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Alma College's new commercial
is up and running
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First victory in Art Smith
arena for volleyball
see page 7

VOLUME CIV ISSUE III

SEPTEMBER 20-26, 2010 EDITION

Full reaccreditation granted to Alma College

By JOSHUA ZEITLER
GUEST WRITER

The quality of the post-secondary educational experience offered at Alma College has recently been commended by two separate external organizations. The first of these commendations was received on April 29 when the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools granted Alma College full reaccreditation.

"The college is very proud and pleased that an external committee of higher learning professionals observed what we do on campus and found it worthy of full accreditation."

-Ann Hall,
Assistant Provost

Every 10 years the college must be subjected to a rigorous examination that evaluates its credibility as an institution based on criteria such as academic curriculum, student-faculty interactions,

ethics and community service.

As a part of the reaccreditation process, representative members of the Alma College faculty and administration are required to draw up a self-study report to be compared with a second report written by a team of administration, faculty and student life representatives who spent three days visiting Alma from neighboring colleges to investigate claims made in the self-study.

Although Alma College has been continuously accredited since 1916, it is not uncommon for the visiting team to submit recommendations in their report.

In 2000, two such recommendations involving strategic planning led to a follow-up report in 2003.

However, in the past ten years, Alma College has strengthened its strategies and no major concerns were submitted.

"The college is very proud and pleased that an external committee of higher learning professionals observed what we do on campus and found it to be worthy of full accreditation," said Assistant Provost Ann Hall.

"We are also grateful for the expertise and suggestions they provided that we can draw upon in the next round of strategic planning," she said.

In addition, Hall said that she was



Photo by Katie Keaton

Michael Selmon, provost, and the rest of the Alma College faculty work together during the re-accreditation process.

pleased that the visiting team had community was committed to found clear evidence that the college fulfilling the mission statement.

According to the self-study report, "Alma is well-positioned for the future with a stable foundation and unique opportunities for growth that complements the new mission 'to prepare graduates who think critically, serve generously, lead purposefully, and live responsibly as stewards of the world they bequeath to future generations.'"

Alma College's promise and delivery of excellence in well-rounded education brought another honorable commendation from the Princeton Review.

"It makes me feel confident that my degree will be very well respected once I leave here."

-Teresa Larson ('13)

For prospective students in 2011, Alma College was recognized as one of the "Best in the Midwest" along with 151 other institutions in the 12-state region.

The Princeton Review has awarded Alma College this designation for several consecutive years.

"It makes me feel confident that my degree will be very well respected once I leave here," said Teresa Larson ('13).

Ed Lorenz named national finalist for Thomas Ehrlich Faculty Award

By MASON WARLING
GUEST WRITER

Ed Lorenz, professor of history, was recently named a national finalist for Campus Compact's

2010 Thomas Ehrlich Faculty Award for Service-Learning.

He was recognized for his committed work in educating student on issues related to rural and agricultural development, pollution,

pesticide use, border issues and human rights through the Alma College Public Affairs Institute.

The award honors a single award recipient and an additional four finalists each year for "exemplary engaged scholarship, including leadership in advancing students' civic learning and enhancing higher education's contributions to the public good," according to Campus Compact.

Of the five honored individuals, Lorenz is the only one recognized from a private liberal arts college.

"In the classroom, Ed has inspired students to take on projects that have led to significant national recognitions, including multiple Fulbright, Jack Kent Cooke and Udall award winners," said Provost Michael Selmon. "He also has been a leader in the development of Alma's service learning program, helping shepherd it from initial start-up. Admiring

colleagues have come to call him 'a force of nature.'"

Lorenz taught the Spring Term course "Leadership in War and Human Rights," where he led a group to Chicago to learn about and address the issue of how the United States can move forward with the membership process for the International Criminal Court, which prosecutes individuals charged with crimes against humanity.

The group, including Lorenz, produced a consensus statement that was published in "Environmental Health Perspectives," a scholarly journal.

Lorenz also helped to organize the 2008 Eugene Kenaga International DDT Conference, hosted at Alma College, which was attended by medical and environmental experts from around the world.

"The goal is to empower students," said Lorenz. "With issues like the ICC and DDT, what's amazing is that a lot of people aren't doing much

about them, so my idea of service is getting students to apply what they're studying to something that's actually happening. I want students to see that they can actually have a voice in public policy."

As an award finalist, Lorenz and a short description of his work will be featured on the Campus Compact website, along with fellow finalists Joan Francioni of Winona State University, Judith Liu of the University of San Diego, Nancy Orel of Bowling Green State University, and award recipient Barry Checkoway of the University of Michigan.

Lorenz is taking a sabbatical for the Fall 2010 term, and has announced his candidacy for Gratiot County Commissioner.

If elected, he plans to use the position to address such issues as the DDT byproduct contamination in the Pine River left behind by the now-defunct Velsicol Chemical plant, and mismanagement of county funds.



Photo by Kayla Roy

History professor Ed Lorenz was one of only five individuals nationwide to be a finalist for the Thomas Ehrlich Faculty Award.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
AM Showers 67°	Thunderstorms 86°	AM Clouds/PM Sun 69°	Thunderstorms 78°	Showers 70°	Partly Cloudy 64°	Partly Cloudy 69°

A new health insurance company for a new year

By **CHELSEA RADGENS**
GUEST WRITER

With the new school year came changes in health insurance for Alma students. This year, Alma College made the switch to the Michigan-based company Cofinity. "We wanted to provide something affordable. Most student health care plans are accident only and don't cover things like the common cold," said Amber Herman, nurse at the Wilcox Medical Center. Herman and Anne Lambrecht, directors of health and wellness, researched different insurance plans for two years and believe that the switch will benefit the students much more than the previous plan. "Students get the first \$500 free here and it also comes with a drug card with a \$500 cap and a discount afterwards," said Herman. "Typical students probably won't come close to going over that." Besides the benefits of the new insurance provider, the medical center encountered other problems with the

old healthcare policy. The Center dealt with finding out that many students did not have any insurance and the bills began to rack up. In other cases, students had coverage although it was very limited. "Kids were left with basically no insurance even though they had the card," said Herman. The new policy includes a full year of coverage, from Aug. 1 of this year until Aug. 1, 2011, and is accessible throughout Michigan. Despite the positives of the insurance plan, many students are unaware of the program entirely or choose to stick with their own providers. "I turned it down because I have Blue Cross Blue Shield, so I know nothing about it," said **Edward Webb**. ('13) "It was cheaper for me to have better coverage under my parents plan." When questioned about their views on the new policy, the most common response from students was that they had never been to the Med Shed and therefore never had any reason to know of or understand the policies.

