

The Almanian

December 5, 1995

Serving Alma College since 1907

Issue 11

Police apprehend two community car thieves

By Trisha A. Warner
Special Projects Reporter

The Alma City Police recently apprehended two individuals responsible for a car theft in the community.

However, they did not confess to recent car break-ins on Alma College's campus.

According to Lieutenant David Walsh of the Alma Police Department, it is unknown whether they were connected to the incidents or not.

Since their apprehension, there have been no more car crimes on the Alma campus.

However, the low rate of crime, said Walsh, should not give Alma students and citizens a false sense of security. Crime can take place anywhere at any time. Everyone should still be vigilant in watching for suspicious persons or activities.

All suspicious activity should be reported to the Alma Police Department at 911 or campus security at 7157.

"I encourage everybody to be aware of the fact that there are larcenies here," Walsh said. "Don't feel bad about calling if you see someone suspicious."

In the Nov. 7, 1995, edition of *The Almanian*, it was reported that sophomore Brandon Marsee's, seniors Clinton Crow's and Christian Betz's cars were broken into between November 1 and 2.

Walsh stated that the police department's investigations have not turned up any of the students' property.

The police will, however, continue to check local pawn shops in an effort to return the students' valuables, including radar detectors.

The police department and Alma College security will also continue to patrol Alma's parking lots.

The experience, albeit painful, has been a lesson to the victims. Crow urges all students to secure valuables and thereby avoid being susceptible to thefts.

"Take everything out of your car that you can. If it's small enough to

go under your seat, like a cellular phone, put it there," he advised.

"Take the extra time to secure your possessions," Crow continued.

Walsh emphasized that the police department is a resource; it is their job to investigate suspicious activity.

By calling in a report, students and citizens are not bothering the officers.

Their call could help the police gain evidence to close a case or press charges.

Netscape opens the world for students

By Chris Wiederman
New Editor

Students who want access to the world without leaving their seats have found nirvana with Netscape.

The browser, new this year to Alma College, offers computer users extended access to the information superhighway.

Widely acknowledged as superior to other browsers, Netscape Navigator is used by an estimated 70% of "net-surfers." A browser is software that allows an individual to navigate the World Wide Web.

Many students are impressed with the speed, color and graphics of the program, as well as the plethora of information waiting to be tapped. Students can use Netscape for a variety of purposes, from education to entertainment.

Netscape Communications Cor-

poration announce last Fall that it was offering its Netscape navigator browser free to users via the Internet. The Internet navigator, developed by the Silicon Valley company, is available immediately for free downloading by individu-

nications.

Computer assistant senior Gordon Meyers noted that on any given day nearly 50 percent of the people in SAC's first floor computer lab are using Netscape.

"Netscape is one of the top browsers out there and has a strong tie to education," said Meyers.

"Most people find it pretty easily accessible," Meyers continued.

Exchange student Jose Belda uses Netscape daily.

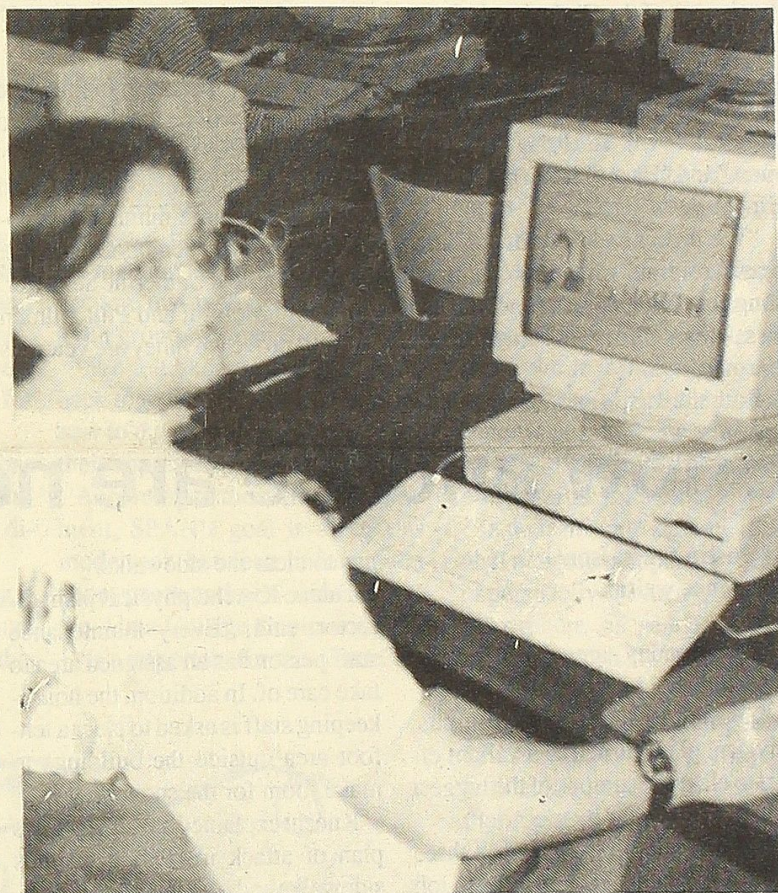
"I use it to keep up on international news, mainly from Spain and Europe." Belda also noted that depending on the time of day, the wait for information

varies.

With Netscape, students are able to access art, business, news and entertainment.

Netscape also lets users take advantage of such commercial services as on-line publications, financial services and interactive shopping.

On any given day nearly 50 percent of the people in SAC's first floor computer lab are using Netscape.



Junior Steve Nash takes advantage of the high tech computer facilities in Swanson Academic Center. Photo by Jon Croff.

Student honors recital to showcase diverse talents

By Daniel C. Scripps
Freelance Writer

On Tuesday, Dec. 5, at 8 p.m., the Alma College music department will present their bi-annual student honors recital.

The recital features the talents of nine students who practice various instruments.

Works by musical greats such as Brahms and Gershwin and the poetry of Walt Whitman and Tennessee Williams will be combined into a show that is sure to both entertain and impress.

Will Nichols, music department chairperson, said, "The honors recital is an opportunity for our private lessons students to perform solos in public. The ones we chose for this program all performed very well."

The program is made up of three pianists, three vocalists, a violist, alto saxophonist, and an organist. All the performers except the organist, sophomore Michelle Haroon, were selected through their participation in a special studio

class, which took place last Thursday, Nov. 30.

Studio classes are held once a month in the Eddy Music Building rehearsal hall and give students an opportunity to perform for one another in a more relaxed setting than a formal performance.

Due to the location of the auditions and the fact that there is no organ in the rehearsal hall, Haroon was selected in a special audition.

Other soloists include sophomores Katie Mitzner and Neal Palmreuter and junior Curtis White, who will perform piano solos.

Though the instrument is the same, each piece has a very distinct style. Mitzner will perform Gershwin's "Prelude No. 1," which

she describes as "a really fun piece with a lot of energy which is very enjoyable to play." Though the piece is shorter than the other two piano solos, it more than makes up for it in energy.

Palmreuter will be performing a piece by Brahms and White will play Chopin's "Barcharelle, Opus 16."

Vocalists include first-year student Katherine Bunker, who will perform a French piece entitled, "Lydia."

Senior Sarah Loftus and junior Jorge Livingston will sing famous American poems put to music.

Sarah's piece is entitled "Cabin" and is based on a poem by Tennessee Williams, while Livingston will perform the poem "O Captain, My

Captain" by Walt Whitman.

Rounding out the soloists are two first-year students, violist Andy West and alto saxophonist Nicole Deja. Both of these students play with great enthusiasm and musical understanding that helps them to fit their playing to the style of the piece.

Accompanying the vocal and instrumental soloists is Tony Patterson, accompanist for the music department.

"We're very excited to have a professional accompanist," said Nichols.

"With Tony here, students such as Nicole and Andy have the opportunity to attempt some of the more challenging music that they couldn't do without a pianist like Tony," Nichols continued.

The performance is scheduled to take place in Presbyterian Hall in the Heritage Center for the Performing Arts and will last approximately one hour.

No tickets will be required for this event.

INSIDE

News

AIDS Week 2

ASO Review 3

Feature

One-act review 4

Jazz Band review .. 5

Sports

Football MIAA ... 7

Basketball League

Leaders 9

Opinion

US in Bosnia 11

Letters to

the Editors 12

Dec. 5, 1995

Annual Christmas choir concert favors tradition

By Phil Allmen
Staff Reporter

"Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all noel."

This weekend the Alma College Choirs' annual Christmas concert will take place in the Heritage Center for the Performing Arts.

The choirs will sing a 75 minute concert with various styles of music. Although the choirs will perform a variety of styles, familiar carols will be the most prevalent.

"It's important to sing familiar songs at Christmas time, because it's part of our heritage," said Choir Director Will Nichols. "We're trying to create a Christmas tradition, though it's not created overnight. Since the opening of the Heritage Center, we have been creating a musical event signaling the end of the term and the beginning of the Christmas season at Alma College."

Some of the songs scheduled are "Deck the Halls," "O Come All Ye Faithful," "I'll Be Home for Christmas," and "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing."

"We're doing a lot of classic Christmas carols and some less traditional songs to make a great concert," said first-year choir member Scott Harman.

Both the men's and women's glee

clubs are packed with talent this year, with an increased membership in the choirs. The songs they sing will reflect their added size and talent.

"The men's glee club hasn't been this good in years," said senior Shannon McNeal.

Junior India Lovett has similar feelings about the glee clubs.

"The women's glee club is filled with talented women. With Tony and Doc's help, we have a rockin' good time," said Lovett.

First-year student Marcus Evans is ecstatic about joining the mixed choir his first term of college.

"I'm so happy to be here. This is the best choir I've ever been affiliated with. Everybody should take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to listen to the great sounds coming from the choir," said Evans.

The choir is not just all hard work, but is fun too.

"Choir is yippie-skipie fun and our concert will be too," exclaimed sophomore Jen Cornell.

The talents of the choir are seen through the large number of soloists performing. Seniors Laura Rice, Becky Shelley, Catherine Schaefer, Shannon McNeal and Phil Allmen will all prove why they are veterans of the choir.

Juniors India Lovett and Jorge Livingston will add their powerful voices in the concert. Sophomore Valerie Simmons will show her worth in the choir, while first-year students Jamie Raden, Anne Galsterer, Christine Mayers and Carrie Reid will show that the future of the choirs will be maintained with their beautiful voices.

