

# MBSU's annual Valentine's Day Jam features seasoned hip-hop artists

By SEAN WEBBER  
STAFF WRITER

The Multicultural Black Student Union threw a Valentine's Day Jam Session on Friday night.

MBSU president **Deanna Daniels ('10)** organized the charity event, inviting DJ Styx, Nino Punchlines and Grade A to perform at the event.

Daniels, who has been involved with MBSU for three years, described the event as a "way to get MBSU's name back out there this semester, and to give hip-hop a chance to be heard."

"We just wanted to have a little fun with a fundraiser," Deanna said.

**Tony Romano ('10)**, the MBSU liaison to ACUB, was able to provide equipment for the event and was responsible for much of the advertising for the fundraiser.

The performers invited for the event have each been performing since their youth, with Grade A performing for seven years and Nino for nearly ten.

Each of the performers grew up in the Chicago area, and Grade A attended a small high school.

"I was a loner. Music is definitely my release, what I cling to. I don't want to talk about ice and Bentley's with my music; I want to talk about life, the real side of it," Grade A said.

He also said that Alma's smaller size is one of the things that keeps him coming back to perform.

Nino also said he also preferred Alma's smaller size.

"It's a more intimate setting that really helps a performer's energy. Plus, college students' minds are more open, less constrained by the cliché material on the radio. You always need someone fighting for you, and the college fan-base is crucial to smaller artists looking for support. This is where it all starts," Nino said.

The event had limited participation, due to the change of venues for the fundraiser.

All proceeds from the event were donated to Phelan-McDermid Syndrome foundation, MBSU's central charity.



Photo by Devin Brines

**Jamie Young ('11)**, Vice President of MBSU, dances with his girlfriend, **Patty Emenpour**, at the Valentine's Day Jam on Friday. The event was hosted by MBSU and benefited the Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Foundation.



Photo by Devin Brines

At Monday's Birds of Prey presentation, **Joe Rogers** presents the Broad-winged Hawk. **Rogers** was accompanied by his daughter **Joanna** who said, "[Many hawks and owls] despise you, laugh at you, for being stuck on the ground."

## Students get up close and personal with Birds of Prey

By HUGH JENKINS  
STAFF WRITER

Wildlife researcher **Joe Rogers**, along with his daughter **Johann Rogers**, a CMU graduate of biology and now a field researcher for Shiawassee National Refuge, gave a presentation on the Birds of Prey.

"So many problems animals face are directly related to people. I originally wanted to study animals in the wild, but there was so much more that needed to be done now. I'm trying to help people to understand and respect [the birds] so they will want to care about the future population," said

**Rogers**.

Rogers visited campus on Saturday, Feb. 25 in Dow LI.

He brought live rescued birds of prey, such as owls, hawks, and a turkey vulture, for demonstration.

Rogers shared many reasons why the number birds are on a decline in Michigan, and told how every resident can do simple things to help our feathered friends thrive.

**Luke Altomare ('11)** said, "My favorite bird was the larger black hawk he showed, the one where he demonstrated how it keeps its head still in flight," said Altomare.

Altomare also added that he "thought the presenter himself

was entertaining to watch because he was so energetic."

At one point in the show, after telling a screech owl that he "was in a 'bite-y' mood tonight," Rogers said, "these owls do something really scary. Yeah, they turn into... teenagers."

Rogers and his daughter are working alongside the Wildlife Recovery Association to bring an exciting natural science program to the community for a close look at live birds of prey through their presentation.

While showing off a turkey vulture, even before Rogers could

See 'Birds' page 2

## National changes lead to new employment policies

By ELEANOR KING  
STAFF WRITER

Administration within the college's employment departments recently implemented new procedures in regards to hiring on campus. These changes were, however, the result of something much larger than Alma College.

At the turn of the new year, the United States Department of Homeland Security, in collaboration with the US Citizenship and Immigration Services and Internal Revenue Service, developed a new I-9 form and new protocol to accompany it.

The governmental purpose of the improved I-9 form, as stated by Immigration Services is to "document that each new employee (both citizen and non-citizen) is authorized to work in the United States."

While the purpose of this new policy has more to do with immigrants than college students, its general implications had an effect on any new employees of the college after the new year. "The responsibility for completing the student employment packet was changed

to the hiring department for one main reason: we had been greatly out of compliance on the federal requirement for completing the I-9 form," Linda Hessbrook, business office representative.

Before the changes, the Payroll office was unaware of any student employee and their role until

payday came around.

Outside of immigration issues, the federal government also magnified the monitoring of all 501(c)(3) non-profit organization audits. Alma is such an institution and is now therefore subject to such policy.

This essentially means more intensive and frequent auditing of the college.

Because of the close monitoring it was essential that the Alma administration implicate the policy as tightly and efficiently as possible to avoid any

For students who had already been employed by Alma, there was no real effect.

For new employees, due to the regulatory nature of the policy, there is now a different process involved when getting a job on campus.

The revised procedure requires filling out three forms.

These forms, the state W-4, federal W-4 and I-9, must be provided by the supervisor.

Dan Henris, the director of Student Employment Procedures, provided a statement to all faculty and staff regarding the changes.

By law, the forms must be "completed signed and dated by the student...no later than the first day of employment," stated Henris in a memo to the faculty and staff.

After the student completes their portion of the forms, there is a supervisor part that must be filled with in three days after the

See 'Employment' page 2



## Active Minds uses 'Stall Street Journal' to address mental illness

By ELISABETH BLETSCH  
STAFF WRITER

While climbing the steps of the Swanson Academic Center, walking to class in the Dow Science Center, or traveling through any of the other buildings on campus, students and faculty should stop and take a moment to read the newest publication on campus.

As of January 2010, Active Minds will distribute a one page flyer, called Stall Street Journal, around campus.

Every month the flyer will focus on a different mental health issue.

"Mental health is a really broad topic, and the Stall Street Journal allows us to focus on one topic every month. This way, we can focus on a lot of different topics that are all important but vastly different," said Marcy Gilstad ('11), president of the Alma College chapter of Active Minds. This month's Stall Street Journal shows the relationship between mental health and poverty.

Poverty is not a huge issue on campus, said Gilstad.

"January's Stall Street Journal helped us educate individuals on campus about something that

affects a lot of people, instead of just themselves," Gilstad added.

One of the statistics on this month's Stall Street Journal, according to the U.S. Surgeon General, is, "People in poverty are two to three times more likely to have a mental disorder."

The other, according to the article Socioeconomic Status

***"People in poverty are two to three times more likely to have a mental disorder."***

and Mental Illness: Tests of Social Causation and Selection Hypotheses by C.G. Hudson, is, "For the lowest socioeconomic class, fewer resources and less accessibility to resources cause immense pressure and stress and largely impact their psychological lives."

Gilstad said that there is a stigma surrounding the issue of mental health.

"One of the goals of Active

Minds is to alleviate that stigma, to do something about it, to talk about it.

Statistics like this are one way to start that conversation," she added.

