

# The Almanian

April 18, 1995

Serving Alma College since 1907

Issue 24

## Model UN takes New York City by storm

By Justin Bauer  
Copy Editor

Alma College's model UN team set records this year, winning the National Model United Nations competition in New York City.

Alma's team, in only its second year at this competition, took first place out of 24 teams and became the smallest school ever to reach the top five.

The team surpassed all last year's expectations by taking sixth place in their first showing at the New York competition.

This year, with more experience, more determination and a lot of hard work, Alma's delegates were recognized as one of the conference's five outstanding delegations. According to sophomore Brandon Miller, Alma's team also had the highest point total.

"It's really an honor that we got the highest rank," said senior Jason Marko. "The fact that our first year we got distinguished delegation, and this year moved to out-

standing delegation, shows most clearly the amount of effort everyone puts into this."

Before arriving in New York, the team put in months of preparation under the guidance of Sandy Hulme, associate professor of political science.

Team members take a model UN class and compete in the Midwest Model United Nations Conference in St. Louis before traveling to the New York competition.

The conference began Tuesday afternoon in the United Nations General Assembly chambers with an address by Boutros Boutros-Ghali, secretary-general of the UN.

That evening, team members were assigned to committees, where they spent the next three days writing documents on their committee's major topics.

The conference closed with the convening of a model general assembly followed by an awards ceremony.

This year's team, representing the small African nation of Ghana, benefited from experience and improved preparation.

"We were much better prepared,

much more aggressive this year," said returning Model UN team member Miller of the 18-member team.

Marko agreed.

"The second time it is not as much

of a shock. You know more of how people are going to act, and it is a lot easier to understand how to make allies and to reach consensus."

## Curley among MIAA golf champs!



Junior Cathy Curley is one of four MIAA golfers invited to compete in the National Women's Collegiate Championships in Indiana May 8-10. Curley, a three-time all-MIAA performer, will compete among NCAA division II and III golfers at the event. Photo by Tammy Thomson.

### Honors Convocation...

## Seniors presented with 'wake-up call' for future

By Trisha A. Warner  
Staff Reporter

The 1994-95 school year officially commenced at Thursday's Honors Convocation, where President Alan J. Stone remarked upon the year's highlights and Mary Kay Ecken received the esteemed Barlow Trophy.

Provost Leslie Ellen Brown be-

gan the ceremony with an address focusing on the overwhelming passage of time. She reminded students the path to success is not always smooth and taking time out to reflect upon our successes and failures is an important process of learning.

"Adversity was to be expected in the rite of passage," she said. "One must pause... and celebrate

those things of honor."

With this mind, Brown continued by acknowledging the numerous honor societies on campus and their guidelines for membership.

Senior Nicole Perdue, who was chosen last year to be Alma's African Fellow, announced the winner of this year's Global Service Program Indian Fellowship, junior Ann Gibbs. Both women will travel to

India to teach English to elementary school children there next fall.

Stone began his summation of the school year by reiterating Brown's point that convocation is "a celebration of all that you are and all that you've achieved this year." He singled out many seniors for their accomplishments while attending Alma.

Continuing his theme from Opening Convocation, Stone reminded students that each has taken part in the "wedding of the waters" over the past year. But for seniors, the gentle current of the river is about to give way to a much bigger, more spectacular experience.

"You are beginning the grand voyage of life and will travel in far deeper waters and along more treacherous shores," said Stone, who encouraged seniors to enjoy life's adventures.

"Your experience at Alma College will carry you much farther into the world, but you will not be alone," Stone said.

Seniors Ray Kowalewski and Corey Messner presented the class gift to Stone and the college from the Senior Challenge committee.

A new deck will adorn the west end of Hamilton Commons, providing the opportunity to eat out under the sun. The senior class dedicated its gift to the memory of Linda Seveland, wife of John Seveland, vice president for enrollment and

student affairs. Linda passed away on March 31.

Stone awarded President's Cups to students who held the highest grade point average in their classes. Jennifer McMaster was acknowledged with the Outstanding Senior Award for attaining the highest grade point average of the seniors; she earned a perfect 4.0.

