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Environmentalism calls for student action

By Cathy DeShano
News Editor

In 1992, 137 heads of states gathered in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil at what proved to be the largest gathering of heads of states ever: the Rio Summit. Countries across the world designed the summit to address environmental concerns throughout the continents. Norman Meyers, an internationally renowned environmentalist and adjunct professor at Cambridge University in England, spoke about many of the issues raised at this summit when he addressed the Alma College community on Wednesday.

Meyers defined the theme of the Rio conference as being "our earth is one, our world is not," thus stressing a unified effort in tackling the world's environmental problems. Unfortunately, though Meyers feels the conference discussed many problems, he also believes nothing very substantial has since been done. However, Meyers accentuated his attitudes that current college students are the generation who can make wrongs right; there are still one to two decades to tackle and correct environmental dilemmas before an environmental holocaust hits; according to Meyers, it may never hit if we "confront our environmental challenge."

People who attended felt this was an important message for Meyers to convey.

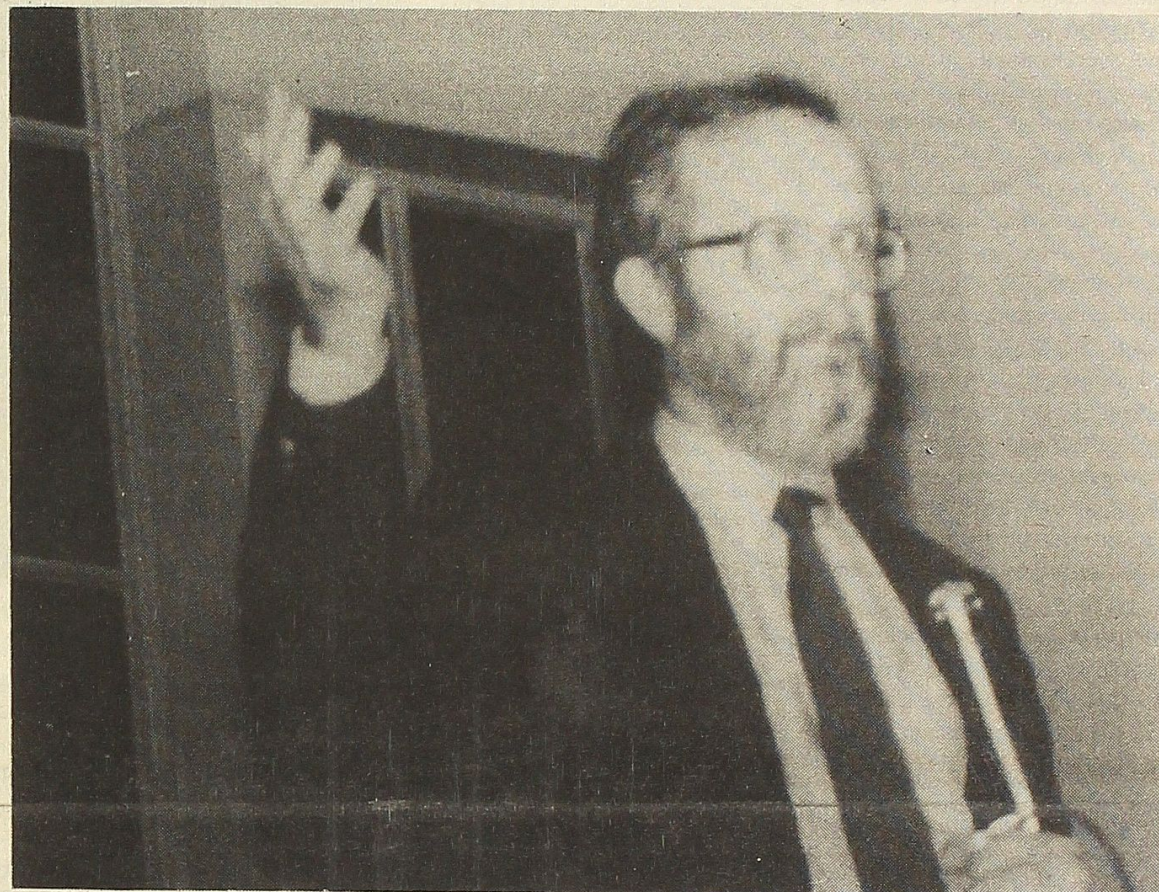
"I think about a year or two ago,

there was a large amount of energy directed at the environment," said senior Melanie Mayer. "I've really noticed that dying off. I think his being here served as an important reminder. I don't think we can totally reverse what has been done, but I think at this point we can take steps to correct these problems. I think that if he came to say it's hopeless, then he wouldn't have been there. He wanted us to take a stand."

Those who attended Meyers's lecture found themselves bombarded with existing environmental crises. The current environmental situation constitutes a threat second only to a nuclear exchange, Meyers asserted. Among those areas at the forefront of concern are population growth, deforestation, and species extinction.

Currently, 89 million children are born into developing countries each year; only four million are born each year into developed countries. However, because of the excessive standard of living in these rich countries, these four million will generate more greenhouse gases than the combined population growth of the 89 million in developing countries.

While advocating less wasteful methods of living, Meyers also stressed the importance of controlling population growths in developing countries. Among those things Meyers felt could help control the population were the following: enhancing the status of women in developing countries



Renowned Environmentalist, Norman Meyers visits Alma College. Photo by L. Christensen

through education and employment, helping to meet the needs (e.g. birth control) of people who have lack of facilities and counseling to control family size, and aiding the countries through immunization programs to prevent deaths of the average 14 million children who die each year in developing countries.

The latter poses specific importance because parents in these coun-

tries have even more children to compensate for those who may possibly die. According to Meyers, if every person in the United States donated one cent a day, we could save 100 million children.

Population growth also affects deforestation. Each year, 60 percent of the forests lost are demolished for agricultural purposes, processes which increase as the population grows. Currently, the world

loses 24 billion tons of soil a year, a result of deforestation. The economic costs of environmental damage caused by deforestation, soil erosion, and other things costs the U.S. four percent of the gross national product, the equivalent of \$227 billion a year.

A third area, species extinction, is also intertwined with deforestation.

See *Environmentalism* on page 2.

College copes with budget readjustment

By Leslie Theisen
Investigative Reporter

Just as an increase in student enrollment over the last two years has contributed to the growth of Alma College, so has it required a complicated readjustment of the academic budget.

An *Educational Affairs Newsletter* report shows enrollment for Fall 1993 at 1,334 students, including postgraduates and international students.

An *Alma College Data Book* report lists estimated enrollment for Fall Term 1992 at 1,231 students—an eight percent increase from the 1991-92 enrollment. Approximately 100 more

students enrolled for Fall 1993.

Faculty and administration are working together to modify the academic budget to meet the requirements of each department, as well as the needs of students.

The Educational Policies Committee, represented by students and faculty members from each department, is working to establish which departmental programs are essential to the college.

"Every department, especially those in the sciences, demands an increased budget to match increased enrollment," said Murray Borrello, chairperson of the geology department. "We need more lab sections, more lab assistants and more expendable supplies like acid and glass plates."

According to Raymond Riley, chairperson and assistant professor of music, any time enrollment expands, the departments which receive added budgets vary because "much depends on what courses those students enroll in, how those courses are structured in way of a course fee and whether or not they are supply-equipment sensitive."

An example of such determining factors exists in the music department.

"For every student who enrolls in the Kiltie band class there is a definite proportional increase in garments and uniforms purchased," said Riley.

"When you look at individual departments and how they're affected by an increased number of students, not every one will be af-

fected in the instructional supply area to the same degree," he continued.

Although the budget must account first for programs which employ large amounts of equipment and supplies, like science and music courses, it must also cover office supplies and travel expenses for other departments.

"The academic budget is a very important issue to us," commented Lynda Markham, chairperson of education.

Markham said the education department uses its budget to cover photocopies, traveling costs for supervisors of student teachers, and student teachers who drive out-of-town each day.

"The problem has not been so much with adjusting to higher en-

rollment trends as it has been with the expensive direction students are taking," explained assistant provost Bill Potter.

"Not only do we have more students, but more of them are interested in the sciences. The question must examine the shift of interest (to science), the accompanying costs and how to avoid charging students more," he continued.

"Most of our programs are quite full. We will continue discussions, figuring out a sensible way to budget without robbing from Peter to pay Paul," Potter added. "We are looking to provide the high caliber programs students expect across the board."

Russian poet's humor entertains audience

By Laura Paetz
Freelance Writer

Yevgeny Yevtushenko did more than just read poetry when he addressed his audience in the Dunning Memorial Chapel on Saturday night. He performed it, acting out each poem with varying degrees of intensity and humor. He made the audience interactive listeners by moving his way up and down the aisle of the Chapel, randomly stopping to recite certain lines to particular unsuspecting members.

"It is interesting to see such a world-renowned poet up close and personal," said first-year student Rebekah Doyle.

In his poems, Yevtushenko reveals his voice of experience. Born in Siberia in 1933, he has witnessed the traumas of World War II and the Stalin era. In addition to his poetry, Yevtushenko has worked in the oil fields of Siberia, and as a professor, playwright, film maker, and politician.

Yevtushenko's political tendencies were obvious especially in the poem "Goodbye Our Red Flag," a poem about the Soviet Union's flag. Yevtushenko seemed to condemn the flag for all the misfortunes its

country suffered and was therefore bidding it farewell. He gave quite a dramatic dissertation by using hand and facial movements to emphasize certain words and passages. The imagery was so vivid in this display that one could almost envision a cowering red flag, wilting at half mast, floating lowly down the aisle and out the door as Yevtushenko shouted at it.

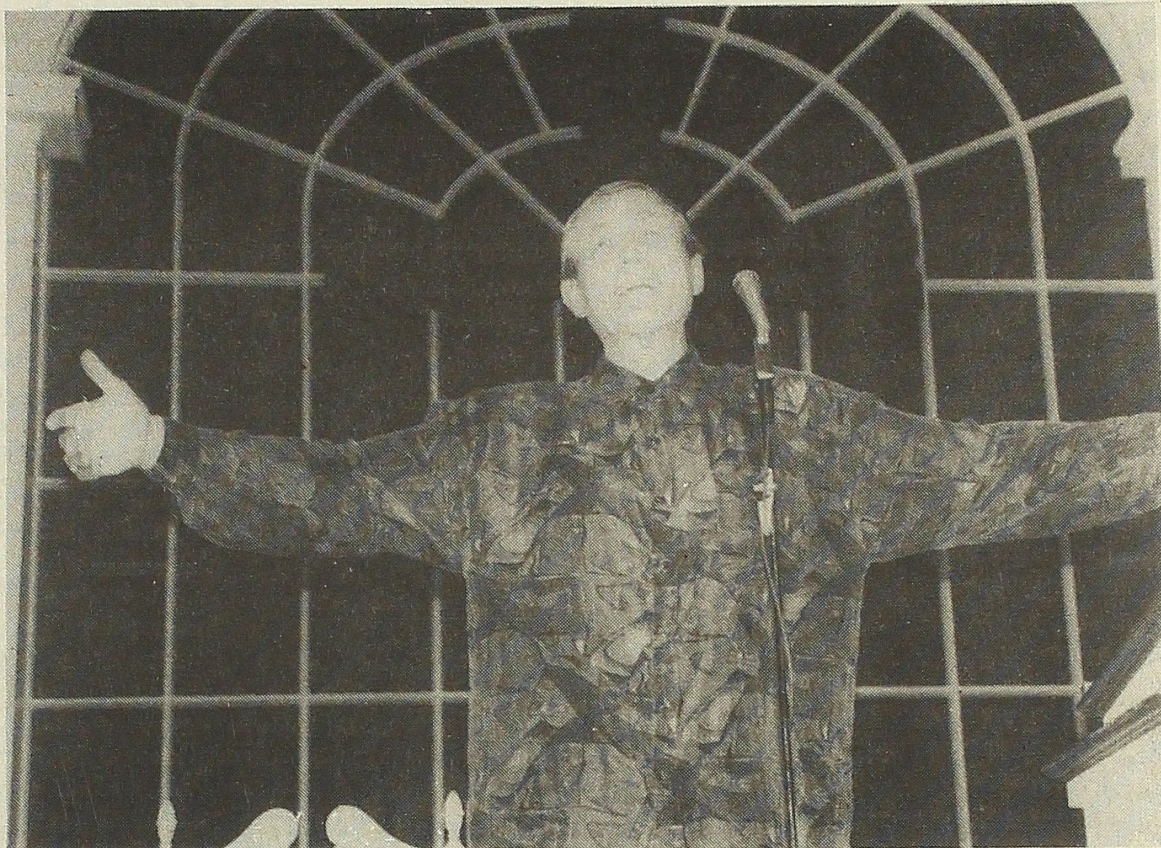
Another of his political poems, "Babi Yar," earned Yevtushenko the status of an anti-patriot in Russia, for in this work, he expressed sympathy for the Jewish people during Hitler's reign.

