

The Almanian

November 21, 1995

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Issue 10

Symphony, dance company reunite

By Lori Childs
Freelance Writer

The Alma Symphony Orchestra will perform Shchedrin's version of "Carmen," Pagni's "Pas de Quatre," and Gottschalk's "Grand Tarantella" 8 p.m. Dec. 1 and 3 p.m. Dec. 3.

This collaborative effort with the Alma Dance Company will take place in Presbyterian Hall in the Heritage Center for the Performing Arts.

"There is a natural alliance between music and dance and I would like to see more collaboration between dance and music here," said Douglas Scripps, professor of music and director of the symphony.

The symphony will first enlighten the audience with the spine-chilling music of "Carmen." The symphony's percussion and string musicians will portray the personality of Carmen, a promiscuous woman who is murdered during a

lover's quarrel, through various tricks of their instruments.

Senior violinist Christine Ebert said, "The piece is different because it asks us to do things we have never done before. The various techniques of the bow provide a mix of sounds which bring forth beautiful melodies."

First-year student Carrie Schuler, also a violinist, feels that "Carmen" will interest Alma College students and members of the community because "it has a mysterious sound."

"Pas de Quatre," meaning "Piece for Four," and "Grand Tarantella," which is a poisonous spider, will spark excitement in the second part of the concert. "Pas de Quatre" brings forth soft music while four Alma ballerinas express the competitiveness and dislike of the dancers from the original ballet.

The irony of the romantic instruments appears as the audience senses each dancer's desire to reign

as the leading ballerina in Europe.

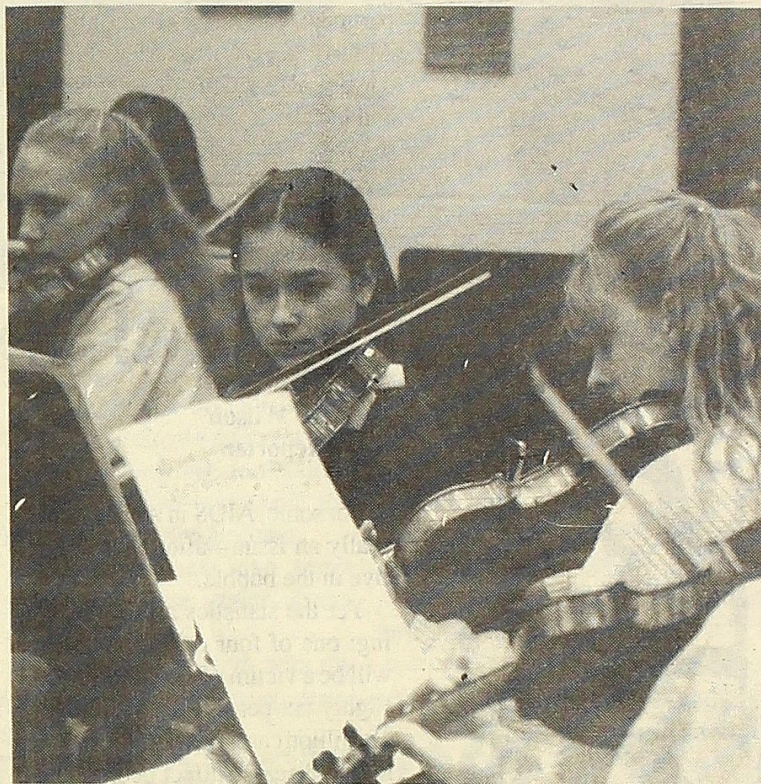
The legend behind the last piece, "Grand Tarantella," says that in order to rid the body of the poison from the tarantula spider, one needs to dance continuously to the "undiluted melodies and rhythms of black, Creole, and Caribbean folk music." Composed of the full orchestra and eleven dancers, this piece will project jumpy sounds and quick movements.

Scripps described the music as "sophisticated barroom music."

"The music is lighter than our last concert and it is not as intellectually demanding—the pieces are fun to play," said Ebert of the production in general.

"They are nice energetic pieces that I think everyone will like—they have an overall appeal," said junior Derrick Veale, a French horn player.

Tickets for the performance are available at the Heritage Center's box office.



