

# The Almanian

Volume CI

Issue 13

Friday, January 18, 2008

"Serving Alma College Since 1907"

## UNDER THE COVER

**The Open Windows Campaign has reached 83% of its goal and continues to devote funds to college improvements.**

SEE NEWS PG. 3

**Part I: Finding hidden gems--a.k.a. classic movies--available at the college library.**

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**Which is more important--the next American president, or the next American Idol?**

SEE OPINION PG. 8

**The Stone Recreation Center anticipates a high turn-out for intramural basketball's tip-off next week.**

SEE SPORTS PG. 10

## BY THE NUMBERS

### 15

The age of Martin Luther King Jr. upon graduating from a segregated public high school in Georgia.

### 1963

The year MLK Jr. presented "I Have a Dream" to 250,000 people in Washington, D.C.

### 2500

The number of times Martin Luther King Jr. spoke at protests against injustices around the country.

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## Update: Faculty injuries incurred over break

ANNA ZICHI  
NEWS EDITOR

The beginning of this semester has brought several changes. Most noticeable are the injured and missing faculty members.

Bishop Thomas Makarios, visiting professor of religious studies, sustained the most serious injury. Makarios spent the month of December (and some of January) visiting parishes in the United Kingdom and Ireland. One visit was to the Arch Bishop of Canterbury, in which his meeting is said to have gone extremely well.

On his return trip to the airport on January 5,

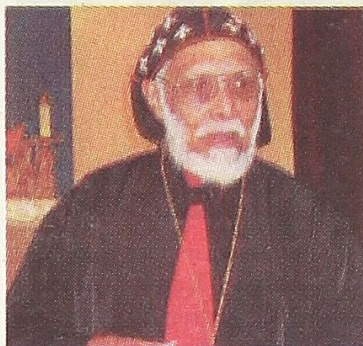


Photo courtesy of <http://www.indian-orthodox.co.uk/parish.htm>

**Bishop Thomas Makarios continues to be hospitalized after his car accident, but continues to be in a stable condition.**

Makarios' vehicle was hit by another. He was able to be extracted from the vehicle and taken to a hospital in the United Kingdom; however,

he sustained major injuries: broken ribs and abdominal injuries, including a ruptured spleen (which was removed).

Makarios has been conscious throughout this time and appears to be improving every day. Initially, he seemed to be getting worse but has appeared to have had several good days in a row. He continues to be heavily medicated and requires oxygen, but his dependency on both have been reduced each day.

Last Sunday his parishes reached an all time high of incense and recovery prayers, both offered to him.

SEE FACULTY PG. 3

## Alma draws more prominent MLK keynote than CMU

SIMONE MISHLER  
STAFF WRITER

Jeff Johnson, the featured speaker of this year's Martin Luther King Jr. celebration, has experience in modern media, a passion for influencing the leaders of today, and will be speaking in this year's panel discussion alongside the keynote presentation.

The theme of this year's celebration is "Voices of Generation: Music, Media, and Social Activism." Johnson, having experience in all three areas, will be speaking about what it takes to be socially responsible leaders for today.

**"The youth of today are the leaders of today,"**

**"Cousin Jeff"  
Johnson  
Keynote Speaker**

Johnson has been featured on Black Entertainment Television (BET) as Cousin Jeff on the show *Rap City*. He also produced a mini-series of documentaries called *The Jeff Johnson Chronicles* for BET.

Johnson has served as the national youth director for the NAACP and the vice president of the Hip-Hop Summit Action Network. He now tours the country giving speeches concentrating on issues of violence and voting.

"The youth of today are the leaders of today," said Johnson, "If we fail to sow the seeds of education and real leadership into our young people, we will be forced to reap the weeds of our ignorance versus the flowers of our love tomorrow."

Jamie Smith, assistant professor of history and co-chair of women studies program, was the coordinator of Alma's MLK celebration events this year. Johnson was chosen as keynote speaker because his message

SEE KEYNOTE PG.

## Environmental effort engages local students

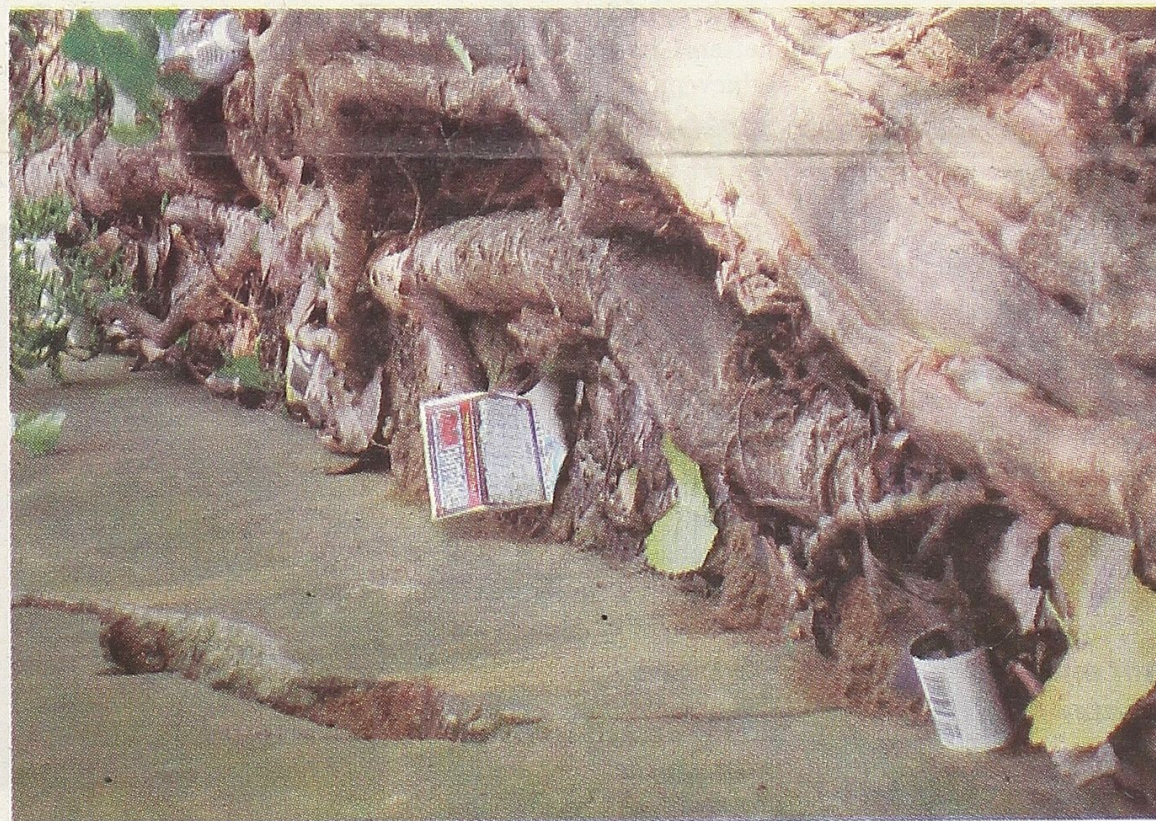


Photo by Catherine Finley

**A grant provided by the 3M Foundation has allowed Alma College students, along with local high schoolers, to monitor the quality of the Pine River and to clean up its banks.**

THOMAS MCGUIRE  
STAFF WRITER

Recent support from the 3M Foundation has allowed the Pine River to become the focus of a unique cooperative relationship between Alma College and two area high schools.

The college's cooperation with both the Alma and St. Louis high schools centers on a river monitoring project that is designed to observe the river's water quality.

"This is a river health monitoring program with the purpose of assessing and monitoring the health

of the water shed," said Murray Borrello, director of the Environmental Studies program at the college.

The quality of the river's water has been an issue within the local community

**"This is a river health monitoring program with the purpose of assessing and monitoring the health of the water shed,"**

**Murray Borrello  
Instructor**

since the Velsicol Chemical plant, formerly located in St. Louis, dumped large quantities of contaminants into the river until Vesicol's closure in 1978.

In 1983, the Environmental Protection Agency (E.P.A.) designated the Pine River as a Superfund site, making it one of the largest such sites in the country.

Through the monitoring project, nearly a dozen Alma College students are working with high-school students several times per month at various monitoring sites

SEE EFFORT PG. 2

# College mourns the loss of influential professor and friend

**HADLEY BOEHM**  
**STAFF WRITER**

Arlan L. Edgar, Charles A. Dana professor of biology emeritus, passed away Saturday, December 22, at the Gratiot Medical Center.

Edgar taught at Alma College for 35 years, from 1950-1985. He was born in Ithaca on June 3, 1926, and graduated from Ithaca High School in 1943.

Edgar was an Alma College alumnus of the class of 1949. Upon completion of his studies at Alma, he attended the University of Michigan, where he received a Master of Arts, Master of Science, and doctoral degree.

Following, he began his teaching career at Alma College, taking a two-year military leave to serve during the Korean Conflict.

Larry Wittle, professor of biology, said, "[Edgar] was an effective teacher who was interested in the well being of his students and, in return, earned their respect and admiration. There are some very successful and influential individuals on this planet that got a major kick-

start from Arlan."

Edgar estimated that he taught over 900 biology majors at Alma. "Edgar expected and urged his students to perform at their academic best. He set the bar pretty high," said Wittle.

"Prior to and during the time Edgar was chair of the biology department, he was a driving force in developing biology's unique curriculum that emphasizes student research. The Biology 249, 280, 499, and 500 research and seminar courses are still very active. He also was responsible for gaining National Science Foundation dollars to support student research during summers. Furthermore, he was a firm believer that students need to get involved in their discipline," said Wittle.

Upon retirement from Alma, the college established the Edgar Biology Endowment for Student Research in the biology department.

In 1981, Edgar was selected as Alma College's Distinguished Professor in the Natural Sciences and was awarded the Barlow Award for Faculty Excellence in 1985.

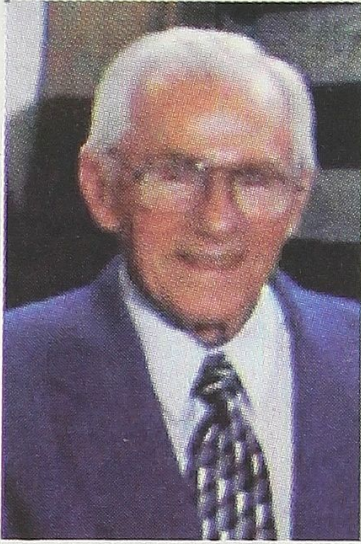


Photo courtesy of [www.alma.edu](http://www.alma.edu)  
**Dr. Arlan Edgar passed away December 22, 2007 at the Gratiot Medical Center. He professed his love of biology to his students and influenced all that he taught.**

Edgar was a member of many organizations, including the American Institute of Biological Sciences, The Midwest Developmental Biology Society, the American Microscopical Society, and the North American Benthological Society.

In 1973, Edgar was recognized by the Michigan Academy of Science Arts and Letters Citation for scholarly achievement.

Edgar was also a member of the national academic honorary, Phi Beta Kappa, the national biology honorary, Beta Beta Beta, and the national leadership honorary, Omicron Delta Tau.

He was the association editor of the northeast region of *Bios*, Beta Beta Beta's journal. Edgar helped his students publish their work in national and regional scientific journals.

Edgar was a charter member of the American Arachnological Society and served as the chair of the Zoological Section of the Michigan Academy of Science Arts and Letters in 1968. In addition to his teaching, Edgar was recognized as the expert on the arthropod group *Opiliones* (daddy long-legs).

Wittle recounted some fond memories of Edgar, saying, "Arlan liked to socialize and have fun. Any party that he attended was guaranteed to have lots of laughs. One thing I will never forget about Arlan is a talent that only he had. He could take the stem of a maraschino cherry and tie it into a knot in his mouth with

his tongue. Arlan was [also] a champion at handstands. Often for entertainment he would do a handstand on the front table of a classroom at the beginning of class."

Despite all these great achievements, Edgar said his highest honor came from comments students made to him about the positive impact he had on their lives.

Edgar is survived by his wife Bonnie of 55 years, his children Rosemary, Amy, and Andy, and his five grandchildren.

On a personal note, this writer was fortunate enough to have met Edgar. At 81 years, he still spoke with great passion about his time at Alma College, his students, and the research he felt so strongly about. Listening to him was enough to make some of his passion rub off on a fellow student of biology, and I still remember his words of encouragement.

Two conversations with a person are probably not enough to say you knew him well, but it is enough to make you thankful to have had the opportunity to meet a great man and teacher.

## Effort from pg. 1...

along the river.