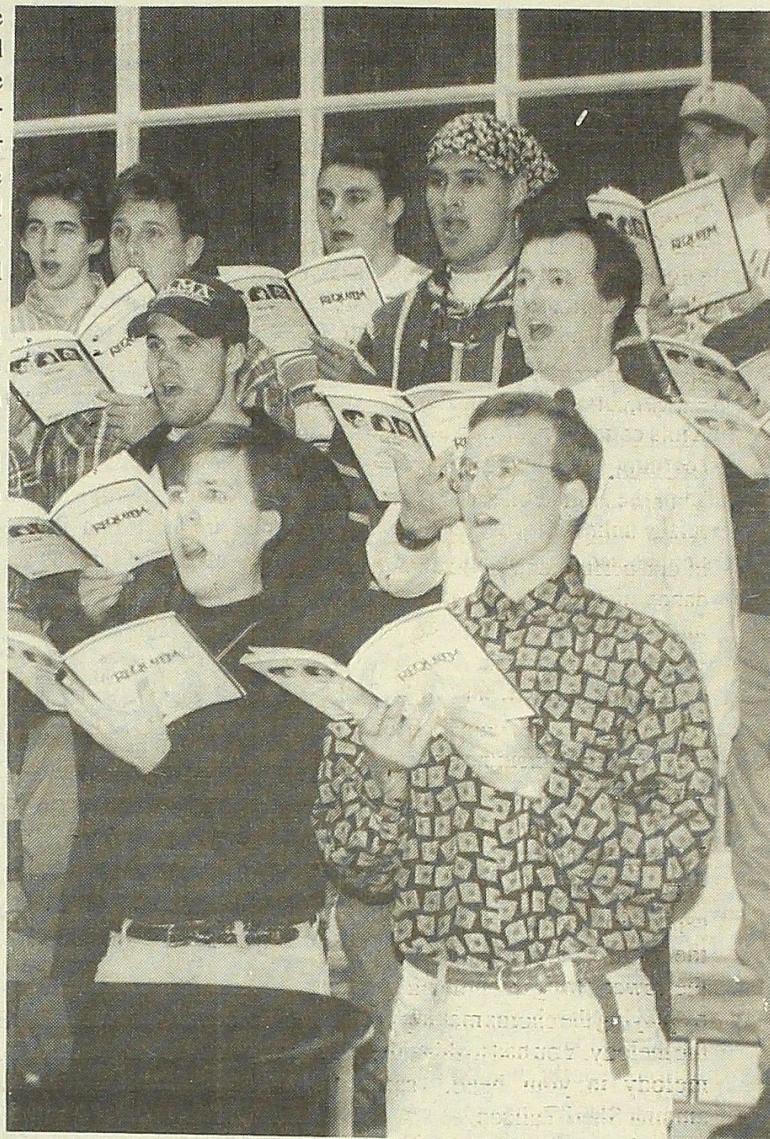
The choirs have added a third concert to accommodate the growing number of people interested in attending.

"The audience is mainly filled with parents and members of the community, though it is really intended for Alma College. We aren't being as successful as we want to be until the students attend the concert," added Nichols.

The concerts will take place at 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, and at 3 and 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9.

Tickets must be reserved at the Heritage Center box office before the concert is sold out.

The men's glee club, pictured right, prepares for an upcoming performance. They will combine with the women's glee club and the Alma College Choir this weekend for the annual Christmas concert. File photo.



Snow and ice are no problem for physical plant

By Justin Gustafson
Freelance writer

Last Monday, area schools were canceled and the streets were slick.

On the Alma College campus, physical plant turned in a valiant effort to clear the campus of the biggest snowfall this year by morning.

Physical plant currently has three full time groundskeepers whose job it is to take care of the snow in winter. The college owns three snowplows and two snow blowers. Besides the groundskeepers, the maintenance workers also help out around the cam-

pus to clear the sidewalks.

Duane Knecht, physical plant director, said, "Every maintenance staff person has an assigned area to take care of. In addition, the house-keeping staff is asked to clear a ten-foot area outside the buildings to make room for the snow blowers."

Knecht explained physical plant's plan of attack in ridding campus sidewalks and parking lots of snow.

"We open up the faculty lots immediately, then we get plows through the student lots as best we can before 8 a.m. Second priority is the main campus and the walkways

to the mall from the residence halls."

After that task is complete, they then move on to the fraternity and sorority house areas. If there is a build-up of ice, security personnel will call the physical plant and someone is dispatched to take care of the area.

Knecht also remarked that frozen pipelines can be a problem as well.

Last Monday, workers came in at 10:30 p.m. and struggled all night to keep the campus as clear as possible. The maintenance workers also came in an hour early to help combat the snow and ice.

"Snow and ice control is a big job for our staff. We try to keep things organized," said Knecht.

"I think physical plant does a good job of clearing the grass off six feet on either side of the sidewalk," said junior Jaime Vandeville.

Although the dirt and grass raked up from the plows is an eyesore, there is not much the physical plant can do other than not plow at all.

"Often times you forget exactly where the sidewalk is. When there is a lot of snow, it is

necessary to push it off the walk. This does create a problem come spring," said Knecht.

"I think they're doing the best job they can," said junior Rebekah Doyle. "The other day though, I couldn't get a spot in preferred parking because the snow wasn't cleared."

Knecht said that physical plant has an organized plan for clearing the snow away and that maintenance people work night and day to keep the campus clear, even though sometimes not everything can get done immediately.

Information, emotion empowers AIDS week

By Julie Wilson
Staff Reporter

World AIDS Day last Friday finished off a week of activities designed to encourage HIV and AIDS awareness on campus.

Tuesday night's presentation was entertaining as well as powerful. The Michigan State University Olin Health Center's "In Your Face" acting troupe presented "Virtual Sexuality," a program designed to creatively present issues dealing with responsible dating, touching on a variety of sexual themes.

The night concluded with a an AIDS vigil. This spiritual activity has taken place for the past 4 years, with participants lighting candles and saying prayers for those who have succumbed to the disease--and those who suffer from it now.

"The program was excellent; it was more educational than the ones we

have had in the past," said Chaplain Jesse Perry.

In prior years, AIDS week has brought in speakers, often those who have HIV or AIDS themselves, to add a human side to the disease. This year was more informative.

Perry added, "We had about 100 people participate in the vigil. We had expected more, and we suspect the low turnout was because of the weather."

It is also possible that the crowd was smaller because the campus calendar, which was distributed to the student body, showed the vigil to be held on Thursday, not Tuesday, when it was actually observed.

Another informative presentation

was given by senior Julie Johnston. Entitled "Women and AIDS," Johnston, who is currently an intern with the Mid-Michigan District

problems society could face, and we should deal with it now. That is why I decided to get involved," she said.

AIDS and HIV is one of the biggest issues for a health educator. It is potentially one of the biggest problems society could face, and we should deal with it now. That is why I decided to get involved

-Julie Johnston '96

Health Department, presented current information about HIV and AIDS, pertaining especially to women.

"AIDS and HIV is one of the biggest issues for a health educator. It is potentially one of the biggest

problems society could face, and we should deal with it now. That is why I decided to get involved," she said.

The college definitely fits the profile shown by Johnston's information: 72 percent of college students infected with HIV do not know they carry the virus, and women between the ages of 20 and 29 are the fastest growing group of people being infected.

"I'm interested in women's issues, so obviously this interested me," added Johnston.

Attendance and participation were positive. Johnston's presentation was less traditional than those usually offered, and she was pleased with attendance.

Said Johnston: "I was really

happy with the women who came. They had a lot of important things to say and contribute about the issue--some of them I had not even thought of."

Sophomore Galina Martin, who attended the forum, was slightly disappointed.

"The presentation itself was wonderful, and it was a great turnout, as far as women go. I was saddened to see that there were no men," said Martin.

"These issues pertain to them too; it was not just for women," Martin continued.

HIV and AIDS awareness week culminated last week, but the epidemic continues. Johnston encourages people to inform themselves.

"There is a lot of information still available. The Women's Resource Center at the MacCurdy House has information that is of interest to Alma College."

ASO ends year with powerful performance

by Phil Allmen
Staff Reporter

This past weekend, the Alma Symphony Orchestra (ASO) under the direction of Douglas Scripps performed from the opera *Carmen* as well as *Pas de Quatre* and *Grand Tarantella*. The last two pieces were choreographed by Thomas Morris, assistant professor of dance and performed by members of the Alma College Dance Company (ACDC).

"I am happy with the collaboration with the dance company in our performance. Music and dance make a natural alliance, and we hope to do more together," said Scripps.

The selections from *Carmen* by George Bizet ranged from slow, beautiful melodies to crisp, strong marches.

"I really enjoyed the *Carmen*. I thought the arrangement was very interesting and symbolic. I especially liked *Torero*. After the violins played the melody, the lower strings continued on by playing the chords making up the melody. You had to think the melody in your head," said alumna Sheri Tulloch.

"I enjoyed the selections from *Carmen* very much. Though I have never seen *Carmen* before, listening to the selections played by the ASO makes me eager to go out and see it. I especially liked the movement *Changing of the Guard*, because one of my

piano students has also performed it before," commented junior Laura Ringle.

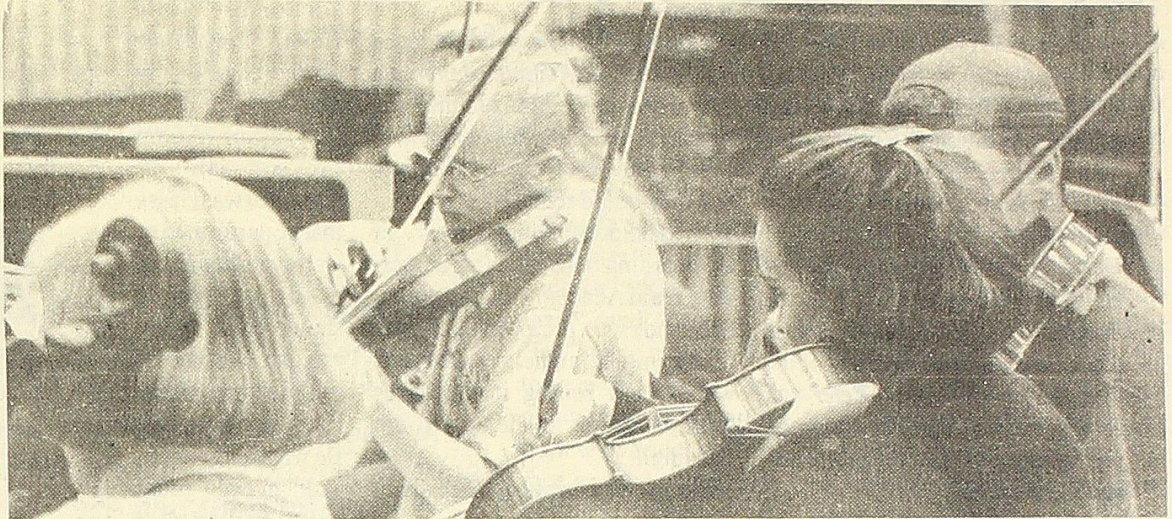
These two movements were the most familiar in the suite, though the other movements were just as wonderful. In the two movements, *Carmen's Entrance and Habanera* and *Finale*, the percussion involved greatly added to the sound. Although only five percussionists were involved with the performance, 47 different instruments were used. Without the talents from the percussion section, the music would have been lacking.

Cesare Pugni's *Pas de Quatre* featured the talent of four members of the dance company: senior Tiffany Vogel, sophomores Holly Cyrus and Nicole Bartell and first-year student Suzanne Semanson.

This quartet of dancers magnificently mimicked the dancers originally performing in this piece. The original dancers were the greatest of their time, and truly disliked one another. The sarcasm in the gentle bows and postures by the dancers was easily seen by those in the audience.

Louis Moreau Gottschalk's *Grand Tarantella* also featured the ACDC. Senior Shelly Wulff led the dancers in this Brazilian piece with grace and vigor.

The ASO once again proved its mastery of music in *Carmen* though the other two pieces focused too little on the symphony. With the ASO in the pit and the dancers in view, it was difficult to pay attention to anything but the dancers.



The concert itself was quite enjoyable, though the majority of the audience members in the half-filled concert hall were community members.

"I am pleased with how the per-

formances went, but also with the enthusiasm the orchestra played the pieces with. Overall, this concert has been a tremendous experience," concluded Scripps.

Sophomore Laura Anderson practices with the Symphony during one of the rehearsals leading up to this weekend's concerts. File photo.