"There is a strong stigma attached to mental health issues and also to seeking clinical treatment for such issues. Primarily, the goal of Stall Street Journals is to inform the student body. The underlying message is that many others are dealing with similar issues," added Christie Schichtel, an AmeriCorps\*VISTA serving at Alma College in the Center for Responsible Leadership.

Schichtel will be designing the Stall Street Journal each month.

"Partly, I am involved in Active Minds because it is a CRL project. Mostly, I am involved because of my interest in mental health issues," said Schichtel.

Schichtel said that she was looking for a mini-publishing opportunity related to mental health issues on college campuses.

"Marcy Gilstad brought up this idea. Because the AmeriCorps\*VISTA program focuses on alleviating poverty, I decided that the premiere

Stall Street Journal should focus on mental health and poverty," Schichtel added.

February's Stall Street Journal will focus on Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD).

Gilstad hopes these flyers will be around campus by Thursday, February 18.

Gilstad attended an Active

***"One of the goals of Active Minds is to alleviate that stigma, to do something about it, to talk about it."***

Minds conference in Washington D.C. in November 2009.

This monthly publication was one of the ideas for Passive programming that the conference advocated, she said.

Active Minds is a student organization that works to educate the campus about mental health issues and the resources available to those interested in acquiring more information about mental

health issues, said Gilstad.

The organization was created on campus in fall 2009, she added.

Active Minds is a national organization; there are over 300 chapters nationwide.

Active Minds has also hosted other recent activities and events on campus.

During exam week in December 2009 there was an Anxiety Oasis in a room in the library.

Music played in the room, there were video games to play, coloring books to color in, and flyers and pamphlets about anxiety disorders and on how to alleviate stress, said Gilstad.

"We also made stress balls," she added.

Gilstad said over 60 students came to the Anxiety Oasis.

She added that Active Minds will consider doing it again in the future.

Active Minds also partnered with Psi Chi for a movie night on Thursday, Feb. 11 showing the movie "Lars and the Real Girl."

Gilstad said new members are always welcome in Active Minds.

The organization meets every other Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in SAC 103.

## Community Cafe: a 'way of giving back to the community'

By ELISABETH BLETSCH  
STAFF WRITER

On any given Thursday night while students wait in line for highland chicken or cheese ravioli in Hamilton Commons, there is another line forming just down the road.

Community Café, a food kitchen held at First Presbyterian Church in Alma, is open to the public every Thursday night.

On average, between 80 and 100 people attend the Café each Thursday.

"In the summer months we often drop off in attendance, but in the winter we can have 120 or more people come for a meal," said Ken Bruza, volunteer coordinator of Community Café.

"The Community Café is more than just a place to come and eat. It is a place or haven for lonely and underprivileged people to come and have a hot meal and to socialize with other folks," said Bruza.

Bruza has been a volunteer at the Café for roughly eight years and has been the Volunteer Coordinator for the last three years.

"CC is my way of giving back to the community by helping people who are in need. Whether this need is to provide a hot meal or be someone that they can talk to about their concerns, people have a right to be treated as human beings. The people who come to café know that they will be treated as individuals and that they can be themselves," Bruza said.

While he was not sure of the exact number, Roger Allman, director of Community Café, said that it has been running for about twenty years.

"Community Café started when a group of people got together to see what they could do about

the hunger situation in Gratiot County," Allman said.

Allman was one of the people in the group that started the café.

"Alma College has been involved since the creation of the Community Café," said Allman.

The college provides the meal and volunteers to serve once a month, September through March.

"The college has been a tremendous supporter of the café, both in materials and in providing assistance in serving. Many of the sororities, fraternities, social organizations, and the athletic teams have volunteered to help at Café. All of these groups have been great to work with and we at Community Café appreciate their help," said Bruza.

"One last group I would like to mention are the folks from SAE. Over the last several years, they have continuously volunteered to come and help out at Café. We have come to count upon these young men coming, both for the help they provide but also for their personalities," Bruza added.

On the three Thursdays of the month that Sodexo does not provide the Café with a meal, there is a group of people who come to the church every to prepare the food for the night.

"They begin these preparations in the early afternoon in order to ensure that it will all be ready by dinner time," said Allman.

This group includes Karen Stearns, head cook for Community Café.

Along with college students, the Café has volunteers from the community, including people from other local churches.

"Over the years, Community Café has evolved into service to the community which is supported by people other than 'just Presbyterians.' Many of

### 'Birds' from page 1

warn onlookers of the birds' defense, the turkey vultures demonstrated his defense for the audience by vomiting on Joe.

"It was interesting. And

the vomit, well, it smelled horrible," said Dan Bryan ('11).

Attendees learned about the cavity nesting birds, hunting techniques of falcons, specialized adaptations of American

Kestrels, and camouflage used by great horned owls.

The birds Rogers uses for demonstrations are all rescued birds that cannot be released back into the wild.



Photo by Devin Brines

At the Birds of Prey presentation students, including Andrew Adan ('11) pictured here with a Screech Owl, were able to have contact with many birds. Other birds shown were the American Kestrel Falcon, the Broad-winged Hawk, and the Rough-legged Hawk.

### 'Employment' from page 1

student turns in all three parts.

The whole "package" is then directed to the Payroll Office.

Without the proper authorization of the supervisor and signatures

by the student, IRS regulations prohibit the payment of the worker.

Once again, the new procedures have little if no effect on any student who has already had a job

on campus.

However, for anyone who was employed after Christmas break, he or she must complete the proper papers in order to get paid this week.

our regular volunteers come from other denominations, as well as social and professional organizations here in Gratiot County," said Bruza.

"Our regular volunteers are the backbone of Community Café," he added.

Most of the food used at Community Café comes from donations.

Local stores and organizations

consistently contribute. Such stores and organizations include Glen's Market, Gratiot Community Hospital, First Church of God in Alma, the Wooden Spoon Bakery, Hellmans, and The Main Café.

Bruza also said that the café receives donations from groups and organizations outside of Gratiot County.

"We have received large

food donations from Soaring Eagle Resort and Conference Center along with several other organizations in Mt. Pleasant," he said.

The Community Café is open every Thursday—except Thanksgiving, Maundy Thursday, and if Christmas falls on a Wednesday or Thursday—at 5:30 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church in Alma.