And in "Monologue of Tomorrow's Man," Yevtushenko foresees the demise of all the political parties of the world. After all, "Adam and Eve were not party members."

However, not all of his poems were so serious. For example, a piece called "I Would Like" provided a comic relief in its lighthearted presentation. Most of the feeling for the poem came from its author's theatrical interpretation.

"When he spoke, he sang," observed sophomore Jeff Fosnaugh.

"I'm amazed at the amount of humor in poems that could also be serious," said first-year student Eric Fitton.



Russian poet, Yevgeny Yevtushenko recites his world-renowned poetry in Dunning Memorial Chapel. Photo by K. Horal

During his performance, Yevtushenko made use of both the Russian and English languages. He would recite the first stanza of a poem in Russian and the rest in English. Sometimes he and En-

glish Professor Ute Stargardt would alternate reading verses, he in Russian and she in English, remarking that it is a "great symbol of progress" that a German and a Russian can read poetry together.

Yevtushenko said he wanted his audience to hear the differences between the original and translated versions of his writings, and in doing so, show that poetry can be beautiful in any language.

College implements Evergreen Plan

Student concerns highlight goals for the next four years

By Supriya Saxena
Freelance Writer

"Identifying institutional assumptions, rationales and priorities—and a yardstick against which the individual and collective goals are considered."

This statement, from the 1993-1997 Evergreen Plan for Alma College, outlines briefly the purpose of the planning and the goals which the college hopes to achieve. The plan, created with the combined efforts of students, faculty, and administrators, will be implemented during the next four years.

Last year a 10-person committee was formed to devise and carry out a method of soliciting student input on changes and goals for the college. The committee solicited student opinion through the use of two surveys and an open forum. The forum offered students a chance to challenge administrators to address issues that were brought to light by the results of the surveys.

The first survey offered a more general format, asking students to identify changes or goals they would like to see occur at the college. The second survey asked students to rank specific changes and goals. Among the more expensive

items for the college to invest in were the following (ranked from highest to lowest priority): new telephone switch, improved parking availability, renovation of residence halls, increased exterior lighting, improved/extended laundry facilities, handicap-accessible facilities, extended weight room, and an intramural sports building.

Under the Class II ranking (less expensive changes) were: better dorm lighting, more Winter Term introductory classes, improved study lounges, ice machines, more exercise equipment, new curtains for dorm rooms, increased storage space, munch and vending machines in the Academic Center, more use of teacher evaluations, and implementation and use of coach evaluations.

"At the open forum we addressed all of the issues, and the administration was receptive to student input" said senior Aaron Howald, a member of the long range planning committee.

The optimal size of the campus was determined to be 1,300 students (full time equivalency). Advantages of this number were more revenue, maximization of housing and other facilities, increased visibility, increased numbers of alumni, enhancement of course additions and faculty resources

through additions, filling of smaller classes, and more students for the broad spectrum of activities.

There are, however, disadvantages to increasing enrollment: student crowding of limited library space, increased demands on faculty and staff, faculty and staff fears of downsizing if the enrollment figure could not be maintained, a student sense of "crowding" in the residence halls and facilities, increased counseling and job placement burdens, limited intramural space, and danger of increased attrition.

The plan itself was developed after a model which has come into more common use in the 1990s. It is unlike the plans of the 1980's which focused on one major plan and had a few contingency plans, a form called the strategic planning method. It is also dissimilar to the 1970's long range planning format, where only one option was pursued over a period of time. The plan used by Alma this year can be changed every year to accommodate the changing needs and goals of the school. The plan therefore can be updated every spring with the help of the long-range planning committee.

"It gives us the vision, yet allows us the flexibility to adapt to changing conditions," Howald said.

Environmentalist *cont. from page 1*

tion and, in effect, population growth. Although tropical forests cover only six percent of the earth's surface, between 70 and 90 percent of our animal species' habitats are in these areas. As deforestation occurs, we lose many of these animals, especially insects.

What can we do to alleviate and correct these problems?

"For my part, I recycle," said sophomore Hedlun Walton. "I try not to waste energy by turning off lights. I also think lobbying Congress is important and it's something everyone can do. Mostly I just do the little things."

Meyers provided individuals with many suggestions to alter the current environmental state. Among his ideas, Meyers suggested the following: driving less, using fluorescent bulbs, planting trees, turning off unnecessary lights, supporting a conservation organization of personal choice, informing state and federal representatives of your environmental feelings, and spreading the message to at least two other people.

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Oct. 12, 1993

College guides give Alma favorable reviews

By Kristin Allen
Staff Reporter

Flipping curiously through national college guidebooks and directories, prospective college students will ultimately run across a small yet highly acclaimed liberal arts college in mid-Michigan called Alma.

Labelled in select guides as "colleges with unique calendars," "colleges where teachers work closely with students" and even "colleges for the shy person," Alma has proven year after year to be among the elite in nationwide colleges and universities.

Publications in national college directories like *The Insiders Guide to the Colleges* and *Barron's Best Buys* help to spotlight Alma's strong features while working as an admissions tool for interested students.

"If you're a prospective student who's interested in coming to Alma and looking through a college guidebook, you'll feel good when you see Alma mentioned," ex-

plained John Seveland, vice president for enrollment and student affairs.

"These listings are essentially free advertising for the school," added Randy Thelen, senior economics major. "With each new guide Alma College is listed in, the odds a high school student will notice Alma obviously increases."

According to President Alan Stone, criteria for recognition in these publications is based essentially on four statistics: ACT scores, the percentage of students who are admitted to graduate programs, the size of the school's endowment, and the percentage of faculty members with doctoral degrees.

"Alma is continually increasing its national recognition because of these criteria. For instance, this year's first year class had an average ACT score of 25.7. That is up from 23.4 just five years ago and will be evident in our future rankings," said Stone.

Though all guides vary in their information, they tend to focus on the strength of the school's aca-

demic programs while referring to campus life, as well as environmental and financial aspects of the school.

In order to gain a more personal, inside view, many directories ask for student input in the form of random telephone questioning. According to Seveland, this process becomes tricky.

"You can't please everybody at all times. Each student may shed a different aspect on the school and we sometimes worry about what we will end up looking like."

These variations in student opinion are evident as each directory places differing emphasis on aspects like Greek life, diversity issues, and the quality of the academic facilities.

In addition to the statistics and facts, the guidebooks attempt to place a character on the school—something which makes it stand out from a similar school. Many label Alma's student body as "conservative."

"Conservatism is definitely out there because of where the students

come from—small towns or suburbs of the Midwest," explained Stone. "It's not a bad thing, just the publication's way of their own character on Alma."

Absent from the directories are crime statistics, though Stone admits this may change in the near future.

"For two years now we've had to report Alma's crime statistics to both the state and federal government, so the information is available for publication. However, if this data were published, we'd look very safe."

Academically, Alma rates impressively among other schools, as the guidebooks focus on the high quality science and business programs among other undergraduate majors.

"Alma graduates 26 percent science majors compared to only 4 percent nationally. Good schools have strong science programs that are strengthened by pre-med students the way that a history department is strengthened by pre-law students," said Stone. "We are listed

on a 'Legal Eagles' publication which consists of the top ten schools in the country according to percentage admitted to law schools. I'd say that's very impressive!"

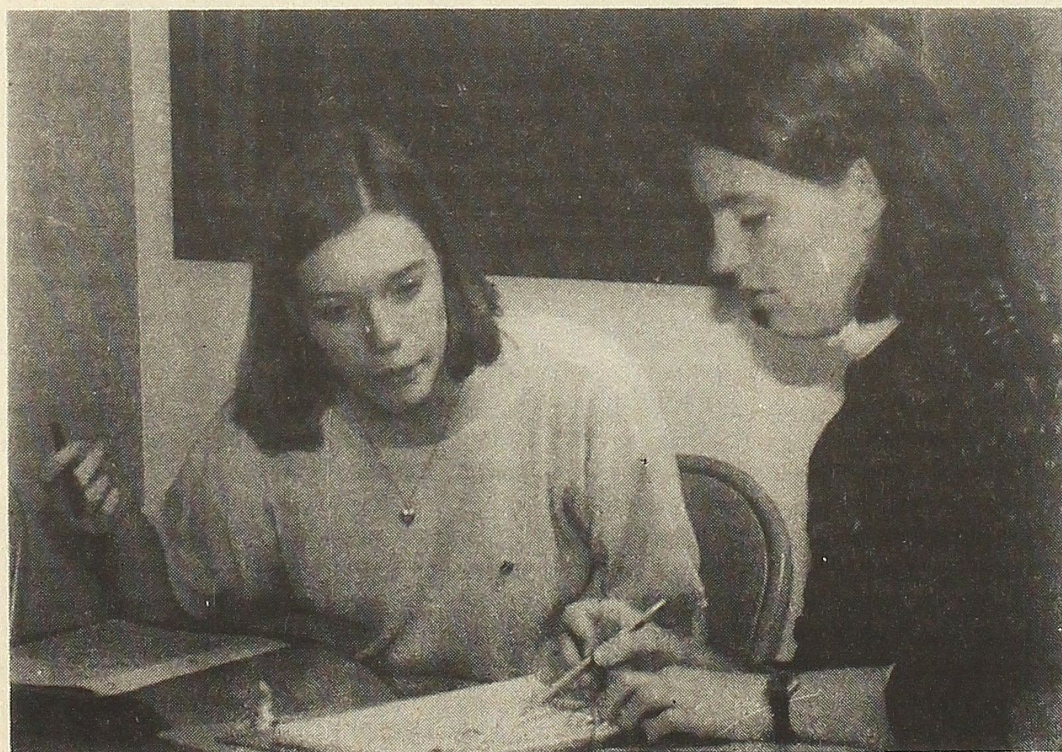
National college publications strive to portray the schools as they are. For Alma that means featuring such traditions as Pizza Sam's, the bagpipe scholarship, and tanning on the football field during Spring Term. They emphasize Alma's strong student-professor relationship, helping Alma gain recognition as "colleges for the friendly student."

While all these features are strong selling points of Alma College, in Stone's opinion, the best part of Alma is the students.

"I think we have the best student body in the country, not just because of our high ACT scores and class rank, but because there's a depth and richness in our student body that just isn't found elsewhere. When I talk with perspective students, I tell them to think about the students. They will challenge you, help you, and carry you through your years at Alma."

College Republicans meet

New campus group hopes to dispel traditional myths



Students Becky Shelley and Anne Tobian discuss future events. Photo by L. Christensen

By Sarah Barclay
Distribution Manager

The political spirit is alive and well on the Alma College campus. The College Republicans held their first meeting on Oct. 5.

