

The Almanian

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Serving Alma College since 1907

Issue 21

New Student Congress officers elected Student voting participation soars above previous year's

By Char Vandermeer
Freelance Writer

Student Congress elections, held last week, produced the largest voter turnout in several years as 627 students, 53 percent of the student body, cast their votes for class officers and the Student Congress executive committee.

Students also overwhelmingly passed the Student Activity Fee proposal. The fee will remain at \$115 per student next year.

"I think [the elections] went very well," said Student Congress Vice-president, junior Amy Hamman. "We had a very large turnout; people acted positively and responded to what we asked of them."

Newly-elected members of Student Congress are: President, junior Kim Kraai; Vice-president, junior Nancy Devine; Treasurer, sophomore Amy Hoffman; and

Secretary, junior Gina Gleason.

"I feel really great about the results," said Devine. "I felt it would be a really close race. I'm very excited about next year."

Running virtually unopposed, the new 1994 class officers are President Jen Smith, Vice-president Jen Hardy, Secretary Sarah Klump, Treasurer Tim Peterson and Associate Trustee Noreen Lyall.

President for the class of 1995 is Mary Kay Ecken. The new vice-president is Kristin Kuhtic, with Tammy Thomson as secretary and Associate Trustee Mike McClain. The treasurer position remains unfilled. A separate election will be held next fall to fill this office.

Winners in the class of 1996 election were President Michelle Campagna, Vice-president Supriya Saxena, Treasurer Eric Zettel, Secretary Jen Cosby and Associate Trustee Maggie Taylor.

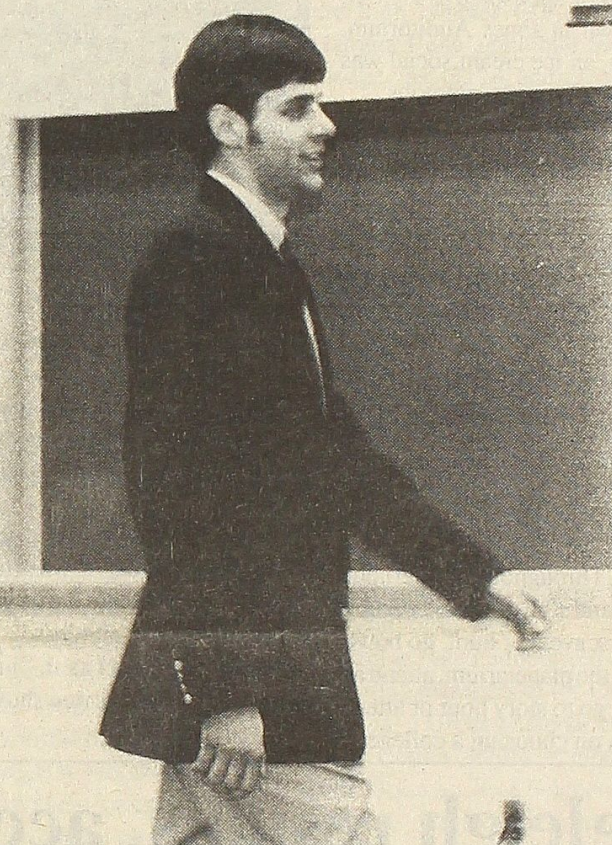
"I would like to do more things together as a class, such as holding a class meeting, doing class projects and getting people together," said Campagna.

Showing a great deal of spirit, the class of 1996 had a full election ballot. Five students ran for the presidency, three for the vice-presidency, two for treasurer, two for secretary and five for associate trustee. The sophomore class had a total of five candidates running, the junior class had six, and seven candidates ran for Student Congress offices.

Apparently the offer of free snack-size candy bars worked. This year's voter turnout easily outdistanced last year's 12 percent, thrilling election officials.

"We tried to increase the publicity," said Hamman. "Our elections committee really went out and encouraged people to vote."

1993 Outstanding Greek Man of the Year



Senior Zeta Sigma member Brian Haara prepares to accept his award. See related Greek awards and Greek Week stories on p. 3. Photo by P. Sandberg

WQAC, "The Duck" invades Alma airwaves

By Cathy DeShano
Staff Reporter

If you had a younger brother or sister on campus for Little Siblings weekend, you might have spent the majority of time trying to determine what to do with them. Maybe somewhere in there you turned on the radio. And if you did so after 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, Mar. 27, maybe you tuned into Alma's hottest new radio station: 90.9 F.M. WQAC, the Duck.

As promised, Alma College's radio station got underway before the semester's end, bringing with it a wide variety of music shows. The station, which will air daily from 6 a.m. to 2 a.m., presents programming demanded by its campus listeners. Directors for the station compiled a list of music and programs which students showed interest in on the approximately 180 surveys which were completed and returned in Hamilton Commons before spring break. Music programs such as classic rock, punk rock, industrial rock, heavy metal, techno-house-rave, rap/hip-hop/

R&B, gospel, and various nationalities will be featured. Shows will be brought to the students by an array of disc jockeys who auditioned for the jobs.

"We have about 60 disc jockeys right now. A lot of who broadcasts what music show had to do with how the people performed, where their schedules stacked up, and where their musical interests lay. Obviously we tried to put our best D.J.'s in the best time slots which are from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. and 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. A lot of those slots happened to be our specialty shows," said senior Doug Smith, music director for the Duck.

The radio station also has plans for non-music programming. Station directors hope to be distributing a pamphlet by the end of the week to inform students of both musical and non-musical programs.

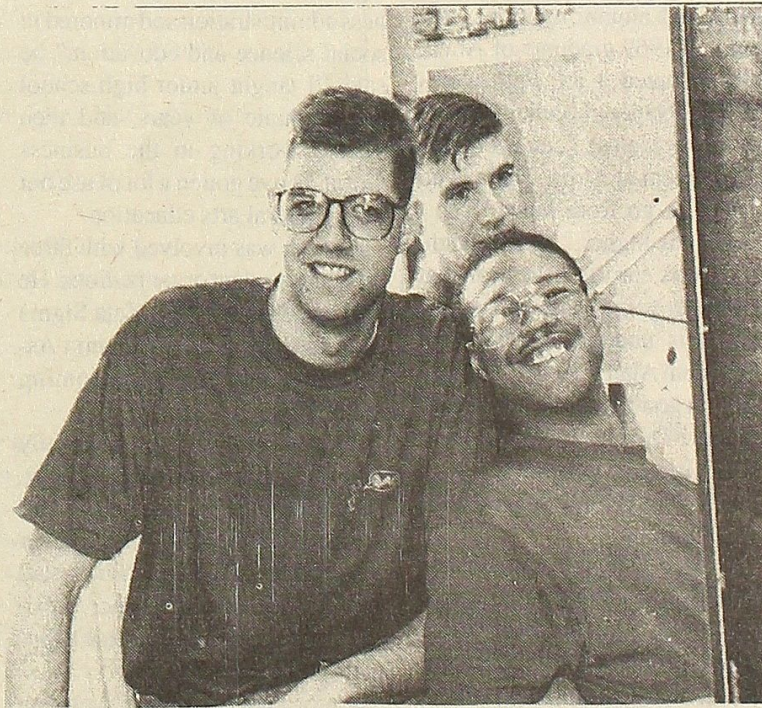
"We've got a sports show and a professor opinion show planned for Mondays. Professors will be speaking basically about state, national, and international issues. The English department is interested in doing poetry readings and we're

working on an open opinion program for Fridays, which will include local, state, national, and international issues. We have to discuss both sides of the issues in these programs because it's an FCC requirement," said senior J.C. Clarkson, WQAC radio program director.

Community feedback has been quite positive so far. Although the station had been intended to be heard only in close communities such as Alma and St. Louis, listeners from places such as Carson City and Clare have called in with encouraging responses. Students on Alma's campus also appear to be projecting positive information.

"I think the radio station is great because it has so much diversity that you get exposed to many different styles. You also get to see what everyone else listens to. It's also more personal than bigger radio stations because you know all the disc jockeys and they talk about people on campus," said junior Jennifer Jourdan.

Since the station first aired, there have been few problems which



The faces behind the voices. Wqac D.J's Dave Woodruff, Matt Kelly, and J.C. Clarkson. Photo by M. Stargardt.

arose. Directors have encountered minor problems and are addressing those immediately.

"Some of the songs making the play list have profanity in them. Now we're going to have to check every song we play instead of trust-

ing trade magazines, we're getting the lists of new songs. After safe harbor, the period when you can play explicit lyrics, we're going to let the audience know periodically if explicit is going to be played," said Clarkson.

Mar. 30, 1993

Little sibling weekend enjoys continued success

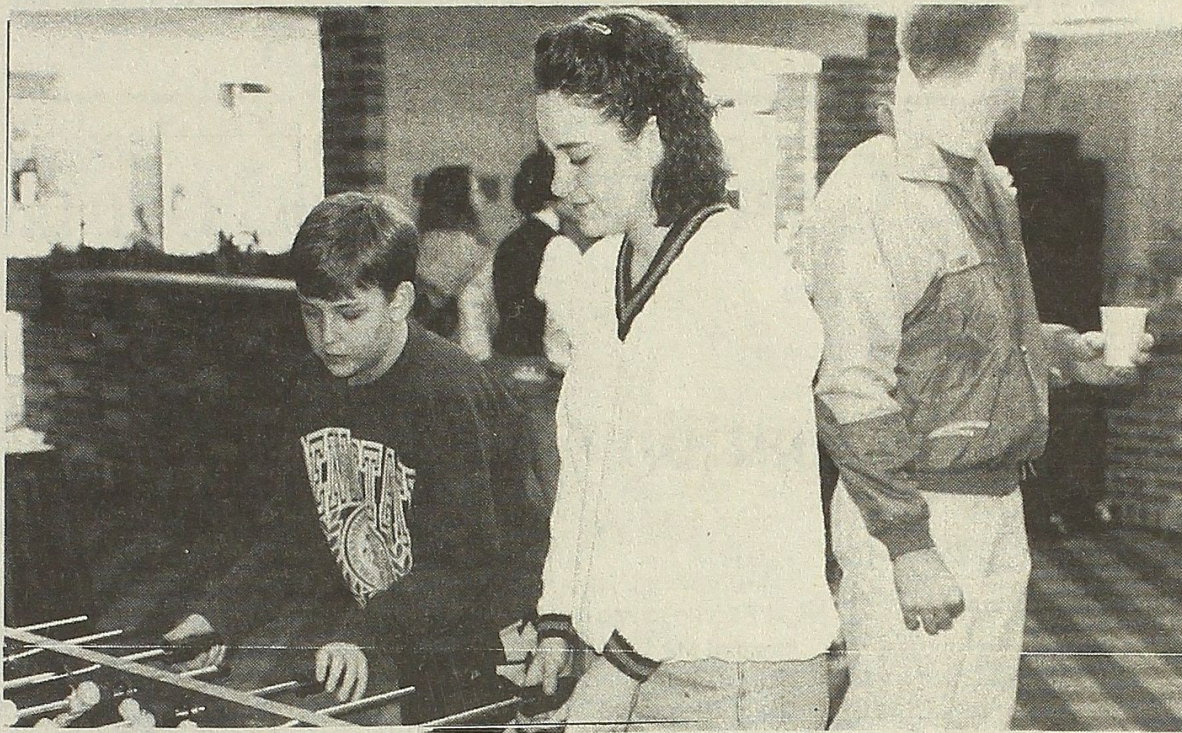
By Denise C. Vittitow
Freelance Writer

The Little Sibling Weekend festivities began Friday, Mar. 26, with registration in the Tyler Rotunda Student Center from 5:30-7:00 p.m.. On Friday night beginning at 7 p.m., several movies were shown in the residence halls including: *The Cutting Edge*, *Honey I Blew Up the Kid!*, *The Jungle Book* and *A League of Their Own*. Also, *Of Mice & Men*, sponsored by ACUB, was shown in Jones Auditorium. At 9 p.m. an ice cream social was held in Van Dusen Commons.

