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The Pleiad



"Even though some of the monologues made me as a man uncomfortable, I strongly encourage men to attend."
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ALBION COLLEGE WEEKLY

www.albion.edu/pleiad

IN THE
NEWS

Vagina! Vagina! Vagina!

Joining more than 800 acting troupes worldwide, 25 Albion students and a



host of student and staff volunteers will collaborate in three Valentines Day weekend performances of Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues*. *Pleiad* Managing Editor Erin Laidlaw gives you a sneak peak behind the scenes of this much anticipated event.

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OPINIONS

Ask not what your WLBN can do for you, but what you can do for your WLBN.

In the weekly student organization column, WLBN staffers explain that whole weird thing about a radio station not really broadcasting on the radio. And in an appeal to the student body they ask the vinyl-phile within you to join them in making WLBN the voice of the student body.

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FEATURES

Stop in, chow down and leave with a happily filled stomach.

For years the decaying Ponderosa sign next to the Albion I-94 exit has teased students with the suggestion of the dining possibilities of yesteryear. The new Eatin' Station located next to Felpausch promises to cook up only the best.

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SPORTS

With a current second place rating, Albion's men's basketball team travels to Hope in search of league supremacy.

With an 18-4 overall record, a second place MIAA ranking and a tough defense Albion's men's basketball team travels on Saturday to Hope College in search of its first MIAA championship in 22 years.

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Albion's Black Student Alliance plans a February full of events

By JENNIFER BALLARD
Sports Editor

The Black Student Alliance (BSA) in collaboration with several other organizations and departments on campus have several events planned during Black History Month meant to entertain and educate.

The festivities started Feb. 5 with a showing of *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* in Bobbitt Auditorium at 9 p.m. This film stars Sidney Poitier, Katherine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy in 1960s Calif. The film explores issues revolving around interracial dating and marriage.

Michael Eric Dyson spoke Feb. 6 at 7 p.m. in Goodrich Chapel about his recent book, *Between God and Gangsta Rap*. The lecture was followed by a reception and book signing.

One of the months most



(L to R) Takisha Woolfolk, Milwaukee, Wisc. first-year, Tiffany Caldwell, Detroit sophomore and Ross Plont, Ravenna first-year at the Michael Eric Dyson reception and book signing.

anticipated events, StepAfrika, a dance troupe that traces the roots of stepping from Southern Africa to its significance within the black Greek community occurred Feb. 8.

On Feb. 12 *Black Is, Black Ain't* was screened in Bobbitt Auditorium. Sponsored by the office of multicultural affairs and

the department of history, the film explores African American identity, internalized racism and the lives of African Americans in general.

There are many more activities planned for the rest of the month. Taste of Blackness, is an annual dinner offering the

Photo courtesy of the Multi-Cultural Affairs Office

campus and community a chance to sample traditionally black foods for \$3 per person. Tickets go on sale Feb. 17 and the dinner will be held in the Stack at 4 p.m. on Feb. 23.

The film series continues with the showing of *Higher Learning* starring Omar Epps, Tyra Banks, Laurence Fishburne and Ice Cube.

From 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Feb. 27 in the Kellogg Center the Pre-Medical and Health Care Studies Institute will host "The Color of Health," which will offer information regarding health issues for the African American community.

Black history month comes to an end Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. with the MBongi Dance Theater Project, Inc. in the Stack. Timpos Sampa will demonstrate the Congolese style of dancing and singing.

Be My Valentine dating service and fund-raiser a major success



(L to R) Allen Hearn, Alleghen senior, Bobby Clase, Edwardsburg senior, and Yugi Ohsuga, Tokyo, Japan, senior prime and primp themselves before the Black Student Alliance's Feb. 11 fund-raiser "Be My Valentine." Forget rock concerts. This event subjected the entire Kellogg Center to extreme decible levels and other types of rowdiness. All proceeds will go toward the renovation of the James Welton house. While most dates went for anywhere between \$10-\$15, Edwardsburg senior Bobby Clase brought home a night topping \$51 for a single date.

Andra Quinn / The Pleiad

Department of Public Safety reports a "normal" crime rate

By JIM ROBBINS
Sports Editor

So you've heard the rumors, right? Gang wars over on the west side of town, stolen vehicles all over the place and the occasional homicide. But is Albion really a haven for crime, or are these rumors just speculation and uneducated guesses?