Sophomore Amy Hoffman practices with fellow violinists for the symphony's upcoming performance. Photo by Kimberly Krajnak.

Student talent shines during Songfest '95



Senior Laura Rice sings her rendition of "What's New," arranged by Bob Haggart, during ACUB's annual Songfest competition Friday, Nov. 17, in Dunning Memorial Chapel. Photo by Jerry Stassinopoulos.

SUN salutes Luke's love of nature

By Daniel C. Scripps
Freelance Writer

On Nov. 4, Students United for Nature (SUN) braved the cold and clean up part of the Pine River in a tribute to Tracy Luke, former professor of religious studies.

Fifteen SUN members participated in the event, many of whom knew of Luke's love of the outdoors.

Junior SUN member Catherine Sinclair said of the project, "It was very beneficial to the river. We collected nine bags of garbage

which made the whole area look really nice."

However, the cleanup was not always easy. Several participants traveled down to the water to dig through overgrown brush on the riverbank. Yet, that project was the most rewarding because, as sophomore Angie Jevince put it, "that was where we got most of the trash."

"I thought it went really well. We had a lot of volunteers show up this year. I was really excited about the turnout," said Jevince of the trip.

Though SUN did not succeed in combining the biannual cleanup with a Pine River canoe trip this time due to poor weather, they plan to combine the two events in the future.

As junior Karen Gorden, SUN's vice president, said, "We hope to start the canoe trip and cleanup this spring and do it again in the early fall when the weather is nicer."

This canoe trip would also be in memory of Luke, keeping his legacy of love for nature alive.

Another aspect of their outing included the chance to develop plans for a section of Pine River Park that the group will design.

"It's still a city park," said Don Merrill of the City of Alma Parks and Grounds Department, "but we have designated an area where they can decide what to plant." Their plans for the land include planting trees and placing a plaque in memory of Luke.

"Our group is really growing and we have a lot of participation within the group," said Jevince.

SUN meets every Wednesday at 8 p.m. in SAC 108.

Percentage of part-time faculty increases

By Chris Wiederman
News Editor

During the past year the percentage of part-time faculty has increased to 16.5 percent, leaving some students wondering what effect, if any, this has upon the quality of education.

What benefits do part-time faculty provide? Why do we have so many part-time faculty members?

Part-time faculty are hired for a variety of reasons. With the recent surge in enrollment, part-time faculty help alleviate the pressures on class size. Also, they provide the opportunity for the college to offer unique classes.

According to Provost Leslie Brown the percentage of part-time faculty is not extreme and provides many benefits to the curriculum.

While large universities have the flexibility of offering a variety of courses, this variability is more difficult for a small college such as Alma. However, part-time faculty, specializing in particular areas, allow for a unique

course offering for small colleges.

Brown cited Japanese, Archaeology, Highland Arts and Comparative Religion as examples of unique courses available to Alma students.

Some faculty choose to be part-time, balancing other careers and graduate work with their teaching at Alma.

For example, Tom Batchelder is a part-time psychology professor who is also a practicing clinician in Alma.

"Dr. Batchelder advises students wishing to enter clinical psychology and is able to share firsthand experience in his teaching," said Brown.

The department chairs are responsible for recruiting part-time faculty and search for people with college experience. Many of the part-time faculty at Alma even have their doctorates.

"I do expect the number of part-time to decrease over the next few years, but it will depend on the enrollment," said Brown.

Nov. 21, 1995

AIDS: know the facts, use your head

By Trisha A. Warner
Special Projects Reporter

As HIV has spread among the population, awareness has increased as well.

People are learning the risk factors that accompany the virus's spread and realizing the need to be tested for it. The tests, which can be administered through the health department, hospitals, clinics and the Alma College Wilcox Medical Center, are anonymous or confidential and usually accompanied by counseling.

According to Joe Gelina, physician's assistant for Wilcox Medical Center, being tested for HIV is an important decision, specifically

because of its affect on behavior.