Luke Wiesniewski, an attending sibling, thought "the ice cream social was an excellent idea. No matter what your age is, ice cream is always good."

Other Friday night events included: *Much Ado About Nothing* presented by the Alma College Players at the Gratiot County Playhouse and a Kiltie Band Concert in the Chapel.

Beginning at 8:30 Saturday morning, juice and donuts were served in the residence hall lobbies during cartoons. Throughout the afternoon students and siblings could participate in a scavenger hunt, go bowling, visit the planetarium, attend an art class, go to story hour or attend a session on choosing a college.



Junior Holly Markiecki and brother play enjoy a game of foosball. Photo by M. Stargardt

Seventeen-year-old Dan Shelley said, "I went to the how to choose a college session. I was the only one there, but it was cool because I got to talk one on one with Jim Crawley."

Katie Shelley attended the art class and thought, "it was fun, although I did feel like it was geared towards younger children."

Junior Ted Zettel said, "I really enjoyed the planetarium show and

so did my brothers."

Saturday evening a pizza party was held for both students and their siblings. Later in the evening a dance with a DJ and light show was held in Jones Auditorium.

The weekend ended with a special chapel service where balloons were given out to the siblings, followed by brunch in Hamilton.

In general, students appear to have enjoyed Little Sibling Weekend. "I

like it because it gives sibs a chance to see what Alma is like. Besides, I had a great time!" shared first-year student Amy Wisiewski.

"Little Sibling Weekend is great because the College goes out of its way to make it fun for both the sibs and the students," commented sophomore Shelly Wasko.

Although the weekend went exceptionally well, some students feel some improvements can still be

made. Tammy Watson, a first-year student said, "They need to do something about brunch times during sibs weekend. When you have small children, it's hard to make them wait until 11:00 a.m. to eat breakfast."

Ted Zettel said, "They could try to choose a better time to hold sibs weekend. It's been three weeks since spring break and most people have exams and papers due."

Raleigh resigns, accepts executive position at local bank

By Brett Powers
Staff Reporter

Friday, Mar. 26, Dan Raleigh ended his tenure with Alma College as its director of development and alumni relations. Raleigh, a 1969 graduate of Alma, has accepted a job with Commercial National Bank in Ithaca.

"I'm as high as I can get in this department at Alma. There is no where to go from here; I can't climb any higher," said Raleigh.

"I was surprised to hear that Dan was going to be leaving us, but it is understandable," said President Alan J. Stone. "His new job is a good one. We are a small school. There are a lot of small administrative positions, but not much movement upwardly at small schools."

As director of development and alumni relations, Raleigh supervised the annual fund drive, handled alumni affairs and coordinated the development office.

"We plan on restructuring his position somewhat; he was doing a lot of different things for the College," said Stone. "But we do plan on hiring someone to fill his position."

Pam Eldridge, associate director of annual giving, said of Raleigh's leaving, "It's a huge

loss. Dan did a great job."

"He has done a real good job for the College—real strong," said Stone.

Raleigh has worked for Alma College since 1984. "I majored in business administration and minored in social science and education," he said. "I taught junior high school for a couple of years, and then started working in the business world. I have gotten a lot of use out of my liberal arts education."

Raleigh was involved with three different student organizations. He was an advisor for the Zeta Sigma fraternity, the Student Alumni Association and the homecoming committee.

"He is always there and really involved with what we are doing. He set up the contacts and did all kinds of things for us; I could never have done it without him," said senior student Amy Warner, president of the Student Alumni Association.

Senior Jake Boss, vice-president of Zeta Sigma fraternity, echoed similar sentiments regarding Raleigh: "He is a great man and we hate to see him go, but we also understand that this move presents an outstanding opportunity for Dan. Zeta Sigma will forever be indebted to him for all of his help over the years."

Raleigh will miss Alma College when he leaves. "I really enjoyed being a member of the College community," he said. "Everyone here has been very supportive of everything I've done. And I'll really miss my involvement with the students."

Some of the most memorable experience of Raleigh's years here have been forming the alumni's Tartan Clubs around the country. "We now have 27 regional clubs all over the place—Washington D.C., Chicago, California, all over," said Raleigh. Also, the 1986 centennial homecoming celebration was a memorable experience for him. "Before that year, the homecoming dance was a small affair held in Jones Auditorium," he said. "That year we had about 2,500 people was important to Raleigh: 'I have always been very involved with the city of Alma, and so has my family. It really worked out well that I was able to get a job so close, so we could continue to be involved.'"

Although Raleigh is taking a new job, he will continue to be involved with Alma College. "I'm looking forward to being apart of the College as a loyal alumnus and community member," he said.

Education department fills position for '93-'94

By Gina Gleason
Freelance Writer

Anthony Rickard will become a familiar face on the Alma campus, especially in the Education Department as he has recently obtained a full-time teaching position with Alma College. His title will be Assistant Professor of Education and Director of Secondary Education. His major responsibilities will include meeting with students who are interested in teaching at the high school level and explaining the program to them. The classes he will be teaching include a general high school methods class for prospective secondary teachers and a methods class in science, mathematics and social studies for prospective elementary teachers.

Rickard grew up on Kodiak Island, Alaska, where he also obtained his undergraduate and master's degrees at the University of Alaska. He received his master's in math and math instruction.

The interviewing process was done by members of the Education Department, the Teacher Education Committee and various other members of the faculty and staff. Perspective elementary and secondary student teachers and the Superintendent of Alma Schools also participated in the interview process.

Lynda Markham, chairperson of education, said, "the education department is really looking forward to working with Rickard. His knowledge and experience in mathematics instruction will be a special benefit to our students."

The anticipation of his arrival is sparked by his vast knowledge of pedagogy acquired through his research findings about teaching strategies. Now he is working with Michigan State University faculty members on a research project involving the class work of middle school children. The research requires him to teach math to the children, allowing him to gather data on math instruction and problem solving. He will be making a presentation on his findings at the National Council of Teachers of Math in Seattle.

The Almanian extends its apologies to Heather Ostrander for excluding her from the list of the Alma College Union Board members for the 1993-1994 year in the article "ACUB and OC positions determined for next year" that appeared in the Mar. 23, 1993 issue of *The Almanian*. Ostrander will serve as Special Events Chair.

Greek Week '93

Greek Week speaker acknowledges need for Greek system

By Steve Rummel
Freelance Writer

Last week, Maureen Syring, an alumni of Delta Gamma sorority and working at the Delta Gamma Foundation, spoke at the Greek Awards Ceremony. She emphasized the fact that the greek system is worthwhile, but must make some changes to continue its existence.



She began by apologizing for what the greek system was like for her generation, and what that has done to this generation of greek societies. Looking back, she realized that some of the rituals and practices of fraternities and sororities were used only to demoralize the pledges, and not to teach or build them up. "You cannot change the past, but you can change the way you look at it," said Syring, quoting Will Kime. "There were times when I felt we were out of control, and had no sense of the kind of thing that we were handing you our next generation," she said.

She went on to pose the question: "How would your founders feel if they came back and examined the chapter and its ideals today?" Syring feels that these key ideals must be in place for any greek organization to be effective in its goals: honor, truth, integrity, and character. She strongly encouraged all chapters to go back to these morals, because any greek system without them is going to fail. She believes that derogatory T-shirts and excessive alcohol have no place in the greek system. "Shirts from the Mountain Dew party, with 'Mount-and-Do' on the back, are shameful. What does this have to do with attracting students of fair ability, who possess good morals, and a deep sense of responsibility?" She asked.

Syring then continued with six points that she feels that all greeks should abide by, to make them stronger and more unified. Her first point was education.

All members of a fraternity or sorority should be educated on the inner workings of the chapter and on traditions. This education should continue the entire time that someone is an active member of the group.

Secondly, Syring believes that

greeks should hold their members accountable to the standards of the chapter. "If you do not en-

force your standards or violations of even the small ones, you will not be able to handle the big things when they cum," she said. She also feels that a group, similar to the Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic Council, should hold other greek organizations accountable to their standards.

"Elect strong officers," continued Syring. She feels the strongest member should be elected president, while other people strongly involved in the organization should hold key positions.

Honor, Syring feels, is a quality that all greeks must have. "Value the dignity of every man and woman in your chapter, and on campus," she said. Valuing other people and their ideas is important to understanding other groups, and with understanding comes unity as one large group of greeks.

"Sweat the small stuff," she continued. Be able to live with small things that go wrong. Save the worrying and stress for the large problems that are inevitable.

Finally, she encouraged greeks to give change a chance. "Your chapter is only as strong as the system," she said. If the whole system is strong, then each individual fraternity and sorority should be able to build and grow. Be a visionary. Have the courage to look at something from someone else's point of view.

"The greek system was not founded on what you can endure, but what you are capable of," Syring continued. "How can something based on Honor, Truth, and Integrity ever go out of style?" she ended.

Academics and involvement prevail at '93 Greek Awards

By William S. Hull
News Editor

And the winners of Outstanding Greek Man of the Year and Outstanding Greek Woman of the Year are... Brian Haara of Zeta Sigma and Sally Wilhelm of Kappa Iota. Outstanding Greek Man and Woman of the Year are the two most prestigious awards given out annually at the Greek Awards ceremony. The ceremony was held Monday, March 22. The ceremony honors Greeks on campus as a whole and each fraternity and sorority honor individuals within their chapter for such things as academic success and college involvement.

"My concept of what the ideal Outstanding Greek Man of the Year should be entails that the man should represent both the Greek community and the campus at large. The Outstanding Greek Man should be an individual who is respected not only by other Greeks, but also by faculty, administrators, non-Greeks and members of the Alma Community," said senior Outstanding Greek Man of the Year Brian Haara.

