

Abernathy selected as 13th president

By MOLLY HENNING
GUEST WRITER

Jeff Abernathy was named as the new president of Alma College on Feb. 5.

He has served since 2004 as the vice president and dean of Augustana College in Illinois, a private liberal arts school.

Abernathy has his Ph. D in English and American literature.

The other two remaining candidates were Jonathan Green, the dean and vice president of Sweet Briar College in Virginia, and Joseph Bruno, the vice president for academic affairs at Wesleyan College in Connecticut.

Both also come from private liberal arts colleges.

"All three have been in higher education for quite awhile, all three are achieved academic officers of their institutions," said Michael Silverthorn, director of college communications, prior to the decision on Abernathy. "All three have strong credentials, and some very strong experiences in higher education," he added.

Kevin Everhart ('10), head of Student Congress, said that when all three candidates individually came to campus, the Student Leaders Group had lunch with them.

"All three could be strong



Photo by Skip Traynor

From left, Alma's 13th president Jeff Abernathy, talks with seniors Rugelio Ramereiz ('10) and Kevin Everhart ('10) Friday during the president's welcome reception for students and Board of Trustees members in the Rotunda of the Tyler-Van Dusen Student Center.

presidents at a university or institution," said Everhart before the decision on Abernathy was announced.

"However, with the situation that we are in, I feel that Dr. Abernathy would be the strongest candidate for our needs. He focused on sustainability, diversity, and when he was talking with the students he talked about

our degree," Everhart added. Everhart described that one of the primary functions of the college president is to raise funds, and he saw Abernathy succeeding in that.

Emily Adler ('12), a member of Student Congress and Student Leaders Group, and Joanne Gilbert, professor of communication, said Abernathy was their top pick as well.

"He seemed very energetic, and I was very impressed with his interest in why the students liked Alma. The first thing he did was individually ask what drew us to Alma," said Adler. "He was very well researched in Alma, and he answered each question competently. He didn't dance around questions. He was well informed, and

had a lot of good ideas."

"He is a superb communicator, he is rhetorically very artful, he understands his audience, and he has the ability to communicate well with various audiences. He is incredibly bright and engaging," said Gilbert.

"He will bring a lot of energy and ability and insight to this critically important position."

Gilbert also mentioned that of the three candidates, Abernathy was the most impressive to her because he truly "gets" Alma College, and has a very good understanding of what it needs.

"He has a very impressive scholarly record," Gilbert said.

Michael Vickery, department chair and professor of communication, said he feels Alma's search committee did a great job of bringing to campus candidates who were very viable and engaged.

"It's a good thing that in very uncertain times in Michigan, uncertain times for liberal arts education, very good candidates saw Alma College as an exciting possibility for leadership," said Vickery. "Abernathy was a good choice... the campus is excited to move forward into the Abernathy presidency."

Abernathy will officially become president of Alma College as of July 1.

Campus congratulates two Fulbright finalists

By SEAN WEBBER
STAFF WRITER

The Fulbright Scholarship finalists were announced last week, revealing that two more students from Alma College have been selected by the National Competitive Scholarship Committee as possible winners for grants.

Since its inception in 1946, approximately 294,000 "Fulbrighters," 111,000 from the United States and 183,000 from other countries globally, have been involved in the program.

The Fulbright Program awards approximately 7,500 new grants annually.

Currently, it operates in over 155 countries worldwide.

The Fulbright Program is the U.S. government's flagship international educational exchange program and is designed to "increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries."

The Fulbright organization provides 15 different programs

for application and is funded by an annual appropriation from Congress made to the Department of State.

Congress' contribution in 2008 amounted to over \$214 million.

This year's finalists are **Demi Gary ('10)**, and **Maureen O'Connell ('10)**.

The program chooses its scholars on the basis of academic and personal merit. Each student submits his or her proposal for the scholarship.

Gary proposed to teach high school English in Jakarta, Indonesia, while O'Connell's proposal blends her two majors.

O'Connell hopes to be accepted for the English Teaching Assistantship and teach English in a Spanish speaking Colombian classroom.

Teaching English would allow for a better understanding of American culture abroad, one of the goals of the Fulbright Program.

While spending 20 hours a week in the classroom, O'Connell hopes to also participate in Art for Refugees in Transition (A.R.T.), which "develops programs enabling long-term refugee populations to revitalize

indigenous arts as a catalyst for rebuilding displaced communities and to help heal the wounds of war, famine, and flight."

O'Connell hopes that her involvement with the program will aid the development and self-esteem of children whose youths have been marred by conflict and homelessness.

She hopes that programs like A.R.T. will help sway adolescents from joining guerrilla gangs, militant groups or drug cartels.

The advantages of the program include free housing and flights, as well as the more obvious merits of cultural exposure, travel and resume building.

O'Connell personally hopes to continue her education abroad and to apply her artistic skills in graphic design.

Twenty-seven Alma College students have won prestigious national fellowships, scholarships and awards since 2003, including 15 Fulbright fellowships and multiple Udall, Truman, Marshall and Gates-Cambridge scholarships.

The winners of the Fulbright scholarship grants will be announced this spring.



Photo by Lauren Kimpel

Fulbright finalist, Maureen O'Connell ('10), wishes to be awarded the English Teaching Assistantship so that she can teach English in Colombia. As a double major in Spanish and art and design, O'Connell would also like to participate in the Art for Refugees in Transition program, which would allow her to use all aspects of her Alma education.

Seniors, it's time to order your cap and gown!

Senior Grad Fair

Mon. Feb. 8 and Tues. Feb. 9

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Rotunda

POE's create 'unique degrees' for students

By **ELISABETH BLETSCH**
STAFF WRITER

Alma College has more than 30 major and minor degrees ranging from biology to gerontology. The college also has nine preprofessional programs, including pre-engineering and preveterinary. However, if none of these options seem right, students also have the opportunity to create a program of emphasis, more commonly called a POE.

"A POE is a way of earning a major that Alma College doesn't offer," said Sue Deel, college registrar. "The process involves finding an academic advisor who has expertise in the field the student wishes to study," Deel added.

Together, the student and advisor choose courses from different disciplines to create a unique degree in the student's field of interest, Deel said.

More information on the POE can found online in the academic catalog, such as that students should submit their POE application by their junior year.

Once a student and advisor have created the unique degree,

the student submits the POE proposal to the Educational Policy Committee, which has a POE subcommittee.

"The subcommittee meets to determine if the POE meets the academic rigor and requirements that an Alma College major would have," said Deel.

"If the committee believes the proposal is fine as is then it is approved. If the committee has suggestions or wishes to see other courses included it will communicate that to the student."

Alyssa Walters ('11) is doing a POE in Environmental Public Policy.

"The reason I selected a POE was because my area of interest, environmental public policy, is a complex and interdisciplinary issue. It integrates natural and social science concepts, as well as research in environmental policy. Therefore, a multidisciplinary foundation is crucial," Walters said.

Jessica Gauthier ('12) can trace her decision to do a POE back to her first semester of college, when she took Women in European History.

She says this one class changed her entire outlook on the world.

Her POE is in Women's and Gender Studies.

"Through my POE I am examining the interdisciplinary issues associated with gender and issues central to feminist thought," said Gauthier.

"The POE allows us to be individuals in the education system. Not many students can say they designed their own college degree."

Her POE is comprised of classes from the women's studies minor and classes from other disciplines that impact women's studies.