"The thing that bothers me the most," he said, "is that we have good statistics

of the number of HIV positive cases, good statistics on the number of full-blown AIDS cases, and good statistics of the

number of AIDS deaths. But the scary part is that we do not [have statistics] on the people who have HIV and do not know it." He cites those that unknowingly have HIV as probable spreaders

of the virus, due to their lack of knowledge.

He emphasized that pre- and

post-test counseling is an important addition to the test itself, providing means to under-

stand the test results. Knowing whether you are HIV positive or negative is worthless, says Gelina, unless it affects your lifestyle by reinforcing respon-

sible sexuality or replacing bad habits with a self-monitoring lifestyle. Because of the psychologically devastating nature of HIV testing, counselors must be certified through the Michigan Department of Public Health (MDPH) HIV/AIDS Prevention and Intervention Section (HAPIS). The certification, which is thoroughly explained in the September-October, 1995 Michigan HIV report, can be obtained through the two-step process or an intensive five-day program.

The two-step process includes separate workshops. The first, a two-day affair called "AIDS 101,"

See AIDS, page 3...

Knowing whether you are HIV positive or negative is worthless, said Gelina, unless it affects your lifestyle by reinforcing responsible sexuality or replacing bad habits with a self-monitoring lifestyle.

"Virtual Sexuality" promotes awareness

By Julie Wilson
Staff Reporter

For some, AIDS in Alma is not really an issue—after all, we do live in the bubble.

Yet the statistics are frightening: one of four college women will be a victim of sexual assault. Eighty-six percent of the annual 12 million cases of sexually transmitted diseases affect people between the ages of 15 and 29. Of the 60 percent of sexually active first-year college students, almost half report using no protection.

With these realities so well publicized, students cannot claim ignorance to dangers of unsafe sexual expression.

However, behaviors are not changing.

Education is everywhere; people know the problems and risks, but their actions do not mirror the fear of the educators. The population knows the risks, but has not altered their actions. Some believe this is due to the way the information is being presented.

"Lecture formats are not working," said Linda Farquharson, a health educator with the Mid-Michigan District Health Department. An alternative AIDS educator will visit Dunning Memorial Chapel at 8 p.m. on Nov. 28 as part of AIDS awareness week.

The Michigan State University's Olin Health Center's "In Your Face Reality Troupe" uses dramatic presentations to discuss issues involved

in all aspects of relationships and human sexuality—unintended intercourse, HIV testing and counseling, healthy alternatives to sexual expression, sexual orientation, diversity—all dealt with in a creative manner.

The program is entitled "Virtual Sexuality." The troupe consists of primarily Michigan State students, but includes college students from other schools as well.

"The troupe is nationally known and recognized for their talent and powerful message," added Farquharson. "I think it is wonderful that they have chosen to come to Gratiot County."

The troupe has received a grant

for three performances and they chose to come to Alma and are covering all costs for their performance.

"I do not think there is enough AIDS education on this campus," said first-year student Melanie Pietchak. "Everybody thinks that we are safe here on such a small campus, but that is not the case."

AIDS awareness week provides the opportunity for students to rethink their sexual attitudes.

The troupe hopes that their message comes across unlike typical safe-sex lecturing by portraying the models, skills and behaviors affiliated with healthy sex decisions.

AIDS victims need support

By Char Vandermeer
Feature Editor

HIV and AIDS are issues we love to push under the carpet.

If we ignore them we will not see them, right? We simply cannot continue to hide behind safe, protective delusions any longer. We must face and accept the reality.

Many different perceptions and biases revolve around HIV and AIDS and unfortunately, it is easier to pretend they don't exist—especially on Alma's quiet campus.

However, in our lifetime, we will be in contact—probably close contact—with someone who has HIV or AIDS.

How can we deal with this and what are some of the difficult aspects surrounding AIDS and those with the disease that we should be aware of?

While the physical aspects of the disease have been well-publicized, we may wonder what are some of the psychological trials an individual might experience as they pass through the stages of the disease? How can we offer support and understanding?

As individuals learn to deal and cope with the disease they will probably undergo a series of psychological struggles including social isolation, dealing with an abrupt

alteration of quality of life, a drop in self-esteem, sudden changes in mood or emotion, issues of self-blame, feelings of helplessness and denial. Knowledge of these changes allows friends and family to better help someone come to terms with the disease.

