

The Almanian

December 12, 1995

Serving Alma College since 1907

Issue 12

New rush procedure empowers rushees

By Trisha A. Warner
Special Projects Reporter

The Panhellenic Council (Panhel) has approved changes which will shorten winter rush celebration while empowering new sorority members.

In the past, sorority rush has featured two weeks of teas, spreads and desserts. The event culminated with Saturday morning wake-ups. This, said senior Panhel Vice President LeAndra Langdon, has been an enormous time commitment from prospective members and the individual chapters.

Senior Tammi Johnson, president of Panhel, agreed, stating that two weeks is just too much waiting for new and current sorority members. Furthermore, she pointed out the

enormous amount of preparation it takes for each chapter to sponsor rush events.

"Changing from two weeks to one week makes it easier on both ends. Two weeks is too long; there is too much waiting. Putting it into one week is easier and less stressful," she said.

Rush sign-up will not begin as early as it has in past years either, said Langdon. Instead, it will be postponed to the second or third week of classes, so students will have more time to settle into their schedules.

Teas will begin on the Friday evening following rush sign-up;

spreads will be held on Saturday and Sunday. Then Monday through Thursday, each house will hold their dessert. No-talks will begin after

evening of rush week; the open event is an attempt to increase fraternity and campus support for the finale of rush. It is, said Johnson, the sororities' version of run-outs.

Each new member will be escorted to the stage by a Panhel council member where she will announce her name and the group she has chosen to be a part of. The current sorority members will not know who the new members of their group are until the women announce it in public.

This proclamation has been implemented to empower the participants.

"Bids Fest empowers the new

members; they can present themselves to the campus saying, 'I am going this sorority.' It is an esteem builder, instead of lying in their room waiting for the group to wake them up in the morning," explained Langdon.

"The [rush] process is supposed to be about the rushees," said Johnson. "This is the culmination of that."

These changes were sparked by Panhel's new advisor Jennifer Klimkiewicz. She brought suggestions to Alma's council from her experiences of rush at larger universities.

Speaking for all of the sororities and the Panhellenic Council, Johnson said, "We're all really excited about the changes."

Each new member will be escorted to the stage by a Panhel council member where she will announce her name and the group she has chosen to be a part of.

Monday night's dessert.

Wake-ups have also been eliminated from rush. This year, Panhel will sponsor Bids Fest on the Friday

Alma sets up channel 19

By Julie Wilson
Staff Reporter

For the past few weeks, Alma College has produced its own cable-TV channel—channel 19—to provide students with up-to-date information on campus activities.

The station is only available to students within the residence halls who have subscribed to cable. Small-housing units, although they may have cable, cannot access the information. The electronic bulletin-board calendar runs with 20 days of events on it.

James Kridler, dean of students, is optimistic about the future of the project.

"The capabilities for the system are considerably greater than what we are using it for now," said Kridler. "We could potentially hook up a series of VCRs to the computer and show videos, or install a video camera and do live broadcasts," he said.

It is also possible that the campus calendar would run exclusively on channel 19, eliminating the need to mail out individual calendars to students on campus. Also, the school could use it as an effective way to inform the campus about unforeseen information, such as class cancellations due

to the weather or if an instructor becomes ill.

The wiring was created when the residence halls were prepared to receive cable, new telephone lines and information systems a few years ago.

Terri Freeland, campus events coordinator, is responsible for inputting all of the information found on channel 19. Every day, she erases a day-old information page and adds one on, in order to keep twenty days of events posted on the system.

The station is run out of the student affairs office in a simple, somewhat archaic-looking system with a monitor and receiver attached.

As a new form of communication, channel 19 has the potential to share college events with a wider audience.

WQAC, the Alma College radio station, plays in the background while information passes on the screen. Senior Sarah Loftus, General Manager of WQAC, is enthusiastic about the new forum for the radio station.

"This might get people who normally don't listen to hear us. If they are normally TV watchers, they might find a show they like and listen, even if they might never hear it on the radio," said Loftus.