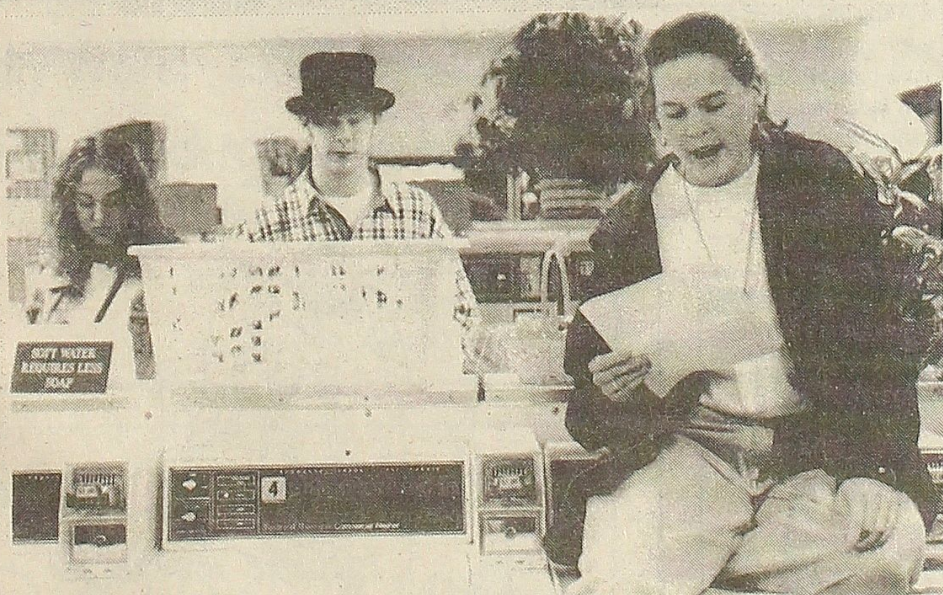
Assisted by Mr. and Mrs. Ecken, Stone then presented senior Mary Kay Ecken with the Barlow Trophy.

An exercise and health science major, Ecken served as co-chair for the orientation committee and coordinator of the senior party. She also worked with St. Mary's Catholic Church to bring a Catholic mass to campus once a month and participated in soccer.

Ecken is a member of the Exercise and Health Science Honorary, Gamma Delta Alpha, Omicron Delta Kappa, and Psi Chi, as well as Alpha Gamma Delta sorority and Order of Omega greek honorary. After graduation she plans to attend University of Indianapolis to study physical therapy.

"The first thought that ran through my mind when I heard my name announced as the Barlow recipient was 'Oh, no--I have to write a speech for graduation!'" said Ecken. "But seriously, I was very excited, and am still speechless."

## Laundry anyone?



For Assistant Professor of English Randi Davenport's Creative Writing class, the Queen of Scots laundry served as the ideal location for students to publicly showcase their writing abilities. About twelve students shared their work; pictured is senior Dana Grant, reading a short story, and senior classmate Dan Baker, sorting laundry. Photo by Ben Kirkby.



April 18, 1995

# Senior staff members relive memories

*Strive to be your best  
and get involved*

By Alexandra "Big Bird" Orr  
Opinion Editor

With commencement ceremonies less than a week away, I find myself evaluating my four years at Alma College. Despite complaints about the cost, the food or the mandatory quiet hours, I can honestly say positive experiences at Alma have molded me into the person writing this epilogue to my college career.

In retrospect, my first year at Alma was a lot of fun. I joined Kappa Iota (KI) and gained knowledge from my professors in innovative ways. In particular, I remember teaching inmates at the St. Louis Correctional Facility to write poetry as part of Dr. Palmer's creative writing course.

Sophomore year is pretty much a blur. I gave up my mini-apartment in Bruske and moved onto the first floor of Newberry. Though moving in was easier, it was harder to have male friends over and still be discreet. The only clear memory was Dr. Davis' spring term: human structure and function. I made a spectacle of myself when I passed out from hypoglycemia in class, but I also made a friend, junior Robbyn Burden, who accompanied me to Hamilton for life-saving protein.

Junior year I moved into the KI house and started getting actively involved in many organizations, including freelancing for the *Almanian*. This is also the year I decided if I failed my classes and could not be a journalist, I would become a professional Euchre player.