"The point is that we are taking the high-school kids and the college [and we] setup different sampling sites along the tributaries of the Pine River and Pine River itself and we see how things change in there," said Borrello.

In addition to gaining information about the current state of the water shed, the project has several educational goals for the students involved.

"One [goal] is to allow Alma students to share their knowledge of science with other students in the community. It's [also] allowing the students themselves to apply what they are learning in school to what's real in the real world."

"The third [goal] is [to show] people that they can take control of the health of their environment and do something about it," said Borrello.

This collaborative effort would not have been possible without the support of a \$48,000 3M Foundation grant, \$12,000 of which Borrello and his colleagues accepted at the

3M Scientific Anglers Facility in Midland on December 7.

"I wrote the grant to the 3M foundation because I've been part of [a] community group overseeing the Superfund site," said Borrello.

While faculty members have desired to create such

**"Now the students not only learn about water quality, they can [also] see the effects on their own community,"**

**Mike Allen**  
**St. Louis H.S. Teacher**

a river-monitoring program for some time, Borrello saw the idea as an opportunity to create a quality educational experience that would be useful for both college and local high-school students.

"Many of the faculty [at Alma] were thinking about doing something like a river-monitoring project," he said. "I thought that adding the academic piece, i.e. having students do the monitoring while learning about science and community service, seemed like a good idea."

Upon hearing of 3M's

agreement to support the venture, Borrello and his colleagues were ecstatic.

"I was very excited," said Mike Allen, biology instructor at St. Louis High School. "The grant allowed the high schools to purchase top of the line water-quality equipment."

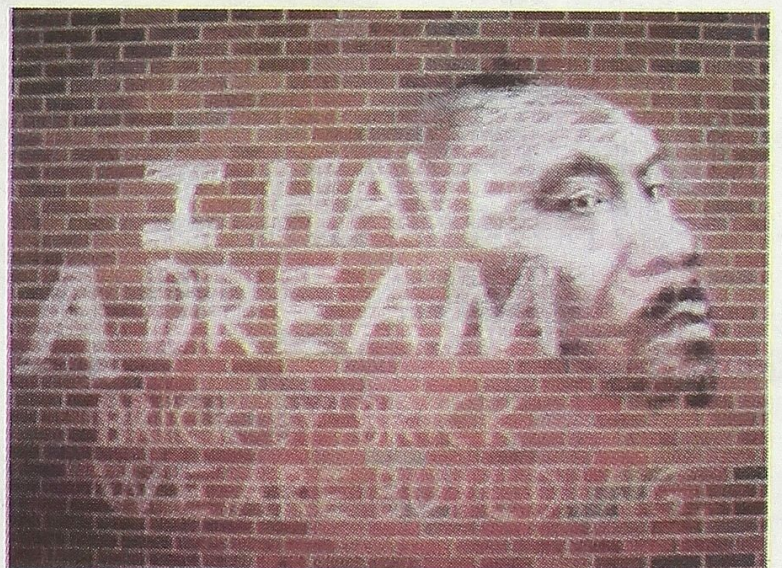
Although the project has not yet finished its first year of testing, Allen is already excited about the progress the cooperative endeavor has made and the opportunities it has offered to his students.

"We have received expert advice from the Alma College staff," he said. "Now the students not only learn about water quality, they can [also] see the effects on their own community."

According to Borrello, the success of the project would have been impossible without the effort of the cooperating high-school teachers.

"The teachers are absolutely phenomenal and make this work," Borrello said. "They have to do a lot of extra work to make this successful. They are absolutely into it."

## Keynote from pg. 1...



File photo courtesy of Lauren Russell

**Rebecca Miller (09) created this chalk work outside of Newberry Hall during last year's MLK Jr. celebration.**

encourages young people to become socially active leaders now. Using his knowledge of cultural and political issues, he asks students to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century.

Students will have the opportunity to hear Johnson discuss the week's topic, "Voices of a Generation: Music, Media, and Social Activism," along with three other panelists at 2:30 p.m. on Monday, January 21. The keynote speech will be given at 8 p.m. on the same evening.

The week continues with more events focused on student activism. "Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin," a film about the 1960s civil rights activist, will be shown at 2:30 p.m. on January 22 along with Michigan Service Scholars training at 5 p.m. A blood drive, sponsored by Alma College Service Learning classes, will be held in the Stone Recreation Center on January 23. The third annual open microphone and poetry slam will take place in the Clack Art Center at 7 p.m. on January 23. The celebration comes to a close with the second annual Reflections Contest. Student reflections of the work of Dr. King will be presented and judged at 7 p.m. on January 24.

## Open Windows Campaign succeeding while encouraging improvements

**HADLEY BOEHM**  
STAFF WRITER

The Alma College Open Windows Campaign has reached \$29.1 million, or 83%, of the its \$32.25 million goal.

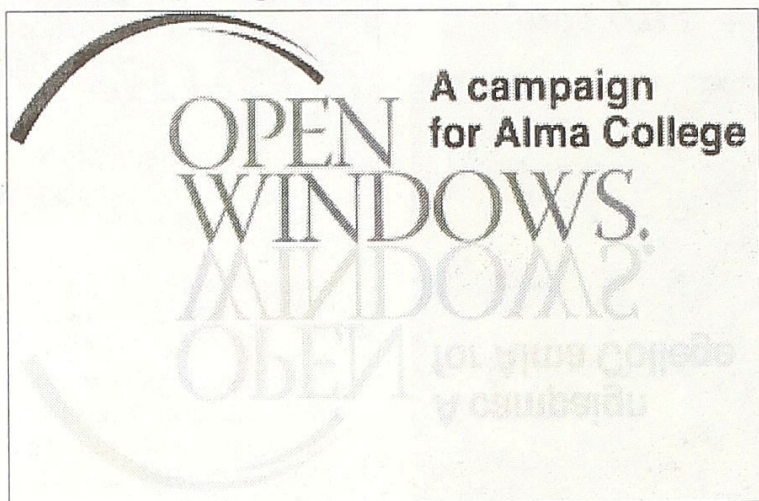
A lot of donors "take pride in being able to help out their Alma Mater," said Brent Domini, Regional Director of Advancement.

Carol Hyble, Vice President for Advancement, said figures for the campaign are estimated to reach 90% of the overall goal by June 30 of this year, and should reach 100% by June 2009.

The Open Windows Campaign is a comprehensive campaign focusing on growing and strengthening Alma's endowment in order to improve the campus by increasing opportunities and "opening windows" to both students and faculty.

"It provides financial resources to help take the college to a new level," says former Trustee John Colina.

Hyble, who plays a part



in securing funding for the campaign says "a lot of people believe in the college," and "it's really fun to get out and talk to the alumni and to learn why Alma is so important to them."

The funds raised by the campaign are divided among many different endowments and programs.

One of the goals of the Open Windows Campaign is to raise \$5,000,000 to support the Center for Responsible Leadership (CRL).

Opportunities within the CRL include a Speaker Series,

academic courses with leadership focus, course development mini grants for faculty, Service Learning Experiences, Alternative Breaks, grants for student programs, and a High School Leadership Institute for upcoming high school leaders.

The Campaign will provide \$3,000,000 to the Business Leadership Fellows Program. The program is a part of the CRL that provides leadership opportunities in business. The Public Service Leadership Fellows Program will also receive \$3,000,000 in support.

Both programs will sponsor an Annual Leadership Institute on campus, paid summer internships, seminars and workshops, and entrepreneurial grants.

The Campaign will also provide \$2,000,000 toward a Collaborative Research Program to help provide students with the opportunity to do research during summer or Spring Term. The research may be conducted on campus or at the national or international level.

Other funds from the Campaign will be directed toward various endowments for the performing arts and for campus improvements.

A lot of funding is also put toward the general endowment that provides the financial aid and scholarships from which so many Alma College students benefit.

The Campaign planning and implementation has been carried out by a number of people including the President, Provost, the Advancement Office and various advisory committees. Decisions concerning where

funding is granted are also based on faculty recommendations.

Hyble says that the most visible accomplishments of the Campaign have likely been the physical changes that have resulted on campus. The building of Wright Hall and the renovation of McIntyre Mall were both made possible by the campaign.

Upcoming changes are to include renovations to the Heritage Center. They will consist of a new speaker system in the hall, theatre and lobby, and acoustics shell in the hall, lighting upgrades, a new stage floor and grand drape, installation of a permanent projector, and new carpet in the lobby.

The Hogan PE Building is also scheduled to receive an upgrade in locker rooms and athletic training facilities. A time frame for these renovations has is still to be determined.

"I continue to be amazed at the dedication of Alumni and friends of Alma," says Colina. To date, 8287 people have given to the campaign.

### Faculty from pg. 1...

They are both said to have done enormous good in his recovery.

For the most recent updates on Markarious's condition, please visit <http://www.indian-orthodox.co.uk/parish.htm>.

Professor of Computer Science and Mathematics, Myles McNally, fell on Christmas Eve and broke his hip. He is recovering well in his home and plans to return to classes beginning the second seven weeks of this term. Associate Professor of Computer Science, John Hawley, has agreed to take over his classes while he is gone.

If McNally's advisees have questions or need a signature, they are asked to contact either the department head or the Provost.

When asked what students could do to help quicken the recovery of both individuals, Michael Selmon, provost of the college, said, "In the case of the Bishop, because he remains in intensive care, we cannot get messages to him. For the most part what students can do is what the rest of us in the community can do: keep the bishop in our thoughts and prayers."

"With Dr. McNally, the news is much better, and ... he is doing well," said Selmon. "Since he will be at home for sometime, I would encourage students to check with the department about the best way to contact him for information regarding his classes."

He also added that if students wished to send a card to McNally's home, it would be welcomed.

While recovery continues in both cases at this time, the community is asked to keep Markarious and McNally in their thoughts and prayers.

## Alma prepares to host March international DDT Conference

**HADLEY BOEHM**  
STAFF WRITER

The Eugene Kenaga International DDT Conference on Environment and Health will address current research, lead discussion, and raise awareness about current opinions and controversies surrounding DDT. Alma College is hosting this event on March 14.

Rachel Carson's 1962 work, *Silent Spring*, first raised public awareness of the harmful environmental effects of DDT. Subsequent studies have suggested the chemical is carcinogenic, a cause of birth defects, and the origin of some other human health problems.

In September of 2006, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced its decision to actively support the use of DDT to combat malaria. Arata Kochi, leader of the WHO global malaria program, declared DDT the most effective insecticide against the disease.

In an article published by the *New York Times*, Donald Roberts, professor emeritus of tropical medicine at the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences and board member of the health advocacy group, Africa Fighting Malaria, also spoke to the beneficial use of DDT in combating malaria.

However, research yielding the dangers of DDT, biological ramifications presented by its magnification within the food chain, and the increasing mosquito resistance still provide intense fuel for a very valid argument against its use.

The production and use of DDT and other persistent organic pollutants (POPs) are of local concern in areas near Alma. "In addition to general



use as a pesticide, Michigan Chemical-Velsicol in St. Louis, [Michigan] was a major DDT producer and dumped large amounts of DDT wastes into the watershed, resulting in the massive environmental clean-up of the Pine River," said Edward Lorenz, professor of political science and director of Public Affairs at Alma College.

As a result, St. Louis is home to one of the largest EPA Superfund sites in the US. The site is monitored by the Pine River community advisory group (CAG).

The DDT conference is sponsored by Alma's Center for Responsible Leadership, the Ohio Valley Chapter of the Society for Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, the Pine River Superfund Task Force, the EPA, and the CAG.

The conference is named in honor of Eugene Kenaga, a research scientist at Dow Chemical in entomology who served on an advisory panel to speak against DDT use in 1968. He also sat on various EPA advisory panels and was one of the founders of the International Society of Toxicology and Chemicals (SETAC).

The College's proximity to the St. Louis spill has prompted many students and faculty to take an interest in environmental and human health related issues and to support the Pine River Task Force.

The conference is designed to provide the opportunity to bring those interested at both local and international levels together to address the multiple perspectives of DDT use. "A lot of these people with common

interest have not really had the time to get together, and I think they really want to do it," said Felicia Leipzig, one of the conference planners.

The conference is an all day event and a preliminary schedule is posted online at [www.alma.edu/academics/ddt](http://www.alma.edu/academics/ddt)

Speakers at the local level include Jane Keon, the chair of the Pine River Task Force, and SETAC President, Dan Peterson. Two Alma College alumni, Amy Dailey, of the College of Public Health and Health Professions at the University of Florida in Gainesville, and John Giesy, Canada Research Chair in Environmental Toxicology at the University of Saskatchewan, will also speak.

