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Hogan weight room closed to
non-athletes
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German Club builds model of Berlin Wall

By SIMONE MISHLER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Unlike the wall that divided East and West Berlin, this wall only took a few hours to construct and some rain to tear down.

On Thursday, Oct. 29 Alma College's German Club paid tribute to the 20 year anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall by building a model out of boxes in McIntyre Mall. The wall that the club built, however, was not meant to be destroyed but to be a visual reminder to campus of world history.

"We should put a sign on it: 'Don't tear down our wall!'" said Holly Liu, assistant professor of German and Chinese.

Students used sheets of grey and white paper to cover the boxes that made the wall. Once the boxes had been covered in paper, the students got artistic and covered the boxes in graffiti. The graffiti was in German and English, both of which

were messages about freedom. "I think this will definitely help raise awareness on campus of the 20th anniversary," said **Katy Rice ('11)** who was participating in the event. "There are a ton of boxes here so you can't miss it even if people seem to forget."

Several messages in the graffiti included the word 'freiheit' which translates to 'freedom.' The artwork included peace signs and handprints that were meant to signify togetherness.

"This event has been really fun," said Rice. "It is a good way for us to get together."

The German Club put in quite a bit of prep work in getting this event hosted on campus. According to **Audrey Gebbie ('12)**, president of the group, about three meetings and much coordination with Student Life and Physical Plant were required to get all the plans in order. "We had to get the event approved by Student Life and then make sure that Physical Plant knew not to remove the boxes," said

Gebbie. "And after all the work I think it is successful! I am so proud of everyone who helped."

German Club members and students in German classes made up the bulk of the students participating. But, the modern language department as a whole was part of the event's construction. Alexander Muesegades, visiting instructor of German, brought the idea to the department and helped with the construction of the wall.

"It was basically Alex's idea. And he has been a big part of making this happen," said Gebbie.

After the structure was built, Marcus Richter, an Alma College librarian, spoke about his experiences living in the German Democratic Republic, more commonly known as East Germany.

"The event was all about getting students to be informed about German culture and history," said Gebbie. "This was our way of getting people together and promote inclusiveness."

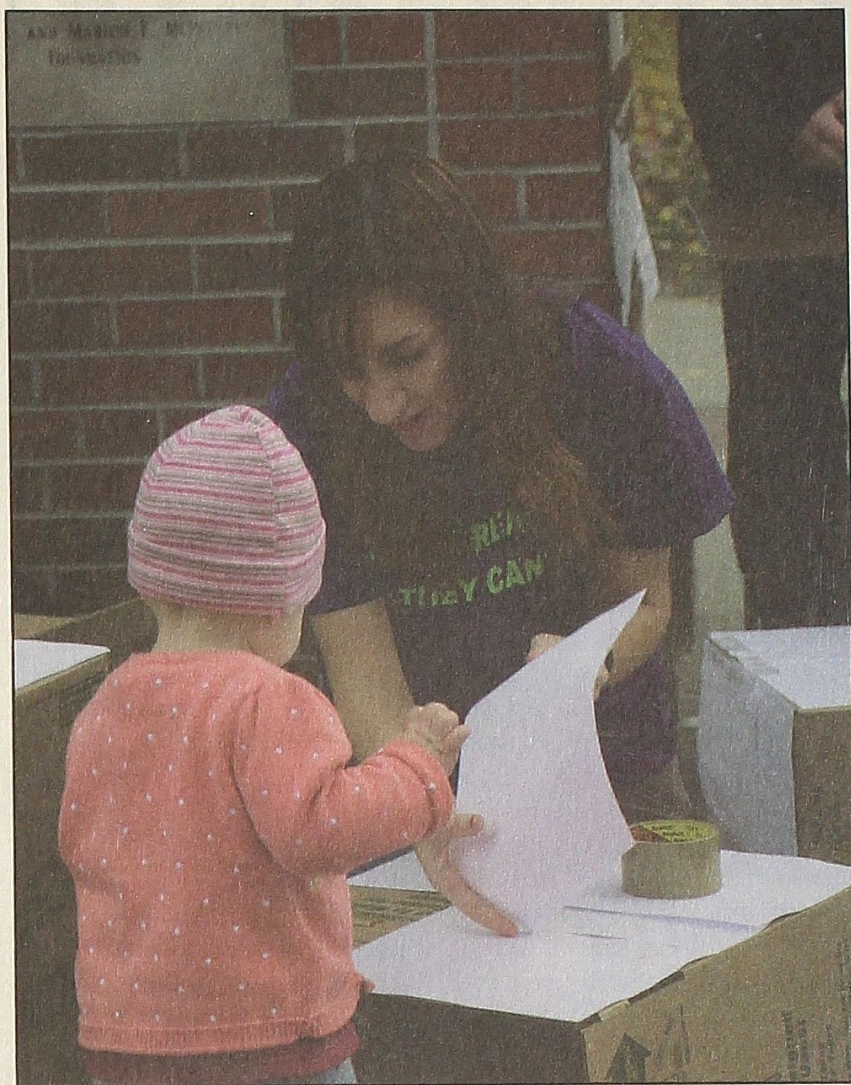


Photo by Catherine Finley

Katy Rice ('11) helps a child cover a box to make the wall. They covered the paper in German and English graffiti about freedom. The event celebrated the 20-year anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall and informed students about the culture and history of Germany.

Alumni return to campus as State Representatives to talk about how Alma shaped their careers

By MELISSA HUBBARD
STAFF WRITER

Two Alma College alumni visited Thursday evening to talk about their jobs as legislators and how Alma College helped them in their careers.

State Representatives Dan Scripps and Jennifer Haase are both freshmen legislators working in Lansing. Both will be in office for six years and have big plans for the future.

Scripps, who graduated from Alma in 1998 with a major in political science, was involved in many different organizations throughout the years. Scripps was a residential assistant, he wrote

for the Almanian his sophomore and senior year, participated in Model UN his freshmen and senior year, ran for Student Congress his senior year and was also very involved with Greek life.

"What I got out of Alma was the notion of working hard," said Scripps. "The harder you work and the more effort you put into it the more you get out of it and that doesn't end on graduation day, that's when it begins."

Scripps said his main point of interest in working in state government was how to put things in place. The key was looking at a present problem and the various steps to reach a conclusion

Haase, who graduated from

Alma in 1997 with a major in secondary education, was also involved in many different Alma organizations during her time here. Like Scripps, Haase was also very involved with Greek life and worked as a residential assistant. Unlike many others, Haase always knew that she wanted to be a teacher and is very passionate about it in her work as a legislator.

"I want to set up an educational policy that will change education for K-12," said Haase. "I want to give kids in the next generation a better future."

Haase, who was a teacher for 15 years before she decided that she wanted to make a difference in the educational policies for the

sake of her students, said that the biggest challenge for her was time.

"I think it's really important to make time for your voters," Haase said. "You have to give your life over to them and establish their trust."

Haase also believes that this applies to your fellow coworkers and shows the makings of a good leader. "When you want to be a leader of a group of people, you need to have a base line connection with every single one of them," said Haase. "You need to build a relationship first because sometimes you are going to ask people to jump off a cliff with you and they are not going to if they don't trust you

and that relationship isn't there."

Scripps agrees that good leadership does come from good relationships with your coworkers, but he also believes that good leadership is about communication, management and knowing where you're going and how you're going to get there.

"There are 45 freshmen (legislators) and the one thing we all agree on is our unhappiness with the process," said Scripps. "Agreement on process is what really unites us as a freshmen class. There is always going to be disagreement in politics, but how you deal with those disagreements is going to be the difference in the systems."



Photo by Catherine Finley

"Fall back" came at the right time on campus so students could recover from their Halloween festivities.



Photo by Lauren Kimpel

Nicholas Piccolo, vice president of student life, participated in the self-defense class held Thursday night. Here, he practices with Carrie Chaffe ('10) as she attempts to block his hits.

Alma freshman takes oath of U.S. citizenship

By KATIE GORDON
STAFF WRITER

In his first semester at Alma College, freshman **Alejandro Orellana ('13)**, or Alex as he is called by friends, skipped school to take an oath and receive his United States citizenship.

Orellana, who is an international business major, grew up in Honduras and moved to the United States when he was in sixth grade. He then lived in Middletown, Penn. and attended Middletown Area High School.

Orellana first heard about Alma College by receiving a brochure in the mail. "I liked the campus setting and the size. It was exactly what I was looking for."

At Alma, Orellana is involved in many organizations, including Alma College Democrats, Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE), and he is also a representative for the International Club. In SIFE, he is a part of the International Team, where the members are currently organizing events for their next fundraiser, and he also works at Highland Java.

