

The Pleiad

Albion College
Albion, MI 49224
Volume 112
Number 18

Friday, February 7, 1997

THIS WEEK

NEWS



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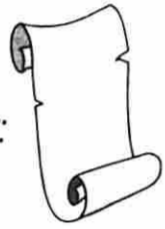
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OPINIONS



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Community Theater

Reverend Linda Farmer-Lewis directs "1776" for community theater. **Page 7**

SPORTS



Sports teams hold fundraisers

The women's track team and softball team held a lap-athon to raise money.

The men's track team sponsors their annual dash-for-cash and the baseball team raffled off a mountain bike. **Page 8**

Students criticize tenure process

By Amy Jentoft
Staff Writer

Tenure is becoming an increasingly controversial matter in public schools and colleges across the nation.

However, many institutions choose to continue the practice, partly because it appears to be an effective way of keeping the "best" faculty while dismissing those who are "underqualified."

The practice has come under fire from organizations and individuals who argue that the system does not always produce the intended results—sometimes the best teachers are let go, while others remain who are not as good, because they have a "job for life."

On our campus, the issue of tenure was once again raised on Dec. 6, 1996.

It was the day that Teresa Stojkov, assistant professor of foreign languages, told her students she had received a letter the previous day informing her of her tenure denial.

Student reaction ranged from shock to disappointment, and several students decided to write a letter to Arnold Langbo, chair of the Albion College Board of Trustees, expressing their concerns about the tenure process as well as their disappoint-

ment about the decision. A petition, containing the signatures of 70 of the 82 students enrolled in Spanish classes, was also included.

Four faculty members were up for tenure, and two of them were denied. Stojkov and Patricia Visser, assistant professor of biology, were denied tenure. Pamela McNab, assistant professor of foreign languages, and David Seely, assistant professor of physics, both received tenure.

The Faculty Affairs Committee, which makes tenure recommendations to the college president, looks at four factors when making recommendations, said Allen Horstman, professor of history.

Value to students is the most important factor, which is often determined by student evaluations, as well as advising and general contact. Other factors include scholarship, value to the department and value to campus.

It is these criteria that prompted several Spanish students, including Matthew Heinz, Midland sophomore, Renee Mijal, Macomb Township sophomore and Amishi Doshi, Farmington Hills sophomore, to write the letter.

Student evaluations seem to present the biggest problem.

The evaluations, in the form of Scantron sheets, are generally handed out at the end of a class period and

— See 'Tenure' page three

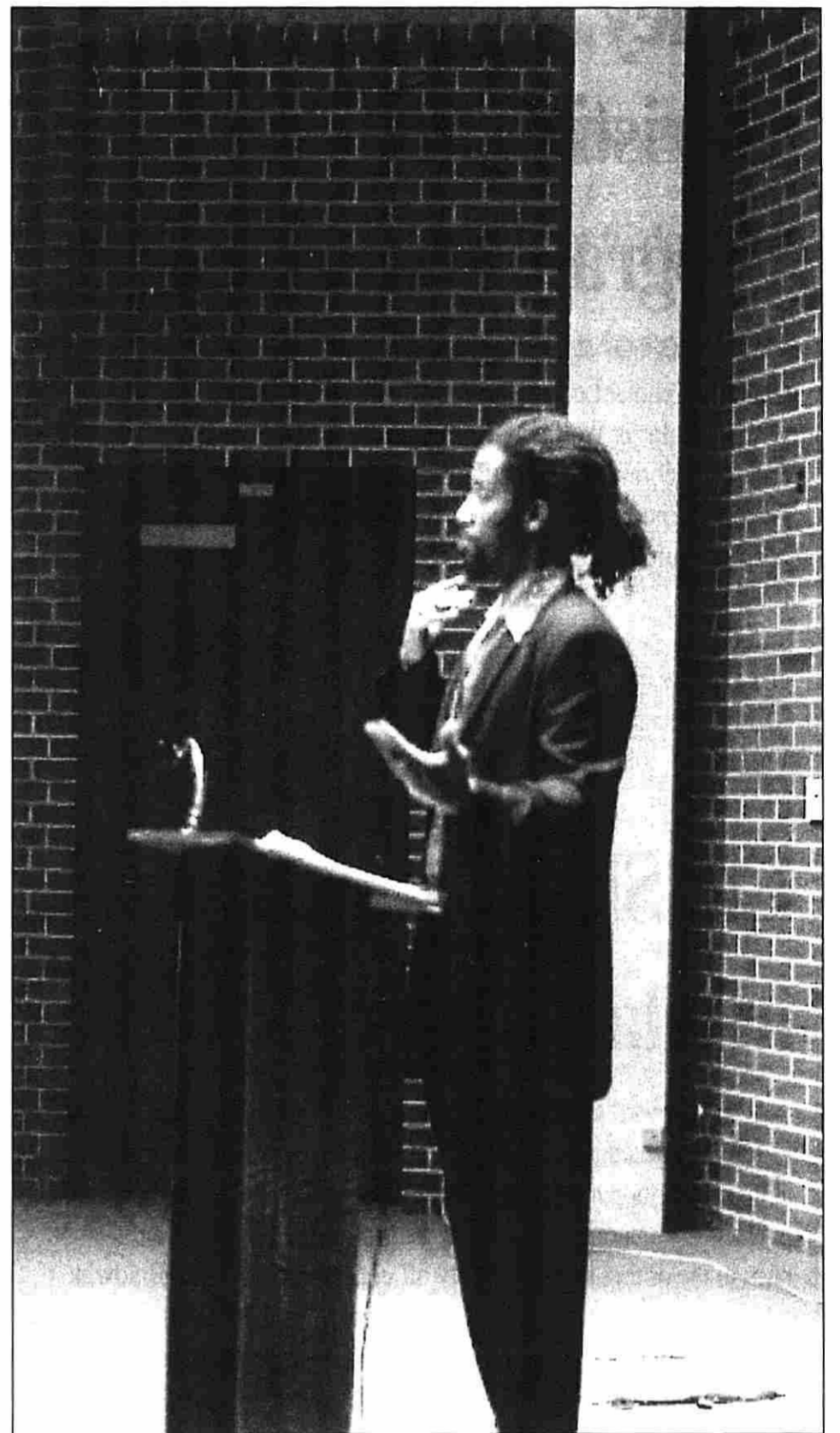


photo by Elizabeth Goodman

On Monday night, Mohammed Bilal, former cast member of MTV's "The Real World," presented his program, "The 12 Steps to Diversity," which dealt with issues concerning racism, violence and poverty. He also read original poetry, answered the audiences' questions and attended a reception afterwards.

Alumnus investigates Gingrich's dissertation

Fredric Maxwell, '78, speculates about problems with Newt Gingrich's doctoral work

By Britt Halvorson
Staff Writer

Fredric Alan Maxwell, '78, has testified before Congress to support First Amendment rights and recently stumbled upon flaws in Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich's doctoral dissertation.