Faculty advisors for each fraternity and sorority are invited by

Assistant Dean of Students Anne Rathjen to come and vote on the award.

"All nine faculty advisors were invited, but only four of them showed up," said Rathjen.

Those four advisors choose this year's Outstanding Greek Man and Woman of the Year. The advisors judge each candidate on their application alone, all names were blacked out on the applications. The five areas judged on the application were academic achievement, Greek involvement, chapter involvement, campus involvement and community involvement. Each application receiving a score from one to five, with five being the highest.

"I felt the evening brought the Greek system closer, even if for only an evening. I was also very happy to see my brother, Brian Haara, win Outstanding Greek Man of the Year," said sophomore Steve Rummel.

The Panhellenic Scholarship Awards for Winter Term 1992 and Fall Term 1992 were given to the chapter with the highest grade point average (G.P.A.) for the term, highest pledge class for each term and highest individual pledge for each

term. For Winter Term 1992 Gamma Phi Beta had the high chapter G.P.A., Alpha Gamma Delta had the high pledge class G.P.A. and sophomore Mary Kay Ecken and sophomore Jennifer McMaster tied for highest pledge G.P.A. For Fall Term 1992 Alpha Xi Delta had the high chapter G.P.A., Alpha Gamma Delta again had the high pledge class G.P.A. and sophomore Kathy Bailey had the highest pledge G.P.A.

The Inter Fraternity Scholarship Awards for Winter Term 1992 and Fall Term 1992 were the same as those of the Panhellenic Council. Sigma Chi had the highest chapter G.P.A. both the Winter and Fall Term of 1992, Sigma Chi also had the high pledge class for Winter Term 1992, Theta Chi had the high pledge class for Fall Term 1992, sophomore Ray Kowaleski received highest pledge for Winter Term 1992 and senior Paul Keegstra received highest pledge for Fall Term 1992.

Rathjen also announced the 15 founding members of the Order of Omega, a Greek leadership honor organization. Senior members are: Julie Boltman, Fred Feleppa, Brian Haara, Kathy Hribar, Judy Kirkwood, Heather Laird, Chris Mansur, Scott Schoessel, Jim Sherman, Cary Strickler and Sally Wilhelm; junior members are: Chad Briscoe, Aaron Howald, Chris Huffnagel and Tami O'Bryant.

"The Student Affairs Office choose who the founding members would be based on academics and involvement. It wasn't something had to fill out an application for like Outstanding Greek Man of the Year," said Haara.

Individual fraternity and sorority awards were also announced during the evening. The winners are listed in the sidebar accompanying this article.

Individual Fraternity and Sorority Awards for 1993

Fraternities

Zeta Sigma:

Highest Chapter G.P.A. -- senior Dave Schmidt

Outstanding Senior -- senior Chris Butler

Theta Chi:

Brothers of the Year -- senior Doug Smith and senior Jim Sherman

Tau Kappa Epsilon:

Baxter Award -- first-year student Loren O'Connell

Sigma Chi:

Highest Chapter G.P.A. -- junior Chris Huffnagel and junior Rich Wiltse

Most Improved G.P.A. -- junior Jeff Deming

Sigma Alpha Epsilon:

Scholarship Award -- senior Dean Reisner

Pledge Scholarship Award -- Brent Oeschger

Sororities

Kappa Iota:

Sophomore Ring -- sophomore Lexi Orr

Most Active Pledge -- first-year student Char VanderMeer

Gamma Phi Beta:

Mary A. Bingham Award -- senior Christine Perez

Frances E. Haven Scholarship Award -- senior Heather Laird

Alpha Xi Delta:

Philanthropic Award -- senior Karris True

Campus Involvement -- junior Jennifer Hardy

Alpha Gamma Delta:

Scholarship Award -- sophomore Jennifer McMaster

Founder's Award -- sophomore Mary Kay Ecken

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Mar. 30, 1993

Whale becomes new member of class of '95

By Sara Groves
Staff Reporter

You probably all think that the only reason people run for class office is so they have just one more thing to put on their resume or yet another activity to put on that application for grad school. Well, the class officers of 1995 want their fellow students to think differently about them.

And they decided to do something about it. They adopted a whale. That's right. You heard me. A real live whale to call their very own.

According to Kristin Kuhtic, vice president of the class of 1995, "We adopted the whale because we wanted to do something to show the students that we actually *are* doing something. Everybody is so concerned about the environment so we thought we would do our

share."

The officers heard of the program from fellow classmate Amanda Stuart. Stuart showed a brochure she had received to Kuhtic and the other officers, hoping to spark some interest.

The whale the class of 1995 adopted is named Dent #0023. Dent is a finback whale and was named for the large depression in its back behind the blowholes. This depression is easily seen in the photo that the officers received of Dent.

As well as receiving a photo, the officers were given a page of several diagrams which detail each of Dent's identifying marks appearing on him. They also received a page detailing all of the recorded sightings of Dent since 1974. Dent has even been seen with Elvis #0111. Not the King—just another whale. And they weren't spotted at a Burger King, but off the coast of

Maine instead.

Finally, included in the packet is *The Adopt A Finback Whale Book: An Introduction to Whale and Whale Research*. The book outlines the Adopt a Whale program sponsored by the Allied Whale Foundation.

Allied Whale was founded in 1972 by Steven K. Katona, professor of biology at College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, Maine. According to the brochure, "Since its beginning, Allied Whale has been at the forefront of modern whale research and is recognized as a leader in the development of scientific techniques used by whale biologists."

The Allied Whale mission statement is "to conduct research important to effective conservation of marine mammal populations and their habitats." The group does this by performing extensive field re-

search all over the world.

Money from the adoption program sponsored by Allied Whale goes to funding the research. According to a brochure, "Your donation supports research which will answer important questions such as: Where do finback whales go in the winter? Where are their calves born? How long do they live? What are their habitat requirements?" The \$30 adoption fee is an essential aspect of the Allied Whale

Foundation's research.

If you are interested in becoming a whale sponsor and doing something important like the class of 1995 is doing, you can write to: The Finback Catalogue, College of the Atlantic, Bar Harbor, Maine, 04609.

"It's just a great program that does something important," Kuhtic said. "We didn't get elected to just put something down on our resume. We wanted to do something."

**ADOPT
A
WHALE**
ALLIED WHALE FOUNDATION

Sexual harassment spans generations, environments

By Katie Novak
Feature Editor

Of all the issues facing women, sexual harassment is one that spans all generations and environments. It has been reported in the workplace, in academic institutions (including schools at the secondary level as well as at the university), in the military and even in the church.

Since the Anita Hill-Clarence Thomas hearings last year, the issue has received more attention—much needed attention. The number of complaints of harassment have increased in the past three years. According to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), complaints filed through the office rose from 6100 in 1990 to 9800 in 1992.

Recent discussions of the issue have focused on the need to stop harassment from occurring and also the necessary methods to deal with it effectively when it is reported. Since 1990, consulting companies specializing in sexual harassment policy have seen an increase in business. Susan L. Webb, president of the Pacific Resource Development Group, has been recruited by companies including Coca-Cola and Burger King to help them handle the issue.

In her book, *Step Forward: Sexual Harassment in the Workplace: What You Need to Know!*, Webb has outlined steps for controlling sexual harassment. These steps can easily be adapted to the academic environment.

1. **Gaining top management's support.** Harassment needs to be considered a problem that interrupts productivity. As such, the

management must approach the issue with a serious attitude and thus influence others to do the same.

2. **Compiling a written, posted policy.** Because "a verbal policy is the same thing as no policy at all" Webb insists that companies construct policies with the following elements: statement of purpose—"to set forth the organization's position on sexual harassment"; legal definition of harassment; descriptions of behavior that constitutes sexual harassment; importance of the problem; how employees should handle harassment; how the organization handles complaints; and disciplinary action.

3. **A procedure for handling complaints.** Webb encourages giving the employees many options in who they need to report complaints to.

4. **A timetable for handling complaints.** Action must be taken quickly and fairly.

5. **Training Programs** (with emphasis on behavioral and attitudinal changes). "As few as two hours of training can make a huge difference in people's understanding of what constitutes harassment," said Webb.

6. **Follow-up.** This includes continuing the training annually and sending memos once or twice a year to remind employees of how the company feels about/handles sexual harassment.

As part of Women's History Month, the Women's Issues Advisory Board (WIAB) sponsored a roundtable discussion on sexual harassment on Monday, Mar. 22.

(Information for this article was taken from *Working Woman*, June 1992.)

Snake River Falls greets Cedar Point fans this spring

Introducing a world-record-breaking ride three years out of five can be a tall order for any amusement park. But Cedar Point won't have it any other way. With the addition of Snake River Falls, an 82-foot-high water flume plunge, the park will hold "the world's tallest" ride title for the third time since 1989. With that kind of track record, the Sandusky, Ohio, amusement park/resort knows what it takes to get the job done.

"It starts with the engineers," said Jim Colvin, director of maintenance and construction at Cedar Point. "They have to be able to make it work safely on paper before we can even think about building it." There are less than a dozen major ride manufacturers today that have the proven capability to research and develop new technologies and world-record-breaking rides.

Once the technology has been developed, it's up to the park to decide what type of ride it wants to build and how much to spend. At the Point, a six-person planning committee makes recommendations for these decisions. Reinvestment and giving guests a reason to come back every season are important factors in their five-year-plan that targets the best rides and attractions for future Cedar Point expansion.

"Anything can give us an idea for a new ride," said Colvin, who is also a member of the committee. "Manufacturers, trade shows and our guests are the best sources." Park surveys show that roller coasters and water rides are the most requested adult attractions. "There's a fascination with getting wet," Colvin said.

It was this fascination as well as management's desire for something the entire family could enjoy that made Snake River Falls the centerpiece of next year's improvements program. Sponsored by Pepsi, it will be the world's tallest, steepest and fastest water flume ride. At the top of an 82-foot hill, 20-passenger boats will go into a tunnel that follows a curving trough and ends abruptly as the riders plummet down the 80-foot falls at a 50-degree angle, reaching speeds topping 40 mph. An exit bridge traversing the bottom of the falls will drench spectators with a 1600-square-foot wall of water.

Another important consideration is location. The entrance to Snake River Falls will be behind the Town Hall Museum in Frontiertown. The ride's exit bridge will pass through the path of the tidal wave and end on the Frontier Trail. The driest view of this "wall of water" will be from the midway bridge at the entrance of Frontiertown. "The proximity of White Water Landing and Thunder Canyon have already created a kind of 'wet zone' in the park," Colvin said. "With the addition of Snake River Falls, it will almost be a new themed ride area."

The next step is to give the ride "one-of-a-kind" appeal. Snake River Falls is not a new type of ride—it is a taller, steeper, faster version of a water ride that is already popular. "Instead of prototypes, we most often choose to take 'shelf rides' in which all the pieces and parts are proven and modify them to be more exciting and uniquely Cedar Point's," Colvin said. "We are in the habit of building world-record-breakers—if it's already been done, it's our duty to do it better."

