

Friday, April 18, 1997

## NEWS



### How many students are staying?

A graph illustrates the number of students returning each year in the classes of '95 through '98.

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## OPINIONS



### Letters to the Editor

- Luis Tejada, New York City senior, defends campus safety ticketing procedures.
- Jessica LeDonne, student representative on the Board of Trustees, encourages students to speak out on issues.
- Daniel Boyer, of Curry College, criticizes the White Student Confederation.

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## FEATURES

### Students experience 'major' problems

What are the most popular majors at Albion? Why are these majors so popular? Why are students choosing their majors? Find out as *The Pleiad* investigates an issue that sends chills up the spines of many students -- choosing a major.

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### Tuition increase announced

Find out what you'll be paying next year and how Albion's tuition compares to other GLCA schools.

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### Rhodes scholar returns to Albion

Amy Wakeland, '91, pays a visit to her alma mater to speak about welfare reform.

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## SPORTS

### Routhier breaks track records

Denise Routhier, Flushing sophomore, sets new records in the triple jump and the steeple chase.

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## ON-LINE



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## "Misanthrope" plays the Black Box



Photo by Matt Swanson

Since Wednesday, *Misanthrope*, a romantic comedy written by Moliere in 1666, played Wednesday and Thursday evenings in the Black Box next to the theater in the Herrick Speech and Theatre Center. Performances continue at 8 p.m. tonight and tomorrow.

The play stars Ian Kessler as a socialite who becomes fed up with the falsities that he sees amongst his peers. Amanda Geerts plays a member of the class of people that is driving Alcest (Kessler) crazy. Pictured are Ian Kessler, Birmingham sophomore, and Gregory Bogart, Dearborn Heights freshman.

## World wide web content comes under fire

### Debate rages over whether or not freedom of speech extends to the internet

By Pleiad Staff

Should the internet be a free-for-all, allowing anyone to broadcast anything he or she wants on it?

Those who say "yes" claim that the freedom of speech guaranteed in the first amendment extends to this newest medium. Others believe that the plethora of offensive material found on the web these days is enough to warrant regulation.

Last year, Congress passed the Communications Decency Act that would prohibit making "indecent" material available on the world wide web. The law was struck down, however, by a court panel in Philadelphia, and its reinstatement is currently pending in the United States Supreme Court.

Subject matter on the web is extremely diverse, ranging from family photographs to pornography, from religious groups to hate groups.

A March 18 *USA Today* article published on this subject detailed some of the material found on the internet and what steps, if any, could be taken to regulate its content, as there seems to be an ever-growing amount of offensive material on the web.

The *USA Today* article gives the example of Eileen Hughes, a Silver Springs, Md., mother who entered the words "I love horses" into a search engine for her daughter. The search

led her to an article written, as she puts it, by "a guy who really loves horses."

The *USA Today* article also gives examples of such things as pictures of women posed in sexual positions with dogs and snakes or women being urinated on. And an article that appeared in the February 19 edition of *The Detroit News* gives examples of hate pages, including one by the

-- see 'internet' p. 2

## Where are all of Albion's students going?

### College continues to search for ways to improve student retention

By Britt Halvorson  
Staff Writer

Remember realizing that the guy who sat next to you in class first semester was no longer on campus?

You heard he transferred to Michigan State for financial reasons or the school size. Or, was it to be with his friends there?

Why students leave Albion and how to keep them here are important questions without clear-cut answers. The problem of student retention, or attrition, is something that administrators and students have grappled with for years.

Daniel Meyer, vice president for

enrollment and co-chair of the Retention Committee, a task force organized by the president to address important issues on campus, recognizes the complexity of the problem. "Sometimes there's a frustration with retention. There is no single answer. You need to pay attention to the little things," said Meyer.

Retention can be measured in several different ways, Meyer said. One way is to calculate the percentage of freshmen who return as sophomores. A second way is to measure the percentage of the freshman class which remain and graduate in four years. "For the longest time, our freshmen loss was 15-17 percent of

students not returning as sophomores," Meyer said. "I think for the quality of students we're attracting, we should see higher retention."

Meyer hopes to see at least 70 percent of students staying four years until they are graduating seniors. Retention rates for students staying four years have been around 66 percent, Meyer said. The bulk of the loss is from the freshman to sophomore year. "Our biggest problem is freshmen because within six to eight weeks, either they're staying or they're leaving. You can't do anything to change their minds," Meyer said.

Reasons students give for leaving range from financial to social.



Photo by Joshua Bopp

Karen Neal, the registrar, looks over student course registration slips.

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# NEWS

## 'internet' continued from page 1

Detroit-based Resistance Records Inc., a company that records the white power music of such groups as RAHOWA (Racial Holy War).

Should the internet be regulated in order to eliminate offensive material?

According to Judith Krug of the American Library Association, who was quoted in the *USA Today* article, regulating the content of the web could remove such things as the Louvre's on-line collection — which includes nudes — and the works of Maya Angelou — works generally not thought of as obscene.

The *USA Today* article also points out the fact that 40 percent of the information on the web is created outside of the country. United States law would not govern such material. Thus, material that would be regulated if it had been created in this country, would still be available in the United States if created elsewhere.

Kim Tunnicliff, director of the Gerald R. Ford Institute for Public Service, does not see any practical way to regulate the web.

"The Communications Decency Act was passed in haste," he said, "and for more political reasons than productive ones. It would be difficult to monitor, and if [the government] gets into it they should realize how

difficult it would be."

"And who's to determine what's indecent?" he added.

Allen Horstman, professor of history, agrees that there is no ideal way to regulate the web.

"One of the things we've talked about any time we address free speech," he said, "is that it is very difficult to draw lines [between what is and is not decent], and the internet would be no different."

Horstman added that he is not incredibly concerned about the content of the internet anyway.

"I'm a lot more worried," he said, "about what my children can pick up from TV rather than the internet at the moment. Right now [the internet] is pretty dull."

On the local level, Albion College student Steven Krom, Bay City sophomore, created and maintains a home page detailing his white separatist views.

Krom's views and home page have drawn attention from such papers as *USA Today*, *The Detroit News* and *The Battle Creek Enquirer*.

The college has no control over the content of Krom's home page, as he created it on a commercial server rather than the college's server. Just the nature of his home page, though, raises the question of whether or not

**Steve's Homepage**

So wie wir kämpfen

Ein Volk, ein Reich, ein Führer!

This page is currently under construction.

Greetings and welcome to my page! This page is brand new and so it doesn't have much on it yet, but it will soon. Be sure to come back now and then to see the changes. For a brief description of me, click [Click](#) to read David Lane's 88 Precepts.

For now you can try out these links:

WHITE PRIDE WORLD WIDE

This is a view of the home page of Steven Krom, Bay City sophomore, who professes to be a white separatist. The page includes several links to other white separatist pages and hate groups.

the college should regulate the content of home pages created on the college server by faculty and students.

