



THE

ALMANIAN

Campus security addresses safety issues

By ELLEN MARTIN
STAFF WRITER

With reports circulating around campus that strange men are following students and acting suspiciously, the college is seeking ways to ensure students will not fall victim to any crime, according to college officials.

“When it comes to safety, the college takes it seriously and wants all students to be safe and to feel safe,” said Toby Pickelmann, security manager.

One such way is improving the lighting around the campus, said Dr. Nick Piccolo, vice president of student life.

The college recently finished installing new lights, but there are plans to put more up in the future, he said.

“We don’t want to light the whole place up like a Christmas tree,” Piccolo said, but he explained that the college would

like to especially focus first on improving on paths that students are most likely to take at night.

Also, security officers are making patrols more frequently and keeping an eye on places where incidents have been reported, Piccolo said.

“When it comes to safety, the college takes it seriously and wants all students to be safe and feel safe.”
- Toby Pickelmann, Security Manager

Finally, at the suggestion of Student Congress, the college is currently planning to bring a teacher to campus and offer self-defense lessons for students—especially for women—for free.

Piccolo said he believes it will take place sometime in October.

“Student safety is our first priority,” Alma College President Jeff Abernathy said. “We’re very

sure these actions will ensure it.”

The Alma Police Department is also working in cooperation with the college and has increased the number of walk-throughs its officers make around campus at night, Piccolo said.

However, the Alma PD has only been called to respond to one incident on campus, according to Detective Sergeant Mark Williams.

An unknown male was following a young woman, exposing himself and behaving in a lewd manner, Williams explained.

“We haven’t been able to prove or disprove the man has been back on campus since that incident,” he said, but he cautioned students to “continue to be vigilant.”

“Campus is obviously a safe place to be,” Williams added, “but bad things can happen anywhere.”

In case of an emergency, there are five safety phones around the campus that are identified by

“Student safety is our first priority. We’re very sure that our actions ensure it.”
-President Jeff Abernathy

blue lights.

Two of these phones are on the footpath between the president’s house and the residence halls on south campus. One phone is near Mitchell Hall, another one is by Dow, and another is to the northeast of Bahlke Field.

The red button on the phone connects to Gratiot County central dispatch, while the other button allows the caller to access any four-digit campus phone.

The security office will also provide escorts for students by request. Arrangements may be made by calling security at ext. 7777.

But why are these suspicious

activities happening to students?

“I do not know why anyone would target a student,” Pickelmann said. “It could be easy vulnerability, for a lot of students may not know their way around campus yet.”

However, although it may be easy to become worried by hearing different stories about these situations, Piccolo urged students to remain “vigilant, not frightened” and to “use some wisdom.”

Pickelmann had suggestions as well. “Students should be aware of their surroundings when they are walking around, especially at night or if they decide to go for a jog on the Rail Trail,” he advised. “If possible, travel with a flashlight at night time to see in dark areas.”

“If a student sees something out of place, call 911 first and then call Campus Safety and Security, not a friend,” he concluded.

Opera house suites not ready for students

By MECHON CAREW
STAFF WRITER

In the fall term of last year, hopes evolved into reality as the burnt remains of the city’s iconic opera house began its transformation into both new retail opportunities and new student housing. However, this project, originally to be finished in mid-August, is still underway, with the newest completion date placed tentatively in November.

“I’m not happy about it—I don’t know how anybody could be,” said Anthony Garcia (‘14). He, like many other seniors, had been slated to live in the new housing option starting this term, but, given the current construction, is forced to live elsewhere for the time being.

The college is currently trying

its best to make things easier for the displaced students. The students were given a total of three options for their temporary living conditions: East Gelston, other available rooms across campus, and guaranteed off-campus.

“I heard that East Gelston is supposed to be renovated after the opera house is finished,” said Tiffany Kilts (‘16). “It makes sense to let them stay there—fewer people to move out later.”

The students staying in Gelston have been credited \$800 to their individual accounts in compensation for the move. It seems that this option has been by far the most popular among the displaced students.

However, it is unknown how many students decided to “make [Gelston rooms] [their] own,” as President Jeff Abernathy’s e-mail to all opera house students said, and actually paint their rooms.

The college offered to “provide the paint and seek volunteers from among the staff and faculty to assist [them] in painting [their] room[s].”

“They couldn’t have foreseen this, but I really think they should have waited a year to offer it to students. Better safe than sorry.”
-Anthony Garcia (‘14)

If the students did not want to stay in Gelston for the term, they were also given the option of signing up for rooms in any dorms that may become available throughout the year. In fact, Abernathy’s e-mail to the students included that “facilities will [help] move your belongings to your new

room after you pack.”

The third option was allowing students to find their own housing off campus. “Approval [was] assured,” Abernathy’s message stated, also explaining that room and board charges would be refunded. Off-campus living is often unpopular because of the 25 percent reduction in financial aid, but the college has provided the students with a \$1,000 rebate.

Due to the delays, Kurt Wassenaar, opera house contractor and owner, has incurred \$7,800 in charges and violated the lease. This money has gone straight to the students for recompense while Wassenaar and the college work on creating a new lease.

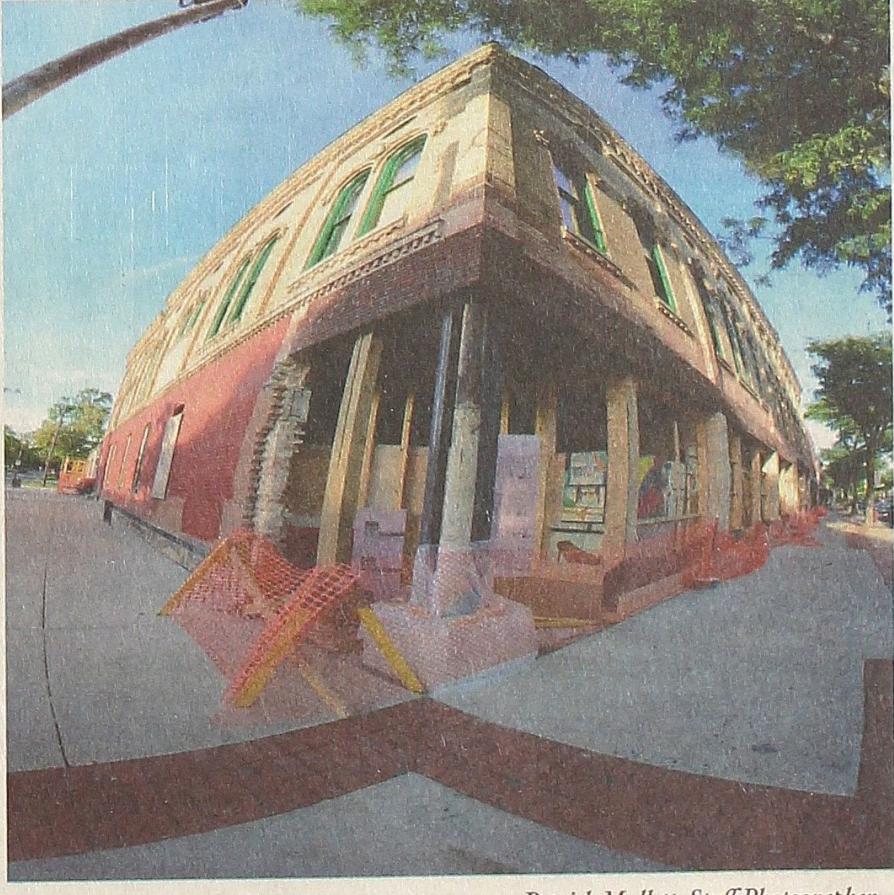
There are reasons for these delays, of course. Due to the fact that the opera house is a historical landmark, all renovations must follow rules ensuring that the historical quality of the building.

