



THE ALMANIAN

SERVING ALMA COLLEGE SINCE 1907

VOLUME CVIII

ISSUE XI

NOVEMBER 18 - 24, 2013



One-Act Play Festival prepares for annual return; showcases student directing, acting



Patrick Mallett: Staff Photographer

Left, Olyvia Brown ('14) and Emily Roberge ('14) and right, Erika Kamm ('14) and Jessica Bigelow ('17) rehearse their respective One-Acts.

By MECHON CAREW
STAFF WRITER

Remember to wish your theater friends thoroughly broken legs Friday through Sunday. The annual One-Act Play Festival will be held at the Strosacker Theatre in the Heritage Center, up the stairs from the box office. As usual, all five one-act plays are directed by upper-level theatre students. The five titles will be "Scripted" by Mark Harvey Lavine, "Bird Brain" by Claire Cox, "Twenty Dollar Drinks" by Joe Pintauro, "Don't Think So

Hard" by Hope Gato, and "Broken Hearts" by Kevin R. Mcleod. Although Theatre Department Head Joseph Jezewski has been supervising the progress of the One-Acts, ultimately, the students run the show, and they have been working towards the performance for quite some time. All four of the student directors, **Jake McAskill ('15)**, **Sara Day ('15)**, **Shelby Marie Schroeder ('14)**, **Cody Scott Beebe ('15)**, have recently completed the 7-week course THD 332, Intermediate Directing, and are currently putting their newly learned skills into practice. **Tara Reidel ('13)**, alumna and intern for Alma College, acts as assistant director to Jezewski but is directing "Broken Hearts" herself. However, preparation for the One-Acts actually began in

May 2013, directly following the end of the last school year. The students involved in THD 332 communicated with Jezewski to decide on possible plays to perform and began script analysis right away. "I haven't seen the other One-Acts [since the first read-through]," Day said, "but we all work together on our script analysis... We're all working really well together." This class allows students to "feel out" their niches in the theater department and to grow better as actors, directors, and as people, but it does come with quite a bit of work. Auditions for the parts began directly after the performance of "Rimers of Eldritch," the first read-through began the Monday afterwards, and the students have been rehearsing ever since. "It's a very different experience,"

Samantha Arthur ('15), an actress for "Scripted," said. "You know you're learning together, it's the first time they've directed, and you get to try new things." Arthur has been involved in all of the One-Acts since coming to Alma, particularly because of how the One-Acts are formatted. The numerous pieces allow more people to audition and participate, providing for more new faces in the theatre. The short length also offers a more personal approach to each actor, director, and technician while preventing the stress that usually accompanies full-length features. All members involved are working very hard, but the One-Acts remain very close to the directors' hearts. "I think our personalities show up in all of our One-Acts," McAskill mentioned.

"We connect to them in a way." The workload will only increase with Tech Week, the week directly before the performances, which started last Friday. During this time, all One-Acts will be working at the same time to make sure that everything will run as smoothly as possible, from lighting to sound to costumes. The times for the performances will be 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, then at 3 p.m. on Sunday. Students can get tickets by visiting the Box Office or calling (989) 463-7304. It should be noted, however, that some of the plays will contain explicit language and adult situations. "Each One-Act has its own message, and if you let it, each [one] can give you a perspective on your life that you may not have noticed before," McAskill said.

Orchestra concert to feature assortment of familiar motion picture soundtracks

By HANNAH KING
STAFF WRITER

A Medley of Music from the Movie World: The Alma Symphony Orchestra Concert From James Bond to "Breakfast at Tiffany's," the upcoming symphony orchestra concert will be filled with a variety of different cinematic treasures. Sunday's performance at 4 p.m. in the Remick Heritage Center will feature songs such as "Moon River" and the main theme from "Indiana Jones." "We have four concerts a year, so we try to play a wide variety of music between the four performances," said Alma Symphony Orchestra Director

Murray Gross. "While playing movie soundtracks may not be as profound as the Mozart we have played in the past, it will be a fun show for an audience of all ages. Everyone is sure to hear a song that they know." "The good thing about playing songs from movies is that the film world provides a wide range of styles and portrays innumerable emotions," Gross said. For example, the group will be playing songs from "Out of Africa" that are slow and somewhat meditative; however, it will also play the

"Everyone works really hard, and it's so inspiring. The most rewarding part of being a member of the orchestra is seeing the audience's reaction at the concerts."

-Christine Wiersma ('16)

"Pink Panther" theme song that will have a more comedic effect. "My favorite part about being a member of this group is playing incredible music with really accomplished musicians," said **Christine Wiersma ('16)**, a violinist. "Everyone works really hard, and it's so inspiring. The most rewarding part of being a member of the orchestra is seeing the audience's reaction at the concerts." "My favorite part about the symphony orchestra is being completely absorbed with the strings," said **Samantha Grace ('15)**, a flute player. Grace also participates in the Kiltie Marching Band and said the orchestra "is a completely different atmosphere than the Kiltie Band." While such familiar songs like the theme from "Pirates of the Caribbean" may seem like they would be easy to play, the music for this performance took just as much time and effort as any other to put together. "In some parts of the show, we transition from really

slow and melodic pieces into fast and exciting ones. That transition can be difficult for musicians to make," said Grace. In another example, Wiersma said, "The most difficult part of being in this group is trying to balance my practice time and extra rehearsals with everything else that I have to do. I am not a music major, so I have all my other classes and labs that I have to deal with, too." "This concert is perfect for students who have never heard an orchestra before," said Gross. "It is fun, and there will no doubt be pieces that are familiar to them. Listening to an orchestra is not about understanding the music—it's about the experience. And that experience is incomparable to one you have listened to on a recording." "I know that everyone in the audience would enjoy hearing the fun and recognizable pieces," said Grace. "While other shows we have done are more comparable to a night at the opera, Sunday's show is a night at the movies,

"A lot of these pieces are perfect for the college-age group, as they are sure to bring you back to your childhood."

-Brandon Listh ('14)

and it will be just as entertaining as that is," said **Brandon Listh ('14)**. "A lot of these pieces are perfect for the college-age group, as they are sure to bring you back to your childhood. For example, the theme from 'E.T. [the Extra Terrestrial]' will be featured." "Students should come because it's free, and it's gonna sound awesome," said Violinist **Thomas Griffith ('17)**. So if they haven't already, students should make room in their schedules for the performance on Sunday at 4 p.m..