The college exerts little control over the content of personal home pages linked to its web site. The most noticeable college regulation for personal home pages is the disclaimer that is required on all pages linked to

the college home page: "The opinions expressed in this page/section are strictly those of the page author/creator. The contents of this page have not been reviewed or approved by Albion College."

Should the college further regulate the content of home pages linked to the college web site?

Tunnicliff believes that the college is already handling the issue as it should.

"There shouldn't be anything on the web page of an individual student or faculty member," he said, "that implies college endorsement of what the individual says."

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## As We See It

### Should we support racist groups?

On Dec. 2, Student Senate passed a proposal which granted Steven Krom, Bay City sophomore, permission to organize a White Student Confederation, an organization set up to inform the campus of white student issues, white student ideals and to help develop the white student community.

The title, "The White Student Confederation," may mislead students into thinking it is an organization to help promote the well-being of white students on campus. It is not.

*The Pleiad* feels that the White Student Confederation is a forum for Krom to present his racist, violent and dangerous views — views Krom admits are similar to, and in agreement with, those of Adolf Hitler.

What is the "white" culture? According to Krom it means any non-Jewish person of the Caucasian race. Jewish students or any student with Jewish ancestors do not belong in this group, according to Krom. They are not what he considers "white," since white is not a skin color to him but an ideology.

By approving Krom's confederation, Albion College, its students, and faculty are supporting the very man who denounces the college and what Krom calls its "commie liberal professors and students," its "race traitor scum," and its "queers," on his internet homepage.

By association, Albion College students will be linked to Krom and his views. Why? Because no one is taking a stand against his racist and ignorant ideas. Krom has a right to his opinion and to present his opinion but by approving the White Student Confederation, the college is supporting hate.

Under the Discriminatory Harassment category in the student handbook the college clearly asserts it will not tolerate any slur or stereotype (verbal or written) against anyone on the basis of race or ethnicity.

Krom is entitled to his own ideas, but giving him a platform to present those ideas goes against several policies in the student handbook. Albion College is an institution of free thought and expression. Recognized student organizations should be based on free thought and expression that benefit and promote the welfare of this diverse campus's students and faculty.

Albion needs to ask itself one question, 'How does this group benefit the college and it's students?' The answer is, it doesn't. It benefits one person: Steve Krom.

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

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## Students have a voice, use it

To the students of Albion College:

Many of you may be unaware that you as students do have a voice on the Albion College Board of Trustees. Every two years, a recent graduate is selected to sit on the general Board and on the Student Affairs Committee as a voice and vote for the students. I am your representative through May 1998. However, seeing as I am not on campus, it is difficult for me to stay in touch with student issues and concerns. I want to speak for you, but I can't unless you speak to me.

I would like to put together a profile of student views and ideas for the

next board meeting on April 25-26th. I cannot promise change, but at least, if enough of you respond to me, I can present an accurate picture of Albion College student views to the board.

I realize this is a very busy time of year, but I need to hear from as many of you as possible, from freshmen to seniors. Tell me what you love about Albion ( the college itself, not just the friends you've made ), what you would like to see change at Albion, how you perceive the trustees and anything else you want to share.

Send me the information via email; I am on Albion's system or

send a letter to my home address.

Please take five minutes of your time to respond to me. Without your input, I cannot accurately and fairly represent the students of Albion College. Please help me!

Jessica LeDonne, '96  
Student Representative, Albion  
College Board of Trustees

EMAIL your comments to  
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## Student responds to parking

To the Editor:

Christopher Maher in last Friday's *The Pleiad* argued and complained about parking fines and towing of his vehicle. Maher also points out that many other seniors are also having the same problem with parking violations.

The reason those seniors are having problems with fines is due to parking illegally, on the pavement, on the grass or in fire lanes like Maher. Who is responsible for these fines?

The responsibility rests on those students who violate parking regulations and park wherever they please. Anyone who parks illegally is more than likely to get ticketed by Campus Safety or Public Safety. I think that students should start taking responsibility for their own actions, especially seniors since they will be living in the real world pretty soon.

After reading Maher's half-truths article, I decided to tell the truth, the whole truth behind Maher's arguments and not just half-truths. First of all, Maher is arguing that he was never notified of his vehicle being towed.

Well, Michael Sequite, director of campus safety, called Maher the same day to inform him that his vehicle was towed from a fire lane. Sequite also advised Maher of additional charges per day that would result from not picking up his vehicle. Besides calling Maher, Sequite was nice enough to void a couple of tickets Maher received while parking illegally.

I completely understand Maher's attitude about paying a large amount of parking tickets and towing fees. I guess those are some of the consequences of parking illegally.

I don't have any complaints about Maher's character, but his parking decisions are not wise and lack common sense. I have personally ticketed (unknowingly) Maher's car for parking in fire lanes and on the sidewalk east of Whitehouse Hall. If Maher was having problems

finding a parking space, he should have obtained a temporary parking permit and not parked in fire lanes or on the sidewalk.

Parking in a fire lane is dangerous to Albion College students due to the fact that the vehicle would be blocking the path of a fire truck in the event of a fire.

On Friday night, April 11 at approximately 12:25 a.m., I came across four vehicles completely blocking the entrance of the fraternity alley and six additional vehicles parked in the alley. I looked for the drivers of these four vehicles in the Tau Kappa Epsilon and Delta Tau Delta fraternity houses in order to have them move their vehicles.

As I was searching for the drivers, the Campus Safety dispatcher notified everyone working that there was an alarm activation in Delta Tau Delta. I responded to the call and proceeded to the alarm panel in Delta Tau Delta, the panel indicated trouble on the third floor.

Upon arriving on the third floor, I noticed a group of students smoking cigarettes under the smoke detector. Apparently the smoke from the cigarettes set off the alarm. This time it was a false alarm, but it could have been a real fire.

If this had been a real fire, the four vehicles blocking the fraternity entrance would have endangered many Albion College students by blocking the path of a fire truck and public safety vehicles.

After the alarm activation, ADPS decided to tow everyone in the entrance and in the alley, surprisingly nine out of ten drivers magically appeared to move their cars, except for a red pickup truck parked in the entrance which they towed away.

I really hope that Albion College students realize the importance of not parking in fire lanes and try to work with Campus Safety to facilitate parking in the future.

Luis Tejada  
New York City senior

## Curry College student criticizes WSC

To the Editor:

The Albion College White Student Confederation needs to be viewed in its context. The Confederation (the allusion, all but certainly conscious, is apt) is not merely an ethnic/cultural organization, as it attempts to present itself. There are grave difficulties in terminology, as "Whites" and "Blacks," as David Roediger explains at length in his brilliant book *The Wages of Whiteness: Race and the Making of the American Working Class*, are not natural scientific/ethnographical terms but artificial constructs to enforce privilege.