Yet, Maxwell, a writer who has been published in *The New Yorker*, *Harper's*, *Newsweek*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Miami Herald* to name a few, is not a member of the House Ethics Committee or even a Congressman.

He is, however, an Albion alumnus with a propensity for seeking out the truth and intensely pursuing whatever shreds of it he finds.

Maxwell's most recent endeavor, investigating Gingrich's dissertation, exemplifies this tenacity.

Maxwell's unusual investigation began while he was assisting Tom Brazaitis, Washington Bureau Chief for the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, and

wife Eleanor Clift, a writer for *Newsweek*, with their book *War Without Bloodshed: The Art of Politics*, a study of seven key players in the national health care reform debate. As part of his general research, Maxwell took it upon himself to read the doctoral dissertations of the key players.

Maxwell's reading list was composed in part by the dissertations of Stanley Greenberg, presidential pollster and democratic national committee advisor, Donna Shalala, secretary of Health and Human Services, Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, and Gingrich. He said he found Greenberg's research to be particularly thorough and Moynihan's dissertation to be a work of solid scholarship, but was surprised when Gingrich's dissertation, "Belgian Education Policy in the Congo, 1945-1960," simply did not measure up to the same level of quality.

Maxwell said he discovered several inconsistencies. "In the first 50-60 pages of the dissertation, three or four footnotes had nothing to do with

what they were supposed to," Maxwell stated. On one occasion Gingrich wrote that Congolese women were inclined to prostitution, Maxwell said, but the cited text corresponding to this statement was a fictional account of a woman.

Maxwell also felt that one of Gingrich's conclusions, that no one was really guilty and no one was really innocent of wrongdoing in the Belgian Congo colonial system, was puzzling. Some of the behaviors of the people involved were particularly brutal, Maxwell said, citing a scene from *Heart of Darkness* in which men's heads are cut off and set on wooden poles. "One tends to call that cruel."

Continuing with his investigation, Maxwell decided to look through dissertation abstracts to check that Gingrich's claim of being the first person to study every major aspect of his dissertation topic was accurate. After only a short search, Maxwell discovered that a Malvin E. Moore, Jr. had written a dissertation

on the same topic 12 years before Gingrich.

Moore was one of the first black men to get a Ph.D. in the South, Maxwell said. According to a Jan. 12 article from *The Miami Herald*, Moore received his Ph.D. in 1959 from George Peabody College (now part of Vanderbilt University) compared to Gingrich being awarded his Ph.D. in 1971 from Tulane University. The title of Moore's dissertation, "A Survey of Education in the Belgian Congo," displays the remarkable similarity between the two works.

Maxwell's meticulous research uncovered that Moore was a retired professor from Southern Illinois University where he had advised over 60 students in their dissertations.

Maxwell located Moore's phone number, called him and read Gingrich's statement, "This dissertation is the first scholarly effort to examine every major aspect of Belgian education policy in the Congo after World War II," over the phone.

— See 'Maxwell' page three

NEWS

Newsbriefs

Staley Distinguished Christian Scholar Program Returns

The Chaplain's Office will once ahead host the Staley Distinguished Christian Scholar Lecture Program this Wednesday and Thursday. This year's scholar is Wolfgang Roth, an internationally known scholar of both the Hebrew and Christian scriptures. Roth examined the second Gospel in the light of Jewish storytelling, raising the question of the gospels genre and function. His book, *Hebrew Gospel: Cracking the Code of Mark* and his essay *Scriptural Coding in the Fourth Gospel*, introduce a new dimension to New Testament scholarship. Roth will guest lecture from 9:10-10 a.m., Wednesday, in Palenske Hall 311. There will be a reception for Roth at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, in the Wendell B. Will Room, followed at 7 p.m. by Roth's lecture, "Elijah's Mantle and Moses' Chair: An Old Testament Guide to the Gospels."

Eat Shop coupons now available

All on-board students may pick up coupons valued at \$25 for the Eat Shop, located in the Kellogg Center. The coupons are only redeemable for Eat Shop items and must be presented to the cashier during the purchase. Coupon booklets may be picked up between 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. in the dining and hospitality offices located in Upper Baldwin.

Two movies to be shown this weekend

Union Board is sponsoring *The Chamber*, starring Chris O'Donnell and Gene Hackman, showing tonight at 8 p.m. in Norris 101. At 10 p.m., *Michael Collins*, starring Liam Neeson will also be shown. The show times will be reversed on Saturday night. The movies are free for all students.

"Albion Review" Seeking Submissions

The "Albion Review" is accepting submissions for inclusion in the 1997 edition. Students, faculty, staff and administration are welcome to submit any poetry, fiction, essays or art work they wish. Send submissions by Feb. 18 to Mike Somers, editor "Albion Review," 4589 Kellogg Center. Feel free to call x1798 with questions.

Newly designed - professionally managed

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Saturday—2:00, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30
Sunday—2:00, 5:00, 7:15
Monday-Thursday—5:00, 7:00

In Love and War:

Friday—4:45, 7:00
Saturday—2:20, 4:45, 7:00
Sunday—2:20, 7:00
Monday-Thursday—7:00

Meet Wally Sparks:

Friday—9:15
Saturday—9:15
Sunday-Thursday—4:45

Metro:

Friday—5:10, 7:25, 9:45
Saturday—2:10, 5:10, 7:25, 9:45
Sunday—2:10, 5:10, 7:25
Monday-Thursday—5:10, 7:25

Tickets \$2.50 before 6 p.m. and \$3.50 after 6 p.m.

Wednesday is College Night—
Buy one ticket, get another free (with College I.D.)



photo by Joshua Bopp

A construction team works on converting the old campus bookstore into the new campus safety, health and counseling center building.

Campus safety, health center and counseling center set to relocate

In early May, old bookstore will accommodate three departments

By Jana Gray-Dewitt
Staff Writer

Michael Sequite, director of campus safety, has reported to work at 801 Perry Street every day since 1980.

Yet sometime in early May, campus safety, along with the health center and counseling center, will be moving into the old campus bookstore, located at 1003 E. Cass Street.

The Albion College Board Of Trustees made the decision to move campus safety, which has been at its present location since before 1973, because of building deterioration, excessive maintenance and expense and a lack of space for employees.

At present, four people share the office with the 40-75 students a day who may stop by for an escort or parking issues.

The new location will approximately triple Campus Safety in size.

There will be cubicles for the staff, a better dispatch area, more storage space, a conference room and new computers.

Sequite, concerned about campus safety's first impression, wants it to be a place people will consider as warm and friendly.

"It's going to be a nicer atmosphere and project a better image for the institution."

"I'm very excited—I think it will be a good change," said Brenda Cornish, campus safety clerk.