## Students prepare for 'Vagina Monologues'

By MOLLY HENNING  
STAFF WRITER

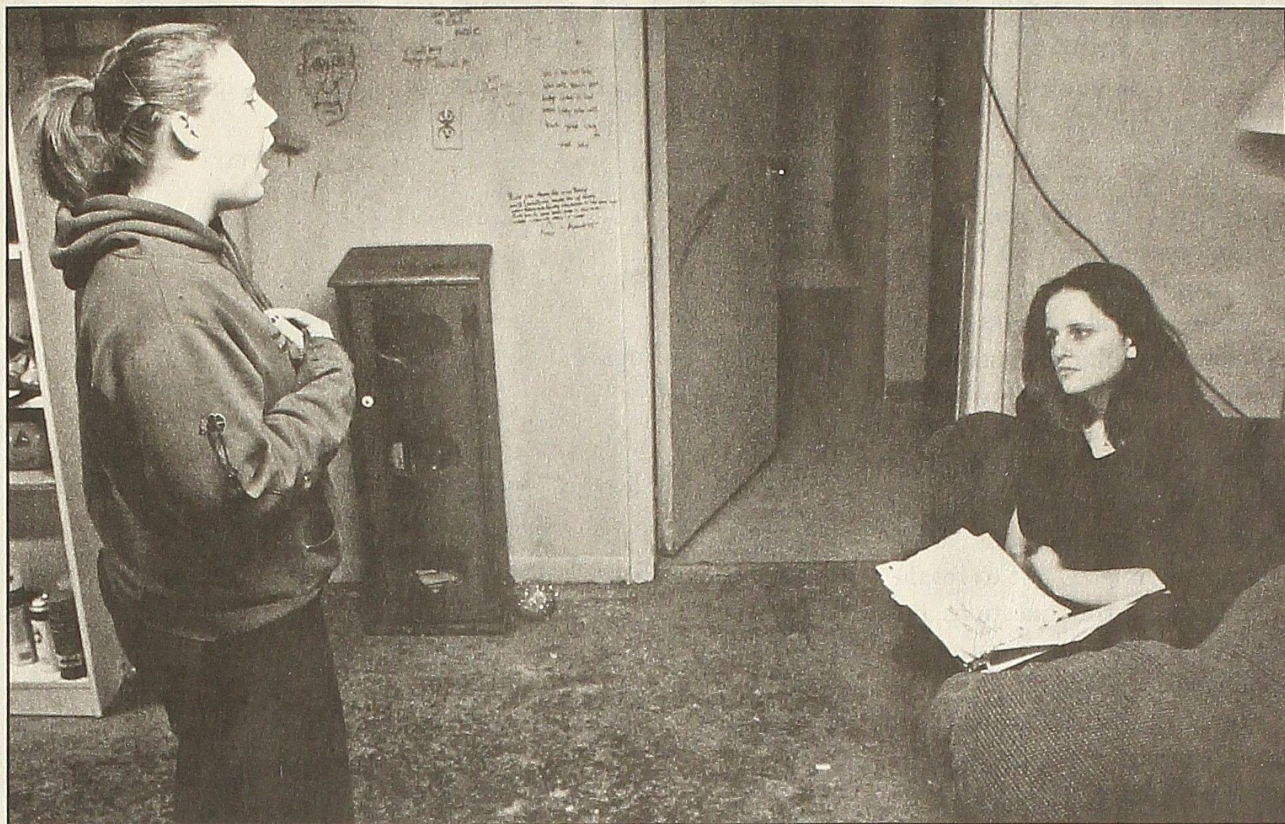
The annual performance of the Vagina Monologues is coming up on Feb. 19, 20, and 21 at 8 p.m. in the Jones Auditorium.

The monologues, which are performed in colleges all over the U.S., are put together by Eve Ensler and Alma's is being produced by **Carrie Chaffee ('10)**.

"The monologues are about the idea of breaking the stigma of talking about vaginas in general and female sexuality, whether that be something that's funny of something that's sad," said **Brienne Jennings ('10)**, director of the production along with Katherine Johns.

"They range all over from awkward experiences to really empowering monologues to some social issues around the world that need to be talked about like human trafficking and sexual violence," said Jennings.

"The Vagina Monologues focus on giving women a voice [about] some things that aren't usually recognized or talked about very often that are important," said



Kendra Sadowski ('10), left, rehearses her monologue "Hair" with director Annie Jennings ('10), right, for the upcoming performances this weekend.

**Summer Coe ('10)**, an actress in the show.

"There's a monologue about rape, there's a monologue about an orgasm, there's a monologue about women that aren't even familiar with their own bodies in

that way," she added.

"People in the U.S. don't think about the fact that women are still discriminated against politically, economically, socially, and we still have a long ways to go before we're equal to men in any

fashion," said **Taylor Gibson ('10)**, stage manager.

"You should be able to talk about past experiences you've had, and it shouldn't be so wrong for women to talk about things that men talk about all the time," said Coe.

Many of the skits are from the perspective of the vagina, each usually featuring only one woman telling a story.

Little blurbs fit in between the monologues with different interesting facts about vaginas, women, and their sexual health.

"Some of the monologues are very emotional for people, and

*"They're all very real, they're all very true, and they're all things that we need to be able to speak about more openly."*

some are comedic," Coe said. "One is about different orgasms, which is always very popular for the audience and gets people to laugh."

"A lot of people can get uncomfortable with some of them, but for the most part, people walk away and are glad they saw them

*'Monologues' continues on pg. 4*

## Thread heart bracelets serve as fund raiser for camp kids

By ELISABETH BLETSCH  
STAFF WRITER

Camp Odayin, located in Cross Lake, Minnesota, is a residential camp for kids between the ages of eight and 17; however, these kids all have something in common.

All of these kids have a heart condition.

**Alexandra Gasiorowski ('13)**, who has a heart condition, has been going to Camp Odayin since 2004, when her cardiologist told her about it.

In concurrence with Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week, Gasiorowski is making and selling thread heart bracelets on campus as a fund raiser for the camp.

"Camp Odayin is a place where we feel normal. We feel isolated at times, because we can't do things like other kids. We feel different. Camp Odayin is a place where the scars on our chests are viewed as a badge of courage and bravery," said Gasiorowski.

It is a five day camp.

Kids only pay \$25.00 to attend "Since it's only \$25.00, the camp really depends on fundraising and donations," said Gasiorowski.

According to the Congenital Heart Information Network, Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week started Sunday, Feb. 7 and continues through Sunday, Feb. 14.

The awareness week intends to "increase public awareness of Congenital Heart Defects and Childhood Heart Disease," said the Congenital Heart Information Network.

Gasiorowski said this camp helps raise public awareness about heart defects and childhood heart disease by creating an environment where these kids feel accepted.

"Because they have so many limitations, these kids would not have the opportunity to attend a regular camp if it wasn't for Camp Odayin," said Gasiorowski.

"There are so many big issues that people are aware of, but those get more attention than camps for kids with special needs. These camps make such a difference in kids' lives, but they don't usually get much attention," she added.

The only requirement kids must meet to stay at Camp Odayin is that they are referred to the camp by their cardiologist, as Gasiorowski was.

While at Camp Odayin in summer 2009, Gasiorowski was a Leader in Training, as she has passed the maximum age limit of 17.

She is now an ambassador for Camp Odayin.

Part of this role means Gasiorowski receives a scholarship from the camp.

To maintain this scholarship she

must complete a fundraising project each year.

This requirement is only half the reason Gasiorowski is making and selling her heart bracelets.