"Making it better" is normally left exclusively to the ride manufacturers, but Cedar Point is unusual in that the park has in-house experts to help to customize standard rides. In the case of Snake River Falls, all of the manufacturers' past "shoot-the-chute" rides have been no more than 65 feet tall and patterned in an oval. Cedar Point wanted a figure eight course and a tunnel at the top of the ride to prevent passengers from seeing what lies ahead until just before they take the 80-foot plunge.

"It's lucky that Richard Kinzel, the president of this company, is also 'a rider,'" Colvin said. "We asked for the figure eight layout to add a visual element on the way down the steep hill. That design and the tunnel should really make an impact on the riders' experience."

Typically contracts are signed in June and site preparation begins in August or September. The park does not normally announce a new ride until September or later, for competitive reasons. "We don't want to describe our plans to other parks who may try to copy our efforts," said Colvin.

Movie Review

Falling Down drives viewers to depression

By Brett Powers
Staff Reporter

Ever have one of those days when the whole world seems to be against you? One of those days when your job, your car, all the people you come in contact with—even those you love—are seemingly out to get you? What can you do if the whole world is against you? In *Falling Down*, Michael Douglas shows us one alternative: fighting back.

Falling Down is a good movie in many respects. It has great acting, quality filming and what looks like a sizable budget. The only problem with it is that the movie goes nowhere. Starting out with Douglas already cracked from the pressures of life, the movie has no place to go. It just spirals down in one depressing scene after another. There is no development of character from what we are given in the first five minutes of the movie. It is a two hour documentary about a man with a nervous breakdown.

The promotional campaign for this movie was slick, but it was not very representative of the movie. It gave the slant that the movie was going to be a dark comedy; when in reality, the movie is just dark.

Douglas was great as the nerdy man who could not take it any-

on his last day before he retires. The only one to show any change in the movie, his is definitely the most interesting character. He starts off as a worn-out cop who is doing desk work and ends up a daring detective. And if this aspect of the movie would have been highlighted

ematic beauty, tension and a form of high art. This scene will be shown in college film classes in years to come. But the rest of the movie does not follow this same intense artfulness and greatness; if it had, *Falling Down* would be an Oscar magnet.

The film is rated R for strong language and some violence. It should also have a warning to suicidal and depressed people to avoid this movie. *Falling Down* is so depressing that once you leave the theater you feel like watching 10 hours of mindless comedy (*Airplane*, *Naked Gun*) to counteract the negative vibes you get from it.

Falling Down has some good filming and acting, only its overall themes and plot do not go anywhere; do not resolve anything. It fails so badly in this aspect that the movie as a whole must be looked at as a failure. I recommend you save your money for one of the summer blockbusters, and let *Falling Down* stay down for the count.

Falling Down has some good filming and acting, only its overall themes and plot do not go anywhere; do not resolve anything. It fails so badly in this aspect that the movie as a whole must be looked at as a failure

more. It was hard to believe this was the same guy who had been involved with Sharon Stone in *Basic Instinct*; but then that is what actors and actresses are supposed to do, right? Douglas portrays his character well; he is very convincing—it is just too bad that the script did not give him somewhere to go with it.

Robert Duvall does an outstanding job with his character—a cop

more, *Falling Down* would have come across much better.

The one really interesting scene was during the first two minutes of the movie. It is a simple scene: Douglas is stuck in a traffic jam. But what the director, Joel Schumacher, does with it is amazing. Using close ups, slow motion, interesting camera angles and an overall montage effect, Schumacher achieves true cin-

ists. Although the theme deserves praise, apparently it's not enough to overcome the "heavy-handed script which substitutes archetypes (the principled youth, the emotional wealking, the noble cripple) for believable characters," said Rozen.

The Crying Game

Released earlier this month, this film starring Stephen Rea has received positive reviews mostly focusing on director Neil Jordan's cinematic ability: "The script is full of reversals and abrupt dislocations and, halfway through, the movie springs a huge, jaw-dropping surprise," said Terrence Rafferty of *The New Yorker*. This gripping film portrays the life of an IRA gunman grappling with serious emotional highs and lows and an ultimate change of heart.

A Far Off Place

Yes, this is a G-rated Disney flick, but it's worth seeing. *A Far Off Place* is the story of an American man who works to stop poaching and the illegal exporting of ivory. He, along with his family, is betrayed and murdered by a close friend—the head of the conspiracy to export large amounts of ivory tusks. Only the young daughter and her male guest survive. The story of human perseverance and cross-cultural unity, the film chronicles their journey to safety and ultimately their successful uncovering of the crime.

Movie Picks

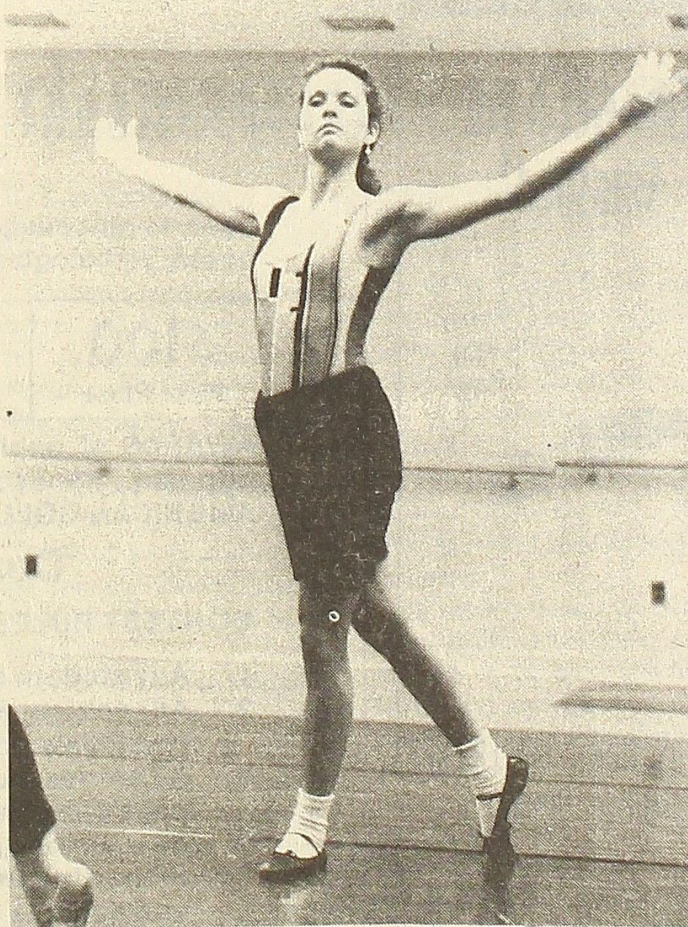
CB 4

A comedy about a rap band—Cell Block 4—starring Allen Payne, Deezer D and Cris Rock. Often compared to *Wayne's World* in format, *CB4* takes on a documentary (of sorts) style. According to Tom Gliatto of *People Weekly*, "Like *Wayne's World*, it's basically a grab bag, a larky, conscientiously stupid series of gags, music-video parodies, vulgarities, dream sequences and pop cross-references." The film mixes the story of the group's run-ins with a drug kingpin (played by Charlie Murphy—Eddie's brother). With a few attempts to deal with the controversial issues of rap music. (Rated R).

Swing Kids

Starring Robert Sean Leonard, Christian Bale and Barbara Hershey. Critics have slammed this interesting exploration of life in the Third Reich: "For all its heart (and politics) being in the right place, and some dazzling dance and movie sequences, *Swing Kids* is really little more than *Hamburg, 90210*," said Leah Rozen of *People*. The film chronicles the lives of German teenagers in 1939 who protest the actions of the Nazis by outwardly displaying their love of American swing music—music that was banned due to its large numbers of Jewish and African-American art-

Dancers begin practice



Senior Jennifer Bork practices one of her dances for the Alma College Dance Company concert. The concert will be held next month at the Alma High School Auditorium. Photo by M. Stargardt.

Hiring up, according to temporary firm's poll

College Press Service

Hiring prospects are improving for the second quarter of this year, according to a survey of 15,000 businesses nationwide.

"Employers are now planning new staffing beyond the seasonal variations of the past two years. It appears we are headed for a real increase," said Mitchell Fromstein, president of Manpower, a Milwaukee-based temporary help service.

Manpower's poll of second-quarter hiring plans showed that 26 percent of respondents said they would increase staff levels during the March-May period and seven percent reported plans for work reductions. Another 67 percent plan no new hiring.

The figures represent an increase from last quarter, when 17 percent planned further hiring and 13 percent were cutting back, according to Manpower. For the second quarter a year ago, 21 percent of the firms surveyed were planning to increase work forces.

A breakdown of professions and hiring plans include:

***Construction:** Spring is the traditional period for a rise in construction hiring; 36 percent of the surveyed firms plan more hiring, and eight percent plan cutbacks.

***Transportation and public utilities:** Hiring forecasts still lag behind most other industries, with 18 percent expecting to hire and eight percent indicating they will trim employment rolls.

***Finance, insurance and real estate:** These professions are starting to move forward in hiring, Manpower said, although at a slow rate. Of the firms surveyed, 21 percent said they will increase personnel and eight percent will be reducing staff levels.

***Education, public and private:** Jobs in these fields, which have been hard to find in the past two years, are not loosening up, Manpower found. Only 13 percent of the respondents plan on hiring teachers, and eight percent will seek decreases.

***Public administration:** The outlook for government jobs remains weak. Budget pressures, especially in the South and West, equate to 20 percent expecting to hire workers, but 10 percent seeking cutbacks.