After the first term of my senior year, I moved into an apartment off-campus. I got an internship with the Public Relations Office and thanks to Charlotte Schmidtke and the rest of the staff, I feel well-prepared to enter the work-force. I officially joined the *Almanian* staff and I ultimately received a campus leadership award.

Over the past four years at Alma, I learned to strive to be the best. I got involved with organizations on campus and learned a lot from the special people who make up this college community. These are the memories of Alma I will always treasure and these are the stories I will bore my grandchildren with.



Senior Almanian gals, from left, Stacy Schattschneider, Amy Majestic, Alexandra Orr, Jessica VanSlooten and Kristin Allen. Photo by Ben "what a babe" Kirkby.

## The best and worst of college life

By Amy "Video Vamp" Majestic  
Sports Editor

Senior. sEnior. seNior. senIor. seniOr. senioR. No matter what way I look at it, I am a senior. That means this Saturday I have to walk in a long line and get a little piece of paper in a nice folder for four years of hard work. Boy, how gratifying.

Being the retrospective type of person I am, I have thought a lot about the four years I have spent here. My thoughts are very diverse, since I am a liberal arts educated individual. There are good memories and there are not-so-good memories. A compilation of the two follow:

*Things I want to remember about Alma College:*

1. Of course, *The Almanian*. This may have something to do with why my senior year went so fast. Deadlines and Saturday editing made each week seem like only a day. Still, I will always be "Stephanie" to many who have shared this endeavor with me!

2. All of the cool people I got to know this year, especially fall term. I never knew what great people were on campus until my senior year.

3. Drs. Smith, Yavenditti, Schmidtke, Davis, Seelbach, Gray, Rodd and Anderson. I had the two

coolest majors on campus and I hate to leave you here. (Especially since I do not have a job yet.)

4. La Seniorita and Max and Emily's. Anyone who knows me knows how important food is to me. It will be hard to find new places for dinner on Friday nights....

5. The fitness center, Heritage Center and that little park behind 7-11. I am glad I got to see the improvements around Alma College. Nothing is better after a bad day than lying down on the wood chips in the park and watching the stars with good friends. (Cheesy, but really cool.)

*Things I want to forget about Alma College:*

1. My first roommate. Enough said.

2. Multiple choice answers. Specifically, more than fifty of them at a time. I'll have nightmares about them until I die.

3. The library's new policy on current periodicals—I would like to take all of the credit for building the budget for the new library addition.

4. My junior year Alma I.D. What was I thinking when I did my hair that day?!

5. Parking tickets. I wish Alma had a high crime rate—then the police officers would be busy fighting crime instead of putting little pink tickets on all of the cars.

When all is said and done, my experience at Alma has been a good one. Good people, good times, good food (from area restaurants) and a good education (add that one in for the administration).

## Poetic insights . . .

By Jessica "Spawn of Angels" VanSlooten  
Feature Editor

I have a picture frame at home, one of those big collage frames which holds pictures in various shapes and sizes. When I go home after graduation, I plan on filling these slots with pictures of some of my memorable experiences and people at Alma College.

Playing my violin in the Alma Symphony Orchestra, being a member of Alpha Gamma Delta and working on *The Almanian* have been the most influential and fun extracurricular experiences. Through these activities, I met numerous people who have influenced me immensely and gained leadership abilities.

Two of my most memorable academic experiences revolve around my love for literature and, more specifically, poetry. Studying Emily Dickinson on Martha's Vineyard and writing my senior thesis on Elizabeth Barrett-Browning challenged me intellectually and convinced me that I really do want to pursue graduate study in English. As Emily Dickinson writes, if it takes the top of my head off, then I know it is poetry. For me too, poetry and life are inextricably entwined.

Finally, the largest portion of my photo collage exists not in activities or academic endeavors, but in the people who have colored my existence (like Kristin Allen). I have learned a plethora of invaluable information from a variety of people, including the following: life is not necessarily what is taught in class, *Paradise Lost* is the key to all understanding, disco is retro-cool, the economics of beer packaging, how to swing off your pants with the best, devising excitement in a town where the locals drive the Farmer 500, everything I never knew about anything and finally, in the words of the 70's disco goddess Gloria Gaynor, that "I will survive!"

My mantage of ideas, memories and faces might fade through the years, but I will always remember the valuable lessons I learned and carry them in my heart and mind to the untamed wilds of Michigan State and beyond.