BACCHUS celebrates alcohol-free Holiday cheer does not mean holiday drinking

By Julie Wilson
Staff Reporter

Holidays are typically a time for celebration, and for some, alcohol plays a part in the festivities.

Last Friday, BACCHUS threw its own style of celebration—alcohol free.

The party, similar to the one held by the group last year, featured music from the Alma College Jazz Band, a special visit from Santa Claus, and its alternative holiday drinks—Mocktails.

Junior Karyn Mroczkowski, president of the group, explained the purpose of the gathering.

"The purpose of the group is to promote responsible drinking. We are not opposed to alcohol, we just want people to be responsible when they do drink, and we saw this as a way for people to get together and relax from the stresses of exams without alcohol."

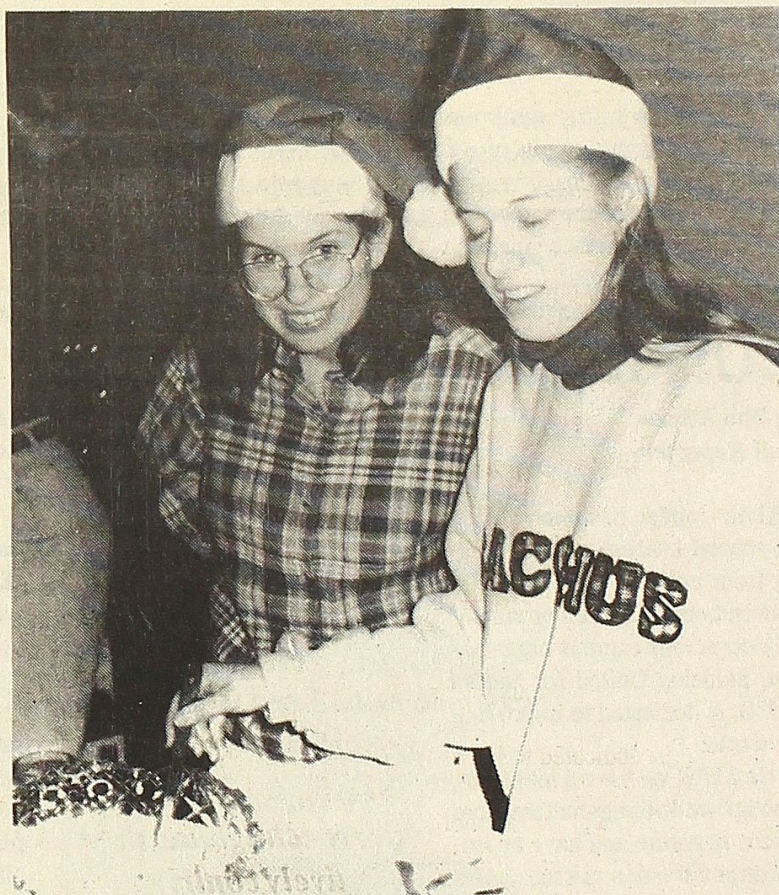
She added that this was also a great time for faculty members to get together and socialize with students in a relaxed atmosphere, and for everyone to enjoy some holiday music as well.

The group made Mocktails, festive combinations of flavors which added to the holiday atmosphere. The group attended a national BACCHUS conference that was very supportive of this kind of programming, and after the success of last year's Christmas party, the group decided to hold the all-campus event. They added the Jazz Band for entertainment and Santa's visit just for fun.

Mroczkowski was pleased with the turnout.

"I do not know exact numbers, but last year about 250 people came through, and this year the turnout was even better," she said.

Senior Kevin Kopacz attended



Senior Sarah Barclay and junior Kristi Sedgwick serve up Mocktails for BACCHUS's holiday celebration. Photo by Kim Kim Krajniak.

the festivities.

"I came because I am in the Jazz Band, but it is a great idea," he said. "I really enjoyed the Mocktails, and the cookies were great. The jazz band was better, though."

Added sophomore Erin Eames, "I think it was a really good idea. Great break, and the mid-afternoon time was wonderful. And you can't beat the Jazz Band!"