Janice White, campus safety clerk, has worked at campus

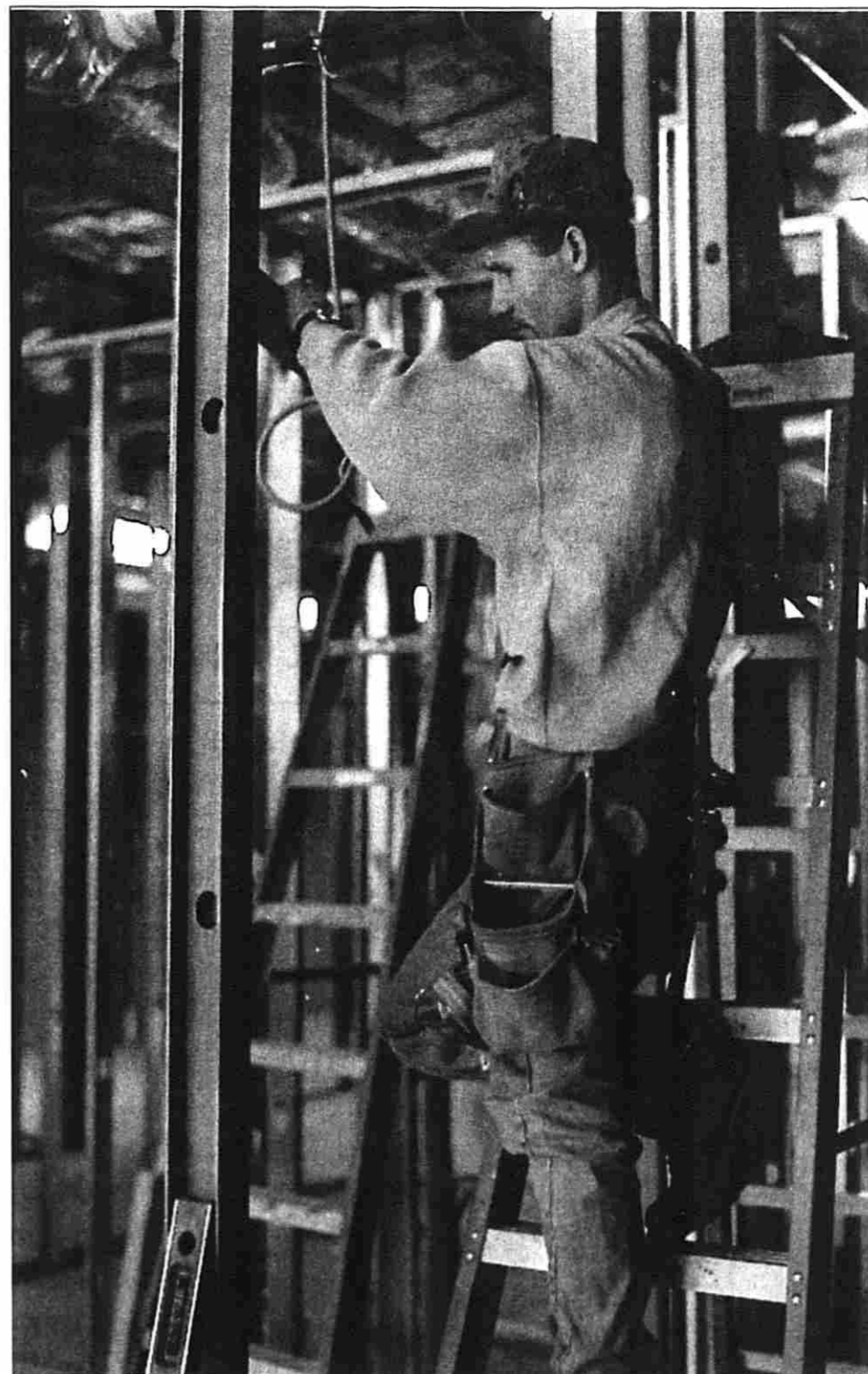


photo by Joshua Bopp

A construction worker fixes the electrical wires in the old campus bookstore. The new building will be referred to as "The Center."

safety for ten years and believes the move will make campus safety more accessible and visible.

"I can't wait. I've been in this building for ten years. I think it will be a good change. Campus safety and the health center are two important departments, and it will be great for us to be together."

According to Kenneth

Kolmodin, director of facilities operations, general construction of "The Center" will be done by the same team that did the admissions building construction and the Seaton Hall renovation—Gordon Market Builders, Triangle Plumbing and Albion Electrical.

The floor plan was designed by MacLachlan, Cornelius and Filoni of Pittsburgh.



Photo by Joshua Bopp

Wovenu Modey, Memphis, Tenn. freshman works in the newly located computer lab in Stockwell.

Possibility of a 24 hour computer lab

By Jessie Jones
Staff Editor

You have heard about a 24-hour ATM. What about a 24-hour computer lab?

This possibility is being considered by the information technology committee.

According to James Nash, director of information technology, there has been talk in the past about a 24-hour computer lab, but the college is not capable of creating the lab right now.

One problem is that there are not enough computers to make a lab. That would require either buying new computers, which cannot be afforded right now, or moving some from other labs.

"I don't think anyone else would want to give up machines in their area currently," Nash said.

Another problem is that there is no room available to hold another computer lab. The hours on the existing labs cannot be extended because the hours correspond to when the building closes.

Also, there is fear of vandalism in the buildings if the hours are extended. Minor vandalism already occurs during computer lab hours with the mouses, mouse pads, and mouse balls being taken.

The Kellogg Center is open 24 hours, but there is no room in the building that could hold a computer lab since all of the rooms are currently used.

"All [the KC] rooms have already had an assigned identity to student organizations and other uses, confer-

ence type uses," said Paula Christensen, computer training coordinator and micro support specialist.

There is only one room in the KC that could hold a computer lab. It would be the fourth floor conference room, but even though Jeffrey Dunbar, Kellogg Center operations manager, would like to have a lab, he does not see the possibility of it ever happening.

"If we take that room off line, it would hurt in terms of meeting the needs of the folks who have organizational meetings [there]," Dunbar said.

But to help students out, the department is going to put newer computers into the dorms. As other department computers are eventually upgraded, the older 386's will be moved to the dorms. That way students will be able to e-mail and also access the internet from within the dorms.

The idea of a 24-hour computer lab has been experimented by other schools, like Michigan State University. Also, many of the colleges in the GLCA have 24-hour labs. Kalamazoo College, Earlham College, Denison University, and Kenyon College all have 24-hour labs. DePauw University does not and midnight is the latest one of the labs stays open.

Even though there is not a current proposal for a 24-hour computer lab, there may be one only a few years away.

"Probably not this school year, but I wouldn't say it would be impossible [for] the '97-'98 school year," Christensen said.

'Tenure'

continued from page one

consist of questions in which the student is asked to rate the professor according to an "always, sometimes, never" format, followed by three more questions.

"Students want the quickest way to finish and get out of class," Doshi said.

In addition, students are given tenure-specific forms from the Student Senate Faculty and Academic Affairs Committee, which are generally longer and more specific, and include a question about whether the students think the professor should receive tenure or not.

"[The professor] needs to have more than one semester for review," Heinz said.

The lack of outside evaluation also troubles them. For instance, it is difficult for a faculty member in a different discipline to know that teaching a language goes beyond just learning vocabulary—students must also learn to comprehend and criticize in that language, which is not an easy task for a non-native speaker. Professors being reviewed for tenure

also need people in their discipline who know what the standards are and can accurately judge them.