Speaking of SIFE, which complements his major, he said, "It's very interesting. You

learn to be more organized and responsible." He hopes this organization will help his future, as he plans on getting a job with a big company and then eventually starting his own small business.

At the beginning of this past summer, Orellana began the process of applying for citizenship. He was interested in gaining citizenship because he saw it would be "necessary for more privileges," as well as his green card's coming expiration.

The first step he took was to send in paperwork and, when he received a letter back, he got his fingerprints documented.

Next was studying for the citizenship test. The study guide was a list of one hundred questions that Orellana had to learn. However, once he went to take the exam, he said, "It was easier than I thought it'd be." Only 10 of the questions were chosen to be on the test, of the 100 that were prepared.

Orellana took the citizenship test the day before he moved to Alma, and waited to hear back on when he could attend the ceremony to make it official. He then found out he would have to return home to Pennsylvania for the process and miss all of his

classes in the middle of his week.

When Orellana told his professors he would be gone, he said they all responded similarly. "The professors were cool with it and congratulated me," he said.

He added that Greg Baleja, professor of business administration, said in his 30 years of teaching, was the first time gaining U.S. citizenship was an excuse for missing class.

Orellana officially became a citizen of the United States on Wednesday, Sept. 23

At the ceremony, he and 60 other soon-to-be Americans from 38 different countries said the Pledge of Allegiance, sang the National Anthem, took the oath, and then were called up personally to receive their certificate.

"He is a very determined person who never takes anything for granted... his goal is to succeed in life," **Bobby Kramer ('13)**, Orellana's roommate, said. "It wasn't too hard. It just takes a long time," Orellana said about the process.

Overall, he is very glad he is officially a citizen. When asked what citizenship means to him, the first thing he said was, "Now I can vote." He added, "It's just like I was born here."

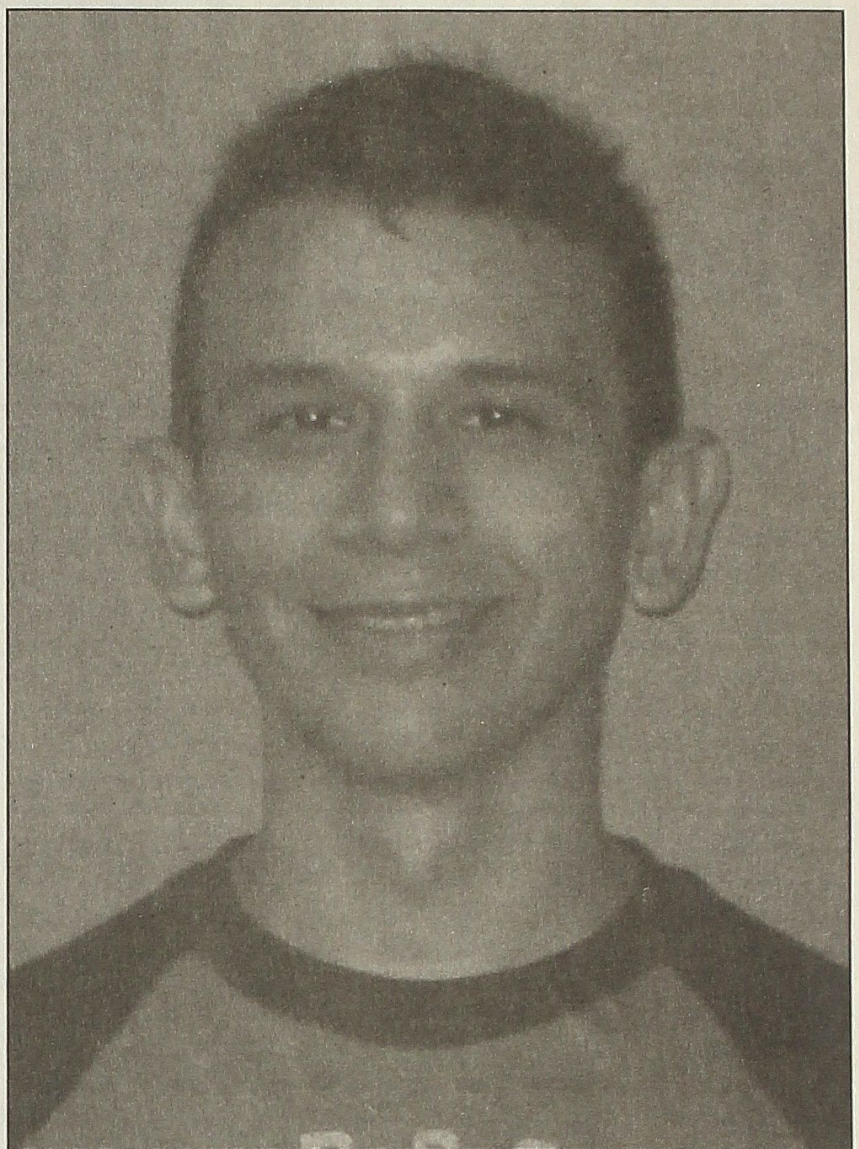


Photo courtesy of the Alma College Portal

Alejandro Orellana ('13) became an official United States citizen on Wednesday, Sept. 23. He grew up in the Honduras and moved to the United States when he was in sixth grade.

School closings for H1N1 affect Alma education students

By CAITLIN MARSH
STAFF WRITER

There was a brief flurry of excitement on Alma's campus this past week when a rumor surfaced of school closures due to H1N1.

While an e-mail from the provost's office quelled students' hopes that the college might cancel classes, it was no rumor that many public schools in the area did shut down. Some were even directed by the health department to send students home for a minimum of five days.

Alma Public Schools, from the Head Start Program to the high school, were closed the entire week of Oct. 26-30.

Because many of Alma College's education students earn their classroom placement hours at the local public schools, the repercussions of the closures were felt across the campus as well as in the community.

Education student **Kelsey Merz ('11)** missed two days of placement with her class at Alma Head Start due to the closures this week. She was somewhat surprised that the actions taken by the schools were so extensive.

"I remember being in third grade, and the flu hit our school really bad... We had 10 kids [in class] for three days and never closed," she said.

Prior to the closures, Merz had not even noticed a decrease in attendance. "Not in my class, anyway... Not at all," she said.

Nonetheless, she agreed that closing the schools was likely a good idea. "It's probably better... A lot of my students have siblings might be sick," she said.

Elementary education major **Caitlin Pemble ('12)** had the opposite experience.

Though she only missed one day of class with her first-grade students, she noticed a sharp increase in the number missing.

"There were five or six gone when I went in on Tuesday. I believe my teacher said there were 21 percent gone from school [that day]," she said. Although she has never before had the experience of a school closing because of illness, Pemble agreed that the closure was a good idea.

"I think people are being very cautious... I feel like, yes, there probably are a lot of kids getting sick, but probably not more than normal. I think that people are freaking out because the swine flu is something new," she said.

Alma Public Schools were not the only one in the area to be closed because of fears of H1N1. Students in surrounding districts such as Shepherd and Ithaca also found themselves with unexpected time off when their schools decided to close.

Officials say more than 190 Michigan schools have already closed because of illness, a move that affects more than 71,000 students. However, not all the schools that closed have confirmed cases of H1N1.

Some, such as DeWitt Public Schools, closed simply because of high rates of absence; DeWitt's high school saw absentee rates as high as 27 percent.

Despite the shutdowns in surrounding public schools, the college has no intention of implementing similar measures at this time.

Students who have flu-like symptoms are encouraged to call the flu hotline at 1-989-463-7225, and those who still hope classes will be cancelled will just have to keep an eye for an official e-mail from the college.



Photo by Catherine Finley

Jacob Champion ('11) receives an H1N1 vaccine. This is one step Alma is taking to prevent the flu.

Squirrel Club encourages nature appreciation

By ELISABETH BLETSCH
STAFF WRITER

Students seeking an extracurricular activity that does not require a major time commitment should consider Squirrel Club.

"There are so many serious clubs on campus with big time commitments; this is about having fun with others and enjoying the nature on campus," said **Kathryn Rice ('11)**, "It's a way to enjoy the outdoors while relaxing and meeting new people," she added.

Rice and **Cory Schall ('11)** decided to start Squirrel Club about a month ago after a group of their friends suggested the idea.

The purpose of Squirrel Club is to appreciate nature and Rice and Schall hope it will act as a de-stressor for members.

Although the club has no member requirements or recruitment guidelines, there are a few rules which members must abide by.