Sophomore Holly Bailey agreed.

"I went last year. I really like the drinks they have and I think it is always a lot of fun," said Bailey. "I like the idea behind it and think it is nice that a group puts on a program that is specifically designed to have a party atmosphere. It was a nice stress reliever."

Everyone there seemed to have a great time, sipping drinks and eating cookies. The party was exactly what BACCHUS had hoped it would be, proving that it is possible to relax and celebrate the holidays without drinking alcohol.

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ANNOUNCING A GRADUATION SERVICES EVENT

GET SQUARED AWAY



- Caps and gowns
 - Graduation announcements
 - Class rings
- Thursday, January 18
Jones Auditorium
9a.m. - 5p.m.

JOSTEN

Choirs bring holiday joy

By Char Vandermeer
Feature Editor

Friday, Dec. 8 and Saturday, Dec. 9, the Alma College Choirs combined efforts in putting the campus and community in the Christmas spirit.

Although some soloists were weak in comparison to the mature voices of soprano seniors Laura Rice, Rebecca Shelley and alto Catherine Schaefer, the show was certainly memorable and enjoyable.

Rice's sultry and bluesy rendition of *I'll Be Home for Christmas* added variety to the traditional and primarily religious concert. Shelley once again displayed her enviable vocal talents on *The Wexford Carol* and *Noel C'est L'amour*.

Schaefer demonstrated her amazing range, gracefully floating from alto to mezzo soprano throughout her gorgeous performance of the classic *Ave Maria*.

"The first time I sang it was in eighth grade for my grandparents' fiftieth wedding anniversary," said Schaefer. "It was a lot different here because there were so many people out there and I was a little nervous."

Although her nervousness was apparent as she took her position under the spotlight, Schaefer showed off her vocal skill and strength as her voice, unaided by a microphone, filled Presbyterian Hall and amazed the audience who applauded her back on stage for a second bow.

"*Ave Maria* was excellent. She has an amazing and gorgeous voice," said sophomore Joy Koncz.

Sophomore Matt Robertson's solo in *Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning* added an eerie and soulful quality to the familiar song.

Unfortunately, at least four songs were repeated from past Christmas concerts and some of the added

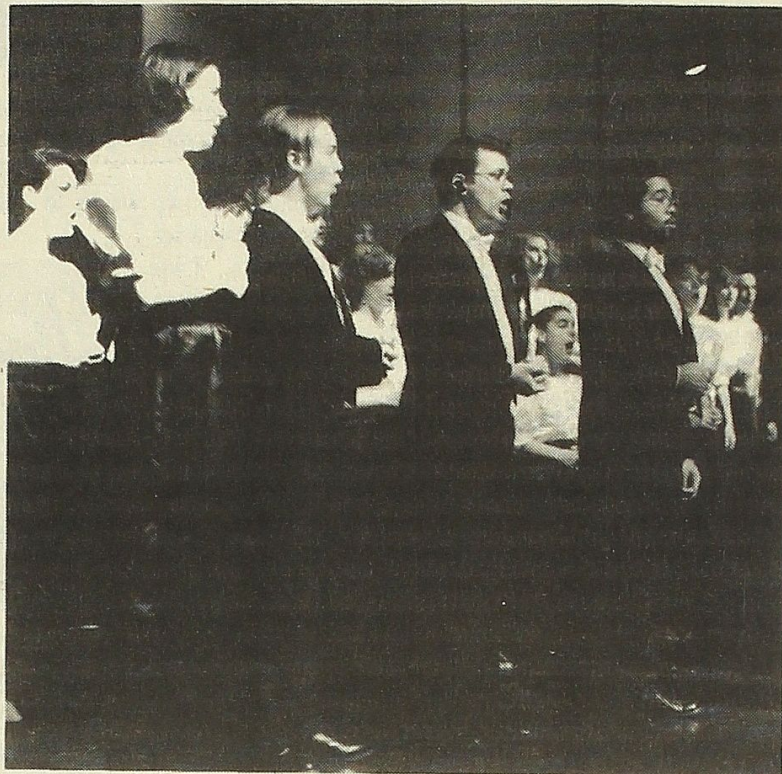
effects, such as the hand motions in *Mary's Little Boy Child* and the "whip" sound in *The Sleigh* detracted from the performance.