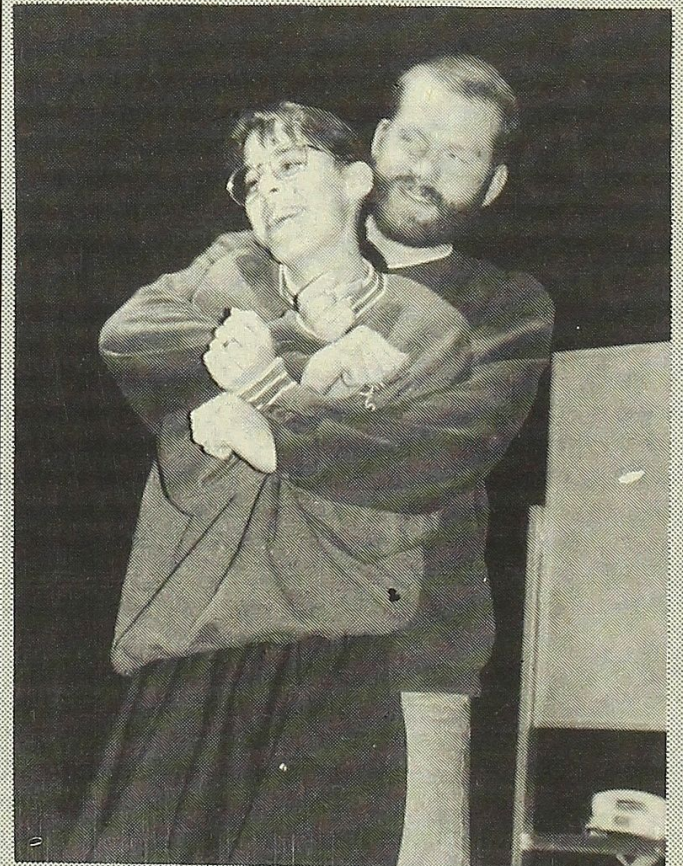
There are several ways people can help and offer support to someone with AIDS. A handshake, touch or hug shows the individual that the disease does not make them any less important to their friends. Remember, AIDS is not leprosy and cannot be contract through simple contact.

Visit, visit and visit. Be there for your friend and offer a shoulder to lean on. Feel free to laugh and cry with them—everyone needs to know they have someone to share their feelings with.

Celebrate life. Enjoy the moment. Focus on the positive aspects of life. Talk about tomorrow, next week, next year...hope is essential!

Helping someone with AIDS is no place for timidity; feel free to ask questions about the illness. Not only will it be beneficial to you to get a better grasp on the emotional state-of-mind of your friend, but it also gives them a chance to air whatever might be troubling them at any given moment.

Don't feel pressured to talk. Allow conversation to flow naturally.



Sophomore Amy Zell and senior Steve Sobieski rehearse for The Rehearsal. The one-act play deals with the relationship between an HIV+ actor and its affect on- and off-stage. Photo by Char Vandermeer.

Remember, your presence and support is the most important thing.

With understanding comes acceptance. If we educate ourselves about AIDS we will find

ourselves better prepared to face the future and whatever it may bring. Although in the shell of Alma, AIDS may feel like an abstraction, we must understand that it is very real.

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Shiele, Nelson awarded with MIAA First Team honors

By Julie Wilson
Staff Reporter

The women's soccer team, though not recognized with team honors and awards, was made up of some talented players who were individually recognized for their contributions to the team.

Senior Juli Schiele, who played midfield and forward, made the MIAA first team, sophomore Jill Braun made the second team and senior Keisha Nelson earned an honorable mention. Schiele and Braun have earned MIAA honors in the past while Nelson had earned state recognition in high school and team awards in previous years.

Schiele had been a member of the first team her first and second years at Alma was excited at the award.

"My goal this year was to play my last and best year. Since I had not made it last season I was kind of surprised to be nominated," she said. "But it was my best season of my years at Alma."

Schiele has played soccer since she was 6, first on the munchkin league, and then moving up to the boys' league, playing there until she joined her high school women's team in Royal Oak.

The highlight of her season was the game against Kalamazoo.