Members cannot feed, pet, shave (Rice says this happened on campus last week), or alter the habitat of the wildlife on campus.

Members must be mindful and respectful of the wildlife at all time.

The club will meet once a week for the rest of the year.

Rice and Schall want to emphasize that this club is not a major time commitment; if members miss a week now and then, there will be no consequences.

Each week members will participate in a different nature-oriented activity.

Potential activities include watching nature movies such as Rocky and Bullwinkle and Ice Age, squirrel watching, picture contests, and making club t-shirts.

A possible t-shirt slogan is "It's all fun and games until someone loses a nut."

"Students are stressed about school and there isn't a lot of time to enjoy the wildlife and outdoors here. This will be a fun thing to do," said Rice.

Approximately 10 students attended the informational meeting on Thursday, Oct. 29.

Other colleges and universities already have Squirrel Club, and Rice and Schall hope it takes off at Alma College with success as well.

Although the University of Michigan's Squirrel Club feeds the wildlife, Rice said this causes the squirrels to become dependent upon humans and they subsequently "lose their natural ability to find their own food."

If interested in becoming a member of Squirrel Club contact Rice or Schall.

Christian band's music addresses "deeper questions regarding life and spirituality"

By KATIE GORDON
STAFF WRITER

Alma College Chapel will host the Rock/Pop/Christian band Attaboy on Nov. 12.

Critics say of the band, "With their infectious alt-pop sound, uplifting yet clever lyrical sensibilities, and huge hearts for youth, Attaboy has emerged from the Midwestern music scene as a band with a distinctive and personable presence."

Attaboy, which has the same agent as Red Umbrella, the band that performed at the Chapel last year, is compiled of vocalist/pianist Amos Caley, guitarist Jeff Edgel, and bassist Christ Brumbaugh. They met at Huntington University in Indiana and have been playing together for four years.

While gaining popularity, their single, "Wait on You," is increasing in radio play, and was recently added to the Billboard Top 30 for Christian Contemporary Hit Radio. They've also toured with bands such as Newsboys, Sinclair, The Fabulous, and more.

Over those four years of playing and touring, Caley says the band's mission has evolved into, "[Addressing] the deeper questions regarding life and spirituality, while offering very real hope." He adds, "While recording new, thoughtful music is part of that, our favorite part is to pack it all in a van and hit the road in an effort to meet and interact with as many people as possible."

With Alma College being an upcoming destination for the tour van, the campus is getting excit-



Photo courtesy of attaboy

From left to right, Attaboy band members: Jeff Edgel, Amos Caley, and Chris Brumbaugh. The band plays at the Chapel in mid November.

ed. **Molly Steere ('10)**, has been a fan for over a year and a half.

"Their lyrics are really catchy and easy to relate to. When you listen to their music you feel connected."

Carol Gregg, Alma College chaplain, says, "Attaboy's music is uplifting and encouraging and not explicitly religious even though the band has deep roots in the Christian faith. Bringing a band

to campus like this introduces students to a new music that respects and appreciates faith while still appealing to a wide audience."

This band is sure to be one that can appeal to everybody. As **James Thomson ('10)** says, "They're alternative rock with a positive message."

Concerts like this offer the opportunity for the Chapel to "expand into campus," as Thomson

says. **Amanda Nixon ('10)** elaborates that through events like this, "We grow as a community."

Steere, who has seen Attaboy perform before, raved, "They put on a really energetic and fun show." Gregg adds that the concert will include, "High energy, lights, sounds, [and overall be a] professional looking show. Even though they're regional, they put on a very good show."

This event does not require tickets, and will held at 9 p.m. in the Chapel on Thursday, Nov. 12. At just over an hour long, there will be CDs for sale along with a meet and greet with the members.

Everyone is encouraged to come and tell all their friends about this show. As Gregg says, one of her goals is to help provide events that

'Band' continues on pg 4

Chlamydia on the rise; college students at highest risk

By ELEANOR KING
STAFF WRITER

The most recent data on the incidence of chlamydia in the country indicates a significant increase in the past 5 years.

Between 2000 and 2007 chlamydia has been on the rise and according to the Centers for Disease Control in 2007 there was over a 5 percent increase, with over one million diagnosis' in the US.

However, this trend has not been the case in cities within Gratiot County, including Alma. Although chlamydia cases have been steadily increasing since 1999, there was a serious drop in cases after 2006: there were nearly 90 cases in 2006 and only 61 cases reported in 2007. These statistics, while undeniably optimistic, should not serve as a buffer for the implications that chlamydia has for col-

lege students.

Of all age groups, those between the ages of 20 and 24 are at the highest risk for contracting sexually transmitted diseases such as Chlamydia. This is obviously due to the higher rate of sexual activity for members of this age group.

More importantly, college students are even more at risk than those not attending post-secondary schools. This contradicts the old belief that educated individuals are at less risk for diseases that are based on personal choices—like the choice to engage in sexual intercourse. The study that revealed these shocking statistics was done by Adelbert James, senior associate in the department of gynecology and obstetrics at Emory University School of Medicine. He

found that college students, more specifically college freshman, were "almost 70 percent more likely to test positive for chlamydia than students between 20 and 24 years of age."

James' findings, while unfortunate, are largely preventable. The only sure fire way to prevent contracting chlamydia is to abstain from sex. As promising as this may sound, it is unrealistic for the 20-24 year demographic—especially those who have moved out of their parents' homes and are attending colleges and universities.

If engaging in casual sex with a non-partner (or any partner for that matter), use a condom, even if you are on birth control. While using a condom does not

completely prevent you from contracting chlamydia, it greatly reduces your chances. Similarly, not having sex with multiple partners in a short period of time will help.

The biggest problem concerning this particular STD is that most cases do not present with serious symptoms. In fact, 75 percent of women with it do not show symptoms and almost 50 percent of men. For this reason chlamydia has been called the "Silent Threat."

When symptoms do arise, it can be up to two months after the contraction. Symptoms for women include irregular non-menstrual bleeding, discolored discharge, and pain and discharge when urinating. For men, the symptoms

include puss from the penis and a burning sensation during urination.

Gone untreated, chlamydia can lead to further infection of reproductive parts. For women Pelvic Inflammatory Disease is the most common and can ultimately cause infertility or increased difficulty conceiving a child. For men, chlamydia can lead to urethral infections and the tenderness and infection of parts of the genitalia, which may also lead to infertility.

If you or your partner thinks you may have Chlamydia, it is important to seek medical attention immediately. Being tested for this STD is simple and relatively timely. If caught early, Chlamydia is one of the more treatable and mild forms of STD's.

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Service learning course works with local elderly to prepare morality play, "Everyman"

By ELISABETH BLETSCH
STAFF WRITER

Working with the elderly takes on a whole new meaning for Dana Aspinall's service learning class as students work with Masonic Pathways residents to produce the play "Everyman."

Aspinall, assistant professor of English, said this is the first time he's teaching a service learning course, so he's learning along with the students.

Alma College offers a multitude of these courses to its students, Aspinall said.

These offerings immerse students into the community where they are able to give back, while still gaining knowledge from the class.

An integral part of any service learning course is educating or participating in some part of the local community, Aspinall added.

At the beginning of the semester, the students in Aspinall's introductory drama class performed the play "The Annunciation" for the residents of Masonic Pathways.

In "The Annunciation," the angel Gabriel informs Mary that she is with child.

The students with acting experience were the actors and directors for this play, while those with no background in acting researched medieval history plays and shared their findings with the residents, said Aspinall.

For the last couple of weeks until

the end of the semester, students will be work with a small number of Masonic Pathways residents to put on the 15th-century English morality play "Everyman," Aspinall added.

The students with acting experience will teach the residents how to act, said Aspinall, while the non-acting students will be in charge of the costumes, set, and make-up.

"The residents will be the stars of the show; they will be the actors," said Aspinall.

Students go to Masonic Pathways in the evenings throughout the week to work with the residents, and the residents have also traveled to Jones Auditorium a few times throughout the semester to practice.

Aspinall said the class is comprised of mostly sophomores and juniors, with a few freshmen and seniors.

The students represent a variety of majors, though there are a number of English and drama majors "because of the nature of the course," said Aspinall.

The play "Everyman" will be performed on Dec. 16 at Masonic Pathways.

Aspinall expects an audience of approximately 100 people.

He said he believes a big part of education is giving back and being part of a community.

"This is a pretty ambitious project and it's a lot of work," he said, "But I'm enjoying it."

