suddenly thrown into an arena of competition, responsibility and decision making. These pressures become even more overwhelming if you're a learning disabled student, a visual or hearing impaired student, or a student with any other disability which complicates the learning process. The Center for Student Development hopes to aid students with such

circumstances.

On Tuesday, Feb. 9, at 7 p.m., Robert Perkins, Director of Student Development, will meet in the Center for Student Development

lenced. Since the Americans with Disabilities Act passed in 1990, Perkins has seen an increasing need for attending to Alma College students who fall under this act.

*"...I also hope it will provide emotional and academic support. Students can talk about some things they've tried that worked and didn't work..." -- Robert Perkins, director of Student Development*

with any academically challenged students wishing to discuss experiences. Perkins began formulating an idea about four years ago of how to work with those students who find themselves academically chal-

"Several years ago, through counseling, we kept coming across learning disabled students that we didn't know about. Through the Americans with Disabilities Act, not only can we not discriminate against

them, but if we admit them we're required to permit services for them. We're having more and more students apply for this. I've found myself working individually with a number of learning disabled students on study skills and tutoring, as well as speaking with their advisors," said Perkins.

According to Perkins, an estimated two to three percent of Alma College's students find themselves with learning disabilities. Perkins has collectively met with a number of learning disabled students who expressed interest in sharing personal stories and concerns about life at Alma College and thus, an organizational meeting was established. As a result of this, Perkins

has several goals in mind for students who attend the meeting as well as for the campus community.

"There are a number of goals I have. First, I hope to develop a support group so that these students know they aren't the only students like this at the College. I also hope it will provide emotional and academic support. Students can talk about some things they've tried that worked and didn't work. Finally, I hope this becomes an advocacy group. I've also been working with the faculty off and on. I have an excellent film which I would like to show them this semester, and down the road I have some training in mind for them," said Perkins.

## Tower construction begins for WQAC

*New 91 FM aims to fill airways by end of February*

By Jeff List  
Freelance Writer

The executive counsel of WQAC is taking the final steps toward making WQAC a reality. Alma College's own FM radio station has experienced its share of setbacks, but the "New 91" is tentatively scheduled to go on the air by the end of February.

Organizers of the radio station spent most of Fall Term waiting for the okay from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to obtain a license and call letters.

Senior Dave Woodruff, general manager of WQAC, explained, "It's a long and arduous process—it just doesn't happen overnight. The FCC is a government agency with a lot of responsibilities, not just Alma College."

After FCC approval, radio management received the financial commitment from Student Congress. The \$25,000 covered the costs of the equipment and

antenna construction. With the assistance of Dean of Students James Kridler, WQAC's executive counsel signed contracts with Audio Broadcast Group for most of the equipment, and Great Lakes Tower & Antenna for tower construction. The contracts gave the contractors 30 working days to receive the equipment and 30 working days to install the equipment. The equipment began arriving last week, and the cement footings for the antenna are now in place.

While the contractors are assembling the tower, volunteers for WQAC will organize and distribute a questionnaire concerning the music tastes of the campus.

Senior J.C. Clarkson, programmer for WQAC, emphasized the need for student input. "This is an alternative music station," said Clarkson. "But, we will have blues, jazz or country music shows if that is what the students want. We are providing a service for Alma College. We, as a station, are responsible to Alma College students first, then the Alma community and surrounding areas."

Currently, Clarkson is completing the station's operating manual.

The next phase in making the "New 91" a reality is finding and training deejays. According to Woodruff, this will be a quick and uncomplicated process.

WQAC hopes to begin broadcasting from 6 a.m. until 2 a.m., eventually working up to 24 hour-a-day broadcasting. "They [students] need to get involved. This is their radio station and it is a tremendous opportunity for this entire campus," said Clarkson.

Estimates for being on-air range from the end of February to the week after spring break. "I've worked four years to see this station become a reality," said Woodruff. "I've been asked if we were up or not. But once we're up, there will be no doubt we're up and running. The entire community will know. Overnight we could become the biggest thing to hit this campus."

## Keeping You Informed

### Brain games abound in upcoming College Bowl

Applications for "the varsity sport of the mind" are currently available at all resident hall switchboards, the Student Affairs Office and the Union Board Office. Union Board must receive all team applications by Feb. 15, to ensure a spot in the Bowl.

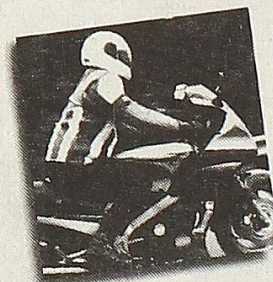
### Spring Term registration falls upon students

Registration forms for the upcoming 1993 Spring Term are due the week of Feb. 8 through Feb. 12. Seniors will turn in their applications on Monday, Feb. 8; juniors on Tuesday, Feb. 9; sophomores on Wednesday, Feb. 10; first-year students on Thursday,

Feb. 11; and Friday, Feb. 12, will be open for any students who missed their application day earlier in the week. Tuition charge for Spring Term 1993 is \$100 this year in addition to room and board costs.

### African Fellowship Auction seeks donations

Friday, Feb. 19, marks the 1993 African Fellowship Auction. The auction will begin at 6 p.m. in Jones Auditorium. Auction items include dinners, gift certificates, jewelry, handcrafted items and many Nigerian artifacts. Last year's auction raised \$3,400, and this year's auction hopes to surpass that total. The funds raised from the auction help support the African Fellowship Program.



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## Giovanni challenges African-American students

By Maria Stephens  
Freelance Writer

"For the black community, there has always been the idea that you answer to the ancestors," said African-American poet, lecturer and recording artist Nikki Giovanni at the opening ceremony of Central Michigan University's (CMU) Black History Month celebration on Thursday, Feb. 4, to a filled Bovee University Center Auditorium.

Giovanni, poet and professor of English at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, included poetry, advice and much humor in her thoughts on life and African-American heritage, directed especially at young African-Americans in the audience.

"And so we [older African-Americans] hate to see you [young African-Americans] becoming materialistic, selling yourself short. Don't

let yourself be purchased...challenge yourself to do all that you're capable of," she said.

The ceremony's theme was, "Be-

entire world and beyond," Giovanni said.

Giovanni also spoke out against racist language, using Cincinnati Reds owner Marge Schott as an

example. Schott was suspended for one year after making racist statements.

"If we don't at least change the way Mrs. Schott speaks, we will never change the way she thinks," she said. "We don't need that—we don't need hatred. There is no reason to take the stupid ideas of the 20th century into the 21st, much less those of the 19th and 18th," she said.

Giovanni urged youth to challenge themselves, and not to be discouraged by failures. "You [young people] all think if you don't 'get it' now, you're never going to get it. One of the biggest lies told to young people is that 'these are the best years of your life'—if this, this confusion, is the best you're going to get, no wonder your suicide rate is what it is. This is not the best. Somewhere around age 40 or 50 you will begin to peak," she said.

*One of the biggest lies told to young people is that 'these are the best years of your life'—if this, this confusion, is the best you're going to get, no wonder your suicide rate is what it is.*

--Nikki Giovanni

fore There was Any History...There was Black History," and included a choral performance by the Youth Ambassadors for Christ Gospel Choir and a presentation of scholarship awards by CMU's Organization for Black Unity (OBU).

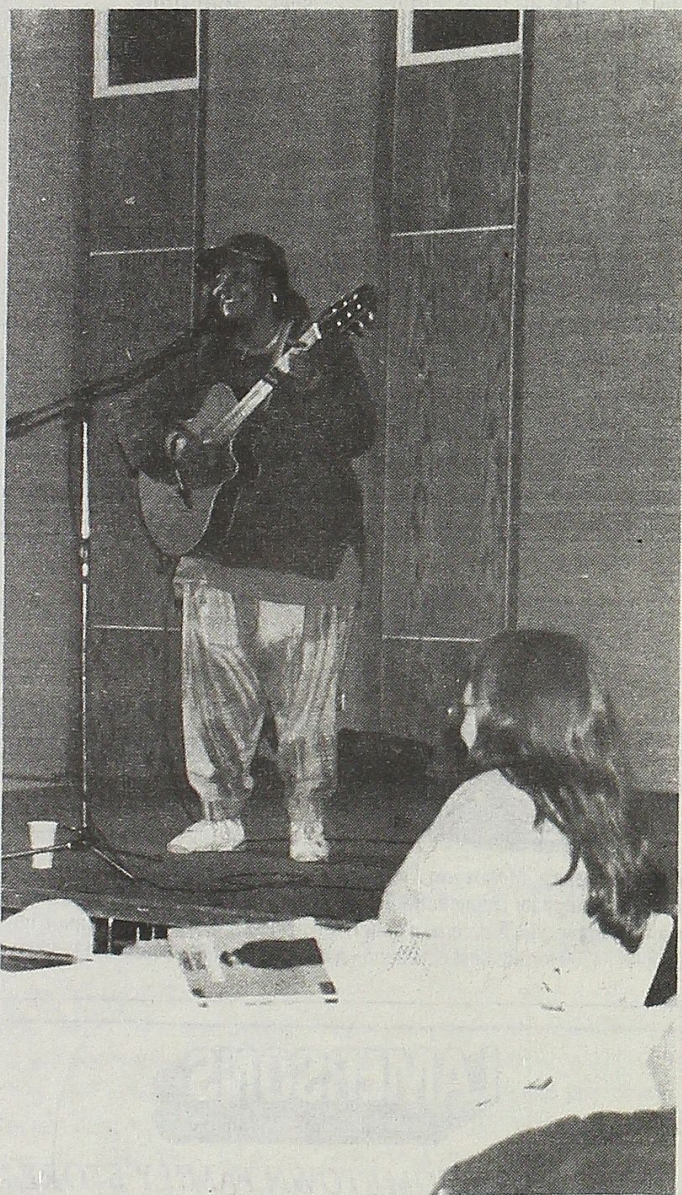
"You must think beyond Flint, or Saginaw, or Detroit or even Michigan and the United States, to the

example. Schott was suspended for one year after making racist statements.