In addition, international speakers from South Africa and guest speakers from other U.S. institutions are expected to attend.

The conference includes a bus trip to the St. Louis DDT Superfund sites to meet with local environmental and health leaders. The day will culminate in a meeting with all participants' input in the creation of a final statement.

"We hope the conference produces a 'consensus statement' from all the participants related to global policy related to DDT and other POPs," said Lorenz. "Currently, the U.S. Senate has before it ... the Stockholm Convention on POPs. Perhaps the conference will play a role in ratification of that agreement."

Attendance is open to everyone. Students may attend free of charge, but are required to register online by February 14.

There are 200 available places and will be filled on a first-come-first-served basis.

## Native American storyteller visits campus

*'In my heart, the sun rises to be here with you'*



Photo by of Brittany Lewis

*The white dots shows that he is peaceful, the black dot on his forehead show that he is capable of violence which, paired with the dots, shows that he is peaceful by choice. The line down his face shows that he is a story teller, and the three lines on his cheek symbolize his brotherhood with the bear.*

### BRITTANY LEWIS STAFF WRITER

When Neeake walked on stage, he stood in front everyone and made several hand gestures. "Don't you know how to talk?" he said and smiled.

He then proceeded to teach the audience what he said and how to say it.

"In my heart, the sun rises to be here with you," he told us. "I asked a little girl how you would feel if the sun rose in your heart and she started crying. I asked her 'Why are you crying?' and she replied, 'Oh, you have awful heart burn.'"

Throughout the performance, Neeake told stories about the history of his people, the Shawandasse Nishnabe, old stories about why things are the way they are, and more current stories about his life and family.

He told a story about their past, saying, "From the year 1830 through 1924, all Indians east of the Mississippi were illegal aliens. The reason for this," he said, "was that in 1830 the United States government passed a very bad law - I know, it's a surprise that they could do that," he joked.

"All the aliens were supposed to move west of the Mississippi. The reason they gave was that, 'You are all savages.' We savages didn't want to leave our brick houses, our log cabins, and our herds of cattle, sheep, and horses.

"So we fought, but not with the gun - not with the tomahawk or the knife. We had done that in the last fight. It did not work then - we doubt that it ever will. So this time we did something different. This time we took it to the Supreme Court.

"But, it turned out to be a back handed win for the government. They won the case because the court found that we were a sovereign nation and therefore could not bring a case to the Supreme Court. Since we were a sovereign nation, the government cannot make laws to tell us what to do.

"There was a problem though. Mr. Jackson did not like Indians. He also didn't care much about the constitution, so he sent his troops into the villages of the east Indians.

"For many, it was the middle of the night, in the dead of winter, taken out of their beds in their night clothes in bare feet and

were locked up in concentration camps - they were kept there till they agreed to move west.

"When they finally did agree to move, the food they had been promised was full of worms and the only transportation they had was their feet.

"It took my people a full year to walk to the reservation. Among all the people traveling, thousands died, most of them under the age of twelve and over the age of fifty. They call the route they took *The Trail of Tears*."

The rest of the stories told were legends about how the raven became black with a scratchy voice, how the world began, how Neeake's name was chosen, the stories behind the markings on his face, and how he named his children.

The markings on his face symbolize many things. The white dots shows that he is peaceful, the black dot on his forehead show that he is capable of violence which, paired with the dots, shows that he is peaceful by choice. The line down his face shows that he is a story teller, and the three lines on his cheek symbolize his brotherhood with the bear.

## Know your candidate: John McCain

KRISTEN HAIGHT  
STAFF WRITER

Republican Senator and presidential candidate John McCain has enjoyed unprecedented popularity following his victory in the New Hampshire primary last week.

According to ABC News polls, the senator is topping the list of Republican candidates, with 28% support from likely voters. This gives him an 8% lead over his nearest opponent, Mitt Romney, and more than doubles his popularity rating from only a month ago.

But the senator's well-known choleric personality and controversial stance on certain issues could hurt his chances of winning the Republican nomination.

McCain's position on the issue of abortion is not as typically conservative as that of many of his opponents. He publicly states that he would support the repeal of the groundbreaking decision *Roe v. Wade*. But he has, previous to this election, announced that he believes that cases of rape, incest, or threats to the life of the mother should be considered exceptions to any ban of abortion.

Similarly, the senator's ideas on the issue of embryonic stem cell research also reflect those of a more typically liberal politician. In a GOP debate in May he said, "I believe that we need to fund [embryonic stem cell research]. This is a tough issue for those of us in the pro-life community. I would remind you that these stem cells are either going to be discarded or perpetually frozen. We need to do what we can to relieve human suffering."

Regarding the US policy on gay people serving in the military, McCain said (in June of 2007), "When I first heard of the 'Don't ask, don't tell' policy, I thought it sounded awfully silly. I didn't think that would be very effective. And I turned out to be wrong. It's been the policy now in the military for what, 10, 15 years, and it seems to be working. This is not the time to put in place a major change, a social experiment, in the middle of a war going on."

Furthermore, he does not support expanding the definition of "hate crimes" to include crimes based on sexual orientation. Finally, McCain has stated that gay rights are issues best left up to individual states, and, during his time in the Senate, he voted against on the proposed constitutional ban of same-sex marriage.

Unlike fellow candidate and potential front-runner Mike Huckabee, McCain believes in evolution. However, he is on the record as saying that school districts should be able to teach creationism if they choose to do so. Along a similar line, "School prayer, or a moment of silence, should be allowed but not mandated. Education is a civil rights issue. Education reform, including school choice, is necessary so every student can be prepared for success in higher education, career, and life."

Political analysts note that the senator from Arizona may be the victim of attacks within his own party due to past outbursts and positions which contradict traditional Republican values.

The Washington Post observes that "some of McCain's policy positions have created enemies not easily placated. Anti-illegal-immigration groups will not forgive his stand in favor of granting illegal immigrants a path to citizenship. Some gun rights advocates have not forgotten his demand for background checks at gun shows. Some business groups remember that he was among the first Republicans to advocate legislation combating global warming."

McCain emerged from New Hampshire an unexpected contender. A victory in Saturday's South Carolina primary could solidify his status as a Republican front runner to watch.

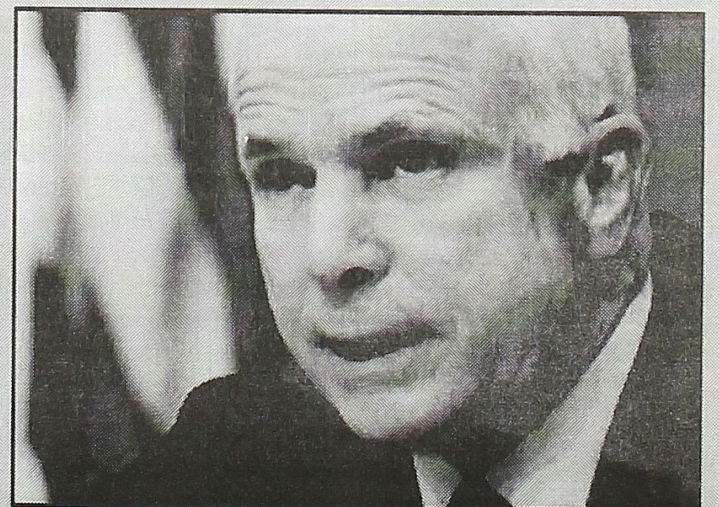


Photo courtesy of <http://www.scoop.co.nz>

# One Hundred Years of Solitude a powerful, life changing novel

**AARON POOLEY**  
STAFF WRITER

Forty years after its initial release, Gabriel Garcia Marquez's *One Hundred Years of Solitude* remains one of the most highly regarded contributions of magic realism in world literature.

Marquez opens *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, "Many years later, as he faced the firing squad, Colonel Aureliano Buendía was to remember that distant afternoon when his father took him to discover ice."

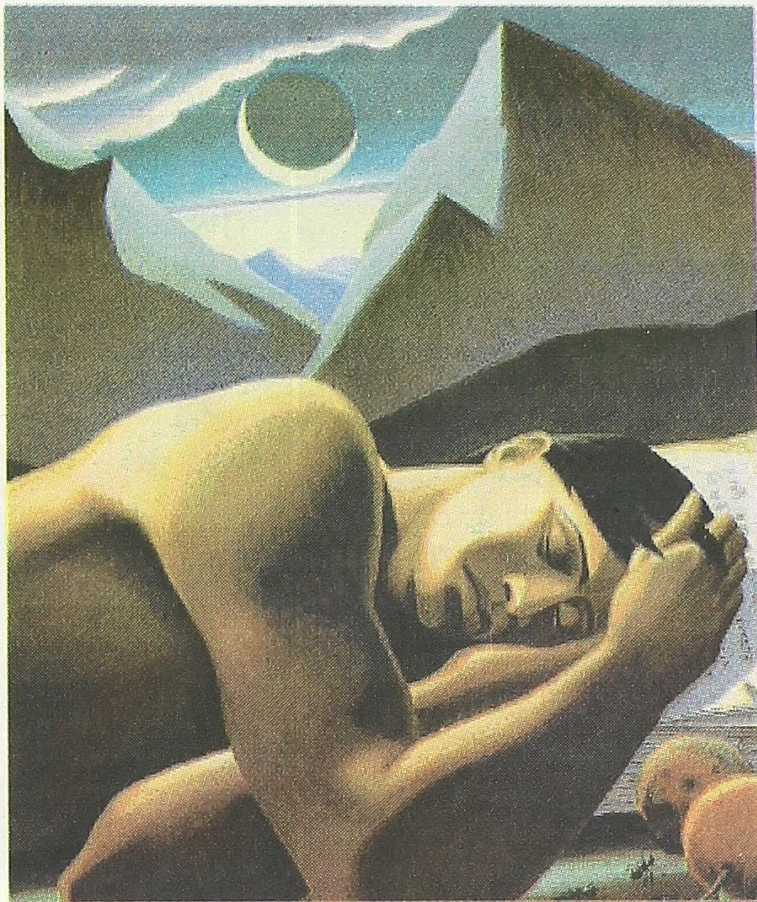
The novel tells the story of the founding of a mythical village of Macando in Columbia, focusing on the Buendia family and the seven generations that come from Jose Arcadio Buendia and Ursula Iguarian Buendia. Jose Arcadio and Ursula, because their parents and grandparents were interrelated, feared beginning a family so as not to have a child born with the tail of a pig — a warning from Ursula's mother before presenting her with a chastity belt.

But chastity does not last long and Ursula gave birth to two sons who pass on the family name — in most cases this is quite literal — the names Jose and Aureliano are repeated throughout the seven

*"One Hundred Years of Solitude was the first piece of literature since the Book of Genesis that should be required reading for the entire human race,"*

*The New York Times*  
(1967)

Photo courtesy of www.wikipedia.org



generations of the family.

In 1967, *The New York Times* said, "*One Hundred Years of Solitude* was the first piece of literature since the Book of Genesis that should be required reading for the entire human race."

The reality established in the novel twists until the reader becomes unable to distinguish

real detail from the fantastic and bizarre.

Arcadio Marquez searches for the philosopher's stone and makes a heartfelt attempt at alchemy (though Arcadio is entirely unaware of scientific advancements outside of his village). The gypsy, Melquiades, represents a Christ-like figure

that disappears and returns later, claiming he had died.

Ursula lives more than one hundred years and, though she eventually loses her eyesight from old age, works harder than ever to keep the rest of the family blind of her weakening state.

Colonel Aureliano Buendia

starts a revolution on the side of the liberals and produces 17 sons by 17 different women who came to him in the dark of his army tent.

In *McGuirk and Caldwell*, Gerald Martin said, "*One Hundred Years of Solitude* can justly lay claim to being, perhaps, the greatest of all Latin American novels — appropriately enough, since the story of the Buendia family is obviously a metaphor for the history of the continent since Independence — that is, for the neocolonial period.

"More than that, though, it is also, I believe, a narrative about the myths of Latin American history. I do not believe any other novelist has so acutely, so truthfully, seen the intimate relationship between the socio political structure of a given country and the behavior of his characters."

Marquez is said to have developed his writing style after a childhood raised by his grandparents, who blended folklore with daily life. When asked how he created these images, Marquez said, "If you say that there are elephants flying in the sky, people are not going to believe you. But if you say that there are 425 elephants in the sky, people will probably believe you."

## Students recall unique moments at AC

**BRITTANY LEWIS**  
STAFF WRITER

What is something crazy that has happened while you were at college? I first asked this question of **Kim Lyon (09)**. After a moment of pondering, she came up with this response.