Also, while the foundation was not harmed during the 2010 fire, there was quite a bit of damage that needs to be fixed: a new elevator must be installed along with two stairways, and all of the balconies need to be restored.

Only the second and third floors of the opera house will actually be turned into apartments. The first floor will contain somewhere between four and five new retail stores. Indeed, this is a large project for even both the college and the community to take up.

However, it seems that overall the students are understanding of the delays to the construction, even if they wish the entire situation had been handled differently.

“They couldn’t have foreseen this,” Garcia said. “But I think they really should have waited a year to offer it to students. Better safe than sorry.”



Burnt remnants of the Alma opera house remain unfinished. Building owner Kurt Wassenaar continues construction of new apartments for students.
Patrick Mallett: Staff Photographer

Same-sex marriage panel invites debate on campus

BY ABIGAIL DELANEY
FREELANCE WRITER

On Sept. 18, guest speakers will hold a discussion about the Supreme Court's stance on same-sex marriage. This event coincides with Constitution Day.

The panel includes include Emily Dievendorf, director of a leading civil rights advocacy organization named Equality Michigan, and Professor Margo Schlanger, who teaches civil rights at the University of Michigan Law School. It is hosted in SAC 113 at 7 p.m. Admission is free.

"The issue attracts different political and religious perspectives and has been debated extensively at the state and local levels," said host Kristin Olbertson, associate professor of history and advisor for Alma's pre-law program, in a press release.

According to Olbertson, the Supreme Court's decision could impact multiple areas, including immigration, insurance, employee benefits, child custody, and adoption.

The Michigan legislature recently proposed a bill that

could allow adoption agencies to refuse same-sex couples. This decision will be challenged in October because of a couple in Detroit.

This is not the first time this bill has been mentioned: it is just the first time that it has been heavily considered.

"I don't see why we're dragging it out of the trash where it belongs," said **Hailey Albert**

"The issue attracts different political and religious perspectives and has been debated extensively at the state and local levels."

- Dr. Kristin Olbertson

(17).

Albert is part of Alphabet Soup, the panel following the same-sex marriage panel on Sept. 19 hosted by Gender Sexuality Diversity (GSD). She said the refusal goes against the Non-Discrimination Act, which refers to an article that the United States signed with the United Nations. This article forbade the discrimination of an individual based on race, gender, or sexual orientation. "[Marriage] is a human right," Albert said.

As of August, there are

14 states in the country that recognize marriage between homosexual couples: California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington. In addition to that, five states—Illinois, Delaware, Hawaii, New Jersey, and Rhode Island—recognize civil unions.

"[Marriage] is a human right."
- Hailey Albert (17)

In the other 31 states, married gay couples were not recognized in the slightest – or at least, they would not until earlier this year. The Defense of Marriage Act was challenged and was overturned in June.

Now homosexual married couples certified in legal states are legal across the nation. They can also file joint tax returns and have earned next-of-kin rights as well as the benefit of Social Security.

"It's but a small step," said **Lauren McNabb (13)**.

This Week at Alma College

Sept. 16-22

Monday

Student Show at Flora Kirsch Beck Gallery

Tuesday

College Positive Volunteer Training
Specialized training on promoting college access with K-12 youth through service events.

Wednesday

Dr. Ernie Yoder, founding dean of CMU College of Medicine, discusses community health
Dow L4 7 p.m.

Thursday

Masonic Pathways tour for interested volunteers
6 p.m.

Friday

ACUB hosts laser tag in Dow L4
7 p.m.

College awaits enrollment numbers

BY HANNAH SOMALSKI
STAFF WRITER

News travels fast. Even faster in a small community like Alma.

Lately, the buzz has been about the enrollment numbers and rumored deficit spending.

While has not been confirmation one way or the other regarding the deficit spending, Bob Garcia, vice president of enrollment, has disclosed a less-than-projected reality.

"We do not have the official numbers yet, but this year's incoming class did fall short of our enrollment goal, finishing with a class of approximately 420 students," he said.

Although lacking in some numbers, the incoming class shows some definite promise in other respects. "A class of 420 would be the eighth largest incoming class in our 127-year history," said Garcia.

"[T]his year's incoming class did fall short of our enrollment goal, finishing with a class of approximately 420 students."

- Bob Garcia, Vice President of Enrollment

"We were also able to keep the incoming grade point average steady at 3.54, and raised the average ACT slightly to a 24.3. We

are very proud to welcome such a large and talented group given the struggles that many other liberal arts colleges are facing nationally."

Since enrollment is an unknown variable until the first day of classes, the college's budgeting process always includes contingency planning for larger or smaller total enrollments, according to Garcia.

"We are very proud to welcome such a large and talented group given the struggles that many other liberal arts colleges are facing nationally."

-Garcia

Questions still abound, however: what of the deficit spending? Is the college currently struggling to generate enough revenue to balance out expenses? And, if so, is our debt correlated with our enrollment numbers, regardless of the flexibility of the budget?

Despite the haze, Garcia said, "New opportunities are what continues to drive the college forward. Our Board of Trustees and President are steadfastly committed to continuing to offer the best in education to our students."

As the Enrollment Office is waiting for numbers roll in, more answers will be revealed in an upcoming issue of the Almanian.



Katlyn Chitwood: Staff Photographer

President Abernathy's daughter Maren enjoys cheerleading at last week's football game. Send Us Your Thoughts!

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Zumba, yoga prove fun, unique

BY NICOLE ECCLES
STAFF WRITER



Patrick Mallett: Staff Photographer

Students partake in one of the first Zumba classes of the year. The multi-purpose room features a mirror that makes following along less of a worry.

“Zumba is a great way to fit exercise into your busy day and is even more fun with friends,” said Track and Field athlete **Lauren Buhr** (‘15).

The class may be rigorous but it also provides a very welcoming environment. Students are able to get a workout without worrying about their level of experience or fitness. “The best part of Zumba is when everyone just says, ‘Let’s go’ and has a good time; I really love the smiles and energy glows on everyone’s face when they are done,” said Goggin.

Zumba is held Monday and Thursday evenings from 5-6 p.m. in the rec center’s multi-purpose room.

Yoga is another class offered this semester for those students who want to start their morning with a good stretch.

“The first time I went I didn’t expect to break a sweat,” said **Tracy Oberle** (‘16). “It was an amazing workout.”