"Any time you have a lot of unemployment, a lot of single parents raising children, and low income areas like you do in Albion, those things are going to all add up to crime," said Lieutenant John Collins, Albion Public Safety's chief of police. "Crime tends to follow economic conditions."

Has Albion's declining economic climate made it an unsafe place to live? Not necessarily. "For a small town our size, we are probably in the range of normal as far as serious crimes," Collins said.

The total offenses reported by the Albion Police Department for 2001, which are the most recent statistics available from the Michigan State Police,

support Collins' statements.

In the jurisdiction patrolled by the Albion police there are 9,144 citizens. This number is comparable to the population of several nearby cities, including Marshall (7,459 citizens) and Three Rivers (7,328 citizens).

An analysis of the 2001 crime reports for these cities shows that while Albion had the second most infractions reported out of any similarly sized city in southeastern Michigan, its crime per capita ratio was not significantly higher than neighboring cities.

A total of 2,467 crimes were reported in Albion, yielding a ratio of .27 crimes per person. Marshall, with 1566 total crimes, was only slightly lower at .21 crimes per person, while many other southeastern Michigan cities boasted higher ratios, including Dowagiac (.33), Benton Harbor (.30) and Three Rivers (.29).

The number of violent crimes committed in Albion was much higher than nearby cities, however. For instance, although there were no homicides in

Please see CRIME, Page 3

Albion College celebrates V-Day

By ERIN LAIDLAW
Managing Editor

Vagina: the word is out. A cast of Albion College women proved that there's nothing taboo about it as they offered the first of three performances of *The Vagina Monologues* in the Stack last night.

"To say the word 'vagina' or 'I love my vagina' is not a sexual perversion, as I have found some people to think, but a healthy, confident declaration of women's sexual being," said Diana Ariza, assistant dean of multicultural affairs and director of two of the 18 monologues.

Twenty-five women – most of whom have no prior acting experience – have been working with student and staff directors since December exclaiming, shouting, moaning, whispering and crying the same lines that have been executed by actresses such as Brooke Shields, Glenn Close, Jane Fonda, Lily Tomlin, Meryl Streep, Oprah Winfrey, Queen Latifah, Susan Sarandon, Whoopi Goldberg and Wynona Ryder. The roles these women embrace both celebrate the female body and sexuality as well as expose the violations it endures. *The Vagina Monologues* is more about the women vaginas belong to – children, mothers, lesbians, sex workers, victims

of rape and genital mutilation – than it is about the vagina itself.

Three other v-words – valentine, victory and violence – join 'vagina' as the impetus for performing the monologues on campus. Albion's efforts are part of a global movement and non-profit organization called V-Day. Through V-Day campaigns, local volunteers and college students produce annual Valentine's Day benefit performances of *The Vagina Monologues* to raise awareness and funds for women and children's anti-violence groups.

"For me, the VMs are more about awareness than about feminism," said Katie Brennan, Rochester sophomore and student co-coordinator of the production.

Last year, more than 800 V-Day benefits spread the word around the world, from a Massai village in Kenya to the Royal Albert Hall in London, the Folies Bergeres in Paris and the Apollo Theatre in Harlem. Nearly 550 schools participated in college campaigns, including the University of the Philippines in Manila. V-Day efforts have raised \$14 million since the organization's inception, and the movement was named one of *Worth* magazine's "100 Best Charities" in 2001.

Eve Ensler, author of *The Vagina*



(L to R) Katie Brennan, Rochester sophomore, and Amber Hellow, Holly sophomore, perform a monologue.

Monologues, founded V-Day in 1998. Her script is derived from more than 200 interviews she conducted with women around the world, and it has been translated into 22 languages. Each February she makes the script available, exempt from licensing fees, to campus groups interested in presenting V-Day benefit performances. *The Vagina Monologues* won an Obie award in 1996 and has been published by Random House and re-

leased as an HBO film and DVD.

The idea to stage the monologues at Albion was initiated when Brennan and Amber Hellow, Holly sophomore, approached AnnMarie Klotz, resident director for Whitehouse hall, about starting a feminist group on campus. Klotz had celebrated V-Day performing one of the monologues at Grand Valley State University last year, and offered to be the staff advisor of a V-Day production

here at Albion.