"In my sophomore year I was singing in the Festival of Carols. We had been standing a long time and in the middle of a song, a girl named Erin that was standing nearby me had locked her legs.

"This resulted in her plummeting off the risers and was just barely caught by Christina. The strangest part is, later on that night, as we were getting off stage, another girl fainted. The moral of the story is, 'Don't lock your legs while standing for a long time.'"

I also questioned **Steven Gerber (10)** about something random and crazy that has happened to him at college. His answer was, "There was a time when a few of the Phi Mu Alpha brothers were gathered in one of their rooms and someone got the bright idea to rent the *Pirates* movie and make fun of it.

"We drove to Family Video just as they were about to close and went to look for the movie. We couldn't find it so we asked the lady at the counter. She asked which one we wanted one, two, or three. We said, 'No, not that *Pirates* movie.' She said that they had it but it was edited.

*"In my sophomore year, I was singing in the Festival of Carols. We had been standing a long time and in the middle of a song, a girl named Erin that was standing nearby me had locked her legs..."*

**Kim Lyon (09)**

"We then decided to call a friend who we knew had it and ask him if we could borrow it. When we called he said that he had left it at home. So, we called someone else, but they didn't have it with them. Discouraged, we went back to the brother's room and sat for about half an hour then we all went to bed."

**Hannah Wingo (09)** told me the story about a recent RA training event for second semester where the Newberry staff had to make an ice cream sculpture of Dave Blandford, the Bruske hall director.

"We made a bust using the ice cream for shoulders, a cantaloupe for the head with sugar cookie dough over it for skin, raw brownie mix for a hat, and cocoa mix for a beard.

"Then came the twist. We

were told that we would have to eat everything that we used! We were like, 'Oh shoot! We have a cantaloupe!' One of the girls actually picked up the cantaloupe and took a bite out of the rind.

"We ate the rest of our creation and most of the cantaloupe. Everyone had really sore stomachs afterward, but it was so much fun."

My own crazy story takes place the day that the tornado warning went off. All of Newberry was rushed down into the basement and left to entertain ourselves, and that we did.

My roommate happened to be in a different building at the time, and I didn't know. So my friends and I came up with the theory that the tornado ate her. This brought me to the idea of collecting crazy stories and writing a book entitled, "The Tornado Ate My Roommate and Other True College Stories."

We soon got bored and found another way of entertaining ourselves. This included a conspiracy theory that involved the CIA or FBI faking the tornado warning so they could study how college students entertain themselves when bored.

We soon came to the conclusion that the wall was an improved two way glass that was only a wall on one side — they were watching us. So what did we do? What any college student would do, started singing 99 Bottles of Beer on the Wall!

## Upcoming Events

**January 7 – February 7**

Alma artist Dottie Wassenaar presents "**My Journey in Painting**" at the Flora Kirsch Beck Gallery in the Clack Art Center. Admission to the art exhibit is free and open to the public.

**January 19**

Alma College and Sodexo Campus Services sponsor a Robert Burns Reception, Dinner and Ceilidh at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 19, in Tyler-Van Dusen Commons. The biennial event, which celebrates the life and works of 18th century Scottish poet Robert Burns, features several of the College's Highland dancers, pipers and singers, along with master of ceremonies Jack

**January 19-20**

The Alma College Dance Company presents the annual Student Choreographers' Concert at 8 p.m. on Saturday, January 19 and at 3 p.m. on Sunday, January 20, in the Remick Heritage Center Dance Studio. Admission is free and open to the public.

**January 21**

Martin Luther King Jr. Week at Alma College kicks off with a panel discussion on "Voices of a Generation: Music, Media and Social Activism" at 2:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 21 in the Dow Science Center, Room L-1. Panelists include Black Entertainment Television personality Jeff Johnson, social activist and documentary producer Tim O'Brien, jazz musician and radio personality Michael Johnston, and hip-hop culture scholar and Central Michigan University professor Donald Matthews. Admission is free and open to the public.

**January 21**

"Cousin Jeff" Johnson delivers the keynote address for Alma College's weeklong Martin Luther King Jr. celebration of civil rights and social justice at 8 p.m. Monday, Jan. 21 in the Remick Heritage Center. Admission is free and open to the public. No ticket is required. Johnson, a political and social activist, is best known as the host and producer of "The Cousin Jeff Chronicles," a series of mini-documentaries that air on Black Entertainment Television (BET).

# Alma College Library holds diamonds in the rough

## Classic movies provide timeless entertainment at no cost -- Part I

**AARON POOLEY**  
STAFF WRITER

New movies are released every week at seven or more dollars per showing — ranging from good to painfully awful — but films that have stood the test of time are no farther than the Alma College library, free of charge.

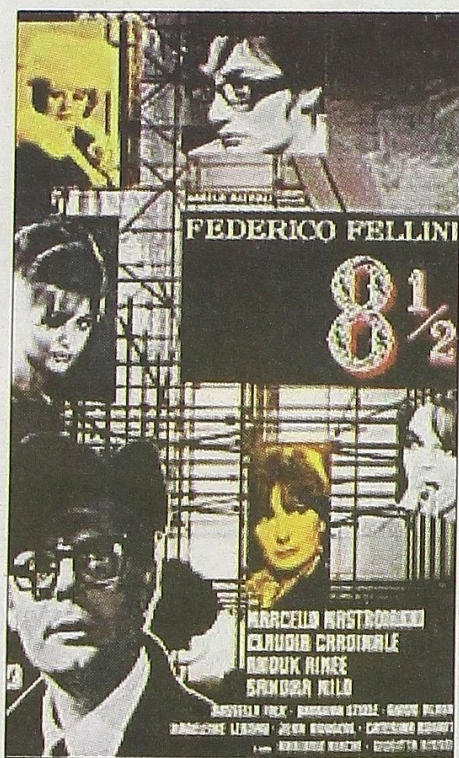
No movie classic list would be complete without Stanley Kubrick, however, Kubrick's inspiration — though less known to modern American audiences — is the work of Italian Director Federico Fellini.

Fellini's *8 1/2* (1963) stars Marcello Mastroianni, who plays a famous director by the name of Guido, as he struggles with completing his latest film. With Guido's fame is the expectation that his newest film will be nothing but the best, but when Guido is unable to explain to his producers (and the actors chosen for the film) what the film is about, everyone around him begins to question if Guido really has enough creativity within himself to continue making groundbreaking films.

Fellini transports the audience into Guido's mind, blending daydream and reality as the director finds truth in his artistic passion and commitment in his love life.

Of Fellini's *8 1/2*, Roger Ebert said, "It remains the definite film about director's block." Anyone questioning their ability to create will find Fellini's *8 1/2* an essential anecdote for artistic rejuvenation.

Kubrick's last film, *Eyes Wide*



*Shut* (1999), was not completed before his untimely death, but actors Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman worked with the director's outline to prepare the film's release.

*Eyes Wide Shut* is a surrealistic, sexually charged psychological thriller, which follows the 24 hours after Dr. Bill Hartford (Cruise) is told by his wife (Kidman) that she committed emotional adultery the summer earlier, nearly giving up her marriage of nine years and seven year old daughter.

Hartford encounters a series of sexual opportunities that he at first attempts to fight off, though the image of his wife's adulterous fantasy plays in his mind.

Once Hartford begins to accept the possibility of

having sex with someone else, becoming increasingly obsessed with this retaliation, his world — as fantastic and bizarre as some scenes are portrayed — lets him know that, although he might think he knows what he is getting himself into, his naivety will be his undoing.

*USA Today* said, "A precisely modulated and mostly mesmerizing 2 3/4-hour suspense movie, in part because it's one of the most bravely disturbing screen works ever attempted about thoughts withheld by even the most devoted marriage partners and the ramifications of voicing them."

In 1989, Just Betzer released *Babette's Feast*, a Danish film based upon the short story by Isak Dinesen (*Out of Africa*). Babette (Stephane Audran)

escapes from France during a civil war to Denmark, begging to live with two spinster sisters who continue to devote their life to the works of their dead father — a pastor in their little village. The two women have no money in which to pay Babette, but Babette insists that she only needs a place to live until the war is over in France.

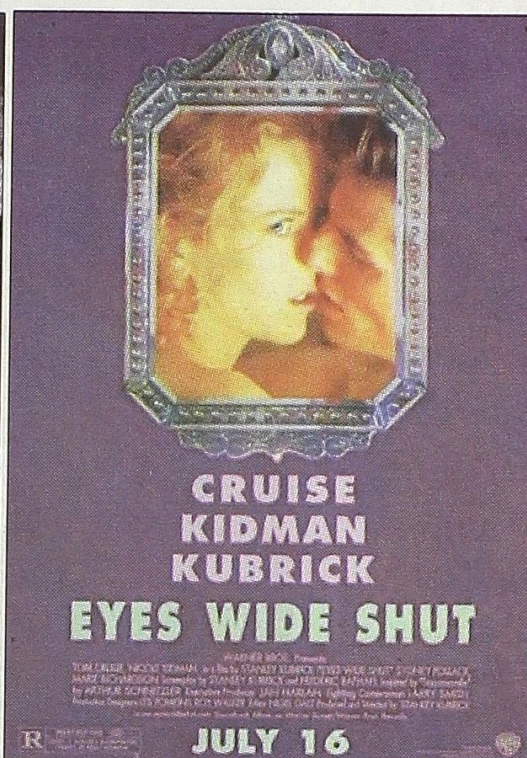
Many years pass and the war ends, and days before her departure Babette learns that she has won the lottery and will have money in which to live out her days in comfort. As one final gesture of thanks, Babette pleads with the old women to let her cook the celebratory dinner for the spinster's father's birthday celebration. This would not be any ordinary meal — it would be a French dinner with all the

stops pulled.

Babette never mentions to the old women how much their meal would cost her, but after seeing the unfamiliar and perhaps even blasphemous ingredients Babette has chosen, the old women have second thoughts. All the guests to the dinner are told by the old women to pretend as if the meal is without flavor so as to remain humble in the eyes of the dead preacher and before God.

The *Los Angeles Times* said, "Delectable! A fable told with passion, intelligence and sumptuousness."

Each guest — and the old women themselves — despite the prayers and hymn singing and despite their bitterness, was in for a meal that they would they would never forget.



# Facebook has powerful, elusive hold on students worldwide

**LAUREN SYPNIEWSKI**  
STAFF WRITER

"I was doing homework, then I ended up on Facebook." Sound familiar? Or maybe, "I'm double majoring in Napping and Facebook with a minor in Procrastination?" It may be because you are part of that group on Facebook.

"I love Facebook actually, and it's kind of addicting," said **Jaclyn Dittmar (11)**.

Many Alma students and people around the world share in Dittmar's addiction. Many have no idea *why* they are addicted.

"I am addicted to Facebook," admits **Nolan Lienhart (11)**. "Yes, I am addicted. Why? Who knows."

There are those that view Facebook as a resource to fast information, as Facebook users normally have all their contact information on their profiles. This information can be useful, but Facebook users have to be wary who they invite and accept to be their friends.

Some students enjoy particular aspects of Facebook, which usually involve the

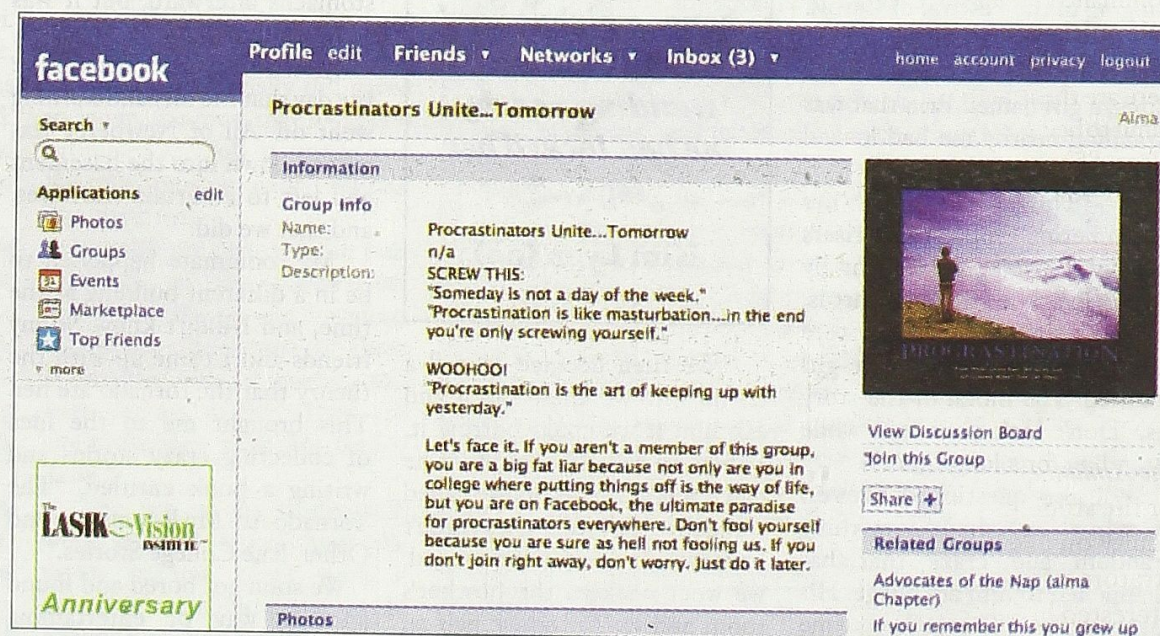
site's applications, such as bumper stickers, Super Poke, quizzes, comparing, and gifts. Also, Facebook lends itself to making plans, for a fast message and checking up on friends' statuses.

