

# The Almanian

Volume CI

Issue 14

Friday, January 25, 2008

"Serving Alma College Since 1907"

## UNDER THE COVER

*An Energy Research Park is set to come to Alma, bringing with it jobs and a cleaner environment*

SEE NEWS PG. 3

*Downtown coffee shops offer students a quiet and calm atmosphere to study and relax in*

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*Some fashion trends are just better left alone*

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*Senior Ashley Matuzek makes her way into the Spotlight*

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## BY THE NUMBERS



**2007**

The second warmest year ever recorded.

**28**

The average temperature degrees in Fahrenheit for January 2008.

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## Greek recruitment draws to successful close



Photo courtesy of Kari DuFort

The sisters of Alpha Gamma Delta eagerly await their new sisters to be announced at walkouts after a week of formal recruitment. Along with their anticipation they route on their fellow Greeks. This year's walk-outs are tonight at 8 p.m. in Van Dusen.

**THOMAS MCGUIRE**  
STAFF WRITER

Alma College's Greek community took center stage in the minds of many students this week, as Alma's social sororities and fraternities carried out their winter recruitment activities.

The latest installment of recruitment officially kicked off last week with a first-ever all-Greek informational meeting in Wright Hall.

"This year we implemented general Greek Life

informational meetings, which is something that has not been done in the past," said **Jesse Ramirez (09)**, recruitment chair for the Inter-Fraternity Council (IFC). "It was a very informal meeting that is [designed] to help non-Greeks feel comfortable and learn about the Greek system."

Over the eight days following the informational meeting, each fraternity and sorority put on invite-only events at their houses, during which each organization made

their own pitch to students interested in joining it.

For each fraternity, this occurred in the form of a "smoker," which was hosted by each on a separate day, having begun last Sunday and ending yesterday.

"[Smokers are] an open-house night by invitation. The fraternities will have food, do a presentation, and talk to people about why their group is significant," said Grant Woodman, director of campus life.

SEE GREEK PG. 2

## Burns dinner a great tradition to celebrate heritage

**ANNA ZICHI**  
NEWS EDITOR

When asked to describe one's self, most do so by listing off their nationality.

Alma College is no different: "We are the Scots!" It is a tradition that is held near and dear to the institution's heart and, last Saturday, the college held its bi-annual Robert Burns Reception, Dinner, and Ceilidh.

"Robert Burns' birthday is an opportunity to highlight this Scottish heritage through Scottish food, music, dance and, of course, the poetry of

Scotland's most noted poet," said Sandra Tracy, president of the college.

The evening began with a reception which served smoked salmon with crackers,

**"His words challenged the status quo, and encouraged an independent soul... Yes, he loved the ladies of his time, too,"**

**Mark Starkweather**  
General Manager

a fruit and cheese tray, mini-highland chicken, a fresh vegetable tray with dip, apple cider punch, wine, beer, and scotch.

While guests enjoyed their food, entertainment was provided by Anthony Patterson on the piano, **Elijah Woolcott (08)** on the bagpipes, Scots on the Rocks singing, and traditional Highland dancing.

Tracy said, "We are one of only a couple of colleges and universities in the country that teach highland dance, and one of [an even smaller

SEE BURNS PG. 2

## Michigan presidential primary recap

**HADLEY BOEHM**  
STAFF WRITER

The Michigan Primary Presidential Election was held Tuesday, January 15, 2008.

Top votes for the Democratic Party went to Senator and former First Lady Hillary Clinton who received 55% of the state Democratic vote, while 40% of Democratic voters chose to cast their ballot as "uncommitted."

Republican top runner for the state was Michigan native and former Governor of Massachusetts Mitt Romney who took in 39% of the Republican vote. Romney was followed closely by Senator John McCain with 30%, and former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee with 16% of the state Republican vote.

**"We are the ones often going to make a change, but we don't take the time to vote..."**

**Devon Anthony**  
(09)

In 2007 the Michigan legislature voted to change the date of the Presidential primaries in the state, and Gov. Jennifer Granholm signed the bill. A February 26 vote was initially scheduled, but in an effort to help the state to gain greater influence in the Presidential nominating process the primaries were moved up.

However, the date change challenged the rules of both parties by scheduling the election before the February 5 primary cut-off date, and subsequent consequences followed.

Both the Republican and Democratic National Committees penalized Michigan by taking away some or all of the state's delegates.

SEE PRIMARY PG. 3



## Greek from pg. 1...

Following the last smoker yesterday, each fraternity and the students they recruited are forbidden to have any contact with each other until Saturday evening.

"[This is done] so [non-Greeks] aren't pushed into making a decision by five or six guys saying, 'you should do this,' and the whole peer pressure thing," said Woodman.

On Saturday evening, the fraternities will host a formal banquet in Van Dusen at 5:30 p.m., during which head football coach Jim Cole and each fraternity president will speak.

After the banquet, the recruits will return to their rooms and reconvene at the recreation center at 8:30 p.m. for the climax of the fraternity recruitment week: run-outs.

During run-outs, each student who has been offered a bid by the fraternity will receive a packet of information filled with bids and t-shirts they have received.

A bid is, essentially, an offer of membership from a fraternity that, if signed by the recruited student, commits them to pledging that fraternity.

After reviewing their bids, the recruits will then decide which bid to accept and then display their choice to the assembled fraternity brothers and spectators at 9 p.m.

"They will keep that decision hidden until nine o'clock," said Woodman. "They'll line up and then reveal where they are going to go."

Following the run-out activities at the recreation center, parties at the fraternity houses to celebrate the new members will ensue.