"The group's main goal will be to dispel the myths about Republicans," said sophomore Jeff Fosnaugh, the group's president. "Some of the myths are that Republicans are selfish, uptight, wealthy, white males that have no sense of humor or compassion."

Fosnaugh is supported by two vice-presidents, Sue Elliot and Dinice Bultendorp, treasurer Anne Tobian and secretary Becky Shelly.

The group would also like to get involved in the campus and the community by bringing speakers to the campus, adopting a road, working in soup kitchens, and various other activities.

Bashing other political parties isn't a primary concern of the group's members.

"We are not out to start a war against the Democrats," said Tobian. "We just want to state our views."

Many students expressed interest in the group.

"I am excited that Alma College has a group like this," said first-year student Brandon Miller.

The meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month.

Keeping You Informed

English professor Michael Selmon's wife had their first child, a girl, last week. Hannah Ruby weighed nine pounds, eight ounces and was 23 inches long when she was born.

If you'd like to find out what critics think about Alma College, Alma is listed in the following publications: *Strictly Liberal Arts Colleges*, *Top Undergraduate Science Programs*, *Top Education Programs At Liberal Arts Colleges*, *Colleges With Phi Beta Kappa Chapters*, *Colleges Where Values Are Particularly Important*, *Colleges With Many Opportunities for Volunteerism*, and *Ten Colleges Spending The Most On Merit Based Scholarships*.

If you would like to attend any campus speakers, you must reserve tickets ahead of time. To reserve tickets, contact Fran Groves at ext. 7130. If you don't reserve a ticket, you can try to pick one up at the event after 7 p.m. the day of the event.

The Alma College Community has had an excellent start on the United Way campaign, with over \$3,560.00 having been donated. Individuals who make donations can designate which agencies they want to receive their donation.

Alma College will host the annual Michigan Conference of Political Scientists on October 28 and 29. The conference will feature panels, roundtables, and speakers. Contact Ed Lorenz, associate political science professor at ext. 7203 for more details.

On Saturday, October 16 at 1 p.m., the American Cancer Society will be hosting an educational event at the Alma Masonic Home. The event is geared towards informing women about breast cancer and how to prevent breast cancer through early detection. This year, statistics show 25 Gratiot County women will be diagnosed with breast cancer.

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Homecoming: a time for alumni to returning home

By Kristin Allen
Staff Reporter

Homecoming—an alumni reunion; a spirited celebration; an autumn tradition.

With homecoming week upon us, we experience Encore '93: A Salute to the Performing Arts. The theme, chosen last year, is a tribute to the new Heritage Center, giving alumni an opportunity to tour the long awaited campus addition while celebrating all aspects of the performing arts.

Closely coinciding with the theme is a new event: a Saturday evening Alumni Concert. According to Alison Jerome, director of alumni and community relations and homecoming committee advisor, the concert will be one of many homecoming week highlights.

"Over 120 alumni are coming back to participate in this concert, which will include the band, choir and dancers. It will be wonderful."

While fun and entertainment dominate the festivities, the Homecoming celebration would be in-

complete without recognizing outstanding alumni in the form of two annual awards.

This year's Distinguished Alumni Award recipient is Dr. Gladys Branice, the director of Manitowish County Health Unit in Florida and a 1968 graduate of Alma.

"This award is in recognition of outstanding community service, and Branice is commended on her distinguished career in medicine as well as personal and professional achievements," said Jerome.

In addition to this prestigious honor, The Herbert Award will be given to George Carter, President of the Chicago Area Tartan Club. Recognized for his loyalty and service to Alma College, Carter—a 1958 Alma graduate—contributes instrumentally to Alma's Chicago Placement Program. In addition, he has developed a networking program to assist alumni in the area.

Both Carter and Branice will attend various Homecoming events. They will be formally introduced to the college community at the Saturday afternoon football game.

*"All entries will center around our theme of the performing arts—from musicals to dances."
—sophomore Shannon Cole
parade chair.*

Perhaps the most suspenseful aspect of the week surrounds the election of Homecoming King and Queen. The entire student body will elect a King and Queen from the ten senior class nominees. Senior King candidates Tony Catania, Jeff Deming, Rob Moran, Felix Papillon and Matt Zayko as well as Queen candidates Susie Kieffer, Noreen Lyall, Rebecca Murray, Kym Rezmer and Julie Thomas will be introduced and honored at

the Thursday night Marriot theme dinner in Hamilton Commons.

"I am excited and surprised—I was not expecting it," said Papillon of his court nomination. "I've always felt welcome at Alma, and people have always been friendly to me. This honor only justifies my judgments."

Homecoming week excitement will peak Saturday, a day filled with events. The annual Homecoming Parade, consisting of over 30 entries, will march its yearly journey down Superior Street.

"All entries will center around our theme of the performing arts—from musicals to dances," said sophomore Shannon Cole, parade chair. "This is the first year we were able to build floats, so it will be interesting to see if any are actually entered. The parade is an essential part of Homecoming Week—you won't want to miss it."

Another event students, faculty and alumni won't want to miss is the Saturday evening Homecoming Dance. Homecoming Co-chair Jennifer McMaster promises a few surprises.

"Things will work a little differently this year. We will be giving away door prizes throughout the night, like movies and t-shirts. The music will be provided by a video dee-jay, Rusch Entertainment, who will take music requests and play a musical selection which is more accommodating to our needs than years past."

The Homecoming Committee anticipates a large turnout for all events, which will make Encore '93 a true success.

"Homecoming is a time for alumni from all around the world to come back, see changes, and renew friendships," said Jerome. "Without all the alumni support, Homecoming wouldn't be so outstanding."

Alma a new experience for exchange students

By Anne M. Buyze
Freelance Writer

Jee-un Lee, Mkyoung-suk Lim and Masatake Onda are three international students who have come to Alma College to experience a change of atmosphere.

Lee is a twenty-year old Korean Language and Literature major who is visiting Alma for one year from Songang University in Seoul, Korea.

Lee came to the United States because, "I want to experience for myself and I want to understand and know about America and at the same time English proficiency is a very good point to get a better job."

At Alma, she has found that classes "are not as difficult as I expected and if I study daily, I can follow up" and that "the students here have a lot of homework in comparison with us and generally we have a lot of fun in Korea with the students." Lee also discussed the recent political changes in Korea saying, "until last year, there have been many political movements. It was very tense and this was used as an excuse not to study, but this is decreasing. These days students study very hard. Alma is a very good place to study and the people, friends and professors, are very kind and friendly."

Lim finds the classes difficult because she is not American, but likes the new atmosphere they present. "At first, I was surprised

because students chew gum and sit very freely. They talk to each other and speak voluntarily. In Korea, since I was in elementary school, we were taught to be calm and not to chatter in class. But I think here looks better because our classes were somewhat strict." She also finds

students less involved. "In Korea, most students think about and are anxious about political and economic problems. Here student also think about that, but they don't worry as much about the problems."

Onda, an international business student from Takasaki, Japan also finds America different

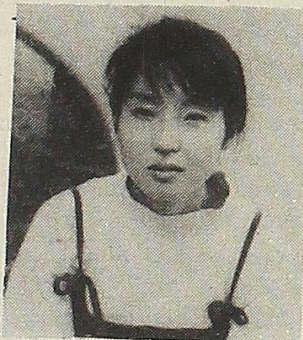
company."

Unlike Lee and Lim, Onda came to Battle Creek as an exchange student his senior year in high school and attended a junior college in Pennsylvania. After junior college, he decided to continue education.

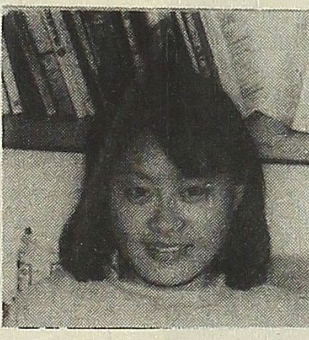
"I liked Michigan and I was looking for some four year college in Michigan and when I opened the book there was Alma. I started from 'A.' Also, the admissions office was kind to me and they sent me more information." He is also impressed by the friendliness of the people. "When I'm walking, Americans say hi. This would never happen in Japan. If we don't know each other, we don't say hi."

Lee, Lim and Onda agree visiting America is a great way to gain experience with English language skills while meeting new people. As Onda says, "I want life to be exciting and Alma is new to me."

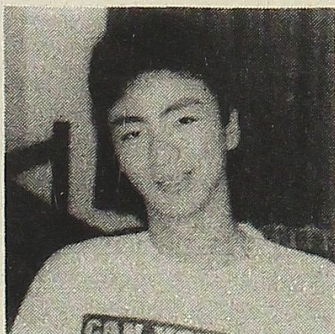
(This article is part of a three part story on exchange students attending Alma College.)



Masatake Onda. Photo by K. Horak.



Jee-un Lee. Photo by K. Horak.



Mkyoung-suk Lim. Photo by K. Horak.

from his homeland, saying, "In America, everything is new and when I talk to people that is exciting for me." Onda also noticed that the students were more individualistic. "When I went back to high school, I asked Japanese students what is your dream and they could not answer. They are systematic—they go to junior high, high school, good college, and are hired by a good

Homecoming 1993

Encore '93: A Salute to the Performing Arts

Wednesday, Oct. 13

8 - 11 p.m.

Karaoke Night (Karaoke provided by Rusch Entertainment), Joe's Place

Thursday, Oct. 14

5:15-6:45 p.m.

Marriot Theme Dinner, Honoring of the Court

Friday, Oct. 15

8 - 9 p.m.

Pep Rally, Cappaert Gymnasium

Saturday, Oct. 16

11 a.m.

Parade

1:10 p.m.

Pregame

1:30 p.m.

Football Game, Alma vs. Hope,

Halftime

Crowning of King and Queen at Halftime

8 p.m.

Alumni Concert, Cappaert Gymnasium

9 p.m.-1 a.m.

Dance (Music provided by Rusch Entertainment), Cappaert Gymnasium

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Oct. 12, 1993

Heritage Center ready to knock your booty off

By Sara Groves and
Ganesa Wegienka
Co-Editors

Forget all your anger and bitterness because you felt betrayed when the Heritage Center did not open on any of the previously promised dates. Forget all the weather delays, strikes and hold-ups. Forget everything because the Heritage Center will open on Oct. 22, and, holy cow, will you be amazed.

The Heritage Center, an idea first conceived in the Sixties, will open on Friday, Oct. 22 for the Alma College Symphony Orchestra concert. Although the entire building will not be completely finished, the large concert hall will be ready to use.

"I think if you look at the problems we've had, everyone has done amazingly well to be finishing six weeks or so behind schedule," said Duane Knecht, director of the Physical Plant.

It has taken many people many hours to see this project come to completion. Knecht was among those and last week gave us a tour to share some of the details of the Heritage construction.

We entered the building through a door which led us directly into the new dance studio. The high ceilinged room comes equipped with the floor that the dance department has always wanted. No longer will the dancers have to suffer through leg injuries due to dancing on a floor which is unsuitable for dancers. The Physical Plant gridded out the floor and sent the plans to a company in Texas. The company sent the floor parts back to the College and were installed by the carpenters of the Physical Plant and other company assistants. The floor is one and one half inches thick and is ideal for the dance department. Finally, one wall is covered with the nec-

essary mirrors and there is room for barres around the entire studio as well.

The new dance studio will also allow for small recitals. There is room for 45-50 chairs in the stu-

diol, and up above it is easy to see the miles of electrical conduit and pipes. The acoustical shells which hang from the ceiling were shipped to Alma unfinished where they were trimmed in a mahogany finish.

Also behind the balcony seating is the booth for the follow spot-light while the sound and stage managers booths are located underneath the balcony.

We exited the concert auditorium and entered the lobby again where the grand chandeliers will hang.