"I message, comment, and bumper sticker my Alma friends," said **Alex Korell (11)**. "We make plans via Facebook. Without it, I would have to call people. Facebook is so much easier."

"I use Facebook to get games of ultimate frisbee together, because it is faster and more reliable than word of mouth," said **Dan Krauss (11)**.

Facebook also lists many parties, along with their details, in the events section of Facebook. This allows students to get the correct information by visiting the event's site. Events are not limited to just parties, but many other things as well. Recently, the marketplace it has been a big help selling old textbooks from last semester.

"I find it's most useful purpose is keeping track of all the events that are coming up," said **Luke Altomare (11)**. "If I want



details about an event, like where it is or who is going, I just bring up Facebook and there it is."

"Facebook is also a great way to meet people," said **Ali Cnuddle (11)**. "I have made many new friends using it. It's nice that there is a way to look someone up after meeting them briefly."

Facebook utilizes a simple system to search for people, whether name, network, or

school. Also, Facebook allows users to search by interests, work history, majors, location, and favorite things.

Although applications are an interesting add-on to Facebook, there are also the basic features of Facebook: messaging, pictures, groups, and notes, all of which Facebook users take advantage of on a frequent basis.

"While I am on the book of face, I enjoy sending an urgent

message to a friend I see every day here," continues Lienhart. "There are many useless things one could do on Facebook, and I tend to do them all - quizzes, games, puzzles, music, peruse the pictures, survey statuses, and gawk at groups. There is no real purpose, but does that really matter to any of us? Probably not. It's a place where we can all talk and all be friends without boundaries. Who wouldn't enjoy that? Seriously."

## 3:10 to Yuma delivers unexpectedly

**KATE LOVE**  
**STAFF WRITER**

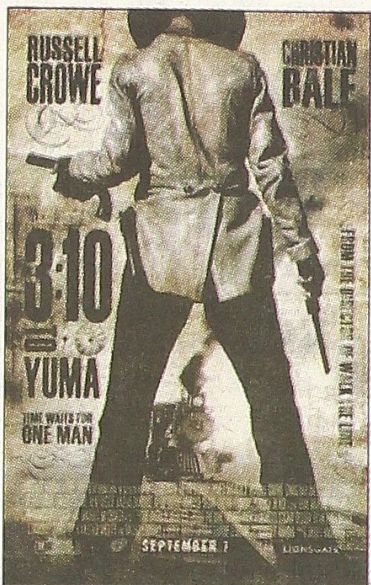
Do you like movies? What genre is your favorite? Action? Chick flick? Horror? Well, how about a western? I'm pretty sure the majority of you shook your head "no" to a western. Am I right? Well, you are just like me - westerns have to be my least favorite genre of movies. That is, until I saw 3:10 To Yuma.

This movie is full of crime, drama, and, of course, western drama. The cast is full of well-known actors, like the two main characters, Christian Bale and Russell Crowe, who are described by the Miami Herald as delivering Oscar-worthy performances."

The awards that this movie was nominated for include the Critics Choice Award from the Broadcast Film Critics Association, the ALFS Award from the London Critics Circle Film, the Satellite Award from the Satellite Awards, and the actors' award for an Outstanding Performance by a Cast in a Motion Picture from the Screen Actors Guild.

Directed by James Mangold, the director of Walk The Line,

this amazing motion picture received four stars from the critics and is "the best western since Unforgiven," said Bruce Westbrook of the Houston Chronicle.



Graphic courtesy of www.allposters.com

3:10 To Yuma is about an infamous outlaw, names Ben Wade (Crowe) that has taken over the Southern Railroad with his vicious gang. He is captured and needs to be delivered alive to the 3:10 to Yuma train headed for Contention. Civil War veteran, Dan Evans (Bale), steps up and volunteers to take

him along with a veterinarian, a railroad thug, a Pinkerton, and a banker.

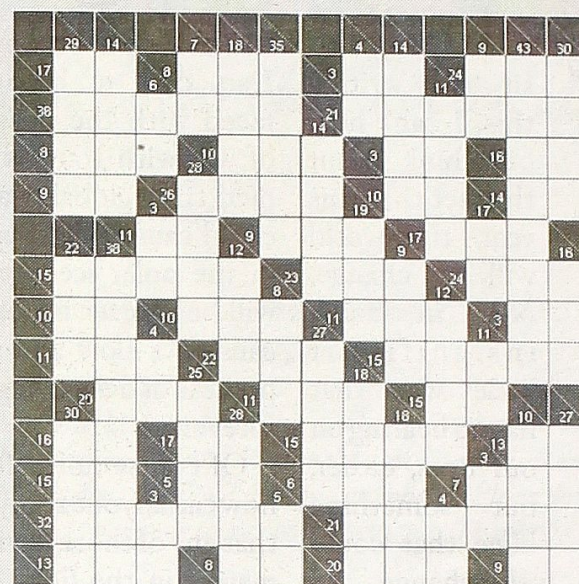
The mission becomes very dangerous because Wade's gang is on their trail and before long the movie transforms in to a violent impossible journey toward each man's destiny.

Sound like a good synopsis? This "R"-rated movie is approximately 122 jam-packed minutes of thrills and trickery. Somehow, during the movie, your attention is grabbed and you realize you are placing yourself in every situation, trying to figure a way out. I know I was.

I walked into the movie theatre thinking that 3:10 To Yuma was only going to be another gun blasting cowboy movie, but I remember sitting in my theatre seat at the end trying to recover because it was nothing I had expected.

I fell in love with Dan Evans' character - not because he's relatable to me and is placed in a western world, but because he is a strong-headed rancher who would do anything to get his family back on their feet - even deliver the legendary outlaw Ben Wade to a train station.

## PUZZLE CORNER



Puzzle courtesy of Yogi Games

Answer to last week's puzzle

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

Kakuro rules: Works as crosswords, but the givens are substituted with sums. What you shall do is to find numbers which sums up to the number. You can use numbers from 1 to 9, but you are not allowed to use the same numbers more than one time.

By Kevin Bilbrey

## Liberal arts college not limited to those with liberal leaning

**SIMONE MISHLER**  
**STAFF WRITER**

It is hard to be a conservative at a liberal arts college.

Just to cover my bases, I fully understand that the "liberal" in liberal arts education has nothing to do with political ideologies. I know it is referring to the diversity in the education received. A trend that I think can be noticed at most liberal arts schools (and all colleges, really) is the dominance of students who are self-proclaimed democrats embracing the liberal ideology.

There are those of us who are, and admit to being, conservatives in college. Shocking! We are the ones who roll our eyes every

time a fellow student blames the "demise of our society" on the Republicans. And we are not just rolling our eyes because these vague attacks hold little merit, but more on the fact that people are so quick to judge what they do not understand.

The irony is that the common citizen does not know where to begin when explaining the difference between a liberal and a conservative.

Most people follow this logic: George W. Bush is a Republican, Bush has been a bad president, therefore Republicans make bad government officials. Logically, the previous statement makes sense, but who ever said that logic matters in politics?

Maybe that was a little strong - there is always logic in political decisions. In fact, logic is the schema that one uses when determining which political camp to belong to.

In recent years, it has been assumed that all those camping with the conservatives use a religious, traditional schema to determine their alliance. This is not necessarily true. I am conservative and I do not hate gay people. I also agree that a woman has certain rights in regards to her body.

All gasps aside, I am still a conservative after that groundbreaking statement.

I believe that government regulation of the economy should

be minimal to promote wealth through competition. I believe that a strict interpretation of the Constitution is necessary to preserve the integrity of the democratic system. I think that when the government is expanded, individual liberties are limited and national spending becomes frivolous. Progression is not always found in government programming.

Notice that I said nothing about religion, which is key, seeing as there is a presumed separation of church and state. I made no comment on gay marriage, abortion, or the death penalty.

Candidates can say what they like in the fever of the primary,

but how many presidents have actually taken strides to touch these issues in the past decades? I believe that would be none of them.

It is not to say that these issues do not matter. These are important topics for the American people to debate and explore, but they do not need to be decided by a national system.

What I am trying to say is, please engage in intelligent conversation when it comes to politics. You know what they say about assuming things, so do not go assuming that all Republicans are like Bush. Give conservatives a break...or at least a chance to speak.

## The Almanian

"Alma College's student run newspaper serving the campus community since 1907."

### Statement of Purpose

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

### Publication

*The Almanian* is distributed to Alma College's campus Friday morning and is sent to subscribers the following day. The paper is published weekly, with the exception of academic recesses.

### Letter Policy

Letters are published as layout space allows. Submission of a letter does not guarantee publication. *The Almanian* reserves the right to condense letters for layout purposes. Deadline for publication is 5 p.m. the Tuesday before requested publication. E-mail letters to the editors at o9kdbilb@alma.edu or address letters to *The Almanian*, Newberry Hall, Alma College.

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### Staff Editorial Policy

Opinions expressed in editorials without bylines reflect the views of *The Almanian* editorial staff. They in no way reflect the views of the entire Alma College community.

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## Random Thoughts

## 2008 voting season offers new hope to world

So today, as I sit here writing this, I can't help but think about the fact that this year, the world will change. Not in some insignificant little way that has no bearing on our lives, either, but something huge that could very well change the course of destiny for our great country.

What could possibly be so important? What could possibly make it so that everything we know and love could be dramatically altered for all of time?

Is it a presidential election which could see the first black or female Commander-in-Chief in our nation's history? Is it the possible

withdrawal of troops from Iraq, only to have them faced with the possibility of war with Iran? Is it the fact that global warming could cause small ruptures in the polar ice caps that will be forever irreparable, causing a slow and steady process of destroying them forever?

Of course not. After all, how can anyone really think that any of those trivialities matter in the light of the new rules for auditions on American Idol season seven. Seriously, people get to use instruments in their auditions.

Finally, we will have an opportunity to have a musician that we can vote on who knows how to play guitar, and has at least a basic understanding of the importance of instrumentation in music.

At last, we will no longer have to listen to the

incoherent ramblings of Taylor Vaughn or Fantasia Borrino or whatever her name was. Instead, we have a whole new crop of talent who are sure to be better and more exciting than any that have gone before. It is impossible for them not to be—I mean, come on, they can play instruments in their auditions. It is guaranteed to mean that somewhere out there is a singer who is deserving of all of this attention. A musician who can play the guitar with a fiery passion and sing with the voice of an angel, all while looking good and being an upstanding moral citizen. American Idol season seven is going to find that musician.

Besides, watching American Idol has got to be more entertaining than listening to any politician spout on about

international affairs and the impending war on border crossing (that's right I said war...but not in a bang bang, shoot 'em up kind of war...more like the war on drugs, where we never actually win any battles and we can't possibly hope to solve the problem, no matter how big a wall we build. But we keep on talking about it without taking any concrete action in the hopes that it just kind of works itself out. That kind of war).