Others like Webb have their own insurance providers already. The medical center approves of this option as well, as every student must have some type of insurance. "[The plan] was highly recommended at the parent meeting, but as long as students have insurance it's all right," said Herman. In the beginning of October, the students that still don't have insurance will be automatically switched into the school's insurance plan, and the cost will be rolled into the tuition. "Anyone with any questions should feel free to give me a call. If I can't help them, I can direct them to someone who can," Herman said. The Center hopes that the new plan will alleviate all of the past problems and be manageable and convenient for students as well. "Health care is expensive and you never know when you're going to need an appendectomy," said Herman. "It's for your own good."

This week at Alma College

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20:

DEADLINE FOR THE BICENTENARIO T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST
ADAM JOHNSON IS SPEAKING ABOUT LAW ENFORCEMENT, PSYCHOLOGY, AND THE MEDIA AT 5:30 P.M. IN SAC 113

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21:

POLITICAL SCIENCE CLUB MEETING, SAC 106, 4:30 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22:

EL BICENTENARIO IN MICHIGAN: IMMIGRATION PANEL DISCUSSION, SAC 113, 8 P.M.
ACTIVE MINDS: TO WRITE LOVE ON HER ARMS, CHAPEL, 8 P.M.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24:

"GOOD SEX" PRESENTATION IN VAN DUSEN COMMONS AT 7 P.M.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24:

ACOG SPONSORING "MAGIC, THE GATHERING!" IN THE EVENING

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25:

ADOPT A HIGHWAY CLEANUP SPONSORED BY ALPHI PHI OMEGA, REID KNOX PARKING LOT, 4 P.M.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26:

CATHOLIC MASS, CAPEL, 4:30 P.M.
CHAPEL WORSHIP SERVICE, 9 P.M.

Diploma or degree? What should it be?

By **LAUREN ANDALORA**
GUEST WRITER

During your senior year of high school there's a lot of talk about college. However, there is usually not much talk about whether or not college is necessary. Today, the average private four-year college costs over \$26,000 per year. Here at Alma, the cost is around \$36,000. According to the College Board, it takes 14 years before a college graduate's income, minus their debt, beats out the earning power of a high school diploma. That doesn't necessarily mean that a high school diploma is better than a college diploma, however. "It varies," said Mary Pilon, writer for the Wall Street Journal and recipient

of the Al Neuharth Free Spirit Award for Journalism. In her article, "What's A Degree Really Worth?" Pilon goes on to explain that it really depends on the individual, and what he or she is looking for in a college. "You're going to get out of a degree what you put into it," said Pilon. First, Pilon suggested that one should ask him or herself whether or not he or she will be involved with campus activities or participate in internship opportunities. If one isn't interested in undergraduate research or finding perspective jobs through the alumni network, one might not want to pay for these opportunities. If this is the case, community college can

be a good alternative. Secondly, Pilon believes it's important to consider how much is too much when it comes to loans. Looking at financial aid packages, scholarships, loan options and grants can help one evaluate whether or not she should go to a private school. Finally, if one is considering a trade school or other special program, the career path is something to take into consideration. "If you're going into medicine, said Pilon, "college is a necessity. But when it comes to art? Not so much." A public college is more likely to offer specific programs such as pre-med. For those who are looking to enter a trade, like traditional artistry, they may not need a


college degree to find work. "For me college is necessary," said international student **Tiana Azevedo** ('14). "In Brazil, to get a good job you need a college background. And for me, American college offers a special program in political science so I can work with the UN." "A lot of jobs today require a college degree," said **Kaitlyn Mays** ('14). "It's also necessary because it's a period during which you can mature and further develop your social skills." According to the Wall Street Journal, consumers now owe more on their student loans than their credit cards. The average loan debt of a college graduate is \$23,000. According to FinAid.org and FastWeb.com publisher Mark Kantrowitz, the total

owed on student loans comes to \$829.8 billion. "It's not just a financial investment, but a self-investment," said **Noelle Evans** ('11). "A college education, especially a liberal arts one, helps you become a more conscientious citizen and a better problem solver. In the run long you make more money, and you are definitely more marketable and have a better chance of getting hired. A degree is like the new high school diploma to a lot of employers." In the end the question to ask yourself may not be whether or not college is necessary, but whether or not one can afford it. "While there are many types of schools to choose from, loans may be an unavoidable part of college itself," said **Emily Falicki** ('14).




Photo by Devin Brines

President Jeff Abernathy converses with Religious studies professor Kathryn Blanchard and Communication professor Joanne Gilbert at the Organizational Fair last Tuesday.



MONDAY-FRIDAY 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
SATURDAY 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.



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To Write Love on Her Arms addresses mental health

By MARGO BRINES
STAFF WRITER

To Write Love on Her Arms is not a band, a movie, or a new clothing brand, although you may have seen the phrase printed on t-shirts.

Those six words represent a movement and a non-profit organization founded in 2006 by Jamie Tworowski, a man who envisions a world with hope, help and community for people who struggle with depression, addiction, self-injury, and suicide.

On Wednesday, Sept. 22 at 8 p.m., Tworowski will speak at Dunning Memorial Chapel about To Write Love on Her Arms. Admission is free.

Through partnerships associated with it, To Write Love on Her Arms works to inspire conversation about mental health and to decrease the stigma associated with mental health issues.

Statistics about the widespread prevalence of mental health issues reflect the importance of making mental health a part of everyday conversation: many people do not seek treatment because they fear being stereotyped or discriminated against.

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, 18 million people in the United States suffer from depression, and untreated depression is the number one cause of suicide.

Among college students, suicide is the second leading cause of death. To Write Love on Her Arms works to help remedy these shocking statistics. While the group does not provide treatment for mental illness, To Write Love on Her Arms promotes many resources for finding help. TWLOHA.org links people to emergency hotlines for crisis situations; databases for finding counseling; websites about self-injury, addiction and eating disorders.

Tworowski travels extensively to speak at conferences, events and universities, often standing onstage with musicians who support the group's mission. He

inspires young people to enter treatment and to encourage their friends to seek treatment as well.

In April 2010, he spoke at Central Michigan University and in his speech he said, "A friend can say something to another friend that a stranger can't. Maybe our healing happens around other people. Maybe the journey out [of pain] is to invite other people to help you."

One campus group, Active Minds, has worked for the past year to bring this organization to Alma. Active Minds aims to promote mental health awareness and to reduce the stigma associated with mental health issues.

Ruth Douglas ('12) said, "I

certainly appreciate the work that Active Minds is doing to get [To Write Love on Her Arms] here... if things like suicide remain taboo, they perpetuate."

"I hope the event will reduce the stigma around mental health on our campus," said Marcy Gilstad ('11), president of Active Minds. "Our main goal is that after attending, students will feel comfortable talking about mental illness without fear of irrational judgment and that they will feel more comfortable seeking help when it is needed."

"If just one more student has decided to go to the Counseling and Wellness Center, then we have made progress," said Gilstad.

Alma College airs new ad that targets prospective students

By ELIZABETH CORBIN
STAFF WRITER

The college has a new television commercial called "The Alma Experience" which attempts to appeal to all viewers, specifically targeting prospective students, current students, and alumni.

