



GREEK FAMILIES GAIN BROTHERS, SISTERS



Over the weekend, Greek chapters across campus gained new members. Celebration by the sororities and fraternities could be heard all over campus Friday and Saturday after Walkouts and Runouts. Look for photo galleries on Alma's Website and Facebook page.



Marcella Flury: Staff Photographer

Citizens, students unaware chore list includes shoveling

By SAM COYKENDALL
BUSINESS MANAGER

Students who reside off-campus and community members in Alma have noticed a lack in prompt snow and ice removal from sidewalks and other public walkways.

Most towns and cities have an ordinance in place that stipulates the rules for when and how public sidewalks must be obstacle free. Almost every city and town within Michigan has a working snow removal policy, according to Google.

The city of Alma lists the associate ordinance under

"Sidewalks; Regulations sections 96.20 Kept Clean," which states:

"(A) It shall be unlawful for the occupant of any lot or lots or the owner or any vacant lot or lots within the corporate limits to allow snow, sleet, mud, ice or other substance to accumulate on the sidewalks or to permit any snow, sleet, ice, mud or other substance to remain upon said sidewalk."

"(B) All sidewalks within the business district shall be cleaned within five hours after the cessation of a storm, unless the storm or fall of snow shall have taken place during the night, in which case the sidewalks shall be cleaned before 9:00 a.m. the following day; provided, sidewalks within the residential areas of the municipality shall be cleaned within 24 hours after the cessation of the storm."

However, many students have found that downtown sidewalks on both Superior Street and Wright Avenue have not been properly maintained.

"While out running, as soon as I was off of the college's property, the sidewalks were not free of ice or snow," stated **Mackensie Garlow ('15)**. "It was really difficult trying to navigate while also worrying about not slipping on anything."

Despite the city's ordinances relating to snow removal and upkeep of public sidewalks, college students living in both college small-housing units and off-campus houses have been quoted being unaware of these regulations.

"Our landlord did not tell us a certain amount of time in which we needed to have to clear

the sidewalks," explained **Nick Goodman ('15)**. "We usually try to have our sidewalk cleared within a day of a snow fall and my roommates and I all take turns."

"The city did not alert me about clearing the sidewalk, but then again there isn't one directly in front of my house," stated **Gavin Bukovcik ('15)**. "If there is one I believe that you are required to shovel it within a certain time frame."

Residents in small housing, including Greek housing, were unaware of city ordinances, yet noted taking their own measures to ensure the sidewalks were clear.

"We have an assigned girl each week that handles the outside chore," explained **Rebecca Drake ('16)**, house manager for Alpha Xi Delta. "It is her

responsibility to spread salt, which is provided by the school two times a week. She is also responsible for shoveling."

In addition to a city ordinance that regulates snow and ice removal, the city of Alma has also developed a snow and ice control plan. It was created to provide snow and ice control for the following public facilities: public streets and alleys, public parking lots, and public sidewalks (Central Business District) depending upon snowfall depth and parking lots and sidewalks at other city facilities.

Questions and complaints regarding the conditions of Alma city sidewalks can be directed to the Public Services Director and will be handled on a case-by-case basis to ensure the safety and usability of all.

This Week at Alma College February 2 - 8

Monday

Spring Term Registration
Feb. 2-6

Tuesday

Tartan Tuesday

Connect and socialize with alumni, parents, friends
and students over trivia

6:30-8:30 p.m. Alma Brewing Company

Wednesday

Jump Start Entrepreneur Competition Info Session
7-8 p.m. Smith Room, Library

Alma College Internship & Summer Job Fair
3-5 p.m. Tyler Van Duesen

Thursday

Therapy Dogs

6:30 p.m. Library

Friday

Alma Con Rave

9 p.m. - 1 a.m. Stone Rec Center

Saturday

Alma Con Ball

9 p.m. - 1 a.m. Stone Rec Center

Newberry incident causes small housing searches

By ABIGAIL FERGUS
CAMPUS EDITOR

Some students are concerned after an apparent drug-related incident that occurred in Newberry Hall around midnight Jan. 25 and the small housing searches that followed.

A Newberry resident, who declined to be identified, said that one of his hallmates suffered a negative reaction as a result of drug use.

The unnamed student said he discovered his neighbor acting oddly.

"I heard loud screaming coming from the hallway and I heard banging on the walls." At this point, the student reported exiting his dorm.

"I thought people were fighting, but noticed that the sounds were coming from next door. I proceeded to open the door to [find] him on the floor, panicking."

"He kind of looked at me and asked for help. He said to go grab somebody. He felt like he was dying."

Several other students had entered the hall when the commotion began, according to the student. He told them to get a resident assistant. A female and male R.A. came and told the residents that they had things under control.

The effected student returned to his room temporarily. "Five minutes later he started screaming and banging against the wall, so I opened the door to find him running up the dresser, looking at the wall and screaming 'this is the last time.'"

"The girl and the guy in the room ran out and I held the door closed until security came."

"He started trying to open the door and get out of the room."

He started throwing bottles and other objects at the door and banging his head against the door."

Security arrived and began asking residents for information while the source continued to hold the door closed. Security then called the police.

School officials said little details could be released about the incident because of privacy regulations, but said the student involved in the Newberry incident is safe.

Some of the student body is concerned after the incident.

"A lot of people who live around here are really concerned because this kid is usually quiet and friendly," said the Newberry neighbor.

After the incident in Newberry, security searched small housing. Vice President of Student Life, Nicholas Piccolo explained that searches were targeted at small housing units, because they don't have the resource of resident assistants.

Because of the recent Newberry incident, Piccolo questioned, "Is there something else out there we need to find? Is there someone else at risk?"

Piccolo "wanted to make sure there weren't any students in small housing who didn't have access to [R.A.'s]."

House managers and chapter presidents received an email from the student life office after the searches.

"House Managers & Chapter Presidents:

On Saturday evening/Sunday morning, Campus Security was asked by the Student Life Office to conduct walk-throughs of specific residential areas, including Small Housing units. We understand that some of you are concerned about those events and we wanted to let you know:

"1.) There was a situation on campus that caused concern for the safety of students living in specific housing areas. Walk-throughs were conducted out of concern for student safety, which is common practice in such situations."

"2.) We understand that there are number of rumors circulating about the situation that prompted the walk-throughs. For privacy reasons we cannot disclose details of the situation, but we can reassure you that all students are safe and receiving any needed assistance."

"3.) All safety concerns related to this situation have been addressed and there are no further concerns at this time."

"4.) While the college respects student privacy, from time to time we may feel the need to enter housing units for many reasons, especially when there are concerns about campus and student safety and well being."

"The immediate concerns for safety have been addressed," explained Alice Richard, Newberry hall director. "It is a long term healing process, but there isn't any immediate concern."

Richard made it clear that the situation was handled well.

"All the training and all of the systems we have in place worked. There was an effective chain of response."

Piccolo described the ways in which the school counters and addresses crisis situations.

"Accidents, alcohol related emergencies and emotional types of things can get to a crisis point."

"Among the things that we do from a preventive standpoint, we have QPR training (responding to suicide), and we have bystander training, which we do with incoming students, Greek Life and athletes."