"We all knew that we had the potential to beat them, and since

they were not very concerned with any teams in the MIAA—they were more concerned about playing in nationals—it was great when we came back and beat them," said Schiele.

Alma had lost to the team her entire four years, and this year's win shows how talented the team was.

"Our record really does not show how good we were. There were a lot of games that just did not go our way," said Schiele.

Nelson agreed.

"We had so many great players, it is a shame that the numbers do not show it," she said. Talent aside, Nelson thinks that the change of coach had a lot to do with the success.

"When she [Coach Tammy Anderson] came in, she helped with the attitudes and gave us great enthusiasm," said Nelson.

But all the players said it was the

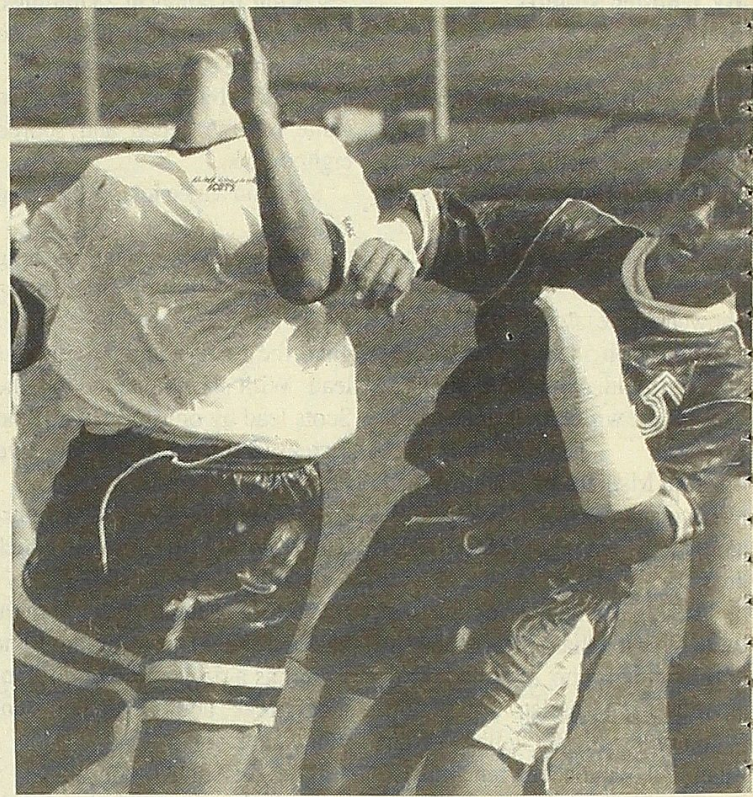
team and the close knit group that helped with their success.

"Yes, it was my best year personally, but it was the team that helped me. I did my best for myself, but more so because I wanted to do well for the team—I did not want to let the team down," said Nelson, who has played soccer for twelve years but said that she did not get serious until she started playing for the Scots.

Schiele holds the same sentiment.

"Our team motto was 'We are goal oriented.' We would all work together to pick up someone if they were having a bad day, watch out for each other. They helped me have my best season."

Women's soccer team is represented by seniors Julie Schiele and Keisha Nelson for their four years of hard work, leadership and skill as First team MIAA members. File Photo



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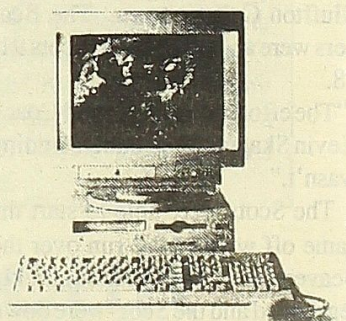
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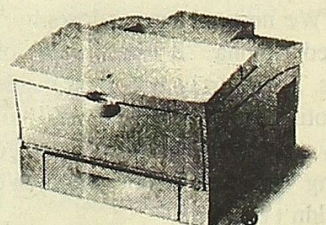
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1995-96 Men's Basketball Schedule