"If we don't at least change the way Mrs. Schott speaks, we will never change the way she thinks," she said. "We don't need that—we don't need hatred. There is no reason to take the stupid ideas of the 20th century into the 21st, much

Throughout her speech and closing comments, Giovanni stressed the role of women in building the world of tomorrow. "African-American women, who have always known how to love anything and anyone, are the ones who will play a major role in our future," she said.

## ACUB Coffeehouse packs them in



ACUB sponsored another Coffeehouse on Tuesday, Feb. 2 in Joe's Place. The event featured entertainer Daryle Rice. Photo by A. Mull

## Award-winning professor, linguist scheduled to speak on campus

By Katie Novak  
Feature Editor

Geneva Smitherman, an award-winning international authority on Black English and the education of African-Americans, will speak Thursday, Feb. 11, as part of Alma College's celebration of Black History Month. Titled *'The Miseducation of the Negro' and You Too*, her public lecture is at 6:30 p.m. in Dunning Memorial Chapel.

A professor of English and the director of the African-American Language and Literacy Program at Michigan State University, Smitherman started her education career as a high school teacher in the Detroit Public Schools. While there she established *My Brother's Keeper*, a mentoring program for elementary students with an emphasis on African-American males.

In her career she has held faculty positions at the University of Michigan (U-M), Harvard University and Wayne State University (WSU) and visiting professorships at Oxford University in England and California State University-Northridge. Smitherman received her bachelor and master of arts degrees in English and Latin from WSU and a doctor of philosophy degree in English from U-M.

Currently chief editor of the African-American Life Series of *The Wayne State University Press*, Smitherman is the author of *Sounds of Soul: Black Lan-*

*guage and Culture and Talkin and Testifyin: The Language of Black Americans*. She has co-edited various books and published journal articles on the topic of African-American language and education. Broadcast programs seeking her expert opinion include *Oprah*, *Donahue* and *Today*.

Smitherman's visit is sponsored by EPIC (the English Club), the education department, the Co-Curricular Programming Committee and a special program funded by a State of Michigan Department of Education grant. In addition to lecturing, Smitherman is scheduled to visit various classes on Thursday, have lunch with faculty members and tea with faculty, students, staff and members of the community at 4 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge of Tyler-VanDusen.



Geneva Smitherman. File photo

## Black History Month Quiz Part I

By Maria Stephens  
Freelance Writer

Test your knowledge of the important people and events in African-American history by taking the first part of our quiz. Answers follow.

1. Name the African-American man who was the first to give his life in the skirmish later known as the Boston Massacre.
2. What is the title of the novel by Harriet Beecher Stowe which appeared in 1852? The novel sold over 300,000 copies in one year and won over countless sympathizers to the abolitionist cause.
3. Called "The Black Prophet" by some, this visionary slave revolutionary led a small band of slaves on a two-day insurrection that rocked the area of Southampton, Virginia in August of 1831. He fled to a nearby swamp where he remained at large for six weeks before being captured.
4. What is the name of the famous Supreme Court decision that, in 1857, opened federal territory to slavery, denied citizenship to African-Americans and decreed that slaves do not become free when taken into free territory? It was named after the slave who sued his master for freedom.
5. What is the name of the former congresswoman from New York who was the first African-American woman to sit in the House of Representatives in 1969?
6. Who was the first African-American appointed as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court in 1967, by President Johnson? (Hint: very recently deceased.)
7. On what date was Martin Luther King, Jr., assassinated?
8. This well-known human rights activist of the 1960s first became involved in the Nation of Islam while serving a 10-year prison term for drug peddling. He was instrumental in developing a sense of pride in the black community. He was assassinated in 1965.
9. In 1905 in New York, 129 African-American intellectuals from 14 states met and organized the Niagara movement, which became the forerunner of this important civil rights organization, which still exists today.
10. Who was the woman called "Black Moses," a major conductor on the Underground Railroad, who returned to the South 19 times, leading over 300 slaves to freedom in the North and Canada?

Answers on page 5...

## Retraction

The time of Geneva Smitherman's public lecture was incorrectly reported in the Feb. 2, issue of *The Almanian*. Smitherman's lecture is scheduled for 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 11, in Dunning Memorial Chapel. We regret the error.

## Talented students awarded for literary works

By Christy DeBurton  
Freelance Writer

The awards went out last week to the winners of the 1993 Writing Contest sponsored by the English Department. This yearly contest allows students to enter their works under the categories of Essay, Story and Poetry to be judged by the English professors. Prizes of \$75, \$50 and \$25 go to the top three selections in each category.

William Palmer, associate professor of English, admitted he was a little disappointed in the response to the contest this year. Only seven essays, six stories and 50 poems were submitted. He was especially disappointed with the lack of essays submitted, since most students write essays for their classes.

Even students Palmer asked to submit works didn't. Speculating on the small number of entries he said, "[It was] possibly because of the deadline, the first week of Winter Term, it may not have been on people's minds." However, the contest was advertised for three or four weeks before Fall Term ended,

and the English professors distributed flyers about it in their classes. "We really tried to inform the students," said Palmer.

For several students, the time and effort they took to submit their works paid off. Senior Martha Cummings won first place with her essay *Life in California*. She wrote the essay after travelling to northern California several times to visit her sisters.

"The essay illustrates the differences between people's images of California and what it's really like. There's more to it than just southern California and the beaches," she said. Cummings won first place last year also with an essay on Segovia, Spain.

Adam Burhans won second place with his story *Barbs*. "It's about a college kid who has a father in the military. The father doesn't really want the son around, so he sends him to a liberal arts college similar to Alma. The father dies and the son goes nuts. He goes for a run to blow off steam, runs into a junk yard, strips off his clothes and kills himself by jumping off a pile of

junk," said Burhans.

Burhans was disappointed that his story only won second place, since the department did not award a first place prize for stories. According to Palmer, the judges felt that there wasn't a story "worth a first place award." Burhans said the judges may have been critical of *Barbs* because of the similarities between the liberal arts college in the story and Alma College and its unconventionality. "[But] professors expect me to write unconventional things," Burhans said.

Another second-year winner, senior Kerrie Kempermyn took second place in the Poetry category with her poem "spreading eggs and milk." Though Kempermyn won first place last year, she entered on a whim this year. She began working on the poem last summer while she was in a doctor's office. As she was waiting she was looking at the older women sitting around her and watching how some of them reacted to their husbands.

"It's about women giving up their souls for men," Kempermyn said. "It's not meant to slam men. It's

just about what makes us alive and makes our souls important."

### Writing Contest Winners Essay:

- 1st: *Life in California* by Martha Cummings  
2nd: *You Actually Live above a Funeral Home?* by Stephanie Mortensen  
3rd: *An Aesthetic Paper* by Everett Wiggins

### Story:

- 1st: Not awarded  
2nd: *Barbs* by Adam Burhans  
3rd: *Take Care* by Heather Laird

### Poetry:

- 1st: *Your Print* by Margie Gribben  
2nd: *spreading eggs and milk* by Kerrie Kempermyn  
3rd: tie *Crossbow* by Kristin Bender and *Bartender's Daughter* by Margie Gribben

## New Crayolas search for identities

By Katie Novak  
Feature Editor

To celebrate its 90th anniversary, the Crayola Company has produced 16 new colors of its popular crayons. However, these crayons, wrapped in black and white, are just "numbers." The *Detroit Free Press* on Sunday, Jan. 31, reported that Crayola wants the public to give names to its new crayon colors (which are available now only in the special 96 Big Box) and is sponsoring a national contest to accomplish the task.

According to the article, contestants must list their name suggestions as well as "a one-sentence description of why the names are original, creative and appropriate." Entries should be sent by Aug. 31, 1993 to: Crayola New Color Contest, P.O. Box 342, Conshohocken, PA, 19428.

Crayola will announce the winners, whose names will appear on the crayons for a short time and photos will become permanent fixtures in the Crayola Hall of Fame, on Nov. 9.

## Quink gives delightful performance

By Will Nichols  
Faculty Contributor

The Dutch vocal quintet *Quink* performed for an audience of more than 100 music lovers in Dunning Memorial Chapel on Thursday, Feb. 4. The ensemble of three women and two men sang a beautiful program primarily consisting of European madrigals and folk

songs. Its perfect intonation, seamless phrasing and marvelous text declamation illustrated why *Quink* has become one of the premier vocal ensembles in the world.

Differing from a typical choir which has many singers performing each vocal line, each member of *Quink* has a solo part that fits into the greater whole. In this way *Quink* is very much like The New

World String Quartet that has given so many wonderful concerts on Alma's campus. The five singers that make up *Quink* each displayed a tremendous amount of vocal flexibility and strength while never forgetting the importance of blending their individual voices to create a homogeneous vocal tone.

From the opening notes of Thomas Morley's famous *Now is the month of Maying* the audience knew it was in for something special. Singing without vibrato, but with great care for the depth and clarity of the sound, *Quink* did a wonderful job of creating the pure vocal tone with which many experts believe these songs were originally sung. Particularly impressive was the precision and artistry with which they handled the delicate phrases and text.

The first seven works of the concert all exemplified the English madrigal style that flourished in the last years of the 16th century and early years of the 17th century. The typical madrigal of this period tends to be a setting of a text that exults in the passion of young love, mourns for the loss of that love, suffers from the pain of unrequited love or an unattainable lover or revels in some sort of corporeal overindulgence. While each song

was beautiful, it was disappointing that *Quink* chose so many "mournful" and "unrequited" songs and left out all those exuberantly playful madrigals about "overindulgence."

Turning to the music of England's greatest 20th century composer, Benjamin Britten, *Quink* sang the eight songs that make up Britten's collection *Sacred and Profane*. The singers managed the vocal lines and unusual harmonies with an ease that belied the difficulties of the music.

The highlight of the evening came at the beginning of the second half when they turned their attention to a set of four Yugoslavian folksongs. The rich harmonies and the dramatic vocal affectations made these well worth waiting for.

*Quink* ended its program with a group of songs in which the individual personalities of the singers began to shine. The Italian madrigal about a hen and three Spanish songs about a bat, nightingale and elephant were sung with a level of facial animation that one wishes they had brought to their other music. The evening ended with several very well sung jazz arrangements of American popular songs.



Members of the Dutch vocal ensemble *Quink* perform in Dunning Memorial Chapel Thursday, Feb. 4. Photo by A. Torrence.