SPAN promotes peace, global awareness

By Jen Mounts
Staff Reporter

Students may have seen the signs around campus announcing the meeting of Students for Peace and Non-Violence (SPAN). To many this may seem like something new because SPAN has been inactive for a couple of years.

In the past, however, SPAN has been an active organization on campus and is heading back in that direction.

This term the group is seeing a new revival of interest. Although they have had only two meeting this

term, attendance has been good.

According to SPAN member, junior Geoff Guy, "A lot of people are interested but have conflicts with the meeting times, but still want to become involved in activities. It's a fun group," he said.

"We felt like we needed to get it back together. A lot of people are new to the group so we want to get their impressions," Guy continued.

According to their mission statement, SPAN's goal is to "act as moderator between information about peace and non-violence and the Alma College Community."

"It's important for the Alma Col-

lege campus to have as many activists groups as possible to train students for activist roles now and in the future," said Guy.

SPAN hopes to attain this goal in several ways. Most importantly, the organization will facilitate discussions while remaining objective about issues, which they hope will encourage people to better understand one another, avoid taking sides and promote tolerance.

In their mission statement, SPAN also maintains hopes for "a growth of perspective (which) produces the atmosphere of peace and understanding which SPAN holds in highest esteem."

Junior Christina Bergstedt said SPAN hopes to work in conjunction with other groups to accomplish these goals.

In the past SPAN sponsored the Ox-Fam banquet, planted the peace poles in MacIntyre Mall, hosted a speaker on the Bosnian war and held campus awareness celebrations in honor of people such as Martin Luther King Jr. and events such as Earth Day.

SPAN's future ideas include speakers and workshops. Bergstedt sees these programs as a vehicle for the organization to encourage the campus to talk about peaceful resolutions to national and international problems.

For more information on upcoming events and meetings, contact Bergstedt or Guy.

Alpha Gamma Delta Masquerade January 12th
Costume Ball

Take a Study Break!

Join us for the Christmas Service in the Chapel
December 10th from 7:00 pm - 8:00pm

featuring Dr Walser's rendition of The Night Before Christmas, students talent, your favorite professors and staff, and the Chapel Committee

Help us celebrate Christmas

**LaSenorita is now hiring
for management and
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5 day work week. 2 weeks paid vacation after first year. 2 personal days. Salary & Bonuses. 401K Plan. Health and Life Insurance. Great training program. Please send your resume to:

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Traverse City, MI 49685-0388

Attention: Ken Kleinrichert

Dec. 5, 1995

Scottish poet impresses, entertains audience

By Matt Groves
Freelance Writer

During his first tour of the United States, Christopher Rush visited Alma College and delighted fans with his presentation, "Voice from the Fife Coast."

Rush, a Scottish poet and novelist, has received awards from the Scottish Arts Council and has been shortlisted for Scottish Book of the year. His book, *Venus Peter* has achieved classic status and has been reprinted in the Cannongate Classics book series.

The evening began with an introduction by Provost Leslie Ellen Brown reminding the audience of the Scottish heritage on campus. After the stage was set, Rush impressed the audience with his amusing anecdotes.

Reading from *Twelve Months and a Day*, a collection of journal entries first published in 1985 in which he recalled childhood memories, he managed to provoke tears and crack smiles in the course of a few

minutes.

Rush also delighted the audience with his sea and fishing tales which cleverly enveloped his family and made for an extremely enjoyable evening in which nearly everyone felt they could relate to.

His last presentation, a story of the boarding house near his university, Waid Academy in Anstruther, Scotland, was the perfect closure to the night; audience members were nearly rolling in the aisles with laughter as he bid them goodnight.

The crowd was not quite ready to leave, however. With a little cajoling, they convinced Rush to read his poem "Lines and Circles," a delightful poem about his daughter.

Unfortunately, only about 40 people came to Rush's reading. However, he did not seem to mind the small attendance; he presented his material as though he were performing in front of thousands.

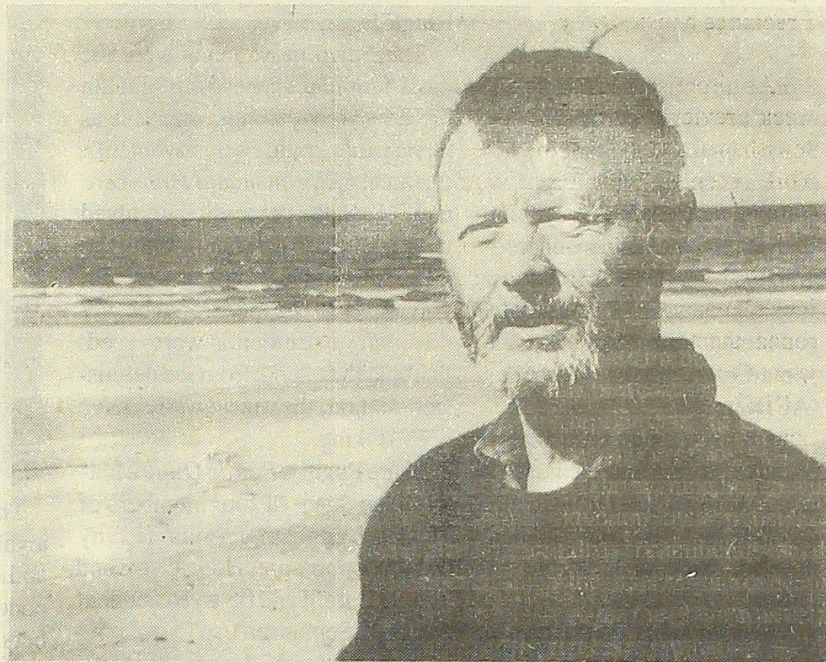
"He is a great storyteller," said

sophomore Julie Heintz. "He had me on the edge of my seat!"

Junior Adam Jackson said, "I thought it was classy that he performed so well even though not a lot of people showed up."

Rush was one of the best speakers I've seen at Alma. He was funny, smart and I'm even going to go out and find some of his work.

The few who attended his reading had the privilege of witnessing a remarkable speaker. If he comes again, I urge everyone to come and see him for yourself—I assure you, it will be well worth an hour of your time.



Renowned Scottish poet Christopher Rush appeared at Alma college, presenting "Voices From the Fife Coast." Rush has served as Artist-in-Residence this term, and appeared in conjunction with the Scottish Literature class taught by visiting professor Henry Fulton. Photo courtesy of the Alma College Public Relations Office.

Chicago trip offers taste of job market

By Chris Sienko
Freelance Writer

From Wednesday, Nov. 15 through Friday, Nov. 17, with help from the Center for Student Development, 14 Alma students packed their bags, printed scores of copies of their resumes, prepared answers for possible interview questions and set off to Chicago in search of employment after college.

The Center, which organizes this event twice a year, helps to prepare students for the "real world" environment of job hunting and job interviews. Organizations at which students were interviewed include advertising firms Foote, Cone and Belding and BBDO Chicago, Andersen Consulting and Accountemps, the Amoco Corporation and Rotary International, to name only a few.

"Recruiters in major companies are cutting back; they just aren't coming to look for potential employees on small campuses. We have to be innovative in order to let these companies know that we are here," said Ginny Riser, associate director for student development.

To further facilitate this, students had an informal dinner with a number of Alma graduates who told students about the ups and downs of living in Chicago, places to begin job hunting and ways to begin acquiring contacts.

"You will find that the interview-

ing process goes much easier if you think of it as a big game," said Chris Hayes, a 1995 Alma graduate. "Certainly, you should be competitive, but if you think of it as a game, you will be more relaxed, and you will be yourself. Interviewers look for a person who can stay calm and composed in tense situations as much as they look for good credentials."

Students were also introduced to Michael Mulligan, an alumnus who is now the CEO of Mulligan and Associates, an organization dedicated to job placement for young people and displaced workers. Many students had one-on-one talks with Mulligan, who gave more helpful hints on the job market.

What did the students think of the experience? Most seemed to feel that they had acquired a lot of knowledge in job searching.

"The best part of the trip was getting experience interviewing and learning how to get over the introductory nervousness," said senior Nikolina Glamoclija, "as well as meeting people who can help us later in life."

But the trip was not all tense interviews and polite handshakes. Students were given time to explore the Chicago area, which most students put to good use. Most memorable of all was the bus ride home, during which the bus was held up for over an hour due to a large accident on the freeway and

heavy snowfall. During this time, the students took ample time to talk about their experiences, get to know one another a little better. All in all, a rewarding trip.

There will be another trip to Chicago from February 7 through the

9th. The first meeting for those interested in going was Dec. 4.

"If you wish to go on the second trip, you must try to attend the meeting, or talk with members of the Center as soon as possible. Get us a copy of your resume and a

cover letter which we can mail to the business organizations you wish to interview with," said Riser.

To learn more about the February Chicago trip, contact Riser at extension 7356.

Alumni seek futures in law

By Mark Andrews
Opinion Editor

Life after Alma College can look pretty bleak and intimidating—especially during those last few years when it's time to search for a career and make those scary final decisions.

For students interested in a future in the legal system, fighting their way into a field that has thousands of other candidates knocking on the same doors can be a terrifying. Heading off to law school, law-hopefuls begin their journey and a number of recent Alma graduates, including Liberty Reiter and Beth Hughes, have edged their way in.

"Law school is painful and cruel," said Reiter, a 1994 alumna.

Reiter double majored in English and history while attending Alma and is currently enrolled at Case Western Law School in

Cleveland, OH. She hopes to intern with the Cleveland City Prosecutor in the next year to gain experience in the field and open up opportunities.

"I was very different than most students who attended Alma. So, for me to get special attention was a gift, especially from Dr. Yavenditti," said Reiter.

Small colleges like Alma pride themselves on their close-knit environment—allowing students to be in close contact with professors and other students with different interests.

"Alma is a very small school. It was very beneficial for me, especially because I was able to meet a wide variety of people and have good communication with professors," said Hughes, a 1995 alumna.

Law schools place students in a challenging atmosphere. For the first year of school, students take pre-determined classes rather than elected courses. Then, in subsequent years, students begin work in

their chosen area within the field.

Hughes said of the experience, "It's going really well. The work load is tremendous. The people here are competitive."

She is currently enrolled at Notre Dame in Southbend, IN, and plans on obtaining a clerkship over the summer with a law firm or a judge. But, with three years to go, she is not quite sure what the future will hold.

Even though they spend a majority of their time in the library, researching and studying, both Reiter and Hughes believe the experience is well worth the work.

Both Alma graduates show that life beyond college is not always obscured by a haze of decisions. Even the most demanding careers hold rewarding opportunities for post-graduates.

"Being involved was probably one of the best things I could have done while attending Alma College," said Hughes.

**Look
What's
Happening!**

THEATRE / DANCE
Wharton Center, Lansing, (517) 432-2000
**Joseph and the amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*—Dec. 12-17
MSU auditorium, (517) 432-1287

**Rumors*—Dec. 14-16
BoarsHead Theater, Lansing (517) 484-7804
**Greetings*—Dec. 5-9
Michigan Princess, Grand River Park, (517) 627-2154
**Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre*

Cruise—Dec. 22
HISTORY / ARTS
Clack Art Center
*Alma College Statewide Print Competition—Nov. 6-Dec. 8
*Susan Forman, Photographic Col-

lages—Nov. 6-Dec. 11
Michigan Women's Historical Center and Hall of Fame, Lansing (517) 484-1880
*How the Suffragists Changed Michigan—ongoing
*Women at Work—ongoing

The Klezmatics: ask for 'em by name

By Chris Sienko
Freelance Music Diety

As promised last week, this week's review tells the story of six Jewish men and women from New York, keeping the musical faith through their distinct performance of Klezmer, a traditional form of Jewish dance music, splicing into it elements of the musics that surround them in New York, from jazz to rock to world music.