It will "inform and educate the campus on issues of importance to White students." When have issues of "importance to White[s]" ever gone wanting for publicity? Under this seemingly innocuous phrase lies

the truth that such issues are threats to white supremacy or purity, issues on which we have all been, sadly, extensively educated and informed, both by speech and practice.

It will "take positions on the issues that are consistent with the interests of White students and traditional White ideals." Once again, it is difficult to conceive of "the interests of White students" apart from their interest in maintaining their primacy, or of "traditional White ideals" outside of a fascistic context. Surely there will be those whites who will assume the "interests" of justice rather than "the interests of White students," becoming race traitors.

It will "create a sense of community among White students and help them develop a sense of identity and pride in their heritage."

Excuse me, but are whites a marginalized group? Are they suffering from low self-esteem? Have they lost their sense of identity and had their heritage ignored, ridiculed, devalued?

The dominant culture, which can be freely experienced in Albion and just about everywhere else in Western Civilization, is not in need of cultural organizations to enforce its iron grip. The poor, dispossessed, uninformed white students have an entire society to aid them. They do not need the Confederation.

Daniel C. Boyer  
Curry College

*Editor's note: Boyer found out about the White Student Confederation from The Pleiad's homepage.*

# NEWS

## 'retention' continued from page 1

"The spectrum of why people leave Albion is so great. People who like Albion leave," said Karen Neal, registrar and co-chair of the Retention Committee.

Yet, members of the Retention Committee have discovered several elements which appear to improve student retention rates. Meyer said the faculty deserve a lot of credit for increases in attrition. "We see an increase in retention when we increase student-faculty interaction," Neal said.

Contact with advisors, social interaction outside the classroom, and giving students advisors with whom they have classes all create a community for the student. These elements also add into a total freshman experience, a concept which has been examined by the retention committee.

Freshmen seminars, which any in-coming freshmen can take, allow quality time with professors and provide a challenging, stimulating environment for students, Meyer said. Since the seminars are between 15-20 people in size, the personal attention students receive makes them feel more involved with the college community, Neal said.

The "Common Reading Experience" is another program focusing on first year students' introduction to college. "That's the type of thing we want to build on into an entire program, a unified first year experience," Meyer said.

A more unified campus also seems to increase retention rates. Meyer thinks having eight or nine

major events on campus, social or academic, could improve students' sense of community. "We really need to solidify everyone into the culture of Albion College," Meyer said.

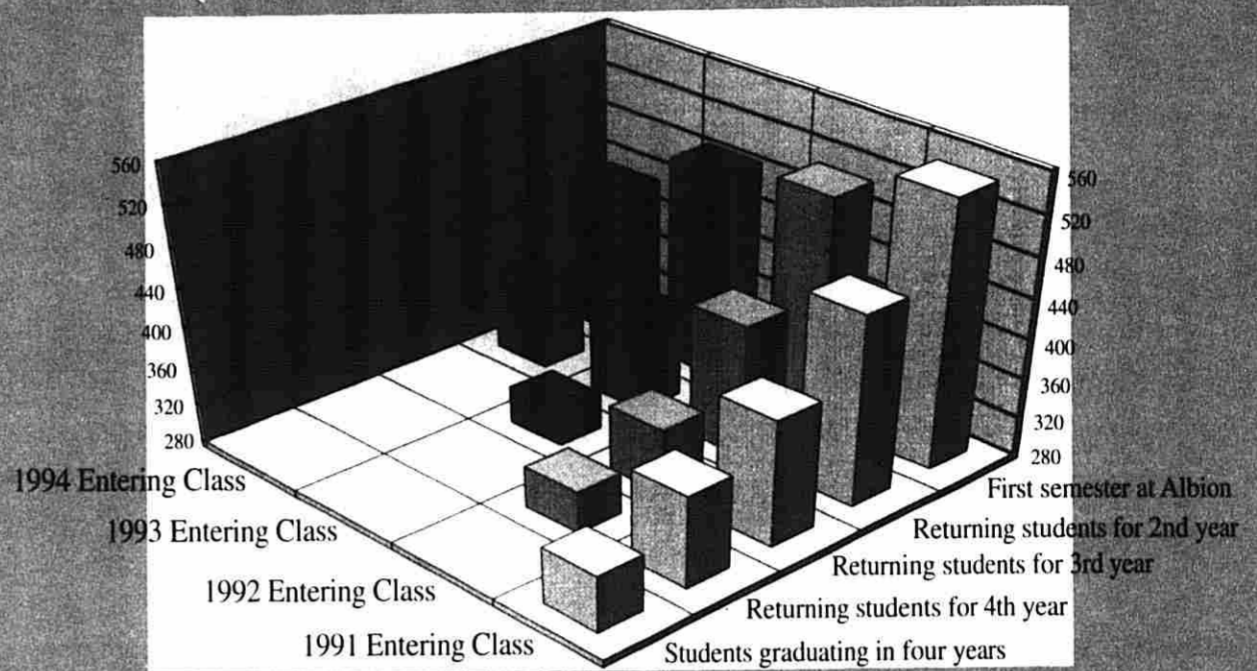
William Sweeney II, Wayne junior and member of the Retention Committee, also feels that this is a key to improved student retention. "I think the major issue is that there's nothing major that makes Albion 'Albion,'" Sweeney said. He cited Olivet's reputation for doing community service as an example. "I feel that the students don't have a lot of traditions at Albion."

A goal of the Retention Committee, according to Sweeney, is to figure out what kinds of unique things make up Albion. "I love it here. I think Albion is the best school in the nation," Sweeney said. "We should target students Albion would be best for." Admissions is a vital part of the retention equation, according to Sweeney, because it can attract students who want what Albion has to offer.

Within the Great Lakes Colleges Association (GLCA), composed of other small liberal arts colleges, Albion ranks in the middle as far as retention rates, according to Neal. Schools with national student bodies such as Kenyon and Oberlin rank at the top of the list. "Most of those schools at the top are probably more selective than Albion," Meyer said. "We need to become more selective."

In order to become more selective, though, Albion needs a larger applicant pool. It is kind of a chicken and egg issue, Meyer explained.

## Student Retention



Source: Albion College Academic Catalog, 1996-97, 246-47

This graph indicates the number of students entering Albion from 1991 to 1994 and the number of students returning from each class at the beginning of each academic year. According to Daniel Meyer, vice president for enrollment, retention rates for students staying four years have been around 66 percent in recent years, with the bulk of the loss occurring between the freshman and sophomore years.

Schools which are highly selective, such as Harvard and Yale, have 90 percent of students staying all four years. According to Neal, Notre Dame had a retention rate of 99 percent at one point, which Sweeney explains is a result of the school's immense tradition.