## The final note

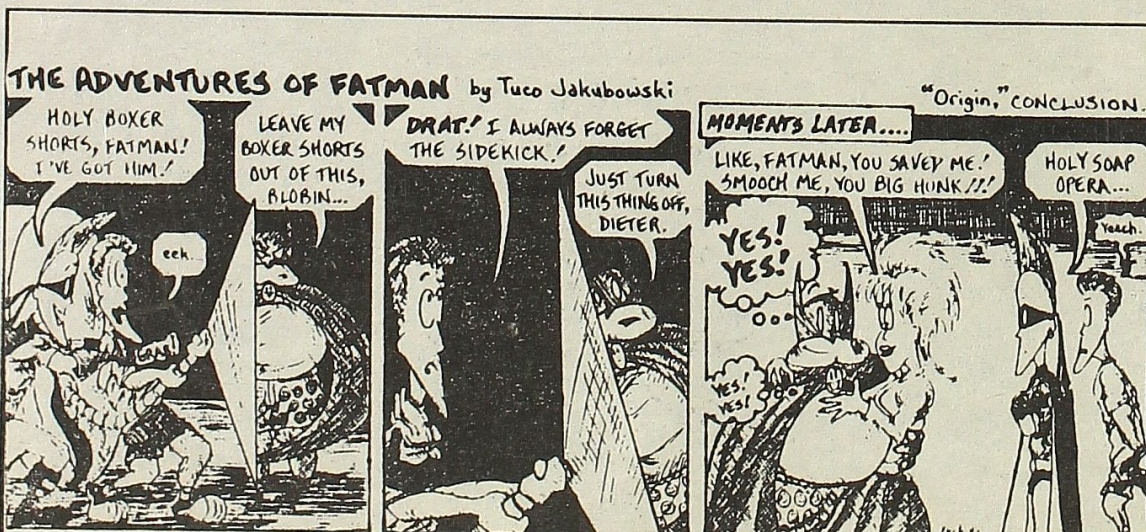
By Kristin "Retro-Queen" Allen  
Co-Editor in Chief

When all is said and done, I have a sincere "ditto" to add to Jessica, Lexi and Amy's senior year reflections. However, this all-informing, final issue would not be complete without a few insightful comments of my own.

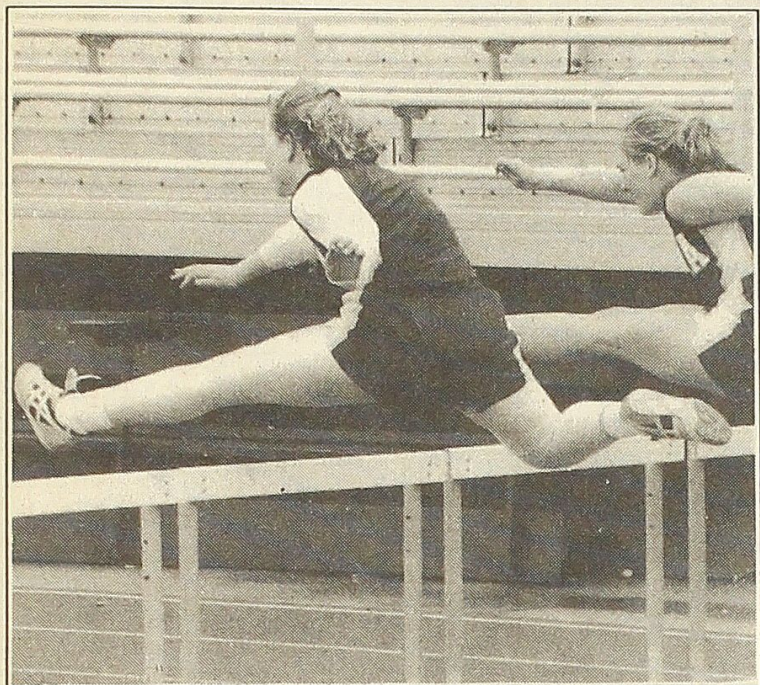
To Laura and Justin, the future participants in the production of our weekly paper, may all proper names in your headlines be spelled correctly and may the copy editor in the sky remove all contractions from front page stories.

