

Former Scots feel storm's wrath



Photos courtesy of Jacob Champion

Above: Apart from eliminating electricity in many parts of New York City, Hurricane Sandy has flooded and damaged sites such as the Europa Cafe at 199 Water Street.

Above Left: This parking garage on William Street flooded, leaving many cars at least partially submerged.

Left: The water lifted this car onto the curb and left it just slightly out of place in its wake.

BY ELLEN MARTIN
STAFF WRITER

Sandy might have faded from the strength of a full-blown hurricane to that of a tropical superstorm, but she still was powerful enough to cause a 13.88-foot storm surge in the southern tip of Manhattan, over 8.5 million power outages, and 74 deaths in the U.S. alone.

The whole nation was affected by Sandy's wrath when the storm made landfall last Monday, but some Alma alumni got to experience the storm first-hand.

Anna Dysinger ('11) and Jacob Champion ('11) live in an apartment in the financial district in New York City—close to Wall Street and Battery Park. Because they live on the 11th floor, they didn't suffer damages from the flood, although they are without electricity and water.

"The only thing that gave us any indication of what the weather was like outside [when the storm hit] was a plastic tarp that was being used to cover an exposed section on the building across from us," Champion described. "We could see and hear the tarp blowing

around in the strong winds but other than that we had no clue what was going on, especially after the power went out and we no longer had the news to give us updates."

When they walked around the financial district the next morning, they were confronted by uprooted trees and cars floating out of flooded parking garages.

"All of downtown smells like gasoline because of the flooding and contamination from cars that got caught in the storm," said Champion.

"The worst damage we saw was at the Seaport," Dysinger said, adding that the Seaport is a string of stores along the East River. "We were walking along Water Street and saw a bunch of mannequins lying in the road so we knew it had to be bad. Windows were shattered, clothes were strewn everywhere, restaurants were destroyed."

The J. Crew store at which Dysinger works was damaged by the flooding and will have to be rebuilt. Also, because the public transportation system is down, she is unable to get to the Hearst Building, where she has an internship with Elle.

Angela Flynn ('12), who also lives in New York City and attends NYU, had a similar encounter

with Sandy.

"During the storm, I kept thinking about the massive tree that I have right outside my apartment," she added. "It wasn't like a normal storm back at home—it was all wind and rain, but the wind sounded almost like thunder. It's difficult to describe. But all I kept thinking about was that tree, and how I hoped it was strong enough to withstand Sandy!"

As of Wednesday, Flynn's apartment was without electricity, water, and internet, so she stayed at a hotel a street down from her apartment. She said that while walking there, she came across an uprooted tree.

"It was the size of the tree outside my window," she said, "so I'm happy that my tree didn't get pulled up by winds!"

"I have never experienced anything like this before, at least

not alone," Flynn concluded. "I've never been in a city that has experienced flooding like this. And I've never experienced a storm where people have been killed as a result of the destruction."

Elaine Cunningham ('13), who is spending the semester at the Philadelphia Center, was also affected by the storm, but not as severely as those in New York.

"When I first learned we were in the path, it was then I started getting a little worried," she said. "Before we were just told there was a possibility we would have some of the aftermath of it, but then it was looking more and more like we would experience it first-hand."

Monday morning passed by uneventfully, with some wind and rain but nothing more, Cunningham said.

"We got really bored in the afternoon so we walked to the

CVS around the corner to get a pumpkin carving kit. When we got outside and turned the corner of our street to face the park, we actually realized the wind was very strong, but because our house is a townhouse and blocked in by others, we weren't getting the full effect. Signs were blown over, huge puddles, leaves and small branches were everywhere, the baseball diamond at the park by our house was flooded, cops were out in their cars patrolling the streets."

Cunningham said the area where she lives did not get hit very hard compared to other areas, however.

"I know a lot of people lost power in the outer cities but we did not...Just looks like a thunderstorm came through over here. Obviously others weren't so lucky, and our thoughts, prayers, and efforts go out to them."

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Partly sunny	Windy with rain	Cloudy, showers	Possible shower	Sunshine	Light clouds	Mostly cloudy
45°	42°	46°	48°	49°	52°	52°

Proposals crowd Michigan ballot

By LILLIAN MALONEY
STAFF WRITER

Tuesday's election will have voters decide the fate of six different ballot proposals.

Five out of the six are associated with making amendments to the state constitution. The other one is a referendum.

"I'm astonished that there are so many proposals on the ballot this year," said Kristin Olbertson, a professor of history who teaches classes on American law.

All of the information regarding the proposals comes from the website of the League of Women Voters in Michigan. For further information on these proposals, as well as the pro and con arguments for them, please visit <http://www.lwvmi.org>.

The first proposal is a referendum for Public Act 4 of 2011- The Emergency Manager Law. Voting on this proposal allows Michigan citizens to decide whether or not this will be a law. The proposal would "authorize governor to appoint an emergency manager upon state finding of a financial emergency, and allow the EM to act in place of local government officials." The information on the site also states that voting "yes" on proposal one would "require the EM to develop financial and operating plans, which may include modification or termination of contracts, reorganization of government, and the determination of expenditures, services, and the use of assets until the emergency is resolved."

"I wish I could say it's easy to figure this stuff out," said Olbertson. "You just need to read

this stuff and think about it."

The second proposal, as well as the others, all deal with making amendments to the state constitution. In the second proposal, it talks about "amending the state constitution regarding collective bargaining." By voting "yes" on this proposal, it would "grant public and private employees the constitutional right to organize and bargain collectively through labor unions."

An amendment to establish a standard for renewable energy

"Voters should know that they can bring a cheat sheet into the voting booth with them. There's a lot to keep track of, and they don't have to vote on the proposals. They don't have to vote on everything."

-Kristin Olbertson, history professor

would be added to the state constitution if proposal three were passed. It would "require electric utilities to provide at least 25% of their annual retail sales of electricity from renewable energy sources, which are wind, solar, biomass, and hydropower, by 2025."

"All you need to do is start by looking at this stuff and using your common sense," said Olbertson.

If proposal four were to go into effect, it would amend the state constitution to "establish

the Michigan Quality Home Care Council (MQHCC) and provide collective bargaining for in-home care workers." This proposal would "allow in-home care workers to bargain collectively with MQHCC and continue the current exclusive representative of in-home care workers until modified in accordance with labor laws."

