

The Pleiad

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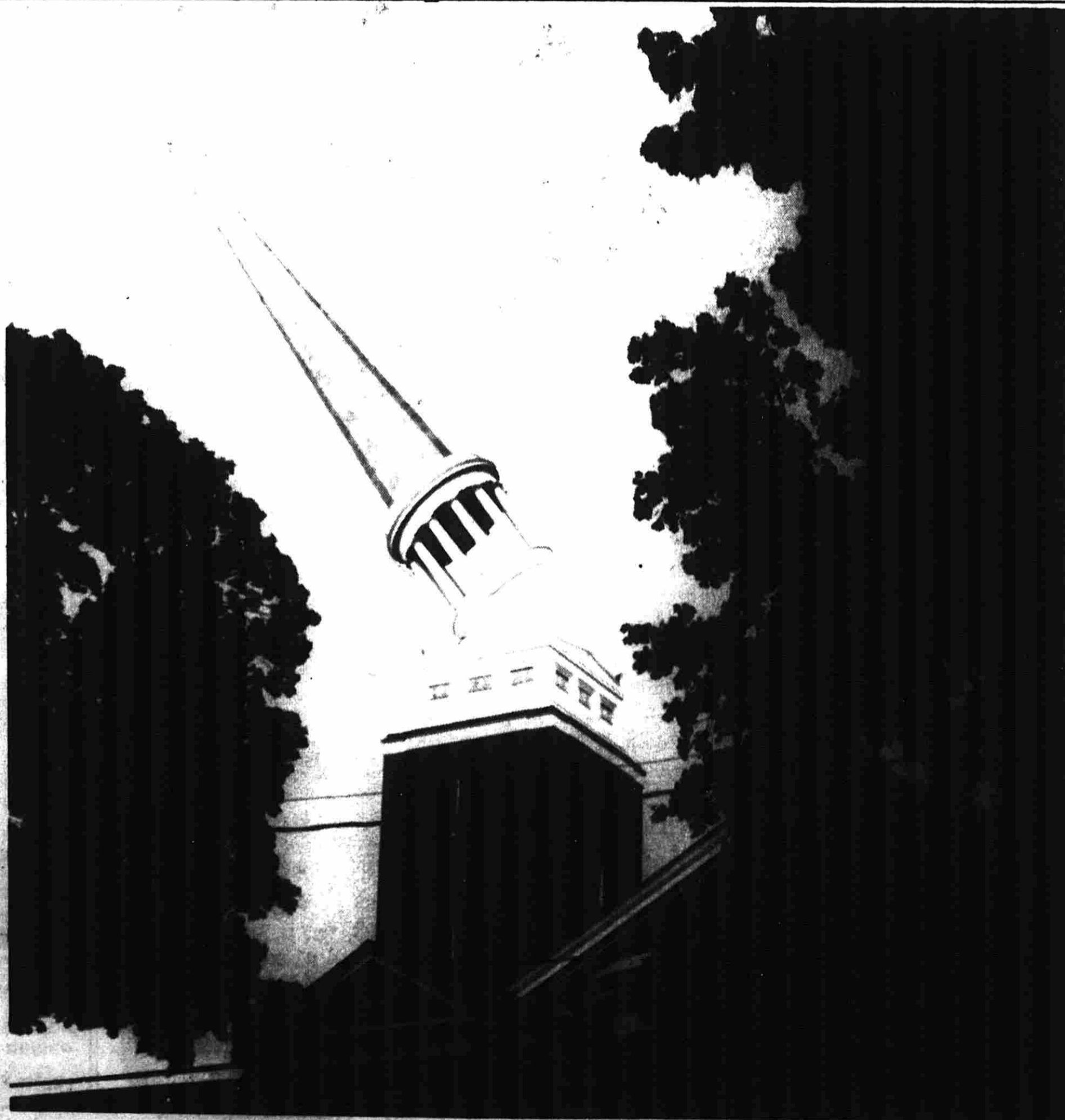
ALBION COLLEGE WEEKLY

Friday, Sept. 18 1992

Uncovering Religion

*Students and faculty discuss the
religious atmosphere at Albion.*

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Albion News

College creates new mission statement

By Bryan Bonnett

Why have Albion College faculty, students and staff created a new mission statement?

"The last five years have seen intense discussion among faculty, students, and administration about the direction the college should take," said James Diedrick, associate professor of English and principle author of the new mission statement.

The new mission statement is the product of a summer-long effort by the missions/admissions committee of the Strategic Planning Committee. The final version, preceded by eight other

drafts, has been unanimously approved by the entire Strategic Planning Committee and the faculty. All that remains for it to become part of next year's academic catalog is for the trustees to approve it.