In addition, may your audience understand that in order for us to report on an armed robbery of Scotty's convenience store or a hostage crisis in the library, these events must actually take place.

Due to spacial constraints, I am unable to divulge my most embarrassing and least memorable moments on the Alma campus (because believe me, there are many). However, I will leave you all with these words of wisdom: rock on and color your dreams with the brush of life!







Senior Mary Lou Ecken (left) and first-year student Amity Miller shine in the 100m hurdles. Photo by Jerry Stassinopoulos.

## Track stars dominate Hope

By Mary Lou Ecken  
Freelance Writer

The Alma track teams battled inclement weather once again in their win over Hope on Wednesday.

The men outdistanced Hope 93-61, bringing them to a 3-1 record (2-0 in the league). The women surpassed Hope 83-62 and maintained their 5-0 record (3-0 in the league).

Senior Amy Doucette qualified for nationals in the 1500m run with a time of 4:40.1; she also ran to a victorious first in the 800m run.

The men swept three events: the 110m high hurdles (junior Christian Wiley and first-year students Otie McKinley and Jay Fiedler), the high jump (McKinley, junior Darryl McCray, sophomore Chad Milletics) and the 400m hurdles (junior Chad Mills, Wiley, Milletics).

McCray placed first in the 100m

dash, followed closely by first-year student Tim Relich, who captured first in the 200m dash. Mills also scored in the 400m dash with a first place finish.

Senior Hao Luc took first in the long jump, and sophomore Jason Nordbeck teamed up with Wiley to take first and second in the triple jump.

Throws were led by senior Chad Reagh, who scored first place points in the discus, second in the javelin, and third in the shot put.

The distance finishes were also impressive, with second and third place finishes by the lot.

Junior John Black used the weather as his mantra to carry him to first place in the pole vault:

"I hate Michigan weather..."

The women swept the triple jump with performances from first-year students Meredith White, Amity

Miller and Sara Pettee.

First-year student Kristin Gilbert won the 100m dash (12.66), the 200m dash (26.78) and teamed up with Pettee, sophomore Mindy Call, and junior Kelly Mills to win the 400m relay.

Gilbert said, "Everyone ran good. The weather stunk, but everyone put out 100% effort."

Women's distance runners also came through with second and third place finishes to rack in the points.

Sophomore Rainy Inman won both the discus and the shot put assisted by seconds from the other throwers.

At home again Saturday, both teams finished second only to Division II Saginaw Valley State University.

The teams will compete at Calvin on April 29 and return to Alma to host the league meet during spring term on May 5 and 6.

"The old guys on the team keep us younguns' on track"

## Baseball team wins series 2-1 against Calvin

By Joe Bogan  
Staff Reporter

Friday it was scoring runs and Saturday it was pitching. This defines the Alma baseball team's performance as they hosted the Calvin Knights in a three game series.

Senior Tim Spedoski pitched for the Scots Friday, allowing only one run on five hits.

Alma took advantage of two Calvin errors in the second inning. Junior Mark Payne and senior Pat Brannan were able to advance on the bases.

Senior captain Brent Neubecker singled in one run, another was scored on a wild pitch, one on a sac fly hit by sophomore Alex Gierhart and the last by sophomore Jason Cotton, who stole two bases with junior Scott Moffatt.

By the sixth inning, the Scots had racked up the score 8-1, scoring another three runs. Payne stole home off a wild pitch, junior Steve Vance singled in first-year student Adam LaLonde and Gierhart jogged across home plate after the pitcher balked.

Sophomore Kevin Harkness took the mound in the last inning, allowing two runs for the Knights and making the final score 8-3 in Alma's favor.

In a turnaround Saturday, sophomore Joe Poot pitched and took the loss. Calvin scored the only two runs of the game in the first inning, both unearned due to two dropped balls.

At the plate, seven hitters told the story. Unfortunately, eleven base players were unable to score, which allowed Calvin to keep their lead and win by a final of 2-0.

"We had a lot of missed opportunities. Even when the bases were

loaded we could not score," said head coach Bill Klenk.

In the final game of the series, Lalonde took the mound, dishing up eight strikeouts and allowing only one run on three hits.