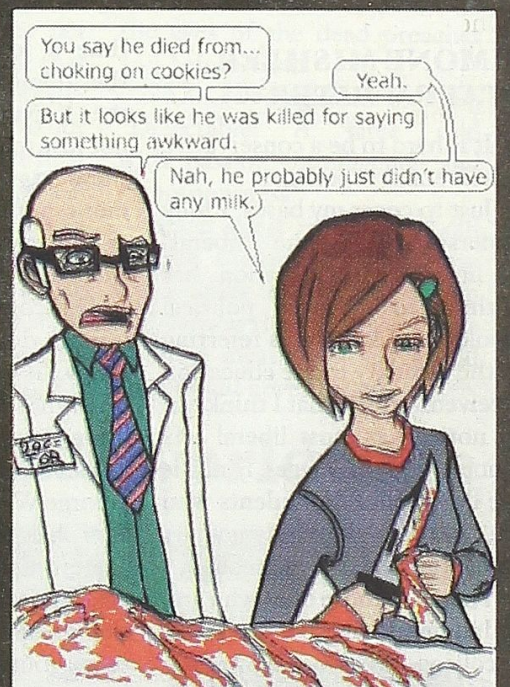
Plus, if past years are any indication, then more votes are cast during the

course of the American Idol season than in the Presidential election anyway. That means that it is by far more important. That's why I am going to dedicate myself to ensuring that everyone realizes just how important American Idol and its instrument-playing hopefuls are to our future by hitting the campaign trail in the hopes of spurring everyone to get out there and vote in the only election that really matters this year: American Idol.

Kevin Billbrex,  
Opinion  
Editor

Awkward  
Misconception

By Chris Schneider



## Remembering past memories helps in appreciating present

LAUREN SYPNIEWSKI  
STAFF WRITER

As a college student, I constantly look back on the past years of my life wishing I could be a little kid again, experiencing the carefree youth and adventurous days of tramping through the swamp behind my house and voyaging with pirates through the pine trees.

As I reminisce, however, I remember that when I was this age, all I wished for was to be older.

When we are little, we constantly dream of future birthdays which bring, with them, privileges we have not yet received. In my family, we could not wait until we were old enough to ride without a

wheels on our bikes. We passed by age 7, so that we could get a pocketknife at 8.

Between twelve and fifteen, we wished the days until able to drive. Yet as soon as we had that, eighteen became the next step.

Over Christmas break, I had the privilege and delight to visit with my brothers and parents. Over break, I conversed with my two youngest brothers - Joseph, 13, and Patrick, 11. Without preamble, both started complaining about their age. They were too young and stupid, they said. They were too little to do anything. All they wanted was to be my age so they could do what I was allowed to do. I sat, taken back by their ramble.

However, I realized that at their age I had done the exact

same thing, and I am supposing that many of us do. I wanted to stop it. I wanted to show my brothers it was more valuable to appreciate the time they had than to wish for a time to come. That time will come eventually, whether or not it is wished for, but never again will the present days be replaced.

I felt the necessity to illustrate this knowledge to their young minds. Although I attempted, I knew that to an extent it would be futile. Some things can only be realized and appreciated by experiencing mistakes, and no one can tell you what it will be like.

The best method I now search for is to return to those days myself. Hopefully, by rediscovering that time, I can better relate to were my

brothers are at. By refraining from superiority, apathy, and selfishness, I hope to reach them. I hope to show them that being their age and appreciating the present is a vital part of life.

In doing this, however, I believe I must be wary of my own tendencies. For, ironically enough, I dwell on the past wishing I had appreciated the present while I hoped for the future. During my youth, I wasted time and energy desiring to be older. Now that I have reached that age, I regret wasting those years and wish I would have appreciated my age. I regret that while I sit here and practically do the same thing over again, instead of wishing for the future, I wish for the past.

In an attempt to reach my

brothers, I know that I may have to revisit old memories, times, and behaviors. Yet, this in itself is not wrong. Remembering and revisiting past-ages is a valuable thing I will need to bring to the picture when helping my brothers.

Only by taking it to the next level and dwelling on those memories am I doing myself an injustice. So, by assisting my brothers in the appreciation of the present, I must do the same by neither hoping for the future nor by dwelling on the past.

While twenty-one lies ahead of me, I honestly hope the days take their time. In the mean time, although I know planning for the future and remembering the past is important, I take considerable time to appreciate the present.

# Use break to relax and enjoy yourself

**KATE LOVE**  
**STAFF WRITER**

When comparing college to high school, can you say stress? The amount of homework and labs increase while free time and, you could say, "fun time," decrease. So, when do you have time to go out with your family and friends to relax?

How about Christmas break? I mean, how often do you get three weeks off to go home? Plus, there are two holidays (in which there are presents, amazing home-cooked food, and parties to attend). I say that Christmas break is a good chance to be a little self-interested.

Let's start with the basics. First, break begins just after exam week. I'm sure I don't have to go through the hectic schedule of exam week because we all made it through. But, just for a refresher, a few weeks before the dreaded "Hell Week," you spend many nights in a corner of the library researching and typing notes.

Then, Hell Week advances and you receive your exam schedule. Before long, you've created a study schedule that has short naps, food breaks, and lots and lots of library

time built in. Then the week arrives and you cram to get every last detail into your memory before each exam. Remember now?

Sorry for making you endure the thought of exam week so soon but, by the end, if I remember correctly, everyone is exhausted and

cranky - especially if you live in close proximity to one another. So, Christmas break is a major reason to relax and get all of the tension back out of your mind and body.

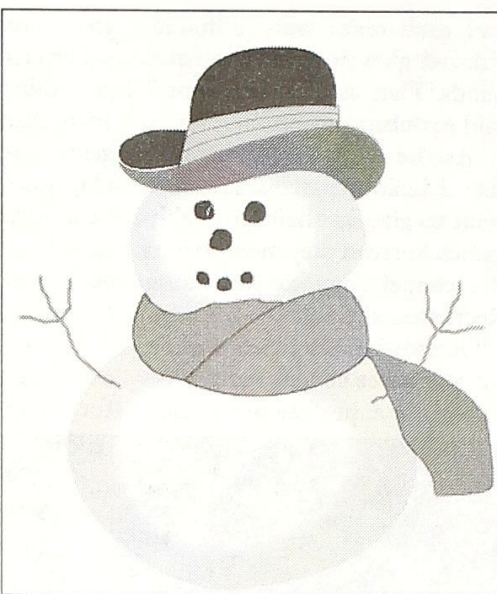
I know many people live far from campus and don't have the opportunity to go home very often (if at all) during the fall semester. Christmas break is a great way to spend all of that lost time with your family and catch up on important, fun happenings in your community.

Break is also an opportunity to head back to that summer job for a few bucks, but it isn't a great way to spend your entire break. Throughout those three weeks, you should take some time and

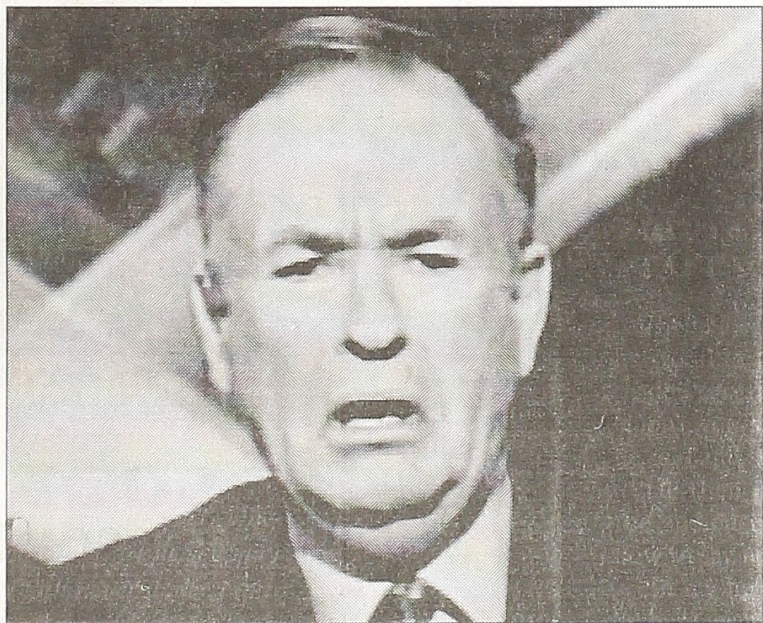
go do things you enjoy but haven't had the opportunity to do.

Some great activities to participate in are the winter sports, like cross-country or downhill skiing, sledding, building snowmen, having snowball fights, and snowmobiling. And for those of you who are not too fond of the outdoors, try playing laser tag, bowling, reading, shopping, and hitting up the local theater.

Alma College students deserve a break - a three-week Christmas break - to de-stress and laugh. So, look forward to the next break, and don't forget to take some well-deserved time and do something for yourself.



## Accepting others' failure important part of life



Don't be this guy.

**KEVIN BILBREY**  
**OPINION EDITOR**

You know what really pisses me off? People who don't get their crap done when others are depending on them. I know, it sounds kind of obvious, especially when you are the one who gets hurt because the other person is an idiot who doesn't seem to comprehend the consequences of their actions (or rather, inaction). It's just really annoying.

For instance, this story that you are reading right now—it wasn't supposed to be here. Instead you should be

reading about the minimum wage increase for Michigan and the affect it could have on our floundering economy. You aren't reading that story, however. Why? Because someone decided it wasn't worth his time to do it.

I know that it really doesn't mean that much to any of you if a few editors on The Almanian have to go insane trying to make deadline for print. In fact, I know that most of you think that our work is a joke (although I would challenge any and all of you to compare our papers to those of past years and

see how far we've come in our goal to be a respectable newspaper). None of that is important, however. The point is that when someone depends on you to get a job done that you say you are going to get done, it just really sucks when you don't do it.

What's worse is that we all do it. At some point, we all fail miserably and can't help but let others down. We make a promise or take on a responsibility that is just beyond our reach. We break our oaths, fall on our faces, and leave nothing but pain and resentment in the void created by our failures. In short, at some point, we are all just big douche bags.

That's life, though. We make mistakes, we get hurt, we get annoyed—we get over it. That is the really important part. Getting past the things people do that get to us. Because getting over it is the only way that we can move beyond and be happy again. Otherwise we just end up as a pessimistic old man who hates everything that can't be controlled and lashes out at others to avoid being hurt himself. You know, like Bill O'Reilly.

## Top 10 things to avoid in the New Year

**RACHEL DOTSON**  
**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

### 10) Going to the Med-Shed if you're actually sick

*You have a lot of crackling in your lungs, particularly on the left side, which leads me to believe you have either severe bronchitis or walking pneumonia. Rather than give you a chest x-ray, as is typically done, here's a Z-Pak and an inhaler. Please don't forget to pay your co-pay on the way out. Thank you.*

### 9) Having a roommate who will drop anything for her bed

*At first it seems harmless--skipping class, missing meals, the incessant alarm going off in the morning. But then it becomes more serious. She would rather lie in bed, watching Entertainment Tonight, than have a drink with her "BFF" at the Braveheart.*

### 8) Calling Entertainment Tonight watching the news

*I would rather watch Fox's The O'Reilly Factor than subject myself to celebrity gossip posing as real news.*

### 7) Thinking student congress will actually vote "no" on something

*Has this ever happened? Not to the best of my recollection... fortunately for the Almanian, however, this increases the probability that we'll get a new computer through contingency.*

### 6) Using your education for a meaningless job

*[high on 'shrooms] "Did you know there's a guy whose sole job is to find chairs for these hotel rooms?" -Pete (Paul Rudd) in the 2007 Blockbuster hit Knocked Up*

### 5) Taking classes with "gung-ho" professors

*As a senior in her last semester, please, please, PLEASE take my word on this. Unless you are a glutton for punishment, avoid profs who will reschedule afternoon classes on MLK Jr. Day to Friday, who will keep you 1 1/2 hours over (and laugh about it), and who will make you do a peace conference simulation for 10 straight hours (5 p.m. to 3 a.m.) dressed in business professional attire! (I still love you, D.H.)*

### 4) Becoming overly obsessed with Guitar Hero or Desperate Housewives...and making your significant other watch

*Guys, let's face it, watching you strum a fake guitar isn't going to get a girl all hot or mushy gushy. And ladies, while you may love your Sunday night soap, your guy will never understand what you see in it. Rather, the ladies will daydream of a man who can actually serenade her, while the guys visualize Eva Longoria in scantily clad attire...or nothing at all.*

### 3) Catching or transmitting a sexually transmitted infection

*Need I even explain this one? If so, please refer back to #1.*

### 2) Believing that MSU football or UM basketball will "turn it around" this year

*I'm sorry to say, but it just isn't going to happen. So, rather than waste our time here, let's unite for a worthwhile cause--bating OSU.*

### 1) Buying an iPhone

*It absolutely kills me to say this, but the iPhone just isn't everything I had hoped for and more. It's on the right track and will probably be worthwhile in a couple of years, but when it costs \$250 to repair a phone (and no insurance is offered) that cannot even forward text messages, you know something is askew.*

# Preterm fun prompts ultimate frisbee trend on campus



Photo by Brent Riley

Matt Davis (11) catches a disk just out of Nolan Lienhart's (11) reach.