For Diedrick, the new mission statement is "the vision that precedes the policy," an "affirmation of what we believe and a blueprint for change." It is a renewed "commitment to intellectual excitement and rigor" and also represents a stronger effort "to achieve greater diversity" on campus. The new mission statement also shows that the faculty can speak with a unified voice, Diedrick said.

Four students serve on the Strategic Planning Committee as representatives of the student body. Polly Reeder, Losantville, Ind. junior, serves on the missions/admissions committee. Reeder said the new mission statement "communicates what Albion is about and what we want to be in the future."

"It addresses all areas of the college, stressing an increase in academic rigor and student involvement...[and] serves as a guiding force, a vision for the rest of the strategic planning process," Reeder said.

President Melvin Vulgamore describes the new mission statement as a "philosophical

statement."

"The mission statement is what we're judged on," he said.

Vulgamore explained that when Albion is reaccredited, as it was last year, the first thing that is examined is the college's mission statement. It is essential in the reaccreditation process that Albion stands for its mission statement, Vulgamore said.

The Strategic Planning Committee represents a concentrated effort by the college to strengthen the direction it takes in the future. The new mission statement is a step in that direction.

"It's absolutely crucial in any strategic planning process to decide what you're all about," Vulgamore said.

What policies might this new mission statement imply? According to Diedrick, the trustees would like Albion to increase its reputation outside of Michigan. In order to accomplish this there should be an effort to achieve geographic diversity (roughly 90% of Albion's students now come from Michigan), increase the minimum ACT scores of incoming freshmen and provide more money for scholarships. Basically, Albion will be "going after students who can go several different places," Diedrick said.

He added that the college will

be looking to emphasize more traditional liberal arts courses and de-emphasize the more technical courses.

Vulgamore said he wants Albion to become better known, but in a different way. "What I would like is Albion as well known in the halls of high schools" as it is with graduate schools and employers, he said.

The new mission statement also calls for increasing the diversity of the campus at large. This means more active recruiting by Albion in areas where it has not been very active in the past. We have to be "alert at every instance to fill out racial and class stratagems," Vulgamore said.

What does the new mission statement really mean? Rather than attempt to summarize it, Vulgamore said would like everyone to read it and "have people interpret it for themselves."

College Mission Statement

Albion College is committed to liberal education in the arts and sciences. We believe such an education empowers individuals to live lives of constructive purpose and accomplishment, enriched by the confidence and pleasure that come from thinking logically, imaginatively and humanely. In pursuing this vision we seek to create and maintain an intellectually stimulating community in a residential setting which exhibits and prizes curiosity, creativity, diversity and dissent.

We believe in the fundamental worth of a broad exposure to intellectual and artistic achievement, to the best that has been thought and said about the world and our place in it. An Albion College education introduces students to classical modes of analysis, interpretation and argument; to unfolding scientific inquiry into the nature of the physical world; to the ways in which contemporary debates derive from and extend an historical but continuing debate over enduring questions.

At Albion College we invite students to engage in ongoing conversations about their cultural heritage, and to consider these conversations in global context. We believe our students will find their own voices by paying attention to the finest voices of Western and other intellectual and spiritual traditions. Far from inviting a passive acceptance of such traditions, we encourage students to question and challenge them, to evaluate ethically the social uses they serve or the ends they advocate. In our view, a liberal education is an education in active citizenship and service.

Teaching and learning are central to our mission. This means that while the faculty are actively engaged in scholarly and creative endeavors, their primary commitment is teaching — specifically, a kind of teaching that fosters the intellectual engagement and growth of students. The primary responsibility of the students at Albion College is to develop mastery in the methods by which knowledge is acquired, critically evaluated and appropriately applied. We believe such an emphasis prepares students for a lifetime of learning and a multiplicity of possible careers by developing their broad reasoning, writing and speaking abilities. While the classroom is at the heart of our educational mission, we believe that the entire college community should share in the learning experiences found in our residential setting, and through involvement in out-of-classroom opportunities and experiences.

In recruiting new members of the college community, we seek men and women of intellectual promise from various racial, class, ethnic and geographic backgrounds, whose perspectives can contribute to a process of mutual education within and outside the curriculum. This can best be achieved in an environment where individuals value differences and engage in constructive dialogue toward common goals. By pursuing our educational mission, we believe all members of the Albion community will grow in the capacity to work, live and serve effectively with others.

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Albion News

NEWSBRIEFS

Music department faculty take to the stage tonight

The music department faculty is taking a break from its usual routine. Instead of spending time preparing students for a performance, the faculty members are making themselves ready for the annual faculty concert at 8 tonight in Goodrich Chapel.

Audience members can expect a wide variety of musical styles ranging from Donizettian opera to the music of John Lennon.

Performers will include Christopher McCoury, instructor of trumpet; Mary Creswell, soprano, instructor of voice; Albert Bolitho, professor and chair of music; Timothy Bartlett, tenor, instructor of voice; Elizabeth Bousfield, instructor of saxophone; and Virginia Smith, soprano, instructor of voice.