Also, the lighting effects—a chapel window and star of Bethlehem—were familiar from previous years. Additionally, a majority of the songs were religious and the concert could have benefited from a few familiar secular selections.

"I really enjoyed it. I especially enjoyed the Jamaican song [*Mary's Little Boy Child*], but the hand movement took away from the singing," said sophomore Heather Mays.

Overall the concert was a success and certainly provided the campus with some much-needed Christmas spirit and cheer.

The Alma College Choir provides holiday cheer during a recent performance. Photo by Char Vandermeer.



Louisiana spice takes bitter chill out of winter months

By Chris Sienko
Freelance Writer

It's been snowing for eight hours straight. Your room smells of wet socks and you're finding dirty snow prints in corners of the carpet you haven't walked on since you put it down in late August.

What better time than to strap on

SUN helps preserve environment

By Phil Allmen
Staff Reporter

Alma College has many different special interest groups, ranging from political to religious to environmental. The environmentally conscious campus organization, Students United for Nature (SUN), is dedicated to improving our world.

"[In SUN] we have a lot of fun, although we do things that are more serious in nature and have an impact on environmental issues," said SUN member junior Rainy Inman.

SUN has accomplished much this past term. They have adopted a strip of highway near St. John's through the MDOT Adopt-a-Highway program and they are responsible for a recycling service on campus.

SUN has also begun a yearly tree planting in memory of the late Tracy Luke, professor of religious studies.

While SUN has been active this term, they plan on becoming even

the 'phones and get cookin' down in old Louisiana.

Louisiana Spice: 25 Years of Louisiana Music On Rounder Records certainly has a self-explanatory title, but there's no need to explain the 32 servings of the spiciest Louisiana gumbo contained within. Billed as "2 CDs for less than the price of 1," Rounder, a

record label based ironically enough in Massachusetts, manages to serve up a varied smorgasbord of "partee toons." If you aren't moving some portion of your anatomy during this disc, it's time for your toe tag.

The discs are divided into "City" and "County" categories. The City disc is comprised primarily of Loui-

siana-styled R&B and gospel tunes that have a funky feel and a bar-band atmosphere surrounding them.

From the Dirty Dozen Brass Band's whalloping "Mardi Gras in New Orleans," to James Booker's honky tonkin' piano solo "Three Keys," from Irma Thomas' shuffling "Hold to God's Unchanging Hand," to Bo Dollis, Monk Boudreaux and the Rebirth Brass Band's positively infectious "Shoo-fly," you'll be achin' in the morning after a party with this on the stereo.

The beginning and the end of the city disc are dynamite, but a few tunes near the middle have some annoying synth lines that almost derail the otherwise good songs. And yes, Professor Longhair's "Tipitina" is a rockin' and hoppin' as you would expect from a person with a name as cool as that.

The second disc, however, is the one that really makes the album. Simply labeled "County," it's certainly something much more joyous and danceable: Zydeco! This odd and perfect mix of down south county music mixed with Cajun elements truly gives the accordion the credit it's always deserved. No "Beer Barrel Polka"'s here, just hard dancin', French speakin', party lovin' people with band names like John Delafosse and the Eunice Play-

boys, Nathan and the Zydeco Chas, Steve Riley and the Mamou Playboys and Li'l Brian and the Zydeco Travelers. Even if the bands didn't put a lot of time into their names, they put plenty of time making their instruments sing sweetly.

There are really no bad cuts on this disc, but those that are more gifted than others include the Balfa Brothers's "J'ai vu le loup, le renard et la belette," Boozo Chavis's "Lula Lula Don't you go to Bingo," (the washboard player on this song sounds like he's been playing it longer than he's been washing clothes on it) and Beausoleil's "Les flammes d'enfer."

