

Women's Month's final event	Organizations sponsor alcohol awareness speaker	Update on the situation in the Ukraine	Who would win an argument: Dr. House or Sheldon Cooper?	Four wrestlers named scholar All-Americans
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Blown circuit breaker leaves professor's research in question

By KILEE DeBRABANDER
STAFF WRITER

Imagine spending countless hours and an immense amount of energy slaving over a project only to have it ruined.

Unfortunately, for certain professors here at Alma College, this might be the harsh reality.

Joe Beckmann, a biochemistry professor who has worked for the school since 1996, may have had immeasurable hours of research spoiled due to a tripped breaker that caused a small power outage in Kapp Science Center last weekend.

Although the power outage was small, the damage that it may have caused is not.

"I think it is very important for people to focus on what they know," Beckmann said. "I do not know why this happened, how this happened, or who, if anyone, was behind it."

However, there is one thing that he knows for sure: this power outage may have wrecked the research that has been his project for quite some time.

"I do know that the power was down to the emergency outlets, which caused my freezers to thaw out," Beckmann said.

For most college students, a thawed freezer means nothing except that they can't finish the half-eaten pint of Ben & Jerry's ice cream they put there three weeks ago and forgot about.

But for Beckmann, this has the potential to set him extremely far back in terms of what he has been studying.

"I had some laboratory strains of E. coli, DNA clones, enzymes, and chemical reagents in the freezer," Beckmann said. "I was able to refreeze them, and I will have to wait a couple of days to see if there was permanent damage or not. As of right now, I do not know the extent of the damage."

"Nothing regarding the power outage happened in Dow; it was only Kapp that was affected, which was very lucky for me," said Timothy Keeton, an associate professor of biology. "It appears that Dr. Beckmann has been the person who was most affected by it."

For many people at Alma College, this power outage comes as a huge surprise. Because professors and students, especially science majors, either conduct or participate in research, they can relate to working exceptionally hard on a project and can try to understand the pain that would be felt when that project was compromised in some way.

"I cannot imagine losing something that I had worked so hard for," says **Emalee Ousley ('17)**. "As a biotech major, I certainly plan on doing some laboratory research at least once during my time here at Alma. If this were to happen to me, I would be devastated."

Beckman, who got his B.A. from Wittenberg University in Ohio and his Ph.D. from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, is now trying to figure out how this could have happened.

"I think that this problem should definitely be investigated further," **Miranda Kruse ('17)** said. "In the end, research was lost, and that is extremely detrimental to someone's professional life. Not to mention, I can only imagine how disheartened anyone who lost research must be feeling."

"I'm surprised that there was not a backup supply of power that could have kept his freezers running," said **Daric Mueller ('15)**. "If that were my research, I'd be brokenhearted."

Despite everything that has happened, however, Beckmann has done his best to maintain a positive attitude.

"I can recover, and I will find a way through, over, and around this," he stated. "There is always something to do."

Student choreography show takes viewers to the movies

By JESS SUTHERLAND
STAFF WRITER

Alma College Kiltie Dancers are working extra hard to gear for their concert Saturday. Normally, they get together once a week, practicing from 6-7 p.m.. Now that the concert is coming up, they rehearse much more intensely.

"Instead of going from 6-7 on Thursdays, we've been going from 5-7:30," said **Olivia Horton ('15)**.

The dancers also practice on additional days, making sure they know their footwork.

"[Members dancing in] some pieces are meeting outside of the scheduled period for extra time," said **Christine Cuthbertson ('14)**.

PERFORMANCE:

8 p.m.
Saturday
Heritage Center

Highland Dance Instructor Kate Cassidy occasionally reserved the dance studio for a Saturday or Sunday to give the dancers additional practice time.

The concert will take place in the Heritage Center, which is very exciting news for the dancers.

"It will be the first time that we've been able to perform on the big stage, so it feels much more

professional," said **Katie Ochs ('16)**.

Unlike their other shows, this concert focuses on movies.

"Our theme for the concert is 'A Night at the Movies,'" said Choreographer **Natalie McNeill ('14)**. The choreographers came up with dances using inspiration from movies, she said.

McNeill created a routine to a song called "The Blood of Cuchulainn," inspired by the film "The Boondock Saints."

"The inspiration for this dance came when I took an overnight flight from California to Michigan," she said. "I was half asleep when this song came on my iPod. Listening to the music, I saw a tragic love story play out in my head and I knew I needed to choreograph a dance to this song."

A Facebook page lists a few other movies to be represented, including "Harry Potter," "Pitch Perfect," "The Great Gatsby," and "Alice in Wonderland."

This concert showcases not only the girls' dancing talents but also their choreographing skills.

"Almost everyone choreographs something for the concert, and those who don't choreograph perform," said Ochs.

These routines are a challenge to the students, Ochs added. It pushes them to do more than they think they can.

"Choreographies are something

many highland dancers don't do, and for many of us it is out of our comfort zones," said McNeill. "We all took the challenge to make highland more interesting and innovative."

Kiltie dancing encompasses four different styles of highland dancing: fling, sword, seann truibhas, and highland reel. The fling, seann truibhas, and sword only take one dancer to do. The highland reel, however, requires four people.

The fling style of dance is a stationary and very basic style. The sword involves single or double hilt swords, with the dancer performing within a square of these swords. Seann truibhas is graceful and contains a lot of travelling. The reel encompasses many different variations for different kinds of music.

"The reel is mostly weaving in and out of the set and performing setting steps," said Ochs.

The Kiltie Dancers also learn some national dances, such as lilt and blue bonnets.

The Kiltie Dancers have varying levels of experience. Some have performed since age 4, while others start when they go to college. Either way, they cannot wait to perform their dances.

"We've all worked very hard and put in a lot of extra time into this concert and that effort will surely be worth it," said McNeill. "It should be a great show!"

Relay for Life 2014



Goal: \$32,000

Amount raised for the fight:
\$32,367



The Alma community once again exceeded the goal set for Relay for Life this year. Over 400 people participated in the 24-hour event, with all proceeds benefiting the American Cancer Society. Many of the 30-plus teams had food or other items for purchase at the event. Some groups even offered piggy-back rides around the track to raise even more funds for cancer research. This year's event was one of greatness for Alma, as it saw more survivors recognized, more participants and teams involved, and the largest amount of money raised. There is hope.



Kayla Roy: Photo Editor

This Week at Alma College

March 24 - 30

Monday

Etiquette Dinner

6 p.m. Tyler-Van Dusen Heather Room

Wednesday

Junior/Senior Housing Night

3 p.m. Tyler-Van Dusen

Thursday

Women's Tennis v. Olivet College

4 p.m. Stone Rec Center/Tennis Courts

Women's Month Event

6 p.m. Tyler-Van Dusen

Friday

Aaron Cooksey Presents "Drop Your Pride"

7:30 p.m. Hogan Center

Saturday

Baseball v. Kalamazoo College

1 p.m. Klenk Park

Softball v. Olivet College

1 p.m. Scots Park

Invitation for Submissions

All entries (letters, photos, articles, or story ideas) are welcomed. The Almanian reserves the right to condense items for layout purposes. Deadline for letters, photos, and articles is 5 p.m. the Friday before requested publication; deadline for article ideas is 5 p.m. the Monday before requested publication.

Email submissions to the editor:
editor.almanian@gmail.com

Women's Month concludes with one-woman original play

By MECHON CAREW
STAFF WRITER

March is coming to a close, and with it, Women's Month wraps here on campus.

"It's been an exciting and very packed month of events," said Joanne Gilbert, who chairs the Women's Issues Advisory Group, which is responsible for planning many of the events during Women's Month.

Beginning March 13, transgender guest Harvey Katz hosted his "Trans 101" workshop and performed his spoken word piece, "Athens Boys Choir," later that night. On the 18th, civil rights activist Diane Nash came as a keynote speaker, and the students of Maya Dora-Laskey's women's and gender studies class presented their research about local and transnational feminisms two days later.

To round out the events, Chicago actress Katie Cheely Wasserman, wife of Assistant History Professor Dan Wasserman, will perform her original short play, "Amidst Darkness." This will take place at 7 p.m. in Tyler-Van Dusen Thursday and is free.