New faces from different places

By MONICA KUNOVSKY
STAFF WRITER

Every year Alma gets over 50 transfer students coming from all types of universities and all areas of the country. Spanning from the Californian coast to the hustle and bustle of Chicago, students from schools with populations that are ten times the size of Alma College and located in more urban areas still find themselves here in the heart of Michigan.

What leads these students to want to transfer to Alma, taking a complete 180 in the way they go about their schooling?

Danielle Boss ('18) is one of this winter's transfer students who has found herself able to call Alma home already, even after only four weeks here.

"I transferred here from Loyola University Chicago," Boss explained, "because Alma had the specific major that I'm interested in [integrative physiology health science]. Being here also allows me to keep my options open for other fields I could potentially be interested in; they also make studying abroad easy and encourage it, which really helped finalize the decision of transferring over here."

Emily Hartman ('17) also agrees that Alma is perfect for keeping students on track with their studies, while also allowing them the flexibility to branch out and try different things.

Besides education, Alma has several benefits that continue to

make students feel at home.

"The first thing about Alma that caught my eye," shared Hartman, "was the fact that I could be a part of the swim team here. When I started to look closer at all the things that Alma had to offer, I got even more excited. Apart from the beautiful campus, I loved how small it was. The class sizes were small, and so was the campus itself and the student body."

It's been said that most of the time when students transfer to Alma, it's because of the optimal personal connections students can experience with their professors.

"Unlike my old school—Western Michigan University—the relationships between students and faculty is wonderful. There is so much respect between everyone and a great relationship that extends beyond the classroom," Hartman continued.

"The professors here genuinely care about your academic success, as well as your mental and physical health outside the classroom. If you miss a class, the professor will make sure you are okay and they are so willing to work with you if problems ever happen."

Transitioning through the transfer process has been said to be quite painless in these student's minds.

Boss commented, "I sent my transcripts, opted out of rooming and FAFSA, and packed all my things up! Then of course I had to keep in contact with Alma making sure it all transferred

over, but overall, everything was a breeze!"

Anneliese Fox, senior assistant director of admissions and transfer student coordinator, is often directly involved with the transfer students.

"I am the go-to-person on-campus," she explained, "for students who are looking to transfer, and I directly assist students through the application process and help students connect on campus to their specific areas of interest."

She agrees with the transfer students and their reasoning for transferring to Alma.

Fox said, "students are impressed by the outcomes of our graduates—historically, a 90 percent placement rate in post-graduate education or employment within six months of graduation; the friendliness of campus; and the endless opportunities for travel and research; and the resources on-campus to help support our students through the Center for Student Opportunity."

Even when asked if they could re-do their first choice of college, some still stick with the college or university that they came from.

Hartman added, "I'm glad I experienced Western first. By going there first, I learned a lot about what I didn't like and what kind of path I wanted to take in college. Even though I love Alma, I think I needed that year and a half of learning before coming here."

A.C.U.B. EVENT CALENDAR

JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

MARCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Special Events



#3 Movie Nights

Off-Campus Trips

ACUB Coffee House

Weekend Events

- MON: Movie Night in Lounge
- TUE: Game Night in Lounge
- WED: Baking Game (52 level)
- THU: Beach Day Shopping Trip (\$10 fee)
- FRI: Karaoke Tournament
- SAT: Little Siblings Workshop
- SUN: Movie Night in Lounge
- MON: Annual Casino Night hosted by T. Jones
- TUE: St. Patrick's Day Party in Sage
- WED: Off-Campus Trip
- THU: Relay for Life
- FRI: March Madness Tournament
- SAT: Easter Tournament
- SUN: Rent & Relax in the ACUB lounge
- MON: Campus Job Corps (open at Exon)
- TUE: Trivia

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www.alma.edu/calendar/

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Email letters to:
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Alma alum returns to inspire students

Well-known writer works with classes, speaks on poetry and spirituality

By PAIGE EMERSON
COPY EDITOR

Michael Delp, Alma College alum from the class of 1971 and well known author of "The Last Good Water" (2003) and "As If We Were Prey" (2010), visited campus last Thursday to share a few of his works and life lessons with students and faculty alike.

While Delp is known for both his poetry and poetic prose, what he may be most famous for is his spirituality with water. Lover of Mary Oliver and Bob Dylan, Delp says he feels spiritually connected to water in all aspects.

"The soul gets fed by poetry—I really believe that," Delp said.

In response to the question "what is your favorite piece of your own writing?" Delp explained "I don't know! Rather than try and do a lot of different stuff, I feel most comfortable writing about what I love, which is water."

Working closely with William Palmer's Poetry Workshop class and Robert Vivian's Introduction to Creative Writing class, Delp shared with the students a few secrets of the trade.

"I'm really lazy and don't like to revise. I think [a work is] done when it sounds done; when it sounds right. Language comes out of an oral tradition, so it has to hit the ear right."

When asked of his favorite place in Michigan, Delp replied with "The north branch on the Au Sable [River] and in my cabin on the Boardman [River]. [My favorite thing is] the fact that it's so full of wa-

ter; there's more water than land—so it's almost like we're on an island."

When Delp spoke to Palmer's class, he began the conversation by showing the students a small collection of what he said are his most precious items—as mentioned in his poem "The Legacy of Worms" from "The Last Good Water"—tied up in an old bandana that he carries with him.

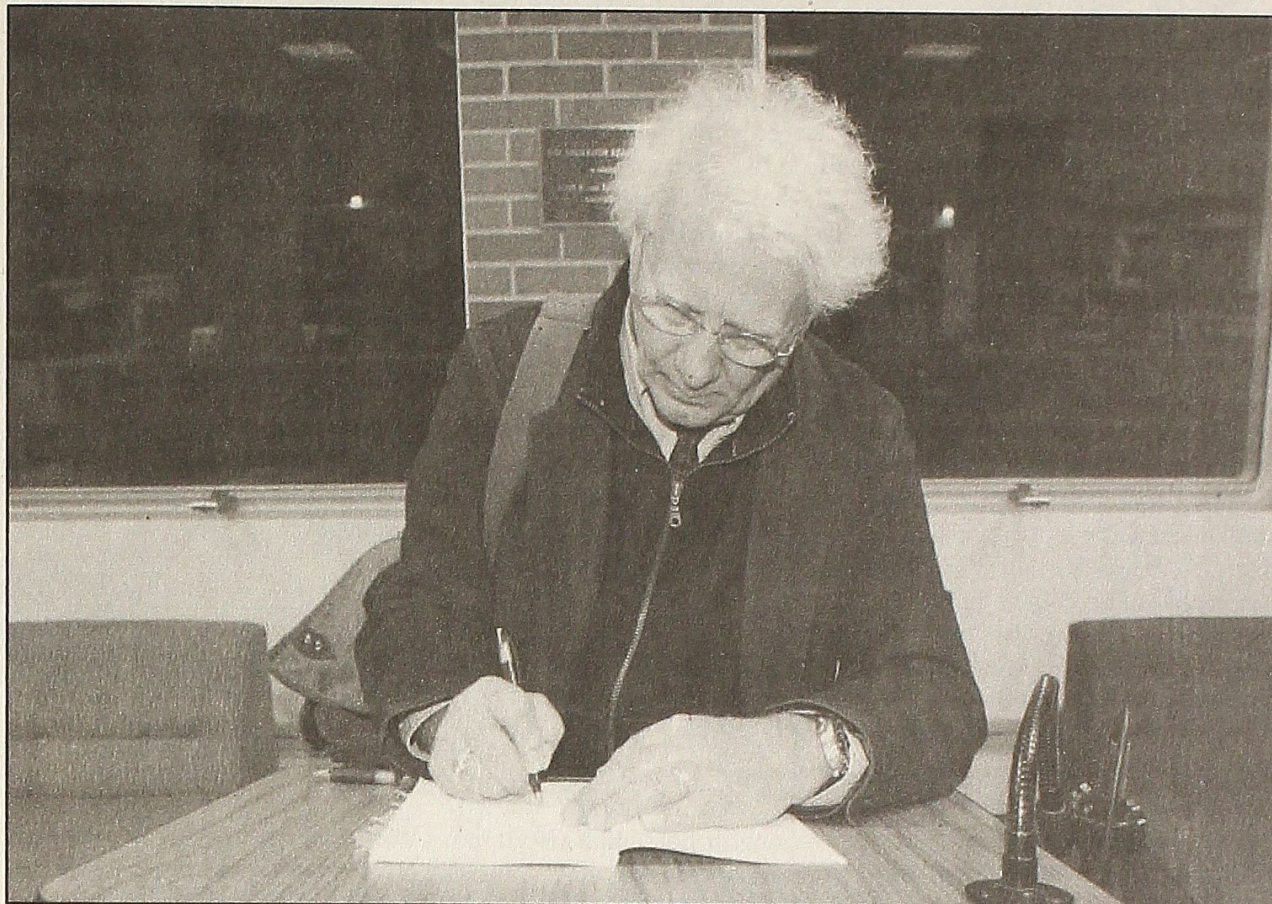
"When you are 16, you are a hormonal idiot...don't lose being 16," he exclaimed, and presented—but did not pass around—his talismans.