## Black history quiz answers:

1. Crispus Attucks
2. *Uncle Tom's Cabin*
3. Nat Turner
4. Dred Scott Decision
5. Shirley Chisholm
6. Thurgood Marshall
7. April 4, 1968
8. Malcolm X
9. National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
10. Harriet Tubman

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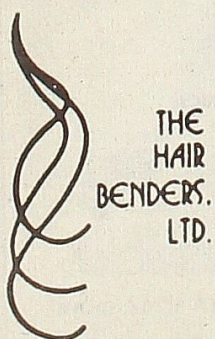
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Feb. 9, 1993

## Calendar of events

February 9-15

### ON CAMPUS:

Tuesday, Feb. 9

*Eyes on the Prize* video series  
4-6 p.m., SAC 108

Chemistry/Biochemistry  
Biweekly Seminar Series  
7 p.m., Dow L-2

Mitchell Hall Program:  
Food Expo  
7 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 10

*Eyes on the Prize* video series  
4-6 p.m., SAC 108

Co-Cur speaker: Richard  
Lapchick  
8 p.m. Dunning Memorial  
Chapel

Thursday, Feb. 11

*Eyes on the Prize* video series  
4-6 p.m., SAC 108

Speaker: Geneva  
Smitherman

*'The Miseducation of the  
Negro'-and You Too*  
6:30 p.m., Dunning Me-  
morial Chapel  
(Tea precedes lecture 4  
p.m. Fireside Lounge)

Newberry Hall Program:  
Relationships  
8 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 13

Mock Rock sponsored by  
ACUB  
8 p.m. Gymnasium

Mt. Pleasant:

Friday, Feb. 12 - Satur-

day, Feb. 13

*Colored People's Time*  
Bush Theatre, Central  
Michigan University

Saginaw:

Sunday, Feb. 14

Concert: Ice Cube  
presented by Major Pro-  
duction

Doors open at 7 p.m.; Con-  
cert begins at 8 p.m.  
Temple Theatre  
203 N. Washington

## Environmentally Speaking

# Certain species targeted for extermination

By Michael J. Arnold  
Freelance Writer

Certain species have always had a bad rap. Take the shark. Fishing practices in Japan have decimated certain populations of these supposed killers. Or the snake. Since the origins of Christianity, the snake was seen as a symbol of evil and distrust. Other cultures have similar beliefs, but still others see the snake as a symbol of eternal life. Consider then, why a pair of serpents are intertwined upon the symbolic staff of the medical profession? Then there is the big, bad wolf—bloodthirsty savages that roam the nights like marauding bandits, snatching newborns and gobbling livestock whole.

Myth? Fantasy? Perhaps that is what we are led to believe, yet with the recent proposed persecution of wolf populations in Alaska, the fears of yesterday are still alive and well. Cattle ranchers despise the animal, and sport hunters loath the only creature more cunning than humans themselves.

Yet humans and wolves are similar in many ways. The artist George Gatlin painted two Indian braves sneaking up on buf-

falo, shrouded in wolf's clothing. Early humans, no doubt, learned to hunt by watching wolves and their ancestors. We have evolved together but with a separate identity.

In 1973, Congress passed the Endangered Species Act which established a responsibility to nature: to restore wild- life to their former ranges. In the continental United States,

only 1,700 wolves exist. Once they roamed from coast to coast. Some packs have fought their way back, with territories upwards of 800 square miles. But in the lower states, ranges are understandably smaller.

Part of the problem with reintroduction is the stigma the wolf has had cast upon it. Researcher L. David Mech, a renowned wolf expert, has proven that the wolf is elusive and runs from humans. There has never been any established wolf attack on humans, with the exception of human-prompted aggression. Still, ranchers fear wolves for commercial reasons.

The Detroit Free Press asked Bob Sears of the Idaho Cattle Association his opinion. "We would just as soon not see any wolves back in our area, period," he said.

Cattle ranchers and conservationists have battled on this front for years. In light of wolf kills on cattle,

ranchers in Alaska, just an even more incredible business: tourists. In the management plan created by the Department of Fish and Game, a "wildlife spectacle on the scale of African migrations" was proposed. Tourists could watch more moose and caribou as they cross the roads and pipelines downtown. All this at the expense of the wolf. The international response was to boycott tourism until the issue was dropped. This leaves Alaska with no bucks. Furthermore, wildlife biologists in the Department itself have indicated that control is unnecessary, since moose and caribou populations have exceeded their objectives.

Yet, because of massive disapproval of such a scheme, the wolf has been temporarily saved. As the *Wolf Summit* gets underway in Alaska, the decision is being worked out. Control plans have not been eliminated, but neither have they been activated. Such control takes place on public lands, that means everyone who is an American owns it, not just the legislature of Alaska. Even those of us in the bubble have a say. And such a say could preserve these noble creatures.

*Since the advent of the cattle industry, the wolf has suffered. Its prey base has been pushed out and its habitat destroyed by sheep and livestock.*

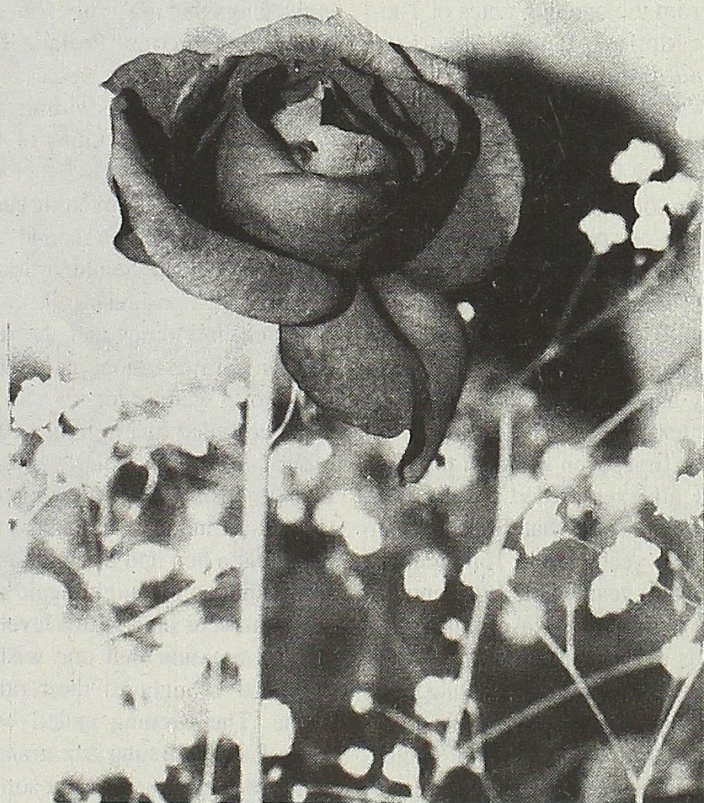
of \$100,000 to reimburse ranchers who lost livestock. Of that \$100,000, only \$12,000 has been used so far.

Since the advent of the cattle industry, the wolf has suffered. Its prey base has been pushed out and its habitat destroyed by sheep and livestock. What seems to be the issue is not how to control wolves, but instead how to control human encroachment into habitat. Ecological studies show that when major ungulate populations decline, wolves turn to livestock and sheep. Is this surprising?

But there are no cattle or sheep

## Feature photo

# A rose is a rose...



Happy Valentine's Day. Photo by P. Sandberg

## TOP TEN MOST CLUELESS PEOPLE ON EARTH

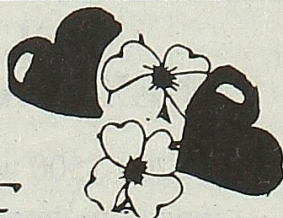
10. Rainforest chainsaw operator.
9. Millionaires in prison.
8. Drivers with turn signal perpetually on.
7. Las Vegas lounge acts.
6. Unregistered voters.
5. Frozen dinner enthusiasts.
4. Javelin catcher.
3. Someone in express checkout line with eleven items.
2. Chain-smoking gas station attendant.
1. Drug users.

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# Last second shot gives Alma victory

By Bill Ballenger  
Freelance Writer

Coming off last week's inspirational win over Hope College, the men's varsity basketball squad split MIAA contests against Olivet and Albion. Alma's record currently stands at 9-12 (4-5 MIAA).

On Saturday, the Scots avenged an earlier loss at Albion by handing the Britons a thrilling 72-71 overtime defeat in Cappaert Gymnasium. Sophomore Mike Bjorne was the hero for the Scots canning an off-balance game winner as time expired. The win increased Alma's MIAA home record to 4-1.

After neither team was able to gain a comfortable lead in the opening minutes of the contest, the Scots gradually pulled away until, with 4:47 left, Alma went up 29-22. The Britons cut the seven point deficit to one, thanks in part to a three-pointer at the buzzer, to make it 33-32 at the intermission.

In the second half, the Scots built an eight point advantage, 46-38, but the lead quickly dissolved due to a subsequent 9-2 Albion run. The Britons finally took the lead, 64-61, with 1:40 remaining in regulation, for their first lead since the opening minutes.

Junior forward Colon Lewis then swished two clutch jumpers down the final stretch, forcing the 65-65 stalemate into overtime.

Within the first two minutes of

overtime, Albion went ahead, 69-66. A four point play by point guard Bjorne returned the advantage to the Scots. But Albion reclaimed the lead, 71-70, on their following possession. With 20 ticks left, and Alma in possession of the ball, the Scots rotated the ball around the perimeter until Bjorne shrewdly spotted an opening. The sophomore knifed through the Albion interior before successfully finishing the drive with a nifty double clutch shot. His bucket concluded the scoring, 72-71.

Lewis scored 17 points to lead the attack. Sophomore Todd Blomquist, although he fouled out with 15 minutes left in the second half, contributed 16 points on 8 for 11 shooting. Bjorne enjoyed a complete day—11 points, a team-high nine rebounds and six assists.

"It was just a great team effort," remarked Eldridge. "As sweet as last week's game against Hope was, this was even sweeter. We had a lead, then they got the lead, but we didn't panic. We remained poised until the end."

"We really pulled together and played as a team," observed sophomore center Matt Lotterman, who finished with eight rebounds.