As in the past, the IFC was responsible for planning the recruitment schedule of the fraternities.

"IFC has been planning since the beginning of the year to get people interested in Greek life," said **Jeff Duncan (10)**, IFC recruitment chair.

"One of our largest projects for this [was] Greek Week, where each fraternity [was] teamed with a sorority and [competed] against the others throughout the week in events such as relays, mock-rock, and dodge ball."

Just days after IFC placed recruitment signup lists in Hamilton Commons, the lists were filled with students interested in recruitment activities.

"Rush sign-up began in Saga and after two days there were already more males signed up than after the whole week last year," said Duncan. "I am excited to know [that] so many new students are interested in finding out more about Greek life."

On the women's side, the recruitment process traditionally follows a different course than the men.

"It's actually a little bit different because [sorority] national rules are very specific," said Woodman.

These rules require the sororities to follow a multiple-round process. The first of which, called "teas," began



Photo courtesy of Jordan Brown

**The Brothers of Tau Kappa Epsilon, Sigma Chi and Theta Chi await the arrival of their new brothers at run-outs. This year's is tomorrow at 9 p.m. in the REC Center.**

on Saturday. These sessions were similar to the smokers held by the fraternities.

Following this activity, the sororities narrowed their recruitment lists and invited back a select number of women to dessert receptions at each sorority house.

After desserts, sororities made their final cuts and offered bids to women they hoped would decide to join their sorority.

As is the case for the fraternities, sororities also are prohibited from speaking to recruits for a period of time, but this 'no talk' interlude started after the 'teas' and has lasted for nearly one week.

This bubble of silence is certain to be popped tonight at Walk-Outs in Van Dusen at 8 p.m., at which recruited women who have been offered a bid for membership

by a sorority will reveal which sorority they have chosen to pledge, if any.

"The whole idea of walkouts is to celebrate the addition of new women to all of the Greek chapters," said **Lindsay Cain (09)**, recruitment chair for the Pan-Hellenic Council.

"After a long week of visiting and getting to know each other, the chapters are ready to welcome their new members and the women who have just gone through recruitment are ready to announce their decisions to everyone."

Although no changes have been made to the Walk-Out activity from last year, Cain expects that the night should provide a lot of excitement for all involved.

"No two walkouts can ever be the same, so that is

something to look forward to," she said.

According to Woodman, the Greek system that results from this intense recruitment process is vital to the college's liberal-arts atmosphere.

"It's an integral part of that fabric," he said. "Not to say that it is paramount to academics, because it's not. You're here to get your education and move on, but part of that education is learning to work with people and developing those relationships that come from being part of the Greek system."

Students are encouraged to join the excitement of sorority walk-outs tonight at 8 p.m. in Van Dusen and fraternity run-outs tomorrow at 9 p.m. in the Stone Center for Recreation.

## Burns from pg. 1...



Photo courtesy of www.alma.edu

**Elijah Woolcott (08) demonstrates the importance of keeping Alma's Scottish heritage alive on campus.**

number] that teach piping." What better place to highlight our achievements than at such an event?

Included in the entertainment was the poetry of Robert Burns, himself. Before serving a traditional Scottish dinner, his poem, "To a Haggis," was recited.

"You powers that make mankind your care, And dish them out their bill of fare. Old Scotland wants no stinking ware, That slops in dishes; But if you grant her grateful prayer, Give her a haggis."

"His words challenged the status quo, and

encouraged an independent soul. ... Yes, he loved the ladies of his time, too," said Mark Starkweather, general manager for Sodexo Dining Services, when asked about Burns.

***"Alma College was founded by Scottish Presbyterians and has proudly maintained its Scottish Heritage for the 121 years since our founding,"***

**Saundra Tracy  
President**

During the meal, anyone that felt inclined was encouraged to get on stage and recite either a Burns poem or song. As the night

wore on, the music continued along with other traditional narratives that were read. The evening concluded with the traditional Auld Lang Syne, performed by Bill Weaver and Jack Crombie, master of ceremony.

Each event and planned reading was done so for very specific reasons. "First, our goal was to highlight the Scottish talents we have on campus: we have world class pipers and dancers, and the Scots on the Rocks are fantastic," said Starkweather.

"Next, we wanted to utilize the Robert Burns tradition of reading and singing his prose and also entertain the participants."

The Robert Burns dinner began in 1989 as an annual event. As the tradition grew and became more popular, it was turned into a biannual event to be enjoyed by the entire Alma and Scottish

community. It is a great opportunity to "keep the Scot tradition going," said Starkweather.

Tracy said, "Alma College was founded by Scottish Presbyterians and has proudly maintained its Scottish heritage for the 121 years since our founding." Saturday evening was not only a night of enjoyment but also a way to honor those that came before us.

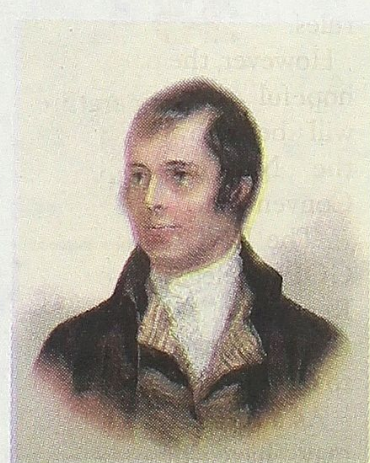


Photo courtesy of  
<http://www.oldukphotos.com>



## Energy Research Park will bring many opportunities to Alma community

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

The project of making mid-Michigan the heartland of energy research development has taken a stride forward in the last month. In December, the Alma City Council passed a resolution that "allows the city of Alma to pursue the much needed development of property that the city owns and, more importantly, addresses the nation's energy crisis," said City Manager Phillip Moore.