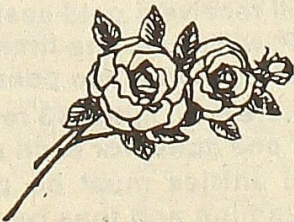
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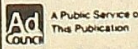
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Mar. 30, 1993

Calendar of events Mar 30 - Apr 4

ON CAMPUS:

Tuesday, March 30

Alma College Senior Art Exhibition

Today thru April 24

Clack Art Center

Wednesday, March 31

Co-Cur and art department event

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Rotunda

Phi Mu Alpha Concert

8 p.m. Dunning Memorial Chapel

Thursday, April 1

"The Nature of Time"

Lecture by Professor Yervant Terzain

2:30 p.m. 113 Swanson Academic Center

"The Nature of the Universe"

Lecture by Professor Yervant Terzain

8 p.m. Dow L-1

Gelston Hall Program: The Gong Show

8 p.m. Jones Auditorium

Friday, April 2

"Reality and Quantum Mechanics"

Lecture by Professor Yervant Terzain

10:30 a.m. 113 Swanson Academic Center

"The Values of Science Education"

Lecture by Professor Yervant Terzain

2:30 p.m. Dow L-3

Newberry Hall Program: Cultural Festival

7 p.m. VanDusen Student Center

Saturday, April 3

EXPLO '93

Senior Art Exhibition Reception

2 p.m. Clack Art Center

Choir concert

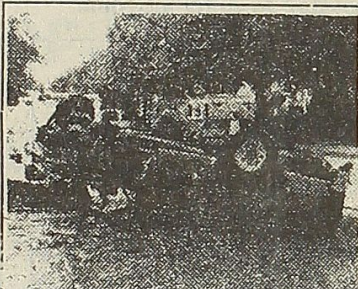
4 & 8 p.m. Dunning Memorial Chapel

ACUB Event: Pschic and Magician Craig Karges

8 p.m. Jones Auditorium

Student volunteers sought for development projects

Global Volunteers is actively seeking student groups and individuals to volunteer for one-three weeks over the summer at development project sites in Russia, Poland, Jamaica, Guatemala, Mexico and the Mississippi River Delta in the United States. Volunteers assist with projects such as building and repairing community centers, tutoring, teaching English and assisting in health care. Volunteers teams live in the host community in homestays or in community buildings. Volunteers pay their own way. All trip-related expenses are tax deductible, and there are substantial discounts for groups. For more info and a free catalog, contact Krista Twesme at 1-800-487-1074.



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Environmentally Speaking Green Corps sends message to Clinton

By Aiko Schaefer
Freelance Writer

The ancient forests of the Pacific Northwest are one of America's most valuable resources. These forests contain some of the world's largest and most impressive trees and provide habitats for hundreds of unique plant and animal species. They protect watersheds by keeping soil in place and regulating water temperatures. When these forests are clear-cut, large amounts of soil erode into nearby rivers and lakes, killing fish and polluting water supplies. Habitats for hundreds of plant and animal species, of which the celebrated northern spotted owl is only one, are destroyed in the process.

We are just beginning to understand the importance of these forests, and the more we learn, the more important their preservation appears. In addition to their intrinsic beauty and value, these diverse ecosystems are important sources of vital medicines that are a key part of efforts to

cure cancer, AIDS, Alzheimer's disease and countless other human afflictions.

Ninety percent of our ancient forest, which is part of every American's birthright, has already been destroyed for the benefit of private industry. What remains is being destroyed at a rate of several square miles each week despite a two-year supply of unsold timber. This massive destruction is the legacy of the Reagan and Bush administrations' 12-year war on our nation's environmental heritage.

As part of their "blame game," previous administrations blamed efforts to protect this heritage for a faltering economy and the decline in timber employment. The facts tell a far different story: As timber harvests have increased, accelerated automation and export of unprocessed logs have caused the number of timber jobs to decline. Annihilating the last old-growth forests will take less than a decade at current logging rates and will only delay the inevitable transition to sustainable forestry.

The conflict over ancient forest preservation has been marked by

political grandstanding and misinformation. President Clinton has an historic opportunity to reverse years of mismanagement and place the American forest products industry on a sustainable basis that can yield jobs and wealth for years to come. We urge him to use the upcoming forest summit to fulfill his campaign promise by protecting America's few remaining ancient forests, thereby helping to preserve our shared environmental heritage for future generations of Americans. To help assure a better world for them and for us, we urge each of you to write President Clinton and encourage him to protect our ancient forests.

Editor's note: Aiko Schaefer is a member of Green Corps environmental group, whose current goal is to "urge President Clinton as well as the Michigan Congressional Representatives to take a leadership role in protecting the remaining Ancient Forests and to promote sustainable forestry practices."

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3. All entries must be typed, double-spaced, on one side of the page only. Each poem must be on a separate sheet and must bear, in the upper left-hand corner, the NAME and ADDRESS of the student as well as the COLLEGE attended. Put name and address on envelope also! (Alumni Welcome!)
4. There are no restrictions on form or theme. Length of poems up to fourteen lines. Each poem must have a separate title. (Avoid "Untitled"!)
5. Small black and white illustrations welcome.
6. The judges' decision will be final. No info by phone!
7. Entrants should keep a copy of all entries as they cannot be returned. Prize winners and all authors awarded publication will receive a gold-seal certificate ten days after the deadline. I.P. will retain one-time publication rights for accepted poems. Foreign language poems welcome.
8. There is an initial \$3 registration fee for the first entry and a fee of one dollar for each additional poem.
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Danca earns recognition with All-American honorable mention

By Danielle Salgat
Freelance Writer

"Focus."

Can one word really sum up all the things an athlete needs to remember before a performance? Probably not, but to sophomore Radu Danca, focusing has become an ordinary part of being a diver, and after two consecutive years of competition at the national level, he has definitely learned the importance of being focused.

Turning an ordinary diving season into an extraordinary one is almost a given when referring to Danca, and this year was no exception. He recently finished yet another successful season by returning to the NCAA Division III Swimming and Diving Championships for his second straight year. This year's competition was held at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, and, although his results were remarkable, Danca expressed some

dissatisfaction.

"I felt I could have done a lot better," said Danca. "I was satisfied with my placing, but not with my scores. I don't think it was one of my best performances."

You may question his discontent after discovering that his 15th place finish on the 3-meter board earned him All-American Honorable Mention recognition. He fared almost as well on the 1-meter board by placing a commendable 18th. Both competitions consisted of a field of 36 competitors and, as expected, there was a tremendous amount of pressure.

"I was happy with his performance," said coach Greg Baadte. "He dove consistently, and that's how you do well at national meets."

Being a veteran to the championships proved to have some advantage for Danca, and despite a 12-hour flight on Tuesday and a late arrival Tuesday night, he kept his concentration.

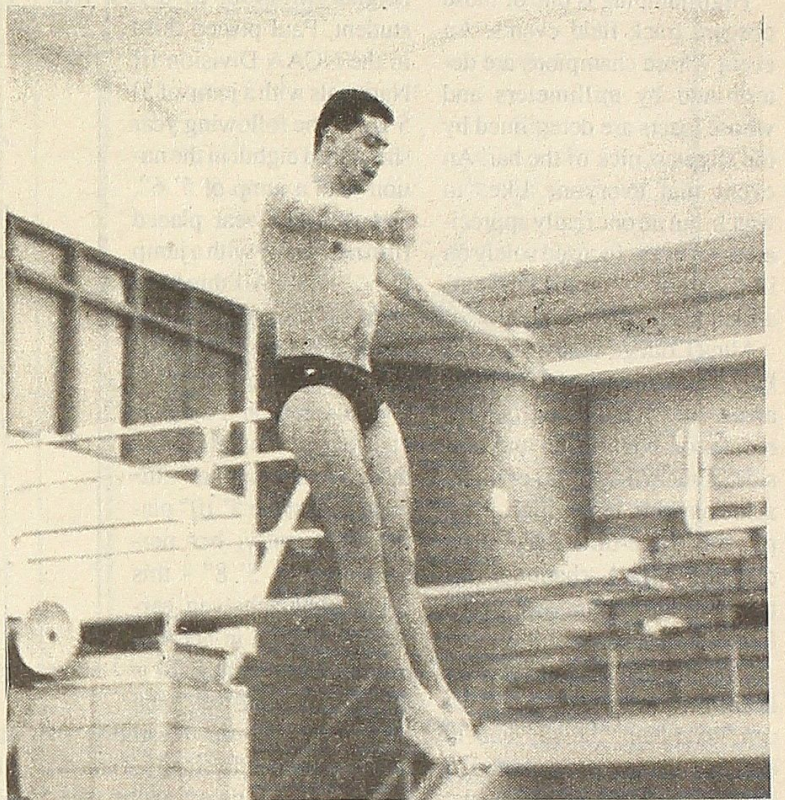
"We arrived at 9 p.m. Tuesday night because of delays and Radu had to dive early Wednesday morning," said Baadte. "But he is always focused. He knew what he had to do and went out and did it."

Danca showed improvement during the regular season as well as at the national meet. Last year he placed 22nd on the 3-meter board and 25th on the 1-meter board at the championships.

"I think I had a good season," said Danca, "and I'm already looking forward to next year."

But earning the prestige of an All-American this year wasn't enough to keep him from setting even higher goals for next season.

"That was my goal this year to place in the top 16, but next year I want to be in the top eight," he said. And with determination like that he won't stop until he has splashed his way to the top. Or in Danca's case, make that without the splash.



Radu Danca shows his nationally ranked form. File photo

Alma-Albion doubleheader justifies tight race

By Bill Ballenger
Freelance Writer

The varsity baseball squad validated predictions of another successful campaign this past weekend. After a three-week hiatus, including two cancelled weekend tournaments (inclement weather), the familiar faces of the 1992 MIAA runner-ups split a doubleheader at Albion on Saturday. The Scots record currently stands at an even 5-5-1, dating back to their non-league matches in spring training (Feb. 28 - Mar. 6).

In the opening match, the Scots, behind the solid pitching of junior southpaw Brian Hood and their trademark potent sluggers, jumped out to a 6-1 lead. But the Britons did not fall down and play dead; the host team scored six unanswered runs in the intermediate innings, highlighted by a three run dinger, to spoil the Scots' debut, 7-6.

The second contest began much like the first. The Scots established an early 5-1 lead before the resurgent Britons scored four runs, capped off by a three run homer, to knot the score at five runs apiece in the seventh inning. But, unlike the first match, Alma ended up victorious. First-year student Corky Thompson, who relieved sophomore starter Ryan Kimbirauskas, retired the side of the eighth in-

ning and sophomore centerfielder Brent Neubecker hit a two-out solo homer to lift the Scots to their first league win, 6-5. Thompson was credited with the win.

"I was very pleased overall," said coach Bill Klenk. "We only made one error all day. Mark Church pitched pretty well and Kimbirauskas pitched really well. The second game was a big win for us...if we had lost that one, it would have really buried us in the race. After they had come back and tied us in the second game, we didn't just pack our bags and go home."

"We really hit well," Klenk later added. "We had 22 hits between the two games, 11 in each. Dustin Ducham and Tim Bailey both hit well."

"We have the ability to be the best team in the conference," said Bailey, who batted a robust .800 (4-5) over the two games. "We should have won both games and Albion was picked by many to win the whole conference."

"We played very well," summarized junior third baseman Brett Graham. "We had only one error and we really hit the ball well...I was very pleased with what I saw."

"We hit the ball well," concluded junior designated hitter Greg Gray. "I think you can expect a strong showing from us."

Women's tennis dominates Northwood

By Lisa Shoemaker
Sports Editor

Women's tennis extended its overall season record to 5-2 after defeating Division II Northwood Institute 7-2 on Thursday indoors at Midland.

"We played as well as we are going to play coming out of the gym," said Coach Deb Mapes. "It takes a lot of adjustment to go from our Tartan surface to regular hardcourts, but we adjusted well."