Klezmer is a kinetic and infectious form of music that generally features clarinets, horns, accordions and violins to make a music that suggests both traditional eastern European folk music and dance music for the best weddings. Even still, the concept of Klezmer may strike many people as imposing and otherly, meant for someone else. The Klezmatics go out of their way to invite everyone to the party on their newest release, *Jews with*

Horns (Xenophile Records).

The opening cut, "Man with a Hat," features backup vocals by Canadian a cappella group Moxxy Fruvous, and the second track contains trademark high lone-some slide guitar by New York crony Marc Ribot.

To further namecheck, the Klezmatics contains drummer/percussionist David Licht, formerly of Shockabilly and Bongwater, giving people who are still leery of this exotic music something to get a grip on. The reassuring names aren't all that necessary to the enjoyment of this music, though. All you need are two ears, a pulse and freedom of movement in your four appendages.

The Klezmatics could just as well be named "The Kinetics," because the energy level on this disc is

simply astounding, as clarinetist David Krakauer spins melody lines that resemble a cross between gypsy songs and Dixieland jazz around Alicia Svigals's hyperkinetic vio-

as possible, there is nothing about the Klezmatics that suggests sellout or compromise of any sort. Neither do they apologize for their Jewish heritage, wrapping the songs in a blanket of irony.

Despite the silliness of song titles "Freyt Aykh, Yidlekh" ("Get Happy, Jews") and "Man in a Hat," not to mention the tongue in cheek liner notes, the Klezmatics burn with pride for their race and their tradition. "In Kamf" is one of the most popular Yiddish labor songs of the

1880's, sung with the assistance of a chorus of Jewish elders. Other tunes include "Bulgars/The Kiss," written for the ACT UP kiss-in held in New York; "Nign," described in the booklet as a "Wordless song of ecstasy in the Hassidic style" and

the joyous "Simkhes-Toyre," a song about a Jewish celebration where "Life is Sweet" and "Even the moon and stars have gone off to drink some wine."

Most of the songs are sung in Yiddish, but the booklet includes English translations if you're really interested. The real fun of the disc is not trying to piece together what's being said and where, but just to leap in, swing your hips, laugh out loud until you're in tears, and not really care, or notice, that you are jumping and hopping around in someone else's culture. The Klezmatics certainly don't mind; that's them at the far end of the room, getting happy and making the guests feel right at home.

By the time this disc is over, you feel like you've *always* danced to Klezmer, and the night is still young. Just one more dance before we go home, my dear...

Despite the silliness of song titles "Freyt Aykh, Yidlekh" ("Get Happy, Jews") and "Man in a Hat," not to mention the tongue in cheek liner notes, the Klezmatics burn with pride for their race and their tradition.

lin. The drummer and bassist lock the melodies down, sometimes breaking into a polka-esque shuffle, only to swing into a juicy funk riff faster than you can say "Oy Vey!"

Despite the attempts to be as accessible to as large an audience

Casino proves entertaining, but not original

By Joe Johnston
Freelance Writer

I went to the movies the day before Thanksgiving hoping to see the movie of the year.

For all wants and purposes, Universal Pictures' *Casino* had everything a good movie needs: a cast including Robert DeNiro and Joe Pesci, direction from Martin Scorsese (*Cape Fear*, *Raging Bull* and *Mean Streets*) and a screenplay by Nicholas Pileggi.

However, I left the theater feeling almost slighted. Scorsese had not tried hard enough—it was entertaining, but the three-hour picture was not what it could have been.

My largest problem with the film was that it seemed to mirror Scorsese's 1991 film, *Goodfellas*. *Casino* tells the story of small-time gambler Ace Rothstein (DeNiro) who makes it big and is given the opportunity to run the Tangiers Casino for the Mafia.

Along comes Nicky (Pesci), an old friend of Rothstein's who is sent by the mob to make sure Rothstein doesn't mismanage the casino.

Enter Ginger (Sharon Stone), who plays a hustler who Rothstein promptly falls in love with and eventually marries.

To make a long film short, Nicky gets greedy and hustles everything in Las Vegas, Rothstein wants to turn legitimate and Ginger adds more problems by dragging her personal life into the soup. All but Rothstein die and he closes the film as the same small-time gambler that initiated the film.

The film was narrated by the two principle characters and proceeded from event to event with little con-

nection—just like *Goodfellas*. Although this technique was successful in *Goodfellas*, *Casino* was over-narrated making it difficult to both listen to the elaborate storytelling and absorb the action on the screen.

Additionally, Nicky is dead by the time the story begins to unfold, but he narrates half the film anyway! This has never worked in a picture—how can a dead man talk about his life?

I don't know if Scorsese was utilizing his talents in this film or borrowing from his previous work and recent work of other directors. Some of the visual images are reminiscent of younger directors, primarily Quentin Tarantino.

Scorsese went overboard on violence—it just doesn't seem like the visual tricks and violence help move the story along. Often it seems as though he uses these techniques solely for the shock value.

Part of a film auteur's greatness comes from a dedication to their proven style, and Scorsese doesn't seem to be doing this. Although his films have been violent in the past, the violence has always helped the progression of the plot. *Casino* seems to be violence for the sake of violence.

Not surprisingly, the acting in this film is worth seeing. All three principle characters turn in great performances. Yes, even Sharon Stone. I was shocked at her performance—I had assumed she would be cast for her usual part in the gratuitous sex scenes; not once, however, does she appear nude. She is very believable as Rothstein's junkie/hustler wife.

DeNiro, as always, was fantastic. The role is a slight departure from his strictly "tough guy" image—he was a brute with a heart.

Pesci was incredible as Nicky. He even varies his usual Bronx dialect to create a more unique and new character.

Dick Smothers and Don Rickles serve very well in the smaller straight roles and James Woods is

remarkable as Ginger's ex-boyfriend.

Casino is worth seeing. If viewed independently from Scorsese's other films, it was great. However, films should be viewed with the director's accomplishments in mind. If you do

this, *Casino* lacks the flair of Scorsese's other films. It is worth seeing but don't expect much...it probably won't deliver.

Jazz band soothes and satisfies

By Christine Ebert
Freelance Writer

On Sunday, Dec. 3, at 8 p.m. the Alma College Jazz Ensemble appeared at the Heritage Center for the Performing Arts under the direction of Don Metcalf. Audience members agree that it was a great performance.

Those in attendance were eager to see if the Jazz Band would put on another rousing performance and they were not disappointed.

Beginning with the spirited *Take the "A" Train* the band played well and the piece chugged right along.

Following the popular opening number, *Who's the Bossa* was quite a contrast. The soothing and melodic sounds made for a very enjoyable piece.

Continuing with *Caravan*, the Ensemble continued with their crowd-pleasing trend. The percussion section certainly had fun with the great rhythms while junior Jackson Martin's tenor sax solo made the piece.

The program then turned to three vocal pieces with first-year student Christine Mayers singing *Over the Rainbow* and *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas* and junior Matt Groves singing *Soul Man*.



Junior Matt Groves rocks out on "Soul Man." Photo by Kim Krajniak.

Mayers did an excellent job with her two soulful renditions, her voice bringing back memories of the big band era.

Soul Man was a piece obviously enjoyed by the band as well as the audience. Groves was great fun as a soloist and his voice was perfect for jazz music.

"He was so incredible, we liked the piece a lot and he sang it so well...that piece just rocked," said senior alto sax player, Dana Schneider. "We were grooving so

hard, the entire pit just began to rock. We had a lot of people there too—a lot more people than had attended in the past."

After the vocal interlude, the program returned to three instrumental pieces. *Summertime*, a Gershwin piece that was successful expanded and revamped for a jazz band.

Sophomore Anne Murphy had an incredible alto sax solo and the following piece, *Misty*, began with a great trombone solo by sophomore Dan Scripps.

The band performed *America the Beautiful* as their final number with Groves as the soloist backed by six Alma College Choir members.

"I think they've really improved since last year. Soloists were really good, but you couldn't really hear the backup singers; but I think the band itself is much improved," said senior Nikolina Glamoclija.

Despite the difficulty hearing the choir members, it was the perfect finish to a great concert. The program was moving and formal with a twist of fun to make it a fantastic show.

If you missed Sunday's performance, be sure to catch the Jazz Band at Max and Emily's this Thursday at 7 p.m.

EVENTS

517 E. Grand River, Okemos (517) 332-8444

*Diane Wokoski, poet—Dec. 6
Schuler Books, 2075 E. Grand River, Okemos (517) 349-8840

*Barbara Freeman, author—Dec.

22

Michigan Princess Riverboat, Grand River Park (517) 627-2154

*Holiday Dinner Cruise—Dec. 9 & 16

MUSIC / COMEDY

Heritage Center for the Performing Arts

*Alma College Choirs—Dec. 8 & 9

Dunning Memorial Chapel

*The Stains—Dec. 12 at 9:30 p.m.

Midland Center for the Arts, (517) 631-1072

*Handel's *Messiah*—Dec. 9

*The Men of Music, Christmas Concert—Dec. 10

*Youth Honors Choir, Holiday Concert—Dec. 13

Wharton Center, Lansing 1-800-WHARTON

*MSU band and orchestra—Dec. 6

Breslin Center, Lansing, (517) 432-5000

*Colors of Christmas—Dec. 7

Dec. 5, 1995

Student directors make their mark

By Justin Bauer
Editor-in-chief

One of the much-touted benefits and selling-points of Alma's liberal arts education is the opportunity for hands-on experience—the chance for students to gain experience by doing it themselves.

Senior Elizabeth Edwards and junior Joseph Johnston got that chance, and they got it in a big way. As the first student directors in the history of the Alma College Theatre Company (ACT), Edwards and Johnston had the opportunity to cross the line between acting and directing. Both students chose, casted, and directed one-act plays, which debuted Thursday and ran through Sunday.