James Thompson ('10) stars as the main character in the 60-second ad campaign.

"Vaughn and Devin Brines did way more for this commercial than I ever could," said Thompson. "Vaughn co-wrote it with Skip Traynor (the digital media editor). He produced, directed, filmed and edited it. Devin also edited and shot a lot of the commercial. These guys put in way more time than I did. They were the behind the scenes genius that you see in the final product. They deserve a lot of praise."

As described by Thompson, the advertisement includes prominent work by Vaughn Brines ('10) who graduated with a Program of Emphasis in Screenwriting and Film Production. More than 20,000 photographs were taken throughout the shooting process and over 500 were used in the



Photo by Devin Brines

James Thompson ('10) stars in Alma College's new stop-motion ad, which required over 500 photos.

making of the stop motion film.

"Shooting of the commercial took from March until the beginning of June, but the process lasted from January to the end of July," said Thompson.

The initial plans to create a

commercial began in January of 2009. Director of College Communications Mike Silverthorn said that from then on a work team met twice a week.

"We have a lot of ways we market and promote the college. We have

a lot more hold in social media than ever before," said Silverthorn.

The commercial was uploaded to YouTube at the end of August and user viewings have now reached over 4,000 hits and demographic data of the viewings show that

attention has come from other states and even other countries.

Brines was asked what values of Alma were intended to be portrayed in the advertisement.

"It's exactly in the name 'The Alma Experience.' We just wanted to show the more life changing events that happen in college," said Brines. "We just really wanted to portray the soul of this institution that we feel so strongly about. We wanted to convey a feeling - something that worked on a subconscious level that would appeal to prospective students."

The end of the commercial shows a link which directs viewers to a page on the Alma College website that provides information on the school, a behind the scenes story, and includes an embedded player so that visitors can view the commercial additional times.

"The Alma Experience" is currently in its fourth week of being aired on television in the Detroit Metro area including Bloomfield Hills, Ann Arbor and various suburbs. This week broadcasting begins in the Mid Michigan region through Charter and plans are set for circulation in the Grand Rapids and Lansing areas in the near future.



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New ballet teacher hired for Alma College Dance Company

By MOLLY HENNING
STAFF WRITER

Samantha Shelton, who has experience in both performing and teaching, is the newest ballet instructor to teach with the Alma College Dance Company.

Shelton has a Master's in Dance from the University of Michigan. She teaches ballet, point and a partnering class. In addition, Shelton is a choreographer.

"I performed for a long time and was teaching and performing together," said Shelton. "I've been teaching for at least 15 years."

Shelton has performed across the state doing many guest artist appearances.

"My favorite part is the daily physical and mental working of the body, working of the mind, and the performing—always having both a short-term and a long-term goal," Shelton said.

Shelton taught at Wayne State University as an adjunct and choreographed for Grand Valley State University, but was interested in doing something more stable where she could work with the dancers on a consistent basis.

"A lot of times in the arts, you kind of go gig to gig, which is

great too, but it's also nice to have something where I'm going to see these kids everyday and to be able to hopefully train them long term."

Shelton found out about the position earlier this year and decided to apply for it.

"I had known about the program through Tom Morris who was here before me. He had invited me in years prior to teach and coach, and I had been here a couple times as a guest artist so I knew about the program in advance," explained Shelton. "When I saw the listing that they needed someone to teach, I was excited because I knew the facilities are beautiful and the kids are great to work with."

This semester, Shelton is teaching Ballet II, Ballet III, Pointe Variations, Partnering and will be doing a seven-week Dance Appreciation course in October. Shelton is also choreographing for the Alma College Dance Company concerts. For the fall concert, she is choreographing to a piece of music by Vivaldi and another piece by Mendelssohn. For the spring concert, she is setting a work from the classical repertoire, Paquita.

"I like the students that I have because... they're all very

focused and very dedicated. It's just a pleasure to work with them," said Shelton. "As someone who is educating them, it's nice to have people who are interested in what they're doing."

Shelton explained that she is really looking forward to having a place to work primarily with the students.

"Being in one spot for so long you can really develop the dancers choreographically and technically," said Shelton.

Shelton also added that she wants to build on what's already here at Alma.

"It's already a great program, it's just exciting to come in and put the icing on the cake in any way that I can," said Shelton. "There are a lot of dancers here, they already have a beautiful base of training, it's nice to be able to take that and push them further. It's a great little niche to fit into."

Shelton says that although she has only been at Alma for a short time so far, she has enjoyed it.

"The kids are fabulous and the community has been nice. It seems like everyone's really helpful, everyone's up for answering questions," said Shelton. "It's just been a really lovely experience so far."



Photo by Kayla Roy

Samantha Shelton gives constructive criticism during a barre exercise in the partnering class on Friday.

Kiltie Korner offers renting versus buying Sex workshop comes to Alma

By LINDSAY WALSH
GUEST WRITER

For many college students, buying books can break the bank.

New this semester, however, there is an alternative to relieve some of the costs of getting books: renting your textbooks. This new opportunity was announced last spring and was put into effect this year, generating some curiosity on the topic.

Renting books allows students to use the book as if they had bought it. This means annotations, highlighting and notes are all permitted with no penalty. The only restriction is returning the textbook at the end of the semester.

"One of the pros of renting is that [students] are spending less money on the books...and it saves me money on shipping for the next semester's books," said Rob DuVall, manager of the Kiltie Korner.

DuVall also said that a common problem with renting is the higher cost if the course runs for the entire year instead of one semester. Most textbooks cannot be rented for more than one semester so in the long run, if a class is a full year, it is cheaper to buy than rent.

Additionally, while renting may save money at the start of the semester, when it is time to return the book there is no cash back in the pockets of the students.

In the past students would often purchase textbooks and sell them back to the store or to other students. However, for some it may be just as easy to eliminate the hassle of selling the book.

Students of Alma have differing opinions about renting textbooks.