"These people are all trained professional musicians who enjoy performing and are happy to share their music with an audience," said Bolitho.

"The faculty recital is an opportunity to let people in the community and college hear these outstanding musicians," he added.

Bobbitt display includes Watercolors and woodcuts

John Carney's photographs, Mike McDonnell's watercolors, and Karen Kunc's woodcuts will be on display at the Bobbitt Visual Arts Center until Sept. 27. The displays will be shown in Elsie Munro Gallery, Small Gallery, and Martha Dickinson Print Gallery, respectively. The galleries are open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

Special Olympics Training Day slated for Thursday

Over 500 Special Olympians, student and faculty volunteers and spectators will join together Thursday for the 10th annual Special Olympics Training Day.

Registration for the training day begins at 10 a.m. at Sprankle-Sprandel Stadium and the competition ends at 2 p.m.

Students interested in volunteering to work at the training day must fill out a blue registration card by 5 p.m. Wednesday. Cards and drop-off boxes are located at residence hall desks and the calendaring desk in Upper Baldwin Hall.

Volunteers must attend either the 6:30 or 8:30 p.m. orientation meeting Wednesday in the Bobbitt Visual Arts Auditorium.

The Special Olympians come from special education programs in the Jackson, Hillsdale and Albion areas. The games at Albion will help prepare and qualify the athletes for various state level meets. Scheduled events include track and field, softball, gymnastics, soccer, swimming, arts and crafts, and frisbee.

Library changes enstated

NO MORE WAITING!
Infotrac now accessible through all computers

By Brian Haapala

Although the library is searching for a new permanent director, the present staff continues to move the library in the right direction by improving its services to students.

Some major changes have occurred in the library over the summer. Larry Oberg, the past director, left Albion and accepted the library director position at Willamette University in Oregon. The search for a new director has already be-

gun, and in the meantime, Mike VanHouten is the acting director.

The changes in administration have not hindered the upgrade of services to students, though. Completed only a few weeks ago, the on-line catalog was expanded to include the periodicals index called Infotrac, or the Expanded Academic Index. This system was used last year, but only one computer was able to process the data base. Now, access to the index is available through all of the computers in the library, computers on the campus network, and computers with a modem outside the system.

The library has about 275,000 bound volumes plus journals, periodicals, and government documents. If it so happens that the library does not have a particular book, the inter-library loan ser-

vice can be used to get the book from another library, but the system depends on U.S. mail, so you have to plan ahead and order the book about two weeks in advance.

VanHouten is now working with faculty to obtain a system called Internet which would provide access to databases throughout the world. Internet retrieves files through electronic mail and may someday erase the delay of inter-library loan.

Students who are unfamiliar with the library's resources are encouraged to ask for help from the librarians.

"People always feel hesitant to ask questions, but libraries are complex places, and they should not hesitate to ask for assistance," VanHouten said. "Service is our top priority, we are here to help people to use the library properly."

Safety on campus:

How to protect yourself and your stuff

Because Albion is a residential college, students must reside in College housing. Even though there is a sense of safety living closely with one's peers, be sure that you do not allow anyone, students or non-students, to exploit that environment. The vast majority of crimes in the residence halls involve theft of personal property. Almost always, the theft is from an unlocked room or an unattended common area. YOU can prevent these "crimes of opportunity."

Security Measures in the Residence Halls

- Do not prop open residence hall doors—even for a friend.
- Lock your door when you leave—even for a short time.
- Lock your door before going to sleep.
- Lock windows that are accessible from outside.
- Keep your small items of value, such as wallets, purses, money and jewelry out of sight.
- Participate in Operation Identification—engrave all valuable items with your driver's license number. Call Campus Safety for information.
- Do not leave notes on your door announcing that no one is in.
- Never loan out your keys or ID card.
- Report any persons acting suspiciously in and around the residence halls. Call Campus Safety with a description and location immediately.
- Report any doors, locks or windows in need of repair to your resident assistant or Campus Safety.
- Report all thefts immediately to Campus Safety.

Personal Safety Measures

- Always call for an escort when walking alone after dark.

- When walking in groups or pairs without a Campus Safety escort, walk assertively and confidently and be aware of your surroundings.
- If you receive annoying or harassing telephone calls, hang up immediately—do not respond to the caller. If the calls persist, keep a record of the time, the voice description and then contact Campus Safety. If you feel that you are in immediate danger, call Campus Safety at once.

If You Sense a Potential Threat

- Consider your options, then take action.
- Try to get away from the danger.
- Yell or scream. Create a commotion.
- Run toward well-lighted public areas.
- Get a safe place with a phone and call Campus Safety immediately.
- Describe what happened, where it happened, the suspect, and the direction in which he or she went.