"Amidst Darkness" is a one-person show written by Cheely as an assignment during graduate school.

"It is about not feeling God's presence," Cheely said. "It

explores love, suffering, and the existence of God."

She presented the original script of the show at Regent University and in Chicago and has since made changes to it. This will be the first time she will act out this version of the play at a college but hopes to continue in other universities and venues.

PERFORMANCE:
7 p.m.
Thursday
Tyler-Van Dusen

Although Cheely drew on her own experiences, the play is inspired heavily by the writings of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, also known as Mother Teresa.

A Roman Catholic religious sister and missionary, Mother Teresa was well known for her services to the poor and destitute. However, after she died in 1997, her letters revealed that for more than half of her life, she didn't feel the presence of God.

"That struck a lot of people," Dan Wasserman said. "[A] lot of people who admired her were thinking, *how could have she done all of these great acts of services, and say that it was for God, when she didn't even feel his presence?*"

This character study of Mother Teresa was one of the reasons

Gilbert contacted Cheely about performing the piece for Women's Month. Yet it was the fact that it was both written by Cheely and performed solely by her that ultimately interested Gilbert.

"It's always, I think, really compelling to see a solo performer who is carrying a whole show," she said. "[Also] it'll be interesting to see someone who is both the writer and also the performer."

The show itself will be fairly short, expected to only take 30-40 minutes. Cheely hopes students will "find it interesting. Even if the material doesn't resonate with them, I think it's interesting and fun to see a one-person-show. I hope that some people might take home some food for thought, and possibly gain a slightly better understanding of God and love."

Wasserman predicts that students will connect with the material.

"Many times, [religious people] wonder, when bad things happen, how God can be present in that kind of situation," he said.

A Q&A session will follow. Cheely "hope[s] to make a personal connection with the students" by letting them share their thoughts or questions about the piece.

"Every year we do great programming, and this year is no exception" Gilbert said. "This is the one that's rounding them all out."

Physics professor Jensen receives special recognition for effort inside, outside of classroom; students concur

By JON CLARK
STAFF WRITER

Every semester, Alma College's Phi Sigma Sigma Chapter gives out its "Faculty of the Semester" award. The choice for the 2014 winter term acts as both an associate professor in the physics department and the associate provost. Steuard Jensen is this semester's recipient and was nominated for the award by Natalie McNeill ('14).

Part of what led to Jensen's nomination is his tendency to include tidbits of general knowledge on each of his homework assignments.

In addition to learning physics, Jensen's students have the opportunity to read about various cautionary facts and stories, located at the bottom of every physics handout.

When Jensen began to include

his blurbs of information a couple of years ago, a student could expect to see examples such as "Tylenol/acetaminophen overdose can be awful: no symptoms for 12 hours, but without help in 8 you need a liver transplant to live" included with one of his worksheets.

Since then, Jensen's once small quips have grown into long asides, often covering an entire page. In the last year, the issues he has tackled have been centered on gender equality.

"On every single homework assignment, he gives an excerpt or a link with an explanation of general knowledge that is useful in life," said Julian Birge ('16), a past student of Jensen's.

A story which Jensen shared just this February was titled "Creepier, No Creeping!" and included a story from an online advice column about an ethical dilemma in an adult social setting. Jensen's offering to his students included an analysis of the situation by Jensen himself.

In this particular aside, he also encouraged students to read the full column for themselves and provided hyperlinks to the Website.

In addition to the situations he addresses on paper, Jensen also has a collection of stories and advice on his personal Website under a section titled "Stuff Nobody Thought to Tell You (Probably)."

Between his promotion of social justice and in-class teaching of physics, it is evident why his students agree with the sorority's decision to honor Jensen with this award.

"I think he is definitely deserving of this award," said Birge. "Based off of my one semester as his student, I can see how he truly cares about the well-being of his students in and out of the classroom."

Past and present students boast of Jensen's professionalism, intelligence, and teaching process.

"He's a really smart professor

and knows a lot about his profession," said Joonas Kotka ('15), a physics and math major who is currently enrolled in one of Jensen's classes. "He is really knowledgeable and shows passion for a lot of different subjects."

"He is one of the smartest professors I've worked with and he is very precise and organized. The methods he uses are successful and he also offers lots of help to students."

Jensen may have his Ph.D. in physics from the University of Chicago, but he also clearly cares deeply about promoting gender equality in the sciences, as well as all walks of life. Jensen said he knows that there has been gender inequality both in his own field of physics, evident in the lack of women in the profession, as well as society as a whole.

"My goal has mainly been just to put these aspects [social justice issues] of our society on my students' radar," said Jensen.

If you feel like congratulating Jensen on his recent recognition, or would simply like to learn a little about social issues, he works in the Provost's Office in the Swanson Academic Center.

"I care about this subject because lots of women, arguably every woman in our society, suffers countless unnecessary little miseries — and too often some incredibly big ones as well — that I am mostly exempt from for no good reason, simply because I was born a man," said Jensen.

"It makes me unhappy to see the people around me suffer, people I care about, especially if I might be able to do something to help."

Cause of student death now known

Autopsy and toxicology reports on Alma College student Sean Murawske ('17) reveal that he died of "hypothermia due to environmental cold exposure," according to the Gratiot County medical examiner and Alma City Police.

Murawske, a first-year student from Harbor Beach, Mich., was reported missing on Jan. 12 by his brothers and fellow Alma College students, Jacob ('14) and Daniel ('16). His body was found Jan. 14 in a field off Charles Avenue after a community-wide search.

Read the rest of this update at
www.almanian.org



Kayla Roy: Photo Editor

Associate Provost Steuard Jensen, Lauren Buhr ('15) and Natalie McNeill ('14) at the Phi Sigma Sigma Scholarship Brunch, where Jensen was honored in front of the sisters and their family members.

Professor brings unique background and service to campus, community

By JULIA KNEBL
STAFF WRITER

There is a new face in the business administration office this year, and it belongs to Visiting Assistant Professor Henry Balfanz. Balfanz grew up in Peoria, Ill., and completed a bachelor's degree in broadcast management at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. He began his college career as a theater major, which included some of his favorite classes, but later changed to a broadcast major. Balfanz spent his first years out of college writing radio and television advertisements. He also spent many years as a radio D.J., later becoming involved in managing the advertising and business side of radio stations and newspapers. After several years of managing radio stations and newspapers, Balfanz went back to school, at Bradley University, where he earned his master of business administration degree.

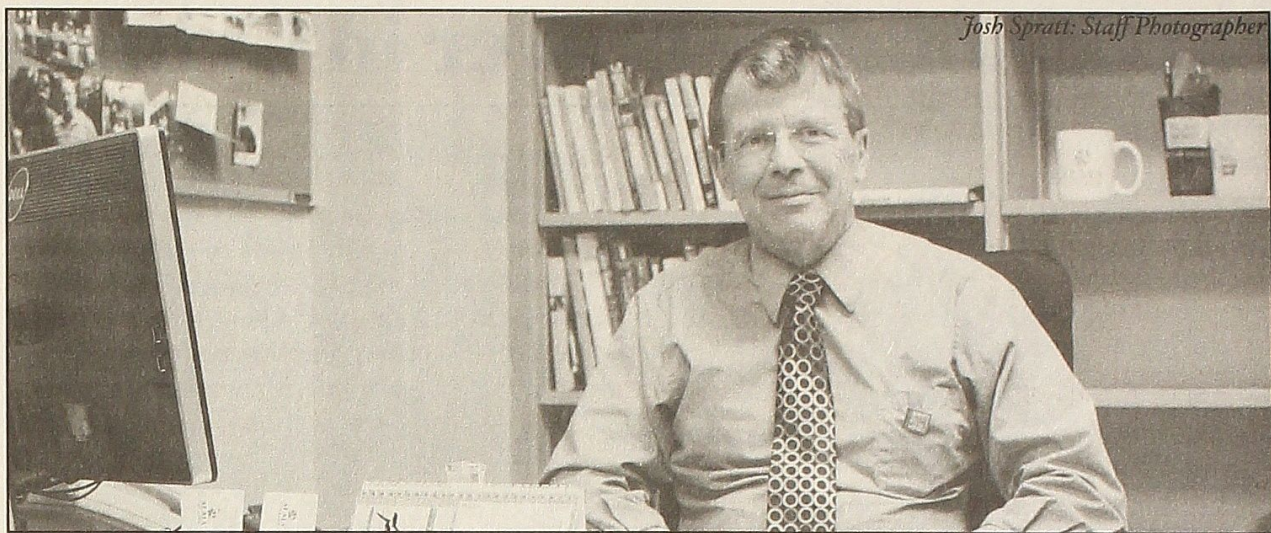
"I could have gotten a degree in radio, TV, or communications, but I decided I wanted to get the MBA in business to make myself a little more versatile," said Balfanz.