"We all had to adjust our stroke," said first-year player Sarah Gabler. "You have to swing differently because the ball has a different bounce to it when you go from our indoor surface to hardcourts."

The Scots were impressive from the outset as they swept five of six singles matches. The Scots were led by junior Jennifer Jourdan at number one singles. Jourdan defeated her opponent in three sets 6-3, 6-7, 6-4, in what Mapes singled out as a "very good match."

Gabler (6-3, 6-1), senior Carrie Roth (6-2, 6-2), senior Tracie Ripper (6-0, 6-1) and sophomore Leslie Powell (6-0, 6-1) also registered victories for the Scots in the number three through six singles slots.

The Scots only singles loss occurred in the number two slot.

Junior Melanie Mayer was defeated 6-4, 7-5 by Northwood's Christy Stein.

"Sarah Gabler had a good match," said Mapes reflecting on her team's performance. "She easily handled her opponent, as did five (Ripper) and six (Powell)."

"Everyone in singles played strong," said Gabler. "Jen Jourdan really pulled through in her match."

In doubles action the Scots were equally as dominating, taking two of the three matches. However, the number one doubles tandem of Jourdan and Mayer were the lone victims, falling to Northwood 6-0, 6-1. Alma's Roth and Ripper then came back to pick up the win at number two doubles 6-4, 6-2. Gabler and junior Kim Kraai were likewise victorious for the Scots at number three doubles 6-1, 6-1.

"Northwood was an average team," said Mapes. "They don't have much depth beyond one and two singles, and we were able to take advantage of that."

The Scots open the MIAA portion of their schedule on Tuesday when they travel to Kalamazoo. They are scheduled to host their home-opener on Thursday when they entertain Adrian. Both matches start at 3 pm.

Alma vs. Northwood 3-25-93

Singles:

- #1 J. Jourdan (A) def. J. Wall (N)
6-3, 6-7, 6-4.
- #2 C. Stein (N) def. M. Mayer (A)
6-4, 7-5
- #3 S. Gabler (A) def. A. Atlee (N)
6-3, 6-1
- #4 C. Roth (A) def. K. Mans (N)
6-2, 6-2
- #5 T. Ripper (A) def. S. McDonagh (N)
6-0, 6-1
- #6 L. Powell (A) def. T. Pranger (N)
6-0, 6-1

Doubles:

- #1 Wall/Stein (N) def. Jourdan/Mayer (A)
6-0, 6-1
- #2 Roth/Ripper (A) def. Atlee/Mans (N)
6-4, 6-2
- #3 Gabler/Kraai (A) def. McDonagh/Pranger (N)
6-1, 6-1

Mar. 30, 1993

Paul works toward All-American goal

By Lisa Shoemaker
Sports Editor

High-jumping is one of those obscure track field events. An event whose champions are determined by millimeters and whose losers are determined by the slightest nick of the bar. An event that everyone likes to watch, but no one really appreciates. An event focused solely on individual achievement, athleticism, and technique.

Alma College senior Amanda Paul excels in each of these three areas. She has earned quite a reputation both inside and outside of the MIAA for her many achievements in the high-jump pit. The three-time All-American and MIAA champion returns for her senior year with a fresh set of goals in mind.

"My biggest goal has always been to be a four-time All-American," said Paul. "I really want to end my career as it started. I know I am right up there (nationally), but I don't want to set my sights that high (top five)."

Paul, from St. Louis, has virtually dominated her fellow high-

jump competitors. Equally important, her performances have showed a steady progression to greater heights. In 1990, as a first-year student, Paul placed third in the NCAA Division III Nationals with a jump of 5' 5 1/2". The following year she placed eighth in the nation with a jump of 5' 6", and then last year placed fifth nationally with a jump of 5' 7 1/2". All three top eight finishes have earned her the coveted All-American recognition.

This season Paul has challenged herself even more by setting her ultimate goal at the 5' 10" plateau. Currently, her personal best is 5' 8" - this height was achieved earlier this season in her victory at Grand Valley. "It is all in your mind set," she commented on the feasibility of her new goal. "Physically, I can do it, but I don't know about mentally."

Paul says that she prepares for her jumps through visualization. "I imagine my turn, my 'J', my hop,

all before I take off," she said. Because the high-jump competition is often long and drawn out, Paul has had to learn techniques for

both an athletic and technical sport.

"There are some jumpers who are total technique, while others are just leapers," she said. "I am somewhere in-between. My technique is really not as good as it should be, and my speed could be improved."

She describes the attributes of a good jumper to be flexibility, power, technique, and speed. Of course, Paul says that the key for her to improve her own performance is to diligently train. Her workouts consist of a combination of plyometrics (circuit and jump training), sprinting, and three-step approaches. Also to improve her flexibility, Paul incorporates stretching, backbends

hitter on the volleyball team.

"I love them both," says Paul of her two sports. "Volleyball is more demanding in terms of time, but competitively, high-jumping is my true love."

Paul has extended her volleyball career into the coaching ranks as the head varsity coach at Ithaca High School. Her team posted an impressive 18-14-4 overall record in her first year at the helm, good enough for a fourth place finish in the CSA conference. "I learned a lot from coaching this year," said Paul. "I very quickly found out how to deal and not deal with high school girls."

Paul, who will be married in April to Argil Willman, is hoping to land an elementary teaching job in one of the local Mid-Michigan school districts. She has already completed her student teaching last fall in the fifth grade at Ithaca North Elementary. "I loved fifth grade," said Paul of the age group. "The kids are old enough to talk to, yet still innocent, which makes teaching very easy."

"My biggest goal has always been to be a four-time All-American....I know I am right up there nationally."

-Amanda Paul-

staying mentally focused. "I usually bring a book and read to keep my mind off jumping, so I don't get nervous," she said. "I don't like to watch the other jumpers, I just focus on myself."

Paul says that high-jumping is

in particular, into her workout.

With all the attention that is paid to Paul's high-jumping achievements, it is often overlooked that she is a two sport athlete here at Alma. For the past four years she has also been a standout middle

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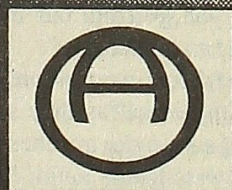
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Sports Commentary by Brad Engel

When will the snow melt?

Tales of a claustrophobic sports fan

I'm really depressed. We're on the verge of April and there is snow covering the ground. Sure, there are the places where the snow was plowed away—along with a little sod—but the white stuff still abounds. And as long as it blankets the ground, spring athletes must do their thing indoors.

If you haven't guessed by now, I'm just a little fed up with the weather lately. These cold, rainy days really put a damper on everything, especially those who compete in spring sports. Nothing signals spring more than the crack of a bat or the pop of a starter's pistol. Just thinking about sitting in the stands and taking in a game, match or meet makes the old heart flutter.

This time of year is really a downer in the sports world. The NHL and NBA are riding out the final few weeks before play-off time. While there are a few tight races going on for a spot in the play-offs, for the most part the teams that are going to make it have already been decided. And then the play-offs tack another two months onto seasons that are already too long. Enough is enough.

Spring training is going on in

the south and west, but what good does that do us here in Michigan? Sure we get to watch our favorite teams use players that never have a hope of taking the field in a major league game and rest all the talented players for the season. But up north, all we get from watching games taking place in Florida is more depressed when we look out our windows and see a foot of snow piled up on our baseball and softball fields.

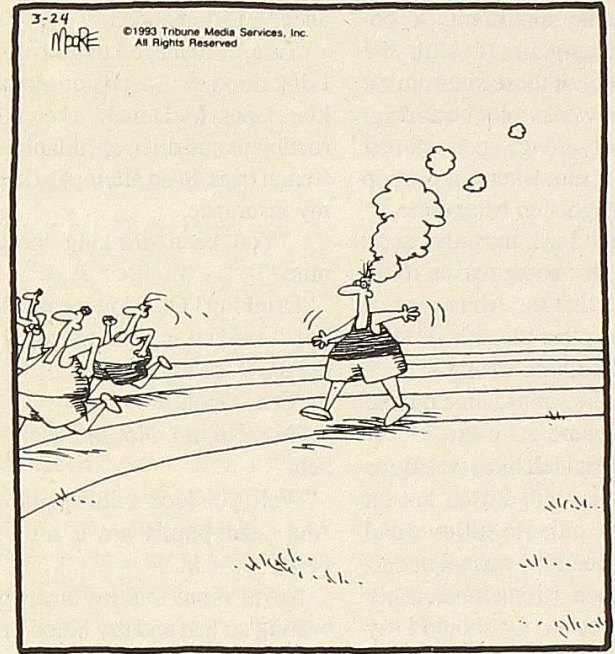
But wait, you say. That isn't all that is going on, you say. We are in the midst of the most exciting spectacle in sports, you say. The NCAA Final Four is this weekend! Well maybe that's exciting if your betting pool teams fulfilled your expectations and made it this far, but for most everybody else it is really anti-climactic. I don't know about most of you, but the best reason I can give for the NCAA tournament is that it helps you rationalize why you didn't study for that big marketing exam on Friday.

Things are really depressing around campus. The track, tennis, baseball and softball teams are all vying for time to practice in the gym. I'm sure this schedule makes all of our athletes happy, with rotating practice schedules and workouts until three in the morning.

Ohhh. Nothing makes the heart grow fonder than reminiscing about the good old college days of playing a little fungo on the tartan floor at 2:30 in the morning. But, from the fan's point of view, everybody practicing in one place, does make it possible to watch every team without moving from your seat.

You're probably thinking, "What an idiot, why bother complaining about something he can't change? Well, I have a plan. It's simple really, all everybody has to do is go out and buy a few of those disposable lighters. Then, at a designated time, we'll all go outside and light them up, raising the temperature of the earth which will consequently accelerate the melting of snow. The trees will think that it is warmer and grow leaves. Everybody will be so happy to see the grass and leaves that they will dress in spring clothes. Spring sports will begin play. By the time people realize that it is still 30 degrees out, winter will be too scared to rear its ugly head and it will go away until next year, leaving us enjoying spring. Like you were saying "What an idiot..."

In The Bleachers By Steve Moore



On the final turn of the 800 meters, Lawrence blows a head gasket and stumbles helplessly to a halt.

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Mar. 30, 1993

Lifting the Kilt by Sara Groves

Alma Police and altered license do not mix

I'm sure that several of us know the sound a little too well. That all too familiar "Wooo woooo" of the Alma Police sirens.

I had the opportunity to become re-acquainted with the lovely wail of those sirens just a few short weeks ago. I was driving placidly along Superior Street at about 2 a.m. when I saw a cop with his lights on behind me.

Although I was the only car on the road, for some reason it did not occur that the Alma piggy would be after me. I had, after all, done nothing wrong.

But as the sirens came on and the cop came so close to my bumper that I felt like I was Boor Luke Duke with Rosco hot on my tail, I decided to pull over and see what the fuss was all about.