Exhibit hits close to home for artist, community, too

Features Kalamazoo College Professor Sarah Lindley

BY MOLLY SELL
STAFF WRITER

"[S]ince [Lindley] lives in the affected community, she feels a great connection to the area and, of course, to the artwork."
-Josh Gove ('14)

the local paper mill factories." Along with Gove, **Amy Merriman ('14)** was a part of the installation of the new artwork. Dan Connolly, the gallery director, supervised and assisted in the operation along with the artist Lindley. The formal press release from the college stated, "Lindley, a professor of sculpture and ceramics at Kalamazoo College, generated the series of sculptures from a desire to understand both the landscape and what is concealed beneath the surface. "The Kalamazoo River was once integral to the foundation and past prosperity of small communities along its path, but it later fell victim to contamination by the many area paper mills during the 20th century." Gove said, "Her technical skill incraftingceramicsisunbelievable, and one can only imagine the painstaking process she uses to make her works so exact." Lindley received her bachelor's degree in fine arts from the New

York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University. She went on to get her master's degree at the University of Washington. She grew up in Cleveland Heights and has lived in Chicago, New York, Seattle, and Kalamazoo. Her past exhibitions have been displayed in Milwaukee, Oregon, Arizona, North Carolina, and South Korea. According to the college's press release, "Structural renditions of architecture and shifting sediment were formed with clay bodies that were saturated with stains and oxides. This saturation allowed the material to take on an ambiguous color and surface that connects it to both industrial materials like iron and organic sludge and sediment. "Lindley referenced topographical maps, aerial photographs and city records in order for the work she constructed to follow the natural evolution of the architecture and terrain," noted the press release. "The same linear elements used to compose the mills were stretched, rolled, manipulated and layered to create the river. The final loose and open structure exists in a brittle state, spanning cinder blocks and paper pulp islands." Gove said, "The event was more personal for [Lindley] since she lives in the affected community, she feels a great connection to the area and, of course, to the artwork."

The new art exhibit in the Flora Kirsch Beck Gallery is ceramic work placed on hand-built sculptural pedestals, as well as some precariously placed on cinder blocks. The displays are scattered around the gallery floor. "The install was a very long and arduous one, taking around 22 hours and a total of over two days," said **Josh Gove ('14)**. The exhibit, entitled "Exit Allegan," opened Nov. 4 and continues through Dec. 5. The art building's gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Mondays through Fridays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays. The closing reception is from 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 5. Gove said, "The artist, Sarah Lindley, is a professor at Kalamazoo College, and the work is about the pollution of the Kalamazoo River from

This Week at Alma College

Nov. 18 - 24

Monday

Therapy Dogs at the Library
6 p.m. Kehrl Library

Tuesday

Fair Trade Sale Sponsored by Alma College Chapel
3 p.m. College Corner Bookstore

Wednesday

ACCA Holiday Bazaar
3 p.m. North Commons, Tyler-Van Dusen
Women's Basketball v. Defiance College

6 p.m. Hogan

Thursday

Alma Abroad 101: Study Abroad Information Session
4:30 p.m. Center for Student Opportunity

Friday

ACUB Presents: 23rd Annual Songfest
8 p.m. Outdoors
One-Act Play Festival
8 p.m. Strosacker Theatre
Percussion Ensemble Fall Concert
8 p.m. Presbyterian Hall

Saturday

One-Act Play Festival
8 p.m. Strosacker Theatre

Sunday

One-Act Play Festival
3 p.m. Strosacker Theatre
Alma Symphony Orchestra Concert
4 p.m. Presbyterian Hall

Literacy Beyond Borders to host event to raise awareness about female education across the globe

BY MAIRI CLOW
STAFF WRITER

"It relates to the club and gets the message out about the importance of educating girls in developing countries."
-Aleia McKessy ('15)

from include Cambodia, Haiti, Sierra Leone, and Ethiopia. For each girl profiled, a writer put together her story and an actor narrated it. In addition, many of the girls' who had their stories told in the documentary were played by actresses, in order to protect their identities. "We saw it last spring," **Aleia McKessy ('15)**, treasurer and secretary for the club, said. "It relates to the club and gets the message out about the importance of educating girls in developing countries." In order to arrange the

event, Literacy Beyond Borders planned ahead, ordering the movie and items needed for the screening in advance. The club focused on publicity for the event the week prior to the showing. Members hung posters up around campus and in department offices to advertise the event. Literacy Beyond Borders will provide food at the event, and in addition to the movie showing will also hold a book drive. Attendees are asked to bring a children's book to the event to be sent over to Ghana. The goal

"I've always known the importance of literacy, and after going to Ghana, I found out what a love I have for teaching reading."
- M c K e s s y

"The movie makes you appreciate your values. It's inspiring."
-Kelsee Brinklow ('17)

is to collect enough books to fill a classroom in the Ghanaian village of Kpedze-Todze. This village is where several of Literacy Beyond Borders's members have gone on summer service trips through the Posey Global fund. The P-Global trip is one that up to four students can go on each year. "I joined Literacy Beyond Borders my freshman year to see what it was about," McKessy said. "This is the third year I've been a part of it now. I've always known the importance of literacy, and after going to Ghana, I found out what a love I have for teaching reading." Students who went to Ghana worked with the organization Disaster Volunteers of Ghana (DIVOG). While on the trip, students taught children to read. As the movie demonstrates, literacy is

one of the important factors that can lead to more prosperous lives for people of developing countries. The education of women especially can lead to a society advancing, according to Girl Rising's website. For example, if there were 1 percent more girls enrolled in India's schools, the country's GDP would increase by 5.5 billion. "The movie makes you think about what you can do to help," **Luke Condon ('15)**, vice president of domestic affairs, said. The movie focuses on more than education for women. Other issues it discusses include bonded labor, poverty, young marriage, and domestic violence. "The movie makes you appreciate your values," **Kelsee Brinklow ('17)** said. "It's inspiring." The money raised by Girl Rising's foundation goes to fund programs to enroll girls in school and keep them there, and the movie helps to promote the goals of improving conditions in developing countries through the education of women.

Letter Policy:

Letters are published as layout space allows. Submission of a letter does not guarantee publication. The Almanian reserves the right to condense letters for layout purposes. Deadline for publication is 5 p.m. the Friday before requested publication.