By passing proposal five, an amendment would be made "to limit the enactment of new taxes by state government." In effect, this means that it would "require a 2/3 majority vote of the State House and the State Senate, or a statewide vote of the people at a November election, in order for the State of Michigan to impose new or additional taxes on taxpayers or expand the base of taxation or increasing the rate of taxation."

"I think there are two questions voters should ask themselves: How do you feel about amending the constitution?" said Olbertson. "And do you support the proposal?"

Enacting proposal six would make an amendment dealing with "construction of international bridges and tunnels." Essentially, this proposal would "require the approval of a majority of voters at a statewide and municipality where "new international bridges or tunnels for motor vehicles are to be located." This would occur before any real work was to be done by the State of Michigan concerning the bridges or tunnels, according to the information.

"Voters should know that they can bring a cheat sheet into the voting booth with them; there's a lot to keep track of," said Olbertson. "And they don't have to vote on the proposals; they don't have to vote on everything."



Photo courtesy of Seth Faulk

Above: Alison Chamberlain ('11) went on the Authors of the Key West spring term in 2011. For spring 2013 classes, limited slots are available.

Select "S" courses continue enrollment

By JOSHUA ZEITLER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Though the hefty fees associated with "S" courses may scare students away, the actual experiences you can gain from them are priceless.

These classes take place during spring term, generally occurring around the month of May, and take students outside the proverbial Alma bubble.

"Spring Term at Alma offers exciting opportunities to learn in different formats and environments," according to the 2013 preliminary schedule. "It's a great time to explore and learn about different people and places and to focus your studying on a single topic."

In the past month, students have been searching the catalogue and enrolling in one of these courses. Alma College requires

each of its students to take at least one "S" course before graduating.

For those still searching, some spring terms have a limited number of slots left for students to fill.

For example, Professor of English Carol Bender's spring term, "Writers of the Key West," still has room for a few more participants.

"[The course] is a thematically and regionally designed literature course focusing

on travel to develop historical and cultural awareness as it adds to the richness of the

American literary experience," according to the preliminary schedule.

Like many other classes, "Writers of the Key West" can be taken at the 100 level or for upper level credit.

Professor of History Liping Bu's "China Past and Present: History and Culture" also has spaces available. This course can fulfill one of a student's "Quill" requirements.

Bu's curriculum highlights the richness and diversity of China's history and culture.

This week at Alma College

Tuesday, November 6:

Election day - get out and vote!

ACUB presents Trivia Night in Stucchi's, 7 p.m.

Friday, November 9:

WQAC 90.9 FM presents Koji in Stucchi's, 7 p.m.

Alma College Dance Company concert in Heritage Center, 8 p.m.

Saturday, November 10:

Alma College Dance Company concert in Heritage Center, 8 p.m.

Sunday, November 11:

Alma College Dance Company Concert in Heritage Center, 3 p.m.

Alma College Jazz Ensemble concert in Heritage Center, 8 p.m.

Election day approaches

By CRYSTAL SNOW
STAFF WRITER

Election time—it's finally here. For months now we've been listening to the biased commercials, reading the ads in newspapers and magazines, and avoiding the awkward political conversations with friends. We've seen campaign support in forms of yard signs stuck in yards or propped in window front and bumper stickers right and left.

Some might just be ready for it to be Wednesday and for it to be all over with.

Many Alma students sent in their absentee ballots, or registered a while ago to vote come Tuesday in Alma. Some will even make the trek home to get their say as to who will be running our country for the next four years.

Colleges are notorious for raising the interest and cause of voting and getting the point out that it's a civic duty to do so.

For many this election is their first presidential election or first chance to vote at all.

Here in Michigan, there's more on the ballot than other states across the nation. Yes, there is the Presidential category but as well as senators and house representatives in Congress and for State Legislature on there.

Many individual counties have prosecuting attorneys up for election along with sheriffs, county clerks and commissioners. Don't be surprised to see Supreme Court Justices, justices for the court of appeals, even probate or district court justices on there too. There might even be district school board members up for election or re-election.

The ever-mind boggling six proposals takes up the back of Michigan's ballot. Countless are familiar with the propaganda about them littering the television commercials, filling our mailboxes with pamphlets and the frustrating phone calls that just never seem to have an end.

One of the more confusing sections on the front of the ballot revolves around three public universities in Michigan, and doesn't directly affect any of Alma's students. The University

of Michigan, Michigan State University, and Wayne State University all ask the entire voting population of Michigan to vote for their regents, trustees, and governors.

Professor Edward Lorenz, who works in the Political Science department, is familiar with the ballot, and also confused as to why the people have a say like this.

"It's silly because unless you live near the school itself, more than likely you don't have a clue who the candidates are," said Lorenz.

University of Michigan, MSU, and Wayne State are considered the three primary public universities in Michigan.

"I don't have a real answer why we [Michigan] do this. I think we're the only state that has this on their ballot. There's enough on there with senators, county officials and the list goes on," Lorenz commented.

"This is my first presidential election to vote in and why was I given the choice to pick officials at colleges I don't attend?" said **Christine Wiersma ('16)**. "It didn't add up to me when I filled out my absentee ballot."

Nationally, Michigan has a relatively long ballot.

Campus buildings host benign ghosts

By BENJAMIN KING
STAFF WRITER

Rumors of ghosts and ghouls generally circulate throughout campus. During the Halloween season, these whispers are more and more frequently heard in the halls and academic buildings.

A possible source of these rumors is the considerable amount of history attached to the college; in its 126 years, the campus has seen quite a lot.

Although only one centennial building remains, some students and faculty believe that other things linger from Alma's long past.

The Oscar E. Remick Heritage Center was opened in 1993. Tragically, during the construction of the building a worker named Lee A. Montague was killed in an accident. While this occurred nearly twenty years ago, some still believe that Montague's spirit remains in the Heritage Center.

Matthew Crossman ('13) said, "[The Heritage ghost's] name is Lee, as in Lee A. Montague, the worker who died while constructing Presbyterian Hall. In the hallway behind Presby, there's a plaque on the wall dedicated to Lee."

Like many of Alma's "ghosts,"

Lee is thought of lovingly and affectionately.

"Lee, now our ghost, is benign for the most part; his place in our theater is in the catwalks, where we hang the lighting instruments," said Crossman.

"Lee is a good soul. We mostly attribute him with little foul-ups or something mysteriously dropping from the catwalks."