The class is taught by Patty Herblet, a certified National Exercise Trainers Association (NETA) group fitness instructor,

and combines different elements of yoga and Pilates.

Pilates works muscle flexibility, strength, and endurance especially in the core and pelvis of the body, while yoga brings together breathing and physical strength exercises to not only calm students but provide them with a solid work out. These styles brought together give an all body workout that strengthens and relaxes.

“The class is a great way to start the morning; it really wakes you up,” said **Lauren Engels** (‘15).

Mats are provided by the rec

center and Herblet provides soothing music that allows students to embrace the early morning class. Students can greet the sun in the warrior pose every Tuesday and Thursday from 8-9 a.m. in the multi-purpose room.

Apart from student classes, the rec is also offering a senior fitness class. Local seniors can attend classes Monday and Wednesday from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. This community outreach is another way Alma College is bridging the gap between the town and the college.

Dueling pianists to take the stage in Presbyterian Hall

BY JESSICA SUTHERLAND
STAFF WRITER

Tess Miller (flute instructor) and Takeshi Abo (violin instructor). According to Patterson, Bach’s Brandenburg concertos are normally played with an entire orchestra. Here, they will only contain four people.

“We have a lot of new repertoire,” said Patterson, “that we’d like to share with the Alma community.” According to Patterson, this is the second time he and his wife have done a concert like this. They had such a good turnout last time that they decided to perform again.

“It’s always nice to share music with the people we see every day,” Robards said. She has traveled around the world playing with musicians. According to her website, some of the places she traveled to play at include France, Brazil, and Costa Rica.

Many students are enthusiastic

about seeing these two talented musicians play duets together.

“I am actually really excited to hear Tony and his wife play,” said **Brittney Roggow** (‘16), “as I know that Tony is an amazing pianist and I am sure his wife is just as great.” She is not the only one who thinks so.

“This will be exciting to witness,” said **Chelsey Timlin** (‘15). “This is something [I’ve] never seen before.”

The audience will likely include people from the community to listen as well, if their last performance is any indication.

“There was a good reception last time,” remembers Patterson. The people from Alma seem to enjoy coming to see talents of all kinds at Alma College. In a small town, these performances are treasured, giving the inhabitants something to do on their weekends.

The concert itself is going to be filled with famous melodies. According to Robards, the duo are playing songs like “Carmen Fantasy” and “Brandenburg Concerto in D major.” Patterson mentioned that they will play a song written just for them by a music colleague, based on a mix of famous love themes from various songs, including “Send in the Clowns” by Sondheim.

Patterson’s and Robards’ love of music and piano travels back a long way. Patterson said that when he was very young, the first word he learned was “yes.”

“So when my father asked me if I wanted to play piano, the answer was yes,” said Patterson. His father asked Patterson that question when he was two and a half years old.

Robards’ story was a bit different.

“My wife was an early achiever and found that she could play piano one day,” said Patterson with a laugh. “Both of us found we could play the piano very well.”

“I was playing the ‘Popeye the Sailor Man’ theme song by the age of three or four,” said Robards. Her mother started her on piano lessons soon after hearing that. She was taken to the local piano teacher for lessons, according to Robards.

Both of these pianists have played piano for years upon years and love what they do. When spoken to about the music they perform, a smile lingers on their faces and joy is expressed in their words. Patterson reminisced about their special duet; Robards spoke excitedly about “Carmen Fantasy.”

Both are ready for the upcoming concert.

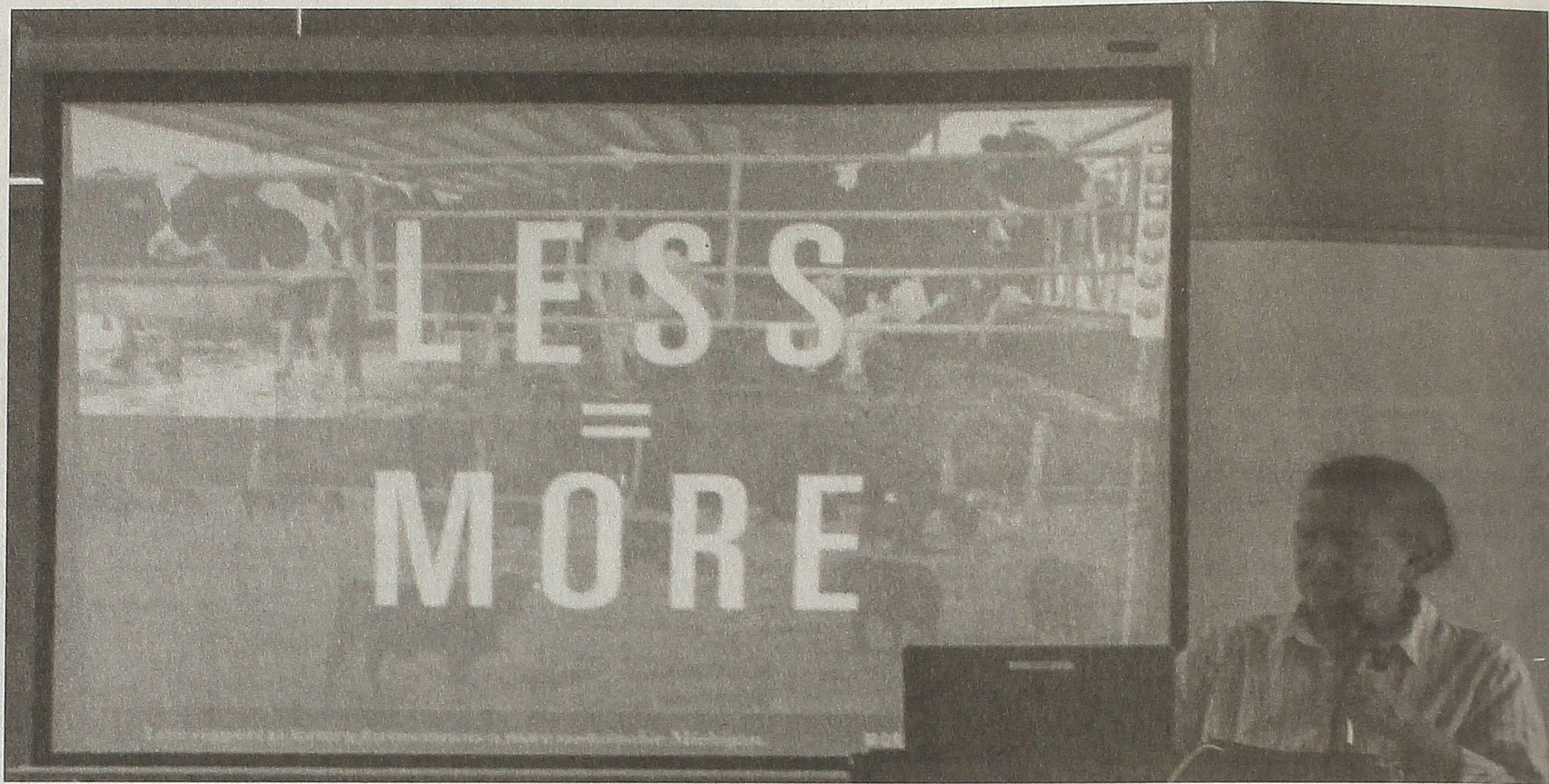
A piano duel (and duet) is coming to Alma. When? On Friday, Sept. 20, a few short days away. Where? In Presbyterian Hall of the Heritage Center.