Inside the worn bandana was a capsuled sample of his blood from when he was 16 years old, a power stone found on Lake Superior beach by his daughter when she was two, a blessed amulet from one of his good friends, a small handmade Chinese fish made for him by a student many years ago, a deer bone, various pieces from his grandfather's tackle, a petrified raccoon's foot that the raccoon had chewed off itself to escape a trap, and two tiger's teeth from Thailand that were brought to him from a former student.

Regarding Delp's collection, **Michaela Hoyle ('17)** shared that "I thought it was very interesting how several of the objects had to do with death, such as the bone and paw, but he uses them as fuel for his poetry—which in class, he referred to as 'food for the soul.'"

A dinner was held at 5:30 p.m. in Delp's honor, and a few selected students, along with William Palmer, Laura Von Wallmenich, Robert Vivian, and Mr. Steven Vest, all members of the English department, were invited per Palmer's recommendation.

Chase Schultz ('18), one of the students selected to attend the dinner with Delp, stated that "The dinner was fantastic. It was an environment I was not used to but it was warm and



Paige Emerson: Copy Editor

Writer Michael Delp ('71) returned to campus last week and shared his work in the library.

inviting right away. Delp has so much to say and I could listen to him for a long time."

"My favorite part was him telling us to retire to an island somewhere with a bunch of tires so we could make shoes and live on the island for the rest of our lives. Who would tell college kids that! Michael Delp. He was funny and very talkative and the food was amazing so I'd call it a great dinner over all," Schultz continued.

"Also explaining Tumblr, fan fiction, and Reddit to some English professors was an absolute blast."

At 7 p.m. Palmer introduced Delp to the 50+ crowd of Alma College faculty and staff in the campus library by stressing that "he feeds us something about nature that goes beyond textbooks."

Delp stood in front of the crowd and read various poems from his collections of both Deadman poems and Mad An-

gler poems. The poems he read included "16 Deadman," "Professor Deadman," "Deadman's Daughter," "The Mad Angler's Writer's Manifesto," "The Mad Angler Speaks Truth to Power," "The Mad Angler Barbers Himself," and "The Mad Angler Speaks Truth to Politicians."

Before reading some of his Mad Angler poems, Delp explained the persona of the Mad Angler—of his anger toward the mistreatment of Michigan's rivers and other bodies of water, his complete spiritual connected with water, and the Mad Angler's passion for righteousness for politics concerning water.

So when asked if he was the Mad Angler, Delp responded with "oh yeah, there's no question. That persona is a shadow figure—when he speaks, I'm speaking...it's a pretty thin mask."

Heath Thornton ('15), one of the students to meet Delp

in Palmer's Poetry Workshop class and an attendee of Delp's reading, shared that "The one thing that really stuck out from Delp's visit to our class was his advice on writing poetry that is more engaging."

Michael Delp commented that we should "slow down and learn to pay attention' to minute details in poetry. This can help writers to extract key details from other writer's works, and help us enhance our own."

Thornton went on to add "The second great piece of advice was his comment on the writing process, be-cause revising work 'isn't cleaning up after the party, it is the party.' This really spoke to me, because even though it is not his favorite thing, he still undergoes the process to enhance his work."

After Delp finished his reading, a reception was held with cookies and beverages for those who attended, and Delp was available for book signings.

Confucianism: is it misunderstood?

Scholar brings world religion to campus, ignites discussion

By CHELSEA COBB
STAFF WRITER

Anna Sun of Kenyon College gave a presentation at Alma College this past Tuesday regarding the work she published in her book, "Confucianism as a World Religion: Contested Histories and Contemporary Realities." Her research discusses the effect of Confucianism in the Chinese culture and its effect on the culture's belief system.

In order to conduct her research, Sun worked on archival research at Oxford from 2001 to 2004, survey research on religious practices in China from 2006 to 2007, and ethnographic fieldwork in Confucian temples in China from 2009 to 2012.

The first part of the discussion focused on whether or not Confucianism is considered a religion

or a philosophy. She dealt with the concepts of what Confucianism is and what people view it as.

"The question of whether or not Confucianism is religious is something that the West has never been able to answer and the people of China will never ask," said Sun.

Her statement was that Confucianism is more of a philosophy and a way of life that people practice rather than a religion.

Not many people consider Confucianism their religion. Less than 1% of people admit to being Confucian, with the largest from South Korea with .4%. In the methodology to her research, Dr. Sun also looked at how religious Chinese people consider themselves.

While most people do not consider themselves religious among the people of China, as 99.9% say they do not belong to a religious denomination, 55.3% would not call themselves a 'religious person,' and 89.7% said they had never attended a religious service, as stated to the World Value Survey-China 2001.

When the question was changed to ask which rituals they performed, venerating ancestors graves was a popular answer at 67.6%, according to "The Spiritual Life Study of Chinese Residents" Survey Horizon 2007.

Among different sources however, Confucianism is either viewed as having 256,000,000 followers, coming second to Christianity, or is not even considered as a major world religion.

"The thing that I thought was most interesting," said **Beth Wickens ('16)**, "was that most people do practice Confucianism, but less than one percent responded to the survey with saying that they belonged to a religion."

The practices of Confucianism involve the simple things from the burning of incense, writing on prayer cards and hanging them on trees or shelves, rituals at an ancestral temple or gravesite, and the reading of Confucius works. As Sun described, there are three varied levels of what could be viewed as Confucianism, ranging from the simple Confucius worship to ancestral rituals, to the

more intense cultural Confucianism.

At the temples, there is usually burning incense, flowers and fruits left at altars as sacrifices, and hanging prayer cards. There is usually either a tablet with Confucius' name on the altar, a statue, or a portrait.