After getting his second degree, Balfanz taught at Northern Michigan University for two years. After leaving NMU, a hiatus, and teaching several advertising classes in the Czech Republic, Balfanz came to Alma for an interview.

"Quite honestly, when I came for the interview, I was not necessarily all that interested, but . . . I had wanted to find a smaller campus from where I was teaching before, but it was just the warmth of the people I worked with," he said.

"Dr. Elizabeth Cameron, Professor Greg Baleja, Professor Tom Ealey and Professor Tina Rolling all took me out to dinner and spent a lot of time with me. I had the interview with Provost Michael Selmon . . . I would have to say that it is all the people I met here—that is what really sold me."

Now, here at Alma College, Balfanz is teaching business, marketing, advertising, and sales management classes. He has aimed to introduce new and



Josh Spratt: Staff Photographer

World traveler, volunteer, and marathon runner Visiting Assistant Professor Henry Balfanz teaches marketing, advertising, and sales management classes for the business administration department.

interactive content into his classes.

"Last year, I had some students that had a competition among themselves to see who could design the best advertising campaign for United Way, and then the people from United Way came in and told us which one they thought was the best," he said.

When he isn't teaching business, Balfanz can still be found in the classroom—in an elementary school.

"If I were not a professor, I

would be a grade school teacher," he said. "I do some volunteering and tutoring at the Alma schools, and when I was up in Marquette [at NMU], and back in Peoria. I did math for fourth and fifth graders."

Balfanz has authored three published articles about business. He is hoping to develop a new job-placement program for students.

"I'm trying to put together a program where we can help place Alma students . . . into jobs selling advertising for newspaper, radio,

and television," said Balfanz. "I'm part of the Michigan Association of Broadcasters, and I am hoping to share their [job] openings with graduates."

Balfanz is an avid runner who has nine marathons and 15 half marathons under his belt. He will be running his 10th marathon this summer in West Virginia. In addition, Balfanz has donated 11 gallons of blood throughout his lifetime, and headed this year's staff and faculty Relay for Life team.

Stucchi's move brings business to campus 3 years after fire destroys ice cream parlour

By HANNAH KING
STAFF WRITER

Whether buying a new Alma sweatshirt or treating yourself to some ice cream or frozen yogurt, the College Corner provides. While the store occupies only one building, its food and apparel are supplied by two businesses: the Alma Bookstore and Stucchi's.

In October of 2010, a fire that lasted hours resulted in the destruction of the ice cream shop Stucchi's and the bookstore, located next door to one another.

Shortly after the fire, President Jeff Abernathy suggested to the owners of Stucchi's that they move closer to the college and open with the bookstore.

"Having our shop closer to the college was something that we always talked about at the old Stucchi's," said partial owner Jean Ropp. "Although the fire was bad, of course, moving to a new location has been pretty great, too."

"[The two businesses] have the same name, the College Corner, and are in the same location, but we do completely different things with different schedules," said Erica Guerrero,

"Having our shop closer to the college was something that we always talked about at the old Stucchi's."
- Part Owner Jean Ropp

partial owner of Stucchi's. Abernathy initiated development of the College Corner in hopes that it would provide a link from the college to the community.

"The move has made the college feel more like a community, as Stucchi's is now just one more spot where friends and family can hang out," said Elisa Hobbs ('14), who attended Alma when Stucchi's was still located downtown. "In a sense, I'm glad they had to move."

The new building has allowed Stucchi's ice cream shop to expand into a full menu.

"It's hard to say whether our business has done better or worse since the move; however, we are more consistently busy now that we are located closer to the college," said Guerro.

The owners said that sharing a space with the bookstore does not affect them much, other than being another good way to promote business.

"At our old shop, the majority of our business was communal, whereas now most of our business comes from the college," explained Ropp. "It's a different change of pace, but it's nice. We are happy to have been given this second chance."

"All in all, the move allowed much easier access to Stucchi's food, drinks, and most importantly ice cream," said Hobbs.

Since the mail room's move, the walk is a little further than most students might prefer, but the venture can now include a stop for ice cream at Stucchi's.

"Walking off campus to get mail

is not as convenient as it was before, but it gets me downtown more often," said Luke Falposh ('16). "Now whenever I go to get mail, I usually go with a group of friends who are getting mail, too, and we almost always stop at Stucchi's for ice cream or coffee."

Another way in which the college campus will merge into the Alma community will be through the opera house apartments. The building was also damaged from the same fire as Stucchi's.

Because the building was made of brick, it did not collapse. The second and third floors of the building will someday house Alma's upperclassmen.

The opera house's first floor will include several businesses in which students will be encouraged to support the local economy.

Alcohol awareness speaker warns of consequences

By JON CLARK
STAFF WRITER

In the summer of 1999, one month prior to his college football career, Aaron Cooksey, of North Canton, Ohio, tore his anterior cruciate ligament. After another knee injury in the winter of 2001, he began to drink alcohol and party with extreme negligence.

That same year, on July 29, he was involved in a car accident in which his best friend was killed. Cooksey had been driving the car intoxicated. As a result, he was sentenced to four years in prison.

After his release, Cooksey obtained a degree in corporate communications from Walsh College and eventually began traveling the country and speaking to students about his experience. Warning of the horrors involved in drunk driving, the name of his program is "Drop Your Pride," which is a metaphor for dropping one's keys.

Cooksey's performances urge students to "make the next best choice" and avoid driving after drinking. He understands that young adults do drink alcohol, even underage, and gears his message towards the prevention of making dangerous decisions after drinking, rather than focusing on the consumption of alcohol itself.

LECTURE:
7:30 p.m.
Friday
Hogan Center

"Aaron has a real message based on his real experiences," said Michelle Sabourin, the head cheerleading coach. "I think that what he has to share will impact every person in attendance."

The event is co-hosted by the athletic department and the Greek organizations on campus. The Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association assigned alcohol awareness to the Alma College athletic department to

discuss this year, and Cooksey was the person the organization turned to. With several favorable reviews from colleges across the country, he has a reputation of speaking well and with great meaning.

"[Cooksey] was chosen based on the positive recommendations from other institutions and for his powerful message," said Sabourin.

In his 50-minute presentation, he walks students through the difficult times he has faced and describes the impact of the decisions that he made on that fateful night.

Given the recent creation of a task force, which is working to analyze and reconstruct the college's current alcohol policies, Cooksey's presence is appropriately timed.

"It is important to have an alcohol awareness speaker come to campus for the entire student population because these are important issues in life that need to be addressed," said Brooke Peterson ('15), a member of Alma College's Panhellenic Council, which governs the

five sororities on campus.

Students across Alma's campus recognize that speakers on alcohol awareness are important and deserve attention.

"I think that it's great that the college provides this sort of opportunity," said Matt DesRochers ('15), a resident assistant.

"Being a young person, you have this tendency to feel that events happen in the world, but only to this ghost audience that is unrelated to you, so when you see an individual on stage telling a story and having the chance to speak with him, it makes you feel that this is a real thing that can happen here."



Patrick Mallett: Staff Photographer

From left: Percussionists rehearse for last Sunday's Scottish Arts Piping and Drumming Workshop.

'Frozen' challenges early release curse

By MECHON CAREW
STAFF WRITER

Do you want to build a snowman?

