

The Almanian

October 24, 1995

Serving Alma College since 1907

Issue 7

Municipal power battle continues

By Christopher Wiederman
News Editor

Alma residents heard a presentation and voiced concerns over municipal power at 7 p.m., Oct. 18, in the Dow Auditorium. In an attempt to dispel the confusion over the issue, Alma Businesses for Electric Competition (ABEC) presented the findings of the study on municipal power.

The multi-million dollar expenditure could greatly affect the residents and businesses in the city and have a significant impact on the current supplier, Consumers Power Company.

Will municipal power result in lower rate, higher quality power?

Faced with rate increases from Consumers Power that many deem unreasonable, several Alma businesses formed a coalition, ABEC, to explore the feasibility of a municipal electric utility in Alma. ABEC's greatest concern is the lack of choice; Consumers Power currently holds a monopoly in the local utility business.

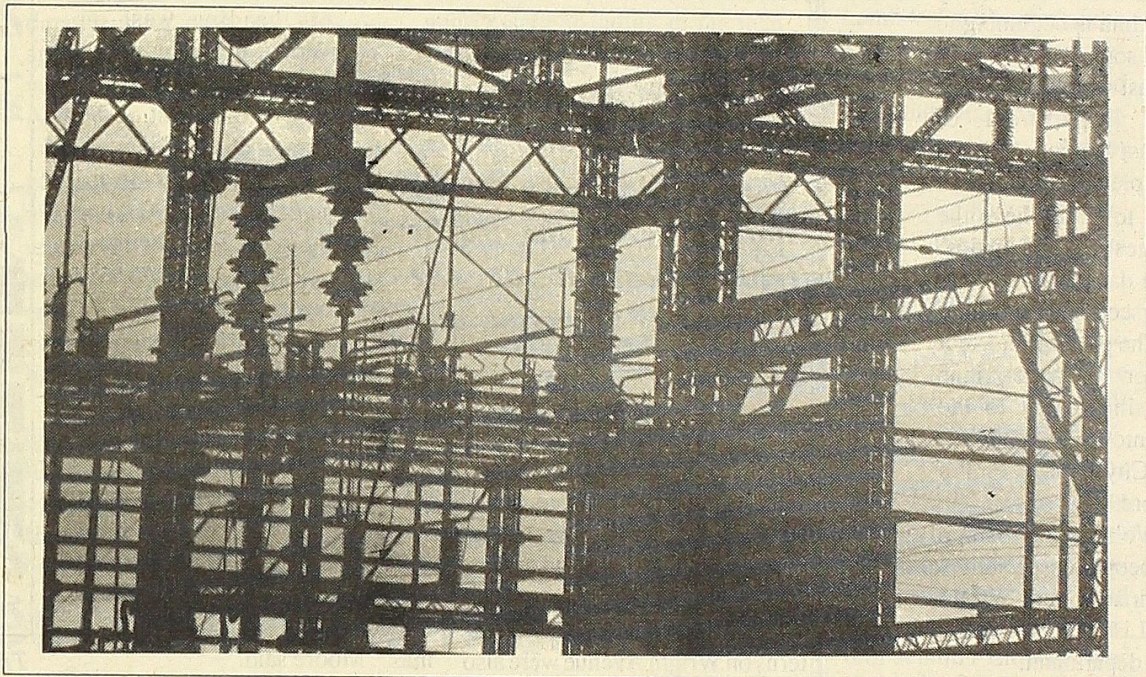
However, Consumers contends that rates for Alma residents are some of the lowest rates in the country and are significantly lower than other companies, such as Detroit Edison.

In the current political climate, deregulation of utilities is possible and changes are likely. Dave Roslund of Highland Product, an ABEC member, emphasized that a municipal system would allow Alma to "pool purchasing power for lower rates, because a free-marketplace is coming and is beneficial to all."

ABEC assured that if a municipal utility is built jobs will be created, most of which would exist in the area. Also, they believe the risk of job loss for Consumers Power employees is slim since the utility would maintain their service regardless of municipal power.

In a municipal power system, Alma residents would still have the choice of using Consumers Power. Choices would be made based on price, quality and service.

Consumers Power representative Dan Bishop stated that the city would have to build a duplicate electrical transmission system since they would be unable to use Consumers's. In order to do so, Alma would have to install over 2,000 poles, in addition to transformers and other possible eyesores. Also, "switching back and forth between municipal and Consumers power is more difficult than



Picketing Consumers Power workers highlight the utility's battle with local business over a proposed municipal power authority. Photo by Jerry Stassinopoulos.

many perceive," said Bishop.

Residents of Alma expressed concern over the possible negative aesthetics of a duplicated system, which could result in the removal of numerous trees and a clutter of wires and poles. One possible solution could be placing the wires underground. Though this option is more expensive, it does maintain the visual integrity of the area.

Jim McCoy, senior vice-president

of Total Petroleum, compared municipal power to the American revolution. Leading the revolt against Consumers Power, he stated that Total would like the best price, service and quality available.

"As an American consumer, we deserve the right to choose what products we buy. . . It's common sense," said McCoy.

A key concern of residents is the bond issue. The study proposes that

\$20 million be raised for the project through the sale of bonds. The bonds would be repaid over time through the money made from the sale of electricity.

While this is feasible, many residents fear the economic impact if Total Petroleum decided to close down its refinery. Total currently accounts for about 60% of the electricity used in the city of Alma.

Sigma Chi, sororities unite for philanthropy

By Julie Wilson
Staff Reporter

Last week, the Sigma Chi (ΣΧ) fraternity sponsored its annual Derby Days, a series of philanthropic activities involving all four sororities. The events kicked off with a picnic on Wednesday, which also signaled the beginning of the ΣΧ Sweetheart Competition.

Three women from each sorority were chosen by the brothers as competitors. From last Wednesday through Friday, each of these women collected money for Big Brothers/ Big Sisters of Gratiot county. The woman who collected the most money earned the title of ΣΧ Sweetheart.

Kappa Iota's President Tiffany Hodge was the winner, collecting more individually than all other contenders.

Sophomore Mandy Bowler, one of Gamma Phi Beta's representatives, was honored to be asked to participate.

"It felt good to put in time to help such a wonderful organization," she said. "And I'm really excited for the ΣΧ's too—I think this fundraiser will make more money than ever before."

This race for spare change really put the pressure on the sorority women. Senior LeAndra Langdon addressed this issue when she summed up the week, "It's an exciting opportunity for all of us—the sororities get to compete against each other in a friendly manner."

More competitive action occurred Thursday night at the sumo wrestling event. Sorority representatives dressed up in huge plastic sumo wrestling gear and safely attacked one another.

Sophomore Eric Reed said, "It really got the girls excited, and we all had a great time."

Junior Derrick Veale added, "We laughed, we cried, it was better than *Cats*."

Sophomore Alyson Ferriss, Alpha Gamma Delta member, emerged victorious in this event.

"I did not even want to do it, originally, but I'm glad I did—it was a lot of fun and I got my team some points," she said.

At Friday afternoon's event, "Make A Brother Smile" day, sorority women attempted to elicit grins from ΣΧ brothers. If the men succumbed to jokes or compliments, they had to hand over a

paper pumpkin, each worth one point, or after their four pumpkins were gone, their derby hat, worth three points. Some brothers were determined not to give anything away, while some willingly handed out their points.

Friday night's activity was a brother auction, where sorority women could purchase a brother's services for a couple of hours. The bidding started at a dollar.

Derby Days' final event their philanthropic Haunted House, capped off the week. To help prepare for Saturday's festivity, an activity aimed at the children in the community, each of the groups involved was assigned a room to decorate within the ΣΧ house.

As for the decorations, Sophomore Matt Hallead said, "It was scarier than a monster on crack."

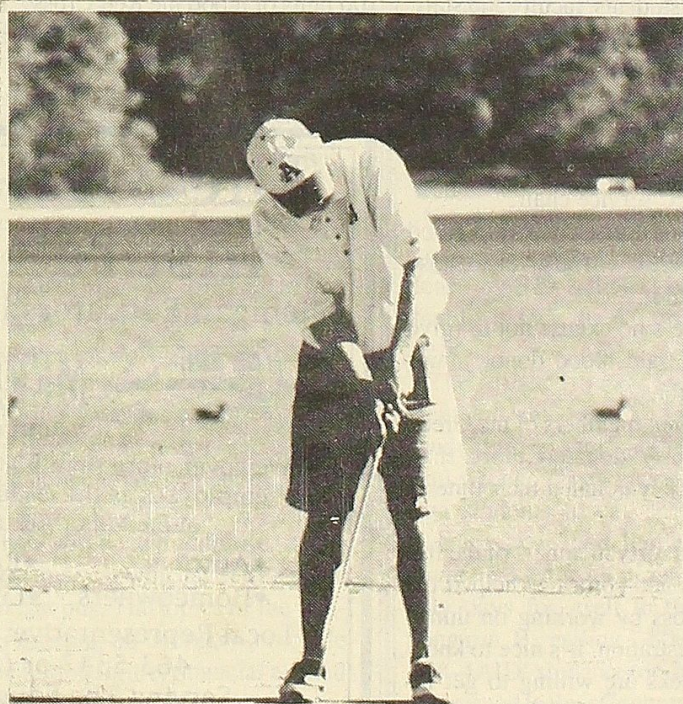
The week ended with the haunted house Saturday afternoon and a party Saturday evening to celebrate the winning sorority. Gamma Phi Beta beat out the others by collecting the most money in the change drive as a group and receiving the most smiles from brothers.

All in all, the week's events earned almost \$2,100 for Big Brothers/Big

Sisters.

"The week went really well," said senior Jason Gray. "We had excellent sorority support. This immense

support from Greek women, with the planning from the brothers of ΣΧ, will make the children of Alma



Senior Kevin McKinley lines up a putt. His top-three conference finish extends the Men's golf season and gives the team a shot at a national title. Story on page 9. Photo by John Chambers.

Oct. 24, 1995

New light improves traffic, pedestrian safety

By Trisha A. Warner
Special Projects Reporter

Ever have trouble crossing the intersection of Wright Avenue and Superior Street while walking up town? Ever been stuck for 10 minutes trying to turn left off Wright onto Superior?

Because scenarios like this are common, the City of Alma is beginning to take some action.

Last week, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) completed a three phase plan to help relieve the congestion and pedestrian danger at the busy intersection.

"The plan will make it easier for pedestrians crossing to get to the downtown," said Assistant City Manager Phillip Moore.

"We're trying to improve safety for people, especially school-age children crossing Wright Avenue," said Lisa Tomisch of the state highway department.

Director of Public Works Ken Feldt agrees with Moore, citing safer traffic control and pedestrian crossing as one major influence on the decision to revise the traffic control situation at the intersection.

"There have been numerous complaints for lack of respect to pedestrians by motorists," he explained.

A protected pedestrian crossing has been installed at the intersection, said Feldt. To utilize the protected crossing, pedestrians need only to push the button lo-

has been installed at the intersection for motorists traveling east. This will avoid the tie-ups that are caused when westbound travelers on Superior Street continue through the light while eastbound motorists are trying to turn left.

The second change to Wright Avenue was the installation of a green right turn arrow. It was installed for travelers heading west on Wright in the right turn lane.

The total cost of the plan, including the new stop light and crosswalk signals was \$8,900, but the majority of it will not come out of Alma taxpayers' pockets.

The federal government will pay \$7,700 toward the project and the city and state will split the remaining \$1,200.

According to Director of Public Works Ken Feldt, safer traffic control and pedestrian crossing are major influences in the decision to revise the traffic control situation at the intersection of Superior and Wright.

cated on the crosswalk signal pole. At that time, green arrows will be replaced by red lights and no motorists will be allowed to turn.

