

The Almanian

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Issue 23

Aid cuts not formally documented

By Laura M. Paetz
News Editor

The policy mandating a 25% reduction in college-sponsored financial aid for students moving off-campus may have been in effect for the past three years, according to Director of Financial Aid Tom Freeland, but it is anyone's guess where this policy is written.

During the recent lottery allowing 30 seniors to move off campus next year, the student affairs office made only one mention of this policy to students taking advantage of the one-time opportunity—just minutes before the lottery.

To most, it seemed the policy came from nowhere. However, according to Freeland, it has been in effect for the past three years, and according to President Alan J. Stone and Vice President for Finance Jon Groteluschen, it has been in effect much longer.

"Statements will be reviewed annually and varied in amount if any significant change in financial need or academic achievement occurs," said Stone, quoting last year's *Understanding Your Financial Aid Package*, a brochure distributed by the financial aid office

**"It has always
been this way."**

-President Alan J. Stone

detailing financial aid policies.

"It has always been this way," he added.

However, this pamphlet makes no specific mention of the 25% reduction for off campus students.

"I do not know that the specific business about the 25% reduction is written down anyplace, no," Stone admitted.

"I do not know that it has been a formal codified policy in the financial aid office," said Groteluschen. "I do not know that it has been consistently administered all the time. I have been here for 13 years now and we have talked about this many, many times. If students move off campus then their [financial aid] package should be reduced accordingly."

Stone said some may say the policy has been in effect for the past three years because that is when the college started to allow more students to live off campus.

"I do not think it has been an issue in years past. If people wanted to move off, they were told it would probably change their financial aid package and that they'd need to go see Tom Freeland because their need might change because their expenses might change," Stone continued.

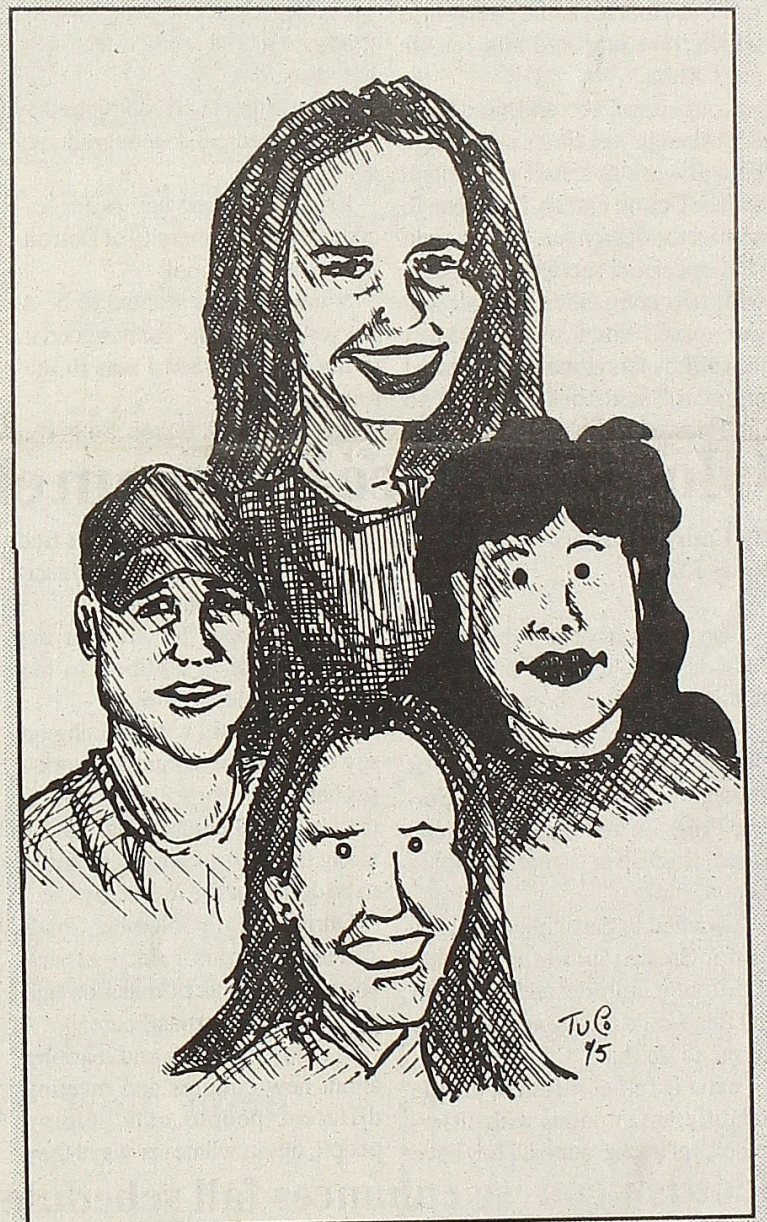
However, Freeland would not be able to offer students a written explanation of the policy that di-

rects the removal of one quarter of their college financial aid.

"It could be that Dr. Stone, having had this come up a number of times in discussions, finally directed somebody to establish a firm policy on this," said Groteluschen. "If that

goes back three years, it goes back three years. We can agree that that should have happened and then why it was not codified in some way and communicated in some way is another question."

Congress officers elected



New faculty possess new interests

By Laura M. Paetz
News Editor

Faculty searches for tenure track positions for the biology, exercise and health science (EHS), history and art departments recently concluded as search committees secured their top choices.

The biology and EHS departments created new positions for the additional faculty while the history and art departments secured faculty replacements.

Brian Reynolds, who earned his bachelor's degree at Franklin College in Franklin, Ind., is finishing his doctorate this term and will begin instructing basic biology and a specialty class here during fall term.

"He has been teaching at Wabash College and has worked for a genetics company, which is really neat," said search committee member Kay Grimnes, associate professor of biology.

"His particular interest is the immunology of cancer treatment. He does immunology and a little bit of microbiology," Grimnes continued.

The EHS department hired Karen Ball, a 1987 alumna of Alma College, to teach exercise biochemistry and pharmacology starting next fall.

"She understands the liberal arts, having attended Alma, and has the specific training we were really interested in," said John Davis,

chair and associate professor of EHS.

Ball earned her doctorate in physiology and biophysiology at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She is currently a post doctorate fellow at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Jersey and has an additional interest in molecular biology.

The history department sought someone knowledgeable in Asian and U.S. history to replace M.J.J. Smith, former chairperson for the department, who is on long-term medical disability leave.

"We completed our search about a month ago and in the fall term, Karen Garner, who is completing her Ph.D. at the University of Texas, will join us," said Michael Yavenditti, chair and professor of history.

"She is a specialist in the history of U.S. foreign policy and so we'll be teaching a course next year in that. She'll also be doing survey courses in American History and offering a course in women's history, which we've never offered before."

Yavenditti said that Garner will also be teaching a course in modern China and Japan in the fall and another course with some Asian content in the winter term.

"We'll definitely be able to beef up our offerings in Asian history as a result of hiring Karen Garner," said Yavenditti.

Garner earned her bachelor's and

master's degrees at the University of Texas in Dallas and has taught part time at a couple institutions. She has taught full time for about a year and a half at Texas A&M University.

"She seemed to fit the job description better than any of the other candidates and her full time teaching experience was also a plus compared to other finalists," said Yavenditti.

Sandy Lopez-Isnardi will permanently replace Art Instructor Jan White Arvanetes, who left on sabbatical and chose not to return.

"She is an artist who has been working in Cincinnati," said Carrie Parks-Kirby, chair and associate professor of art and design. "Her personal work is in photography—she has exhibited quite a bit and has had grants related to her work in photography. She has also been working as a designer for the past 10 years in Cincinnati."

Lopez-Isnardi has taught part time at the University of Cincinnati and at the College of Mount St. Joseph, a small liberal arts college.

"That was important to us—that the person who came would have some experience with liberal arts education," said Parks-Kirby.

In the fall, Lopez-Isnardi will instruct beginning graphic design and upper-level directed studies in graphic design and photography. She will also be allotted release time to run the gallery for the statewide print competition.

Current Student Congress President senior Dana Grant announced Sunday evening the results of last week's elections for Student Congress and individual class officers.

"We had 53% voter turnout, which is incredible," said Grant.

Next year's Student Congress executive board will include junior Julie Braun, president; junior Chris Stacey, vice president; first-year student Jennifer Tripp, secretary; and sophomore Stacy Silk, treasurer.

Individual classes also elected their leaders for next year. Junior Margaret Taylor will remain associate trustee for the class of 1996 during the 1995-96 academic year.

The sophomore class elected Sarah Oglenski president and Brian Zollweg associate trustee.

Class officers for the class of 1998 will include President Ray Tessier, Vice President John Sheele, Secretary Abbie White and Treasurer Michelle Colville.

Additionally, students voted to increase the student activity fee by \$7, an increase from \$123 to \$130.

April 11, 1995

Seniors prepare for life after Alma

By Trisha A. Warner
Staff Reporter

After struggling through years of rigorous education, the class of 1995 will face yet another challenge after graduation—the real world.

Many seniors have been preparing their entire senior year for this transition, creating resumes and portfolios, traveling to interviews and taking entrance exams for graduate or professional schools.

Several seniors already have employment secured for after graduation. Nate Pawlicki has known since fall term of his job with Deloitte and Touche, an international accounting firm.

Pawlicki attributes his success in the job market to the internships which have prepared him for life after Alma.

Coopers & Lybrand hired Ryan Rickabaugh just three weeks ago; he will work as a staff accountant in their Detroit branch. Rickabaugh admits the search has been rough.

"I received second interviews with two companies last fall and was turned down by both. Most jobs fill by Christmas, so I missed my goal," said Rickabaugh, who interviewed with the firm over

spring break.

Elementary and secondary education majors are in the primary stages of their job search. Education hopeful Jeannine McWilliams said spring and summer are prime seasons for openings in the job market.

Several education majors will embark upon their student teaching next fall.

Three senior members of the student affairs staff—Kristin Kuhtic, Dana Grant and Julie Williams—interviewed to work as hall directors at the Osh Kosh Placement Exchange in Wisconsin over spring break.

Since that time, all three have been invited to different schools for interviews; they are currently awaiting replies and plan to focus on college student personnel in graduate school while working as hall directors.

Many seniors will continue education in medical, law or graduate school.

Kristin Bricker has been accepted to the University of Detroit Mercy's law school.

"I have always wanted to be a lawyer," she said. "I announced it to my mother when I was in the fourth grade."

Lou and Kay Ecken both re-

ceived graduate school acceptance letters last week. Lou will attend the University of Michigan's school of public health. Kay will study physical therapy at the University of Indianapolis.

Chad Reagh will work toward a master's degree in school counsel-

ing at Butler University.

"They have a very good program in school counseling. I am also getting married next fall, and my fiancée attends Marian College in Indianapolis," he said.

Although many students have secured jobs or will be attending

graduate school, some are still struggling with the search process.

"Job search should be a class," said education student Colleen Carmody. "It is more time consuming and confusing than I thought. I just have not had time to work at it."

Seniors express discontent with Center

By Trisha A. Warner
Staff Reporter

Some seniors who have consulted the Center for Student Development in their job or graduate school searches have reportedly expressed dissatisfaction with the assistance the Center has provided them.

President Alan J. Stone said a few students drafted a letter of complaint addressing their discontent.

Stone said the letters consisted primarily of personal attacks on Ginny Riser, associate director of student development.

According to Stone, the complaints were taken seriously.

"The students had concerns with their personal job searches in writing. I passed them on to John Seveland [vice president for enrollment and student affairs,] and

Bob Perkins [dean of student development]," he said.

The letters illuminated specific instances in which the Center had fallen short of student expectations concerning resume and cover letter review, interview appointments and general professionalism.

"We are not asking these people to get us jobs," said senior Diane Husband, who has been unsuccessful in her job search through the Center. "We just want to be treated professionally."

Perkins said the complaints were discussed among the Center staff and areas in need of improvement were pinpointed.

Riser and Perkins admit that errors in processing student information were committed, as one student's resume was inadvertently sent to the wrong address.

They maintain, however, that the mistakes resulted from mis-

communication and the sheer enormity of Riser's tasks as a new employee at the Center, not inadequacy.

Perkins fully endorses Riser's capabilities.

"Ginny has been in the corporate world for ten years. It is a plus for us having someone who has been out there working with companies who hire entry-level students. She provides accurate information on what these companies want."

Perkins also said that the students should be more aware of how they are presenting themselves and not rely completely on the Center to assist them.

"It is the student's resume, not ours," said Perkins. "We look for professional appearance and whether or not the student's strengths are highlighted—spelling errors are not high on our list."

Global Service Program elects Gibbs and Perdue as Indian Fellows

By Laura M. Paetz
News Editor

Two Alma students are about to embark on a journey that could change their lives forever.

Junior Ann Gibbs and senior Nicole Perdue have been chosen as Indian Fellows for the Global Service Program and will teach grade school English at a small school in Kerala, India.

"I wanted to participate because I am interested in meeting people of different cultures and I thought that this would be an excellent way for me to do that," said Gibbs.

"India is full of different people and different religions with different sorts of backgrounds. They have

a caste system that we don't find here. All those things just fascinate me," she continued.

Perdue hopes to work in the medical field in addition to her teaching duties in India.