Who knew such a simple question would turn into a pop culture reference after the release of Disney's 53rd animated feature?

Inspired by Hans Christian Andersen's "The Snow Queen," Disney's "Frozen" became available in theatres on Nov. 27 and earned \$243,390 in its opening weekend. Since then, the animated feature has earned over 1,000 times that in the U.S., with a worldwide gross estimated at \$1.032 billion. These sales put "Frozen" in position to surpass "Toy Story 3" as the No. 1 animated movie at the box office.

Awards won include two Academy Awards, a single Global Globe and BAFTA Award, five Annie Awards, and Two Critics' Choice Awards. Best Animated Feature and Best Original Song ("Let It Go") are the two most common honors the film has received.

Needless to say, the Disney team has quite a hit on its hands,

and not just in theatres. There's rarely a site you can go to without seeing "Frozen" screenshots, memes, fan art or fan videos. Typing in "Let It Go" parodies into YouTube gets over 183,000 results alone.

Yet, despite this seemingly never-ending hype, this Disney jewel is already available for personal viewing.

Over 3.2 million copies of Blu-ray and DVDs were sold during the release last Tuesday, and pre-orders alone through Amazon caused "Frozen" to replace "Despicable Me" as the bestselling kids' movie of all time. In an age where the DVD has lost interest in favor of Netflix, this Disney hit is going strong.

The fact that "Frozen" is out so early is surprising because a swift release date often signifies a box office flop. However, this is certainly not the case.

What is it about this "Snow Queen" adaptation that makes it so popular?

Reason #1: Animation

After all, this is literally the first thing you see. Very much in

the style of "Tangled," "Frozen" utilizes both hand-drawn images and computer animation, creating some breathtaking views. For me, I loved noticing the little details, like the stitching on Queen Elsa's gloves.

Reason #2: Music

First, Disney started off on the right foot by choosing voice actors who can sing incredibly well, such as Idina Menzel, who belts out "Let It Go" like nobody's business.

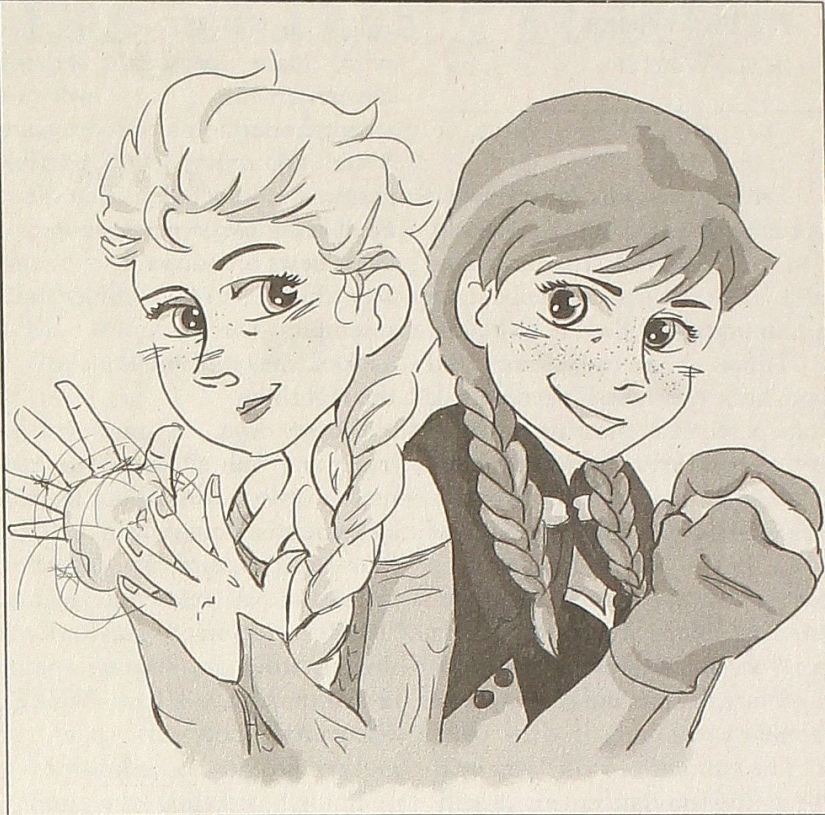
Then, they took a leaf from old works like "Lion King" to compose both memorable and functional songs. "Do You Wanna Build a Snowman" is just as adorable as it is integral to show how Anna feels about being separated from Elsa.

Finally, Disney hits it out of the ballpark by making the music itself brilliant. Not only are the melodies interesting, but also the soundtrack makes use of rounds, harmonizing, and bridges in a way that reminds me of the double key change in "Aladdin's" "A Whole New World."

Reason #3: Plot

The main reason I liked "Frozen" so much was because it wasn't what I expected. I originally refused to watch it because I thought this was just another Disney storyline where the older woman is evil, the younger girl is innocent, and she needs her prince charming to protect her.

Only "Frozen" is nothing like that.



Cassidy Shankleton: Staff Illustrator

Instead, this is a realistic story of two estranged sisters who learn about the power of love. They make mistakes, they cause trouble, and then they fix it. Not to mention that the love that is at the center of the story isn't romantic, it's familial.

In fact, there's the actual quote, "You can't marry a man that you just met." Do you know how happy hearing that made me?

Disney is certainly building up steam, and personally, I can't wait to see what they come up with next.

"The fact that 'Frozen' is out so early is surprising because a swift release date often signifies a box office flop. However, this is certainly not the case."

-On the early release of the DVD of 'Frozen.'

"The main reason I liked 'Frozen' so much was because it wasn't what I expected. I originally refused to watch it because I thought this was just another Disney storyline where the older woman is evil, the younger girl is innocent, and she needs her prince charming to protect her."

-On the typical "Disney Princess" plot.

House vs. Sheldon Cooper: writer compares TV geniuses

By DANIEL MURAWSKE
STAFF WRITER

I would pay top dollar to see an argument between Sheldon Cooper and Dr. Gregory House. What I would like to know is who would win.

Cooper can be seen Thursdays at 8 p.m. on CBS in the hit television sitcom, "The Big Bang Theory."

House can be seen on FOX's "House, M.D." While the show went off the air in 2012, reruns play on a few television stations and the DVDs are available.

This is what you need to know about both characters when you try to decide who would win an argument.

Cooper and House are very smart. Cooper has an eidetic memory, went to college without going through high school or junior high—he didn't even finish elementary school.

House's medical brilliance has saved an abundance of patients; he is the guy they call on when no one else can figure out the case (House is like a medical version of Sherlock Holmes).

Cooper and House are very anti-social. Cooper often insults his friends without even knowing it. He struggles with the concepts of most social norms; combine that with his extreme arrogance, and you have a guy who is ready for an argument.

House differs from Cooper in this category because House is willingly anti-social. He knows that a lot of the things he says to people are insults; however, he does not care. He only thinks about himself.

For example, there was one episode where House was

supposed to have dinner with his girlfriend and her mother on the same night that he had scheduled a guy's night out with his best friend.

In the end, he lied to his girlfriend about his best friend being depressed so she would let him go with his friend; then he lied to his best friend about his girlfriend needing him at dinner so his friend would tell him to be with her.

He manipulated his best friend and his girlfriend into canceling their plans so that he could stay home and watch "Real Housewives."

This is why House would win an argument with Cooper. Although both are very smart and put themselves before others, House could manipulate Cooper's emotions by angering him and eventually making him leave the conversation.

House also has persistence on his side. When he wants something done, he gets it done. He once stole his boss' laptop and hacked into it just so he could read her journal.

Like I said, when House wants something badly enough, he will do whatever it takes to make sure he gets it.

The subject of the argument would not matter. Sure, House

would not know as much about physics as Cooper, but he is so arrogant and persistent that he would never stop arguing and therefore would wear down Cooper.

Remember, the question is not who would be correct—it is who would win the argument. House has more willpower than Cooper.

That is not to say that Cooper has no willpower. I have seen episodes where he tries and tries to get something done (like figure out a magic trick or how to get a blue jay out of his apartment), but his efforts fail to measure up to House's.

House wins the argument, without a doubt.