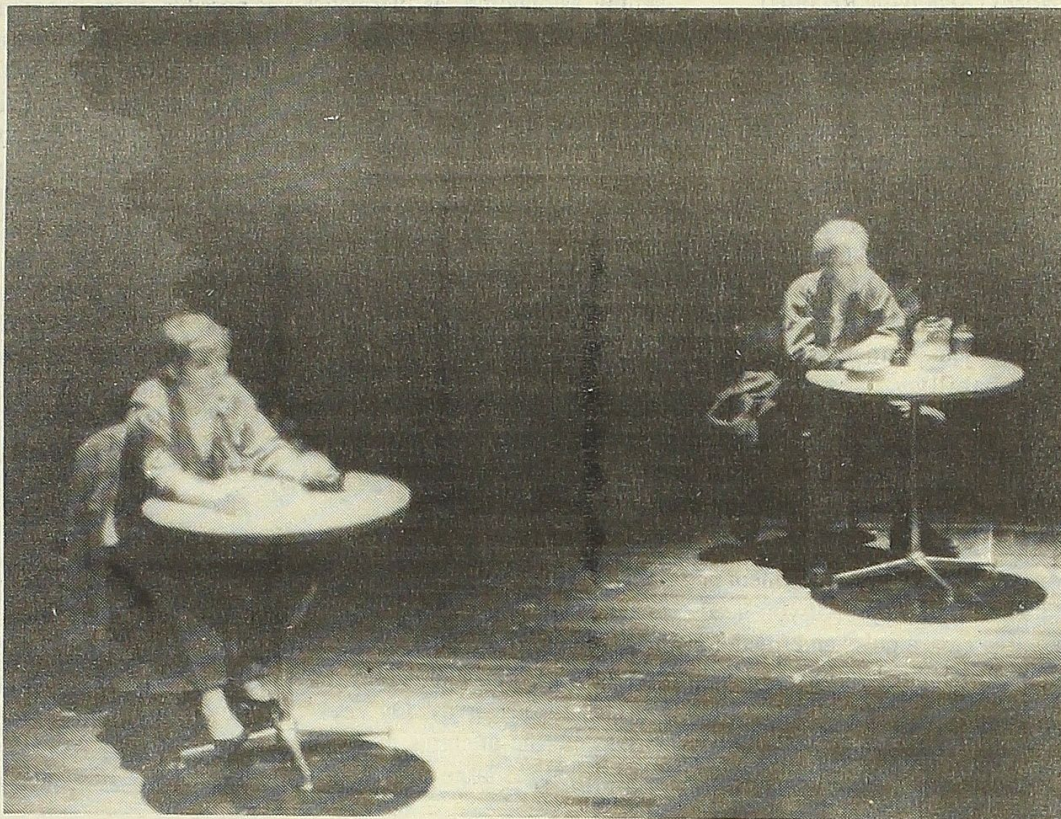
The plays—Joyce Carol Oates' *The Rehearsal*, directed by Edwards, and John Patrick Shanley's *Danny and the Deep Blue Sea*, directed by Johnston—each have their problems. Both deal with difficult issues, both scripts contain problematic sections and both productions have their faults.

The two one-acts, however, represent a significant achievement—they are student-acted and student-directed, and their merits greatly outweigh their faults.

The program began with *The Rehearsal*, which deals with the relationship between an HIV+ actor (Stephen J. Sobieski) and an actress (Amy Zell) playing the part of a woman caught in an abusive relationship—a role too close to her life for comfort. The pair alternate between a high-tension final-week rehearsal of a play dominated by an overbearing, demanding director (Brian Papendick), and a break during which the two actors step out of their roles.

The script, written by Joyce Carol Oates, a writer better known as a novelist than a playwright, displays the overquick character development that plagues many one-acts. Oates' script tends to club the reader with its messages, giving both Zell and Sobieski lines that tend to sound like the author is more concerned with expounding on an ideology than constructing—and sticking to—characterization. Additionally, Oates' script fails to draw Zell's role as strongly or cleanly as Sobieski's—her character is saddled with more trite lines and has a less clear and careful development.

The production, however, is excellent. From the beautiful costuming to the excellent use of the stage and the audience space to the layout of the set, Edwards' direction displays a great deal of care. The play, in dealing with the issues of AIDS and abuse, tackles important issues seldom seen on Alma's stage.



The performances of the two principals are excellent. While Papendick's director sacrifices some of the brutality the director should have in favor of enunciation and projection, the actor and actress turn in solid performances.

Zell, whose last appearance in ACT's *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress* stole that show, plows through Oates' difficult lines and manages to present a very fine performance.

Sobieski, who put on the best performance of his ACT career as

Trigorin in this fall's *The Seagull*, equals that performance; while Sobieski is always very good at passion and rage, in *The Seagull* and *The Rehearsal* he gets the chance to play a more compassionate character—and the growth in his abilities shows.

The second show, John Patrick Shanley's *Danny and the Deep Blue Sea*, proved to be a more problematic production for a variety of reasons. The script tends toward brutal, shocking and distasteful, and Shanley's background as a screen-

Johnston's show exceeds expectations. Both Bullmer and Andrews pull excellent performances from the script. Bullmer creates a very real Roberta; she manages the dialect very well and gets beyond the hard edge of her character and into a gentler, more insecure portrayal. Andrews, who commonly plays ironic, patrician roles—the Emcee in *Cabaret*, Oberon in *Midsummer Night's Dream*, makes a great stretch into new territory for him as an actor, and manages to make his scrawny frame fill the stage and his presence as an enraged, working-class stiff who discovers something good for the first time uncanny and powerful.

Danny's biggest problems, however, were beyond the control of the actors or the director. While the play's subtitle is "An Apache Dance" and Shanley's notes indicate that the production should be fierce and bitter, the production seems to fall to the level of sitcom comedy; between the distance imposed by the difference between the lives of Danny and Roberta and the comfortable middle-class Alma College audience and the distance inserted by the Bronx dialect, the Alma College audience perceived the show as a comedy.

The audience's condescension toward the two seemingly stupid and quaint characters turned a hard-hitting, brutal play into a situation comedy.

Furthermore, due to a serious scheduling foul-up, throughout the first two scenes of *Danny* the Kiltie Marching Band concert in the next hall was clearly audible—Sousa marches intruded on the drama, diverting the audience's focus on the play and marring the action on stage. Simultaneous events in the Heritage Center may be common; this obvious a mismatch, however, seriously detracted from the performance and points to a major inattention on the part of the Heritage Center's scheduling body.

All in all, the debut of student-directed plays on the Alma stage was a triumph. Certainly, both productions had their limitations; however, the good in the productions far outweighed the bad, and the infusion of new blood into ACT is a welcome change and a clear success.

(Above) Juniors Elizabeth Bullmer and Mark Harris Andrews in *Danny and the Deep Blue Sea*; (Below) senior Stephen J. Sobieski and sophomore Amy Zell in *The Rehearsal*. Photos by Char Vandermeer.

writer shows in his weak Hollywood happy ending.

The plot involves Danny (Mark Harris Andrews) and Roberta (Elizabeth Bullmer), two characters who meet in an empty bar, spend a night together, and decide to change their lives and get married, finally finding something good.

The script is difficult, mistaking realism for profanity and shock value for profundity; however, the impression it makes is strong and the work Andrews and Bullmer have done with it is clear.

Unlike *The Rehearsal*, Johnston's production seems lost on Alma's stage—the vast expanse of stage, and the spread-out set for scenes two and three (which, according to the original script, take place in a room that was once a closet) forces some awkward lighting changes and encourages some uncomfortable blocking in what should be a claustrophobic, dark show.

Given those limitations, though,

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St. Andrews

*Hagfish—Dec. 7

*Dandy Warhols—Dec. 9

7th House, Detroit (810) 335-8100

*Sugar Blues—Dec. 8

*Leon Russel and Band—Dec. 16
The Palace, Pontiac (810) 377-0100

*Lenny Kravitz—Dec. 31
Michigan Theater, Ann Arbor
(313) 665-4755

*Nylons—Dec. 8

*Holy Cows—Dec. 9

*Verve Pipe—Dec. 9

The Ark, Ann Arbor

*Josh White Jr.—Dec. 16

Hill Auditorium, Ann Arbor,
(313) 961-MELT

*Judy Collins—Dec. 7

*Natalie Merchant—Dec. 10

Blind Pig, Ann Arbor

(313) 996-8555

*Holy Cows—Dec. 9

State Theater, Kalamazoo
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*Allison Kraus and Union Station
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*Ted Nugent's 10th Annual

Whiplash Bash—Dec. 30

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Football

Fifteen players receive MIAA honors

By Maria Toscano
Staff Reporter

Finally, Alma's football got some respect.

This year the Scots have had 15 players receive MIAA honors—the most Alma players have received in a long time.

"It is nice to see Alma College get recognized," said Offensive Coordinator John Leister. "In the last two years we have fought for respectability. It gives the kids the respect they earned."

Head Coach Jim Cole agreed.

"Based on the 1990, '91, and '92 seasons, we didn't get individuals recognized and I feel it earns respect for the program because others see what we are doing," said Cole. "Week in and week out, they play and practice hard and play the game of football they way it is suppose to be played."

Names added to the list of MIAA First-Team players includes seniors Mark Kaeckmeister, Jason Falk and James Compau.

"Kaeckmeister was an outstanding player," said Cole. "He capped off a nice career."

Falk was a nationally ranked quarterback in passing and was apart of team that averaged 28.7 points per game.

"He was the best quarterback in the league in two years," said Leister. "He played through a lot of pain and it is nice to see him get some recognition."

"Falk came here three years ago to a struggling program and went to a new offense that fit him well," said Cole. "He helped bring the offense to a national level and he had a lot of savvy that the players

responded to."

Compau was apart of a nationally ranked defense in the 1994 season that allowed only 11.9 points a game.

Week in and week out, they play and practice hard and play the game of football they way it is suppose to be played.

-Coach Jim Cole

Cole felt that Compau was one of the cornerstones to the defense.

"You've got to give credit to four hard years of work," said Cole. "He played above natural talent by playing smart football."

Second team all-conference hon-

ors were given to eight Scots. The group included seniors Christian Wiley, Jeff Beane, George Garcia, Mike Zahn, Jeff Silk, Jason Williamson, junior Scott Menard and sophomore Scott Heymoss.

"Silk and Beane are obviously talented players," said Cole. "Equally important was the leadership and more than anybody they probably wanted to leave a legacy and give the college something positive."

"Williamson improved a ton from last year," said Leister. "He continued to get better every game."

Four of the Scots earned honorable mention recognition: seniors Darryl McCray and Josh Sellers,

junior captain Jason Couch and first-year student Jim Townsend.

Leister believes that Couch should have received more than just honorable mention.

"Couch is better than third team," Leister said.

Townsend earned his honors despite the difficulty of his position as well as inexperience.

"We knew he was good," said Cole. "He came on quickly and started in all the league games. The offensive line is one of the hardest place to start because of the way our offense is designed. The pass block is a real technical skill."

"The guys enjoyed some good success and the seniors are a big reason," said Cole. "The younger players learned a lot from them. The seniors represent Alma positively on and off the field."

Swimmers have a strong showing at meets

By Dana Reinke
Sports Editor

Traveling to the DePauw Invitational over the weekend Alma's men's and women's swimming and diving teams competed against seven other colleges.

While there, junior Danielle Sullivan set a new school record, 2:17.43 in the 200 individual medley and finished with the most points earned by a swimmer (60) leading Alma's swimming and diving team to a fifth place.

The team earned 391.5 points, 50 more than last year. The men's swimming and diving team also performed well, scoring 248 points to lead them to a seventh place finish. Last year the teams finished eighth and ninth respectively at the invitational.

"We all swam really well and it was a good learning experience for

the underclassmen, because it gave them an idea of how tired they will be at the conference meet," said sophomore Renee DeGraaf.

"It was a long two day meet and the team did well especially the freshmen who had never experienced a meet like that before," said senior captain Brett Martin.

"We stepped up to the challenge and bettered our times from our morning swims to the night events," added senior Melissa Wuchte.

DeGraaf led the women to their fifth place position with her victory in the 50 yard freestyle with a time of 25.76. Sullivan placed first at the invitational, winning the 200 yard freestyle in a time of 2:00.11. DeGraaf finished 12th with a 2:09.84.

"I was really excited and glad I could get my times down now instead of later in the season," said

DeGraaf. "That was the first time I have been under 26 seconds in a flat start 50 yard freestyle."

First-year student Libby Bequette swam to a second place finish in the 100 yard backstroke followed by a fourth place finish by junior Melissa Merwin. Sophomores Kelly Tucker and Jennifer Rocco placed sixth and tenth in the 100 yard breaststroke with times of 1:19.94 and 1:23.98 respectively. In the 200 yard backstroke Wuchte swam a 2:23.17 to finish third followed by Bequette in fourth with a time of 2:24.25.

