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The Almanian

October 26, 1993

Serving Alma College since 1907

Issue 7

Block Bash draws Greeks together for food, fun

By Anne M. Buyze
Staff Reporter

"The best thing about it was that it didn't matter if you were a Gamma Phi Beta, Tau Kappa Epsilon, or Kappa Iota. We were all Greek; we were Greeks partying together. Also, the beer tent had a faithful gathering the entire night," said co-coordinator Sean Lynott about Saturday's Block Bash.

The bash, which ran from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., included a barbecue and several contests like limbo, dirty dancing, leave stuffing, and air band. The winners of the contests received T-shirts and gift certificates from area businesses. The music was provided by Brett and Brad of WQAC's morning show.

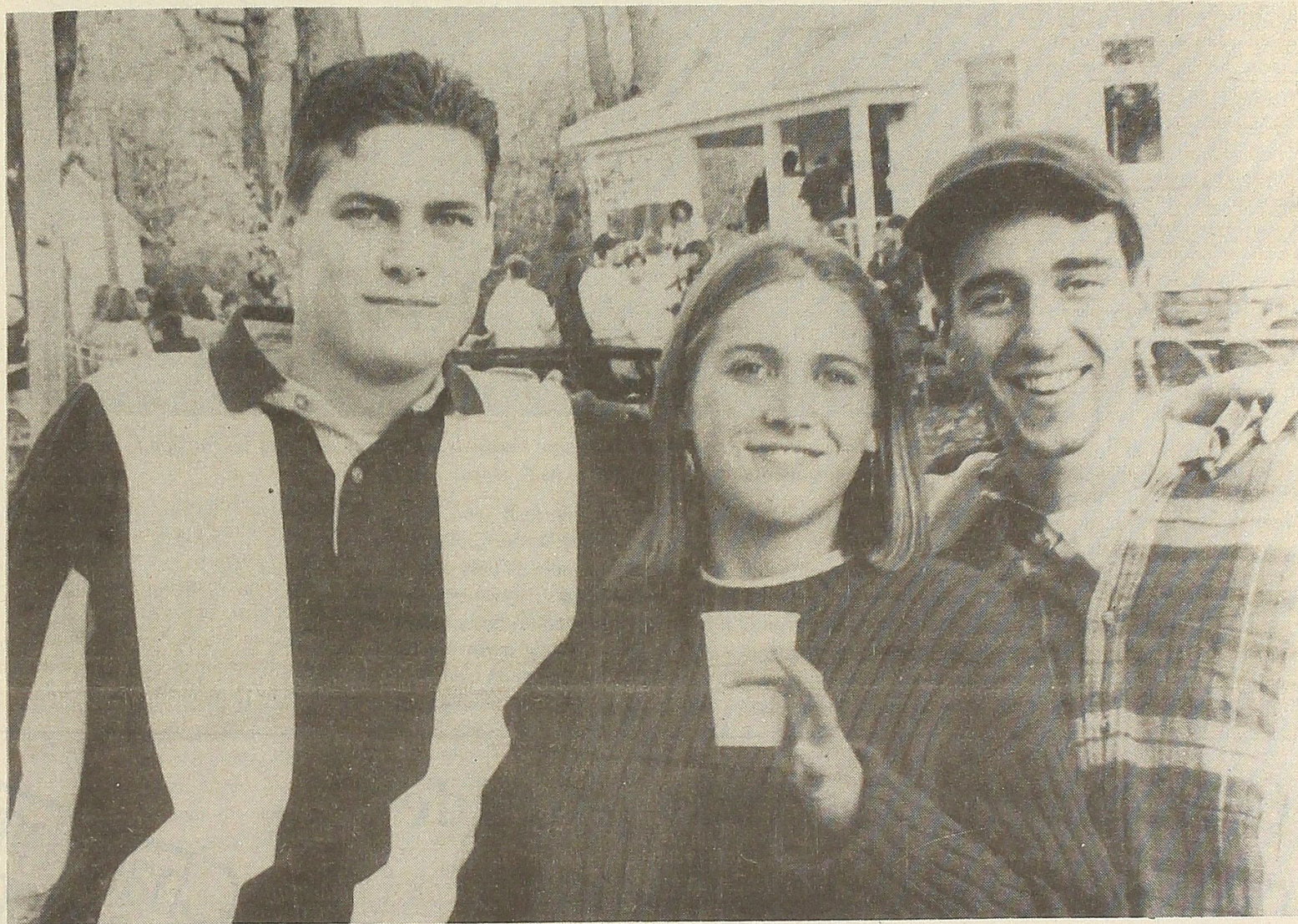
The idea for the Block Bash came out of hopes of making Greek Week a bigger and better event than it has been in the past.

"We wanted something different this year and we thought the best way to make it different is to get everybody pumped up by doing a Greek day first term," said co-coordinator Liberty Reiter.

Others also wished to improve the Greek system as a whole.

"I think what we hope to gain is promoting a feeling of Greek unity in the short run and in the long run, I would say that we're hoping it has an impact on Greek week and rush," said Assistant Dean of Students and Greek advisor Anne Lombard.

The bash was successful and ran



Marty Schneble, Rebecca Murray and Jason Ricks enjoy the festivities at the all-Greek Block Bash Saturday night. Photo by A. Torrence.

smoothly the entire night. Most students felt similar to sophomore Stephanie Crum when she said, "I think it was a lot of fun for everyone who was there."

Furthermore, many students expressed interest in continuing the Block Bash in future years.

"I think it would be great if it became an annual event. It seemed

to bring the Greek community closer than any other Greek day that I've experienced," said senior Marty Schneble.

Lynott expressed similar feelings.

"We do hope it becomes an annual event and, judging from this year, we should be able to do it again," he said.

Committees ask for campus input concerning IM uses

By Kristin Allen
Staff Reporter

Presented with a growing need for additional recreational and intramural sport space as well as a desire to upgrade the EHS program and emphasize wellness, a group of Alma College faculty and students have assembled to collect input and suggestions, preparing tentative plans for a new athletic facility.

Concern about overcrowding within the Physical Education Center prompted the idea for a supplementary athletic complex. Because of the gymnasium's wood floor, spring sports are being forced to practice elsewhere: the tennis team, for example, will

travel to Midland for early morning practices starting in February. Intramural athletes endure late evening games due to scheduling conflicts within the gym. The EHS lab is overcrowded and under equipped, doubling as a classroom; the wellness programs have not reached their full potential due to a lack of space.

"I think a lot of people realize the general need we have for this building," said Student Congress President Kim Kraai. "We would like to provide an additional area for athletics while incorporating the wellness plan that encourages a healthy lifestyle."

Tentatively, Kraai is looking at an indoor floor plan which includes three tennis courts which convert into volleyball or basketball courts for intramural contests, surrounded

by an indoor track. Kraai discussed the possibility of connecting the building directly to the P.E. Center.

"We're talking about 30,000 square feet—a \$3 million project," she said.

Proponents of the proposal emphasize that there will not be any fund raising, nor will this result in a tuition increase. Rather, if the plan is implemented, the college will look for two or three donors.

"Right now nothing is set in stone," explained John Davis, chair of the EHS department. "We've formed two committees—one consisting of students and one consisting of faculty and staff. Together the committees will create a more specific proposal which we hope to present to Dr. Stone in January."

So far the reaction from students

has been positive. Many feel the complex will help to enhance the EHS program while attracting incoming students by competing with the facilities of other schools within the MIAA conference.

"I think a recreational complex will be beneficial for future students of Alma College, not only for athletes but for the EHS majors as well," said junior EHS major Jason Williamson. "I'd love to have an indoor football arena, with an indoor track, so students will be able to run year round, and the wellness facilities will serve the community as well."

Senior Kelly Haddock, a student aerobics instructor, has witnessed firsthand the struggle the aerobics program has endured as a result of the overcrowding.

"Right now we're conducting

aerobics lessons in a racquetball room—a room without mirrors, proper ventilation, or a suitable floor. I'd like to see a building which would remedy this and incorporate things for the non-athlete by motivating a wellness life."

Although the idea of a recreational complex has arisen in the midst of other big projects, with the nearly completed Heritage Center and definite plans for a library expansion, supporters of the discussed facility possess optimism that the building will soon become a reality.

"We want everyone to have their input," said Davis. "We're welcoming ideas and encouraging support."

Constellations tell stories of Greek mythology

By Laura Paetz
Freelance Writer

Though many people wish upon a star every night, few people realize stars offer much more than the ability to illuminate the sky.

"Stars aren't all constant; there's a lot of interesting stuff that goes on up there," said Cameron Reed, professor of physics and astronomy.

During his lecture in the Dow planetarium on Wednesday night, Reed explained the influence Greek mythology has had on the history behind many constellations. Many of the constellations that we see have some type of story about why they exist or what they are doing. Some stories have many characters, who sometimes appear in more than one story.

In addition to searching for the figures in the sky, or on the ceiling as the case may be, Reed used a slide projector to project the outline form of each celestial symbol onto the ceiling. Without these visual references it was like doing a dot to dot puzzle without the numbers.

"It was neat because not only did you get to see the individual constellations, but you got to hear the story behind them," said first-year student Monique Averill.



Physics professor Cameron Reed directs two Alma residents toward the college Planetarium for one of his three shows on winter constellations. Photo by K. Horak.

Amy Dailey, also a first-year student, agreed.

"What fascinates me is the stories behind the stars," she said. "I never knew that the Big and Little Dippers were once thought of as bears."

Amy referred to the stories of

Native American who saw the scoop of the Dippers as the bodies and the handle as tails of mother and son bears. However, bears no longer have tails because of a tricky fox in another myth. This fox tricked the bear into using his tail as bait while ice fishing; conse-

quently, it fell off.

Depending upon on how good your eyesight is, you may look up at the concave ceiling and notice a cluster of six or seven stars known as the Seven Sisters constellation. A nearby group of stars represents a man by the name of Orion. Orion

is said to be chasing the Seven Sisters around the galaxy. Similarly, the moons that are named after the lovers of Zeus, who is also known as Jupiter, follow their god all over the sky.

These patterns of stars are reproduced in the planetarium by a bright light, emanating from a quartz bulb that shines through various holes and lenses on the metal sphere surrounding it. Since the lenses operate effectively only when located a certain distance away from the ceiling, the metal ball must be built according to the specific dimensions of a room.

The planetarium shows took place on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday nights last week. The shows, which cost one dollar to attend, started at 8 p.m. and lasted about an hour.

"I usually like to do a show for every season—spring, summer, fall, and winter—to review what is in the sky at that particular time," said Reed. "[The shows] are intended for the general public, so people don't have to have any specialized knowledge of the sky before coming."

Reed's next presentation will probably be shortly after Christmas.

Olin foundation may provide computerized classrooms

By Leslie Theisen
Investigative Reporter

While funds for adding a wing to the Monteith Library were recently obtained, financing a new academic building with computer laboratories, classrooms and faculty offices has taken much longer.

According to President Alan Stone, the Olin Foundation may be the financier needed.

"The Olin Foundation, based in New York and Minneapolis, builds two college buildings each year at great small colleges like Alma," said Stone.

"The school has to have stability in its administration and faculty, a solid enrollment, and it can't be running a deficit; there are a lot of criteria for the schools the Foundation selects. They get about 60 applications each year," informed Stone.

"Olin makes two \$5 or \$6 million gifts every year," he continued. "The two recipients are announced in the spring."