"Part of what I will be doing on my own will be volunteer work—probably in a hospital or with a doctor," said Perdue. "That's more along the lines of what I'm going to be doing for the rest of my life."

During a trip to Columbia, South America, Perdue gained experience in the areas of nutrition and prenatal and postnatal care.

"I enjoy traveling and learning about new cultures and meeting different people and helping people out in whatever ways they

deem necessary," she said.

Gibbs believes that her experiences in India will benefit her future career as a minister.

"In the ministry, even if you are just one specific denomination, you still work with people who are different. This would help me in trying to relate to people," said Gibbs.

"I think any time you're thrown into a situation where you are with people who are different from yourself, you are going to gain new values and experiences that will help you relating to other people. As a minister, my whole job will be relating to other people."

Perdue was chosen last year as the African Fellowship Program's African Fellow, but because of po-

litical conflict in the area in which she was to work, her trip was postponed. When the African Fellowship Program was altered and renamed the Global Service Program, Perdue was given the opportunity to travel to India instead.

"They're two very strong individuals," said selection committee member Joseph Walser, chair and professor of religious studies. "I suspect that together they will provide a very strong and energetic

teaching team to work with the school."

Walser said he hopes that the program will attract more students in the future.

"Eventually, we hope to have in place a couple of students working in Nigeria, a couple in India and a spring term with about 30 of our students in Jamaica. Not only can we contribute a lot to those areas, but we can also learn a lot—that's the main thing."

Scottish course enhances fall schedule

Alma College and Central Michigan University (CMU) will take part in a faculty exchange program next year, enabling Alma students to gain insight in Scottish studies.

Professor Henry Fulton from CMU will instruct the class, which will be offered fall term on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2:30 p.m., while Chair and Professor of English Ute Stargardt will teach a seminar entitled "Literature of the Holocaust" at CMU Tuesday evenings.

"Although for years Alma College has enjoyed a reputation for its Scottish Presbyterian heritage and its connection with the local Highland games, it is believed that this is the first course ever offered at the college on any aspect of Scottish studies," said Fulton.

Fulton's description of the course states that "English 180/380 will

deal with the 'renaissance' that occurred in the 20th century in Scottish literature, beginning with the appearance of George Douglas Brown's grimly realistic portrayal of small-town life, *The House with the Green Shutters* (1801), and Hugh MacDiarmid's experiments with the Scots dialect in his poetry just after World War I and conclude with the poetry and prose of living writers who reflect the problems of contemporary urban and rural Scotland."

The course also features poetry, novels, short stories and autobiographies, as well as literature of the Highlands. Fulton will also show several movies relating to the class.

For further information, students may call Fulton in Mt. Pleasant at 773-7193. There is still room in the class for late registrants.

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Pianos sell for a song

A piano sale will take place in the Heritage Center for the Performing Arts on Sunday, April 30 from noon to 5 p.m.

Many of the pianos are less than one-year-old institutional grade instruments from the Kawai piano company and are used in instruction under a program developed for the music department. All pianos have been professionally maintained and most will carry a full 10-year warranty.

These pianos must be sold to provide new instruments for the coming year. Sales, financing, delivery and service will be handled through Arnoldt Williams Institutional Division.

For more information or to make an appointment for a preview showing, call the music department at 463-7062.

River Gate Press to begin publication

Dusk and Dawn, a quarterly magazine of Christian fiction, will begin publishing in October, 1995. Readers, writers and artists are all needed. For information on subscriptions and submissions, write to River Gate Press, P.O. Box 916, Berea, OH 44017.

Almanian staff positions open

Anyone interested in working for *The Almanian* next year should send a resume and cover letter to the *Almanian* office by Friday, April 14. Please include writing samples if applying for a writing or editing position.

Positions available include:

- * staff reporters
- * copy editors
- * news, feature, sports and opinion editors
- * graphics editors
- * photo editor and staff
- * business, office, advertising and distribution manager
- * assistant advertising manager

Final speaker in series deals with labor rights

By Wade Renando
Staff Reporter

Last Tuesday, Reverend Pharis Harvey gave the last in a series of lectures sponsored by a service learning grant awarded to Ed Lorenz, associate professor of history and political science.

Harvey, 12-year director of the North American Coalition for Human Rights in Korea, spoke on labor rights in global development.

"It is a period of extraordinary changes," said Harvey. "It's critical that we understand the scope of the changes going on right now."

Harvey's seminar focused mainly on labor conditions and child labor. He told how the combination of both the post-Cold War fragmentation of political power around the world and the increase in the strength of global businesses hurt workers' rights.

For example, Harvey said the world's 358 richest people have a combined income equal to that of the bottom two million.

"They have a combined net worth equal to the bottom 45% of the world's population," Harvey said, also commenting that while the number of billionaires living in the U.S. almost tripled, the number of Americans living in poverty has increased by 4%.

With the world's increasing gap between rich and poor and the rising power of business, laborers can easily be abused.

Harvey shared these current statistics: 828 million of the world's population is unemployed or seriously under employed, 200 million children under the age of 14 are at work rather than at school and 100 million people are forced to migrate to other countries in order to find jobs.

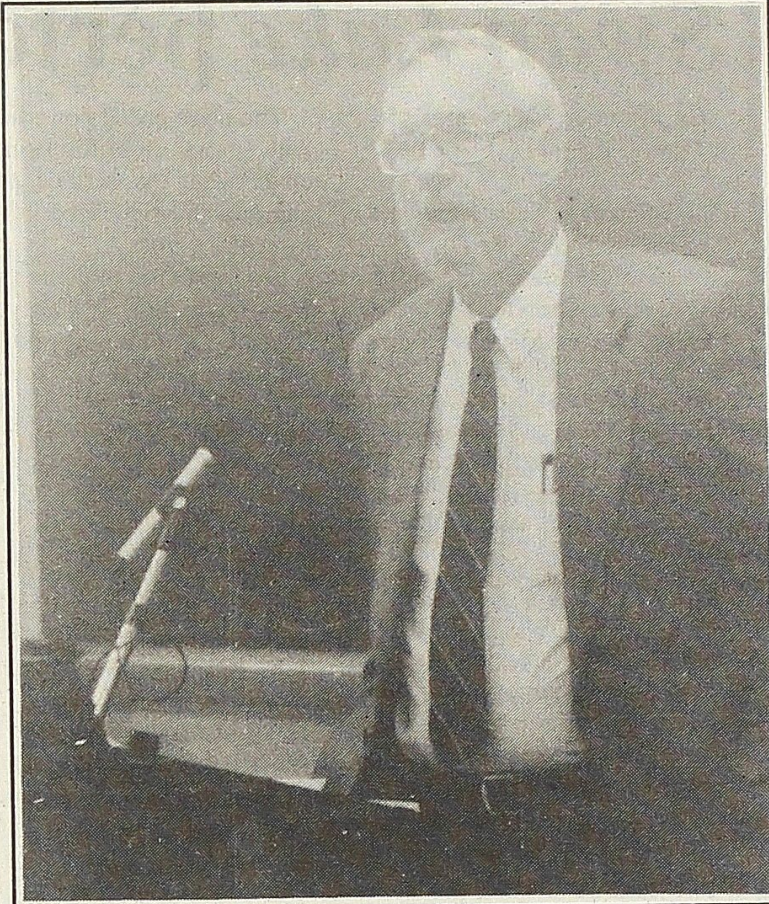
Harvey has observed first-hand how child labor and condition of labor laws need to be enacted and enforced world-wide.

While in India he saw children who had been kidnapped or sold by their parents to rug manufacturers. These companies forced children to work 14 hours a day seven days a week for no monetary compensation. If the children did not work, they were not allowed to eat.

Harvey said the U.S. government and its people should refuse to consume goods manufactured by children.

"The actual facts about child labor, and also the number of billionaires living in the United States compared to the total number internationally were interesting," said senior Anne Tobain of Harvey's presentation.

First-year student Jared Slanec was surprised to find how other countries abused children in the



Reverend Pharis Harvey, the last speaker in the Colloquium on Global Hunger and Poverty series, addressed the seriousness of international labor laws and their effect on the United States. Photo by Tammy Thomson.

workforce.

"I was kind of in shock at some of the stories he had to tell."

(News Editor Laura Paetz contributed to this report.)

Top Ten news stories of 1994-95

10. "Bruske floods during break; students kept in the dark."
9. One week later, "Bruske fire teaches lesson in fire safety."
8. We started the year with "Library wing groundbreaking postponed until spring," then "High tech library exceeds budget," and ended with "Library renovation to commence this month."
7. "Student affairs office searches for new associate dean" appeared in issue 2 of *The Almanian*, followed by "Associate dean candidates visit campus" just before winter break. Over break, the job was restructured and renamed. The final headline in the series read "Arnold promoted to assistant dean."
6. "Graffiti, overturned car mark vandalism spree" told of the events on the night prior to Alma's football game against Albion.
5. "Blue Jeans Day spurs controversy" announced the arrival of Students Against Gays (SAG) on campus during Pride Week.
4. "Task force revises statement on relationships" informed readers about relationships between students and faculty and when those relationships could be considered unprofessional.
3. "Faculty resignations spur national searches" made known the resignations of Christopher Townsend, assistant professor of drama, and Carlos Mentley, associate professor of Spanish.
2. Housing problems, ranging from "RAs, President Stone find themselves with roommates" at the beginning of the year, to "Off campus housing policy causes concern" at the end of the year.
1. "Parking problem captures attention" soon evolved to "Parking problem escalates: six cars towed," "College neighbors demand extended parking ban," and finally "City commission unanimously approves parking ban."

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World News

SCOTLAND—Local elections are not expected to favor British Prime Minister John Major and the ruling conservatives. In Washington, Major and President Clinton patched up differences of policy in Northern Ireland.

PARIS—Egyptian and Israeli officials met to discuss differences over nuclear arms. Egypt has been lobbying for Israel to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in an effort to free the Middle East of nuclear weapons. Hosni Mubarak, President of Egypt, said that he opposed the US policy of extending the treaty without Israel signing on. China is proposing a ban on first-strike use of nuclear weapons and has pledged that it would not be the first to use them. The NPT review conference is scheduled for April 17 in New York.

DAGESTAN, RUSSIAN FEDERATION—Up to 4,000 refugees a day are pouring out of Chechnya, overwhelming Dagestan, its neighbor. More than 20,000 Chechens crossed last week. Since Russian troops were sent to Chechnya on December 11, about 500,000 Chechens have left their homes.

BAGHDAD, IRAQ—An Iraqi lawyer defending two Americans jailed for illegal entry into Iraq said he would appeal their case soon, but was not sure of their chances for release.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Clinton administration, joined by Japan, Germany and France, mounted another effort to rescue the dollar, but financial markets continued to batter the currency. The Federal Reserve and other central banks reportedly spent \$2 billion buying dollars, which has fallen to postwar low of 85.35 yen.

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM—The European Union accused Canada of sending patrol boats to harass Spanish trawlers in waters off Newfoundland. The EU said Canada has threatened talks in Brussels aimed at resolving the dispute over dwindling fish stock in the Grand Bank.

April 11, 1995

Choir celebrates Easter with *Messiah*

By Derek Handzo
Freelance Writer

The Alma College Choirs offer up their voices in song for a special Easter celebration at 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 16 in the Heritage Center, Presbyterian Hall.

First performed nearly 250 years ago, Handel's *Messiah* is a world renowned piece. While frequently associated with the Christmas season, Handel originally wrote *The Messiah* for performances during Lent.

Handel was a Baroque opera specialist. During this period, the church forbade opera performances during Lent. To get around this ruling, Handel and his contemporaries developed a new style of composition—the oratorio. An oratorio is a opera-like production written for the concert hall, not the opera house. Also, the oratorio usually focuses on biblical stories and legends. Handel's *Messiah* is one such oratorio which has received tremendous success.

The choir does not plan on performing the entire three-hour piece, but will perform some of the most popular choruses. Will Nichols, chair of the music department and choral director, said, "The choir is only performing half of the *Messiah*. These pieces will focus on Jesus's persecution, passion and resurrection, making Easter a very appropriate time for the show."

Nichols feels many of the songs are not as well known, but believes the audience will recognize them. He continued to say "it is a great opportunity for the kids to sing *The Messiah*, and a great opportunity for the audience to hear it."

The accompanying orchestra will be composed of many professional freelance musicians. Nichols said, "It was hard to get people to commit to an Easter performance, but these people did." The musicians all come from within a fifty mile radius and will include Alma Symphony Orchestra's concertmaster Meredith Arksey and 1994 graduate Erik Janners.

The chorus features numerous student soloists: seniors Sheri Tulloch and Becky Clemmer, juniors Catherine Schaefer, Laura Rice and Gordon Meyers, sophomore Jorge Livingston and first year students Jennifer Cornell, Melinda Towns and Michelle Haroon. Also, faculty members Scott Hill, associate professor of chemistry, John Ottenhoff, associate professor of English.

"Singing the *Messiah* is about as much fun as one can have in a group of 100 people," concluded Nichols.

Alma College Dance Company... Bravo!

Swan Lake performed

By Jessica L. VanSlooten
Feature Editor

Memories. Sex. Religion. Romance.