Aspinall said he hopes to do

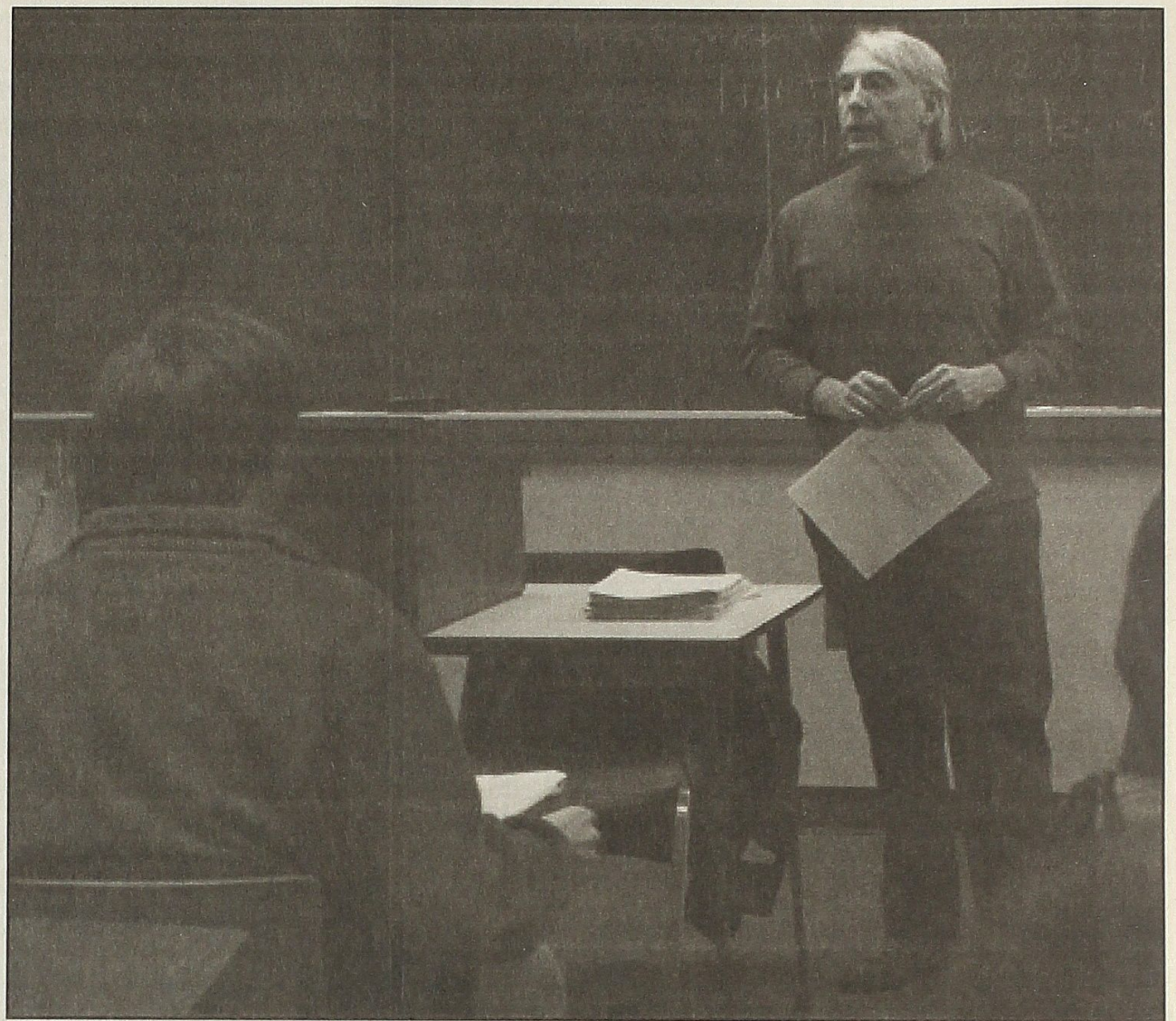


Photo courtesy of alma.edu

Assistant Professor of English Dana Aspinall is teaching a service learning course for the first time. He incorporates his background in literature with drama to create an experience both students and residents will remember.

another course like this in the future.

He added that this class is a rewarding experience for everyone involved.

"The students are learning not only to read plays, but first of all to perform them. Plays are meant

to be seen, and this offers the opportunity to do that," Aspinall said.

The residents have also taken to this project very well, and they seem to be enjoying the experience quite a bit.

"This gives residents a real sense

of purpose," said Aspinall. "The elderly are interesting people. The students get the chance to talk to people with all sorts of life experiences. Everyone learns from each other. I'm already seeing a bond between the residents and the students," he said.

Christian meditation contemplates spirituality

By MELISSA HUBBARD
STAFF WRITER

Sit with your hands on your lap, softly shut your eyes and be very still. When you hear a small chime, take a deep breath and silently utter the word Maranatha – which means "Come Lord Jesus." This is the idea behind Christian meditation.

John Main, a priest who started Christian meditation in 1975 and his practices have grown to become quite popular at many campus and organizations around the world.

Father Kevin Maksym, a priest of the Catholic Diocese of Saginaw and a volunteer chaplain here at Alma, first got involved with Christian meditation because he was struggling with his priesthood, decided to bring the opportunity here to the Alma College every Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. in the Chapel.

"Sometimes we're so busy we forget to take time out of our day to pray and Christian meditation really helps us do that," said Maksym.

Students who attend Christian meditation meetings are taking the time to pray with God. Those who do Christian meditation sit up straight with their hands in their lap. When they hear the chime they close their eyes and

silently breathe or think the word Maranatha over and over again. It means, "Come Lord Jesus."

They meditate for 20 minutes and when the time is up, the chime is rang twice and everyone repeats the Lord's Prayer in unison. Everybody's meditation experience is different. Some say they see visions of Jesus while others simply find that it has helped them to become kinder in their

"It's like when you're with someone you love. No words really need to be spoken and that's how it is with God. Sometimes we're so busy we forget to take time out of our day to pray."

everyday life.

There are only three rules in Christian meditation:

- Don't have any demands or expectations about what's going to happen when you meditate.
- Don't compare your meditation experiences to other's

- Meditation should be reflected in our everyday life by helping to make us more loving and not as easily angered.

"Meditation is a discipline of presence," said Nona Lehmkuhle, a friend of Maksym's who substitute taught one of the meditation classes and has been practicing Christian meditation for four years. "It keeps us from thinking about the past and focusing on our present and future."

"It's like when you're with someone you love," Maksym continues. "No words really need to be spoken and that's how it is with God."

"The essence of meditation is learning to stand back and to allow God to come into the forefront of your life, to take that step away from self-centeredness to God-centeredness," says Main, according to the World Community for Christian Meditation (www.wccm.org). "The result is that we find our own place in the world, our relationships in the right order – our relationships with one another, our relationships with creation and our relationships with God."

This Website is dedicated to Christian meditation teachings – posts weekly readings. The readings contain words of wisdom from the teachings of John Main and his student Laurence Freeman.

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are just fun, while also supporting the faith community; "It provides a vehicle for strengthening relationships among the community," and "helps people know Chapel and religious life can be more than Sunday night worship."

Overall, as Steere says, this concert is sure to be a great time. To

check out the band's progressive guitar and piano-driven sound, visit their website at attaboyonline.com.

Also, Alma College Chapel will give away one of the band's CDs during the Sunday night worship on Nov. 8 at 9 p.m. in preparation for the concert. Alma College Chapel's Facebook page can always be checked for updates on events as well.

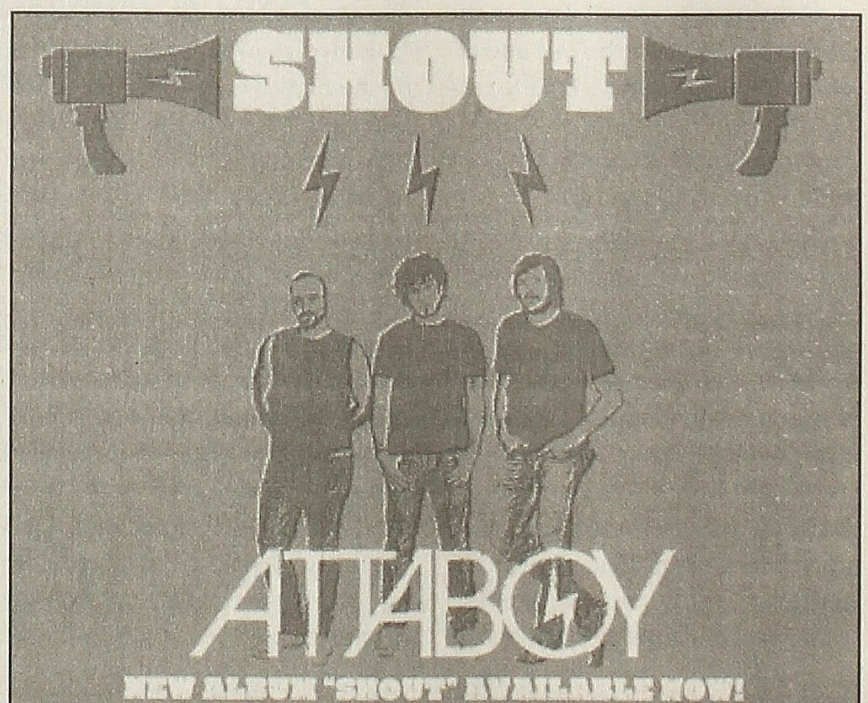


Photo courtesy of attaboy

Besides their new CD "Shout," Attaboy has two other CDs: "So Much for Today" which was released in July 2007 and California E.P. released in April 2008.