One thing both Cooper and House would agree on is that we need to watch both of their shows. "The Big Bang Theory" is the funniest show on television today. It has lovable characters and funny dialogue.

"House, M.D." is the most interesting medical drama I've seen. As anti-social as House is, you cannot help but love him. You will also like his team of doctors and the interesting cases they take. In short, you'll never be bored.

I give "House, M.D." an "A."

I also give "The Big Bang Theory" an "A."



Cassidy Shankleton: Staff Illustrator

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"Although both [House and Cooper] are very smart and put themselves before others, House could manipulate Cooper's emotions by angering him and eventually making him leave the conversation."

-On the judgment of who would win the argument.

'News' now used to please audience, not inform

By **RAY VISSER**
STAFF WRITER

I think we've lost focus of what actually matters in the world. On the Internet, the mundane and meaningless have become commodities, and we're to blame.

Think about the phrase "did you hear the news?" People ask that particular question with an eerie, specific confidence. They have "the" news we should have heard about, definitively, end of story. But it almost always turns out to be a personal anecdote, an engagement, a recounting of a crazy weekend—something local, involving people and places we're familiar with.

The content of a "did you hear the news" announcement usually sounds like a Facebook status update or Tweet. They're personal musings, valid but inessential.

Events in the bigger picture of human experience don't get the recognition of being "the news," period. The crisis in the Ukraine and Crimea is "on the news." The disappearance of Flight 370 is "in the news." Look at those qualifications: "on." "In." It's as if these things are getting in the way of the real deal.

The Internet has brought current events closer to us—they're literally at our fingertips. But the Internet has also changed our perception of what is important to know.

Facebook's home page is called the "News Feed." It's filled with inane personal updates, advertisements, awkward smartphone photos, and comment-based arguments with horrible grammar and spelling. The News Feed resembles a newspaper, or a cable news broadcast, in the same way that a broken cinderblock resembles the pyramids. It's a broken, insignificant knockoff of the real thing.

These days, an onslaught of irrelevant "news" hides the real news in the world. About a week ago, scientists announced they had found evidence of the universe's expansion. A telescope named "BICEP2" spotted gravitational ripples from its vantage point in Antarctica. What BICEP2 discovered confirms part of modern physics, as we know it.

I only heard about the satellite and the gravity ripples because of one post on Facebook a week ago. This needle of information—real news, no matter how relevant it is to everyday life—was hiding deep in a haystack of poorly written list articles ("20 Things Every College Student Learns Outside of Class!") and celebrity gossip.

As my journalism instructor (and Almatian advisor) Ken Tabacsko puts it, "If the people want Miley Cyrus, Internet providers give them Miley Cyrus." Gone are the days when reporting for the public good, or informing a community of events affecting them, or exploring an important scientific discovery, attracted

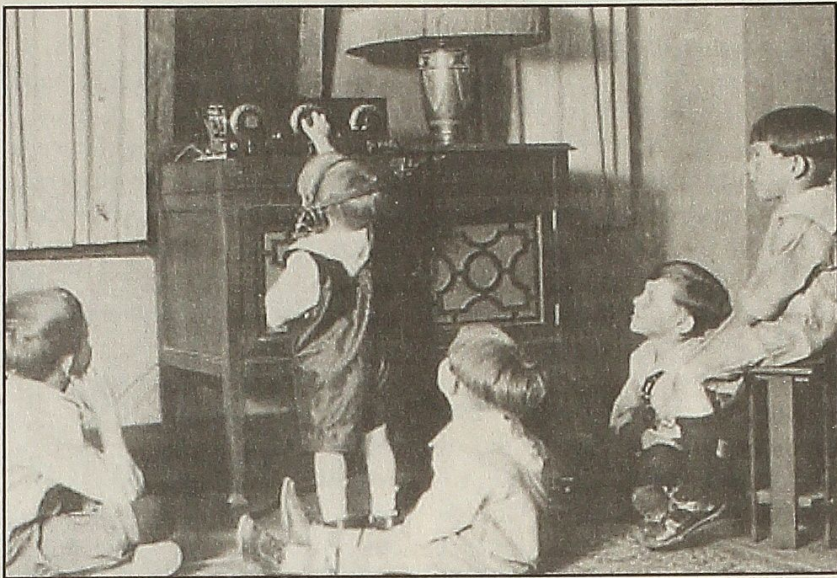


Photo courtesy of scratchygrooves.com

A few generations ago, the radio provided a source of both entertainment and news, serving as a medium for both FDR's "fireside chats" and various dramatic audio shows. Alas—such sources are now more difficult to find.

readers. News sources now have to cater to the lowest common denominator in the audience.

I'm not saying there's absolutely no market for real news. I argue that, as a culture, we're obsessed with things that have very little significance in the real world. And we've taken to calling those things "news."

So what can we do to reverse this trend? How do we restore balance to this universe of rippling gravity waves and Miley Cyrus overload?

One way to start the process is to branch out to news sites that don't bog down their own content with inane slideshows and sensational "news" stories. At the risk of making this column sound like an endorsement, I

recommend a source like Al Jazeera.

As one of the largest non-American news companies, Al Jazeera stands out from the pack, offering actual news without much pointless filler. Sources like this do exist. It's just a matter of finding them, of avoiding the clutter of the "News Feed" and actually seeking out information as an informed human being.

Hopefully we can fight against the onslaught of Buzzfeed lists to reinstate the old definition of "news." We should care about the news. Without it, we'll be caught in a horrifying vortex of recirculated garbage. If that sounds nasty, trust me—it will be.

Don't let that happen. Support real news, not "the news."

TEARS & CHEERS: The Digital Age

By **LISA FOLKMIRE**
OPINION EDITOR

CRY

-You can always tell what your old high school friends are doing with their day. Minute by minute by minute.

-When you go online to research the importance of childhood narrative in coming-of-age novels, you always find yourself on Twitter, Facebook, and Tumblr, simultaneously.

-Once your sister moves to Chicago, she insists that your mother get "onto the Facebook" because of the instant ease in communication from being miles away. Pretty soon good ol' mom and dad will be liking your profile pictures and recalling awkward childhood stories for all of your friends to see.

-You will never be out of contact of the kid you successfully avoided in the halls for four years of your life. Guess who just got a new Twitter follower.

-#YOLO. Enough said.

-More young adults know what type of cheese they would be rather than the actual situation going on in the Ukraine.

-From direct daily conversation to letter writing to phone calls, we've limited ourselves to 140 characters of thought to pass between each other.

-We can now base self-worth on likes and retweets, instead of actual eye rolls or smiles.

REJOICE

-Regardless of the briefness of it all, it is way easier to recreate a portion of those daily family dinners from childhood through the abilities of the Internet.

-When important things happen—accomplishments, promotions, publications—it's always nice to post online to tell those you love, rather than dialing out 237 phone calls.

-When used correctly, Twitter can be a useful method of gathering the news. Following NPR, UNESCO, and the Times will inform you of the day's events, regardless of what you're actually on Twitter for.

-You can find out about virtually anything through endless scroll. Books to read, music to listen to, what the friend you haven't chatted with in three years is doing with her summer abroad, anything.

-Photos are so much easier to share with the Internet at hand. No more need to print off all of the awkward photos you took at your last formal—post them free of charge for your friends' embarrassment.

Confused about life? Biddy has an answer!

By **BIDDY**
STAFF COLUMNIST

Ask Biddy: From relationships to study tips, I'm your go-to columnist! Don't forget—anyone can e-mail me their questions at askbiddy@gmail.com.

Dear Biddy, I recently became involved with a boy who is really great! He is so great that I have had to fight for his attention

... with his girlfriend... of whose existence I wasn't made aware of until some serious Facebook stalking had happened. I did things that I never would have, had I known the full situation. I feel so terrible about the whole thing.

To make it worse, his girlfriend and I are in two classes together. I have no idea if she knows anything, and I can't decide if it would be worse for her to know or to not know.

Every time I bring this mess

up, the boy just shuts down and refuses to talk about it. I know that he and I would make a great pair, if only for the darn girlfriend. I don't want to break them up, but I feel wrong letting it go on like this. I have no idea what I should do.