## CHELSEA CLARK SPORTS EDITOR

The first Sunday of preterm a group of freshmen started a game a frisbee on the grass between Mitchell and Bruske. Soon after games of Ultimate frisbee became a common occurrence on Alma's campus.

"I saw people playing frisbee that first day and it looked like a lot of fun. Later that week we started putting together Ultimate frisbee games on the Chapel Lawn," said **Brant Ayoub (11)** administrator of the Alma College Ultimate Frisbee group.

Once the upperclassmen arrived on campus and the semester began the games continued. They started as 3 on 3, but have

grown to be 12 on 12.

"**Bre Hick (11)**, **Dan Krauss (11)**, and I told one or two people about it and it built up by word of mouth," said Ayoub.

The group plays three to four times a week. They schedule games through their facebook group and by talking after each game to see what would next fit everyone's schedule.

"We have some awesome players, some that just show up and start learning," said Ayoub, "there are people from all the grades now and even Tony Patterson, a faculty member.

In order to fit everybody's schedule they have played games at all different times. "Once we played at 6:45 in the morning, which is ridiculous. Another time we played in the dark. We used a light up frisbee

and each team wore different colored glow in the dark wrist bands. That was a crazy game," said Ayoub.

As the weather grew colder the ultimate participants didn't want to give up their tri-weekly games. Instead they moved from the chapel lawn to the Stone Recreational Center.

"Outside is more fun, but when we rent three courts, there is no wind, it's a perfect size," said

group creator Krauss.

Patterson has looked into the possibility of making ultimate an intramural sport but as the game takes up a lot of space to play it is feared that it might not be as conducive to the intramural system. "I do not know how well it would work but we are trying," said Krauss.

Ayoub said that the reason they keep getting back together for more is, "we each getting

better and we constantly change up the teams. After a while you get to know how each person plays, but when we change the teams there is always a new challenge. Of course, scoring is always amazingly fun."

The ultimate frisbee craze has now passed through just the facebook group. This past Wednesday Phi Mu Alpha organized a group as part of the start of winter term recruitment.

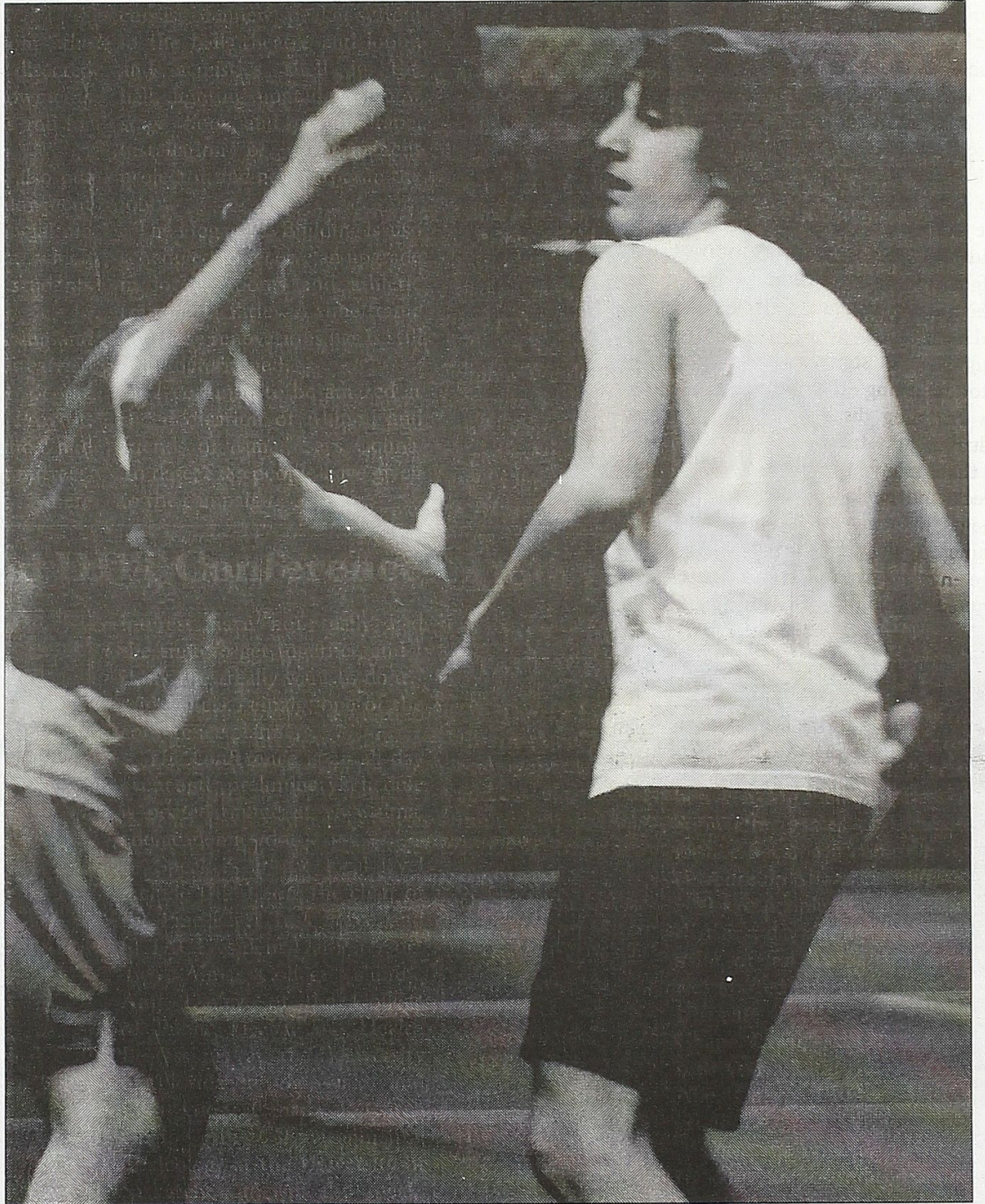


Photo by Brent Riley

Derek Clements (10) plays defense as Chris Chesney (10) looks to throw the disk down the court.

# Intramural basketball season to start soon

## ELANORE KING STAFF WRITER

Today is the final day for Alma College students to turn in registration forms for the annual intramural basketball competition and Julian Springer, director of campus recreation, hopes for a full gym when the games start.

"When we had the intramural volleyball start-up last semester, we had 22 teams and not a single team ever needed to forfeit. This is a huge success for Alma, and I hope for even more people to participate in basketball" said Springer.

Springer recently took the position as the director of campus recreation, is organizing the intramural sports, and believes that this year will be a landmark for intramural participation.

The intramural basketball games consist of both co-ed and men's leagues. Teams of ten can participate and the games will be played five on five. After applications are submitted, the

**"We are going to try and compile a team that played basketball but did not have the opportunity to do so here,"**

**Marcey Gilstad (11)**

leagues are randomly broken into divisions and the games begin.

Depending on the amount of participation, each team will play around four games on the

full court. "If teams respond like they did in the fall with volleyball, these weeks should be fun and very competitive," said Springer.

**Marcey Gilstad (11)** is already planning her strategy for the intramural basketball season. "We are going to try and compile a team for a lot of girls that played basketball in high school but did not have the opportunity to do so here at Alma," said Gilstad. Her high school's varsity team captain, Gilstad said that she is still a little intimidated by the teams brimming with upper classmen. Nonetheless, "it is a ton of fun, and - of course - good exercise," said Gilstad.

However, playing is not the only way for students to participate. The Stone Recreation Center is also on the lookout for referees. Applications are

available at the center beside the athletic calendars. There are no requirements for a student to referee basketball, and Springer is encouraging anyone who is interested to fill out an application.

In addition to referees, spectators are always welcome. "This is a great time and place for students to gather socially during the week. They can meet up with friends and have a break during the busy school day, instead of just waiting for the weekend," said Springer. He also mentioned that the first-place winning team of both the boys and co-ed division will receive t-shirts, courtesy of the Stone Recreation Center.

**Kristen Senter (09)** is excited to watch the games in the upcoming month. "It really just gives me something to do. I know a lot of people who

play, so it is especially fun to go support them. Watching is not quite as exciting as playing, but it is a fantastic opportunity for

**"This is a great place for students to gather socially during the week,"**

**Julian Springer,  
Director of Recreation**

the rest of us who do not have the time to commit to actually being on a team," said Senter.

Brackets and game times will be posted within the next few weeks at the front of the Stone Recreation Center for all interested in this year's intramural basketball tournament.

## Men's basketball builds toward success

**GAVIN STONE**  
**STAFF WRITER**

The Alma Scots (0-11) have had a tough season so far. Having lost all their games, things look as bad as they can. The Scots most recent game against Calvin College led to a 20 point defeat of the Scots, who shot only 30.2 percent. Matt Brown, however reassured that the team had not lost hope, and that they are all "still pumped about it".

Over the last 11 games, the Scot's score an average of 57.1 points per game, compared to the 81.2 points per game that the Conference Leaders, Hope College (10-2) score on average. The Scots also bottom out the conference in average rebounds per game, though on the bright side on average they out-rebound opponents by a handful each game.

Though overall statistics can lead to believing the Scot's have a crippling disadvantage, individual stats from games show that many times they stay neck and neck with their opponents in many aspects of the game. Against Kalamazoo College, Alma stayed within 2 percentage points of successful

3-point attempts statistically, and had over twice as many steals as the opposing team. In their game against Calvin College, the Scots had more rebounds than the Knights, and once again had more steals than the other team.

The Scots are working hard towards the next game. When asked what the team's goal was, Matt Brown declared the Scots "definitely want to get that first win". He said that the team is working hard on their offense, and hope to increase their scoring prowess in the next game. Junior David McNally added that the team is "basically trying to keep their heads up".

The Scots faced Tri-State University on Wednesday, lost by one 59-58. The Thunder is ranked fifth in the conference, and Alma had high hopes to win. McNally hopes to help by "being a leader, and keeping the team on track".

The Scots are only two games into their conference season. If the Scot's are to stage a comeback, they still have a shot at hosting a playoff game, and increasing their rank in the conference.

The Scots are a young team,

comprised of five freshman, seven sophomores, two juniors, and one senior. With such a young team, it's no surprise that the team is having troubles in the conference. Hope College's team, who are leading the conference, is made up of six seniors, four juniors, and five underclassmen. The Scots have a large investment in the future, so even though they aren't leading the conference in wins or points, they're in the process of getting there. In fact, besides Kalamazoo College (whose team is made up of 5 more players than Alma's), the Scots have the most underclassmen on their Varsity squad. So while things may look bleak for the rest of the season this year, the Scot's are well on their way into building a strong, coherent, and winning team.

The Scots attendance is dwindling as well. Support from the school and community is, on average, only 36 people per game. When the Scots are on away games, they face home crowds that average at 316 people per venue. On January 19<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm, and January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 pm, the Scot's have home games against Olivet College and Hope College respectively.



David McNally (09) drives in hard to the basket over a Kalamazoo player.

Photo courtesy of Skip Treynor

## Maize and Blue steal second West Virginia coach

**CHELSEA CLARK**  
**SPORTS EDITOR**



In 2006, head basketball coach John Beilein left the Mountaineers of West Virginia for the Wolverines of Michigan. Now the end of 2007 brought news that the Wolverines were gaining another West Virginia coach.

"We get the best and give the left overs to U of M to bring them up to our standards," said West Virginia native and my grandpa, Edward Clark.

This time it was Rich Rodriguez. There head football coach. This time it made a much larger impact in West Virginia. Rodriguez had a long term contract with the Mountaineers and left just before the team was to play in the Fiesta Bowl.

Rodriguez's home town tore down the signs advertising it as his hometown, put signs on his fence and threw their mailbox in the yard a mere twenty four hours after Rodriguez left for Michigan. His extended family still left in West Virginia reported several death threats against them. "He did not know that by leaving he would become public enemy number one, and some have taken it way out of line. It is still a game," said Grandpa Clark.

The state who pays 1.3 million dollars a year for their football coach is now suing their ex coach four million dollars for breach of contract.

Rodriguez is not leaving empty handed. With him he takes four assistant coaches: an offensive line, quarterback, defensive line coach and an offensive coordinator. Taylor Hill a top recruit for next year has also decided to follow Rodriguez to U of M.

"Rodriguez invented the spread system and now all the colleges are switching to it. We do not need him anymore in order to run it. We are already set," said Grandpa Clark.

There are also allegations that Rodriguez destroyed all of the files on the current West Virginia players before leaving.