And then I remembered my driver's license. Or should I say what was left of my driver's license. I had a long, long, *long* time ago (okay, so it was just a few months ago) attempted to alter my license in order for it to appear as if I were 21. Attempt is an underestimate when used here. I had scraped, with a razor blade, all identifying dates off of my license including the entire (read BIG here) line which says "UNDER 21." And, since I am no plastic surgeon, especially when it comes to doctoring Michigan drivers' licenses as I found out much to my dismay, there were several large blank lines on my license.

Rosco sauntered toward the car

flashing a floodlight in my face, apparently trying to see if I was intoxicated.

"Can I see your license and insurance?" he demanded.

"Sure," I managed to gulp out as I dug through mounds of old napkins, tapes, McDonald's ketchups, roadmaps and dried up, dilapidated french fries, in an attempt to locate my insurance.

"You been drinking tonight, miss?"

"Drinking? Oh. You mean, alcohol?" I asked, a little too slow on the draw for my own good.

"Yes. Alcohol."

"No. No, no. Not me. Heh heh heh."

"Well, you look a little squirrely. And your pupils are a little dilated," he said.

Never mind that my heart was beating so fast and my blood pressure was suddenly so high that I probably would have tested positive for cocaine use. Never mind that he was still shining in my eyes a floodlight with so much power that it would have lit up the entire front of Buckingham Palace and scared burglars away to boot. Never mind that it's a felony to alter your driver's license in the state of Michigan and there was a chance that I would have to spend the rest of Winter Term doing hard time. Never mind all of that. I looked squirrely for God's sakes. I had to think fast.

"I always look squirrely. Heh heh heh," I said in a pathetic attempt to defend myself.

The piggy just shook his head and started sauntering back to his car.

"Do you mind telling me what I did wrong?" I stuck my head out the window.

"I'll tell you when I get back up there. Just hold on while I see if this checks out," he said.

"Great," I thought to myself. "That jerk is actually going to look at my license. I'm dead for sure. See if it checks out. Ha! There's hardly nothing left on that license to check. It basically just says Michigan and my name. I'm dead."

"And what the heck did I do?" I wondered. "Was I weaving? I must have been weaving. Good lord. I haven't even been drinking except for that hot chocolate with whipped cream out at Petticoat. That must have done me in."

I began planning my escape. If I could just pick up speed fast enough and fly around a corner somewhere into a dark alley and then hide in someone's backyard while he slowly drove by. Then I would pull out and follow him—at a distance, of course—using the utter confusion plan. Suddenly, I would floor it and just fly past him, leaving him in the dust to wonder where I disappeared so magnificently to.

But before I had a chance to pull the old one-two, old Rosco was back with my sad driver's license in his hot little paw.

"First of all, do you know what you did wrong?" he asked.

I shook my head no.

"Well, it's a little thing called an

M.R.S."

I racked my brain trying to come up with words that M.R.S. could stand for. Multiple ride speed. Minor ride speed. Mary ran slow. Michigan run stop. Did I run a stop light?

"That's a Michigan Rolling Stop, ma'am."

"I was so close. I guessed Michigan run stop. Same idea, different words," I told him.

"Regardless of your guess ma'am, you merely *paused* at that stop light back there and then kept going. You didn't come to a complete stop," he informed me.

"Secondly, this driver's license of yours is a very illegal piece of material," he said.

I just looked at him blankly, deciding since I was already doing so well at playing dumb tonight that the rest of the act wouldn't be a problem.

"How so?"

"Well ma'am, you attempted to alter your birthdate on this license. Now for whatever reason you did that..." he said.

"Oooohhhh. That. I forgot all about that," I said, lying through my teeth. "Goodness gracious. I must have done that when I was 16. Whooee! You know how kids are. Heh heh heh."

"Regardless ma'am of when you did it, you still did it. And it is against the law in the state of Michigan to alter a state-issued license," he said.

"Oh. I was unaware of that, Mr. Officer," I said.

"Well, now you are aware. Since I'm in a good mood tonight, I'm going to let you go, if you promise me that there will be no more M.R.S.'s and if you also promise me that you'll go right down to the Secretary of State tomorrow and get a brand-new license," he said.

"Oh I *promise*," I said trying to decide if I wanted to do backflips down Superior or if I wanted to pop that cop in the nose for being so condescending.

He handed back all of my stuff and sauntered back to his little cop car. He flicked off his attention grabbing lights as I started up my car and drove placidly along my way once again, making sure to stop completely at all the stop lights and stop signs. I felt like I should hang my arms out the window and do those hand signals you learn in elementary school for when you're riding your bike.

And I am still scurrying about the streets of Alma as an Alma cop's dream—licenseless. Some night when some little piggy is short on quota, he'll hit me and think to himself, "Bonzai!" as he hands over a ticket for a felony instead of just a wimpy misdemeanor or some lame speeding ticket. But for now, I am being an extra careful driver because that all too familiar "wooo wooo" sound of the Alma police siren brigade is still etched in my memory.

Weird in a serious way

by Dan Baker



Meal plan not flexible enough

By Char Vandermeer
Freelance Writer

To eat or not to eat. Now I wouldn't think that is such a tough question, would you? Unfortunately, not everyone in administrative positions here at Alma College sees this question in quite the light we students see it.

Each semester we fork over \$1,054 to enjoy the delights of Marriott. I am currently dictated by the constraints of the fourteen-mean plan. Now, tell me how many of us really make use of the full fourteen meals? I cannot remember the last time I actually ate dinner at Marriott on a Friday, Saturday, or Sunday evening. Granted, only three meals are accounted for in this little example; however, don't you find yourself too busy on, oh, let's say a Wednesday night, to haul yourself over to Hamilton for a delectable dinner of baked scrod? Or on Tuesday, when you see the cute little sign advertising pasta bar for the 675th time this year; don't you groan a little and dial Pizza Chef?

Right there you have at least five happily missed meals. That is a lot of food; that is a lot of money. Where does that money go? Who knows?

Authorities try to tell you that

When you see the cute little sign advertising pasta bar for the six hundred and seventy-fifth time this year, don't you groan a little and dial Pizza Chef?

these skipped meals are accounted for in the total cost of the meal plan and you really aren't losing a thing.

Sorry, I cannot quite buy that. I am quite sure I do not consume \$1,054 worth of food each semester.

Since I came to the brilliant deduction that I only wandered in for seven to 10 meals a week, I thought I would trek on down to the Marriott offices and get myself signed up

for the seven meal plan. Now I know I wouldn't have any of that marvelous "Munch Money," but with all of my excess cash saved from the fourteen meal plan I could put sixty bucks worth on my card and still have plenty of "Real Money" to buy lunch meats and bread for my healthy in-room lunches.

Being the Einstein that I thought I was, I was pretty excited. When I called the Student Affairs office with my brilliant plan, they informed me the seven meal plan was not intended for measly boarders such as ourselves. Only lucky commuters have the pleasure of enjoying that bargain. When I explained that I did not eat half of my meals I was told that the decision was a personal one and the hierarchy of Alma could do nothing about it. "Hmmm," I thought. Since it was my choice not to eat those meals, couldn't I make it my decision to be put on the seven meal plan?

Nope, I guess not. Things just do not work that way on the Alma campus. Why not? I suppose such a solution just makes far too much sense.

Beware of 'imaginary freedoms'

By Dan Boyer
Freelance Writer

In its Mar. 16, article, "SUN sponsors national student town meeting" *The Almanian* quotes SUN (Students United for Nature) president Melissa VanDyk as saying, "We are at a historic crossroads. For decades, our resources have been devoted to meeting the Soviet threat, but now the Soviet Union is just a memory." What VanDyk does not discuss, and what we desperately need to understand, was what was the nature of that threat, the use of those resources, and what will be the consequences of that memory?

I cannot believe that it was out of concern for "human rights records" that the United States, for decades, engaged in a Cold War with the Soviet Union of espionage and, basically, everything short of direct armed conflict. We devoted enormous financial resources (which served to further impoverish the social programs which were its miniscule "concession" to the impoverished working class) to it. In fact, it was that the bourgeoisie and their bureaucrats, who have always run this country, were desperate to protect their private property against the workers they had

condemned to the misery of wage slavery. To do so, the United States was prepared to make deals with dictators far worse than any in the Soviet Union since the age of Stalin. National policy was decided on a

we can hear on the news on any given week. When this happens in some other country, it is proof of the tyranny of a totalitarian government. When it happens in this one, it is merely, as the hypocritical

voucher system of privatization is "resulting in most factories being overwhelmingly owned by their workers. But there's nothing we can do to stop it." The United States responds with prayers of thanks-

ing against any "threat." I am not afraid to be counted as a former political prisoner in this "free country." As one, I am only too aware of the varieties of "freedom" that are meant: imaginative slavery, wage slavery, the draft, psychiatric slavery, and so on. As long as one can be jailed for political speech, which I have been, such freedom can be only a public relations pose.

Refusing to validate the monstrous acts of the Stalinist policies the Soviet Union pursued from very early on, until its recent demise, or to ratify the empty impostures which pass for "freedom" and "democracy" in this country, surrealism insists on maintaining its threat—a threat with great support within these borders—the scarlet voice of mutiny which has been heard in every nation on earth. From Iraq to Indonesia, from Canada to Guinea, from Russia to Iceland, it remains the "executive agency of the imagination," determined to prepare a revolution which will mercilessly assassinate every threat to human freedom. Years ago, its "threat" was loudly fretted about on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, and viewed as as serious enough to be the basis for all sorts of laughable lies. Its strength today has only increased.

Refusing to validate the monstrous acts of the Stalinist policies the Soviet Union pursued from very early on, until its recent demise, or to ratify the empty impostures which pass for "freedom" and "democracy" in this country, surrealism insists on maintaining its threat—a threat with great support within these borders—the scarlet voice of mutiny which has been heard in every nation on earth.

purely either-or basis: capitalist or communist. If capitalist, a country was the United States' friend, and the U.S. was only too willing to overlook a few blemishes.

Neither did the United States pause to take the log out of her own eye. The great maxim of Bellamy, "without social and economic democracy, political democracy is a sham," has never been allowed to enter the spectrum of political debate in this country. With brazen imperialism, the U.S. has moved again and again to defeat the cause of liberty at home, even viewed from its own hypocritical perspective of "freedom within limits." The demonstrators were arrested,

Supreme Court puts it, a question of "time, manner, and place." The cause of private property, and that alone, a thoroughly anti-democratic principle if there ever was one, becomes the litmus-test of "democratic norms."