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If asked where the best collection of contemporary Michigan printmaking is, one would assume that the title would be held by a museum or a large college like the University of Michigan. However, according to Associate Professor of Art and Design Robert Rozier, Alma College has within its permanent compilation the best collection of contemporary Michigan printmaking.

Check out www.almanian.org to read more!

Percussionists prepare to shake the stage during fast-approaching fall performance

By NICOLE ECCLES
STAFF WRITER

The Alma College Percussion Ensemble will take a jackhammer to your brain in its upcoming concert, as the banner in McIntyre Mall seems to proclaim. Friday's concert will feature almost all new music and will highlight different instruments and student musicians.

"We will also perform two jazz pieces that were performed at the homecoming concert, as they are pieces we will be taking to perform at the Notre Dame Collegiate Jazz Festival on March 1, 2014," said Dave Zerbe, associate professor of music and director of bands and percussion studio here at Alma College.

Zerbe started the percussion ensemble at Alma in 1989. The group performs many different kinds of music, from steel drums to traditional chamber music.

"The percussion ensemble is a relatively young type of musical ensemble," said Ari Kornelis ('14), an ensemble member. "Composers only began writing significant works for percussion ensembles in the last 100 years. John Cage, who wrote one of the pieces we'll be playing, was extremely influential in pushing the boundaries of composition and developing the form of the modern percussion ensemble."

The ensemble uses a variety of different instruments for all its performances and plays a range of music. This concert will add another level of uniqueness by featuring 1-gallon tomato cans, a lion's roar, and conch shell in one of the pieces.

"I'm particularly excited to perform John Cage's 'Third Construction,'" said Kornelis. "'Third Construction' is one of his most respected compositions, and it is in many ways the most difficult piece I have ever played. Cage often wrote unusual instrumentations, phrasing, and rhythms and all of those aspects are present in 'Third Construction.'"

For many students, attending performances like these allow them to see the rewards of the talent and dedication their friends put into their passions.

"Some of my very best friends are in the percussion ensemble, so I'm a fan by default," said Isabelle Moore ('14), who is the self-proclaimed number-one fan of the ensemble. "However, I've never missed a concert since freshman year, and they never fail to impress me. Each and every time I'm awestruck by how talented my friends are."

The amount of talent in the students in the percussion ensemble seems to only be rivaled by their practice time. "Rehearsals are fun but they are also very intense," said Zerbe. "We hold ourselves to a very high standard, and achieving those standards requires commitment and sacrifice. You can't perform at your highest level in any field

without sacrifice. As a result, the students rehearse with me during our specified class times, but they also set up sectionals and additional rehearsals on their own in order to play their best."

The concert begins at 8 p.m. on Friday and is free to students. Students are encouraged to attend and experience the fun and atmosphere that the percussion ensemble creates in its performances.

"It's such fun to watch the musicians 'groove' when they really get into a piece," said Moore. "They tend to swing and rock; their energy feeds into the audience. Tony Audia ('15) is particularly fun to watch. He's a riot. The music is exciting, the performers are engaging, and the talent is overflowing."



Thomas Griffith ('15) plays the timpani during rehearsal.



Dave Zerbe rehearses with Kegan Ball ('15), Jay Angus ('13), and Cyrus Zerbe ('14) in preparation for the concert.

Patrick Mallett: Staff Photographer

Music ensemble members to combine jazz and chicken at Heritage Center concert

By KILEE DEBRABANDER
STAFF WRITER

What do jazz and poultry have in common? To tell the truth, there aren't very many traits that the two share. However, next week, the two are being brought together in a unique style at Alma College's Jazz Band performance.

At 8 p.m. next Monday, Nov. 25, at the Remick Heritage Center, the jazz ensemble will host its fall concert and bring together the two completely unrelated subjects.

"I like to call it chicken-fried jazz," Jazz Ensemble Director

Carlos Melendez explained with a smile. "Many of the song names are somehow related to poultry. It's funky and fun, and it should be an extremely enjoyable performance."

"I like to call it chicken-fried jazz. Many of the song names are somehow related to poultry. It's funky and fun, and it should be an extremely enjoyable performance."

-Carlos Mendez

The ensemble will start off with a couple of old standard jazz songs and then launching into the works of Kris Berg, one of the top-selling jazz composer/arrangers in the world. Berg's music is described as contemporary, funky, and very entertaining to listen to.

"I believe that the new generation can connect better

with this music," Melendez said.

"Each tune has interesting musical elements and intricate rhythms that make them all unique," said Jacob Schmeltzer ('14), a trumpet player in the jazz ensemble. "I enjoy playing Kris Berg's 'The Chicken' because the arrangement demands stylistic precision from each performer."

For the jazz ensemble, this music is a change of atmosphere from the classical jazz music many bands tend to stick to.

"I hope it will be very interesting for the students and the audience," Melendez said. "They will be able to experience another world."

A jazz band is usually a smaller band that consists of a rhythm section and a horn section, and common instruments include the trumpet, trombone, clarinet, piano, tuba, bass, and percussion. The Alma College Jazz Band encompasses all of these instruments, including a pianist, which they lacked in previous years.

"The jazz band here at Alma is

unique because of the small size of the group and the flexibility. As jazz musicians, we each have the opportunity to be creative and improvise melodies within the tunes," Schmeltzer said. "Rehearsing and performing with an ensemble such as jazz band has been an excellent way to broaden my musical range."

"The jazz band here at Alma is unique because of the small size of the group and the flexibility. As jazz musicians, we each have the opportunity to be creative and improvise melodies within the tunes."

-Jacob Schmeltzer ('14)

Another distinctive feature about the jazz band is that the small size enables musicians

to have the chance to share their musical voice through improvisational solos.

"Playing in an ensemble where creativity guides the musicians has been a wonderful way to learn and share ideas with others who have similar interests in music," Schmeltzer explained.

As for the students here at Alma, many of them are already excited about the upcoming performance.

"As soon as I heard about the jazz concert, I knew that I wanted to attend," said Emily Zadny ('17). "There's something about jazz music that makes me happy, and whenever I hear it I want to get up and dance!"

Ticket prices are as follows: \$10 for adults; \$5 for seniors 62+; Alma College staff, students, and youth 18 and under are free. The seating is reserved.