The energy park is going to be a combination of researching new forms of energy for future industries and tapping into the available resources that have been looked over in the past. The park is going to convert coal into an integrated gas, which can be used to create steam for electricity while capturing the carbon dioxide and other pollutants. Carbon dioxide can be liquefied and piped to oil fields to rejuvenate the once abandoned fields.

To achieve the project's ends the city plans to update its utilities. The wastewater plant and sewer system will receive upgrades. The wastewater from the plant may serve a purpose in helping convert the coal

to integrated gas, since the water needed for this process does not need to be potable. Piping from the wastewater plant and the energy park could be laid to make this exchange easier.

Building facilities and updating the existing refinery will take the city anywhere from three to seven years.

*"[We are allowing] the city of Alma to pursue the much needed development of property that this city owns and, more importantly addresses the nation's energy crises,"*

**Phillip Moore**  
**City Manager**

The construction project will provide hundreds of jobs for the area. The goal of the project, however, is to bring lasting employment to the area.

"We are evaluating a number of related energy projects which will rebuild our industrial base and will create much needed jobs and economic opportunities

for the local community," said Moore. The park could potentially bring internships and study opportunity for college students.

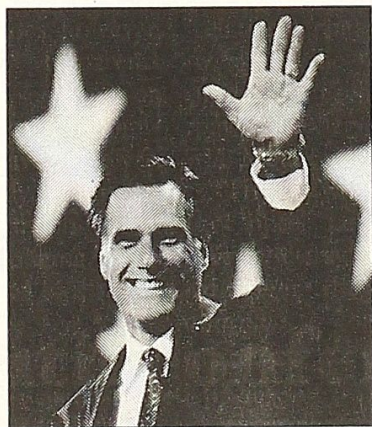
Collaboration to bring the park about has been taken on by real estate developers, energy companies, and local governments. Sawruk Management, Inc. along with M & M Energy have worked to make the project a reality. Mike Sawruk, a mid-Michigan local, proposed the idea of reviving the old Alma refinery when he saw it had been shut down. The proposal grew from there to provide an economically stable and environmentally smart energy source.

The energy research park being proposed for Alma is unique in that it will be the first to combine all of its varying energy components. All of the pieces have been proven to work in some industrial application across the country, and this project will be the first to combine these technologies while looking for even better sources of energy. The park's main goal is to produce energy with minimal waste production and to make the energy work for all citizens, not just those of Alma.

for people to help us make that change. I can guarantee you that if more and more college aged students voted they could see the changes they work so hard to make," said **Devon Anthony** (09).

Moy added that "there needs to be voting reform to accommodate college students. For many it's difficult to drive home to cast a ballot and some may feel disenfranchised because of the system. It's unfortunate, because young people really do have the power to swing elections. This is going to be a pivotal election not only because of the state of our economy and foreign policy, but because for the first time in recent history both parties have the opportunity to nominate a fresh candidate. College students should realize that they have the power to affect the future of our country by participating in this important election."

College students 18 years and older can register to vote at any Secretary of State Office (there is one in Alma), and absentee ballots are also available at any Office or online at the Secretary of State website.



since I turned 18 [in which] I haven't voted. Since I am a Democrat and a supporter of Senator Barak Obama, I did not feel like there was enough incentive to vote in the primaries since [he] wasn't on the ballot" said **Katelyn Moy** (08).

There are 7,180,778 registered voters in Michigan. However, only 1,481,329 cast their ballots on Tuesday.

Of those who turned out to the polls only 17% of the Democratic and 13% of the Republican voters were between the ages of 18-29 years.

"Most college aged registered voters do not vote. We are the ones often going to war and risking our lives and doing everything we can to make a change, but we don't take the time to vote

## Outside the 'Bubble'

**ANNA ZICHI**  
**NEWS EDITOR**

**Communications**

The representative from Lansing presented the technical aspects of the bills going through the State in regards to the Great Lakes Energy Research Park. The Green Energy Tax Credit, the Renaissance Zone, the cost recovery for three pilot programs, and the Michigan Green Energy Authority were all covered. All of these bills will be introduced to the House of Representatives and Senate within the next 45 days, at which point the specific details will be posted on the cities website.

### Consent Agenda

All of the city's bills were unanimously approved to be paid.

### Request for Purchase

It was approved to purchase a turbidimeter for the Water Treatment Plant. Also, Rowe, Inc. was hired for excavation staking in conjunction with the Riverfront Development cleanup project. This will be funded in part with grant money.

### Recommendation on Bids

K & D Industries from Midland was approved to be hired for the riverfront cleanup.

### Resolutions/Proclamations

The Alma Highland Festival Committee's request to operate their entertainment tent until midnight was approved. The resolution to adopt the City of Alma 2008 Deficit Elimination Plan for the Neighborhood Street Rehabilitation Fund was also approved. This resolution is essentially tidying up book keeping. Finally, designating February 18 through 24 as "National Patriotism Week" was approved.

### Reports

All outstanding 2007 reports were received.

### Appointments

Commissioner Donald Ayers was appointed to the Alma Planning Commission, effective immediately. Commissioner Larry Mott was appointed to the Rural Urban Fire Board, and David Walsh was approved to act as city manager from February 9 to 16 while the current city manager is out of town. Lastly, Robert Dunn was appointed to the Alma Downtown Development Authority as the resident delegate. City Manager Phillip Moore said, "Dunn is very well qualified and a very nice young man who is anxious to become engaged in the community."