11-21	Aquinas	7:30 p.m.
11-24,25	Walsh Thanksgiving Tournament	
11-28	Concordia (home)	7:30 p.m.
12-1,2	Chamber of Commerce Tournament (home)	
12-7	Illinois Tech	7:30 p.m.
12-9	Elmhurst	7:30 p.m.
12-16	Madonna	7:30 p.m.
12-29,30	Mid-Michigan Rotary Classic	
1-3	Calvin	7:30 p.m.
1-6	Hope(home)	3:00 p.m.
1-13	Albion(home)	3:00 p.m.
1-17	Olivet	7:30 p.m.
1-20	Kalamazoo	3:00 p.m.
1-24	Adrian(home)	7:30 p.m.
1-27	Calvin(home)	3:00 p.m.
1-31	Hope	7:30 p.m.
2-7	Albion	7:30 p.m.
2-10	Olivet(home)	3:00 p.m.
2-14	Kalamazoo(home)	7:30 p.m.
2-17	Adrian	3:00 p.m.
2-21,22		
23,24	MIAA Tournament	

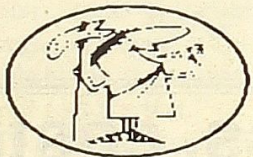
Winter Sports Schedules

1995-96 Women's Basketball Schedule

11-28	Spring Arbor(home)	6:00 p.m.
12-2	Aquinas	1:00 p.m.
12-5	Cornerstone	TBA
12-8,9	Manchester Tournament	
12-16	Aquinas(home)	1:00 p.m.
12-30	Franklin(home)	3:00 p.m.
1-4	Calvin(home)	7:30 p.m.
1-6	Hope	3:00 p.m.
1-10	Concordia(home)	7:30 p.m.
1-13	Albion	3:00 p.m.
1-17	Olivet(home)	7:30 p.m.
1-20	Kalamazoo(home)	3:00 p.m.
1-24	Adrian	7:30 p.m.
1-27	Calvin	3:00 p.m.
1-31	Hope(home)	7:30 p.m.
2-3	St. Mary's(home)	3:00 p.m.
2-7	Albion(home)	7:30 p.m.
2-10	Olivet	3:00 p.m.
2-14	Kalamazoo	7:30 p.m.
2-17	Adrian(home)	3:00 p.m.
2-20,21		
22-24	MIAA Tournament	

1995-96 Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Schedule

11-21	Grand Valley State	6:30 p.m.
12-1,2	De Pauw Invitational	TBA
12-26 to 1-6	Florida Training Trip	
1-13	Kalamazoo(home)	1:00 p.m.
1-16	Albion	6:00 p.m.
1-27	Calvin	1:00 p.m.
2-3	Hillsdale & Wayne State (home)	1:00 p.m.
2-22,23,24	MIAA Championships	
	Hope College	
	Preliminaries	11:00 a.m.
	Finals	7:00 p.m.
3-14,15,16	NCAA Div.III Women's Championships	
	Atlanta, GA	
3-21,22,23	NCAA Div.III Men's Championships	
	Atlanta, GA	



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Nov. 21, 1995

Kevorkian's no murderer

By Justin Gustafson
Staff Reporter

A couple weeks ago, Dr. Jack Kevorkian, whom we all know as Dr. Death, was implicated in yet another assisted suicide in California—"operation" number 22.

The patient was an elderly woman who had bone marrow cancer, a very painful disease, and was terminally ill. She died of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Much of America is in an uproar about Dr. Kevorkian's actions. Michigan passed a ban on assisted suicide two years ago, which is still being fought in the courts. Dr. Kevorkian deserves at least a fair examination of his deeds before we jump to conclusions screaming "murderer, murderer!"

Euthanasia is a more appropriate term for what Dr. Kevorkian does. The term "assisted suicide" makes his practice sound far worse than it is. He helps people who are terminally ill to end their lives without having to suffer through any more pain. What's wrong with that?

I think there are three criteria in determining whether or not this is permissible. First, patients must be terminally ill. If they are not hopelessly sick to begin with, than any attempt on their life would be considered murder.

Second, patients must have an ever-worsening condition inflicting amounts of pain beyond our imagination. If they suffer through enormous pain every day, why should they be forced to live the

rest of their lives as though they were being tortured?