The final Alma College Dance Company concert reflected themes of basic human existence in a variety of styles of dance.

Carol Fike, associate professor of dance, said, "It was absolutely glorious. It went far beyond my dreams and expectations. We have come to a whole new level; we are on the threshold of a new era."

The first half of the concert consisted of six numbers, choreographed by students and faculty members, highlighting modern dance styles.

"Prelude" opened the concert. Divided into eight segments, this dance encompassed all disciplines of dance, from ballet, jazz, modern, highland and tap.

Each segment was choreographed by a student, with Carol Fike's assistance, and was performed by the entire company.

Performed to the uplifting and affirming music of Yanni, the number maintained a sense of propulsion throughout the segments. Also, the costumes, warm-up-like outfits, likewise hinted at the forward motion of the piece.

A powerful introduction to the concert, the dance concluded with the entire company weaving through each other, filling the stage with an impressive quantity and quality of dancers.

After several minutes of transition time, the curtains parted to show an elaborate set-up of nine chairs with a picture hanging over each chair. "Remembrances Past," a piece choreographed by Carol Fike and performed by senior company members, focused on the individuality of each dancer and her important role within the company.

Hanging childhood photos of the dancers, along with the live piano music of Aaron Copland performed by associate professor of music Scott Messing, contributed to the poignant feel of the piece.

In direct contrast, the next number, "Teasin' the Blues" illustrated the sultry and sexy nature of dance. Choreographed by junior Shelly Wulff to the music of Joe Cocker, the dance featured the seductive moves of kimono-clad women. In keeping with the chorus of the song, "You can keep your hat on," the women sported black bowler type hats and concluded the dance seated in chairs, their hands strategically placed on their hats.

Senior Kristin Bender choreographed the next work, "Black Cross," to the music of Enigma. This piece evoked religious themes with play on the cross symbol and focus on light and dark, reflected in the black, white and gray costumes. Also, the beginning and the end of the dance featured several dancers carrying lit candles.

The piece ended powerfully with several cross formations, emphasizing the sacrifice, pain and growth symbolized in the form of the cross.

In a brief taste of the second half, senior Lori Abbott performed "Aurora's Wedding Variation from *Sleeping Beauty*." Choreographed by Thomas Morris in the style of Marius Petipa, the classical ballet was delightful.

Abbott's smile and fluffy costume, combined with the violin harmonics in the music (by Tchaikovsky) effectively combined artistic and technical aspects.

"Pressure," choreographed by senior Dena Hughes and performed to the music of Peter Gabriel, rounded out the first half of the concert.

Previously performed at the Senior Thesis Dance Concert, the thought-provoking piece utilized a variety of techniques to create the tension apparent in the title.

Black and white, strobe lights, diaphanous cloth and powerful modern dance moves illustrated themes of entrapment and the dynamics of power.

After intermission, the audience was magically transported to an enchanted forest, captured in the stunning backdrop painted by Robert Rozier, associate professor of art, and three art students. As strains of Tchaikovsky floated in via the sound system, the stage was set for *Swan Lake*.

Choreographed by Morris after Franklin and Ivanov, the second act of the four act play tells the story of a prince falling in love with an enchanted being whom he can never possess.

Featuring guest artists Lena Iglesias and Tim Smola in the roles of Odette (the swan queen) and Siegfried (the prince), Morris as Von Rothbart (the evil sorcerer) and company members as swans and huntsmen, the classic ballet entranced viewers.

Despite several bobbles, the cast's rendition of the ballet illuminated the technical and artistic demands of such a production. For a school the size of Alma, this undertaking illustrates a strong commitment to high goals and artistic aspirations.

Particularly brilliant moments in the ballet included the first pas de deux of Iglesias and Smola. Iglesias illustrated strength and beauty of expression in this and subsequent solo moments. Smola's performance seemed slightly flat footed and uncertain.

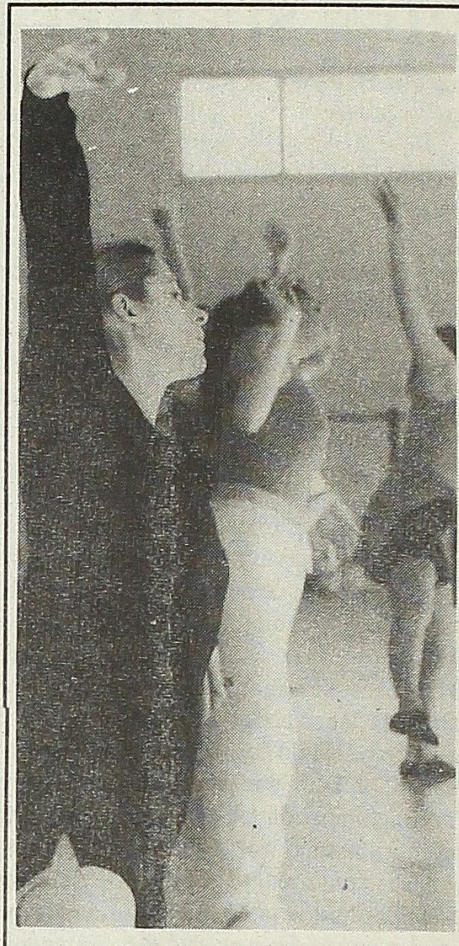
Another crowd-pleasing moment, the dance of the little swans, featured seniors Lori Abbot and Sarah Graham and juniors Tiffany Vogel and

Michelle Wulff in an upbeat past faced dance. The four linked arms throughout the dance and their motions were completely in sync.

Morris's presence seemed more periphery; his foreboding strut across the stage and swoop of his black cape indicated the dark side of this otherwise fanciful romance.

Morris said, "The leads in *Swan Lake* were very good, especially Iglesias. The entire company did a fine job—they performed with ease."

Sophomores Daiva Stonys and Suzanne Vetrone rehearse for the final dance company performance this year. Photo by Jerry Stassinopoulos.



Baker brings audience into his 'magical' world

By Justin Bauer
Copy Editor

Not all magic involves sequined suits and women cut in half. There are some kinds of magic that are more artful, more subtle—and far more affecting.

Senior Daniel Baker has acquired a reputation as an accomplished magician; he is widely known as "Magic Dan."

However, this Saturday Baker presented the last in his series of performance art pieces, "In Search of the Wide Eyed Alexander." The "traditional" magic he performed played a minor role—sudden appearances and sleight-of-hand. On a larger scale, though, Baker entranced his audience, immersing them in his world and in his chosen medium.

Combining theater and visual art, costuming, music and lighting, symbolism and a heavy dose of allegory, Baker assembled a myriad of lessons for his naive central character.

Baker patched together members of the Alma College Theater company and the art department to form the company for this performance. Sophomore Joe Johnston praised Baker's direction.

"Dan is great to work with, because he really solicits the cast to give as many ideas as they can," said Johnston.

Despite the standing ovation that closed the piece, audience response split on Baker's work and message. "Alexander" brought out strong responses, though, regardless of audience members' opinions.

Sophomore Jay Koepke called Baker's art "weird." Koepke said, "In the beginning, it was far-fetched, but as it went along, I got into it...it was cool."

Sophomore Rochelle Hooker disagreed. "I thought it was O.K., but a little too dramatic. I liked the magic tricks, but didn't like the overall thing too much."

While Baker, in his artist's letter, mentions the high quality—and lack of marketing value—of his April degree, he does not state the message of his work. He leaves the connections between the episodes on stage up to the audience.

"I think it contained a lot of Dan's personal feelings about his formal art education," Hooker speculated.

Koepke, on the other hand, could not give an answer as easily. "I don't know—but I've been thinking about that ever since."

Bob Moore Flowers
Celebrate Spring!



Downtown Alma



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Indian student publishes works

Top 10 feature stories of 1994-95

By Emily Damstra
Staff Reporter

Last Sunday, *Parade* magazine published excerpts of an article sophomore Atul Patel wrote two years ago. Last year, the book *India Link* published two of his poems, and last week, the *Pine River Anthology* published two more.

Not bad considering the student possessed a limited English vocabulary seven years ago. Patel is from a small village on the west coast of India. His parents, an older sister, a younger brother and himself came to the United States hoping this country would provide a better life and more opportunities.

Patel graduated from Union High School in Grand Rapids, and credits his English teacher, Patricia Osborn, with sparking his interest

in writing. "She taught me a whole lot about English."

In high school, he was taunted, teased and hurt, but his parents persuaded him not to drop out. Thanks to Osborn, his parents and himself, Patel's communication skills drastically improved. Now, "I love to read, and to write poetry and creative writing," he said.

"Writing helps me cope with life itself," said Patel. He explained that it is a sort of stress relief.

Patel attended Kalamazoo Valley Community College for three semesters, then transferred to Alma in 1994 where he pursues an English major. "Alma is not just a college—it is a place where a future is built," he explained.

What does the future hold for this hard-working student?

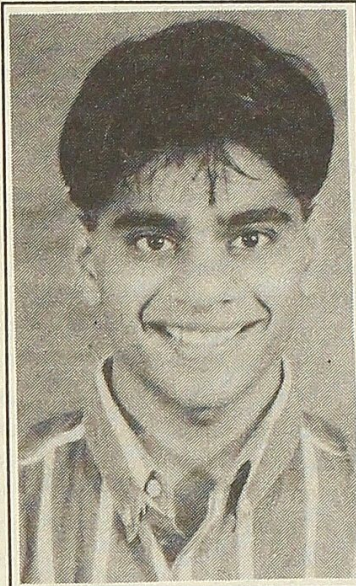
"After I finish my education, I

hope to go back to India and teach there."

Professor of English William Palmer, who has been Patel's mentor, said, "His poetry has got a wisdom to it and a sweetness that I like a great deal. He has his own style. Writers ought to have their own voice, it is a trademark of a good writer."

"It is refreshing to read [Patel's] poems," continued Palmer. "He has powers of intuition and cares about other people in the world. He wants people to feel connected and close to each other. I am pleased that Atul is a student here. Everybody benefits from his presence."

Palmer also mentioned that Patel is doing a great job teaching creative writing workshops to senior citizens and high school students in the community.



Sophomore Atul Patel has showcased his creative talents in several recent publications. File photo.

1. "Houseguests bid farewell," Issue 2. Feature profile of first year students Paul Swaney and Lance Turner, who resided with the Stones for two and one-half weeks.

2. "Students focus efforts on serving others," Issue 3. Encompasses volunteer efforts of students in Service Learning courses, SOS and Greek organizations.

3. "Community builds dream park," Issue 5. Accompanied by feature photo of *The Almanian* staff at the park, this profile expands beyond the boundaries of the college.

4. "Students share unique aspects of studying overseas," Issue 6. Profile of student experiences around the world.

5. "Vienna offers unique cultural insights," Issue 10. Feature of the Vienna study program, including historical facts related to the trip.

6. "Band takes unconventional twist on old style," Issue 13. One of a fine series of music reviews, utilizing humor and distinct writing style.

7. "Taming of the Shrew entertains," Issue 16. Looks beyond the Alma area; incorporates entire experience, including "good" and "bad" aspects.

8. "Summer's expressive exhibit blends science with art," Issue 18. One in a fine series of art reviews, accompanied by a feature photo of the work on display.

9. "Oscars. . .," Issue 22. Humorous feature profile on the more superficial aspects of a nation-wide event.

10. Special features including "The Adventures of Fatman," "Tidbits" and Events and Happenings, various issues. Fun, lighthearted and informative.

Travolta still has those Saturday Night Fever moves . . .

Tarantino reduces audience to 'Pulp'

By Brooke Hansen, Co-Editor-in-Chief

Jessica L. VanSlooten, Feature Editor

"Whoa. That was pretty trippy," Rosanna Arquette—*Pulp Fiction*.

This latest cult creation of bizzaro writer/producer/director Quentin Tarantino, similarly to his other films *Reservoir Dogs* and *True Romance*, is a blood-strewn, humor-laced journey into the dark reaches of the human psyche.

Nearly three hours after the film begins, Tarantino leaves the audience wondering: is this a community case of déjà vu? Or did we really return to that Los Angeles restaurant from the film's prologue?

As a British couple (Tim Roth and Amanda Plummer) discuss their plan to sabotage the eatery, Vincent Vega (John Travolta) and Jules (Samuel Jackson), enter the scene which begins the series of gruesome events.

Roll credits . . . for the second time. Hit men for drug lord Marcellus

Hmm. Impending murder and a discussion of ethics: interesting combination.

This brand of dialogue between the two men illustrates the sheer brilliance of the script throughout. Horrible violence is de-emphasized by conversation and sporadic episodes, leaving viewers confounded.

So Marcellus is off on some undisclosed business, and Vincent must attend to his sexy little woman Mia (Uma Thurman)—via a dinner date. How does one prepare for such an important occasion?

Well, what would any normal person do—shoot up, of course.

After a good dosage of five dollar milkshakes and a swift nose powdering, Vincent and Mia rev up for Jackrabbit Slim's annual twist-a-thon. Twenty years and 30 pounds later, Travolta still has those *Saturday Night Fever* moves. And they charm the socks off the judges, who award the winning trophy.

However, this is not enough for the drug-thirsty Thurman, who proceeds to snort enough heroine to

complete with protruding hypodermic needle.