These other disciplines include political science, communication, history, English, and religious studies.

"I plan on doing multiple independent studies and research projects across academic subjects

because I have a lot of creative opportunity in designing my POE," Gauthier added.

She thinks the POE is a great opportunity because it gives students the chance "to take the reigns on our education."

Duncan Ferguson ('10) is doing a POE in Sound Technology and Music.

"It is half of a music major and the other half deals specifically with sounds engineering, mostly made up of independent study and practicum," Ferguson said.

Ferguson decided on a POE because Alma offered the technology and means for him to study sound engineering, but lacked an actual sound engineering program.

"I think this is a great opportunity for students who are willing to go after what they really desire in life for a career. It offers much more hands on experience than any major university can offer," said Ferguson.

Peggy Thelen, assistant professor of education, is currently a POE advisor for the first time.

"Students pick an advisor they are comfortable with and who will best help them reach the goals of their degree," said Thelen.

Advisors can help POE students

in picking the best courses for their particular study of interest and guide students to reach their goals, Thelen added.

Thelen said she would definitely consider being an advisor for another POE student in the future.

"The POE is great because Alma College can't offer all degrees to all people. By having the flexibility of a POE, we can give the student what he or she wants. As a liberal arts college we have the foundation to build a lot of different POE's from," Thelen added.

Students involved in the program of emphasis agree that it sets them apart from other undergraduate students.

"These self-designed programs will not only address personal interests and goals, but are something significantly different from what so many undergraduate students are presently graduating with," said Walters.

"The POE allows us to be individuals in the education system. Not many students can say they designed their own college degree. Outside of the academic sphere, it sets us apart from others who have college degrees," said Gauthier.

Student Congress amendment to include food in budgets rejected

By **ELISABETH BLETSCH**
STAFF WRITER

At the Student Congress meeting on Monday, Jan. 25, an amendment was proposed which, if passed, will allow student organizations to use an allotted amount of their Student Congress budget on food.

Bill McHenry ('11), treasurer of Active Minds and vice president of projects for SIFE, introduced the amendment.

"The main reason I introduced it is because I don't understand why food has been put under a different status than everything else the budget is allowed to buy," McHenry said.

At the Student Congress meeting on Monday, Feb. 1, **Kevin Everhart ('10)**, president of Student Congress, proposed a revised amendment that would limit student organizations to using only 10 percent of their budget on food.

The revised amendment did not pass.

"The vote was split in half," Everhart said.

According to Robert's Rules of Order, a proposed amendment needs two-thirds support in order to pass, Everhart explained.

"I think everyone can agree that the current food policy isn't the best it could be. Those against the amendment are afraid that organizations will abuse the power. I don't think those people are opposed to changing the policy—they just want to make sure it isn't abused," said McHenry.

There was a time when Student Congress organizations

were permitted to use their budget money for food.

Everhart thinks this policy was revoked about 15 years ago.

It was revoked because organizations were abusing the policy, Everhart added.

McHenry thinks the past shouldn't dictate the present.

"I would like to think that times have changed. A policy that wasn't good 15 years ago doesn't mean it won't be good today," McHenry said.

Everhart said that before now, this issue has never come up since he's been a part of Student Congress.

"I think it's a good idea for organizations to be able to use money for food in order to increase membership and extend outreach in the community," Everhart said.

"I think it's a good idea for organizations to be able to use money for food in order to increase membership and extend community outreach."

At the meeting on Monday, Feb. 8, Everhart will propose another revised amendment with even more restrictions.

This time the amendment will allow organizations to use 10 percent or \$200—whichever

is the lesser amount—of their budget on food per semester.

Everhart added that the 10 percent or \$200 would not have to be allocated to food.

"The option would just be there for organizations to use that much on food if they wanted to," said Everhart.

"I'm actually happier with the revised amendment as opposed to the one that was viewed at the last meeting. I think the amendment will pass; I just don't know if it will happen this week. It depends on how much debate there is," said McHenry.

McHenry explained that Active Minds and SIFE both hold a lot of events that involve food.

"Food is a good enticement to get people to come to events. It's not like we're having a pizza party every week. I don't think people are going to abuse this," he said.

If the revised amendment is passed at the Student Congress meeting on Monday, Feb. 8, buying food will go through the same process in Congress as all other expenditures do.

Organizations will first have to get the expenditure signed off by their treasurer and advisor, then Student Congress will have to approve it.

If the revised amendment does not pass at the Feb. 8 meeting, Everhart will ask for more suggestions from Student Congress as to how the amendment could be improved.

Then he will create another revised amendment for the next week's meeting.

"Eventually, if the revised amendments continue to be voted down, the issue will be dropped," said Everhart.

Business office helping students affected by financial aid cuts

By **HUGH JENKINS**
STAFF WRITER

The Michigan House of Representatives has eliminated the Michigan Promise scholarship.

The \$140 million Promise Scholarship was eliminated from state's budget this year to shore up Michigan's hurting general fund.

Eliminating the grant means 96,000 undergraduates in state who qualified for \$4,000 in merit-based aid would lose \$1,000 in anticipated aid this school year.

When the state decided to cut the funding for the scholarship, the students were stuck with the difference not covered by the college.

The difference is \$490.

Unfortunately, about 850 Alma students are affected.

Students whose tuition was defrayed by about \$500 this fall through the program will actually have to come up with the additional funds to pay that back.

"It sucked when I found out [I lost the promise], but I'm not too worked up about it because there isn't anything I can do about it," said **Ryan Berry ('13)**.

After speaking with Chris Brown, the director of financial assistance, he said that the college is doing the best it can

to help the affected students.

Firstly, Alma, unlike some schools, is allowing the impacted students to pay back the difference over the period of the year. Students will have until April 16 to pay it off.

One way of covering the extra expense is taking out a loan.

Referring to this, **Miguel Magallanes ('13)** said, "Thank you Michigan. I'm going to have to take out another loan [to cover the expense]."

The business office will not only help with the loan application processes, but it can also help by setting up plans to make paying the difference smoother.

"The business office is here to help students find lower interest loans to help cover the lost aid," said Brown.

The higher education cuts also affected other financial aid awards such as the Michigan Competitive Scholarship and work study programs.

"I'm going to have to donate a lot more plasma now to pay for that," said **Charles Vana ('13)**, speaking of the loss of his Competitive scholarship.

The Federal Pell Grant, however, increased this year and is federally run, so it is safe from impending cuts.

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Alma athletics support breast cancer awareness

By HUGH JENKINS
STAFF WRITER

The Alma College Athletics Department sponsored the Pink Zone Breast Cancer Awareness Week last week with a series of activities ending with the women's and men's home basketball doubleheader on Saturday, Feb. 6.

The woman's game against Hope College was at 1 p.m., while the men's team hosted Adrian College at 3 p.m.

Starting the events last Tuesday was the designated Community Pink Day at Alma. Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to wear pink in support of breast cancer awareness.

"I wore pink on Tuesday, I took a lot of heat for it until I explained why I was wearing it. It felt good to show my support," says Aaron Heaney ('12).