Father Mike Glockner demonstrates blessing the "Holy Eucharist" performed during a Catholic mass. Photo by Jonathan Beeton

In the Beginning,

Albion College was known as Wesleyan Seminary, and students assembled each morning for a time of prayer. Until the early 1970's religion was intended to be central in the lives of the students – trustees were elected by Methodist Church officials and every faculty meeting began with a prayer.

What place religion holds at Albion today is the focus of these articles.

Frank Frick ... Religious studies at Albion

Professor of religious studies, Frank Frick, has been an active member of the campus community for more than 23 years. He graduated from

seminary school in 1963 and first came to Albion to be college chaplain. He is now chair of religious studies.

Although Albion was established as a religious school, today there is an average of 12 to 15 religious studies majors per-year.

Frick said one reason for this is that Albion no longer has a reputation for being a religious school.

"Albion does not have the image of a school where the study

different from other colleges. "I don't equate all of this with a decrease in religion and spirituality," Frick said. "When I first came here, core

of the religious studies classes.

He added that it is important to these religious studies classes that the college continues to make the student body more diverse.

"The more variety we have between students, the more we can learn from one another," Frick said.

"We begin to find that truth in our field is like truth in any other field. Truth is best arrived at when a number of different perceptions and tracks

are presented and



Frank Frick
Photo by Jonathan Beeton

of religion would be important," Frick said. "For a number of years the college has not advocated its affiliation with the United Methodist Church."

Catholics now outnumber Methodists two to one here, according to Frick, and students with no religious preference outnumber Methodists.

Frick said the "mood of the country" is moving away from religion and Albion is not very

required students to take a religion course, this is no longer required."

Frick said that what students are required to do by the college has little to do with how religious they really are.

"You can't equate the dropping away of external symbolic [factors] with a decline in what I would say are, matters of the soul," Frick added.

Frick emphasized that reli-

gion coarsens stress diversity and openness to all religious backgrounds.

Frick said that the "open exploration" of ideas is a goal

of the religious studies classes.

He also said there are a number of fields that students have gone into after majoring in religion, he included: journalism, law social work, drama, education, and writing.

The Rev. Robin Woods... How religious are Albion students?

By Chris Leverett

The Rev. Robin Woods has been college chaplain since 1988. Her primary responsibility is to coordinate religious observances and tend to the "spiritual" needs of Albion's community.

How would you rate the campus as a whole from a religious perspective?

"That's a hard question, because I don't think in those terms. I think it's really hard to determine whether a group of people are religious or not.

Because there are nearly 1700 students, it's hard to categorize how the student body is in that sense.

I think clearly as a student body, Albion students for the most part believe in God. Whether they call that being God using my language or they use some other terminology to describe God.

Would they then go so far as to say that understanding is central to who they are and how they live their lives? I don't know, I think that it may be something that most of our students haven't thought about. But that's under-

standable given the stage of development they're in. It's something that a lot of college age people don't spend a lot of time thinking about.

"Albion students are probably



Robin Woods

Photo by Jonathan Beeton

no less religious than a representative sample of our nation."

How do you see the religious climate at Albion?

"Over my four years here, I've seen a greater comfort among our student body around things that are traditionally religious.

As I've interacted with entering classes I've had more students in the freshmen classes, this year and last year, be more comfortable talking about that aspect of who they are than previously, but that isn't necessarily the result of a change. It could be the fact that four years ago I was too new and people weren't comfortable enough with me to talk to me about those kinds of things yet."

Why do you think the mandatory chapel service was eliminated?

"It is difficult to require someone to do something and also allow them to get meaning out of it.

When you say 'you must do this,' people shut down. I wouldn't want to lead a worship service or convocation series if people had to come. Most people are going to tune out if they have to be there."

The Rev. Woods also works with the Campus Religious Council which helps organize all the religious fellowship groups on campus

Fellowship opportunities:

- Baptist Fellowship
- Campus Crusades for Christ
- Canterbury Club (Episcopal)
- Catholic Campus Ministry
- Fellowship of Christian Athletes

- Fellowship Hall
- Intervarsity Christian Fellowship
- Lutheran Fellowship
- Simcha: The Jewish Student Group
- Wesley Fellowship



as we see it

More than a Bash

Campus Programs and Organizations deserves the students' gratitude for putting on another successful Briton Bash. One of its goals, to foster a sense of community, was certainly accomplished last Friday evening on the Quad.

The other two goals of Briton Bash, to increase student involvement and organizational activity, has yet to be accomplished. It is now up to us, the students, to honor those signatures we made last week and fulfill the purpose of our organizational fair.

Because Briton Bash is such a big event on campus there is a tendency to think this is the end of one activity instead of the beginning of a semester full of involvement.

The true success of Briton Bash is not measured by enjoyment, but by how active we are in these organizations throughout the year.

