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Fall Festival a hit: community, students gather for an evening of fun, family-friendly activities

By **SAMANTHA COYKENDALL**
BUSINESS MANAGER

The community, the college, and downtown merchants partnered last Thursday to present the annual Fall Festival.

The college's students involved with the Responsible Leadership Institute worked to coordinate and plan the evening's festivities. The event kicked off at 3:30 p.m. and continued until 7 p.m..

Visitors and participants had a wide variety of family-friendly activities to participate in throughout the evening.

On Woodworth Avenue, student organizations from the college helped facilitate Trunk or Treat. Organizations that participated included Tau Kappa Epsilon, Sigma Chi, Gamma Phi Beta, Zeta Sigma, Alpha Xi Delta, Alpha Phi Omega, Entrepreneurs in Action, Model UN, Amnesty International, Active Minds, Kappa Iota, Barrister's Society, the softball team, and Alpha

Gamma Delta.

Trunks were decorated with everything from spooky spider webs, to carved pumpkins and mascots.

"My favorite part of the evening was seeing how happy the children were when we would start conversations with them," said **Cierra Sutherland ('16)**, who represented Gamma Phi Beta.

"The kids loved telling us about their costumes!"

Others helping to pass out candy with Sutherland included: **Ashley Ptak ('15)**, **Michayla Banning ('16)**, **Alaina Richard ('16)**, **Shawna Young ('16)** and **Mairi Clow ('17)**.

"It was enjoyable to spend time with the team, and we really enjoyed watching the excitement the kids would get as they walked around from activity to activity," said softball player **Lea Lusk ('15)**.

Several college organizations hosted activity and informational booths in addition to passing out treats.

The Chemistry Club provided slime creation demonstrations



Rebekah Irani: Staff Photographer

Above: Kendall Cox ('15) gives out candy at Trunk or Treat at fall festival. Left: Chemistry Club makes slime with children at fall festival.

throughout the evening where kids could make their very own bag of slime.

Other featured tables included UHPAC/IHSI, Literacy Beyond Borders, the Education Club, AmeriCorps*VISTA, and the Martial Arts Club. Colleges Against Cancer was promoting breast cancer awareness through a pinky promise with children and adults that stopped by the table.

"We painted the pinky fingernail of participants and explained that it was a pinky promise to tell a female friend, loved one, teacher, etc. to have a mammogram done," said **Kendall Cox ('15)** of Colleges Against Cancer.

"It was fun to talk to the kids

about this because they don't know what a mammogram is, but they were genuinely interested in the idea of reminding their moms and grandmas, aunts and teachers to get a 'special test' done to make sure they don't have cancer."

As the evening progressed, the community had the opportunity to enjoy further excitement. A Zombie Fun Run mile was held in the cemetery, featuring the brothers of Zeta Sigma as friendly zombies.

Free pumpkin painting took place in front of Mancino's. Hayrides departed frequently from Woodworth Avenue and were packed with costumed children and their parents.

Around 6p.m., children and

their parents began gathering for the pre-K to 5th grade costume contest. Some of the popular Halloween costumes included Spider-Man, princesses, puppy dogs, Care Bears and ninjas.

Some college students who volunteer in the community took advantage of the fun evening and brought their "little siblings" from Big Brothers Big Sisters to the festival.

"I took my little to the trunk or treat, the club booths, and to the bounce house," said **Lauren Morawski ('15)**.

"I loved walking around in the friendly atmosphere and watching her have fun. Our favorite part was the trunk or treat because all the cars were so friendly."

Alpha Gamma Delta sponsors film that challenges media's portrayal of women

By **MECHON CAREW**
STAFF WRITER

Witness the "[uncovering of] a glaring reality we live with every day but fail to see" with Alpha Gamma Delta Wednesday night by attending their screening of "Miss Representation."

The documentary "exposes how mainstream media contribute to the under-representation of women in positions of power and influence in America," explained **Brittany Verran ('15)**, president of the Alma College chapter of the Alpha Gamma Delta.

"The film challenges the media's limited and often disparaging portrayals of women and girls, which make it difficult for women

to achieve leadership positions and for the average woman to feel powerful herself."

Written, directed, and produced by Jennifer Siebel Newsom, this 2011 film uses interviews from teenage girls and famous female stars, politicians, journalists, and the like to take an inside look on issues such as female movie stereotypes, restriction of women in leadership roles, and the objectification of females as a whole.

Given that Alpha Gamma Delta's vision is "Inspire women, impact the world," it is no surprise that they would host an event that addresses how female empowerment and the world are interconnected. Verran, along with **Alora Adams ('15)** first saw "Miss Representation" while representing their chapter at the women's fraternity's International

Convention this summer.

"The documentary was shown as the keynote event, and we had small discussions at different points throughout the film," said Adams. "It was fantastic, and I know there were some people who were crying at different parts of the film from the powerful message and the reality shown within the film."

Verran was one of the members who spearheaded the movement to show "Miss Representation" on campus. She has been acting directly to help plan and promote the event.

"I'm very excited to bring this award-winning documentary to Alma College and educate our students," Verran said. "I think it's a great way to incorporate our liberal arts education by becoming aware of all kinds of different issues."

Lisa Folkmire ('15) is enthusiastic about the event even outside of being an Alpha Gamma Delta herself.

"As somebody who's passionate about feminist studies and who has taken a lot of courses that are focused on these studies, I'm very excited to see Greek Life taking a part in this cause," she said. "Especially because I think that, through Hollywood, Greek Life can be seen as a negative portrayal of girls."

"In my own experience, my involvement with Alpha Gamma Delta has strengthened my self-esteem and integrity—something you can rarely find being represented on the big screen."

Although "Miss Representation" is a documentary, members of Alpha Gamma Delta ensure that viewers will not be bored.

"[It's] worth the hour and a half the film lasts," Adams advocated. "The message behind it is so powerful and will change the way you see the world and see yourself. Come take a break from studying to watch it and bring your friends."

However, just watching will not solve everything. Folkmire encourages students to take a closer look at their regular lives.

Overall, she hopes that those who come to the event will begin to realize that the media portrayal of women is ingrained in the collective mind of society, accepted without question, and most importantly, very wrong.

"It sounds cheesy and extremely obvious, but it's important to remember that women are first and foremost, people, regardless of how they're portrayed by media," she said.

Highland dancers to compete this weekend; free concert follows event Saturday evening

By CRYSTAL SNOW
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Morgan Pell ('17) travels 15 hours to attend Alma College. The distance between Alma and the home of **Katie Ochs ('16)** is over 2,300 miles.

What do these two ladies have in common? They are just two of the nine Kiltie Dancers who travel from far and wide to perform, compete, and study as a Scot.

Saturday is the next time that students, staff, and the entire community can see the popular performances that are the product of hours of time, practice, and commitment.

The annual Alma Indoor Highland Dancing Competition takes place this weekend, featuring a multi-level event, as well as a workshop for dancers on Sunday.

The competition portion of Saturday will be at the Masonic Home in Alma, while the Alma College Kiltie Dancers' fall concert will be in Tyler-Van Dusen at 7:30 p.m.

"It would be a great opportunity to experience a part of Scottish culture and to see first-hand the amazing art that is Scottish Highland Dancing," said Pell.