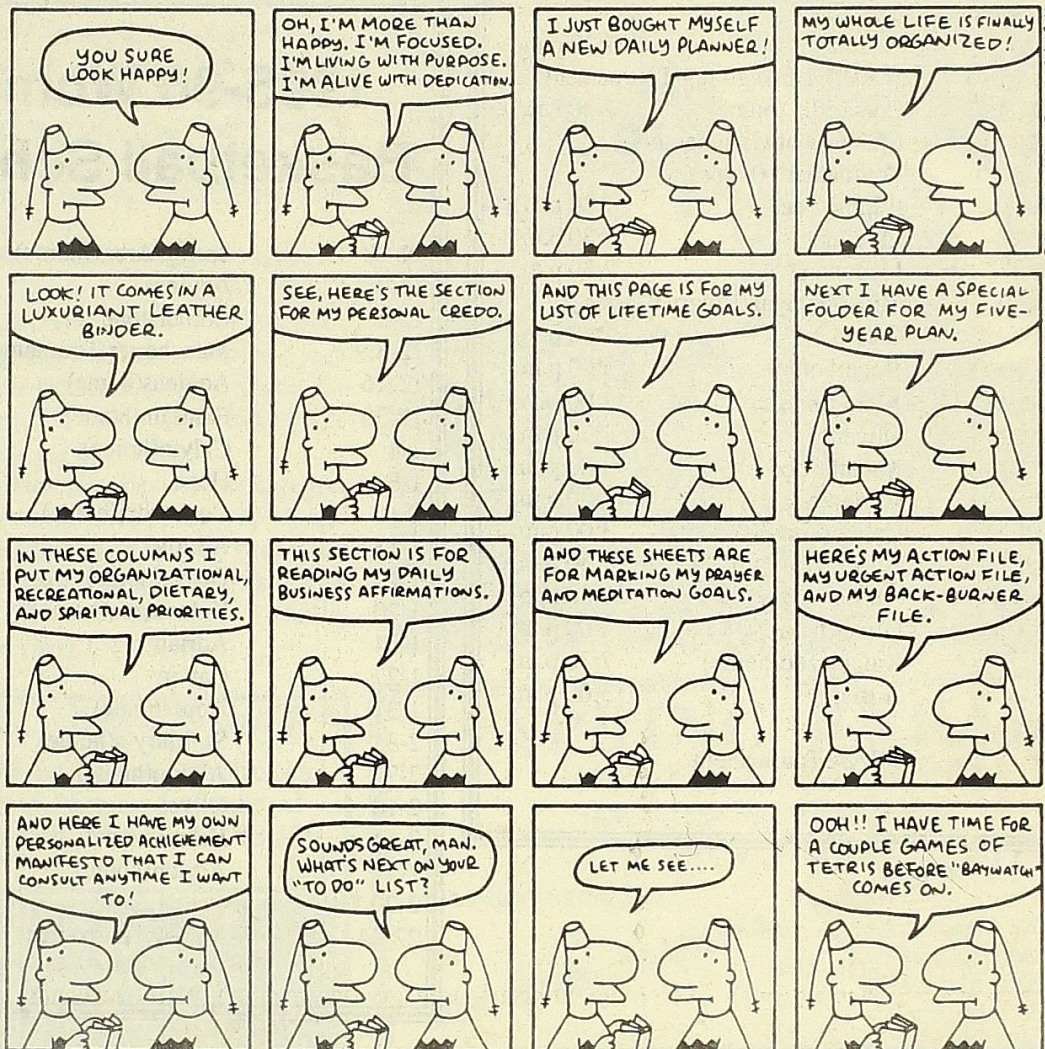
Third, and most importantly, patients must consent to end their life. Without a clear agreement, no doctor has the authority to end a patient's life.

Following these three basic guidelines, it seems to me that euthanasia is an acceptable practice. People may ask how one can support euthanasia, but be against abortion. The difference between the two procedures explains it all. The aborted child was not asked whether or not it wanted to die. The terminally ill patients are grown people who know that the only relief from their pain is death. They should be allowed to have that option.