Keisha Brown, the woman's basketball coach, shared her story as a breast cancer survivor on Friday last week at the Chapel. Admission to the talk was free and open to the public. Brown was first diagnosed with breast cancer in

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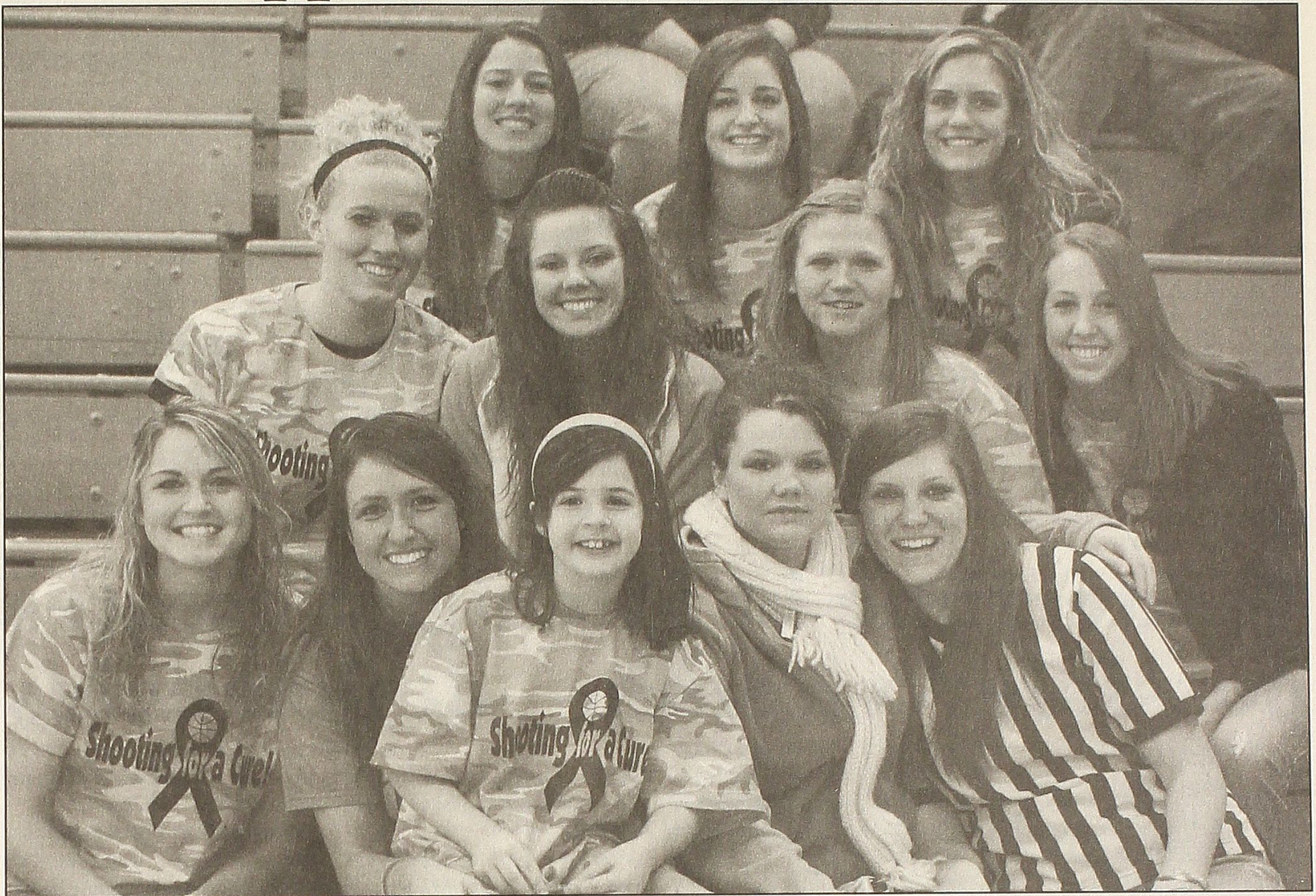


Photo by Devin Brines

As part of the Pink Zone Breast Cancer Awareness week, pink camouflage T-shirts were given to those who attended the women's basketball game.

Monthly Kids' Night Out generates volunteer opportunities for students

By SETH FAULK
STAFF WRITER

One Saturday each month, the Explore/Mentor PLUS program hosts its Kids' Night Out fundraiser.

"It gives parents time to do something for themselves," says Smoker, program director.

Smoker has been coordinating these fundraisers for about eight years. She mentions that the time allotted for each event presents

"They [the students] keep giving and giving. It's great to see how willing they are to give back to the community."

the perfect opportunity for parents to grab dinner and a movie while knowing that their children are in a well-monitored, fun-filled atmosphere.

All proceeds go to support the after-school and mentoring programs, and each Kids' Night Out usually averages \$1,500-\$2,000 in

profit, according to Smoker.

During 6:30 to 9:30 on these evenings, elementary students from the second through sixth grades congregate to enjoy a supervised evening of fun and games at the Alma High School facilities.

Attendees can choose from a selection of activities, including dodgeball, basketball, four-square and swimming while a movie room, game room, and concession stand are also available.

This affair is well-received by the public; each month the event attracts anywhere from 200 to 300 kids. Given the generous attendance of these fundraisers, a minimum of 35 workers are needed to help with each event.

Alma College students usually makeup over 80 percent of the staffers, and there are always open opportunities for more student volunteers.

"They [the students] keep giving and giving," Smoker says. "It's great to see how willing they are to give back to the community."

Though students often regard volunteer opportunities simply as fodder for their resumes, the students who volunteer at Kids' Night Out find the experience to

"Kids" continues on pg 4



Photo by Lauren Kimpel

Kids' Night Out once a month helps foster relationships with youngsters and college students, while the children have the opportunity to enjoy a night of fun.

Open 11:30 - 12:30 & 6:00 - 11:00 M-Th

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be truly fun and rewarding.

“I just like coming, hanging out

“It’s a great way to do something off-campus, and it’s nice to get to work with kids.”

with the kids, and watching movies,” said **Lauren Hasler (’10)**, a middle school mentor who helps supervise the movie room during these events.

“It’s a great way to do something off-campus, and it’s nice to get

to work with kids,” said **Rachel Blackhurst (’10)**, another volunteer monitor.

Students aren’t the only ones helping. Mike Bell, a parent whose 7-year-old daughter has recently begun to attend Kids’ Night Out, said he decided to “get more involved” in his daughter’s activities by volunteering to help in the latest fundraiser.

He wanted to express his gratitude towards Kids’ Night Out for giving his daughter “a place to hang out that’s safe with her friends.”

The next event is scheduled for Feb. 20, and Smoker implores all interested volunteers to contact her at susansmoker@alma.edu.

“Without them [the volunteers], Kids’ Night Out would not exist,” said Smoker.