Students are also concerned about the ranking of scholarship in the college's priorities for tenure. As it stands, scholarship, which includes activities such as research, attending conferences of people in the same field and writing articles and books, is ranked second, below value to students but above department and campus contributions.

Added Mijal, "She [Stojkov] takes the time to go beyond the classroom and her duties pertaining to them. Her departure will have a detrimental effect on the Spanish department."

"First, I would like to publicly thank all of the students and alums who poured out their hearts to me in messages and letters of support, as well as the parents who have shown their appreciation and respect," Stojkov said.

"In response to my own inquiry about the finalization of the negative tenure recommendation and to student protests, the College communicated to me on Feb. 3 only one alternative to the negative recommenda-

tion: that I resign before President Vulgamore carries the recommendation to the Board on Thursday, February 6. I would also have to forfeit my next year of employment. In light of my commitment to my students, I do not consider that an option. As this edition goes to press, I must decide whether to invoke the grievance process and file a grievance against the Acting Provost, Jeff Carrier, and the Faculty Affairs Committee. My deadline for filing the grievance is Friday, February 7, 1997."

Criteria which determine tenure

—Value to students

—Scholarship

—Value to department

—Value to campus

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Editor's note: The entire letter can be seen on page 4 of this issue.

Maxwell

continued from page one

"He virtually immediately shouted, 'That is a lie.' I then told him that the author was Newton Leroy Gingrich. He became very angry," Maxwell said.

Since then, Moore has contacted Gingrich and Tulane University. Neither one has responded, Maxwell said.

Both Maxwell and Moore believe that Tulane and Gingrich have a responsibility to at least acknowledge Moore's correspondence and his dissertation.

Maxwell said he has filed complaints against Gingrich, Tulane University, and the president of Tulane. Maxwell's charges against Gingrich include violation of scholarly integrity, failure to uphold standards of civility, misrepresentation of evidence, and misuse of other scholars findings reflecting an unworthy re-

gard for their contributions.

Maxwell describes Moore as a very old school, stand-up type of guy.

"He's someone you'd feel honored to have studied under," Maxwell said. "He won't even write anything about this without mentioning my name."

In an era when the civil rights movement was gathering steam, Moore felt that the only way for black people to get ahead was through education, Maxwell said.

He wanted to see it at the most basic level, so he spent a year in the Congo as well as time in Belgium "exhaustively" researching for his dissertation, according to The Miami Herald.

Maxwell said he believes that Gingrich's research methods were less thorough. Gingrich traveled to Brussels to do research, but never spent time in the Congo.

To reach a conclusion regarding Gingrich's dissertation, Maxwell has contacted an academic organization

requesting that a formal investigation be performed.

He said he will hear within two weeks whether the group decided to conduct a 90-day investigation or not.

If Gingrich were to be found guilty of improper scholarship, the academic body could recommend up to and including that Gingrich's Ph.D. be 'unawarded' or taken back and also request that an apology be made to Moore.

Maxwell said that there are a lot of questions regarding Gingrich's dissertation. "I've simply asked them, but haven't gotten a response."

He is particularly disconcerted by the lack of response from Tulane or Gingrich. He said he feels that there is no justification for their treatment of Moore or their disregard for the questions about Gingrich's dissertation.

"Gingrich says that the Speaker has to be above suspicion," Maxwell concluded. "Then put all the facts out in the open."

House Party '97

A mini-Briton Bash for new and returning students

TONIGHT from 6-10 p.m.

In the Stack.

A dance will follow from 10-12 a.m.

Come join in the festivities!!!

Sponsored by the House of Representatives

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OPINIONS

As We See It The Accessibility of Senate

On Monday, Student Senate will be holding its weekly meeting in Gerstacker Commons (the Stack) in the Kellogg Center instead of Olin 112.

At the urging of several members of Senate, Amanda Cowger, president of Student Senate, agreed to hold a meeting in the Stack on a trial basis. During this meeting, senators will vote on whether or not to continue holding meetings here.

The Pleiad believes this is a momentous step in facilitating both student interest in the happenings of Senate and in improving the relationship between Senate and the organizations it serves.

Senate does attempt to publicize its projects and accomplishments in the form of "The Senate Corner," but is this enough to keep an inquiring mind well-informed of what is going on?

For example, how many students know that some of our senators and representatives are currently working on projects to have more safety telephones installed on campus, to implement a safety escort service, to change the format of the college's diplomas, and to even have clocks mounted in all of the classrooms? Or that Senate's student affairs committee has been working with Michael Sequite, director of campus safety, on having more lights installed in some of the darker areas on campus?

One would think that on a campus with so many inquisitive minds as Albion's, more students would be interested in what is going on with the body that approves the constitutions of petitioning organizations and distributes the student activity fee. Yet, judging by the scarcity of non-members at meetings, it seems doubtful that many students care what is going on with Senate.

Senate is providing the Albion College campus with a golden opportunity to have a say in its affairs with the new meeting location. So why not head on over to the Kellogg Center around 9pm on Monday, grab a snack at the Eat Shop, and let Senate know what's on your mind?

an unsigned "as we see it" represents a majority consensus of the editorial staff

Spanish students publicize letter sent to Board of Trustees chairman

To the Editor:

The following letter was sent to Arnold Langbo, president of the Albion College Board of Trustees; Melvin Vulgamore, president; Jeffrey Carrier, acting provost; Sherie Veramay, acting dean of students; the members of the Faculty Affairs Committee; and Emmanuel Yewah, chair and associate professor of foreign languages regarding the tenure situation of Teresa Stojkov, assistant professor of foreign languages. Dr. Stojkov was informed Thursday, Dec. 5, that she would not be recommended for a tenured position here at Albion. As this was shocking and extremely distressing for many spanish students, we decided to respond with a petition and statement of our position as follows.

Concerned Albion College Spanish Students

Dear Mr. Langbo:

As chairman of the Albion College Board of Trustees, you share a common goal with the students and faculty: to uphold and maintain Albion College's legacy of academic excellence. You, like us, have a vested interest in this institution, which is why we feel it is our duty to bring to your attention a very real and disturbing threat to the academic integrity of the college.

On Friday, Dec. 6, students were made aware of the fact that the Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC), in association with the provost and president, had decided to recommend that Teresa Stojkov be denied a tenured position at Albion College.

It is the purpose of this letter to inform you and the board that this recommendation is most certainly not the will of the Spanish students, to cast serious doubts on the processes involved that culminated in this decision, and to establish Dr. Stojkov as the outstanding professor and scholar she is, thereby doing her justice.

There has been a grave misinterpretation of the desires of the students, a misinterpretation that must be rectified for the sake of the Spanish department, Spanish students, and any junior or future faculty members seeking a tenured position at this institution.

Accompanying this letter you will find several petition sheets containing the signatures, student identification numbers and Spanish backgrounds of concerned students who disagree with the tenure recommendation.