Tickets can be purchased by visiting the box office Monday through Friday from 1 to 4:30 p.m. or calling (989) 463-7304.

NOVEMBER 18 - 24, 2013

Veterans Day speaker reintegrates former servicemen and women

By HANNAH KING
STAFF WRITER

"Twenty-two U.S. veterans commit suicide every day," said last Monday's speaker, former U.S. Army Sergeant William McNulty. McNulty is vice president of Team Rubicon, an organization that sends veterans to natural disaster zones across the world.

The group started when McNulty and one of his friends formed an organization to help after the 2010 earthquake in Haiti. This group reached out to other veterans and in just 18 days, 3,000 individuals were on their way to Haiti.

Team Rubicon has continued to grow since then, and today there are 13,000 veterans ready to serve and deploy. While in Haiti, the team was sent to an area where several valleys had collapsed on villages within them. The team members hiked down and saved individuals and their valuables. In this example, McNulty compared "disaster zones to combat zones."

"Team Rubicon gives veterans

purpose, community and identity," said McNulty. "It inspires men and women to take an oath and face their fears, and be a part of a mission once again." McNulty conveyed this importance through the stories of veterans as well as personal stories of his own, including the suicide of a friend, Clay Hunt.

This story was used as an example to stress the importance of giving veterans opportunities to reintegrate themselves into their everyday lives.

When deployed to a natural disaster area, Team Rubicon

"Team Rubicon gives veterans purpose, community and identity. It inspires men and women to take an oath and face their fears, and to be a part of a mission once again."

-William McNulty

members perform debris-clearing and search-and-rescue missions.

Robert Cunningham, associate professor of economics and U.S. Army veteran, attended the event on Monday. Cunningham was very impressed with McNulty's presentation.

"He delivered a strong message about the value of service, both to our communities and our country," he said. "He focused on the importance of helping veterans reintegrate into civilian life."

"I am a different kind of veteran than the current generation," he continued. "While I was on active duty in the U.S. Army and in the U.S. Army Reserves, I was never deployed to war. That being said, when I first left the Army, I felt a sense of a lack of purpose in my life, and a strange sense of disconnect with civilian life. I think that what Team Rubicon does for this generation of veterans is fantastic and much needed, given the suicide epidemic amongst the Afghanistan and Iraq War veterans."

When McNulty spoke last Monday, the chapel was full of students from every grade. Cunningham said that his students

"were very moved and motivated by Mr. McNulty. They generally seem to think that what Team Rubicon does is very valuable, and just, well, cool, especially given the difficulty this generation of veterans is having with reintegration into civilian life."

Kathleen Collingwood ('17) attended the Veterans Day program and shared her insight on McNulty and Team Rubicon.

"I thought it was really neat how two veterans who were just normal guys started such a successful organization" Collingwood said. "I think Team Rubicon benefits veterans in the same way that war does. They are providing service [in the military] and when they return from war, that sense of doing good is gone. Team Rubicon is something that can help to fill that void and help victims of natural disasters at the same time."

Katie Dwenger ('14), another lecture attendant, said, "I found the lecture really interesting. I didn't know they had opportunities like that for the American military veterans. It is important for students to attend assemblies like this so that they become aware of all of the things

"I thought it was really neat how two veterans who were just normal guys started such a successful organization. . . . Team Rubicon is something that can help to fill that void and help victims of natural disasters at the same time."

-Kathleen Collingwood ('17)

that veterans do for us after the war. They don't just stop serving us after their time. They are always helping out in communities, whether they be residential or in suffering countries abroad.

"The whole thing was really eye opening to learn about the way natural disasters are dealt with in the country."

Spanish students commemorate Day of the Dead with altars to the deceased

Celebration of Mexican holiday Día de Los Muertos takes place at local eatery El Vaquero



Brittany Leppien: Staff Photographer

Día de los Muertos takes place on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1. Students in Spanish classes worked in teams to create ofrendas, or altars, to remember deceased members of the Hispanic community. Ofrendas include photos of the departed, as well as his or her favorite objects and mementos. The altars serve as memoriums of the deceased, and they allow people to come together and celebrate the lives in both this world and the afterlife of those who have passed. Each altar generally consists of pictures, flowers, candles, and items that represent the deceased person, such as his or her favorite foods and drinks. For example, the Frida Kahlo altar included some of her paintings and had a few paint brushes spread around the table to represent her career as an artist. Students were tasked with creating altars to commemorate the lives of important Spanish-speaking figures, such as Selena (above), Cesar Chavez (right), and more.



Writer reviews past communication blunders

By RAY VISSER
STAFF WRITER

In light of recent events, I decided to do some Internet digging to turn up some of the most entertaining public-knowledge gaffes and blunders. In reverse chronological order:

In 2000, a British Royal Navy officer stationed at the Pentagon somehow unintentionally added 15-year-old British student Claire McDonald to the recipient list of emails meant for another officer in London. This doesn't sound too bad, except for the fact that the correspondence regarded confidential military intelligence.

Looking back on this story in the age of WikiLeaks and Edward Snowden, I can't say for sure the situation would turn out the same in 2013. But Claire, ever the conscientious citizen, caught on right away, and sent a reply to the officer explaining that she was receiving the wrong emails.

According to the extremely reputable British tabloid "The Mirror," the officer sent a response claiming Claire was having a problem with her Internet service provider, and continued to send emails.

The teenager received about 250 confidential emails over the next six months. Presumably those were in addition to the standard messages regarding requirements for education majors or campus announcements written in Comic Sans typeface, but we can't be too sure.

The topics were wide-ranging. Some emails contained

discussions of communications problems aboard Royal Navy warships, which is perhaps not the most exciting subject. But others detailed important parts of New Zealand's national defense strategy, which I imagine somehow involves Ents or maybe the Balrog greeting hostile forces as soon as they set foot on the islands.

"But Claire, ever the conscientious citizen, caught on right away, and sent a reply to the officer explaining that she was receiving the wrong emails."

- On Claire McDonald's response to the emails.

Imagine: you're 15 years old, you check your emails, you receive confidential emails on New Zealand's national defense strategy in between your warnings on gambling and the updates on your homework from teachers (or whatever it is that 15-year-olds email about).

There's no word on how—or if—the situation was finally rectified. I'd like to think Claire was hired as a Royal Navy Intelligence officer, in which case she probably takes the title of "Most Intelligent."