"I think it is a good idea for the classes that you have to take, just because you have to take them,"

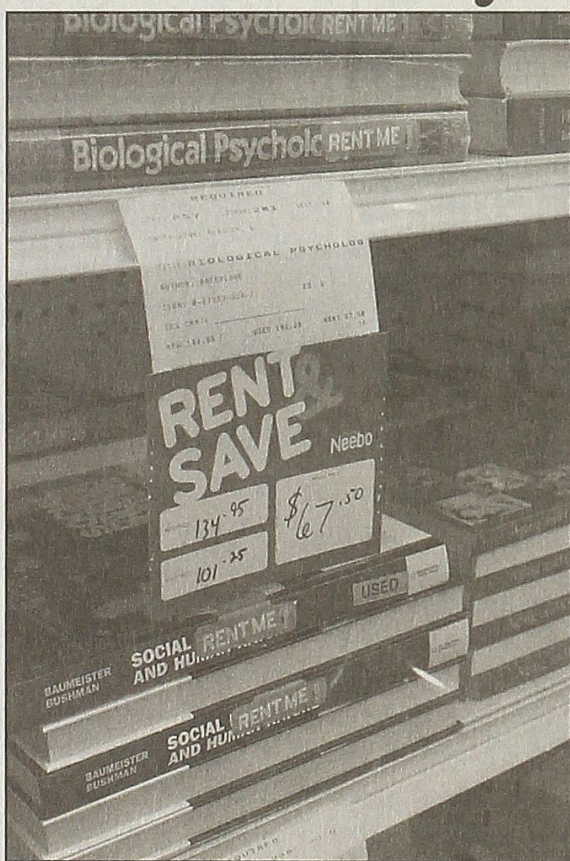


Photo by Lauren Andallora

Students now have the opportunity to save money by renting instead of buying textbooks.

said **Chelsea Brown ('12)**, "Like the education majors who have to take a biology class, it's better for them to rent instead of buying a \$200 book." Brown said she actually didn't rent any textbooks this year, but bought her books online before the semester started.

Kamryn Kurtzner ('14) bought all her books this semester and spent about \$300.

"Even though renting would have saved me some money (about \$50), I think if we would have saved a lot more if we had a chance to buy them online," Kurtzner.

"I had to get 11 books this semester, and I rented two," said **Erica Kettlewell ('14)**. "I saved about \$100 this way. And I can save that \$100 for the next semester's books."

While this system is novel for Alma, renting textbooks is

by no means a new concept. Online renting sites like chegg.com and bookrenter.com have been around for several years and have found success in the market.

On the campus front, other college bookstores have found similar success in renting from their respective locations. Many schools have developed a renting system in response to the current economics. Schools want students to be able to purchase the needed materials to get started in college and stay there without having anxiety about affording books.

One recent initiative in the Connecticut State University system estimated that renting textbooks would cumulatively save the student body \$400,000. Since they began, over ninety percent of the available titles have already been rented.

By MOLLY HENNING
STAFF WRITER

A Good Sex Workshop, focusing on sexuality and intimacy in relationships, is coming to Alma.

The workshop will be on Sept. 23 in Van Dusen Commons from 7-10 p.m. It will be run by Kate Ott, who has a Ph.D. in Christian Social Ethics and specializes in youth and sexuality.

"This is not a how-to, even though it is titled provocatively," said Rev. Carol Gregg, Alma College Chaplain. "This is about encouraging students to think through what they want out of a relationship emotionally and let that determine what they want out of a relationship physically."

Kathryn Blanchard, assistant professor of religious studies, explained that the workshop will specifically focus on what sexuality is, broadening that definition of sexuality, how students can identify their values and what they want out of a sexual relationship, and how to use the qualities of the relationship to determine the behaviors they might engage in.

"It is for students to have the chance to think deeply and critically about their own values as they relate to sexuality and hopefully avoid regrets down the line," said Blanchard.

Gregg added that the workshop will help students think about what levels of the relationship merit different degrees of physical intimacy.

"The workshop aims to teach students that rather than letting the heat of the moment determine one's level of physical intimacy, they should let the characteristics of the relationship determine it," said Gregg. "It is for students to... look at a relationship holistically.

Sexuality is one characteristic but not the only characteristic."

Gregg explained that Ott does not give a "one size fits all answer," but that students should think through their own values, convictions and beliefs.

Gregg said that Alma decided to host the workshop as recognition that students struggle with issues of sexuality and determining what is right for them. Both Blanchard and Student Life also have an interest in sexual education and Blanchard happened to know a good person to do the workshop.

"Research shows many students have a lot of regrets about sexual behaviors they engage in during college," said Blanchard. "We're hoping that if students have time to think critically about these things at the beginning of the year—or for some, at the beginning of their college career—that they'll have a happier life in college."

"We all know people who have next morning regrets," added Gregg. "The hook up culture does not work for lots of people and I think it can be helpful for people to determine other ways to behave."

Gregg also said that alcohol is often a determining factor in sexual behavior.

"I would much rather people's values be the determining factor, not alcohol," said Gregg.

With such focus on values, Blanchard said that Ott is not coming to preach the traditional Christian ethic of sex being only in a marriage between one man and a one woman.

"The general message is that your sexual behaviors in a relationship should match the quality of the relationship," said Blanchard. "Ott is interested in students identifying their own values and making sure their behaviors are in line with their values."

A brief advocacy for the benefits of television

By ELIZABETH CORBIN
STAFF WRITER

Lately I've come to the realization that I have been missing out on something huge in my life that many tend to partake in daily: watching television. I can't quite catch on when someone makes a joke that includes an allusion to a commercial nor can I take part in stimulating conversation of the season premier of America's Next Top Model. Not only does this make me unknowledgeable of our current American popular

culture, it also makes me a bore. While I have just recently taken heed of Lady Gaga's music, I am probably at least a year behind current trends. In truth, I have no idea what is going on. I catch whatever bits of news I have by listening to my peers. Apparently, listening to the National Public Radio (NPR) does not give me the same learning experience as turning on the TV. I don't even know the names of popular shows. Last week a few of my friends were talking about the MTV reality television show Jersey Shores and they found it hard to believe that I had never heard of it.

This is a reoccurring situation and it's becoming a bit of a problem for me in the social sphere. I never watch TV alone. Watching television is strictly an activity I do with friends. I find that it can be enjoyable to do with other people, but only for a short amount of time, and while commentating on what we're watching. But when the conversation stops? Then I begin to get restless and disinterested. The idea of watching TV alone? I can think of a plethora of other ways in which I should and want to spend my time. With that being said, I watch about an hour of television per month, if even that.

“Apparently,
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TV.”
-Elizabeth Corbin

How do people even find the time to watch television?

Especially with the constant demands of college life, I find that there is little time to get my necessary tasks completed. When my significant other insists on watching television together I usually take it as the perfect opportunity to take a much-needed nap. That seems relatively close to sitting on the couch for a long time while watching television. However, TV is often noted as a way in which people can relax and take their minds off the day's worries. I do admit that there is rarely a moment that I am not worrying about some other task in the back of my mind so I am quite jealous of this rather appealing notion.

The necessity of social niceties

By LUKE KREFT
GUEST WRITER

A social contract is a set of niceties we all have to live by. It makes the entire college experience more bearable. My room is 12 feet across and 16 feet wide. When I perch atop my bunked bed my face is approximately eight inches from the ceiling. We are literally and figuratively living on top of one another and I acknowledge that much of human behavioral conduct is dictated by unwritten and unspoken agreements, but I feel it is necessary to explicitly state and discuss a few points of interest. If people from around your hall come to you and ask you to turn down your music, your bass might be too loud. If your RA comes to your door to tell you to turn it down, your bass is probably too loud. And if the girls from two floors below you make the climb all the way to your room to ask you to tone it down a notch so they can study, your bass really is way too loud. We all have to live here and if peace doesn't prevail through civilized means I'm sure it will follow the ensuing war.