In explaining how Confucianism was viewed not only in China, but the Western world, Dr. Sun brought up several instances in history that either caused controversy or revival. One of the controversies associated with Confucianism dealt with Imperial China and the Vatican.

A Jesuit missionary went with an 'accommodation policy' which allowed Catholic converts to continue their ancestral rituals. By others, including the Franciscan, Dominican, and Augustinian orders, the rituals were viewed as idolatry. In 1704, the Vatican issued an investigation into the rituals and in 1724, the Emperor banished all missionaries, except those who knew astronomy.

In China, there has been a state-sponsored revival of Confu-

cian ideals and teachings. It started the 'harmonious society' under Hu Jintao and an increase in Confucius Institutes to be about four hundred by November 2004. There were even state performed rituals.

These practices made Confucius more of a symbol, and not always portrayed in the best of light. Even with the state grandeur of Confucius, when a statue of Confucius was erected in 2011 to grand celebration and fanfare, it disappeared four months later and was placed in a hidden courtyard the National History Museum.

"It seemed like a difference in Western and Eastern thinking," said Wickens. "We, as Westerners, were trying to make the Chinese Confucianism fit neatly into the box of our Western idea of religion, but it does not."

The role of Confucianism in the society of China is not cut as clear as people in the world seem to think, and seems to be more of a cultural belief system, than as what Westerners would call a religion.

Stories reflect real life, even boring ones

By RAY VISSAR
STAFF WRITER

When someone asks how your day went, most of the time, the resulting story is a simple chain of events. “I had cereal for breakfast, then I went to my first class and fell asleep a few times, then I went to my next class and stayed awake against all odds, then I ate lunch....”

We tell (and live) stories every day without a neat three-act structure, moral lesson, or epic-scale conflict. This is partially why we enjoy the stories in movies and books so much.

What most people consider traditional “stories”—the plot of a blockbuster movie or a page-turning novel—have a tendency to cut out the unnecessary detail and narrate only the events that are absolutely necessary. We live just the interesting parts of the lives of others when we experience a story.

For example, since I’m assuming most of us are not actually Star Lord’s alter ego, we embrace “Guardians of the Galaxy” as a form of escape. We want to safely experience the excitement and danger of being an intergalactic outlaw.

The parts of his narrative that we see in the movie are only the important bits—battles, confrontations with pure evil, romantic interests. We don’t see the Guardians sleeping, using

the bathroom, eating, or getting bored of traveling vast distances back and forth across the galaxy. (Space travel probably would get boring if it was all you did.)

I can hear the objections bubbling up already. “What’s your point? The movie would be boring if we saw literally everything that happens.”

Here’s the catch: this supposedly boring story is the one many people are telling, all the time. You describe your day, or Instagram photos of your meals or your pets or yourself. People tell stories of—and carry on—mundane conversations on Snapchat. We document and narrate ourselves constantly.

This is a natural habit, especially so for younger generations (the digital natives). We are already primed for a kind of storytelling that I think needs to take its rightful place alongside the classic exposition, rising action, climax, and conclusion you learned about while struggling through “Hamlet” in high school.

As a culture, we are equipped to appreciate and enjoy the kind of seemingly mundane narrative that has occupied the fringes of media for decades. I have one specific example of a seeming non-story that is nonetheless enjoyable.

The 1991 movie “Slacker” is a feature-length trip through the aimless-youth subculture of Austin, Texas. The camera follows a character or group for a few minutes, observing their habits and hearing their rants on society, politics, art, history, or whatever



Cassidy Shankleton: Staff Illustrator

else occupies their mind.

Then, as a stranger enters the scene, the camera breaks away and follows them instead. The process repeats throughout the entire film. There is no running plot. Characters never reappear. But “Slacker” is an engaging story nonetheless.

It is still a form of escape we can’t get in ordinary life—we get to experience nearly a

hundred characters we’ve never seen before over the course of two hours. But the scenes in “Slacker” rarely revolve around anything important or revolutionary for any of the characters.

There are no heroes and villains, just ordinary people. But the details of their lives make them interesting.

Not every movie should be like “Slacker.” That would be a terribly

repetitive world in which to live. But I think that stories that tend to mirror real-life experiences, where not every action has far-reaching consequences and there’s not a villain for every hero, can be more engaging than, say, superpowered battles for supremacy.

So go ahead, speak up. Your story isn’t uninteresting just because you didn’t slay a dragon and save the village.

The importance of language and literacy

By LISA FOLKMIRE
COPY EDITOR

I used to not be careful with my words. I’d toss them around between my palms, see what would happen when I threw them toward my parents (the result was never a neat one in any sense), and pass them out on the streets for free.

I remember one time when I was out shopping with my mom at Kohl’s: I, at the ripe age of 11, and my mother at not-quite-fifty. Standing at the cash register, I glanced over at the computer screen to see if my carefully calculated cost-estimation was correct when I saw the stream of

words, “four hundred dollars!” (or whatever the amount was) ran past my lips. I simultaneously gulped and panicked—slow motion style—while my mom turned her reddened face toward me.

“We’ll talk when we get in the car,” she ordered, more so than said.

As we sat in the sun-heated seats, her side of the conversation came out iron-pressed and rehearsed. It was all on the importance of thinking before speaking—noting that all aspects of language held some weight in peoples’ minds, and that it was up to the speaker to be thoughtful so as not to hurt others.

My response, in true 11 year old fashion, came out fumbled and defensive. As my mother reiterated the fact that I had to

listen and understand before I could respond, I simply wanted to cry out, “But I didn’t mean anything by it! I was just surprised!”

I think that was the day I learned that I honestly despised being a kid. I didn’t want much to do with my imaginative license that childhood granted me; instead, I wanted to be as respected as my mom.

I’m not sure whether it was the Model United Nations speeches on the importance of the preservation of language to the preservation of culture, studying Shakespearean insults in Stratford-Upon-Avon, or spending hours wandering around campus, waiting for the images that I cherished every day to turn into a pattern of words

that would hopefully resonate with others, but at some point I eventually began to understand what my mother was saying.

I always knew that words were important to me, but it took me until college to understand that my words were important to everybody else. To further that, it took me until halfway through college to understand that words and language, regardless of the speaker, are important to everybody.

Few members of my family were surprised when I came back for the summer last year and said, “I guess I’ll start researching Master of Fine Arts programs.” They knew that I was already fully enchanted by the vocal, visual, and aural presentation of words. It had just taken me (as usual) a few years longer to admit to the fact that I was sold on the

idea.

To be fair, I’ve spent many nights at the library staring at a computer screen telling me about climate change, nuclear weapons, and poverty eradication, hoping to find some plausible solution that could match a small section of my interest. I guess it shouldn’t come to a surprise that a large number of the solutions I scratch down on my legal pads deal with education and, more specifically, education that deals with language preservation and literacy.

The importance of the lesson I learned in a red van in a Kohl’s parking lot on a more-than-toasty summer’s day wouldn’t hit me until a couple of years into my undergraduate career, when I started realizing the real importance of language.

Going Greek: Things to consider before joining

By ALEXANDRA BOURNE
STAFF WRITER

Greek Life is often considered to be a major part of any college experience. It can be a lot of fun, and there are many benefits. However, there are also some drawbacks.