While William Ferguson was acting president last year, retention was of great concern to him. "One of the most positive things he did was that he said it in the most succinct terms: why do students come here, what keeps them here, and why do they leave. If we can get answers to those, we'll solve our enrollment and retention issues," Meyer concluded.

### The April 11 issue of *The Pleiad* contained the following inaccuracies:

- The name of Allen Horstman, professor of history, was misspelled.
- Selva Raj was mistakenly identified as a visiting assistant professor of religious studies. His correct title is assistant professor of religious studies.
- Shannon Trudell, Marysville senior, was incorrectly identified as Melissa Korte in the photograph on page 7.

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# The 'major' debate returns

*Choosing a major is never easy but it has to be done*

By Josh Epstein  
Staff Writer

Every year several hundred Albion students are faced with an extraordinary dilemma — they are asked to declare a major.

In other words, they are asked to plot the course that could eventually dictate the success, both personally and financially, that they will attain during their lives.

The majority of Albion students decide their major during their sophomore year, although it can be changed as many times as one wants. The registrar asks that a major be declared before the end of a student's third semester, causing students to sometimes panic and choose anything in order to have a major on file.

This came across when several students responded to questions about their majors with things like "I'm an art major — for now."

Kimberly Halbeisen, Bloomfield Hills sophomore, said she declared English as her major because she had to put something down and she had taken more English classes than anything else, but she is thinking of changing it.

She isn't alone.

Of the 40 or so people interviewed, fewer than half said they were sure of their major. Only three people said they had a good idea of what field they wanted to go into after school.

"I just want my teaching degree and I need a major [history] to go with the [secondary education] minor," said Joe Clarchick, Wyandotte sophomore.

According to John Burt, '83 and assistant registrar, of the 26 majors offered, three — economics

and management, biology and English — constitute 40 percent of what the Albion population had declared for a major as of March 25. The next eight — psychology, political science, history, music, chemistry, anthropology and sociology, and physical education — make up another 40 percent.

Some students pointed out the

**"Maybe some of those students are so accustomed to math and science classes that they're afraid to venture into something new."**

**Patrick Slone, Marine City sophomore**

fact that as business becomes more automated, the only people who will be successful will be people who can cross fields and excel in several areas. In the near future, workers will have to be marketable in more than one skill.

"Majors as broad as English or management open up huge opportunities to succeed in more than one field," said Damon Sewell, Flint sophomore and English major. "Communicating an idea is becoming an extinct talent. It's so important to be able to present and share ideas with different people. I think it is as or more important than someone who can build a computer out of toothpicks and bottle caps or an accountant who can add 15 columns at once if neither one can

relate their findings to other people effectively."

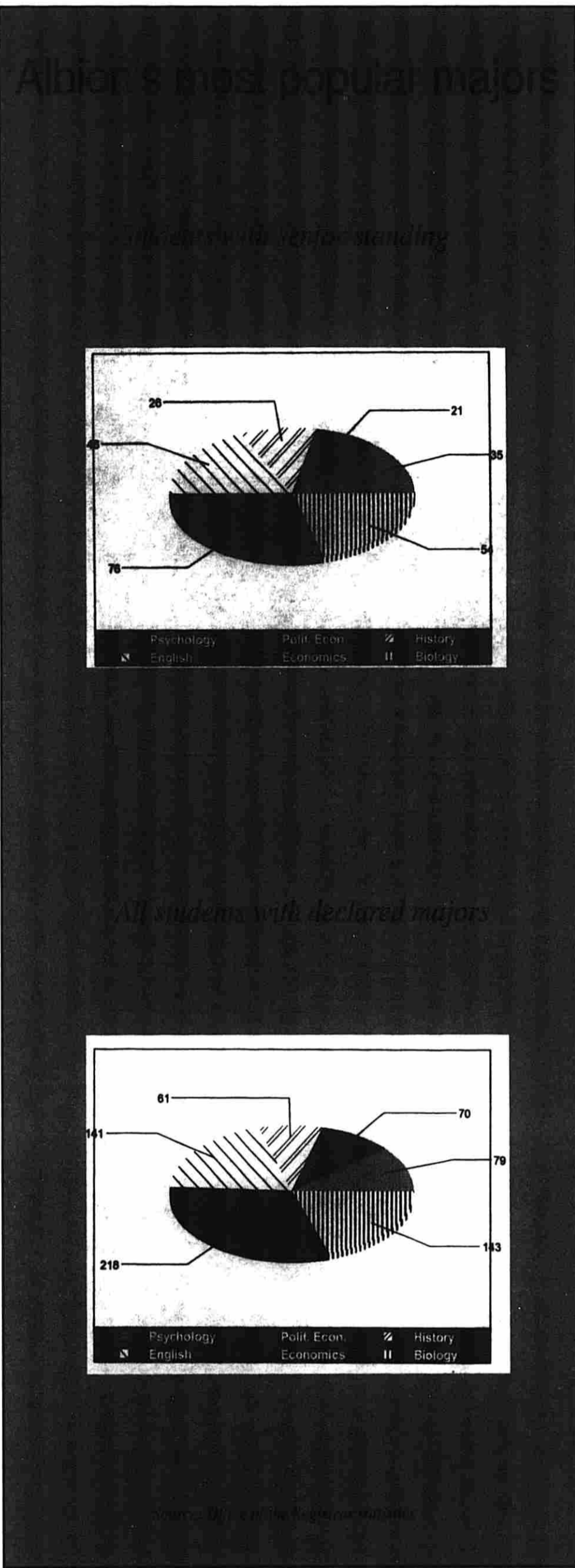
Jessica Arneith, Naperville, Ill. senior, had a slightly different approach when asked why she thought her major, economics, is so popular. "Because the profs are awesome," she said.

"I chose Albion specifically because of the economics department. The attention that the pro-man faculty gives us is incredible," said Katina Hamman, Dearborn junior and an economics/Spanish double major with a professional management concentration. "All the professors are experts in their individual fields. I love the emphasis Albion puts on internships. I think they're as important as what I've learned in the classroom."

Rinku Singh, Troy senior and a biology major had similar rave reviews for the faculty of her department. "When I was in high school we kept hearing about the biology department at Albion. A lot of students come here based solely on the reputation of the faculty. That's definitely what attracted me here. I mean the head of the department was valedictorian at Harvard. We've got a really good department."

Not everyone agrees that biology and economics are all they are cracked up to be though.

Patrick Slone, Marine City sophomore and a physical education major, thinks there might be a different reason for some people choosing particular majors. "Bio and econ are really well known majors. Maybe some of those students are so accustomed to math and science that they're afraid to venture into something new."