"Whoa. That was pretty trippy."

Next chapter: Tarantino continues to confuse the viewers, with an introduction of a new character, and an unconnected storyline.

Meet Butch (Bruce Willis). His legacy: to buffet the winds of time—literally. Oh, the pains one will endure to save a family heirloom. So, the baffled audience watches as his boxer's lifestyle blossoms into that of a criminal on the loose.

Who is this Butch guy anyway?

After about twenty minutes of plot-thickening and simultaneous deconstruction, a connection emerges. Finally.

Butch, who was forced by Marcellus Wallace (remember him—Vincent and Jules' boss) to fake a knockout in the fifth round of his match, accidentally kills the other fighter. While running from the big M, Butch discovers that his sugary sweet bonbon of a woman has forgotten the beloved watch at their residence.

(where Butch rams into Marcellus at an intersection), Butch seeks shelter in a pawn shop.

Bad move...really bad move. Had Butch noticed the confederate flag hanging on the wall, things would have been much easier.

Now, at the height of bafflement, the audience is transported to a neo-medieval torture chamber, conveniently located in the back room of the seemingly safe shop.

We won't reveal the details of this situation—but it involves a samurai sword and a leather-clad, leashed gimp—use your imagination.

Butch and Marcellus escape, not without lifetime scars and pain.

And so the journey has reached a point of revelation, and returned to the quaint little Los Angeles restaurant.

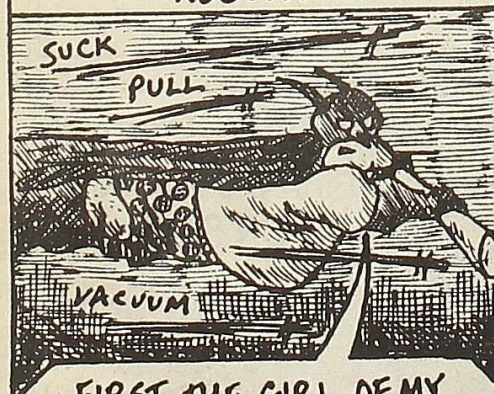
Ezekiel 25:17, "The path of the righteous man is beset on all sides by the inequities of the selfish and the tyranny of evil men...."

The role of fate determines the

THE ADVENTURES OF FATMAN by Tuco Sakubowski

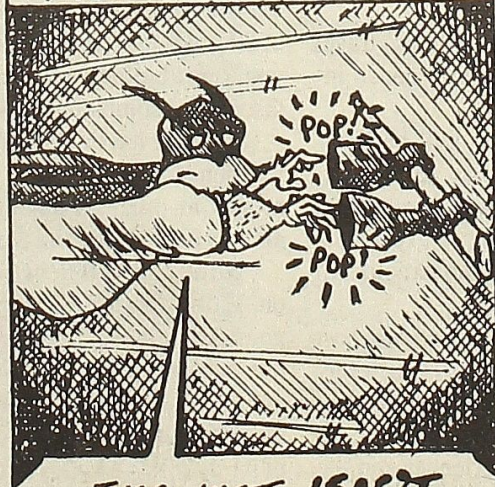
"Origin," part 5

THE DIETER HAD KIDNAPPED PHOTOJOURNALIST GINGER ALE....



FIRST THE GIRL OF MY DREAMS IS KIDNAPPED, THEN SOME BOZO IS TRYING TO KILL ME WITH A GIANT VACUUM, & MY PANTS GET SUCKED IN...

FATMAN AND BLOBIN RESPONDED, ONLY TO BE ATTACKED BY THE DIETER'S LIPO-SUCTION MACHINE....



...THIS JUST ISN'T MY DAY....

YES! I HAVE YOU NOW!



HEY! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE SUCKED IN!



April 11, 1995

Patnaude serves Nicaraguan mission

By Emily Damstra
Staff Reporter

"We as Americans have so much and there is so much we can offer others," said senior Ellen Patnaude, explaining why she wants to live in Nicaragua for a year or two starting next January or February.

Patnaude has already spent two weeks in the war-torn country with a team of nine people from the Presbytery of Lake Michigan. The group brought financial and emotional support to the CEPAD office in the eastern Nueva Guinea region. CEPAD is an organization of evangelical churches that works toward peace and reconciliation.

"This was a good opportunity to try to do something to help these people, even if it was only talking and visiting with them," said Patnaude.

Why Nicaragua?

Patnaude said, "It is one of the few [countries] that has really been damaged by U.S. action." The Presbytery, she surmised, feels responsible and wants to help the country, which has a poverty rate of 70%.

Patnaude's tentative departure date is January or February of 1996, if the National Presbytery decides the project is worthwhile and provides funding. In Nicaragua, she will utilize her biology major to help with reforestation. Her fiancé, Alma alumnus Stephen Herrick, will also travel to Nicaragua and plans to teach English.

"We had talked about working overseas, possibly through the Peace Corps, after we got married," said Herrick.

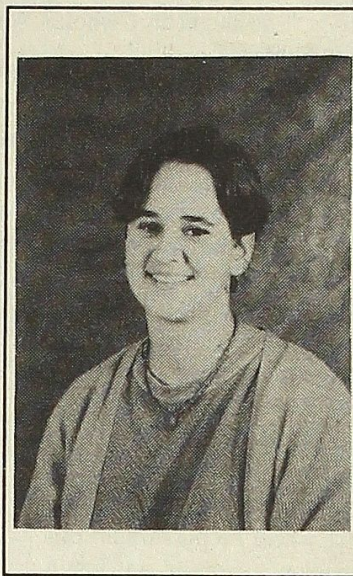
"The Presbytery of Lake Michigan has been sending representa-

tives to Nicaragua for five to six years now and a lady from my church in my hometown [of Mason, MI] called me up to invite me to go along, and when they mentioned that they were looking for an English teacher, I jumped at the opportunity. It just happened to work out perfectly."

In addition to ecological work, Patnaude plans to volunteer on behalf of women. She has volunteered at the Alma women's aid shelter and said the situation in Nicaragua is "not very good."

Though the senior is also a French major, she has taken a year of Spanish and does not anticipate any difficulties learning the language.

"We are the haves, and they are the have-nots," said Patnaude. She wants to enrich the lives of Nicaraguans and hopes she will in turn be enriched by them.



Senior Ellen Patnaude plans excursion of service to impoverished country. File photo.

Innovative Trance mounts Massive Attack

By Chris Sienko
Freelance Writer

It is said that "derivative composers borrow, but innovators steal outright." Any young upstart can pull out a few dusty Rolling Stones moves or sample a hot James Brown lick and come out looking like the hot new thang, but it takes a lot more work to make the past really work for the present. You're talking about two opposing goals, using the past to push forward. The warm glow of the past against the Technicolor orgasm of innovation. What's it gonna be?

Massive Attack has it both ways on their sophomore effort, *Protection* (Virgin Records). This seemingly innocuous trio ("Born and Raised in Bristol," as the liner notes so proudly display) currently finds themselves at the vanguard of the British Trance/Ambient/Techno collective, but I doubt the constricting classifications of that genre will be able to hold them long.

Massive Attack makes techno trance like most people make goulash: find everything in the cupboards and throw it in. The band's hodge-podge approach to composition makes the band a textbook example of contradictions that work. Massive Attack rallies around the flags of Bob Marley, new age techno wimp Mike Oldfield, trance/

ambient groups like the Orb and Brian Eno and studio session British pop, complete with female guest vocalists. Oh, and they rap, too.

Whenever "British" and "rap" enter the same sentence, it usually elicits a groan. "But British people aren't funky! Why do they gotta do something they're obviously not cut out for? They haven't had the same experiences as American rappers." To which I say, no, they haven't, and you'd better get that in your head before listening.

Reading the liner notes and listening to songs like "Karmacoma" and "Eurochild" brings out an enormous sense of pride for their culture. British people DO come from a different culture than Americans, and the effect isn't one of imitation, but close parallel.

Rappers 3d and Tricky deliver their rhymes in a combination of Jamaican "Toasting" style and thick cockney sensibilities. Samples on this platter are very sound-based. At the risk of overgeneralizing, when American DJ's sample, they sample for momentum. British DJ's sample for mood.

Organic sounding grand pianos and throbbing, grunting techno keyboards are surgically fused to create seamless musical soundscapes, lands where Jamaica has landed—right in the center of the most decadent period of Rome. Massive At-

tack dubs Reggae with no gaps, trance music that inspires you to think like your roommate, pulse beats that become heartbeats, and grooves as deep and wide as the Mediterranean.

While Massive Attack may not have the fury or the momentum of American techno and rap, I haven't heard many artists on this side of the Atlantic who pay this much attention to the texture of the song. Everything on this disc is placed with intent and forethought, from

the strategically clipped bassline in "Weather Storm," to the respirator sound in "Heat Miser."

All these shards of texture stop acting as separate pieces and coalesce into an icy maze of mood, texture and beat. Listening to Massive Attack is like sitting in a chill out room during the end times. The chaos is implied rather than stated, and the momentum comes from what is missing rather than what is there. Chill out, and have a great summer.

Classes depart to broader horizons

By Justin Gustafson
Freelance Writer

Spring term provides students with a chance to take classes which broaden their horizons and allow for new opportunities.

Many students will experience life as never before as they take advantage of the classes being offered this spring.

Three classes are heading out of Alma to explore the world. Students in Political Science 211: Western European Politics and German 180/380: Reunified Germany and Europe will depart for a 15 day trip to Germany.

Meanwhile, Patrick Furlong and ten students are headed to London as part of their ongoing research project about World War II for History 480B.

Several students will also travel to New York city with dance instructor Carol Fike.

The German trip will be highlighted with visits to Berlin, Dresden, Leipzig and former Nazi concentration camps. Professors Monshipouri and John Arnold will be leading this trip.

Students will be staying with host families in Leipzig during their stay in Germany. On their return, they will write a ten page journal describing their experiences and the politics of Germany.

Jeff Fosnaugh, a junior taking the trip, said, "One of the biggest advantages of going to Alma College is that every student is given

the opportunity to go overseas for a fairly reasonable price."

Students on the New York dance trip will be able to visit with professional dance companies, attend Broadway shows including "Cats," and get a backstage tour.

The London Research Seminar will focus mainly on obtaining primary sources for students' research papers.

"We are not going to the library, we are going to the Public Records Office to do research in the archives there," explained sophomore Kathy Kasprzyk. "The main point [of the trip] is to get experience dealing with real primary sources. We are going to get our hands on the real documents. If you are a history major, you will really understand this because it is exciting!"

"These are real documents, none of this fake stuff. It would be like if you were a biology student and you discovered something new."

Students have been taking an independent study course this semester in order to have a paper already prepared before they leave.

"We all have different topics, all on World War II. The paper is going to be about 25 pages long, then when we come back it will be about 30 pages from the research we do [in London]. It has been a lot of hard work," said Kasprzyk.

Next year, the Spring Term possibilities will include trips to Australia, Jamaica, the Nixon Presidential Library and Mexico.

Events and Happenings

On Campus:

Apr. 12:
Midnight Breakfast, 10-11 p.m., Hamilton Commons

The City, 7 p.m., Heritage Center Theatre

Creative Writing Reading, 8:30 p.m., Alma Queen of Scots Laundromat

Apr. 13:
Honors Convocation, 11 a.m., Cappaert Gymnasium

Apr. 14:
Good Friday, classes end at 12:30 p.m.

Apr. 16:
The Messiah, 4 p.m., Heritage Center, Presbyterian Hall, Tickets: \$5 adults, students free

Apr. 17:
Winter Term Exams commence

Ann Arbor:

Apr. 13:
Mark Kozelek of the Red House Painters with Lois, 9:30 p.m., Blind Pig, Advance Tickets: \$5

Apr. 14:
Morsel with Claw Hammer and A Minor Forest, 9:30 p.m., Blind Pig, Advance Tickets: \$5

Detroit:

Apr. 12:
Sublime, 8 p.m., Majestic, Advance Tickets: \$6.50

Mt. Pleasant:

Apr. 14:
Indigo Girls, 7:30 p.m., Rose Arena

Traditions...

Honors Convocation.

For many, the mere mention of this annual ceremony sends students in search of a deck of cards, last-minute homework or a crossword puzzle to pass their time in the dense atmosphere of Cappaert Gymnasium.

Yet for the graduating seniors, this ceremonial rite-of-passage symbolizes a time for creativity and ingenuity as they adorn their mortarboards with representations of their personality and future.

In addition to the ever-popu-

lar Greek letters, mascots of graduate or professional schools and various alcohol-related paraphernalia, one senior is rumored to be creating a stand-up cardboard replica of John Travolta, while another will reportedly attach a live animal to his cap. (Seniors on *The Almanian* staff will likely don enlarged photos of their favorite advisors.)

This creative tradition is said to have its roots in the late 1970s when a senior class concealed squirt guns under their caps; another class released pigeons into the gym during the ceremony.

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Track

Alma teams fare well in Adrian, Albion meets

By Mary Lou Ecken
Freelance Writer

The Alma women's track and field team breezed by both Adrian and Albion Saturday with the same point spread: 115-30. The men's team also demolished Adrian (121-22) but did not fare well against Albion, losing 68-86.