If you are guilty of this crime and you think you are getting away with it, don't be surprised when the neighbors start pumping Lady Gaga and Katy Perry through the adjoining wall. In the short lived television series Firefly, Sheppard Book, who is a preacher by trade, tells Captain Malcolm Reynolds that there is a special level of hell reserved for child molesters and people who talk at the theater. I realize that there are some fundamental differences between a production from Hollywood or Broadway and the lecture you would rather skip, but come to anyway because the professor takes attendance. I realize that the professor doesn't look at all like Keanu Reeves or Tom Cruise. That being stated, some of us understand just how much it costs to sit in that lecture hall and would very much like it if you didn't whisper to your friends. Even a text message vibrating across your desk or table is kind of loud. In summary, people who communicate compulsively, you're not subtle at all. People who abstain from flushing the toilets either by accident or deliberate neglect, this seriously isn't okay.

I don't care how dirty you think the lever looks, or how many people who may or may not have washed their hands touched it before you. The contents of that bowl do not smell like roses. Man up and flush it down. By about the third day of class most of the student population discovers the plethora of late night activities. It isn't usually until around the end of the first or second week that the ones who embrace nocturnal hobbies feel the effects of their decisions. From that point on there will be a crowd that staggers into their rooms a few nights of every week at around four in the morning. Between the hall and the bed are a number of small obstacles. Namely unlocking their door, shedding any clothing you do not intend to sleep in, and climbing onto a soft surface. If by this point in the night you are not capable of doing these without waking your room mate, you should probably have just crashed on the couch wherever you were before. These problems seem trivial enough, but there is an agreement in effect. Violators of the terms of this agreement ruin it for everyone.

PUZZLE CORNER

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Puzzle courtesy of dailysudoku.com

the Almanian.

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The differences between “tasteful” and “untasteful” art

By **BEN BROW**
GUEST WRITER

There are many beautiful works of art in this world. But none is as illustrious as the works showcased in the most unlikely of places; the boys’ bathroom stall.

There are many different variations of stall art.

By far the most common is the “John Doe was here”, or more commonly written “John Doe wuz here” variety.

Some may be written in a light pencil, others in pen, or even carved with keys or other sharp objects. This is an acceptable, even enjoyable form of stall art.

Other forms of stall art that are acceptable would be the John Doe + Jane Doe variety, although this is a very rare style to find in a boy’s stall.

Yet other forms of this stall art include a heart

around the text, or multiple hearts surrounding the text.

There is one final form of acceptable stall art, and that would be ones that say something such as “For a good time call 555-5555”. These are usually harmless pieces of art, fake numbers are used, and it is only created for comedic purpose.

Of course if it were an actual phone number then this would enter the realm of unacceptable stall art.

Apart from the aforementioned forms of art, most stall art is rude, bigoted, and downright disgusting. The most ignorant people decide to use stalls as their personal editorial page.

One of the more tame versions of this is “Jane Doe blank”. The blank usually is some sort of obscene thing written about Jane Doe; either an adjective describing her,

or a description of what she does in her free time.

While the subject of said art will never read it, it is nevertheless a hateful thing to write about somebody. In addition, while the tidbit written about Jane Doe may or may not be true, it could end up getting spread as a rumor, which would be a terrible thing to have happen.

Another variety of unacceptable art is the bigoted racial slur type. These come in many different forms; it could be a derogatory stereotype, or simply a racist name for the ethnic group. One of the worst I have found was a drawing of a man in a white hood, in front of a burning cross saying a racial slur. This is just plain bigotry and is in no way an acceptable art form.

There is free speech to a point.

While it is a terrible bigoted thing to do what was shown in the drawing, it is within your

rights to draw such, in private.

It is another thing entirely to draw it where anyone who you are tormenting it with may see it.

The final form of stall art I know of is the perverse kind.

You would think that men would want to adorn their stall walls with artistic interpretations of the female form. But no. Instead men feel compelled to draw phalluses.

It is most unpleasant to be relieving oneself and be forced to stare at the giant, carved, “artwork” on the stall door.

Apart from the fact that it is disgusting it begs the question of why presumably straight guys feel the urge to draw such things? I have pondered it and cannot find the answer.

All I can say is that it’s disgusting and irritating.

Clearly there are acceptable and unacceptable forms of stall art. Much to my displeasure

my experience has been that an overwhelming majority of stall art is of an unacceptable nature.

It is also interesting how stall art between levels of schooling compares. For example, in elementary schools there is, to my knowledge, no stall art. Then in middle school it might be the random curse word, perhaps “John Doe was here”, but rarely anything truly terrible. It is in high school that all of the unacceptable, disgusting stall art starts popping up. Which I think is really strange.

You would think that this would start at an early age, and then by the time you’re in high school you’ll have grown out of it. Sadly that’s not the case.

Even in college people still continue to put up bigoted, mean spirited, stall art. So, if the next time you use the John you decide to create a masterpiece, create something worth viewing.

Recent decision negates Proposal 8

By **SEAN WEBBER**
GUEST WRITER

U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker recently made an important decision. He decided that Proposal 8, the voter passed legislation that re-banned same-sex marriage in California, violated the California Constitution.

Proponents of Proposal 8, namely the activists who put it on the ballot, have been attempting to force Governor Schwarzenegger to defend the proposal. The Governor, of course, flexed his worldly bicep and crushed such attempts with a political dead lift.

No one strong arms Arnold into doing anything.

Public office holders can choose which cases they want to defend. Schwarzenegger, while he has publicly stated that he personally considers marriage to be between a man and a woman, has probably made a wise political choice.

While the moral and ethical discussions on gay marriage have certainly been interesting, I’ll leave my opinions out of the public forum for now.

Instead, let’s scrutinize the social and political ramifications of the case with California.

Firstly, California directs a lot of its policy and legislature through popular vote; that is, frequently the majority vote influences public policy.