"Both this year and last we submitted a proposal for a classroom building which would be filled with computers. Hopefully, we would have

interactive computers—the latest high-tech teaching equipment to be used by every department for whatever use they might have for those facilities," said Stone.

According to Stone, the budget for such a building is about \$4.5

million. If Alma is chosen as a building recipient, the Olin Academic Center will become a reality.

"We don't know for certain where the building would sit, but I think it would be kitty-corner from the Heritage Center," told Stone.

The temporary layout for the building includes offices, classrooms, computer labs, exercise and health laboratories, conference rooms, a projection room, and a video lab and studio.

In addition to storage units and a kitchenette, a large lobby and a rotunda lounge would be part of the ground floor.

While Alma College has sent a proposal drawn by faculty to Olin for the past 5 years, "some schools have been in line for ten years," said Stone.

"Our proposal has changed; in years past, we wanted funding for a new performing arts center, which we received through other channels," Stone said.

"Waiting, persistence, and making sure Alma College is improving all the time are the requirements if we're going to see this project happen," he concluded.

million.

Although he could not speculate about when the College might receive a grant from Olin, "part of the process is to get in line and try to meet all the criteria. Some time, I suspect Olin will come through for Alma College," said Stone.

Floor plans for a new building were submitted to the Olin Foundation before the Oct. 15 applica-

*"Both this year and last we submitted a proposal for a classroom building which would be filled with computers."
--President Alan Stone*

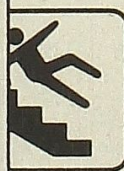
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Oct. 26, 1993

Students voice living concerns to Seveland

By Kristen Miquel
Staff Reporter

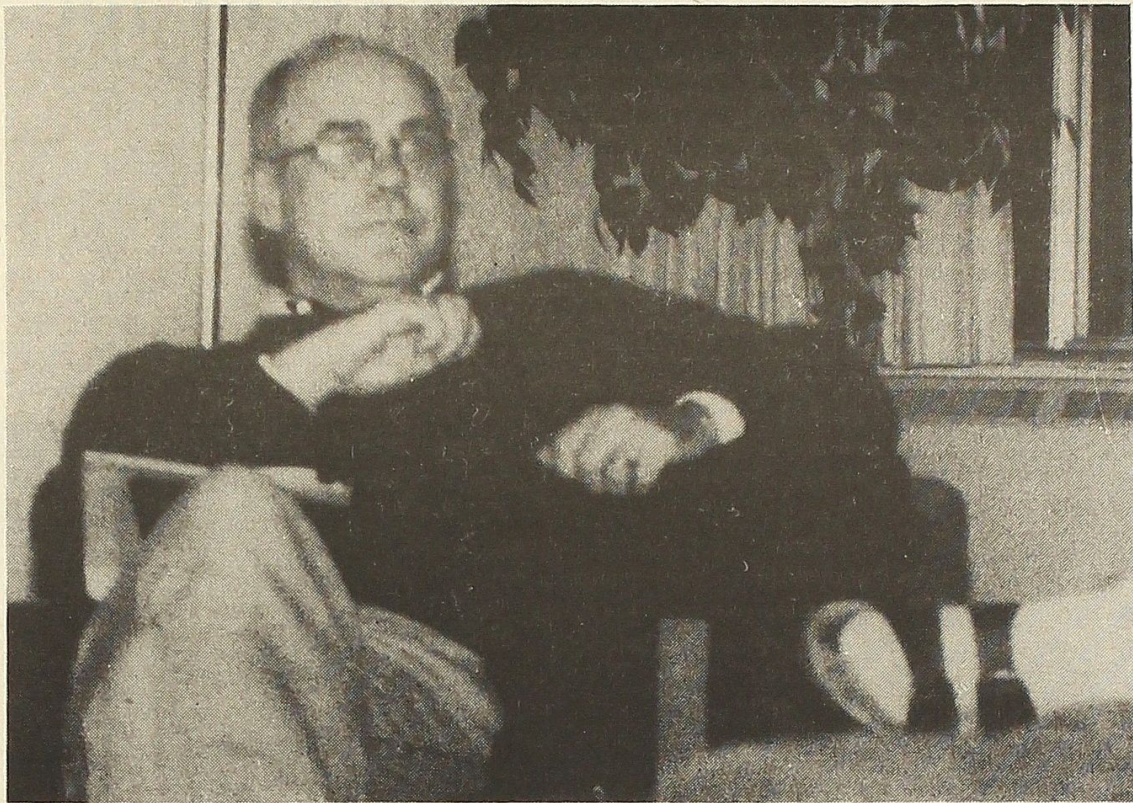
Better lighting in rooms, parking questions, safety, mattresses, study rooms and new wiring, were all concerns brought up by students in the Bruske Hall town meeting last Tuesday, October 19.

John Seveland, vice president for enrollment and student affairs, met with all Bruske residents. This gave students a chance to voice concerns about problems in Bruske Hall or ask questions regarding the campus as a whole.

Seveland sent a letter to all the Hall Directors on campus. The letter explained that he was willing to visit the halls in order to see what needed to be done both in the halls and on the overall campus. All resident halls except Gelston responded. Seveland plans to talk with Mitchell on Nov. 2 and Newberry on Nov. 15. Seveland is also planning on spending the night in Mitchell as a guest in order to better understand the concerns of all of the residents.

Seveland was also planning to stay in Bruske; however, because of midterms, he didn't want to monopolize the students' time. He did get the opportunity to have dinner with the RA staff and also received a formal tour of the hall.

A committee of the Bruske RA staff consisting of junior Julie Williams, sophomore Chad Jenkins, senior Melanie Mayer and senior Cathy DeShano organized the idea



John Seveland listens to Bruske residents. Photo by L. Christensen.

of a town hall meeting as a format for students to voice their concerns.

"We weren't sure what angle to approach it at, but I think the option was there," said Mayer. "Some people decided not to come if they didn't have any concerns; however it gave people who did the opportunity to talk to someone who was in a position to do something about it."

Between 10 and 15 students showed up to express their con-

cerns.

"The students responded really well. They had some very constructive comments," said Anne Lombard, assistant dean of students and Bruske Hall director. "I was afraid it would be negative, but it went really well."

Seveland hopes to correct as many of the problems as possible. What can't be done between himself and Dean of Students Jim Kridler he will take to the executive staff.

Physical Plant Director Duane Knecht or Vice President for Finance Jon Groteluschen.

"Some things we can do and some we can't do until we remodel," commented Seveland, "but my goal is to find solutions. If I can't do something I will write a letter to the residents."

"I think he (Seveland) will take things very seriously otherwise he couldn't have taken the time here," said Mayer.

Keeping You Informed

The athletic department is selling raffle tickets at a \$10 donation for a one-year lease giveaway for a 1994 Pontiac Sunbird. The lease is being donated by Jim Shimunek Pontiac. Tickets can be bought at the physical education center or at all home football games. The drawing for the lease will be held at halftime of the Alma vs. Adrian football game on November 6.

Henryk Wozniakowski, a Polish publisher and a German Marshall Fund Campus Fellow, will be visiting Alma College this week as part of an effort to increase understanding between prominent Europeans and young Americans. Wozniakowski, president and general director of the ZNAK Publishing Company in Krakow, Poland, will spend time discussing events in western Europe as well as the controversy over European economic integration. In addition, Wozniakowski will also be a keynote speaker during the Michigan Conference of Political Scientists addressing the topic "The Challenges of Building Democracy in Eastern Europe" at 6 p.m. Oct. 28 in the Heather Room on campus.

Beginning Nov. 1 through April 30, cars parked on city streets overnight will be ticketed. If students have not registered their cars with the College, they must do so by Friday, October 29. Permits are \$30 and must be paid at the Alma College Business Office. You may pick up your decal at the Physical Plant Office by showing them your receipt.

On Wednesday, October 20, six members of the Alma community, including two Alma College students, were shot with pellet guns. Charges have been brought against Jamie Fikon, 22, and Daniel Brown, 18 of Alma. They face two felony charges of discharging a firearm from a vehicle and being in commission of a firearm. In addition to the six victims, a number of other people were witnesses or believed they were being shot. The two men were released on \$20,000 bonds.

World



News

Damian Williams and Henry Watson were acquitted on most serious charges in the Los Angeles beating case of truck driver Reginald Denny. Williams was convicted on a felony count of mayhem and on four misdemeanor assault charges.

Helicopter pilot Michael Durant, held captive for 11 days after being shot down while on duty in Somalia, returned to the United States. He received a Purple Heart. Other U.S. helicopters have escaped close calls with attacks from fighters that may be tied with Mohamed Farah Aideed, the Somali warlord in hiding from U.S. forces.

The U.S. Congress debated on whether or not to restrict President Bill Clinton's authority to send troops into dangerous situations. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kansas) had led the way with proposed legislation to deny

Clinton the authority to send troops into Bosnia without congressional approval. Though Dole later backed down, Clinton took the debate to heart and began to withdraw troops from Somalia and Haiti.

Disney announced it would pull a dare scene from its movie *The Program* after a Pennsylvania youth was killed and two other youths injured while imitating the stunt. In the scene, players on a football team agree to a dare where they lay down in the middle of a busy street.

A standoff in India between Muslim separatists and security forces became violent last week, as police fired bullets and tear gas into protestors in an effort to chase them away. The protesters are gathered at the Hazratbal mosque in the primarily-Muslim state of Kashmir.

African National Congress President Nelson Mandela and South African President Frederik de Klerk

were named recipients of the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize for their joint effort to end South Africa's policy of apartheid.

The Toronto Blue Jays beat the Philadelphia Phillies 8-6 Saturday night to capture the World Series, four games to two. The Blue Jays are the first team to repeat as World Series Champions since the 1977-78 New York Yankees.

Under a measure adopted Saturday at the Girl Scouts' national convention, Girl Scouts no longer have to pledge service to "God" when saying the Girl Scout oath. They may now substitute words more appropriate to their spiritual beliefs in place of God. The change was made in deference to increasing diversity within the 2.6 million members.

President Clinton sponsored a trade fair on the South Lawn of the White House Wednesday in an ef-

fort to boost support for the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Hundreds of businessmen, led by former Chrysler chairman Lee Iacocca, extolled the virtues of free trade to reporters. NAFTA comes before the House of Representatives for approval Nov. 17.

Besieged Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze may soon receive help from Moscow. Rebels backing ex-President Zviad Gamsakhurdia have advanced from their holdings in western Georgia and attacked Kutaisi, a primary industrial city and the second-largest city in the country. The rebels are also involved in the separatist revolt in the Georgian region of Abkhazia. President Clinton offered his support to Shevardnadze Thursday. The U.S. started a series of nine aid flights Oct. 5, sending food, shelter, blankets and clothing.

Symphony outstanding in Heritage debut

By William J. Johnston
Senior Editor

Forget about Beethoven's Ninth Symphony being music's "best-known plea for world brotherhood." That doesn't matter; most of us don't speak German anyway. What matters is that this is an incredibly intense work, perfect for kicking off performances in a new facility such as the Heritage Center for the Performing Arts.

The Alma Symphony Orchestra let no one down during Friday's performance of Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 in D minor (Choral). Orchestra members, along with the Alma College Choir, the choirs of the First Presbyterian Churches in Alma and Saginaw, the Westminster Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids, and four soloists from around the state (including our own Will Nichols) gave a near-flawless hour-long performance of this masterpiece to open the just-completed Heritage Center.