"I would do this anyway, because it means so much to me. I have made so many amazing friends through Camp Odayin. Literally every person I have met there has changed my life positively in some way," she said.

Her thread heart bracelets are two colors and \$2.00 each.

Gasiorowski sold them in SAGA on Wednesday, Feb. 10 and at the Alma Symphony Orchestra concert on Sunday, Feb. 14.

She will also be selling them in SAGA during the dinner hours on Tuesday, Feb. 16.

Gasiorowski also does a fundraiser every summer at the Dream Cruise in her hometown of Birmingham, MI.

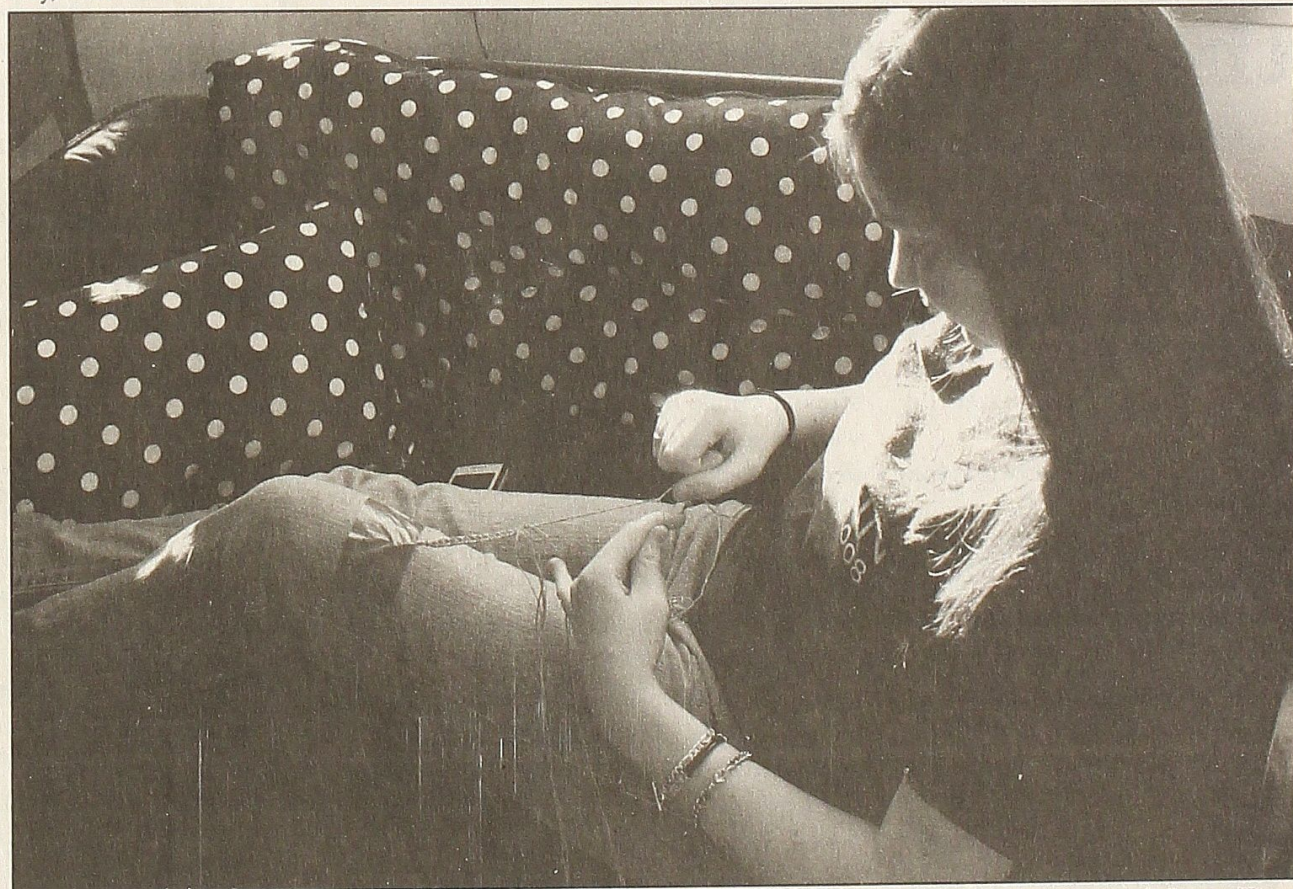
She runs a stand where she sells

lemonade and homemade craft objects, Gasiorowski said.

She has been doing this for about 10 years.

Each year, she donates her proceeds to a different charity.

Gasiorowski said she has donated to Camp Odayin three of the 10 years she has been running this stand.



Alexandra Gasiorowski ('13) relaxes in the sunshine making bracelets as a fund raiser for a camp for kids with heart conditions.

Photo by Lauren Kimpel

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

www.alma.edu/academics/writing\_center

phone: x-7097

email: writingcenter@alma.edu

THE ALMA COLLEGE WRITING CENTER

sign up @ acwritingcenter.wikispaces.com



## Art gallery exhibits award-winning photographer's collection of 25 years

BY SETH FAULK  
STAFF WRITER

The Clack Art Center will be displaying the photography of Al Wildey in the exhibit "Al Wildey: A Journey" in the Flora Kirsch Beck Gallery.

"It's a true retrospective," Wildey said in description of his show. "It's 50 pieces from 25 years and covers everything I've done as an artist."

Wildey is currently an interim associate dean of the College of Communication and Fine Arts at Central Michigan University.

He began instructing in photography at the University of Idaho in 1996. In 2003, he transferred to Central Michigan University, where he resumed teaching until he obtained his current position in 2009.

Wildey has been active in photography lectures and workshops since 1987, and his works have been featured in multiple national exhibitions.

He has also received numerous commissions and awards for his artwork, most recently the 2009 Bronze Lorenzo il Magnifico Award for Photography.

The accumulation of Wildey's photography throughout the different phases of his career will be summarized in the Clack Art Center exhibit.

"The title of the show 'Al Wildey: A Journey' refers to my journey as photographer, artist, educator and traces the path I have followed

that has led me to where I am," said Wildey.

"Photography is the means by which I locate myself in the world," said Wildey on his website, <http://www.alwildey.com>.

Wildey specializes in using specific photographic formats to create his artwork, including camera obscura and panorama features.

"My work has been a continual process of visual investigation," he continues. "The circuitous path of inquiry often leads not to resolution, but to further questions; it is what make the journey both challenging and fulfilling."

In 2005, Wildey published a book of selected photographs, entitled "Public Places, Private Spaces."

Greg Matthews, who wrote the introduction for Wildey's book, praised his photography for "reminding us of who we are in images that invite us to emerge from our own day-to-day indifference."

"As a photographer, Al Wildey proceeds from the idea that photographs invite people to assume things," said Matthews. "Wildey's photographs, in other words, do not force an artificial separation between the photographer and his subjects."

"Al Wildey: A Journey" will begin Monday, February 15, and be displayed in the Main and Lounge Galleries. The exhibit will culminate on Thursday, March 18, with a reception that evening from 7 to 9, featuring a discussion with the artist himself beginning at 7:30.