-Matthew Crossman ('13)

However, for the most part doesn't equal all the time. "At least thrice a week, there are odd, indistinguishable noises coming from up there [in the catwalks]. Several weeks ago it sounded as though it was raining outside, yet there were no clouds in sight nor rain on the ground," said Crossman.

"Lee is a good soul. We mostly attribute him with little foul-ups or something mysteriously dropping from the catwalks."

The Heritage Center is not the only locale on campus believed to have a resident specter.

Rumors pinpoint Gelston Hall as home to a more feminine haunter for many years: Mary Gelston, who served as Alma's

first dean of women. Since the construction of Gelston Hall in 1956, students have reported hearing a woman's voice and other unexplained sounds. However, like Lee, the ghost of Mary Gelston is considered a benevolent one by most students.

Suspensions concerning the haunted nature of the Gamma Phi Beta sorority house began swirling last winter.

"Rumor has it that he's the ghost of a former TKE member that lived in the original TKE house who passed away while living there," said **Elizabeth Knappe ('13)**, a resident of the house. "When the house burned down, Gamma Phi took in a lot of the TKE housies, and that's how he came to haunt this house."

Unlike Alma's other ghosts, the Gamma Phi ghost has an unusual name.

"We can't have boys spend the night, so we named him 'Marge,'" said Knappe. "Marge is friendly, but likes to scare the housies from time to time. He rattles the banister and paces back and forth at night. We did a lot of renovations over the summer, and he was especially active at that time—he slammed doors, moved stools."

For the most part, it seems Alma's ghosts are gentle if not always friendly.

Alma is home to many things, even possibly ghosts. These ghosts and specters could help explain some of the mysterious things that happen on campus while adding a little mystery themselves.



Kayla Keenan: Staff Photographer

The ghost of Mary Gelston, Alma's first dean of women, is thought to haunt Gelston Hall, making her presence known with unexplainable noises.

Dance company features modern and ballet pieces

By LILLIAN MALONEY
STAFF WRITER

The first recital of the Alma College Dance Company (ACDC) will feature a little something for everyone to enjoy, according to Director Carol Fike.

"The first half of the show will feature modern dance, while the second will feature ballet," she said.

The recital will premiere

on Friday at 8 p.m. It will then run throughout the weekend: performances will be on Saturday at 8 p.m. and on Sunday at 3 p.m. According to the events page, tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for seniors, and Alma College staff, students, and youth 18 and under are free.

The recital features three different parts. "Bach and Forward" is a dance piece that combines the music of Johann Sebastian Bach with modern dance, according to the show's program. The second piece is called "Window Stories" and

features two principal dancers, adjunct dance faculty member Kristen Bennett and guest performer Brandon Koepsell, who act out the life of a couple, among other dancers.

"It's about people's lives; we all have our own stories," said Fike. "It's about a relationship that's not going well and there are watchers who look through windows."

The final dance features excerpts from "The Nutcracker." According to Fike, it's accessible and everybody knows the music, which makes it familiar and nice to close the show with.

Fike said the 22-member dance company began training and practicing for this recital on Sept. 4, as soon as classes began. The recital's first selection was choreographed by Maxine Steinman, a dancer and choreographer from New York City.

"What an experience to work with a professional," said Fike. "It speaks loudly of the support for the arts that Alma College has [that] we are able to bring in guest artists to work with students."

Fike said that Steinman stayed on campus as a part of her 10-

day residency. She rehearsed with ACDC and taught two different dances to two different pieces. The dances were rigorous and complicated, fast and with lots of patterns, according to Fike.

"The most challenging part of the dances this year was just the timing," said **Carolina Cortes ('13)**, one of the senior dancers. "At least for me, musicality comes with time."

Cortes said that the "Nutcracker" excerpts were practiced first in September and the Bach piece wasn't started until the beginning of October. So, mastery of the "Nutcracker" took roughly two and a half months and that of the Bach piece took about a month.

Cortes said one challenging aspect was making sure to move at the time she's supposed to move. The music is clear and so are the steps, so the difficult part was getting her body to do everything correctly and on time.

"I'm excited for the performance," she said. "It's probably the best part of our hard work: family and friends come to enjoy and support us while we do something we love."

Fike has been with ACDC for about 30 years. She said that the dedication and passion are what keep her going. She praised the dancers for how driven they are and would like to thank them for their hard work; it couldn't happen without them.

"Year after year, concert after concert, it's the students who drive this program," said Fike.

Student jazz ensemble performs musical variety

By CRYSTAL SNOW
STAFF WRITER

It's fall, a time of peace and calm as the weather changes and daily outfits see more layers added. The holidays are just around the corner, but not before the annual concert cycle has its chance to show off the campus's many talented students.

Sunday brings the Alma College Jazz Ensemble's performance in Presbyterian Hall at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for seniors 62 and up, and free for Alma College staff, students, and youth 18 and under.

Part-time professor Carlos Melendez is conducting and overseeing the performance.

Jazz can sometimes take on different meanings depending on

the venue of performance. "I think jazz in the realm of this concert to me means another way of playing the same notes," Melendez said.

The program features a variety of music, ranging from Sonny Rollins, whose pieces are considered more along the current standard of jazz music, to Frank Zappa and Tower of Power, an American rhythm and blues band.

Sunday's concert, however, is not a huge performance: concertgoers will see on stage only two trumpets, one player each of the alto, tenor, and baritone saxophones, and one trombone, as well as a rhythm section.

"It is a little big band, not a full jazz band," Melendez said.

The ensemble wants to expose the student body, as well as the general audience in the Alma area,

to the wide diversity of styles present within the genre of jazz music itself.

"I am not a jazz Nazi," said Melendez. "I grew up with the rock of the '60s plus classical music, jazz, and the Latin realm of my country back in the Caribbean. I love all music."

"Jazz is a very unique genre of music that is oftentimes underrated. I think that many college students could enjoy and appreciate watching the Jazz Band," said Jonathan Clark ('16), a soloist in this fall's performance.

According to Melendez, the concert's other soloists are **Jay Angus ('13)**, **Andrea Woody ('13)**, and **Jacob Schmeltzer ('14)**.

"I encourage all students who participate on the different ensembles to play in the jazz band

if they'd like to," said Melendez. "It would be a great challenge for them to broaden their own personal horizons."

"I've never been to a jazz concert, and college is all about trying out new things. Maybe I'll have to check it out," said **Ashton VanKoevevering ('16)**.

"We all enjoy performing, and we hope that we can draw an audience who enjoys listening to our music for this first concert," said Clark.