"Campus involvement" as well as "Albion apathy" have been buzz words on campus for some time. No one, not even a new student, needs to be lectured on the importance of being active in student groups.

We should also realize that it is truly a sacrifice to donate time and effort into these activities while at the same time taking a full course-load. Those who work on campus or have fraternity and sorority obligations are especially busy without adding student organization activities.

The question then is not whether you have extra time to get involved in a student group, but whether you are willing to make extra time for that group.

The leaders of student organizations should accommodate their members' schedules and understand that everyone's time is important.

At the same time, we hope students will realize that sacrificing some of their time for a student organization will benefit themselves and the Albion community greatly.

Briton Bash was the first and easiest step in a year-long process. It is our responsibility to make sure the success of Briton Bash didn't end Friday evening on the Quad.

"as we see it" is a weekly editorial which represents a majority consensus of the editorial staff.



Patti Eastman on... "The non-traditional student"

Okay, stop the giggling. We see you staring at our pot bellies, our balding heads, our less firm thighs and sagging behinds. We know these things exist; we look in the mirror every day.

And don't ignore us, because we're not going away. We've invaded your campus, we know; but hey, we just want our education too. Maybe we don't fit into the mainstream of Albion campus life, but so what? Talk to us anyway. We're not such bad people, and we have something to say. And even though I've been labeled "non-traditional" by your school, I'm not holding a grudge.

"Non-traditional," according to Registrar Karen Neal, is someone over the age of 25 who commutes to the campus. That's as close to finding out how old I am as you will get though. But to give you a little hint, I have done a lot

of travelling. I graduated from high school and then decided to see a few sights. The first on my list was the West; then even further west to the Pacific Islands--Hawaii.

Yes, I've ridden the Hawaiian pipeline on surf. The white caps weren't tunnel vision, but I hung it. That was one of my many adventures during my eight months of vacation there. Talk to me. I'll even throw in some invaluable advice in case you ever surf the pipeline yourself one day. Advice I had to learn the hard way, like duck and dive when you see a hurricane-like wave coming over the top of your head. Advice like this could be of value to some of you, as you can see.

So Albionites: don't ignore us, because we're not going away. Besides, we can help you travel to many places you've yet to explore by talking about our experiences in different places. We can teach you about many different cultures and ideas. We can give you a new perspective on life. No, not exactly like your parents show you a new perspective, but as one

student to another. We have our education, but it's not an academic or "formal" education. In other words, we've been there, and we're in this with you.

Talk to us, get involved, show compassion and sensitivity to your fellow human beings, and stop the giggling at our pot bellies! We're proud of our mileage, and when you're our age, hopefully, you will be too.

And you know the best part? The real reason you should get to know us? WE HAVE CARS! And because we have cars we know of all the hot spots outside of Albion. I could tell you about the great Italian restaurant Emil's in East Lansing. I know where all the M.S.U. students hang out. I even know about hayrides and shopping malls. All you need to do is talk to us, and find a friend with a car. Do like I used to do when I was your age: pile 11 or 12 people in a small Volkswagen Bug (do they still exist?) and head for the night-life!

But I'm not advertising any of my inside info. You have to talk to us to find these things out.

Quotation of the Week...

"Doors are usually open, I see people interacting all over the place."

Jim Edmonson, Detroit sophomore

The Pleiad

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Founded by the class of 1886

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EDITOR IN CHIEF:
Geoff Luzzetta ext. 1658

MANAGING EDITOR:
Melissa Kelly ext. 1567

STYLE EDITOR:
Hope Bailey ext. 1827

SPORTS EDITOR:
Cameron Mueller ext. 1159

SENIOR STAFF WRITERS:
Jeann Newlon 629-3420
Bryan Bonnet ext. 1626

STAFF WRITERS:
Rebecca Daniel ext. 1633
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Wayne Lippert ext. 1918

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Singer/artist comes to Albion Thursday

Bill Miller, an American-Indian singer/songwriter will present a concert at 8 p.m. Thursday in Goodrich Chapel. The concert is part of the Albion College Lecture/Concert Series.

Miller will also be the artist in residence for that day. He will conduct a master class in North American art and lecture on the continuity and change in the North American community in the afternoon.

Miller grew up on the Stockbridge-Munsee Indian Reservation in northern Wisconsin. His distinguishing style of music ranges from acoustic ballads to country rock. He shares his heritage, art, music, and spirituality with his audience. He has produced three albums, and many of his songs have been recorded by several of Nashville's biggest stars.

Admission to the concert is free for students and faculty with ID. Tickets for the general public can be purchased for \$3 per person or \$1.50 for senior citizens.

Charlie Wiener

"COMEDY'S NEVER HAD IT SO GOOD"
—Dwight Brown, *USA Today*



Union Board Showcase presents comedian Charlie Wiener at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday in Upper Baldwin.

Wiener premiered on A&E's "An Evening at the Improv."