Tony Patterson and his wife, Casey Robards, both pianists, have put together a collaboration of music they want to perform for the campus. They will be playing a wide variety. Each song they perform will be played together, in a true concert of duets.

In one song, they will be joined by two other performers, both from the college faculty:

Sierra Club presents in Alma; promotes awareness locally

By ELLEN MARTIN
STAFF WRITER



Brittany Leppien: Staff Photographer

Anne Woiwode, secretary of the Michigan branch of the Sierra Club, presents at last week's discussion about Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations in the area.

Michigan's chapter of the Sierra Club held a meeting at the Alma Public Library last Thursday to discuss the impact of local Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) and a coalition that is working to better the situation, Less=More.

"It's a diverse coalition," said Anne Woiwode, secretary of the Michigan branch of the Sierra Club. "[It's] a group of organizations that believe in creating more sustainable agriculture and reducing factory pollution."

Woiwode and other speakers at the meeting explained how CAFOs' "milking the system" affects the local community environmentally and financially.

CAFOs generate millions of gallons of waste annually—the equivalent of 16,000 people—but the byproducts are allowed to go untreated, according to Lynn Henning, Lenawee County farmer and winner of the 2010 Goldman Environmental Prize.

Waste products can drain into waterways, be stockpiled, or can be improperly applied to fields, she said.

One area farm can also use about 122,000 gallons of water per day, Henning added, which also takes a toll on the environment.

Yet these farms are supported

by the government, Henning said.

There are 24 CAFOs in Gratiot and Midland Counties, and together they collected \$11, 243, 026 in subsidies from 1995-2012, according to a written statement by the Sierra Club.

"They never stop receiving subsidies, even though they're being fined and penalized," Henning explained, saying that farms are fined for non-compliance with state regulations.

Sustainable farms, however, are not given the business opportunities given to large factories.

"Why should people running clean operations have to compete with people who are running dirty, subsidized operations?" Henning questioned.

"We are not making any claims

here that this is illegal activity going on," said Woiwode, saying, rather, that it was "unfair."

If the Less=More campaign can succeed in telling state legislators to stop funding such farms, then the environment will benefit, sustainable farming will create more local jobs, and better quality food will be produced, according to Sierra Club documents.

Murray Borrello, instructor of geology and co-director of the Center for Responsible Leadership, who also attended the meeting, encouraged student interest in the matter.

"Students at Alma College should care because...there are three levels of concern," he said. "It's a quality of life issue for them, it's a health issue for them, and it's a general concern for everybody because it's affecting

our waterways, our Great Lakes, and even the oceans."

Studies have shown that waste products funneled into waterways are causing nearly anaerobic spots in Lake Erie, the Chesapeake Bay, and the Gulf of Mexico, Borrello said.

And the odor that "just hangs in the air" quite often is also a bad effect, he said.

"We know from studies that when you're smelling that, you're also breathing in hydrogen sulfide gas, you're also breathing in ammonia, and you're breathing in—possibly, if it's a windy day—antibiotic-resistant bacteria," he said.

The "horrific odor" also might be a turn-off for prospective students, Borrello added.

Shelly Scribner ('16), who has done some research through

the PRISM program on the effects of CAFOs on the environment, has seen the results of this method of farming first-hand, she said.

"It made me think about where my food is coming from and whether or not it really comes from sustainable sources," she said.

Although CAFOs can produce a lot of meat, or other products, farms like these are unable to have a positive effect on the environment, Scribner added.

If students are interested in getting involved, they are advised to go to the Sierra Club's Website, <http://michigan.sierraclub.org/>, or that of Less=More, <http://www.moreformichigan.org/>.

The Sierra Club is a national volunteer-based group founded in 1892 by naturalist and conservationist John Muir.

Whitewater tubing, kayaking course may be coming to Alma's Pine River

By RAY VISSER
STAFF WRITER

Whitewater enthusiasts, take note: the city of Alma may be getting its very own whitewater tubing and kayaking course.

"This came about because I'm a whitewater kayaker, and there isn't very much whitewater in the Lower Peninsula," said Alma College Biology Professor Mike Bishop. "The whitewater park in Mt. Pleasant is within one of the city parks and is used relatively heavily by groups [from] as far

away as Lansing."

Bishop came up with the initial idea for the course and is working on making it a reality with Alma College instructor and Center for Responsible Leadership co-director Murray Borrello. "We had our first meeting right before school started," said Bishop, "but we haven't met since then."

Most courses in the area are for casual recreation. "This summer I went up to use the whitewater course in Mt. Pleasant," said Bishop. "[There are] a lot of people in tubes or inflatable kayaks."

One particular location in Alma would be ideal for such a course. "The City [of Alma] is looking at ways to enhance the usage of the [Pine] River," said Bishop. "We're not sure what can be done to the river in terms of manipulating the water course,"

but a whitewater route would provide an opportunity for recreation and could bring more patrons to Alma's shops.

There is some interest in the Alma College community for whitewater sports in general. "Last year, Dr. Abernathy hosted a whitewater kayak roll session in the [Alma College] pool," said Bishop. "[He is] talking about doing it again this fall."

Some significant hurdles remain between the idea and its execution. "We have to get permission from the state for dealing with a navigable waterway," said Bishop, adding that funding the project remains an unresolved issue. Bishop speculates that the Fred Meijer Trail foundation might be willing to contribute, along with support from grants, individuals, and

possibly the City of Alma.

Whitewater courses require specific river geography in order to be effective. The project is "all in speculation," said Bishop. "[The] nice thing [about the Pine River] from the dam to the Euclid ballfield is there are already some places [with obstacles] in the river that you could build on top of."

The course would only cover a very short distance but would need to "create some kind of an obstruction in the river that constricts the flow to create waves," said Bishop. Also required would be "some sort of elevation change along the river... Some kind of a standing wave and distinct eddies [are] nice for beginning kayakers learning some basic whitewater [skills]."

Because of its nature, Bishop said that whitewater rafting

would be mostly restricted to the summer and early fall, when students could make use of it.

As far as student involvement is concerned, Bishop and Borrello would like to team up with students to investigate the possibility of developing the course in Alma. "The next thing we'd be looking at is getting [CRL] students to gather information on other [whitewater destinations]," said Bishop. They would talk to people in Petoskey and Mt. Pleasant to gain information about what needs to be done in order to carry out this project, as well as to determine the kinds of regulations cities impose on each course.

Students interested in assisting with the project should contact either Bishop or Borrello to learn how they can become involved.

Accept nerd culture without fads

By MECHON CAREW
STAFF WRITER

I'm sorry to inform you ladies and gentlemen, but if hundreds of people rally together to protest against conformity, guess what they're doing? Conforming.