Upcoming event:

"An Evening with Madam F.,"
Claudia Stevens, Chapel, 7 p.m.

Actress Stevens presents a play on the Holocaust

“2012”: It’s not the end of the world...

By WALLACE ABRAMSON
STAFF WRITER

Whether it is 2012, 2000, or 1881, people have always been predicting when our time on this planet will come to an end. From the Book of Revelations to Nostradamus’ quatrains, “intellectuals” have decided on when we will see the end of all things. The notion that the world is going to end is based purely on a collapsed society’s concept of a calendar is more than absurd; it is downright ridiculous. The first thing that someone

should consider when deciding if the world is going to end on Dec. 21, 2012 is the fact that the Mayan calendar is a series of circles. The reason that people have assumed that the world is going to end in 2012 is the idea that the Mayan calendar ends in Dec. of 2012. I have one question that should totally debunk this idea: How does a circle end? The winter solstice of 2012 is not the end of all times but the end of the current era, according to the Mayan calendar. All that will happen on Dec. 22, 2012 is the start of a new era of the Mayan calendar, not the apocalypse.

It pains me to think that people have come to buy into the mass hysteria surrounding 2012 when we can all remember the Y2K doomsday prophecies. We have all seen how people buy into the end of the world and yet the world continued to exist following the predicted date. We should be more mindful of our past-experiences with apocalyptic premonitions and realize that it is just fear mongering on the part of dogmatic individuals. What surprises me the most is that Hollywood wants to capitalize on such sensationalist claims with the blockbuster “2012.”

Have film makers run out of ideas to the extent that they need to capitalize on dogmatic sensationalism to make a quick buck? The movie itself doesn’t look like anything too interesting as it were, with the exception of massive special effects that show the complete and utter destruction of human civilization. If I haven’t been blunt enough, I am going to go out there and proclaim that the world is not going to end on Dec. 21, 2012. I plan on a quiet evening watching the masses rush to the store to stock up on essentials

to outlive the rapture. All they will be doing is stocking up their cupboards for the next year. My only hope is that people will come to realize that this has happened before and the end will be the same. Unless there is a mass nuclear attack on that day, the world will continue to exist the same way it has for the past million years. We will not wake up to ruined cities or a zombie outbreak. The sun will rise as it always has and the people that were smart enough not to buy into the sensationalism will be able to proclaim to the masses, “I told you so!”

College education has risks

By MATT SHERRY
STAFF WRITER

Our generation was often fed the “You can be whatever you want!” rhetoric when we were kids. But in today’s current economic downturn, that doesn’t seem to be true. There’s the ongoing joke that people with English majors will end up working at Starbucks or some other minimum-wage job. I don’t think anyone wants their college degree to be worthless. Thousands of dollars of debt and four years of your life down the drain because you picked a major not in demand is terrible. As a consequence, I feel pressured to pick a major that is going to be economically lucrative. A lot of people at Alma have probably heard their advisors or professors say that it’s OK not to know what to major in. Everyone is required to try out all kinds of different classes because this is a liberal arts school. Based on those different choices, you pick a major that’s a door to your life’s work. As a sophomore who isn’t quite sure of my major, I don’t feel OK with it because I’m losing valuable time I might need to specialize. To compete in this recession I know I’m going to have to pad my resume to look good to employers, and that means

doing lots of activities related to whatever major I might pick. I don’t think majors like art, dance, or English are worthless and neither should anyone else. If you major in something like that, it just means you have to work harder to find a niche for your work. Majoring in English and expecting to write a New York Times bestseller is a bit delusional—you have to have a backup plan. A talented artist may find a job sketching corporate designs for orange juice. My sister graduated from Notre Dame last year and landed a teaching job for Teach For America. A lot of her peers weren’t so lucky. A 2009 survey from National Association of Colleges and Employers found that only 19.7 percent of graduates had a job waiting for them after graduation. By now, more of those graduates could have jobs, but they potentially could create a backlog of jobless people that the next year has to compete against. The recession is not creating a very good environment for Alma College graduates to pick whatever major they want. Getting a bachelor’s degree isn’t a magical free ticket to a job. Education has turned into an arms race because of the increasing amount of people

who go to college. With so many people out there with degrees, I feel like the value of my future degree is deflating. That fear may be irrational because a February 2009 Forbes article by Kathy Kristof said, “Half of students entering college never earn a degree.” That’s a scary statistic, especially considering that a lot of dropouts will be burdened with student loans with nothing to show for it. However, it shows that not everyone is lucky enough to make it through college. In high school, my teachers praised how great college was, but they didn’t talk about the risks. There’s a commonly cited statistic that you make about a million more dollars in your lifetime if you go to college. Of course, there are some counter examples, like Bill Gates, who dropped out of college to create Microsoft. I also hear the “Good Will Hunting” example a lot, but how many real life janitors do you know who read about quantum mechanics? As risky and fearful as college can be, I obviously value it anyway or else I wouldn’t be here. Alma provides people with countless opportunities for personal growth and success. That’s what a liberal arts education is about.

PUZZLE CORNER

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

Answer to last week’s puzzle

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

Puzzle courtesy of www.sudoku-puzzles.net

SUDOKU

Fill the 9x9 grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3x3 boxes contains the digits from 1 to 9. Each number must occur only once in each column, row, and box.

the Almanian.

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

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Sucked dry by “Twilight” - the cultural misconception of vampires

By MATT SHERRY

STAFF WRITER

Anyone with eyes can see the latest fad sweeping America is vampires. We’re drowning in vampire related entertainment with “Twilight”, “The Vampire Diaries”, “True Blood”, “Cirque du Freak: the Vampire’s Assistant”, and its kin. I haven’t read “Twilight”, but if I did I’d have to stake myself. My ignorance of “Twilight” is a matter of self-preservation. However, I’ve learned enough anecdotal evidence to suggest “Twilight” and its offspring have destroyed the modern image of what it means to be a vampire. Vampires have become these morally ambiguous, misunderstood “people” instead of evil cretins. Back in the times of Dracula,

vampires weren’t apologetic vegetarians that worried about helping old ladies across the street. They were monsters. Last time I checked, ruthlessly biting into someone’s jugular and extracting red goo wasn’t on the list of something “good guys” do. Vampires are supposed to be scary undead, not sparkling man-children with immaculate hair. It seems like every new book, TV series, or movie wants to change up the rules somehow. Every writer has a concept of what he or she expects a vampire to be. For some vampires, garlic hurts them, others sunlight, or stakes, or Kristen Stewart. It’s impossible to keep straight. Now vampires have become pansies with no fangs. It’s as if Stephenie Meyer did no research

for her book and pretended like she invented vampires herself. She took hundreds of years of vampire history and threw it out the window, along with decent writing. Stephen King said in a 2009 interview with USA Weekend that “... Stephenie Meyer can’t write worth a darn. She’s not very good.” I have to applaud him for having the hubris to call out Meyer for what she is—a poor writer riding on the wave of Harry Potter’s success. Her preteen girl audience is anxious to gobble up anything resembling J.K. Rowling’s books. For more evidence that Meyer is completely off her rocker, just ask Robert Pattinson, the actor who played Edward in the “Twilight” Movie. He said in a 2008 interview with

E!Online “I was just convinced that this woman is mad, she’s completely mad, and she’s in love with her own fictional creation.” Edward from “Twilight” is so ridiculously harmless that The Count from Sesame Street looks menacing in comparison. Let’s face it, counting numbers is dangerous—it led to the invention of Atomic bomb. Even Count Chocula’s cereal is starting to look bloodcurdling. His unhealthy bowls of cereal lead to obesity, heart problems, and eventually death. The Count and Count Chocula’s body count is closer to what a real vampire’s should be. Over 100 ago, vampires were mythic folklore, devilish creatures that sucked people’s blood in legends. Now they’ve

adapted themselves to be reflections of our generational insecurities within every medium. This generation has turned vampires into sex objects—and since rising out of a coffin and turning into a bat isn’t sexy, they had to dumb them down to a more human level. There’s something overtly sexual about falling in love with someone who physically needs your blood to survive. It goes beyond emotional attachment into a different plane of dependence. Apparently having massive amounts of pale white make-up like the vampires in “True Blood” is really “hot.” Though in the end, if you’re in love with a vampire, it’s a human corpse—and that’s necrophilia, you creepy sicko.