Photo by Lauren Kimpel

In previous art show, Linda Ferguson explains the inspiration and reasoning behind her series "What Birds Fly Through." Presently, the Flora Kirsch Beck Gallery features the photography of Al Wildey.

## Types of dietary fats and their effect on your health

BY ELEANOR KING  
STAFF WRITER

All fats are not created equally. Some will increase a person's chances of developing diabetes and others can help to lower cholesterol and prevent heart disease.

Due to their versatility and long shelf life, trans fats have found their way into thousands of different foods. Snack foods, canned foods and prepackaged meals and most fried things almost always contain trans fats.

Trans fats, or trans-isomer fatty acids, resulted from chemical ingenuity at the turn of the 20th century. The process of producing trans fats is essentially the hydrogenation of the carbon chains that create and type of naturally occurring fat molecule.

Hydrogenation made it possible to thicken fats from their liquid state into things like shortening and margarine. These types of fat are often referred to as partially hydrogenated.

Another example of these types of fats is the infamous partially hydrogenated soybean oil which is found the majority of processed foods.

Saturated fats, unlike trans fats, are naturally occurring in things

like meats, cheeses and nuts.

Both trans fats and saturated fats are considered to be "bad" fats. These fats cause your body to increase its level of LDL cholesterol. LDL cholesterol, as it is traveling through the blood stream, builds up along the inner walls of arteries. This can lead to heart attacks and even strokes. Over the long term, high levels of LDL cholesterol spells out heart disease.

Trans fats especially have been attacked so much from health institutions that some restaurants and companies have stopped using them all together.

Alma's own food provider, Sodexo, is one such company. However, they still frequently utilize saturated fats.

Fortunately for the average grocery consumer, all food industries are required to list the trans fat content of their products as of January 2006.

What fats should you eat, then? Fats do have a positive purpose. Skeletal muscles, the liver and heart run their cell's metabolism primarily on fatty acids derived from dietary fats.

However, not all fats are utilized as efficiently as others. The best fats for the body as a whole are called Omega 3 fatty acids.

These molecules can't be made by the body but instead be consumed. Foods high in Omega 3 include fish and fish oils, certain nut oils, and some olive oils.

Omega 3 fatty acids are actually proven to lower the risk of heart disease and help to keep cholesterol levels at bay.

When dining at SAGA or fixing a microwave dinner, keep in mind the relative amounts of each

types of fats you should or should not ingest each day. If at all possible, try to eliminate your consumption of trans fats, minimize consumption of saturated fats and shoot for 2-5 grams of Omega 3 fats a day. In a college setting, it may be difficult to do when things like French fries and pizza are just a key-card swipe away; however, the long term benefits are plentiful and well worth the sacrifice.

### GREEK GOD THIS WEEK!

Greek God is a philanthropy event to raise money for the National Kidney Foundation.

Monday at 8 there will be a sister auction. Thursday at 7 there will be the competition, where representatives from the fraternities will be competing in categories such as talent, toga, and dance.

Both events are in the chapel. There will be a small entrance fee; all proceeds go to the National Kidney Foundation.

'Monologues' continued  
from pg. 4

and really enjoy them and take something away from that," said Jennings.

Gaining awareness of all these issues women face is the most rewarding part of the performances, said **Natividad Salgado ('11)**, assistant director.

Helping spread this awareness are actresses **Renee Willoughby ('11)**, **Kendra Sadowski ('10)**, **Laura Kohn ('10)**, **Eleece Clark ('12)**, **Sarah Bechtold ('13)**, **Laurel Tilot ('11)**, **Kristine McNally ('12)**, **Amanda Cruickshank ('11)**, **Rachel Markillie ('10)**, **Elizabeth Armstrong ('13)**, **Julia Ruff ('11)**, **Veronica Hill ('12)**, **Jessica Gauthier ('12)** and **Katherine Hallam ('12)**.

"One of the things I believe, and the New York Times agrees with me, is that the Vagina Monologues is one of the most important plays of the last decade," said Johns.

"I think [these monologues] send an important message in an entertaining way," said Coe. "Some of the monologues are shocking and some are more real than we'd like to imagine. But they're all very real, they're all very true, and they're all things that we need to be able to speak about more openly."

Tickets for Alma students are \$3 and \$5 for non-students. All proceeds are going towards a woman's charity in Gratiot County.



PAGE 5

Ladies, talk to MacCurdy House about what you can do and don't be too embarrassed about your broad shoulders and toned biceps; they're better than a face full of pepper spray any day.

They and his allies have pledged to stop climate change and be a friend of the environment, yet an opportunity knocking is being met with rolled eyes and chump change.

*Puzzle courtesy of [dailysudoku.com](http://dailysudoku.com)*

Say goodbye to Michigan.

Simone Mishler	Editor-In-Chief
Anna Dysinger	News Editor
Lauren Synniewski	Feature Editor
Meredith Brown	Opinion Editor
Chelsea Clark	Sports Editor
Amanda Labby	Copy Editor
Allison Zink	Copy Editor
Catherine Finley	Photo Editor
Jonathan Morley	Webmaster
Duncan Ferguson	Illustrator
Devin Brines	Photographer
Lauren Kimpel	Photographer
Elisabeth Bletsch	Staff Writer
Maria Castaneda	Staff Writer
Caitlin Marsh	Staff Writer
Laurel Tilot	Staff Writer
Sean Webber	Staff Writer
Katie Gordon	Staff Writer
Stephen Sorenson	Staff Writer
Ken Tabacsko	Faculty Advisor
Skip Traynor	Faculty Advisor



## Opinion Face-off: Hollywood's adaptation of childhood classics

**By STEPHEN SORENSON**  
STAFF WRITER

### Hollywood gives fresh new twist

Who could forget classics like Transformers, G.I. Joe, Ghostbusters and even The Karate Kid?

The answer is no one.

Now that these classics swarm video media in the form of Hollywood's latest Blockbusters, they can be appreciated once more.

I love seeing Hollywood refurbish the good old series from our childhood. In this way, the series become immortal.

Some of the most memorable days of my life were Saturday mornings back before I was even in middle school.

I'd always jump out of bed, sit in front of the television with a bowl of unhealthy cereal and enjoy a few hours of Marvel Superhero shows, like X-Men, on Fox.

Sometimes, I still watch these series on DVDs or iTunes for the nostalgic value.

Now, the spin Hollywood puts on its revamps for these series is unfamiliar.

Today's movies are very different from the shows we've grown up with, but this isn't necessarily a bad thing. The series are opened to a much broader audience this way.

Viewers younger and older than ourselves can now enjoy new movies, introducing them to the worlds we love.

Fortunately, we're not the only generation whose memories are revisited.

Race to Witch Mountain, a Disney film I've had the opportunity to enjoy when it came out last March, is a new adaptation of Escape to Witch Mountain from 1975.