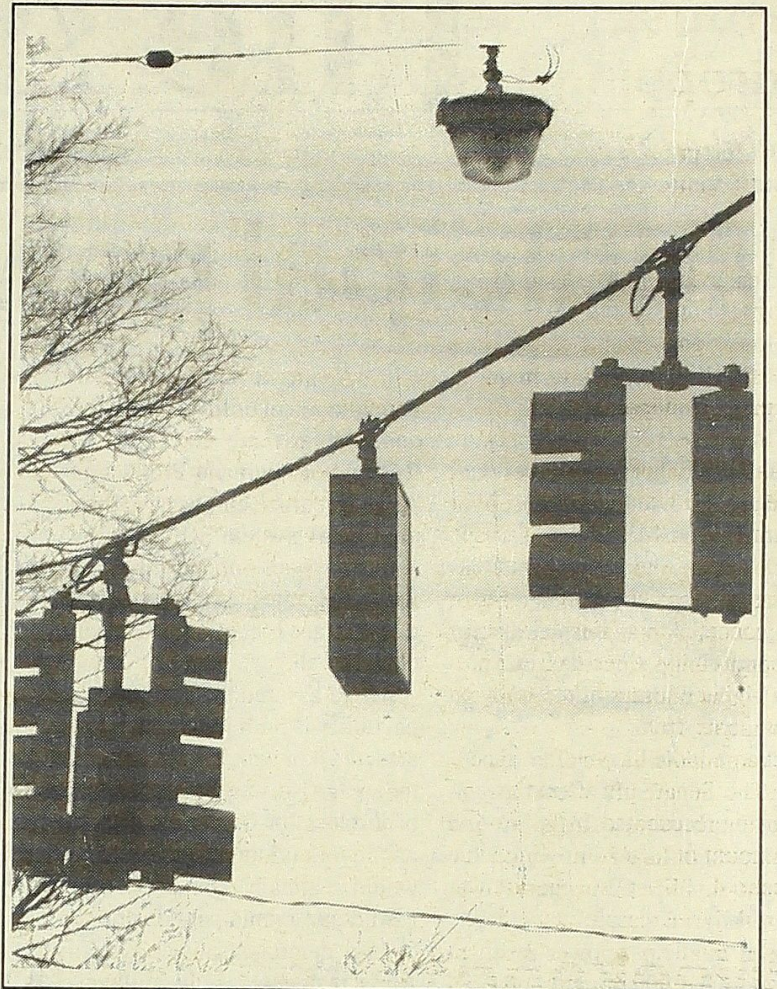
Slight changes to traffic patterns on Wright Avenue were also included in the plan. A "No Turn On Red" sign has been posted for the southbound right turn lane to accommodate Superior Street's immense changes.

To avoid traffic backups along Superior Street, a left turn arrow

Moore stresses that the changes were state implemented.

"The Michigan Department of Transportation expressed willingness to proceed with this last Christmas," Moore said.

He also indicated that the City of Alma and MDOT are in the early planning stages of placing a stop light on Wright Avenue near Ashcraft's and the fast food industry to alleviate traffic stress there as well.



This new traffic signal is part of a three-phase plan to improve traffic safety at the intersection of Wright and Superior. Photo by Brent Oeschger.

Students help reach Red Cross goal

By Phil Allmen
Staff Reporter

The Red Cross, the Intrafraternity Council (IFC) and Panhellenic Council (Panhel) co-sponsored a blood drive last Tuesday, Oct. 17. The Red Cross hoped 100 pints of blood would be given that day.

Many members of the community donated blood alongside Alma College students, faculty and staff. "There was a pretty fair showing of the community at the blood drive. There were more students donating blood, but the mix of donors was quite good," said senior Dave Scott, IFC service chair.

The blood donated goes to a blood bank where it will be given to those who need it.

"There's no excuse not to (give blood)," said blood donor junior Don Light.

However, members of the Greek community donated more than blood. They donated their time as well.

"About forty members of the fraternities and sororities helped the Red Cross by working on things like registration. It's nice to know the Greeks are willing to get involved in campus and community activities to help make a difference," said Scott.

Senior Brian Tollenaar explained

why he chose to volunteer for the Blood Drive.

"It's self-rewarding to volunteer for any philanthropy. Knowing that you are doing this to help someone else makes the time spent well worth it," he said.

The Red Cross comes to Alma College a few times each year to help increase the amount of blood in reserve. By collecting just over 100 pints of blood the Red Cross barely reached their desired goal

"I wasn't too sure we were going to make our goal. When I stopped by at two o'clock, there weren't many people around. If all the people who came at the end of the day hadn't shown up, our goal wouldn't have been reached," said Scott.

The first blood drive at Alma College for this year ended as a successful venture. The Red Cross continues to hold blood drives at Alma because of the dedication students and faculty have in helping others.

Alma police prepared for possible Devil's night pranks

By Trisha A. Warner
Special Projects Reporter

Devil's night is typically seen as a problem in big cities, and in response to residents' fears, the Alma Police Department has decided to increase its patrol staff in the city.

October 30 has earned the reputation as a night accented by violent activities ranging from pumpkin smashing to fire setting.

While these crimes have become a major problem in larger cities, the stigma and attraction of delinquent activity has not permeated the borders of Alma's city limits. According to Lieutenant D. D. Walsh, operations commander for the Alma Police Department, the city of Alma has not fallen prey to Devil's Night activity in the past.

"It is nice to see that so far we have not had those problems, and we do not anticipate any either," said Walsh.

But the police department refuses to assume a reactive position on the basis of former years' experiences. They will be increasing their staff and actively patrolling the city for both Devil's and Halloween Nights, said Walsh.

"We have added staff for both

nights, assuming a proactive position in preventing any occurrences," he explained. "We will also have foot patrol and regular patrol."

Furthermore, Walsh indicated that community members can help the police department. He encourages anyone who sees suspicious activities developing to call and report them as soon as possible.

Walsh also explained that although Halloween is a fun masquerade, safety and common sense should govern all activities.

"I think all parents should go along with their child if possible. If not, they should know the area where he or she is planning to go. Masks should always be checked for proper fit, and kids should carry flashlights so they will be visible to others. Traffic should slow down and watch carefully for the kids," Walsh explained. "The candy should also be completely checked for foreign objects."

Officials from the police department have been visiting area schools recently to teach kids these and other safety rules for Halloween night fun. They also handed out brochures with instructions for safety and Halloween bags printed with safety messages.

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Student loans face continued cuts

House, Senate consider dropping the ax on student aid

By Justin Gustafson
Staff Reporter

In the midst of Congress's effort to balance the budget, student aid is not being spared. Last week the House and Senate committees passed different bills dealing with cuts in student aid.

In a newsletter published by the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in Michigan (AICUM), of which Alma College is a member, the organization emphasized that "Student financial aid is essential to equal opportunity, access and choice to a higher education especially for students from low income and even middle income families."

The Senate bill would impose an unprecedented .85% tax on the amount of total borrowing at the school. "If approved, this tax could be increased, or another tax

versities stated, "This change would affect approximately 340,000 borrowers, and could increase parent's total payments by as much as \$5,000."

The Senate bill proposes to cut the direct loan program, while the House bill proposes to scrap it entirely. They had created the direct loan program in 1993 in order to save billions of taxpayer dollars.

"Because of the competition from direct lending, banks and guaranty agencies... have improved services to students and schools," said ACE.

However, a Congressional Budget Office study found that "repealing the direct loan program and returning to the time-tested guaranteed loan program will save taxpayers \$1.5 billion over the next seven years," according to the Coalition for Student Loan Reform (CSLR).

The last major provision of the bills would reduce the amount of funds available for management and oversight of the loan programs. The House bill reduces this by \$1 billion, and the Senate bill by \$750

million.

"Proper oversight of the student loan program is necessary to decrease fraud and abuse. We believe that reducing oversight would have predictable and unfortunate consequences for the student loan program," said ACE.

The argument in favor of these cuts has been that they are necessary to balance the budget and they will be reducing waste, fraud and unnecessary spending in the loan programs.

The CSLR writes that the new House bill "preserves key student benefits. In particular, the interest exemption for undergraduate and graduate students is retained, loan fees remain at current levels, and a lower interest rate formula will kick in on schedule in 1998."

They admit, however, that "In place of these cuts, the House proposes to recover \$1.5 billion from repeal of the controversial direct loan program and more than \$4 billion through cuts to guaranteed student loan providers."

Weekend retreat coalesces Board members

By Heather McCallister
Freelance Writer

During the October 12-14 Alma College Board of Trustees meeting in Boyne Highlands in Harbor Springs, the group made decisions that will directly and indirectly affect the Alma College community. This weekend meeting also

enabled the board and its new members to become better acquainted. The activities began on Thursday, Oct. 12, with committee meetings, a reception and a dinner. On Friday morning, members participated in workshops such as Residential Collegiate Life, Endowment Performance, Technology for 2000 and Beyond and Performing Arts Within

the Liberal Arts.

The afternoon consisted of a luncheon and recreational events. The retreat concluded with board meetings on Saturday.

Overall, the meeting proved successful.

"I think this was one of the most upbeat, positive meetings I have ever seen," said President Alan J.

Stone. "One of the reasons for this is that we've spent more time on academics and student life concerns than usual. Having a full three days helped everyone to warm up to the format of the meetings on Saturday and helped everyone to get close to each other."

Four student trustees, four members of the faculty and 40 board members attended the weekend retreat. One of the most vital issues discussed was the increasing of the endowment, which currently stands at \$66 million and earns \$2.5 million in interest annually.

"The new endowment plan was successfully talked about by the Board of Trustees and the people in charge of it deserve a lot of credit because it's going to keep Alma prospering for years to come," stated associate trustee senior Maggie Taylor. She also mentioned the desire of an intramural building which would greatly benefit all Alma athletes.

Other topics included the revised budget and the approval to purchase more property.

Associate trustee junior Brian T. Zollweg concluded, "I enjoyed the opportunity of presenting a student's perspective of campus issues to the Board of Trustees. After attending the retreat, I'm confident that the trustees will look out for the best interests of the college and help to maintain our excellent academic qualities."

There will be two additional meetings this year which will take place on campus. The topics of the winter meeting on February 3 include the tuition figure, financial aid and the awarding of tenure or promotion. The adopting of a budget will be discussed on May 10 at the spring meeting.

Students and faculty enjoy a tasty evening

By Jade Sims
Freelance Writer

Even if students do not have the opportunity to travel abroad this year, it is still possible for them to experience a "taste" of what it is like to visit a foreign country while still on campus.

On Wednesday, Oct. 18, 14 wines and 11 cheeses representing a wide variety of countries were available for sampling. The Association for Intercultural Understanding (AIU), the Spanish house and the French house sponsored the annual event which took place in VanDusen's Fireside Lounge.

"We want people to understand wine culture is different in different countries. This gives students an idea of what to expect when they choose to travel," said senior Kristina Markstrom, president of AIU.

The three presenters: John Arnold, professor of German, Elma Dassbach, instructor of

Spanish, and first-year student Kathy Cooper, each explained a little about how wine is consumed in their respective countries.

Arnold explained how to tell a good German wine as well as the process by which the grapes are

or *cidre*, is poured in traditional Spanish bars.

Michigan products, such as hot pepper cheese and Traverse City Cherry wine, though not discussed, were also included.

Nearly 150 students and faculty members participated in the tasting, and Markstrom noted she was particularly pleased at seeing so many faculty members attend.

"We wanted to provide the opportunity for students and faculty to come together in an informal setting," she said.

Many attendees lingered until late, sharing study abroad experiences and discussing last week's women's soccer game.

Although there was some disagreement on whether the camembert was real or not, all who attended seemed to enjoy themselves.

"Sometimes we just need to let some more air into the Alma bubble," noted Champion. "Cross-cultural experiences like the wine and cheese tasting allow us to do just that."

We want people to understand wine culture is different in different countries. This gives students an idea of what to expect when they choose to travel,"

*-Kristina Markstrom,
AIU president*

harvested. Dassbach concentrated her presentation on the social position wine holds in Spanish culture.

Cooper explained the proper way to taste wine, stating that it is improper to sniff the cork, because, "all you smell is cork. Most Americans don't realize that, and they look rather silly."

Later, senior Jennifer Champion demonstrated how alcoholic cider,

Keeping You Informed

History honorary society inducts members

History honor society Phi Alpha Theta recently inducted new members in the Lambda-Psi Chapter of the international society. Seniors Steve DeLong, Brad Tate and Grant Woodman and juniors Adam Honeysett, Kathy Kasprzyk, Kevin Tunks, Daniel Werner and Lisa Yoder are the new inductees for 1995.

Phi Alpha Theta also elected its officers for the 1995-96 year. Tate will serve as the chapter's president while Tunks was elected to the vice-president position. Juniors Torree Stembol and Bill Garchow will serve as secretary and historian, respectively. Senior Jennifer Elowsky was elected treasurer.

To qualify for membership, students must have completed at least 44 credits in history courses, averaging above a "B," have an average of at least a "B" in at least two thirds of their remaining course work, and rank in the top 35% of their class.