### New Business

A resolution to ratify the investment of City Funds in Wolverine Bank was approved.

### Commissioner's Comments

Larry Mott asked that everyone's thoughts and prayers be with Gary Robinson's family. Robinson, a long serving fire fighter, passed away last week. All of the commissioners were very excited about the Great Lakes Energy Research Park and the jobs and opportunities that it will bring to the area. Michael Legene, commissioner, said, "It is a great day for Alma, Gratiot County, and the state." Melvin Nyman, mayor, said, "With [the project] comes a great economic rebirth of the community that will bring many good jobs similar to the refineries before they closed and is a great opportunity for young people."

visit: [www.ci.alma.mi.us](http://www.ci.alma.mi.us)

## Primary from pg. 1...

The DNC made exceptions for historical early elections in Iowa and New Hampshire, and accepted early primary dates in South Carolina and Nevada in order to increase geographic diversity. However, it stripped Michigan Democrats of their entire 156-person delegation to the Democratic National Convention.

In addition the national Democratic front runners Barak Obama and John Edwards withdrew their names from the Michigan ballot and opted not to campaign in the state since it was in violation of the party rules.

However, the party remains hopeful that its delegates will be allowed to sit at the National Democratic Convention.

The RNC cut the state's GOP delegation to the Republican National Convention in half from 60 to only 30 delegates.

As a result, these penalties may have deterred many voters from going to the poles. "I did not vote. This is actually the first election



# Alma College Library holds diamonds in the rough

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

AARON POOLEY  
STAFF WRITER

This week's addition to movie gems available in the Alma College Library ranges from musical to gangster epic but, like before, your tuition dollars are hard at work to allow a movie rental with only a scan of your Alma College ID.

Milos Forman's film adaptation of the musical *Hair* (1979), blends anti-war protest and free love from the lyrics and music of Gerome Ragni and James Rado.

From the moment of *Hair*'s initial release, the rules of Broadway brought on new direction, and the film captures all the in-your-face innuendos and realism of the stage.

Framing 1968 draft-era America, one character said, "The draft is white people sending black people to make war on the yellow people to defend the land they stole from the red people!"

*Hair*'s protagonist, Claude Hooper Bukowski (John Savage), leaves his home in Oklahoma a few days before he is summoned before the draft committee in New York.

Arriving in Central Park, Bukowski encounters a group of hippies asking for money. Not having any knowledge of how to get around the city, Bukowski reluctantly befriends them and, in all their comic mischief, is faced with the reality of why he had to travel to New York.

As Bukowski stands naked before the draft committee, two songs are performed: "Black Boys" sung by the white officers, and "White Boys" sung



Photo by Catherine Finley

A college student browses through the movie section at the campus library, searching for high quality entertainment free of charge.

by the black officers. They sing, "White boys give me goose bumps / White boys give me chills / When they touch my shoulder / That's the touch that kills / Well, my momma calls 'em lilies / I call 'em Piccadillies / My daddy warns me stay away / I say come on out and play."

Irreverent, fun, and apposite to war-hungry America, *Hair* is a must-see time machine for any college student.

Few movie sequels stand up to the original upon which they are

based; of *Godfather Part II* (1974) it could be said that this sequel is a standalone masterpiece, causing any critic to question whether Coppola and Puzo topped the greatest movie of all time with another tour de force.

Like its predecessor, *Godfather Part II* includes some of movie history's greatest moments, including the New Year's Party in Cuba, when Michael Corleone (Al Pacino) grabs Fredo's (John Cazale) head with both hands,

kisses his lips and stares into his eyes saying, "I know it was you Fredo. You broke my heart. You broke my heart!"

Much of the film centers on the character Hyman Roth (Lee Strasberg), a Jewish businessman and mobster, from whom Michael plans to take over some of his casinos. Meyer Lansky, the real-life mafia boss, was the foundation of the Roth character.

What upsets some fans of the Mario Puzo's novel is that much

of Part II are sections from the *Godfather* text that Francis Ford Coppola could not fit into a single film.

Juxtaposing the present time of Michael's attempt to legitimize the family with a series of flashbacks which provide an early historical context of the character Vito Corleone (Robert DeNiro), Coppola ends the film without resolve, further capturing Michael's struggle to hold together something that is rapidly falling apart.

## Students reveal, defend their ultimate "must see" movies

NICKI KING  
STAFF WRITER

Movies are large part of the entertainment industry in today's society.

From documentaries like *March of the Penguins* to those like *Napoleon Dynamite*, movies both reflect and shape our culture.

**Q: In your opinion, what is the one movie that everybody should see, and why?**

**Maggie Powers (09)** said, "Everyone should see *The Dead Poets Society*, because it emphasizes the need and importance of being who you are."

**Shaina Buhl (11)** said, "I think it would have to be *Tuesdays with Morrie*, because it makes you realize the preciousness you have here with all the people you come in contact

with and the relationships you make. Even though [some relationships] may not be long, they affect you down the road. It's a movie full of life lessons."

**James Phillips (09)** said, "*Space Balls*, because it's ... hilarious!"

**Megan Browning (11)** said, "*Schindler's List*. It's just such an emotional time in the whole world's history, and it has such meaning."

**Morgan Valko (11)** said, "*The Princess Bride*, because it has something for everybody in it. Or *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, because Tim Curry is in fishnets and sings everything!"

**Lee Ireland (10)** said, "Any *Monty Python* movie, because everyone should know why the phrase 'Run Away!', getting picked up by aliens on the way to see Christ, and getting a Sherpa off a wall hook are so

funny.