"It was great because everyone picked it up," said Blomquist. "We lost so many could have, should have games at the beginning of the season that this one was really nice."

Earlier in the week, the Scots

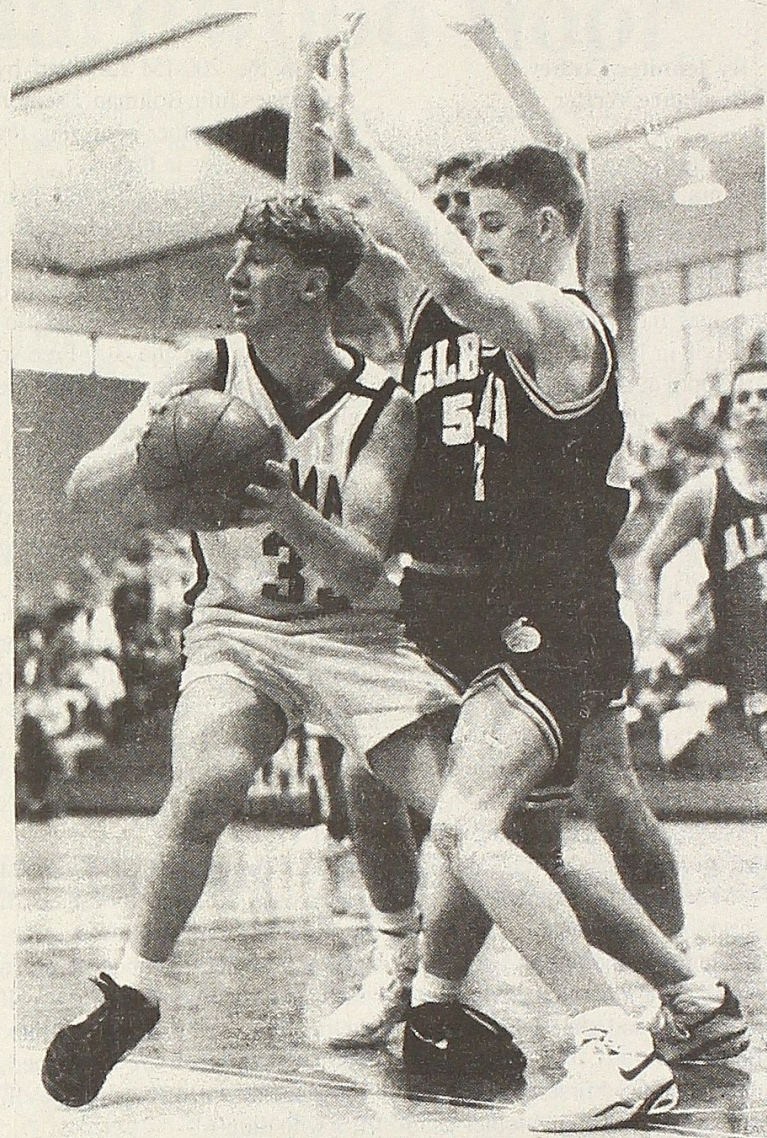
traveled to Olivet in the hope of completing a perfect 2-0 season versus the Comets (the Scots stopped Olivet, 99-87, the previous Wednesday). However, the Comets proved a more formidable opponent at home.

While the Scots won the statistical battle in the first match, Olivet enjoyed a similar advantage in their arena. The Comets shot a blazing 57 percent from the floor, as opposed to the Scots' 45 percent. Olivet out rebounded the Scots 45-29, shot better from the foul line with 14 more attempts and committed three fewer turnovers than the Scots. Each of these factors contributed to a decisive 99-78 final.

Blomquist continues to consistently produce for the Scots. The forward scored a team-high 16 points and ripped down seven rebounds. Junior Reggie Reed and Lewis added 10 points apiece.

Eldridge put it best: "It just wasn't a good night overall. We didn't play exceptionally well, and they shot the lights out...We were in foul trouble all night. We lost Matt Lotterman with 15 minutes to go, and Colon Lewis with 14 minutes to go. Plus Reggie Reed was also in foul trouble all night. You add those all together and it comes out a loss."

The Scots are idle until Saturday, when they travel to face the Kalamazoo Hornets.



Matt Lotterman looks to pass against Albion. Photo by J. Dial

## Scots hold off Albion in OT, 71-68

By Mike Walsh  
Freelance Writer

Senior guard Lauri LaBeau's clutch three-point shot in overtime put Alma in front to stay as

the Scots downed Albion, 71-68 on Saturday. The win gives Alma sole possession of first place in the MIAA, half a game ahead of Calvin and Adrian. Alma's record stands at 13-6 (8-1 MIAA).

The stands at Albion were packed with the annual Parent's Weekend crowd. The presence of over-zealous mothers and fathers lent a hostile mood to an already important game. For Albion, a win would

help in its campaign for a homecourt advantage during the play-offs. For the Scots, a win was necessary to hold first place in the tight MIAA race. The Scots were undaunted. "Who the hell needs daunts?" quipped LaBeau.

A tough Albion defense and excessive fouling by Alma made for a close contest. After getting off to a 10-point lead in the first six minutes, the Scots allowed Albion to keep within reach via the free-throw line. In the first half, Albion would hit 13 free-throws to Alma's four. Alma's lead at the half had eroded to one point, 30-29.

Both teams settled in for more of the same during the second half. Albion finished the night 23-for-31 from the charity stripe. The adrenalized atmosphere resulted in sub-par shooting from the floor—Albion shot 37 percent to Alma's 36 percent. The Scots' 51 rebounds, 12 by junior Tara Sherman, provided plenty of second shot opportunities on the way to a 62-62 deadlock at the end of regulation.

In the overtime period, LaBeau's three-pointer gave Alma a one point lead. Then first-year player Ashley Reagh went to the free-throw line and nailed two shots to seal the overtime victory, 71-68.

Six of LaBeau's 24 points came on three-point shots. Junior Katie

Mans, MIAA Player-of-the-Week, put up 20 points and pulled down 10 rebounds. Senior Colleen Wruble contributed 10 points and 6 assists.

Sophomore Amy Doucette, who started in place of the absent Michelle VanDamme, summed up the players' thoughts on Saturday's victory: "Individually, I don't think we were satisfied with our play...but it felt good to win."

Wednesday's game was *deja vu* for Olivet. After its 91-52 loss to Alma the previous week, Olivet seemed determined to provide a carbon copy performance, going so far as to attain the same second-half score: 48-27. Mans' 18 points led all scorers. Sophomore Terri Hogan scored 12 points on exceptional four-for-four shooting from three-point range. Kelly Jaster (14), Wruble (13), VanDamme (12) and Doucette (10) complete the long list of players who scored in double figures. The final tally: Alma 97, Olivet 47.

The Scots get a well-deserved rest this week. They remain idle until Saturday, when they travel to Kalamazoo for the first of three vital season-ending MIAA games.



Junior Susie Kieffer feeds the ball off against Albion. Photo by P. Sandberg

Feb. 9, 1993

# Scots sweep Calvin in final home meet

By Jennifer Cosbey  
Freelance Writer

Saturday was an exciting day for Alma's swimming and diving teams as they beat Calvin in their last home meet of the season. Coach Greg Baadte showed his joy in this victory, the first for the men against Calvin in 10 years, by leaping into the pool at the end of the meet.

Baadte attributes a lot of the momentum to the great fanfare. "There was a lot of support," said Baadte. "The parents and alumni were there and that was great, but the student support was amazing. They really helped keep us in the meet and helped keep Calvin out."

The meet got off to a rip-roaring start with the women's 400-Medley Relay team consisting of sophomores Jen Turnbull and Karie Bergin, junior Colleen Smith, and first-year student Jenn Bondy. They set a new team record at 4:25:97.

"The first race is always one of the most important. It really sets the tone for the rest of the meet," said Bondy. "We went into it pretty confident and that record really helped."

Bondy placed first in the 200-Fly at 2:22.57, setting another team record for the meet. She also placed

first in the 200-IM followed by teammates Julie Boltman, a senior, and Smith together capturing the top three places in that race.

Turnbull also had a good meet finishing first in the 200-Free. She was closely followed by sophomore Jill Murany in one of her two second place finishes. Turnbull finished second in the 100-Free to round out her performance for the afternoon.

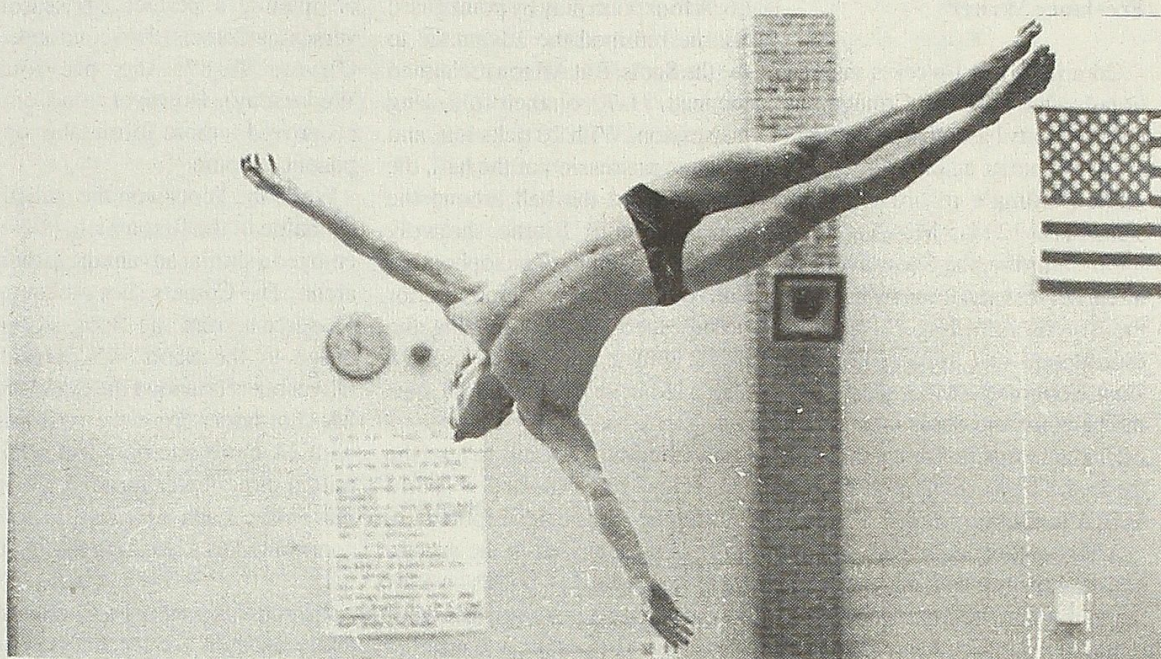
The Scots also dominated the 200-Back, with first-year students Melissa Wuchte, Leslie Malzahn and Sandra Hansen pulling out the top three spots in that race.