Alliance to Save Student Aid wants to help students

According to the Alliance to Save Student Aid, a coalition of Associations working to reduce government cuts of student aid, Congress is thinking about cutting federal student aid and loan programs. In their information packet they state, "The federal government provides 75% of all financial aid for college." This totaled over \$31 billion for approximately six million students.

But the government is also considering cutting student loans by \$10 billions dollars to reduce the national deficits.

The Alliance to Save Student Aid stated that cutting student aid is "short-sighted and wrong." They encourage students to call their Congressman and remind them that education actually pays for itself in the long run. By calling 1-800-574-4AID, students can be connected to their Congressional office and give their opinions on whether or not Congress should cut student aid.

Oct. 24, 1995

Seagull compelling, but not flawless

By William J. Johnston
Freelance Writer

Love triangles. A play within the play. Hearing that, one might think Alma College Theatre was performing Shakespeare again. But no, this was not last spring term's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; it was Anton Chekov's *The Seagull*, and it was arguably the strongest production yet in director Joe Jezewski's tenure at Alma College.

Which is not to say it was a perfect production by any means. There were noticeable slip-ups: people jumping in slightly before their cues, too-long gaps between lines, actors and actresses still feeling out their characters.

But Jezewski presented his audience with a solid cast. There were no weak links, no flat, unenthusiastic performances.

Senior Laura Rice was simply delightful as aging actress Arkadina. Her presence dominated the stage, right down to the way she opened her fan: a quick flick of the wrist, totally in control.

First-year student (and ACT newcomer) Scott Harman was equally delightful as Arkadina's invalid

brother Sorin. Harman met and succeeded with the difficult challenge of playing the aging civil servant. He should be a bright spot on the Alma stage in years to come.

Lori Romeyn, another first-year student and ACT newcomer, started strong as young actress Nina but seemed to lose some of her energy after the intermission. This was especially noticeable near the end of the play, when she struggles to define herself. (It should also be noted that this is one of the play's most difficult scenes to perform.) Still, she showed strong promise and, like Harman, hopefully will continue to perform.

Junior Joe Johnston, who stole the show during the production of *Midsummer Night's Dream* couldn't quite match that performance with Konstantin, the tortured artist struggling for respect. While he showed fire at times as the struggling artist, he looked lost at other times. One of the characters said of Konstantin, "he can't find his own voice." The same might be said of Johnston.

Senior Stephen Sobieski gave a solid performance as Trigorin, a celebrated writer. He showed the

passion of the artist caught up—indeed, controlled—by his work. Trigorin's role presents an interesting conundrum—he pays lip service to hating the life of the famed artist, yet at the same time lives up his fame, showing little compassion for those under his shadow.

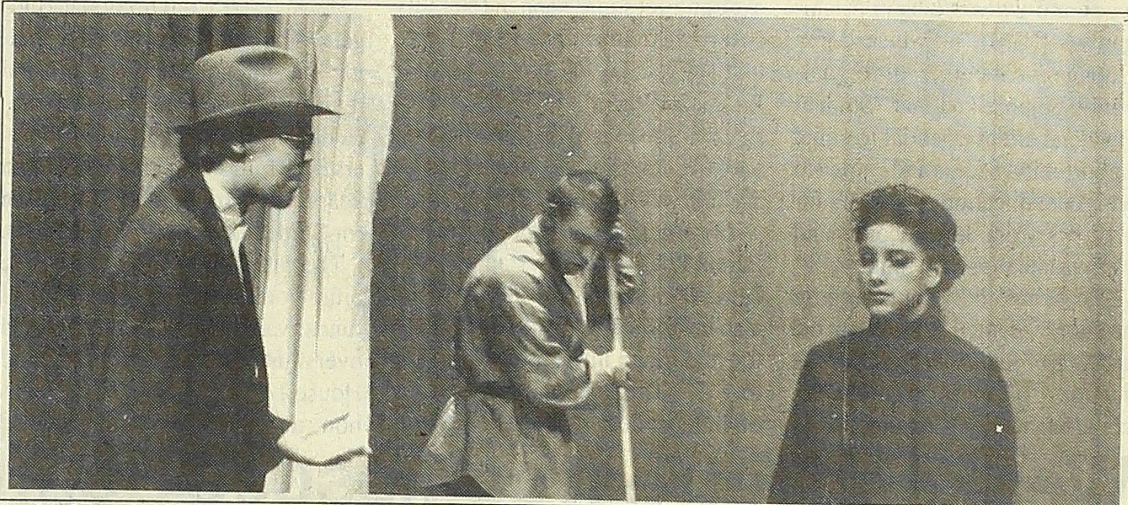
Though these artists—Arkadina, Trigorin, Nina, and Konstantin—represent the crux of the play, the other characters serve an equally important role in highlighting the major themes and issues in *The Seagull*. Junior Jason Schultz's passive Medvedenko contrasted the

passion shown in the artists; junior Elizabeth Bullmer's Polina mirrored Sorin in her need for something more from life. Senior Julie Johnston, as the brooding Masha, exhibits what Nina needs to learn: the need to endure.

I found the spartan set particularly effective. Instead of an elaborate construction effort meant to suggest the outdoors, set designer Zachary Stevenson merely employed a white backdrop. Subtle lighting changes suggested mid-day, sunset, and even moonrise.

However, the set change between Acts III and IV, where the crew moved the "indoors" set onstage, was slightly disconcerting.

Though not without its flaws, ACT's production of *The Seagull* took what some would see as a boring and depressing story and made it compelling and interesting to the audience. The cast met the challenge and responded with strong performances all around. The result: a strong production, one of the best on the Alma stage in the past two years.



Junior Jason Schultz, senior Julie Johnston, junior Matt Bradley perform a scene in *The Seagull*, which opened Oct. 19 and ran through Oct. 22 at the Heritage Center for the Performing Arts. Photo by Char Vandermeer.

Box office smash *Seven* keeps audience enthralled

By Char Vandermeer
Feature Editor

Gluttony, greed, sloth, lust, pride, envy and wrath.

The seven deadly sins. Director David Fincher skillfully weaves the sins that lead to damnation into the frighteningly wonderful and disturbing movie *Seven*.

Immediately, detectives William Somerset and David Mills, played by Morgan Freeman and Brad Pitt, set the mood for a dark and terrifying two hours. After five minutes of action, the credits finally roll over an ominous instrumental piece by Nine Inch Nails. The credits themselves are unusual enough to merit mention: a series of short, dark, mystifying and nicely edited frames set the pace for the rest of the film to follow.

Written by Kevin Walker, *Seven* is a movie that will snare the attention of action junkies, horror addicts, suspense freaks and even English geeks. The film revolves around a series of unbelievably gruesome murders based on the seven deadly sins that are committed by the religiously-driven sociopath John Doe, excellently played by Kevin Spacey.

Although *Seven* is certainly not low on violence, the horrifying murders are very tastefully and cleverly wrought. Tasteful violence? Is that possible? Fincher is no Quentin Tarrantino or Oliver

Stone as far as gratuitous blood letting goes; however, his leave-it-to-the-viewer's-imagination is far more disturbing, effective and memorable than any scene from *Reservoir Dogs* or *Natural Born Killers*.

As the movie progresses, the complexities within the plot become more and more intricate. Allusions to Milton's *Paradise Lost*, Dante's *Divine Comedy* and Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* alert the well-versed viewer to foreshadowing and offer vague insight to future twists of the action.

Seven may well be one of the best suspense films I have ever seen. Not only do the characters develop nicely with the action, but the writing and directing is excellent. Dialogue is quick and witty and scenes are skillfully interconnected.

Of course, no movie is perfect and *Seven* is no exception. Although the mood of the film is extremely depressing, the rain machine works overtime and evidently light bulbs were too costly because lighting is virtually non-existent. The desired dark and sinister tone is achieved but perhaps with a little moderation an even greater impact could have been made.

Movie-goers have come to expect phenomenal performances from Morgan Freeman (*Driving Miss Daisy*, *Unforgiven* and *The Shawshank Redemption*) and he certainly does not let the audience

down. Surprisingly, Brad Pitt (*True Romance*, *Interview With a Vampire* and *Legends of the Fall*) proves that he is as good an actor as he is pretty. Kevin Spacey's (*Glengarry Glen Ross* and *The Usual Suspects*)

In the spotlight...

BACCHUS promotes alcohol awareness

By Drew Pike
Freelance Writer

According to Dean of Student Development Bob Perkins, Alma's chapter of Boosting Alcohol Consciousness Concerning the Health of University Students (BACCHUS) was formed about six years ago.

"Students wanted to start a S.A.D.D. [Students Against Drunk Driving] program on campus and after looking at the information about BACCHUS the chapter was started at Alma," said Perkins.

In recent years BACCHUS has been perceived as a small-scale Alcoholic Anonymous program, but this is simply not the case. BACCHUS is not a group of teetotalers, but a group of students interested in educating others about alternatives to alcohol.

"It's about getting people to have confidence in their decision," said sophomore Tim Marsh, BACCHUS publicity chair.

"BACCHUS has been hard at work on campus. The amount of

disturbing performance proves that he is finally receiving the attention and respect from the film community that he deserves.

All in all, *Seven* is a wonderfully crafted and clever piece of work.

The short scenes, quick dialogue and rocket-like action grabs the viewer from the opening credits to the final line. Its hard-hitting and unsettling conclusion is certainly no let-down.

BACCHUS sponsored and co-sponsored events has increased since last year and continues to grow," noted Perkins.

This year the 25 students who currently volunteer for BACCHUS have their hands full presenting the student body with their "peer education" program. The program focuses on the unhealthy aspects of alcohol abuse and suggest positive, fun and healthy alternatives.

Perkins noted that Alma's BACCHUS chapter is recognized by the national BACCHUS organization and is highly respected within the national organization as an excellent chapter with model programs. At the last Peer Power conference, Alma's chapter received the honor of "Most Creative Initiative" for their work on the use of passive and active programs.

"The passive programs so far this year have been the 'take a card, save a life,' posters that inform students about the dangers of alcohol poisoning, and the 'know your limit' key chains that were distrib-

uted to students at the beginning of the year," said Perkins. "These same programs are going to be presented to other chapters at the next conference."

BACCHUS plans to sponsor one event each month to maintain a high level of visibility on campus.

"Mocktails," or non-alcoholic mixed drinks, are served at many campus events to promote BACCHUS's ideals.

In December the group is sponsoring a "Holiday Happy Hour" in the Rotunda where refreshments and entertainment will fill the evening.

Working towards a better understanding of the effects that alcohol has on the body and drinking responsibly are large tasks and BACCHUS is always willing to take new volunteers aboard. If students have any questions about the organization contact the Center for Student Development in the lower level of Hamilton Commons or attend one of their weekly Monday night meetings at 7:30 in the Center.

Look
What's
Happening!

THEATRE / DANCE
Heritage Center for the Performing Arts

*Alma College Dance Company — Nov. 10-12
Gratiot County Players, St. Louis
*The Good Doctor — Nov. 10-

12, 17-19
BoarsHead Theatre, Lansing
(517) 484-2564

*dinner theatre, *The Seagull* —
Oct. 12 - Nov. 5

MSU Performing Arts Company,
(517) 355-0148

*Ellemosynary — Oct. 26-29
& Nov. 2-4

*Macbeth — Nov. 10-12, 16-18

Riverside Theater, Lansing (517)
372-0945

*Educating Rita — Oct. 26-29,

Nov. 2-5

Midland Center for the Arts,
Midland, (517) 631-8250

*The Miracle Worker — Nov.
3-4, 9-11, 17-18

Actors and Playwrights Initiative,
Kalamazoo (616) 343-8090

Stone prepares students for corporate world

By Jennifer Mounts
Staff Reporter

Do you know which fork is for what dish? Or when to butter your roll? What kind of attire should you chose for an interview?

These questions and many more were answered in last Thursday evening's Dress for Success program, presented by the Resident Assistants of South Complex, the Center for Student Development and the Business Club.

The evening began with Joneita Stone, part-time faculty member for the education department, leading a discussion of dining etiquette, demonstrating proper form for both a formal home setting and a restaurant environment.

Stone explained such customs as always passing food counterclockwise and what each piece of silverware is for.

She discussed the function each glass serves and the appropriate wines to consume with certain meals: sherry is associated with soup, white wine with fish, red wine with meat, champagne with dessert and liqueur with coffee.