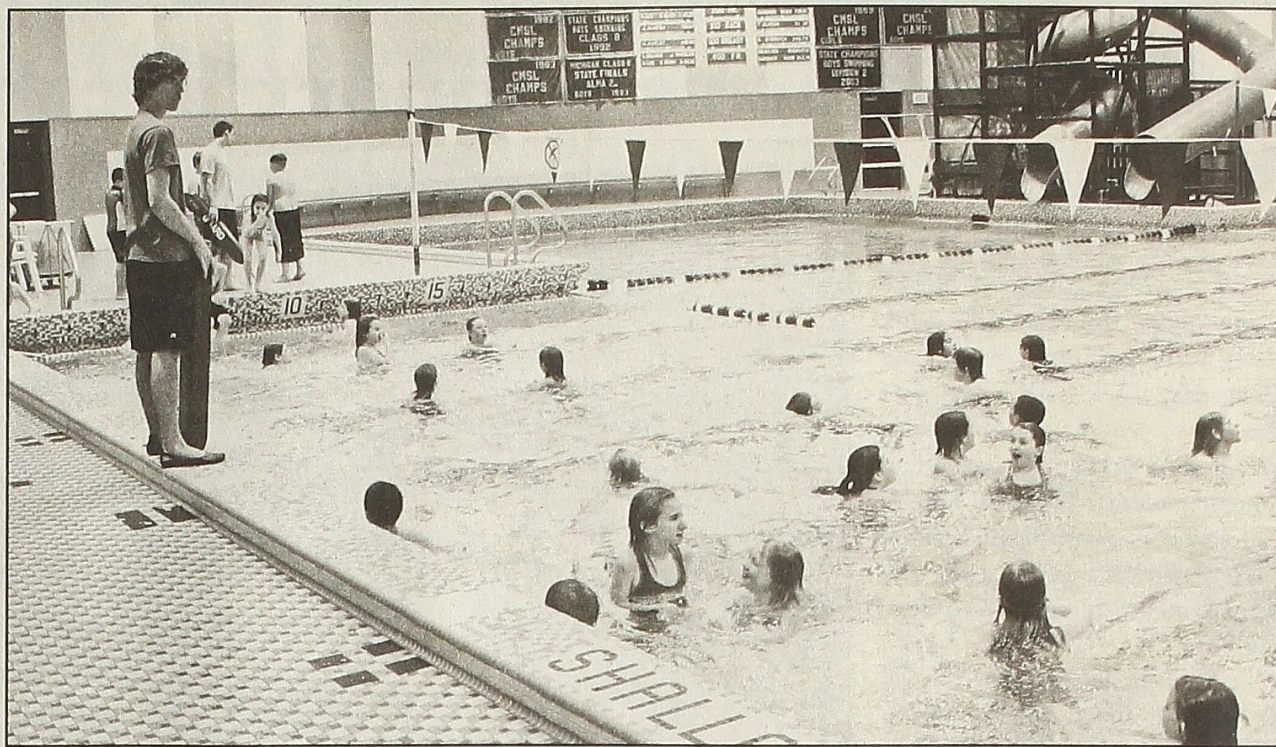


Photo by Lauren Kimpel

Dave Miller (’10) watches over youngsters in the pool while they enjoy themselves at Kids’ Night Out.

Wintertime in Michigan creates possible vitamin deficiencies

BY ELEANOR KING
STAFF WRITER

Living in Michigan and enduring the long winters impacts the health of the average college student.

While it may seem enough protection to put on your hat and mittens, there are other nutritional conditions that should be addressed in the dead of winter.

But with a little knowledge and effort, it can be simple to avoid the negative health effects of a cold and dark climate.

The absent sun is the root of many maladies in the winter. It is the sun’s long daytime visits during the summer that drive the growth that supplies us with quality vitamins and minerals.

Additionally, light from the sun, which is absorbed through our skin, helps to initiate key reactions that produce other essential vitamins for our daily functions.

However, there are substitutes that could help the average Michigander through the winter.

Vitamin D: There are several different types of UV light pro-

duced by the sun’s powerful rays. One specific variety, UVB light, is essential in the body’s production of vitamin D.

The energy from these rays drive the reactions that produce vitamin D and then convert it into its hormone derivative, which is utilized by several major organ systems.

Unfortunately, being at higher latitude during the winter months makes it nearly impossible for your body to absorb enough UVB light to naturally convert these molecules. Thus, vitamin D deficiency is extremely common for most people in the north during wintertime.

However, there are some foods that naturally contain a form of vitamin D; the most prominent source being fish. Most types of fresh fish (especially cod), oils, eggs and fortified milk have sufficient amounts of vitamin D.

In addition to the milk, other fortified foods like cereal and protein drinks have vitamin D.

However, recent research suggests that the best form of any

vitamin is when it is found naturally in a food as opposed to being fortified.

Vitamin C: Due to a lack of produce available in mid-Michigan, it is also difficult to consume enough vitamin C. As with vitamin D, ideal consumption is through foods themselves as opposed to vitamins.

The wintertime is a great time to consume citrus fruits that are in season in places like Florida and Texas and shipped to places like Michigan.

It can also be found in dark leafy greens such as spinach and arugula.

But if fresh foods are unavailable, vitamin supplements are extremely useful and undeniably healthy.

Though most people are no longer prone to vitamin C deficiency related diseases like scurvy, vitamin C helps prevent colds and aids skin to fight aging and free-radical destruction.

Potassium: Like vitamin C, potassium is found in a significant amount of vegetables and fruits

that may be difficult to find during the winter months.

Potassium can be found in bananas, potatoes, tomatoes, and clams. Additionally, having higher levels of potassium can help people who are prone to high-blood pressure keep their hypertension at bay.

Potassium also helps to maintain proper pH levels, to carry out muscle contractions and countless other purposes.

Vitamins D and C and potassium are the tip of the iceberg when it comes to maintaining vitamin sufficiency during the winter.

While most can be found in fruits and vegetables, vitamin supplements are also an adequate source.

Though burgers may be tempting and veggies seem inconvenient, it is especially important to consume five servings of vegetables a day—if not more during the winter time.

When it comes to digestible vitamins, the age-old motherly advice serves its purpose: eat your fruits and vegetables.

“Athlete” continued from pg 3

2007.

In 2008, Brown had a reoccurrence of cancer and underwent a double mastectomy and six weeks of radiation. Now she is doing what she can to enhance aware-

“We are hoping that Pink Zone Week will give people more knowledge and understanding of this disease and cancer in general.”

ness and share her experience with others.

“This week is all about bringing awareness about the disease to the community,” says Brown. “Everyone has been affected by cancer in some form or fashion. We are hoping that Pink Zone Week will give people more knowledge and understanding of this disease and cancer in general.”

To help commemorate the event, the first 30 people for the basketball game got a pink camouflage breast cancer awareness t-shirt. Also, the referees blew pink whistles.

Devin Willard (’13) says, “I’m glad I went, they did a great job. They lost, but Hope is really good. And plus I got this cool t-shirt.”

There were raffles that took place during the two games, culminating with the grand prize of a MP3/CD Player at halftime of the men’s game. Other raffle items included a pink official Wilson game ball signed by the 2009-10 women’s basketball team and gift certificates from areas restaurants and businesses. The proceeds from the donations, raffle ticket purchased and admission went to charities that promote breast cancer awareness.

“I didn’t win anything but I knew the money[spent on the raffle] went to a good cause so I’m happy about it,” says **Andrew Burdick (’11)**.

Local groups were in the Hogan Center lobby with breast cancer informational materials.

The Pink Zone initiative is a global, unified effort for the Women’s Basketball Coaches Association in raising awareness of breast cancer.



Photo by Devin Brines

David Tobey (’13) and **Emily Mowers (’12)** ice skate together during the winter carnival to support health and wellness. Although the sun is less present in the winter, being outside helps supply the body with vitamins and minerals.