"We are excited to bring this production to Albion because its mission is so simple and yet so important: to end violence against women," Klotz said.

Approximately 45 people have been contributing to the monologues as directors, actresses, and other volunteers. However, not all of them are women. Nick Mourning, Jackson sophomore; Ken Powell, Midland sophomore; and John Steeno, Big Rapids senior; are serving as directors of this year's production.

"Even though some of the monologues made me as a man uncomfortable, I strongly encourage men to attend," Steeno said. "The monologues give us a window into some taboo subjects. The view into some of the most intimate personal thoughts and beliefs of women is well worth it."

The Vagina Monologues will be performed tonight and tomorrow at 7 p.m. in the Stack. Tickets are \$5 for students or children and \$10 for adults. All proceeds will be donated to Safe Place of Battle Creek, Touching Hearts, INC. and POWER!, a new group on campus dedicated to raising awareness of women's issues. Everyone is welcome to come.

Albion Today replaces CPO mass mailings

By GINA KUPRIANIAK
Staff Reporter

The recent problems in the Albion computer network have caused the Office of Campus Programs and Organizations (CPO) to re-evaluate its campus-wide mass e-mail system. The solution? Albion Today.

The program, which began Monday, consists of two parts. First, it combines all the mass CPO mailings that normally would have gone out in individual e-mails into one e-mail. The e-mail features the subject of each event, which is linked to a complete description of the event located on the Albion Today web page. This e-mail will go out between 9 and 11 a.m. every day.

The second part is the addition of the Albion Today page to the CPO website, which lists all the events for the current week and offers links to their descriptions.

Posting an announcement is also done at the Albion Today page. Message formats will all be consistent, and can be posted at any time before 8 a.m. of the day the post must go out.

According to Tracey Howard, director of CPO, this new system will

make things much easier.

"For me, it will speed up the process of having to go through so many proposed mass mailings," he said. "Instead of having to send out six mailings per mailbox a day, which is 12, 800 e-mails a day, I can just send one."

However, Albion Today may not attract as much attention as the e-mails sent out under the old system. "Students are not reading the mailings now, why would they go to this site?" said Evan Hawker, Brighton senior and president of Student Senate.

Hawker also noted that the Student Senate will be evaluating student comments and will form its opinion in late February or early March.

"Personally, I think it's a good idea," Hawker said. "I know I take up a lot of server space with my e-mail account, and something new would be good."

"I'm excited because there are lots of benefits to the campus as a whole," Howard said. "But it is something new and needs to be watched and evaluated – it may need modifications."

Now hiring: Albion looks to fill vacant faculty positions

By JOHN SELLERS
Opinions Editor

With seven departmental positions and one interdisciplinary to be filled for the upcoming school year, the office of Academic Affairs and departmental staff are busy working through the process of interviewing candidates for these positions.

The process of keeping all open positions filled with excellent faculty, even in more temporary aspects is crucial, according to Royal Ward, dean of faculty. "Assisting departments and programs in hiring qualified faculty is one of the most important the office of Academic Affairs does, since this can shape the future of the college for years to come," he said.

According to the office of Academic Affairs, the departments currently seeking candidates for open positions are anthropology and sociology, chemistry, education, English, mathematics and computer science, political science and theatre. Furthermore, the college is also seeking candidates to fill a new interdisciplinary tenure-track position in women's

and gender studies.

The hiring process first entails the various department heads requesting authorization from the dean of faculty to conduct a search for candidates. Once this is done, a nationwide search for qualified candidates is conducted. Next, the top choices are brought in for on-campus interviews with the various departments, the dean of faculty and frequently with panels of students majoring in the particular areas of study.

In the anthropology and sociology department, a one-year position is slated to be filled for the following school year, following the resignation of Mimi Schippers, assistant professor. "We will need to have a sociologist who focuses on the impact of society on the individual," said Elizabeth Brumfiel, professor and chair of anthropology and sociology.

The chemistry department is also seeking to fill a one-year position, which has been left open by the sabbatical of Andrew French, associate professor. The political science department is looking to fill a three-year position.