This blackest confusion between economic and political principles apparently not being enough, the U.S. now crows gleefully at the triumph of Boris Yeltsin, one of the most cynical and lowest counter-revolutionaries who has ever crawled the face of the earth. He continually attempts to rule by decree, to establish a government agency to "oversee" the media, has his henchmen complain that the

giving. After all, the largest nation on earth, which we cannot mention is threatened by a dictatorship every bit as bad as the old regime, hopeless censorship, and which we of course do not care is using "democracy" as a charade to launch a direct attack against the working class, is making "progress" toward a "market economy." Hyper-inflation is certainly the sort of democratic virtue we should help Yeltsin to maintain against those foolish retrogrades in the Parliament.

It is my firm conviction that Communism, per se, has not yet laughed its last laugh. That aside, I want to know why what we have—imaginary "freedoms"—is worth protect-

Less is more when it comes to learning

By Maria Stephens
Freelance Writer

After receiving our syllabi the first day of classes at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, some fellow Alma students and I were content, to say the least, about the prospective workload for the term.

"We only have to do two papers and one final exam!" "Us, too—this is going to be no problem!"

Our classes did not, in fact, turn out to be the absolute breezes we anticipated from the syllabi. First and second year courses typically included three lectures per week and one tutorial, which was a small (less than 10 people) discussion hour with a professor.

The third year classes were "seminars": two-hour discussion periods twice a week with less than 20 people.

We often had one novel or large reading per week, and we *really* had to participate in discussion.

In addition, we found the profs had quite high expectations for those one or two papers we had to do in the term.

But this was still quite a change from a typical term at Alma—a short paper every few weeks, several tests, lots

of reading for each lecture.

I think both systems have their advantages and disadvantages; no educational system is perfect. But I think the educational system I experienced in Scotland has a lot to offer our own.

The differences in the educational system and attitude at Aberdeen were subtle, but significant. I believe the contrast offers a valuable caution for American colleges, such as liberal arts colleges like Alma.

This danger is the idea that "more is always better."

I am not talking about distributive requirements, which allow students to gain a valuable introduction to many various disciplines.

Rather, I mean taking this value of a "well-rounded" education to an extreme, so that what is more valuable is breadth of knowledge—a catalog of facts and names, an assortment of shallow papers—rather than in-depth development of intellectual skills.

I admit that the manifestations of this philosophy at Alma College are only part of our American educational system and our society as a whole and that Alma College can not be expected to totally 'swim against the tide' of this educational trend.

Nonetheless, if we are truly about learning here, we need to critically examine facets of our system which may be counterproductive to this end, and take these cautions to heart.

What do I mean by the "more is

better" philosophy? I mean valuing quantity above quality. I mean valuing tests and short, shallow papers above classroom discussion and intellectual effort.

The importance of discussion was the most striking difference at Aberdeen. Because we were not bogged down by small assignments, we had time to read texts carefully and were expected to voice our reactions, problems, and objections.

Our reading for classes was also designed so that it was psychologically possible for students to focus, in depth, on, for instance, one particular author or theory. Our concentration was not so fragmented by the emphasis on "knowing" as many "things" (facts, theories, authors) as possible (or impossible). Because we could concentrate, we could learn *how* to read critically, express opinions, and know in *depth*, not just breadth.

What students "learn" from this is that they are thinking people, that they can express their own ideas, not merely spit back knowledge or facts spoon-fed to them.

This experience also "teaches" them that one can actually *learn* from and even *enjoy* (!) in-depth discussion, and that the give-and-take of discussion is an important aspect of intellectual development. They learn how to express ideas verbally, and more importantly, how to *listen* to others.

I am not saying that Alma teachers do not believe this or teach this,

too. I have had wonderful teachers here, who have encouraged me enormously in my intellectual development and expression of my own voice and in learning the give-and-take of discussion.

But I do feel that certain institutional facets and overall emphases can impede this development.

Sometimes I do get the feeling that our educational system as a whole does not think that I am capable of valuable discussion, or simply does not feel that this discussion is useful and necessary.

What matters, it seems, is the pure bulk of pages I turn in and on what day, the number of facts or authors I can rattle off, the grades I can point to for this or that class.

Yes, I know, there are the GREs, the competitive job market...all those places where these things DO matter, where we will have to know how to "compete" to survive.

But I still believe that the skills and values of intellectual development will not only be better for our society in the long run, but also, in fact, better serve those pragmatic ends which the "competitive-minded" insist upon.

The skills of discussion, expression, and the value of not just doing many things, but perhaps less things *well*, as well as the ability to motivate oneself and enjoy the intellectual process without all the little carrots and sticks poking us every minute are necessary for success in any endeavor.

Students learn more than facts from an institution, they learn attitudes. They learn whether what they think has any value, and whether expression of what they think is valuable. They learn if listening and discussion are useful and valuable.

Alma College certainly upholds these values, ostensibly. But some institutional facets and emphases work against these intentions.

American college education in general would benefit if it would ease up on the need to produce, produce, produce papers, grades, and standardized scores, a lot more learning would happen.

While there is value in having a breadth of knowledge on various subjects, there is also value in going into one subject in depth.

Perhaps what I experienced in Scotland was primarily a difference in culture. It seems it is often difficult for Europeans to comprehend the frenetic pace of American life.

I think our educational system has, to some extent, fallen victim to this frenetic pace, and I worry what the casualties may be.

As Albert Einstein said, "Imagination is more important than knowledge." It's time our country's educational system began to reflect that.

Mar. 30, 1993

Staff editorial

Monteith in need of improvements

At an institution that prizes its academic selectivity and strives to continually improve its academic reputation on both the regional and national levels, it is difficult to understand why Monteith Library, one of the most essential academic resources for our students, faculty and staff, does not have more precedence when budget decisions for improvements and allocations are made. It is the position of *The Almanian* staff that the library is in need of numerous improvements and that such needs deserve immediate consideration.

First, though, we must acknowledge the library's many strengths, which include its dedicated professional staff. Interlibrary loan, a service that enables students and others to obtain items not available at the College's library from other universities and institutions, deserves praise. The staff handles loan requests promptly and accurately. Additionally, the staff makes itself available for specialized services such as individual research assistance, tours and other instructional sessions. The recent acquisition of new equipment such as Wilsearch and updated MLA hardware and the availability of VCRs and audio visual equipment should also be commended.

Despite these positives, however, Monteith lacks many of the elements necessary in a quality college library. Perhaps the most prominent area of need is the number of resources or basic volumes that the library holds. The library simply needs to increase and upgrade resources in the disciplines of business and business law, education, English and the sciences, among others. Due to a "lack of space" earlier this year, the library rejected a large number of essential business law books—books that a professor eventually decided to house in her own office and residence for student use. Students and faculty in the fields of education and English

often find themselves frustrated by the many outdated texts as well as the slim selection of resources available to them. Furthermore, the library does not subscribe to a number of needed science journals and has not sufficiently increased the number of texts desired by many biochemistry, biology and psychology majors. Although interlibrary loans are possible, we feel students at an institution of higher learning such as Alma should have an adequate number of resources available to them first-hand.

Along with the need for more texts and academic source materials, the library's periodical system needs attention. While the College does subscribe to over 1,000 periodicals, it is often difficult to locate specific issues. It would be helpful if the system were unified by, for example, having all issues of a particular title on microfilm or microfiche. Such a practice would eliminate the problems caused by allowing students to check-out the magazines and journals instead of retaining these materials at all times as most other school libraries do.

The library's hours should also be considered. Due to the small size of the Alma College campus, the number of sufficient study areas is quite limited, especially late at night. Extending the regular library hours during the week (currently Monday-Thursday 8 a.m.-midnight) throughout the term would provide students with a much-needed, and consequently a widely-used, study option.

We are not attempting to blame or even target the library's staff. We believe the school would be served well by these library improvements. If Alma is committed to the academic growth of its students and continually yearns to achieve recognition through upgraded accreditations, it only seems logical that the library would be a focal point of budget allocations.

The Almanian

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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.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor

I would like to send thanks to Steve Rummel for highlighting our exciting new Mac Lab in AC 310 (March 23, *The Almanian*). Special thanks for this facility are due to Tanya Shire and Donna Adams in the computer center for discovering this unusual opportunity, putting the package together, and managing to set up the entire lab over break.

Walter Beagley
Chair of Faculty Computing Committee

State Budget needs to be reconsidered

By Heather Cummings
Opinion Editor

In the Mar. 29 edition of the Detroit Free Press, an article entitled "Closing Shelters Offers Unwise Savings," brought up a very disturbing fact. The article declares that the state, assumedly Engler and all his yahoos, have cut back on shelter programs for pregnant and homeless teenagers. This, I believe, is a grave mistake.

To begin with, it is well understood in our society that the cycle of homelessness, pregnancy, and unemployment continues throughout generations of families. Homeless teenagers traditionally have come from homes that are abusive and also contain a parent who is unemployed. In many cases these teenagers were also children of teenage mothers. Where does Engler expect these children to find direction and emotional support which is crucial to growing up healthy and productive?

I understand that the state of Michigan needs to cut back on spending, but Engler is not looking into the future with this cut back. This is temporary. It will come back to haunt the state. But this is nothing new with many politicians. If something can be done for the time being, and it helps for the minute, then great. It is laziness; it is lack of planning and concern for the people of Michigan, and more importantly, humanity.

What, I ask you, is going to happen to the homeless teenagers? Do the executors of the new state budget believe that these young people are going to be able to move off the streets and gain a understanding of education and work ethics? Who cares about college, or even a G.E.D. when your main concerns are finding food, shelter, and care for your new born baby?

Take for example a thirteen year old incest survivor. She is pregnant, and needs to leave the home for fear of continual abuse. Where is this person to go? The shelters provided warmth, food, and just as important, encouragement to go back to school. Sometimes it is the first time in these children's lives that anyone has shown any concern for them and/or their futures.

I am not saying that the state of Michigan has to continually support people who are capable of working. I agree that this happens everyday. But simply cutting those programs does not help. Medicaid, for example, needs to be investigated properly. I understand allocation, and follow-ups take time and money, but in the long run this can be beneficial. It is not wrong to try and help people who do not have the means. Teenagers especially need guidance that they are not getting at home and on the streets.

Sometimes people need to see things on a selfish, self-interest level to understand, or feel that something is valid. So let's look at it his way. Keeping teenagers off the street forces the crime rate down, thus, giving society a safer environment in which to live, work, and raise families. Next, making teenagers interested in school and learning will create more constructive, positive brain power for our nation. And lastly, giving a teenager self worth gives that teenager a reason to live, and respect life including the lives of others.

So at times just because something saves money does not mean it is going to continually save money, or more importantly create a better society. If our elected officials are not going to look further than their next election, we need to do it for them. The quality of our country is a stake.

Retraction

In last week's Mar. 23, 1993 issue of *The Almanian* the article entitled "Become a scholar of your culture and educate" by freelance writer Theresa Morris on page 10 of the Opinion section contained an error in the second paragraph of column two. The article stated, "You will be doing your baking with them..." The word "baking" should have been "banking" instead, and the sentence should have read "You will be doing your banking with them..." *The Almanian* apologizes for this error.