"I wasn't sure what to expect since we tapered before this meet and we don't usually do that until the conference meet, so I was surprised with time," said Wuchte. "I am faster at this time of the year than I was last year."

In diving, senior Lesley Malzahn placed sixth in both the three meter and one meter events with first-

year students Heather Klepper and Sarah Bourdo finishing eighth and tenth in the one meter event.

Alma's women's relay teams also contributed to the team's strong performance. In the 400 yard medley relay, the team of Wuchte, Tucker, Sullivan and DeGraaf swam a 4:29.38, earning them a third place finish. In the 200 yard freestyle relay Sullivan, sophomore Christin Waldron, Merwin and DeGraaf placed fourth with a time of 1:46.85.

For the men's swimming and diving team, first-year student Bill James led the way with a fourth place in the 500 yard freestyle swimming a 5:02.29. Senior Christian Betz swam a 2:07.65 in the 200 yard backstroke to finish fourth followed by Martin with a 2:08.49. Both swimmers also placed fifth and seventh in the 100 yard backstroke with Betz swimming a 59.50 and Martin a 1:00.80 respectively.

"I was happy with my performances they are good times to have at this time of the season, but I know I can do better," said Martin.

James also placed eighth in the 200 yard butterfly with a time of 2:14.23 and seventh in the 1650 yard freestyle race. Senior Ted Davis added to the scoring with a seventh place in the 100 yard butterfly with a time of 55.76.

Before Thanksgiving break Alma's men's and women's swim teams traveled to Grand Valley

State University. The women were defeated 127-103 and the men lost 129-99 to the division II school.

Even in defeat Baadte said it was a good meet and the team accomplished a lot.

"We were in every race and we touched them out in every close race whether it was for first or fifth," said Baadte.

"Our team is in a pretty good position right now," said Martin. "The freshmen are doing really well and living up to their potential."

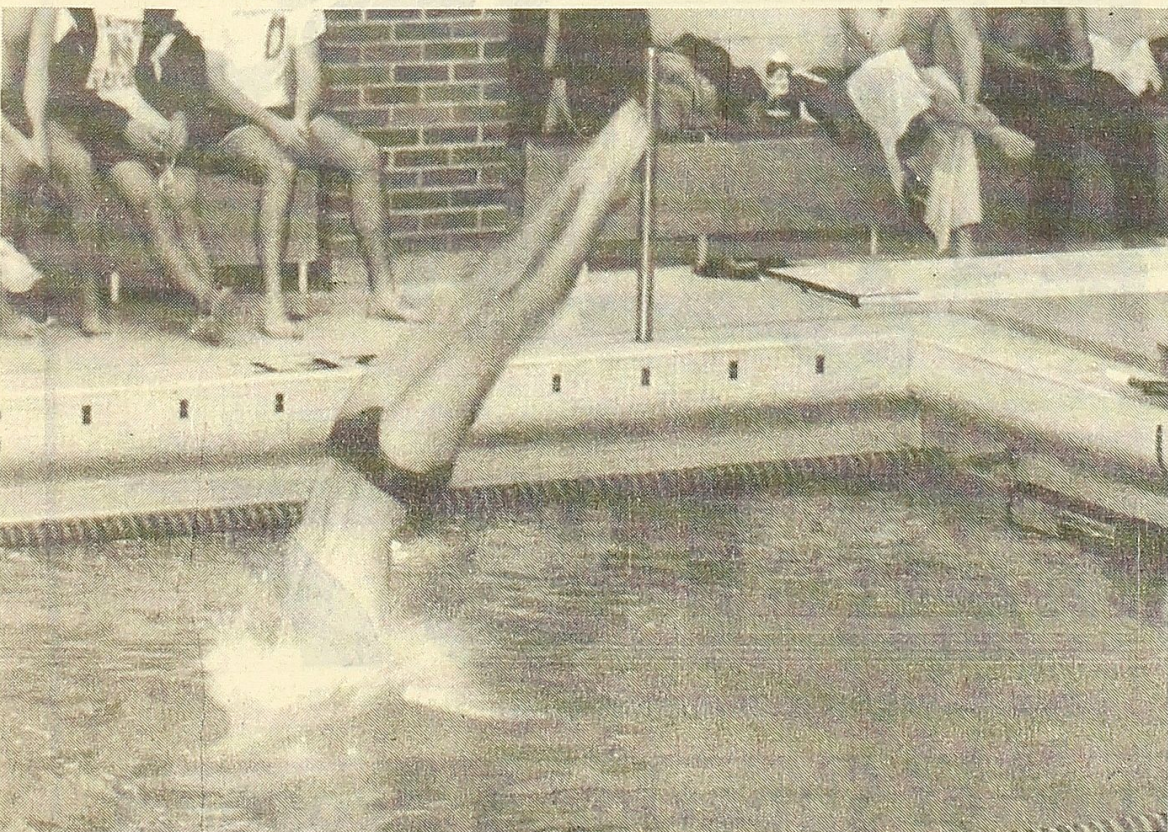
Sullivan won the 200 yard freestyle with a time of 1:57.27. According to Baadte that is the fastest time Sullivan has had at this time of the year. DeGraaf swam solid in the 50 freestyle placing first with a 26.2 and second in the 100 yard freestyle with a 58.2 according to Baadte.

On the men's side, Davis placed first in the 100 yard butterfly, winning in a time of 56.66. Baadte said he was amazed at Davis's performance.

"He just swam out of his mind in the 100 butterfly," said Baadte.

Strong performances were turned in by Betz, who won the 200 yard freestyle in 1:50.35, and first-year student Marc Oberman, who placed second with a 51.00 in the 100 yard freestyle.

First-year student Keith Schall won the three meter diving in only his second time competing in the event.



Last weekend, the Scots' men's and women's swimming and diving teams competed in the DePauw Invitational, where they competed against seven other schools. Photo by Derek Warner.

Dec. 5, 1995

IM Volleyball good break with friends

By Julie Wilson
Staff Reporter

The volleyball season has begun for students who normally may not play the sport.

Now that the weather has turned cold and beach volleyball at Newberry Beach is postponed until spring returns, volleyball competition has traveled to the gym.

Men and women formed teams to compete in Alma's intramural volleyball league of either single sex or co-ed teams, spending weeknights practicing in attempts to advance towards finals.

The competition? Maybe fierce, maybe not.

Some teams are comprised of serious, competitive volleyball players, like a squad of women who play on the Scots' interscholastic team.

Others are made up of groups of friends who play not necessarily to win, but to have

a good time and show the world how not to play the game.

First-year student Liz Eby, a member of the team "Hick and Chick" said that she plays for fun, not because she thinks she will

cise," said Batch.

But there is some competition. Each team tries to beat out the others to prove that they are the best players in the league.

There are four groupings, one of all-female teams, one of all male, and two groups of co-ed teams.

Each team shows not only its talent but also its creativity in picking unique and amusing names.

One mixed group calls themselves "TKE and Tits;" another, "What Inning

Is It?"

Other creative names also may reflect the personalities and presumed hobbies of the players. "Natureland's Nudies," "Bedwetters," and "Six-pack Attack" all seem to create a certain team camaraderie.

So for a little stress relief and some good-natured competition, the gym fills the walls with IM volleyball players, all out to capture a win.

Or at least some laughter.

We just get together and have a good time getting together and laughing and getting some exercise.

-Amy Batch '98

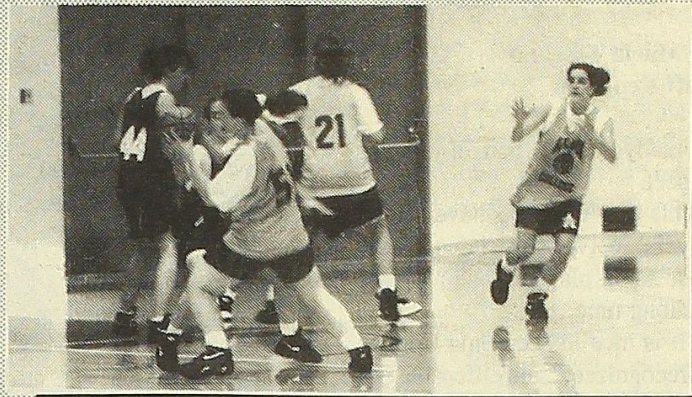
amaze her peers with her volleyball prowess.

"It is a lot of fun," said Eby. "We have lost both of our games, but it is great just being out there having fun. It is not very serious or competitive for us."

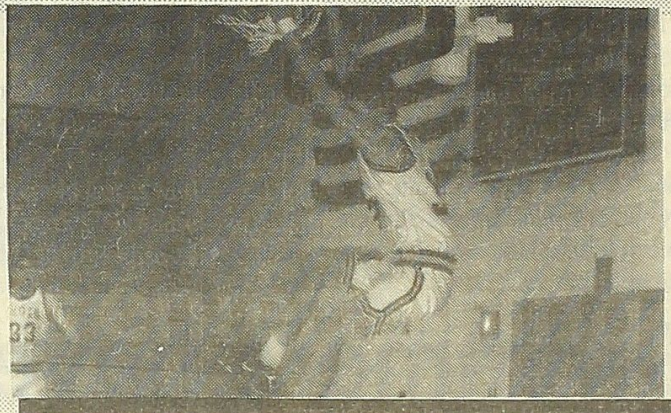
Sophomore Amy Batch also holds a relaxed sentiment for her team "Gamma Phi's."

"It is tons of fun. It is a great release from the stress of classes. We just get together and have a good time getting together and laughing and getting some exer-

HOOPS!



Women's Basketball - First-year student Erin LaCrosse waits down court for a pass. Photo by Derek Warner!



Men's Basketball - Senior Jason Osborn hangs on the rim after making a basket. Photo by Derek Warner.



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Women's basketball players ranked in the conference

Senior Michelle Van Damme leads three point field goal percentage with a .625.

Junior Jaami McClellan is ranked seventh in overall field goal percentage with a .444. She also ranks fifth in free throw percentage at .857.

Junior Melissa Van Damme is fifth in rebounds, averaging 7.5 a game. McClellan is ninth with 6.5 per game and Michelle Van Damme is tenth with 6 per game.

Junior Michelle Olds leads the league in assists at 8 a game and steals at 3.5 a game.

McClellan and Michelle Van Damme are tied for fifth in blocked shots, each averaging one a game.

Men's basketball players ranked in the conference

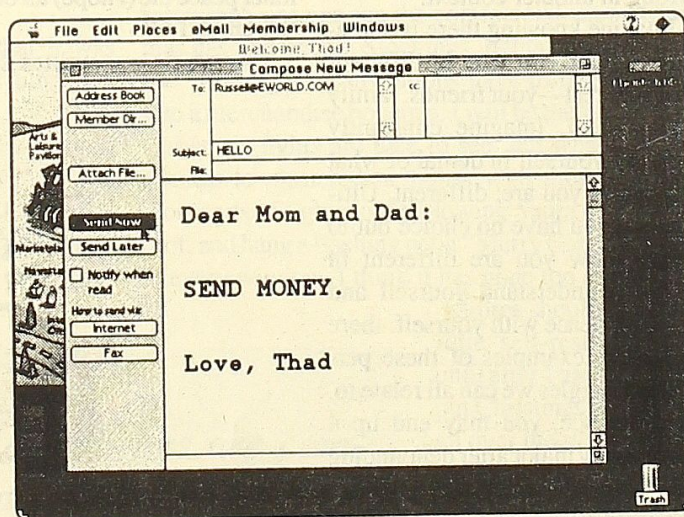
Senior Jim Elliot is ranked 17th in the league averaging 12.3 points a game. He is sixth in free throw percentage with .900, third in assists with 4.8 a game and ninth in steals averaging two a game.