Dances that viewers can expect to see during the competition segment include the Highland Fling, the Sword, the Seann

Truibhas, and various national dances, according to Ochs.

"I like the national dances because it gives me a chance to perform with more of my own personal style, since the dances are more graceful," Ochs said. "However, I prefer the Highland dances because I like the intensity and athleticism of the four Highland dances."

Besides the concerts they host, the Kilties can also be seen performing at events like homecoming, traditions dinner, or other events in the area.

"I love competing and performing Scottish Highland dancing," said Pell. "Entertaining an audience is a wonderful feeling, and knowing that I am carrying on this tradition is extremely empowering."

"Since starting school here, I've made it my goal to compete in at least three competitions per term, but when I'm home, I can have three in one month," said Ochs, who has been dancing for 17 years.

Pell has been competing since the age of five and performs in competitions all over the United States and Canada. She often competes every weekend during the summer.

"Highland dance is a beautiful art form," she added. "Each dance has its own rich history, from The Highland Fling to the Sailor's Hornpipe. It is so empowering

knowing that these dances have been done for hundreds of years and that I am still carrying on the tradition."

"The best part about Alma Indoor is that it's a small, laid-back competition, so it's a great way to kick off the season," said Ochs.

However, this weekend will not all be competitive. Saturday evening's concert will showcase the Kiltie Dancers as they perform classics like the Highland Fling alongside less traditional pieces, such as choreographies to "Wake Me Up" by the Red Hot Chili Pipers and a Christmas medley.

The Kiltie Dancers are instructed by Kate Degood, the director of Highland Dance and co-coordinator of Highland Arts at Alma. Admission is free to staff, students, and the public.



Top, Above: Kiltie Dancers at a competition in Harbor Springs. Photos courtesy of Katie Ochs ('16)

This Week at Alma College October 27-November 2

Monday

AC Interfaith: Diwali
7 p.m. Van Dusen

Wednesday

Alpha Gamma Delta presents "Miss Representation"
9 p.m. Dow L-1

Thursday

Diversity and Inclusion Movie Night:
"The Birdcage"
8 p.m. CSO lobby

Friday

Be a True Scot: Wear Purple
Wear purple to raise awareness of domestic violence

Saturday

Highland Dance Fall Concert
7:30-9:00 p.m. Oscar E. Remick Heritage Center

Congressional candidate holds debate without opponent

By ABIGAIL FERGUS
COMMUNITY EDITOR

With Election Day approaching on Nov. 4, Congressional candidate Jeffrey Holmes discussed his position on matters of interest in the Heritage Center last Monday night.

The event was originally intended to be a debate between Holmes and opposing candidate state Sen. John Moolenaar, but Moolenaar backed out in order to attend a meet and greet in Cadillac, Mich. The hard work that the Alma College Democrats put into organizing the event was not put to waste because of Moolenaar's decision, however. Instead, the debate was restructured into a one-candidate discussion.

Holmes answered audience questions, gave anecdotes, and shared why he is running to be the representative for Michigan's 4th district.

Holmes believes that a Congressional leader "should look at the taxes we as a district are paying to Washington, and what we [can] expect legitimately to receive back from Washington."

Additionally, Holmes feels confident about what the district can expect from Washington, saying, "I think that the money we receive back can help support

our economy and provide jobs."

In response to concerns about the pollution in St. Louis, Mich., Holmes discussed the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): "We still don't have a clean-up that is satisfactory, and we may never have a clean-up that is satisfactory. We need to put the money forth through the EPA [so] they can provide the guidelines and standards industries can look at and follow. Then they will have the guidance necessary to prevent this kind of pollution."

"If you do not go out and vote, you are allowing what happened tonight to happen again"

-Ginna Holmes

Holmes also addressed the question of marijuana legalization, posed by an audience member.

"I think Colorado and Washington have it right, I think that we should legalize marijuana. In Colorado and Washington, they are seeing tremendous benefits from the taxes they are receiving from it. They are not seeing any increase in the number of people who are using it."

"You know if you've gone

through - I don't want to pick on Alma- so let's talk about Michigan State. You know medical marijuana's being used down there. It's being used already, and it's creating a lot of tension in the police force, because they're trying to track it down.

"I think that there's some real benefits if you move the war on drugs from trying to prevent marijuana from entering, to treatment for substance abuse, particularly prescription narcotics, which has become a huge problem."

At the end of the night, Holmes, his wife, and Alma Democrats Vice President **Nicole Eccles ('16)** emphasized the importance of going out and voting. Ginna Holmes, wife of Jeffrey Holmes, referenced Moolenaar's absence.

She argued that Moolenaar was choosing not to represent the people and students of Alma through backing out of the debate. She compared this to what would happen if people don't go out and vote.

"If you do not go out and vote, you are allowing what happened tonight to happen again." She was arguing that the audience's voices would not be heard, if they choose not to vote.

Voting in the state general elections will take place on Nov. 4. Voting in Gratiot County will take place at the First Presbyterian Church, 495 Charles Ave.

Students to host TEDx event

A day of TED talks will spark conservations and connections

By MECHON CAREW
STAFF WRITER

The upcoming TEDx Alma College event will provide organizers and speakers with an opportunity to spark conversations and connections. Planned for early winter semester, **Justin Closs ('15)** is leading the charge to bring TEDx to campus. "I've just always loved TED Talks; I've loved the idea of them," he said.

TED is a nonprofit organization dedicated to facilitating the spreading of ideas. It began as a flopped conference converging the topics of technology, entertainment, and

design in 1984 and grew to cover nearly every topic imaginable in over 100 different languages.

The typical TED talks are usually short – under 18 minutes – and very powerful. They can be easily found through the website www.ted.com, where they even have playlists by topic.

TEDx began in 2009 to push the mission of spreading ideas even further by supporting independent organizers who want to host a TED event themselves.

"It's a small-scale version of TED," **Caroline Croom ('17)** explained.

Closs is one of those independent organizers. He went through the application process last spring to receive a license to host a TEDx event.

"When I found out that I could bring it to the campus, it was something I really want to

do," he said.

Currently he is working with a small team separated into four committees: speakers, sponsorship, production, and media.

Lisa Folkmire ('15) is on the Speakers Committee and plans to open the event with a spoken word poem about Alma.

"[I'll be writing about] the general feel of the campus and the community as a whole, just to show what kind of people come to Alma and why we care about the school so much."

Currently there is no overarching theme for the event. Closs and his team instead are leaning towards more varied subjects, very much like the interests of students attending a liberal arts college.

However, Closs in particular does not want it to be just another

Honors Day in which students present the research they have done.

"I'm a science person, so I really enjoy the science-y talks, but I know that's not everybody's cup of tea." Closs admitted. "I'd really like to bring in some performers of the surrounding community and other people who might not just do research in the academic fields but have a very interesting story to share."

Each member of the team had to state in their application why they wanted to be a part of TEDx Alma College, to which Croom responded, "It's good for resumes," jokingly, but continued to explain.

"I do like volunteering, and I do want to start getting ideas out there, ideas to better the world. I thought this would be a great way to put myself out there and start

inspiring ideas for people."

Currently TEDx Alma College is only expected to be a one-time event, but the team has already discussed the possibility of writing up a Student Congress Constitution and becoming an actual club, although, as Closs said, that decision will depend on the success of this event.