It's hard not to let tingles run down your spine as the second movement begins, or as the soloist sings "Freude!" during the fourth movement. The Orchestra and

choirs gave many such spine-tingles during this performance.

The concert also showcased the superb acoustics of the Heritage Center. One could focus on the warbling of the bassoon, the subtle sounds of the cellists, or the "boom-boom" of the bass drum with no difficulty whatsoever.

The packed house of 500 honored the musicians with a five-

The concert also showcased the superb acoustics of the Heritage Center.

minute standing ovation following the performance.

The piece is exceedingly difficult to prepare for, requiring numerous hours of practice from a large orchestra and choir working together to pull it off successfully. And yet the 200-member choir, pulled from around the state, managed to pull together and stir the souls of everyone in the audience. And for people who probably didn't know a lot of German, the choir members sang surprisingly well (both linguistically and musically).

At times during the fourth movement (the movement which gives the symphony its "choral" title), it was difficult to pick out the voices of the choir from the music of the symphony, but these moments were few and far between.

What this performance does show is that Alma College is committed to quality in the performing arts. The Heritage Center is a huge leap from concerts in the Chapel or plays at the Gratiot County Playhouse; it shows that the performing arts at Alma are no longer merely an afterthought, a minor slice in the "liberal arts" education Alma touts.

For a community this size to have a symphony orchestra is a marvel in itself; for that orchestra to have a quality venue such as the Heritage Center is a minor miracle.

Guests marvelled at many aspects of the Heritage Center, from the spacious lobby to the tuxedo-clad ushers to the comfortable seats. All were universal, however, in their praise for the performance.

Hopefully, the heady rush sparked by the debut of the Heritage Center will not soon fade. If Friday night's performance is any indication, the College is in for a spectacular year of culture and heritage.

Foreign housing provides cultural expansion

By Anne M. Buyze
Staff Reporter

"I love it here. I've lived in Gelston and Bruske and this is the best," said junior Lori Neitzel.

What could be better than Gelston or Bruske? To those who live in the Spanish and French houses, dorm life just doesn't compare.

Many Alma students find living behind doors where you must communicate in a foreign language a good way to improve their language skills for upcoming trips overseas or possible teaching careers.

To live in a language house, students must undergo an application and interview process. If accepted, students are expected to participate and plan weekly cultural activities, such as screening foreign films or discussing foreign countries. They must help with daily chores; however, this extra work is not a problem for the students.

Junior Cathy Nickerson said, "I love the fact that we all have dinner together and there's a sense of community. It's like a home, not a room."

Students may choose to live in the houses for various reasons.

"I'm going overseas next fall so I wanted to get a chance to learn some of the more everyday language because you don't always learn it when you're in the classroom," said sophomore Kylie Friend.

"I finished my French studies and I wanted to use the opportunity to maintain my French," said junior Heather Sprague.

Most students agree that the atmosphere is more comfortable and

the food definitely better and have no complaints about the living arrangements.

Sophomore James Wedge said, "There are some disadvantages. At times, I miss dorm life. I think there's a lot more going on in the dorms. But for the most part, I enjoy it."

The houses have managers who oversee the activities and budget of the house.

These managers are enrolled in classes but are also expected to help out with the language departments and sometimes teach classes in their native tongue.

Dior Sylla, the manager of the French house, came to Alma College after seeing an advertisement in her homeland: Senegal, in West Africa.

"I graduated in my country with a major in American Literature so I read a lot about America and I wanted to come and see if what I read was the same as the reality. Also, I wanted to take classes in computer science." She finds her

job interesting but is not used to cold Michigan weather.

Mayte Galvez-Capo is the manager of the Spanish House. She discovered this opportunity through an American professor at the University of Alicante, Spain, the university from which she graduated.

Galvez-Capo hopes to involve others in her culture.

"Since we are here, we are given an opportunity to open our country to people here," she says.

On Tuesdays and Wednesdays, language students are encouraged to join other French and Spanish students at the French and Spanish tables available during lunch in Hamilton Commons. Also, the French and Spanish Houses host weekly cultural events which usually begin at 7 p.m.

The next French house activity will be a sampling of wine and cheese on Nov. 15th. The Spanish house will also be showing a film Nov. 2.



Mayte Galvez-Capo. Photo by J. Champion.

ACUB gets campus ready for Songfest

By Leslie Theisen
Investigative Reporter

Trained and amateur singers alike are warming up their voices and memorizing lyrics for Songfest 1993.

Songfest, the annual event sponsored by the Alma College Union Board (ACUB), is scheduled for Nov. 5 at 9 p.m. in the Dunning Memorial Chapel.

Songfest is a competition based on vocal performance and stage presence. Students compete for cash prizes

"I think it's a really good idea because it allows people who might not otherwise be involved with the performing arts a chance to show their abilities."
--senior Molly DeLind

awarded to winners in three categories. Categories consist of large group (8 or more people), small group (2 to 7 contestants) and solo competitors.

First and second place prizes for small group and solo category winners will receive \$100 and \$50 respectively. First place winners in the large group competition will receive \$75, while second place winners will get \$50.

The Union Board provides performance equipment, including a piano and a sound system. Performers must find their own accompanist and any props they plan to use.

Individual performers and groups must attend a brief dress rehearsal at which their act will be approved by members of ACUB.

Songfest has regularly been regarded as one of ACUB's best events by participants.

"I think it's a really good idea

because it allows people who might not otherwise be involved with the performing arts a chance to show their abilities," said senior Molly DeLind, who performed a song from the musical *Chess* her sophomore year.

"Songfest is not about winning and losing; I wish that wasn't even a part of the whole thing. It's just fun to get up there

and perform," said senior Sharilee Hines.

"All the contestants support each other. People really respect that you have the guts to perform in public," she continued.

Hines won first place in the small group category last year for her duet with Alma alumnus Jeremy Evans.

This year, she is singing "Nobody Does It Like Me" by Cy Coleman from the musical *Saw*.

Junior Clay Brehm said Songfest should be less formal.

"I think the judges focus too much on vocal pitches and tones. They should look more at entertainment value, including originality," said Brehm.

Brehm co-wrote a song and played guitar with senior Vinnie Thaxton at last year's Songfest.

ACUB Major Events Chair Jennifer Victory said applications are still being accepted.

"We're looking forward to another good competition," said Victory.

Applications are due at the Union Board office by 5 p.m. this Wednesday, Oct. 27.

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Oct. 26, 1993

Alma student aids flood victims

By Brooke Hansen
Feature Editor

This summer's Mississippi flood was unavoidable. Many of us sat in front of our televisions, updated hourly about the devastation caused by the flooding. While a small portion of the country felt the effects of the damage, most of us sat safely in our homes, watching, waiting, wondering when it would end and what we could do to help.

Unfortunately for those victims of the flood, most of us were unable to physically do anything to help the situation. However, one special Alma student took it upon herself to help those people hit directly by the flood who we knew of only indirectly.

Sophomore Gwen Downs spent this summer working in her home town of Alpena with a national organization known as the Youth Volunteer Corps, a kind of summer day camp. As a Youth Volunteer Corps team leader, it was her daily responsibility to take a team of junior high and high school age students out into the community to work on service projects.

Downs has been active in community service for a number of years and found out about an opening in the Youth Volunteer Corps through her involvement in community service.

"It was the best summer job I've ever had," she said.

At the end of the summer, one of her students asked about the pos-

sibility of helping the flood victims. Downs took the student's suggestion to her advisor who gave her information on Davenport, Iowa, a city on the border of Illinois and Iowa which also has a Youth Volunteer Corps and was victimized by the flood.

Being pressed for time, Downs and her team immediately began public campaigning to raise money for transportation, gas and emergencies. In a period of one week, they had raised \$1,200 and were

damage wasn't very bad," she said. "But you could tell that Davenport had been hit because porches were mangled and trees were in places that we knew they shouldn't have been. Also, my brother went to Davenport with us. He put his hand up to the waterline, which was way above his head and he's 6 feet 2. We figured that the water must have been up to seven feet at one point and this really made me realize how much worse the situation had been."

The group also worked in the Salvation Army Warehouse and did mudwork to try to save the home of an elderly couple.

"Many people were sympathetic to the couple we were helping," Downs said, "but some people just couldn't understand why they were living there. What they didn't realize was that the house had been in their family for 100 years and they've never had a

problem with flooding before. People just had to understand that."

While in Iowa, the group spent their nights sleeping on the hardwood floors of a church rectory.

Downs and the students in her group met people from across the country who had also come to do volunteer work. Many members of the group made new friends as a result of their mutual concern for the flood victims.

"It's one thing to see it on T.V. but it's another thing to go help with the effort," Downs said. "Aiding the flood victims was a life-changing experience. Because of it, this summer was the best summer I've ever had."

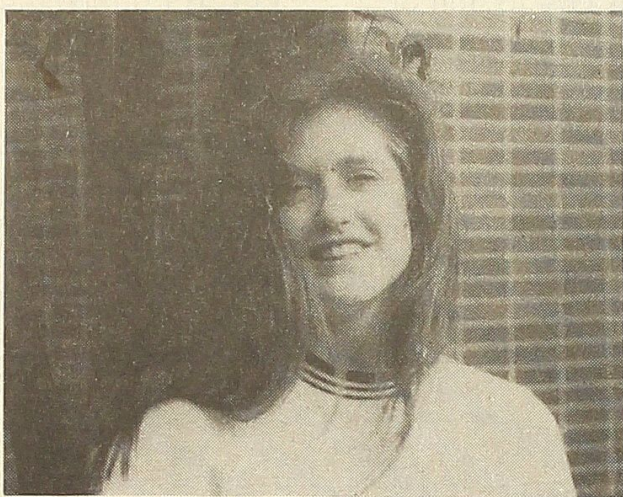
headed on their way to Davenport, Iowa.

The group, which consisted of five high school students, Downs and another group leader, stayed in the Davenport region for one week in August.

"It was a little stressful being one of the leaders of a group of students and going to a place I'd never been to before. We had a few complications with directions, but everything turned out fine," she said.

By the time the group arrived in Iowa, the water had receded, so the group spent its time helping with clean-up.

"At the time we got there, the roads had been cleaned up and the



Gwen Downs. Photo by K. Horak.

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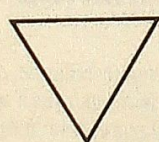
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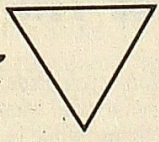
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Music Review

'Holy no talent hacks! It's Bratmobile!'

By Chris Sienko
Freelance writer

Here they come, screaming out of Olympia, Wash. in a flurry of noise and random obscenity. Yes, it's Bratmobile! This unambitious threesome has been heralded as the vanguards of the newest scene--"Independent music's last hope in America."

The scene has been dubbed the Riot Grrrl scene (the second word is pronounced like "girl" only with a growl like a tiger). Among the best known proponents of this scene are L7, Babes in Toyland, Scrawl, and Bikini Kill.

The scene is characterized by the fact that it consists almost exclusively of women (with an occasional "token male"), most of whom use lyrics to promote grassroots feminist activity, both in rock circles and elsewhere. The sound is generally of the punk persuasion, ranging from the Black Sabbath-y chug of L7 to the destructo-blues of Babes in Toyland to the fantastically high strung roar of Bikini Kill.

Bratmobile is none of these things.