**Amanda Ewing (11)** said, "*When Harry Met Sally*, because it is a truthful representation of relationships between men and women, and it's a good movie for everyone. All ages can relate to this movie."

**Chris Schneider (10)** said, "*Shoot 'Em Up*, because it is almost literally non-stop action from start to finish, and it features a beautiful man doing everything."

**Ross Barry (11)** said, "*Lord of the Rings: Return of the King*, because it's the last movie I went to see."

**Lindsey Rentfrow (10)** said, "*The Shawshank Redemption*, because it teaches you how to escape from prison."

**Corey Hopwood (11)** said, "*Happy Feet*, because it's funny and cute and it has something for all ages. It has deep meanings and religious

comments, and it's fun!"

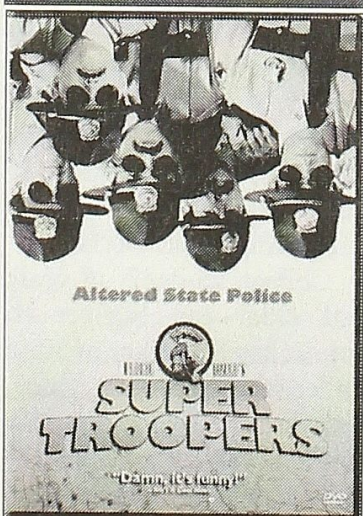
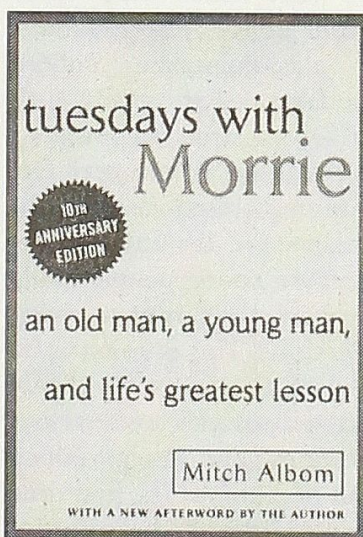
**Jaclyn Dittmar (11)** said, "*Lord of the Rings*, because it's a fantastic movie and has a fantastic plot with great main characters and great villains."

**Jordan Bryde (11)** said, "*Remember the Titans*, because it is a great story about fighting racism and everyone should learn to have the willpower to do that. Or *Juno*, because it's a fantastic movie."

**Steve Gerber (10)** said, "*Scent of a Woman* is an amazing movie. Al Pacino is a god because of that movie - he tangoes like nobody's business. It is so amazing."

**Kelsey Merz (11)** said, "*Hairspray*, because it's full of happiness and joy!"

**Neil LaVoie (11)** said, "*Super Troopers*, because it'll make you laugh even if you're having the worst day ever."





## Uncensored edition of *On The Road* offers revelatory insight into Beatnick Generation

AARON POOLEY  
STAFF WRITER

The long-awaited release of the original scroll version of Jack Kerouac's *On the Road* is now available in bookstores.

Jack Kerouac's *On the Road* is a fictional autobiography depicting the relationships between Kerouac and his friends Alan Ginsberg, Neal Cassady, Hal Chase, and William Burroughs, as they travel from Manhattan to the west coast seeking meaning in a post-WWII world.

Critic Robert Giroux described *On the Road* as "so new and unusual and controversial and censorable with hipsters, weeds, and fags."

Originally published in 1957, Kerouac's scroll manuscript was the product of the early stages of the novel, between the times when he began writing in 1947, to 1952 when he first submitted the manuscript to his editor at Harcourt Brace.

The scroll manuscript was made of drafting paper, given to Kerouac by Neal Cassady, cut down to fit into the typewriter, and taped together to form one single scroll.

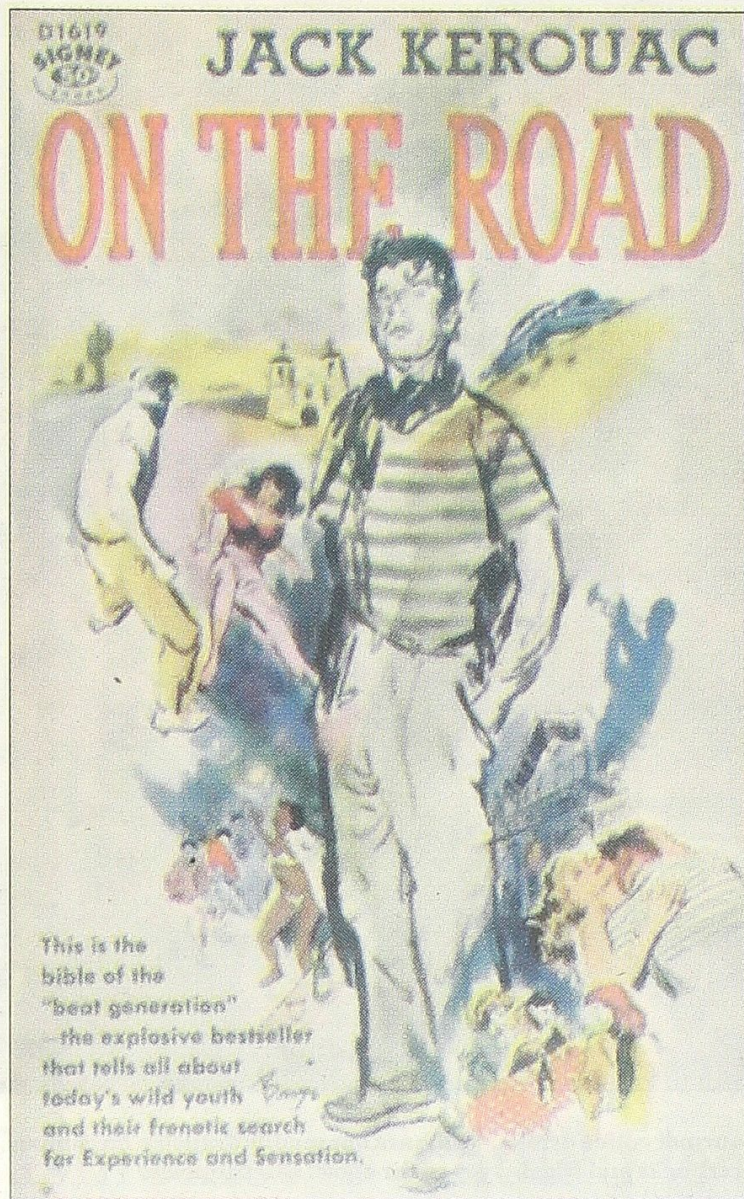
From 1952 onward, *On the Road* underwent revision after revision, censoring what Kerouac's editors thought to be unsuitable for the public, and protecting the publishing house from libel suits because of Kerouac's depiction of these true-to-life characters.