The high ceiling and piping in the ceiling will allow for the hanging of lighting.

We left the dance studio and entered the lobby which was still under construction. The lobby is equipped with doors which spill out onto a courtyard and will be available for people to go outside during intermissions and recep-

Knecht told us that he had been worried about the chandeliers because the shipping company had not been able to pinpoint the whereabouts of the trucks carrying the chandeliers. But one day last week, the trucks miraculously showed up with the chandeliers.

Next we entered the fixed form theater otherwise known as the black box theater which is a smaller theater and has a seating capacity of 200. The seats are as plush as those in the concert hall and the stage in this theater has trap-door functions.

Knecht then showed us the backstage rooms.

There is a scene shop, where all scenes can be built. The scenes can remain behind stage, and there are massive doors behind the stages which will allow the scenes

to be pushed directly from the scene shop onto the stage.

There is a room, known as the green room, where visiting artists can relax before a concert. The room comes equipped with an air purifier, massive closets and a kitchenette, and Marriott will be catering most of the events.

Men's and women's dressing rooms contain three showers, two toilets and lockers and massive lighted mirrors were also installed in order for make-up application.

Linking the two massive dressing rooms is a make-up room where there are two long counters and rows of drawers for make-up storage on either side of the room. Mirrors also span the length of the walls.

For the first time in history, the

theater and dance department will have a permanent costume room which will house sewing machines, costume storage and a washing machine and dryer.

"This is the place where they will

in these rooms to communicate with the other backstage facilities as well as with the stage.

Offices for the theatre and dance department faculty and staff will be ready for occupancy very soon.

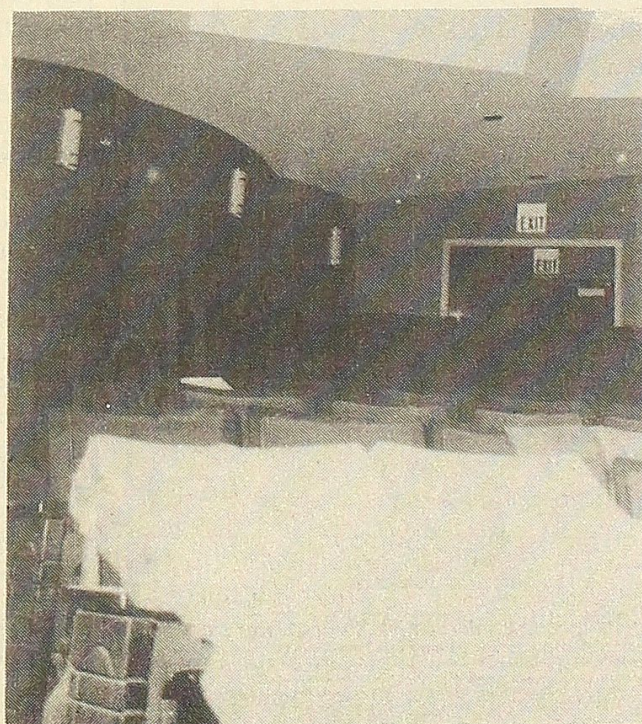
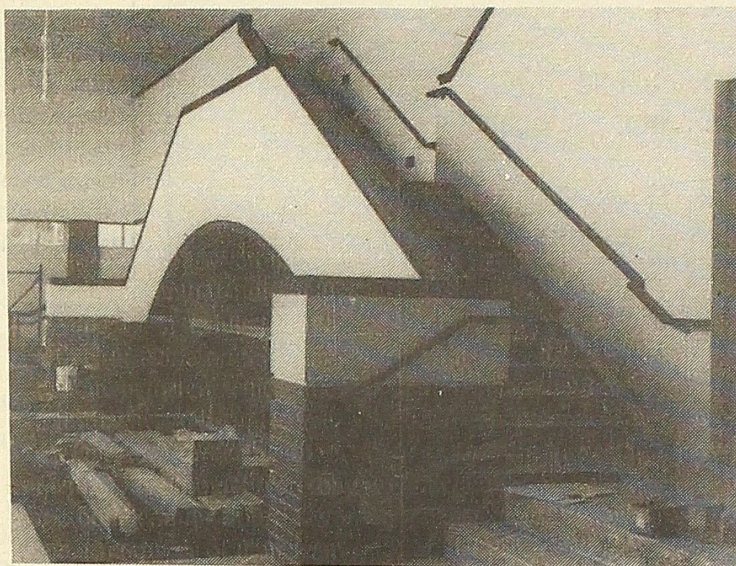
There are no classrooms in the new facility, however.

"The building demanded an enormous amount of hours by myself and some of my staff," Knecht said. "It is so unique...it's not one of those things where you just hand

someone the blueprints and they go out and build it."

"There may be some frustration here and there because the Heritage Center didn't open the first of September, but personally if finishing it on the schedule we are and looking back at what I know went wrong and what could have happened, I feel good that it's getting done," said Knecht.

So although many of us, students and faculty alike, have been complaining about the delays and setbacks the completion of the Heritage Center has suffered, prepare yourselves for October 22. Because it is fast coming upon us and soon you will be able to see for yourselves the magnificence of the Heritage Center.



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Calendar of Events

Week of October 12

On Campus:

Wednesday, October 13

Finding an Internship, The Center, 4 p.m.

Friday, October 15

Career Exploration '93, TBA 1-3 p.m.

Saturday, October 16

See Homecoming calendar on page 4.

Sunday, October 17

Chapel Service, 11:15 a.m.

Ann Arbor:

Thursday, October 14

Epic Recording Artists **Living Colour** with Special Guests **Candlebox** at Michigan Theater, 8 p.m. Reserved seats: \$17.50 & \$14.

Saturday, October 16

Adrian Belew: Extremely Unplugged: a solo performance of guitar, voice & conversation, with special guest **Dave Alvin**, 8 p.m. at the Majestic. Tickets: \$13.50 in advance.

Sunday, October 17

Joshua Redman Quartet with **Pat Metheny**, **Christian McBride**, and **Billy Higgins**, 7:30 p.m. at the Michigan Theater. Reserved Seats: \$20 & \$14.

Midland:

October 13, 20, 27

Midland Art Council presents: Art History Lecture Series: Auguste Rodin, Master Sculptor. 7 - 8 p.m. in the lecture room of the Midland Center for the Arts. For more information call 631-3250.

Music Review

Critics say: 'Always play Phair'

By Chris Sienko
Freelance Writer

What is it about albums that walk to the edge of the abyss, guitar in hand, and stare unflinchingly downward that makes them classics of our times? Somehow, the best albums to be released by any band are created amidst great pain and desperation. Liz Phair would probably agree.

Phair's debut album, *Exile in Guyville* (Matador Records), is an 18 song cycle about love gone bad, love gone good, and a whole heapin' helpin' of regret. If one were to use the program button on the CD player, it would be possible to organize the songs into a chronology of a relationship. All aspects are here—courting, one night stands, one sided obsession, and eventually, oppressive marriage. In "Canary," Phair bitterly describes the way her life has become subservience to her hubby. "I come when called/ I sing like a canary/ I put all your books in order," and so forth. In "F*** and run," she longs for, "a boyfriend who will try to win me over," and fears "I'm going to spend a lifetime alone."

Not all of Phair's relationships turn out badly. In "6'1"," she stands triumphant over the wreckage of a broken relationship. "And I kept standing six foot one, instead of five foot two, and I loved my life, and I hated you." Some songs are downright humorous. In "Soap Star Joe," she sings of "a hero in a long line of heroes, looking for something attractive to save; they say he came into town in a

pickup truck, and won't leave till people know his name."

As you can see, Phair's lyrics fire in all directions, but there is a definite focus to her writing. The concept of familiarity being

Amos, a similarly-themed performer who plays and composes almost all of her own music. Phair is assisted by a few close friends on drums, bass, and some fill-in guitar, but the show is essentially

Liz's. Musically, this album runs the gamut of genres without blending of styles, a common "hip" thing to do in the alternative community. ("I know, why don't we write a punk/jazz/bossa nova polka tune!") No, each song on this album would stand up very credibly in its own genre. "Never Said"

(the first single) is brilliantly hand clapping pop, "Canary" is a frightening piano ballad with discordant harmonies and found sounds, "6'1"," rocks with the ferocity of the Rolling Stones in their young days (The album title is a reference to the Stones classic *Exile on Main Street*). The real wild card is "Flower." On this track, Liz plays what sounds like a generator or a voltage regulator (it's actually a modified guitar) while chanting in a deadpan delivery that resembles Suzanne Vega without all the niceties. As with last week's album, the disc is a real diverse ride.

Most of all, this album sounds like a classic. I can't quite explain this, but as I listen to the album, I get the feeling that as I listen to this album during different parts of my life, it will say something differently each time. The songs follow a logical progression, and the album feels like an album rather than just a handful of tunes. *Exile in Guyville* is an album to live with.

Prudes take note: this album is not for everyone. The lyrics on Guyville are peppered with four (and more) letter crudities... Do not let this distract you from going out to buy this album, though. All the crude lyrics do is prove the point that not all emotions in the human psyche can be expressed with the standard vernacular.

equal to death crops up in two different songs. In "Dance of the Seven Veils," Liz tells her hubby -to-be that, "The preacher can leave out the bit about death do us part, because you were dead right from the start." This theme crops up again in "Divorce Song": "The contract says till death do us part, but if you want to leave because you're sick of my face, than I guess I already am."

Prudes take note: this album is not for everyone. The lyrics on *Guyville* are peppered with four (and more) letter crudities. Although none of the words sound superfluous, songs like "Flower" would probably make a sailor blush. Do not let this distract you from going out to buy this album, though. All the crude lyrics do is prove the point that not all emotions in the human psyche can be expressed with the standard vernacular.

From a musical standpoint, *Guyville* is also a masterpiece. A convenient parallel would be Tori

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Good luck Scots
this Homecoming!

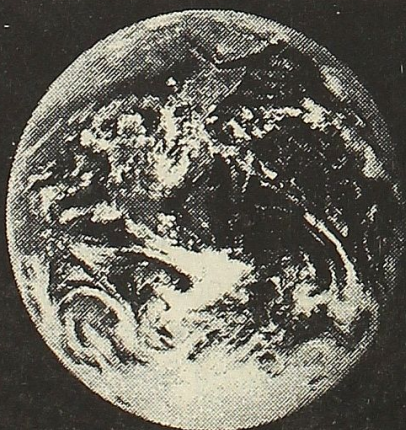
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Tuesday, Nov. 9, 1993
University of Michigan
Michigan Union - Anderson
Room
Auditions & Interviews:
2:30 - 4:30 pm

Lansing, Michigan:
Wednesday, Nov. 10, 1993
Michigan State University
MSU Union Ballroom
Auditions & Interviews:
2:30 - 4:30 pm

Also At Cedar Point:
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Oct. 12, 1993

—Football

Scots crush Comets in MIAA opener

By William J. Johnston
Senior Editor

A blank slate.

That's what the start of the conference season meant to members of the Alma College football team. Everyone starts with the same record. Everyone starts on the same ground.

It proved enough for the Scots to earn their first win of the season, a 16-8 victory at Olivet.

"I feel great about the game," said head coach Jim Cole. "The kids played really hard. The conditions were less than favorable. It was their Homecoming, so getting the win is nice."

And it puts the Scots (1-4, 1-0 MIAA), picked to finish last by league coaches, in a three-way tie for first place.

"We're going to enjoy this victory," said Cole. "But we're also going to learn from it and get ready for the next four challenges."

Alma put forth its most balanced offensive effort of the season, mixing the run and pass for 354 yards total offense. Senior Cal Woodard gained 53 yards rushing, while sophomore Ben Burk added another 49. First-year quarterback Bill Nietzsche completed 18 of 45 passes for 246 yards. Most importantly, however, he threw only one interception and was not sacked.