Human safety is worth the “extra costs”

By LAUREL TILOT
STAFF WRITER

Ever considered growing a third arm?
What about gills or a tail?
Or maybe you’ve just thought about cultivating your own malignant tumors.
Well, now it seems that with the amount of chemicals that we are exposed to daily, this may all be possible.
Every day we are exposed to hundreds, if not thousands, of chemicals in products that most people handle on a regular basis.
Many of these chemicals can be extremely harmful to our health in the long run.
Read the back of a pop can or the

popular bottles of hand sanitizer and I guarantee that there will be several ingredients listed there that make you scratch your head in confusion.
Ever wonder why cans warn people about the presence of phenylalanine?
This amino acid, used in excess, can actually excite the neurons of the brain to the point of cellular death and it is found in the sweetener aspartame, which is sold as Equal or NutraSweet.
Fire retardants, pesticides, arsenic, and mercury are all present in the daily life of the average person, and very few people seem to realize it.
Sure these chemicals may not be

affecting us now, but what about 30 years down the line?
Is there anything that can be done to protect ourselves?
We may think we’re doing a great job keeping ourselves safe by using “green” products with less harmful chemicals in them, but is this the only solution?
Should the government be responsible for protecting us from harmful chemicals?
In short, yes, the government should definitely be doing more to protect people from these agents.
Thousands of new, man-made chemicals are introduced and used each year, chemicals that can cause damage to a child’s developing brain and, with higher

exposure, can even be deadly.
Sadly, relatively few of these chemicals seem to be run through any strenuous testing to make sure that they are truly “safe” to be used in manufacturing processes or in consumer items.
Knowing this, people may begin to wonder why they are not tested and the answer is simple if not rather horrifying.
It costs too much.
Excuse me? It costs too much to keep people safe?
When looked at in a large scale, it does seem almost impossible to slow or stop the use and production of chemicals such as phthalates, used in plastics to increase flexibility and longevity, and other harmful chemicals, but I would hope that this does not truly factor into the loose decisions made by our chemical testing facilities and organizations.
These chemicals should be tested as if they are highly dangerous

as soon as they are produced in order to cut down on some of the toxicities in our lives.
I don’t want to find out 15 years from now that something I wash my clothes with has rendered me infertile because my laundry detergent wasn’t tested because people were so sure that it was safe.
It’s happened before.
Some here on campus may remember the days when we thought that it was OK to use lead-based paints and to treat woods with arsenic.
The government has its hands full, I understand, but with the country so concerned about its “green” movement and the health of the nation, it stands to reason that the government should care about it, too.
Not everyone can pull off the gas mask look, and I’d prefer that the only chemicals introduced to my body were the ones that I knowingly expose myself to.

First impressions of Apple’s iPad

By STEPHEN SORENSON
STAFF WRITER

Apple held its annual press conference Jan. 27.
Introducing the new iPad, available in late March, Steve Jobs once again caught our attention.
However, this marks the first time I find myself disappointed with Apple’s conference.
The iPad as Jobs explained, is a “magical” device, supposedly inventing a whole new category of devices, fitting between laptops and smart phones.
It’s controlled entirely by a high-resolution touch-screen and can adjust its display from portrait to landscape depending on how it’s held relative to the ground, much like the iPhone.
The problem is that they’re too similar to iPhones.
Once turned on, iPads display the same arrangement of Apps, minus clock, calculator, weather, stocks and voice memos, and even have the same home button.
The only exterior differences are that iPads contain Lock and mute buttons and, obviously, are larger, about the size of a standard notebook.
Size has its advantages, though.
While the iPad can’t fit into my pocket, the screen is 9.7 inches, which is twice the length of the iPhone, allowing the user to view larger areas of Web pages and

providing cleaner multi-touch control.
The digital keyboard is large enough for hands, not just thumbs.
I’m impressed with some of the iPad’s new features.
Its battery life is 10 hours, three hours longer than that of a MacBook.
It can also run third-party Apps designed for the iPhone either full display or original size.
Apple vastly improved upon its first-party Apps.
For example, calendar is even more organized, while maps can give satellite images, street camera images and GPS.
As previously stated, the multi-touch control is smooth, eliminating wrong button touching issues, a common problem of the iPhone.
The iPad comes with a case, also acting as a stand, to improve typing and video watching.
Since it only weighs 1.6 pounds yet displays a field large enough to fit a whole webpage, I don’t doubt Apple when it claims it to be a dream to hold and use.
Unfortunately, it’s not at all a computer.
Fans were expecting this to be a new touch-based MacBook, but it’s nothing more than a large iPhone that doesn’t even have a camera.
It suffers from the same problems, including the inability to multitask and it can’t download any program online other than

Apps and updates from Apple.
It has potential, though.
iWork Apps have been developed and their files can transfer onto a Mac for compatibility with iWork programs.
Word processing, PowerPoint and spreadsheet capabilities make the iPad seem somewhat more like a computer.
Apple needs to install a camera somewhere on the front face, design iLife and iChat Apps similar in fashion to iWork and build an operating system and hard drive capable of receiving online downloads.
If this happens, the iPad might be worth its price tag, but since it sacrifices portability for size, I’d also like to see multitasking.
Don’t get me wrong; the iPad is nice, but it’s not only what we’ve come to expect, but also what we’ve already seen.
Since it’s Apple’s grand announcement of 2010, I’m disappointed and I recommend sticking to iPhones.

If you need someone to talk to, there’s a safe, confidential place to go.

MacCurdy House

(In between TKE & Creative Arts on South Campus)

PUZZLE CORNER

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Puzzle courtesy of www.sudoku-puzzles.net

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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Palin is no more qualified to be President than a jar of peanut butter

By CHRIS CHESNEY
FREELANCE WRITER

This past weekend, former governor and vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin spoke at the first ever Tea Party Convention, most likely to try and gain support for what many believe will be her attempt at the Republican's nomination for 2012.

This should cause serious concern to every American.

Palin's plan to latch on to the Tea Party movement is causing ripples in the traditional Republican sections as serious conversations about Palin's plausibility as a presidential candidate swirl.

What are you thinking?

Sarah Palin is no more qualified to be president of the United States than a jar of peanut butter.

Ok, that may be a little extreme, but I cannot emphasize the point enough that this person is not what America needs.

First, let's look at the Tea Party and its objectives.

At first, its cause seems to

be noble; a large number of Americans are fed up with Washington and want to make a change.

This is a great idea, trying to shake up the government and get politicians who have lost their way out of office.

The major problem, among many, with the Tea Party people is their populist rhetoric coupled with their ridiculous claims against the government.

They dislike stimulus packages for the economy and deficit spending, but where were these protests when George W. Bush was in office?

They call the president a Socialist-Nazi (which, anyone with an education would tell you is actually impossible) and follow Saul Alinsky's "Rules for Radicals" to disturb representatives' open forums for constituents to talk about current policies, especially health care reform.

Basically, they close their ears and eyes and scream at the top of

their lungs.

Sounds like a four-year-old who needs to be put in timeout.

And who is the group's leader, anyway?

No one truly knows right now, but Palin is going to try to be its poster child.

Move to Palin and a mountain of critique comes her way.

First, she was not a successful governor of Alaska and even left her position early, obviously putting her attempt to campaign for president four years later above her elected position.

Her vice presidential campaign was riddled with missteps, miscues and misunderstandings.

More than once she showed her lack of knowledge of international affairs, domestic policy and proper etiquette.

Several books shed light on behind-the-scenes arguments between Palin and her campaign advisors, including her "prima donna" attitude.

Palin does have the capacity, especially mentally, to be

President, but her partnership with the Tea Party is causing problems within the conservative ranks.