Senior J.T. Cleaveland is 18th in the league, averaging 11 points a game.

Senior Chris Stacey is averaging 10.8 points a game ranking him 19th, and is seventh in the league in rebounds, averaging 6 a game.

Senior Jason Osborne is third in overall field goal percentage at .667 and 10th in blocked shots at .8 a game.

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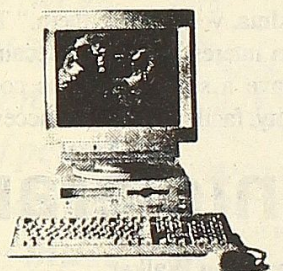


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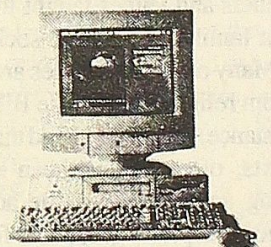
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Dec. 5, 1995

Image proves accurate

By Mark Andrews
Opinion Editor

As seniors in high school and possibly as juniors, we were asked to look at what colleges we might be interested in attending. I am sure most of us felt intimidated by the entire process. But, nevertheless, we started our search. And through this search, we tried to find an image that suited our needs. What is the "Alma image?"

The perfect way to look at the defining factors of Alma College, or the perceived factors, is viewing a copy of the new admissions video. A compilation of the ingredients that make Alma College the right place for students, the video showcases a variety of perspectives on the true image of Alma.

The video is impressive. It covers a lot of ground in only 20 minutes. Much of the footage comes from the 1994-95 school year, but there are some rather outdated shots from the 80's. Although these images still pertain to the Alma image, they gave me the idea that Alma has changed very little. In fact, Alma has come a long way since the old video (i.e. the library and the Heritage Center, updated facilities and the computer quad).

Alma has been progressing so rapidly, the college provides "the tools for learning, just like the big schools, with one big difference: at Alma, you can use them." That is an interesting claim. Because we have a smaller campus community, facilities are more accessible.

But I hardly think big schools have less accessibility—they have more facilities.

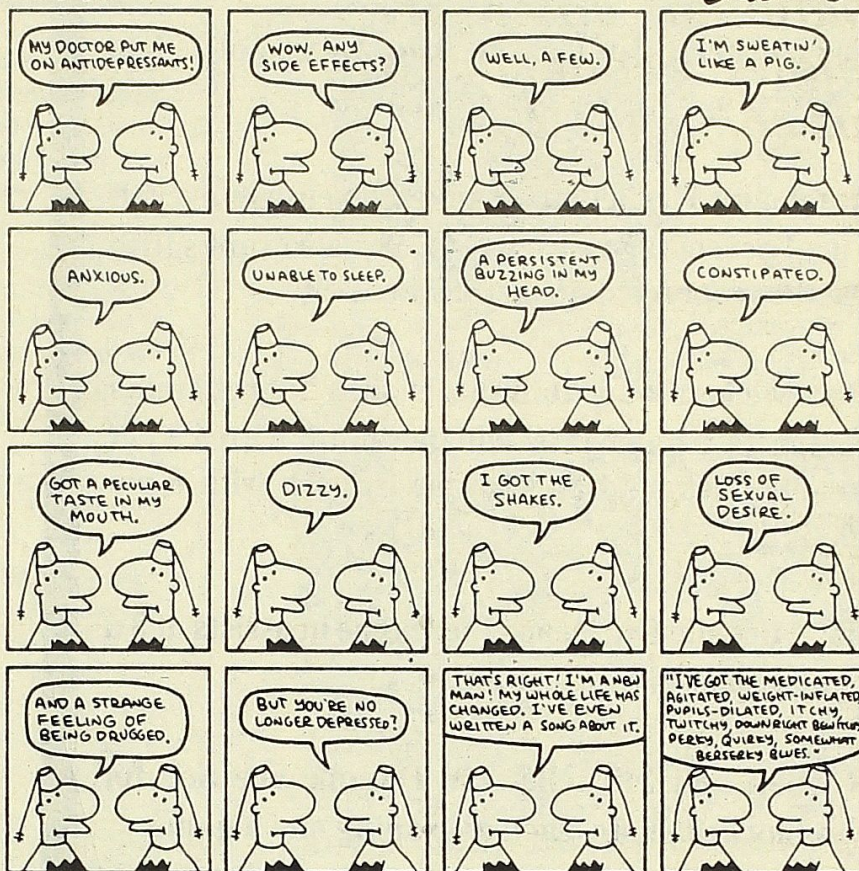
A large focus is placed on the arts at Alma College. Overall, this is the best part of the video. Clips are well defined and wonderfully mixed, but do they represent the true image. I would say yes. Arts are supported by most of the campus community. Heck, a majority of the campus is involved in one way or another.

Involvement and excellence are two inferred images of the college. Through programs such as internships and overseas studies, the arts, sports and academics, the video places emphasis on the importance of all aspects of a student's growth. The college image that is being promoted: independence.

By becoming an independent person, the student can be successful. But where is the campus promoting this idea? I find that a lot of things I choose to do as an independent person are denied. I had a heck of a time getting off campus, because the college realistically promotes community, rather than independence. I feel that if there is a promotion of independence, there would be more choices given to matters.

But, overall, the college created an image that represents what Alma truly stands for and achieves, "a need to learn." I could be nit-picky about things presented in the video, but mostly they are trivial ideas that change as years go by.

LIFE IN HELL



Intolerant definitions of family values must change

By Jason Walker
Freelance Writer

When we think of family values, we put them under contexts we hold to be true. These contexts are formed by our understandings of our environment as well as those beliefs and values taught to us by our family, friends and society.

Many of our influences are taken from religious texts (the Bible, for instance). However, I find that these texts, often having been written long ago, can't provide accurate and complete guidance for our modernized lives; therefore, we should find a definition of family values relevant to our modern culture.

Everything is subject to change (it is probably the only constant in the universe). We constantly change our understandings of our universe. We constantly change our understandings of ourselves. We constantly change our understandings of our culture. We change our beliefs, both individually and culturally. Historically, there are many examples of this; for instance, think black and white. By resisting an understanding of change, the (supposedly) superior have caused pain and resentment to the (supposedly) inferior.

This resentment is often caused in the name of holding on to "tradi-

tional" beliefs and values, both written and oral. Here I am referring specifically to religious beliefs. More specifically, the cases of gays, lesbians and bisexuals have proven to be a target by those considered more religiously fanatical and traditional.

The usually outnumbered "non-traditionals" have existed for quite a long time and have never truly received the acceptance they deserve. They have hidden amongst themselves to avoid being repressed or threatened (supposedly) in the name of God—more likely, because of being different and fewer.

I don't think God would have created gays, lesbians and bisexuals if he, she or it would not have thought them good. Religious contexts are not that reliable for guiding the modern person—after all, religious texts were written by fallible humans, not an infallible God.

If we take family values out of "traditional" contexts, how, then, do we define "family values?"

Family values will involve what you want them to involve. They are formed primarily by our own beliefs and values as well as those of our family, friends and society. They can be traditional; they can be modern. Family values should be formed with the intent of making a person more complete by

making him or her accepting, understanding and positive.

Once again, let's look at gays, lesbians and bisexuals. More specifically, let's imagine right or wrong in another context.

Imagine knowing there is something about you that is different from the rest—your friends, family and society. Imagine constantly fighting yourself in denial of what you know you are: different. Ultimately, you have no choice but to accept how you are different in order to understand yourself and come to peace with yourself. There are many examples of these personal struggles we can all relate to. For instance, you may end up a philosophy major after denouncing philosophers as egg-headed morons for years. Few of our own struggles may be as severe as struggling with a different sexual preference.

Though we may come to accept and understand ourselves, there is still the omnipresent other. We need the acceptance of others; we need their friendship and support. Imagine struggling with you sexuality. Top that off with the more extreme difficulty of reaching an understanding with your friends, family and society. I have been told that it is the most difficult thing some people have had to go through.

This is happening now.

I think it is time for a new defini-

tion of "family values" we all should consider. A definition inclusive of gays, lesbians and bisexuals (or anything "non-traditional"). Why should we deny people the right to inner peace the (I hope) all of us are searching for?

This article was written specifi-

cally as an afterthought to this term's discussion of family values and non-heterosexuals. Speaking generally, we can only gain from changing ourselves and accepting others who are different. We only lose when we remain unaccepting and divisive.

God.

Nearly 2,000 years ago God became one of us. Why?

Discover what Christmas is all about. And why it's relevant to your life. Ask one of us—we'd be glad to tell you.

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Assistant Professor
Exercise & Health Science

Jerry Ross
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Admissions

Brian Bigelow
Accountant
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Doug Seelbach
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Physical Plant

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Assistant Professor
Mathematics & Computer Science

Computers: educational tool or annoying addiction?

Recreational computer use outweighs academic use in campus computer labs

By Phil Allmen
Staff Reporter

While making final revisions to a paper I was working on, I was suddenly interrupted by a voice, "Shut up Beavis...Uh huh huh huh..."

I looked up to see who perfected this imitation and saw a computer screen. The guy in front of me was playing audio clips of Beavis and Butthead on the World Wide Web. How annoying.

Last Thursday afternoon, as I logged onto my computer account to finish an assignment for my LIB 180 class, I noticed the room was full of people e-mailing one another (while in the same room), MUDding and further up, "surfing the net." While there is nothing wrong with using the school's computers for recreation, the fact that I was in a minority was scary.

I took a quick glance around the room to find out who was working on schoolwork and who wasn't. Only seven people were writing

papers and other obvious computer homework, while twenty-six students were not. I can accept that some of these recreational users may have been working on academic related work, but I doubt many were.

What makes this worse is many of people are on the computers all the time. I use the computers frequently and see the same faces in front of the screens and think, why? Some of these people are always working on something, I know, but the rest are playing.

Computers are the wave of the future. They say everything will be run with computers, so where does that leave us? People tend to use computers for interaction that could be face-to-face.

I'll admit, my first year here, I was addicted to e-mail. I would sit next to friends and write stupid messages to each other. When I grew tired of this, I realized its stupidity. Typing messages creates a type of anonymity in communication. Through live interaction,

even over a phone, the impact of what one has to say is more real. The ability to write a message to another makes it easier to stretch the truth, or to lie outright.

Multi-user dungeon (MUD) games allow individuals to do this. One makes up a character to imitate his/her ideal self. One can be any sex, race or age and communicate with others. I have seen people addicted to these MUDs. They MUD all night, then sleep all day. I remember one girl in particular, she would sit in Gelston every night with a two liter of Mountain Dew and MUD. She didn't return the next year, but she was a Wizard in her game.

While I know not everyone is this addicted, it is sad that the number of people who use computers for recreation solely far outweighs those who use computers for academics. With access to things like the internet, the ability for us to research and learn new things is almost limitless.

It is nice to sit at a computer and play, but remember that the computer was intended to help make us better, not to drag us into a world of make-believe and seclusion.

Remember the true meaning of Christmas

By Justin Gustafson
Staff Reporter

Sometime in late October, I zipped down to Wal-Mart to pick up some college supplies. As I wandered through the store, I was suddenly thrown into a horrific state of shock.

There, directly in front of me, was a huge section of Christmas supplies!

Checking my calendar, I confirmed that it was October. I was stunned—the Christmas blitz had started.