Burk hauled in three of Nietzsche's passes for 89 yards. Senior Rob Moran led all Alma receivers with four receptions.

"Burk and Woodard played well," Cole said. "They kept the pressure on Olivet in terms of their running. And Burk caught a screen pass for 64 yards."

The Alma defense, meanwhile, held the potent Comet rushing attack to 104 yards on 54 carries, an average of less than two yards per carry. The defense proved especially effective in the Comet backfield, holding the Olivet quarterbacks for negative rushing yardage.

"It was definitely our best 60-minute performance," said Cole. "The defense played aggressive and confident. They got into predicaments like they have all year, but they battled out of them instead of allowing the other team to score."

Although the Scots outgained Olivet 225-76 during the first half, they were unable to push the ball into the endzone.

"We were doing all the things we needed to do right up to the goal line," said Cole. "Our young people are coming along. We definitely need to get better down there (near the endzone). We need to be more productive."

Alma took a 3-0 lead with less than a minute remaining in the first

half on a 38-yard field goal from Matt Zahn. Woodard added a touchdown in the third period as the Scots moved up 9-0.

Chris Wiley returned a punt 81 yards for a touchdown near the beginning of the fourth quarter to give the Scots a 16-0 cushion.

"Chris had an outstanding day overall," said Cole. "In addition to his score, he made a touchdown-saving tackle on a fake punt."

The Alma defense held firm, as the only Olivet points came off a 40-yard interception return for a touchdown.

Alma now sits in a three-way tie for first place in the conference, along with Kalamazoo (upset winners over Hope) and Albion, last year's league champion.

The Scots face a tough test next Saturday when Hope visits Bahlke Stadium for Homecoming.

"We're looking forward to it," Cole said. "Traditionally, it's been a great rivalry. The fact that it's Homecoming adds a little spice to it. We're home for three of our next four games, and we're happy our road days are over."

According to Cole, Hope fields a larger and more powerful offense than Alma.

"We've got to be patient and aggressive against them," Cole said. "It's going to be a good ballgame."

Football stats

Football Summary: Alma vs. Olivet

Alma.....	0	3	6	7—16
Olivet.....	0	0	0	8—8

	Alma	Olivet
First downs	14	11
Rushes-yards	27-108	54-104
Passes-yards	246	164
Return yards	110	105
Passing	18-45-1	11-31-0
Sacks-yds. lost	0-0	0-0
Punts-yards	7-165	6-200
Fumbles-lost	1-1	2-1
Penalty yards	5-57	3-30

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing—Alma: Burk 15-49, Woodard 7-53, Chiodini 2-5, Dutton 1-2, Nietzsche 2-(-1); Olivet: Smith 24-86, Johnson 6-18, Sawchuck 6-16, Carter 2-21, Leone 3-(-7), Tenyer 13-(-30)

Passing—Alma: Nietzsche 18-45-1-246; Olivet: Tenyer 9-28-0-126, Leone 1-1-0-4, Houlline 1-1-0-34, Pole 0-1-0-0

Receiving—Alma: Baker 3-38, Wiley 3-32, Burk 3-89, Garcia 3-43, Moran 4-37, McCray 1-1, Lillie 1-6; Olivet: Carter 4-29, Lonsway 2-24, Harlan 2-20, Polk 1-36, Jerry 1-34, Lee 1-21

Harriers run strong against Michigan schools

Men place twelfth, women fourteenth at Ferris State University

By Chuck Moreau
Freelance Writer

On Friday the men's and women's cross-country teams travelled to Big Rapids for the Michigan Intercollegiate Cross-Country Championships, hosted by Ferris State University. Almost every collegiate team in Michigan, from Division I through Division III, was in attendance.

While neither team had its best performance of the year, both had reason to be happy. The women placed 14th overall out of 19 teams, and the men 12th overall out of 25. In the women's race, only two Division III teams, Calvin (2nd overall) and Kalamazoo (13th), finished higher. On the men's side, Calvin (6th overall) was the only Division III team to finish higher than the Scots.

Said junior Kurt Stephenson, "We weren't real ecstatic with the way we ran on either side, but it was coming off a good performance in Chicago a week ago (Loyola Lakeside Rambler Invitational) and a tough week of practice this week...so it was a good meet to relax and recover for the next four meets, which

are the most important."

The next four meets are the Alma Invitational this Saturday, two league meets and then regionals.

Individual results for the women: Senior Julie Glomson was 63rd overall with a time of 19:52 over the 5,000 meter course. She was followed closely by sophomore Tammy Watson (72nd, 20:18) and

"I was happy I ran well, since I felt I ran poorly the week before. It makes me optimistic for the rest of the season. I hope to run well at the two league meets and regionals."
--senior Rich Gray

first year student Lisa Wittenbach (73rd, 20:24). Rounding out the women were sophomore Candy Basney (92nd, 21:26), first-year student Lori Childs (95th, 21:31), sophomore Peggy Lang (101st, 22:00), first-year students Jennifer Arnold (103rd, 22:12), Tammy Adams (127th, 22:56), Mary Dahlberg (131st, 23:08), and sopho-

more Chris Elder (135th, 23:46).

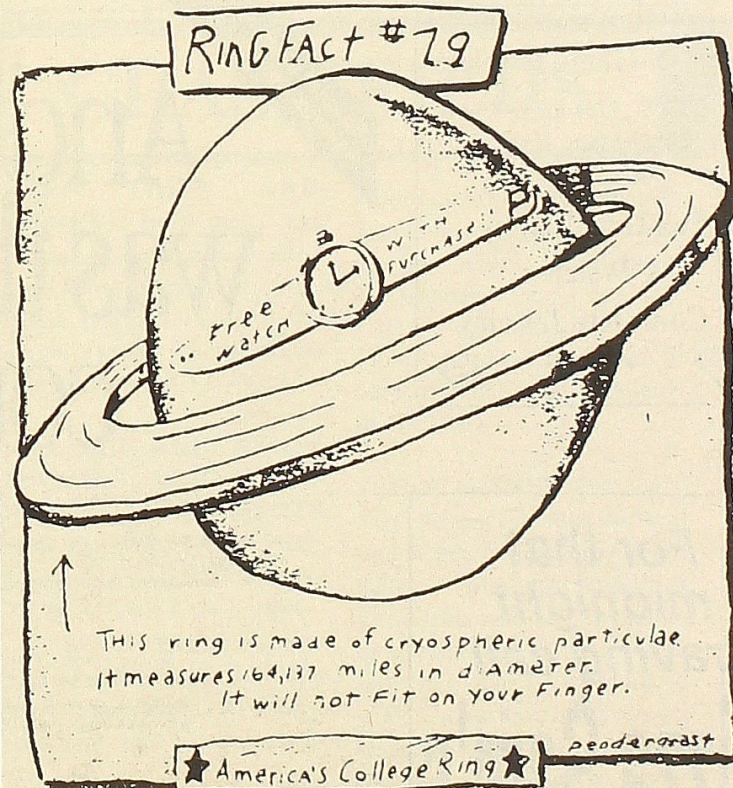
Said Glomson, "I got about ten and a half hours of sleep, skipped my eight-thirty class, only ate one pancake all day, and I felt great."

For the men, senior Rich Gray finished 58th overall with a time of 27:19 over the 8,000 meter course. The race was a return to form for Gray.

"I was happy I ran well, since I felt I ran poorly the week before," said Gray. "It makes me optimistic for the rest of the season. I hope to run well at the two league meets and regionals."

First-year student Jason Bandlow turned in an exceptional performance, finishing 62nd in a time of 27:28, followed by transfer student Grant Woodman (69th, 27:47), first year student Jeremy O'Shea (90th, 28:36), sophomore Ryan Donley (99th, 28:48), and Stephenson (130th, 31:17).

Saturday's invitational is being hosted by both the men's and women's teams. The start of the first race is scheduled for 10 a.m. on the practice fields behind Bahlke Stadium.



Date October 14-16 Time 11:00-3:00
PLACE Scot Shop, Tyler Student Center

Volleyball comes up short against Adrian

By Leslie Theisen
Investigative Reporter

The women's volleyball team experienced both setback and success on the court last weekend.

In Friday's away match against the Adrian Bulldogs, the Scots faltered after the first two games.

"In the first game, we scored a 15-4 point victory. We won the second game with a 15-7 point lead. Then we lost the last three games of the match to the Bulldogs," said sophomore Stephanie Degg.

"We've been having trouble coming together since we lost at Calvin Sept. 29," she continued.

"The team carried a lot of momentum in the first two games against Adrian, but we fell apart toward the end of the match," said sophomore Michelle MacNaughton.

A reversal of fortunes graced the Scots Saturday when they took on the Albion Britons at home.

The three-game match against the Britons brought victory to the home team.

The first match was 15-2, the second 15-6 and the third 15-5, all in favor of the Scots.

"The team was disappointed after a tough loss to Adrian from Friday, so we all pulled together Saturday," said sophomore Ronda Guimond. "We played with more intensity to conquer Albion."

Senior Kym Rezmer agreed.

"Losing to Adrian was a real eye-opener for us; it taught the team a

lesson," she said. "We had to learn that other teams are not going to roll over for us; we really have to work in order to win. Defeating Albion increased our confidence."

Senior Mari Scheub, who has enjoyed playing volleyball since she was 12 years old, said she was happy with the way the Scots performed overall.

"Even though we lost Friday's game we worked well together. This is the most talented bunch of teammates I've ever played with," she said.

"Winning Saturday's game was very therapeutic—a nice way to recover from Friday's loss," said Scheub.

The team is especially proud of Scheub's leadership qualities.

"Mari's a real team player, a good person on and off the court," said senior Barb McCarty.

"She's a middle hitter so her main responsibility is offense—blocking at the net," added McCarty.

"Mari always brings enthusiasm to the game, always cheering us on when we're tired of playing," said Rezmer.

As of last week, the women Scots ranked third in the mid-West region and tied for first place with Kalamazoo in the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA).

The volleyball team challenges the Hope Flying Dutch Oct. 13 at 6:30 p.m. at Alma.

Women's soccer rebounds with two straight victories

By Ganesa Wegienka
Editor-in-Chief

The women's soccer team had a great week as they racked up two wins.

On Thursday, the Scots traveled to Grand Rapids to play the All-Saints of Aquinas College. The two squads had never met before, so neither side knew what to expect.

Alma came out strong and ready to play some offense. With senior Heather Heffernan and sophomore Juli Schiele, coupled with sophomore Kristin Snell, who was moved from defense to right wing, the Scots had a definite speed and ball-control advantage over the All-Saints.

The Scots seemed to have the game under control, shutting down the opposition offensively. At about 10 minutes into the first half, Heffernan passed the ball to Snell, who broke out into the open and scored the Scots first goal.

After that, the Alma team dominated the rest of the game.

With approximately 15 minutes left in the half, Schiele fired a shot from the top of the penalty box and the Aquinas keeper couldn't stop the ball,

giving the Scots a 2-0 lead. Within five minutes, Schiele took another shot from the same area and the ball took a funny bounce right over the Aquinas keeper into the back of the net. That closed out the first half scoring and the Alma women took a 3-0 lead into the break.

"It was a great win for us. We moved the ball around extremely well. We played together as a team. It was nice to see how well we can play, when we play together to our potential."

—Senior Heather Heffernan

The Scots controlled second half play as well. The only scoring in the second half came late in the half, with less than 10 minutes left in the game. Senior Michelle Tucker took possession of the ball at the top of the penalty box and rifled the ball past the Aquinas keeper. The game ended with the score at 4-0 in favor of the Alma women.

"It was a great win for us. We moved the ball around extremely well. We played together as a team. It was nice to see how well we can play, when we play together to our potential," said Heffernan.

The Scots were scheduled to resume league play on Saturday, but instead earned a victory without even having to step out onto the field.