The weekend's results bring the women's record to 4-0 and the men's to 3-1.

Junior Jeff Lillie said the meet was a challenge.

"It was a tough meet. Unfortunately, the better team did not come out on top," he said.

The women's team had many personal records again this week.

Sophomores Rainy Inman in the shot put, Chele Pippin in the javelin, Kristi Kern in the 400m hurdles and Lisa Wittenbach in the 3000m run and first-year students Katie Rodgers in both the 3000m run and the 1500m run, Joann Brnjac in the long jump and Amity Miller in the triple jump added their names to the list of broken PRs for the season.

The men's team recorded PR's by junior captain Chad Mills in the 400m dash, sophomore Chad Milletics in the 400m hurdles and a double PR in the shot put by senior

Corey Messner and sophomore Jason Medler.

The women's throws were led by Inman with a win in discus (127'4") and a second place finish in the shot put behind Brnjac (39'4").

Sophomore Torree Stembol contributed a pair of second place finishes in the javelin and discus against Adrian and seconds in the same events against Albion.

Senior Lynn Ostroski took first and Brnjac second in high jump against both teams, while Brnjac also added a second and third in the long jump. Just inches ahead of Brnjac was first-year student Sara Pettee, who placed first and second in the long jump. Meredith White, also a first-year student, won the triple jump and Miller was able to score third place points with her PR.

Sophomore Kristin Gilbert won both the 100m (13.41) and 200m (27.95) and the Scots again took first, second and third in the 400m dash.

In the 800m run, first-year student Kendra Edwardson placed first and Sarah Kampf, also a first-year student, added a second and third against Adrian and Albion respectively.

Senior Amy Doucette ran just

seconds off the national qualifying time for the 1500m run (4:47) in her return to the track after taking her junior year off.

She said she is happy she returned.

"I like this team a lot. They are fun!" she exclaimed.

Doucette ran the 200m dash as an exhibition entry.

"It was fun to try something different," she said of her performance.

Once again, the Scots took the top three spots in the women's 3000m run. The 5000 rounded out the events with a first for first-year student Rebecca Walter (19:54) and a second and third place finish for sophomore Tammy Adams.

The women's 400m and mile relay teams won easily and Edwardson said the PRs made the day enjoyable.

"It was cool to work with my teammates to attain goals," she said.

Kern agreed.

"Everyone was pulling for each other and cheered for others even though we already had a considerable lead!"

The men's throwing squad was led by a strong performance from senior Chad Reagh, who took first in discus, first and second in the javelin and first and third in the shot put. Junior Rich Larpenter

added a second place against Adrian in the javelin and Messner contributed a third against Adrian in the shot put.

In the jumps, Nordbeck won the triple jump against Adrian and was second to Albion. Senior Hao Luc and first-year student Tim Relich went first and second in the long jump against Adrian but were edged out by Albion jumpers.

Junior Darryl McCray took first in high jump and first-year student Otie McKinley took second with an even six foot jump.

Junior John Black took first in the pole vault followed by Lyle Simmons, also a junior, who placed second and third against Adrian and Albion respectively.

The duo of McCray and Relich took first and second in both the 100m and 200m dashes against Adrian and McCray was third in both events after Albion's men. Mills added a tough win in the 400m dash, then came back three events later to win the 400m hurdles. Junior captain Christian Wiley finished with a close second. Wiley and Nordbeck took first and second in the 100 hurdles and McKinley added a third against Albion.

Sophomore Jeremy O'Shea took first and second in both the 800m

and 1500m runs. The 3000m trio against Adrian swept the track easily. Sophomore Jason Bandlow and junior Grant Woodman went one, two and two, three respectively against Adrian and Albion in the 5000m run as well.

First-year student Jon Hanson said he learned a lot from the Albion meet.

"It was a great meet to learn from and build upon," he said.

Messner went one step further and set a goal for the season.

"We are going to meet them again for league, this time in our own back yard. Watch out Albion!" he threatened.

Head coach Dan Gibson expressed his confidence regarding the women's double win.

"We looked awesome again and we are ready for Hope and then Calvin," he said.

Gibson said he was proud of the men's team despite their first loss.

"We were disappointed with the results of the meet but not the effort because we gave everything we had," he said.

The Scots will run at home tomorrow against Hope and again on Saturday as they host the second Alma Invitational.

Ecken closes career with driving force

By Kristin Allen
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Why walk when you can fly?

For senior and country music fanatic Mary Lou Ecken, this question serves as a metaphor for life. In the midst of her fourth year as a pivotal member of the women's track team, Ecken sets lofty goals for herself and her team.

"I would definitely like to see us win the league title," said Ecken, who runs the 100m and 400m hurdles and competes in the javelin. "This is the best team I've been a part of since I have been at Alma—it is definitely the most fun."

Ecken, who began running competitively in junior high school because she always liked to run around on the playground, said her personal goal is to attain her high school

time in the 100m hurdles. Her personal best in high school was 16.4; at Alma it is a 17.3.

However, Ecken has already struggled this season to overcome soft tissue damage to her knee, an injury which prevented her from running for over two weeks.

Yet perhaps no struggle has compared to the endeavor Ecken experienced in her transition from high school to college track. Coming off a winning season at Caro High School, Ecken remembers feeling discouraged with her initial college performance.

"I remember an indoor meet at Grand Valley when I was a first-year student. I ran the 200 and wasn't feeling very good about running here because I had come off a winning season in high school," said Ecken, who was third in her high school conference for the

100m hurdles.

"I remember Kerry Radcliffe—a senior whom I really admired—came up and told me I did a good job afterwards. It made me feel really good."

Ecken, an exercise and health science major, who admits to always running better when her parents are there to cheer her on, said one of her best running memories took place her sophomore year when she competed in the heptathlon.

This event introduced Ecken to the javelin, which she has been working hard on this season. In Saturday's meet against Adrian, Ecken threw to her personal best of 75'5".

One part of running which attracts Ecken is the high energy.

"I remember my first year when we ran against Albion—the team the guys always had to beat. At the end of one race we made a tunnel and were screaming and cheering. I don't remember if they won or not, but I remember the enthusiasm was amazing."

With four meets left in her college career, Ecken realizes the end to her competitive running will soon be a reality. Receiving her acceptance letter to the University of Michigan's public health program just last week, Ecken wants to become a health counselor and educator and eventually coach a high school track team.

"Running is so powerful—it feels so much better to be in shape. You are stronger mentally because you are stronger physically."

Mary Chapin Carpenter could not have said it better herself.

Top ten sports stories of 1994-95

10. "Ice fishing experience makes for an enlightened day" enlightened the whole campus to the fact that sports are not limited to basketball or swimming, but include recreation and fun as well.

9. "Astounding week proves swimming abilities" reported the Scots' swimming team's big week against Calvin in January.

8. "Scots close in on MIAA championship" brought our women's basketball team to the forefront again as they neared the 1995 tournament.

7. "Big wins in Grand Valley add to successful season" continued to report wins for the 1995 softball team.

6. "Hopesnags conference title from Scots" brought us to the end of the women's basketball season.

5. "Swimmers dive into all-MIAA status" proved once again what a great season the swimmers had this year.

4. The "Where are they now?" series: These articles made us all a little more aware of the possibilities abounding in our future as Alma graduates and athletes.

3. "Men's, women's track teams blaze through frigid conditions" gave us a look at the success of the track team's phenomenal showing in Indiana.

2. "Big hits, good pitching lead to 3-1 weekend in Indiana" reported five homeruns for the softball team as they defeated a host of teams from Indiana to start off the season right.

1. "MIAA swim conference results in lifetime bests" reported the swim team's 12 school records, four NCAA meet qualifications and countless lifetime bests as they roared into the end of their season.



In the final meets of her college career, senior hurdler Mary Lou Ecken continues the hard work and dedication which began her years at Alma. Photo by Ben Kirkby.

Softball team dominates field again

By Amy Majestic
Sports Editor

Once again, the women's softball team ravaged its way through another week of competitors, taking no prisoners and improving their overall record with four more wins.

Last Tuesday, the team mercied Kalamazoo in the first of a double-header and won their second game by a single point in the tenth inning.

Junior catcher Danelle Volk blasted a home run to deep center field in the seventh inning, forcing the overtime.

"She has a lot of power in her," stated head coach Dennis Griffin.

The eighth inning was played well by both teams, with no runs

scored on either side.

Then, in the bottom of the ninth inning, senior Holly Barnett stepped up to the plate with two runners on base and pulled out an RBI, putting the Scots ahead by one.

With darkness settling in the tenth inning, the international tie-breaker rule was enacted, giving Kalamazoo an automatic runner on second base.

An RBI for them brought the game to a 5-5 score at the bottom of the tenth.

After senior Deb Quackenbush hit a line shot to get on base, junior Bonnie Palmer pulled power out of her pocket in the form of a double to win the game with her

RBI.

After ten full innings, the Scots came out on top with a slim 6-5 margin.

"After mercying the first game it was weird that the second went so long," admitted senior pitcher Beth Aurelich, who started the game.

Senior Julie Hoffman got both wins for the day.

The second game was a joint effort between Hoffman, Aurelich and sophomore Andrea Hill.

The weekend games were high on the list of Scot priorities. They ended in victory for the Scots over Hope in both, with the first game ending in 4-0 and the second in 3-0.

"You have got two internation-

ally ranked teams going against each other," Griffen remarked about the exciting double-header. "Hope is ranked tenth and we are ranked fifth by the NCAA coach's poll," he added.

Hoffman got both of the wins against Hope as well, although Aurelich made a good showing for most of the second game.

"Beth gets teams to pop up a lot. In the third and fourth inning they started to hit her so we decided not to mess with it and bring Julie back in," remarked Griffen.

Once again, Palmer was pivotal behind the plate. Her three-run homer in the first game closed any chance of Hope coming back and handed the Scots yet another win.

"That was the blow," said Griffen. "She is having a great year," he added.

The wins against Hope prove the strength behind the team this year. As the Scots' major competition in the league, they provide a good outlook on what the rest of the season will look like.

"It was a great ball game. I expected Hope would score a little bit but Julie pitched really well and Beth pitched really well. They never got anyone on third the whole double-header," Griffen proudly announced.

Three more league games are on the schedule for this week and they should settle the women's softball team into their position in the MIAA.

Women's tennis team plays hard, gains experience

By Wade Renando
Staff Reporter

So far, this season has proven to be a difficult one for the women's tennis team. With a group of talented but inexperienced players, the team has had to suffer through some rough matches.

Last Wednesday, the team played against Hope in Holland. Although they played a characteristically spirited game, they were still defeated 0-9.

First-year student Kristine Kuhna, who lost her singles matches 2-6 and 3-6, said the match against the Flying Dutch was a difficult one.

"They were tough. It was a tough day for everyone but I think we learned a lot," she said.

Even amidst another loss, the

impressive unity of the team has not been affected. They are close to each other and supportive during competition. Head coach Tammy Anderson is focusing on getting the players to feel more comfortable on the court.

Senior captain Sarah Gabler said the younger women on the team have to get used to the feel of the game at a college level and must play more aggressively.

Kuhna agreed.

"I had a lot of chances to move ahead, but I just did not do it," she admitted.

This loss was devastating for the Scots because Hope is a formidable team.

"They live and breathe tennis there," exclaimed Kuhna.

As a result of this and prior losses, the overall goal of this

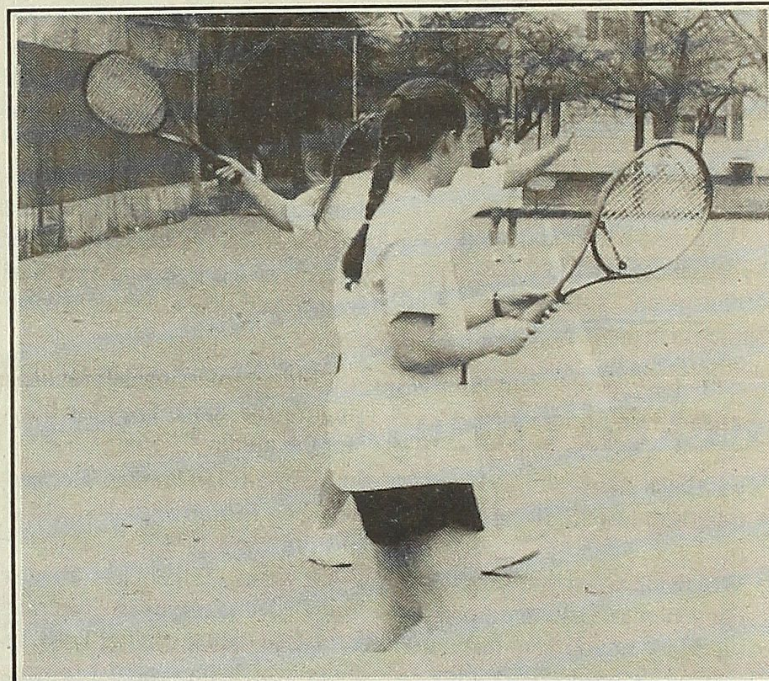
year's season has become to gain experience. By the end of the season, they anticipate achieving third place in the league as the schedule becomes more versatile.