Confessions of a Stumbling addict

By WALLACE ABRAMSON

STAFF WRITER

Like many of my peers, I have stayed up into the late hours of the night telling myself, “one more and then I am going to bed.” I have found myself with a crippling addiction. I find that when I am telling myself I will get an assignment done at a reasonable hour, I inadvertently move to that terrible vice. I try to stop, I try to quit, but I always just say “one more, that’s it.” It’s an activity that I find more and more of my friends have taken up. I haven’t been completely innocent in the perpetuation of

this scourge as I have told many of my friends and co-workers about it. I am going to come out with it truthfully: I am addicted to www. StumbleUpon.com. StumbleUpon is a menace that is ravaging a nation. It is ensnaring the minds of the youth by providing them with constant stimuli relevant to their interests. StumbleUpon is particularly dangerous because it taps into the biggest collection of information ever seen on this planet. It matches your interests with a catalogue of Websites compiled by your peers and provides you with the relevant websites at the click of a button. No longer is the internet used

to check certain social Website or do random YouTube or Google searches. One can go on the Internet and waste massive amounts of time because of this direct access to topics connected to your interests. StumbleUpon has taken away the pursuits that should be normal to our peers. It has caused people to become reclusive all because they want to use StumbleUpon. It has caused people to become unresponsive during the day because they have been up so late wanting to push that button one more time. People have begun to have to put assignments off to the last minute

all because of that little button. There is hope though. People need to realize that there are other pursuits in which people can fulfill their need for mental stimulation. There are a plethora of student organizations that match your interests. You can even go to the library and checkout materials that are relevant to your interests. The merit of such pursuits over StumbleUpon is that they do not have the sensory overload of StumbleUpon. Instead of a broad spectrum of your interests, such previously mentioned pursuits focus on one or two of your interests. You are able to focus your

attention to one subject and put all your effort into it, giving you more depth in the pursuit of your interest. StumbleUpon has opened my eyes to wonders of the Internet that I would have previously never been exposed. It has come with a price-tag though. I have built an unhealthy relationship with StumbleUpon that must be altered. I, and some of my peers, need show a measure of self control and really commit to only pushing that button one more time. By all means, don’t just delete your StumbleUpon account, but show some caution when deciding

Educate yourself about Greek Life

By CHRIS CHESNEY

GUEST WRITER

The only ones who actually know what Greek life truly is like are the Greeks themselves. A lot has been written in the Almanian so far this year about Greek life and its stereotypes and problems. A lot of rumors have been spread, some half true while others are ridiculously false but, without knowledge of Greek life firsthand, those uneducated in the subject have no reason to believe otherwise. That is why I encourage everyone on campus not in Greek Life—yes all 70 percent of you—to go through recruitment. Obviously, Greek Life isn’t for everyone, but who is to say what is and is not right for them? Ask those non-Greek students why they have not joined a fraternity and sorority. Unfortunately, I would expect to see that they do not have a legitimate reason. Why not go through recruitment? Why not listen and make a decision for yourself? Recruitment is not an obligation; it is an opportunity to see what Alma College has to offer. Throughout the first semester of the year, fraternities and sororities have held rush events encouraging non-Greeks to come have fun at activities and meet those already a part of the system. What is

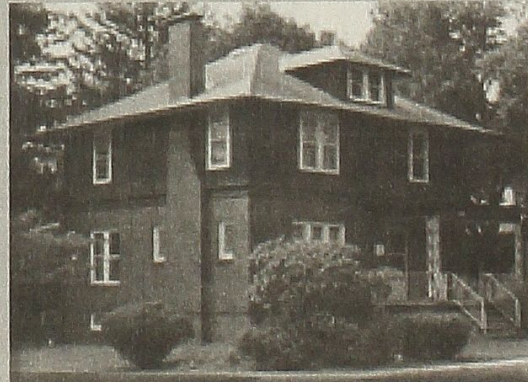
the worst that could happen? Most rushing events do something, have a game, enjoy a movie and encourage some fun. Most rushing events have free food and people just hanging out. Why not go to these events? Why not meet some new people on campus and have a good time doing it? Why not learn about the Greek chapters on campus directly from those who are part of it? Like I said before, it is not for everyone, but prove that it is not for you. If you do not like a specific chapter, that is your own decision. Maybe you aren’t academically eligible to join Greek Life since a 2.25 GPA is required, but that should not stop you from meeting the Greeks and making new friends. Greek Life is an exclusive group, but only because those unwillingly to take a chance make it that way. The only explanation I can come up with is that you are too busy. Everything else cannot be determined a legitimate reason. I think Alma College has one of the best Greek systems in the United States—something far from the stereotypes seen on major college campuses and even smaller private institutions. The administration and students

work together and try to make Alma College the best place for students, yet the Greek system is still harassed by stereotypes seen on TV. Take a look at Alma College Greek Life—it is a lot different. Next semester, winter recruitment occurs at the beginning of February. This is the epitome of Greek recruitment, as every fraternity house opens for an official “smoker” to meet the brothers and learn about the houses. Each sorority house opens for a series of events—“teas, spreads, and desserts”—to meet the sisters and learn about each chapter. Making a decision to go Greek is a big one and making that decision in a single week is asking a lot. So join the rushing events now and start understanding the system beforehand. Get a sense of what Greek life entails, talk to Greek members and learn about the benefits of joining a chapter. Going Greek will be one of the best decisions in your life, but before making that leap, learn why so many of the most successful alumni were in the system. This includes Jim McIntyre ’69, recipient of the 2009 Distinguished Alumni Award, Alma’s highest alumni award.

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Athletes leave the field behind for lip-syncing

By MARIA CASTANEDA
STAFF WRITER

You probably haven't noticed, but Alma College athletes have been putting in extra hours to work on their moves lately; and not the pump-fakes, jukes, spins, and crossovers that you would probably expect.

They are leaving the field and court behind and taking it to the stage. The Student Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC) is sponsoring Jock Rock—an evening of wacky lip-syncing and hilarious skits showcasing the athletes from the various Alma College varsity sports.

The event will take place Thursday, Nov. 5th at 8 p.m. in the Tyler Van Dusen Campus Center. Each team will have a 10-minute

time slot to perform whatever they have prepared. It's the perfect venue to come support friends, classmates, and teammates. Free pizza and soda will be provided.

According to its mission statement, SAAC is an organization designed to enhance the total student-athlete experience by allowing them an opportunity to be involved in the athletic governance process by promoting a positive student-athlete image, protecting student-athlete welfare, providing input into policies and procedures, as well as providing an avenue for representation to the conference SAAC.

"SAAC is a good way to keep athletes involved in athletics outside of their season," said Channing Kimball, Alma College

swim coach and staff advisor to SAAC. "It gets them deeper into the process of being an athlete, understanding that being an athlete is not just playing your sport."

Typically, there are one or two representatives from each sport, depending on the size of the team. Meetings are held at breakfast in Hamilton Commons every other week.

At these meetings, the athletes decide what kind of projects and events they want to sponsor. Each year, SAAC receives money from the MIAA to sponsor events to raise awareness for an issue.

Last year, SAAC focused on raising alcohol awareness and sponsored a Blackout at a men's basketball game. This year, they

are using the money to address the issue of diversity.

Besides Jock Rock, other events the members of SAAC are considering holding are a canned food drive and snack baskets for visiting teams. The canned food drive would allow the team that donates the most items to give money to a charity of its choice. The snack baskets would be part of an initiative to display sportsmanship.

"We have gotten a good reputation for sportsmanship in the past with these baskets," said Kimball.

Every May, SAAC sends two of its members from Alma College to the National Student Athlete Development Conference in Orlando, Fla. This past year, the two student-athletes chosen

were Maria Castaneda (women's soccer) and Lance Gardner (men's basketball). They spent three days in training and returned to Alma to share what they had learned with the other student-athlete leaders in SAAC.

According to Kimball, the main problem with SAAC is the lack of awareness of the organization among the student-athletes at Alma College.