The rhythms cook, the singers wail their heart out on every song and everybody involved sounds like they're goin' home happy.

What more can be said? Louisiana Spice is perfect for beating the gray-on-gray winter season. Just pretend that you've got a big slab of ribs cooking in front of you, kids playing in the yard, and Beau Jocque and that the Zydeco Hi-Rollers are just wailin' away on that old accordion for you and all your friends.

Now pull yourself away from that succulent fantasy long enough for me to wish you a happy holiday season, and a harmonically converging New Year.

more involved this winter.

"We are currently planning a seminar with big-name speakers to come, hopefully people from GreenPeace and Rainforest Action

Anyone is free to join. Even if you can't regularly attend the meetings, but can positively contribute, then you are welcome.

-Rainy Inman '97

Network," said SUN member junior Monique Averill.

Ideally, the seminar will also include people from the DNR and the Governor's office.

"This seminar will deal with the new environmental policies and how they will affect Michigan. We wanted to get people from Michigan, because it affects us, but also

people from outside the state to give different viewpoints," said Inman.

Currently SUN is planning various canoeing, camping, downhill skiing and even possibly white-water rafting excursions for the upcoming term.

SUN also plans on beginning to recycle #1 plastics, which are the most easily recyclable form of plastic. Many of the juices sold at Scotty's are bottled in this form of plastic. They hope to convince the city of Alma to begin recycling #1 plastics, but until then they will personally transport the materials down to Lansing for recycling.

"We encourage everyone to come to a meeting to find out what we do, because it is hard to explain all the things we do," said Averill.

"Anyone is free to join. Even if you can't regularly attend the meetings, but can positively contribute, then you are welcome," said Inman.

Meetings will take place next term at a time and place to be announced.

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

*Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre
Criuse — Dec. 22

EVENTS
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.

16

MUSIC / COMEDY
The Palace, Pontiac (810) 377-0100

*Lenny Kravitz — Dec 31
The Ark, Ann Arbor

*Josh White Jr. — Dec. 16

*Ted Nugent's 10th annual Whip

lash Bash — Dec. 30

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Women's basketball comes out victorious

By Jennifer Mounts
Staff Reporter

With a final score of 81-62, Alma's women's basketball team beat a team they lost to last year.

The Scots started off last week with a win against Spring Arbor, increasing their record to 2-1.

"We really wanted to play a good game against Spring Arbor," said Coach Charles Goffnett.

Spring Arbor is a NIAA nationally ranked team, and Goffnett said he felt that "the Scots caught them (Spring Arbor) at a good time as fatigue was setting in."

"I was a little apprehensive since we hadn't played for seven or eight days, but we played really well," said Goffnett.

The game was close at half-time; the Scots were up only six points.

"We weren't really utilizing our inside game," said Goffnett, "but we picked up in the second half."

Leading scorer for the Scots was senior Missy VanDamme with 22 points and 13 rebounds. Junior Jaami McClellan had 14 points.

Senior Michelle Olds had nine points, seven rebounds and five assists.

"She (Olds) guarded Spring Arbor's best player and did an excellent job defensively," said

Goffnett.

"[Junior] Krisi Kern and [senior] Maggie Taylor and junior Sara Lefke gave us a high boost in the first half," added Goffnett.

The team then went on to Grand Rapids to play Aquinas over the weekend. The Scots came away with a 62-54 win against tough rival Aquinas, boosting Alma's record to 3-1.

Goffnett called it a quality win.

At the half the score was 28-20 with Alma leading. The teams played evenly in the second half with 34 points each, highlighting the importance of the lead the Scots held at half-time.

Balanced scoring helped the team with four starters in double figures. Seniors Michelle VanDamme and Ashley Ray led scoring with 13 points each. Missy VanDamme had 12 points and McClellan had 10.

The fifth starter, Olds, had nine points, spreading the scoring around and making it difficult for Aquinas to know who to guard.