The Scots jumped to a lead in the first when Neubecker came home off a hit by junior Jason Proctor. The Knights came back to tie the score and Alma took the lead for keeps in the fifth when an error allowed Vance

to score. The Scots won with a final score of 2-1, ending the series 2-1.

"It has certainly been an interesting year. Sometimes we shot ourselves in the foot and beat ourselves. I am really going to miss this place and would like to thank everybody for their support," said Neubecker.

"The old guys on the team keep us younguns' on track, and someday we will make them proud," said first-year student Todd Driver.

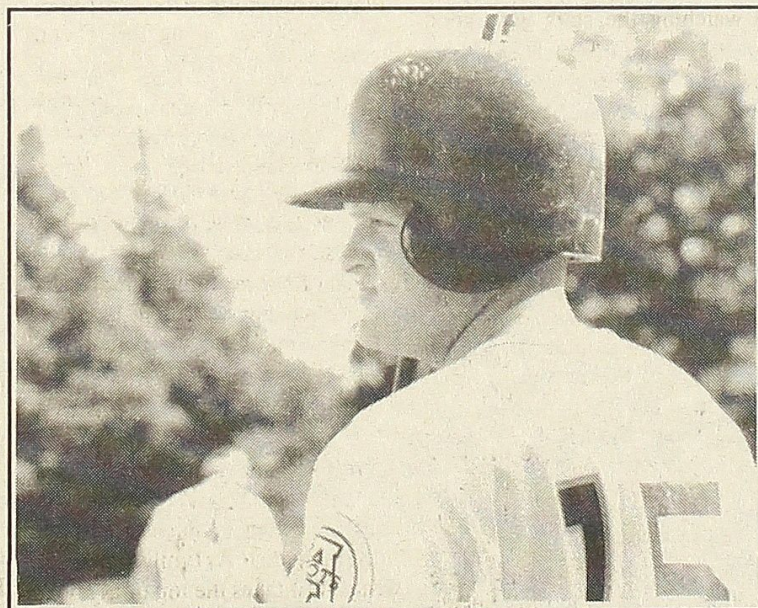
Softball just keeps  
on winning!

Friday

Olivet 7-0  
4-0

Saturday

Adrian 3-2 (10 innings)  
8-4



Senior catcher Pat Brannan contemplates on life after Alma baseball. Photo by Tammy Thomson.

## First home run highlights Brannan's final season

By Emily Damstra  
Staff Reporter

Senior Pat Brannan has not traveled far from his neighboring hometown of St. Louis, but he has moved great distances on the field.

For the past four years, catcher Brannan has crouched behind the opponent's batter, sort of the quarterback for the Alma baseball team. His little league coach dad inspired Brannan to excel at the sport.

"My parents have always supported me. They have done a lot more than some parents, even though they weren't asked to," said Brannan.

One aspect of catching Brannan enjoys is controlling the tempo of the game.

"I get to run things and make sure people are where they should be," he said.

Earlier this season against Albion Brannan hit his first home run of his college career. His teammates heckled him because he was so excited that he sprinted around the diamond, forgetting to enjoy the moment.

"I do not know if it was an act of God or what," he said, citing the fact that the wind was bad that day.

The senior's goal is to constantly improve over what he has already accomplished. This includes his batting average, which is approximately .310 and the percentage of runners thrown out.

Coach Bill Klenk said Brannan is a hard worker whose game has gotten better during the last four years.

"He has improved in calling the game, in hitting and in his defense skills. He leads by example, he is mentally into every game and he works well with the pitchers."

Aside from his dad, others inspire Brannan. Barry Sanders is an inspiration because "he does what he needs to do, and does not make a big deal of his successes or setbacks. He accepts what happens."

Another recipient of Brannan's admiration is Pete Rose.

"You could always tell he played the game because he was dirty."

Brannan coaches varsity football at St. Louis High School, where he earned Most Valuable Player, All-Gratiot County Team and All-League honors in baseball his senior year.

Brannan will student teach next fall, then hopes to find a job both teaching and coaching.

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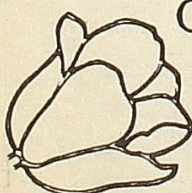
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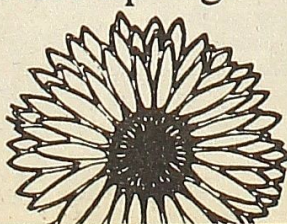
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April 18, 1995

## Staff Editorial

# Almanian practices professionalism

According to Melvin Mencher, professor of journalism at Columbia University, there is no such thing as a stupid person writing good journalism.