However, there are only going to be 100 seats for sale for the event this year, so if you are already interested, you will want to get them quickly before they're gone.

For those who are interested in actually helping host the event, Croom mentioned that although applications to be part of the team for hosting are closed, "We would love to have a few extra hands to help on the event day... and we would absolutely love ideas for presenters. Please contact us."

Alma Model UN teaches students in India

By CHELSEY COBB
STAFF WRITER

The students on the Model United Nations team at Alma College departed for India on Oct. 11. While they were abroad, they ran a Model UN conference and reorganized the way the event was run.

Last year, the Model UN team was invited to go to India and help with the conference; however, the number of people who could attend was limited. This year, due to a grant, more students were able to attend.

The State Department gave the Model UN team a \$75,000 grant to attend. Model UN in India is more debate oriented than the Western system, which more closely resembles the real United Nations. For this conference, the Alma Model UN team hoped to run it with a more Western style approach.

"[The Indian system] used more of a moderated caucus, when one delegate speaks their position and resolution at a time, which was more debate based," said **Roger Zahn ('17)**.

In Model UN, different committees are assigned to different world issues. The committees are challenged to come up with ways to solve them.

In the Western system, small groups work in a diplomatic and cooperative setting, which was slightly different than the system

used in India.

This was essentially an experimental exercise to see if the different format would be successful. The Indian student delegates who were at the conference appeared to like the new format, which made this a dramatic success.

"It was amazing to see these students all work together," said Zahn. "In the Security Council, we introduce a fictional crisis to the situation and give them an hour and a half to come up with a solution. It was great to see them work together to solve a major 'crisis' in a limited amount of time."

This conference took place at Presidium, an Indian school that welcomed the Model UN group with great hospitality. It took place over a period of three days. The students from India

attending the conference varied in age groups and grades.

"We had to teach these kids, from 7th to 11th grade, how to compete in American Model UN, which is so much different than Indian model UN," said **Lauren Jones ('15)**.

The executive board was made up of both Alma College students and students from India. The Alma Model UN students worked as chairs of different committees and the other students as co-chairs. One of the committees was the General Assembly Third Committee, for which Jones was the chair. In total, there were nine committees.

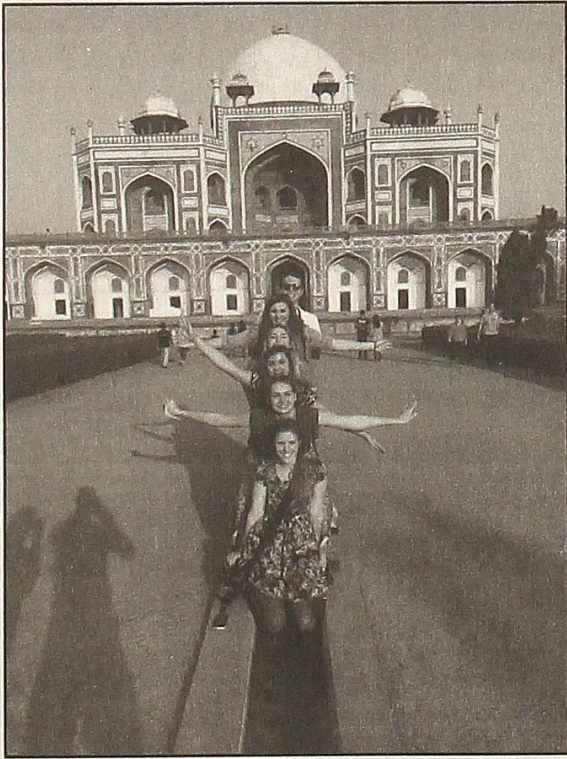
The primary goal of the conference was to demonstrate diplomatic relations, collaboration, and compromise between the different nations represented there. These were

ideas that the Model UN team brought and demonstrated while running the conference. In the end, the different formatting to the conference that the Model UN group introduced was very well received by many of the people involved.

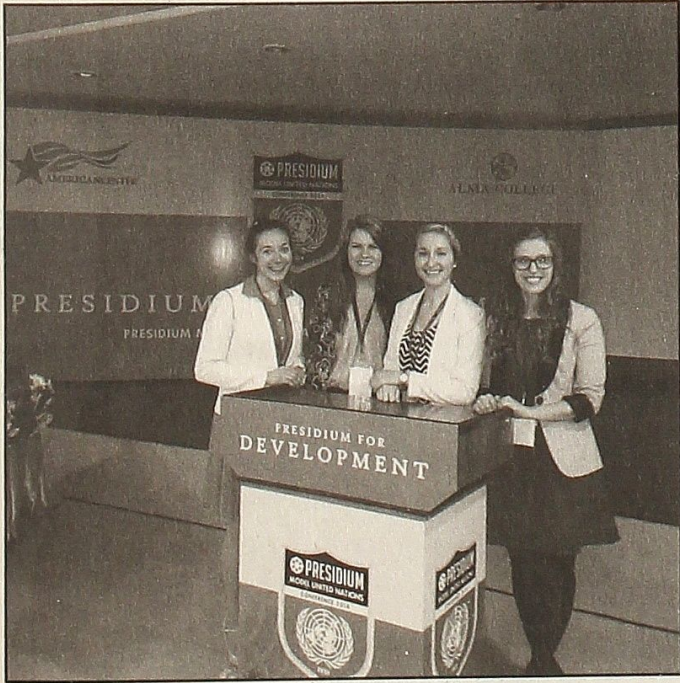
"We all were able to come together and teach these students the importance of these international issues," said Jones.

The students were also able to see a few of the sights and enjoy themselves on this trip. They took a bike tour through Old Delhi and a bus to the Taj Mahal. Derick Hulme, the Model UN advisor, also arranged for the students to ride an elephant on their last day.

"This trip was a once in a lifetime experience of a different culture, very different than our own, and different world views," said **Joanna Delpaz ('16)**.



Courtesy of Megan Isom ('17)



Courtesy of Lauren Engels ('15)

Model United Nations students traveled to India on Oct. 11 to help facilitate a conference for Indian students from 7th to 11th grade. They were also able to do some sightseeing on their trip.

Top-left: Students pose in front of the Taj Mahal.

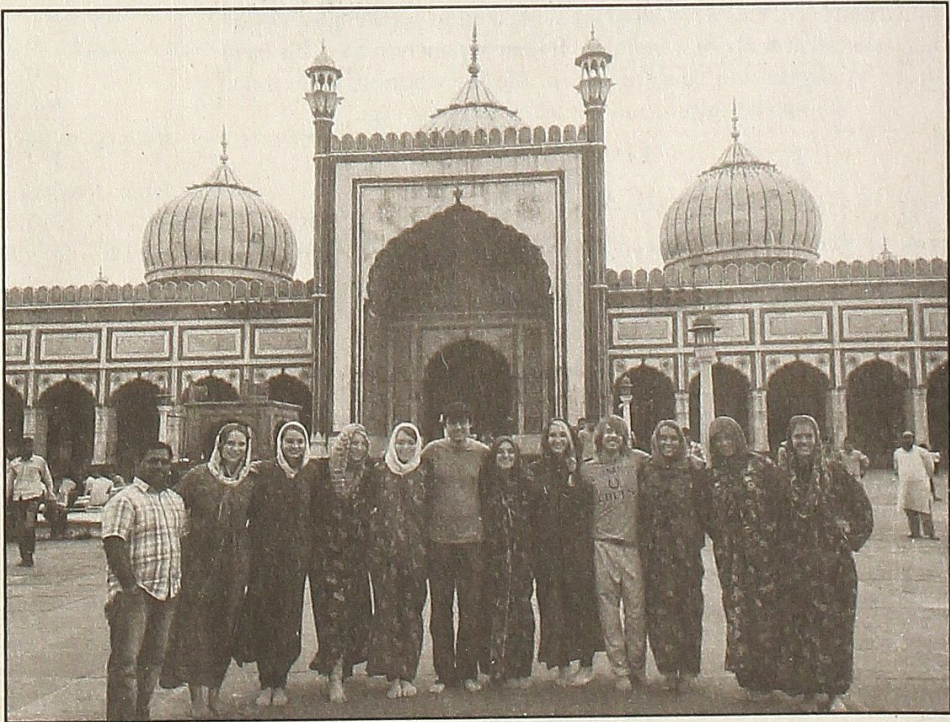
Top-right: Students pray outside of a mosque in New Delhi.