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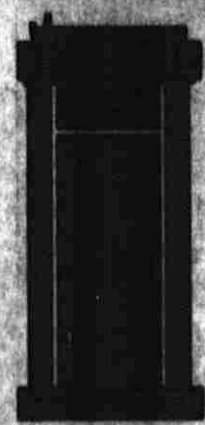
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## FEATURES

# Alumna brings welfare research home to Michigan

*Amy Wakeland, '91, presents her research into welfare reform and its effects on families*

By Elizabeth Goodman  
Editor in Chief

How do you define "welfare reform?"

According to Rhodes Scholar Amy Wakeland, '91, you define it as, "putting women and children at risk."

Wakeland, who is currently writing a doctoral thesis at Oxford University on American welfare policy as an instrument of behavioral control, recently returned to Calhoun County as a Kellogg Foundation Expert in Residence to discuss the impact of federally mandated welfare cuts on Michigan.

Wakeland explained that AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) was eliminated in the "Welfare Reform Act" signed into legislation last August 22, replacing it with TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families), which is no longer under federal control and has been given to the states in the form of block grants. States will now decide which welfare services to provide. In Michigan, this means reductions of all services and

elimination of others.

Professor of physics emeritus Howard Petterson, one of the audience members at Wakeland's talk, rose during the question and answer period to sound an alarm about the effect of these reductions on the city of Albion.

Petterson explained that over 22.2 percent of Albion's residents live below the poverty line, which is currently \$14,000 a year for a family of three. Two agencies in Albion provide supplemental aid to these families: Albion InterFaith Ministries, a consortium of area churches, and the Salvation Army, both of whose budgets are quickly depleting.

If nothing more is done "someone will be evicted or have their power shut off," Petterson stated.

Wakeland agreed and noted that this underscores the need for citizens to seek reform of state welfare policies.

By giving responsibility to the states and through further welfare cuts, Wakeland said that the federal government saved over \$40 billion but also made it impossible for

states to ever increase their welfare funding, even in response to inflation.

Wakeland then discussed the implications for Michigan of these welfare changes and referred to a "Summary of Fiscal Year 1997 Michigan State Plan for Welfare Reform" fact sheet published by the organization, Michigan's Children.

According to this fact sheet, Michigan expects to receive approximately \$775 million each year under the block grant and will transfer at least 10 percent of the income assistance block grant to other program areas. Michigan also requires that approximately 95% of all income assistance recipients participate in the Work First program as a condition of eligibility.

Wakeland was an English major and a member of the Gerald R. Ford Institute for Public Service while at Albion and worked for a year upon graduation as the county coordinator of the Community Action Agency of Calhoun County. In 1993 she became one of 32 Rhodes Scholars from the U.S. chosen from 1275 applicants.

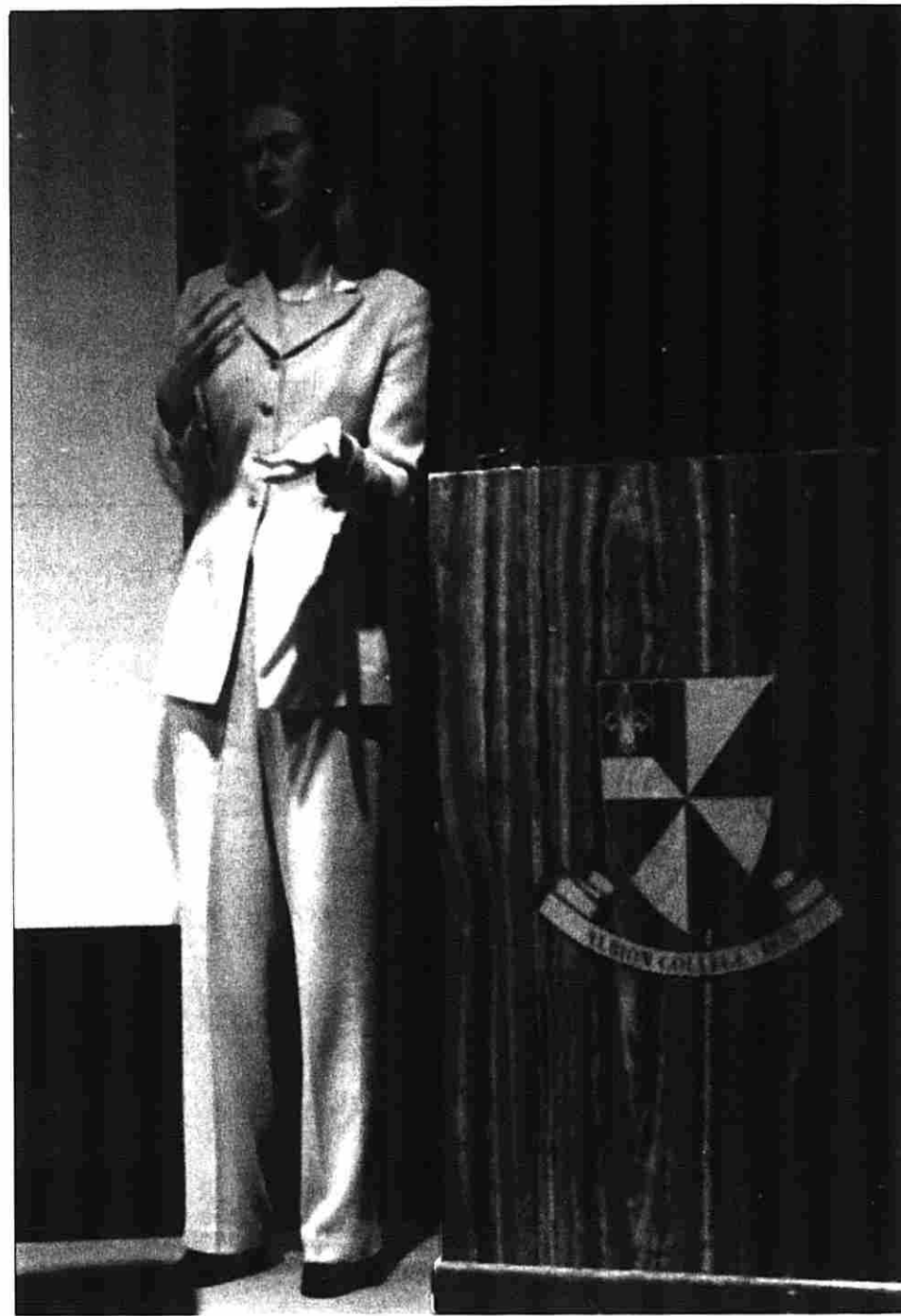


Photo by Brian Longheier

Amy Wakeland, '91 and Kellogg Foundation Expert in Residence, gave a speech entitled "Welfare Reform and its Impact on our Community" on Wednesday, April 9.

## Rising tuition costs continue to effect Albion College

*Albion's tuition seems expensive, but how does it stack up with other GLCA colleges?*

By Laurie Schulz  
Staff Writer

Once again the yearly ritual performed by parents and students alike — a slight cringe as the letter announcing the upcoming tuition increase is opened — has occurred.