Let us tell you why.

For the past 24 issues, we at *The Almanian* (yes, we do consider ourselves journalists) have worked cohesively, intent on informing the campus of administrative news, previewing arts, athletics, and guest speakers, and presenting the opinions which we feel are most worthy of reader consideration.

In doing so, *The Almanian* has been readily criticized by many sectors and on many different, yet familiar, grounds. We are chastised for our neglect of certain events and overt focus on others. We are belittled for our selection of photographs and the stories which receive "page one" coverage.

We are questioned for our "harrasing" persistence on the part of our individual staff members and are rightly informed when we make factual or stylistic mistakes.

Most often, we are criticized silently by readers who glance quickly through the paper and toss it aside, claiming it to be boring and uneventful.

Though we recognize all criticism as both valid and constructive, we tire of justifying our actions and decisions to those who fail to understand the nature of our business. For example, in a twelve page paper, how can we possibly give fair coverage in every issue to each sport, each campus organization and each opinion?

How could we have anything to write about at all without being persistent, phoning and questioning sources in order to obtain all sides of the story?

Moreover, how can we write about administrative embezzlement, attempted murder of a

resident assistant, or a fire in the P.E. center when—to our knowledge—none of these things have happened? In order to report on something "exciting," doesn't something "exciting" need to happen?

Though we know the answers to these questions, we tolerate and remain responsive to criticism because, as college journalists, we are subject to the same criticism as professional journalists.

We follow strict policies on style—established by the Associated Press—which are constantly under scrutiny by our editors. We print corrections and hold strong to our disclaimer policy and policies on letters to the editor and other submissions.

We understand that many campus "rumors" can not be confirmed in our paper, because this would violate every privacy law which both college and professional media are expected to follow.

There is no clear distinction which separates the policies and

criticism of college newspapers with that of national publications. Therefore, we expect to be treated professionally.

We expect our readers to understand their rights to respond negatively when they deem necessary and our right to be protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution—the amendment which protects professional, and college media, from censorship and government control.

In retrospect of a successful year of *Almanians*, we, the editorial board, rightly believe in Mencher's claim—heard by six members of *The Almanian* staff at the National College Media Convention this past March—that there is no such thing as a stupid person writing good journalism.

Unfortunately, there are those people who are ignorant of journalism practices, who are often the first to criticize our efforts, without first asking our motives.

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

My purpose is to either persuade the Alma College administration to reconsider their proposal to reduce academic scholarships for those students who live off-campus by 25% or begin organizing further action against our school. The "policy" in question has been in effect for three years, according to the college, yet this upcoming school year will be the first time that it has been enforced (to my knowledge). When I spoke with Tom Freeland and asked for a copy of this policy, he told me that it was an unwritten, internal policy that was handed down to him from John Seveland. It's surprising and scary that a policy could be in effect for three years yet never take written form, especially considering that an unwritten policy like this can be applied in a discriminatory manner.

The argument presented by the college is simple and not well constructed. Freeland told me that since an off-campus student doesn't pay room and board, which constitutes about 25% of the cost of attending the school, Alma is justified in reducing scholarships a likewise amount. Since the student's need is less because of the reduced cost, student's can afford to take the reduction. On the surface, this may make sense, after all, it's the college's money. But, in our academic catalog (1993-1995) on page 11 it states that the Trustee, Presidential and Tartan Awards are awarded, "without regard to financial need." We get these scholarships for being good students, and this is independent of whether or not the college is receiving payments for room and board. In our "Understanding Your Financial Aid Package" it states that: "Retention of Scholarships is based upon the faculty's judgment of each student's academic progress and the overall contribution of the student to the campus. 'B' average work or better is evidence of the scholarship and justifies renewal of the award."