Furthermore, who is at fault in this situation in the first place? Is it me, for being the proverbial other woman, or is it him, for being a jerk and not making his situation clear?—Not Actually a Terrible Person... Maybe?

Dear Not Actually a Terrible Person... Maybe? I would recommend that you stop seeing this person immediately. If he is not faithful to the girlfriend he does have, what makes you think that he would be faithful to you, if you were his girlfriend? That sounds harsh, but I am a firm believer that a one-time cheater is always a cheater.

Given the way you describe the situation, I'm inclined to say that the boy is the one at fault. It sounds like he purposely hid the fact that he has a girlfriend—not something a guy who is any semblance of nice would do. If I were you, I would tell the girlfriend. Honesty is, as always, the best policy.

If you were dating someone who was a closeted scumbag, wouldn't you prefer that someone break the news to you before it was too late? The girlfriend probably won't be thanking you in the moment—probably the opposite, actually—but remember that you're doing a good thing. Be fearless!

Dear Biddy, My father died when I was 4. My mother and I were left with no one but each other, and we became the best of friends. I wanted to be just like her, and she worked hard to make

sure I had opportunities. I was so fortunate in life to have a mother who is so supportive of me and my grand plans for the future. Now, 17 years later I am a junior in college, and my mother has recently started seeing someone. She has nothing but good words for this person, and I'm thrilled that my mom is so happy with her new relationship. There's just one curveball: she's seeing a woman.

As I said, I could not be happier that my mom is happy. My issue is not with my mother's newly revealed sexuality. I, personally, am perfectly fine with that. It's not my business. I am just confused with my identity now. The woman who taught me everything I know about life and love just changed her life in a major way.

What does this mean for me, in my journey to figure life and love? Do you have any suggestions of how to best support my mother right now? Any general advice would be much appreciated. I'm more than a little lost about where to start.—Lost and Delirious Daughter

Dear Lost and Delirious Daughter, The way you describe it, it sounds like your mother cares more about you than anything else. I would think that not causing too many waves in your life is probably one of her priorities—so don't let it.

Accept the lesson that people are not static, they are constantly changing... and this change happened to be a bit bigger than others so far. This should not change the way you think of life and love—except, again, that people change.

Your mother is still your mother. You said yourself that her sexuality is none of your business. I think you've answered your own question.

Spring equinox has arrived!



Cassidy Shankleton: Staff Illustrator

It's official. The weather no longer has any excuse to continue with the freezing-cold temperatures and the mornings of waking up to a snow-coated world. Yes, the white fluff can be cute and the sparkle within it can be slightly magical the first three times around; however, once the northern hemisphere is tilted up toward the sun, the world should consider lightening up a bit. Since ancient times, civilizations have built pyramids, temples, and other forms of tributes to the gods for the promise of spring—or, at least, the promise of warmth. Tempting, huh?

Scots' wrestling makes the grade with four Scholar All-Americans

By **EMILY ZADNY**
STAFF WRITER

The Alma wrestling team proved it not only excels on the mats but also in the classroom after naming four of its athletes as Division III Scholar All-Americans last weekend at the national championships in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

The team finished second out of 96 teams as the national runner-up for overall GPA, improving from a 3.515 and a fourth place standing to a 3.603 this year.

Head Coach Todd Hibbs and his staff's recruiting paid off as **Jamie Jakes ('16)**, **Shawn Brewer ('16)**, **Jared Groeneveld ('15)**, and **Tyler Foley ('15)** all earned the accolade, finishing with GPAs of 3.6 and higher.

The National Wrestling Coaches Association states that an athlete is eligible as a Scholar All-American by maintaining a GPA or 3.2 or higher and qualifying for nationals, placing in the top six to qualify,

or winning more than 66 percent of his matches and competing in at least half of all scheduled competitions.

The dedication the men have for their sport and their class work reflects well on the program, said Hibbs.

"The Division III model and Alma College are specifically about balancing strong academics with a chance to compete in the sport you love," said Hibbs.

"These guys are terrific examples of what the model is, and it feels great to be surrounded by young men like this."

Of the 96 teams, Alma was one of 13 that named four or more Scholar All-Americans.

"All four of these guys are obviously leaders on our team academically," said Hibbs. "From their first days on campus they have been just as competitive about their grades as they have been on the mat."

"We hear them talking about it all the time. Shawn and Tyler are battling to get into medical school, and Jared and Jamie are battling for the highest GPA on the

team. They should be proud."

"Being named a Scholar All-American means a lot to me for a couple of reasons," said Foley. "The purpose of coming to Alma was to further my education. I would be doing a disservice to myself if I didn't keep up on my academics."

These young men realize that being named a Scholar All-American did not happen overnight and that it took focus and dedication in order to juggle the demands set for student athletes.

"Maintaining my grades is a full-time job," said Jakes. "It's all about showing up and paying attention in class, and time management after class."

"It's also important for me to plan ahead so I have enough sleep and enough time to study," he added.

The team does a considerable amount of travelling during the season, posing another challenge for the athletes.

"Many times this year I had to stay focused on the bus and commit myself to doing homework while other wrestlers

were watching movies or sleeping," said Groeneveld. "Athletes need to learn to take advantage of all time slots available to get work done but also to take a break and go do something fun that helps you to relax."

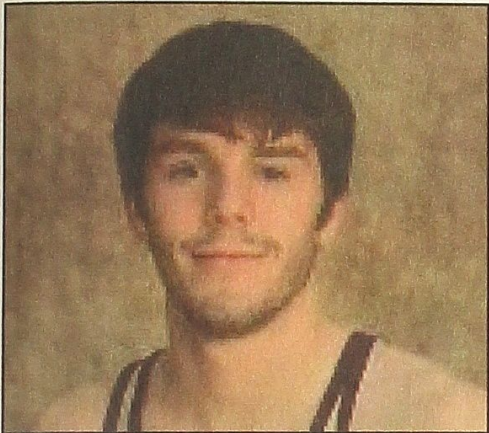
Foley agrees that keeping up on assignments but still managing to enjoy college are crucial for four years of success.

"I would say the most important thing is to stay ahead of the game and try to get your homework done or started before practice, because after practice you are going to be exhausted and you're going to want to relax," said Foley.

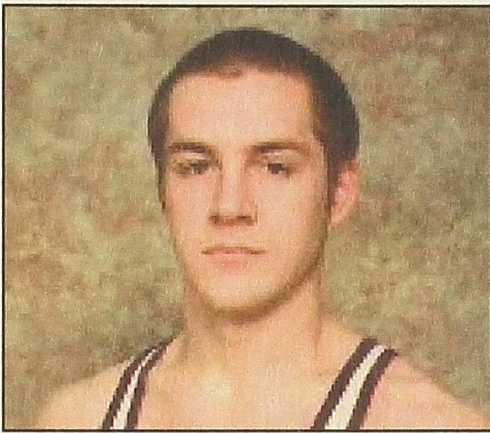
"It's very important to take schoolwork seriously, but also remember to make sure you take a break so you don't burn out."

Brewer also hopes to leave a few wise words of advice with his fellow student athletes.

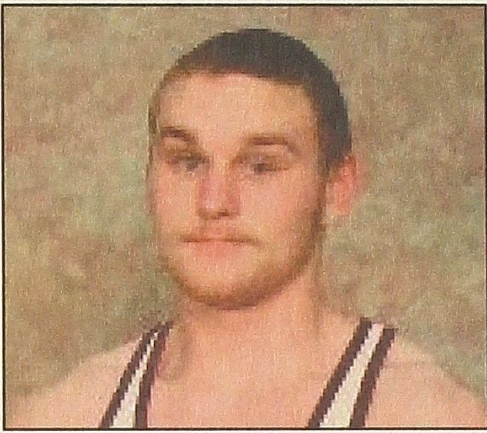
"Never lose sight of your academic and athletic goals," said Brewer. "Don't procrastinate on your schoolwork and just always strive to be and do the best in every aspect of college."