In women's diving, first-year student Chris Hamacher and senior Karris True filled out the top two spots in both the one- and three-meter diving events.

These efforts and numerous more went into winning the women's meet 132-92.

Coach Baadte said, "The women had a very solid performance all around. A total team effort, especially with the number of close races. The women doing so well helped the guys gain momentum. As far as the men are concerned, the question isn't who swam well, it's who didn't."

Sophomore Paul Schmidt helped



Sophomore Radu Danca recently qualified for Nationals in diving. Photo by M. Stargardt

lead the Scots to their memorable 123-109 win with two first place finishes, in the 50- and 100-Free.

Christian Betz, first-year student, came out on top in the 200-Free and fell into second in the 500-Free.

First-year student, Adam Neuman ended up with a first place finish in the 200-Breast and then took a close fourth in the 200-Free.

Ted Davis, a sophomore, and Scott Phillion, a junior, both had

second and third place finishes. Davis took second in the 50-Free and third in the 100-Free, and Phillion took second in the 200-IM and a very close third in the 200-Breast.

In diving, Radu Danca held the top position in both the one and three meter events as he prepares to compete in Nationals.

Emphasizing the importance of a team effort, Bondy said, "We were really pumped for the guys. I think

in being excited for them not only helped them get pumped and do well, it helped us get pumped and do better too."

"Everyone, everyone, put everything they had into it," said Baadte. "I don't know if everyone was 100 percent sure we would win. But then it all came together and once we saw that we could beat Calvin everyone gave it everything they had."

## Sports stat S

### Men's Basketball

Olivet 99, Alma 78  
Wednesday, Feb. 3

#### OLIVET (99)

Mourning 10-16 2-2 26,  
Heckaborn 2-5 2-2 7, Jones  
6-11  
2-3 14, Droste 1-2 2-2 4,  
Weber 10-12 12-18 32,  
Arneel  
1-3 1-2 3, McLaughlin 0-1  
2-4 2, Williams 1-2 2-2 4,  
McKeawn 0-0 0-0 0,  
Krynicky 2-3 0-0 5,  
Millington 0-2  
0-0 0, Tacia 0-1 0-0 0,  
Curtis 0-0 2-2 2. Totals 33-  
58 27-  
38 99.

#### ALMA (78)

Bjorne 3-6 2-3 9, Blomquist  
6-13 4-5 16, Lotterman 0-0  
0-0 0,  
Lewis 4-8 2-3 10, Reed 4-  
10 0-0 10, Elliott 3-7 0-0 9,  
Snell  
0-1 0-0 0, Pennie 0-1 0-2 0,  
Kren 0-1 0-0 0, Walton 2-6  
3-6 7,  
Anderson 2-2 1-2 5, Reagh  
4-6 1-1 9, Sanders 1-2 1-2  
3, Totals  
29-64 14-24 78.

Halftime - Olivet 46, Alma  
30. Three-point field goals -  
Olivet  
6-15 (Mourning 4-6), Alma  
6-16 (Reed 2-3, Elliott 3-6).

Rebounds - Olivet 45 (Weber  
15, Mourning 8), Alma 29  
(Blomquist 7, Lewis 5).  
Turnovers - Olivet 18, Alma  
17. Fouls -  
Olivet 24, Alma 34.

Alma 72, Albion 71  
Saturday, Feb. 6

#### ALMA (72)

Bjorne 3-10 3-7 11, Elliott 0-0  
2-2 2, Snell 0-1 0-0 0, Sanders  
0-0 0-2 0, Kren 0-0 0-0 0,  
Walton 1-2 4-4 6, Blomquist 8-  
11 0-0  
16, Lotterman 3-4 0-0 6, Lewis  
8-17 1-3 17, Anderson 0-0 0-0  
0,  
Reagh 2-4 1-2 5, Reed 3-9 1-2  
9. Totals 28-58 12-22 72.

#### ALBION (71)

Essel 1-1 2-3 4, Wourman 3-11  
3-4 10, Parker 6-16 6-6 21,  
Aerts  
1-3 6-8 8, Bancroft 1-4 1-2 3,  
Carney 0-0 0-0 0, Hankins 0-2  
2-2 2,  
Allen 0-0 0-0 0, Buss 0-2 0-0 0,  
Deemer 5-13 9-11 19, Crum 2-  
5  
0-1 4, Sweet 0-0 0-2 0. Totals  
19-57 29-39 71.

Halftime - Alma 33, Albion 32.  
Three-point field goals - Alma  
4-12 (Bjorne 2-5, Reed 2-5),  
Albion 4-13 (Parker 3-8).  
Rebounds -  
Alma 50 (Bjorne 9, Lotterman

8, Reagh 8), Albion 38 (Deemer  
8,  
Wourman 6). Turnovers - Alma  
17, Albion 11. Fouls - Alma 29,  
Albion 22.

### Women's Basketball

Alma 97, Olivet 47  
Wednesday, Feb. 3

#### ALMA (97)

McCallister 0-3 0-1 0, Doucette  
3-5 3-4 10, LaBeau 1-9 0-0 2,  
Reagh 3-8 1-1 8, Hogan 4-4 0-0  
12, Kieffer 0-3 0-0 0, Sherman  
2-4 4-5 8, Wruble 4-6 5-8 13,  
VanDamme 5-14 0-0 12, Mans  
9-12  
0-1 18, Jaster 4-9 3-3 14. Totals  
35-77 16-23 97.

#### OLIVET (47)

Giesen 4-13 1-2 13, Anderson 1-  
2 1-3 3, Phillips 4-5 2-2 10,  
Abrego 1-1 1-2 3, Hayward 3-7  
2-5 8, Baker 4-11 0-3 8,  
Morrison  
0-2 2-3 2. Totals 17-41 9-20 47.

Halftime - Alma 49, Olivet 20.  
Three-point field goals - Alma  
11-25  
(Hogan 4-4, VanDamme 2-5,  
Jaster 3-5), Olivet 4-11 (Giesen  
4-11).  
Rebounds - Alma 52 (Mans 13,  
Sherman 8), Olivet 32 (Giesen  
7).  
Turnovers - Alma 15, Olivet 28.  
Fouls - Alma 22, Olivet 16.

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*Sports Commentary by Brad Engel*

## Gym needs more than hardwood floor

If anyone else witnessed the women's basketball game last Wednesday night as the Scots drubbed Olivet 97-47, were you as baffled as I was regarding the Scots late game plan? Even after the game was well in hand, many of the starters were still in the game and playing very aggressively. Olivet was subject to the suffocating press of Alma's defense and the pinpoint triple shooting of the home team. I love rubbing it in the face of rivals as much as the next guy, but this seemed kind of ridiculous.

While we're on the subject of basketball, what's up the court in Cappaert Gymna-

sium? Is it just me or are there new lines on the court every time I look at the thing. Seems to me that during basketball season, only those lines pertinent to basketball should be on the court. Not only do those lines look terrible, but they cheapen the image of the Scots and the school they represent. And this is to say nothing of the space-age rubber floor that the lines are on. Didn't it go out of style about the time of bell bottoms and disco?

As long as I'm remodeling the gymnasium, how about some new scoreboards, or at least two scoreboards that show team and personal fouls. The scoreboard that does display this information is idiotically located behind the large folded up partition and unable to be

seen by the majority of the fans on the south side of the gym. Since the north stands aren't even rolled out for the women's games, it would be logical to put a new scoreboard in on the west wall so the spectators could see who committed the foul. I suppose the argument that fans could listen to the player being whistled for the infraction on the state of the art speaker system. While this seems to make sense, anyone who has ever attempted to listen when the announcer is speaking would say he would be better off with tin cans connected by string.

Now that we've changed the court and the scoreboards, how about some new paint on the walls and the bleachers. That puke-yellow on

the walls goes great with the pea-green bleachers, but come on! Maybe something in the way of the weight room, cream with some maroon, silver and black would be a great improvement. And to paint the bleachers maroon with block letters spelling out ALMA on one side and SCOTS on the other, would really add class to a drab building. I understand that these ideas seem pretty radical to those here who think of the gym as a multi-purpose building before a basketball arena. To them I say tough rocks, isn't that what the new performing arts building is for?

Why is there teal on the men's basketball warm-ups? For that matter, why is there yellow on the Scots' baseball uniforms? Last time

I checked, school colors were maroon and cream.

As the crusader for obnoxious behavior at basketball games, I have to say I've been impressed with the fan turnout as of late. The rowdiness possessed Coach Eldridge to send out a memo thanking the student body for its support. Both he and a number of players have thanked the "Cappaert Crazies" for their tremendous support. I would like to take this opportunity to speak for all of the "crazies" and thank the team. After all, they are the ones who give us a reason to lose control.

## School schedules improvements for gymnasium

By Lisa Shoemaker  
Sports Editor

Hardwood is back! While Alma College may not feature the famed parquet floor of the Boston Garden, Cappaert Gymnasium is shedding its synthetic floor in favor of the natural beauty of maple hardwood.

"A new floor has been in the plans for the last couple years," said Athletic Director Deb Mapes. "Basketball is a better game on wood, and volleyball will also benefit because the wood surface will make it easier to slide."

"I am just ecstatic," said men's basketball Coach Bob Eldridge. "I have been waiting three years for a new hardwood floor."

The present synthetic surface, known as a Tartan floor, has been in place since the construction of the Physical Education Center in 1968. "Usually a Tartan surface lasts only 15 years," said Vice President for Finance Jon Grotelushen. "We have already used this surface for 24-25 years. The floor has just lost its resiliency."