I am not going to force someone who is in terrible pain and counting down the days to death to live in torture for the remainder of his or her life. Each person is capable of making their own decision. Neither I nor the government should force another human being, already dying, to stay alive longer than s/he wants to.

Dr. Kevorkian is doing many people a favor by helping them end their tortured, painful lives in a humane and painless manner. We should not scorn his work, nor should it be outlawed. The man is a professional doctor who is a compassionate and caring individual. Dr. Kevorkian is not a murderer, he is a pain reliever. He helps dying patients in their "pursuit of happiness" by giving them their final wish and ending the pain.

LIFE IN HELL



Federal government shutdown proves pointless, costly

By Brandon Edward Miller
Freelance Writer

After six long days of being held hostage by the Republican Congressional leadership, 800,000 federal employees are back on the job.

The President and Congress reached an accord Sunday night which will extend government spending until December 15, by which time they hope to finally have the budget settled.

This shutdown did not make sense. Although tourists were forced from national parks, travelers barred from passport offices and federal employees banished from their desks, the shutdown actually cost more money, \$138 million per day, then keeping the government running.

According to rhetoric from House Speaker Newt Gingrich, the shutdown occurred for two reasons.

First, on a trip to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's funeral, Gingrich was snubbed by President Clinton. He said that he was relegated to the back of the plane where the President refused to discuss the budget with him.

Secondly, Gingrich decided that the budget should be balanced in seven years.

At least the second of these two arguments sounds reasonable. But both should be examined. According to White House staffers, it would have been completely inappropriate to discuss the budget while the President was playing host to two former Presidents, Carter and Bush, as well as the fact that they were heading to a funeral—not a business meeting.

Also, they said, Newt was not

known for his skill at Hearts, a favorite card game of Clinton's that was played during a considerable part of the trip. Gingrich was

The second of the two arguments is not much better. The stated reason that Gingrich gave for deciding that the budget should be balanced in seven years was intuition. One would therefore be led to conclude that 800,000 federal workers were wondering whether or not they would have a job come the holidays just because the Speaker's lucky number happened to be seven.

The most frightening aspect of this situation is that it took Congress and the Administration six days to pass a bill which simply kept the government running temporarily. The deadline for a budget agreement is December 15.

This gives them just 25 days to hammer out some of our country's

most important issues: How large should our government be? Is a balanced budget more important than the environment and education? Should there be cuts in entitlement programs like Medicare?

Before our leaders sit down to decide these important issues, both sides are going to have to set aside the rhetoric and the point scoring and get serious. Sound principles, not sound-bites, need to dictate the rest of this debate. Press conferences and polls, and especially the upcoming elections, need to be ignored for a brief period of time. This will allow almost two million federal employees to enjoy their holiday.

Finally, the country will gain confidence and trust in its leadership if it perceives that actual progress is being made. An excellent chance to improve our country's future is possible; let us hope that our leaders seize this opportunity.

This shutdown did not make sense. Although tourists were forced from national parks, travelers barred from passport offices and federal employees banished from their desks, the shutdown actually cost more money, \$138 million per day, then keeping the government running.

treated better than most of the guests on the plane in that his wife was invited along, although wives of almost all the other guests—including prominent senators and former presidents—were not.

Campus comment: What further improvements are needed on campus?

Alma College has placed much of its focus on campus improvement over the last year and a half. Even so, few students have been asked what they feel needs to be done in order to improve the campus and its facilities. In this week's *Campus Comment*, we asked Alma students what they would like to see improved in the future.

Nicole Ivkovich '96

"After living on campus for almost four years, I've never had a major conflict with the college. I believe there are always going to be problems within a community of 1,400 students and the college has responded to those inconveniences the best they could."

Danette Guild '98

"I'm a commuter, and the lighting for the parking lot behind the international house is awful—especially in the southeast corner of the lot. When you are walking back to your car after a night class, it can be scary."

Jennifer Corry '98

"I feel that Alma College should improve on the study lounges in the dorms. They need to be quieter and a better environment in general. For example, in Gelston Hall, there is a ping pong table, in constant use, outside of both study lounges."

Alyson Ferriss '98

"I feel that Alma College should concentrate more on losing the 'Alma Bubble' image. Put emphasis on national and international events."