Bottom-left: From left to right: Katherine Vaillancourt ('16), Tracy Oberle ('16), Sam Kulhanek ('17), and Lauren Engels ('15) pose for a picture at the Presidium conference.

Bottom-right: From left to right: Katie Closner ('15), Grace Sutherland ('17), Danialle Stebbins ('17), Jessica Isler ('17), Roger Zahn ('16), Joanna Delpaz ('16), Sam Kulhanek ('17), Tyler Goerge ('17), Caroline Asiala ('15), Emily Johnson ('15), and Lauren Engels ('15) pose with their tour guide in front of a mosque in New Delhi.



Courtesy of Lauren Engels ('15)



Courtesy of Lauren Engels ('15)

Therapy dogs raise student spirits

Rebekah Irani: Staff Photographer

Of Bean's poems, he and Bissell shared that their favorites are "Encyclopedia of the Wheat," which can be found on Bean's website, <http://www.jeffreybeanpoet.com>, under the "Poems" tab, and "Why I Failed at Baseball," which can be found in his first book, "Diminished Fifth."

[illegible]

“Souling” provides alternative to trick or treating; don’t give up on handouts

By RAY VISSER
STAFF WRITER

At a certain point, probably five to 10 years ago for most college students, trick-or-treating stopped being socially acceptable. Whether we became too cool for it or were told by concerned parents that throwing on a cheap costume to beg for free candy from the neighbors is unacceptable at age 17, we gave up this hallowed tradition.

But that doesn’t mean we have to give up entirely on getting free handouts from strangers at the end of October. Far from it, in fact—there are traditions around the world in the same vein as trick-or-treating that are just waiting to be started here in the United States. And if you knock on a door with one of these alternatives up your sleeve, you might confuse the homeowners enough to get something out of it.

Souling is the British and Irish predecessor to modern trick-or-treating, but without a lot of the pomp and circumstance of costumes. Instead, children and the poor go from door to door

singing songs for the dead in return for cakes.

These are not whole birthday cakes, obviously. That would get expensive for the givers and unhealthy for the takers. These are European cakes, more like cookies or brownies to us.

Here’s where it gets a little odd. The participants, or “soulers,” eat the “soul cakes,” with each one eaten representing a soul freed from purgatory.

So if you really want to make an impression this Halloween, ditch the costume entirely and learn some songs honoring the deceased. You’ll be a hit at parties, and you might get some benefits in the next life, too.

In Scotland, the practice of guising is very similar to trick-or-treating as we know it, except that every costumed person carries a lantern made of a scooped-out turnip.

Just in case your subconscious is running low on nightmare material, look up “turnip lantern.” They resemble jack-o’-lanterns if they turned into zombies instead of slowly rotting pumpkins. I’m fairly sure Scottish kids enjoyed scaring the wits out of each other

with these things.

If you’re into the idea of free food but don’t want to rot your teeth on more rolls of dusty Smarties, rock-hard Skittles, and half-decayed Snickers, look to the Austrians for inspiration. Just ask your godfather for an Allerheiligenstriezel on All Saint’s Day for good luck for the upcoming year!

Actually, it’s basically a big soft pretzel with raisins baked in, which sounds like a much more delicious treat than we’re used to getting. I think other cultures do Halloween better than we do, almost all the time.

In Mexico, Halloween and the two days afterward are known as “Dia de los Muertos,” or “Day of the Dead.” It’s based on Aztec traditions, and makes “souling” look unnecessarily drab and dull.

El Dia de los Muertos rejoices in death and the deceased, and reminds the living that death exists. It sounds grim, but depending on where you are, celebrations could range from kite-flying, to costumed dances, to writing mock epitaphs for friends. Families make offerings at the graves of dead relatives,



Cassidy Shankleton; Staff Illustrator

leaving food and trinkets, and sometimes tequila, for the spirit of the dead to enjoy.

Usually the food is consumed by the living after the event is over, which is a great touch. It’s believed that it has no nutritional value after the dead have eaten it. If the dead can offer the living guilt-free tequila, why not celebrate?

Personally, I think the idea of treating death as a cause for

festivities is not only healthy, but necessary. After all, nothing is certain but death. Why not embrace it this Halloween? Instead of making it an ordinary weekend, maybe try singing some songs for the dead. Reminisce about those who have passed on, go dancing, and eat some great food.

Just watch out for turnip jack-o’-lanterns. They will get you. They are watching you. Run away.

Long distance relationships; it’s hard making it work

By RACHEL KALINOVIK
STAFF WRITER

Even the best of relationships can have difficulties, but adding the extra stress of long distance can really affect a relationship. But worry not. Long distance relationships can be hard at times; however, if you are willing to work for it, the flame of your relationship will never burn out.

The daunting question in the back of both of your minds as you say goodbye and head in separate directions is, “Will our relationship be strong enough to survive the distance?”

This being said, here are five great tips to help you survive your long-distance college relationship:

1. You have to want to make it work.

When in a long-distance relationship, the number one key is the desire to stay afloat. You both have to be willing to put in work in order to get what you want out of the relationship.

You may think the idea of staying together despite the distance is a good idea initially, but slowly your views might change a little. When that time comes, a strong commitment to one

another is what will help you get over the little bumps in the road. Both partners must be willing to work through the problems that are bound to occur instead of giving up and breaking up as soon as the going gets tough.

2. Communication.

Talk to your partner. Whether it be a simple good morning text or a two-hour phone call, your partner and you should be in communication with each other at least one or two times throughout the day.

In addition, if you are feeling insecure about your relationship, it is your job not to them up, and talk it out with your boyfriend or girlfriend. It is very important to be clear about how you feel – whether those feelings are good or bad.

3. Patience is a virtue – so they say.

No matter how hard you try or how much work you put into your relationship, you and your partner will probably not see/talk to each other as often as you did this summer. Your SO will no longer be at your disposal, and this is an adjustment that will take some getting used to. Remember to have patience.

It is critical to remember I do not mean that to spend your time waiting around for text or phone call. This being said, if you are

a bit on the impatient side, try calming your anxiety by keeping yourself busy. Join a campus club, start volunteering in the community, or hang out with your friends.