Pro: You find a new family and support system.

Especially with national chapters, one of the biggest up-sides of joining a fraternity or sorority is that you have connections all around the country.

Furthermore, any time you are in need of a friend, you have a whole house full of brothers and/or sisters who are there to support you.

Con: The cost.

While it is nice to have the support system and the connections of Greek Life, it is not free; Greek Life can be costly.

Some sororities or fraternities have one set fee that covers the cost of all clothing, vacations, bonding events, etc. Many also have flexible payment plans, which can be helpful. However, that is not always the case, and sometimes there are also alumni fees. All told, one can easily spend several thousands of dollars.

Pro: Volunteer opportunities.

All fraternities and sororities have varying philanthropies. From local shelters to national or global charities, there are many opportunities to help others

locally and/or around the globe.

Con: Time commitment.

Fraternities and sororities do require a lot in regards to time commitment.

From your initial hours spent rushing and pledging, working on the inside for a new pledge class, to all the time in-between cleaning the house, doing philanthropy or brother/sister bonding events, and anything else, Greek Life does in fact take quite bit of effort.

Despite the many pros and cons, not all of which are listed, joining Greek Life is not as simple as signing a piece of paper. The potential brothers or sisters of your fraternity or sorority of choice have also got to choose you.

You may really like a sorority or fraternity and be completely ready to jump in, but unless you really click with the members, you’re probably not going to get very far. When hoping to join either a fraternity or sorority, they have to offer you a bid that gives you the chance to join them.

Unfortunately, especially with national fraternities or sororities, there is sometimes a limit as to how many bids they can offer to potential new members, and this can mean that a house likes you and would love to invite you to join them, but at that particular time they may not have room for everyone.

In this case, upperclassmen are often given preference so that they may experience Greek Life before

they graduate. While it may be upsetting that you do not get the chance to go home right then, it is not the end of the world—it just may not be the right timing for you.

Though there is a time and financial commitment, I personally believe that joining Greek Life is worth it. Ultimately, the choice of whether it is right or not is up to you. The goal of Greek Life is to find where you belong—to find home.

Though I did not go all the way through recruitment and find my home this year, there is always next year—I have found Greek Life to be a new home already, even without being an official member yet, and I so hope to get to go home next year.

Controversial “American Sniper” receives A- for realistic depiction of war, returning home

By DAN MURAWSKE
STAFF WRITER

instead of actors portraying those individuals.

The film has divided audiences because of some of the controversy it has stirred up. From what I have heard, apparently Kyle made some remarks in his autobiography that led some people to wonder whether or not he is as big of a hero as some others might think.

While these concerns are understandable, the problem with that argument lies within the fact that the movie is not about whether or not Kyle was a hero. Instead, it is about the struggles, namely at home, of one man as he undergoes four tours of duty.

People can make up their minds on their own about whether or not all of Kyle’s killings were justified and, based on their conclusions, just how big of a hero he was. But make no mistake; the film is about the struggles many soldiers have after returning home from war.

Having never served in the military, I cannot fully process just how difficult of a transition that would be. However, my grandfather was a medic in World War II, and I have heard my grandmother talk

about the difficulties my grandpa faced when he arrived back in the U.S.

Some of the things in “American Sniper” reminded me of what I had heard about my grandfather, as well as other soldiers.

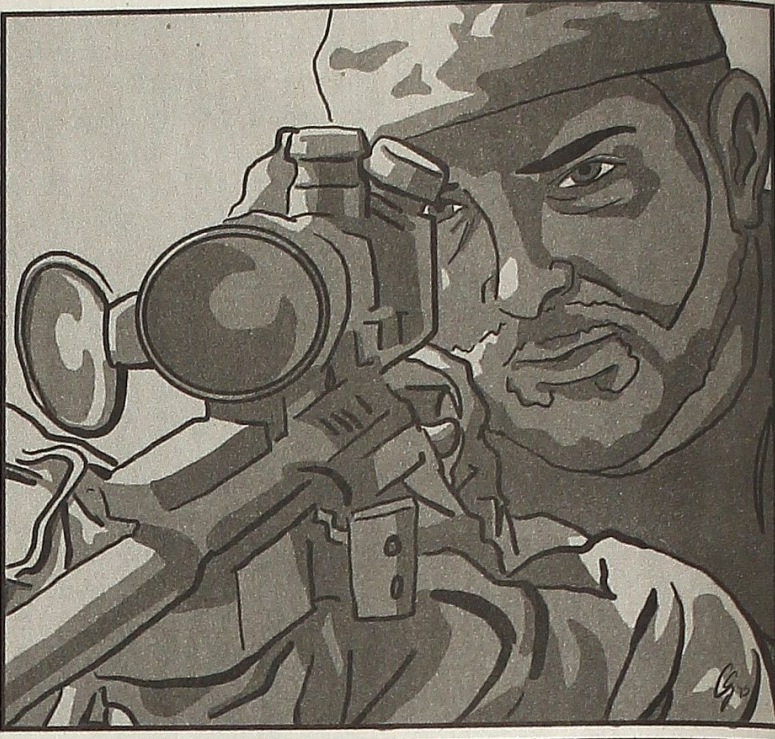
There are two scenes in the film that really stuck out. Both of them have Chris and Taya interacting in a bar.

In the first of these scenes, Chris and Taya meet each other. Chris is smooth and charming, and the chemistry between the two of them is electric.

In the second scene, Chris is in the very same bar alone after returning from one of his tours of duty. He receives a call from his wife, and while the love is still there, the chemistry is gone.

It feels as if Kyle has to start all over. As I saw this scene, I thought back to the other sequence in the bar. And I realized just how broken he was as a result of the toll the war took on him.

I have always supported our troops, but “American Sniper” made me feel for them even more. Never before have I seen a more



Cassidy Shankleton, Staff Illustrator

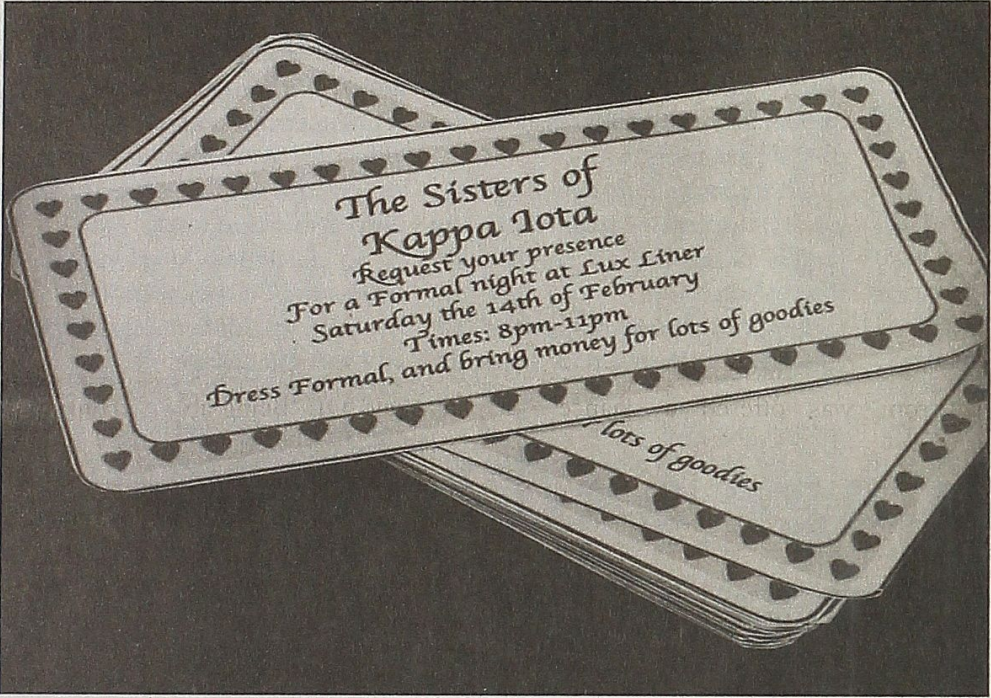
realistic depiction of what I can only assume the horrors of war must be like.