"I also encourage those who are undecided about majors and really do love playing music to join the music department and study with the professors that the music department has," said Melendez. "They are great musicians and great educators, and the serious music student can gain a lot from studying with them."

Romney, Obama outline their views, plans if elected

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
EDUCATION FUND

The League of Women Voters of Michigan, a nonpartisan organization established to encourage citizen participation in government, compiled its 2012 Nonpartisan Voter Guide with answers received after directly contacting political campaigns with a request that answers be kept to a maximum of 500 characters. The responses were published as received, with spelling and grammatical errors intact. The following is a selection of questions and answers from that guide.

Query: Please identify your top three goals if elected.

Mitt Romney: The first priority of a Romney Administration will be to create 12 million new jobs and get our economy going again. We must get our fiscal house in order. President Obama has put our nation on an unsustainable course. As president, Mitt Romney will set the country on the path to a balanced budget. And he will ensure we have a military so strong that no adversary would want to test it.

Barack Obama: As a nation, our challenges can be met by rebuilding the middle class and our economy on a stronger foundation. I have laid out a set of

concrete goals on manufacturing, energy, education, national security, and the deficit that will create jobs, expand opportunity, and create an economy build [sic] to last.

Q: In this time of high unemployment, what are the most important things that should be done to improve our nation's economy?

R: Mitt Romney will get America back to work by reforming our tax code so businesses can hire more workers, developing our domestic energy resources to create new jobs here at home, reversing burdensome job-destroying regulations—including Obamacare, and ensuring Americans receive education and training for today's jobs. His plan will also get spending under control to prevent a debt crisis.

O: When I took office we were losing private sector jobs at a rate of nearly 800,000 a month. Now we have experienced 30 straight months of private-sector job growth, creating 4.6 million private sector jobs. I have proposed steps to create a million more jobs by preventing teacher layoffs, putting construction workers back to work, bringing jobs back from overseas, and helping small businesses grow.

Q: Please explain why you do or do not support cutting Medicare and Social Security to address the federal deficit.

R: Entitlement programs like Social Security and Medicare are large parts of the federal budget. Mitt Romney's plan to reform these programs will not only protect the benefits and services of current seniors and those nearing

retirement, but will strengthen the programs so they are available for future generations.

O: Social Security and Medicare are sacred compacts with seniors who earned benefits after a lifetime of hard work. I added eight years to the solvency of Medicare without cutting benefits by cracking down on waste, fraud, and subsidies to insurance companies. I have proposed steps to strengthen Medicare and Social Security without slashing benefits or subjecting it to the whims of the stock market.

Q: Please explain why you do or do not support requiring timely and full disclosure of all political expenditures in federal campaigns.

R: Mitt Romney understands that money can be a corrupting influence in politics. But layers of regulations have not taken money out of politics; they have instead created a system of PACs that are not accountable to the candidates they support. He believes the best solution is swift and full disclosure of all donations to candidates. This allows the American people to hold politicians accountable.

O: Powerful special interests should not drown out the voices of the American people. We need to pass the bipartisan Disclose Act that would establish the toughest-ever disclosure requirements for election-related spending. I also support campaign finance reform, by constitutional amendment if necessary.

For more questions and answers, consult the League of Women Voters of Michigan Voter's Guides found around campus.

Koji concert unites music with strong activist message

BY ELLEN MARTIN
STAFF WRITER

Andrew Shiraki, better known as Koji, is a musician and activist from Harrisburg, Penn. He has advocated on behalf of the homeless in America as well as the child soldiers used in the Lord's Resistance Army with organizations such as Resolve, the first U.S.-based initiative seeking solely to end to the crisis of the child soldiers.

"Change happens locally and globally, and Koji hopes to influence both the music scene and the political landscape," according to Resolve's official website.

On Friday, the Alma community will get to experience this blend of music and advocacy. Koji's concert, which will take place at 7 p.m. at Stucchi's, is sponsored by WQAC and Amnesty International.

Kaitlyn Gordon ('13), general manager of WQAC and a fan of Koji's music, brought him to Alma during the past two years through her roles as DJ and music director.

"I originally heard about Koji from some of my friends at home who'd seen him and everyone said it was an incredible musical

experience," she said. "I find his music really meaningful because he [unites] his music with activism and he's really passionate, which makes it exciting for the audience."

Gordon says that the past few times that the college has hosted one of his concerts, people talked about his music and his message for days afterwards.

So this year, when the radio staff was deciding which musicians they should invite to the college, Koji was a popular choice.

"We just love his passion and energy—he's a great artist and person," said **Ashley Yuill ('13)**, DJ representative for WQAC. "We're all really big fans of Koji."

"At his last show in Alma, we had an activism section where we wrote letters to our representatives about U.S. policy in combating the Lord's Resistance Army in Uganda," Yuill said. "Not a lot of musicians are passionate about global issues and justice like Koji is. He uses his talent to raise awareness and inspire others to take action."

Richard Cruz ('14), who was also involved in bringing to Koji to Alma, has seen him perform about 12 times.

"I like Koji for his upbeat attitude and the energy that floats about him," said Cruz. "I don't

expect it to be any different from any other show of his I've been to, but watching him play is why I go. He has a kind of pure energy when playing that's lovely to watch."

"We're anticipating a good turnout at the show, especially since Koji has performed here a few times before so he has quite a few fans on campus," said Yuill. "It'll definitely be a great night!"

Gordon is disappointed because she will be out of town when the concert will take place.

"But it was the only date he could come!" she said.

However, she encourages other students to take the time to attend.

"There's something in Koji's music for everyone, whether you're a fan of folk music, or indie music...his music is just so agreeable!" said Gordon. "Or if you're interested in social activism, his songs and then the discussion he has in between songs always makes for a really meaningful concert."

The concert is free and open to the public.

Koji released 4 records in 2010, each a unique effort. He was also recently named one of Alternative Press magazine's "100 Bands To Know For 2011."

Koji is signed with Run for Cover Records.



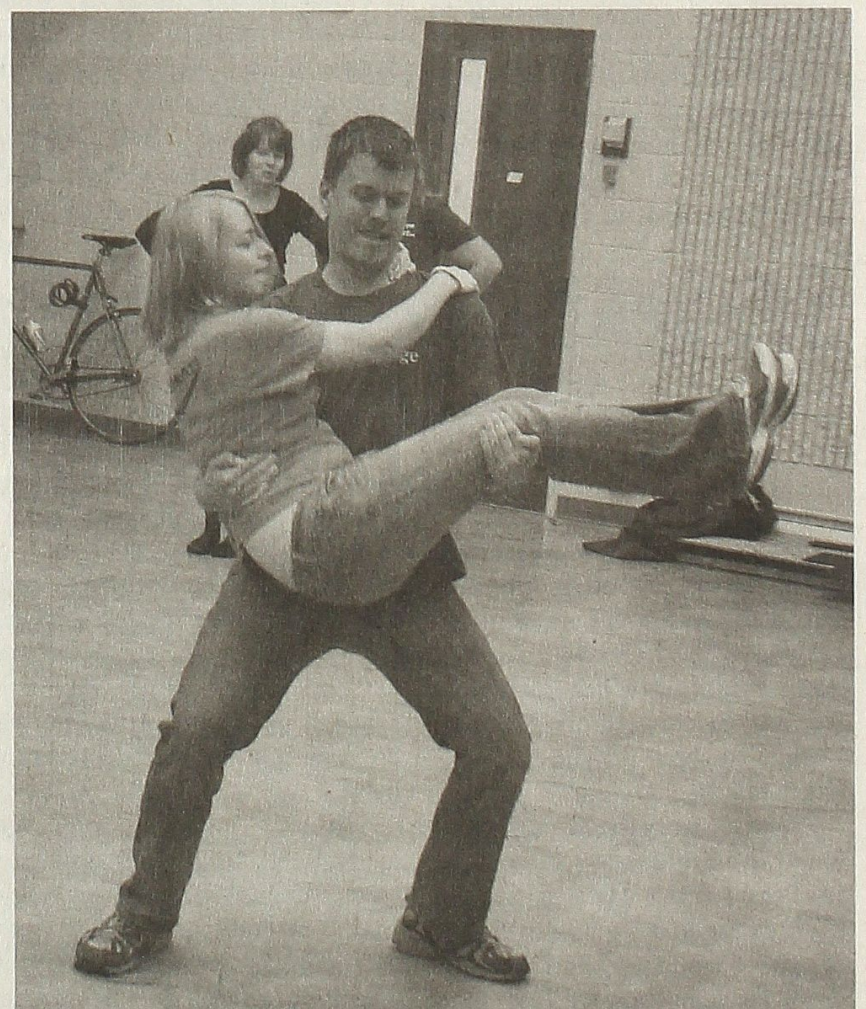
Kayla Roy: Photo Editor

A large number of students, members of the swing dance club Alma College Hepcats, gathered in Eddy on Saturday night for a belated Halloween dance event. Some students were in costume, and others were not.



Kayla Roy: Photo Editor

A number of students from Central Michigan University attended the event alongside Alma students. Alma's Alexander Colwell ('13) dances with CMU alumna Bethany Juen.



Kayla Roy: Photo Editor

Timothy Imber ('13) and Alyssa Leright ('14), both Alma students, prepare to demonstrate an aerial maneuver as part of their unchoreographed dance.

It's not easy paying green

BY BEN KING
STAFF WRITER

New studies have recently been released showing that the cultivation of marijuana can be quite bad for the environment.

Some growers of illegal marijuana cultivate their crops in

“Along with polluting the water with pesticides and fertilizers, many times growers of large scale operations will divert the water supply of small streams, sometimes destroying the environmental quality of some ecosystems, taking the water away from them.”

- On water pollution through pesticides.

national parks and forests. The International Chiefs of Police Association states that growing operations have been found in 67 national forests.

One might ask: how can growing a plant be bad for the environment?

A typical grower of cannabis, who is willing to break federal laws growing an illegal substance, will also be willing to use banned pesticides.

Pesticides that have been banned by the government pollute the air and water. They can also have negative effects on the wildlife in the area. It is not unusual for a cultivator to use excess amounts of pesticide in order to protect their livelihood and crop.

Many times those growing in large quantities will remove trees and other plants from an area. Once they remove their crops, there are no more roots to hold the soil in place. This causes erosion which will allow the soil to runoff from an area.

Along with polluting the water with pesticides and fertilizers, many times growers of large scale operations will divert the water supply of small streams, sometimes destroying the environmental quality of some ecosystems, taking the water away from them.

Once a crop is discovered by authorities, it can take up to \$15,000 to clean up one acre of crop.

Proponents of legalizing marijuana are in agreeance with these claims. Some argue that by legalizing marijuana there would be a decrease in environmental degradation.

Nikki Gloudeman, a senior fellow at *Mother Jones* magazine states, “Cartels routinely use generators, diesel storage tanks and animal poison to preserve their cache, when the border area is surrounded by more than four million acres of sensitive federal



Photo courtesy of massachusettscriminaldefenseattorneyblog.com

Many marijuana farmers grow their plants inside rather than outside in fear of being caught. Because of this, the farmers use high-powered lights to substitute the sun's rays.

wilderness.”

Gloudeman is claiming that if marijuana was legalized, there would be no reason for cartels to traffic the substance across the border.

She also argues that by legalizing cannabis we would be saving lots of energy. Many cultivators grow their product indoors out of fear of being caught.

In order to do so, they must use high energy lights to keep the plants growing. Gloudeman is claiming that if marijuana was legalized, growers could grow outdoors,

using the sun for energy instead of electricity.

“The debate over marijuana is a complex one. It has many facets and issues to be considered.”

- On the difficulty behind stating one's point on marijuana.

Proponents further claim that by legalizing there would be no more need for clean-ups of crops. This would mean that the federal government would no longer need to use harsh herbicides to eradicate the plants.

The debate over the legalization of marijuana is a complex one. It has many facets and issues to be considered. However, the impact of the debate on the environment is one seldom mentioned. It is certainly something that ought to be considered when making a decision regarding the debate.

Victory via valorous and vivacious voting

BY VINCENT VOXPOPULI
STAFF WRITER

“Good evening, America. “Allow me first to apologize for this interruption. I do, like many of you, appreciate the comforts of everyday routine—the security of the familiar, the tranquility of repetition. I enjoy them as much as any bloke. But in the spirit of commemoration, thereby those important events of the past usually associated with someone’s death or the end of some awful bloody struggle, a celebration of a nice holiday, I thought we could mark this November the 5th, a day that is sadly no longer remembered, by taking some time out of our daily lives to sit down and have a little chat.

“There are, of course, those who do not want us to speak. I suspect even now, orders are being shouted into telephones, and men with guns will soon be on their way. Why? Because, while the clenched fist may be used in lieu of conversation, words will always retain their power. Words offer the means to meaning, and for those who will listen, the enunciation of truth. And the truth is, there is something terribly wrong with this country, isn’t there? Cruelty and injustice; intolerance and oppression. And where once you had the freedom to object, to think and speak as you saw fit, you now have censors and systems of surveillance coercing your conformity and soliciting your

submission.

“How did this happen? Who’s to blame? Well, certainly there are those more responsible than others, and they will be held accountable, but again, truth be told, if you’re looking for the guilty, you need only look into a mirror.

“I know why you did it. I know you were afraid. Afraid to speak; afraid to think; afraid of what

“...I thought we could mark this November the 5th, a day that is sadly no longer remembered, by taking some time out of our daily lives to sit down and have a little chat.”

- On recognizing the 5th of November.

would happen had you let your opinion be known. Who wouldn’t be afraid? War; terror; disease. There were a myriad of problems which conspired to corrupt your reason and rob you of your common sense. Fear got the best of you, and in your panic you withdrew. You retreated into your silence, into your homes, to while away your lives while the world collapsed outside. You abandoned all hope in a system that has been in place for over two hundred years.

“Tomorrow is the time to end that silence. Tomorrow is the time

to leave your homes, speak your mind, and remind this country of what it has forgotten. More than two hundred years ago, a group of great citizens wished to embed the ideals of democracy forever in our memory. Their hope was to remind the world that fairness, justice, and freedom are more than words; they are perspectives. They are our rights, and we have neglected them. Let us neglect

them no longer. Let us embrace again the virtues upon which this country was founded and show our government that we will no longer stand idly by as the country crumbles around us. This is your chance to correct the greatest error of our generation.

“So if you’ve seen nothing, if the crimes of this population remain unknown to you, then I would suggest you allow tomorrow

to pass unmarked. But if you see what I see, if you feel as I feel, and if you would seek as I seek, then I ask you to stand beside me in spirit tomorrow as you cast your vote, and together we shall give them a sixth of November that shall never, ever be forgot.”

Based on the screenplay of *V for Vendetta* by Andy and Lana Wachowski

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.

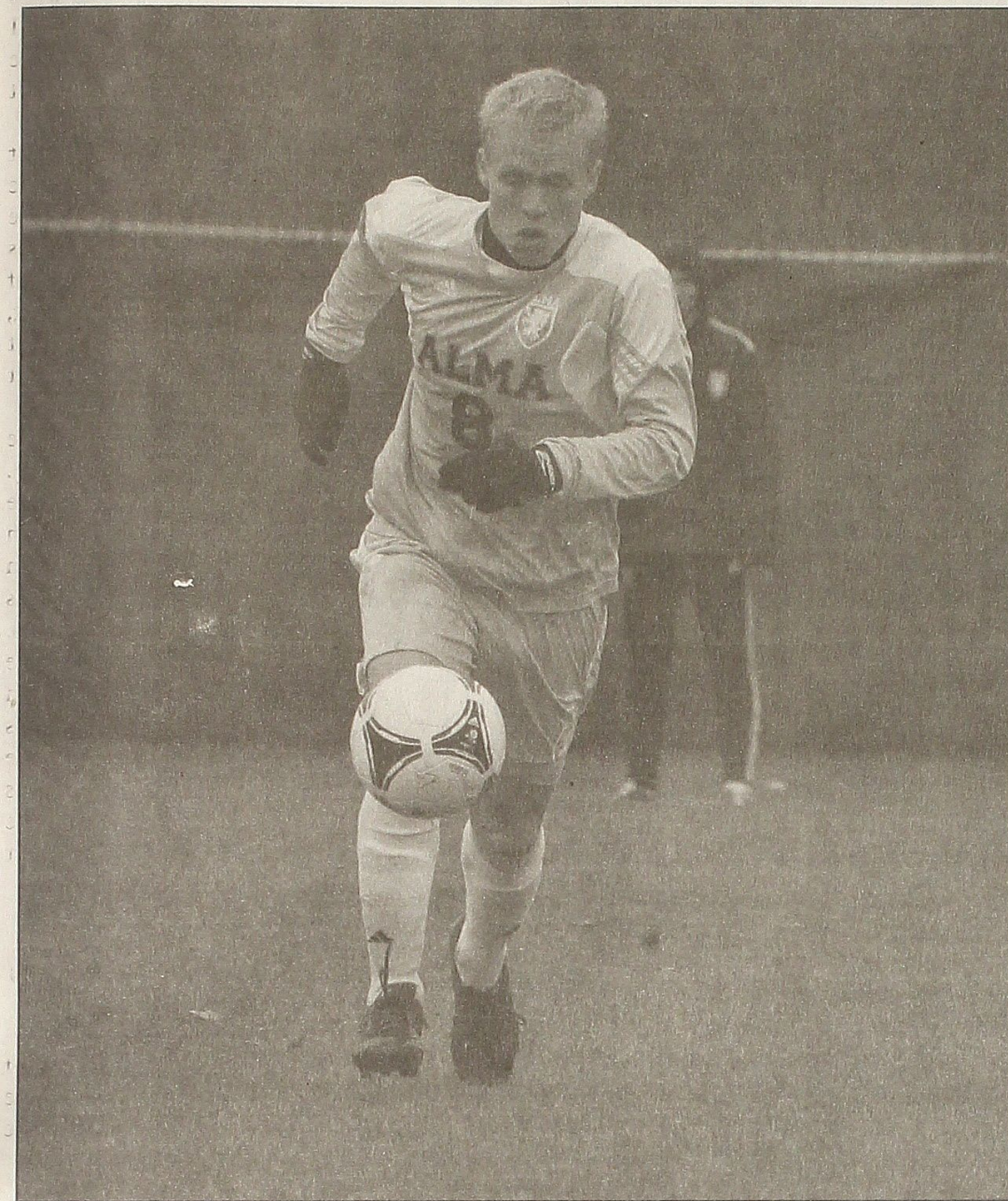
Sudoku difficulty is determined by how many numbers are initially filled in. This sudoku is considered “medium”

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

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

[illegible]

Disappointing end for men's and women's soccer seasons



Katlyn Chitwood: Staff Photographer

By JASON POPIEL
STAFF WRITER

Alma men's and women's soccer both concluded their regular seasons last week, and the women's team clinched the second overall seed in the MIAA Tournament that was held at Hope.

The men's season came to an end with a three game losing streak, including a 3-1 loss to Olivet on October 27, and a 2-1 loss to Calvin last Tuesday. After a disappointing 5-0 loss to Kalamazoo on Senior Day, the women rattled off three straight wins in order to clinch their spot in the conference tournament.

A 5-0 win at Albion on October 27 and a 1-0 win in the final game of the regular season against Trine

Top Right: Chad Buitentuius ('16) had one goal and two assists for the Scots this season. Top Left: Matt Kuberski ('13) is one of three seniors ending their soccer career at Alma College.

propelled the Scots to the three seed. In the MIAA semi-final game last Friday, the women fell to Hope 3-2 in a loss that brought their season to an end.

A spirited men's squad could not pull the upset against Calvin last Tuesday, in a game that was played in dreary, rainy conditions.

Alma's only goal of the game came with ten minutes left in the second half, when midfielder **Max Vanderpool ('15)** scored on an assist from midfielder **Chad Buitentuius ('16)**. Calvin, who has lost only one league game all season, scored both their goals in the first 30 minutes of the game.

Alma concluded the season with a 7-12-1 record overall, and a 3-10-1 record in the league while not qualifying for the MIAA

tournament.

"We had to defend against the clear conference champ and a very big wind in the first half which made things very difficult," said Alma Head Coach Josh Oakley.

"In the second half, we had Calvin on their heels for long periods of time as we played some really good stuff. I think this game really sums up our season, as at times we can have lulls that are typical of a young squad."

The women's team defeated a very weak Albion team 5-0 on October 27 behind two goals from midfielder **Aggie Weddle ('16)**. The other goals were scored by midfielders **Mackenzie Smith ('15)**, **Kalyn Berinti ('16)**, and **Katy Stephan ('16)**. The Scots

led 4-0 at halftime in the game, which dropped Albion to 0-17-2 on the year. Last

Wednesday the squad traveled to Indiana to take on Trine in the game that would propel them to the number two seed in the MIAA tournament. The game was scoreless until just after halftime, when defender **Autumn Root ('15)** score to break the scoreless tie.

Despite the scoreless first half, the Scots dominated play with fourteen shots to Trine's zero.

With their clinching of the MIAA tournament berth, the team traveled to Holland last Friday to take on Hope in the semi-final. A great team effort could not produce a victory, as Hope took the contest 3-2 and

ended Alma's season. The Scots took a 2-0 lead in the first twelve minutes, but three straight Dutch goals in the second half doomed Alma.

Weddle and midfielder **Taryn Handyside ('14)** scored for the Scots, with Handyside assisting Weddle's goal. The ladies finished with a 13-6-2 record overall and 10-4-2 in the conference.

"Blowing a well deserved 2-0 halftime lead is a rough one to deal with, especially after being so disciplined in the first half and executing our game plan to perfection," said Alma Head Coach Jeff Hosler.

"This season taught us many lessons and I'm looking forward to seeing how we learn and grow from them."

Scots football drops final home game, 17-13

By JASON POPIEL
STAFF WRITER

Alma football suffered a heartbreaking loss last Saturday, falling to Kalamazoo College 17-13 on Senior Day at Bahlke Field.

The loss drops the Scots to 1-8 overall on the year and 1-4 in the MIAA. Alma will conclude the season this Saturday, when it will travel to Indiana to take on Trine in its search for that elusive second victory.

"We gave up that one big run play for a score and we're not that good enough of a team to overcome that and it shows," said Head Coach Greg Pscodna.

"The kids played hard till the end but we just didn't make the plays in the second half."

Taking advantage of the momentum gained by the first defensive stop, the Scots offense drove 84 yards in nine plays and took a 7-0 lead when quarterback **Jarrett Leister ('13)** completed

a 23-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver **Tyler Watters ('15)** with just 23 seconds remaining in the first quarter.

The defense then held firm once again and forced a Kalamazoo punt. Alma then marched 63 yards in 13 plays to set up kicker **Jack Pryde ('13)** for a 34-yard field goal and 10-0 Alma lead.

The Hornets began their next drive on the 47-yard line after a personal foul penalty on Alma, and were set up inside the 20-yard line after another personal foul penalty on the Scots. A field goal before the half would make the score 10-3 in favor of Alma at the break.

Alma received the ball to begin the second half of play, but punted. Kalamazoo took advantage of the stop and marched 57 yards in four plays to tie the score at 10-10. On the first play of the ensuing Alma drive, the Scots had the ball stripped by a Horner defender, and the fumble was picked up and ran into the end zone for a 17-10 Kalamazoo lead. After leading 10-3 at half, Alma now trailed 17-10 just

four minutes after halftime.

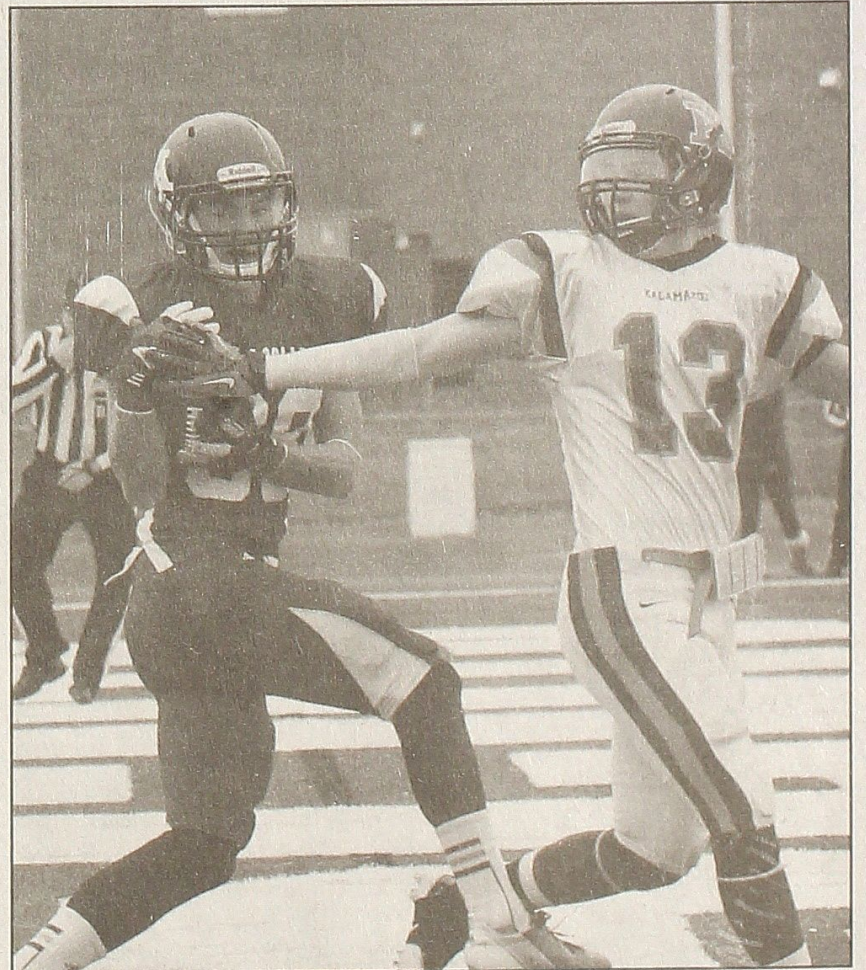
The Alma defense held strong for the remainder of the game, but the sudden and devastating change of momentum proved too much for the Scots to handle. Another field goal by Pryde made the score 17-13, but the score would remain unchanged in the fourth quarter as Alma would drop its fourth game in a row.

Leister finished with 209 yards and a touchdown while completing 14 of his 30 passes. Wingback **Joey Jerisk ('14)** lead the Alma rushing attack with 37 yards on nine carries, and Watters caught three passes for 70 yards.

It was a disappointing day for the Alma seniors, who played the final game of their careers at Bahlke Field.

"It's a weird feeling not being able to step onto Bahlke Field anymore for a game," said Linebacker **Jarrod Lynch ('13)**.

"I don't think it has really hit me yet. I do know that I am thankful for all the opportunities that I have had from being an Alma Scot."



Katlyn Chitwood: Staff Photographer

Tyler Watters ('15) scored the lone touchdown for the Scots last Saturday on Senior Day.

Swimming and diving teams start season with setbacks



Above: Daniel Biggs ('15) placed second in the 400-yard individual medley, first in the 100-yard butterfly and first in the 200-yard freestyle relay last Friday. Below: Kendall Cox ('15) earned fourth and second place in diving last Friday at Calvin College.

By ANNA ARMSTRONG
STAFF WRITER

Last Friday saw the men's and women's swim and dive teams start their season.

The Scots took on the Calvin College Knights at McClure Natatorium. This was the teams' first conference meet of the year, after competing in the MIAA relays to start their seasons and against Saint Mary's College and Hope in another meet.

Thus far this season, the men are 0-2, losing to the Knights on Friday, 145-77. The women, so far, have the record 1-2, also dropping the meet to Calvin, 172-71.

Captain, **Mariah Nawrot ('14)** told her team: "We swam well, we put up a lot of good times. Good job guys, I know it was a long week and you swam well, especially against Calvin."

"I'm really excited because we're going to take on Albion and we're going to race them," Nawrot said.

Barbara Otey ('14) of the women's dive team has already lost a teammate to a concussion this

season, but remains optimistic.

"My goals for the season include learning more dives on 3-meter, setting a higher PR than last season, and increasing my degree of difficulty for my one-meter dive list."

"Our team this year is extremely diverse and so talented. We work together really well and push each other to do the best we can—we have already broken some of our school records," Otey said.

"I am most looking forward to seeing how we continue to develop as a team and achieve our goals."

This year has seen the teams' numbers grow with the addition of many freshmen to both the men's and women's teams. Many older swimmers have said that their first year teammates bring, along with numbers, a lot of positive enthusiasm to the team.

"My goal for the Calvin meet was to survive swimming the 1000 and 500 and get good times for both.

My goals for the season are to get my 1000 under the 12 minutes and get my 500 under a 5:40," said

Taylor Thomas ('16).

"I love being part of the Alma College swim and dive team. They are like my second family. I'm really looking forward to improving over the season and seeing what I can do at the MIAA championships."

Teammate **Victoria Bishop ('16)** commented, "My Goal for the meet was to stay positive and work on the mental aspect of my race. This season my goal is to get personal best times in the 200 free and 100 fly."

"The team this year is collectively a family. Knowing there is that constant support helps get me through the 5:40am practices. What I am most looking forward to this season is seeing my hard work pull off along with the success of my teammates," Bishop said.

Both the men's and women's swim and dive teams have a positive outlook for their season this year. They will compete in their second conference meet this Saturday at home against Albion College. The meet will begin at 1:00 p.m.



Katlyn Chitwood: Staff Photographer

Volleyball season ends in MIAA semifinals

By ANNA ARMSTRONG
STAFF WRITER

The Alma College volleyball team travelled last Friday to take on Hope College in the MIAA Semi-Finals hosted at Calvin College. Dropping all three games saw an end to the match and their season.

The games scored, 9-25, 18-25, and 9-25 respectively. The Lady Scots finished their season 16-13

and 9-7 in the conference. Hope will move on to the conference championship, with a record of 28-3.

During the match against the Flying Dutch, Alma only saw leads twice during their three games: in the first game, 1-0, and in the second set, 2-1. At all other times in the game, Alma had to defend from behind against a very good team, which proved in the end to be too much for the Scots.

During the match, **Erika VanHavel ('14)** led her team

with 19 assists. Teammates, **Taryn McGrew ('15)** and **Lea Klooster ('14)** contributed six and five kills respectively.

Kelly Maise ('14) and **Megan Ballantyne ('13)** paced the team with 11 digs each in the three game match.

Even though the Lady Scots lost last Friday, they had a positive season, ending with an overall percent of .552. For the 29 matches of the season, the volleyball team achieved, an average of 10.69 kills per set, 9.88 assists, 1/62

blocks, and an impressive 16.35 digs per set.

For the entire season, the Lady Scots have achieved 1112 kills, 3657 total attacks, and 1028 assists. The team has also earned, 179 aces, 168 blocks, 1700 digs, and a total of 1459.5 points this season.

The Alma community also came out to support the volleyball team this year. Home attendance totaled 2058 overall, with an average of 257 spectators at each game.

"We weren't proud with the

outcome of our game. Hope outplayed us and we didn't put in the fight we had hoped. As far as the season, It's been amazing playing with all these girls. We pulled out some good wins this year but just needed a little more consistency," said **Elisa Hobbs ('14)**.

This semi-final also marks the fifth consecutive year earning a place in the MIAA Semi-Finals, which will be something for Head Coach Sarah Dehring and the team next year to build upon.