Of the 82 Spanish students approached, 70 signed the petition, including the two native speakers on campus, who were appalled at

learning that Dr. Stojkov could be forced to leave Albion College. This impressive show of student support speaks for itself; Dr. Stojkov is a remarkable professor, and the students acknowledge this fact.

Furthermore, we students, who of course are the primary concern of a private institution such as Albion, vehemently insist that Dr. Stojkov be granted tenure, as she is an extremely valuable and irreplaceable asset to this college.

The FAC is responsible for evaluating the tenure candidates in three general areas: value to students, scholarly development, and value to the college. While each of these are very important, we feel that value to students and value to the college should far outweigh scholarly development.

To her credit, Dr. Stojkov has had articles published in two highly-reputable scholarly journals, *Discurso Literario* and *World Literature Today*, and has also penned a book. These are more than sufficient testaments of Dr. Stojkov's academic ability.

Albion is by no stretch of the imagination an intensive research institution, nor should research ever become a primary focus. We came here for the special individualized attention students receive from the professors, and this is precisely where Dr. Stojkov's highest priority lies - with the students. Whenever she is in her office, Dr. Stojkov makes time to talk with and help any students that visit, and we know our conversations are never limited to just our academic endeavors. She is genuinely concerned for the student's well being.

The current Spanish program is a direct result of Dr. Stojkov's efforts and a powerful demonstration of her value to the college. The time and labor Dr. Stojkov has invested in the Spanish department can only be equaled by her colleague, Pamela McNab, assistant professor of foreign languages.

As a team, these two bolstered and completely restructured the department with extraordinary effects. A department of eight questionable majors was miraculously transformed over a period

of five years into a department containing over 30 majors of the highest caliber - an expansion of more than 300%. That is not to mention the dramatic increase in overall Spanish speaking and writing ability.

Together they designed the curriculum. *Together* they threw a lifeline to the faltering Spanish department. *Together* they increased enrollment by three-fold. And *together* they should remain.

While there is every reason to maintain such an ideal partnership, there are few, if any, reasons at all to dissolve it. Nevertheless,

this is what the FAC, provost, and president propose you do. Dr. Stojkov's strongest area, value to students, is the category with which we believe the FAC has mistakenly found fault.

There are three means by which the committee evaluates a tenure candidate's

teaching ability: an alumni survey, a numerical average of all course evaluation sheets, and a recommendation letter written by the Student Senate Faculty and Academic Affairs Committee, which is based on the results of a tenure evaluation administered the semester before the candidate is up for tenure review.

This evaluation process has several inherent flaws, which in this case, allowed for the misinterpretation of the Spanish students.

First, the generic course evaluation sheets are rather uninformative and tend not to be taken seriously by some students. These evaluation forms consist of eight 'ranking' questions in which the student is asked to rate the professor on a certain aspect of teaching (usually in the "always, sometimes, never" format) followed by three more subjective questions.

Many students are not aware that what they are filling out can have such a significant effect in the preservation of the college's traditions of academic excellence and integrity. Mr. Langbo, Dr. Stojkov must remain at Albion College, and it is up to you and the Board of Trustees to insure that this comes to pass.

Thank you for your time and careful consideration.

*Spanish Students
Albion College*

There has been a grave misinterpretation of the desires of the students that must be rectified.

The Pleiad is the Albion College Weekly, Founded by the Class of 1883

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Black History Month events for the week of Feb. 7-14

Story Time and Then Some II
Saturday, Feb. 8, 1 p.m. Albion Public Library

Black Student Alliance members will spend the afternoon telling stories and playing games that focus on Black History Month with the children of Albion.

Sweethearts and Roses Ball
Saturday, Feb. 8, 8 p.m., Kresge Commons, Albion College

The fifth Annual Black Student Alliance Semiformal Ball in an opportunity for everyone to come together to promote unity and to celebrate Black History Month. A buffet-style dinner will be followed by dancing.

Audrey Petty
Sunday, Feb. 9, 7 p.m. Coffee House, Albion College

This visiting professor from Knox College, Ill. will share her poetry and short fiction stories. Petty describes her work as having a focus on family relationships. She has been recognized as one of the "emerging black women writers in the United States" by the journal *Callaloo*.

"Get on the bus"
Wednesday, Feb. 12, p.m. Norris 101, Albion College

Spike Lee, a celebrated African-American film maker, presents the story of 18 strangers who board a bus for the historic Million Man March and emerge three days and 2,000 miles later as brothers. Cast members include: Ossie Davis, Charles Dutton, DeAundre Bonds, Richard Belzer, Andre Braugher and Isaiah Washington.

Erasing the Lines that Divide Us
Thursday, Feb. 13, 6-7 p.m. Seminar Room, Kellogg Center, Albion College

Barbara Gladney, community leader and facilitator will explore the topic "erasing the lines that divide." This is an open discussion that will enable individuals to become more sensitive in our culturally diverse society. Food will be provided.

Library adds new safety precautions and procedures

By Laurie Schulz
Staff Writer

Otis Nelson's shift as a library security guard started out like any other as he made his first walk-through of the library late one November evening — until he came upon the fire blazing in the sixth tier.

"I walked in and it was really smoky," said James (Otis) Nelson, Manistee freshman. "There was a pile of books and magazines burning on the table. It just sort of went up and started to burn itself out. We were lucky the table hadn't started to burn."

Nelson began working in the library early last semester after seeing the security guard job posting in the financial aid office.

"The library staff kept saying they had been having trouble with kids from town, but I hadn't seen anything," Nelson said. "Then came the fire."

According to John Kondelik, director of libraries, fires and other acts of vandalism are part of the reason for the recent changes at the library. Changes have included adding a security guard during the late shift and switching the entrance and exit doors of the library.

"It's a security issue," said Kondelik. "We've had several incidents in the past year and a half with vandalism of the buildings and materials."

Kondelik also stated that incidents of vandalism have included mutilation of paintings and thefts after closing.

"Stolen items have included a computer terminal used at the reference desk, a radio, and even a walkie talkie we use for security."

Kids from town, not Albion College students, have been responsible for such incidents, said Kondelik. "Several junior high kids were intercepted by the local authorities shortly after the fire. They had been involved in other situations on campus as well."

"It's usually groups of young kids that come in and are roaming around. When they come in and don't have any book bags or notebooks, it's pretty safe to say they're not here to study or do research. We want to avoid disruptive behavior that doesn't belong in the library."

Kondelik, in consultation with the administration, reviewed the various problems concerning the library. At the beginning of last semester, it was decided that the library would hire two security guards trained by campus safety. Then over winter break, the entrance and exit doors were switched.

According to Araya Parrish, South Haven senior and circulation desk worker, the new entrance located in front of the circulation desk allows the desk workers and library staff to moni-

tor everyone who enters the library. Previously, students entered behind the desk and out of sight of the library staff.

"Seeing who comes in just lets us be more aware of suspicious groups that might come in," Parrish said. "Now we can alert the security guards or one of the full-time librarians to keep an eye on them. It allows us to have a more direct line with campus safety."