In this day and age, the "cool" thing to do is to be an individual, to think for oneself, and most importantly, to walk off the beaten path. Yet, it seems that in the effort to be different, everyone is walking the same way. Essentially, all we have done is moved the path.

Take for instance the "hipster." The first and foremost rule about being a hipster is not admitting that you're a hipster. It's like how the first rule of Fight Club is that you don't talk about Fight Club, which makes it really quite annoying if you act like a hipster out of necessity and legitimately don't want to be a hipster, but I digress.

Theoretically, this is a clique that exists to be outcasts. It is expected that each person be unique in their own way. Only they're not.

The very essence of what it means to be a hipster is to act just like all other hipsters. They all have to buy second-hand clothes, avoid matching, listen to music that isn't very popular, and go to tiny cafés that no one's heard of. However, there's a catch to all of those things: there are only so

many options.
Only so many small bands and cafés exist, and there are only so many ways to not match while not looking like any other stereotype.
In all actuality, being a hipster is the epitome of what it means to be mainstream. If anything, being a hipster is the most restricting of all social groups.
This idea that different is good has also allowed for the uprising of

"That's it, isn't it? By making the outcasts popular, we aren't changing how the system works, we're just moving the labels."

- On the irony of the hipster movement.

"nerd culture." Superhero movies are features of the year, thick-rimmed glasses are selling by the boat-load, and frankly, there are way too many "I <3 Geeks" shirts being produced for my taste. It's great having so many fellow "nerds," but now I feel like my interests are becoming normal, that I'm falling into the status quo.
That's it, isn't it? By making the outcasts popular, we aren't changing how the system works, we're just moving the labels.
What's happening to the jocks and the cheerleaders? Is it suddenly not "cool" to spend your time running full tilt into another

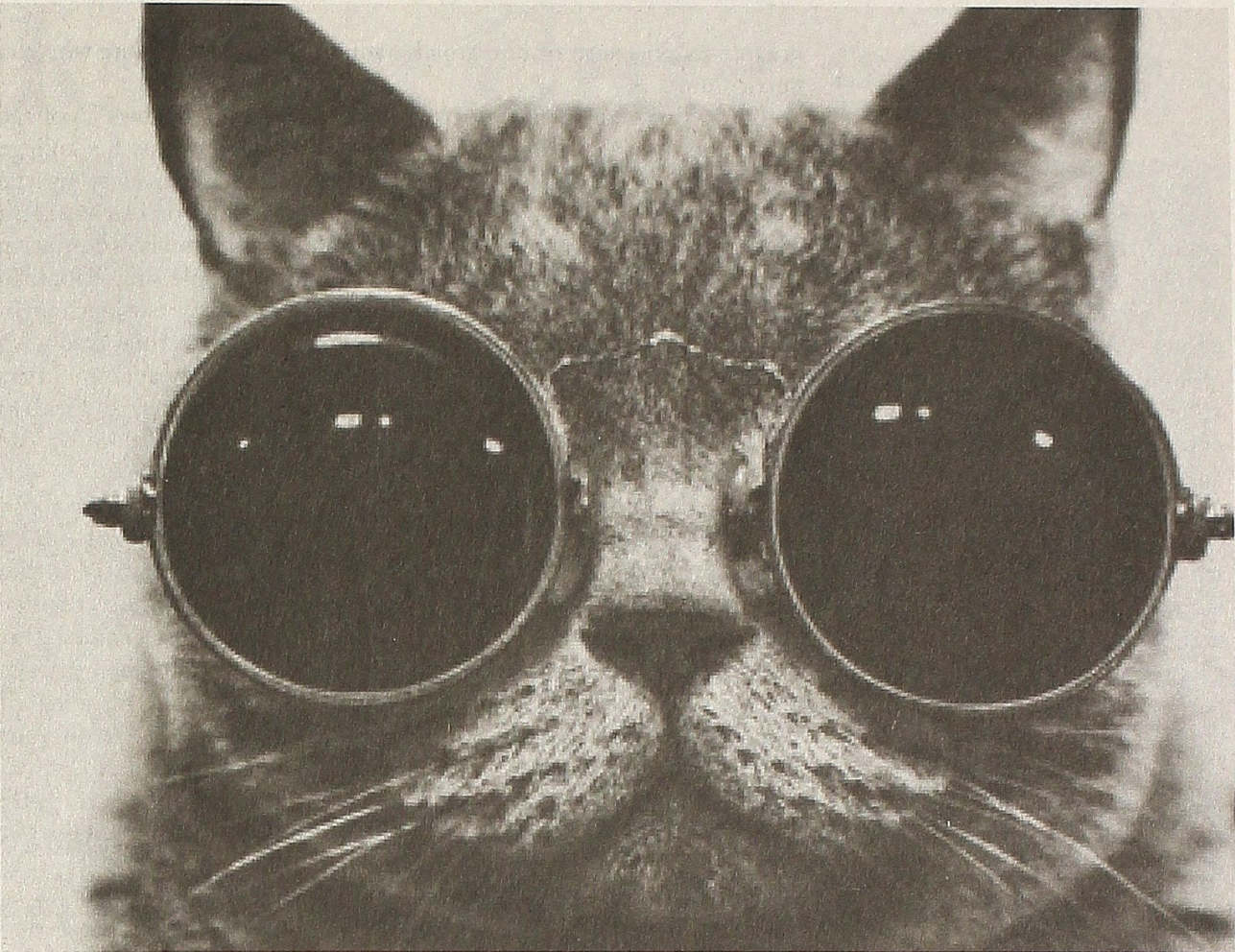


Photo courtesy of tumblr.com

The hipster movement involves a fascination with cat images, especially those which involve a combination of cat and human characteristics. This wave of interest is particularly prevalent on websites like tumblr.com.

guy, hoping for a collision? Certainly seems like it.
What about the people who aren't particularly creative or groundbreaking? Those who feel just fine staying at the bottom rungs of the ladder because responsibility seems like too big of a task?
Not all of us can be leaders of the new age, you know. If we're all at the top, then there's only one level, and suddenly we're all at the bottom. The mass suddenly becomes a Hive Mind.

Don't know what that means? Look it up. If you don't want to, just trust me when I tell you that Hive Mind is a bad thing. Of course, masses that blindly follow a possibly corrupt king of the mountain isn't a very good idea either.
Yes, it's excellent that our culture has come to accept and praise those who were ostracized and alienated in the past. No, that doesn't mean we have to suddenly start ostracizing and alienating the people who were perfectly

okay with the old world order.
It's just as great that that same culture is pushing people as a whole to think more and come up with innovative solutions to life's problems. However, that does not mean that everything is inherently a problem to be solved. Ever hear the saying, "don't fix what ain't broke?"
If we really want to be more accepting and create more change, we need to learn to cooperate and compromise. Meet in the middle and everything will be all right.

Campus life calls for major social decisions

By RAY VISSER
STAFF WRITER

I really don't like to write specifically to the freshman crowd, but it happens inevitably. This time around, I'll give you scared, scurrying masses some helpful hints on how to warm yourself up to the harsh social cold of Alma.
The first rule of thumb is to remember at all times that you've already met, in your life before Alma, everyone you'll ever need to meet.