4. Trust in one another.

Trust is a key component of any relationship; however, it is even more crucial when it comes to maintaining a strong, long-distance relationship.

Try to avoid unnecessary freak-outs by not over-analyzing things such as comments on your SO’s Facebook profile picture. Try not to suffocate your partner by being too controlling. Jealousy will only cause unneeded drama that will destroy any relationship – long-distance or not.

Trust that your significant other is making the right decisions, and he will trust that you are doing the same. If he or she starts to question you on social media, then maybe it is time for you two to have a serious discussion. You both need to go out and enjoy college life. Having trust in your boyfriend or girlfriend will not only calm your nerves, but also lead to a happier and healthier relationship.

5. Think about the future.

One of the best ways to survive your long-distance relationship is to set small goals for the future.

Whether that be using a



Photo courtesy of Kira Leach (17)

countdown app to mark the days until you see each other next or talking about the next step of your relationship with your SO, remembering why you decided to put yourself into the long-distance

situation will keep you grounded.

Just remember: Do not stress and remember these five tips next time you are having a small freak-out over your long-distance college relationship.

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.”

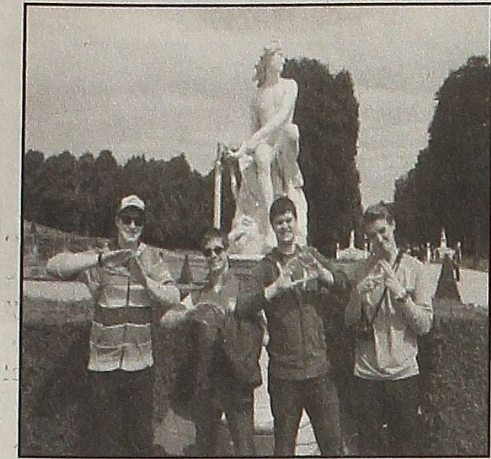
There are many different types of sudoku, so if you like this, try out some more!

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

Campus Comment

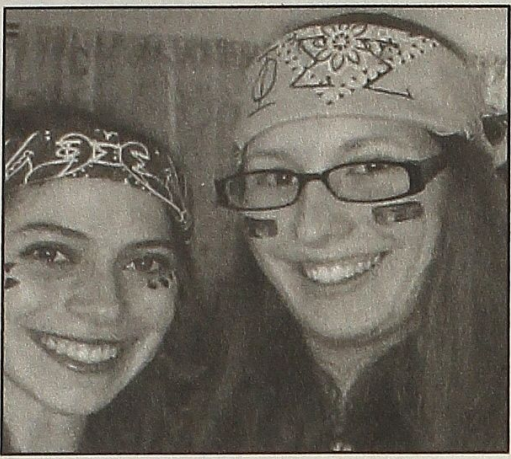
We asked: “What are the biggest advantages to going to a small school?”

By Rachel Kalinovic



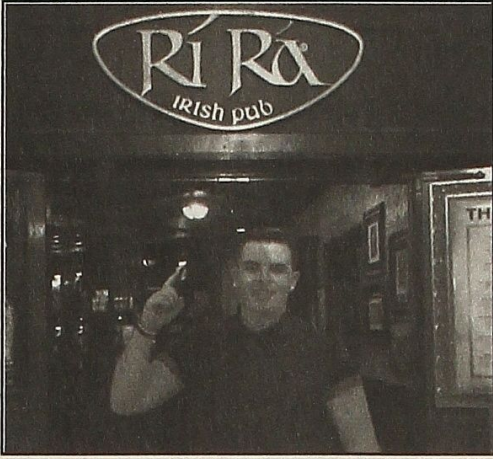
Connor Edwards ('16)
Major(s): German/International Business Administration
Hometown: Climax, MI

“I would say that the biggest benefits of going to a small school would be the one-on-one time with the professors. If I ever have difficulties with an assignment or project, it's very easy to get ahold of them for help.”




Ashley Tuttle ('16)
Major(s): Elementary Education
Hometown: Manistique, MI

“To me, the biggest benefit is walking around campus, and recognizing so many people and familiar faces. Everyone is so nice and friendly and that makes Alma a great place to be.”



Chris McKenna ('16)
Major(s): International Business Administration
Hometown: Belfast, Ireland

“With the campus being smaller than other universities you only have to drag yourself out of bed a few minutes before class starts which works well for those 8:30 am classes.”



Tiffany Jeffers ('17)
Major(s): Psychology
Hometown: Sterling Heights, MI

“I would say the biggest benefits are one on one time with the professors, small class sizes, great connections with the alumnae, alternative breaks, off campus/study abroad programs, and close friends that will last you a lifetime.”

Comedian provides escape good, clean humor in new book “Food: A Love Story”

By Dan Murawski
Staff Writer

It says a lot when a person who does not like to read gets excited about an upcoming book.

This was the case last Tuesday when comedian Jim Gaffigan's book, "Food: A Love Story," hit the shelves.

This is the second book Gaffigan has penned, and as he puts it: "This book is even better than the first book I wrote!"

Jim Gaffigan is my favorite comedian. I have seen all of his stand up specials ("Beyond the Pale," "King Baby," "Mr. Universe" and "Obsessed") as well as read his first book, "Dad is Fat."

To top it off, my family and I will be going to see him on Dec. 27 when he comes to the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort.

Here is an example to give you a chance to see how much my whole family loves him.

I preordered "Food: A Love Story" the day before the book was released. That night, I was browsing on his website, trying

to find out more about the book. As I was looking, I came across a category called "Tour Dates."

Remembering that he had been to the Soaring Eagle before, I clicked on the "Tour Dates" category, thinking there was a chance he might be coming again sometime. I scroll down the webpage, and sure enough, I learn he is coming back.

When I found this out, I texted mom. A few minutes later, she texted me back saying dad was online looking at tickets.

We have always laughed while listening to him, so we are very excited to see him in person.

If you are looking for a comedian to swear frequently and tell dirty jokes, he is not your guy.

He rarely, and by rarely I mean basically never, uses any strong language. Other than a dirty punchline once in a great while, he is clean. In fact, I have never heard him focus on an overly impure sexual topic.

I love this for two reasons. I am Catholic, so I do not care for dirty jokes or strong language; and it takes much more talent to be a comedian who is both clean and wildly successful.

Gaffigan addresses this in "Dad is Fat." He writes:

"I am considered a clean comedian...I never made an intentional decision to be clean; it just ended up that way.

"When you are discussing mini-muffins in a stand-up act, it's not really necessary to curse or bring sex into the material."

And for the record, I have spoken to other friends who don't mind dirty jokes or strong language, and those who are familiar with Gaffigan's comedy have all remarked about how much talent it takes to be clean and popular.

I have had a lot of struggles since my brother, Sean, passed away in January. He seems to always be in the back of mind (or sometimes in the front of my mind, but thankfully as time passes those moments get fewer and more far between).

But I have noticed that when I listen to the comedy of Jim Gaffigan, all of my other troubles seem to momentarily melt away.

For an hour or so, or when I am reading one of his books, my mind is focused on what he has to say.