Hope is currently ranked second in the MIAA and some of the matches were very close. The number one doubles team of Gabler and sophomore Jill Woehrmann lost by a close 7-8 in their set.

The Scots were hoping to improve their standing last Saturday against Hillsdale at Alma. Unfortunately, it snowed Friday night and the courts were too wet to play the next morning.

The Scots' record is currently 0-2 in the MIAA. Their next match is tomorrow, Wednesday, against Saginaw Valley State University.

(Sports Editor Amy Majestic contributed to this report.)



After their disappointing loss to Hope, the women's tennis team looks to redeem themselves tomorrow against SVSU. Photo by Jerry Stass.

Where are they now?

Dan Gibson returns to alma mater to coach his sport

By Amy Majestic
Sports Editor

"I guess the thing I want them all to know is that I care about the athletes as individuals and the team as a group."

So said men's and women's head track and cross country coach Dan Gibson—another one of four Alma College graduates who has returned to coach at his alma mater.

The 1983 Alma graduate looks as if he could be a current athlete on the team; but do not let the young face fool you. Gibson has four years and eight varsity letters behind him for track and field events, as well as nearly ten years of coaching experience.

A former math and secondary education major, it is easy for Gibson to cite his most memorable moment during his Alma years.

"This is a given. My best memory would be getting mar-

ried at the end of my junior year and the end of track season. On top of it I had a really good track season that year," he said.

Gibson's wife is also an Alma graduate and the two have been together since their first year on campus.

Aside from dating his wife-to-be, Gibson was also very busy with the various jobs he held while on campus.

As a resident assistant his junior year, he also worked in the math department. In the physical education building, he was the sports information person. His PE job was essentially the same position that head swim coach, Gregg Baadte now holds.

"Back then they had students doing a lot more of that stuff," remarked Gibson.

While he was running track here, assistant coach Charles Gray was both the track and cross country coach. Gibson holds some fond memories of Coach Gray.

"I will always remember Coach

Gray taking us to Florida and driving his old green van—it was bad," he said.

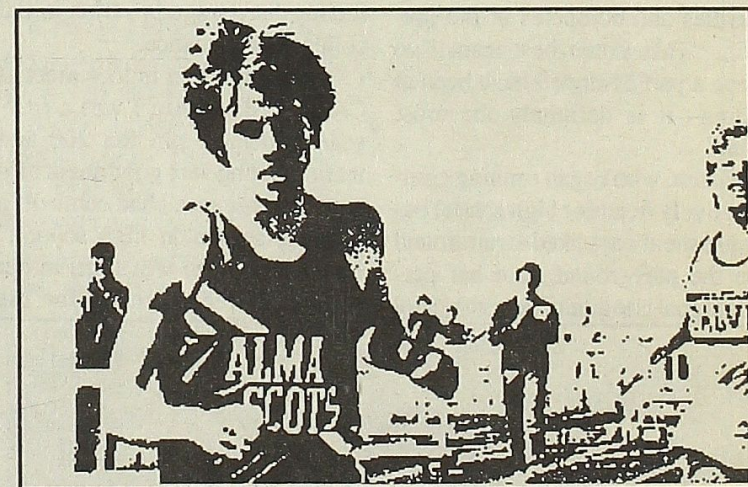
After four seasons and three years of suffering in the green van, Gibson moved on to Portland High School where he taught math for two years. He then took a job at Montabella High School, where he currently teaches.

"I was looking for a job around Alma. Geographically, this is a good place because it is near our family," he said of the move.

Gibson inquired about a job as assistant cross country coach with Coach Gray and secured the position in the fall of 1985. Five years later, he became the head track and then head cross country coach when Gray decided to move into the assistant coach position.

He jokes about his very structured coaching habits, sometimes referring to them as paranoid. However, assistant coach Scott Frey praises his coaching ethic.

"He is very well-organized. He allows the assistant coaches to



coach. He has put together a really good staff, that is important," he said. "He also does a great job of recruiting."

Gibson cites his favorite moment as a coach at Alma as his first dual meet against Calvin.

"We lost to Calvin the first year I coached. Calvin had won 36 championships in a row. We came so close to winning but we lost," he

remembered.

"The next year we beat them and it had been [nearly] 20 years since Alma won," he added proudly.

For this year's team, which has been successful so far, Gibson has set the goals high.

"I would like to see both of our teams win a conference championship," he said.

Men's tennis surprised by Hope's two new star players

By Joe Bogan
Staff Reporter

On a chilly and windy day, the men's tennis team suffered their first loss in the MIAA conference. With an overall record of 4-5, the Scots hosted and lost to Hope's Flying Dutchmen last Wednesday.

Even though the scores were close, the Scots only won one match, with a final score of 1-8 for the day.

"It was disappointing to say the least. It was closer than the score indicated. The weather conditions were pretty bad, which was a negative factor for both teams," said head coach Kevin Francis.

The Scots were unable to win any of their singles matches. However, 4 of 6 matches were very close and two were decided by tie breakers.

Junior captain Chris Stacey, also the number one singles player, lost his first match 6-1, 6-3. Stacey said Hope came out with a lot of

surprises. Their first-year students Jeff McDaniels and Steve DeVrieze were highly recruited by Hope last year and bumped last year's number one player to the number three position on the team.

"We were not expecting them to be that good at all. They were better than us and beat us," Stacey stated. "It was not a case of us beating ourselves. Next time we face them [in the MIAA tournament] we will be better prepared," he added.

Sophomore Nate Lounds also had a tight match, losing 7-5, 6-2.

"It was very close. We were at deuce many times. A few points here and there could have made the difference," he said.

Other singles matches included losses delivered to senior Will Hodgeman (6-3, 6-1), first-year student Chris Ahn, (7-6 [11-9], 6-1), junior Brian Balding (6-2, 2-6, 6-2) and first-year student David Meinhardt (6-1, 3-6, 7-6 [9-7]).

"It could have gone either way. Hopefully, we will get another

chance at these guys in the tournament," said Balding.

The doubles matches ended even closer than the singles matches. The first was yet another close one. Stacey and Lounds lost 7-6, 6-3 and were actually up 5-1 in the first set.

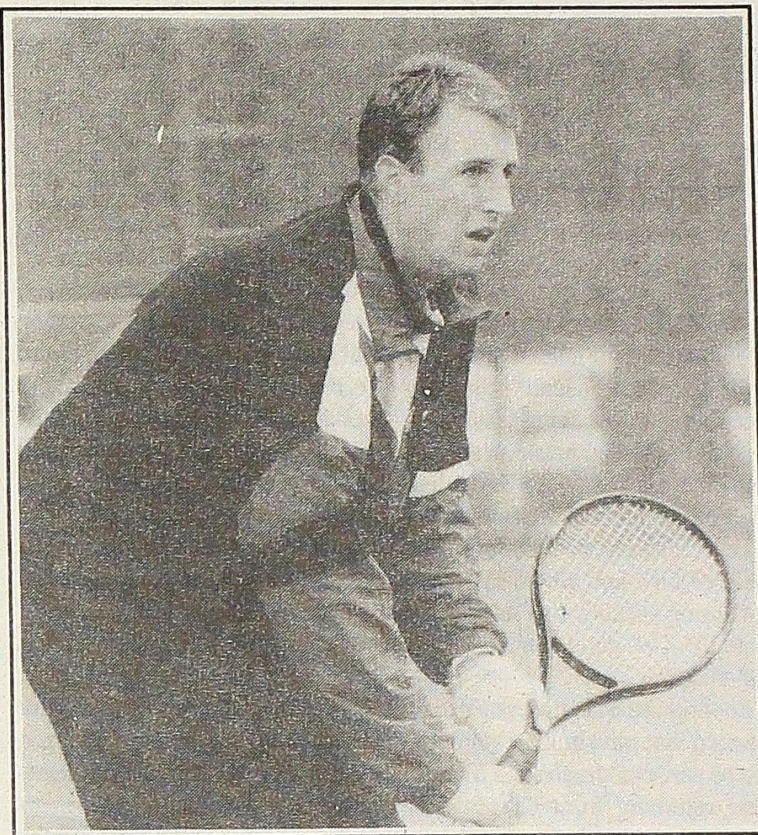
The Scots only win was served up by Hodgeman and Ahn. With a final score of 6-3, 6-4, the doubles team showed their worth to the team.

In a later match, Balding and junior Jason Grey battled in a flurry of snow, losing a three-setter 7-5, 2-6, 6-3.

Coach Francis has been proud of the team's efforts despite the loss.

"They have an excellent work ethic and willingness to come out and give it their all," he admitted.

"Overall the team is coming together. Everyone is becoming friends and the atmosphere is one where they work hard to be their best," said Stacey.



Sophomore Nathan Lounds lost a tight match in last Wednesday's match against Hope. Photo by Ben Kirkby.

Pros return to field; replacements shafted after spring training

By Tom Glegola
Staff Reporter

Baseball is back, but do we really care?

"I don't care," said first-year student Dan Stratton.

Last year, we finally realized that both owners and players are more interested in the business side of the major leagues rather than the game itself.

As a result, we had to watch replacement players play their hearts out during three weeks of spring training this year.

Many of us saw hustle.

We saw players playing because

of their love for the game, not for the love of money.

Sophomore Jason Darrow agreed the pros could learn from the replacement players.

"Most [professionals] are not playing for the sport. They are playing for the money," he said.

On the flip side, others only saw a circus act this spring.

For instance, some wondered what Pedro Borbon was doing in a Cincinnati uniform.

As an integral part of the Red Machine of the '70s, Borbon's relief pitching definitely helped Sparky Anderson win three championships with the Reds before he went to the

Tigers.

However, having an out-of-shape, 48-year old man returning to a sport his son plays is degrading to the game.

But then again, at least he wanted to play.

The fact remains that August 12 of last year was the last professional game any fans have seen.

Did we miss them?

Not really. Professional and college football was about to start. Professional and collegiate basketball and a shortened hockey season carried us through winter and early spring.

On the good side, this allowed

us to save some of our money or we spent it elsewhere.

Did we watch intently each day on television for the latest results on the strike?

No, we most likely found something else to watch. (O.J., anyone?)

Sure, we missed a World Series. Oh well.

I would say that a Super Bowl, College Bowl Day, NCAA Tournament and the playoff stretch in basketball and hockey more than make up for that.

Now the regular season of 144 games will start on April 26. Of course, that is only if the players do not walk out again or the owners do

not impose a lockout.

The financial disputes have not been resolved. The hard feelings remain. So the possibility for an extension of baseball with replacements still exists.

Though some are comforted by the return of the professionals, I would rather see the replacements continue until a full settlement is reached or not even bother with a settlement.

The replacements have truly given their all and now they have been given the pink slip as their reward.

Don't they deserve better?

Exciting March Madness 1995 dishes up some surprises

By Joe Bogan
Staff Reporter

Sixty-four men's NCAA college basketball teams. One goal.

Every year, that goal is to become the NCAA college basketball champions.

All the jump balls, three pointers, upsets, shattered backboards, last-second shots, betting pools and slam dunks can be summed up into two words: March Madness.

The first round of the tournament provided much more than just the higher seeds blowing out the lower seeds. There were some upsets and some farewells.

Devin Davis, of the twelfth seed Miami-Ohio, with his gold tooth and a funky hairstyle beat the fifth seed Damon Stoudamire and the Arizona Wildcats.

Fourteenth seed Old Dominion handed third seed Villanova a loss in the first round.

We finally said farewell to the last remnants of the Fab Five as they took a first round exit as well.

"It was a pleasure watching the Fab Five from Michigan. If they would have stayed and had better leadership they could have gone all the way," said first-year student Larry Phillips.

Michigan's rival, Michigan State, was also handed a first-round defeat. The game was not a big one in the tournament but it was the last one in which head coach Jud Heathcoat will ever participate. Heathcoat was hoping he could make one last run with the help of star player Shawn Respert.

Two other Big Ten teams that got knocked out in the first round were Minnesota and Indiana.

In Indiana, head coach Bob Knight had an interesting press conference after the loss. His comments toward the reporters were very offensive.

Since Knight is famous for his March press conferences and he only had one this time, he must have been trying to make up for all the ones he was going to miss.

The team that pulled off the most upsets this year was Oklahoma State, led by center "Big Country" Bryant Reeves.

The potential Cinderella team was impressive, making it to the Final Four by beating the first (Wake Forest) and second (University of Massachusetts) seeds in their brackets.

Okie State met the University of California (UCLA) in the Final Four. UCLA was expected to make it and proved capable with good shooting and ball handling by senior guard Tyus Edny.

The other two remaining teams were Arkansas and North Carolina. North Carolina, as second seed in their bracket, made the cut with a well-played game against Kentucky.

Arkansas also made the Final

Four by the skin of their teeth, almost losing two games by attempted last-second shots.

"It is a conspiracy! If Bill Clinton was not president, Arkansas would not be in the finals," said junior Bill Ballenger.

Nolan Richardson's deep bench was too much for North Carolina and the Razorbacks stayed in Seattle to defend their crown.

UCLA, with senior Charles O'Bannon and Edny combining for 40 points and George Zidek, containing Bryant Reeves, tried to win the title for the 11th time in school history.

"You could not have asked for a better matchup. It is the number one team versus the defending champion," said an excited first-year student, Dan Trevor, during the game.