All the names, including Kerouac's character within the novel, were changed by the time of the novel's final release. The scroll manuscript, which contains the full names of the actual persons described, sheds new light on the lives of Kerouac's Beat Generation artists.

The scroll edition of *On the Road* reveals more than just names. The scroll text, which is longer than the 1957 release, and does not contain the same ending, is presented as Kerouac wrote it - without formatting and extensive punctuation. The editors of the 1957 release altered the look of Kerouac's text in order to make it conform to the standard of manuscript publication at the time.

Critical interpretations of the scroll manuscript reveal new insight into the importance of *On the Road*. New historicism and cultural critical methods address whether or not *On the Road* really defines the Beat Generation, determining what, if anything, distinguishes this new school of not only intellectual but also spiritual thought from WWI expatriate writers, such as Hemingway and Fitzgerald.

In her essay, *Rewriting America*, critic Penny Vlagopoulos claims that *On the Road*, "acts as a kind of blueprint for translating the upheavals and aftershocks



The cover reads:

This is the bible of the "beat generation"--the explosive best seller that tells all about today's wild youth and their frenetic search for experience and sensation.

Courtesy of Wikipedia.org

*"The only people that interest me are the mad ones, the ones who are mad to live, mad to talk, desirous of everything at the same time, the ones that never yawn or say a commonplace thing ... but burn, burn, burn like roman candles across the night."*

- Jack Kerouac,  
On the Road, Part I, Ch. 1

of its historical moment into the vital, perennial concerns." Vlagopoulos explains, "The period after WWII that marked the start of the cold war endorsed a mythology of national unity."

Three qualities emerged from this mythology: individual freedom, the promotion of democracy so that all live happily and healthily, and the defense of fundamental human rights. The term "Beat", Kerouac argued, was not a response to these factors shown

in the clothing and music of the Beatniks. Kerouac and Ginsberg coined the term after meeting a down and out drug user on the streets of New York who had lost everything after the war. To be "Beat" was to refer to the socially marginalized.

The release of the scroll manuscript has reopened the debate of whether Kerouac truly wrote the "Bible" of the Beats, or whether his message was to span more than just a description of a decade in American history.

Know your candidate:

## Mitt Romney

KRISTEN HAIGHT  
STAFF WRITER

Consistently top-tier Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney has spent this past week campaigning in Florida, preparing for today's primary.

According to the Washington Post, the principal element of his campaign in the Southern state has been a focus on the economy. He has placed a heavy emphasis on his business experience and his former position as governor of Massachusetts. His ideas on the slowing economy include significantly cutting back on federal programs for economic development and streamlining those that remain. He also proposes to cut taxes and reform the legislative process in order to eliminate unnecessary spending.

His stance on abortion has altered during his political career. As a young politician, he stated his belief that while he did not believe in abortion, he also did not believe that the federal government had a right to interfere in the issue. After becoming governor of Massachusetts, he became pro-life in practice as well as in theory, and chose to veto efforts to expand abortion rights. He describes such vetoes as taking "action to preserve the sanctity of life."

His convictions in the area of civil rights are conservative as well. Regarding gay marriage, Romney says, "The status of marriage, if it's allowed among the same sex individuals in one state is going to spread to the entire nation. And that's why it's important to have a national standard for marriage. And I'm committed to making sure that we reinforce the institution of marriage in this country by insisting that all states have a right to have marriage as defined as between a man and a woman; and we don't have unelected judges saying we're going to impose same-sex marriage where it was clearly not in their state constitution."

Romney favors the military "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, and believes it has proven effective since its inception. Finally, he has given public support to legislation that would prevent businesses from firing employees because of their sexual orientation. However, he believes social legislation such as this has a place only on the state level.

In his capacity as governor, Romney has proposed a crime law he calls "One Strike, You're Ours," a law which would implement lifetime GPS tracking of all first-time offenders convicted of preying on children. He supports the death penalty and harsher penalties for violent offenders. But when asked the specifics of how he would reduce violent inner city crime, his proposal lacked specifics. "Number one is to get more moms and dads. Number two, we've got to have better education in our schools. And number three, we have to do a better job with our policing."

Romney believes that his home state of Massachusetts has set a good example in the area of education reform. The implementations of standardized tests at all levels of public education, as well as the preservation of school choice, are measures he believes to be successful. He proposes to evaluate teachers more carefully, and pay them more as well. Finally, he supports the No Child Left Behind initiative, and abstinence-only sex education.