A more famous incident involved that great star of the

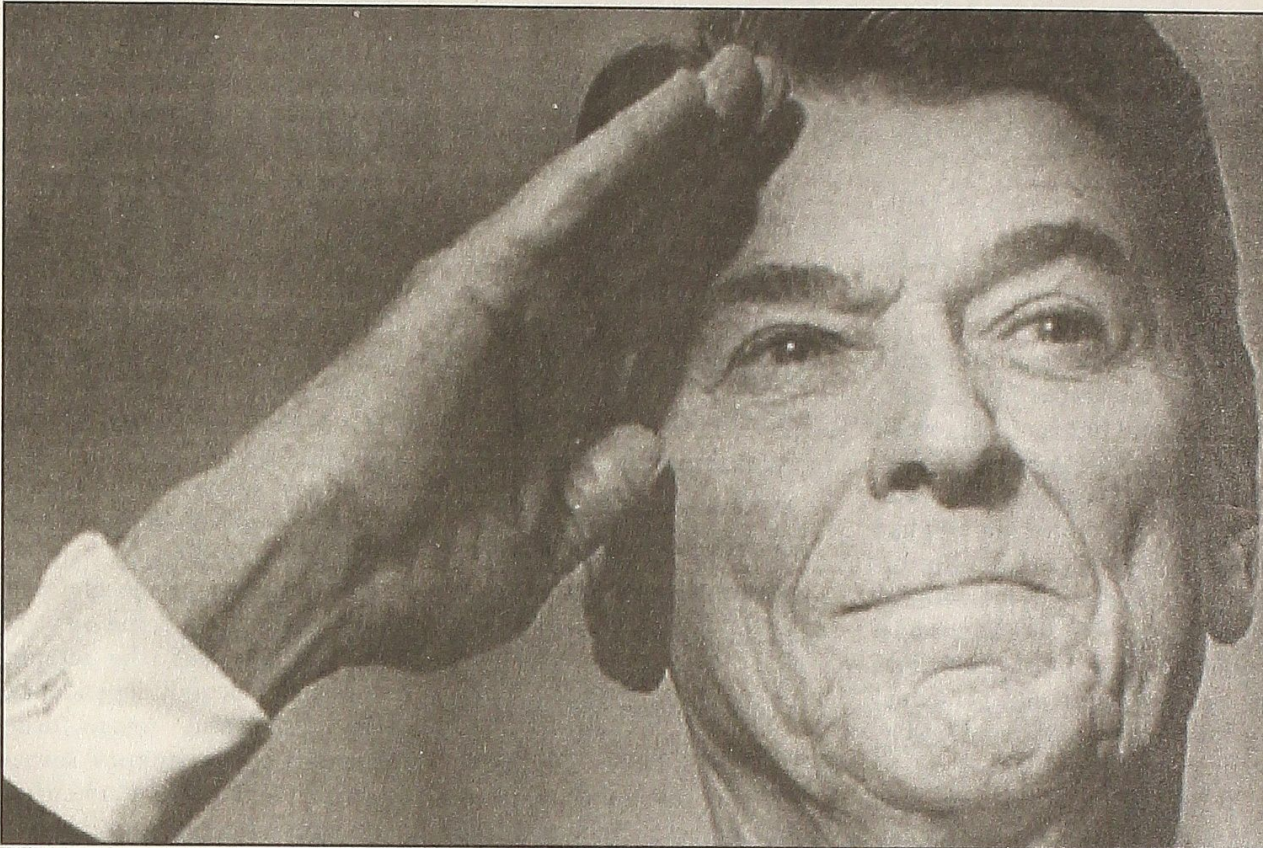


Photo courtesy of thehairpin.com

Ronald Reagan successfully scared all of Russia in his joke, "My fellow Americans, I'm pleased to tell you today that I've signed legislation that will outlaw Russia forever." It was recorded and broadcast. The Russians prepared for a possible attack. Nice job, Ronny Rea.

silver screen and the international stage: none other than the Gipper himself, President Ronald Reagan. During the off-air soundcheck for a weekly NPR broadcast in August 1984, the Great Negotiator slightly modified the address he was going to give for the sake of a joke only NPR's sound technicians were meant to hear:

"My fellow Americans, I'm pleased to tell you today that I've signed legislation that will outlaw Russia forever. We begin bombing in five minutes."

In the five-second-long audio file, available online, some chuckles bubble up in the background from the NPR techs, who were clearly laughing because they knew they

had just recorded a valuable bit of international comedic history. The President proceeded to announce his original message on air—that he had signed new laws allowing religious student groups to meet in public high schools—and probably left the studio thinking nothing of his joke.

Little did he know, however, that the NPR employees would later leak the outlawing-Russia clip to other news sources, who immediately broadcast it. Evidently the only people who didn't find the joke as funny as the President were the Russians themselves, as the section of the Soviet Army stationed closest to both Japan and the United States

increased their combat readiness as soon as they heard that they (and the ground beneath their feet) had been outlawed, just like that, with one stroke of the pen.

Personally I think that outlawing Russia forever would have been a quite effective way to stop the Cold War in its tracks, and I'm unsure why this course of action wasn't taken seriously.

At any rate, these incidents just go to show that all the famous gaffes of history—whether over email, on the microphone, or otherwise—are not quite the end of the world, even when they concern such dangerous topics as national security, nuclear weapons, or (do I dare?) gambling.

Winter brings Christmas, snowfall, cheer and cold

By MECHON CAREW
STAFF WRITER

It nips your ears and bites your nose, it chaps your lips and then it snows. Winter is coming, and there is nothing you can do about it.

Yes, it is that time of year again, when many moan and groan over premature nightfall and Jack Frost is slipping into every crevice of your home. Yet, despite those that attempt to hide under a fortress of blankets and hibernate through the winter, there are people who actually enjoy the snowy season.

Believe it or not, I am one of those people.

What started off as a purely logistical fondness of a couple of months without rampant outdoor allergies has evolved into a genuine appreciation of what winter brings to the world. So I will share this love to those who may dread and despise the seasonal changes occurring in hopes of spreading that Christmas spirit.

Honestly, Christmas (or Hanukkah, Kwanza—whatever you celebrate) is a good place to start. It may be the only reason that people even tolerate the winter months. After all, who in their right mind is going to say no to presents, egg nog, and cookies?