"It's hard to get people to show up because everyone is from different teams and we all have different schedules, and SAAC hasn't been very active this year so freshmen don't know we exist."

The student leaders of SAAC are president Meagan Hoblet, vice-president Tyler Petit, secretary Kasey Miller, and treasurer Hannah Hewitt.

Swimming and Diving begins season with relays

By ANDREW WALIGROSKI
STAFF WRITER

The Alma College swimming and diving team started its season on Saturday, Oct. 24 by competing in the MIAA Relays hosted by Calvin College. The event was unscored, serving as a preseason warm-up for the athletes. Unlike most swimming and diving meets, there were no individual events—only team relays.

"We've been training for about six weeks now and this first meet was just to see where we stand individually and how we match up against the other conference teams," said **Spencer Johnson ('10)**. "Since the meet was unscored, there was no pressure on the athletes. We can only guess what place we finished in."

Though the 16 swimming events were not scored, the finishing times place Alma College in the lower half of most of the events.

However, Johnson and **Max Regan ('12)** posted impressive individual splits in the men's 200-yard backstroke, **Jordan Newhouse ('12)** and **Christine Vicari ('11)** posted low times in the women's 200 yard medley, and **Andrew Brunner ('11)** and **Aaron Hollenberg ('13)** finished with impressive times in the men's 200 yard medley event.

The diving events, however, were scored for points, though places were not formally

awarded. Because all of the competition consisted of relay events, the divers also had to compete as a team. **Hanna Leestma ('10)** and Johnson paired up and produced first-place finishes on both the one-meter and three-meter diving events. They put up an impressive 90-point gap between themselves and second place in the three-meter event.

"This year our goal as a team is to continue our improvement and not finish in last place at the conference meet," said Johnson. "It's hard for our team to do well because of our low numbers, though we have a lot of talent. Swimming is a sport that requires not only great individual performances, but depth within the team."

The Scots hope that intensified training will continue to produce improvements that began last season. They scored twice as many points in the season-ending MIAA conference meet in the '08-'09 season as they did at the same event in the previous year.

"That improvement was due to the strenuous training that Coach Hamstra puts us through; but it's worth it," said Johnson. "This year, the training is even more rigorous, including a new weight training regimen and a different, more concentrated focus during our swim practices."

The Alma College swimming and diving teams are in competition again when they travel to Findlay University in Ohio on Nov. 7.



Photo by Devin Brines

Jennifer List replaces Angelica Lutrell as director of the Stone Recreation Center.

By ANDREW WALIGORSKI
STAFF WRITER

The interim director position at the Stone Recreation Center has been up in the air for the last few weeks while a decision was made as to who would fill it permanently.

Since the beginning of the semester, Alma graduate Angelica Lutrell has been in charge of the activities at the Stone Recreation Center but beginning on Monday, Oct. 26 Jennifer List took the position of interim director.

The position entails a variety of tasks.

"My responsibilities include supervising the student staff. I'm in charge of intramurals and other programs," List said. "I have to make sure the facility is clean and safe and make the Rec a place where people want to come."

List graduated from Central Michigan University where she earned a bachelor's degree in family studies and is now working on finishing her master's in Recreation.

"I worked in campus recreation at CMU and then took another

job but I missed being on a college campus and being with college students. When this job opened up it had a lot of the characteristics that I was looking for in a job," List said.

List worked in campus recreation for seven years at CMU during her undergraduate and graduate years.

Some of the experience List gained at Central Michigan University will help in the position she now has to fill at the Stone Recreation Center and hopes to bring some of the positive aspects of the programs there to Alma's campus.

"I'd like to see more student development as a staff," List said.

"Also more help with career planning and more experiences for students that work here that will help them after college."

List also plans to make changes in programs at the Stone Recreation Center.

"I'd like to have a wider variety of programs. Now it's just focused on intramurals and classes but if someone came to the Rec that didn't like sports specifically there should be not just sports but other

forms of recreation," List said.

Having only a week of working at the Stone Recreation Center though List is still trying to get situated.

"I imagine there's going to be changes but I'm not sure what and I'm open to suggestions," List said.

Although List went to Central Michigan University and grew up in Mt. Pleasant she is new to the Alma area.

"I need to figure out what the position entails and where to go from there and what takes priority," List said as to some of the difficulties of figuring out her new position and also said, "It's a new culture at Alma and I'm learning that along with what people expect from me at the rec."

Despite the difficulties, List enjoys the work she does.

"I think it's fun," List said. "You should feel like you're getting paid to play in a perfect job. There are new challenges and experiences. It's very fast paced. I like helping students develop as workers and as students, with academics and having a job."

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Men's soccer ties Albion as end of season nears

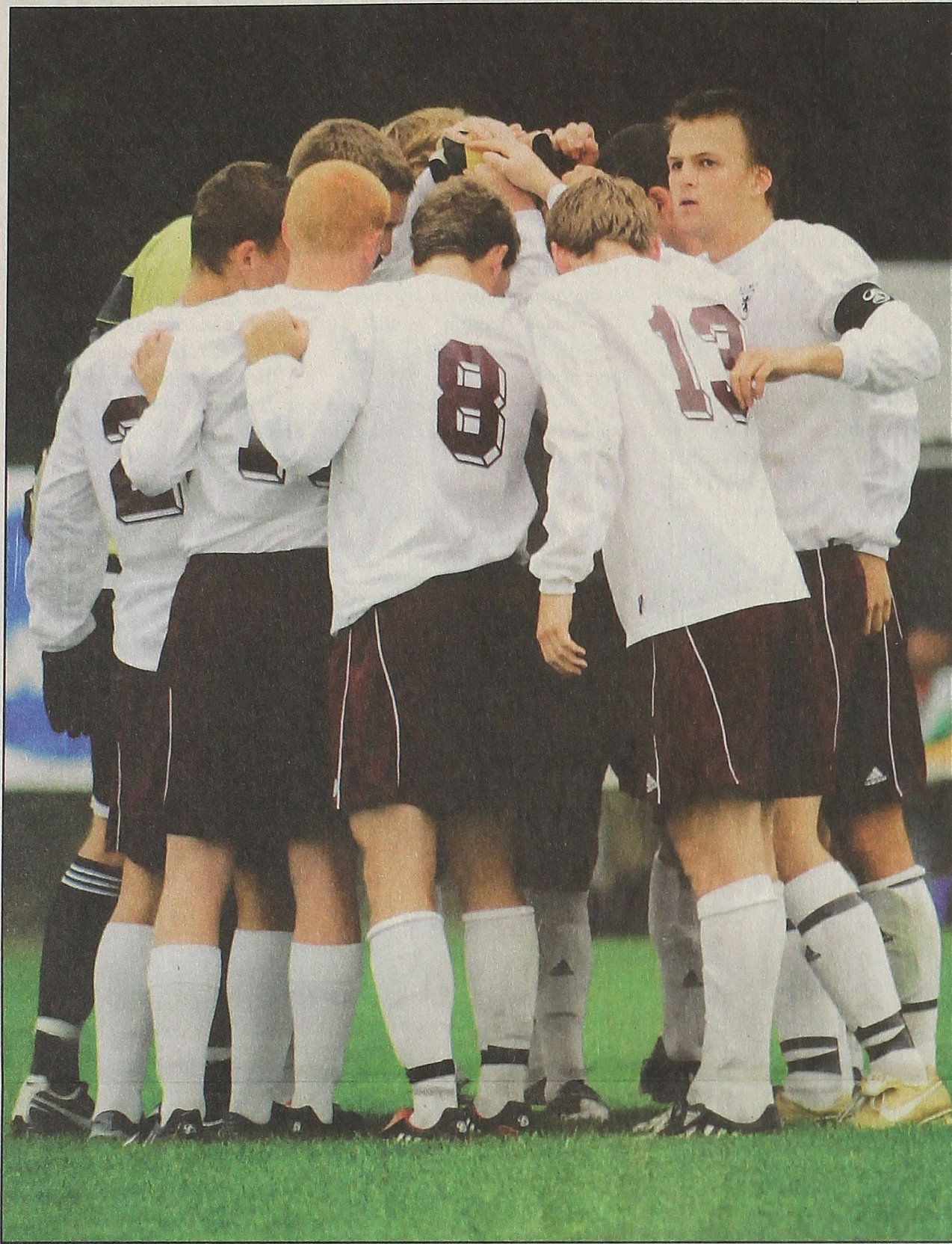


Photo by Devin Brines

The men's soccer team huddles together before the game. Their next game is at Adrian on Nov. 4.