That, along with the amazing performances from Bradley Cooper and Sienna Miller, as well as efficient direction and stunning cinematography, makes “American

Sniper” a well spent use of two hours and twelve minutes.

I give “American Sniper” an “A-“

The film is rated “R” for strong and disturbing war violence, and language throughout including some sexual references.



Courtesy of De Boni (15)

♥ K! Luxury Liner ♥

Join the sisters of Kappa Iota for Luxury Liner held in Van Dusen. A formal celebration for all of campus on Valentine’s Day, February 14th. All proceeds go to the Women’s Aid Shelter of Gratiot County. Tickets are being sold in SAGA and Dow until Friday Feb. 6th and will be available at the door the night of the event.

Sudoku

Sudoku is a type of number puzzle. If you’re not familiar, here are the rules:

- Each 3x3 square can contain each number (1 through 9) no more or less than once.
- Each row and column can contain each number no more or less than once.
- The puzzle is complete when all spaces are filled in.

Sudoku difficulty is determined by how many numbers are initially filled in. This sudoku is considered “medium.”

There are many different types of sudoku, so if you like this, try out some more!

	3		5			6	4	
	9	1	2			7		
4			9					
1	4						6	
	7						5	8
					1			3
		7			4	8	9	
	5	6			9		1	

Word Search

Word searches are a puzzle consisting of letters arranged in a grid which contains a number of hidden words written in various directions. This word search contains words from events and places around campus. Circle all found words and remember that some letters can be shared between words.

Word List

BLIZZARD
ICE
SNOW
WIND
SLEET
MAN
ORBS
WHITE OUT
FREEZE
CHILL

J	P	H	Q	E	N	F	I	C	E	N	V	B	J	L
W	Y	T	G	S	W	H	W	H	D	U	Y	Z	B	Q
O	W	P	Q	T	V	B	J	I	P	T	Z	B	D	W
V	H	W	P	P	K	O	P	L	R	Y	I	K	M	Y
H	R	W	E	C	C	K	B	L	O	H	T	P	A	W
E	O	M	V	Y	J	X	G	C	O	P	U	E	N	Q
T	P	A	C	S	P	G	O	Q	A	H	O	Z	K	R
I	Q	S	N	O	W	O	D	D	A	D	Z	E	S	H
H	T	J	D	D	V	I	M	R	X	Z	V	E	O	X
W	Q	G	R	H	V	T	N	N	A	J	A	R	R	O
A	Y	O	G	M	E	U	L	D	N	Z	C	F	O	J
P	T	O	H	E	M	A	S	M	O	W	Z	M	R	A
T	Q	Q	R	P	Z	H	V	K	W	K	G	I	H	S
U	L	R	P	B	P	R	N	O	Z	Q	K	R	L	H
M	S	G	P	B	S	L	E	E	T	H	L	R	Z	B

High school teammates enjoying time together in college; pace Scots' win

By **BRENT LUPLOW**
STAFF WRITER

It seemed like it would be the same old story for the Alma College men's basketball team on Saturday afternoon, a tough effort but ultimately a close conference loss.

Down 76-61 to MIAA league leading Calvin College with 6:11 remaining, **DJ Beckman ('16)** stole a pass and broke away for an electrifying windmill dunk, his first of his college career.

Then, everything changed.

Jason Beckman ('18) followed up on the next possession with a three pointer to cut the lead to ten points, and the unbelievable comeback was officially on.

Ultimately, **Scott Nikodemski ('16)** hit a game-winning pull-up jump shot as time expired in overtime to give Alma the 87-85 improbable win over the Knights.

For the Beckmans and teammate **Jeremiah (JR) James ('16)**, this program changing victory just adds to the list of accomplishments and memories they have made since their days growing up together in.

Shelby, Michigan. Shelby, a town of 2,000 residents in West Michigan, loves their high school basketball. Winning state championships in 1971 and 1972, Shelby has seen its fair share of successful basketball seasons, especially over the past three years.

The Tigers played their way to the state semifinals in 2012 during JR and DJ's senior year and Jason led the Tigers to the regional finals the past two seasons for longtime head coach, Rick Zoulek.

"Shelby has long had a tradition of good basketball players and teams," said Coach Zoulek. "DJ, JR, and Jason have reinforced that with their commitment and dedication to their teammates and this basketball program. When they were here at Shelby they were role models in class, on the court, and in the community. They have always led by example."

The Beckman's and James understand and appreciate how important the community support was that followed them throughout their time as Tigers and continues in their time as Scots.

"I think it's safe to say that Shelby was the perfect place for us to grow up," said DJ Beckman. "The support that is received from the Shelby community is unmatched," added James. "Even