So in a way, Gaffigan provides me with a temporarily escape from the stresses of the world. It feels nice, and even necessary at

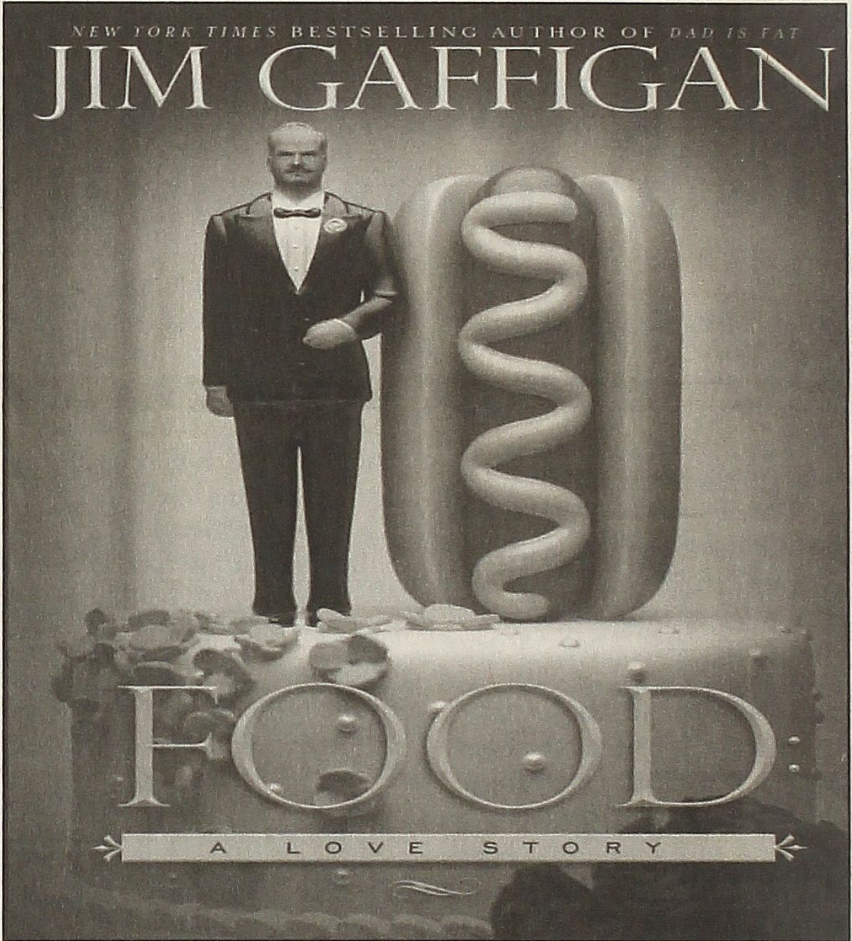


Photo Credit: entertainmentordie.com

times, to be able to get away once in a while.

I strongly recommend that everyone to check out his stand-up comedy when he is on TV; his books are a must read.

You cannot listen to him or read his books without laughing.

That is one of the reasons why I was so excited when "Food: A Love Story" was delivered to me yesterday, and why I am so excited for December 27th to come.

I owe him a debt of gratitude for what he unknowingly does for me.

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.

BOO

GHOULS

COSTUMES

JACK-O-LANTERN

SOULING

PARTY

WEREWOLVES

HALLOWEEN

WITCHES

TRICK OR TREAT

VAMPIRES

PUMPKINS

HAUNTED HOUSE

DAYOFTHEDEAD

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

Scots fall at home; look to run the ball more

By DOMENIC BAIMA
STAFF WRITER

The Flying Dutchmen of Hope College visited Bahlke Field last Saturday to compete in the Scots' fourth game in MIAA league play. The Scots entered the game with a 0-3 league record, whereas Hope came into the game with a 1-1 league record. Despite the sub-par start to league play, the Scots were excited to compete.

"I think the team's confidence is still high," said quarterback **Dylan Zaborowski ('18)**. "We know that we are capable of doing it, we just have to be able to put it all together for a full game, and I think we are getting there."

"We have three more league games left this season," added coach Greg Pscodna. "That gives us a chance to finish even in league. We know that we can compete in this league, we just have to keep believing that we can win and go

out there and execute."

The Scots, who eventually fell 33-7, looked to build on some successful offense they had in the loss in Kalamazoo, as they gained 435 total yards against the Hornets. Zaborowski said, "As an offense, we have to be able to play a full game. I think we are getting there." However, turnovers have been the problematic pattern for Alma's offense.

"We have to hold on to the ball," said Pscodna. "We can't fumble the ball or throw interceptions. It starts with the guys up front, they have to be able to give the quarterback enough time to throw. Then it continues with the quarterback, he has to make good decisions in the pass game and make smart throws."

Finally, it ends with the receivers, they have to catch the ball and not let it go through their hands, or worse, tip it up

for the defense."

"Turnovers have clearly been a big problem for us," added Zaborowski. "A lot of that is on me. I have to do a better job of protecting the ball, and I can't be giving it to the other team. We just have to hold onto the ball better as a team, and I can't be trying to force things out there."

A large part of Alma's strategy was to build off the successes they've had running the ball, particularly from **Tommie Dawson ('18)**, who racked up 70 yards on just 12 carries against Kalamazoo.

"We need to start with a strong running game and mix in the passing game when it opens up," commented Pscodna.

"I would say that we just have to execute," added Zaborowski, "Our coaches are going to put us in situations to succeed and we just have to go out there and execute like I know we are capable of."

The Scots are 2-5 overall.

Basketball teams prepare for upcoming seasons; annual celebration kicks off '14-'15 campaign

By DOMENIC BAIMA
STAFF WRITER

As Halloween draws near, pumpkins won't be the only spherical orange objects that will be in season. Both the men's and the women's basketball teams have begun practicing for the looming '14-'15 season.

Although the official start to their seasons isn't until mid-November, the unofficial season kickoff celebration was last Friday during the annual "Throwdown in A-Town." Although it is thrown mainly for Alma's basketball teams, Throwdown in A-Town also marks the beginning of all of Alma's winter sports seasons.

Both teams are extremely excited for the upcoming season and expect a lot of success in MIAA play. "We are very excited," said **Gus Meriwether ('16)**. "I think we have the opportunity to make an impact in the MIAA and make it to the post-season. We have the talent and the team to do it."

The basketball teams have both spent the past few weeks hard at practice preparing for the regular season.

"Practice has been going really well," commented Meriweather. "We're a lot more advanced with team concepts than we have been in the past few years because we have a lot of returning players

that know the system. We also have a lot of freshmen that have picked up on the system quickly. It's nice to be able to compete at a higher, more organized level than we have in the past."