These problems could curb other Republican challengers, or at the very least give the strongest conservative base to Palin off of which her campaign can work to build more support from moderates.

The conservative base, especially the media, are promoting the Tea Party movements, as well they should because they are news.

But while Republican politicians are playing hop-sotch as to whether or not to join them, Palin is going full force and even supporting Tea Party candidates against incumbent Republicans.

The Republicans are not seeing the shift and will be left in the dust unless they fully support the movement and bring some proper leadership, effectively changing the Republican Party, or crush the movement before it crushes them.

The liberals, on the other hand,

are blowing off this movement, calling them crazy.

They do not see the potential seriousness Palin, the Tea Party movement, and the reformation of the conservative base will have on President Obama's 2012 campaign.

Finally, the fact that Palin is a woman also needs to be addressed.

With the election of a black president, along with two women in the top candidate positions in 2008, Palin has the opportunity to make history.

Because of the male-dominated history of politics, however, the first woman to be elected president must be the most outstanding, qualified person for the job in order to break the mold and continue women's push for equality.

Electing Palin as president will be historic, but her failure as the Commander-in-Chief because of her unqualified background will hurt more than help future women candidates.

Do not heed paranoid propaganda

By SEAN WEBBER
STAFF WRITER

Let's talk about paranoia.

It has gotten pretty difficult to open a newspaper or browse the Internet without hearing of a great and terrible green, cleft-toed, horned monster we call the Budget Deficit.

Even writing the phrase has become spooky.

Well, I'm telling you, darling reader, not to be so creeped out.

The deficit is growing—that isn't really debatable.

However, after having the biggest financial crisis since the Stock Market Crash of '73 during the Saudi Oil embargo, that's really all the deficit should be doing.

The government has to create jobs, and it should be no surprise that it costs money to do so.

You should know that the deficit hasn't been created by runaway government spending. Actually, most of the deficit was accumulated during the last administration. What were these costs, you ask?

The main causes have been the ongoing war(s) and a massive failure to address the economic crisis soon enough.

There's not really much reason to freak out about the budget deficit for a while.

Recent articles have lamented that the interest payments on federal debt will have risen to 3.5 percent of the GDP.

What they haven't told you is that figure is pretty much the same as interest costs under the last administration.

So why are we always freaked out?

The answer is political, as usual.

For some reason, a key part of the GOP's agenda includes prolific hypocrisy. On one hand they support tax-cuts (which are a special form of budget-kryptonite only found on planet Foolish), and they criticize excessive government spending on the other.

It's starting to look a lot like Republicans don't care too much about the interests of the public, just as long as they're in control of legislative offices.

I'm usually not a fan of Republican bashing, but this is getting a bit ridiculous.

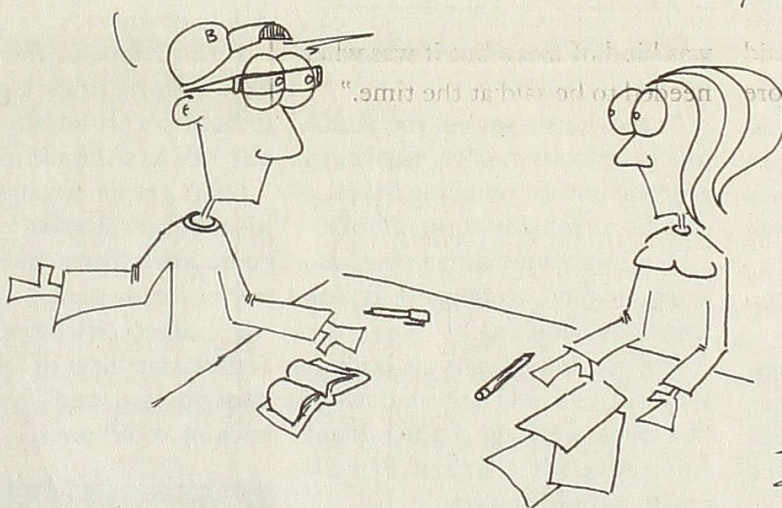
For instance, Obama has called a bill that would essentially end government subsidies to private student loan lenders a no-brainer.

APPETITE FOR ALMA

By D. FERGUSON

If a tree falls in the forest and no one is around to hear it, does it make a sound?

I think the real question is if a woman complains, do men hear it?



What this means is that private lenders could not bank on government money if they were to screw up a loan.

Ending this practice would promote accountability and safe lending. However, following the recent Senate changes (Ted Kennedy's seat warming the backside of a Republican), this

bill and the healthcare bill have been condemned to development hell.

Why do the conservatives want to stop accountability by private lenders?

Considering the crisis, we're still feeling the effects of what was caused primarily by a lack of accountability, one should stop

and wonder that point.

Why is the GOP promoting the same kind of fear-mongering that landed us in the middle of an ongoing war in Iraq?

I don't really know what their agenda is, but I hope that you, darling reader, will try your best to see through all the propaganda and formulate your own opinion.

Society has no right to label people's sexuality

By LAUREL TILOT
STAFF WRITER

What is it exactly that makes a person gay?

To strike on the harder notes first, is it the preference for having sex with the same gender?

Is it just a strong physical or emotional attachment to the same gender?

Is someone gay if he or she has a few drinks and suddenly would really like to make out with someone who happens to be of the same sex?

I've had many friends in my life who call themselves gay.

Every one of them, when I've asked, has given me a different answer and the one I hear most

often is that they were "born that way" which, if it suits them, is just fine by me.

My own opinion, however, is that being gay is a mindset.

You either are or you aren't, and to have to explain it would be impossible.

You don't know why you love the people you love, you just do.

I've had male gay friends who, even after they are completely sure that they're gay, have had relations with women.

I've had female gay friends who have married men and still had such a strong connection to women that they've never considered themselves heterosexual.

There are so many rules in

society today, though, that if only given this information, others would assume these people to be straight or at least bisexual, even though they have clearly stated their mental and physical desire for the same sex.

I personally believe that this attitude towards someone who is homosexual is unfair.

If someone recognizes his or herself as gay, then what right does society have to try to label him or her as something else?

None.

Through the years, homosexuality has passed through different lights and it is constantly being redefined by a hetero-normative society.

This in itself seems to be rather ironic, that straight people find themselves to be the best judges on what exactly gay means and whether or not it is seen as acceptable.

In fact, I'm not quite sure that being gay has ever truly been accepted in society on a large scale.

In a micro-sociological scale, yes; your best friend is gay and you accept them for who they are, but if turned out to society as a whole, we know that there would be more than a few consequences.

If we could interview Matthew Shepherd today, I'm sure he could tell us exactly what it feels like to have someone try to tell you who

you should be and why what you are right now is unacceptable.

Whether homosexuality is defined from an outside point of view based on physical aspects, mental or emotional connections, or neo-platonic philosophy, it is unacceptable for this outside person to try and convince another person that they are something they're not.

If someone you know is gay, don't try to reason your way around it because chances are that his or her definition of being gay is far different than your own and besides, male or female, gay or straight, the world we live in is in desperate need for love of all kinds.

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE ARTICLES YOU SEE IN THE ALMANIAN?

Are there certain topics you'd like to see us cover that we haven't?

Give us feedback on our Facebook page! Just search for iThe Alm anianî & tell us whatís on your mind!