Stone emphasized that students are never required to drink in the interview setting and that declining tactfully is perfectly acceptable.

Stone further clarified drinking etiquette by instructing students never to order a drink during lunch. She also said that a cocktail party is not a social event but a business meeting. She warned students to keep a clean head and said if they need something in their hands because they feel awkward, they should or-

der a club soda or a coke.

During her presentation, Stone fielded questions from the audience. She explained the reasons

were buttered, it would turn rancid.

Such small things as this may seem unimportant, but in the corporate world of today, every little thing

counts, even how you butter your roll or dress.

After dinner, Carolyn Chambers, a colleague of Stone, led a fashion show. Chambers presented clothing supplied by the local Martin's store and J. C. Penney's. Chambers critiqued the outfits, giving tips on everything from ties to earrings. She also offered insight into what students might wear

to an interview as opposed to the workplace.

Senior Sarah Gabler, a resident assistant in Bonbright Hall, felt the evening was a success.

"I left there feeling more confi-

dant on the things I was iffy on," Gabler said. "It makes you realize how important first impressions are."

Gabler and senior Catherine Stuckey, a Nisbet RA, were instrumental in the planning of this event, in conjunction with the Business Club and the Center for Student Development.

The interactive and interesting presentations by Stone and Chambers made for an educational and often humorous evening.

Students left with more than just the tangible tip booklets provided by the presentors. They left with some valuable knowledge that one day may land them the job of their dreams.

With one of the largest turnouts ever, the seventh annual Dress for Success truly was a success.

Alma offers exchange program with Stillman

By Lisa Edwards
Freelance Writer

Ever considered spending a term away from Alma in an exotic part of the world to experience a different culture? Ever thought about an adventure to... Alabama?

That's right, Alabama. One of the lesser-known exchange programs Alma has to offer is with Stillman College in Alabama.

"It's a neat program," said John Seveland, vice president of enrollment and student affairs. "It's a wonderful opportunity for someone who wants a cross-cultural experience."

The exchange program encourages students from Stillman to spend a term here at Alma College to experience life in Mid-Michigan and Alma students are offered the unique opportunity to study in the south. Both Seveland and Joseph Gore, Stillman's academic dean, are very interested in reviving the program.

"It's an intercultural program that promotes global awareness—to clarify, I don't just mean worldwide but also on a national level. [The program] focuses on the commonality between Alma and Stillman students," said Gore.

Three years ago two Alma alumni, Jeanne Hoolsema and Laura Hickman, spent a term at Stillman.

Hoolsema enjoyed the experience so much she managed to coax the administration at Alma to allow her to stay an extra term.

"The students who went loved it and found themselves very accepted," said Seveland.

Recently, Alma has hosted two Stillman students. Laurence Potter

Jr. and Takisha Thomas left Alabama and Stillman for a term at Alma in the fall of 1993. Unfortunately, there haven't been any exchanges since.

"It's a wonderful college with really beautiful southern architecture and it's close to the University of Alabama," said Seveland.

Since Stillman College is near the University of Alabama, visiting students have the opportunity to attend classes there.

"Alma students are offered the chance to take a class at the University of Alabama without any expense to them," said Gore.

Students interested in applying for the exchange program go through an interview process with

to ensure the courses they take at Stillman or the University of Alabama will transfer to Alma.

Alma's program also encourages other types of exchanges and interactions with Stillman.

For example, students from Stillman have conducted summer research projects at Alma and Alma's Choir has performed at Stillman.

Faculty members have also benefited from our alliance with Stillman: Alma English professors Carol

Bender and Roseanne Hoefel visited Stillman to research and take classes. "We were very proud to have them," said Gore. "They were

well-received and made a great contribution."

The Alma/Stillman exchange program offers something unique: it allows Alma students an opportunity to experience life from a different perspective—more than likely a perspective students wouldn't otherwise encounter

"It [the exchange program] helps a white student to see what it's like to be a minority because they'll indeed be the only white students," said Seveland.

Any student interested in a unique off-campus experience at Stillman College can stop by the Hood Admissions Building for more information.

"It [the exchange program] helps a white student to see what it's like to be a minority because they'll indeed be the only white students."

-John Seveland, vice president of enrollment and student affairs

a panel composed of staff members from student affairs. The prospective exchange students then work with their academic advisors

Musical duo supports United Way

Schaefer, Corrigan sing to raise philanthropy funds

By Phil Allmen
Staff Reporter

When students come together to put their talents on display, one of the first troubling questions to arise is: why would anyone want to come see us?

Seniors Catherine Schaefer and Brian Corrigan, sponsored by their respective sorority (Alpha Xi Delta) and fraternity (Zeta Sigma) headlined a benefit concert for the United Way last Wednesday in Jones Auditorium.

Before the concert, Corrigan revealed his pre-show jitters.

"I hope I remember all the words," he said.

After the auditorium filled, the concert opened with a 10,000 Maniacs song, *These Are the Days*. Corrigan and Schaefer alternated on singing lead, but Corrigan played guitar throughout the performance. A wide variety of songs from a number of different groups were performed.

They performed covers of Toad the Wet Sprocket, Grateful Dead, Sinéad O' Connor and Simon and Garfunkel songs, to mention a few.

"She [Schaefer] can make a Sinéad O' Connor song sound good," said senior Mike Ritz.

About halfway through the concert, Corrigan used his best Freddie Mercury impersonation in his performance of Queen's *Crazy Little Thing Called Love*. The crowd got right into the music and started clapping, while others began dancing in their seats.

The concert ended with the Sonny and Cher's *I Got You, Babe*, the tune the duo had performed at last year's Songfest.

Both Schaefer and Corrigan enjoyed the concert.

"It was cool to perform more than just one song, like in Songfest. We could go through and pick all the songs we like most and put together this concert," said Corrigan.

Schaefer said, "It's also hard to go on stage knowing this is your

only chance. You have to make sure it's right the first time."

If you missed the concert or simply want to see these two perform again, you will eventually get the chance. The two plan on entering Songfest again and also want to sing at Max and Emily's for open mic night.

"It's not too much work, and it's a lot of fun, to help out a worthy cause like this," remarked Corrigan.

The concert raised about one hundred dollars, all to be donated to the United Way.

Events like Corrigan and Schaefer's benefit concert are a great way for people to help out others and to have fun, too.

*Taking Tennessee to Hart — Oct. 26-28

EVENTS

Alma College Campus

*Midterm Break — Oct. 26-29

*Michigan Work Site Health

Conference — Oct. 27

*Joel J. Orosz, speaker, HCPA — Nov. 1

*Writers Harvest, hunger benefit, Tyler-VanDusen — Nov. 2

HISTORY / ARTS

Clack Art Center

*Pi Benio — Oct. 2-Nov. 2

*Alma College Statewide Print Competition — Nov. 6-Dec. 8

The Holland Museum, Holland

(616) 349-1362

*Anne Frank in the World: 1929-1945 — Sept. 29-Oct. 29

MUSIC / COMEDY

Heritage Center for the Perform-

ing Arts

*Gratiot Isabella Orchestras — Oct. 30

*Youth Orchestra Concert — Oct. 30

*Halloween Choir Concert — Oct. 31

Oct. 24, 1995

Mr. Bungle resurfaces after four years

By Christopher Sienko
Freelance Writer

When Mr. Bungle's first album appeared in 1991, no one really knew what to make of it. It was a band that combined thier amazing abilities in the areas of jazz, metal, carnival music, polka and funk, mixing seven to 10 different flavors of music into each lengthy song in a way that had all but the most avant garde of New York musicians scratching their heads. At the same time, the band contained singer Mike Patton, who most people knew from the then-rising Faith No More. He brought a childish and sick sense of humor to the band, putting them completely out of the range of anything classifiable, except to call them a lockstep hybrid of Zappa's Mothers of Invention, Zorn's Naked City and a Redd Foxx record. Even that failed to cover it.

Well, four years have passed, and those who obsessed over Mr.

Bungle have settled down into everyday admiration now. The big questions (Where did they come from? How did this happen? Why do these guys hide behind pseudonyms?) have been asked and, at least partially, answered. Just when we all thought it was finally safe for us Mr. Bungle obsessives to get on with our mundane lives, the most horrible and beautiful thing happened: they put out A NEW ALBUM! Oh no, scream the Bungle-obsessed, how are we going to get our midterms done now!

It's true. *Disco Volante* (Warner Brothers, of all people!) is the new album by Mr. Bungle. The good news is Mr. Bungle have managed to add about 10-12 more genres to their already bulging cut-and-paste repertoire. The better news is, Mr. Bungle have pushed Patton's annoying self to the back of the mix on just about every song and eliminated almost all of the aim-to-offend tackiness from their first outing, giving us no choice but to

listen to the music. After listening to *Disco Volante*, I'm wondering how I'll ever listen to the first Mr. Bungle album again.

Everything that was brilliant about the first album is intensified by 10 on this one, particularly the production job (done by the band rather than Zorn. Interestingly enough, Zorn contributes to this project as a band member, under the pseudonym Theo). The album houses 10-20 instruments at once without ever seeming crowded, pushing sounds into your face and down your windpipe. People who bought the first album and thought, "This would be a great metal band if they'd only stop dinking around with the carnival music and horns," are probably going to dislike this one.

Disco Volante panders to no one, and if you bought the first one because you heard it was really funny, don't bother here. It's not funny and, to use the words of one of the first album's songs, it didn't

come here to party.

The only possibly "normal-ish" track is the opener, "All My High School Friends Are Dead," which is sludgier than normal grunge whomp-whack. After that, "Chemical Marriage," a three minute instrumental that seems to summarize the first album, full of goofy movie intermission music crossbred with thrash and big band jazz. Once we hit the third track, the nine minute "Carry Stress in the Jaw," something has changed. The jazz sounds like the hard 60's jamming that I thought might be too much even for Mr. Bungle. Metal guitars skitter through, finally pulling the band into a deliriously fast and tight thrash sequence that would probably make Slayer pant. "Desert Search for Techno Allah" cross-pollinates techno with Indian (as in India) drones and features some kickin' bongo work. Best of all is the 10 minute opus "The Bends." Here, guitarist/keyboardist Uncooked Meat Prior to State Vector

Collapse (I am NOT making this up) spins 10 one-minute tunes that could stand on equal footing with 60's electronic pioneers Morton Subotnik and Tod Dockstader, watery electronic tunes that sound like out-takes from *Lost in Space*, rejected for being too "out there."

If I may be so pretentious as to use a literary reference to explain the difference in Mr. Bungle's two discs, they are like T.S. Eliot. The first album is "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock," silly, fun, inspired, inspiring, and pretty much unlike anything that came before it.

Disco Volante is "The Waste Land;" it is inscrutable, almost entirely humorless, bleak, filled to the brink with the scattered remains of cultures past, and all but incomprehensible the first 20 times you encounter it. I now understand why Mr. Bungle takes four years to make an album: it takes the rest of us mere mortals that long to make sense of it.

Addition to English department returns home

By Dana Reinke
Sports Editor

Educated for eight years in a one-room schoolhouse, growing up on a centennial farm and living in Utah for 14 years only to return to her roots is just a part of the life of a new professor in Alma College's English department.

Professor Linda Peterson is the newest addition to the Alma faculty. This term she is teaching English 101 and Introduction to Poetry.

A graduate of Central Michigan University, she brings with her a Bachelor's degree in English and biology. Her Masters degree is from the University of Utah and Peterson has also performed some doctoral work at the University of Wisconsin. Her teaching career began at Sanford High School.

"When I started teaching in the mid 1970's, there were not many jobs," said Peterson. "I got my first job teaching both English and biology at Sanford."

Peterson was born in Wisconsin but grew up on the family centennial farm in the thumb of Michigan. Peterson went to Deckerville High School after spending her first eight years of formal education in a one-room country schoolhouse.

She also spent plenty of time working on the farm doing basic chores while her family raised corn, beans, wheat and feeder cattle. According to Peterson her experience on the farm was very rich, but also lonely because there were few other kids around.

"There was a lot of work to do on the farm, but my parents were very protective and I was cared for and not treated like a hired hand," Peterson said.

Coming from a small town, Peterson said she did not have many role models of working professional women, her choices of careers were limited to either teaching or working on a farm.

"I knew where my strengths were and I didn't want to work on a farm so I decided to teach," said Peterson.

Upon graduating from Central Michigan University and spending five years at Sanford High School, Peterson said she heard the cry like those from the past and decided to head west.