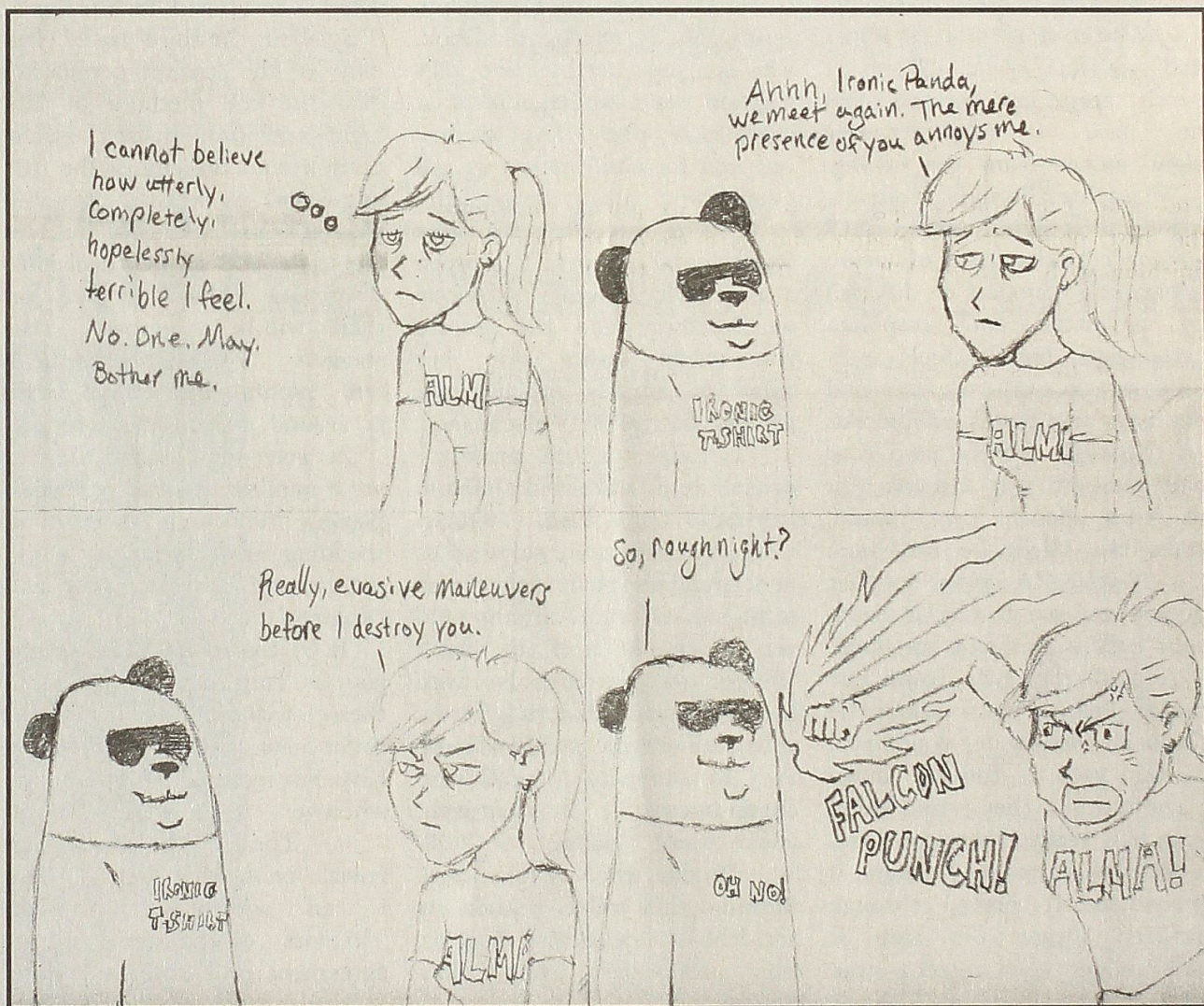
Proposal 8 being rebuffed illustrates a major flaw in California state policy. It shows that the majority of the populace may not make decisions consistent with either the Constitution or the benefit of a neighbor.

Secondly, it puts the issue of gay marriage on the media pedestal again. The decision in California could provide precedent for similar decisions in other states, and lead to social change, particularly social justice for homosexuals.

Regardless of your personal opinions concerning gay marriage, this decision will propel gay-rights to the front page again. And, whether you like it or not, we may be seeing some big alterations in state legislature and its attitudes toward homosexuals and it may come faster than you think.

Mistaken Opinions

By Sean Webber



Following the beat with Ben King: free swing dance lessons

By **BEN KING**
GUEST WRITER

Each week I will be “Following the Alma Beat” and attending exciting and new events that Alma College has to offer its students. The purpose of this column is to simply increase awareness of all of the non-curricular activities Alma College has to offer.

Last Thursday at 7 p.m. an exciting opportunity was offered to students: swing dance lessons taught by a skilled teacher.

Every Thursday in McIntyre Mall, swing dance lessons will be taught by **Hannah Livingston** (’13). A transfer student from

Jackson Community College, Livingston has been ‘swinging’ for over two and a half years.

When asked why she wanted to introduce Alma to swing dance Livingston replied, “I heard Alma had no swing dance program, I wanted to give students a chance to learn a new skill and have fun.”

“I am involved in musicals and the theater and swing dance seemed like a great outlet for a similar type of self-expression.”

-Cory Townes

For the first lesson, Livingston’s goals were most definitely accomplished.

Approximately twenty-five students attended. Everyone had a partner and Livingston led the class through the proper techniques involved in swing dancing.

Students were taught the basics of East Coast Swing and a simple rock step.

We were even taught ‘the wrap’ and more daring moves such as the ‘bow and arrow’ and the ever intimidating ‘pretzel’.

A small handful of students had swing dancing experience. However, some of us had little swing dancing experience and most had no dance experience to speak of.

“I have never danced swing before, but I am excited to learn a new dance,” said **Ainsley Herrick** (’14).

When asked if she would be interested in attending more swing classes Herrick replied “I will most definitely back next week for more lessons.”

There are a plethora of long-term opportunities available for students on campus. We can trot the globe, research sciences and arts and run our own organizations.

However, what does one do on a slow Thursday or Tuesday night?

Weather permitting, the Swing Classes are scheduled to continue through the fall until moving indoors. Livingston recommends this

class for any individuals interested in dance, music, physical fitness and the arts. The class is open to all levels of dance experience.

“I’m not a very good dancer, but my friend said that swing dancing is a lot of fun,” stated **Cory Townes** (’14).

When asked what drew him to swing dance Townes replied, “I am involved in musicals and the theater and swing dance seemed like a great outlet for a similar type of self-expression.”

Regardless of the type of expression you are looking for, I would highly recommend Swing Dancing. It is a fun way to stay active, listen to some classy music and meet new people.

If you see anything in the Opinion section that you want to respond to, please write a LETTER TO THE EDITOR!

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

First Victory in Art Smith Arena for volleyball team

By ANDREW WALIGORSKI
STAFF WRITER

On Wednesday night, the women's volleyball team showed up ready to play—and took three straight games from Trine University (25-11, 25-13, and 25-18), winning the first athletic competition ever held in Art Smith Arena. Eighteen long months of construction and preparation were finally brought to an end as the newest building addition to the Alma College campus was opened for competition. The win improves their record to a perfect 7-0 and 3-0 in the MIAA conference and as a result, the Trine Thunder drop to 2-6 on the season and 0-4 in conference play.

"I will always remember the first point of the match when we got the slide kill."
-Hannah Hewitt ('11)

The Scots came out strong on the first point of the match, finishing with a tough kill for the first point in the new gym and then never looked back. "I will always remember the

first point of the match when we got the slide kill," said **Hannah Hewitt ('11)** who assisted the point. "Our preparation was definitely more intense this week. We had more motivation to win because we wanted to win the first game in our gym."