"I like the kind of comedy that really hits home," Wiener told *Scene* magazine. "I get up there and talk about my wife and family, sex, news, sex, smoking, sex, drinking, sex, life, sex..."

If nothing else, Wiener's style seems to guarantee unusual reactions from his audience.

"[Wiener is] too weird for New York," said *The Lone Star Cafe*.

"I laughed so hard, I wanted to hit him with my truck," said a fan.

Experience Wiener's unique style personally at this special UB presentation.

Style

Trinity Choir performs tonight

By Nicole Bondi

One of Europe's greatest choral groups will sing in Goodrich Chapel Sunday.

The Choir of Trinity College from Cambridge University in Cambridge, England, will perform works ranging from Bach to Mozart beginning at 8 p.m.

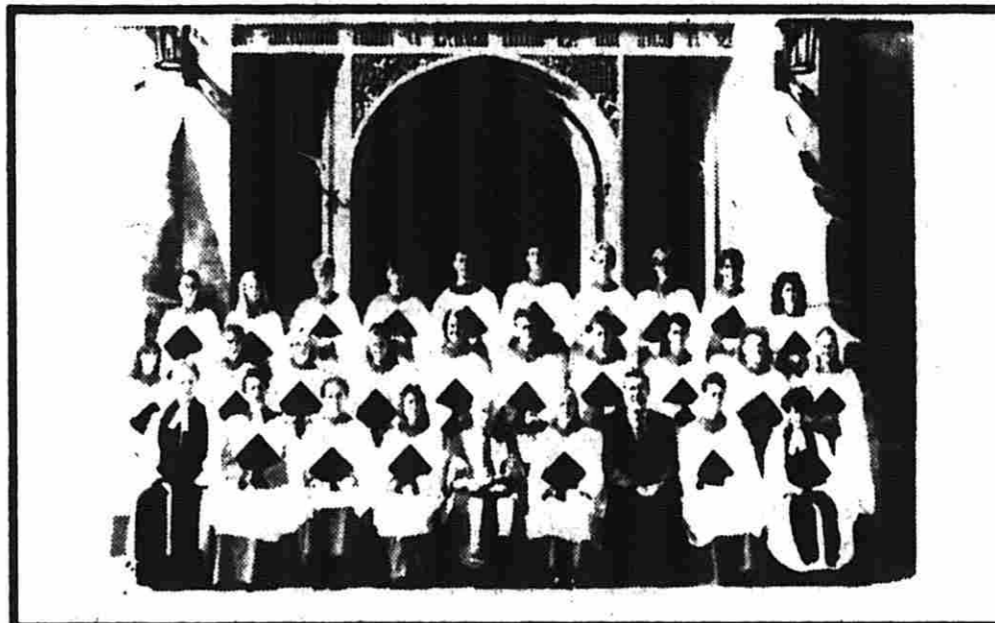
The performance represents the inaugural David L. Strickler Concert, an annual funded event. The David L. Strickler Endowment Fund was established in April in honor of the former Albion College choir director and professor of music. Strickler taught at Albion from 1943 to 1976.

The choir, which is composed of 24 men and women, will sing

a variety of choral music under the direction of Richard Marlow. In addition to serving as choir director, Marlow is a lecturer in

biggest.

"We are honored to be able to present this famous choir from Cambridge University," Bolitho



said. "They will sing outstanding choral literature in the unique English style which has become imitated the world over." In addition to perform-

music at Cambridge University and performs on harpsichord and organ.

The college wanted an outstanding choral group to inaugurate the series, in recognition of Strickler's former position as choir director. According to Albert Bolitho, professor and chair of music, the concert will be one of the year's

ances at Cambridge, the choir performs annual radio broadcasts for the British Broadcasting Corporation. The choir's 1992 North American tour will include eight states and Quebec.

Admission to the concert is free. Those interested may contact the music department secretary at (517) 629-0481 for more information.

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Men's soccer: 'strong group of seniors'

By Wayne Lippert

The members of the 1992 men's soccer team are very optimistic about their chances of winning the MIAA championship this season.

Third-year coach Doug Landefeld is counting on consistency from returning starters to improve on last year's third place finish in the conference.

"With the strong group of returning seniors, realistically, we should challenge for the championship," Landefeld said.

Landefeld added that leadership from the three captains Dave Cooper, Birmingham senior, Dave

"We should challenge for the champion ship."

Krivan, West Bloomfield senior, and Josh Leutz, Traverse City senior, is very important for the team to be successful.

However, winning the championship is not going to be easy, according to Landefeld. The Britons will face their

Women's soccer coach looking forward to winning season

By Wayne Lippert

Cathie Schweitzer, head coach of women's soccer, is looking forward to her third year of coaching and facing the challenge of assembling a team with several freshman and only four returning starters.

"I think we can legitimately finish second or third in the conference and have a minimum of a .500 record," Schweitzer said.