Several departments are looking to fill tenure-track positions, including both mathematics and computer science, as well as the theatre department. The English department is also seeking to fill a tenure-track position in creative writing, which was vacated by the departure of Lisa Chavez. The department is in the midst of interviewing the top applicants for the position.

The education department is also looking for potential tenure track candidates. "The department has been in major transition for the last four years, with every faculty and staff member in the department coming to Albion in the last two and a half years," said Deborah Roose, professor and chair of the education department. "We are excited that with this search we will have the full complement of tenure track faculty members we need at this point."

Finally, a new interdisciplinary tenure-track position is scheduled to be filled for the 2003-2004 academic school year.

Bohm Movies - 2/14 to 2/20

Daredevil
How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days
Deliver Us from Eva

Nathan Decker,
Happy Valentine's Day!
I love you,
Kim!



NEWS

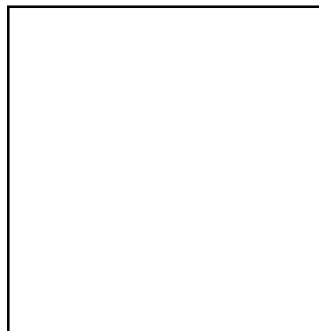
The Pleiad

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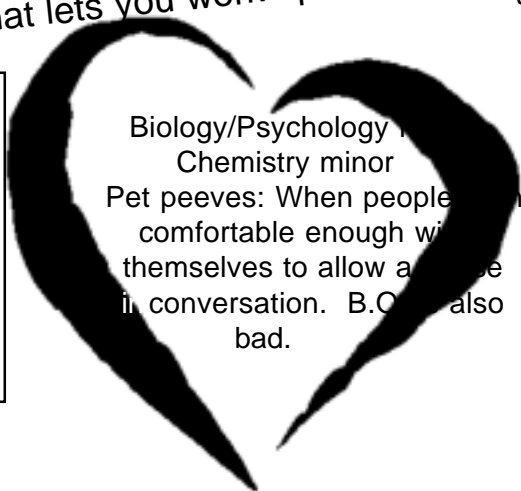
Elima-~~BLIND~~- Bach-~~De~~ates!

"I like anything that lets you work up a good sweat."

Biggest complaint of opposite sex: "They like to walk around with their shirts off all the time!"



Julie



Biology/Psychology
Chemistry minor
Pet peeves: When people aren't comfortable enough with themselves to allow a little in conversation. B.O. is also bad.



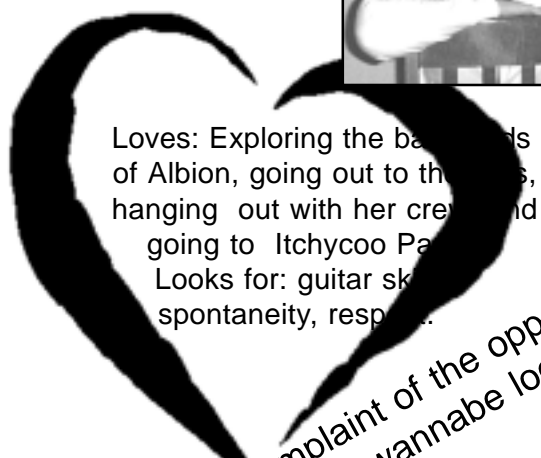
Kelly



Economics and Mgt
Communication major
Looks for: Someone who is athletic, likes football, someone that I can talk to, who will stand by me.



Kelle y



Loves: Exploring the beauty of Albion, going out to the movies, hanging out with her crew and going to Itchycoo Park.
Looks for: guitar skills, spontaneity, respect.

"My biggest complaint of the opposite sex is Backstreet Boy/N'Sync wannabe look-alikes."

Meet the Bachelor...