The new facility features many upgrades over Cappaert Gymnasium, the former home of Alma athletic competition. In addition to expanded seating—now on three sides of the court—the gym also contains a state-of-the-art scoreboard capable of displaying detailed color images.

Along with the new technology the gym also has features that will improve the quality of the competitions held there. "I like how the ceiling is higher; that helps a lot for volleyball," she said. "The scoreboard is really cool too. Having our pictures up there makes it more official."

The gym is also home to a new stereo system, which provided a humorous element to the proceedings when the national anthem looped several times before starting properly. "We love the sound system," said Hewitt. "We used to have to put a microphone up to a stereo to play music."

The Scots fed off the energy of the crowd, riding the momentum to a perfect win. They led the entire match except for the beginning

point of the third set. They recovered the lead two points later. **Shelby Gray ('12)** led the offense for the Scots with eight kills. **Lea Klooster ('14)** and **Kelly Maise ('14)** each had six kills while sophomore **Katie Bourbonnais ('13)** added five. Bourbonnais also

added four service aces. Hewitt led with 14 assists while **Erika VanHavel ('14)** added 12 of her own. **Stephanie Bradshaw ('11)** bolstered the defense with 17 digs and Gray picked up five blocks.

The Scots next match will be held September 21st at league

powerhouse Hope College. Their next home competition will be back-to-back matches next weekend on Sept. 24 and 25 in the Art Smith Arena. The match on the 25th will include a fundraiser highlighting the team's trip to Nicaragua this summer.

Women's soccer fails to finish against Northwood University



Photo by Catherine Finley

Becky Marton ('12), starting center midfielder, challenges a Northwood player for the ball as **Hannah Bauhof ('12)** anticipates the next pass.

By ANDREW WALIGORSKI
STAFF WRITER

The Alma College Women's Soccer team battled hard on Tuesday against division II school Northwood University but came up short, losing the match four minutes into the first overtime period by a score of 1-0. Alma drops to 3-3 on the season while the Timberwolves improve to 2-3.

"We lost to Northwood last year the same exact way," said senior **Brooke Bergeron ('11)**, who was named the MIAA Defensive Player of the Week last week. "The same girl scored a goal in overtime to beat us."

Last year women's soccer team battled in several overtimes coming out on top in the majority but in their first overtime of the year, the Scots lost the game and the encounter served to teach a lesson.

"The game was a good learning experience and we learned we

really need to win," said **Hannah Bauhof ('12)**. "We were content that we were tied with a division II team so we were settling and we shouldn't be settling for ties."

The three games the Scots have lost thus far this season have come from allowing a goal to be scored within the last fifteen minutes of play.

"We were very disappointed losing that game because it may be our last chance to play a division II school," said Bergeron. "Coach was disappointed with us because he knows we can do better. We didn't get many opportunities on offense, and we lost composure under pressure on defense. Their goal was scored on a breakaway; we were really flat on that play."

Alma started the game strong, registering six shots in the first half of play but only managed two shots in the second half and did not attempt a shot in the overtime period. Junior **Becky Marton ('12)** led the Scots with three shots, two on goal. Northwood took 11 shots during

the game, eight of which were on goal. **Monica Witt ('12)** played the full 94 minutes in goal for the Scots and recorded seven saves.

The Scots kept good possession of the ball at times but were not able to penetrate the Northwood defense. "We need to capitalize on our chances and connect the last pass better in the final third," said Bauhof.

The women's soccer team has been hard at work preparing for their next match on Sunday against North Park (IL). "We had the day after the game off but the next day we had 7:00 am fitness, practice from 3:30 to 6:00 with fitness built in, and then weightlifting after that," said Bergeron. "We have been playing small-sided games with a lot of emphasis on competition and winning—losers do full-field suicides."

"We are going to be more focused next game and we will come ready to play," added Bauhof. "We all have good knowledge of how to play soccer but we need to do what we say we need to do to win."

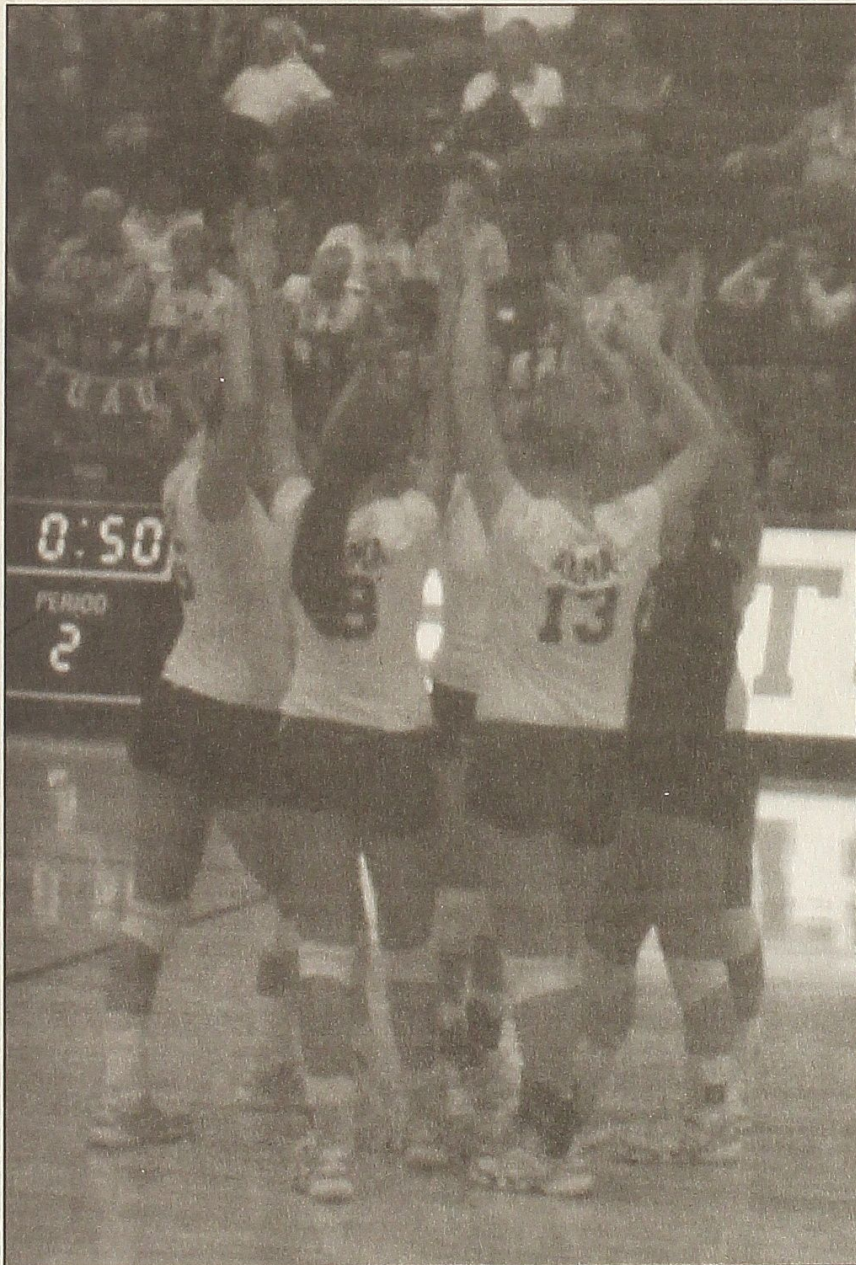


Photo by Frances Jackson

The volleyball team huddles before beginning the game that led to their first victory in the new Art Smith Arena.