The band consists of guitarist Erin Smith, vocalist Allison Wolfe and drummer Molly Neuman.

For those keeping score at home, if you noticed that the band has no bass player, give yourself ten points and a pat on the back. That will be the first thing you notice on the album as well. The guitar is played without distortion, with a decidedly surf guitar sound reminiscent of the Ventures. Without a bass supporting the bottom end, the recording sounds even more trebly than Tim Green's amateurish production makes it sound.

Folks, let's get one thing straight. There is a difference between energetic amateurism and a complete and utter lack of talent. If you have no talent, feel free to enter the world of recorded music if you wish, but no talent plus NO IDEAS make an album that crosses the gap from laughable to just plain annoying.

This band obviously idolizes several others, and does its best to blindly imitate these bands. Shards of the Rezillos and the Buzzcocks pop sensibilities come through loud and clear (notice the Cooler Than Thou reference to the 80's punk band the Wipers to find out just how hip Bratmobile is).

Bratmobile also shares a stylistic thread with Beat Happening, another Olympia band. Unlike Beat Happening, Bratmobile let little of its natural charm or good naturedness show through. And unlike the Buzzcocks or the Rezillos, Bratmobile hasn't enough determination or focus to write

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songs that are catchy enough to stick in your head through your morning classes.

Okay, so some of the songs do roll around in your head for a little while, but I played this disc three

times today, and already I can't think of how one song off the album goes. These "tunes" are the aural equivalent of cotton candy.

The lyrics are even worse, if you can imagine that. Some musicians, like Liz Phair, Tori Amos, and even Ian Mackaye from Fugazi, can manage to make up lyrics that contain obscenities and use them in a tasteful way so that they contribute to the mood of the song. Bratmobile, however, writes lyrics that sound like Jan and Dean with Tourette's Syndrome. Here's a quick sample: "I'm going to kill you/Get outta my f***in' life/ I waited my whole life/ You ruined my f***in' life/ Stop livin my f***in' life/ You dumb b**** I love/ Get outta my f***in' town." And so forth.

Now, take a look at those lines again. Not only are the lyrics completely devoid of any point, they are poorly written, redundant, and sound completely stupid in the song. They're laughable to a point, but after 17 songs one can't help but roll one's eyes and say, "Maybe you should consider being an instrumental band. It works for the Urban Farmers."

Let me say this one more time. I am all for amateurism and garage bands with a distinct lack of talent. But if you are starting a band and are considering this approach, I ask that you think of a few interesting things to say. Otherwise I am going to find you and lock you in a room with a record player and a copy of "Englebert Humperdink's Greatest Hits."

Don't buy this record. It's not Rock and Roll. It's just f***ing stupid!!!

Calendar of Events

Week of October 26

On Campus:

Thursday, October 28

Michigan Conference of Political Scientists (thru 10/29)

Friday, October 29

Youth Mix (thru 10/30)

Monday, November 1

Foreign Study Orientation Meeting, VanDusen Fireside, 7 p.m.

Thursday, November 4

Co-Cut Event:

Alpha Omega Players--*Star Spangled Girl*
VanDusen, 8 p.m.

Friday, November 5

Chamber of Commerce Good Morning America, Gratiot, Heritage Center, 7:15 a.m.

ACUB Songfest, Chapel, 9 p.m.

Saturday, November 6

Opening Reception Statewide Competition, Karen Fusen, Clack Art Center, 3-5 p.m.

ACUB Movie, Jones Auditorium, 7 & 9:30 p.m.

Faculty Recital: William Nichols, Heritage Center, 8 p.m.

Sunday, November 7

ACUB Movie, Jones Auditorium, 8:30 p.m.

Monday, November 8

Foreign Study Orientation Meeting, VanDusen Fireside, 7 p.m.

Midland:

Saturday, October 30

Great Lakes Regional Art Exhibition (thru Nov. 27), Midland Center for the Arts

Saturday, November 6

Midland Symphony Orchestra (with Ani Kavafian, violist, and Ida Kavafian, violinist) performing Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante, Midland Center for the Arts-Auditorium, 8:15 p.m.

Ann Arbor:

Saturday, October 30

Freddy Jones Band, The Blind Pig, Tickets \$5, 10 p.m.

Tuesday, November 2

Graham Parker, The Blind Pig, Tickets \$10.50, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, November 3

Invisible Recording Artists Sugarsmack, The Blind Pig, Tickets \$5, 10 p.m.

Sunday, November 7

Robben Ford, Roy Rogers & The Delta Rhythm Kings, The Blind Pig, Tickets \$10, 7 p.m.

Detroit:

Saturday, October 30

Skavoovie: The Ultimate Ska Train with Special Beat, Skatalites, Selector The Toasters, King Apparatus 6-hour Ska Marathon, The Majestic, Tickets \$15.50, 7 p.m.

Thursday, November 4

Hollywood Recording Artists Dead Milkmen, The Majestic, Tickets \$7.50, 8 p.m.

Alma College Pride Week

Schedule of Events

Monday, November 1

Coming Out on Campus, SAC 113, 7 p.m.

who advocate gay, lesbian and bisexual freedom will wear jeans to show their support

Tuesday, November 2

Queer Notions: A Discussion of Homophobia and Advocacy, SAC 113, 7 p.m.

G/L/B Film Night, MacCurdy House, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, November 3

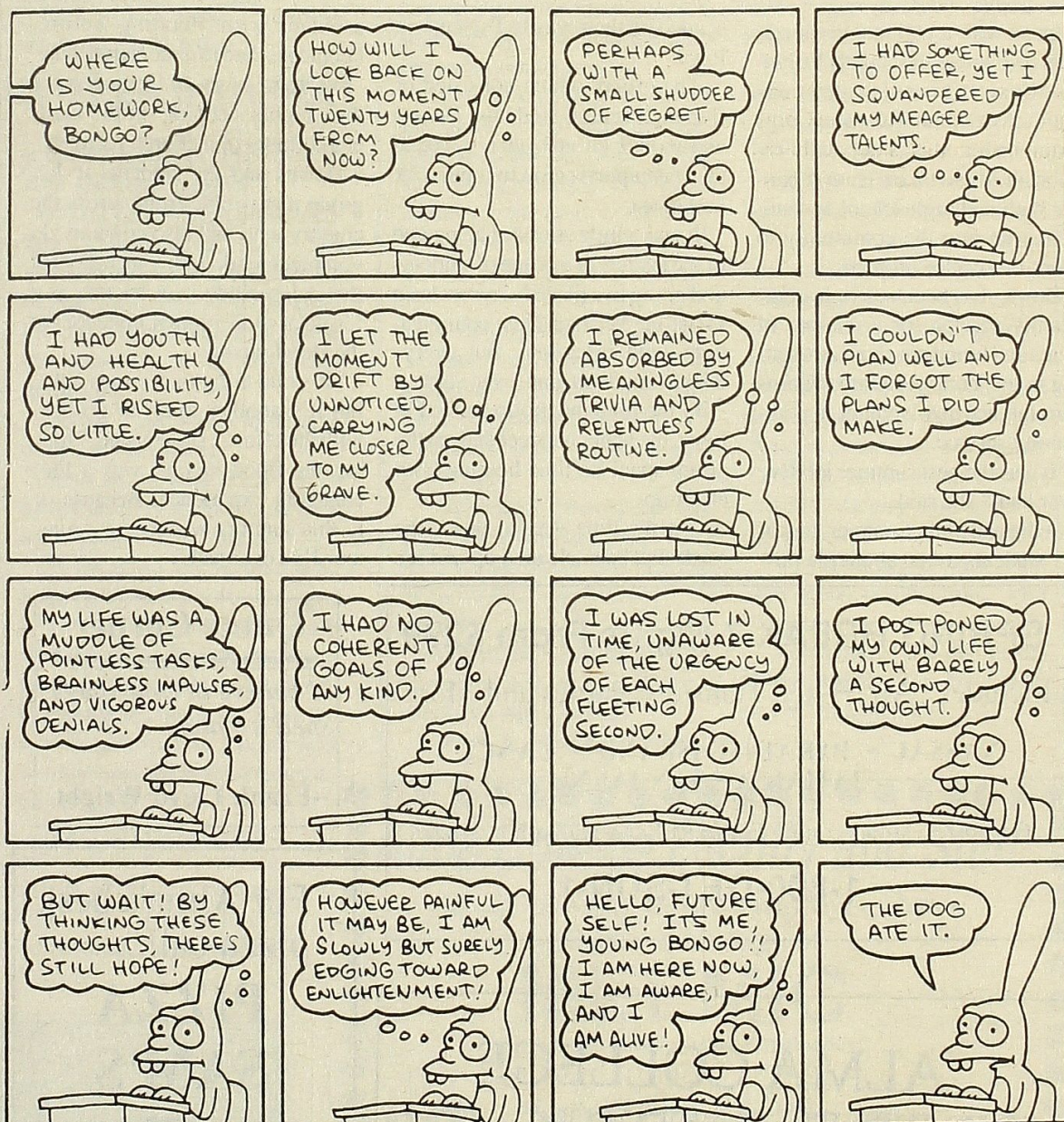
Bluejeans Day. Students and Faculty who are gay, lesbian or bisexual or

Thursday, November 4

Empowered: An Evening of Literature, VanDusen Fireside, 7 p.m.

LIFE IN HELL

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Oct. 26, 1993

— Women's soccer

Long week provides triumphs, defeats for Scots

By Ganesa Wegienka
Editor-in-Chief

The Alma women's soccer team started the week off slowly, but they refused to quit and finished with a bang.

On Tuesday, the Scots traveled to Kalamazoo to play the league-leading Hornets. The Scots came out sluggish and the Kalamazoo squad pounded Alma hard, racking up a 6-0 halftime lead.

The second half went slightly better for the Scots as sophomore Kristin Snell scored off of an assist from senior Heather Heffernan. Kalamazoo continued to pressure the Scots and scored five more times in the second half. The women held their heads high, realizing they had to have confidence in themselves, as they left Kalamazoo with an 11-1 loss.

The Scots had to collect themselves and prepare for a tough league battle against Albion on Friday.

The women came out with high intensity and they were ready to play the Britons. The first half saw most of the action in the midfield. Neither seemed able to break through the other side's defense. Alma played Albion to a 0-0 halftime score.

Alma created more scoring opportunities in the second half, but the team would fail to score in the game. Albion, however, would wait until there was 10 minutes left in the game to score. Albion received a questionable direct free kick about 30 yards outside the net and converted the kick to a score that eluded sophomore keeper Julie Braun. The Scots tried to even the score, but couldn't. Albion scored again with two minutes left in the game. The Scots took the 2-0 loss.

"It was a tough loss for us. We fought very hard and the game was extremely physical," said

Heffernan. "As a team, we had to put the game behind us and concentrate on Indiana Wesleyan."

The teams had never played before and the Scots knew nothing about their competition. The only thing the women knew was that they wanted to win.

The Scots came out with a vengeance. The Alma offense worked the Indiana Wesleyan defense over. It was 15 minutes into the game before first-year student Mindy Mack put in the first goal for the team and her first goal of the year. Minutes later Heffernan scored again for Alma. Indiana Wesleyan refused to give into the Scots and with 15 minutes left they scored on a freak goal. Junior co-captain Dana Grant came back minutes later and closed out the first half scoring when she scored on a direct penalty kick for the Alma women. The Scots took a 3-1 lead into the halftime break.