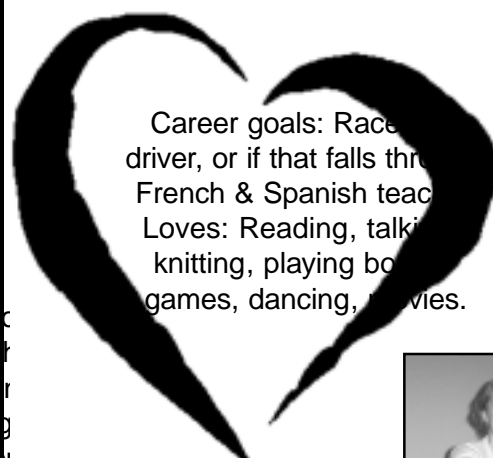
Michael Ryan Elliott
a.k.a.- "Burrito"

is a good-hearted guy just waiting for the right girl to sweep off her feet with his lacrosse goalie stick and genius generosity. He loves skiing, golfing, road trips, movies, helping people out and throwing parties. His dream girlfriend has a great sense of humor, nice eyes, and is "someone I can trust with any secret, likes my mom and my boyz." Burrito is a "boyz" boy with a serious sensitive side.



Lindsa y

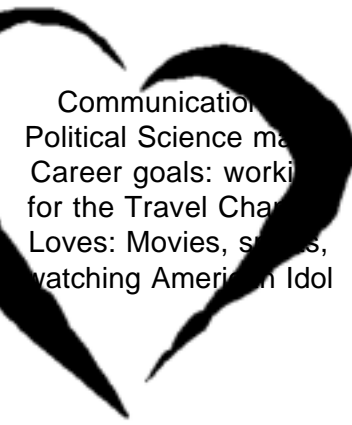
Music Technology/
Composition major
Nickname: Foxy
Looks for: Sweet, chivalrous, popular.



Career goals: Race car driver, or if that falls through French & Spanish teacher.
Loves: Reading, talking, knitting, playing board games, dancing, movies.



Jaclyn



Communication
Political Science major
Career goals: working for the Travel Channel
Loves: Movies, sports, watching American Idol

Michael Ryan Elliott
a.k.a.- "Burrito"

is a good-hearted guy just waiting for the right girl to sweep off her feet with his lacrosse goalie stick and genius generosity. He loves skiing, golfing, road trips, movies, helping people out and throwing parties. His dream girlfriend has a great sense of humor, nice eyes, and is "someone I can trust with any secret, likes my mom and my boyz." Burrito is a "boyz" boy with a serious sensitive side.

Stephanie

Some guys think girls are objects-hey I'm more than that!



Cont. from CRIME, Page 1

Albion or Marshall in 2001, there were 104 cases of aggravated assault in Albion, while there were just 11 cases reported in Marshall.

"Our biggest problem is domestic assaults," Collins said. "We average maybe three or four a week."

Collins notes that the financial crisis that Albion has been enduring has led to an increasing number of unemployed citizens, and that unemployment yields frustration. These discouraged citizens sometimes partake in drug and alcohol abuse, and such practices are major causes of domestic assaults.

The police department faces several obstacles as it attempts to curve the crime rate in Albion, all of which are related to city budget cuts and curtailed funding from the state.

"We are at minimum staffing right now," Collins said. "And we were only able to buy one new vehicle this year."

Albion lost two police officers who feared the instability of Albion's economy, and another officer was killed this past year in an automobile accident. Most of the city's patrol cars are '98 Fords with over 100,000 miles on them, and police departments usually replace their vehicles every three years.

The department is also without a K-9 unit after one animal had to retire and the other

died of illness. "We are trying to raise money to get another unit," said Lieutenant Gerald MacQueen. "(K-9 units) are a fabulous tool to utilize, and the presence of the dog on a scene during a disturbance is astounding."

The loss of Trillium Hospital has also handicapped the department, as officers have to travel to Marshall for any number of tasks from testing a person's blood alcohol level to helping someone receive any treatment they need.

So what strategies are being employed by Public Safety to compensate for the reduced funding? "We are trying to do more things county-wide," Collins said. "We are about to get a county-wide investigation team, and we would like to get a county-wide control dispatch."

Doing so would be costly at first, but in the long run could save money for the individual departments in Calhoun County, and would provide a unified front against crime.

The Albion Public Safety department is also attempting to add officers to the force.

"Right now we are going through the interview process and trying to get our manpower up," Collins said.

Alas, the big question: is Albion a safe place to live? Collins believes so. "When a parent asked if this would be a safe place for his daughter to go to school, I told him to come and drive around and ask questions himself," Collins said. "He'll find out that this is a safe place on his own."