From your neighborhood friend who vanished without a trace when you were six to that big acne-ridden oaf who stuffed you in a moldy trash bin freshman year of high school, the group of people you know is the only one worth knowing. There is no chance that people here at Alma could become some of your best friends.
There's no need to exit your dorm room. Just stay inside as much as possible, sneak through campus on your way to classes (the secret tunnels are convenient if you can find them), and look forward to fall break, four short days of seeing your old social circles once again. Then repeat the process through Thanksgiving break and into Christmas season, where you can engage in some epic snowball fights with people you passed in the hallway in high school and greeted with a half-mumbled "hi."

Forget about the poor saps you saw every day from the shadows as you made your secret-agent way to class.
If for some unfortunate reason you find yourself caught in a social situation, be sure to remind yourself that nobody cares what you have to say. In fact, it's better to not say anything at all, because on the off-chance someone finds it appealing, you run the risk of unnecessarily befriending them.
The sooner you ingrain in your subconscious the fact that anything you could say has been said before by someone much more intelligent and witty than you, the more satisfied you will be with your college experience.

People will stay away from you, which is always a positive thing. Also, they probably have nothing to teach you about the world, and in fact, everything they can say has already been said as well.
After a few months of this pattern of behavior, you may be struck with the obscene thought that you should try some extracurricular activities. After all, those posters you sneak past every day on your way to class advertise some vaguely interesting use of your time, right? Dismiss this thought as soon as it enters your mind. If you try something outside of class, it has the potential to enrich your college experience so much that you may never be content with your classwork again.
Remember: in everything you might do, perfection is the only option. The legions of people

watching you at all times will laugh in your face if you make the slightest mistake. Plus, the judgmental looks and scorn heaped upon you every day are not worth the risk of discovering something you truly enjoy.
If you follow this plan of action, you will have spoken a minimum of words for the last several months. If you feel the need to rejuvenate your voice (which is unthinkable because it's useless anyway), and if you absolutely must speak in a social situation, be sure to say the

safest possible things.
Going with the crowd you've somehow found yourself in (maybe the secret tunnels are closed for construction?) means that no one will notice your contribution or judge you for it.
Finally, do not under any circumstances take any travel opportunities offered to you, which shouldn't be a problem if you've followed these directions properly. A "comfort zone" is so named for a reason: you will be comfortable as long as you stay

within it. No need to go outside it. It's dangerous out there. If you've been watching TV news like a good dorm-room hermit, you are aware of the horrendous things that can happen to innocent people like you.
So play it safe, kids. Stay silent, stay stealthy, and stay secure in your little bubble. Oh, one last tip: nobody cares what your name is, so don't give it out. That way you can disappear without a trace, like your childhood friend, or a wordless cowboy into the sunset.

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!

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

Three great books to combat reading fatigue

By NICOLE ECCLES
STAFF WRITER

During my senior year of high school, I was self-diagnosed with reading fatigue. By the time I was in college I was full-blown exhausted.

Reading fatigue is fairly simple to catch, and if you've been actively participating in college since the beginning of this year, you probably already have it. Symptoms include frustration, irritability, inability to focus, throwing of books across rooms, and copious amounts of video games and TV.

You catch it by reading too many books that you didn't choose, didn't enjoy, or didn't understand. Here at Alma, or any liberal arts college, we are at a

greater risk because of our broad curriculum.

But worry not. The doctor is in, and I have the cure. The prescription is simple: the hair of the dog that bit you.

Here are three books to cleanse your pallet, books that aren't going to confuse you with symbolism, frustrate you with large words, or make you complete a three- to five-page paper.

First on the list is "Freshman" by Mike Gerber; to be fair, it is also probably the silliest on the list. I read this book before coming to college to combat my most recent bout of reading fatigue, and it fixed me up right away.

This book isn't going to teach you anything. It's not going to inspire you or change your life, but I guarantee it is a weird ride from beginning to end. And you're gonna laugh a lot, and

you're going to be unsure why you are laughing.

"Freshman" follows college beginner Hart Fox as his college acceptance is taken away by the pompous Burlington Darling III, a rich alum of Stutts who's desperate to get his imbecile son, Trip, into the college. Hart is clever, though, and makes a proverbial deal with the devil. Hart heads to Stutts where his purpose is to get Trip through college while doing the same himself.

This book will give you ridiculous ideas about frats and pranks, but it will make you appreciate Alma's relative normality. I suggest reading this over a break so that when you get back to school, you're rejuvenated and have a new outlook on your purpose here at school.

The next option is a little more inspirational. "This I

Believe," edited by Jay Allison, is a collection of eighty essays written by celebrities, such as Colin Powell, and everyday people living all over the United States.

Based off National Public Radio's show of the same name, each essay tells of different people's journey of self-discovery and the development of personal beliefs. The beliefs stretch from atheism to a woman finding peace and understanding after losing friends and a brother to gang wars.

One essay takes maybe five minutes to read and can leave you feeling a little more worldly for the rest of the day.

I came to terms with many of my own beliefs after reading this book, and if you're feeling alone in the world, I promise one of these essays will speak to you.

Some people might be fairly

familiar with my next suggestion. "Wreck This Journal," created by Keri Smith, is one the best stress outlets I've ever used. True to its name, each page asks you to wreck it in a different way. Stick your gum on one page, drop it out of a window on third floor Bruske, paint it with coffee, and write words over and over again. This book is willing to take all of your frustration.

It is an actually journal, so try to use it daily or weekly, whatever works for you. Fill it up, tear it up, do with it what you will. It's the only kind of consistent journal I've ever been able to keep. The great thing is that there are different versions, and even if you only buy the same one, it will always come out differently.

There it is, your miracle cure for reading fatigue. Enjoy the books and read on.

Movie critic picks his top three films of the year

By DANIEL MURAWSKE
STAFF WRITER

So far, 2013 has given moviegoers many reasons to head to the theater.

In the last nine and a half months, I have seen many great movies, including "Man of Steel," "Iron Man 3," and more, but none of these films compare to my top three favorites of the year so far: "The Conjuring," "World War Z," and "42."

As I stated in my review last week, "The Conjuring" is the scariest motion picture I have ever seen.

In a century overrun by slasher movies that try to pass themselves off as horror (I understand that a new "Chuck" movie is coming in October, as if we haven't seen enough of that saga already) and films such as the "Paranormal Activity" series that, while

effective, are wearing everyone out, it was nice to see a flick that knows how to scare without most

lovable, the music is genius, the camerawork is brilliant, and the ending is haunting.

Runner-up for best movie of 2013 so far is "42." The screenplay tells the story of American legend Jackie Robinson, the first African-American baseball player in the major leagues.

The film does a great job of balancing Robinson's professional and personal lives, and provides some horrifying insights about what he had to endure during his life and career.

Chadwick Boseman's portrayal of Robinson is amazing. I had never heard of Mr. Boseman before, but I think we will see more of him after watching his performance in "42." Harrison Ford turns in an equally powerful portrayal of Branch Rickey, the owner of the 1947 Brooklyn Dodgers who signed Robinson.