Due to the strong Alma defense, led by Grant and senior co-captain Kelly McCoy, and keepers Braun, senior Susie Kieffer and first-year student Tonya Bussema, Indiana Wesleyan would not score again.

The Alma offense went crazy in the second half, keeping the ball in their opponents end for almost every minute of the half. The Alma team added two more goals. Senior Michelle Tucker and Mack added a goal apiece.

Junior Holly Little said, "It was a tremendous win for our team. We were having fun and we were working together. It was a great way to end our last home game of the season."

Alma closes out their season on Wednesday, when they travel to Grand Rapids to play the Calvin College Knights in a MIAA matchup. The women's record now stands at 1-7-2 in the MIAA and 4-10-2 overall.



Sophomore Keisha Nelson kicks the ball downfield against Albion. Photo by L. Christensen.



Senior Heather Heffernan shields the ball from an Albion defender. Photo by L. Christensen.

Volleyball places third at tournament, falls to Calvin

By Alexandra Orr
Freelance Writer

This week was a series of victories and defeats for Alma College's volleyball team.

Monday, Oct. 18, the Scots had a home game against the Aquinas College Saints. The first game the Saints won 11-15. The Scots used strong defensive moves and good communication to win the second game 15-5. In an intense third game, the Saints and Scots fought for the win. Possession of the serve switched back and forth between the teams, but Aquinas took the game, 15-10.

To win the match, Alma knew it had to win the last two games. The Saints took a strong lead in the fourth game, but the Scots stole the win by 15-6.

The final game decided who won the match. Despite their fatigue, the Scots blocked Aquinas' moves and took the lead. The crowd cheered Alma on to a 15-7 victory.

Wednesday, the volleyball team played against the Calvin College Knights in Cappaert Gymnasium. This match was important for Alma's standing in Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) competition. The stands were filled with parents and members of the campus community ready to cheer the Scots on to a win.

Having lost to Calvin previously this season made this game even more important to the Scots. Fifteen minutes into the first game the Scots were leading Calvin by 4 points. Five minutes later Calvin had regained its disadvantage and was tied with Alma 11 points a piece. By 6:55 the Knights won the

game 15-13.

The Scots were ready to win the second game, but Calvin repeatedly spiked the ball into the open spaces left on the Scots' court. Calvin won the second game 15-9.

By the third game the points became more valuable. Alma had to win the game to stay in the match. The Scots were down by 8 points when the Knights needed their final point to win. Senior April Robinson served for Alma and gained 4 points. Possession of the serve flipped back and forth between Alma and Calvin. Alma gained 3 more points before Calvin claimed the match 15-14.

Saturday, the Scots travelled to Madonna University to play in a volleyball invitational along with University of Michigan Dearborn and University of Windsor. The Scots played three matches and won

against U of M Dearborn, placing third overall.

Junior Melissa Cubit commented on the game, "We started out slow against Madonna. Then we had a team meeting and decided we had nothing to lose and everything to gain. So we went out and had fun."

Sophomore Stephanie Degg agreed: "We had a lot of trouble the first game, but we came together after that."

The women's volleyball team is coached by John Chiodini and assisted by Christine Dresch and Laura Atchinson, former Alma College students and team members.

Junior Tina Klaczekiewicz commented about Chiodini. "He yells a lot, but he means well. He knows we can win and he wants us to do it."

Cubit said, "The assistant coaches

are very helpful. Since they have played they know most of the positions. They can see the holes and the problems we are having from the side lines. They tell us how to correct the mistakes we are making."

Junior Lara Nickson agreed: "They have played for Coach Chiodini so they help build better links of communication. They were our friends first before our coaches, and that helps."

As of Wednesday night the Scots had an overall record of 20-4 and a MIAA record of 8-3. They will play in the Midwest Tournament at Calvin College Friday and Saturday against all the teams in the region. November 1 they will finish out their season by playing against Kalamazoo in Cappaert Gymnasium at 6:30 p.m.

Men's soccer falls short to Kalamazoo, 3-2

By Tim Ketel
Freelance Writer

Tuesday, Oct. 19, was a day of high hopes and unfortunate reality for the men's soccer team. The Scots lost a well-played game against Kalamazoo with the Hornets scoring in the last few minutes of the game to walk away with a 3-2 victory.

This was the second loss in a row for the Scots, coming off an overtime defeat of 2-1 to Hope on Homecoming.

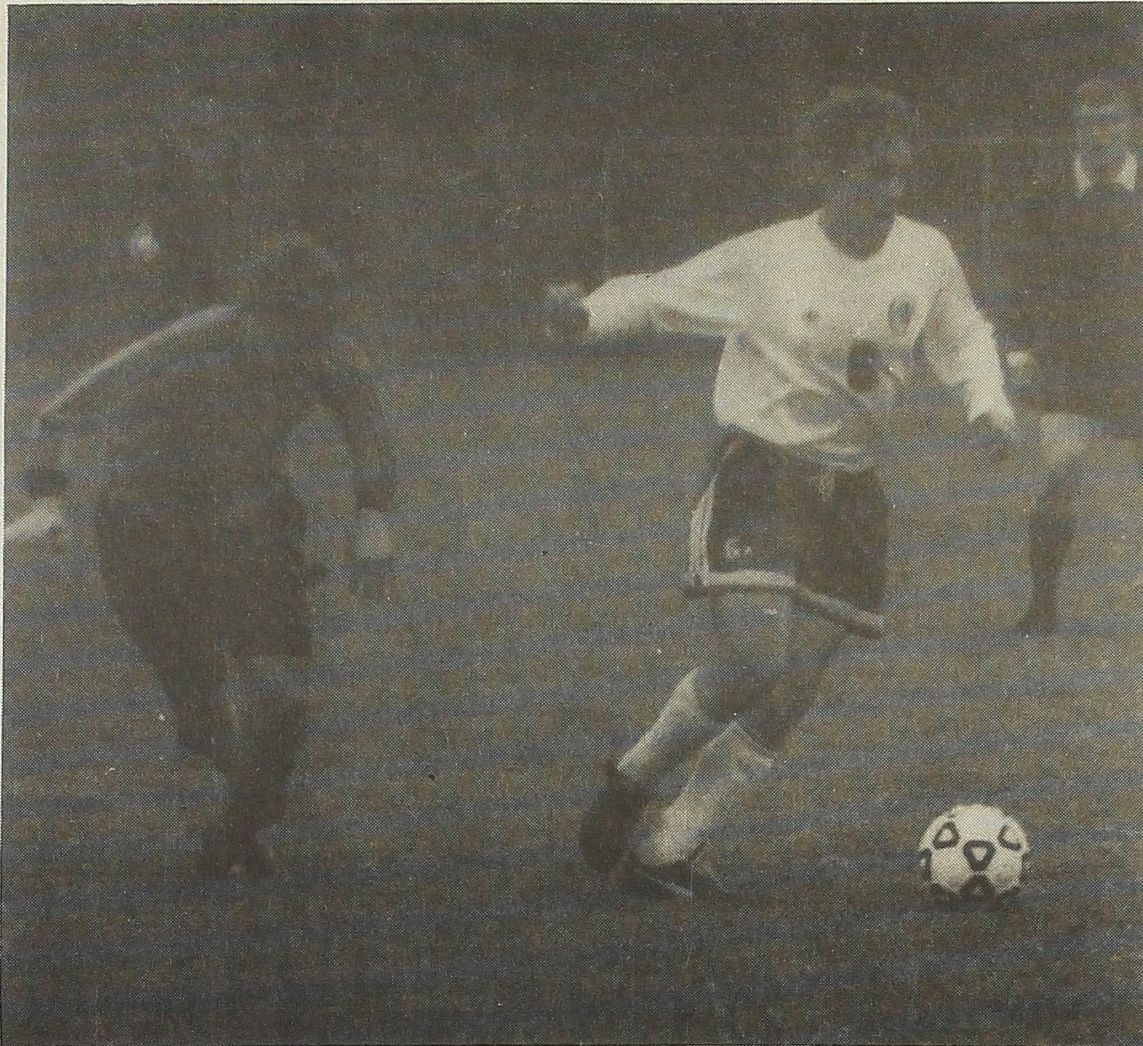
"They were both close games -- down to the line. It's tough to lose two in a row like that," commented Alma goalie Tim Helder.

Even through both losses Alma proved itself to be a very strong team. The Alma players can feel their improvement.

Looking at these two games in perspective, senior forward Felix Papillon felt that "the team should look back at these games, and realize that these teams are not much better than us."

"The team shouldn't be disappointed," said senior Tony Catania. "They put together two of Alma's best performances ever, but the scores just weren't reflective of how they played."

The Kalamazoo game got off to a great start, with first-year midfielder Tore Price snapping a header by first-year forward Jim Allen past the Hornet's goalie, gaining a 1-0 lead for Alma in the first



Sophomore Kevin Sanchez evades a K-zoo contender. Photo by L. Christensen.

fifteen minutes. Kalamazoo tied it up going into halftime, and the second half started with 1-1 on the scoreboard. With twenty minutes left in the game, Papillon scored, bringing the lead to Alma and mak-

ing the crowd go wild.

Kalamazoo scored again with fifteen minutes to go, evening the score once again. With 2-2 on the scoreboard, and four minutes left on the clock, Kalamazoo decided

the game with a final goal, edging out the Scots in a 3-2 victory.

The Scots were lacking defensively, feeling the absence of senior co-captain and starting sweeper Dustin Snell. Snell twisted his knee

at practice and had to put in his share from the sideline.

"With Dusty out of play, it takes a lot away from our defense," said Allen.

First-year coach Scott Frey was pleased with his team's performance. "We've played very well the past two games, well enough to win," he said. "The players' effort has been great, but we've just come up short each time."

The players are just as happy with their new coach.

"It was his first year, and the team wasn't expected to come together as well as it did, but we've come along really well," said junior co-captain Joe Oesterling.

Many of the players expressed gratitude to Frey. "We owe a lot to our new coach. He works really hard for us," said Papillon.

There seems to be a feeling within the team that luck evades them. "We're a good team; we've come a long way. We're just as good as any of the other teams but we just haven't figured out how to get lucky like they have," explained junior midfielder Dave Miller.

Allen added, "I'd rather be lucky than good, but we aren't getting lucky."

The Scots finish out their season with two home games. They battle Calvin on Oct. 27 and Grand Rapids Baptist on Oct. 30. Their fight against the Knights begins at 1 p.m. It should be a tough game to end their 1994 MIAA season.

Political science prof sought Olympic Gold

By Desiree Raleigh
Freelance Writer

Intense.
Demanding.

Classes with Derick Hulme exemplify the true meaning of these words. The motivation and intensity of this assistant professor of political science has a way of becoming contagious in the classroom.

But his intensity is not confined to classrooms on the Alma College campus. There is a reason that many who know him call him the man behind the motivation.

At age ten, Hulme asked his father what he had to do to be the best runner in the world. Being the best runner in the world would mean winning an Olympic gold medal. His father responded, "Run every day." And he did.

Hulme began his running career at age eleven. His love of competition led him to begin racing in high school junior varsity cross country meets while only in the fifth grade. He continued to run every day, and when he reached high school, he joined the cross country team. As a junior in high school he ran his first

of many marathons.

Following high school, Hulme went to St. Lawrence University in upstate New York where he continued to run cross country, making it to the nationals his sophomore, junior and senior years.