Men's basketball plays tough in front of large crowd

By **ANDREW WALIGORSKI**
AND
MARIA CASTANEDA
STAFF WRITERS

Alma College wrapped up its Breast Cancer Awareness Week with a pair of basketball games in the Cappaert Gymnasium. A

“The more support you get the better it feels. It was great bringing everyone together for a great cause too.”

large crowd gathered to watch the men's basketball team take on the Adrian Bulldogs, who came into the contest ranked third in the MIAA. The Scots played tough basketball the whole way but came up on the wrong end of a 54-51 decision. They drop to 0-10 in MIAA play this season.

Saturday's loss was the sixth time that the Alma men have lost a game by three points or less.

The extra support from the fans did not go unnoticed.

“Making shots and having people cheer for you definitely gives you the home court advantage,” said **Aaron Hicks ('10)**. “The more support you get the better it feels. It was great bringing everyone together for a great cause too.”

The Scots offense was led by **Isaac Thaler ('10)**, who scored 10 points and also came up with two blocks on the defensive end. Hicks scored nine points and was 3/3 from three-point range.

Both teams had similar shooting percentages from the field, however, the Bulldogs got to the free throw line more times than the Scots. This proved to be the deciding factor in the contest. Adrian was 13-18 from the stripe while Alma was 7-13.

Earlier that week the Scots hosted Hope College and lost by nine points. The Flying Dutchmen edged out the home

team by a score of 83-74.

The Flying Dutch took the lead early in the game and built a 12 point lead going into halftime with a three-point shot to beat the buzzer.

During the game though, the Scots managed to cut into the big lead. They came within four points after **Terry Brown ('12)** scored a lay-up with 14:36 left in the game.

The Scots lacked strong rebounding against Hope College and allowed several open shots. “In the first half our transitional defense wasn't very good and we didn't rebound very well,” **Aaron Hicks ('10)** said.

After halftime the Scots came out of the locker room reignited.

“Coach Brown got after us a little bit,” Hicks said. “He told us to get our heads in the game and to play harder and rebound better. We took it as a challenge and it

“Coach Brown got after us a little bit. He told us to get our heads in the game and to play harder and rebound better.”

was kind of mean but it was what needed to be said at the time.”

Kevin Ginther ('11) was the leading scorer for the Scots scoring 19 points while Brown added 16 points. Ginther also earned seven assists.

Shooting 50 percent from the three point line kept the Scots in the game for a majority of the night. Three-point field goals made up over half of the scoring for the home team.

Despite the Scots shooting performance, the Flying Dutchmen finished on top and improved their MIAA record to 7-2.

The Scots are now 0-10 in the MIAA and will play Albion College at Albion Wednesday. Albion is currently fourth in the conference.

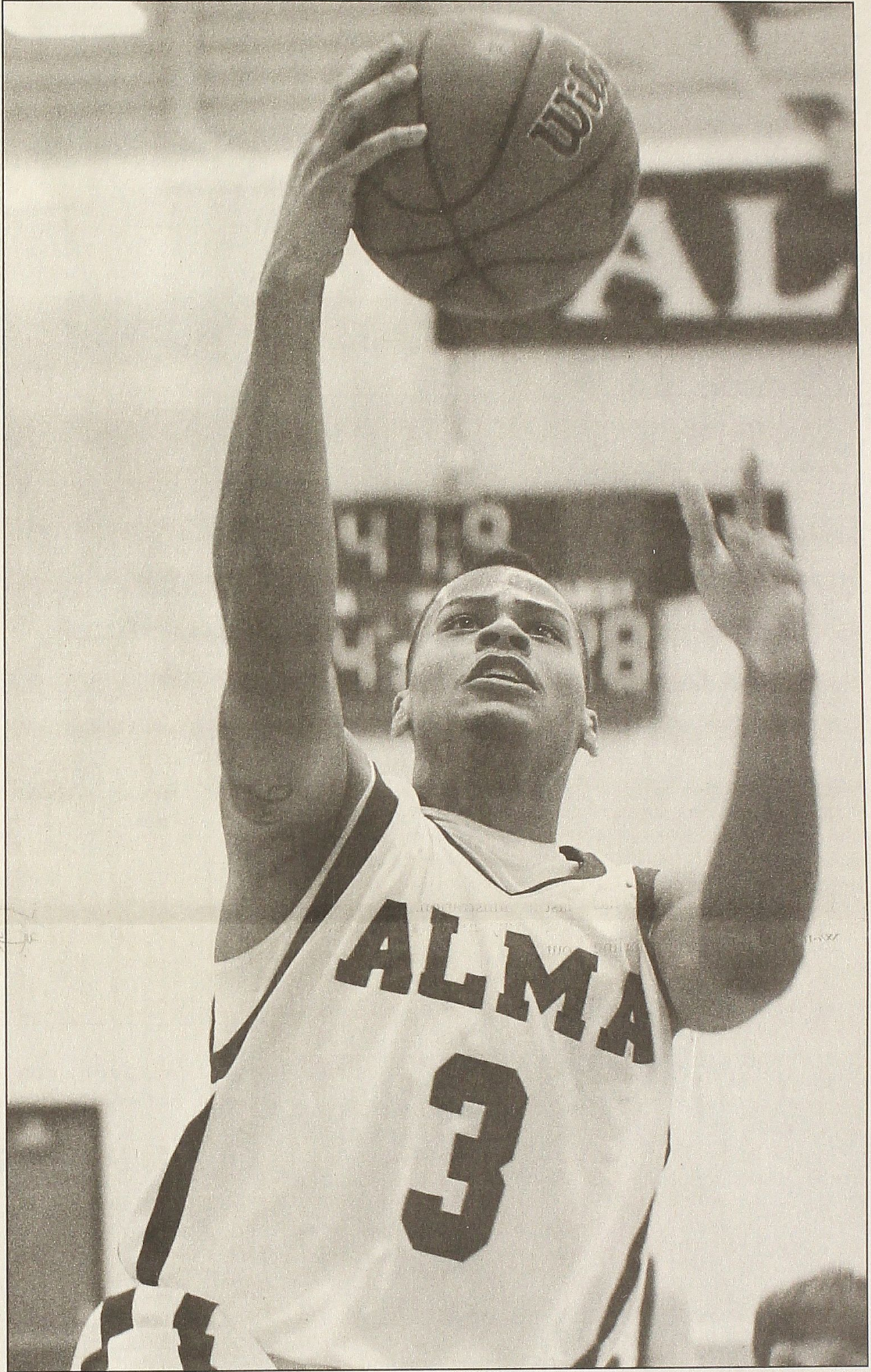


Photo by Devin Brines

The record for the men's basketball team fell to 3-18 overall as it suffered a 54-51 loss to Adrian. Terry Brown ('12) scored 5 points and 6 grabbed rebounds.

Student attempts to start a women's lacrosse club

By **MARIA CASTANEDA**
STAFF WRITER

Christie Havrilla ('13), along with 18 other womens across campus, are attempting to start a new team—women's lacrosse. Alma has previously had a men's lacrosse team and allowed women to join the team but never before have women had a team of their own.

Since this is the first time lacrosse would have a team of all women, Havrilla wants to start with a club team and not varsity.

“Right now I am trying to start a women's club team,” Havrilla said. “I believe the only way we could become a varsity team is if the men's team went from club to varsity. My main goal though is to keep the interest up, and officially start a club team.”

Havrilla played varsity lacrosse at Okemos High School from

where she graduated. Her plans for a women's lacrosse team began even before she came to Alma.