Romney has gained support because of his conservative beliefs and political experience. He is polling in second place behind John McCain in today's primary, and at this point, it's still anyone's race.

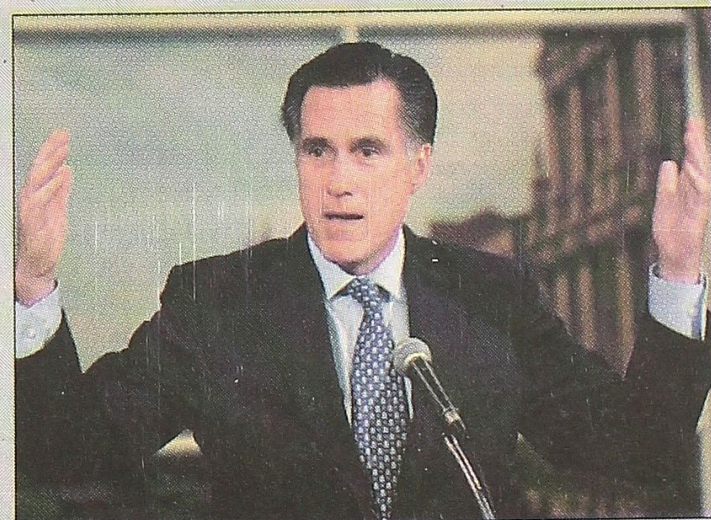


Photo courtesy of <http://www.http://itebma.com>



# The Book Shoppe, Superior Perk provide delicious, affordable alternatives for Alma coffee lovers

**AARON POOLEY**  
STAFF WRITER

While convenience may call for a coffee at Highland Java when studying late at the library, The Book Shoppe and Superior Perk offers a delicious and affordable getaway for the creative coffee lovers in Alma.

With a full espresso bar, fruit smoothies, icy milkshakes, literary-themed coffee drinks, paninis, chocolate cheesecake muffins, biscotti, fresh hot cinnamon rolls, and more, The Book Shoppe and Superior Perk's diverse menu in the comfortable and quiet free Wi-Fi atmosphere is a one-stop study break that, once experienced, is impossible to ignore.

For specialty drinks, The Book Shoppe serves a Goethe (mocha, macadamia nut, hazelnut, and coconut), Hemingway (latte with cinnamon, rum, and crème de cacao), James Joyce (Irish coffee), Charles Dickens (hot apple cider), and Curious George and Winnie the Pooh lattes.

Other hot drinks include the German Chocolate Cake, Pumpkin Pie, Coco Moco, and Pralines and Cream.

An Americano (hot water and espresso) costs \$1.35 for a short and \$1.70 for a tall. The specialty drinks price around two dollars. A splash of Torani syrup, which comes in varieties from fruit to chocolate to crèmes, can personalize any coffee or beverage choice. These syrups can also be used to make a French (\$2.10) or Italian (\$1.75) soda.

The specialty sandwiches also take on literary meaning and include Mitch Albom's "Five Layers You Eat in Heaven,"



Photo by Catherine Finley

**Local vendors offer a wide variety of gourmet coffee drinks, which are not readily available on campus. Their specialty drinks are comparable in taste to chain brands like Starbucks and Biggby, yet go for about half the price.**

Danielle Steele's "Hot and Heavy Veggie," Blue Beard's "Booty," The Humpty Dumpty, and Chicken Not so Little. Lisa Comer, owner of The Book Shoppe said, "Our paninis are the most popular - you can select one from our menu, order a bagel or croissant sandwich, or build your own."

On the lighter side, soup, salad, and half sandwich combinations range between \$2.00 and \$5.00 - soup in a bread bowl is \$5.75.

The lactose intolerant need

not fear - soymilk for any of the drinks is available.

Comer, a life-long resident of Alma, said, "Being downtown with the expansion of the Wright Avenue shopping has made us change how we do business, offering more in order to make us more useful to the community." The Book Shoppe and Superior Perk host a book club, Bible Study group, scrap-bookers, and - something Comer hopes to revive — open mic nights.

"For a small town bookstore, it is also difficult to compete with Amazon.com," Comer said. The Book Shoppe offers a wide selection of used books as well as new ones to compensate for this. Likewise, if someone doesn't find what they are looking for on the shelves, the Book Shoppe will happily place an order.

Contemporary fiction, literary classics, reference, travel, and more line the shelves.

The Book Shoppe has

traditional café-style seating closest to the deli with oversized couches and chairs stretching all the way to the storefront.

Not only is there no other place like the Book Shoppe in Alma, but by taking a few extra minutes to walk and support a local business ensures a future for alternative places to study or relax. Open until 7:30 p.m., The Book Shoppe and Superior Perk is a short walk up Superior and a right turn onto North State Street.

## Ignorant, invalid reasons for candidate selection abound

**NICKI KING**  
STAFF WRITER

The Presidential Elections are coming up fast, and voters are being hit from all sides with campaigns. Many voters are searching to decipher the various candidates' positions on issues, while others will simply vote with a straight ticket. When John F. Kennedy was running for president, many people credited his win to his good looks. So, in the spirit of elections...

*Q: What is the worst possible reason to vote for someone as president?*

**Kim Lyon (09)** said, "Because of the way he looks, or because everyone tells you that's who their going to vote for, or you're just doing it because your parents are making you."