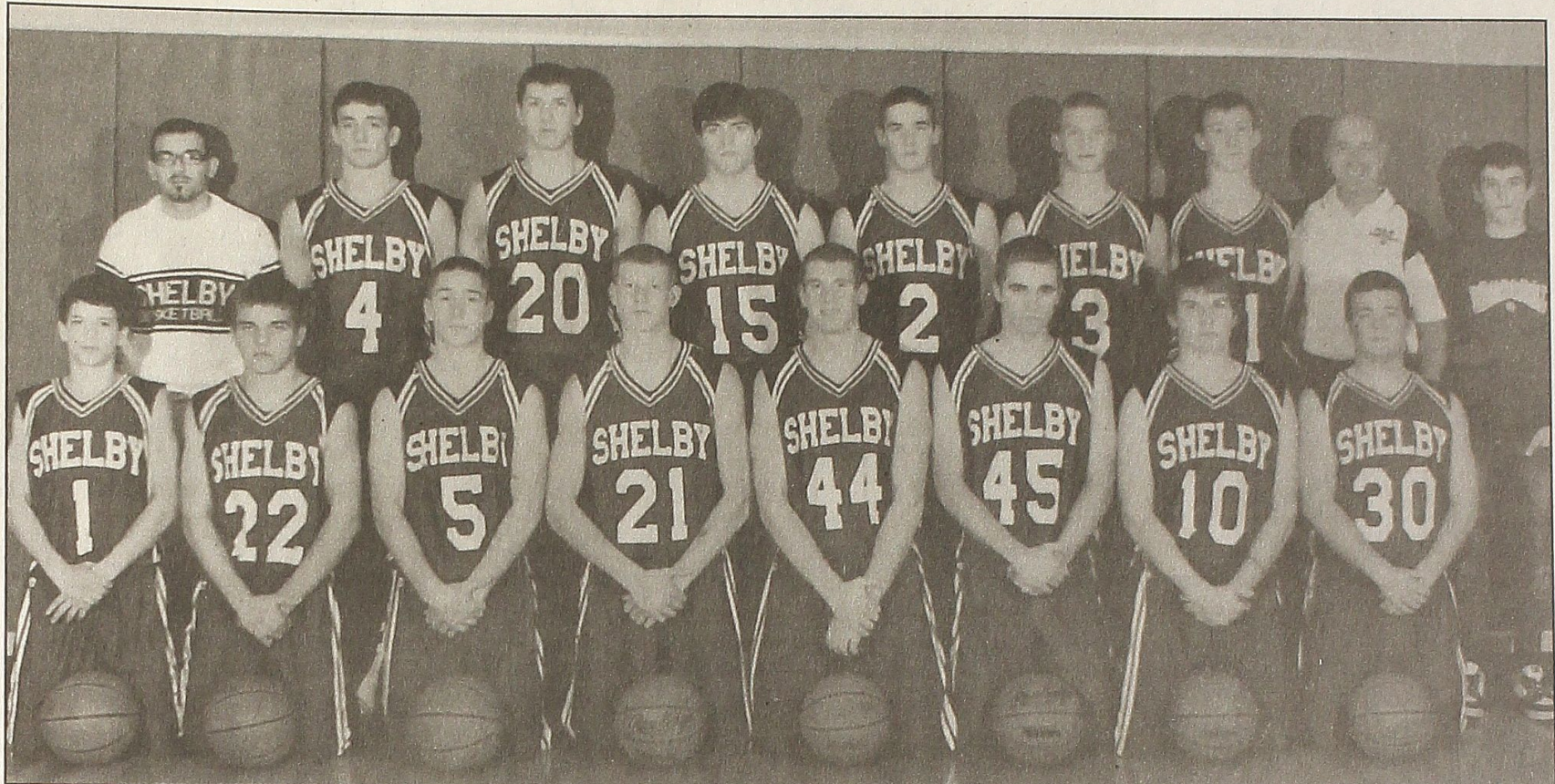


Photo courtesy of David Beckman

DJ Beckman (20), Jason Beckman (1), and JR James (44) in their 2012 varsity team photo at Shelby High School.

today, when the opportunity to go home and watch a basketball game presents itself, people still remember you and always take the time to visit with you."

This support was seen first hand recently when the Scots traveled to Hope College for a game. "Everyone in our Shelby-New Era area is proud of them and how they represented and still are representing our communities," said Coach Zoulek. "When at the recent Alma-Hope game I counted over 100 'Shelby fans' there to support these 3 players. The legacy they have left will carry forward for many years."

After successful prep careers at Shelby, each of the three took different routes to ultimately ending up at Alma together.

DJ Beckman, if history played a part, looked like a lock to attend Hope College. His father, Dave Beckman was a captain of the 1984-1985 Hope College basketball team who compiled an undefeated regular season. His sister Jodi, and mother Kim, who was a standout tennis player, are both also Hope graduates.

However, DJ had different plans as he decided to travel two hours east to Alma College, and these plans have worked out just fine.

DJ has made an immediate impact since the time he stepped on campus as a freshman. Beckman has averaged 13.1

points per game and 4.3 rebounds per game in his 69 career games so far.

He has twice been named MIAA player of the week and has compiled 16 career 20+ point game performances with a career high of 32 points in a game earlier this year.

He is just 97 points away from the 1000 point career total.

"DJ is first and foremost brought incredible three point shooting. He is one of the best shooters I have ever been around, and I've been around a bunch. He had an immediate impact with his talent," said Alma head coach Sam Hargraves.

Jason Beckman, watched his big brother play for the maroon and cream during his final two years of high school and was eager for the chance to reunite with his brother.

Jason has also made an immediate impact averaging 8.3 points per game in 19 games. He has scored in double figures in 7 games, while playing 24 minutes per game.

"Jason has been such a great surprise this year. My favorite skill of his is his toughness and self-confidence," said Coach Hargraves. "He is just a competitor in every sense of the word." When asked who has influenced them the most in basketball and life, the Beckmans both credit their parents for their success on the court.

Jason said, "I feel like our parents have always instilled a hard work ethic into us, and encouraged us to chase our dreams."

"The biggest contributor to my basketball development has been

my Dad", said DJ. "He never pushed too much and always wanted the best for us. Even today, I go to him with questions of what I could do better."

JR James took a different route to Alma College. After his successful prep career, he was offered a chance to play NCAA Division II basketball at Northwood University. JR spent his first two years at Northwood before transferring to Alma College this year, for his junior season.

"After being at Northwood for a short time I knew it wasn't the right fit for me. After being on Alma's campus a few times visiting DJ, I knew that transferring to Alma was something I really wanted to do. Having Jason and DJ here has made the transition to Alma a very easy one," James said.

James has been slowed by an unfortunate knee injury this season, but has made an impact when called upon.

"My role is to bring physicality and to do the dirty work that helps make the team more complete," he added.

JR has played in 6 games this season collecting a season high 5 rebounds in a loss at Calvin College earlier this season.

"JR was obviously set back this year with his knee surgery and some issues with it during the recovery," said Coach Hargraves. But, he gives us a physical presence inside that only a couple guys have given us since I've been here. He's such an incredible teammate too,

he is always being supportive and helping other guys."

All three have enjoyed meeting back up in college and their time as teammates and roommates this season.

"I was so excited when Jason and JR chose to come to Alma," said DJ. "Being able to continue playing basketball with them after high school has been awesome." Jason added, "We can go from being great buddies off the court, to pretty heated battles on the court in practice, to being a band of brothers on the court in games. That's a pretty special bond we've shared."

When asked about the three of them, Coach Hargraves ended with, "The best part about all three of these guys is their character. They are an excellent representation of not just our basketball program but the college as a whole, very talented and dedicated students, as well as, kind and generous people."

"They obviously have great chemistry between them, but that really is a trait of our whole team. No one cares who gets credit, they all just want to win. They want to build something special here that hasn't been done in a long time at Alma in our sport."

With the improbable comeback win last Saturday and the fact that there are no seniors on this years roster, you can feel that "something special" starting to happen.

New energy on the Lady Scots' court

By **DOMENIC BAIMA**
STAFF WRITER

After a big conference win against St. Mary's on Jan. 24, the ladies of the Alma College basketball team have a rejuvenated energy on the practice court.

"We've really amped up practice this past week," explained Coach Kris Johnson. "The added energy in practice helps re-create game situations and simulate what our opponents are going to throw at us."

The win against St. Mary's saw one of the Scots' best shooting per-

formances of the season as they shot the lights out, going 52 percent from the field and 40 percent from beyond the arc.

"It was great to see the girls play a game where it seemed like the rim was 10 feet wide," shared Johnson. "They were extremely relaxed. We've been working on shooting in practice, but mostly we've been working on executing our offense and making the extra pass to work for the best shot we can get instead of settling for the first shot."

Despite the incredible shooting performance, turnovers

have remained a problem for the Scots. The squad had turned the ball over 59 times in the combined two games leading into last weekend's game.

"I think that it is a result of the girls just trying too hard," commented Johnson. "They want so badly to succeed, they end up pressing too hard and forcing passes. We've been trying to slow down the offense and trust each other and trust the offense."