Well, maybe the lactose intolerant...but there are still presents and cookies, right?

Yet personally, I used to be quite apathetic towards the celebration. Christmas songs

annoy me after about the first week of November, I dislike large gatherings of people (even my family), and as I grow older, I am the one who has to buy presents, and that is not fun, I assure you.

"Yes, it is that time of year again, when many moan and groan over premature nightfall and Jack Frost is slipping into every crevice of your home."

- On the approach of winter.

Yet Christmas is steadily rising in my heart due to my baby brother's absolute adoration of the holiday. Although he is rather used to being spoiled with presents throughout the year, this is the one time where he gets to give back through Secret Santa at school. If nothing else, let me tell you that seeing the sheer joy on a six-year-old's face when he hands you a present he picked out himself can make anyone smile, no matter what the present is.

So when you're shuffling to class against the bitter winds, just remember that you have Christmas to look forward to. All that "good will towards man" stuff is heartwarming, isn't it?

What, is that not enough to keep you happy? Thought so.

Well then, think about the copious amounts of hot chocolate that is socially acceptable to

drink this time of year. In fact, it is almost expected of you to stay warm and cozy, even though I'm pretty sure hot chocolate doesn't really keep you from getting sick.

There's also the fact that sitting at home all day, curled up in a blanket and watching movies is also perfectly fine. Even those ugly sweaters that are creeping in the black darkness of your closet have some use, since no one actually judges you based on your ugly sweaters. They all have them too, against their will, and

it's OK.

However, my personal favorite part of winter is, in fact, the snow. Although I may not be a fan of either slush or blizzards, those gentle snowfalls are absolutely beautiful. Not to mention that sticking out your tongue and catching stray snowflakes is possibly the most fun thing to do ever.

The best part of snow, though, is going outside after everything has stopped. I love just strolling around and gazing fondly at the

wonderland surrounding me.

It's as if I have been transported to a whole new, sugarcoated world. Trees are iced in snow that sparkles when the sun comes out, and everything is quiet and peaceful, and it just makes me unquestionably happy.

Winter is a great season, and even though it is cold and dark most of the time, there are good things that come of it. Namely, spring, with its warmth, sunshine, and pollen. Lots and lots of pollen. Yuck.

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!

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

The business manager handles sales of advertisements and subscriptions. Contact Chelsea Fouts at fouts1cm@alma.edu for further information.

Swimming and diving team falls to MIAA rival, Albion

BY SHAWN LARNER
STAFF WRITER

A positive mindset swooped over the Alma College swim team in the days leading up to last Saturday's meet at Albion College. That mentality did not lead to a Scots victory, however, as the men fell by a score of 175.5-104.5 and the women were defeated 168.0-128.0.

Divers will look to rebound Dec. 5 and 6 at Calvin College in

a diving-only event, while the swimmers will attempt to right the ship at Carthage College on Dec. 6 and 7 in a swimming-only meet.

Last Friday, the day before the match against Albion, Coach Bill Copland expressed his enthusiasm about the meet.

"We are excited for what should be a very competitive meet this weekend," he said. "We've looked good in practice leading up to it and expect good results. The Union Jack Trophy that we won last year is on the line and we really don't want to let them (Albion) have it."

Albion came away with the win, though, and the Scots had to deal with the tough loss.

"It was unfortunate to lose to Albion," Senior Captain **David Case ('14)** said, "but there were a lot of individual swims that were great and I am excited to see what we can do at our midseason meet."

Several women finished on top of their respective events. For diving, **Bailey Sopjes ('17)** won both events, recording scores of 237.80 in the one-meter and 223.0 for the three-meter.

Miranda Anderson ('14) was the first to finish in the 500

free, where she posted a time of 5:30.83. She also captured the top spot in the 1650 freestyle with a time of 19:21.09. Teammate **Taylor Musselman ('17)** took second place in the event.

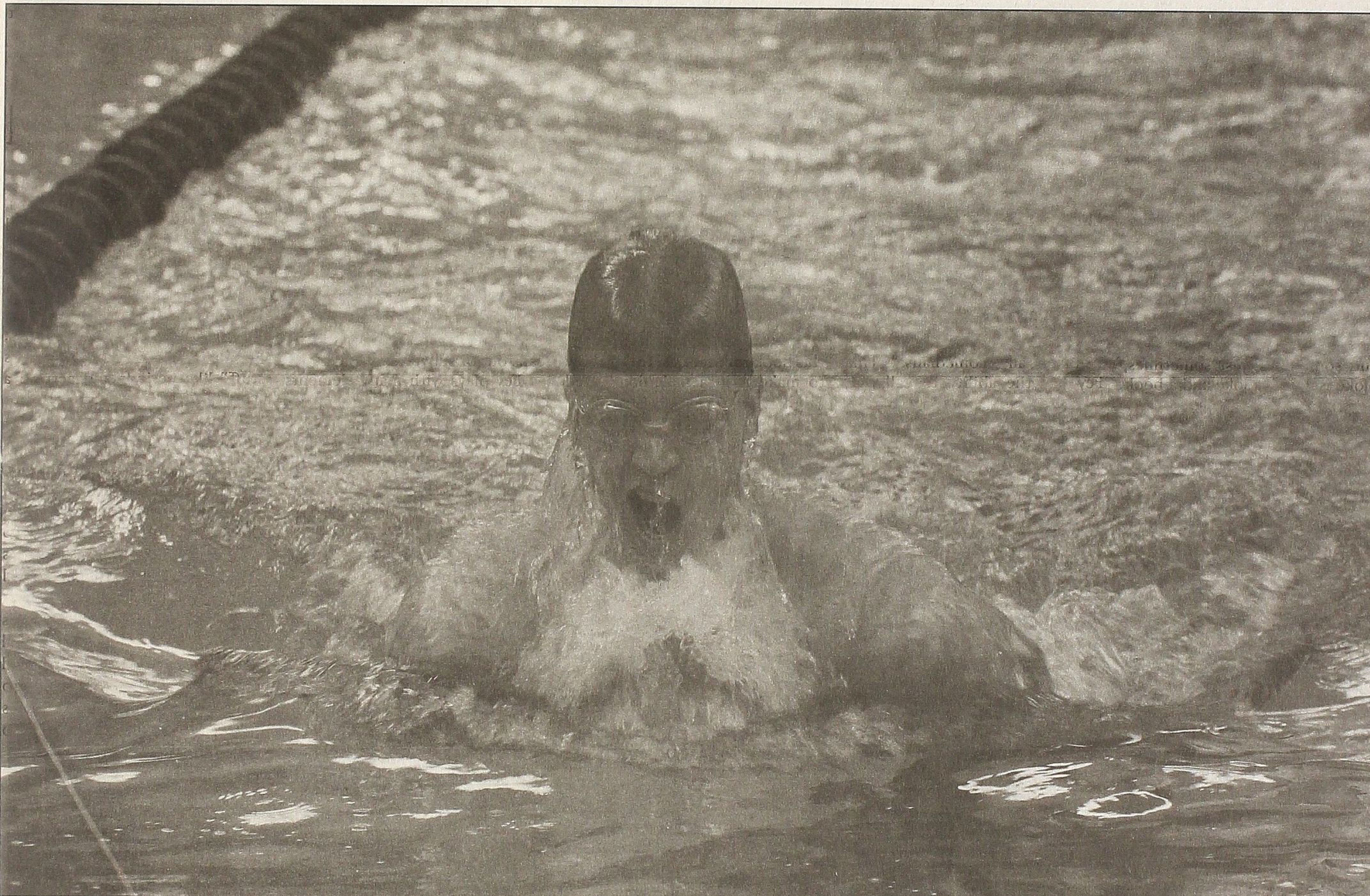
Sara Stemen ('17) rounded out the victors for the Alma women. She led the pack in the 100 fly with a time of 1:04.30.