Alma was scheduled to play Olivet at Alma on Saturday, but Olivet forfeited the game. Saturday was Olivet's Homecoming and three members of the Olivet squad were on the homecoming court. Two other members of their team had suffered season-ending injuries earlier in the season, so the Comets would have had only eight players able to come to the game—three shy of the number in a soccer lineup. Olivet decided to forfeit the game instead, and the Alma team recorded a 1-0 victory.

The Alma women's soccer team will play Adrian at home on Wednesday, and travel to Holland to play Hope on Saturday. The team's record stands at 1-3-2 MIAA and 3-6-2 overall.

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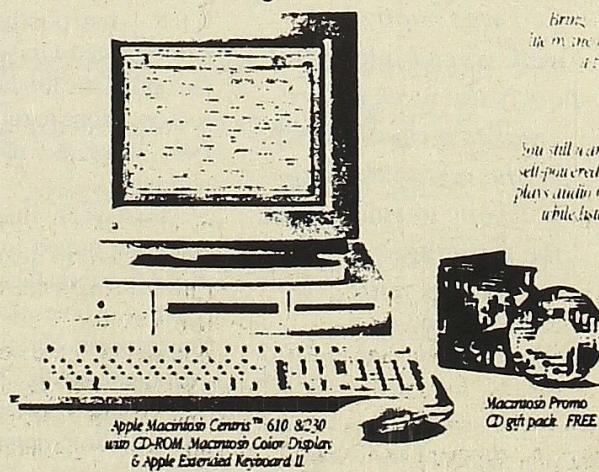
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Men's soccer

Physical play dominates Scots' victory over Olivet

By Eric Walton
Freelance Writer

The men's soccer team visited Olivet Saturday, Oct. 9, in search of a win to stay in the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (M.I.A.A.) conference race.

The first half included goals from the following Scots: Felix Papillon (1), Jason Gilbert (1), and Dave Miller (1). Olivet scored two goals despite a tough Alma defense. At the half, Alma led 3-2.

"Offensively we played well, but the score really didn't reflect how we dominated the game," said Tim Helder, a junior goalkeeper.

The Scots controlled the entire field during the first half of the game.

During the second half, both teams went scoreless. Defense played a major role throughout.

"We played well in the first half, but in the second, we deteriorated and started playing Olivet's style of play," said senior Tony Catania.

The game became very physical in the second half, as the Comes' tempers flared due to the fact that the Scots were totally dominating the game.

"The second half was a tough half, crowded with skirmishes between our players and

Olivet's. The score does not show how we actually dominated against a very physical team," said Joe Oesterling, a junior midfielder.

Despite the physical play from the comets, Alma persevered and defeated Olivet 3-2.

After being shut out 0-3 by Calvin on October 2, this game was a must win for the Scots. Alma came into Saturday's game with a 2-3-1 record in the league and 4-4-1 overall. Though Alma's record does not reflect this, the Scot's have lost to top-notch teams by slim margins.

Alma began this season with a 4-1 record, before losing a heart-breaker to Hope in overtime 2-1, Kalamazoo 3-0, and Calvin 3-0. Last week, Albion visited Alma and barely escaped with a pair of goals to tie the game in overtime.

Alma's next game is away against the Adrian Bulldogs on Tuesday at 4 p.m. Adrian's record is 1-7 overall and 0-5 in the league. Although the Bulldogs are currently in the dog house of the M.I.A.A., Adrian should not be taken lightly. This game could mean another win for the Scots. On Saturday, the Hope Flying Dutchmen (5-0 in league play) travel to Alma for a heated conference battle to determine whether or not the Scots will stay in the race. The last meeting between these two teams ended in a last-minute come-from-behind overtime victory for the Flying Dutchmen. The game is scheduled for noon.

Sports Stats

MIAA standings through Oct. 4
(Note: stats are for MIAA games only)

Men's Golf

	Total	Average
Olivet	1588	397.0
Albion	1616	404.0
K-zoo	1640	410.0
Alma	1668	417.0
Calvin	1674	418.5
Hope	1674	418.5
Adrian	1771	442.8

Individual Leaders

B. Robinette, Olivet	76.0
P. Desai, K-zoo	76.5
F. Gauntt, Hope	77.8
K. McKinley, Alma	78.5
Jason Hartman, Olivet	78.5

Women's Golf

	Total	Average
Hope	1700	425
Adrian	1708	427.0
Alma	1719	429.8
Calvin	1774	443.5
Albion	1877	469.3
K-zoo	2079	519.8
Olivet*	xxxx	xxxxx

*Note: Olivet did not finish two tournaments with the required five golfers.

Individual Leaders

Lisa Stover, Hope	85.0
Karen Baird, Adrian	87.7
Tracy Gutek, Adrian	89.7
Cathy Curley, Alma	89.7
Sara Kapp, Albion	92.7
Jenn Yirsa, Alma	93.7

Total Points:

Robin Wells, K-zoo	22
Brad Pagratis, Hope	12
F. Papillon, Alma	10
T. Schuurman, Calvin	9
Jason Gilbert, Alma	7

Men's Soccer (MIAA)

	Rec.	GF	GA
Hope	5-0-0	16	3
K-zoo	5-0-0	17	1
Calvin	3-2-0	10	5
Alma	2-3-1	12	10
Albion	1-3-1	6	8
Adrian	0-5-0	0	22

Individual Leaders

Goals:

Robin Wells, K-zoo	9
Brad Pagratis, Hope	5
F. Papillon, Alma	4
T. Schuurman, Calvin	4
Jeff Rodacher, Albion	3
D. Orsucci, K-zoo	3
Jason Gilbert, Alma	2
J. Oesterling, Alma	2

Assists:

Jim Allen, Alma	4
Robin Wells, K-zoo	4
Jason Gilbert, Alma	3
N. Kronewetter, Hope	3
F. Papillon, Alma	2

Women's Soccer

	Rec.	GF	GA
Hope	3-0-2	15	7
K-zoo	4-1-0	27	6
Calvin	3-2-0	14	6
Albion	3-1-1	12	9
Alma	1-3-2	6	13
Adrian	1-4-0	2	21
Olivet	0-4-1	5	26

Individual Leaders

Julie Schiele of Alma is tied for eighth in goals scored with two, ninth for assists with two, and 11th for total points with six.

Volleyball

	MIAA	Overall
Alma	5-1	15-3
K-zoo	5-1	16-8
Calvin	4-1	16-7
Adrian	2-2	6-15
Hope	2-4	7-13
Albion	1-5	2-11
Olivet	0-5	1-14

Golfers fight to earn first

By Adrienne Shalley
Freelance Writer

With the number of remaining conference tournaments dwindling, the Alma College men's and women's golf teams are still fighting to end this season on top. The women's team has one tournament remaining -- on Saturday at Hope.

Thursday, Oct. 7, saw both teams taking to the course in tournament action. The men's team was coming off a third place finish at Calvin on Oct. 4, led by sophomore Kevin McKinley.

Alma went to Duck Lake Golf Course, home of the Hope College golf team. After four rounds, McKinley was in fourth place in the league individual standings, averaging 78.5 each tournament, just 2.5 strokes out of first place.

Currently, McKinley is shooting for an individual conference title.

"He's just great," said sophomore teammate Brad Tate. "He

shows up every time and always shoots the best score."

At Hope, the team tied for fourth place. Overall, the team is just six strokes out of third.

The season has seen some changes made in the team. Improvements have been made in scores on

"We've come together as a team. We can really depend on everybody. We all know our roles..."
--Junior Ryan Rickabaugh

the course as well as in relationships off the course.

"As a team, we've become much more consistent," said captain junior Ryan Rickabaugh. "We've got four guys that shoot under 83 every time we go out. We've come together as a team. We can really depend on everybody. We all know our roles. Everyone knows what he needs to as an individual and for us to do well as a team. As the season has progressed, we've become con-

tenders for a top position in the MIAA."

The women played in a home conference tournament on Sept. 29. Alma placed second behind league-leading Hope. The Scots were led by sophomore Cathy Curley and senior Jen Yirsa who shot 86 and 90 respectively.

It was Yirsa and Rochelle Perkins, another sophomore, who led the team at Albion, on Oct. 7. Alma retained its third place league standing, even though the women placed fourth in the tournament.

The changes experienced by the men's team are no different than those experienced by the women's team.

"I don't think our scores show that we've improved," said Perkins. "We think that we have though. We've got more confidence."

"I think everyone is gradually improving, but we still have our bad days," said Michelle Jacobsen. "Hopefully by next year everything will come together."

CLASSIFIEDS

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1. BASIC SKILLS—State required Basic Skills Tests must be passed prior to student teaching. Info is available in AC 237.

2. SUBJECT AREA TESTS: State required Subject Area Tests must be passed before recommendation for certification. To avoid delays in certification, take Subject Area Tests six months prior to expected date of requirement completion and certification and to avoid taking tests during your teaching term. Info is available in AC 237.

3. SENIOR COMPREHENSIVE EXAM (AC graduation

requirement): Students may select either: a.) The Elementary Education Test required for certification (see 2a) b.) NNTE—info available in The Center for Student Development. c.) GRE—info available in The CSD.

SCHOLARSHIP: The Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation is offering scholarships to students who will be juniors or seniors during the 1994-95 academic year. To be eligible, a student must have a B-average, standing in the upper fourth of the class, and pursuing a career in mathematics, natural sciences or an engineering discipline. Interested sophomores and juniors should contact Dr. Steven Wiestock in Kapp Science Center room 260A no later than Oct. 30.

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Lifting the Kilt by Sara Groves

Commune with nature results in blood and bruises

Imagine my nightmare: It's a beautiful day, about 80 degrees, and I'm traveling down a scenic river with one of my best friends in a canoe.

Nighmare?

What's so wrong with this picture you ask? Oh, absolutely nothing at all—except that it was canoe trip from Hell.

It all began innocently enough with Ganesa and I deciding to spend a beautiful late summer day communing with nature and bonding with one another. And what better way to commune and bond than in a canoe?

So off we set for Duckley's Canoe Rentals ("F*#@ley Duckley's" as we later began to call this fine establishment.)

Upon arrival Duckley himself greeted us with papers to sign excluding himself from liability for our untimely demises by rapids or faulty canoe. As Ganesa read over the papers to make sure what we were signing was legitimate (she's a little more business-minded than I), Duckley began to mutter under his breath.

"What was that?" I asked.

"Well for Chrissakes. You have to sign it anyway, so quit wasting everyone's time and sign the damn thing," he moaned.

"I just want to know what I'm signing," explained Ganesa.

"Just sign it!" yelled Duckley, who I was beginning to think was a little off his rocker.

So Ganesa signed on the dotted line as I wrote out a check to cover the expenses for an afternoon of Hell.

"Do you need to see my driver's license?" I asked, referring to the verification of my check.

"Driver's license?" exclaimed Duckley like this was the craziest thing he'd ever heard. "You're going to be driving a canoe honey! You don't need a license for that. Boy, now I've met some dumb blondes in my time, but honey, you take the cake!"

As I stood there wishing I could grow claws and fangs on command or at least start someone on fire by staring at them, Ganesa managed to pull me out of the building.

"We'll just get in the canoe and forget about Duckley," said Ganesa as we practiced breathing exercises in order to reduce our stress level.

But first we had to ride in a car with Duckley so he could drop us off in the middle of nowhere...alone in the woods with our rented canoe.

"Hey!" I screamed after him as he headed back up the river

bank. "Which way do we go? There's a fork in the river!"

"Go left. No—go right!"

Duckley yelled back down as Ganesa and I tried to get in the canoe, wondering why Buckley seemed to have a personal vendetta against us.

And off we went, leaving the worries about Duckley behind us and having an absolutely fine

I suddenly began to envision myself leading canoe expeditions down the Amazon with Ganesa in front screaming, "Hard left! Hard left!"