She left Michigan and settled in Salt Lake City, Utah. She had expectations of living in a bigger world with more experiences and adventures. Her expectations ended up being a little too high.

"Life was really the same. The world was bigger and there was the element of adventure, but it was encountered differently," said Peterson. "The west was filled with people from the midwest. It was not rare to find someone who had moved there, but I felt like I belonged and it was a kind place to me."

In Salt Lake City, Peterson earned her Masters in English with a focus in Native American Literature. Her interest in Native American Literature is rooted in her own family history—her stepfather is part Native American.

While living in Salt Lake City,

Peterson studied Native American issues and taught at Salt Lake Community College. During her 10 years at the college, Peterson developed a Native American Literature Course as well as a Women's Studies course. As time went by, though, she decided to return to her home.

"I came back to Michigan for my family and because this is home to

me," said Peterson. "Also one day I will inherit half of the family farm and I would like to take my father's writing and combine it with my own to write a story about our life on the farm."

Upon returning to Michigan connections from Central Michigan University helped Peterson get a position in the English department here at Alma.

Four professors take winter sabbaticals

By Dan Scripps
Freelance Writer

Alma professors, like their counterparts at most other schools, have the opportunity to strengthen themselves both as scholars and teachers once every seven years by taking a sabbatical.

Provost Leslie Ellen Brown describes the sabbatical program as an "opportunity for professional development which gives some uninterrupted time to work on large scale projects for scholarship and teaching not available during a regular academic term."

This winter, four of Alma's faculty will take advantage of this opportunity.

John Ottenhoff, associate professor of English, hopes to use this time to work on two projects.

The first is researching and writing on the devotional poetry of the English Renaissance. In his application he wrote, "The English devotional lyric was the subject of my University of Chicago dissertation."

While on sabbatical, Ottenhoff hopes to publish articles and complete a book manuscript.

His second project revolves around working with computers in the humanities, a field he describes as "exploding." He recently presented a paper in London on the use of Hypertext as a tool for teaching Shakespeare.

"Both of these subjects are ones that I have a personal interest in, but I think both of them apply to my teaching as well," said Ottenhoff.

John Putz, professor of math and computer science, will also take advantage of the sabbatical term this winter. He will be working on a project involving the teaching of math pedagogy.

Unlike his three counterparts, who will all remain in the states, Putz plans to go to England to conduct his research.

George Choksy, associate professor and chair for the economics department, will be using his first sabbatical of his 16 year teaching career at Alma to honor a Cambridge University Press request to

Teaching traditional college students is new to her, but Peterson said she sees a willingness and strong commitment in Alma's students.

"Try to create a balance in your life and listen to your heart," said Peterson. "People that are satisfied with their lives are doing things they believe in and have not taken the easy path."

write a book on Sir Dudley North, a prominent 17th Century economist.

"This is something that I started looking into about twenty years ago for a graduate school term paper. I requested some 250 year-old books from the interlibrary loan program which didn't get there in time for the term paper, but eventually became my dissertation," said Choksy.

The last of the faculty taking a sabbatical this winter is Mahmood Monshipouri, associate professor of political science, who will be traveling either to UCLA or Washington DC to write about the resurgence of Islam and the politics of reform in the Middle East.

After spending the last two summers in the Middle East, Monshipouri hopes to form a cohesive theory backed by case studies during his sabbatical leave.

"One of the good things about sabbatical leaves is that it gives the opportunity to bring your intellectual level to a new height," said Monshipouri.

Wharton Center, Lansing 1-800-WHARTON

*Jazz Band II — Oct. 25

*Always...Pasty Cline, a tribute — Oct. 27-28

*Greater Lansing Symphony Orchestra — Oct. 28

*Bolshoi Symphony Orchestra

— Oct. 29

Breslin Center at MSU, East Lansing (517) 432-1989

*Mary Chapin Carpenter — Oct. 28

The Seventh House, Detroit (810) 335-8100

*Townes Van Zandt — Oct. 31

Majestic, Detroit (313) 996-4553

*Shaggy — Oct. 31

*Band From Utopia...Frank

Zappa, a tribute — Oct. 28

The Palace, Pontiac (810) 377-0100

*Phish — Oct. 28

Wings Stadium, Kalamazoo

(616) 345-1125

*Phish — Oct. 27

Michigan Theater, Ann Arbor (313) 665-4755

*Pam Tillis — Nov. 9

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

*Blues Traveler — Oct. 27

Blind Pig, Ann Arbor (313) 996-8555

*Frank Allison and the Odd Sox — Oct. 31

For more information, call the local Ticket Master outlet at (517) 773-3370

Alma volleyball spikes Adrian

By Torree Stembol
Freelance Writer

Last Wednesday Adrian took all they could handle against Alma's volleyball team.

Alma did not give Adrian any room to play. Three of Alma's players were in double digits with kills. Leading for Alma was senior Stephanie Degg with 17, sophomore Amy Pickleman with 14 and first-year student Kristin Randolph with 12. First-year student Mali Vanderbeek led with 44 assists, giving these hitters their ammunition to fire away at Adrian.

Degg also led the team with nine blocks, and Randolph ended any of Adrian's spark with 14 digs.

"We didn't play up to our potential, we played as individuals and not as a team, especially in the second game," said Vanderbeek of the competition.

"Overall we played well. We broke down in the second game because we didn't communicate with each other. As long as we communicate, we play well," said Pickleman.

Volleyball is a sport where communication plays an important role in insuring success.

Pickleman stated, "When we communicate and play as a team, that is when the game is the most fun."

The scores of the games against Adrian were 15-5, 10-15, 15-6, and 15-5, Alma winning three out of four. During the second game the Scots seemed to fall apart; however, they pulled through, proving they are the better team.

Degg, although she said she was happy to have won, said, "We could have played better. But it is like they say—good teams always find a way to win."

Coach John Chiodini said he expected the team to defeat Adrian because they had defeated them in the past.

"Although, Alma's record isn't as successful as last season's," he said, "the league this year is more competitive than it has been."

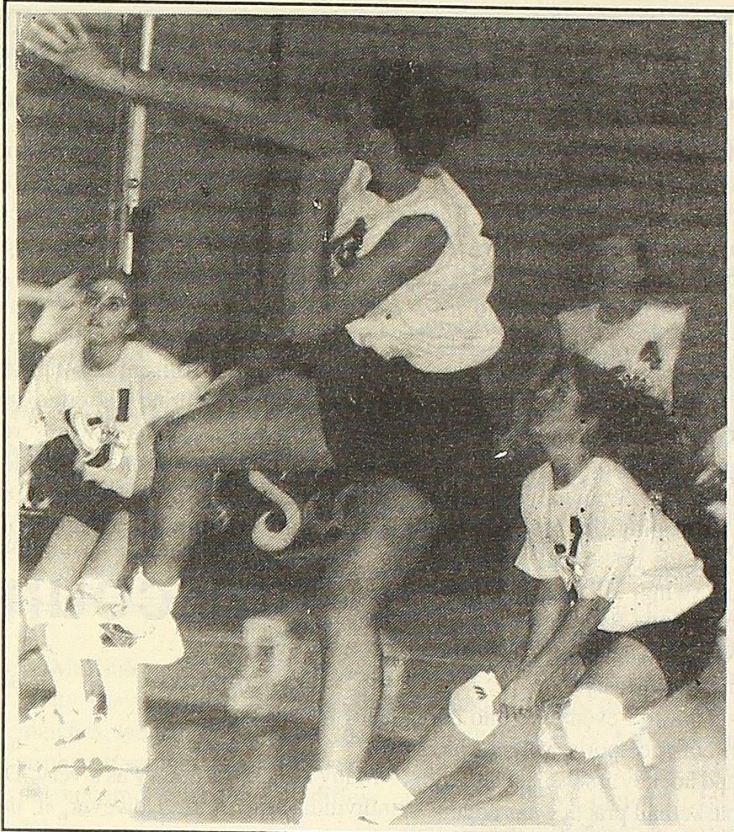
"This team is as good if not better than last year's team, with a worse record," added Chiodini.

Chiodini said he was impressed with the women's strong hitting.

"We attacked the ball a lot better than what we did previously against Olivet," he said.

"The hitting is going well," said Vanderbeek, who feels she can count on her teammates whenever she sets them up.

On Tuesday, Oct. 24, the volleyball team will travel to Kalamazoo, hoping to beat the league leaders and continue their success.



An Alma volleyball player spikes a shot into Albion's defenses. Photo by Derrik Warner.

Hope takes MIAA soccer crown from Scots

By Maria Toscano
Staff Reporter

When all was said and done, the scoreboard read 2-0. Alma Scots suffered a heartbreaking loss to Hope's Flying Dutchmen on Saturday. The team walked off the field, but not with hanging heads and carrying regrets. The game was the deciding factor for the MIAA crown, and Hope seized the title. "We have no regrets," said sophomore Tom Jewett. "We never gave up and I think we gained their respect because we played them tough."

Fellow teammate first-year student Dave Richardson agreed. "Hope is a good team," stated Richardson. "We could've beat them. The ball hit the crossbar and the post, but we didn't score. They did."

"I was pleased with the way they played, and can't ask for more than that," said Coach Scot Frey. "Two good teams play and things can go either way. We had two great

chances and didn't cash them in."

Senior Kevin Sanchez, who played his last home game, felt that in the end it came down to experience. "Hope is an extremely good team and with a team just starting out it is tough to do," said Sanchez. "We are doing so well, and I think it does not matter until we are at the top level."

Jewett felt experience played a factor as well. "They are a great team and the experience showed," stated Jewett. "We only have one senior and four juniors, but we can't dwell on the loss."

Although the Scots lost the MIAA crown, the season is far from over. The Scots still have a chance to earn a place in the national tournaments. "We still have a shot at a national tournament bid," commented Frey. "The next two wins are even bigger

and I think the players sense the big picture of what is out there. We are still in the hunt."

Richardson enjoyed the support of the fans. "The fans were great and we could hear everybody."

"You can sit down and say you play for Alma, and be proud of it."

-Sophomore Tom Jewett

Alma was going into the game with a victory over Olivet that previous Tuesday. The Scots defeated

the Comets by a score of 3-1. Scoring for the Scots game from Sanchez, First-year student Randy U'Ren and junior Gab Nguema.

"We played looking past them, and we didn't play with intensity," said Frey. "We beat them with talent instead of as a team."

"The win was good, but we didn't play red hot," said Jewett. "We were waiting for Saturday, and as a player I waited and waited for the game against Hope. We just kind of knew we could get job

done and, but we didn't play like we should've."

The Scots so far this season have been able to finish over five-hundred, and this is only the second time in program's history this feat has been accomplished. The team will also finish second in MIAA. The highest for the team in past was fourth place.

"We don't exactly have a rich tradition and every game won or goal scored is like we broke a record," said Jewett. "It is great to see the support from the alumni and students. It makes you feel good about what we are doing. You can sit down and say you play for Alma, and be proud of it."

A true believer pays tribute

By Maria Toscano
Staff Reporter

Thank you. If I have one thing to say to our Men's Soccer team it is those words of gratification. On Saturday, I got up to face a dreary day and went to the game. I layered myself with a turtle-neck and sweater to face the cold and grabbed an umbrella. For a brief moment, I was able to see a team shine.

Did they win? No. So what! What they did out there was play their hearts out for the glory of Alma. In front of fans that probably felt the same way, the Scots battled for the MIAA championship. They were right there side by side with those Dutchmen playing every moment with a never say die attitude.

So maybe Alma doesn't have the Crown. Oh well—more important is the way they have fought to get it. It hasn't been just

that one game, it has been the whole season through. The team has pulled together, rebuilt the program, and redefined Alma soccer. They are doing things that other teams have not been able to. The talent is coming in, and we as fans are seeing history in the making.

The Scots finish in second place; however, still have a chance of going to Nationals. Nationals! The great thing is that the team starts five freshmen. They will keep building until they do bring it home. The team is solid. The only loss will be senior Kevin Sanchez, who is third in the MIAA in scoring.

The game was filled with energy and electricity. It was gut wrenching to watch the ball ricochet out of the goal, but hearing the reaction of the crowd when first-year student Ryan Soupal got nailed was fun. He shook it off and kept playing. The crowd roared with excitement. At that moment, he greatly represented his team and the college. It

was the idea that he could keep going no matter what.