Hannah Schroeder ('16) and **Jaclyn Shetterly ('16)** both came in second in their event, the breaststroke and the 200 fly, respectively. Schroeder finished with a time of 1:12.6 while Shetterly recorded a time of 2:24.11.

The men were led by **Daniel**

Biggs ('15) who won four events: the 200 free, 200 fly, 200 IM, and the 200 medley relay. He finished with a time just under 54 seconds in the 200 fly, as he reached the wall at the 53.99 mark. His clock stopped at 2:04.51 in the 200 IM. The relay team of Biggs, Case, **Heath Thornton ('14)**, and **Ian Moore ('15)** swam to a time of 1:40.79.

Moore also took second place in the 100 breaststroke with a time of 1:04.42 and third in the 200 breaststroke with a time of 2:22.34. **Cody Kayser ('15)** was also a second place finisher, with his coming in the 200 fly.



Katlyn Chirwood: Staff Photographer

Daniel Biggs ('15) won four total events for the Scots last Saturday against Albion. He won the 200 free, the 200 fly, and the 200 IM and then joined teammates **Heath Thornton ('14)**, **David Case ('14)**, and **Ian Moore ('15)** to win the 200 medley relay.

Alma wrestling defeats No. 23 ranked Wheaton College

BY JUSTIN KETTERER
STAFF WRITER

Coach Todd Hibbs said he thinks the Alma College wrestling team is off to a good start on the year, coming off a 23-16 win over No. 23 ranked Wheaton College last Thursday.

"On paper [Wheaton's men] were favored by 10 points," Hibbs said. "We had some big wins over some good wrestlers there."

The next meet for the Scots will be at Olivet when they take on the Comets for the Olivet Duals on

Saturday.

Daniel Martinez ('17) and **Cody Sullivan ('17)** were two of the good wins that Hibbs talked about. **Jamie Jakes ('16)** had a win over a nationally ranked opponent, according to Hibbs.

The match took place at Allendale High School, the alma mater of Alma Captain **Jared Groenveld ('15)**.

"Jared has our highest team GPA at 3.86 and the match was at his old high school," Hibbs said. "He defeated Dan Olson, who was a returning All-American and represented America on the junior world team this summer."

Groenveld beat Olson on a 6-1 score. The Scots took six out of the 10 total matches.

"It was a really good win for us at Wheaton," said **Collin Lesko**

('15). "Beating a nationally ranked team always feels good."

On Nov. 9 the Scots took second place out of 15 teams at the Washington and Jefferson Invitational in Pennsylvania.

Matt Tuttle ('14) was named champion of the match and was also named *d3wrestle.com's* "Wrestler of the Week."

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"Matt is our only senior; he transferred here after we started

the program," Hibbs said. "He was champion of the meet in dominating fashion."

Alma beat teams at the invitational that were nationally ranked in both Divisions II and III. Hibbs said that overall it was a good meet for his team. Alma finished second behind another Division III school.

Last Saturday the Scots competed in an open match at Trine University.

"We [didn't] take the 10 starters there, we let them rest after the match against Wheaton," Hibbs said.

The Scots won the match at Trine, and had wrestlers take the second and fourth spots overall in the open.

"Just because the meet is only the 'JV' guys [doesn't mean it isn't]

still important," Hibbs said.

"In wrestling, the JV is extremely important because you can have guys go down a lot with injuries or skin issues. The meet at Trine [was] be a good opportunity for some action for some guys," Hibbs added.

Josh Jensen ('16) was the runner-up at the tournament and his teammate **Cory Livingston ('17)** took fourth place.

"It was a good day at Trine," Jensen said. "I went 2-1 in my matches and we beat them."

"We were a solid team today and it was real nice for me to finish runner-up."

"Our focus will be on Olivet now that Trine is behind us," Lesko said. "It's a league meet so we need to focus and get ready to win."

Football defeats Trine, 31-13, in final game of the season

By **JUSTIN KETTERER**
STAFF WRITER

It took until the 10th try, but the Alma College football team won a game on the season finale last Saturday. The Scots beat Trine University, 31-13.

The win ended a 14-game losing streak for Coach Greg Pscodna's squad.

"I know on paper we're a 0-9 team," Pscodna said Friday, "but we've been in a lot of games and lost a lot of close ones, we believe

we're as good as a .500 team.

"We're really excited going into this last game," Pscodna said. "It was a tough year losing a lot of games that we were in; we want to end on a good note."

"Rally around the Scots" towels were given away to the first 300 fans last Saturday; Pscodna said they were trying to get the fans pepped up for the game.

The Scots end the season tied with Trine at the bottom of the MIAA with a 1-5 conference record and a 1-9 record overall.