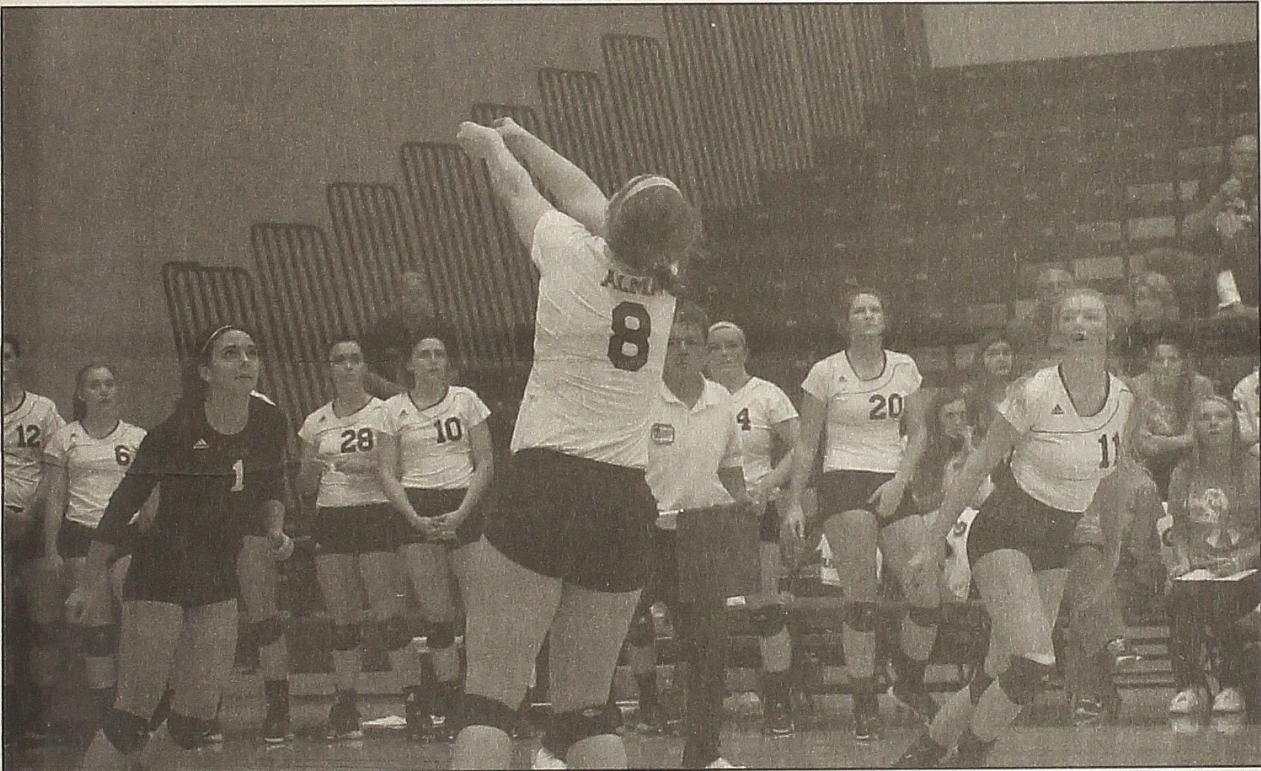
The women's team is adjusting to new head coach, Kris Johnson, who is replacing Coach Keisha Brown who tragically passed away in April after a long battle against cancer.

"The first few weeks of practice are going really well," said Henry. "We are adjusting to a new coach and a few new faces on the team, but it's coming together nicely, and we are excited to see what is in store for the season."

Both teams have a lot to look forward to in this upcoming season, especially the women, who get to play in Florida in December.

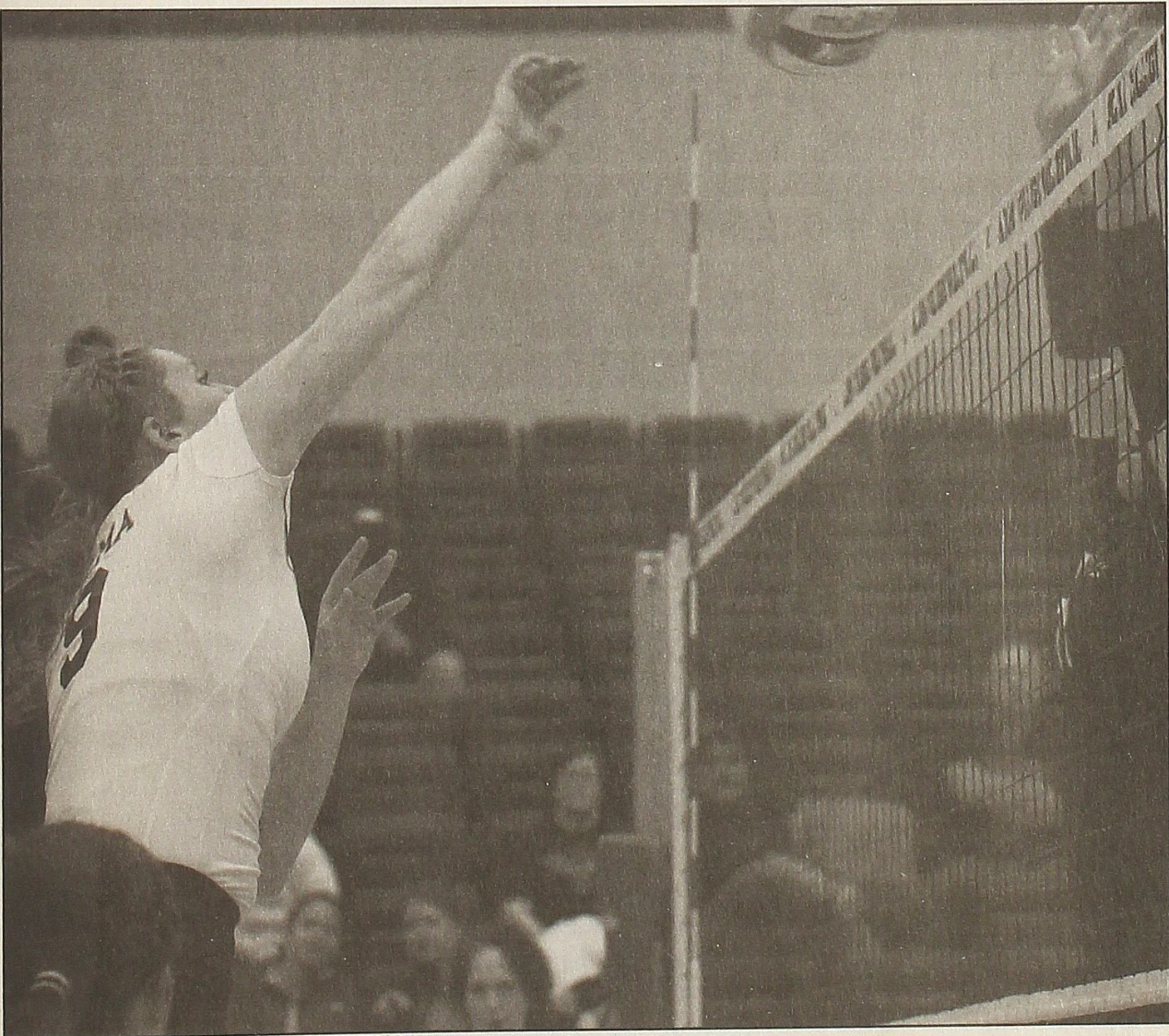
"For the four of us seniors [**Cora Essenmacher ('15)**, **Grace Wheeler ('15)**, **Mal-lory Pruett ('15)**, and Henry] we are just going to take in every moment we can because it's our last year to play at this level. And as a team, we are really looking forward to our trip to Florida in December."

Both the men and the women will be opening up their regular seasons on Saturday, November 15th at Defiance College in Ohio.



Marcella Flury: Staff Photographer

Top: Mary Dulzo ('17) set up Sasha Laykova ('17) for a kill. Bottom left: Madison Smith ('17) swings to get the ball past the Trine netkeepers. Bottom right: Sam Falardeau ('18) works to keep possession of the ball from Trine.