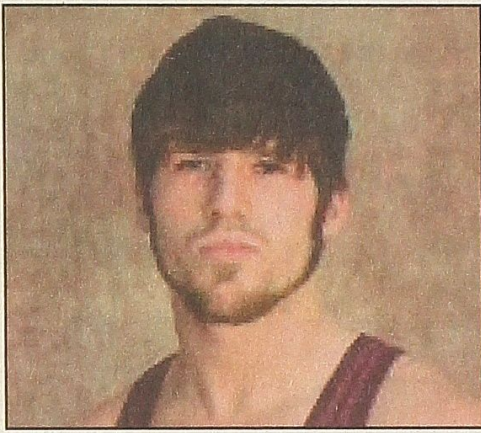
Tyler Foley ('15)



Jared Groeneveld ('15)



Jamie Jakes ('16)



Shawn Brewer ('16)

Photos Courtesy Goulmascots.com Roster

March Madness takes over Alma's campus

By **JUSTIN KETTERER**
STAFF WRITER

March is the month when you sweat out every college basketball game hoping your bracket doesn't get completely destroyed. Welcome to the madness.

"I really like the tournament," **Jon Calo ('16)** said.

"Even someone without a lot of college basketball knowledge like me can get into it with the bracket challenges."

The NCAA basketball tournament is a single-game elimination tournament with 68 teams all vying for the right to be

called national champions.

A lot of people like the tournament because there are usually upsets by underdog Cinderella teams beating heavily favored opponents and make a run at the title.

"There's so much parity in the tournament," **Domenic Baima ('15)** said.

"Every team leaves it all on the floor; even games you think would be one-sided are usually pretty close."

The teams are seeded one through 16 with four regions. There are also four play-in games: two for 16 seeds, one for

an 11 seed and one for a 12 seed.

"Any team can win any given game," **Weston Kartes ('16)** said. "Every game has the potential to be really exciting, like the four straight overtime games on Thursday."

There are several teams that experts think have a good shot at the title.

The Wichita State Shockers are a valid candidate and had a perfect regular season and conference tournament in the Missouri Valley Conference, going 34-0.

The Shockers were a Cinderella team last year, reaching the Final Four as a nine seed.

Another one seed that won its conference is the University of Florida Gators. People are backing Florida to win it all.

"I have Florida winning the tournament," Kartes said. "They play great defense, I really like Billy Donovan (Florida's coach), and they are a deep team."

President Barack Obama and others have the Michigan State Spartans winning the tournament.

"I'm a State fan so I always want them to do well," Calo said. "At the end of the season they got everybody back from

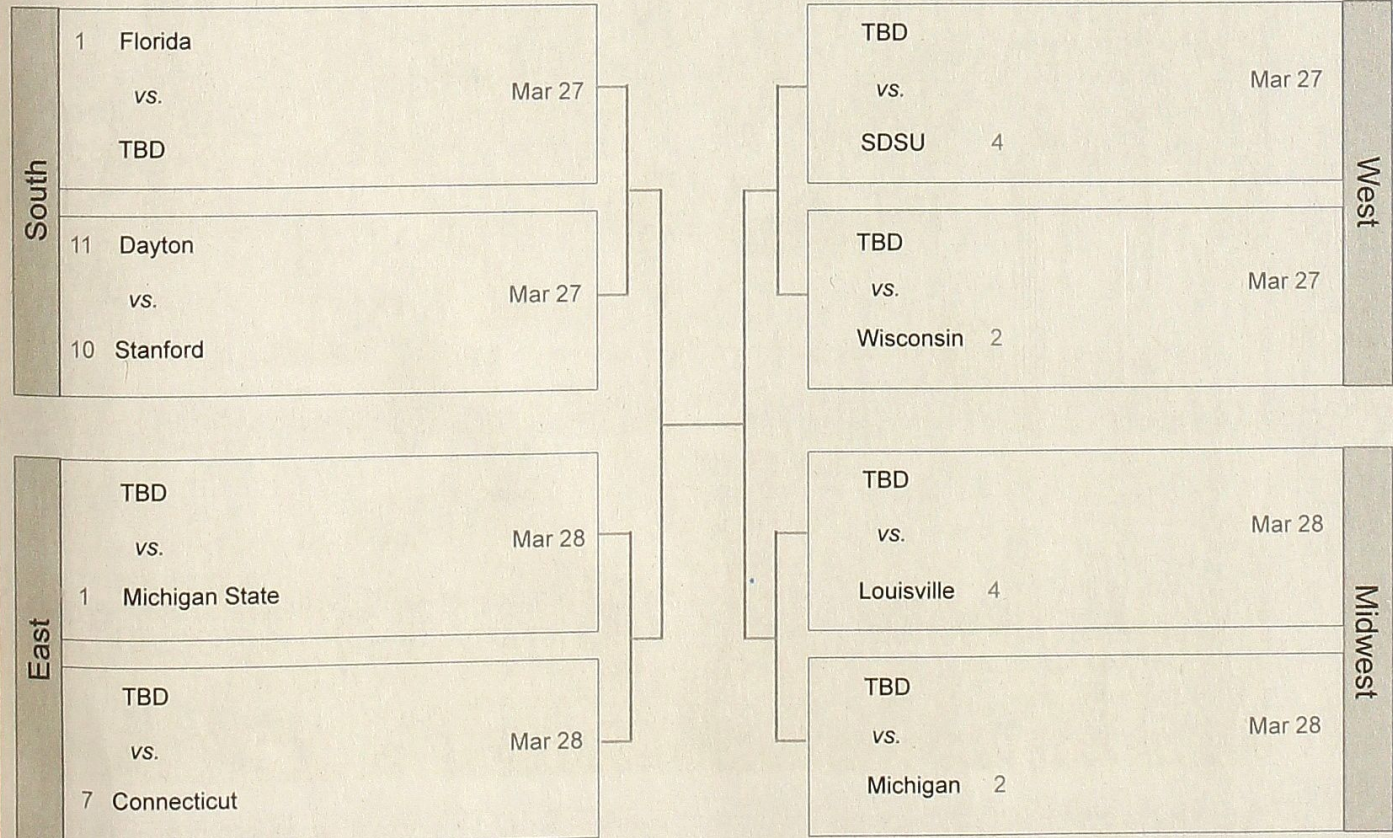
injuries and were playing well so I think they can win the whole thing."

The Final Four will be played at the AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas. The semi-final games will be played on April 5 and the national championship game will be on April 7.

Many people get in pools with filling out brackets, but the tournament has proven to not be easily predicted.

"It's frustrating to fill out a bracket and not know what to do with those Cinderella teams," Kartes said. "But that makes the tournament interesting and exciting."

"Sweet 16" Results



Information Courtesy of ESPN

March Madness Fun Facts:

- 35 different teams have won the NCAA tournament, but UCLA leads all schools with 11 titles.
- The first NCAA men's basketball tournament was held in 1939 and consisted of only eight teams.
- In 2009, the NCAA made it a requirement that the Final Four must be held in a dome stadium with a seating capacity of at least 70,000.
- Only once have all four No. 1 seeds advanced to the Final Four when Kansas, North Carolina, UCLA, and Memphis met in 2008.
- The lowest seed to ever win the NCAA Tournament was Villanova as a No. 8 seed in 1985.
- The record for most points scored by an individual in a NCAA tournament game belongs to Austin Carr, who recorded 61 points in Notre Dame's 1970 opener.
- Glen Rice of Michigan holds the record for most points in a single tournament with 184 in 1989.
- The odds of filling out a perfect bracket are one in 9,233,372,036,854,775,808 (that's a quintillion).
- The oldest coach to win a title was Jim Calhoun in 2011 at the age of 68.
- Since 1986, the winning school of the NCAA tournament has been given the hardwood court.

Alma women's lacrosse struggles to score during winless weekend

By BRENT LUPLOW
STAFF WRITER

The Alma College women's lacrosse team traveled to Ohio last weekend to face two tough opponents. The Scots had trouble scoring goals in both games, being outscored 7 to 28 last weekend.

Last Saturday's game featured Alma facing off against undefeated Oberlin College. The Yeowomen jumped on the Scots early, scoring four straight goals to start the game.