As a change, he joined the track team at St. Lawrence as a junior and as a result made All-America his senior year.

Before graduating, Hulme, his best friend from high school, and some team members from St. Lawrence University ran across the country from Los Angeles, California to Annapolis, Maryland. Each participant in this adventure ran approximately twenty four miles each day on only three hours of sleep each night for 12 consecutive days.

Upon graduating from St. Lawrence with a 4.0 grade point average, Hulme headed to the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in Boston for graduate school. While in Boston he became a member of a running team sponsored by Budweiser. This team ran in Scotland, Japan, Los Angeles and various other places.

All along, Hulme pursued his goal

of winning an Olympic gold medal. For several years, he ran 120 miles each week, running twice a day every day. He ran one of his best times at the Cherry Blossom race in Washington, running ten miles in a time of 49:13. Two weeks later at the 1984 Boston Marathon he ran a time of 2:21. He missed qualifying for the Olympic trials by only one minute and nine seconds. He made another attempt to qualify at the Rocket City Marathon but had to drop out twenty miles into the race after running that whole time on what he later discovered was a broken foot.

Recalling these weeks Hulme said, "It was the biggest crushing defeat of my life. I still can't live with it."

One thing he does not regret is the hard work and years of training.

"I feel like I went as far as I could in terms of my physical capacity," he said. "The sport makes you so tough mentally and nothing else ever seems to be tough relatively speaking. You just learn to never look for excuses. Excuses don't matter."

Although Hulme's racing days are behind him, he continues to run every day. In March 1994 he will have run for 21 years straight without missing a day. That will bring him to about 65,000 miles since age eleven.

Hulme brings that same commitment and determination to class.

"Dr. Hulme is an incredibly am-

bitious and focused individual," said sophomore Supriya Saxena. "He has the ability to inspire students to push themselves to discover their true potential. It would be difficult to accurately measure the vast degree of positive influence which he has brought to the political science department and Alma College."

Senior Christopher Hufnagel added, "I have never met a person who can be so focused on any issue. When he has his mind set on something there are no distractions. Sometimes it's hard to deal with him when he's focused but he always listens to other people's opinions. He knows what he wants and he usually gets it."

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Oct. 26, 1993

Football

Scots come up short against Kalamazoo, 21-14

By William J. Johnston
Senior Editor

It's often remarked that football is a game of inches. Nowhere was this more evident than in the Alma College football team's Saturday loss to the league-leading Kalamazoo.

The Scots (1-6, 1-2 MIAA), with two first-and-goal situations during the first half, came up empty both times in the 21-14 defeat.

"When we got down [inside the 20-yard line], they got more physical," said head coach Jim Cole. "We didn't do a good job of getting free and getting the score."

"We've spent considerable time on [scoring inside the 20-yard line] the last couple weeks," Cole continued. "We did a few things different, but still came up on the short end. It comes with the offense; it's tougher to throw the ball down inside the 20."

Cole's wide-open aerial offense otherwise proved successful Saturday. Sophomore Jason Falk, making his first start since the season opener, completed 35 of 69 passes for 336 yards and two touchdowns. His performance set a school record for passes attempted during a game, and tied the school single-game record for completions (set earlier this year by injured teammate Matt Snyder).

The Scots never led against the Hornets (6-1, 3-0). Kalamazoo went up 7-0 in the first period, but couldn't manage any more scoring during the first half.

Falk drove the Scots 80 yards in 10 plays during the third quarter, hitting Ryan Baker from five yards out for Alma's first touchdown.

Kalamazoo managed a touchdown in both the third and fourth quarters to go up 21-7.

The Scots' other score came with 6:25 left in the game, as Falk connected with Jeff Little for a four-yard touchdown pass. Falk completed six of 10 passes during the 57-yard drive.

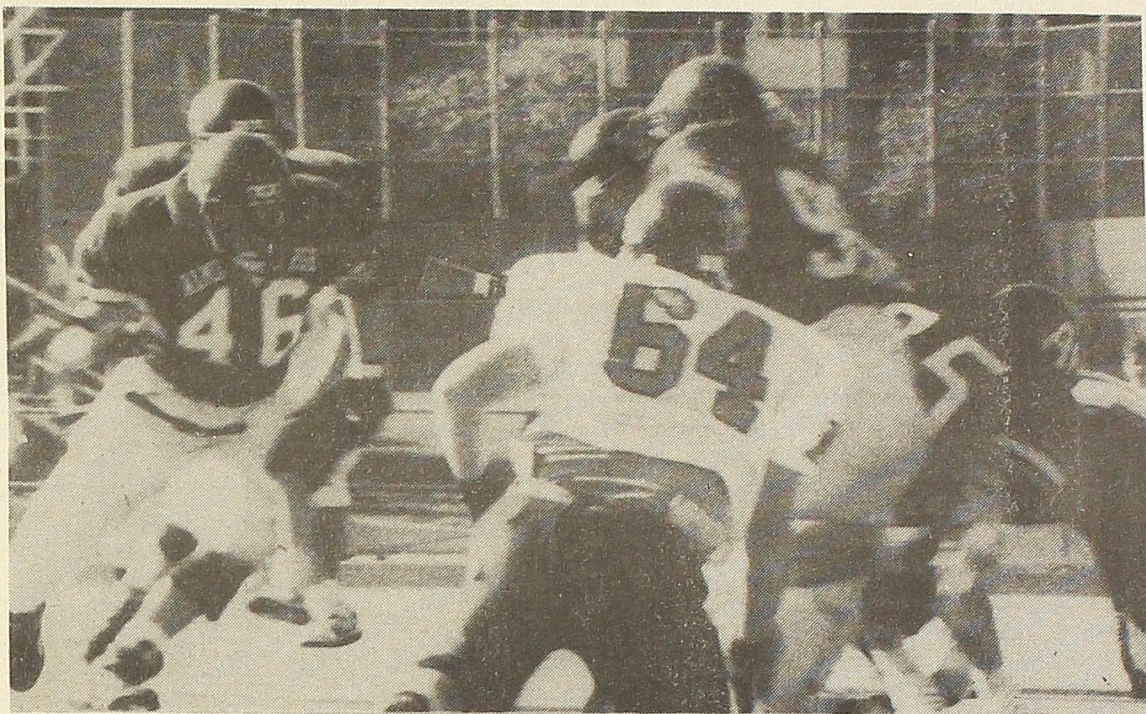
Alma's final chance to tie the game came up short, as the Scots were unable to convert on fourth-and-seven from the Kalamazoo 30.

"We're doing good things," said Cole. "That's part of the frustration when we don't get into the endzone. That's the goal; you can't win without that."

Alma wideout Rob Moran led the Scots with 12 catches for 105 yards, while Baker finished with 10 catches for 89 yards and Lillie caught seven for 69 yards.

Cole remains optimistic about the future, both this season and seasons to come.

"We'll have all our quarterbacks back next year, and most of our wide receivers," he said.



Alma players look to stop the Hornet offense. Photo by A. Torrence.

"We're excited about this offense," he continued. "We just need to light up the scoreboard more."

The Scots must first face Albion on the road, however. Albion shares the conference lead with Kalamazoo.

"They're nationally ranked and they deserve everything good that's been said about them," Cole remarked of the Britons. "They've handled their opponents well. They're a veteran team; quarter-

back Mike Montico and wide receiver Tommy Reason have started 36 straight games together. They're a fine, deep program."

Alma hasn't fared well against Albion the past few years, but Cole hopes to change that.

"We need to maintain ball control," he said. "If we can keep it away from their offense by making turnovers, and stop ourselves from turning the ball over, we can come out with a win."

The Scots finish their season up in two weeks at home against Adrian, but you won't catch any of the Alma players thinking ahead to that game.

"We won't consider [Adrian] until after this Saturday's game," said Cole. "We're preparing for them in a sense, because they run the same offense and defense as Albion. But we're not thinking about them; we're focused on Albion."

IM sports give students chance for fun

By Alexandra Orr
Freelance Writer

Alma College's Intramural (IM) football players look forward to playing on Sundays. Unlike other colleges' IM football programs, Alma's participants play their Sunday games in Bahlke Stadium—the varsity football field.

IM football games are played on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. Games will continue throughout the month of October. Each of the 19 participating teams play at least twice a week.

Many of the same rules apply for IM football games that apply to regulation football with the exception that there are no fumbles and tackles are eliminated. Players wear flags, which signify the player has been tackled when pulled.

This season, 14 men's IM football teams and five women's teams are participating. With twelve members on each team, 228 students are playing IM football this year. The women's teams are in a single league. The men's teams are divided into seven A league teams and seven B league teams.

"A league" teams are better," said junior Brian Hood. "They take the game more seriously. Teams sign up for their own league, but we can move a team up if they play a little better. This year it worked out

well. The leagues seem to be about equal."

IM playoffs took place on Sunday, Oct. 24. In the women's league Hoffman won. In the B league Mickey & the Green Hornets took first place. The A league playoffs will take place Tuesday.

Sophomore Jenni Ludlum, a member of Hoffman, said, "I played last year. It's a way to get out on fall days and have fun."

Women's basketball and golf coach Charles Goffnett is in charge of Alma's IM sports program. Brent Neubecker and Hood are the two student IM directors. They are responsible for the organizational work on the fields, coordinating the game schedules, and ensuring that officials are present at each game.

Throughout the year Alma students have the option to participate in not only the IM football program, but also in other IM sports which include volleyball, basketball, softball and an occasional wallball game.

Wallball, for those unfamiliar with the game, is played on a racquetball court with a net and volleyball with six members on each team.

Volleyball will begin after football and play until Christmas break. For interested players there will be a meeting Wednesday, November 3 in the P. E. Center in room 130.

There is a \$15 registration fee per team. Each team must have a minimum of 6 players. Registration and roster sheets will be available at the meeting, but those interested in getting members to sign up early

can pick up applications at Goffnett's office in the P. E. Center room 110. Any questions can be directed to Goffnett at 7781.

IM Basketball will begin Winter Term for those interested.

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Lifting the Kilt by Sara Groves

Cheerleading camp sparks hatred for humanity

"C-H-E-E-R-L-E-A-D-E-R-S! CHEERLEADERS! YES! WE ARE THE BEST! C-H-E-E-R-L-E-A-D-E-R-S! CHEERLEADERS! YES! WE ARE THE BEST!" Imagine my horror when I was at a party this summer and suddenly I began chanting cheerleader cheers.

"What did you just say?" my friends asked in amazement.

"Uh...I was just singing. I wasn't really saying anything," I said.

"No. You were cheering. You were chanting cheerleader cheers."

"Oh. Was I? I don't know where that came from," I said as I tried to shrug it off.

"No, *where* did that come from? You were chanting cheerleader cheers. What's wrong with you?"

I was cornered. Trapped like a wild raccoon in a cage. I felt like Bugs Bunny coming out of a hole suddenly face to face with Elmer Fudd's double-barreled shotgun. My secret had to come out.

"Well, it's kind of my job," I said.

"Your job? What do you mean? Do you sit around and think up cheerleader cheers all day?"

"No," I began to explain. "I am working at different camps as a person who is in charge of making sure nothing goes

wrong."

"And what does that have to do with chanting cheerleader cheers?"

"Well, I am working at a cheerleading camp for the next two months," I told them.

"AAAAHHH!!!" my friends all screamed and laughed and pointed at me.