Sure, these new films revamps of old series only seem to follow few basic ideas from the original stories, but this is to accommodate society's new tastes.

For example, I don't feel that Halloween and Nightmare on

Elm Street have aged very well.

They are too cheesy by today's standards to be considered horror films, so their more violent remakes keep the original ideas fresh for their scare loving demographic to enjoy.

Admittedly, I'm a little disappointed with Superman Returns and just about every new Marvel Comics movie because they don't give me the same feelings I experienced watching the television series as a kid.

However, I couldn't be happier that they are very much alive thanks to Hollywood.

As I understand, new Spiderman movies are currently being developed to replace the movies featuring Tobey Maguire from the very beginning of this century.

I've seen G.I. Joe and I will be seeing the new Ghostbusters movie when it comes out next year.

If it weren't for these films, I both popular series from the 90s would have completely slipped under my radar.

G.I. Joe certainly wasn't a masterpiece of a movie, but I did enjoy the action scenes and because of it, I appreciate the idea from the television series and am interested in growing more familiar with it.

Hollywood artists are able to introduce so many new techniques into the polish of a film when they play around with concepts from classic ideas.

In the Transformers and Iron Man movies, we saw advanced special effects showing off detailed robotic parts moving and functioning as combat machines.

Everyone now remembers the classics of television and film industries, even the people who haven't necessarily grown up watching these old goodies.

By no means has Hollywood ruined our memories.

Rather, it has breathed a new life into them. I welcome classic revamps for their ability reach out to new audiences, recycling the memories I love.

**By SEAN WEBBER**  
STAFF WRITER

### Hollywood butchers classic tales

Recently there has been a trend in Hollywood to return the franchises of our childhoods to the silver screen.

And, each time one of these gems from my developmental years is brought to the theatres in live action glory, I leave disappointed or downright angry.

There is a long list of these disappointments, but I'll start with the ones that irk me the most: comic book movies.

In the last few years there have been a dozen or so films made from comic book material, and most of them have sucked immensely.

The Fantastic Four adaptation was filled to the brim with camp and the source material might as well have been put through a wood chipper.

This goes double for the Punisher films, which have failed to find a balance between violence and corniness.

Even the Batman franchise was slaughtered in the nineties by Joel Schumacher and costumes with nipples.

It's not just comic book movies,

though. Cartoons from my youth have also been butchered.

Case in point: Speed Racer.

The show pretty regularly circulates the Boomerang Network nowadays, but if anyone saw the Wachowski Brothers adaptation, you might agree that the film would probably send any epileptic into seizure.

If you were a G.I. Joe fan as a kid, you were probably let down by the popcorn flick that came out this summer, which proved to be little more than loud.

But one of the greatest let downs of 2009 was the Dragonball Z movie.

Anyone who watched Dragonball Z during its long stint on Cartoon Network probably left the theatre red in the face and pledging to boycott Twentieth Century Fox for the rest of their existence.

My point is this: Hollywood is taking the stories that our generation treasures and ruining them for us.

Sure, they have produced a few good films, just enough to keep Hollywood making more adaptation films.

Still, they have mostly been let downs.

This doesn't just go for my generation, either.

The latest installment of the Indiana Jones series was a disappointment, as was the newest Superman film.

The detriment from Hollywood is perhaps most easily felt through the Man of Steel.

When Richard Donner's adaptation decades ago hit theatres with Christopher Reeve's chiseled features gracing the screen, it was a hit.

The original Superman film is still pretty watchable, even after a few decades of special effect evolution.

In the latest film, the writers managed to give the last son of Krypton a bastard child with Lois Lane.

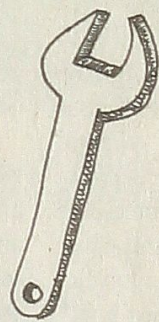
Imagine Superman sending child support in the mail from the fortress of solitude.

Adaptation films will continue to come out. In the next few years we can expect a Spiderman reboot, a Green Lantern film and the Iron Man sequel.

Sadly, no matter how good or bad these films are—and I have very high hopes for them—myself and other fans will go see them, and Hollywood will probably continue to make ridiculous amounts of cash from mediocre rip offs of our childhood heroes.

### APPETITE FOR ALMA

By D. Ferguson



YOUR SUCH  
A TOOL!



LOOK WHO IS  
TALKING.

## Students should be able to sign up for classes online

**By LAUREL TILOT**  
STAFF WRITER

Americans are constantly developing new ways to indulge in laziness.

This so-called "laziness," however, is renamed "convenience" in what seems to be an attempt to make us all feel better about not expending the extra effort it takes to do an everyday task.

How many inventions have we seen that have made our lives easier?

The remote control, Blue Tooth, and self-propelled vacuum cleaners, just to name a few.

It's easy to understand how these items have become popular—

these tasks of changing the channel, holding your phone up to your head, and vacuuming the carpet are really all just a pain, but let's face it, we've become used to convenience and when we don't have to spend our time doing some menial task, we'd rather not.

I will admit that I am afflicted with the dreaded laziness, but there is one particularly tedious and stressful chore that I cannot stand and that is registering for classes.

What makes this a pain?

The fact that you have to run all over campus trying and usually failing to find several people to sign one ridiculous piece of paper in order to give you access to a class.

Wouldn't it be easier for students, faculty, and even those in the registrar's office to just complete this task via the internet?

I can imagine that it would take a lot of time and effort to put together a system that would make this work, but in the long run it would seem to make far more sense to just keep all of this information on the computer.

Less filing and less stress in general for all of the people involved.

I happen to be one of those rather normal students who often wait until last minute to complete these tasks.

It may be that I'm too busy in the week to find six or seven different people to sign a paper

or it may be the sheer dread of having to do this at all that makes me procrastinate.

All I know is that I seem to find myself with a stress-induced headache because it's 4:30 p.m., a drop/add slip is due in a half hour to the registrar's office, and I haven't been able to find my advisor, the provost, or my professor in order to sign the darn thing.

Of course, if you look at this from the point of laziness instead of convenience, I could solve my own problems by starting this course of action earlier in the week instead of waiting until the last day, but what if this truly wasn't possible?

Between jobs, homework, classes, rehearsals, music lessons,

meals, and the minimal amount of sleep I get, it all too often seems that I don't have the time to be running around campus looking for one person who is just as busy as I am in order for them to glance at a piece of paper and then jot down their John Hancock.

College is stressful for everyone, whether they work here or are preparing themselves for graduate school.

We could all use a break, but since those seem to be few and far between, can't we at least settle for making the work that we have to do a little easier?

Stop with the signatures and the running around; let the computers do the work for us and put registration online!

## 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 'The Almanian' & tell us what's on your mind!



# Women's tennis prepares for season

By SHANDEN DELAMATER  
STAFF WRITER

The women's tennis team have been preparing for the past two weeks to open their 2010 spring season this weekend in Grand Rapids against Davenport

*“Being able to play teams from other states and across the country really helps us, and is a great starter before the conference schedule.”*

University at 6 p.m. this Saturday. Six key members from last

year's squad return to this year's nine member team. After losing senior No. 1 singles player **Laura McKendry ('09)**, the lady Scots are young with no seniors on the squad.