One of the most powerful things about the movie was how the filmmakers included a few white people (other than Branch

Rickey, of course) who showed support of Robinson. There was one scene in which a white man walks up to Robinson and offers his support. That heartwarming moment was a gentle reminder that there are some good people in the then-openly-racist world.

There is also a different sequence that will remind everyone that there are also some very bad people in the world. However, I will not go into details because it is one of the most memorable moments of the movie, and I do not want to spoil it for anyone who has not seen it yet. Still, I can say that it filled my heart with rage and my eyes with tears. All in all, "42" swung for the fences and hit a home run.

"World War Z" is my third favorite movie of 2013, and it is a must-see for all fans of zombie films.

The movie is taken from the Max Brooks novel about a zombie apocalypse and the human race's attempt to survive. The plot is far

from original, and with so many zombie movies this century, some would-be viewers might be getting tired of such similar premises. But for those of you who devour films about the undead, this movie is right for you.

"World War Z" features strong performances from the cast, led by Brad Pitt. It also has great action, very good makeup, and an interesting ending.

When I first saw the trailer, I thought that "World War Z" was going to be just a bunch of mindless action. However, I was happily surprised at how smart it is.

That unexpected delight, along with the acting, action, and makeup, earns "World War Z" the number three spot on my list of the best three movies from 2013 thus far.

In all, if there are three films from this year that everyone needs to see, I would recommend "The Conjuring," "42," and "World War Z." They will not disappoint.

"In the last nine and a half months, I have seen many great movies, including 'Man of Steel,' 'Iron Man 3,' and more, but none of these movies compare to my top three favorites of the year so far: 'The Conjuring,' 'World War Z,' and '42.'"

- On Daniel's top picks of the year.

of today's clichés. Director James Wan clearly knows how to terrify.

The scares, while not always completely original, are extremely effective, the characters are

The Almanian.

"ALMA COLLEGE'S STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER, SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1907."

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The Almanian is a newspaper published not only for the students at this institution, not just for the faculty on campus, and not solely for the administrators who work for Alma, but for all people interested in Alma College and the lives it touches. The writers, editors, publishers, and distributors of this newspaper are dedicated to producing an interesting, accurate, timely, fun, and error free newspaper on a weekly basis in order to inform and educate the people for whom it is intended about the culture and nature of Alma College.

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Solid 4-0 victory for women's soccer in Kick for a Cure game



Katlyn Chitwood: Staff Photographer

The women's soccer team is now 3-0 in conference play and 3-2 overall. The Scots play #1 ranked Wheaton College on Tuesday at Scotland Yard.

By JUSTIN KETTERER
STAFF WRITER

The Alma College women's soccer team hosted St. Mary's College at Scotland Yard on Saturday for their breast cancer game, in which they raise money for breast cancer awareness and support.

The team will look to continue its winning ways this Tuesday as it takes on #1 ranked Wheaton (Ill.) at Scotland Yard, starting at 4 p.m.

Then it will be back to league play for the Lady Scots, as they take on Olivet College Saturday, Sept. 21 at home again at 12 p.m.

Last Saturday afternoon proved well for the Lady Scots, as they won the game 4-0.

The scoring started for Alma at the 18:21 mark as **Kelly Wilson ('16)** headed in a goal off a free kick from **Autumn Root ('14)**.

"I couldn't be happier with this team," Wilson said after the game. "We really are a family, which I think is the reason we are so successful. Play as one, battle as one, win as one."

The second half opened the flood gates for the Lady Scots' scoring, as they netted three goals in that half. The first goal of the half came at the 43:46 mark when **Jessica Burg ('17)** scored an unassisted goal.

The offense continued at the 35:34 mark when **Agatha Weddle ('16)** scored Alma's third goal off of Root's second assist, along with an assist

from **Catherine Olson ('14)**.

The final goal for the women came at the 28:30 mark when **Brianna Russell ('17)** netted a goal after a shot from Wilson, who got the assist, bounced off the crossbar.

Coach Jeff Hosler was proud of his team's effort. "our returners are leading effectively and our new players are responding," Hosler said.

The fundraising for breast cancer awareness last Saturday at Scotland Yard had a lot to offer for the crowd.

Baked goods were on sale and raffle items were on display for people to win. The women's soccer team said that they were happy to play for a good cause and excited that they could produce a win at home.

"[The victory was a] very solid win as St. Mary's was one of the teams picked to win the MIAA in the pre-season poll," Hosler said after the game.

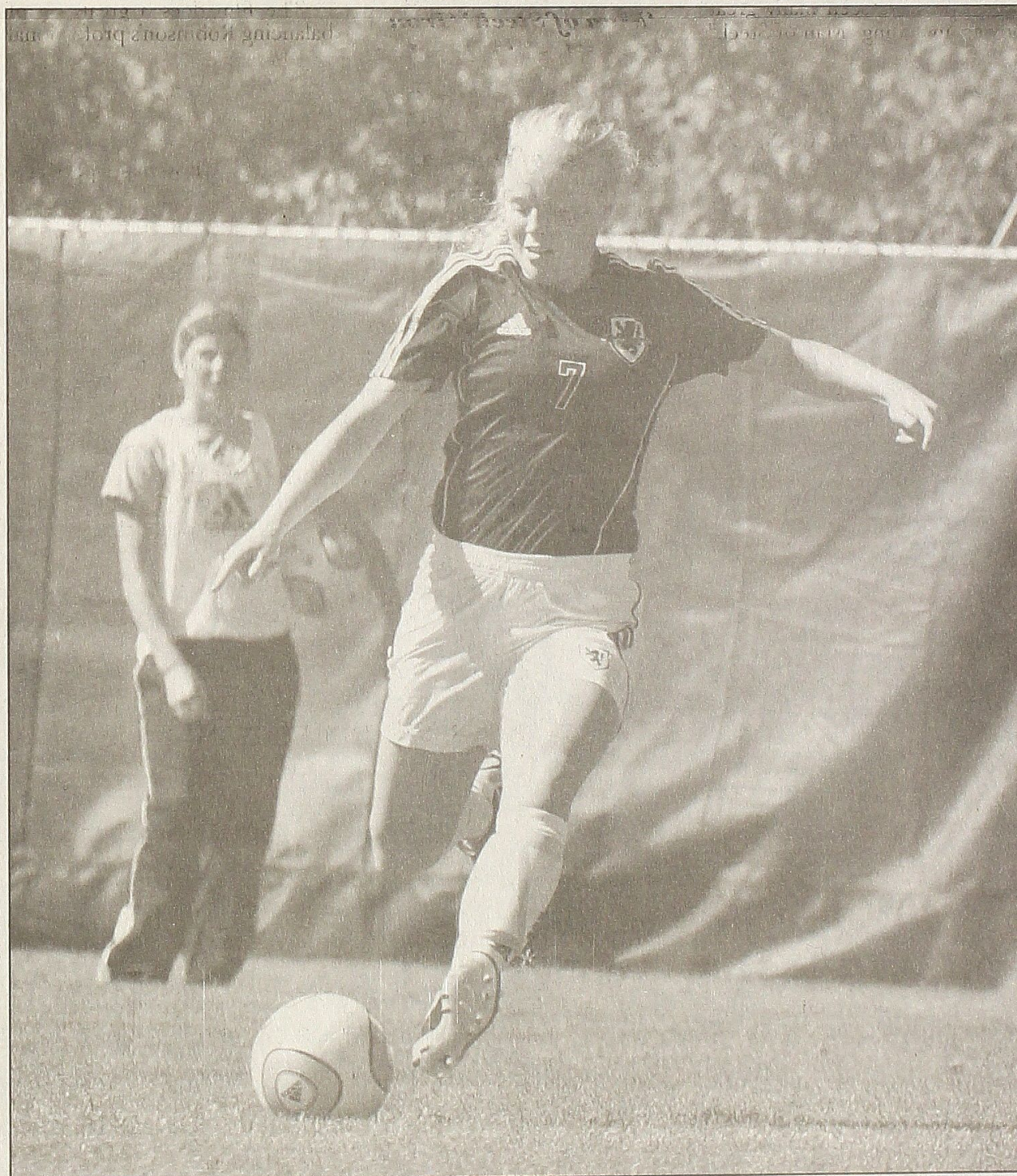
"[We have gone] 3-0 against two of the top teams in the league," he said. "This is a great start to conference play."