Alma finally answered with its first goal by **Ashton Street ('16)**, five minutes into the first half.

NEXT MATCH:
4 p.m.
Next Wednesday
Adrian College

Oberlin continued its tough offensive attack, scoring six more goals before halftime. **Tracy Gallihugh ('15)** scored Alma's second goal of the half as she increased her league-leading goals scored to 31 over the weekend.

Alma played a more complete second half outscoring Oberlin, three goals to two. Gallihugh, Street, and **Stephanie Chou ('17)** each scored in the half. However, this would not be enough as Oberlin defeated the Scots 12 to 5 on the afternoon. With the loss, the Scots' record fell to 4-3 on the season.

"Unfortunately we did not show up ready to play last weekend," said Gallihugh. "We

lacked intensity throughout the whole game; we need to work on our consistency and awareness."

A quick turnaround saw Alma facing Otterbein College less than 24 hours later. A mixture of tired legs and tough defense by Otterbein held the Scots to their lowest scoring total of the season with only two goals.

Alma only scored one goal per half on tallies by Gallihugh and Chou.

The Scots were outshot by Otterbein 27-13 and outscored 14-2 as Alma's overall record fell to four wins and four losses.

After two straight setbacks, Alma is looking for a boost to get them back in the win column.

"To progress this season, we need to begin to work together as a team; we have a lot of individual talent, and we need to get to the point where all of our talent clicks as one," said Street.

Emalee Ousley ('17) also noted that teamwork would be key to winning the next games. "We need to work on playing together," she said. "It has been hard to incorporate the different playing styles on the field."

The Scots start conference play next Wednesday as they travel to play conference rival Adrian College.

Adrian finished first in the MIAA Conference last year and beat Alma in each of their meetings, including the MIAA championship game.

"Hopefully this weekend we can come out strong and smart from the very start of the game and play together to get another win," said Gallihugh.

Future plans for Alma athletics indoor turf facility

By JUSTIN KETTERER
STAFF WRITER

President Jeff Abernathy has a grand campus plan for Alma College.

Part of his vision includes additions to the library and the Dow building and a new indoor practice facility with turf placed behind the Stone Rec Center.

"We re-imagined the facility as a stand-alone building behind the rec center," said Mike Silverthorn, director of communications at Alma College.

"It's basically a vision right now; there is no timeframe for the construction."

Silverthorn said funding is not in place for the indoor facility yet, but once there is money available, the planning will begin.

"We want to develop facilities for both academic and co-curricular activities," Silverthorn said.

"The add-on to the library and the addition to Dow are priorities."

The indoor athletic facility will be able to accommodate teams during the cold months or during storms during the fall and spring.

"It would be great for practices that we could get rained out of because of lightning," **Nate Brown ('15)**, a member of the soccer team, said.

"It would be good for spring practice to have more options for times and still be able to practice

even when it's 15 degrees."

The weather this spring has provided cold practices for every sport on campus.

Silverthorn said that Abernathy met with various coaches and explained the idea for the indoor facility.

"We don't want to focus on the fall date," Silverthorn said. "It is good news that we are building this, but it is in the preliminary stage."

Silverthorn said that the first idea for the facility was an add-on to the front of the Stone Rec Center, but now it will be a stand-alone facility behind preexisting building.

"There are no formal drawings or blue-prints for the building yet," Silverthorn said.

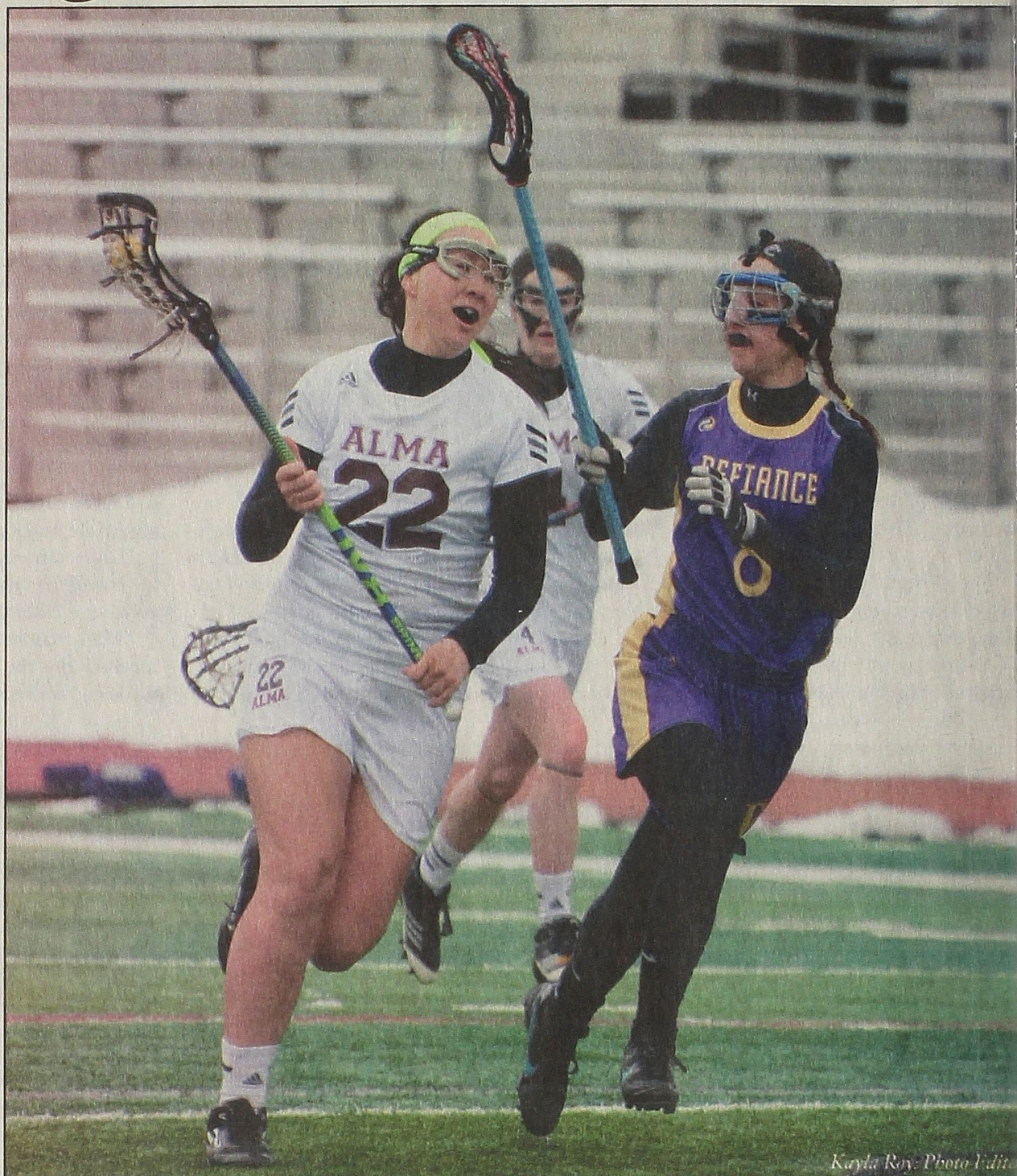
He said the academic buildings are taking the lead on the fundraising at this point, and the whole picture of campus improvement is the college's goal.

Whenever the turf facility will be built, it will provide a place for almost every Alma College team to practice in, instead of outside in the elements.

"Pretty much every team except swimming and diving will be able to make use of the building," Silverthorn said.

"It will be a good thing for the campus when it is built."

"The indoor facility is a big deal," **Brandon Wegenke ('15)** said. "It will benefit all sports and allow for opportunities a lot of Division III programs don't have."



Kayla Roy: Photo Edit



Kayla Roy: Photo Edit



Kayla Roy: Photo Edit

Top: Stephanie Chou ('17) had six goals for the Scots last Saturday in their 20-4 victory over Defiance. **Middle:** Tracy Gallihugh ('15) leads her team with 31 goals for the season, earning five in the squad's last game. **Bottom:** Emalee Ousley ('17) had one shot and one goal last Saturday for the Scots.