According to Kondelik, the late shift from 10 p.m. to midnight usually only has two or three student workers who are responsible for closing the library. The security guard not only patrols the buildings, but also helps the desk workers with closing procedures.

"We're also helping the circulation desk workers out," Nelson said. "It's kind of nice for them to have another body around to help shut down or deal with suspicious people."

Meanwhile, students and staff are left trying to break the habit of entering the first doors of the library. "It's pretty amusing to watch people walk up to the wrong doors before they remember they've been switched," Parrish said. "Or we'll hear people banging on the old entrance trying to get in."

"It's rather an awkward situation," Kondelik mused. "I've walked into the wrong door myself a couple of times. It just violates the whole left/right idea."

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Questions? Please contact Kristin x0472 or Kevin x0497 at the Admissions Office

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—The Cute Guy

"The Senate Corner"

Senate met on Monday, February 3 at 9:30 p.m. in Olin 112. Major issues that were taken into consideration included:

- The recognition of the Make-A-Wish Foundation as a student organization
- Bob Bruner was designated to be the student representative concerning possible changes to the Albion Diploma. Pictures of the proposed change can be found on the homepage.
- Senate approved \$500 of emergency funding for the Albion College Greens that would be used to bring a speaker to campus in April.
- There are currently two open senate seats that will be filled at the next meeting. Applications are available outside the senate office, and are due by Sunday night at 10 p.m.
- The calendar for this semester's meetings are approved. Next Monday's meeting will be at 9 p.m. in the Kellogg Center Stack. All students are encouraged to attend.

FEATURES

New Religion and Ecology course encourages conservation

By Brian Longheier
Staff Editor

Lisa Pahman, Flushing senior, is taking a 300-level Religious Studies course in which she does not have to turn in any papers.

Instead, Pahman turns in all her writing assignments for her 311 (Religion and Ecology) class on a three and a half inch floppy disk.

This course, being taught by Frank Frick, professor and chair of religious studies, with the assistance of Selva Raj, assistant professor of religious studies, is a "paperless" course, meaning that all written material exchanged between the instructors and the students is by means of a computer disk or the world wide web.

At the beginning of the course, Frick gave each member of the class a computer disk, containing the syllabus and course packet. He gave specific instructions that students should not print out these items or any other material on the course's home page. Students turn in papers on computer disks, and Frick says he makes comments on the disks and then returns them.

Why conduct a course this way? Frick offers two reasons.

"In studying ecology, we need to become aware of our sizable commitment to white paper in the academic, political, and commercial world, and the high environmental costs of producing and consuming such paper. We also need to learn new habits through which we can reduce our dependence upon paper. Not only should we learn to do without 'hard copy,' but we must also learn how to use and trust electronic information and the devices that provide it."

Pahman thinks it's a good idea.

"Not only does it save paper, but it also gets people to use the technology we have," she said.

Kirk Myers, Millville, Minn. sophomore, doesn't think turning in papers on disk is very different from turning in hard copies.

"I have the feeling that most professors at the college expect us to use word processors anyway, so it shouldn't be much of a change," he said.

He said it is different not getting hand outs, though.

Although Rebecca McDowell, Saint Clair Shores

sophomore, agrees that the "paperless" dimension of the class is a good way of conserving natural resources, she says that she is not always enthusiastic about it because of the inconvenience it causes.

"I have to go to Rob lab to read my syllabus," she said.

Frick is the primary instructor, concentrating on Western religions, while Raj will present Eastern religious views for a few weeks later in the semester.

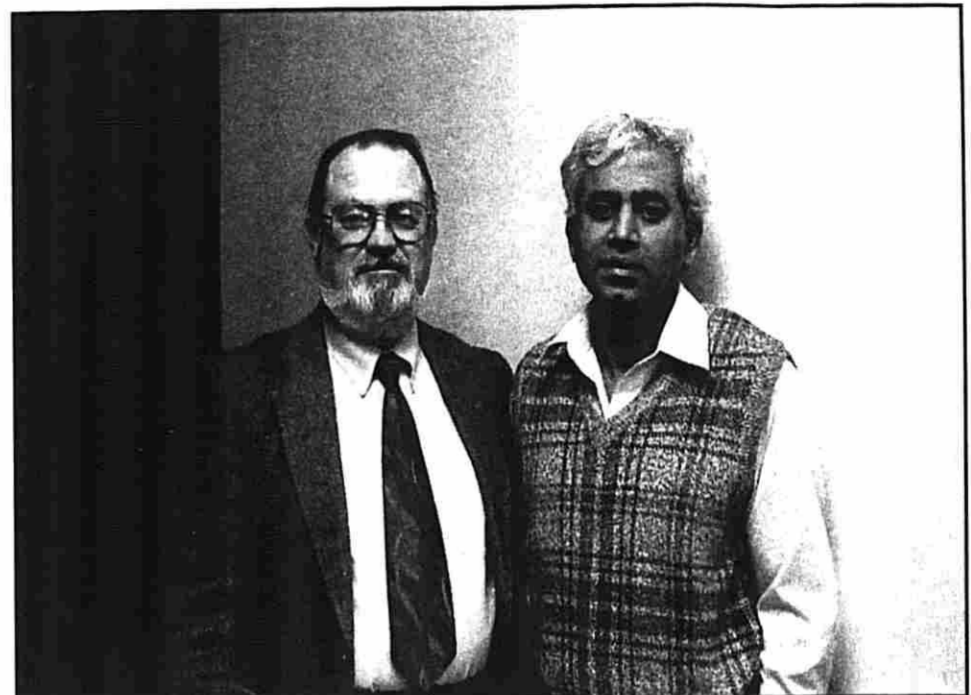
Frick explained that Judeo-Christian traditions often separate God from the natural world; God created the world and put human beings in charge. Many other religions, though, teach that God or gods are present in nature and are very much a part of the natural world, and thus people tend to revere nature more.

"There are things that we can learn from Native Americans, from Hindus, from other traditions that can help us form a Christian eco-theology," Frick said.

Raj reaffirmed this idea in regard to Eastern traditions.

"Nature is divine, and divine is nature," he said. "Nature is the playground of the divine."

One of the textbooks being



Frank Frick, chair and professor of religious studies, and Selva Raj, assistant professor of religious studies.

used in the course is Vice President Albert Gore's *Earth in the Balance: Ecology and the Human Spirit*.

"[Gore] makes the case that neither government nor technology can solve the environmental problem that faces us. It really requires a change in thinking that has to do with values, and certainly spiritual values, as to how human beings fit into the scheme of things," Frick said.

Students will be required to perform a semester project for the course. Some of Frick's suggestions include doing a report on *SimIsle: Missions in the Rainforest*, a computer game that deals with management of a

rain forest island; maintaining a journal of one's observations of, and subsequently reflections on, nature; and an inventory of litter along certain local roads.

The course fulfills the environmental category requirement for the class of 2000 and other students who have opted to take their classes in the new core curriculum.

Pahman said that the class has already changed some of her views.