“I started talking to Alma about starting a girl's team in the summer of 2009,” Havrilla said. “As the summer came to an end, I realized that it was probably too late to be starting a women's team. I would have already needed to have a team set with equipment so we could start training in the fall.”

Instead of starting a team in the fall, Havrilla played on the men's team.

“I am very happy I joined the men's team here. I love all my teammates, and they're a great bunch of guys,” Havrilla said. “They immediately took me under their wing and I've grown very close to a particular few.”

Even though Havrilla enjoyed playing on the men's squad she is determined to start a women's

club.

“My passion is for women's lacrosse. I've been playing for seven years and the majority of those years were on a women's team,” Havrilla said. “I'm a lot better at women's lacrosse. It's a completely different sport than

“I'm a lot better at women's lacrosse. It's a completely different sport than men's, and I miss playing for a women's lacrosse team.”

men's, and I miss playing for a women's lacrosse team.”

Havrilla, still in the beginning of the process, has yet to present her plan to Student Congress.

“Everything is really fresh right

now. I finished the Alma College Women's Lacrosse Constitution and I need to turn that in to Student Congress,” Havrilla said. “After that I'm not quite sure of the process. However, I know I need to go in front of the congress and discuss my plan and how much I'll need for funding.”

Despite the interest of several girls, funding is still an issue for the team along with having enough players to field an entire team and still have subs.

“The girls and I are unable to pay for all the uniforms, travel, balls, equipment, and referees,” Havrilla said.

Although women do have the advantage of less expensive equipment, there are still more costs than in sports such as basketball and soccer. “The equipment for women's lacrosse is a lot less expensive then it is for men's because women only need three things, a stick, goggles, and

a mouth guard,” Havrilla said.

Another aspect the girls are struggling with right now is a lack of experience. “The commitment level is hard to determine,” Havrilla said. “Out of the 19 girls only three, including myself, have experience. There is always that chance that someone isn't cut out for the sport, or they just don't like it.”

The women are not deterred by the challenges they face though. “We plan to meet on Feb. 9th to talk about skill and I plan to get a couple girls lacrosse sticks so they can get a small feel for the sport,” Havrilla said.

“I also need approval from the school saying that I'm allowed to have a club team. I'm not sure how the approval process goes, but I know I have a lot of work ahead of me,” Havrilla said. “My hopes are high for the team and I look forward to seeing what comes in the future.”

Women's basketball supports breast cancer

By SHANDEN DELAMATER
STAFF WRITER

Saturday the Lady Scots, hosted nationally ranked Hope College Saturday, and dropped a 71-60 decision to fall to 4-16 overall (4-8 conference) while Hope improves to 20-1 (12-0).

Sydney Beckwith (11') would hit the first shot of the game for the Lady Scots, but Hope's 10-2 run to start the game, set the

undefeated Hope.

Beckwith led the Scots 15 points, **Meagan Hoblet (10')** had 13, and **Lauren Hasler (10')** had 11 for the Scots. **Katherine Bigelow (10')**, had a huge game grabbing 10 rebounds, three steals and a couple of assists. For Hope, Jenny Cowen led with 14 points.

The loss came from the free-throw line and behind the arch, as Hope out shot Alma 7-17 from three-point land, and 16-20 from the free-throw line. The Scots only went to the line 12 times and made nine of those attempts.

Despite the loss, the atmosphere of the game kept spirits up amongst the crowd in above average attendance who came out to support the Pink Zone Breast Cancer Awareness event.

"This is a day we encouraged our entire community to come out and support a cause which is extremely important, and one that affects almost everybody at some point in their lives," said Alma head coach Keisha Brown.

"The turnout was very good, and although we did not win the game, I thought our girls played hard and put themselves into a position to compete. Despite the loss, I have a smile on my face for what this day meant. Now we will get ready for an important game at Albion on Wednesday."

The ladies look ahead to Wednesday action, at Albion College, tip-off at 6 p.m.

"Despite the loss, I have a smile on my face for what this day meant. Now we will get ready for an important game at Albion on Wednesday."

standard that the Scots would have to match for the next 35 minutes.

The Scots would not stay quiet though, and took a 9-1 run to come within just one point of Hope, but would get no closer.

Hope College ranked No. 4 in the nation, pulled away to a 20 point lead in the second half.

The Scots last ditch effort wasn't enough to pull out the victory against the conference



Photo by Devin Brines

Cassie Kopke ('13) drives to the lane in Alma College's 71-60 loss against #4 ranked Hope College on Saturday. The game helped promote Breast Cancer Week, with Alma's players donning pink uniforms.

Tennis gears up for Florida trip

By ANDREW WALIGORSKI
STAFF WRITER

Now that we are into February and the winter semester is in full gear, the members of the Alma College men's tennis team are gearing up for another season. Unfortunately, there is still snow

"I would consider Trine our rivals in tennis. It was a surprise to lose to them since we beat them earlier in the season."

on the ground in Michigan so the team has to settle for Plan B—Florida.

The team goes to Florida every year to get ready for the season. "We have a little bit of fun but we play every day, said **Kace Lovejoy ('11)**.

"This year we are playing six matches in six days. Doubles matches usually take 45 minutes to an hour and singles take an hour and a half to two hours. Usually you spend about three hours on the court every day."

After they return to Alma, players ease their way into the

season.

"We usually play the easier teams at the beginning of the season to build up confidence and get everyone's games going," said Lovejoy. "You practice for so long that you have to get in the flow of competition before you start playing harder teams."

The team has already been preparing in the Rec. Center for over two weeks. Players stay in shape by running and playing a lot of tennis over the summer.

Last season the Scots finished in a tie for fifth place in the season-ending MIAA tournament but performed very well in non-conference matches. The Scots were a very strong 9-4 against non-conference competition before heading into MIAA play, where they finished with a 2-4 record. Overall, their record for the season was 12-10.

"I felt like we had more of a chance with the people that we had to go further in the tournament," said Lovejoy. "I would consider Trine our rivals in tennis. It was a surprise to lose to them since we beat them earlier in the season."

This season there are nine members on the Alma College men's tennis team—including three seniors and three juniors.

The main loss for the Scots this season is Dan Fraser, who graduated last spring. Fraser played number one singles and was a member of the top doubles team.

Key returners for the Scots are Lovejoy, **Alex Montoyo ('10)**, **Zach Kerr ('11)**, and **Ben Schippers ('12)**. Lovejoy played number two singles and number one doubles last season. Montoyo was three singles and two doubles, while Kerr and Schippers were both on the three doubles team and played five and six singles respectively.

The non-conference tennis season begins Saturday at home. The team will play two matches that day—against Adrian College in the morning and Defiance

"We have a little bit of fun by we play every day. This year we are playing six matches in six days."

College in the afternoon. Last season the Scots posted a decisive 8-1 win against Adrian and beat Defiance 7-1.

The MIAA conference season begins April 2 at home against Trine University, which finished last season just ahead of the Scots and beat them in the conference tournament 5-4. The last match of the regular season for the Scots will take place at Hope College on April 27 and the conference tournament will be held two days later in Kalamazoo to determine the final standings.



Photo by Devin Brines

Kathryn Bigelow ('10), shooting from the perimeter, started for the Lady Scots in Saturday's game against Hope College.

Dr. Vivian
to read his new book
Lamb Bright Savors
Thursday, February 18 7 p.m.
in the library