Goffnett said he felt really good about the defense, which held Aquinas to 33 percent shooting in the first half and 36 percent overall.

"We really moved the ball well, but we should have been up a little

bit more," said Goffnett. "We were on the verge of really blowing [Aquinas] away, but missed some easy shots."

Running the point position was Olds.

"Olds has had a real nice season so far," said Goffnett.

This was the first game Ray had started since injuring her hand at the

beginning of the term. She played 31 minutes, had six rebounds and five assists.

Goffnett said the teams free-throwing percentage has been vital to its success thus far. The Scots shot 76 percent against Aquinas.

"We will be very hard to beat if we keep this up," said Goffnett.

The Scots then increased their record with a win against Cornerstone College last Tuesday, beating them 82-59.

Missy VanDamme led the women in scoring with 35 points, tying a school record.

McClellan had 15 points and Michelle VanDamme had 10.

Swim team heads to Florida

By Dana Reinke
Sports Editor

Alma's swimmers and divers will not be taking a break this holiday season.

They are packing their suits and heading to Orlando, Florida, for laps in the pool—not fun in the sun.

From December 26 to January 6 the team will be training for the winter season at the International Drive YMCA.

Coach Greg Baadte has been taking his swimming and diving teams to Florida for the past six years.

"It is a good way to wrap up the first term and the training will help to give us some of our best times for the rest of the season," said Baadte.

In his first year as coach the team traveled to St. Petersburg, then for two years they practiced in

Clearwater. For the past three years they have gone to Orlando. There is only a four-minute walk from the team's hotel to the pool.

According to senior Melissa Wuchte, each year the program becomes more structured.

"It has really gotten better, the workouts are more organized and we now get a little more free time," said Wuchte.

The team will be swimming 12-15,000 yards a day, broken down into morning and evening workouts.

Wuchte has made the trip before and said that she knows what she is in for.

"It is the most important part of the season and it is so much hard work. Sometimes when you are there, you wonder, 'What am I doing here and why did I come?'"

said Wuchte.

According to Baadte, the pool is an eight lane, 50-meter pool with a diving facility that has a 10-meter diving tower.

"The diving facility is top-notch and spectacular, which is important and what we need for our divers," said Baadte.

Team members will either fly down or make the 22 hour drive in vans. Each team member will pay no more than \$200 for the trip.

Only three members of the swimming and diving teams are not traveling to Florida. However, they will have the same workouts to practice here.

"The team will be in the best shape we will be in all season when we return from this trip," said Baadte.

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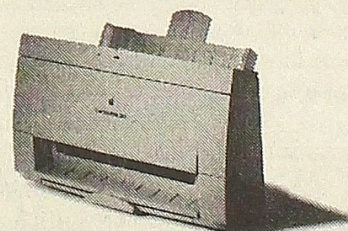
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Staff Editorial

The Almanian staff wish list...

All we want for Christmas...

Laura Paetz, Editor-in-Chief
Professors with such advanced mind power that they can telepathically read my papers without my having to even write them.

Justin Bauer, Editor-in-Chief
Christmas? Let's talk about Hanukkah. Why should I restrict myself to just one day of gifts?

Chris Wiederman, News Editor
My biggest Christmas wish is to be the star of my own TV infomercial, peddling steak knives with Danny Bonaduce. Of course, getting into a grad school wouldn't be bad either!

Char Vandermeer, Feature Editor

A car with a really big engine—power steering, air conditioning, Bose stereo system and an Alma College *alumni* sticker on the back window.

Mark Andrews, Opinion Editor
For Santa to deliver to me a package with everything I'm supposed to have done for the rest of the year before it's even assigned.

Dana Reinke, Sports Editor
The ability to render decisions that will affect the entire outcome of my life at the *mature* age of 18.

Sarah Barclay, Copy Editor
A job after graduation!

Brooke Hansen, Copy Editor
A big ol' bite of the Big Apple and my name up in lights!

Beth Knapp, Layout Editor
The state of Michigan to formally recognize finals week at Alma College as cruel and unusual

punishment.