Returning members include **Amy Baranowski ('12')**, **Margaret Curtis ('11')**, **Kelsey Erwin ('11')**, **Abbey McCue ('11')**, **Jen Meloche ('12')**, and **Lauren Stevenson ('12')**.

Last year the women posted an 8-12 mark overall going 3-5 in the conference. Overall in singles matches going 51-63.

McCue looks forward to getting closer with her teammates and improving as much as possible.

“My goals are to work on my mental aspect of the game and to be a better teammate,” says McCue. “I would like to see the team become stronger as a whole and support one another.”

The conference will prove to have difficult competition again for the Scots, who finished sixth

last year behind Hope, Calvin, Kalamazoo, Albion, and Saint Mary's.

“Saint Mary's would probably be our rival because their team is about even with ours,” says

*“I think our team has become stronger farther into the lineup. We have a pretty solid lineup this year.”*

McCue.

The Scots will compete in an 18 contest schedule, including six matches to be played over spring break in Florida.

The seven day trip, which begins on Friday, Feb. 26, will have the Scots playing teams from across the country.

“Being able to play teams from other states and across country really helps us, and is a great starter before the conference schedule,” said McCue.

The lineup is undecided, but should be determined within the next week.

All three freshmen look to make an impact for the team. The freshmen include **Katie Meloche ('13')**, **Genevieve Perry ('13')**, and **Erin Graham ('13')**.

With the season starting, the Lady Scots are looking forward to improving upon last season.

A tough conference and young lineup could pose trouble, but

McCue thinks that the lineup will have what it takes.

“I think our team has become stronger farther into the lineup. We have a pretty solid lineup this year,” said McCue.

Regardless of the outcome, the Scots will use the young lineup to their advantage.

“We are a young team but I think that's good for building,” said McCue.

The Scots will make their trip to Grand Rapids with hope to improve on not only last year, but setting goals for seasons to come, and undoubtedly will battle any team with that Scot pride.

## Intramural volleyball rallies begin for championship

By MARIA CASTANEDA  
STAFF WRITER

With another year comes another season of intramural volleyball for students to enjoy friendly competition.

The Stone Recreation Center offers a variety of intramural sports including dodge ball, basketball, softball, flag football, 3v3 volleyball, and 6v6 volleyball seasonally throughout the school year.

This week the competition of 6v6 volleyball began with students competing for the much sought after championship t-shirt.

“The majority of it is for fun, but we tend to get a little competitive,” **Bart Blystone ('10)** said.

Blystone's team is 2-1 after the first week of the season.

“We like to have fun during the season, but come play-off time we get pretty serious,” **Marc Mankowski ('10)** said.

Mankowski, a team member of Blystone's, has been in several championship games during his four years at Alma but never won the final game.

Despite the competition, both Mankowski and Blystone also enjoy the friendship that comes with intramural sports.

“Because they're fun, it's a great way to hang out with your friends. It's all about the camaraderie and friendly competition,” Blystone said.

Other teams also enjoy the competition of intramural sports but take a more relaxed approach to the sport.

“My team is more laid back but with high competitive spirits,” said **Megan Irwin ('11)**. “We want to win and we play our best but we aren't heartbroken about it if we lose. It is more about just playing together and having fun, we are able to joke around with each other if we mess up and none of us take ourselves too seriously.”

Irwin admits she is more competitive in other sports than she is in volleyball.

“My IM basketball team on the other hand is extremely competitive and we are out to win

every game. We are very serious and very competitive,” Irwin said.

Students of all skill levels play intramural volleyball, from those who have never played to those who have played in high school and continue playing.

“It's a good way to dabble in other sports,” Mankowski said. Mankowski plays football for the school, but participates in intramural softball and basketball, along with volleyball.

“I play IM volleyball because it is my favorite sport. I played in high school for 4 years and this allows me to continue playing,” Irwin

*“I have been playing sports since I can remember, and IM gives me the opportunity to still play those sports but instead of just strict competition being there as well.”*

said. “I have been playing sports since I can remember, and IM gives me the opportunity to still play those sports but instead of just strict competition it is more relaxed and fun with competition being there as well.”

Although students across campus enjoy intramural sports, there are some things that could be improved.

“I wish there were longer and more spread out instead of all forced into two or three weeks. That way you could play every team instead of the same 3 or 4,” Irwin said. “That would allow for more competition and different games.”

Despite its brevity, students will enjoy the friendly competition of intramural volleyball in hopes of making it to the championship game and winning the champions t-shirt.