But they didn't know the half of my horror. Because not only did I have to work with cheerleaders, I had to *live* with cheerleaders.

That's right, 24 hours a day with high school girls who were overly concerned with their appearances and who were incapable of talking like normal human beings. Although I am sure that these buxom high school babes could carry on regular conversations just like regular people when they were in a setting other than cheerleading camp, I was never able to witness this. As I would curl up in horror with my fan turned on high and my music on loud in a futile attempt to drown out the noise, I could hear faint strains of their conversation.

"Oh-and-then-I-did-this-super-jump-and-all-the-guys-went-wild! W-I-L-D!"

"No!" I would whine. "This isn't happening to me."

But it was. I was surrounded 24 hours a day with the constant reminder of how annoying and awful people are.

As if I am not already enough of a calloused and bitter individual, I always seem to end up with jobs in

"service" areas.

"Service this," I want to say to people. Because I hate people.

And the worst part of all of this is that I have to pretend that I like them...that I am concerned with their well-being.

This summer it was my job to ensure other people's happiness

As if I am not already enough of a calloused and bitter individual, I always seem to end up with jobs in "service" areas.

while they were at camp.

Every single day, I would hear nothing but complaints about how hot it was, how much it rained, how the cheerleaders were too loud, how the food was awful, how nothing was going right. And it was my responsibility to reassure everyone.

"How's everything going?" were my three favorite words this summer. And then I would be slapped across the face with a barrage of complaints.

"Hhhmmmm. Gee, I'm sorry. I'll get right on top of that," I would say, feigning interest in what was wrong.

But what I really wanted to say was, "I don't care! I don't care! I

don't care!"

Because what people seemed to forget is that while they had to suffer for the few short days they were at camp, I had to suffer the entire summer.

The same has been true of any summer job I've had.

While working at a deli in New Jersey one summer, I had to deal with one particularly annoying old woman who came in on a daily basis.

"I want that corn beef sliced paper thin, girlie. Do you hear me? Paper thin!"

As soon as I would get a few pieces sliced off, Annoying Woman would start screaming, "That's not thin enough! I want to be able to see through it!"

And more often than not, paper thin shreds of my fingernails would slip into her transparent corn beef.

Because revenge is sweet.

As much as I like to think that I am a stable individual with a big enough heart to forgive and forget, I am going to openly admit in print that I am not.

People can say that I am going to be a better person for all of the torture I've endured as much and as often as they want. They can say that I am building character...that I will understand and identify more with my fellow human beings. But I know the truth.

I am filled with hate and someday vengeance will be mine.

I often sit and think how much

easier my life would be if I was able to wear an Uzi submachine gun where ever I went.

"What's that?" I would ask, while stroking my machine gun oh-so-thoughtfully. "You don't like the way your organization was portrayed in *The Almanian*? Well, isn't that just *too bad*?"

I would then throw my head back and laugh maniacally as I sprayed bullets into the air.

Nobody would mess with me. It'd be better than being Arnold Schwarzenegger. A dream come true.

So as I look for a job out in the real world (no more of this summer employment stuff for me), I know that I want something where I have to have minimal contact with other humans. I don't want a cubicle in some corner. Oh no. That's far too sociable for me. I want an office surrounded by a 10-foot trench and lots of barbed wire. And I only want to be able to call *out* on the telephone. I don't want anybody bothering me.

So if you see a slightly disheveled looking young woman totting a machine gun and chanting, "C-H-E-E-R-L-E-A-D-E-R-S! CHEERLEADERS! YES! WE ARE THE BEST!" just step out of the way. Because I am on the warpath and revenge will be mine.

Alma Pride Week to focus on dispelling heterosexism

By Shannon M. Garrett
Opinion Editor

I am often "accused" of being a lesbian. I use the term "accused" because there are people who believe lesbians (and homosexuals in general) are guilty of a major crime. These people who deem homosexuality as immoral throw out terms like "dyke" and "butch" toward people who have close relationships with members of the same sex. These words are intended to carry the derogatory and demeaning weight of the "crime" of loving their friends.

I am proud to say that I am not a homosexual. But there are people on this campus who are very proud to admit that they are. They are the members of Alma Pride, Alma College's Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Support Group. The group encourages pride in personal sexuality, no matter what your orientation.

Alma Pride is a group founded for homosexual and bisexual students of this campus who seek the comfort and support of their peers when coming to terms with their sexual orientation. During Nov. 1-4, the group will be sponsoring Alma Pride Week, a celebration of

sexual freedom. Whether you are homosexual, bisexual or heterosexual, this week is important to your freedom.

Freedom is based on awareness and interest in human concerns. When we are ignorant of or misinformed about certain groups of human concerns, the freedoms of that group are limited. It is up to every member of the human species to understand as much as possible about our fellow creatures. That is why Alma Pride

is sponsoring Alma Pride Week—to advocate education about homosexual and bisexual concerns.

It is pretty safe to say that the majority of this campus is heterosexual; thus most everyone is aware of the concerns of heterosexual humans. Heterosexual concerns spark the forums and workshops on contraception, rape, sexual harassment, AIDS and other sexually transmittable diseases. True, these workshops also concern homosexuals, but their concerns go beyond those of heterosexuals. Gay-bashing, discrimination and general social acceptance are all aspects of homosexuality that gays, lesbians

and bisexuals must live with every day.

Does the average heterosexual understand the reasons behind homosexuality? Can a self-proclaimed, "upright moral" hetero-

It is up to every member of the human species to understand as much as possible about our fellow creatures. That is why Alma Pride is sponsoring Alma Pride Week—to advocate education about homosexual and bisexual concerns.

sexual comprehend the idea of pure love between two members of the same sex? Is homosexuality genetic or environmental? I don't know the answers to these questions. Not every homosexual does either.

Alma Pride Week is an attempt to find these answers. And if the answers are still not established, at least awareness will be raised. True understanding and acceptance can only come through honest questioning and the open sharing of experience and education.

We each have the right to take pride in our own concerns, whether they are racial, ethnic or sexual. No

one truly understands why homosexuals are gay, but they are. No matter how much religion and morality may condemn them, they are harming no one. They are simply partaking in the sexual orientation of their choice.

Acceptance of homosexual and bisexual lifestyles is not going to drastically change the human race. Bisexual teachers are not going to "corrupt" our children. Gay doctors are not going to spread AIDS to their patients. Lesbian politicians

are not going to create a "women only" nation. Not every human will turn out homosexual. And the human race will **not** die out if we accept homosexual and bisexual behavior. These are myths created by scared and misinformed individuals who do not understand a sexuality other than their own.

Understanding and education cannot be stressed enough. Look at how long it took America to come to understand racial and ethnic differentiation—and ignorance still exists over certain racial and ethnic concerns.

Complete understanding of a lifestyle other than our own, per-

sonal lifestyle is impossible. But the awareness of differences and the attempt to understand as much as can be explained and defined are the keys to maintaining the freedoms of every human concern.

That is why I urge everyone to take part in Alma Pride week. Attend the forums, listen to the speakers, voice your concerns, ask questions. No question is silly or embarrassing. This is an important issue, socially, politically and personally, and it is critical that everyone be as honest as possible. No one will assume that you are a homosexual for interest in homosexual definitions. No one will call you a "fag" for feeling compassion for those who experience different sexual expressions other than heterosexuality.

We are an intelligent and mature campus. We take pride in our education and culture. Let's prove it through open advocacy of all sexualities. Take pride in your own sexuality and allow others to take pride in theirs. As a whole we can generate a greater understanding of differing concerns and protect every basic human freedom.

Oct. 26, 1993

Chalking: free expression or unacceptable graffiti

By Thomas Schweinhart
Freelance Writer

During the first week of school this year, McIntyre Mall—the sidewalk in the middle of Alma College—was covered with chalk. Colorful words and pictures decorated the ground, some benches and a few small areas on walls. Several students took part in the creative decorating and many enjoyed viewing the art.

Unfortunately, the Alma College administration didn't share in this enjoyment. The Dean of Students issued a memo requesting no further chalking in or around McIntyre Mall. Chalking would be restricted to one wall approximately 8 x 5 feet: enough room for about one person to write.

This memo enraged many students and offended some faculty members. We should be able to express ourselves, right? The initial chalking consisted of drawings and a few short poems; certainly nothing offensive. It seemed the school was attempting to limit our expression for no good reason.

Of course, the school did have its reasons; whether they were valid reasons or not is debatable. People complained that they couldn't sit on chalk covered benches. While this is a legitimate complaint, it certainly doesn't give reason to forbid chalking in the entire Mall.

Also, the question of art vs. graffiti arose. The Dean of Students illustrated his side of this debate when he said, "Where does it stop? It's all in the eye of the beholder.

One person's art is another person's graffiti." This may be true, but graffiti is generally created with malicious intent. Chalk art washes with the rain; graffiti does not.

If we restrict what may be considered graffiti, where will this restriction stop? Banners advertising upcoming events could also be considered graffiti. Anything one person wants others to see may be considered graffiti. We don't need more restrictions.

Alma College students responded to their lack of freedom in a very responsible way. Confining their canvas to the small legal wall, they issued a challenge to Alma College and a message to parents for Parent Day:

"We the students have been restricted against popular will to this area to express ourselves through chalk art. The Alma College administration shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech..."

Someone then, very irresponsibly, washed the wall clean with a hose. The only people with access to a hose close to the wall are Alma College maintenance and the administration. Apparently they did not believe we had a right to petition—at least they didn't want parents to know that we were.

Students of course replied once again, and this time a large number of students who weren't originally

involved signed the wall in chalk. Signatures extended beyond the legal wall and remained for several weeks.

Perhaps the college intervention and the students' quick response are not simply fleeting news items.

We're fighting for the right to do something without having much of a desire to do it. We ask for alternative forms of expression, but when we get them, only a very small number of students use them.

This whole incident may be a symptom of a deeper problem at Alma College. The administration tells us we shouldn't express ourselves because what we call art, some call graffiti. If we constantly worry about whether or not our creations are graffiti, we'll never say or do anything. Perhaps it doesn't want us to express ourselves, and perhaps creativity is too dangerous. After all, creativity leads to questioning the way things are, and this questioning can cause instability. Alma College also has a good reputation; perhaps the administration doesn't want students graduating and becoming "unproductive" political activists.

The ways to express ourselves at Alma College aren't exactly abundant. Our radio station offers brave students a place to try out their public voices. Creative radio per-

sonalities are acceptable, but the radio station has too many responsibilities to the listening public to encourage free talking.

The college newspaper provides excellent experience for journalism students but rarely prints creative writing or visual art. *The Pine River Anthology* prints a wider range of poetry, prose and art for the few writers and artists who submit. *The Vespine* states that it offers a canvas for non-mainstream art. These outlets are excellent for what they are, but they are not the same as chalk art. Chalk art reaches the public immediately and disappears quickly. Chalking offers a medium for art—and also an instant bulletin board for the entire campus to see.

Unfortunately, the political noise generated by chalking has very little to do with the original intent of the activity. People who never chalked before and will probably never chalk again feel it is their duty to stand up to the administration. This may seem noble, but we have to approach this problem correctly. If we go through the proper channels, we may eventually be granted the right to chalk. If we approach the problem improperly, chances lower.

The original intent of the chalk art had nothing to do with rebellion politics or strengthening the division between students and the administration. The intent was not to offer a political chalk forum for all

to see but to demonstrate an active alternative to passive entertainment. Chalking costs about the same as going to see a movie and can be at least as fun. The dialogue between students and the administration may be necessary, but the issue shouldn't be confused.