The only scholarship exempt from reduction is the Alma College Merit

Scholarship, which specifies that it covers only tuition. The others are not exempt because the college says that the awards go not only to tuition, but are awarded to help cover the entire cost of attending Alma College. According to the IRS, scholarships received to cover tuition may be excluded from income statements, but amounts that are used for room and board do not qualify for exclusion. If Alma scholarships do not specifically cover only tuition, Alma College would have to send statements to the government and to us for tax purposes. Because Alma College does not send these statements, all of the scholarships can be assumed to cover only tuition and should be exempt from reduction like the Merit Scholarship. Dean James Kridler says (in the *Almanian*) "If you are not living on campus, we are not going to pay students to pay rent to a landlord." This is a stupid statement. They don't pay us, they deduct scholarships from the cost of our tuition.

I was asked to move off-campus last year because of overcrowding. I have done the college a favor, especially since I'm not complaining about the overcrowding of classes and the corresponding decrease in the quality of our education. I think that Alma College needs to seriously look at what they're trying to do. I can't argue for incoming students, for if AC informs them of this ghost policy and makes a different contract with them, that's fine. But we have a contract. Every written policy that we have received points to our side.

I would appreciate hearing from people that this proposal could affect, so that further action can be taken if necessary. I can be reached at 463-3002.

Chris Seybert '97

Dear Editors:

In the April 4 issue of the *Almanian*, there was a letter published which I feel had a number of inaccuracies about myself and my campaign. At this time, I would like to set the record straight.

First, the letter states that I had attempted to use "negative campaign efforts" in my campaign. I have always believed that Julie Braun is a fully qualified candidate for the position of Student Congress President. Never in any of my campaign literature or campaign postings did I criticize Miss Braun's ability to be an effective leader. I have the utmost respect for Miss Braun, and if she has won the election, I am sure she will do a fine job.

Next, the letter states that I used "half-truths" in my campaign literature. It first insinuates that I did not "...greatly contribute..." to the new parking plan which will be implemented next year. This comment is quite incorrect. While I sat on the Student Congress Parking Committee, I brought up the idea of a two-tiered parking system which would force first-year students and upperclassmen who wanted to pay a lower rate to park in the Heritage Center parking lot. I discussed this proposal with students in the spring of 1994 when I ran for Vice-President of the Class of 1997. I felt it would enable Alma to remain a school which permitted first-year students to have cars and bring an end to the continual problems of finding a place to park and illegal parking. The plan which will be implemented next year is based on two-tiered parking. No, I did not write the formal Student Congress Parking Proposal, but by presenting an idea which will be used next year, I feel that I contributed greatly to the new parking plan.

The letter also attacks my role in bringing cable television to Alma College. It states that I claimed to bring cable television to Alma through my "personal efforts." This is completely untrue. I stated that I "promoted the idea of cable television in each dorm room..." I was not a member of Student Congress last year, but I discussed the idea of cable television on campus with a number of members of the Alma College community. Many of them agreed with my view that cable television would be a positive addition to student life, so when I ran for Sophomore Class Vice-President, I pledged my support for cable television.

Next, the letter attacks my stand on the issue of the parking problem. I stated that I saw parking as the "most important student life issue facing Alma College." During my campaign, I stopped at over 200 dorm rooms to ask students what they would like to see changed at Alma College. The most prevalent response was parking. The frequency of this response convinced me that parking is the student body's most common concern.

Finally, the letter discusses my stand on freezing the student activity fee. Yes, I understand that the eight dollar increase does not affect most students, but it is not the eight dollars which prompted me to call for a freeze in the fee. Instead, I called for the freeze for two reasons.

First, I feel that there is a great amount of waste in Student Congress and in student organizations. Current practice tends to dictate that if an organization does not spend its entire budget, its budget for the next year will be decreased. This promotes frivolous spending. I feel that by looking at student organizations' budgets, performing a few audits and looking at alternative funding methods, we could easily freeze the student activity fee for one year and still be able to fund each organization sufficiently.

Second, I feel that by freezing the fee and examining our own organizations, the Alma College Administration and the Trustees of Alma College would "get the message" that we are eliminating waste and looking for ways to trim cost in our own programs and we want them to do the same. If the administration froze our tuition and board for one year, each student on this campus would save at least hundreds if not thousands of dollars.

I hope this letter has helped to clear up any misunderstanding or inaccuracies which were published last week.

Sincerely,  
James M. Blum '97

## The Almanian

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

### The Almanian Letter Policy

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