Trevor's roommate, first-year student Tom Jewett, spoke of dynasties.

"You have got two dynasties going at it here. One team already has

had a dynasty and one team is trying to become a dynasty."

After the game was over, it appeared as though head coach Jim Harrick lifted the heavy weight of John Wooden's reign off his shoulders, adding the eleventh championship in UCLA history.

Even with Edny out due to wrist injury, Arkansas could not stop Ed O'Bannon's 30-point performance and Zidek's superb defense over forward Corliss Williamson.

March Madness and the 63 games it entailed is now over.

By watching CBS's famous final farewell of "One Shining Moment," we could embrace all the great moments of this year's March Madness and keep them with us until we will once again enjoy its thrill next year.

April 11, 1995

Spring Break disasters offer valuable lessons

By Trisha A. Warner
Staff Reporter

Spring break: the socially acceptable way for students to vent built-up stress, usually through sleeping late and being lazy, sunbathing in a southern state, or spending time with friends. Basically, chilling out and having fun.

Unfortunately, some of our best ideas of how and where to spend our spring vacation can lead to disaster. But we can learn from others' mistakes.

Sophomore Stacy Messner discovered that traveling on holidays can be perilous. As she and friends were returning from Florida one Easter, their tire deflated and left them stranded on the freeway in Tennessee. They finally convinced a man to change the tire, but were forced to drive the rest of the way home using the donut.

Senior Nicole Castle discovered that hotels can literally be life-threatening. As she and her friends drove into the parking lot of their hotel, they noticed a large crowd gathering near an ambulance. Someone had died in the hotel parking lot.

Vacationing with a group of friends can be fun, but sophomore Tammy Watson warns that the weather may affect your friends' brains. In her first year, she went to Florida with upper-class students from the track team. The group had

pooled money to pay for necessities like food, pop and toilet paper.

According to Watson, the women over 21 took all of the supply money and went out to the bar each night. To retaliate, Watson and a friend would wake up early each morning, talk loudly and bug their hung over friends to wake up and run with them.

One first-year student cautioned travelers when approaching strange people. While walking to a near-by 7-11, he and a friend met a rather large woman wearing strange clothes; she proclaimed herself the Messiah. To the student's horror and the Miami police's amusement, his friend began berating the woman in public. A large crowd soon gathered and he could only stand there in disbelief.

Although traveling over spring break is fun, sometimes it is impossible. Senior Colleen Carmody coaches junior high track in the Alma Public Schools and could not leave the area; however, she was scared to stay in her sorority house alone. The seventh graders drove by her house and threw things at it. She said she was terrified and slept elsewhere for the week.

Finally, senior Jason Watkins noted that there really is no place on earth like home sweet home. He stated, "I am the Anti-Christ of spring break. I have never gone anywhere except Midland, Michigan for break."

Top 10 Opinion Stories of 1994-95

1. September 20, 1994: "Childhood trauma revolves around rubber bands" by Susan Elliott

2. October 4, 1994: "Cable causes addiction" by Chris Wiederman

3. November 1, 1994: "Viewers accept violence" by Anne Buyze

4. January 17, 1995: "Card companies award nothing for free" by Alexandra Orr

5. January 24, 1995: "Punishment, not luxury, needed in modern-day prisons" by Tom Glegola

6. January 31, 1995: "Roe vs. Wade Point/Counterpoint" by Tom Glegola and Alexandra Orr

7. February 14, 1995: "Government proposes Bombs over Beauty" by Jessica VanSlooten

8. February 14, 1995: "Valentine's Day focuses on couples, leaving singles stranded" by Alexandra Orr

9. March 14, 1995: "Louganis' sexual orientation overshadows being Aids victim" by Cyndi Hubbard

10. March 21, 1995: "Venture to New York City opens mind and heart to diversities" by Alexandra Orr

New Congress fulfills promises

By Tom Glegola
Staff Reporter

The "100 day Revolution" has almost come to a close and the results clearly indicate that Speaker Newt Gingrich is the most effective lawmaker since Lyndon Johnson.

In just three months, the House has altered the basic course run by the government for the past 60 years. The so-called Great Society has been destroyed. The so-called New Deal, which continually gave the federal government more power has been reversed.

Some might argue that Gingrich moved too quickly, but with the Senate being more deliberate, that really is not an issue. What is an issue is that House Republicans made a social contract with the American people, and they kept it.

Both the House and the Senate passed Line-Item Veto proposals.

This will allow the President to cancel particular items in the budget. This will make it harder for lawmakers, bought by special interest groups to hide the "pork" in big spending bills. The House and Senate will now have a conference to integrate both proposals into one, and then the President will have the opportunity to sign this into law--he will.

The House passed the Balanced-Budget Amendment. The Senate was two votes short of passing; however, Senate Majority Leader, Robert Dole, has stated another vote will take place.

The House passed the Crime Bill, as well as a repeal of the assault weapons ban. If this bill is passed by the Senate and President, our streets will be safer.

The House passed legal, welfare, and regulatory reforms. If made into law, they will impose limits on the amount awarded for

personal-injury cases. Furthermore, the government will have less say in regulating business, and will be required to have justification for this action. Consequently, the federal government will save money by giving states more power in dealing with social problems.

The House is also now in the process of considering the final chapter of their contract-tax cuts. If this passes, the federal government will actually save money, rather than spend it.

The House has certainly fulfilled their obligations to the American public, and they did it within 100 days, as promised. Our President promised the same thing when he was running; however, he failed to deliver. That cannot be said about House Republicans. They did what they said they were going to do.

I, for one, find it refreshing when the government actually keeps its promises.

Ludington Optimist group reinforces 'men only' membership

By Brooke Hansen
Co-Editor-In-Chief

For 29-year-old Amy Sanders, her sex is not an issue; however, after recently applying for membership in the Ludington, Mich. Optimists Club, it has become one. The club, which ranks among such all-male "Old Boy Networks" as the Elks, Lions, Rotaries and Kiwanis, has excluded women from its organization since its establishment in 1951.

According to Optimist members such as retired dentist Joe Morris, women like Sanders have no reason for desiring membership.

"If women start coming in it'll bust our club up. It'll be the beginning of the end," Morris claimed in a recent edition of the *Detroit News*.

In the past six years, this club has excluded six female applicants.

"I didn't want to join to make an issue out of being a woman," replied Sanders.

Clearly, Sanders intent was not to destroy an organization. Her reasons for interest in the Optimist club were based on the group's support for the youth of the community, sponsoring essay and oratorical contests, as well as other beneficial programs.

As quoted in the *News*, Sanders

wants to aid the youth of her roughly 8,500 member community.

"Women and girls have so little to look forward to in this town except being barefoot and pregnant," she said.

As a member of another small community, just twenty minutes north of Ludington, I empathize with Sanders. Opportunities for women and girls in such communities remain virtually nonexistent. And the women of these communities are not prepared to support the efforts of women like Sanders.

For some members of this community, siding with Sanders could mean ostracism. "This is not Detroit--this is a small town. I have business contacts that might get upset if I said anything," said a anonymous source quoted in the *News*.

Often, organizations such as the Optimists grant financial support to individuals in the form of scholarships. Voicing an opinion on such a touchy issue could also mean risking needed support.

Sanders deserves credit for her persistence and dedication to what she believes is a good cause.

And although this is only one occurrence of discrimination against women by an all-male organization, this kind of discrimina-

tion is not uncommon.

In 1987, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of female membership in fraternal organizations; the Optimists decision to ban Sanders from their organization is in violation of this ruling.

Why is an organization which is so obviously discriminatory titled

the Optimists club? (Yes, Optimist with a capital O.) Where is the optimism in such an institution?

If this organization grants scholarships to women and sponsors co-educational contests, is it not hypocritical to not allow women to participate in the organization of such activities? If an organization sup-

ports women in one arena, should it not support them in others?

By excluding the input of a possible member, I feel that these men are lacking valuable ideas and positive insights. Regardless of sex or race, the Optimists club could gain a great deal of knowledge from interested individuals of either sex.

Classifieds

SPRING BREAK: Nassau/Paradise Island, Cancun and Jamaica from \$299. Air, Hotel, Transfers, Parties and More! Organize small group - earn FREE trip plus commission! Call 1-800-822-0321

HELP WANTED: Men/Women earn up to \$480 weekly assembling circuit boards/electronic components at home. Experience unnecessary, will train. Immediate openings your local area. Call 1-602-680-4647 Ext. 102C

ATTENTION EDUCATION STUDENTS: Teacher Scholarship Program. Again this year, the US Department of Education is continuing their funding for the Paul Douglas Teachers Scholarship Program. You must have graduated in the top 10 percent of your high school class to be eligible. The maximum award is \$5000 each year. Stop by the Education Department for an application (Mrs. Farrier, AC 237). See Dr.

Markham if you have questions. DEADLINE is April 15.

ATTENTION EDUCATION STUDENTS: The Michigan Test for Teacher Certification now has an brochure available which provides general information about the testing program to individuals who may be interested in the certification process or in pursuing a Michigan teaching certificate. Please stop by the Education Department to pick up a brochure.

ATTENTION SECONDARY EDUCATION STUDENTS: If you plan on student teaching during the 1995-96 school year, please confirm your plans by contacting Dr. Anthony Rickard (AC 236; 7209).

ATTENTION STUDENTS INTERESTED IN TEACHING ELEMENTARY OR SECONDARY SCHOOL: Registration materials for the Michigan Teacher Competency Testing Program are available in the Education Department. Registration

deadlines and test dates for the Basic Skills and Subject Area tests are listed in the registration materials. **MICHIGAN TEST OBJECTIVES FOR THE BASIC SKILLS TESTS AND FOR EACH SUBJECT AREA TEST ARE AVAILABLE IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND ON RESERVE AT THE LIBRARY CIRCULATION DESK.** Please see Mrs. Farrier in AC 237 for registration materials or for information about what tests must be passed prior to being recommended for certification to teach. Deadlines and policies will be strictly enforced by the State Department of Education.

ATTENTION STUDENTS INTERESTED IN TEACHING: If interested in Elementary Education, please contact Dr. Lynda Markham Ludy (AC 238; 7166). If interested in Secondary Education, please contact Dr. Anthony Rickard (AC 236).

Seniors offer advice to undergraduates

By Alexandra Orr
Opinion Editor

After working four years of our lives to attaining our goals, members of the Class of 1995 decided to relive some memories and pass on advice they wish they had acquired as underclass persons.

Preterm. As incoming first-year students, the Class of 1995 surely resembled the naive, happy-go-lucky first-year students we have mocked since our sophomore year. (Don't worry, Class of 1998, you will have your chance to feel the same superiority when you brush past members of the Class of 1999 in the dining hall. You have already learned the protocol that designates where different groups sit in Hamilton Commons.)

Ellen Patnaude, a biology and French double-major, fondly recalls her Preterm course. "One of my favorite memories of Alma will be Dr. Walser's Preterm—Mirrors of the Soul."

Athletics. The members of the Class of 1995 have contributed to the success of the Scots in every sport from golf to football to basketball and everything in between.

Norman Hayes, an English major and communication minor, said, "I will always remember walking on to the field for the first football

Do changing times justify changing laws?

Students with weapons should serve educational punishment

By Alexandra Orr
Opinion Editor

"The times, they are a-changing."

Boy, things sure have changed since I was in high school four years ago. The worst experience I had ever had was wearing the same dress in ninth grade as the Homecoming Queen. I never witnessed gang fights on school grounds, drug pushers harassing elementary students or children as young as third graders bringing weapons to school.

Well, as I have said, times are changing—and laws are changing with them. Under a new state law, students bringing weapons to school are immediately expelled. For fifth graders and younger, the penalty is expulsion for 90 days—half a school year. Older students are expelled for at least a year.

According to a recent *Detroit News* article, since the law went into effect three months ago, nearly 100 students from Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties have been expelled, including a third grade female.

Why would a third grader need a knife? Is it in case the teacher makes fun of her handwriting? Or perhaps in case she does not get to play on the swings during recess?

At first thought, I was relieved to hear these delinquents are being removed from school, but then I took a deeper look.

Why do students need weapons on school grounds? Perhaps the reason can be found in the increase

game."

Andrea Balliet, a history major and Spanish minor, also remembers a special moment when she represented the Scots on the women's basketball team. "The most exhilarating experience I ever had at this college was being on Alma's basketball team when we won the NCAA Division III championships in 1992."

The Performing Arts. Alma offers even the most artistically inept students the opportunity to participate in theatre, dance and music courses. (Trust me, I took Social Dance and I would dare say I have two left feet and two right arms.)

Ken Marable, a philosophy major, recalled, "I will never forget singing Beethoven's Ninth during winter 1994."

Art major and campus magician Dan Baker will also fondly remember sharing his talents with fellow Alma students. "My final performance art show gave me the greatest feeling. It was the pinnacle of my four years here at Alma. I had never made people cry from a performance before and it was the first

of gang membership and activities across the country.

In the last few years, even my small suburban high school has developed its fair share of gangs. With this in mind, it is likely that a portion of the students being affected by this new law are carrying weapons out of the need for protection. The ideology of this mentality is "if you are going to try and hurt me, I am going to defend myself."