I envisioned too soon however.

"What's that noise?" I asked Ganesa.

"What noise?"

"It sounds like fast water — like rapids," I said.

"Oh my God!" Ganesa screamed

With a few simple pushes and a few more cuss words, the canoe was off, with me trying to hang onto the back as it shot through the remaining rapids.

I finally managed to pull my bleeding, bruised and decrepit body back in the boat without even tipping it over.

"Leech check!" I yelled as I had Ganesa check for any of those black

t-shirt, but what was left of my t-shirt was keeping me entangled in the fallen tree.

"Ganesa, I can't get loose," I yelled as I beat the tree with my paddle.

"Come on, Sara, let's go!" said Ganesa and began to paddle for the first time in our two hour crusade.

So as the rest of my shirt was being torn off my body and what was left of my skin was being left behind on various jutting branches, Ganesa worked our canoe free and we were off again.

When would our nightmare end? We had signed up for the hour and a half trip but we were already working on close to two and a half. And as far as we could tell, we were still in the middle of nowhere. And who could make that trip in one and a half hours anyway? Only Olympic canoers we decided.

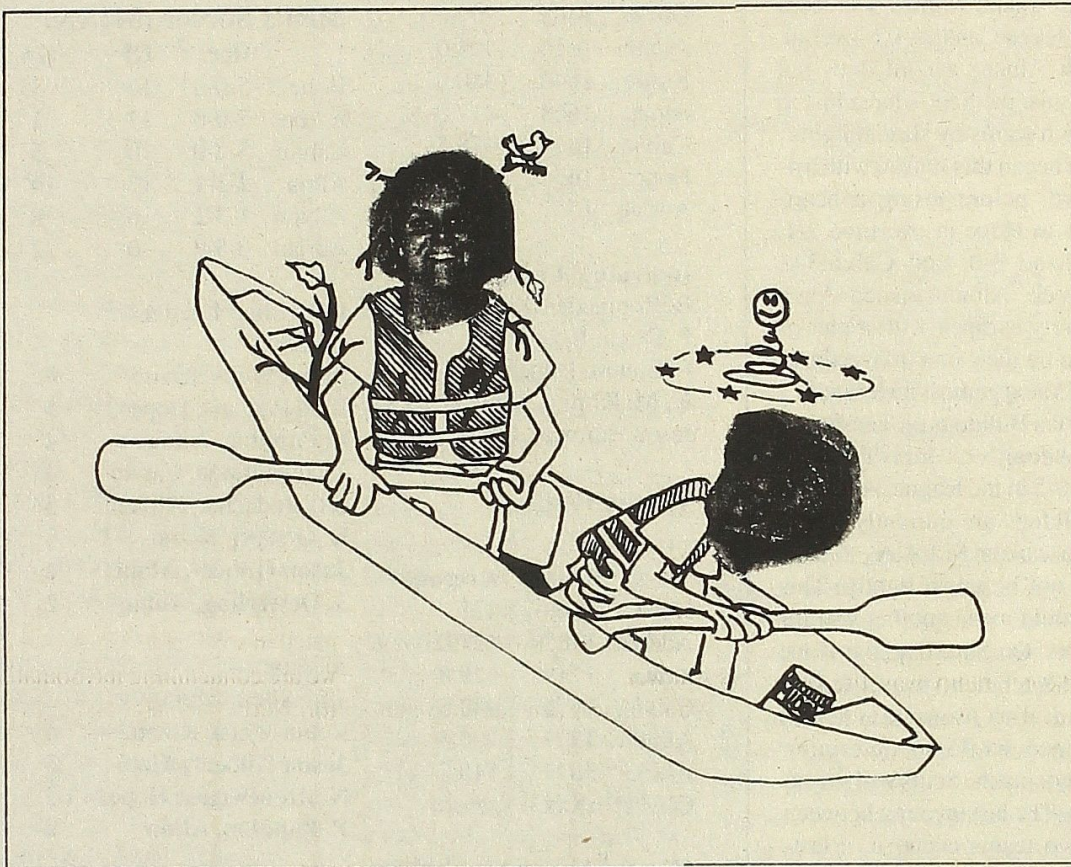
But then we began to see houses and lawns that had been mowed and cute little bridges and never before had I been so happy to see tacky lawn ornaments in my life.

But where was Duckley's? And suddenly we saw the little dock...and Mrs. Duckley. And the Duckley dog.

I threw on a sweatshirt so as not to offend the Duckleys with my near nudity and hopped out of the canoe, never so glad to be out of a little tin boat. I was scratched, bruised and bleeding from many areas on my body. My hair was full of twigs, leaves, and small, living creatures. My t-shirt hung like a tattered rag.

And then just as I was about to cry because I was so excited about my decreased chances of getting hurt or maimed by standing on the dock, the Duckley dog came along and scraped a huge stick across my leg, gashing my body open in yet another spot.

"Oh my God!" Ganesa yelled as we ran screaming from Duckley's Canoe Rental, never to return again.



time. Until...(insert *Jaws* theme song here.)

"Sara, I can't feel my legs," said Ganesa.

"What do you mean you can't feel your legs?" I asked.

"I think I took too many Midol. As a matter of fact, I can't feel anything," said Ganesa as she slumped a bit to the left.

And so with Ganesa's paddle dragging in the water, we began to work out a system for me and my over-muscle-relaxed pal.

"Go hard right! Hard right!" Ganesa would scream as I paddled like an Olympic star or at least like a semi-professional.

And every single time, no exceptions here, the front of the canoe (where Ganesa was) would clear the object (usually a fallen tree). The back of the canoe, however, would hit head on leaving me entangled in dead brush with limbs sticking into my flesh and my hair being pulled out by twigs which it would be caught on.

After we had done this, oh say 50 or 60 times, and I was convinced that I was balding and knew I was bleeding and bruised in several spots, Ganesa and I finally got the hang of things.

And we cleared two fallen trees and a 90 degree bend in the river.

"Yes," I thought to myself. "We are beginning to look like canoe pros."

as we rounded another bend. "We're going to die!"

And sure enough, it looked like it. The water appeared to be flowing about 100 m.p.h. and there were boulders sticking out everywhere. But the worst was a tree which was fallen across the entire river.

"Prepare to hit the tree! Prepare yourself for impact!" I screamed.

I got down on my hands and knees in the bottom of the canoe as Ganesa grabbed onto the sides.

Crunch. And there we were. Not only did we hit the tree, we became one with the tree—embedded in it for better or for worse.

We sat like that for 10 or 15 minutes, hoping someone would come along and save us, all the while beating on the tree with our canoe paddles in a futile attempt to save ourselves.

"Listen Ganesa, something has to be done! I'm going to get out of the canoe and push us out of here," I said.

I knew I was our last hope because beating the tree was not working and Ganesa is not a strong swimmer so she is a little leery of getting out of a canoe into rushing rapids.

So with images of saving two fair maidens in distress (forget that I was one of the maidens) and the *Raiders of the Lost Ark* theme playing in my head, I took off my shoes and jumped into the water.

little suckers. But I was clear.

And so our canoe trip went pleasantly on. We bonded. We communed. We told stories. We laughed. We cried. It was better than *Cats*.

"Oh my God!" Ganesa screamed suddenly. "Hard right! HARD RIGHT!!!"

I paddled as hard as I could and sure enough, Ganesa cleared the tree while I hit the bottom of the canoe for cover. And then I heard it.

"Riiiiippppp." I reached up and felt for my shirt. But there was not much left because all I could feel was skin. I suddenly had a backless t-shirt which was definitely a fashion faux pas.

But that was not all. Not only was there very little material left to my

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Oct. 12, 1993

Nauseating propaganda has no place in the media

By Shannon M. Garrett
Opinion Editor

The recent events in Somalia have raised questions over the media's involvement in the portrayal of death and destruction. Watching the news last week, viewers were bombarded with images of the bodies of dead American soldiers being dragged through the streets of Mogadishu. Film clips of mutilation and butchery were splashed onscreen with every news update. While I wholeheartedly agree that the action of these Somalians is a grave injustice and should be reported to the world, I do not agree with the apparent need to show live (or even recorded) illustrations of the acts in progress.

The first reaction most people have upon viewing a broadcast such as this is concern for the families. Whether or not the faces were distorted, images of the bodies were circulated before relatives could be notified. And even after the families were notified, what right does the media have to openly show the naked, mangled, exposed carcass to the world at large? Do the families of these soldiers really want to see their decapitated loved one on every newsbreak?

The media must assume responsibility for the sensitivities of all those who view their broadcasts. I understand that the viewing audience encompasses a much larger public when compared to the few relatives, but there are other sensitivities beside families alone. I personally am physically nauseous when I witness these scenes. I know I am not alone.

Also, consider children. The national news is aired nightly at 6:30 p.m. Add to that every newsbreak that interrupts television all day long. Children have access to television at these times. I am by no means asserting that children should be sheltered from the truth or kept in the dark about world-wide events. I am merely addressing the fact that children do not need to be exposed to such violent images during prime time viewing hours.

I agree that documentation of newsworthy incidents is just and necessary, but have we progressed too far in our ideas of acceptable documentation? Once, radio was the only communication of war news. Then

came documentary films. The invention of satellite television brought Vietnam into the living rooms of almost every American living room. Now war has become a national telethon (need I recall

licity? Is it to show the gross reality of life? To appease the violence-hungry public? To deter others from acting in the same manner? Or to rally some form of grass-root support for the punishment of the wrong-doers?

I would argue that the media has grossly perverted the incidents in Somalia to create a warped national pride that would support a move to annihilate these Somali peoples. We in America have a national history of propagating war news stories in order to form public opinions in support of American

military ventures. Is this fair? Is the media deciding the American stance every war?

If this is not the case and the media wishes to stand behind their argument that they are merely reporting the news, then they must be fair and colorcast the same actions of our American soldiers. Hard as it may be for the public to believe, our American military has participated in some of the same acts that we are condemning the Somalians for. North Vietnamese, North Ko-

reans, Japanese and even recent Iraqis suffered the same fate at the hands of American soldiers in our past conflicts. We may not want to admit it, but it is a fact of war.

To be fair, then, should we not also publicize the American acts as well as the acts of our "enemies?" If the media is not purposely calling to order a national pro-American propaganda, why are we never shown instances of our own brutalities? The media has a stated responsibility to objectively communicate world-wide events, both within and outside of the nationalist agenda. If we are to be tormented with images of others dismembering our people, we also have a right to the news about our country acting the same.

In the end, however, none of these images are distinctly necessary. The heinous results of war, crime and natural disaster can be communicated without the explicit, graphic photo-imagery that accompanies their documentation today. Tangible proof is one matter, but outright manipulation of images of death and destruction is an injustice to both those who have already suffered the inhumane injustice and to their friends and relatives; as well as to those of us who do not care to witness first-hand the acts we already know to be barbaric, malicious and morally wrong.

The heinous results of war, crime and natural disaster can be communicated without the explicit, graphic photo-imagery that accompanies their documentation today. Tangible proof is one matter, but outright manipulation of images of death and destruction is an injustice to both those who have already suffered the inhumane injustice and to their friends and relatives; as well as to those of us who do not care to witness first-hand the acts we already know to be barbaric, malicious and morally wrong.

the enumeration of the days spent in the Persian Gulf War at the beginning of every newscast?)

And the issue does not end with only war news. One cannot view a single news program without seeing at least a few images of murder victims, victims of natural disasters and accident fatalities. With or without seeing the faces of these victims, we are still shown the bodies and murder sites while the blood is still wet.