"We have really been making a conscious effort to make the easy passes and not force anything," added **Mallory Pruett ('15)** "Last

game [against Hope] we struggled against their pressure, but in the second half we were able to limit our turnovers. That alone has helped us prepare for upcoming games."

The Scots were unable to recreate that shooting performance last Wednesday, however, as they lost to Hope College. The team shot only 31 percent from the field in the game and also turned the ball over 28 times.

"We have to work on moving the ball around to get more high percentage shots," said Pruett.

The team travelled to Albion

last Saturday to face the Britons. "We need to play with a lot of energy," said Johnson. "Our first matchup against Albion this season was probably the best game we've played all season. We have to establish a post presence and play solid defense if we want to beat them again."

"These last two practices have been in preparation for this game," added Pruett. "Albion is a big rival for us and we want to come out just like we did last game."

Albion ended up grabbing a 51-48 victory.

Scots conquer Knights in overtime

By **TONY KNOP**
STAFF WRITER

In a wild MIAA contest inside the Art Smith Arena, the Scots men's basketball team (6-13, 4-4 MIAA) earned an upset defeating the Calvin Knights (13-6, 6-2 MIAA) 87-85.

The win marked Alma's first victory against Calvin since the 1998-1999 season.

"I could not be prouder of the way we battled to get back in this game," said head coach Sam Hargraves. "We have been fighting to get a win like this, we have been close, but to actually do it feels great."

"We all knew that we could play with Calvin knowing that they are a powerhouse in our league, but just being confident in ourselves and our teammates really helped us prepare for this big game," said **Tyler Edwards ('16)**.

The Scots kept it close early, battling to keep the game tied 14-14 with 12:50 left in the first half. The Knights would start to go on a run, extending their lead to 30-17, with just over seven left to play.

The Knights would retain the lead going into half, but not without a fight from the Scots. A drained three by **DJ Beckman ('16)** would cut the lead to eight, 39-31, going into the locker room for halftime.

The beginning of the second half was all Calvin, as they were able to take a 57-40 lead with 15:03 left to play in the game.

At the 7:02 mark with Alma down 76-60, is when the Scots began



Marcella Flury: Staff Photographer

Tyler Edwards ('17) looks to pass while moving up the court.

to turn it on. Beckman intercepted a lazy pass and took it the length of the court for a slam to shift the momentum and start a rally.

The Scots would on a 15-2 run to close out the second half, forcing the game into overtime with a score of 78-78.

"Going into OT it was all about playing how we know we can play and what really brought us back into the game. Just being confident and the things that we practiced all year," said Edwards.

Overtime would see a back and forth effort between the two squads. The score was tied 85-85, when the Scots were able to call a timeout under their own basket, with four seconds remaining after a missed three by the Knights.

Following the timeout, Scots guard **Scott Nikodemski ('16)** was able to go the length of the floor and sink a foul line jumper with no time to spare, to give the men's program a historic win over Calvin.

Alma shot 49.3% from the field

and 10-of-21 (47.6%) from beyond the arc. Although the Scots were outrebounded, they led in turnover margin 15-10 which led to 14 easy points for Alma.

"We took care of the ball most of all, as a team we've had trouble with that in the past. So we really handled it well and also just believing in ourselves," said Edwards.

Nikodemski was the hero of the team, finishing the game with a career high 29 points. Beckman added another 15 points, while

Doug Bradfield ('18) contributed nine points and paced the team with 11 boards.

"[This game] just lets us know that we can't be complacent with beating Calvin, we have to play every game like it's our last game and play with the confidence that we did today," said Edwards.

The Scots will look to extend their winning streak to three games, as they will face Albion College (9-10, 2-6 MIAA) on the road on Wednesday, Feb. 4.

Indoor track and field team fares well at Defiance College Invitational

By **BRENT LUPLOW**
STAFF WRITER

Last Saturday, the mens and women indoor track and field teams competed in the Defiance College Invitational. Alma was competing alongside numerous other Division III teams, after competing with division I and II teams the week before.

Senior, thrower **Will Germain ('15)** said, "We went out and competed well, which is a good indication that the season is going to go well."

The men's team took eighth place and the women's team took second, respectively.

Justin Larkins ('17) took second in the pole vault with a vault of 13 feet 1 inch.

Adam Sanchez ('16) finished second in the 5000 meter run with a time of 16:10. The women's team had many more top finishers.

Shelby Niedzwiecki ('16) said, "The team is doing very well, many of us are way ahead of where

we were at this time last year." Niedzwiecki, along with **Chel-sea Mertz ('15)**, **Maggie Chambers ('15)**, and **Ashley Halm ('15)** took first in the 4x200 meter relay.

The women's 4x400 meter relay team of Chambers, Halm, Mertz, and **Lane Thompson ('15)** also took first place with a time of 4:16:20.

"We are looking strong as ever," said Thompson. "The upperclassmen of the team have always been strong since we arrived, what is nice now is that the underclassmen are stepping up too." Halm was first in the 400 meter dash with a time of 59.64, while Chambers was first in the 200 meter dash with a time of 27.29.

Rounding out the medalists for the Scots was **Kaitlyn Arnold ('17)** who collected a first place finish in the 1 mile run with a time of 5:25.79

The Scots competed in a meet on Friday, however, results were not available at press time.

Wrestling competes at Pete Wilson Intivational at Wheaton College; prepares for Trine University

By **TONY KNOP**
STAFF WRITER

The Alma College wrestling squad improved upon its 10th place finish last season by taking fourth in the Pete Wilson Invitational at Wheaton College last weekend.

The team finished fourth this season, improving upon their 10th place finish last year.

"Coming into this meet we knew we were going to have battles and that we were going to be pushed. We simulated this in practice with our intensity towards wrestling and our workouts," said **Jared Groeneveld ('15)**.

"The Wheaton tournament is always a big event on our schedule and coaches were pushing us all week, but I think everyone that went knew what they had to do and the pride that comes with placing at a tournament like this," said Shawn Brewer ('16).

The Scots had five individuals

place at the tournament, beating the team's personal best of three from a season ago.

In the 149 class, James Carey ('15) finished sixth. National title contender **Matt Tuttle ('15)** finished second in the 165 class.

In the 157 class, Brewer finished fourth. He was seeded sixth going into the event. "We asked Shawn Brewer to step up and show us a breakout weekend and he did," said coach Todd Hibbs. "He notched his first ever win over an All-American and finished in fourth. It's time for Shawn to be an All-American now."

"The team performed very well. We finished in 4th place despite missing two starters, which is our best finish at this tournament yet. Last year we finished 10th. Everyone battled and wrestled hard during the course of the meet," said Groeneveld.

"As a whole we performed very well, we had more placers than ever and our highest finish as a team at 4th without even wrestling a 125

pounder," said Brewer.

In the 174 class, **Jamie Jakes ('16)** finished second. Groeneveld finished third in the 197 weight class.

The Scots competed very well in the invitational and look to use this meet as a stepping stone to help them continue their dominance on the regional and national level.

"This tournament had the caliber of competition that we will be facing at regionals and nationals. From here we are looking to peak as a team for regionals and nationals," said Carey.

"This meet helps us to learn how to face tough competition, possibly take a loss and then bounce back to stay alive in the tournament and ... regionals to stay alive for a shot to go to nationals. We will stay tough and focused on our last few meets," said Groeneveld.

The Scots will next take the mat on Feb. 6, where they will compete at Trine University.