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Football: fourth quarter heroics lead Scots to victory at Bahlke Field

BY ADAM MUNCY
STAFF WRITER

Rain fell dampening the air as the men entered Bahlke field Saturday where they hosted the Rockford College Regents.

Alma College football prevailed leaving the turf victorious-beating the regents by a final score of 27-10. The Rockford College Regents left Alma with a 0-3 record on the year.

The men in the trenches - the offensive line - allowed for over 400 total yards of production on the day with 150 yards coming from the ground attack. **Ross Richard ('11)** completed 23 of 33 passing attempts for 257 yards and threw two interceptions in the Alma victory.

"We are getting better week by week," said starting right tackle **Eric Story ('13)**. The line allowed only three sacks in the game.

The defense continued as a stronghold for the Scots giving up only 10 points while forcing 10 punts and two turnovers on the day. The Scots held the Regents to 158 total yards of offense for the game with only 43 of the 158 yards coming on the ground.

"The defense was able to carry the load and get the ball back in the hands of the offense," said **Anthony Galarno ('12)**. "We have had great improvement from week to week. We know we face a new challenge each week."

The Scots struck first in the game

taking a 3-0 lead over the regents after a 24 yard field goal kicked by **Heath Laugal ('11)** with 10:01 remaining in the first quarter. The field goal ended an eight-play 44-yard drive. The Regents answered back with a 40-yard interception return with 2:57 remaining in the first quarter. The 1st quarter ended with the Regents leading 7-3.

The score remained 7-3 until the third quarter where Rockford College capitalized on an 11-play drive resulting in a 32 yard field goal to end the third quarter. The Scots trailed 10-3 entering the fourth quarter.

"The defense was able to carry the load and get the ball back in the hands of the offense."
-Anthony Galarno ('12)

The Alma College offense came to life in the fourth quarter with an 8-play 63-yard drive resulting in an **Andrew Schaar ('11)** 11-yard touchdown scamper to even the score at 10.

On the ensuing kickoff the Scots recovered an on-side kick regaining possession of the ball on their own 45-yard line. The offense marched down the field to take their first lead of the game, 17-10, after a Richard 10-yard touchdown run.

After several changes of possessions, **Scotty Cole ('12)** intercepted the ball, giving the Scots offense the ball on the 50-



Photo by Catherine Finley

Morgan Rudd ('11) and Catherine Olson ('14) fight to keep the ball away from the opposing team.

"We have had great improvement from week to week. We know we face a new challenge each week."
-Anthony Galarno ('12)

yard line. The turnover led to a career long 37-yard field goal from the leg of Laugal giving

the Scots a 20-10 lead over the Regents with 1:41 left in the game.

On the following Rockford drive the Scots added a defensive touchdown of their own on a 38-yard interception return by **Luke Kanine ('13)** leaving the Scots ahead 27-10.

The Scots improved their record to 1-2 for the 2010 season. The men travel to Owensboro KY to face Kentucky Wesleyan Saturday Sep. 25.

Staying on top of the game: This week in sports

Women's Soccer:

September 22nd v. Defiance College at Defiance
September 25th v. Heidelberg College at HOME

Volleyball:

September 21st v. Hope College at Holland
September 24th v. St. Mary's College at HOME

Men's Soccer:

September 22nd v. Hope College at HOME
September 25th v. Kalamazoo College at HOME

Football:

September 25th v. Kentucky Wesleyan at Kentucky

Golf: MIAA Play at Kalamazoo College



Photo by Catherine Finley

Matteo Capicchioni ('14) attempts to finish on Northwood University's goalkeeper on Tuesday, September 14th. The goalie was injured during this play and was forced to sit out for the duration of the match. The Scots lost the game with a final score of 4-0.

Golden goal defeats Sienna Heights

BY ADAM MUNCY
STAFF WRITER

The Alma College men's soccer team hosted the Sienna Heights University Saints Saturday at Scotland Yard where the Scots prevailed in a 2-1 double overtime victory. The Scots mounted 12 shots, seven of which were on goal during the match. Alma College reached the scoreboard first with a goal by Jeff Beck ('11) in the 31st minute. Beck's ('11) first goal of the season came by way of a tipped in free kick off the foot of Matt Kuberski ('13).

Play continued goalless for

the next 58 minutes until the Saints scored a heartbreaking goal in the 90th minute of play off a corner kick. With only six seconds remaining in game play after the Sienna Heights goal, the match headed to overtime.

The score remained 1-1 through the first overtime and called for a second half outside of regulation time. In the 102 minute of play the tie was broken with a game-winning header from Cameron Alman ('12) on a free kick.

"I was on such a high I ran right over to our bench and the next thing I knew everyone was running at me - trying to stockpile me," said Alman.

The assist came from "The

Dead Ball Specialist," Kuberski, his second assist of the match.

"We went into overtime 0-0 as though we were starting a whole new game," said Alman. "It was something our coach was really proud about. It showed that we had great character, to come back after a tying goal in the last few seconds and come out in the overtime and play as though nothing had happened."

Goalkeeper John Nowak ('11) tended the net for the entire 102 minutes played. Nowak recording 5 saves while allowing one goal.

"John has been outstanding," said Eric Foster ('12). "He knows going into games that we are not going to score a lot of goals. By

him keeping other teams down to one or two goals he keeps us in games. He is going in every game putting forth an outstanding effort. He deserves a great deal of credit, as well as our back line."

The Saints held the advantage in the category of shots with 20 on the day, placing six on goal. The advantage however was not enough sending Sienna Heights a loss at the hands of the Scots. The Saints are left with a 4-2 record for the season. Alman led the Scots with 5 shots.

The Scots continue to look ahead to the future in preparation for league play. Each game is a new challenge while they continue to grow as a team.

"Basically we are just trying to find something that's right for us," said Foster. "We are trying a bunch of new formations, trying to figure out what players work well in what positions. Every game we feel like we are improving in a different aspect of what we are trying to accomplish."

The Scots now stand 1-4 on the season after the victory and head into the week hosting Hope College Tuesday Sept. 22, the first MIAA match of the year for the Alma College men's soccer team.