I think any inkling of Christmas should wait until after our fabulous holiday of Thanksgiving. So you can imagine how shocked I was to find Christmas decorations in Wal-Mart in late October—a full two months before the actual holiday!

Many things are commercially overdone in our society. Unfortunately, Christmas is one of these things. When something happens once a year, it is a special event, but when it is dragged out for two months, the meaning and excitement of it dies down immensely.

Christmas, it seems to me, is a special time of year. At Christmas time, even New Yorkers become friendly. People are smiling and whistling as they go about their everyday chores. Enemies become friends, arguments are forgotten, and love fills the air with an unending feeling of warmth. Giving gifts, sharing good times, and being thankful for friends and family are all characteristics of Christmas. For two or three weeks in December, everything seems wonderful and carefree.

Let us not forget the true reason for Christmas. No,

I am not thinking of giving and receiving presents or a family reunion for Christmas dinner. The Christmas season was created to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. This fact has gotten buried in all the presents, trees, and lights that have become part of the season.

Stores have turned this holiday into a long, drawn-out sale. This year, it started in October and will continue through Christmas. In every store, mall, or restaurant, one can see the commercialization Christmas has undergone. Stockings, lights, reindeer, trees, and so many new inventions have turned Christmas into a merchandise bonanza. I will be the first to admit Christmas lights are nice to see, but when someone decides to plaster their house with thousands upon thousands of lights, put a glowing Santa Claus on the roof, and hang a flashing neon "Merry Christmas" sign in every window, I think it has gone too far.

Stores should exercise a little self-restraint. Wait until after Thanksgiving to put Christmas decorations all over the store. Holiday displays do not have to be built in the middle of October. Most of us—the consumers—probably wait until after Thanksgiving to start thinking about Christmas anyway. Stores should get by one holiday before starting another.

December has arrived, and I am just getting into the Christmas mood. It takes a lot of effort these days not to get dragged into the holiday too soon. My advice: keep Christmas short and sweet, thereby making it even more special. It pains me to see Christmas turned into a commercial event.

Remember the reason for the holiday and savor the meaning, the joy, and the happiness it brings to all.

United States must lead the way in Bosnia

By Madeleine K. Albright

America is a global power with global interests. We are looked to for leadership around the world. And the security and prosperity of our people depend on international peace and stability.

That is why President Clinton is asking Americans to support sending troops guarantee peace in Bosnia.

Our role there will not be to fight a war but to help the Bosnian people live in peace. In recent years, we have watched in horror as the people of Bosnia have endured horrendous suffering and unspeakable atrocities on a scale not seen in Europe since World War II.

Tens of thousands of civilians have been massacred, starved, tortured, bludgeoned or raped; millions have been forcibly evicted from their homes. To be an American is to be outraged at this inhumanity and to want to do something about it.

At the same time, Americans have always understood that peace in Europe is vital to our own interest. Twice this century, our soldiers have gone to Europe. Hundreds of thousands lost their lives because, in part, small wars and regional aggression were not stopped soon enough.

Perils of inaction

Because of our leadership, peace is now possible in Bosnia. Exhausted by war, the leaders of Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia have agreed to a solid and workable peace. We obviously cannot be the world's policeman, but we brokered this agreement, and if we want the peace to succeed, then we must be prepared to help implement it.

If we do not participate, then the job will not get done, fighting will resume, more innocent people will die, and the possibility of a wider war will increase.

What will American troops do in Bosnia? Simply put, our job will be to insure, for a limited time, that the commitments are honored and that Bosnians have the breathing space to establish a stable democracy.

Our soldiers will be one-third of a 60,000 person NATO Implementation Force, called IFOR. IFOR will include troops from

25 countries, including all our major allies. The operation will be under the command of an American general.

IFOR will monitor the ceasefire and make sure that the various armies will not make a final decision to deploy our forces until we are sure that the various parties are taking concrete steps to withdraw their forces to specified ceasefire lines.

Most importantly, we are sending in an overwhelming force of fully armed and highly trained combat troops. An attack, of any kind, will be met with immediate and decisive retaliation. Anyone who takes on an American soldier will be very sorry.

Our military leaders believe that U.S. troops will be able to complete their mission in about a year, leaving behind a Bosnia with a solid, if fragile, multi-ethnic democracy and with a

Because of America, the bloodiest European conflict of the past half-century has ended. If peace is to endure, Americans must participate in the effort to sustain it.

military balance among the factions that will discourage a return to war.

Meanwhile, the world community will be helping people throughout the region to rebuild their economies

and return to a normal life.

Our deployment in Bosnia is not without danger. Although we believe that we have done all we can to minimize the risks, we must prepare ourselves for the possibility that there may be American casualties.

Because of America, the bloodiest European conflict of the past half-century has ended. If peace is to endure, Americans must participate in the effort to sustain it. At stake is American leadership, the future stability of a region within the very heart of Europe and the lives of thousands of civilians who surely would be victimized if this brutal war were to resume. Americans can and must make a difference.

Albright is the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. This article was submitted by Brandon Edward Miller, freelance writer, with permission given by the Office of Press and Public Affairs, U.S. Mission to the United Nations.

Staff Editorial

Independent press must be maintained

Since July, the Detroit Newspaper Agency (DNA), which publishes the *Detroit News* and the *Detroit Free Press*, has been under strike by the unions they have traditionally employed; the strike has continued for nearly 20 weeks, and has been marked by an unprecedented degree of bitterness between the two sides.

Labor has fought the DNA at every turn, from organizing boycotts of advertisers to attempting sabotage of distribution trucks; management has displayed a marked lack of interest in resolving the strike, preferring instead to employ replacement workers—scab labor—and break the unions. The strike has cost hundreds of people in the Detroit area their livelihoods and has manifested itself in a marked decline in the quality of writing, reporting, and publication in the DNA papers.

Recently, the striking

workers have stepped up their picketing and boycott efforts (and, regrettably, some of the sabotage), responding to the traditional increase in advertising and revenue associated with the holiday season. However, the workers have also taken a new step. They have begun to publish an independent weekly—the *Sunday Journal*.

The 48-page tabloid, now in its third issue, marks a new phase of the fight; it is an assertion of the independence of journalism, and the vital nature of independent journalism. The first amendment guarantees a free press; it recognizes the importance of fair, unbiased, complete reporting and informed, intelligent, unconstrained editorial commentary. Certainly, the press does not always live up to these ideals; however, without these guarantees and these ideals, any community would suffer.

The independent press plays an important role. It offers (hopefully) a clear and unbiased perspective on important events

and issues; it presents analysis of important concerns within and outside of the community to which it belongs; it allows for informative and constructive criticism and for the free expression of opinion; it submits, outside of the realm of reporting, an editorial voice that represents an informed opinion. Certainly, there is a difference between the press' role as an objective journalistic source and its role as an editorial commentator, however, that division between the objective and subjective function of the press is a clear and time-honored one. In an increasingly information-centered culture, the independent press—whether it be CNN or NPR or the *Gratiot County Herald*—plays a vital role; the lack of this independence impoverishes any community.

Likewise, although the Supreme Court has severely curtailed the freedom of the press on college campuses—especially on private campuses, where the institution has the right to

suspend or deny most first-amendment press freedoms—an independent press plays an important role. On campus, the press, whether print or radio or even television, has the responsibility to inform and explain topics like administrative policies and upcoming events, to highlight major issues and provide a forum for discussion, and to provide a constructive critical voice, both concerning the reviewing of campus events and evaluation of important issues.

The independent press, and the independent journalistic enterprise, is vital to the health of any community. The affirmation of that vital issue, and the courage and honesty to follow through on a commitment to that ideal, mark the publication of the striking workers' paper. Their loyalty and their assertion of their ideals deserves to be commended.

The Almanian

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The Almanian Letter Policy

All Letters to the Editors 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. Letters may not appear in full due to layout or editing 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.

The Almanian is printed on recycled paper.

Letters to the Editors

Students assist stranded staff

To the Editors:

I am writing to express my gratitude towards some college students on the Alma College Campus. On Monday, Nov. 27, I left work at Joe's about 11:45 p.m. The other workers left before me and there I was, stuck, in the cold, freezing rain—stuck in the snow. My car moved only a few inches. Around 12:15, a student and his girlfriend came to help me, but still, my car barely moved. These two then left and rounded up three more guys who came out in the wet, freezing rain and snow, and proceeded to push me out. I don't know how to ever thank those four guys for what they did for me that evening. So, once again, thanks guys. You know who you are! Don't forget what I said!

Amy R. Castillo,
Joe's p.m. employee

Songfest sexism questioned

To the Editors:

The article "Songfest showcases talent," by Jennifer Mounts in the Nov. 21, 1995 issue of *The Almanian* accused me of "making several sexist comments" which "detracted from the evening's enjoyment." I would like to address this accusation.

The two comments I made that could be considered sexist were "Gentlemen, please put your tongues back in your mouth," when [senior] Catherine Stuckey left the stage and, "Ladies, please put your tongues back in your mouth," when [first-year student] Marcus Evans left the stage, respectively. The comments were directed at both sexes; therefore, no sex was singled out. I received positive response (laughter and clapping) from both male and female audience members. If my statements were blatantly sexist and "detracted from the evening's enjoyment," then I would not have received this reaction from the audience.

I also believe this accusation was grossly exaggerated. According to *Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary*, the definition of "several" is: "an indefinite number more than two and fewer than many." The use of this word in critiquing my performance embel-

lishes the actual number of "sexist comments" that were made. This is a prime example of unprofessional journalism. Statements like these make articles invalid and newspapers unreliable sources.

Jim Coe '98

Hansen refutes commentary

To the Editors:

I feel, in good conscience, that I must comment on Maria Toscano's articles in [the Nov. 22 *Almanian*] about the men's basketball program.

First of all, let me make clear that I believe everything positive she said about this year's team is true. I recruited and coached virtually all of these players and I know they are hard workers. We had a winning conference season when they were freshmen on my JV team. Many of them see me each week, and they know I wish them the best. Coach Skaggs is a good person who is a friend of mine and I believe he is doing the right things.

To write and imply, however, that last year's team gave any less effort is a disgrace. To call them a "joke" to "most of the student body" and that they were "condemned" is pretty strong language from someone who "would watch the game, barely." To say that this year's team has "put aside the attitude," as though this writer had any idea what last year's "attitude" was, is frustrating. This is a slap in the face to the seniors on last year's team, people that were not only basketball players, but good students and leaders. I'll be sure to send a copy of this article to Chad Reagh, Mike Bjorne, Todd Blomquist and Matt Lotterman. I'm sure they'll appreciate your insights.

Finally, I've enclosed a packet of information pointing out inaccuracies in her Bluffton article, from the score being wrong, to the "very experienced" Bluffton team that returned *one starter* from last year. It is this type of uninformed, poorly researched, negative writing that causes bad feelings, especially on a small, close-knit campus. It is the type of thing that demands an unqualified apology.

Philip Hansen
P.E. Center Coordinator
Assistant Softball Coach

Almanian job openings

- Business Manager
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Positions start winter term. Interested applicants should send resumes and cover letters to the *Almanian* office in Newberry basement. Call Justin Bauer (466-5306) or Laura Paetz (7418) with questions.

E₃ CORRECTION

In the Nov. 21 issue of *The Almanian*, Marcus Evans was mistakenly reported as belonging to the group Slightly Taken, which earned second place in ACUB's Songfest competition. Slightly Taken consisted of senior Gordon Meyers, junior Mark Petrocelli and first-year students Scott Harman and Joey Martin. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused.