

Popular Indie Group Via Audio plays free concert last Friday

BY LAUREN ANDALORA
STAFF WRITER

Via Audio came to Alma College last Friday, with special guest Unicycle Loves You. "Via Audio...recommended Unicycle Loves You to us, and we were happy to have them here," said **Renee Willoughby ('11)**. Via Audio is an indie pop band from Brooklyn, New York, which gained popularity after Death Cab for Cutie's guitarist, Chris Walla, called them his "new favorite band," according to South by Southwest (SXSW). "I met Via Audio last summer at a show I went to, and they were fun spirited, playful and unique," said Willoughby. "The Duck actually charted them for some time, so when I saw the show I asked them if they would want to play a show at Alma College, and here they are!" **Edward Webb ('14)**, technical director for many concerts at Alma, was in charge of logistics of the electricity and sound. "I made sure to hire a sound technician, who we brought down from Petoskey, as we felt that making sure we had a quality sound engineer running the concert was important," said Webb. "Everything got

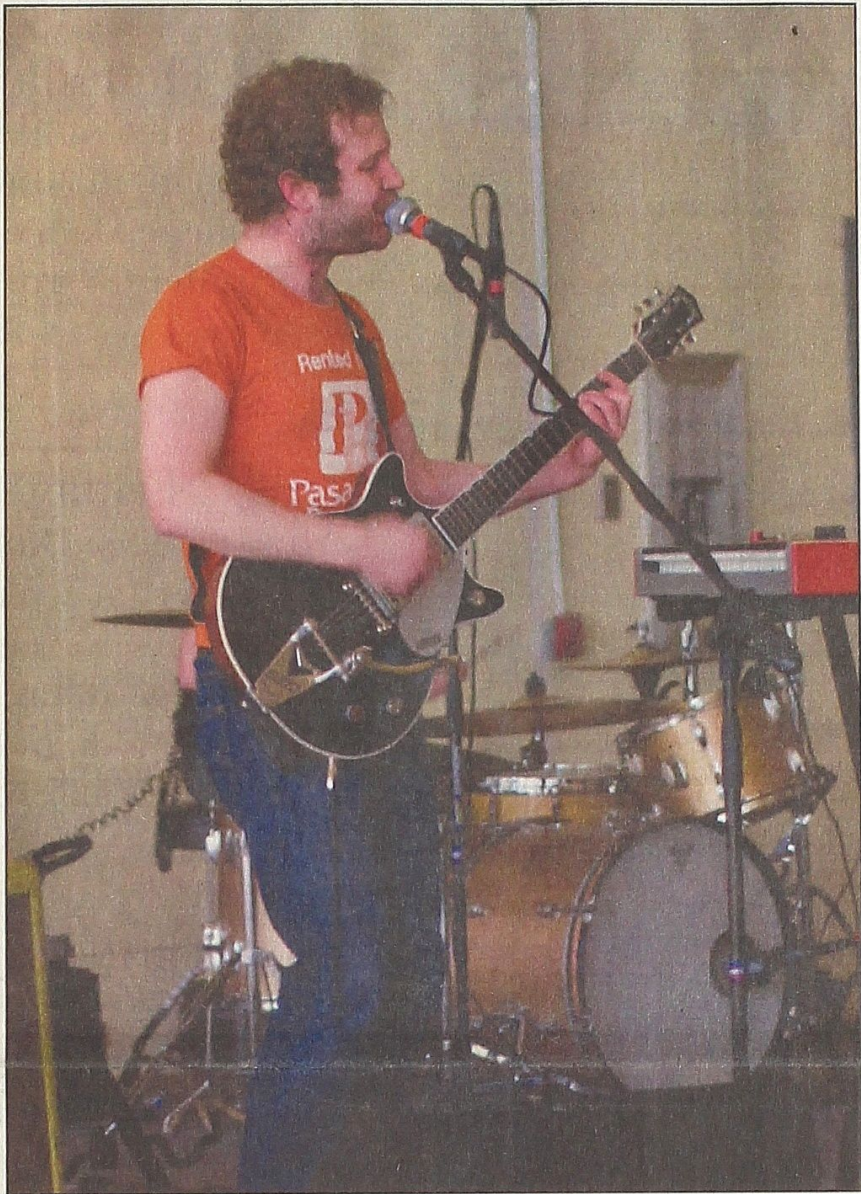


Photo by Simone Boos

Via Audio played a free concert at Alma last Friday, along with special guest Unicycle Loves You.

set up for the concert on time and ran smoothly sound wise." The concert, which



Photo by Simone Boos

The group gained popularity after the guitarist from Death Cab for Cutie publicly praised it, calling Via Audio his "new favorite band."

and were live broadcasting the show through our station," said Willoughby. "From shortly before 8 p.m. until 11 p.m. everyone on campus could hear the show live, which was exciting."

New media studies major approved

BY MOLLY HENNING
STAFF WRITER

The new media studies major was approved March 11, within the communication department, a department now named communication and new media studies. "New media studies is a multi-disciplinary program that combines theory and practice in the study of emerging forms of media, digital information, and technology," said Joanne Gilbert, chair and professor of communication. Gilbert explained that students will do interdisciplinary work with a hands-on media experience, a required internship, and they will integrate their studies of media theory, history, and research with their own applied project work. "The new media studies major prepares people for careers in media industries such as graphic design, audio and visual arts, social media, gaming and simulation, and instructional technology," said Gilbert. "It's a wide-ranging field." The faculty for the new media studies program includes Janie Diels, assistant professor of communication, Michael Vickery,

professor of communication, Raymond Riley, professor of music, Sandra Lopez-Isnardi, associate professor of art and design, and Andrew Thall, associate professor of math and computer science.

"What we've seen is many of our communication majors who focus in our media area have become very interested in new media... so we're well aware that to serve the needs of students, it's our responsibility to provide cutting edge disciplinary study to prepare them to be both producers and consumers in a rapidly changing media landscape."
-Joanne Gilbert

There will also be a new faculty member hired and the search will begin next year and the new professor will start in fall 2012.

There had been conversations about turning new media studies into a major, instead of merely a minor, for the last five years, Gilbert said. "What we've seen is many of our communication majors who focus in our media area have become very interested in new media... so we're well aware that to be serve the needs of students, it's our responsibility to provide cutting edge disciplinary study in to prepare them to be both producers and consumers in a rapidly changing media landscape," said Gilbert. Thus, Gilbert said, the proposal for the new media studies major was initially put forth a few years ago as a potential "signature program," though it was not selected. President Jeff Abernathy, though, put out a call for "new initiative" programs, and new media studies was proposed again. It was selected as one of the four initiatives, meaning it will be funded

contingent upon recruitment and retention of majors. "We're not worried because right now, I think an overwhelming number of our current majors are focused on the media area and we know the new media studies major will attract incoming students as well," said Gilbert. "We anticipate 10 to 15 new students a year being drawn to new media studies, if not more."

"We anticipate 10 to 15 new students a year being drawn to new media studies, if not more."
-Joanne Gilbert

Gilbert explained that the process to get the major was long and arduous, requiring a

great deal of administrative work and numerous meetings among communications faculty, though she notes that through all the collaboration, they have created a very exciting program. Gilbert noted that she is really looking forward to the major for two main reasons. "First, I'm looking forward to students being able to pursue their interests and passions in new media with resources and guidance from the college," said Gilbert. The second aspect that Gilbert said she is looking forward to is the infusion into the curriculum of new energy and ideas from colleagues and the new hire who will join the faculty in 2012. "I think the really exciting part is that just like the communications major, new media studies is interdisciplinary, which, to me, speaks to the whole mission of a liberal arts education which is to forge connections among disciplines," said Gilbert.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Partly Cloudy 51°	Few Showers 36°	Snow Showers 30°	Partly Cloudy 31°	Partly Cloudy 31°	Mostly Sunny 34°	Partly Cloudy 40°

Outside reviewers coming to analyze various departments

By MOLLY HENNING
FEATURE EDITOR

Many departments on campus, including dance and English, are being reviewed this semester by outside reviewers.

"President Abernathy has stated that before a department can do a full-time tenure track search, that department needs to be reviewed by an outside reviewer to determine if, in fact, you need the position," said Carol Fike, chair and professor of theatre and dance.

Fike said that the dance department has an opening for a full-time tenure track position in ballet but, before they can do a search for the position, a reviewer needs to come in.

Chih-Ping Chen, chair and associate professor of English, said that the reviewers come to campus and have conversations with the professors, students, and with the provost, and they also sit in on classes.

"They will then write up some observations about what they think about the program in terms of strengths and challenges, the curriculum, student learning, faculty development, about our relationship with the rest of the college, and the changes that they see the college will be going through and the impacts of those changes on our department," said Chen.

Chen added that the reviewers are all experienced and they are given a set of questions that they are supposed to ask and provide their observations on.

Fike explained that it is a fair amount of work getting ready for the reviewers, with getting the reviewer's portfolio ready, gathering information—

it's a big undertaking for both the provost office and the individual departments.

"We are all very confident that it will reflect a very active, prolific, integrated dance program that is giving current state of the art technique classes, allowing students the wonderful opportunities to perform. We're not nervous in any way, we know we're doing a great job and we're looking forward to [the reviewer's] visit and to hear her ideas."

-Carol Fike

However, Fike said, it's a wonderful exchange and it is all worth it.

"It also looks good for outside colleges to see that we're bringing in people from other colleges to review our programs," said Fike.

Chen explained that the reviewer is chosen from a list of candidates, all who are full-time academic professionals, and the department makes the choice on what kind of reviewer they feel will best suit the needs.

"We bring in people from the same type of school and expertise," said Fike.

"We have the positive attitude that suggestions and feedback will definitely help us see how we do. I think we find this helpful, that's why we agreed to do the review."

-Chih-Ping Chen

Chen said the reviewers are essentially there to be geared to improve the departments.

"The reviewers help us answer some questions about our program and help us make our program better, helping us think about our relationship with the rest of the college," said Chen.

Fike noted that the dance department is not nervous at all for the report.

"We are all very confident that it will reflect a very active, prolific, integrated dance program that is giving current state of the art technique classes, allowing students the wonderful opportunities to perform," said Fike. "We're not nervous in any way, we know we're doing a great job and we're looking forward to [the reviewer's] visit and to hear her ideas."

Chen, too, said the English department is not apprehensive.

"We have the positive attitude that suggestions and feedback will definitely help us see how we do," said Chen. "I think we find this helpful, that's why we agreed to do the review. We want to improve and students always want to see a better program."

This week at Alma College

Tuesday, March 22:
Housing Information Night at 6:30 p.m. in the Rotunda

Thursday, March 24:
Performance of "The Synaptic Gap" at 8 p.m. in Jones Auditorium
Alma College Dance Company Spring Concert (Student Night) at 8 p.m. in the Heritage Center

Friday, March 25:
Alma College Dance Company Spring Concert at 8 p.m. in the Heritage Center
Alma College Relay for Life from 9 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. in the Rec Center
Jock Rock at 7 p.m. in the Cappaert Gymnasium

Saturday, March 26:
Bicentenario Soccer Day at 10 a.m. at the Football Field
Alma College Dance Company Spring Concert at 8 p.m. in the Heritage Center

Sunday, March 27:
Alma College Dance Company Spring Concert at 3 p.m. in the Heritage Center

Active Minds and Psi Chi to perform 'The Synaptic Gap' this Thursday

Who?: Active Minds and Psi Chi

What?: A Performance of "The Synaptic Gap"

When?: Thursday at 8 p.m.

Where?: Jones Auditorium

Why?: "It's an exciting opportunity, because we will be able to educate people and help Chris [the assistant professor at Auburn University who created it]. Mental illness applies to the commonality of college students, whether you know someone, have personal experience, or want to help." -Marcy Gilstad ('11)

By LAUREN ANDALORA
STAFF WRITER

You might have noticed mirrors across campus and in dormitories were covered up near the end of February; this was the work of Active Minds and their Mirrorless Monday project.

Now, through a collaborative effort, 14 members of Active Minds and Psi Chi, will be performing "The Synaptic Gap," on Thursday.

"The Synaptic Gap" is a play by Chris Qualls, assistant professor of theatre at Auburn University.

It was created from over 50 hours of transcribed interviews on the subject of mental illness, specifically major depression, bipolar disorder, and schizophrenia.

"It's an exciting opportunity, because we will be able to educate people and help Chris," said Marcy Gilstad ('11), president of Active Minds and founder of Alma College's chapter. "Mental illness applies to the commonality of college students, whether you know someone, have personal

experience, or want to help." new, more open-minded way."

The play is meant to comfort those who have experienced these illnesses first-hand, educate those who are unfamiliar with mental illness, and raise funds for the mental health advocacy and medical research movement, according to the Auburn University website.

"Even though we aren't acting, the story-telling makes it very real and emotional," said Bill McHenry ('11), treasurer of Active Minds and Psi Chi. "We're not being clinical about it, but sending a message through the stories of overcoming mental illness and removing the stigma to show it is similar to a physical disease."

Its concept is similar to "The Laramie Project," "Speak Truth to Power," "The Exonerated," "The Vagina Monologues," and other plays that critically examine social issues and share human experience through the use of oral history, according to McHenry. "This will be an abbreviated 40-minute version of the entire play," said Gilstad. "I'm hoping it will challenge people to think about mental illness in a

"It's quite emotional and everyone should come out and see it."

-Alexis Louth ('12)

Alexis Louth ('12) will tell the true story of a woman whose sister was bipolar and died as she reads the eulogy.

"I hope it will help people understand and learn about mental illness to take away the stigma and shame," said Louth. "It's quite emotional and everyone should come out and see it."

After the show there will be a bake sale, all goods under a dollar, the proceeds of which will benefit Sonya Sheffert's, late assistant of psychology, scholarship fund.

"Donate even if you don't want baked goods because it's for a good cause," said Louth.

The event will be March 24, at 8 p.m. in Jones Auditorium. "The first 100 people to arrive will get a free stress ball," said Gilstad.

Little Siblings Weekend includes safari theme, many fun activities

By ELISABETH BLETSCH
STAFF WRITER

This year's Little Siblings Weekend theme was "An Alma College Safari," and participants had the opportunity to engage in a range of activities that followed suit.

The event was last Friday through Saturday and, by the first day, 112 siblings were registered for the weekend.

This is slightly below the number of registered siblings from the previous year.

"I think a lot of different schools hold a little siblings weekend because little siblings, cousins, neighbors, etc. will always wonder what college life is like," Katie Musick, Newberry Hall director and students activities coordinator said. "This is a good way to introduce these children to college while having a fun filled weekend."

This is Musick's first year as students activities coordinator.

"She has done an amazing job taking over this position," said **Raeann Dumka ('12)**, a member of the Little Siblings Weekend Committee.

Dumke also added that the whole experience helps entice young people into the idea of going to college and

furthering their education.

"A lot of younger siblings do not understand what college is all about," said Dumka. "Visiting campus gives them an idea of where you go when you leave home. It is also important for children to learn about college early, so they can begin thinking about it for their own future."

Festivities commenced with a carnival on Friday night in the Stone Recreation center.

Inflatable games, the climbing wall, caricatures and sand art were all featured at here.

Additionally, the foreign languages department presented the International Carnival in Van Dusen.

Finally, the night came to a close in Jones Auditorium, where students and their siblings watched "The Jungle Book."

The festivities started up again on Saturday morning when little sibs were invited to watch cartoons in the lobbies of Newberry and Wright Hall.

Then there was a safari pizza buffet in Joe's Place during the lunch hours and open swim in the Hogan Center throughout the afternoon.

One of Saturday's highlights was the student organization event in VanDusen.

"There was a video game tournament put on by ACOG, a story time through Literacy



Photo by Simone Boos

Students took their siblings to partake in a variety of child-friendly activities on campus last weekend, including a carnival, a chainsaw juggling show, and a safari pizza buffet.

Beyond Borders and a science blow-out," said Musick.

"To top it all off, there will be a safari-themed dinner on Saturday night," she added.

Saturday night came to close in the chapel, where the chainsaw juggler, Mad Chad Taylor, performed.

Before heading home on Sunday,

students and their siblings ate brunch in Hamilton Commons.

Students said that they enjoy having their siblings on campus because they do not see them very often otherwise.

"I brought my two nieces for the past two years," said Dumka. "They are still pretty young; one is six and the other is four but

they enjoyed everything about the weekend and not just the planned events. Overall, it's just really nice to enjoy quality time with them since I don't get to make it home very often."

Josh Plaska ('11) said, "I like having my brother here because I don't get home very often to see my family."

Students, professors study lizards in Galapagos Islands during winter recess

By JOSHUA ZEITLER
STAFF WRITER

Chair and Professor of Biology David Clark and Professor of Biology John Rowe began their winter term recess by taking Alma students **Rebecca Mortensen ('11)** and **Mark Stuart ('12)** to the western coast of Ecuador to study the morphological features and social behaviors of lava lizards native to the Galapagos Islands.

The students and professors flew to the small fishing town of Puerto Lopez on Feb. 24 to collect data on one species of lava lizard in Machalilla National Park.

"We were very grateful of how

cooperative the park personnel were in allowing us to come in after hours to work outside of the commercialized setting that most people see," said Rowe.

After a week of research, they picked up Joaquín Alarcón and Cristina Vela, Ecuadorian students attending Universitas Equatorialis, for another week of data collection on the Galapagos Islands.

Supported by the McGregor Fund, the professors have made trips to Ecuador and the Galapagos the previous two Junes.

"This year's research was particularly exciting because of the timing of the trip," said Clark.

"Because we've gone in June for the past two years, we're

usually on the downside of mating season. This year, however, we arrived at a peak mating time."

One major focus of the research team was to discover how species of lava lizards used certain colors to blend in with their surroundings while using other colors to stand out and signal to other lizards in the area.

"We spent a lot of time honing in on the question of how coloration and social behavior were associated with male-male and male-female interactions," said Clark.

In addition, the research team used radio telemetry to track the territorial motions of the lizards, making this the first time the species had been tracked with the use of radio transmitters.

"It's unusual for the females to be so brightly colored," said Clark. "This trait is usually seen in males. We found that many females would patrol their own smaller territories within the larger sphere of a male's territory."

Although the team had little time for recreation, in transit to the Galapagos they were able to snorkel and study some marine life, such as sea lions, dolphins, sea turtles and sting rays.

"We were pretty much on the job 24-7," said Rowe.

"We worked every day until everything that needed to be done was completed," said Mortensen.

Stuart had been a member of last year's research team; however, the undergraduate research



Photo Courtesy of David Clark

The Alma group poses during its research trip to the western coast of Ecuador.

experience remained invaluable for both he and Mortensen.

"At a lot of schools, if students get any hands-on opportunities, it's in a controlled environment where the professor tells them what to do step-by-step," said Mortensen. "In Ecuador, it wasn't just a cut-and-dry laboratory experience - we got to be a part of the decisions and contribute to real-life research."

This was the first field research experience for the Ecuadorian students and Stuart and Mortensen had the opportunity to share their knowledge of the equipment and procedures with them.

The entire research team was extremely grateful for the assistance of the people on both sides of the Equator who helped to bring the international Alma experience to fruition; particularly the McGregor Foundation, Provost Michael Selmon, the Fundación Natura, the Galapagos Island Park Services and Patty Del Corral, a director at Universitas Equatorialis.

"We're really excited about organizing future collaborations and research opportunities in Ecuador and the potential benefits it could have for both of our schools," said Clark.

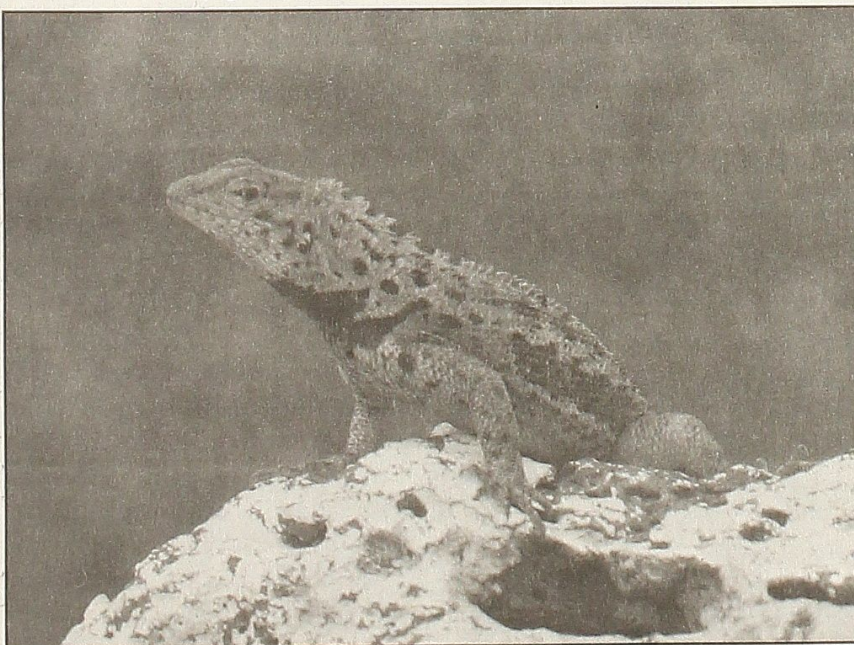


Photo Courtesy of David Clark

The research team focused on studying the lava lizard and its combination of coloration with social habits.

Dance company features ballet, four other pieces in spring concert

By ELISABETH BLETSCH
STAFF WRITER

The Alma College Dance Company spring concert is this weekend. "People should come to this concert because it's just so cool to see dancing on stage," said Carol Fike, professor of dance and director of the Alma College Dance Company. "It hits the humanity in people, because we all move on a daily basis. That means we all dance on a daily basis. I truly believe we are all dancers." "The concert is a wonderful mix of classical ballet, modern and contemporary dance," said Samantha Shelton, visiting instructor in dance. The concert opens with a ballet called "Paquita," choreographed by Shelton to music by Minkus. "The ballet has gorgeous tutus and some wonderful dancing," said Shelton.



Photo by Simone Boos
Dancers rehearse for 'Splash,' which will be featured in the Alma College Dance Company's concert this weekend.

"The solos in 'Paquita' take a great deal of training as well as focused hard work. The dancers are doing wonderfully." "It's very accessible and just lovely; Samantha has done an outstanding job," said Fike. Many of the ACDC dancers agree that it will be well executed. "It's high energy yet elegant at the same time," said **Lindsay Walsh ('14)**. "I'm so honored to have the role of 'Principal' in this piece." "Paquita" makes up the first half of the concert and there are four pieces following the intermission. The first will be "Kaleidoscope Heart," choreographed by **Jaclyn Bodary ('12)**. "Every spring we pick one or two strong pieces from January's Student Choreographer's Concert, and Jaclyn's piece is one of those this year," said Fike. "It's a colorful, uplifting and positive piece. It is so well done. The audience will love it," she added. "Kaleidoscope Heart" is choreographed to music by Sara Bareilles.

Next is "Demanding Such a Penance," choreographed by Kristen Bennett, adjunct professor in dance. "She has choreographed a very powerful and dark piece that is very thought-provoking," said Fike. "Demanding Such a Penance" is set to music by Caedmon's Call. "This is a very emotional and touching piece," said Walsh. "I love being able to portray such deep emotions when I dance." Following this is the second piece from January's Student Choreographer's Concert. "Was Lost But Now Am Found" is choreographed by **Tyler Sheets ('12)** and is set to music by Tracy Chapman. "This is Tyler's very first experience with choreography and it is phenomenal," said Fike. "It is exquisitely put together, with wonderful choreography and intricate attention to details." "Both of the student works, by Jaclyn Bodary and Tyler Sheets, are wonderful," said Shelton. The concert closes with the piece entitled "SPLASH!". Set to music by Steve Reich, this piece is choreographed by Fike. "It's all about loving to dance and passion for movement," she said. "There's no story line or hidden agenda, it's just jumping and soaring and leaping. It's childlike and it's a great way to end the concert." Those involved with the Alma College Dance Company have overwhelmingly positive things to say about the program. "Our group is growing and we have incredibly talented young dancers—there is something for everyone's taste in music and dance," said Bennett. "The Alma College Dance



Photo by Simone Boos

Lindsay Walsh ('14) rehearses one of the solos in 'Paquita.' This ballet will make up the first half of the spring concert.

Company is like a team," said Walsh. "Each of us has different roles, but we all work together to create something bigger and more beautiful than if we were by ourselves." This will be the final concert for three seniors: **Jonathan Morley ('11)**, **Anna Dysinger ('11)** and **Jacki Olson ('11)**. The concert is at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and at 3 p.m. on Sunday in the Remick Heritage Center. Thursday's dress rehearsal is also student's night. No ticket will be needed for the show, which begins at 8 p.m.

Women conquer fear, march across campus to "Take Back the Night"

By JOSHUA ZEITLER
STAFF WRITER

Led by the MacCurdy House, which hosts a variety of events aimed at raising awareness of women's issues, Alma women marched across campus, chanting and shouting for their right to walk the streets without fear last Wednesday. In the form of a traditional rally that began in the mid-1970s, Alma continues to be part of an international movement called "Take Back the Night," which aims to end sexual assault and violence against women. The first documented "Take Back the Night" rally occurred in Philadelphia in 1975, following the murder of microbiologist Susan Alexander Speeth a block away from the safety of her home. In the years since, similar rallies have been held in countries

from England to India and following notable events, such as the conviction of the "Yorkshire Ripper," Peter Sutcliffe.

"Women commonly associate the night with fear. Through 'Take Back the Night,' we believe that it is not okay for women to feel that they must have this fear. There should be no violence, and if the violence were eliminated, the fear would be, too."
-Patricia Reynolds ('12)

"Women have always been taught to be careful at night, to never walk alone, to be aware of their surroundings and to

carry pepper spray, etc.," said **Patricia Reynolds ('12)**, member of the MacCurdy House and co-organizer of the event. "Women commonly associate the night with fear. Through 'Take Back the Night,' we believe that it is not okay for women to feel that they must have this fear. There should be no violence, and if the violence were eliminated, the fear would be too. Women take back the night as their own, emphasizing that violence in any form is unacceptable." Students gathered by candlelight at the McIntyre Mall to listen to Dr. Kate Blanchard discuss the tragic prevalence of sexual assault, domestic violence and rape, as well as what both men and women can do to prevent them. "Violence against women is not solely a women's issue; it's a humanitarian issue," said Blanchard. After the speech, Reynolds led the women to march around campus while the men, led by co-organizer **Nicholas**

Husted ('12), split off to discuss men's role in gender issues. "Men play a large role in the prevention of sexual assault and violence against women," said Husted.

"The greater the number of people who are aware of the double standard against women and the social stigmas that fuel violence and injustice, the more people can do to bring an end to these issues."
-Nicholas Husted ('12)

Husted emphasized the differing gender roles and identities assigned to men and women, as well as the behavioral expectations that go along with them. "The greater the number of

people who are aware of the double standard against women and the social stigmas that fuel violence and injustice," said Husted, "the more people can do to bring an end to these issues." While men can play an important role in ending the violence that makes the night unsafe, part of the event's message was that women can stand up for themselves, too. A big focus of the international movement deals with "breaking the silence," and revealing the staggering number of tales of violence and sexual violation. Each year thousands of incidents go unreported so it was important to shed light on the prevalence of such cases. "I hope that women are more empowered by this event," said Reynolds. "I hope that if one person was able to share their story, another was inspired. I sincerely wish that 'Take Back the Night' motivated victims to speak up and shatter the silence."

Snyder tax hikes draw citizens' ire

By ELIZABETH CORBIN
STAFF WRITER

Governor Rick Snyder has proposed a new bill to increase taxes on low-income workers and taxing the pensions of retired seniors in order to provide breaks to major corporations. The Alma College Democrats feel that this is such a dire situation that they decided to inform the campus last week by distributing fliers and asking that the college community petition the proposal. Snyder, who has never received much attention previously, even made national news with this presented bill. Michigan is now seen as the state with the crazy governor. However, the current situation isn't even ideal or fair.

The proposal would only make a bad circumstance comparatively worse. "Michigan already has a regressive tax system," said Josh Pugh (11). "Someone in the poorest 20 percent of Michigan taxpayers pays 8.9 percent of their income in taxes, while someone in the richest 1 percent pays 5.3 percent." Many are arguing that it is immoral for Snyder to target the working poor, especially in a time of recession, as they are the ones who are hurt the most by added financial strain. I think that any compassionate person would have to agree that the whole system is ridiculously backward and illogical. "Merely adjusting this to a flat percentage for all individuals

would show a willingness on the part of the Republicans to present creative solutions to the issues we are facing as a state," said Pugh. "Instead, they are deepening the divide between rich and poor in this state by cutting funding for public education, threatening environmental regulatory programs, and paying for it with new taxes on the poor and retirees." The money gained from Snyder's proposal wouldn't go toward creating new jobs or help to alleviate the budget issue. Instead, the 1.7 million dollars gained through this increased taxation would all be used to provide a 1.8 million dollar tax break to corporations. How could this possibly make sense?

That extra \$100,000 that would still remain unaccounted for would only intensify the strain on Michigan's budget. Indeed, Snyder wants the rich to get richer under the struggle of the working poor and the retired elderly. Even supporters of the bill can't seem to find a way to depict it in a positive manner. "The Republican party line on this is to tell people that it isn't as scary as the media is making it out to be, yet Senator Jack Brandenburg who supports the bill called it 'financial martial law,'" said Pugh. In spite of this, some feel

that unabashed protest is not the solution to the matter as this particular proposal isn't even extraordinary in comparison to others that have been made. "However, I believe that the most prudent thing for Democrats to do at this point would be to attempt to work with the governor on the legislation rather than fear-mongering and mass protests," said Pugh. "Many similar programs were started by Governor Granholm, with little to no press coverage, and there is little to suggest that there is anything particularly egregious in this version of the legislation."

New artist Rebecca Black tells us what day of the week it is

By MASON WARLING
STAFF WRITER

If you're an avid Almanian reader, it's probably a Monday. But what if it wasn't? What if you gotta be fresh, gotta go downstairs, gotta have your bowl, gotta have cereal? What if it is Friday or, heaven forbid, you were unfortunate enough to hear Rebecca Black's "Friday" song, which went viral for all the wrong reasons? If you haven't heard it, you need to make an important decision: do you want to sacrifice your sanity and brain cells to understand what I'm talking about, or the opposite? The song stands at just under 26 million views at time of print, with dozens upon dozens of spoofs mocking or commenting on the war crime that is this song. Rebecca Black, the artist, is a 13-year-old girl from Orange County, California. Her song, creatively titled "Friday" by her producers,

the ARK Music Factory, cost her parents a pretty penny. Her parents they took Rebecca and her so-called "friends" (though if she were my friend I would warn her if she was making such a fool of herself, and remove myself from her terrible video post-haste) to Hollywood to have a music video shot starring their darling Rebecca. The song starts off simply enough: Rebecca is just yeah-yeahing as a poorly-CGed calendar flips inexorably through the week towards its dark terminus: Friday, which is the end-day (of the school week.) Her clock ticks forward rapidly to 7:00 AM, when she immediately sits bolt upright in bed and sings into a camera about what time it is and that she has to wake up now. Riveting stuff. She then goes downstairs, passively remarks about how she needs cereal while standing around in her foyer, then goes to her bus stop, which is the curb in front of her house, plus one poorly-rendered "bus stop" sign that moves slightly with the camera, whereupon four of the

forementioned "friends" roll up driving a five-seat convertible. Mind you, they're all 13 too, and the two boys both have Justin Bieber haircuts. You'd think she would get in the car, but she doesn't yet. Instead, she casually ponders which seat of the, um, one available seat she is going to take. Unless, of course, she was going to use her status as "Ms. Black" to force her friends to move around in the car to take a different seat? Then, she launches into a haunting chorus that lasts far too long for anybody to enjoy, with awkward camera angles on her tween friends galore. One of the boys really likes to slap the car's door. A lot. A particularly jarring part of the song comes when an obviously much older black guy is filmed riding in his car singing about how much Rebecca likes Friday. If he is going to the same party as her, somebody needs to call Child Protective Services. My personal favorite part of the song is the educational part. Rebecca teaches four of the days of the week: Thursday,

PUZZLE CORNER

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Puzzle courtesy of dailysudoku.com

Multicultural Student Union Logo Contest

Calling all artists! MCSU is looking for a new logo.

The first place winner will receive a \$50 Visa gift card. Submit entries by Friday, April 1st before 5 p.m.

Send submissions to Sara Campbell at 206 Bonbright or by email at campbellrse@alma.edu.

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. music. It's convenient, just in case. Oops. In fact, the whole song was a musical mess. But it doesn't sound good as Double pops.

the Almanian.

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

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

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

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Texting donations not most effective way to help Japan

By ELIZABETH CORBIN
STAFF WRITER

In response to the devastation that Japan has encountered, many Americans want to help by sending donations via text message.

However, this route will not get the money there within the necessary timeframe.

Coverage of the disaster has been displayed on news programming almost nonstop since the tragedy struck on March 11.

The earthquake and resulting tsunami has lead to a confirmed death toll of 7,000 with an estimated

total of at least 10,000 dead. Millions have been displaced and are desperately lacking adequate food and water supplies while they are also without heat in the near-freezing temperatures.

To make matters worse, the natural disasters have caused severe damage to a nuclear plant and there is now a serious danger of radiation. Japan's citizens need help right now.

In spite of this call for urgency, cell phone companies have chosen not to send aid to Japan immediately.

Instead, it could take 90 days for the money to be distributed as they wait for the next billing period to end and be paid for before they begin to process the funds.

Unfortunately, those who send donations through text mistakenly expect that their

money will be rushed to the affected regions in order to provide relief as quickly as possible.

It's not as though these prospering companies don't currently have spare wealth to transfer directly to relief organizations.

In fact, wireless phone companies have been given free media attention to promote these text donations for the disaster in Japan.

Essentially, they have misguided American viewers by portraying themselves as philanthropic without cost.

Senator Barbara Boxer of California has written to the CEOs of Sprint Nextel, T-Mobile, Verizon Wireless, and AT&T urging that they change their plans of transferring donations so that money can be sent to relief organizations as soon as possible.

Due to protest, wireless

"In spite of [the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan], cell phone companies have chosen not to send aid to Japan immediately."

-Elizabeth Corbin ('12)

phone companies agreed to immediately process received donations for Haiti last year.

Thus far, they have refused to do the same for the crisis in Japan even though there has been a similar, or perhaps larger, amount of backlash.

However, there are organizations that can use donations to provide immediate assistance.

Doctors Without Borders has been sending teams of doctors

out into the areas that have experienced the most damage.

Although they do not have a designated funding drive for their aid in Japan, the organization will be able to provide a greater scale of help within Japan if their pool of money increases.

Donations can be made at www.DoctorsWithoutBorders.org.

Additionally, the Red Cross has 92 hospitals within Japan and has already sent over 700 medical volunteers to the country.

Donations can be made specifically to assist Japan at www.RedCross.org.

Due to the amount of devastation brought upon Japan, 69 countries have supplied aid, including China, with whom they have a strained relationship.

This is just one more example of how something as simple as sending a text message may not be the best plan of action.

Japan not only a disaster, now nuclear crisis

By MASON WARLING
STAFF WRITER

As you've no doubt heard, Japan was struck by the fourth-strongest earthquake on record earlier this month.

What you may not have heard is that several nuclear plants in Japan were put in jeopardy as their reactor cooling systems stopped functioning, and the plants became immersed in harmful radiation.

The plant at the center of the nuclear crisis is the Fukushima

Daiichi complex in the Fukushima prefecture, which has released amounts of radiation in excess of 1,000 millisieverts (mSv), per hour.

This amount has serious health implications for residents, aid workers, and crisis response teams near the plant.

In comparison, one chest X-ray delivers 0.1 mSv to a single part of the body, and medical technologists are monitored to prevent total exposures of more than 50 mSv per year above and beyond background levels.

At low levels like these, medical concerns are minimal but, of course, at higher doses the risks rise.

That's because radiation knocks electrons off of atoms as it passes through our bodies.

When that happens enough, cells die, DNA breaks, and tissues become damaged.

Radiation affects everyone's body in different ways and damaging effects can be enhanced by trauma, injuries or other illnesses.

In general, starting at exposure levels of about 1,000 mSv per hour, radiation sickness can cause nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and skin blisters.

Exposures of between 3,500 and 5,000 mSv for a period of minutes to hours lead to death within 30 days for about half of people, according to the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Even higher levels can cause immediate death.

As fires continue to rage at the plant, the concern is that the plant will be wracked with further

explosions, possibly leading to even greater releases of radiation.

The radioactive particles could be blown across the Pacific ocean and onto the U.S. because of current weather patterns, imparting a reduced but still possibly harmful dose of radiation.

However, last Friday, monitoring stations in California detected their first traces of Japanese radiation.

The level of radiation registered in Sacramento was about one "one-millionth of the dose" a person gets from rocks, bricks, the sun and natural background sources and "poses no concern," the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Energy Department said in a joint statement.

A similar level of the radioactive isotope, xenon-133, was detected

in Washington on March 16 and 17, according to the agencies.

It was "consistent with a release from the Fukushima reactors in Northern Japan," according to the statement.

The EPA and Energy Department have monitoring systems and neither found "radiation levels of concern."

Nuclear danger to the U.S.? No.

The average person absorbs between 1 and 10 mSv of radiation per year, not nearly enough to even begin to cause health risks.

But do you know who could use a little help?

The Japanese, some of whom are living in the range of dangerous radiation around the endangered plant.

Send a little help.

Following the Beat with Ben King: Good deeds can come with unexpected benefits

By BEN KING
GUEST WRITER

These are desperate times that we live in today.

Unemployment lines are filled and American men and women in communities all across the nation are in need.

They are in need of clothing, food, and shelter.

As college students, many of us are secluded from the harsh realities of the world.

It is important not to isolate one's self from the rest of the world.

It is vital for an individual to mature to see suffering and acknowledge its existence.

Suffering is a painful thing to see, but one of the most rewarding things for anyone to do is to see suffering and then roll up his or her sleeves and do something about it.

There are many ways for students to practice altruism and participate in charity events.

This past week I was fortunate enough to be allowed to participate in such an event.

The Presbyterian Church down the street from campus held a special dinner on St. Patrick's Day for the community.

Church members and volunteers prepared and served a delicious meal to members of the community. Myself and several other Alma College students were there to help.

The experience was both enjoyable and rewarding.

I was fortunate enough to volunteer with a group of my friends and we all had a great time together.

I really enjoyed volunteering at the Community Café because it gave me an excellent opportunity to meet some interesting and friendly people from the Alma community.

It was refreshing to be among people who are not professors or fellow students.

I was fortunate enough to begin a conversation with an older gentlemen, who told me about several good fishing holes around Alma.

As an avid fisherman, this was a great reward for me.

Besides getting good fishing tips, I was also rewarded with the feeling that I had done something good for someone else.

I feel that it would be ignorant and possibly arrogant as well to assume that I had made a difference in another person's life by volunteering.

However, I feel confident in saying that I have helped another human being.

There are other places for Alma College students to volunteer besides the Community Café at the Presbyterian Church.

A student could contact the Salvation Army during the holidays and see if they need a hand with bell ringing.

There are volunteering

opportunities all around for college students to participate in.

The next time a student hears of an event that they find interesting, he or she should jump at the opportunity.

These are truly opportunities, because a participant in an event like these always stands to gain something.

In my case, I stood to gain the location of several good fishing holes and, more importantly, the feeling that I had done something beneficial to another human being.

While you may not be interested in fishing, a person who volunteers will be rewarded.

You have nothing to lose but something to gain by volunteering.

If you see anything in the Opinion section that you want to respond to, please write a letter to the editor!

E-mail 11amlabb@alma.edu with any thoughts/feelings on the articles

SPORTS

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With March Madness comes intramural basketball season

By ADAM MUNCY
STAFF WRITER

The Stone Recreation Center began hosting five-on-five intramural basketball games last Tuesday. The competition is split between two divisions, coed, as well as the men's. Games are held both Tuesday and Thursday nights between 8 and 11.

"It's fun playing with a group that plays together hard," said **Max Morrison ('13)**. "Also, this year the skill level of the teams has increased greatly. More skilled players came out to play this year."

Game play consists of two 20 minute halves where each team is allocated a single time out. For the coed team division, at least two females must be present on the court at all times.

"I would rather play in a league of just guys," said **Bobby Chasnis ('11)**. "I feel like it's more rough and physical, and overall a higher level of play. Everyone has a chance to play competitively that doesn't play on a varsity team. Intramural basketball games have been physical."

Intramural basketball is one of the most sought after and anticipated intramural seasons for Alma College Students throughout the school year. With a vast amount of participants, intense competition and seriousness are present, as many of the teams are comprised of off-season athletes.

"Intramurals are fun and a good opportunity for athletes to stay active and competitive in the off-season," said **James McCoy ('12)**.



(Left) Josh Plaska ('11) takes a shot from the three-point line in an intramural co-ed game last Tuesday night. (Right) Tom Hardin ('11) goes up for a short jumper with the opposing team around him. Hardin and Plaska play co-ed on the team Hoof Hearted.



Photo by Elaine Cunningham

Generally, the two biggest challenges for the Stone Recreation Center staff is getting teams to sign up, which was not an issue with five on five basketball in either division.

"I think the freshmen class on campus this year are really active and ready to take on additional things or are ready to explore

programs we have on campus. We do have some freshmen teams and we typically don't have a lot," said Jen List, director of the Stone Recreation Center.

The second challenge is getting qualified officials to officiate the games as well as score keepers.

"I think another aspect is intramural sports over the last

year or so have gotten a little more organized, which I would like to think helps people want to play," List said. "Students now have an idea of when they are playing ahead of time. They know that officials are going to show up to games."

For the officials, judgment based calls are unavoidable when officiating. These calls

often yield heated tempers within highly competitive teams.

"It's hard for student officials to make unbiased calls, as many referees are friends with some of the players," Morrison said.

Intramural sports continues to be a way for students to find friendly competition with fellow students.

Spotlight: Smart lives for softball

By TARYN HANDYSIDE
STAFF WRITER

Kayla Smart ('13) came to Alma from Jenison to play softball and study secondary physical education and mathematics. While in high school, Smart also participated in diving, volleyball and power lifting.

She has been playing softball since she was about five years old and was involved in a variety of travel teams including a year of USA Fastpitch and two years of Elite and Blaze Softball.

"I would be lost without my teammates and I can see myself playing in some capacity for the rest of my life."

-Kayla Smart ('13)

While in high school, Smart earned All-State in softball in both 2008 and 2009 and All-State in powerlifting in 2009.

Smart said that her dad introduced softball to her fourteen years ago.

"He taught me everything until the day I started playing on teams," she said. "Once I started competing I really began to choose for myself if I wanted to play—and



Photo by Elaine Cunningham

Kayla Smart ('13) throws to first in the Scots' game against Bluffton University at Scots Park.

every year that was all I wanted."

Smart's enthusiasm for softball traveled with her to Alma in 2009 and she says that she loves her team here. Smart decided to come to Alma because she really liked the school, the athletic program and the coaches.

"I decided to be involved in college ball because I've always had the passion to play and the love of the game and those qualities

didn't just disappear when I graduated from high school," she said. "I wanted to continue at the college level because it was more intense and taken more seriously than high school or travel teams."

Being a student-athlete can be very overwhelming, but Smart says that she makes it work because she knows that academics are not only important now, but they can have profound effects on her future.

When she is not occupied with classes or training, Smart likes to socialize. As a self-proclaimed people-person, she finds herself happiest when surrounded by friends.

Smart's favorite classes this semester are statistics and the volleyball class she is taking. Her plans for the future include coaching high school sports and teaching. Smart said that she loves children and trying to

make a difference in their lives.

"I can't put a time frame on my future so I'm just going to go with the flow and let my life unfold for itself," she said.

So far life has delivered some amazing things for Smart. Most recently she had the opportunity to play softball on live-television.

This summer, Smart was on a big league team for district 9 that made it all the way to the World Series. Her team represented the central region of the U.S and they ended up winning the championship game against the Philippines by mercy rule. The game was aired live on ESPN2.

"The feeling after the winning run was scored was unbelievable," said Smart. "I will never be able to explain how it felt to anybody except for the girls on that team who had the same experience that I did. My dad was one of the coaches too so it was nice to have him with me. He is, after all, the one who got me started with softball when I was little."

For Smart, her teammates are like a family to her and worth far more than the big wins she said.

"Softball has made me such a more determined and strong person," she said. "I would be lost without my teammates and I can see myself playing in some capacity for the rest of my life."

Women's softball wins opening doubleheader against Bluffton

By ADAM MUNCY
STAFF WRITER

The Scots' softball squad crushed Bluffton University, 11-4, and 12-1, last Thursday in the season's opening doubleheader.

The contests at Scots Park were rescheduled from games postponed the previous day.

"In the first game, we came ready to play," said **Rebecca DeWyse ('12)**. "We scored five runs in the bottom of the 1st inning and then 5 more in the bottom of the second. However, we let Bluffton back in, and the score was closer than it should have been."

In the first game, the Scots scored 10 runs in the first two innings to take a 10-0 lead.

The first inning provided the Scots' first home-run of the season. **Erin Pintek ('12)** had a two-run homer in the first inning. While Pintek hit the team's first home-run of the 2011 season she also had four hits and four RBI's on the day.

"Our strength definitely was our hitting," said **Kelly Koenigsnecht ('11)**.

"We did a good job hitting and getting base hits when runners were in scoring position. Especially considering this was our first game in a week and a half since Florida. We really picked up right where we left off."

In the first game **Lauren**

Davis ('12) led the Scots with three RBI's, while five other players had two hits a piece in the win.

Tara Leddy ('11) pitched a complete game, giving up three earned runs in the 11-4 victory. Leddy improved her season record to 6-0.

"Our pitching staff did a great job," said Koenigsnecht. "We have a veteran pitching staff, which is going to be key for our success this year. All our pitchers are extremely composed no matter the situation of the game. What really helped in our game today was the fact that we jumped on them early and got some runs. The cushion of a lead makes it a lot easier defensively."

The second game started with a Beaver solo home-run off of starting **Brittany Gryns ('11)** for an early 1-0 lead. The Scots scoreless play was short-lived as the they took the victory in five innings 12-1. Gryns secured the win in the game against Bluffton on giving up only three hits in five innings, with three strikeouts and no walks. **Emily Ross ('12)** went three for four with two runs scored and two RBI's for the Scots, while Pintek was two for three with two RBI's.

"I thought that Tara and Brittany did an excellent job on the mound tonight, especially coming back into stride



Photo by Elaine Cunningham

Emily Ross ('12) catches the ball at first. The Scots beat Bluffton easily, 11-4 and 12-1.

after the two home runs by Bluffton," said **Allie Nave ('14)**.

The Alma College Scots improved to 11-2 on the young season, while Bluffton now stands at 7-4 on the year. The Scots took on Case Western Reserve in Cleveland, OH on Saturday where they won, 11-5 and 12-5.

"We continued to stay composed and come back even

after Bluffton tried to come back," said Nave. "We ran the bases really well and [Emily] Ross had a couple of really good slides and that is the intensity we need if we are going to win more games."

The lady Scots host Adrian College Wednesday at Scots Park. The double header will mark the beginning of MIAA play for the Scots.

"The key to success in MIAA play this year is going to be consistency and playing up to our potential," said DeWyse. "We have many players that help can help contribute in a variety of ways, so I have no doubt we will do well this year. It's very important to win every game in the conference, and if each of us goes in with that mentally, we will win."

Women's tennis 4-5 for 2011

By TARYN HANDYSIDE
STAFF WRITER

The Alma women's tennis team traveled to Grand Rapids last Saturday to take on NAIA Davenport University. The Scots lost the match by a score of 7-2, which put their record at 4-5 in their season.

"Everyone stuck to their game and really played smart in order to beat Spring Arbor—it was a solid win for the team."
-Katie Meloche ('13)

"As a team, I think we could have done better against Davenport but it was a good learning experience for us and it showed us that we need to start doing things differently," said **Lauren Moreau ('14)**. "For me as an individual, I was happy with

my match and the fact that I was able to stick out such a long one."

In singles, Moreau came away with a 7-5, 6-2 win in her match.

In doubles, **Katie Meloche ('13)** and Moreau won their match with a score of 8-3.

Katie Meloche said that the team is much more competitive than last year.

"We played some tough teams in Florida and we're ready to see what can come from that," she added. "We've got a strong doubles line up that helps us earn some points and eliminate pressure before getting into our singles matches," she said.

The team defeated Spring Arbor last week with a score of 7-2 on Thursday.

"Everyone stuck to their game and really played smart in order to beat Spring Arbor—it was a solid win for the team," Moreau said.

Abby McCue ('11) came out with a win in her singles match by 6-7, 6-2 and 10-6, as well as **Amy Baranowski ('12)** by 6-3 and 6-4.

Katie Meloche also won her singles match by 6-0 and 6-2, while Moreau took

home a win by 6-1 and 6-0.

In doubles, **Jen Meloche ('12)** and McCue earned a win by 8-5. Baranowski and **Lauren Stevenson ('12)** did the same while Katie Meloche and Moreau came home with an 8-3 win.

"Consistency has been key as we have seen a lot of opponents that don't hit with pace, but still get every ball in the court."

-Katie Meloche ('13)

The team has played very competitively in each match, but they said that there is always room for improvement.

"Something we are constantly focusing on is our shot tolerance," said Katie Meloche. "Consistency has been key as we have seen a lot of opponents that don't hit with pace, but still get

every ball in the court. We are adjusting our shot selections and adding variety to mix things up.

As the season progresses, we will come across big hitters which we are all excited for because we can keep up with them—if not out-hit them. Playing people with similar game styles is always a relief, but when they don't, we have the capability to adjust and beat them."

The Scots traveled to the Midland Tennis Center to compete against Saginaw Valley University on Saturday. They came home with a loss and a score of 9-0 which put the Scots record at 4-6 in the 2011 season.

The girls say that they entered with confidence against Saginaw Valley and with every intention of taking home the win.

"We were ready to come out swinging in doubles to get a good jump start leading into our singles matches," said Katie Meloche. "We knew that we had to be patient on the court and play our games confidently."

The team will play at home against Trine University this Saturday at 1 p.m.

Staying on top of the game: This week in sports

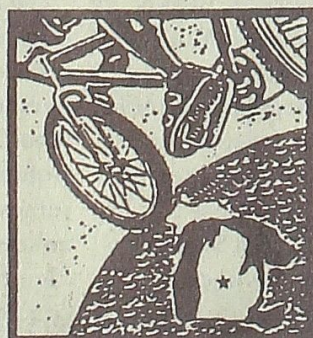
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Saturday vs. Ohio Wesleyan University at HOME

Men's Baseball:
Saturday vs. Goshen College at HOME

Men's Tennis:
Thursday vs. Tiffin University
Saturday vs. University of Findlay at HOME

Women's Tennis:
Saturday vs. Trine University at HOME

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