I remember the crowd going nuts over a missed goal. A missed one? It was how close our Scots came to scoring. I also recall a comment from one of the players stating that the goal that Hope had just scored meant nothing. I guess it just rang true about the game. So they lost. The journey isn't over yet for them and who knows what is ahead for this highly talented team.

Whatever the turnout be for the team, it is what they have done so far that deserves our applause. Bravo! Bravo! I wasn't able to stay for the whole game because duty called, but for those few moments I was there, the team made a true believer and a fan out of me. Good luck, and thanks again guys.

E-mail the Almanian!

Classified ads, letters to the editors and other unsolicited submissions can now be e-mailed to the Almanian office.

Address: ALMANIAN

Oct. 24, 1995

Extended seasons overload loyal fans

By William J. Johnston
Freelance Writer

There comes a point where even the most die-hard sports fans must throw down their remotes and proclaim, "Enough is enough!" This week represents one of those times.

It is possible this week, on the right day, to see a game from each of the four "major leagues" in the United States. With the World Series prolonging the baseball season, and the basketball preseason in full swing, all four leagues—Major League Baseball, the NFL, the NHL, and the NBA—are playing simultaneously.

This doesn't even take into account college sports, where football and hockey are well underway and basketball practice has begun.

Enough is enough! I like watching professional sports as much as the next fan, but I don't need four different sports distracting me, all vying for my attention.

The NHL season ended barely three months ago, yet here it is again. At least baseball and football have the sense to (usually) take five months off.

Of course, the issue here (as it usually is when discussing anything related to sports) is money. Arguments over money forced the NHL to lock out its players (thus

causing the late end of the season) and MLB players to strike. Money gave the NFL incentive to lengthen its regular season to 18 weeks, even though each team still plays only 16 games.

Most disturbing, though, is the effect money has had on preseason games. Baseball's spring training occupies a sort of "hallowed ground" among preseasons—the teams gather at camps in Florida and Arizona and put on exhibi-

tions at minor-league ticket prices. It's fun, it's entertaining, and everyone knows it doesn't really matter.

But preseason in the NBA, NFL, and NHL has become yet another marketing tool. Teams charge full regular-season prices for tickets to games that players and coaches readily acknowledge as "meaningless." Fans pay full price for tickets to games where marquee athletes often don't perform (after all, the

coach doesn't want them to get hurt; the coach wants them around for the games that count).

Perhaps things will return to some sense of normalcy next year. After all, the hockey lockout and baseball strike screwed up both leagues' schedules.

However, I doubt things will get better. In fact, I think things will only get worse. It is useless to tell fans to boycott games, because history has shown they simply won't.

If owners field a desirable product (i.e. a team that wins), fans show up. Fans won't boycott preseason games because, for some, they represent the only time they may get to see a game.

This doesn't mean I have to succumb to the same urges. I'm not watching the World Series. I'm not watching any preseason baseball. I'm going to pretend that football is the only game "in season."

Cross country teams head toward regionals

By Jennifer Mounts
Staff Reporter

Many see cross country as a very individualistic sport. However, it takes the individual efforts of each member to transform a group of individuals into a team.

The men's and women's cross country teams are preparing for the tail end of their season. Senior Grant Woodman, co-captain of the men's team, said he feels the team is doing well, but is just not winning many meets. He described the Parkside Invitational in Kenosha Wisconsin on Oct. 14 as the team's best performance.

The Parkside Invitational was not only a great day for the teams, but

also one for personal achievements.

Junior Jason Bandlow placed ninth out of 239 runners. Coach Dan Gibson said that placement in the top fifty was excellent and called Bandlow's run "outstanding."

Bandlow, one of the co-captains, was very positive about the Parkside Invitational.

"It was nice to see everyone running well and it is fun to run at meets where there is a lot of competition like that one," said Bandlow. "Also, the course there is one of the best in the nation."

Despite the poor weather, performances were good all around. The women's team held onto their number three spot in the league, behind Hope and Calvin.

Gibson spoke about the challenges facing the team.

"We really have our hands full trying to get ahead of them," said Gibson.

First-year student Dana Cole said she sees the season as definitely challenging, but the support of the team has made things easier.

"We have a lot of depth in our team. That takes the stress of the individual and emphasizes the team strategy," said Cole.

According to Gibson, the goal for the women's team right now is to outrun of Hope.

Then comes Regionals.

This year's Regionals will be at Alma on Nov. 11. Beginning at 11 a.m. at the Pine River Country Club,

Alma will host 34 men's teams and 32 women's teams.

All teams start out at Regionals with a clean slate. The top seven runners from each team will run. The top three women's teams and top four men's teams will then be eligible for Nationals. The top five individuals will compete in Nationals regardless of the team they represent.

The dedication of the cross country team shines through in their desire to do their best and their support of one another.

Woodman summed up the wish of the spirit of the runner.

"Life and school would be great if you could just eat and run," said Woodman.



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McKinley finish extends men's golf season

By Julie Wilson
Staff Reporter

For the Scots' men's golf team, the season is over—temporarily.

Their last match was last Monday, but with the outstanding performance of senior Kevin McKinley, the Scots have a chance to prove themselves again.

The team finished third overall in the MIAA, after Olivet and Albion, the same spot as last year. The difference this year is the placement of McKinley, Alma's top seeded golfer, in third place within the conference. His top three finish gives the entire team a shot at a national tournament bid next spring through a series of qualifying matches.

"I am optimistic," said Brad Spathelf, men's golf coach and golf professional at the Pine River Country Club. "We had finished third again, but this year we were

close to second. After a couple of early let-downs, we are now going strong, especially with some strong freshmen."

Spathelf believes that the time off for the first-year men will be beneficial. "College is a big adjustment, and it definitely affects their game. By the end of the year, I think they will be more mature and better adjusted," said Spathelf.

The power of the underclassmen could possibly bring an MIAA championship within the next few years. With sophomore Mike McHugh, junior Don Light, and first-year students Kevin DeGroot and Tim Shunsky, the future of the men's golf team appears promis-

ing.

Spathelf also expects much from two other first-years, Chris Dawson and Ryan Fahler.

conference finish. McKinley represented the Scots on the first team.

Statistically, and according to the coach, the team was successful and satisfied. The players feel the same.

Shunsky said, "My season was all right. I exploded at the beginning, but by the end I was doing well, shooting about a 77."

McKinley agreed. "We had a pretty slow start, but the last four matches, we lost by a total of four strokes. If we had had a better start, the outcome may have been different."

That was the past—what is to

become of the Scots next spring?

"Their performance in the spring will be as good as the guys want it to be," said Spathelf.

"We can qualify either as a team, or if there is one outstanding individual, he could qualify himself—it is hard though. Only three men per conference qualify for the national tournament," said McKinley.

Shunsky is optimistic.

"I think we'll do all right. We just need to get out on the course and play together. This is the best team I've ever played on; personality wise, we work well together, and our matches are always a hoot."

Fun seems to be ever-present, and statistics show that talent plays through as well. As for the future, just wait. The Scots will have a chance to prove that their talent and personality deserve national contingency.

"This is the best team I've ever played on; personality wise, we work well together, and our matches are always a hoot."

*- Tim Shunsky '99,
men's golf team*

Said Spathelf, "Light was a real asset for the team; we could always count on a consistent game. He never would light it up and play, but he never played terrible either."

Scorewise, the season was more successful for McHugh, who, along with senior Brad Tate, finished in the top twelve for a second team all-

Scots hand Dutch a defeat

By Maria Toscano
Staff Reporter

It was their last home game. Never again will the 22 seniors run out onto the field at Bahlke stadium and hear the cries of the home fans.

They went out with a win over Hope College, celebrating a 31-17 victory over the Dutchmen. The game was filled with emotions. Not only was it the last home game, it was also dedicated in the memory of Jon Gamble, a player who would have been a senior this year.

"It was quite an emotional win," said Coach Jim Cole. "It was for Jon Gamble, and for the senior who have invested a lot into the program."

The win was also big for Alma because it the first time since the 1970-71 season that the Scots have had a back to back victory over the Dutchmen. "It is nice to know that we are at that quality of football," commented Cole.

The Scots scored in the first quarter with a run from sophomore Scott Heymoss. Heymoss led the Scots in rushing with 86 yards in 15 rushes. He also had three of Alma's touchdowns.

"Heymoss was the heart and soul of the offense," said offensive coordinator John Leister. "He ran routes well, we blocked well, and he refused to be denied at the goal. He had an all around super game."

Senior Mike Zahn capped off the drive with a kick that was good, but in the second quarter, Hope was able to plow down the field. They were denied by Alma's defense a touchdown. The Dutchmen had to settle for a field goal making the score 7-3.

Alma quickly answered Hope and pounded thirteen more point on the board with runs from first-year student Kyle Kartes, and then a six yard run from Heymoss. The Scots tried to go for two after Kartes



Sophomore running back Scott Heymoss runs the ball, helping the Scots defeat Hope 31-17. Heymoss scored three touchdowns in the game. Photo by Derrik Warner.

dash into the end zone, but were denied; however, Zahn's kick was good.

At the half the Scots were up by 17 points. The defense held the Dutchmen off, and kept them to only 16 first-downs, while Alma was able to get 27 within the entire game. The Scots also allowed for only 317 yards in total offense from Hope.

"I was happy because they played aggressively and executed and that is the name of the game," said Defensive Coordinator Bret Hyble. "The whole defensive line played really physical."

The Scots started the scoring in the third quarter. Heymoss again had a run in for six and sophomore Matt Robertson caught a pass for two more. Then, with four minutes left to play in the third, Zahn booted up a 35 yard field goal.

Hope wasn't finished. They were able to put up fourteen more points to make the score 17-31.

"Hope is a good team," said Leister.

"It was wonderful to win because it is a big game coming off of a defeat," said Cole. "It is nice to see

us rebound and get back into the race, and it is more fun having something to play for. It was a long week and we generally try to forget a loss or win, but Kalamazoo stuck around."

This win was just a step for the Scots who face Albion and Adrian both away. "We are going to have to beat Adrian to have the privilege of going to Albion with the title on the line," stated Cole.

"We have got to play better on the road," said Hyble. "We have got to be an emotional team and find that team unity that we feel at home on the road. If I have to I will bring a home sweet home sign and hang it in the locker room."

Hyble also felt the game was a good send off to the seniors. "They were happy with the win, but sad because it was truly last home game and it was very special for the team to win."

"It was an important win for our kids," said Leister.

Leister continued, "[It] keeps us in the hunt for a share of the title, and lets them know that they're just as good as anybody in the MIAA, if not better."

What World Series?

By Justin Gustafson
Staff Reporter

The Cleveland Indians vs. the Atlanta Braves: this is the 1995 World Series.

Did you know it is into its third game already? Tonight, tune in to NBC to catch a glimpse of the sport you missed so much last year. Baseball is back. Does anybody care?

This year, baseball implemented its brand new playoff formula. Four teams, instead of two, from each League made it, three by winning their division and one wild card with the fourth best record. Yea. Our lovable losers, the Detroit Tigers, still did not make it into the post-season. Owner Mike Ilitch seems to think if he builds a new stadium, more than five fans will fill the bleachers next season. How about a new team instead?

Detroit has just lost the best manager in baseball, Sparky Anderson, who resigned after a long and painful season of losing. I cannot say I blame him. Kirk Gibson retired, and most likely we will never see that fabulous combo of Alan Trammell and Lou Whitaker on the field again, either. Remember the last time the Tigers made the playoffs? I don't either. Actually, it was 1987, eight years ago. Wow.

So how about those Indians? They haven't appeared in the playoffs in 41 years. They lost 100 games four years ago and won over 100 this year. Yes, the Cleveland Indians, the only team the Tigers could always beat. Well now it is the other way around. I have to congratulate Cleveland for turning their ball club around so fast. I only wish the Tigers could do the same.

In case you did not know, or just didn't care to find out, the New York Yankees, Seattle Mariners, Boston Red Sox, and the

Indians all made the playoffs in the American League. In the National League the Atlanta Braves, Colorado Rockies, Los Angeles Dodgers, and Cincinnati Reds got their foot in the door.

Remember last year, when the players went on strike and there was no World Series? Remember how we just watched football, hockey or basketball instead? It seems like people have forgotten that the strike is actually over and the World Series has begun. The television ratings have been dismal, the worst ever for baseball playoffs. In Cincinnati, thousands of seats were empty at Riverfront Stadium for the series there between the Reds and the Braves. Perhaps Mike Ilitch is right—they just need a new stadium. But wait, the Reds are a good team...