"Tartan was the trend over 20 years ago," said Mapes. "It has been a good floor for us, but now it is time for a change."

Installation of the floor, which carries a price tag of \$96,000, is slated for May, after commencement exercises. The school solicited bids this past fall, and selected Basemen, a company from Wisconsin, as the contractor.

"We have to have the floor down by the end of May, because the gym is constantly in use during the summer," said Eldridge. "We don't want to jeopardize our summer programming."

"It is not just the aesthetic quality of a hardwood floor that is appealing," continued Eldridge. "Tartan is harder on legs and joints. It really takes its toll on players over a five-

month season. Players' legs just become dead. You have to remember that under the Tartan is concrete. The wood will hopefully cut down on knee and ankle injuries."

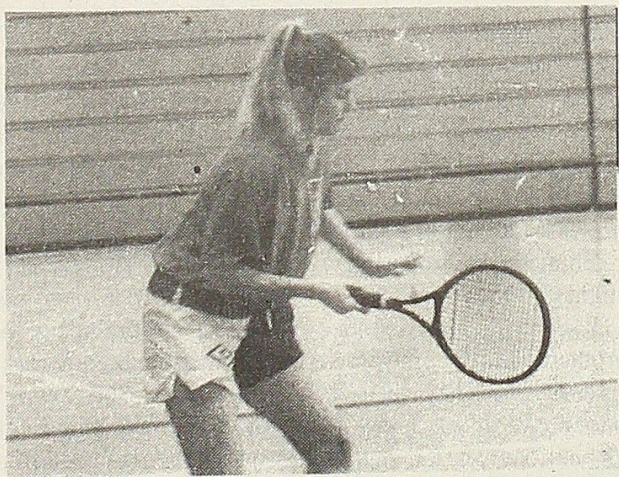
In addition to the new floor, other improvements are also scheduled for the gymnasium, including the refurbishment of the bleachers. "We are going to refurbish, paint, and motorize the bleachers," said Grotelushen. The costs of the scheduled improvements to the gymnasium, including the floor, are expected to total \$125,000.

It has also been proposed that the basket alignment be changed so that two practice courts would run

north and south across the center court, instead of on either side of the main court. "It would give us two regulation size courts, and six baskets," said Grotelushen.

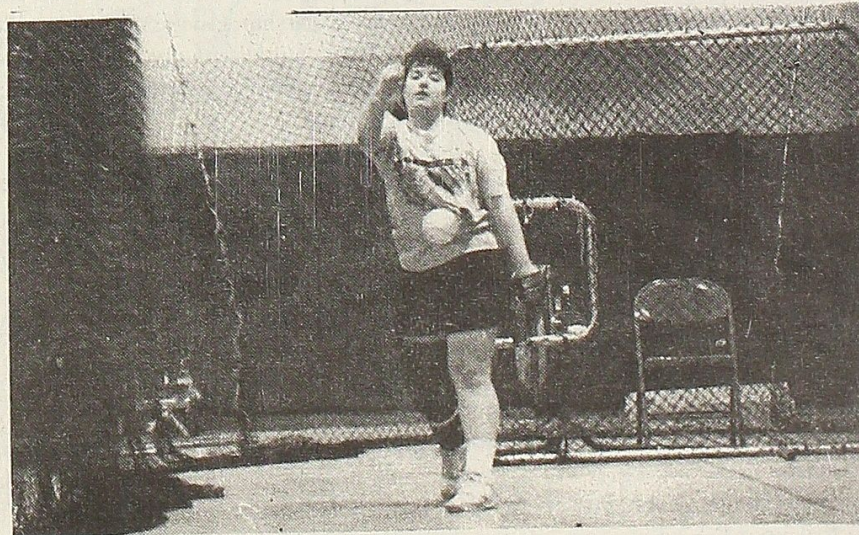
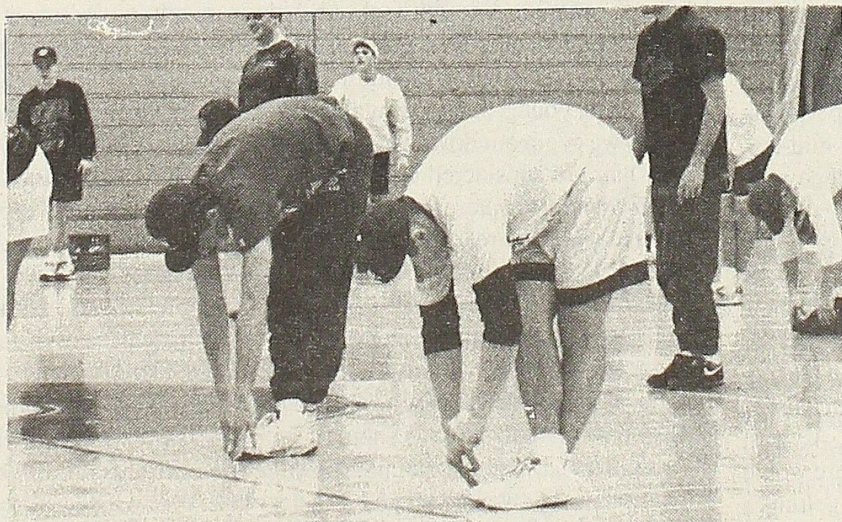
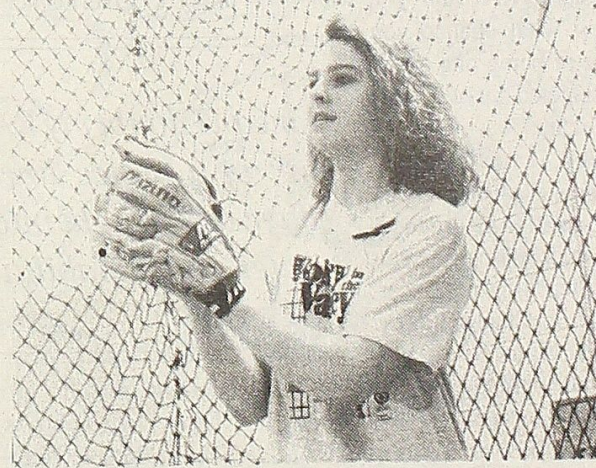
"This new set-up would help intramurals by providing regulation courts, as well as improved teaching stations for coaches," commented Eldridge.

However, Grotelushen was quick to comment that changes in the basket alignments are still in the planning stages due to concerns over structural feasibility.



## Spring Sports

*Members of the various spring sports prepare for the upcoming season. Photos by R.J. Webber*



Feb. 9, 1993

*Lifting the Kilt by Sara Groves*

## Eat, drink and brood this Valentine's Day

"If you love somebody, set them free." -Sting

"And if they don't come running back, hunt them down and shoot them." -the Hell's Angels

That's right. It's that time of year again. February. Hmmm...What is there to look forward to in February? Let's see - there's Lincoln's birthday. I can't wait for the parties to celebrate that. There's Groundhog Day. And what else? Valentine's Day. Oh joy. My favorite of favorites.

Oh, how dearly I embrace Valentine's Day. Millions of brand-new shiny couples walking down the street, hand-in-hand, arm-in-arm. The radio plays songs with titles like "If Ever You're In My Arms Again" and "Can't Live (if living is without you)." And there's absolutely no way to escape the hearts. Or the flowers. Or the candy. But worst of all, you are reminded of what a schmuck you are for not being part of a unit. In other words, part of a deliriously happy couple.

But hark! There is light at the end of an otherwise dark, dingy and depressing tunnel...that tunnel of love. For those of us who will be afraid to leave our dorm rooms for fear of being bombarded with love and other warm

and fuzzy things, I have compiled a list of some constructive ways to spend V-Day. That is, if you're spending it alone.

1. *Brood.* Brooding is generally a great way to waste time, but it is an especially effective way on Valentine's Day. One of the rea-

(That's right—take pleasure in other people's misery.)

2. *Wear black.* Or grey. Or brown. But do not wear any color that is bright and cheery. If you are not part of a couple on Valentine's Day, chances are you will not be in the best of moods when the big day

swinging singles can since they must stay sober enough to talk and be civil to each other. But we losers at love can drink as much as we want because we don't have to carry on conversations with a soul. We can drink and be mean and get in bar fights for all we care (actually a

5. *Eat unhealthy foods.* Although, Richard Simmons has warned us time and time again not to turn to food when we're depressed, desperate times call for desperate measures. So pig out! And whatever you do, don't eat healthy foods. Don't even put a carrot stick by your mouth. Eat ice cream. And nachos from 7-11. Eat angel food cake, Doritos, pizza and chocolate bars. Just try to consume as many fat grams and as much grease as a person can in a day. If you eat unhealthily, you will think that it is O.K. to not be a part of a couple. But if you spend the day crunching on carrot and celery sticks and drinking mineral water, you will wonder why you are not a part of a couple if you eat such healthy food to have such a wonderful complexion and hot bod.

So, as Feb. 14, rolls around once more, be thankful that you aren't a part of a couple. Because if you were, you would probably have to spend the day with your boyfriend/girlfriend going out to dinner, exchanging gifts and basically having an all-around good time. But no—you get to brood and be spiteful and drink and be mean and wear dirty underwear. And what more could you ask of a holiday than that?

*Wear dirty clothes. And, I'm not just talking about a little stain on a shirt sleeve. I'm talking clothes that haven't been washed in a loooong time. Including underwear. That's right. Wear dirty underwear....*

sons why it is so effective is because people in love cannot brood. To brood, one must be solemn. And it is impossible to be solemn while in love. People in love day-dream. (Hardly as much fun as brooding, I can guarantee it.) People in love also think wistfully, ponder and dream the day away. But they do not brood. So, non-lovers of the world unite and brood! While those people who are in love may be deliriously happy dreaming about romantic weekend get-aways with the love of their choice, we can brood about ex-boyfriends and ex-girlfriends and how much more unhappy they must be since we are no longer a part of their lives.

arrives. So cater to that. There is no reason for you to further the crass commercialization of national holidays, especially holidays which exclude you. Do not wear the color red. Do not wear hearts and flowers and happy little bows. Wear black from head to toe. Buy black nail polish and do your nails just to prove your point. Look unhappy.