By MARIA CASTANEDA
STAFF WRITER

Under cold and wet conditions the men's soccer team played 90 minutes of regulation play and two 10-minute overtime periods to tie Albion College 1-1.

Albion sits at fourth place in the MIAA while Alma comes in at eighth.

The Britons scored the first goal late in the first half off a header but the Scots retaliated early in the second half.

Santi Lopez ('10) scored for the Scots in the 52 minute of the game. Later in the contest the Britons barely cleared a shot off the goal line from **Dirk Roskam ('12)**.

"We had a good second half as well as coming back from being down a goal," **Cameron Alman ('11)** said.

With good defending **Jon Nowak ('11)** had to make three saves during the game.

"We scored a goal, created more opportunities that were dangerous and played through very adverse conditions," **Jake Rudnick ('11)** said as to what the team did well during the game.

The 110-minute duration of the game was an intense back and forth struggle between both teams.

"Once we had the pressure in their end we should have done a better job at keeping it in their end," Rudnick said. "Especially in the overtimes."

During both overtimes both teams struggled to find the back

of the net as they had fewer than two shots a piece in each overtime period.

"Neither team had a lot of opportunities, but they had a couple of late blocks just as we shot that kept us from scoring," Alman said.

The first time the Scots played against Albion College at Scotland Yard, they were not able to put the ball in the back of the net losing to the Britons 1-0. The tie was an improvement for the Scots.

Earlier in the week on Wednesday, Oct. 28 the men's soccer team lost 2-1 to Hope College. The Flying Dutch ranked sixth in the region, struggled to beat the Scots by one goal.

A few minutes into the second half **Andrew Waligorski ('11)** scored the first goal of the game. Waligorski scored a header in the 60 minute off a cross from Alman.

Despite scoring the first goal the men's soccer team was not able to prevent the Flying Dutch to respond with a goal only seven minutes later. Within the next 10 minutes Hope College took the lead scoring another marker.

This goal did not seal the game as the Scots battled to tie the getting six shots on goal in the second half and keeping play out of their half the majority of the 45 minutes.

The men's soccer team is now 0-11 in the MIAA and 1-14-2 overall.

The Scots near the end of their season with only two games left in MIAA play. On Nov. 4 the Scots face Adrian College, at Adrian, for their second to last game.

Hogan weight room closed to all non-athletes

By ELEANOR KING
STAFF WRITER

The Hogan Center weight room has been the site of controversy this past month. Previously open to the public, it has been closed to all non-athletes until further notice.

Several different factors have contributed to this change. It is important to note that the weight room has always been an unsupervised facility. Students and community members alike could enter and utilize the equipment without any prior knowledge on the proper protocol for safely doing so.

Similarly, in the occasion of an accident involving someone exercising alone, there would be nobody to help them or call for help. This creates the potential for liability for Alma College.

Another reason for the restrictions involves the gear itself. This year Alma College athletes, more specifically the football team, purchased new equipment. It had to take out a substantial loan in order to do so. The money needed to pay off the loan will slowly accumulate through fundraising by the players and their external supports. The argument made by football proponents was simply that because athletes are ultimately paying for the weight room, they should be the only ones allowed to use it.

A counter-argument posed by

non-athlete students such as **John Horwath ('10)** takes a more general stance in saying that all students are contributing through tuition.

"I feel that closing the weight room to non-athletes is taking a privilege that we as students essentially fund through the activity fee in our tuition," says Horwath.

Football player **Eric Santure ('10)** agrees with Horwath, but also thinks that access should be limited to members of the campus community.

"I think if we focus on providing this resource to just members of Alma College we can prevent potential damage done by people from the city of Alma who are not paying to use the weight room," says Santure.

Similarly, Horwath suggested installing a key-card swiper into the door to assure that only students (be they athletes or not) are entering.

In response to student concern, this issue was addressed at the open forum last Monday during the weekly Student Congress meeting. A concerned student asked Nicholas Piccolo, vice president of Student Life, if the room was going to be reopened for everyone to use. Piccolo responded by stating that once the college could hire someone to supervise the room they would reopen. His major concern, he said, was liability the college would

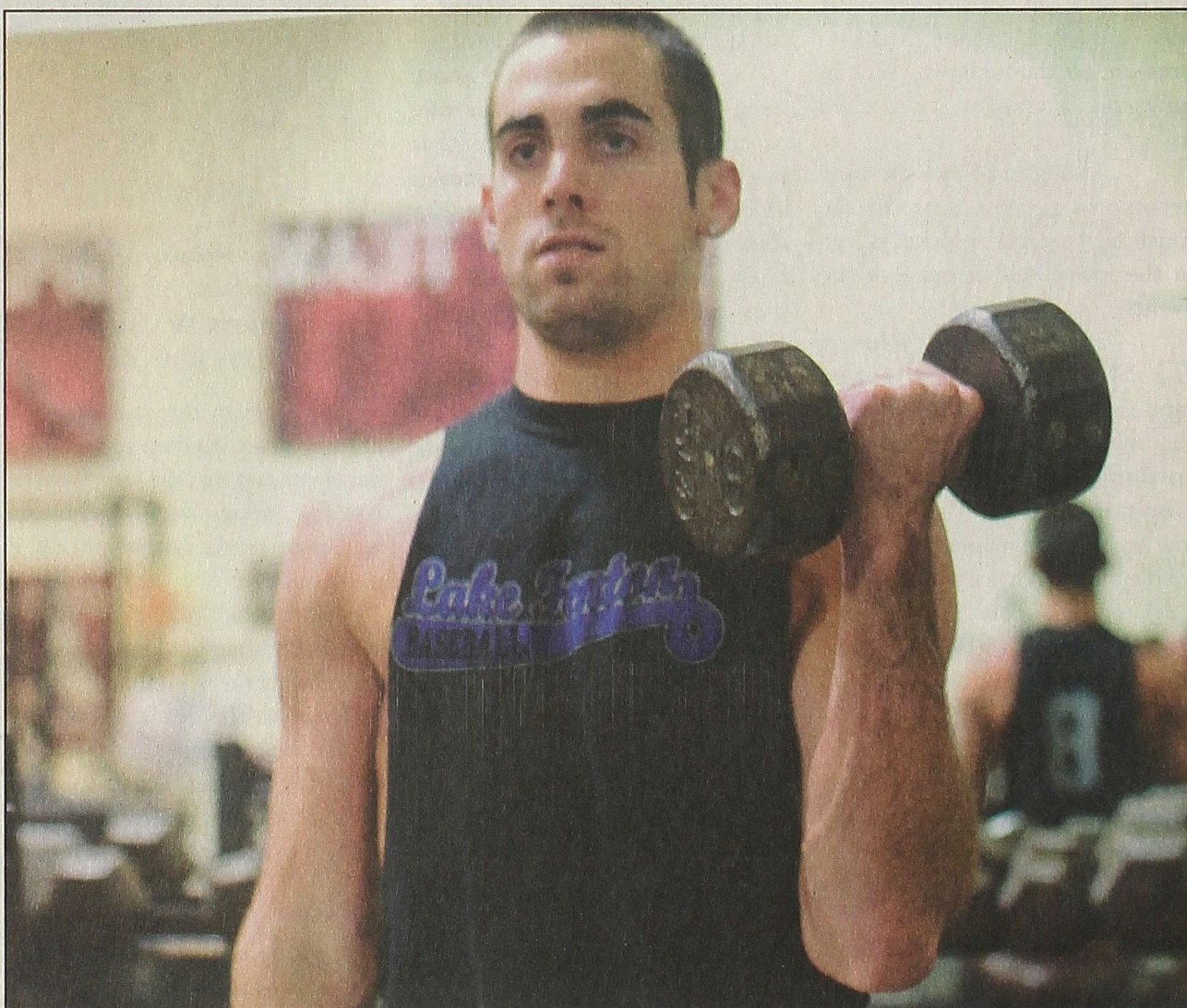


Photo by Devin Brines

Cramer Gormley ('12) works out in the Hogan center with the free weights. In previous years all students were welcome to use these weights, but recently only athletes have been permitted to use the equipment.

have if someone was injured.

Another student mentioned the possibility of having people fill out a consent form each time they used the facility to assure that the school would not be held responsible in the case of an injury. During the open forum President

Saundra Tracy said that a simple form would not be satisfactory for Alma's insurance company.

While Piccolo had no official time frame for the re-opening of the weight room, he assured Student Congress that it would be taken care of soon. The main

hurdle is determining what department should pay for the employee needed to supervise the room. When this is determined, hopefully in the next few weeks, and when someone is staffed full-time in the room, it should be reopened for everyone.