What does this say about the state of baseball? Recent polls show that a large percentage of fans are less interested in baseball since the strike occurred. Reduced ticket prices, free handouts and new stadiums have failed to attract more fans. And the strike is still not settled. There is still no agreement between the players and the owners. So what, you may ask, was resolved by the long strike? Perhaps three things: one, that baseball players are way overpaid; two, that the fans are consistently neglected in favor of profit margins and personal greed; and three, that baseball is just not as fun and captivating as it used to be.

The World Series enters game three tonight, if you care to watch. Perhaps we will be interested when the Tigers reclaim their lost glory. If that ever happens, please don't wake me up from my dream. And if you don't care about the World Series, how about those Lions?

Oct. 24, 1995

March causes "harmonic discrimination"

By Brandon Edward Miller
Freelance Writer

Last week's (half) Million (black) Man March has been heralded as an event that created harmony and responsibility. It was a day of atonement and unity. Unfortunately, many felt hurt and threatened by the message that they found far from harmonious and healing.

Even leaders and commanders who are highly critical of Louis Farrakhan, the organizer and leader of the march, have praised the event itself. Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam, has insulted many groups, including whites, Jews and gays through his divisive, hate-filled rhetoric. He is not the type of leader Americans need to begin patching the racial divide that has occurred because of events such as the Simpson trial and the Rodney King beating.

I believe the march itself should

be attacked. March organizers told women and whites that they were not welcome. Why is no one accusing these men of being racist and sexist? Even gay black men were told they were not welcome. One can just imagine the outcry that would occur if one million white straight women decided to hold a march in which no blacks, men or gays were welcome. Everyone would denounce the gathering, no matter how admirable the stated purpose might be.

This day only managed to accomplish even greater division be-

tween whites and blacks, men and women, Jews and Muslims, and gays and straights.

Some have compared this march with Martin Luther King's 1963

march on Washington. This is a pathetic comparison. Martin Luther King Jr. was a man who wanted to seek reconciliation and coopera-

tion between races, not a divisive, politically motivated man like Louis Farrakhan who is seeking to use differences to promote his personal agenda. Thankfully, President Clinton tried to repair some of the damage by delivering a speech on race relations the same day as the march. Clinton's message of personal responsibility and openness is what America needs to hear as we deal with this difficult issue. The President advocated constructive dialogue in which each side speaks honestly and listens carefully.

Luckily, our campus has several forums that actively seek this ex-

change. Groups like the United Coalition of Students (UCS), Alma Pride and the Association for Intercultural Understanding (AIU) meet regularly and hold campus-wide events throughout the year that promote tolerance and education. Speakers and classes that challenge our perceptions and prejudices are also available for those who are interested.

Only through constructive dialogue can we begin to come together and address this serious problem. This needs to be done both nationally and locally. Only actions like the President's, not events that exclude groups of people will help. However, the only real way to heal this nation is through our personal efforts. We must be ever-vigilant to be open and understanding during our daily interactions with people who are different from ourselves. Then we can move toward racial harmony.

I believe the march itself should be attacked. March organizers told women and whites that they were not welcome. Why is no one accusing these men of being racist and sexist?

Chalkings provide outlet for personal expression

By Bonnie Palmer
Freelance Writer

Homosexuality is a taboo subject. Some people believe the issue doesn't belong on campus because so few people are openly gay, lesbian or bisexual. I disagree. It should be discussed for exactly that reason.

The rights of these people are threatened every day. While we are lucky to have "sexual orientation" mentioned in our discrimination policy, many colleges do not. If people don't talk about homosexuality, how can we educate ourselves that discrimination is wrong?

Homosexuality is not a choice. I didn't choose to be a lesbian. Why make my life difficult by deviating from the norm? I'm no different from any heterosexual, except I love women. I don't want people to hate me because I'm gay, be forbidden to wed the one I love or lose a job for no reason. I do choose to fight for my rights—equal rights.

On Tuesday, Oct. 10, 1995, I put up a chalking. It was my personal coming out. It was not the first time, nor the last. Coming out is an ongoing process. I was ready to take an important step and show I'm not afraid of people knowing my sexual orientation. The closet was safe, but it had consequences. I let people call others "faggot" or discriminate against how they acted or looked. I'm sure people said things about me. But it's what I hear people saying to others that angers me. Shouts of "faggot" are heard. Do people realize what this term comes from? It is the torch people used during witch hunts to light fires under the "witches" tied to stakes. People don't realize the tremendous weight that it carries. People were burned because homosexuality made a person evil, a witch or unholy. I realized the closet was no place for me. I was hiding a big part of who I was.

The chalking included a well

known symbol of National Coming Out Day to let people understand the basis of the poetry. It wasn't just an advertisement. That's what flyers are for. The chalking was a personal expression and statement. I wanted to educate people and speak for people who are afraid to. I wanted people to respond... And they have.

The chalking lasted longer than I had expected. I saw people read it. Some were upset, but I received many praises for bringing up the issue of homosexuality. These reactions outweighed that of the person who erased it.

Obviously, this person wasn't

told the chalking was on the designated site for expression. Most people on campus know chalkings occur every month or so, but expression is not on a set schedule. Because people have not exercised their right for two months does not mean the freedom is denied. Chalkings are usually washed away by rain or erased so new ideas can be expressed.

The person who erased the chalking was just a "freshman." Perhaps incoming students haven't been exposed to this form of art yet. Fine. But there is a chalking etiquette I must explain so other chalkings are not erased. Chalkings

are for expression, to make people think. Therefore, chalkings are a bonus to education here at Alma. All staff, including janitors, are explicitly informed the area is designated for chalking and not to be erased. Chalkings presenting inappropriate views of sexism, racism or similar topics merit administrative intervention. There is a tactful way to discuss those issues.

I don't feel my chalking was vulgar. The poetry was a sincere message. I'm not angry it was erased, but the freshman did not reply or put his own expression in chalk. That act, however, also turned out to be a form of expression leaving

a mess of the wall. It leads me to believe the person is homophobic and refuses to talk about his viewpoint. Therefore, I stated that his ignorance "proved my point." People wrote messages dealing with the erasure. Although many responses are positive, a few are not. I didn't agree with all the viewpoints presented, but I didn't personally take the responsibility of censorship for the entire campus.

Everything I wanted to accomplish is coming true. The campus is talking, discussing issues from either standpoint and most importantly, we are learning to educate. I can't wait until Pride Week.

New facilities aid in stabilizing student increase

By Justin Gustafson
Staff Reporter

Alma College is growing, which, in most cases, is a good thing.

As a student, I can feel the effects of this growth in many ways. The question is, what is Alma doing to lessen the effects of this growth on the campus? Alma needs to stabilize its growth in student population, or else the quality of education we receive could be affected.

Many problems stem from the fact that there are 1,442 students going to school at Alma this fall. When I came to Alma two years ago, only 1,300 students attended Alma. The first-year class number, 382, made it the largest class.

Considering the attrition rate, that number should drop over the next four years. There are only 341 sophomores and 330 juniors, which shows that there is definitely a drop each year. The senior class, however, is "huge" at 354 students. The administration claims that this is at the root of the over-population problem, and next year, there should be a decrease in our size for the first time in many years. I hope this is true.

Despite the overenrollment prob-

lems, the school is providing some relief. The huge library addition, which will provide more study space for students, allows for computers in the library to make re-

search much easier, and will also make room for thousands of new books. This is necessary since the residence halls' study rooms have been changed into living space. The school did build new study lounges in the basements of the residence halls to try and make up for this loss of space.

However, despite the overenrollment problems, the school is providing some relief. The huge library addition, which will provide more study space for students, allows for computers in the library to make research much easier, and will also make room for thousands of new books. This is necessary since the residence halls' study rooms have been changed into living space.

More students means more cars

lots over the summer. Although this has helped, the problem has not gone away.

Along with the library addition, plans have been submitted to the Olin Foundation for a new \$7.5 million communication/math/computer science building. This new building would make Alma a leader for the future, give us an edge in

new educational technology, and provide added classroom space which could help reduce class sizes and allow for more classes to be offered. This building would be a great benefit for the campus, and especially the students.

Expansion on campus of the library, and if Alma receives the new communications center, takes up more land and reduces the "green space" that we have. There are not many choices of where to put a new building, but any choice would meet with some opposition. However, if Alma is to stay on the leading edge of the future, and gain the stature it is trying to gain, the school must continue to update and add new facilities to attract the best students.

The growing number of students here can only mean that Alma is attracting more students. The school must keep in mind that growth only creates more problems for a college our size. Stability is what we need. A range of 1,300-1,400 students seems to be a wise goal. This would ensure that students receive the quality education and college experience that we pay for and need to compete in the future.

Letters to the Editors

Editors' note: Because of the influx of letters responding to recent campus events, and since there will be no paper published until Nov. 7 due to mid-term break, we have allowed all submitted letters to appear in this week's *Almanian*.

Shocked by campus visit

To the Editors:

I am a student at Oberlin College in Ohio. Oberlin is well known for its open and active community of gay, lesbian and bisexual students and those of us who consider ourselves their supporters.

Coming Out Day on our campus is one of the biggest events of the fall semester. It includes campus-wide chalkings, speakers, discussions, films and parties in which almost everyone participates—including students who identify themselves as heterosexual.

Coming from that environment, I was surprised and disturbed to see, on a visit to Alma, the reactions to a single Coming Out Day chalking. The woman who did the chalking seemed only to be affirming her sexual identity and challenging other students to do the same. But the chalking was erased because another student felt that this woman's expression of herself was inappropriate.

The message sent by that action goes deeper than the removal of a drawing from a wall. It shows someone's attempt to erase or ignore sexual diversity on this campus. It is very dangerous to try to homogenize people by treating differences from the dominant norm as defects. Those of you who reacted to the chalking with fear, anger or disgust should consider two things: First, think about your reaction; try to understand how you reacted and, more important, why you reacted that way and whether it made sense. Second, although this might disturb you, remember that you may not always be in a group powerful enough to deny another group's identity.

No one is always a member of the majority, even those of us who are complacently privileged now. Think about how you would feel if with every expression of your identity you were called a deviant or a pervert. How would you feel if, on the basis of only one aspect of yourself, you were perceived as obscene? If you can come to the slightest understanding of this feeling, hopefully you will be able to show more sensitivity next time you are confronted with an idea or lifestyle different from the one you call "normal."

Karyn Brownson

Supporting the True Scot

To the Editors:

I wanted to respond to Phil Allmen's article "Homecoming: true Scot." I am deeply saddened that the idea of Scripps and Boyer's

actions constituted the thought that they "made a mockery of the half-time show." If anything, it added to our show. Secondly, I can hardly believe that it lessened the results of homecoming. The reactions seemed to be great amusement at their performance.

True Scot is not merely a way of wearing a kilt, but it is a mind set. The Kiltie band is a cohesive group of people taken from all branches of this campus, and it is certainly not your normal collegiate band. Collegiate bands, traditionally, have taken themselves far too seriously. The Kiltie band performs a great show on a continual basis. Sometimes the shows are serious, such as our second show with the Russian Composer theme, and then there are shows which are more relaxed. By playing both the serious and not-so-serious the band keeps the audience entertained, making the band what it is today. I regret that some may not have found it as amusing as a majority of the people did, but the only responses I heard were positive and amusement. We are not U of M or MSU, we are Alma College, an institution of higher learning with its own character. It is people like Dan Scripps and Derek Boyer that add to its character, not diminish it. Finally, the attack on Kevin Smith's character is nothing less than deplorable. Kevin Smith has given this band much more than any other director. Kevin has turned the band around from performing in a mediocre manner to where it stands now. After attending the music conservatory for a year at the University of North Texas, I can safely say that the Kiltie band is one of the better collegiate marching bands. We are a proud organization and a large part of this college. Simply because Kevin Smith, and most likely a majority of the spectators, found Scripps and Boyer's act very amusing, does not mean that the entire band will practice this act or that he is a poor director. It shows Kevin is a human being and has a sense of humor. Humor is part of being human, and being in the Kiltie band.