Alma is graduating 11 seniors from its football program, and Pscodna said that the whole team appreciated what they contributed to the character and success of their team.

"The seniors are a great group of guys. Of course they're disappointed about our record like everyone else," Pscodna said. "[But] we've improved since the start of the year, and wanted to rally around our seniors and send them off with a win."

One of the seniors who is graduating is **Jarrett Leister ('14)**, the starting quarterback for the Scots.

Leister ended his Alma career with a 17-28 passing performance with 158 yards and a touchdown. He also added 35 yards of rushing on 11 attempts.

Another senior, **Austin McClelland ('14)**, returned an interception for a touchdown when he picked off a Trine pass

and took it 34 yards to the house.

"It was great to end the season with a win," McClelland said. "The seniors have really grown together and it feels real good to end it on a good note."

Tyler Watters ('15) added three scores for the Scots. One was on a reception from Leister, where Watters scored on a 97-yard kickoff return, and ran one touchdown in on a 41-yard run.

Jon Bricker ('14) led the Scots in rushing with 62 yards on 14 attempts.

The Scots' leading tackler was **Adam Nelson ('15)**, who totaled 11.

Pscodna said the team was motivated after the Scots lost to Kalamazoo College on Saturday,

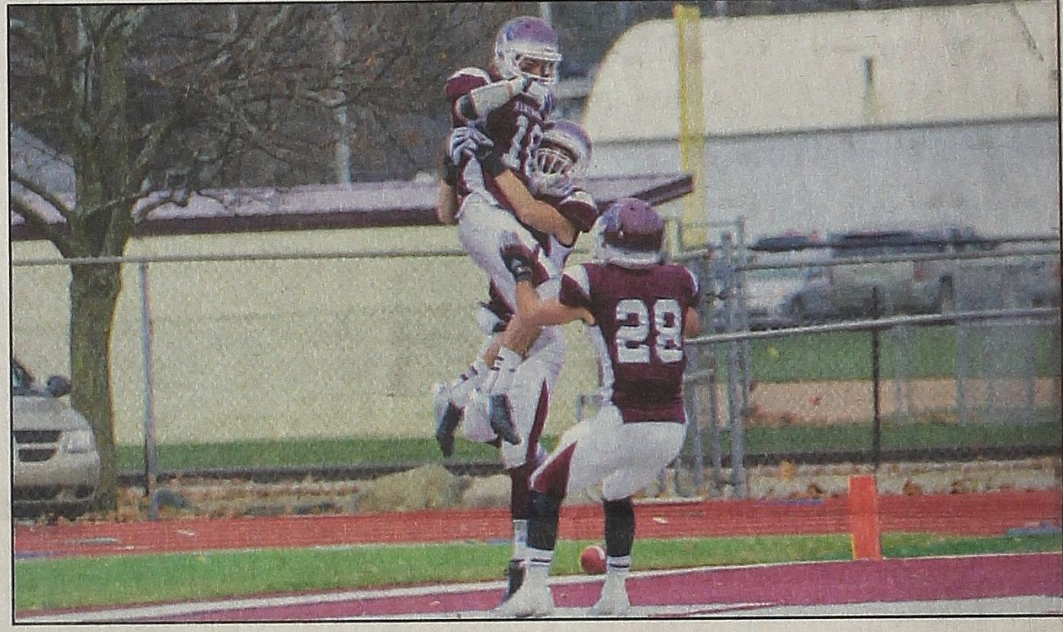
Nov. 9. Alma fell to the Hornets 21-3 that day.

"The game was closer than the score indicated; we gave up a touchdown off a pick-six," Pscodna said.

"We missed two field goals and the offense sputtered at times. [It was frustrating because] we had a chance to win that game," added Pscodna.

The players said that they were very excited to get a big win and rally around the seniors and take the victory.

"We were all happy for the seniors and the coaching staff; this was a huge win for us and the team really came together and found our groove," said **Brandon Wegenke ('15)**.



Katlyn Chitwood: Staff Photographer

(Top to Bottom, Left to Right): Austin McClelland ('14) had an interception and a touchdown for the Scots last Saturday against Trine. Tyler Watters ('15) contributed three touchdowns for Alma. Eric Strickler ('15) had seven tackles and two interception returns against Trine. Jon Bricker ('14) took a turn ringing the victory bell after the game.

Men's basketball opens on a long road trip and a pair of losses

By **SHAWN LARNER**
STAFF WRITER

exhibition game last Monday by a score of 76-44, the Scots followed up that performance with two losses on the road to start their regular season 0-2.

They will look to find a tally in the win column Wednesday, when they host Defiance College. The game is set to tip off at 8 p.m.

Last Friday Alma took on Allegheny College and dropped the game 77-67. It was a tough match to lose, given it was the season opener as well as a back-and-forth game to the very end.

The score was knotted up at 37 at the end of the first half after there were nine lead changes. Allegheny came out in the second

half and took over the lead, but the Scots fought back to regain a lead of their own and were up 56-51 with 12 minutes to play. They were still clinging to a two-point lead with just over 8 minutes to go, but that is where the tables turned.

Allegheny roared with a 10-0 run to take charge in the game, and then never let the Scots close the gap.

Isiah Law ('14) and **Scott Nikodemski ('16)** led the way for the Scots as they each poured in 15 points. Law contributed seven rebounds and three assists as well, and Nikodemski snagged five boards with three assists and

two steals. **DJ Beckman ('16)** was also a strong contributor to the game with 11 points, five rebounds, three assists, and two steals.

They came back on Saturday and got outplayed from the opening tip. The Scots found themselves trailing 61-35 at the half, and wound up falling by a score of 115-84 to John Carroll University.

The Scots fell behind right out of the gate and never saw the lead in this one.

"We were outclassed in every way today," Coach Sam Hargraves said after the loss. "We have a long way to go to become the team I think we can be. That's the nice

part. I wouldn't be very optimistic if I felt we played as good as we are capable this weekend.

"Basketball is a long marathon season. We have three more opportunities this week that will tell us more about who we are and what we have," he said.

After turning the ball over just nine times in the opener, the Scots gave away possession 21 times against John Carroll.

Brandon Krause ('14) led the offense for Alma. He netted 11 points and dished out six assists in the loss. **Tyler Walden ('16)** scored 10 points to help pace the Scots, and also recorded three boards along with three assists.