3. *Drink.* You heard me right. Drink and drink heavily. While some people believe that alcohol is a depressant, I would beg to differ. Much is to be said about the power of alcohol to cheer a person right up, especially if you drink enough. Happy couples are not able to partake in the heavy drinking that we

little fight might do us some good in order to work out that Valentine's Day aggression.) Drinking heavily also helps with number 1. It is much easier to brood while under the influence. So, cheers!

4. *Spit.* Or chew tobacco. Or scratch. Or do any number of things which make you feel more unattractive. I suggest not showering or washing your hair for a 48-hour period. Wear dirty clothes. And, I'm not just talking about a little stain on a shirt sleeve. I'm talking clothes that haven't been washed in a loooong time. Including underwear. That's right. Wear dirty underwear. Really dirty underwear. There's nothing grosser.

## RA selection needs to be revamped

By Mike Walsh  
Freelance Writer

So you applied to be a resident assistant (RA) and you want to know what chance you have of being one of the 20 selected out of 90 plus applicants?

Well, if you happen to be president of a Greek organization or an education major doing your student teaching next year, forget it. Changes in the selection process this year

exclude either of these groups, due to the magnitude of their outside responsibilities, from being RAs.

For the rest of you, the process will differ in a substantial manner from years past. The most significant change instituted this year concerns the addition of an RA screening interview. This means that if you apply to be an RA, before the Dean's committee considers your application, you will be pre-screened by the RAs in the hall in which you live. The goal of this change, said Dean of Students Jim Kridler, "is to gain a better appreciation of each applicant's strengths and weaknesses through a person who knows them."

Ignoring the laughability of the idea that your RA knows you—I mean I doubt my RA could pick me

out of a police line-up, yet alone have any insight into my true character and capabilities—ignoring that, what sort of person is an RA likely to give his/her blessing to

so highly developed that they should be the subject of a special clause in the Geneva Conventions.

Attending college is the most exciting thing that ever happened to

these people—or ever will. After they graduate they go to work as civil-servant bureaucrats, prosecuting attorneys or managers for rather awful companies manufacturing such things as drainage valves or fake body parts.

This sort often becomes a politician, being the kid in high school who ostentatiously bought the *Wall Street Journal* while on school trips. And later, the sort of adult with wild sexual appetites but no technique; as well as huge latent guilt which surfaces inconveniently, causing the sufferer to leap sobbing from the writhing bed in mid-coition and violently abrade their partner with Lysol.

Clearly, any process which emphasizes the role of such folk is flawed. Alternatives would include selecting RAs democratically or simply choosing at random the requisite number of RAs from a list of the entire student body. At least with the latter method, there would exist an outside shot at getting a cool RA. The current method seems to be a lost cause.

continue on in the process?

Others like them. As Kridler outlined it, in selecting RAs, preference has been given to students "interested in leadership activities." Those who are "naturally involved in things" and "highly visible in the campus community."

They pop up on various community governance committees, where they spend their time discussing long-term proposals and matters of constitution guaranteed to stupefy anyone with a normal threshold of boredom.

The most unforgivably rebarbative of these are to be found in the Student Congress. Their incessant talking deprives their bodies of oxygen and so they are very pink, as though recently peeled. In fact, their powers of narcolepsy are

*I mean I doubt my RA could pick me out of a police line-up, yet alone have any insight into my true character and capabilities...*

## Society fails in appreciation of elderly

By Heather Cummings  
Opinion Editor

In some cultures the elderly are considered the wisest of the community. They are looked to for advice and are needed for the continuation of that particular society. It makes perfect sense. People who live for 70 or 80 years have survived so much. They have witnessed change and seen how it has worked or not worked. So much can be reaped from the minds of the aged.

When I was studying in Aberdeen, Scotland, my great aunt, Aunt Mima celebrated her 88th birthday. She might walk slowly, and her hands might shake when she drinks her tea, but she is one of the wisest women I have ever met. Her stories of the mean North Sea and about her 11 brothers and sisters always kept me in awe for hours. Her hands were big and strong. They had been through so much. She has worked for most of her 88 years. Some of the work was at a fishing cannery and on the railroad. She taught me many things about life. I will carry her wisdom with me throughout my life.

Sadly enough, I do not feel our American culture embraces and appreciates the elderly as much as we need to. Too many people are tucked away and ignored until they die. Our society is so caught up with being young, and looking like a 20 year old, that by the time we are 50 we begin our downward spiral of being ignored. Wrinkles and grey hair are considered ugly, and anything that can erase them, or cover them up is preferred to going au natural. So not only are we ignored when we reach a certain age, but we can not reach that age naturally without feeling bad about our human-ness.

Go to the Masonic Home. Talk to the people. Listen to what they have to share. Having the Masonic Home here in town makes it easier to get to know some elderly people. We should take advantage of it. A lot of the residents there would love to speak to college students. They have a lot to say. We should listen.

Getting old is not something most college students are thinking about; however, we are all going to get old; it is inevitable. Why do we ignore it?

Opinion Potpourri by J. Spalding

## Marriott blues getting student population down

Why doesn't Alma College change the name of Cappaert Gymnasium? Wouldn't it sound much more sophisticated and relay a "college atmosphere" if it was named Cappaert Student Events Center, or Cappaert Memorial Arena? Give me a break, Cappaert Gymnasium sounds like a steamy high school gym...

By the way, the fans at Alma's home basketball games are becoming a little bit more rowdy. We may not be Duke fans yet, but we're getting there, slowly, but surely...

How many seniors are starting to blow things off now that they are getting job offers and graduate school acceptance letters? Once the future seems secure, the present sure gets a lot easier, doesn't it? It's an epic battle trying to remain focused this last term...

Is mid-February the grossest time at Marriott, or what? Personally, I'm on a salad binge right now. I purposely didn't eat from the salad bar all first semester just to save it for this term. So far, so good, but I'm liable to puke ruffage all over the cafeteria any day soon. Four weeks of salads hasn't been what I would call a good time...

Why do we still call the cafeteria by the name of SAGA? You would think the real name

would be in place by now, but when was the last time you called it Marriott? For cripes sake, I struggle to get it right in any article that I write about it. I guess it will continue to be called SAGA for years to come. What a tradition...

While we are talking about SAGA (Whoops, I mean Marriott), the new napkin holders are probably the worst innovation since Chia Pets. Although aesthetically pleasing, these things will only create waste. You can't just get one napkin out of the little wicker snakes, so you have to grab a handful, of which you might use three.

At least with the old baskets you get one napkin when you needed one. If it's not broke, don't fix it...

To continue my Marriott tirade, why aren't the cracker barrels on the other side of the soups? If you want crackers, you have to get your bowl of soup and then go back, fighting the wall of soup goers who are patiently waiting behind you, to get to the crackers. If they were on the side by the toaster, a lot of the hassle would go away...

Yes, I live in the Women's Re-

source Center, so everyone can stop asking me with such a shocked voice, "Do you **really** live at the MacCurdy House?" I do, so what's the big deal? Everyone seems to believe that men should be aware

have to say about the whole thing is that our time at this institution, and at this paper itself, is a learning process. I'll admit that I should have solicited comments and ideas about the article from Stone, but

I'll also stand by my initial reaction of hurt and surprise. The only thing I'd do differently would be to talk with Stone before the article went into print. I made a mistake and learned from it. But please, don't spew forth these comments about how *The*

*Our work down here is done secondary to our academic work. We are not the New York Times. This isn't where I make my living; this isn't my life. Perhaps a few lines were deleted in a few articles or letters. We do our best. We learn from our mistakes. That's all we can do. So get off of us...*

and participate in women's issues, but God forbid when it happens at Alma College. I'm getting sick of the snide remarks and vacant stares from both males and females on the matter. Get with it, and grow up...

Well, by now I'm sure you've read or at least heard of the controversy stirred up by my article on President Stone and *U.S. News and World Report*. Apparently, it has caused a small crisis in certain faculty corners (Please see Letters to Editor). I guess the only thing I

*Almanian* distorts the facts. Our work down here is done secondary to our academic work. We are not the *New York Times*. This isn't where I make my living; this isn't my life. Perhaps a few lines were deleted in a few articles or letters. We do our best. We learn from our mistakes. That's all we can do. So get off of us...

For the last few articles I've written, I've ended with a quote. I guess I'll continue that in this issue. This week's quote comes from Robert

Kennedy by way of the French author and philosopher Albert Camus: "It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance..."

What does this mean? I think it means that everyone must do her/his part, no matter how small or seemingly insignificant, to make this society a better place to live. It means not participating in ethnic or sexist jokes, and voicing your disgust and disapproval at ignorant and bigoted statements. Perhaps it means not turning up your nose at the underprivileged or oppressed. Maybe it's just smiling at someone who is different from you or that you don't know. It's different for all of us. What does matter is that each of us **tries** to do something, because when it comes right down to it, there is nothing that we can do alone to cure the world's ills. Only together can we go forward...

## Monotony brings revelation

By Brett Powers  
Staff Reporter

You must all kiss my feet. Yes, every single Alma College student should get down on your hands and knees and give thanks to whom it is due, gracing your lips with the divineness of my fairly clean feet. WHY?

Because I have been tortured for you. The iron maiden, thumb screws, the rack—merely toys for kindergartners compared to what I've been through for you.

Imagine your average 50 minute boring class; multiply that by three. Now think of a monotone professor, and multiply that by 80. After you then multiply those two factors together you will understand the nature of my ordeal.

As a part of my job for *The Almanian* I was required to attend a monthly faculty meeting. I was stuck in a Dow lecture hall with the faculty for two hours and 40 minutes one Monday night. I sacrificed my mental stability so that you all could sit around in your dorm rooms and read about it in the paper without having to go yourselves. Don't you feel bad that you skipped reading the article last week?

I listened and watched the faculty make motions, discuss motions, voting on if they were ready to vote on a motion, finally voting on a motion, only then to move on the another motion and start the whole process over again. It was maddening! I felt like a vegetarian in a sausage factory. Visions of

*It was maddening! I felt like a vegetarian in a sausage factory. Visions of jumping on a table and gunning down the entire faculty played over and over in my now ...*

jumping on a table and gunning down the entire faculty played over and over in my now warped brain.