Trey Garland '97

Chalking destruction is unjust

To the Editors:

During last week a crime against people was committed. I say a crime because people lost their freedom this past week. That freedom was their right to free speech. Bonnie Palmer had created on the wall of McIntyre Mall an artist's expression of her thoughts and feelings. The subject matter entailed "National Coming Out Day." Bonnie was expressing her freedom of speech and standing up for what she believes in. It was not in a malicious or mean way, but an attention catching work of art. If anything it was informative for many. A first-year student named

Tim Black felt that something was ugly about her work and decided to take it into his own hands. He proceeded to wash away what Bonnie created. I don't know if his motivation was that the homosexual movement was immoral, but to me, what he did was immoral. He not only hurt Bonnie in his actions, but he hurt all those who need to be educated about homosexuality. He hurt the homosexual population, their supporters and anyone who supports the American Constitution. Some of this hurt was emotional, that may have been his intent, but even more, he hurt what the United States is supposed to stand for, personal rights and freedoms. Mr. Black does have the right to his opinion, obviously he did not agree with Bonnie's. His opinion, however, could have been expressed in many ways besides taking away another's rights. As a person who has been recognized in *The Almanian* for his activism in the Republican Party, I think we all need to worry. This is a person who could be running our government someday. Would you want a government telling you you couldn't express your opinion? That is what Mr. Black told Bonnie and the students of this campus. I hope his action was met with disapproval by many, if not all Alma students. Even if you don't agree with the idea of homosexuality, you should agree to your basic rights. This is a perfect example of dislike or even hate for one issue or group of people, turning into something destructive to everyone in society. It was a crime plain and simple and it was an outrage.

Galina J. Martin '98

Thank you

To the Editors,

The Alma community appreciates the many service projects performed by Alma College students, organizations, faculty, and other college staff.

The Alma branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) especially thanks the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity for assistance with our recent annual community used book sale. Profits from the sale are awarded through our national graduate fellowships program and also through our local scholarships.

Shirley Hamilton
Secretary
Alma Branch AAUW

Opinions are propaganda

To the Editors,

Would the writers of *The Almanian* please stop driving the idea of pro-homosexuality down the throats of the students? In the opinion section of every issue of *The Almanian*, there is at least one sob story about how our society has to change in order to fully understand the

plight of the homosexual. The reason that nobody cares about your gay propaganda is because most people still believe in family values, and your blatant attempt to soften the campus to the idea that homosexuality is all right will invariably lead to a campus backlash.

I personally think that the act of homosexuality is wrong and that it directly opposes every family value and moral. However, nobody should be oppressed or discriminated against because they are gay; in the same token, gays should not be given a special "minority status" which entitles them to special treatment. However you choose to live your life is fine with me as long as you don't go around flaunting your homosexuality in front of me. I don't run around bragging that I am heterosexual, so I don't see the point of boasting that you are gay.

I will probably hear that I am a closed-minded individual because of this letter, but I can't help it if the thought of homosexual intercourse makes me sick to my stomach. It's not true that I am closed-minded, it is just that sodomy is not a family value.

Jonathan Sheele '98

Discrimination is lack of knowledge, understanding

To the Editors:

I would like to address the letter to the editors that was submitted by Dan Scripps in the Oct. 17 *Almanian*. I agree that injustices of any kind toward other human beings should be stopped. A reason people discriminate against others is a lack of knowledge and understanding. "This society will not change until people stand up against these injustices," says Scripps. This is a true statement, but I believe people forget some important issues. Every person, regardless of race, sexual preference or religious affiliation is a human who has feelings and emotions like everybody else. I'm not saying I agree with homosexuality, but as fellow human beings, they need to be shown love and respect for who they are. Just because someone does not agree with another's sexual preference does not mean that person should act unbecoming toward him/her. Jesus states, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. [And] Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these" (Mark 12:30-31 NIV). I truly believe if everyone shows love the way Jesus did, people would get along better and the prejudice and discrimination would end. Why don't we all show more love and less violent actions towards others, start treating our fellow human beings with kindness and respect like we should and how Christ would want us to?

Billie Ryder '96

Classifieds

ATTENTION SECONDARY EDUCATION STUDENTS: If you plan to student teach during the 1996-97 school year, please confirm your plans by contacting Dr. Anthony Rickard (AC 236; 7209).

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE - WINTER 1996: If you plan to register for Children's Literature in Winter '96, please sign the list on my office door (Dr. Lynda Ludy; AC 238; 7166; e-mail LudyL). The course is open to sophomores and above. Preference is given to elementary education majors, but others may enroll with permission.

ATTENTION ELEMENTARY EDUCATION MAJORS: A senior comprehensive exam is required for graduation from Alma College. To meet this requirement, elementary education majors should select ONE of the following options: 1) Elementary Education Test (required for certification in your teaching major), OR 2) National Teacher Examination (Specialty Area Exam in Elementary Education) OR 3) Graduate Record Examination (Advance Test in Education). Elementary Education Test information about dates and registration is available in AC 237. NTE and GRE information about test dates and registration is available in the Center for Student Development (lower level Hamilton).

ATTENTION STUDENTS INTERESTED IN TEACHING IN ELEMENTARY OR SECONDARY SCHOOLS: Registration materials for the Michigan Teacher Competency Testing Program are available in the education department. Registration for the Basic Skills and /or Subject area tests must be postmarked PRIOR TO December 1, 1995 for the January 13, 1996, deadline. MICHIGAN TEST OBJECTIVES FOR BASIC SKILLS TESTS AND FOR EACH SUBJECT AREA ARE AVAILABLE IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND ON RESERVE AT THE LIBRARY CIRCULATION DESK. Please see Mrs. Farrier in AC 237 for registration materials or for information about what tests must be passed prior to student teaching and prior to being recommended for certification to teach. Deadlines and policies will be strictly enforced by the State Department of Education.

Oct. 24, 1995

Staff Editorial

Gay debate requires respect

Homosexuality is a hot topic and a controversial issue.

Gay characters—and caricatures—appear in the movies we watch and the books we read. It crops up on MTV and the nightly news. It appears in the rhetoric of political candidates, linked to the ill-defined buzzwords “family values.” Gays are glorified, castigated and stereotyped in the political arena, in the news media, in entertainment.

And like any issue, homosexuality is depersonalized, bandied about, misunderstood, attacked and dismissed as trendy.

It’s as nineties as shag haircuts and those Green Day albums you bought. As politically correct as the words “chairperson” and “letter carrier.” As acceptable to attack as Saddam Hussein or drug use.

Like it or not, homosexuality

is also a growing issue on this campus, from the artistic expression of one student to the political anti-expression of another. From letters of support to letters of condemnation in *The Almanian*. And as with any controversial issue, discussion—some rational and some not, some cool-headed and some heated—has come to the forefront.

The purpose of this essay, though, is not to toss out another opinion on the topic of gay life at Alma. It is not to evaluate the motivations of Bonnie Palmer or of Tim Black, or of the people who have stated views for or against homosexuality or gay expression in this paper or on this campus.

The purpose here is to examine the forums and the methods which students have chosen to express their views.

On a liberal arts campus—as Alma College is—discussion is important. It stands as a staple of the education we receive. It is, or

should be, important in our classrooms. Discussion, however, should not be restricted to the classroom, and neither should the learning that comes from the free expression of informed opinions and hard facts.

However, effective discussion, effective expression, and effective learning must occupy some basic common ground and involve some basic courtesies.

A discussion is a two-way street. Little is served when two sides refuse to make an attempt to understand or even listen to each other. This requires some regard for an opponent, if only to recognize that he or she is also a person who holds views strong enough to be voiced; it requires a respect for the courage to speak. Certainly both sides of Alma’s gay issue hold the right to sound their opinions; both also have the responsibility to listen, evaluate and understand rather than dismissing out-of-hand.

A discussion also requires

appropriate channels of communication. The right to free expression, both in a legal sense and with respect to courtesy and common sense, is not an unbridled right—there are rules, as any administrator, counselor or political science student will attest. And by transgressing those codes, by attacking with spray paint, chalk or a mop bucket we deny students the opportunity to discuss, learn, understand and grow.

As students we must learn to accept other’s views—at least to the point of basic comprehension. When we achieve this respect and have tried to understand beliefs that may differ from our own, we can then form our opinions and judgements. Without effective, sane and respectful discussion, we trivialize and obscure our issues, slander and injure and reach no understanding.

“So no one told ya life was gonna be this way..”

Friends skits promote social awareness

By Brooke Hansen
Copy Editor

Shag hairstyles. Caffeine-triggered mad dashes to the nearest cappuccino source. Unexpected anxieties about your girlfriend leaving you for another woman. Campus-wide nachos and salsa rituals dedicated to those Thursday night twenty-somethings who always manage to strike that tender spot in our funny bones.

Friends, that college favorite generation x sitcom, has trailblazed the way for recent trends. Perhaps growing popularity of these fads stems from our “clothesaholic connection” to Rachel, or from our fascination with Ross’s pet monkey, or from our deep understanding of Phoebe’s universal appreciation.

Perhaps these trends emerged from the faithful viewer’s need to become one of six hip individuals continually drinking mochas in a cozy New York café. Maybe the trends reflect our relation to the realistic characters and the situations these characters face. And because we believe *Friends* occurrences to be life-like, we feel the need to practice what they preach.

As one of about five realistic situation comedies currently available on television, *Friends* does, in fact, emulate real-life happenings. It displays the situations in a college-targeted humor relevant to our lives. It draws us into the events via rounded characters and reasonable instances. It portrays life as many of us view it.

A recent *Friends* episode revolved around two plot lines—one of which involved Phoebe and her gay Canadian husband Duncan. In a situation which parodied that of a

gay man “coming out” to his heterosexual wife, Phoebe learned after seven years of marriage that Duncan needed a divorce because he was straight.

“I don’t understand. You’re so smart and funny and you throw such great academy award parties. How did you know?”

“I don’t know...you know, I’m an ice dancer and all of my friends are gay. I just wanted to fit in....There were times when I would go out to straight bars, get really drunk and find myself in a strange woman’s bed the next morning....It was college—every-

one was experimenting.”

The inquisition continued, as Phoebe asked: “Do your parents know?,” to which Duncan responded, “They’re cool with it. You know, my brother’s straight.”

As a final personal analysis Duncan declared, “I finally realized that I was just born this way.”

Throughout this interaction, the ridiculousness of the situation remained obvious.

But why should it have? In a reversed situation, Phoebe’s interrogations would seem relatively normal, if not warranted.

Yet the situations are the same, or

at least should be. The related questions should be ridiculous in either case. At present, they are not, but sometime soon they may be.

Through reality-reflecting situations such as this pioneering parody, the creators of *Friends* continue to produce novelties, not only in fashion and beverage consumption, but in mentality as well.

I can only wish that these social trends catch on with as much force and with considerably more permanency than those *Friends* trends currently circulating.

Abuse of theatre signals disrespect

By Mark Andrews
Opinion Editor

When it comes to attending a theatre event, there are few things that bother me. Theatre is a relaxing activity that I enjoy participating in, both on and off the stage. But I quickly lose this feeling when I see the theatre being abused.

It is something that I take personally.

The theatre is a home to the actor. We live there. Many hours are spent in rehearsal and backstage to create the production, the world of the stage. Actors only expect that the audience will respect this place as much, if not more, than the actors themselves.

One activity that helps to deteriorate the beauty and grandeur of the theatre—any theatre—turning it into an eyesore, is someone placing their feet on the back of the chair in front of them or on the railing of the balcony. Repeated actions like this begin to strip the finish off of the

seats. I know as well as anyone that theatre seats are not the most comfortable places to sit yourself, but they were made as seats, not foot-rests.

One activity that helps to deteriorate the beauty and grandeur of the theatre—any theatre—turning it into an eyesore, is someone placing their feet on the back of the chair in front of them or on the railing of the balcony.

Last year, many people may recall during a dance concert some student decided that it would be funny to start clicking the elastic band that holds the programs together. If there is a leader, then there has to be a follower, right? Soon most of the students in the

hall were click, click, clicking their little elastic bands. That is purely an insult to the performer and every person involved in the theatre. This can be comparable to the unison snap or clap by an audience, signifying a bad performance. What type of image are we trying to make?

If we can’t even appreciate the work of others on this level, then what is the use of continuing the arts at a higher level?

These are trivial things, I understand. And there are so many more like unwrapping candies during a performance or taking photographs, but please understand, it is not easy to be up in front of a large group of people knowing that the success of the show lies within each individual’s performance. The actor’s actions are reflected in the reaction of the audience.

Abuse to the theatre is destruction to the actor.

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The Almanian is printed on recycled paper.