"It was great to have our whole team pull together and play the full 90 minutes with intensity and willingness to win every ball. It's a great way to end a great week of wins for our program."

Ann Kennedy ('14) said.

Hosler thought his team played well on both sides of the ball.

"Today was our most complete performance of the season in all aspects of the game," he said.



Katlyn Chitwood: Staff Photographer

Ann Kennedy ('14) is one of four seniors on the team this year. Kennedy earned all-region recognition last season.

Men's golf finishes 7th out of 8 at MIAA Jamboree

By BRENDEN KUDLA
STAFF WRITER

The Alma College men's golf team went down to Adrian College for yet another MIAA Jamboree, where the Scots finished in seventh place behind a

couple of rounds put up by **Chris Williamson ('14)** and **Marty Predmesky ('15)**.

These golfers carded two top 15 scores in the tournament. Williamson finished in 12th with a score of 76 and Predmesky in a tie for second place with a round of 71.

After his score of 76, Williamson said, "Marty and I have put in a lot of time and hard work on the course and it seems to be paying off. My only goal is to compete my hardest on every shot, never to give up."

He added, "We are really struggling to put four solid scores

together, but once we figure it out there are no limitations for what this team can accomplish."

With the combination of leadership from the upperclassmen and the youth found on the Alma College golf team, the sky is the limit.

Outside of Williamson and

Predmesky, **Alec Genter ('17)** scored an 81 while **Jake Moran ('14)** carded an 86 and **Dylan Parks ('17)** added an 86 to the team's scores as well.

Next weekend the Scots are at home at Pine River Country Club as they look to improve and move up in the MIAA ranks.

Scots drop home opener 38-3; still searching for first victory

By **JUSTIN KETTERER**
STAFF WRITER

The Alma College football team took on Illinois Wesleyan University this Saturday in its home opener looking to pick up a win. Illinois Wesleyan would prove to be a tough opponent for the Scots, as the visitors won the game 38-3.

Alma will play Saturday as it takes on Lakeland College (Wis.) at Bahlke Field, kicking off at 1 p.m.

Alma struck first with a 21-yd field goal from **Jack Pryde ('14)** at the 6:42 mark in the first quarter. The field goal came after a six-play, 16-yd drive on Alma's second offensive possession.

Alma's defense held Illinois Wesleyan to zero points in the first half. The defensive stand included a stop on Alma's 10-yd line on fourth down to keep Wesleyan off the board to end the first half. **Frank Furnari ('14)** and **Terrence Tyson ('15)** teamed up to take down the runner short of the goal line.

Illinois Wesleyan came out firing in the second half, tying the score up on its first drive. The score came from a 36-yd field goal at the 11:01 mark in the third quarter.

"I thought we played decent, got to put things together for a full game and we could've beat them by a few touchdowns," **Troy Gahm ('16)**.



Katlyn Chitwood: Staff Photographer

Above: **Austin McClelland ('14)** had an interception for the Scots last Saturday against Illinois Wesleyan University. Below: **Jon Bricker ('14)** cuts past a Wesleyan defender. The Scots will host Lakeland College Saturday.

Illinois Wesleyan scored the first touchdown of the game on its next drive with a 22-yd run at the 5:30 mark of the third quarter. With the missed PAT, the Titans broke the tie and went up 9-3.

The next Wesleyan touchdown came at the 1:07 mark of the third quarter with a nine-yd run and a successful two-point conversion. The third quarter ended with

Alma down 17-3.

Illinois Wesleyan increased its lead to 21 points after a touchdown pass from 20-yds out with 12:25 left in the fourth quarter. After an intercepted pass, Wesleyan struck again with a four-yd rushing touchdown to go up 31-3.

The final blow was a 20-yd touchdown pass with 6:15 left in the fourth quarter to cement

Illinois Wesleyan's victory 38-3.

The Scots were able to force four turnovers on the afternoon, however. Three interceptions between **Adam Nelson ('15)**, **Austin McClelland ('14)**, and a pass in the end zone stopping Wesleyan from scoring was intercepted by **Brandon Wegenke ('15)**. The fourth turnover was a fumble forced by

the Alma defense.

The Scots were led offensively by **Jared Leister ('14)** with 37-yds passing. **Robert Gibson ('16)** lead Alma in rushing with 28-yds. **Tyler Watters ('15)** was the leading receiver with 15-yds.

Alma Head Coach Greg Pscodna was proud of his team. "I thought we played really hard today," he said.



Volleyball defeats St. Mary's; 1-3 in conference play

By **BRENDEN KUDLA**
STAFF WRITER

Last Wednesday night the Bulldogs of Adrian College came into Art Smith Arena primed and ready for a battle on the volleyball court against MIAA foe Alma College. The Scots came firing right out of the gates.

Taylor Cole ('15) said, "We played confidently and aggressively; we still have some things to sort out, but we are excited to see what the rest of the season has in store."

The Scots' confidence and aggression were found in the first two games as they took both games one (25-13) and two (25-19).

In the third game Adrian was

able to muster up all the energy and skill it needed in order to avoid the sweep taking the game (25-21.)

The fact that the Bulldogs took the third game did not phase the Scots at all as they went on to take the fourth game (25-9), winning the match three games to one.

"We could have won the third game no doubt but we came back

strong into the fourth," said **Lea Klooster ('14)**.

Klooster led the team in kills with 13 while **Rebecca Trosper ('14)** and **Tessa Rademacher ('15)** tied for the team lead in blocks with 12 apiece.

After the match Rademacher was very happy with her team's performance. "We did a lot of good things tonight. We were

hungry for a win," she said. "We've had a tough schedule since the season started and have proved to take those challenges head on."

"The conference is extremely competitive this year and every game is a big game for us," she said.

This win brings the Scots to 1-3 in the MIAA conference and 4-4 on the year.