Then Provost Ann Stuart leaned over to me and whispered, "So are you learning a good lesson on democracy?" I was hit by a wave of Joycean Epiphany the size of the Rockies. This simple question made it all clear; my images of becoming a mass murderer melted

like the fog at sunrise.

I was here for a purpose: I was here to learn a lesson. And now I'm going to pass that lesson on to you.

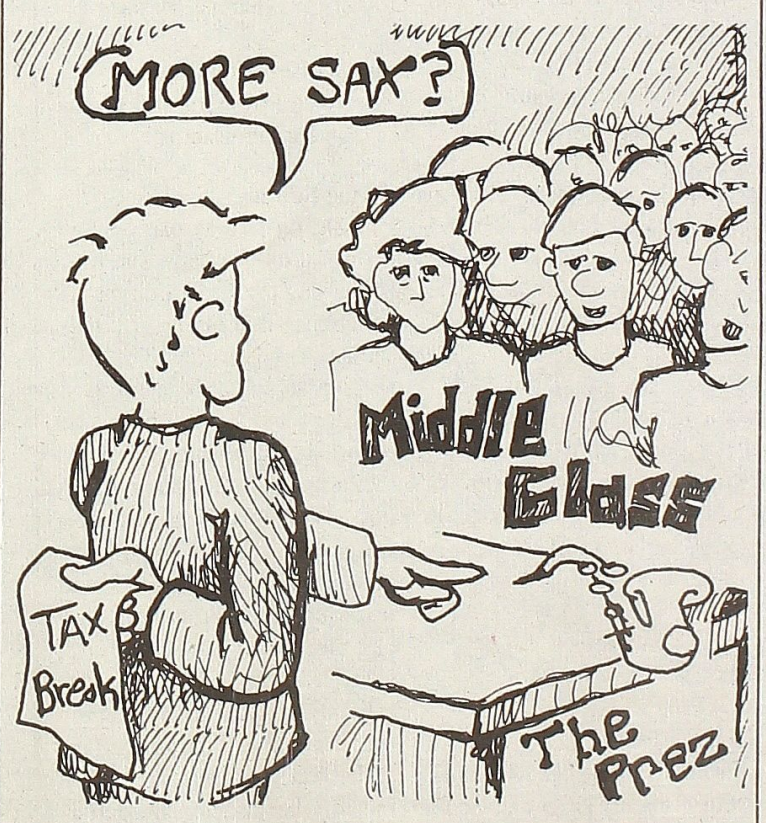
Democracy is not an easy process. I see why so many countries have dictatorships and autocracies; the democratic process is painful, time-consuming and tedious. The faculty only had to confirm two documents dealing with life here at Alma, and it took them hours. Try to imagine over 500 people from all over the country voting on bills that affect this entire nation. It is incredible that our representatives and senators get anything done at all in Washington.

Our government is far from perfect; as a political science major I know that as well as anyone. But it is our government. Democracy is a slow process; it is the nature of the

beast, so next time you feel like government bashing, don't. Cut them some slack. If you think our government is too slow, either vote for some short guy with a Charlie Chaplin moustache, or hold your tongue. If you don't believe me, well, you sit through the next faculty meeting and then we will discuss it.

## Weird in a serious way

By Dan Baker



What are you thinking? Let us know and write for the Opinion section of *The Almanian*. See an editor or stop by the office, located in the basement of Newberry Hall, for more details. Or call Ext. 7161.

Feb. 9, 1993

## Staff Editorial

## College responds to students' needs

Two programs recently instituted on campus—the Rape Survivors Support Group and a program for the academically challenged—mark a positive trend toward quick response to student needs; a trend that will hopefully continue at Alma.

As a result of the alleged third-degree criminal sexual conduct incident occurring over the holiday break, students have felt anxious in terms of their personal safety and the overall safety of the campus environment. For many female students, the assault triggered memories of their own victimizations. After a number of these women approached faculty members and administrators, the Center for Student Development formed the support group.

Not only does this effort provide an essential outlet and source of support for those forced to deal with the long-term effects of sexual assault crimes, but it also shows a concern for students in need. While we hope to see the implementation of additional programs instructing both women and men in self-defense and assault prevention, this group is definitely a step in the right direction.

Similarly, the program for the academically challenged

exemplifies an effort to reach out to struggling students. At a college respected for its high academic standards, all students must work hard to achieve. However, for approximately three percent, performing well academically means more than attending classes regularly and spending adequate time preparing for tests and completing papers and projects. Students with learning disabilities must overcome problems including low reading and listening comprehension skills, difficulty adapting instruction to their individual learning styles and physical obstacles such as visual and hearing impairments.

Developing a program for the academically challenged signals a commitment to quality education for all students and maintains the policy of non-discrimination. The learning disabled students now have an opportunity to share experiences and difficulties in a supportive environment, with people who can empathize and offer insight into the situations they face on a daily basis. In providing an additional resource for academic assistance, the program also may make instructors more aware of the problems and better able to assist their students. Ideally, the program will encourage these students to seek help more often.

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Opinions expressed weekly in the "Staff Editorial" reflect the views of *The Almanian* Editorial Board, which includes section editors, copy editors, 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 serve basis, up to three per week. We reserve the right to condense letters for layout purposes. Deadline for publication is 5 p.m. the Friday before requested publication. Address letters to: The Editorial Board, *The Almanian*, Newberry Hall, Alma College, Alma, MI 48801.

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

As a victim of a nearly successful date rape, I feel personally insulted with the way the College has handled sexual abuse and harassment complaints. I am enraged with the feeble excuses that the College has devised to minimize the situations.

Disgusting is the best word to describe the casual air in which the complaints have been dealt with. We understand that as women, we must take every precaution to protect ourselves. However, we should be able to expect some respect and concern from the College.

While I was reading Brian Haara's article on the "alleged rape" that occurred over the winter break I found myself close to tears. I know how the victim feels. I know what it is like to feel powerless. I know what it is like to feel guilty for another's act.

Please, I beg you, think for a moment about the victim. Think of her pain. Think of her life. Please, for a moment, stop thinking about what the next issue of *U.S. News and World Report* will say.

Charla Vandermeer  
Class of 1996

To the Editor,

I want to thank *The Almanian* for printing my letter to the editor in the 2/2/93 edition of our newspaper. The thesis of that letter was that "the press" sometimes distorts what people say. Seeing my letter in print, I was deeply reassured that I have hold of a basic truth in this thesis, because my letter had been printed with 60-character lines randomly deleted. This had the

effect of making me look illiterate in one paragraph, and totally incoherent in two other paragraphs. It was also fascinating to me that the entire letter referenced a mysterious rogue named "Dr. Chosky" several times, who is in fact my evil twin from an alternate universe. We deliberately spell our names slightly differently (my name is spelled CHOKSY) in order to confuse everyone. Again, sincere thanks to *The Almanian* for its unsolicited testimonial to the truth of my original letter's thesis.

Dr. George Choksy  
Associate Professor and Chairperson for Economics

To the Editor,

I am writing to express my deep gratitude to Lauri Smeltzer for having the strength to break the silence that often surrounds sexual assault crimes. The courageous acts of telling her sobering story and signing her name during such a difficult time merit the utmost admiration and support. Women and girls everywhere benefit from the display of such exemplary fortitude and inspiring grace, from which all can learn. THANK YOU, LAURI!

Incidentally, if I may don my professional cap and suggest the added benefits of accurate phrasing in other articles and letters relating to this matter: as a colleague pointed out, the sexual assault was ACTUAL, not ALLEGED. In our current "justice" system, "alleged" is an adjective we can use for the perpetrator only.

Roseanne Hoefel  
Professor of English and Women's Studies

## Is attendance necessary?

By Jason Ricks  
Assistant Copy Editor

Here we are, half way to mid-term break. How are your grades? Chances are you have somewhat of a clue in most of your classes, since by now you have submitted at least one form of graded work; whether it was a test, quiz, paper, in-class writing assignment or even attendance quizzes. Ah yes, the ever so detrimental-to-your-future attendance quiz.

It seems to me that if a student is intelligent and capable enough to pass a class by doing the assigned work (not busy work), taking the tests and the exam by studying from the book, then shouldn't that student receive his/her due grade? I understand that most homework assignments are given to reinforce what is taught in lecture, however many assignments, sometimes easy--sometimes difficult, are nothing more than tedious applications of basic concepts that do nothing but waste a student's time; times/he could be utilizing studying for higher priority classes.

We go to college to acquire knowledge. Granted, we pay through the nose for the privilege to attend classes to receive credit and a diploma which certifies that we have acquired that knowledge, but honestly, does it really matter whether or not a student attended every single class or even if s/he missed more than three days, if s/he still manages to do well in the course?

I understand professors usually cover many things in class that are not covered in the book, but shouldn't it be the student's choice as to whether or not s/he needs the benefits of attending lecture? Furthermore, these sorts of quizzes, along with assignments that are generally nothing more than busy work, are usually assigned in lower level, dis-

tributive classes—classes most students hold as their lower priorities while placing emphasis on those pertaining to their majors and career goals. Seems logical.

However, students are far too frequently penalized, sometimes brutally at the whim of a moody or biased professor who sees "too many empty chairs," by busy work assignments and "sign your name on a sheet of paper" quizzes. Besides, I've always gotten the impression from professors that they prefer small classes and that most of them are in this profession because they enjoy the satisfaction of having a student actually learn from him/her. Thus, the sometimes smaller class size should be a bonus since it is likely that the people who are attending are the ones who want to learn or who need the attention of the professor.

Yes, I understand the notion of wanting to grant benevolence to those students who loyally attend lecture day in and day out (like myself, generally). That's wonderful, and I welcome the bonus points, for that is exactly what they should be—bonus points. I am sick of classes in which 20 percent of your grade is based on attendance quizzes—it's simply unfair.

There is also the counter-argument that you really shouldn't worry about grades, as long as you learn the facts, methods, concepts, etc. True. However, for those of us pursuing graduate and professional schools, grades do matter.

I just feel that if a student can achieve optimum scores on tests and papers, those events which exemplify his/her knowledge on the subject(s), then that student should receive an optimum grade in the course, regardless of whether s/he happened to miss a couple quizzes or simply did not need to attend lecture.