## Men's tennis defeats two teams in one day

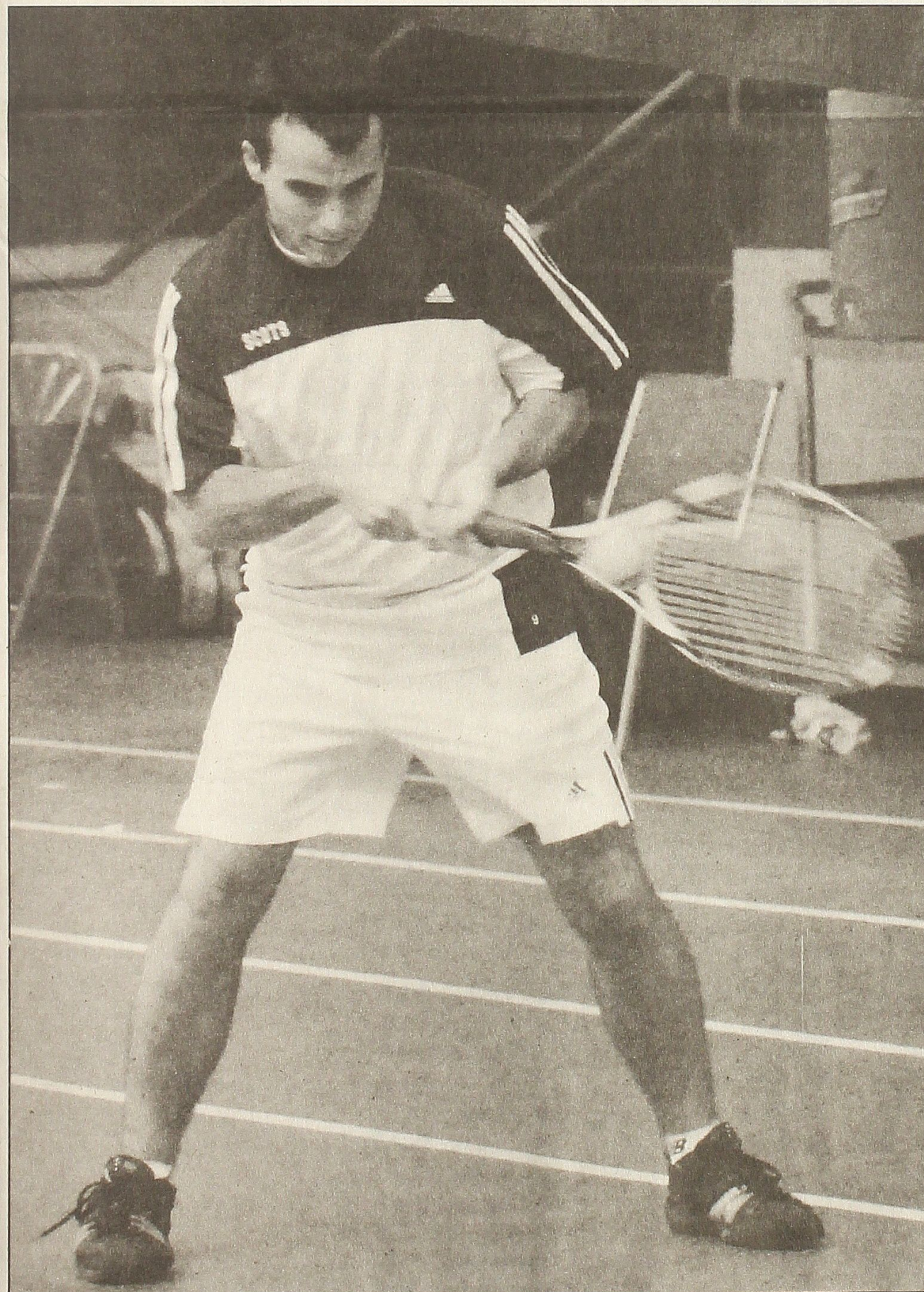


Photo by Devin Brines

Zach Kerr ('11) returns a serve in Alma's 7-2 win against Defiance on Saturday. Alma defeated Adrian 6-3 earlier in the day. Ben Schippers ('12) played especially well during Saturdays two matches playing both singles and doubles coming out with a perfect 4-0. This marked the start of the Scots season, but it will continue as the team travels to Orlando for six games from Feb. 27 to March 4 before returning to Alma on March 13 to play Davenport at 4 p.m.



## Women's basketball drops a close game to the Comets

By MARIA CASTANEDA  
STAFF WRITER

For the second time this season, the women's basketball team lost a close game to Olivet College. Last Saturday the Lady Scots played the Comets at Cappaert Gymnasium and lost with a final score of 52-49.

Showing improvement, the women's basketball team lost the game by a narrow margin of three points compared to the 12 point difference of the previous game.

Going into the game, the Lady Scots were determined to get a tally in the win column.

"We need to win today, and we should win today. We need to shoot well and play a full game," **Kathy Bigelow ('10)** said.

The contest was back and forth throughout the game with both teams taking the lead at different points of the match.

***"We need to win today, and we should win today. We need to shoot well and play a full game."***



Photo by Devin Brines

**Danielle Hicks ('13) attempts a steal in Saturday's 52-49 loss against Olivet on Saturday. Forward Meagan Hoblet ('10) led the Scots with 13 points and 9 rebounds to keep the game close.**

Beginning the game with the first points, the Lady Scots managed to lead the score for the first few minutes.

But the Comets caught up and took the lead with 16:52 on the clock and kept it until there were under five minutes left in the first half. **Meagan Hoblet ('10)** scored a lay-up putting Alma up by one.

The Lady Scots skillfully kept the lead for the rest of the half going on a 16-3 run and headed into halftime leading 31-27.

Keeping the lead, Bigelow scored a three early in the second half. But Olivet College took the lead with 15:19 left in the game and kept it for the duration of the game.

Hoblet led the Lady Scots scoring 13 points and earning nine rebounds. The team had a high field goal percentage at

66.7 percent in the first half but dropped to 26.7 percent in the second half.

Earlier that week, the women's basketball team traveled to Albion College, where they lost to the Britons with a score of 49-40.

***"We knew that we needed a win, but the shots really didn't fall for us. We only made 6 shots in the second half which can never lead to us being very success-***

***ful."*** Bigelow said. "We only made

6 shots in the second half which can never lead to being very successful."

Despite the loss the Lady Scots managed to keep the Britons to a low score of 49 points.

"We played a really strong defense," Bigelow said.

Albion began the game by scoring a three at the 18:11 mark, but Alma quickly answered with a

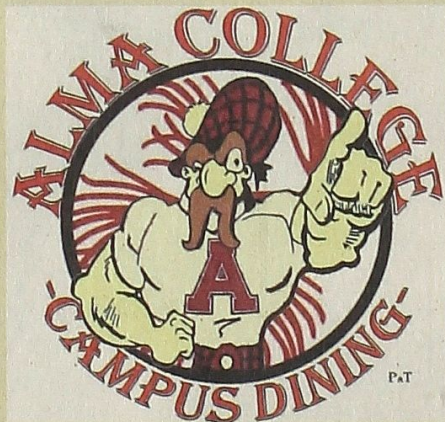
basket from Hoblet.

Again the contest went back and forth with both teams battling for the lead but the Britons went on a 12-3 run in the second half and managed to control the game the remainder of the time.

Hoblet again led the Scots with 11 points with **Lacey Best-Rowden ('10)** close behind scoring 10 points and **Aubrey**

**Maxa ('12)** adding eight points. Bigelow also had seven rebounds and six assists.

The Lady Scots are now 5-18 overall and 4-10 in the MIAA. The women's basketball team nears their end of their season, traveling to Trine University where they will play the Thunder on Wednesday, Feb. 17 at 7:30 p.m.



### YOUR OPINION COUNTS!

HELP ENHANCE THE DINING EXPERIENCE AT ALMA COLLEGE  
BY JOINING OUR

**ALMA COLLEGE FOOD ADVISORY BOARD**  
FOR THE UPCOMING 2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR

THE BOARD EXISTS TO FOSTER COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION BETWEEN STUDENTS, ADMINISTRATORS, STAFF AND CUSTOMERS THAT CONTRIBUTES TO OUR MISSION OF PROVIDING THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY DELICIOUS AND NUTRITIOUS FOODS WITH FLAIR, FUN AND INNOVATION

IF YOU THINK YOUR GREAT TASTE – AND TASTE BUDS — COULD CONTRIBUTE TO OUR MISSION, JOIN OUR FOOD ADVISORY BOARD AND HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THIS HUGE PART OF CAMPUS LIFE. CONTACT STEVEN WATKINS IN THE CAMPUS DINING OFFICES IN THE LOWER LEVEL OF HAMILTON OR EMAIL AT

STEVEN.WATKINS@SODEXO.COM

We are now have a variety of muffins and scones available for breakfast on the go!

**We also have Java Merchandise.**  
**Mugs are \$5.99 and save you 15% on drinks!**

T Shirts are \$12 and can be bought with cash OR Munch Money.



Visit HIGHLAND JAVA CAFE on the main floor of the library.

Run by the students of SIFE

Hours will be expanding soon!