Bonnie Palmer, Layout Editor
A job in May in Chicago as a graphic designer would be splendid!

Phil Allmen, Staff Reporter

A job when I graduate that will actually utilize the little bit of the knowledge I learned in my major.

Julie Wilson, Staff Reporter
A stun gun—some people just need to be knocked out once in a while.

Trisha Warner, Special Projects Reporter
To be on a straightaway with no speed limit in a red corvette.

Brent Oeschger, Photo Editor
To be a member of our local Lions Club so I can partake regularly of their Friday night fish fry.

Kari Krieger, Business

Manager

For nothing to go wrong at her December 30 wedding.

Kristin Miquel, Advertising Manager

To be President of the United States so that she can make the political science department's Halloween nightmare come true.

Sara Ballard, Assistant Advertising Manager

All the "No parking or your car will be towed" signs mysteriously removed from campus. If this is not possible, she would like for security to mysteriously lose all the ticket books. If neither of these is possible, she would like a plaque to be hung somewhere on campus that says, "Due to excessive parking fines, Sara Ballard has donated lots of money to Alma College."

Chris Sienko, Freelance Music Deity
A third ear.

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.

Ancient values fit in modern society

Letter to the Editors

I felt an inspiration to address a recent article, "Intolerant Definitions of Family Values Must Change" which appeared in your Dec. 5 issue.

Jason Walker, the author, seems to be searching for some new values in life that differ from those with which we have (all) been raised. Specifically mentioned is "Many of our influences are taken from religious texts (the Bible, for instance). However, I find that these texts, having often been written long ago, cannot provide accurate and complete guidance for our modern lives."

I, for one, have also searched for values that will fit into today's society. Frankly, I find the influences taken from that text written long ago to be very much to the point, easy to understand and an everyday challenge to live by.

That old text tells us to honor our fathers and mothers, to treat those around us as we would want to be, husbands are to love their wives and wives are to love their husbands, respect nature and the land. We are to submit to authority (there's a challenge), don't steal, don't sleep around (another challenge) and don't be unequally yoked (another challenge for a few). All these things seem to provide complete and accurate guidance even for a twentieth-century lifestyle. If not, we may be in big trouble!

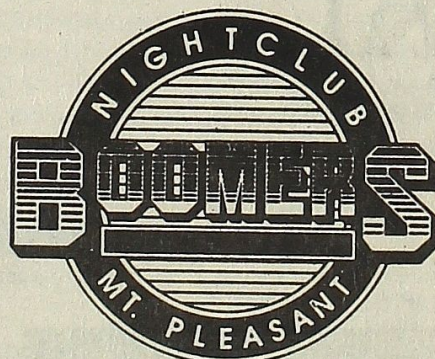
The article went on to attempt some sort of justification for an alternate lifestyle, insinuating that if God created us to be gays or lesbians He must have thought them to be good. Well, I hate to break your crutch, but God did not predetermine any of us to be gays, lesbians, or bisexuals. The ancient text clearly states that we, as individuals, are given the ability to choose our own destiny (including life styles), and that seems to be, by all accounts, pretty much the way it is. You know, the neat thing about God is He does not push His lifestyle on anyone. He does, however, give us a choice of following His lifestyle and by doing so offers a tremendous reward at the end—a reward that I cannot find offered by anyone else or by any other lifestyle.

A few weeks ago, while in Honduras, I was asked to go visit a young man (23 years old) who was dying from AIDS. He was not strong enough to lift his head off his bed and could only whisper a few words. As he lay there, he wanted me to comfort his mother, to assure her this was not her fault. He went on to say, "this is the result of the lifestyle I chose for myself." Three days later, he died. If this is the reward offered for adopting "new family values" we are asked to accept, well, "As for me and my house," I bet you all know the rest of my statement (it too comes from an ancient text).

One last thing. The article also makes note that people out there are searching for an "inner peace." Well, if you cannot find it just give me a call; I can put you onto it in less than five minutes.

Duane Knecht,
Physical Plant Director

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