This time, parents and students alike cringed at the sum of \$21,786.

Sounds rough? It's not so bad considering Albion has the third lowest tuition in the Great Lakes Colleges Association.

According to Dale Dopp, vice president of finance and management, tuition for the 1997-1998 school year is up \$736 from \$21,050 this year. This figure represents comprehensive student fees, including the \$166 student activity fee.

The 3.5% increase remains close to the 3.3% rate of inflation. Tuition is determined each year by the Albion College Board of Trustees who vote on a proposed general operating budget put forth by the office of finance and management, Dopp said.

Over \$29 million was gathered this year in tuition and fees which covers 80% of the general operating budget of the college. The remainder is covered by the endowment, gifts/grants and other sources.

Fortunately for students, over

\$10 million is returned in the form of financial aid and scholarships. According to Dopp, however, financial aid is too high.

"We're trying to reduce the discount," said Dopp. "It's an incredible burden on the institution. Just as an example, right now we can't give raises above inflation to faculty or pay to keep up with the latest technology."

As a result, the college is trying to increase its revenues by expanding the endowment and generating more through gifts and grants.

"We need to maintain resources for the college in order to keep the quality of education that has come to be expected of this institution," Dopp said.

Are students and parents from other schools cringing as they too open letters announcing tuition increases?

Among the GLCA, a consortium of Midwest liberal arts colleges known for their outstanding quality of education, Albion ranks tenth out of the twelve schools in total tuition costs.

Oberlin College in Ohio has the highest tuition costs, while Wabash College in Indiana had the greatest percentage of increase at 5.9 percent.

Hope College in Holland has the lowest tuition at \$18,826 and Kalamazoo College has the lowest percentage increase at 3 percent.

# TUITION

## GLCA Total tuition Fees 1996-1997

School	Tuition	%Increase
Oberlin	\$27,750	3.9%
Kenyon	\$25,830	4.7%
Denison	\$24,630	4.5%
Ohio Wesleyan	\$24,222	3.3%
College of Wooster	\$23,230	4.5%
Kalamazoo	\$22,635	3.0%
Earlham	\$22,310	3.9%
Antioch	\$21,628	3.9%
DePauw	\$21,580	4.2%
Albion	\$21,050	3.5%
Wabash	\$19,445	5.9%
Hope	\$18,826	5.6%

# Senior Talent

## Intense color dominates show

By Mike Somers  
Staff Writer

I knew I was in for an interesting time when I saw the cage.

That's right. Square in the middle of Bobbitt Visual Arts Building's reception area is a large cage constructed by Kelly Casterline, Northville senior, standing on a sisal rug. Inside is a rusted standing ashtray and a metal chair facing a "screen" of 18 varied images that loomed over me when I sat in the chair.

It's not just art. It's interaction.

I had a sense of what Casterline probably wanted me to feel -- overwhelmed and fenced in.

It's eerie having a metal screen with myriad images hulking over me. It definitely cured me of any desire for a large-screen TV.

I felt captured and that felt familiar. That's what we as a culture want, isn't it? To spend our time, especially after work, in our temperature-controlled cage watching images of situations we could easily be experiencing rather than passively watching?

We want to be left alone, but we create our own prison by tuning in and vegging out. Adopting the TV lifestyle is a trade-off.

It wasn't so fun being in the cage after all, so I climbed out and saw a series of wooden boxes to my left.

Paul Thompson, Quincy senior, created this trilogy of rather disturbing scenes with each box telling its own story.

The first box, "The Capture," is painted black and shows an egg wrapped in wire mesh held by a rope suspended over sharp, red twigs.

The second box, "The Torture," shows an egg perched on a bed of toothpicks, surrounded by more toothpicks on the sides and on the top. Barbed wire curls on top of the box.

It seems the egg's not going anywhere. But that egg ended up surprising me.

The third box, "The Escape," was left unpainted and showed a broken chain-wire mesh with a hole punctured in it and a broken-hinged door with scratches in it.

I wanted to cheer for the little egg. It was so vulnerable in the first two scenes but ended up breaking down its captor's defenses instead in the third. Dramatic.

Next I moved to the Elsie Munro Gallery and to my right saw a fox's pastel face. Who could resist?

I walked over to the drawing and stood just a few inches from it, glancing at the card detailing the work. Kimmi Dukes, Livonia senior, had named it, simply, "Fox."

I looked back to the drawing. All I saw were purple, pink, orange, red, cream and beige colored pencil swirls combined to create this profile of a fox. Simply astounding.

It looked totally effortless, like some second grader decided to sit down and swirl out an animal's face for fun, but it was obviously more complex. The color choice is compelling. It casts the fox in a gentler light than we generally place on the species.

Then I turned and saw what instantly became my favorite piece in the exhibit. Right in front of me, calling me, stood a wood and glass table made by Kim Browder, Brighton senior.

It's primary-colored legs, with their vibrant, Crayola-like hues of yellow, green, red, blue, purple and orange angles and curves topped by a glass rectangle, made me want to run over and dump my Legos on it.

That table captured the essence of childhood. No matter what a child's mood, the experience is always vibrant. A child's life is a combination of angles that end sharply, leading to a totally different landscape on the other side, and curves which ease that child into a new realm of understanding.

There's a good reason the table's legs are covered with glass.

For the most part, the mixed media exhibits were more compelling and interesting than the more traditional hanging exhibits. That's not to say the portraits and prints ought to be ignored, though.