"It's gotten me to think a little more about the recycling program on campus, [and] it's given me a better understanding of our relationship to the environment."

French Louisiana class offers more than just Cajun cooking

Sarah Sherman
Staff Writer

What do the words "French Louisiana" mean to you?

To many Albion College students, this is merely the title of a class that fulfills the ethnicity category requirement.

To Dianne Guenin-Lelle, associate professor of foreign language and of the course, it is her home, her heritage and her way of life.

Guenin-Lelle was born and raised in New Orleans but only began researching French Louisiana about seven years ago. Her research has taken two tracks: academic and personal.

"This research has been "an unusual situation," Guenin-Lelle said. "I was trained to do academic research, but part of that academic training actually served to distance me from my French heritage."

In fact, Guenin-Lelle didn't even know she was Cajun until she began her research.

Guenin-Lelle's class was an

idea that took shape when she was cooking one of her mother's recipes to serve at a dinner party.

"Literally, when cooking my mother's Louisiana recipe in my kitchen here in Albion, ideas came

to my mind about ways to connect French Louisiana to the ethnicity requirement at Albion College," Guenin-Lelle said.

"I never did forget that moment of inspiration and I continued from that moment to think about ways to teach that course."

Since that dinner, Guenin-

Lelle said, "a whole new area has opened up for me, and it's been the most interesting research I've ever done."

"There just hasn't been much research done, and as I'm finding out, it's an extremely rich area to research."

Because so little research in the area has been done, finding materials for the class was a new challenge for Guenin-Lelle.

"The material was there; music, current written literature, folklore, and other cultural aspects were

there, but because there was no model that I knew of for designing a class on French Louisiana I had to make a lot of decisions about what to include and what to leave out."

"That was the most difficult part in designing the course, because what was left out, the students will probably never learn. In other classes I've not had to confront that reality so directly because I've been able to borrow from other classes."

Guenin-Lelle thinks her French Louisiana course fits well with the ethnicity category requirement. It is similar to other ethnicity courses because it is a study of how ethnicity, gender and race are socially constructed.

It is different because "there is also a focus on the diverse languages and various American identities that connect to different ethnic and racial heritages," Guenin-Lelle said. "Southern Louisiana has an unusual mixture of races, ethnicities, and languages; it is both similar and different from

other situations in America."

In the class "French 330: French Louisiana," Guenin-Lelle plans to blend history, literature, music and culture, and to focus on two areas of the French traditions in southern Louisiana: New Orleans and Acadiana. She plans to focus on attitudes and customs which are typical of the two areas.

The course will also include a trip, during spring break, to Louisiana. Guenin-Lelle plans to take her students to "visit places, meet people who are archivists and writers, do other things that the student will decide on, and do research for their papers." As part of the class, the trip is "highly recommended."

Guenin-Lelle feels she has grown tremendously as a result of researching and teaching the class, which was offered once before as a seminar.

"There were things I saw happen in French Louisiana when I was there that were the beginnings of important movements of social

activism, that have served to reverse the loss of French heritage and contributed to the renaissance of Cajun language and culture," she said.

"I suspect that, had I stayed in Louisiana I wouldn't have been able to understand how important these changes were. Sometimes through distance we see things with greater clarity."

The Jan. 31 *Pleiad* issue made the following inaccuracies:
—Lexine Hansen's name was misspelled on the page 2 article "Scholarships help ease tuition burdens."
—Kelly Maciejewski's name was misspelled on page 4 in the staff box.
—Craig Rundle was misidentified as Christopher "Craig" Rundle in the page 3 article "Rundle named new football coach." The photo is of Craig's brother.

The *Pleiad* regrets the errors.

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FEATURES

Off-campus programs offer life lessons

By Jessie Jones
Staff Editor

"You're so far away from Albion [that] it's another world," said Elise Georgi, Howell junior.

Georgi will never forget her off-campus experience in Heidelberg, Germany last semester. She learned German more fluently, understood the culture better, and met some Albion students.

Albion students?

Yes, Georgi ran into William Trulock, Parma senior, and Kathryn Cavanaugh, Okemos junior, on the streets of Heidleburg.

Trulock and Cavanaugh, who were in Aberdeen, Scotland for the semester, had some time off from class and decided to see if they could find Georgi. Although they did not have Georgi's phone number or address, they were

lucky enough to see her in town.

This is just one of the many experiences that students have while off-campus. Although meeting fellow students

on the streets is not common, these programs offer plenty of other opportunities.

Over 40 different programs, which take place all over the world, are available to students. Choosing the right one is the hardest.

Students should start looking into the programs as soon as they know that they are interested.

"The earlier people start, the better," said Vera Wenzel, director of off-campus programs and coordinator of international student activities.

Many students will be overwhelmed when they start, but it takes time to decide where to go.

Students need to plan carefully and look to see if the program helps with their major and if the program is right for them.

By taking part in an off-campus program, students learn a lot about themselves and the world

around them.

"It's an opening of a person's eyes because it's a different culture," said Robert Thompson, Cadillac senior, who went to Jerusalem last semester.

Returning students suggest that other students go on an off-campus program. Since most programs cost the same amount as tuition, they feel that this is an opportunity that should not be passed up.

"Don't hesitate because you don't know who's going, even if it puts you in debt," said Julie Fontichiaro, West Bloomfield senior and participant in the New York Arts program last semester.

There is even a scholarship available to students who wish to go off-campus. Each semester, William and Gloria Sebold donate a \$500 gift to be given to one student.

The criteria for this scholarship are academic excellence, expenses associated with the off-campus program, and applicant's educational goals. The application deadline for the scholarship is March 3. One of the hardest things about taking part in a program is returning to Albion.

According to Wenzel, there is a period of time classified as "reverse culture shock." Many returning students have to re-adjust to living on campus and get back into the swing of things.

Although Jennifer Mackey, Fenton junior and participant in the Aberdeen program last semester, has had no problem adjusting, she misses Scotland.

"It feels kinda like a dream [of having been] there."

But that's not true for everyone. Some feel out of place with all of the changes that have occurred on campus.

"You feel like you fell off the planet and are returning," Georgi said.

Editor's note: Off-campus applications for summer 1997 and fall 1997 are due Feb. 28 to Vera Wenzel.

**"You feel like you
fell off the planet
and are returning."**

--Elise Georgi

Farmer-Lewis to unite community with '1776'

By Mihaly Somers
Staff Writer

History plays itself out this weekend as Albion Community Theater presents Sherman Edwards' musical "1776," directed by the Rev. Linda Farmer-Lewis, at the Albion High School Auditorium.

"1776" focuses on the members of the First Continental Congress as they worked to create the Declaration of Independence.

Directing "1776" was a natural extension of Farmer-Lewis's love for the work, which debuted in the early 1970s as a movie and as an album.

Most appealing to her is the character of John Adams because of his tenacity and his passion and commitment toward securing America's independence.

"I'm John Adams," Farmer-Lewis said with a laugh. "He's obnoxious and disliked. I couldn't act him, but I did the next best thing by directing him."

The other characters are as important as Adams.