"Do not feel sorry for us Hillbillies, we will come out well. We already came out ahead with the basketball coach, Beilin. He was a good coach not a great coach; now we are rated fourteenth in the nation. Our new coach is aggressive and great at recruiting," Grandpa Clark.

West Virginia was close to playing for the top spot this year in the bowl games. The switch might have made an entire state livid at there coaching staff, but Michigan fans could not be happier.

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# Scots basketball upsets second ranked Albion

**GAVIN STONE**  
STAFF WRITER

On Wednesday the team faced Albion College, who averages 73.7 points and 42.4 rebounds per game. While Albion's stats overshadow Alma's, the Scots were determined to push themselves to play their best. Alma won triumphed 76-57.

The Scots women's basketball team (3-8) had a tough three losses before heading to Tri-State University (4-10) this Thursday, where they ultimately let go of another game, making it their fourth consecutive loss.

The team was as determined as ever to bounce back.

When asked about the team's struggle, Charles Goffnet, head coach, attributed it to lack of experience in one of the toughest conferences in the nation.

The Alma women are up against Hope College, ranked number one in Division III throughout the country, and Albion, who Goffnet says, "is a potential NCAA tournament team".

Despite the Scots' record, the team has been playing hard and has the stats to prove it.

During the season so far, they average 57 points and 34.9 rebounds a game. **Ashley Matuzak (08)** and **Meagan**

**Hoblet (10)** are the third and fourth leading scorers in the conference, respectively. Hoblet is also the third leading rebounder in the conference as well.

On Wednesday, the Alma Scots faced Albion College, which Goffnet regarded as the second best team in the conference. The Scots stepped up to the challenge by shooting 54 percent from the field.

Matuzak led the team with 21 points while **Heather Keenan (09)** and Hoblet had 18 points a piece.

When asked what the team's greatest strength is, both Goffnet and **Danielle Large (10)** fumbled for an answer. Goffnet stated that they are trying to "learn about some of the players" and discover their strengths from there. When asked about the team's biggest weakness, Goffnet replied again, saying that the team is very young, with only two seniors and one junior.

The team is made up of four freshman, five sophomores, one junior, and two seniors.

Large responded by saying that the team came off the loss with a "long team meeting" and "discussed a lot of issues." She stated that the team "has it figured out, and [are] ready to go on Wednesday."

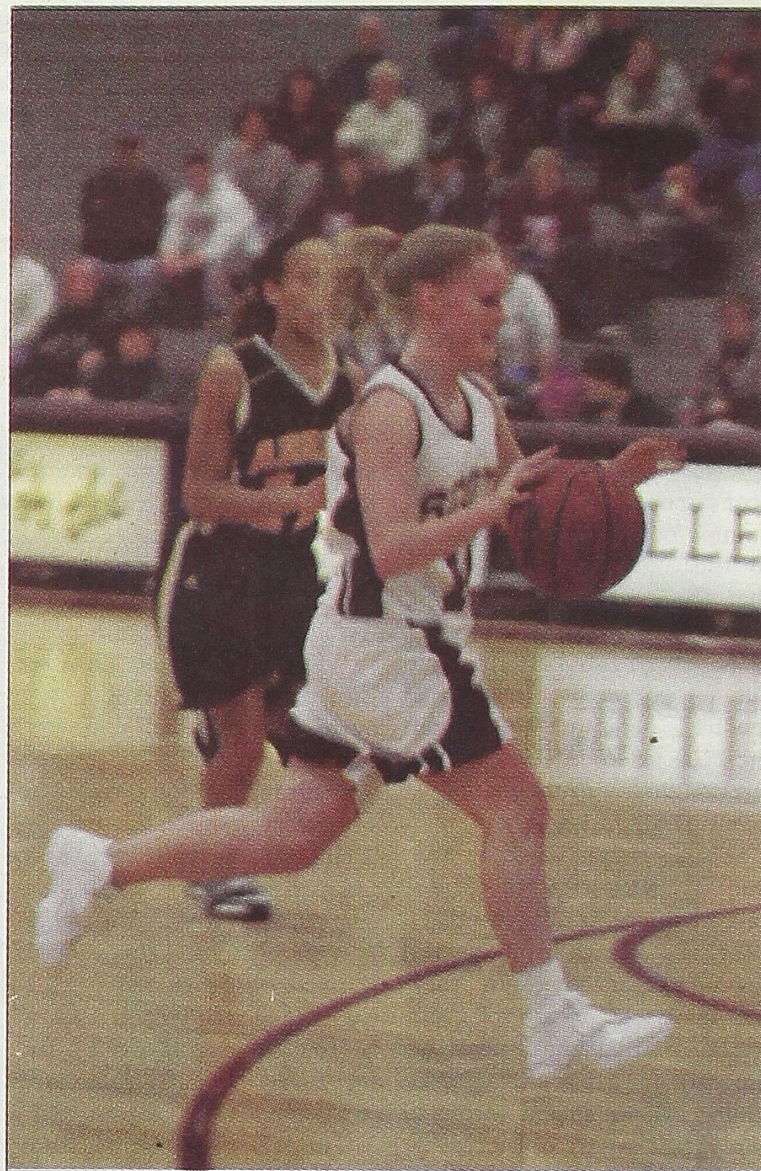
What seems to be one of the biggest thorns in the Scot's game is their abysmal shooting percentage. In their game against Tri-State University, the team shot for an overall percentage of 36 percent, compared to Tri-State's 40.7. In past games, such as the game against Adrian College, Alma shot 37.3 percent, while Adrian shot above them with an overall 45.7 percent, setting the stage for the Scots to lose 63-55.

Another problem for Alma is rebounding. Despite having two of the conference's best rebounders, the team was outdone by 11 rebounds against Adrian College and by 9 rebounds against Tri-State University.

The team was in the midst of a losing streak, but Goffnet still knew his team was up to playing its hardest.

"It's about working hard and trying to improve," he said just before the Albion game, "not about wins and losses." He went on to further say that his team is "learning resilience" and still has the fight to "bounce back and get the next one".

They did just that with a decisive win against Albion and will be back on the court next Saturday, January 26 at 3 p.m. against conference rivals the Knights of Calvin College.



Photos by Catherine Finely

**Sophomore forward Kathryn Bigelow dribbles up the court against Adrian hoping to make a layup. Bigelow had 4 points and 7 assists during the Albion game.**

## Courts sentence Olympian Marion Jones to six months in prison

**ELANORE KING**  
STAFF WRITER

At one time in her life, the fastest woman on earth was on top of the athletic world. Olympic medalist Marion Jones became the first woman in the world to receive five medals in one Olympic season. At the Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia, Marion Jones received her five medals in the 100 meter and 200 meter dash, as well as the 400 and 1600 meter relay. Three of these were gold.

Fast-forward eight years and Jones hardly finds herself in such an admirable position. Sentenced on Friday, January 11, in White Plains, New York, Jones will begin her six month term in a minimum security prison beginning March 11.

Jones also must serve 400 hours of community service over the course of her two years on probation. Her charges are

two-fold: U.S. District Judge Kenneth Karas charged Jones first for lying about steroid usage, more specifically the steroid tetrahydrogestrinone, commonly known as THG. Her second offense came from lying about her participation in check fraud.

According to ESPN legal analyst Roger Cossack, "No celebrity sports figure has been prosecuted so far for the mere usage of steroids, but every time they lie about it, they end up in trouble." This seems to be Jones' issue.

Her two main falsehoods about the check scam and the steroids were spread apart from one another over time and, based on this evidence, it was concluded that her poor decisions were in fact an attempt to avoid the deserved punishment from the athletic world. Jones was stripped of her medals by the International

Olympic Committee but her legal sentencing was only for lying about the usage and fraud to a federal investigator in 2003.

Alongside Jones, her former coach Steve Riddick was also sentenced for his involvement in the same check-fraud scandal. Riddick, however, was charged with a heavier sentence than Jones. Riddick not only must spend more than five years in prison, he also must repay the money, amounting to over \$300,000.

After admitting to her crimes, Jones desperately tried to avoid a prison sentence. Jones has two children, one fathered by runner Tim Montgomery and another from her current marriage to sprinter Obadele Thompson.

Jones referenced her children and told the judge that they would suffer if she was in prison. Her youngest child is still breastfeeding, she reported. Karas

did take her family situation into consideration and, for this reason, he kept her prison sentence relatively low.

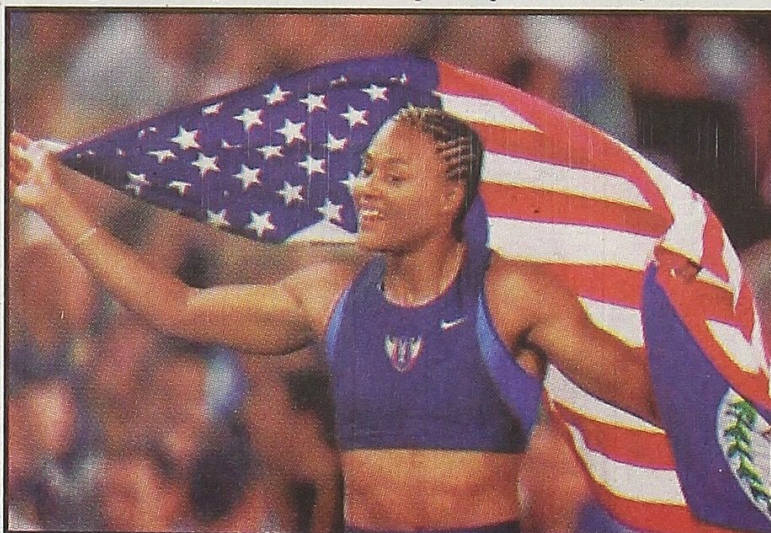
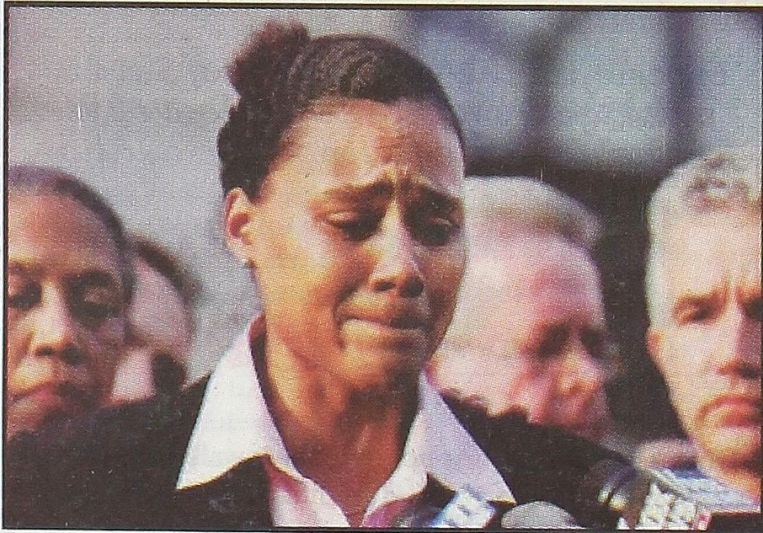
Her lawyers also argued that her humiliation and severe fall from grace was enough of a punishment. According to Cossack, the outcome could have been much worse. Jones was convicted of two separate falsehoods under one punishment, but if each crime was sentenced separately she would have had twice the amount of time in prison.

Alma College athlete **Kyle Henris (11)** agrees with her sentencing. "I think that six months seems pretty just. I just think that it's odd that she lied for so long about using steroids and then only admitted to it when she knew she was going to get in trouble."

Another Alma athlete agrees. **Andrea Richardson (09)**, who participates in track and field

on campus, said, "I think that the sentencing is fair because she will always be known for this negative incident and six months seems like enough time." Richardson also questioned Jones performance had she not taken steroids. "Performance enhancers work differently on different people. Who is to say that she would have still pulled through the Olympics without them?"

Sports fans will never know how she would have performed without the use of steroids. After her trial, Jones retired from running. Following a long and complicated trial, Jones said, "I am responsible fully for my actions... I have been dishonest. You have the right to be angry with me." Her final plea was that people, her fans, and her children can learn from her mistakes in hopes of avoiding such shame.



Photos from (left) msnbc.msn.com and (right) britannica.com

Marion Jones, American track sweetheart and Olympic star, was sentenced on January 11 to six months in minimum security prison.

### CORRECTION

In the January 11 edition of *the Almanian*, it was stated that Emily Smith won the 200-yard breaststroke when, in fact, she won the 200-yard backstroke. It was further stated that the score of the meet was 181-III, not 181-II.