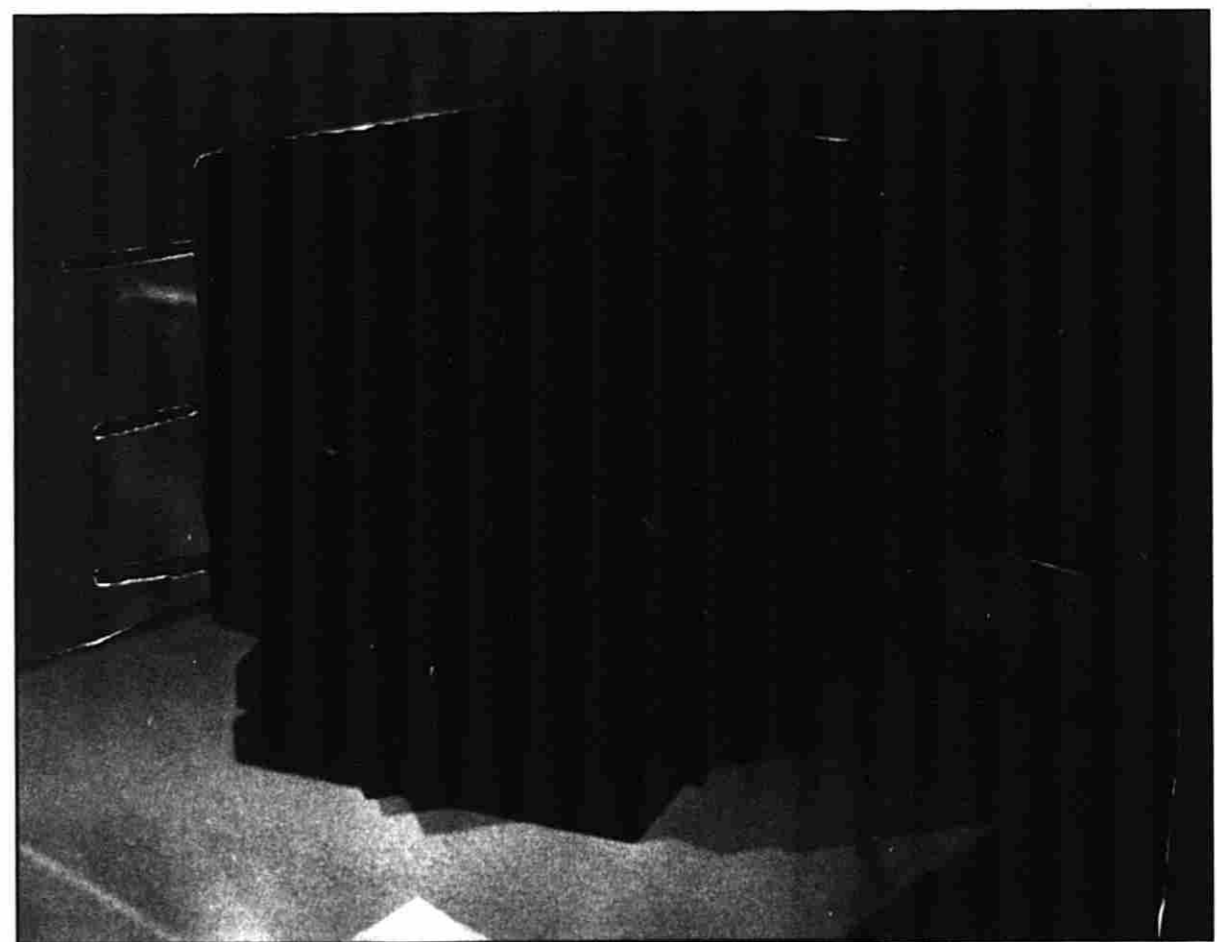
I attribute the problem to the print exhibit's set-up. It is an almost unattractive combination of black-and-white and colored work with no real sense of uniformity.

All of the works shown are good by themselves; however, their placement in the gallery hinders the potential of their statement's impact.

In fact, I'd recommend keeping an eye out for Brook McClintic, Haslett senior, as well as Kelly Casterline, Northville senior, and Michael Zacha, Okemos senior.

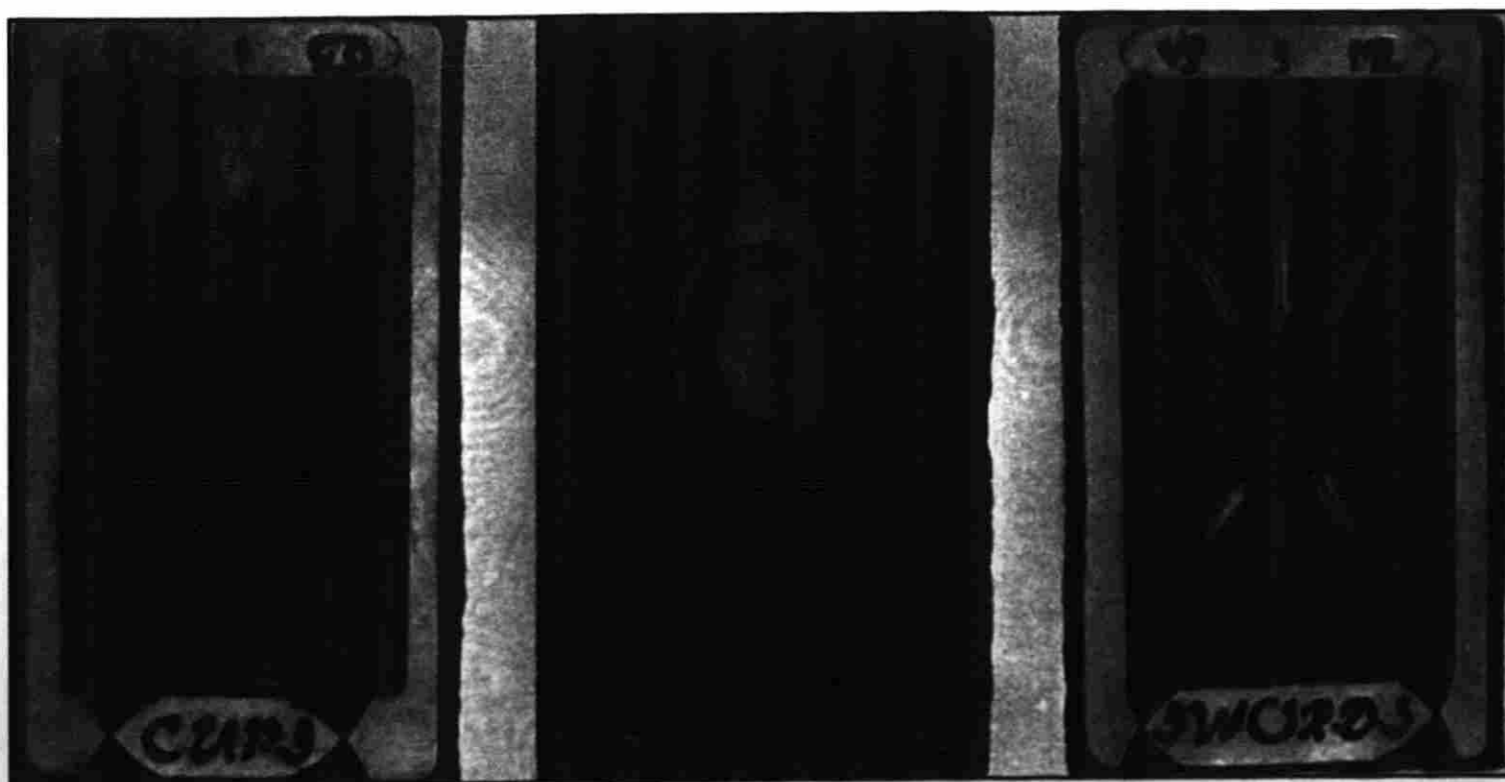
Most students are selling their work and buyers can reach the artists by contacting Renee Kreger, visual arts secretary, at x0246.

The 1997 Senior Art Majors Exhibit will be displayed until May 7.