In order to accomplish this, Schweitzer says, they must be competitive in tough conference games against Kalamazoo, Calvin and Hope. "Because of our youth, it will take time to work together."

toughest competition from Kalamazoo and Calvin Colleges, last year's co-champions. But a lot has changed since then.

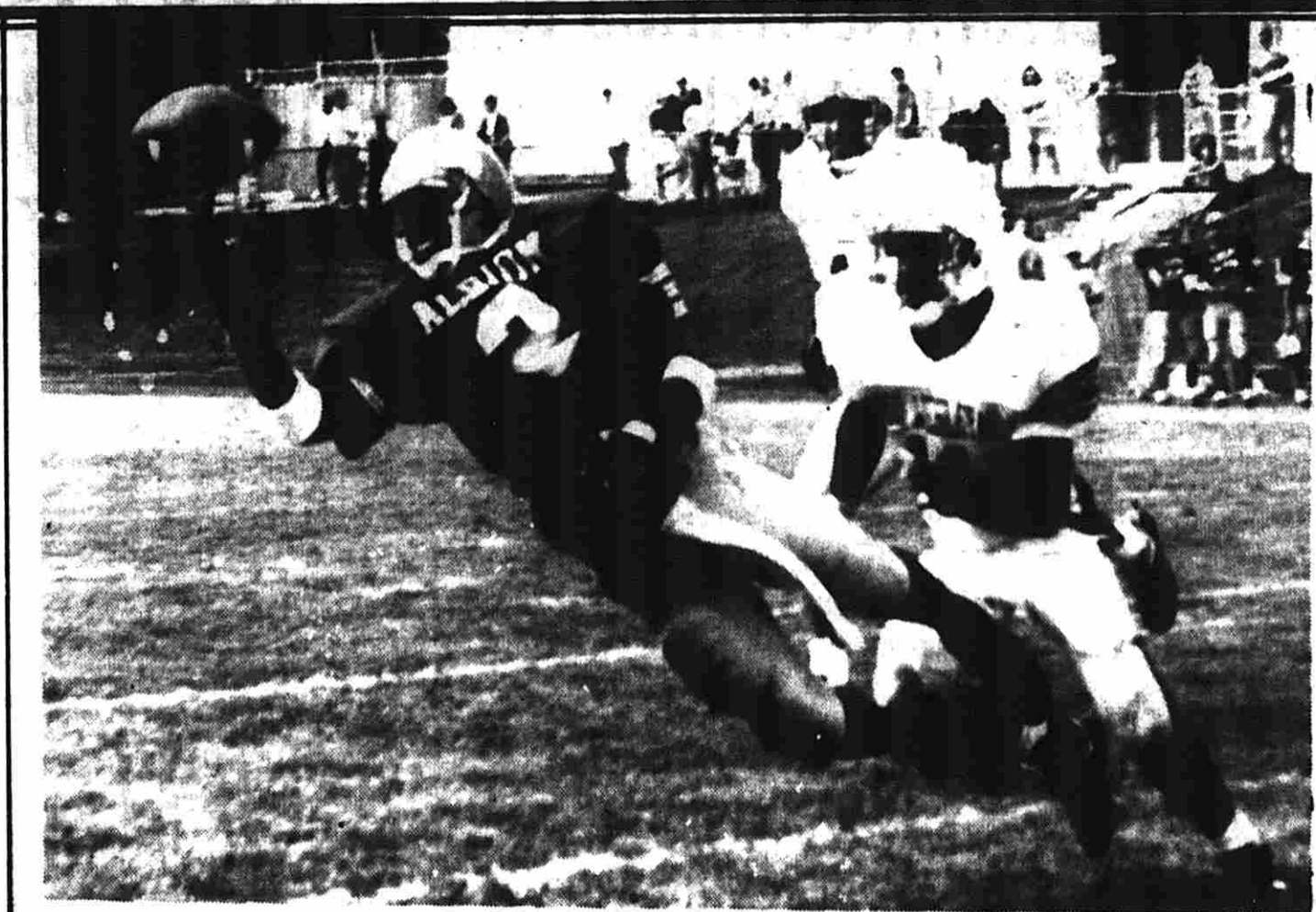
According to Landefeld, defense was last year's biggest weakness. This year it has been solidified by the addition of Ryan Rosenkranz, Union, Ohio, freshman, and the consistent play of both Leutz and Robert Dimitriou, Livonia senior.

The revived defense and the potent offense led by Cooper, Matt Mitchell, Midland sophomore, and Jason White,

Lowell sophomore, will make the squad more competitive in the important games. The Britons seem to be on the right track after defeating Wabash in their season opener 2-0.