The problem is this: if we were granted the right to chalk McIntyre Mall, chances are only a few of us would. It wouldn't be difficult for students to ignore the administration's warning and chalk right now, but no one has. We're fighting for the right to do something without having much of a desire to do it. We ask for alternative forms of expression, but when we get them, only a very small number of students use them. This may be because students aren't used to having creative outlets, but we need to ask ourselves whether or not we're fighting for the right reasons.

It's encouraging to see people stand up for what they believe in, but it's discouraging to see people jump on the rebel bandwagon. The administration is not our enemy, and this issue shouldn't be an outlet for political anger. We must respond only if we feel this is a symptom of a real problem on our campus. If the students truly feel repressed, then political discourse must occur. If students just want to unleash aggressions and the College happens to be a convenient outlet, perhaps these students need to take a look at what they're fighting for.

One person's panic is another person's humor

By Matt Groves
Freelance Writer

Don't think that you can only get laughs from the likes of well-known comics like George Carlin or Robin Williams. If you ever want to get a good laugh, don't waste your money on some comedian.

I tell you right now, you can get just as many laughs from coming up to room 152 in North Bruske. That's right, my room is a den of laughs. Tom foolery and hijinks galore run rampant throughout the entire quad. If we charged admission, we could turn first floor Bruske into The Improv.

About 1 a.m. at night, when most students are getting ready for bed, or are there already, is when the show begins. "Ladies and gentlemen, step right up and see the three ring circus in 152." Let me tell you first of all, how comedy hour started at our place.

It began during Preterm on a night that will live in my memory forever. My roommate and I were sitting around about 1 a.m. in our room discussing how

much we hated Preterm. I had been used to going to bed relatively early that summer and I decided to turn in, even though I wasn't that tired. So out went the lights and the show started.

As you may or may not know, psychotic behavior is quite frequently experienced in our room and I decided to get up and blow off some steam. I started to do a dance in my underwear and sing old Quiet Riot tunes. This got my roommate into the action as he got up and screamed AC/DC at the top of his lungs. I then started to do impressions of people like Ringo Starr, Marlon Brando and Jim Backus.

Typically, things like this go on until we are tired enough to go to bed. Take into mind, this goes on every single night. We run around outside half naked, barking at the moon and shaking our fists at the sky. But this is not the funny part. Oh no, being totally insane is not the part that is so funny. It is what happens after the comedy hour that is hilarious.

Joe, my roommate, was a swimmer in high school and he separated his chest one day while practicing. Now, if he gets really

stressed out or nervous, or if he laughs too hard, he gets these things which he calls "panic attacks."

If you have never seen a panic attack, let me explain what happens. The person having the attack

We run around outside half naked, barking at the moon and shaking our fists at the sky.

will first let out a shriek of pain. Then their skin color starts to change and usually turns from a pale pasty white to a dark black. The person will start to pant and wheeze, coughing so hard that you swear a lung will come up. This goes on for a while until the final stage of the panic attack sets in. The last thing the attacked person will do is sit back, grab their chest and whimper for a few minutes.

Remember that when Joe starts to laugh really hard, he has a panic

attack. I can see where *having* a panic attack would be no fun. But *watching* someone have a panic attack is a different story. I know it is no fun for Joe, but I like to see a good panic attack at least once a week. Now I had been trying to make Joe have one of these attacks all year but to no avail. But just last week one of our comedy hours was so good that he went ahead and had one.

I forget exactly what it was that we were doing that set him off. I know I was jumping up and down on my bed and singing something and trying to do flips and what-not. Joe was laughing at a pretty decent pace but I then flipped off my bed and landed on a plate of uneaten ravioli. I got up and I was covered with Chef Boyardee.

He started to laugh harder. So he thought it was funny that I was covered with pasta?

"Okay, Mr. Joe," I thought to myself. "You're going to have a panic attack."

I got up and went over to Joe and began stuffing the ravioli into my mouth and chanting like a native. By now Joe was laughing harder than I had ever seen him laugh

before. All of a sudden, Joe grabbed his chest and screamed out in pain, "Oh my God!"

I had him right where I wanted him.

I kept up with my routine until I saw his skin starting to turn black. Then I knew that there was no going back for Joe. I just sat back and rolled with laughter as Joe began to drool and wheeze like some kind of invalid. As soon as Joe was able to get a hold of himself, he yelled at me for making him lose control. I did feel bad and when I stopped laughing long enough, I apologized for what I had done.

So that is the story. You are either thinking that I am some cruel man who gets off on seeing his friend in pain or thinking about coming up to the dorm to witness this truly awesome spectacle in person. If you know who Joe is and you see him walking around campus, ask him to demonstrate a panic attack. I'm sure he'll be happy to oblige. And if he doesn't, just make him laugh.

Oct. 26, 1993

Staff Editorial

Students, not Center, should face the job burden

Recently on Parent's Day, the Center for Student Development hosted a speaker who talked to seniors about networking to find a job. The speaker, Michael Mulligan, is a 1962 Alma College graduate and President and CEO of Mulligan & Associates, Inc., a corporate outplacement firm in Chicago.

Mulligan made many good points about job-hunting, but one thing that stood out in his speech was his statement on the duty of the Center for Student Development. Mulligan indicated that if either of his daughters had attended Alma, they should have gotten jobs or graduate school acceptance right out of college. If they hadn't, it would have been the fault of the Center for Student Development. He implied that it was the duty of the Center to assure that Alma College students get immediate employment or placement.

This is a rather disturbing sentiment. Daily we are bombarded by messages telling us how saturated the job market is. It is not the Center for Student Development's responsibility to find each graduating senior a job or a graduate school. It is up to each graduate to motivate her/himself to find the job opportunities and to apply to the appropriate graduate schools. Just because a student has a 3.8 grade point average does not afford or guarantee a job, internship, or graduate school acceptance.

It is no longer an accomplishment to be an honor student; it is an expectation. Without good grades and several extracurricular activities, the chance of getting into a good graduate school or a position in a prestigious firm is limited, if not practically eliminated. More and more people seem to be joining activities just so that they can put down on their resume that they were involved in campus organizations. In some cases—more than we would like to admit—students don't even care about the organizations they're involved in. Is this good? What does it mean to get a quality education anymore?

Grades are not wholly indicative of a quality education. The

attitude from many teachers and students seems to be that the grading system should be skewed so that most students get a "B" or above. When students get a "C", they act as if they did poorly. They didn't do poorly; average isn't poor.

The end result of this is that many times, a student with a 4.0 grade point average isn't necessarily better trained or prepared for the work force than a student with a 2.5 grade point average. The student with a 4.0 may just have had professors who graded easier. Some professors seem to be more concerned with students feeling positive about themselves than with grading fairly and evenly. They seem to think that a good grade point and a high self-esteem is going to create success.

Unfortunately, the opposite is true. Success helps to build a high self-esteem and motivation to learn. Learning and getting good grades are two entirely different things. Too often, students graduate with a good grade point average, and even a respectable amount of extra-curricular activities, thinking that they have their lives all set out for them. The problem is that they are not prepared to actually do anything because they don't know how to learn, take criticism and accept that everyone is average sometimes.

A quality education can be found anywhere by anyone who bothers to take the time to look for one. A quality education is one that grades fairly and teaches students how to learn. Learning means accepting responsibility for one's actions, whether good or bad, and caring about the activities one is involved in. There is not a magic grade point or combination of campus activities that ensures success. Success comes when students are motivated to learn and when they care about themselves, others and the organizations they are involved in.

The Almanian

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

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Ganesa Wegienka

Senior Editor:

William J. Johnston

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The Almanian

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All Letters to the Editor must meet the following standards for publication: signed, include the author's phone number and address, and pertain to the Alma College community. Letters are published on a first come, first 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.

Athletics and education: are they fair?

By Lawrence T. Potter, Jr.
Freelance Writer

With much general controversy over the legitimacy of standardized testing, grade point averages and other subjective criteria for admissions (not only for African-American students but for all students), I feel the need to make a few comments about college athletics and the need to individualize the assessment of high schools athletes of color.

America spends about \$500 million on African-American football and basketball players in college each year. That's 10,000 athletes times \$10,000 per year in tuition. Multiply that with roughly five years of schooling which would include four years of athletic eligibility. My comments here are based on personal observation and on conversations I have had with friends who believe that America is slowly but surely lowering its standards in technology and education, that America plans for the short run only, and is unwilling to work as hard as it used to.

In general, I agree with the myriad of suggestions proffered by experts who study the problems of student-athletes. These suggestions include: (1) extending the length

of time a student-athlete can matriculate beyond the four legally allowed years of NCAA competition and five years of scholarship; (2) appointing independent academic advisors who are not answerable to the athletic director; (3) making freshmen ineligible for varsity competition; (4) curtailing the playing schedule and setting a ceiling on the number of hours per week for practice; (5) setting a reasonable limit on the amount of "walking around money" student-athletes can receive; (6) creating a "Miranda"-like procedure whereby high school student-athletes are read their NCAA rights; (7) requiring schools to publish their graduation rates for athletes; (8) outlawing athlete-only dorms; (9) allowing easier transfers from schools penalized by the NCAA; (10) tying the number of future scholarships to graduation rates or academic performance; (11) raising or rescinding altogether the pitiful academic minimums like 2.0 GPA's and 700 SAT scores.

The academic playbook suggestions are well-intentioned, commendable, and worthy of consideration. In fact, I wish they were all adopted. But there is still hope. There is support and a constituency out there exists that is not pleased

with what is currently happening in student-athlete sports. The rationale ranges from a refusal to lower already diminished standards to an outright refusal to cave in to short-term expediency.

I have heard a dozen complaints from black parents saying they resent having every black child, simply because they are black, lumped together with all black athletes who supposedly cannot achieve high academic standards or who are on campuses basically because they are superior athletes. This is a resented double standard. How is it, these black parents wonder, that athletes with only a 2.0 GPA and a SAT score of 700 are inundated with offers of full scholarships while their own non-athlete children with 2.75 GPA's and 800 SAT scores don't even get a sniff from most Division I schools?

Systematic changes cannot be effected if the entire process is not fully appreciated. It is the connectivity of these seemingly disparate phases which is frequently lost on reformers. For instance, a student-athlete who slides through school with inflated grades knows he is going to short-circuit the process later. These kids may be formally

unprepared academically, but they may not be lacking in street smarts. While the causality between unpreparedness and low college graduation rates is obvious, a not-so-obvious connection might be gleaned from the psychological effects of childhood poverty and the resultant poor self-esteem. Most people do not think of athletes as short on narcissism.

I know from experience that much of the macho-front paraded by some athletes is, in reality, a coping mechanism for their own insecurities. It is precisely because of some overlooked causal relationships among the matrix of success factors that admissions officials are asked to come up with other ways of assessing and supporting student-athletes who don't fall within their normal range acceptance.

The most important action universities and colleges can take, that will send the right message to the public, is to not make any modifications at all. Just let the public know what the subjective criteria and objective ranges are for college athletics and abide by them. Then judge the program on its results — on the black student-athlete who comes out four to six years later with a degree that no one can say is devalued or compromised.

We have a difficult task ahead if we are to prosper. But let's not give future historians an excuse to say that we were too timid to make the tough cuts for the first team.