Why do these images need pub-

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

In the October 5th issue of the *Almanian*, Eugene Deci wrote a striking response to Wendy Kassal's letter from the week before. In his letter, Deci states in a passage regarding openness in the Alma College community that Kassal "equates intellectual openness with the automatic validation of new ideas." As a reader and a student, I found no such implication to be made in Kassal's letter. The issue was one of allowing individuals the right to choose what they believe; of having those beliefs respected and not condemned by others.

To paraphrase Deci, he is absolutely correct in that we must let ALL ideas compete for our favor on a level playing field. He is in error, however, when he equates the idea of respecting an individual's right to believe in his/her own ideology with promoting obviously irrational AND ideological ideas such as "The holocaust never happened." By Deci's and President Stone's standards, we should perhaps dismiss all Catholics as having a fractured knowledge base because they dare to be irrational enough to believe in a

God whose mere existence defies explanation.

The danger here is not, as Deci suggests, that ill-conceived ideas will gain acceptance as "fact" to an uninformed majority, but rather that beliefs that may not be shared or held by many, will be subjected to intolerance and even prejudice. We live in what purports itself to be a free country. Everyone is granted that right to freedom of religion, and the right to hold their own beliefs as long as they do not try to enforce those beliefs on others. While we, as a whole, may not agree with "New Age Crystal Power," or some other equally irrational appearing concept, we must, nonetheless respect the rights of those people who do choose to believe in that, and not try to define what should and should not be to them, rational or irrational. The very concept of Faith, in Jesus Christ or any religion, defies logic. We are, however, only human after all, and who ever said humans were rational?

Peter L. Buschman
Class of 1997

Dear Editor,

I'd like to add to the exchange of letters about President Stone's remarks made at the Opening Convocation against some beliefs associ-

ated with present-day alternative religions.

To repeat what the President said for the sake of relating my comments: "Students on American campuses are surrendering their free will to new age anti-rationalism, psycho-kinesis, reincarnation, crystal power and other contemporary superstitions. These are the more innocent manifestation of a fractured knowledge base."

In her letter, Wendy Kassal, disturbed by this remark, criticized the President's "sectarian approach" and lack of open-mindedness that countered the spirit of the College's Nondiscrimination Statement. She thought an apology from the President would be appropriate.

Last week in his letter Eugene Deci replied that Ms. Kassal is in error "when she equates intellectual openness with the automatic validation of new ideas." And using as an example the ideas professed by fascists that the holocaust never happened, he said we don't reject such an idea because of who promotes them rather "because any rational person who is familiar with the evidence finds the idea absurd. Intellectual openness means that we must let ALL ideas compete for our favor on a level playing field."

First let me comment on this "level playing field" idea. Although Alma College to me seems more democratic than most colleges, its governing structure still (by neces-

sity, perhaps) is authoritarian and hierarchical in nature. Tenured professors have more influence than non-tenured professors, the President has more power than the Provost, and the students don't elect their professors. When the figure highest on the totem pole endorses one idea and condemns another as irrational, one can't honestly say that this doesn't affect the levelness of the playing field on which those ideas compete.

A major part of the remarks in this exchange revolve around the idea of rationality. Rationality to me seems quite a relative term. If students on American campuses are "surrendering their free will to new age anti-rationalism," from their point of view their parents at home may have already surrendered their free will to old age anti-rationalism. Sons and daughters "irrationally" worship the power of crystals while parents "rationally" worship a man who walked on water and rose from the dead. If institutionalized religion puts its seal of approval on irrational thoughts, do they become more rational?

Does, as Deci says in his letter, hope for the future really depend on our not abandoning rationality? As Philipp Slater states in his book, *A Dream Deferred*, "...rationality does not exist in a vacuum. It cannot generate motives... it tells us the most reasonable way to achieve our goals, but it cannot tell us what those goals are." He goes on to say

that Einstein and Eichman were equally "rational," but had very different motives. He concludes this thought with "Reason is the tool we use to carry out our motives. To pretend that we are 'governed' by it is merely to blind ourselves to our own motivations."

It may be simplistic, but let's say that motivations can either be well-intentioned or harmful, good or evil. Which of these is more rational? We usually look at good as being the more rational, but is it really? Is it more rational to give your life (kill yourself) to save your neighbor than it is to kill your neighbor? I would say both are equally "rational," but one is good and the other evil.

Many things we don't understand we call "irrational" and if we don't understand them, how can we pretend to stand in judgement of them? It seems when we look to the future, if we concern ourselves more with love and understanding, and less with "irrationality" we would be much better off.

Paul Romejko
Assistant Professor of Art and Design

Letters to the Editor is continued on page 12.

Staff Editorial

Almanian staff strives to enlighten within college constraints

Over the course of many years, the role of *The Almanian* has changed and become blurry for many people. We, the editorial board, would like to clarify how we see *The Almanian*.

The Almanian is the Alma College student-run weekly newspaper. Our advisors, John Ottenhoff and Eugene Pattison, are here to help us when we need guidance or constructive criticism. They make no decisions for *The Almanian*. The editors and the staff make all final decisions about what will go to print or how they should handle all situations. The staff is comprised of 22 women and men, who are studying many different areas. We are not all English majors—we are biology, business, foreign language, philosophy, mathematics, history, music, art and design, religion and chemistry majors as well.

We are students first. Our first priority is our education—regretfully, not the newspaper. We work with deadlines, interview schedules, piles of paperwork and meetings while carrying our course loads.

We are proud of our work here at the paper, and enjoy our role in the Alma College community. Our role is to inform our peers about campus happenings. If a topic is important to the Alma College community, it is the goal of *The Almanian* to cover that topic. *The Almanian* seeks to also recognize achievement among the students, faculty and administration. We want to help students discover new possibilities and opportunities. We want students to know about new programs and scholarships.

We are one of the primary media sources on the Alma College campus. That is not an idea the staff takes lightly. We realize we have a duty and responsibility to cover all stories fairly and impartially. We must proceed with caution when dealing with sensitive stories such as those containing legal matters.

It is the goal of every staff member to print a "perfect" issue every week. A "perfect" issue would contain stories of the highest quality, no copy errors, beautiful photographs and would keep the reader enthralled with every word. However, the staff makes

mistakes, as most human beings do. It is our goal to make sure that only the most minimal mistakes are made and to correct those mistakes as soon as possible.

Please remember that we are not professionals. True, we do receive a small amount of compensation for our duties, but it is not equal to the work, stress and blood pressure problems. We are *The Almanian* staff because we love what we do. For some of us, we would like to work in the media. For most of us, we work here because *The Almanian* allows us to do things we enjoy—interact with other individuals, write, take photographs, use our artistic skills, and work towards informing our peers about what they should know as an Alma College student. We are here because we want to be here.

So, the next time you pick up a copy of *The Almanian*, please try to remember what is important. Are you more interested in the new class offerings and tuition increases or are you too upset to care because there are one too many commas in the story?

The Almanian

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

The Almanian

Letter Policy

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

'Waif' girl latest beauty ideal in society

By Brooke Hansen
Feature Editor

I flip through the July issue of *Harper's Bazaar* magazine; through page after page of cover model Kate Moss and I can think of only one thing: this girl is the same age as I am and she looks about thirteen.

At nineteen years of age, she stands 5 foot 7 (an exceptionally small height in comparison to fellow models) and weighs a mere 105 pounds.

However, it isn't the figures that scare me. I know girls who eat like savages and never gain an ounce. Moss is just one of those select few who has been blessed with an incredibly high level of metabolism. I'm envious, but I can live with it; I have to live with it.

What scares me is that she's everywhere; Moss has been gracing the covers of every magazine on the market for months now. If I dare to click on the television, I'll more than likely find her prancing around half-naked with Marky Mark. In an innocent attempt to find a new pair of jeans, I risk ending up staring at the wide-eyed Calvin Klein girl who founded the term "waif," and I suddenly understand the controversy surrounding the issue.

Lately, the waif girl is inescapable. Suddenly, unique-looking supermodels like Naomi Campbell, Christy Turlington and Linda Evangelista have been thrown to the back burner so that models like Moss, Amber Valletta, Emma Ballfour and Tamzin Greenhill remain virtually the only individuals women have to "model" themselves after. And they all look alike: tall, innocent-almost pre-pubescent-ultra-thin girls, thinness being their most recognized attribute. It's no wonder that some readers of *Harper's* claim that waif girls are likely to lead to an increase in eat-

ing disorders such as anorexia and bulimia. Media has a definite impact on the individual and those women that take these magazines seriously may have major problems attaining this new "waif" ideal.

"What you're doing is perpetuating an ideal body type that's not attainable for most women," said Barbara Bowman, doctoral candidate in clinical psychology at the Midwestern Educational Resource center, in *Harper's*.

I agree totally. However, it's not just these superskinny waif girls who perpetuate the unattainable. No matter which magazine I decide to purchase, or simply browse through, I'll inevitably end up looking at women who have flawless complexions, perfectly curved bodies, full, pouty lips, perfect teeth; the list is never ending.

However, I realize that most of

these models have been touched-up, that special cameras have been used to accentuate certain body parts more than others.

These pictures can be incredibly deceiving, you can't possibly take them seriously and you sure can't expect to achieve the same look without the same lighting and makeup benefits these models have.

Whether it be the image of Scarlet O'Hara, June Cleaver, the supermom/worker/lover in the Enjolie ads, or Kate Moss and the waif girl image, there will always be some new ideal in beauty slapping women in the face time and time again. As women, we simply have to accept women like Moss for their individual attributes and keep reassuring ourselves that "waif" girls may look wonderful spread out on the pages of magazines, but we're just fooling ourselves if we think we need to lose fifty pounds and assume the innocence of a young

girl in order to be satisfied with ourselves. Because the reality is, girls like Kate Moss are literally a dime a dozen, they just happen to be the dozen getting the most publicity at this point in time.

You know the popular phrase about fashion being a cycle, everything comes back around again. We've seen it happen even in our short lifetimes: bell-bottoms, love beads, peace symbols, beehives, long, straight hair parted in the middle, platforms. Kate Moss is simply a reincarnation of Twiggy, sent in correspondence with the rebirth of sixties ideology happening today. Soon, Kate and the rest of the waif girls will leave the limelight to make way for some other beauty ideal.

The cycle is destined to continue, women just need to keep a safe distance from that impossible circle, before they're sucked into something they simply can't handle.

Letters to the Editor *continued*

Dear Editor,

Last week's *Almanian* contained a letter written by Dr. Eugene Deci that was in response to Wendy Kassal's letter the week prior. Dr. Deci's letter appeared to result from misreading and therefore missing the ultimate point of Mrs. Kassal's letter.

The purpose of the letter was to promote religious freedom on campus, which Dr. Stone's speech seemed to refute. No one can truly prove any spiritual beliefs as right or wrong. That is the true meaning of Faith in any religion; it is not something that is rational or can be scientifically proven. This was the problem with Dr. Deci's example, which dealt with plain, blatant fact. There was a

mass killing; that is undeniable. Dr. Stone was not speaking of fact in his speech, however, but of theology.

Our intent is not to ask for validation of our religious practices. We simply wish to gain acceptance as people who share many alternative spiritual beliefs. These beliefs are as real and meaningful to us as the existence of God or Jesus Christ—two important figures of mainstream/majority religions, but depend on the intangible concept of Faith for their existence.

The most disturbing part of Dr. Deci's letter was his reference to "winners and losers." This insinuates that the winners are those in the majority, and the minority losers should be expelled from society because they are irrational. To go back to the

holocaust, the Jews were in the minority, their beliefs seen as wrong and irrational. Does that justify the Nazi's attempt to repress and destroy them?

In religion, there are no winners or losers, merely different factions of Truth. If we are led to the Divine through the use of crystals, we are no more wrong than the person who uses a crucifix for the same reason. Our beliefs are just as valid because they provide us with spiritual enlightenment, just as the belief in Jesus Christ does for many others. Who is to say what qualifies either one as the more rational?

The Alternative Religion Discussion Group