Cooper is confident of the team's ability. "We have the right

captains: Jami Bond, Midland sophomore, Connie Kraye, Brighton junior, and Dana Teague, Kentwood senior. They



Chad Burgess, Farmington Hills Junior, reaches for a pass in last Saturday's game against Ohio Wesleyan.

Photo by Jonathan Beeton

attitude, and if we work hard I think we can win the conference," he said.

Cooper also believes this winning attitude is a result of their coach. "Doug develops our behavior and it spreads throughout the team."

The next home games for the men's soccer team are Tuesday against Calvin and Oct. 3 against Adrian.

every aspect of the squad is improved because of talented freshmen: Christine Cleland, East Lansing freshman, is a steady goalkeeper, Deborah DeWitt, Spring Lake freshman, adds punch to the offense and midfielder Tonya Taylor, Mason freshman, provides more athleticism to an already crafty team.

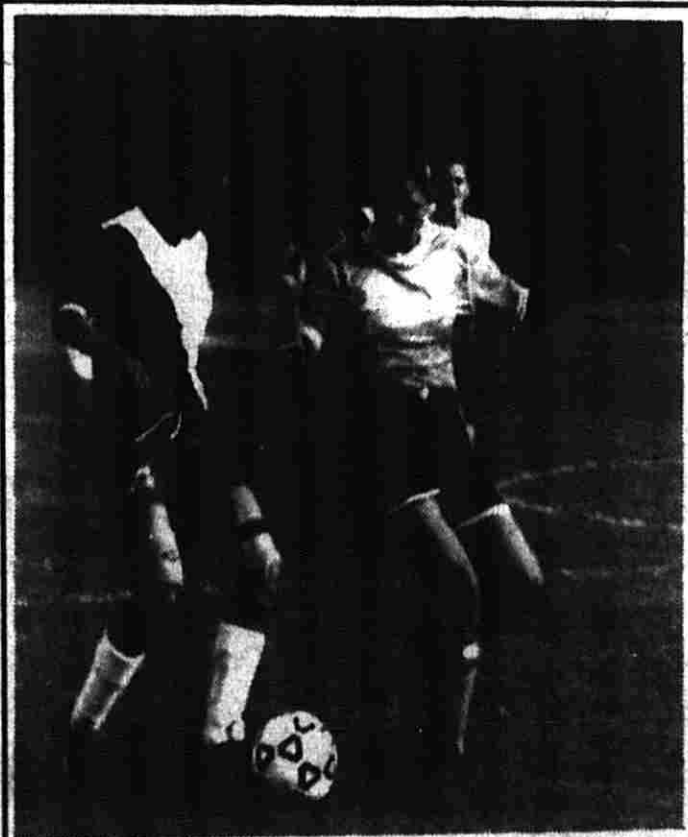


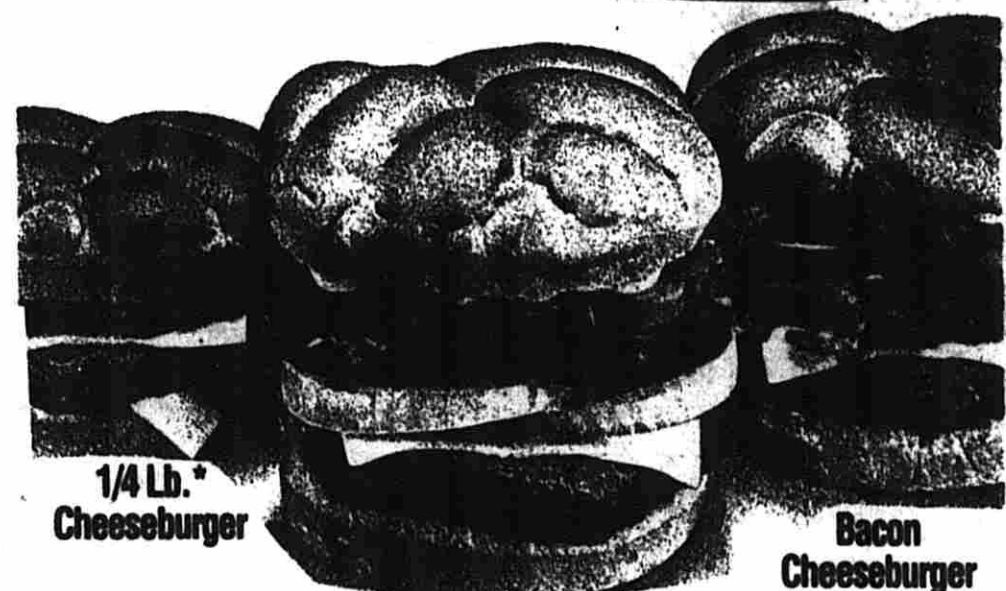
Photo by Jonathan Beeton

The returning starters provide the Britons with plenty of talent. These players include the three

are optimistic. "As the season progresses, I think we will only get better," Kraye said.

According to Schweitzer,

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