Consider the parents of these expelled children. Many of us would claim, "Good, have them stay at home under parental supervision." But what about the parents who have to work to financially support their household? It seems unrealistic to think any employer would allow an employee to take six months to a year off work, without prior notification, in order to stay home with an expelled child.

Finally, we have to consider the message being sent to these students. By kicking them out of school, are we educating them? Are we teaching the future of Michigan how to be responsible? I dare say the message we are sending says, "You are a screw-up and always will be. We have given up trying to educate you."

I agree that some form of punishment is necessary, but expulsion alone is not the answer. The offenders still deserve an education. Perhaps special classrooms with strict supervision could be used or having offenders attend classes after a normal school day is over or on the weekends. The point to be

standing ovation I ever received. If I had to do it all over again, I would not change a thing. It was like a dream come true."

Studying off-campus. Whether

"Stay out of showers of the opposite sex. But seriously, figure out by your junior year, your plans for after graduation. The time flies too quickly."

-Jason Marko

it be in another city or country, many seniors studied off-campus and built lasting memories.

"I will never forget spending a term in France," said Patnaude.

Many seniors encourage underclassmen to seize the opportunity to gain experience outside Alma's boundaries. Karen Haviland, a business major and communication minor, said, "Get work experience through internships and study overseas!"

"I will always remember studying in Australia," agreed Hayes. "I

encourage everyone to go overseas because it will change the way you look at everything."

Nicole Perdue, one of Alma's India Fellows for next year, also stressed that overseas experience is worthwhile.

Friendships. Every member of the Class of 1995 would likely agree that friendships formed here at college created some of the most important memories.

Kathy Bailey, a theatre and dance major and communication minor, said, "I will always treasure spending time with my friends."

"Some of my favorite memories are of Alma alumni," said Haviland.

Building friendships has lasting possibilities as shown by at least two members of the Class of 1995.

Spanish and elementary education double major and natural science minor Nichole Tuggle said, "The first time my group of friends ever went to Ponderosa was very special because we sat around and shared our feelings about each other. It was the first time I realized I had a support group at college."

Jason Watkins, a math major and

secondary education major and natural science minor, said, "I have two fond memories of Alma—joining the TKE fraternity and meeting Nichole during our sophomore year."

Tuggle and Watkins are engaged and plan to be married during the summer of 1996.

Advice. Several seniors offer advice to underclass persons. You may not heed it, but these seniors wish they had.

"Don't live the extremes. Don't party too much and don't study too much. You need a good mixture," advised Patnaude.

Baker said, "Don't get too busy too soon. Spend your first year getting into the flow of college. Don't worry about having too much free time. Pretty soon you will be swamped with things to do."

"For the amount of money you spend to go here, if you have a question, ask someone and get an answer," said Watkins.

Perhaps the most interesting piece of advice was from Jason Marko, a political science major, who has aspirations to graduate, take a nap and then party. Based on experience, he advised, "Stay out of showers of the opposite sex. But seriously, figure out by your junior year your plans after graduation. The time flies too quickly."

repeat offenders.

The legislation we pass to solve society's problems needs to adequately address the issues. All sides of every incident must be considered in order to best determine the outcome.

True Scot by Susan Elliott

Junior year is one of great discovery

Well, another school year is almost over and final exams are rapidly approaching. As the term comes to end, I find myself reflecting on experiences that have helped me understand myself a little better. Indeed, in the past seven months, I have learned a lot about school, myself and life in general.

My mother used to tell me that I have selective memory. Although I used to vehemently deny this accusation, I now know it is true. Why is it that I can remember the chemical formula for acetic acid, but I don't remember that I am running out of clean underwear until I go to put some on and there isn't any left? (Incidentally, it is not really a new day until you have changed your underwear.)

I have also discovered that I have some sort of chemical imbalance that renders me incapable of returning library items on time.

Statistics show that most accidents occur in the home. After spending the year on the second floor of Gelston I understand this fact much better. I can't count how many times I have banged my head on the bottom of the metal soap dish after bending down to grab my shampoo bottle.

Until I cure myself of procrastination, I will never fulfill my New Year's resolutions. Mental note: I think I will work on that tomorrow...

The Scot Shop is a frightening place. Although I have dealt with the bookstore for about three years now, I tried to sell back books for the first time this term. This experience taught me to never enter without a good sense of humor. (You can get a higher percentage of return on a soda can.)

With the high price of textbooks, the small amount of money a student gets from selling used books back hardly lessens the financial burden. As a replacement for the Scot Shop's "Get 'em off your back" posters to

encourage selling books back, I envision a sign featuring the devil with the caption... "Can't afford your books? Why not sell your soul?"

Last term I learned, in a not so pleasant manner, that when a person spews while he/she is walking, the force behind it can send it flying almost ten feet. (Fortunately, it washes off...)

The number of years you spend in school is proportional to the number of times you change your major—at this rate, I will be attending Alma College when the parking situation is finally resolved.

Although there have been times of frustration and disappointment in my junior year at Alma College, I would not trade this year of discovery. Through friends and cultural events, I have learned more about the human spirit—through my own stupidity, I have learned to keep closer tabs on my stock of underwear.

April 11, 1995

Staff Editorial

Seniors should reconsider Center role

So, what are you doing next year? If these words sound all too familiar to you, you are likely one of the around 270 seniors who have memorized a daily—even hourly—count-down to that ceremonial closure of your four years of liberal arts schooling.

In search of an answer to the aforementioned question, *The Almanian* questioned a diverse sampling of seniors and discovered a wide array of answers—everything from law school to that highly anticipated first job to “I don’t know.”

Not surprisingly, regardless of their answers many seniors appeared quick to comment on the facility structured, in part, to assist them in their future plans—the Center for Student Development.

Many seniors believe the Center and its resources have been invaluable in finding them internships, providing them with graduate school profiles, and helping them to network for future employment.

However, some expressed

confusion with the varying opinions of Center personnel on resume form and length and graduate school applications. Others grew disillusioned with the Center after mix-ups with interview appointments and scheduling.

Still other seniors admitted to being intimidated by the Center. They could not fathom walking into the office and admitting they did not know what they wanted to do with their lives.

As in years past, seniors quickly blame the Center for not getting a job, claiming that “after paying all this money for an education,” the college should hand them a job or an admittance letter to the graduate school of their choice, complete with fringe benefits or a full scholarship.

While such offers would be the ideal capstone of four years of labs, exams and critical thinking, *The Almanian* questions the logic of these indictments.

The job and/or graduate school search process is doubtless a strenuous one, and it requires much more than resumes, personal statements and inquisitorial phone

calls. It mandates assertiveness and motivation on the part of the student; it requires that a student makes the willing commitment to their search. Because the Center serves as a facilitator of this commitment, seniors are quick to point to the Center when they become frustrated in their search efforts.

While *The Almanian* does not doubt the validity of these students’ claims, we do feel that Alma students—especially upcoming seniors—should reconsider the role of the Center in their searches.

The Center provides the necessary means for seniors to familiarize themselves with their resources and obtain basic knowledge about the search process by requiring all seniors to attend informational interviews at the onset of their senior year. These sessions provide seniors who choose not to attend the Senior Sequence workshop a quick overview of the senior process—essentials like credential files and in-city interview programs.

In addition, seniors are required to schedule an interview at the end

of the year in which they meet with Center personnel to discuss improvements needed in senior programming.

Between these two required meetings, seniors are not harassed or nagged by the Center about the status of their search process. Instead, they are expected to choose whether or not they will take advantage of the Center’s resources.

The Almanian Editorial Board believes the Center’s role, and that of Dean of Student Development Robert Perkins, Associate Directors for Student Development Mindy Sargent and Ginny Riser, is not to hand each student a plan for their future along with their diploma, but to help each student obtain their future goals if they so consent.

Though they should strive to prepare students for the realities of the search process, in no way are they expected to accompany each student hand-in-hand along the way.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

At the end of my first year I went into the Financial Aid Office to see if moving off campus would affect my financial aid. At that time they told me that they base the cost of room and board on what they think it would cost to live off campus, so the costs would be the same. Therefore, they told me, my financial aid would not be affected by moving off campus. With this in mind I applied for and was granted off campus status. I only receive one scholarship, the Alma College Presidential Scholarship, and to my knowledge I have not suffered any decrease in the amount of that scholarship.

The administration’s comment that they are not willing to give students aid to help landlords strikes me as odd, since while living on campus Alma College is our landlord, and financial aid goes right back to that landlord. They have been helping students pay a landlord while they live on campus.

Also, the administration set up the off-campus lottery to bail them out of a potential housing problem they created by bringing in yet another huge class. When I toured Alma as a senior in high school, I walked through Gelston Hall and noticed study lounges on the first floor. When I moved into Gelston Hall in the fall of my first year, those study lounges had already become occupied rooms. By moving off campus, students are helping out the administration with an overcrowding problem.

The cost of attending Alma has increased every year since I have been here. So has the size of the class of incoming first year students. Alma has said that the increases reflect higher costs in the economy. These higher costs also affect off-campus students. Off-campus students need their full amount of available financial aid just as much as the on campus students. A 25% reduction in aid to

off-campus students is an atrocity.

Hedlun Walton
Class of '96

Dear Editor,

I would like to point out a mistake in the April 4 edition of the *Almanian*. This mistake occurred in the Opinion Section, specifically in the Point/Counterpoint section about prayer in public schools. The mistake occurs in the Counterpoint section entitled “Prayer has no place in public schools.” The author was in error when quoting the first amendment of the constitution. The quote read: “Congress shall make no laws respecting the an establishment of religion.” It is possible that Mr. Renando was reading a different version of the constitution that I have in my American Government book I am using for Political Science 101, but I doubt that this is the case. The first amendment to the Constitution reads as follows:

“Congress shall make no law respecting an established religion, OR PROHIBITING the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; of the right of the people to peaceably assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.”

When the first amendment is read in full it is quite obvious that Congress or the Government has no business dealing with religion in any form. This includes Speaker Gingrich’s request for a constitutional amendment saying that prayer should be allowed in public schools. This suggestion IS unconstitutional and should not be considered.

The US Constitution guarantees that I can practice my religion in any way that I want and the government can not do a thing about it unless it violates a law that does not deal with religion; it also guarantees that if I chose to, I can practice no religion at all. These are MY rights.

Sincerely,
Brian R. Deur
Class of '98

Dear Editor,

The recent elections for Student Congress reek of corruption and dirty politics. First, I am disappointed with Brandon Miller for writing an unobjective letter to the editor with unsubstantiated implications in order to grind a person ax with James Blum. That letter presented certain opinions as facts, thus leading the uninformed reader to hasty conclusion. Mr. Miller’s flair with adjectives is admirable, but he needs to keep his personal conflicts out of the political arenas and to himself.

I am also concerned about the administration of the election. Who decided who is in charge of the voting procedure? Why do people have to vote at a table in a public place, such as Hamilton Commons, where they are in plain view? Why do the people collecting the votes consist of mainly Gamma Phi Betas and current Student Congress executives. Considering that Student Congress Presidential candidate and current Vice-President Julie Braun is Gamma Phi Beta, would one believe there is some conflict of interest? I am not saying Ms. Braun is responsible for any wrongdoing. A recommendation for the next election: voting booths and a ballot box.

In addition, I have been led to believe that the election committee had to be voted on by Student Congress. From what I have heard from people who attend Student Congress regularly, the committee was not voted on. Furthermore, why were notices in favor of an increase in the student activity fee placed on the voting table, right next to the ballots? The location of voting should be the most impartial place on campus.

I believe that James Blum became a candidate for Student Congress President because he has a genuine interest in Alma College and its student body. In Mr. Blum’s defense, he tried to be an alternative (based on substance and the issues) to the politician, which Alma College has far too many of. I will be the first to say Mr. Blum can be pompous, overbearing, and somewhat impersonal. However, he is also prag-

matic, sincere, hardworking, and he stands up for what he believes in. By running for office, I think Mr. Blum wished to make a change and take Alma College to a higher level of excellence.

I cannot vouch for Ms. Braun’s character because I do not know her. It is apparent that she has experience in working with the administration, knowledge of Student Congress’ financial situation, and an excellent political presence. However, she never expressed to me her views or what she wished to accomplish as President. Therefore, I cannot say much more on her behalf.

From what I have seen of Mr. Blum’s campaign, he has not practiced negative politics in terms of bashing other candidates. He has been outspoken and critical of many Student Congress issues. This does not make him a cheap shot artist. Yet, Mr. Blum has had his name tarnished by an unfair letter to the editor and some rumor about him suing the *Almanian*. The truth of the rumor can be answered by Mr. Blum himself. This rumor is another case of the Alma grapevine. The Alma College grapevine is beyond the control of me, Mr. Blum, Ms. Braun, or any one person alone. In addition, it can slander, blacklist, and cause friction for undeserving persons. The best way to counteract this network of fallacious reasoning is going to the source. Do not believe everything that you hear, read, or see. If you really want to know, find out for yourself and form your own opinion. I have always believed the purpose of higher education is to develop individuals who can act as their own intellectual beings, not as sheep.

Sincerely,
Odest Chadwicke Jenkins
Class of '96

(This letter was written before the result of the Student Congress elections were made public.)

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The Almanian Letter Policy

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