Photos by Joshua Bopp

Photos clockwise from the top: "Embodiment," linoleum print, by Michael Zacha; "Visually Stimulating," wood, by Paul Thompson; "Untitled," oil painting, by Kristen Rahn; "Love, Despair," etched intaglio, by Rachael Roberts



# SPORTS

## Women's track battles a tough MIAA conference

After a loss to, Calvin, Albion forges ahead with record breaking performances by Denise Routhier

By Zack Loeprich  
Sports Editor

A month into the women's track and field competitive season, Denise Routhier, Flushing sophomore and a member of the women's track and field squad, has once again placed her name into the Albion College record book.

Last season, Routhier set the women's record at Albion in the triple jump with a distance of 32' 5".

This season at the

Whittenberg College Invitational, Routhier broke that mark and set the new one at 32' 8 3/4".

If Routhier has her way though, that record will not last for to much longer.

"My personal goals are to do well at MIAA's and to jump over 33 feet in the triple jump."

Routhier also set another Albion College women's track and field record in the steeple chase with a time of 13:44.77.

"This is the first year women have run the steeple

chase; it's usually just a men's event," Routhier said. "I got the record because nobody has ever run it before."

The steeple chase is a 3000 meter run which incorporates distance running, hurdles and a barrier followed by a water pit that requires the athlete to jump over.

The water pit though, is just large enough that the athlete can not jump over it completely.

"You land in it and get all wet," Routhier adds.

At the Defiance meet, Routhier placed first in both the long jump and the triple jump.

With top finishes like those of Routhier, Albion women's track and field team will look to knock off last year's MIAA champions, Calvin College.

"Our goals are to place higher in the league than we did last season. We also want to have a lot more team unity and to really support each other. So far we've done a good job," said Christina Brandel, Saginaw sophomore.

Last Monday, Calvin defeated Albion. However, in the same meet, the Britons beat Olivet College, who didn't show up.

Albion turned in excellent performances in the shot put, javelin and discus. Michelle Wade, Clarkston senior, placed first in the discus and second in the shot.

Laurie Schulz, Okemos senior, finished second in the javelin and Sarah Born, Battle Creek freshman, finished second in the Discus.

"Normally Calvin would be running behind us, kicking our butts as we go. Then they'd run by us and kick dirt in our faces," joked Deania Towns, Rochester sophomore and track member. "We did a lot better against Calvin this season. We've definitely improved from last year."

Albion's next meet is at home against Hope College. Last season, Hope captured the third spot in the MIAA while Albion finished fourth.

"Our goal is to beat Hope," Brandel said.

Brandel runs the 800, 1500 and is a member of the mile relay. At the Defiance Invitational, Brandel placed first in the 800 and the mile relay also finished first.

With head coach Amy Wolfgang in her second season as coach, the teams talent and confidence is improving.

According to Brandel,



Photo by Zack Loeprich  
A women's track and field member endures the cold weather of two weeks ago during practice.

with Wolfgang's improved workouts and motivation, the team has improved greatly this season.

"She is our main competitor. She can beat us in anything," Brandel said.

"I think each member of the team has an individual goal that they want to strive towards and through motivation and team unity those goals can be

achieved," Towns said.

In a newsletter of announcements and a season outlook, Wolfgang outlines the teams goals.

"I am very happy with the way things are going. We should be proud of the improvements we've made as a team this year especially because we are very young but I still think we can do more."

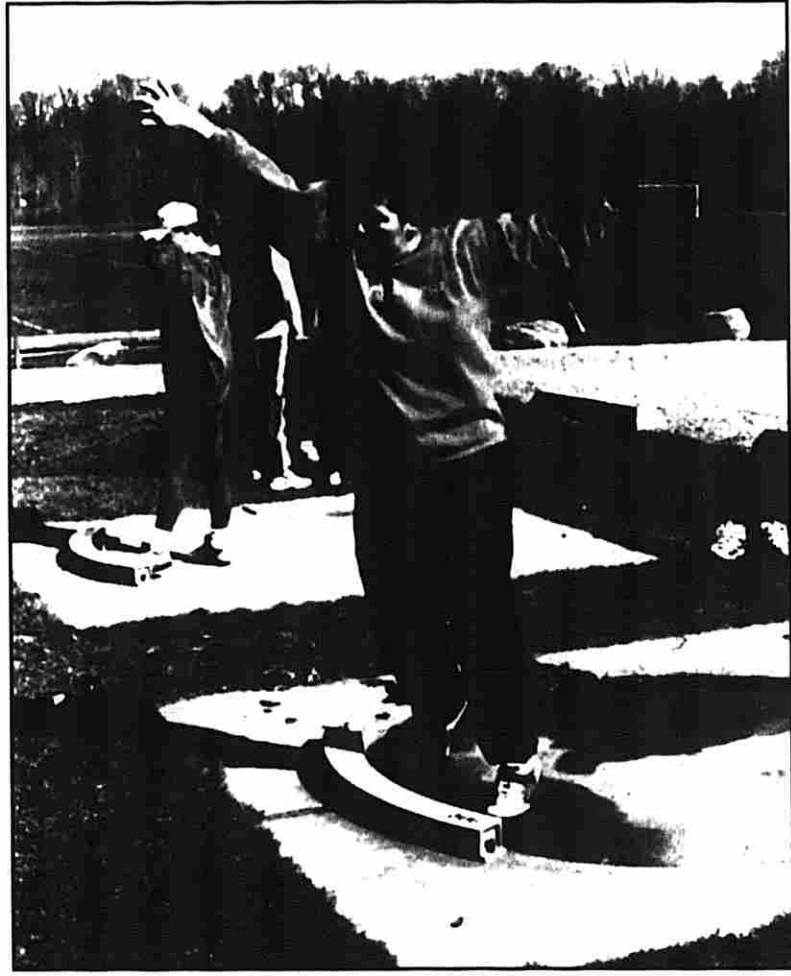


Photo by Zack Loeprich  
Sarah Born, Battle Creek freshman, practices the shot put during practice.

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**Seniors!**  
(And December Grads)

We want your feedback! The Assessment Committee is hosting Albion's first *Hour of Assessment* beginning at 10:10 am on Thursday, April 24. You will receive in the mail an invitation to go to the room in the list below that is associated with your primary major for the purpose of completing the annual senior survey. The survey will ask you to rate your level of satisfaction with social and academic aspects of Albion College, including the General Education Requirement (a.k.a. "the core"). It takes between 20 and 30 minutes to complete.

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Geology, Earth Science	Palenske 112
History	Robinson 206
Math, Computational Math, Math/Econ, Math/Physics	Norris 109
Music	Goodrich Chapel Basement 3
Philosophy	North 204
Physical Education, Sports Management	Dow Classroom
Physics	Putnam 107
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Psychology, Legal Psychology	Olin 325
Religious Studies	North 203
Speech Communication and Theatre	Herrick 508
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