"This play is about ordinary people in extraordinary circumstances. They were heroic, not perfect, working toward something beyond themselves."

According to Farmer-Lewis, this still happens in Congress and this is why she wanted to show the First Continental Congress in a more accurate light.

"It's historically important to understand congressional division has been a part of the process since the beginning."

Also important to Farmer-Lewis was drawing the college and the town closer together.

"My goal was to have college students, college staff, and the community come together for this production."

"This is wonderful for the college and the community to see us working together to make town/gown relations more positive."

By having students, faculty, and administrative members as part of the play, Farmer-Lewis feels she has accomplished that.

"1776" runs Feb. 6, 7, and 8 at 8 p.m., and Feb. 9 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for students and \$10 for the community and are available at the door.

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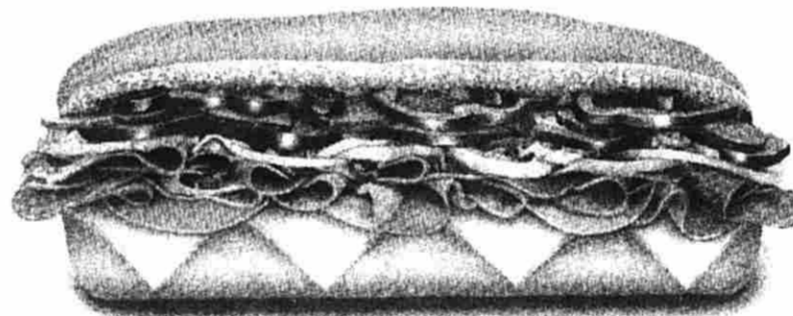
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SPORTS

Spring sports teams prepare for Florida

By Dre Clements
Staff Editor

The men's and women's track teams as well as the softball and baseball teams have been busy holding fund-raisers to help support their spring break trip to Florida.

On Friday, Jan. 24, the women's track team and the softball team held a lap-a-thon that lasted for 12 hours straight.

"It started at 9 p.m. Friday evening and lasted until 9 Saturday morning," said Tiffany Caldwell, Midland sophomore and track member. "I

was tired all day Saturday but it was worth it."

According to Lisa Melz, women's softball coach, any money raised from the lap-a-thon would bring each individual woman's \$135 cost for the Florida trip down to a manageable \$85 or less.

The two teams formed into relay groups where each person ran or walked an entire mile. Each person had the goal of raising \$50 or more from pledges made by friends, relatives, teachers, or whoever wanted to support the teams.

Other fund-raising efforts held by the women's softball team consisted of T-shirt sales, which are still being sold. Melz stated that they raised approximately \$400 through T-shirt sales alone.

The softball team also sold "50/50" raffle tickets at basketball games. The winner of the raffle receives half the dollar amount collected by the team and the

team keeps the other half. Melz estimates that they earned \$300 from this raffle and \$800 total for all of their fund-raising efforts.

The men's track team has also been busy with their fund raising as well.

"We're working at the concession stands at the basketball games, and sponsoring our annual dash-for-cash event at an upcoming game as well," said Ben Engelter, Springport junior and track member. "We will place in rows, up to \$400 on the

gym floor, and draw two names from a ticket raffle. Those two people will then have 30 seconds to pick up as much of the money as possible. It's really a fun event."

On Feb. 8, the team will host one of two high school track meets at the Dow. The women's track team will host the third meet.

The baseball team, also fund raising for their trip, had a mountain bike raffle during the football season. "Throughout the season we sold raffle tickets," said Ray McMann, Clawson sophomore and baseball player.

"At the end of the season, we had the drawing and the winner won the bike." "During the playoff game, we sold NCAA gift items; such as t-shirts and hats. If we weren't selling those things, we were busy doing other things at the games."

We are thankful for the support that we've gotten.

- Ray McMann



The baseball team, practicing at the Dow, will be among four teams travelling to Florida over spring break.

Photo by Joshua Bopp

The baseball team helped work the gates by directing traffic, parking, and selling programs. The team also sponsored a baseball play-a-thon.

"We played baseball for four hours straight", McMann said. "We split the time up by having freshmen play two

hours then the upper classmen play the other two hours. Each of us had people pledging for every hour that we played. We are thankful for the support that we've gotten."

Another one of their fund raisers consisted of forming media books which

will have pictures of the players, the players' stats, their hometown and majors as well as other interesting facts about the players. Each player will try to raise \$100 a piece by asking for pledges.

For more information, contact any of the players or coaches.

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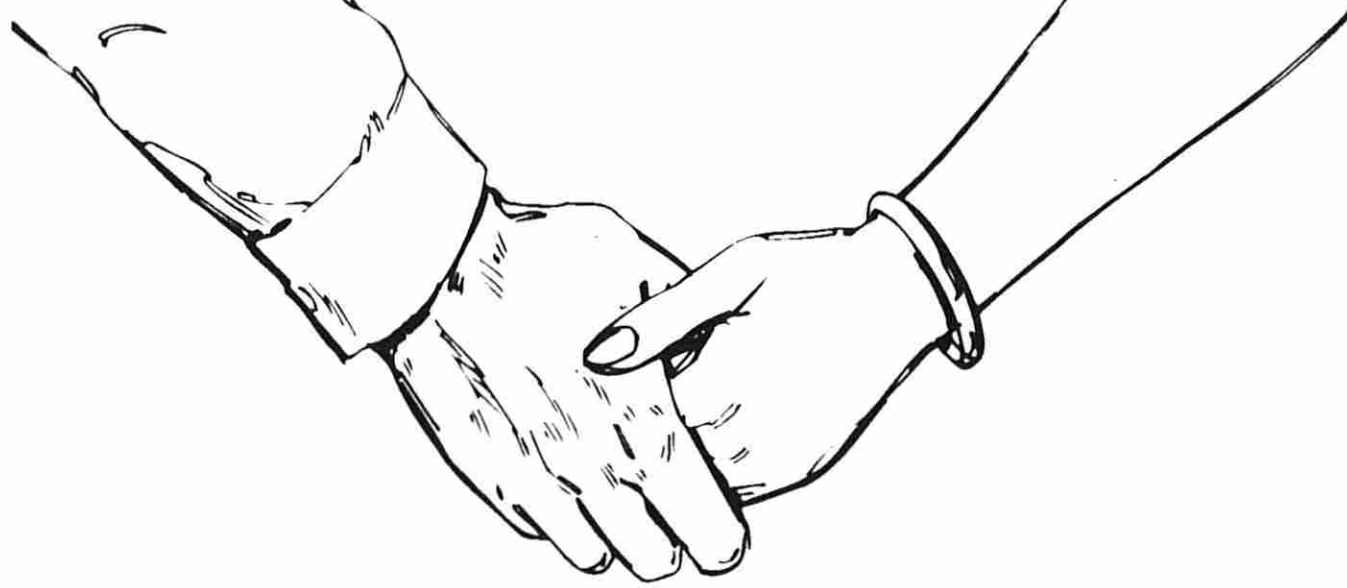
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