Marcella Flury: Staff Photographer

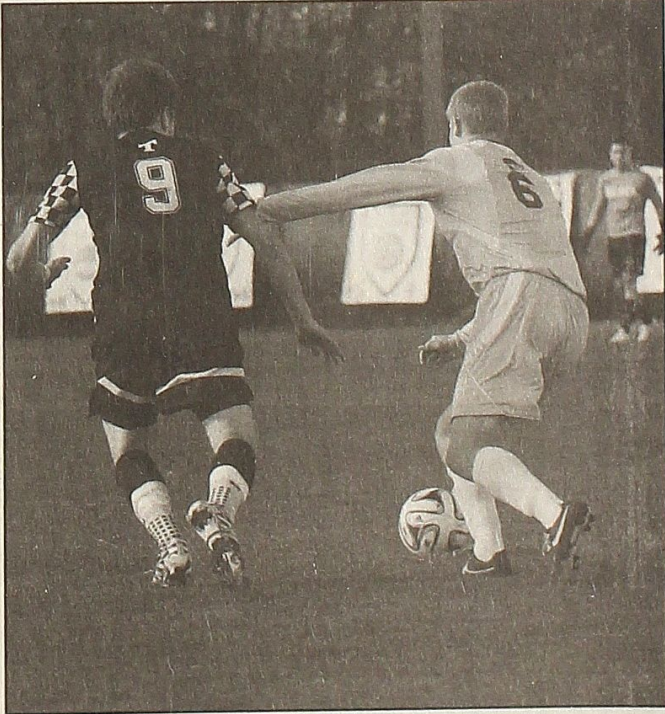
Last week the Scots' volleyball team and men's soccer team each hosted MIAA foe Trine in conference battles. The volleyball team fought hard in a close 3-1 match. It is now 8-6 in MIAA play and 15-15 overall. The soccer team defeated the Thunder 2-1 at Scotland Yard and is now 7-7-2 overall.

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Marcella Flury: Staff Photographer

Lady Scots find momentum in first half; wins MIAA game 3-0



Marcella Flury: Staff Photographer

Whitnee Foote ('18) looks to move the ball upfield during a game earlier this season.

By TONY KNOP
STAFF WRITER

The Alma women's soccer team exploded to shut out the visiting Olivet College Comets (1-10-1 MIAA, 4-10-2 overall) with a score 3-0 last Wednesday on the road in Olivet. The win gives the Lady Scots a 7-4-1 record in the MIAA and a 9-5-1 record overall. "We had a solid performance from the entire group," said

coach Matt Saul. "We defended especially well and looked very dangerous with every attack." Over the past few games, the Lady Scots have had a little trouble getting the offense going early. In the previous five games, the team was unable to convert any goals in the first half of those contests. "Over the past couple of games we have had a hard time playing well in the first half," said Agatha

Weddle ('16). "We really wanted to get out there and score as fast as possible so we could set a good pace for the rest of the game." "I think we had an attacking mindset going into the game," said Allysen Neumann ('16). "We focused on taking opportunities and making them count. I think the result of the game showed we can be dangerous offensively." The Lady Scots started the onslaught early, when Kelly

Wilson ('16) scored a goal assisted by Weddle in the first six minutes of play. Neumann made it a 2-0 game in 31:46 of the first half with a free kick from 20 yards out. "We went in with the mindset that we just had to outwork them," said Kenzie Smith ('15). "Our team is very skilled and talented but without hard work, that skill means nothing." Coming out of the half, the women's team knew the importance of being aggressive.

At 61:11, Weddle was awarded a penalty shot and buried it, putting the visiting Lady Scots up 3-0. The team played solid defense to the end and preserved the much-needed MIAA victory. Wilson, Weddle, and Neumann led the team with two shots on goal each, Wilson leading with three total shots. Goalkeeper Rachael Fokken ('18) recorded seven saves and earned her first collegiate win and shutout. With the victory against Olivet, the Lady Scots solidify a

"We focused on taking opportunities and making them count. I think the result of the game showed we can be dangerous offensively."
-Allysen Neumann ('16)

"It was most important to get another goal and continue playing our game," said Neumann. "2-0 is the most dangerous score in soccer, so at halftime we talked about how we only have to get one more goal and we would have the game," said Smith. The team came out ready to close out the game, but the host Comets played aggressively and put a lot of pressure on the defense. Early in the second half the Comets were able to record one shot on goal and two corner kicks.

hold on third place in the MIAA, two points ahead of fourth place Albion College. "These last few conference games are going to be a fight," said Smith. "We need to be playing our best soccer and get some momentum going into the post season." Last Saturday, the Lady Scots traveled to Holland to face first place Hope College (11-1-1 MIAA, 12-3-1 overall) at noon. The Lady Scots looked to avenge the 5-0 loss suffered against Hope College on Sept. 24.

Swim, dive squads focus on improvement

By TONY KNOP
STAFF WRITER

The Alma College swimming and diving teams look to continue making positive progress and become one of the powerhouses in the MIAA. Both squads hope to show the conference that they mean business and are ready to compete. "Our goals are to improve each individual's time from the beginning of the season to the cham-

pionship meet," said Coach Bill Copland. "We want to be very competitive at the MIAA championship meet in February." The women's team returns many athletes from last year and looks to improve from its fifth place finish in the conference last season. "I expect the team to be physically and mentally stronger than we were last year," said Victoria Bishop ('16). "I also expect to see tremendous individual time drops and a couple records broken by the end of this year."

"The women's team should be very competitive, and they are looking to move up several places in the conference," said Copland. The women's squad also returns All-MIAA swimmer Jaclyn Shetterly ('16), who hopes to improve on her individual accomplishments and help the team improve its ranking in the conference. Even with many returning swimmers, the women's team this season remains very young with only one senior on the squad. "There are many positives to

"I expect the team to be physically and mentally stronger than we were last year. I also expect to see tremendous individual time drops and a couple records broken by the end of this year."
-Victoria Bishop ('16)

having a young team," said Bishop. "For starters, we have more time to develop together under the same program. Our team chemistry this year is stronger than ever. We are a close knit group that is working hard towards the same goal." On the men's side, the squad is small, with only six athletes, but they look to shock the MIAA with some very impressive races. "The men's team has some low numbers, so we can't score enough points to win meets, but individual swimmers can make a significant statement at the MIAA championship," said Copland. Even with the low participation the men's team looks to improve upon its individual performances and keep working to get better. "What the men's team lacks in numbers we make up for in talent," said Kurtis Smith ('16). "We may not be the largest team in our conference, but that doesn't stop us from coming in first for races. We train hard and do wonders with the talent we have." "We aren't trying to focus on

winning any meets. We have too low of numbers to go for that," said Daniel Biggs ('15). "Instead, we try to swim our best possible times. We focus on our individual swims and cheer each other on to do our best." It's disappointing for the men to not be able to meaningfully compete in the MIAA due to their size, but they do look forward to competing in each meet and improving their individual times. "Our team stays focused by being close," said Smith. "Swim teams are more like families that look out for each other rather than just being a team. In the end the low numbers help because the boys that are here want to be here for swimming, and they don't mess around or slack off during practice; they are their own tools of focus." Both teams opened up actual scoring competition when they took on Hope College at the Hope Aquatic Center on Saturday.

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