**Danielle Jellison (10)** said, "Because he or she looks good."

**David Dyer (09)** said, "Religion... or lack thereof."

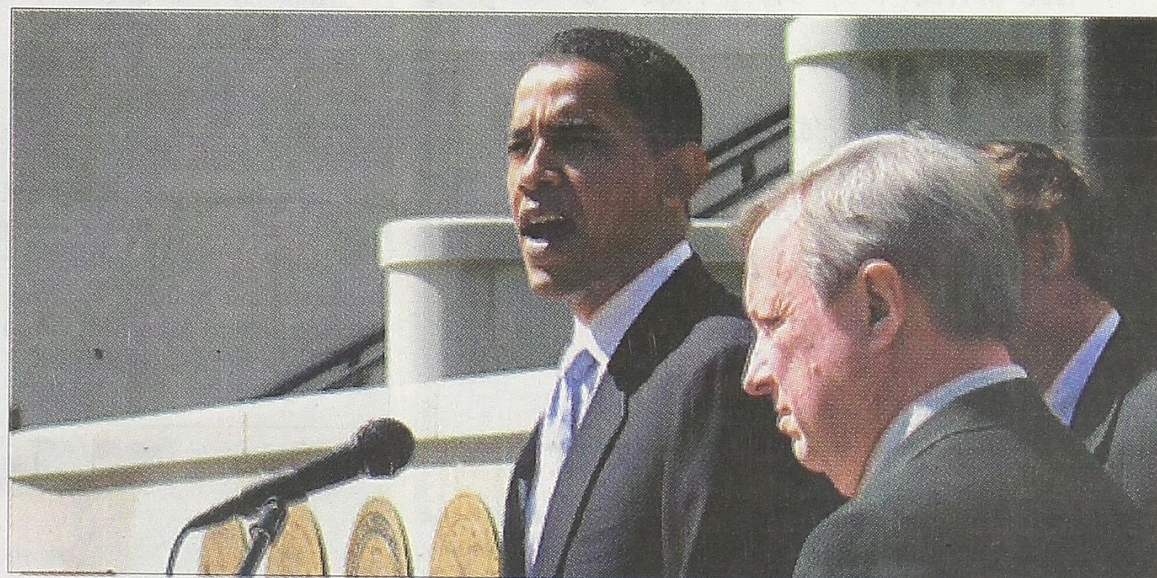


Photo courtesy of obama.senate.gov

**Chris Hall (11)** said, "Based on their sex. Just sex, you know? You're a woman, you say, 'I want to vote for a woman,' just 'cause you're a woman. I'm a guy, I vote for a guy, just 'cause I'm a guy. That's the worst reason to pick a person. Also, based on the color of their skin."

**Chris Chesney (10)** said, "The name."

**Victoria Kemler (11)** said, "When you base your vote on little or no information."

**Michelle Maskart (11)** said, "Choosing over one single issue, such as abortion, when it doesn't really solve anything or change anything."

**Dawn Johnson (11)** said, "If you feel sorry for them."

**Lauren Kimpel (11)** said, "When you vote for someone because you think they're going to win anyway, or because someone you like is voting for them. That'd be dumb."

**Kegan Rummel (11)** said, "Because of gender or race..."

**Sean J. Mo**, assistant professor of chemistry, said, "Based on

their promises that are far-fetched. Without any specific goals that they can actually achieve, it's only a politician's way of saying, 'Hey, I'll do this-I'll do that.' But if those goals are way out of reach, I think that is the worst reason to vote for a President."

**Rob Danbert (11)** said, "Because you just heard their campaign advertisement on television."

**Nathan Cushman (12)** said, "Because they kissed a baby."

**Ana Galloway (11)** said, "I'd have to say just because your parents are voting. Because they're Republican, you vote Republican, or if you don't really know anything about [the candidates]."

**Kathryn Robbins (11)** said, "Their looks."

**Tyler Kreft (11)** said, "Because of the way they laugh."



# New tour offers to "spice" things up

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

The Spice Girls, who entered the soul of every child in the 90s, are back, and will be playing a concert in Detroit on February 16 in The Palace of Auburn Hills! Yay, right?! Well, don't get your hopes up unless you're willing to shell out the cash to see them.

If you remember, the Spice Girls were formed in London in 1994 under Virgin Records. Made up of five British girls, they produced their first CD in 1996 and were soon an "international phenomenon," selling over 55 million records worldwide through three studio albums and ten singles.

But, did you know that the girls were not originally friends? In 1994, an advertisement was put in a trade magazine in London asking for girls who could sing and dance.

Hundreds of girls tried out and five were chosen, but two of the girls were very quickly dismissed. Less than five months later the two openings were filled and the five Spice Girls as we know them today became a group.

The Spice Girls' first single was

"Wannabe," which introduced a new genre of music called "out-and-out pop." This single debuted on July 8, 1996, and became a number one hit in 31 countries.

"Wannabe" helped the girls reach the infamous United States just four weeks after its debut. In October and December, the girls released their next two hits, "Say You'll Be There" and "2 Become 1," helping make their mark as the biggest pop act in the world.

In 1997, the Spice Girls released their second album, named *Spiceworld*, and also filmed their first movie, *Spiceworld: The Movie*.

Both were a success in Europe and the United States. 1998 was a harsh year for the girls and fans.

I remember when Geri Halliwell, Ginger Spice, left the group. It was tragic. Halliwell was said to have left the group after exhaustion and differences between the girls, but I think she thought she was now famous enough to take on a solo career.

By 2001, the remaining four Spice Girls announced a break and each left to concentrate on a solo career.

Now on to the exciting part - their reunion! The actual press conference was held on June 28, 2007 in London, but I didn't hear about it until I saw an advertisement for them on a commercial.

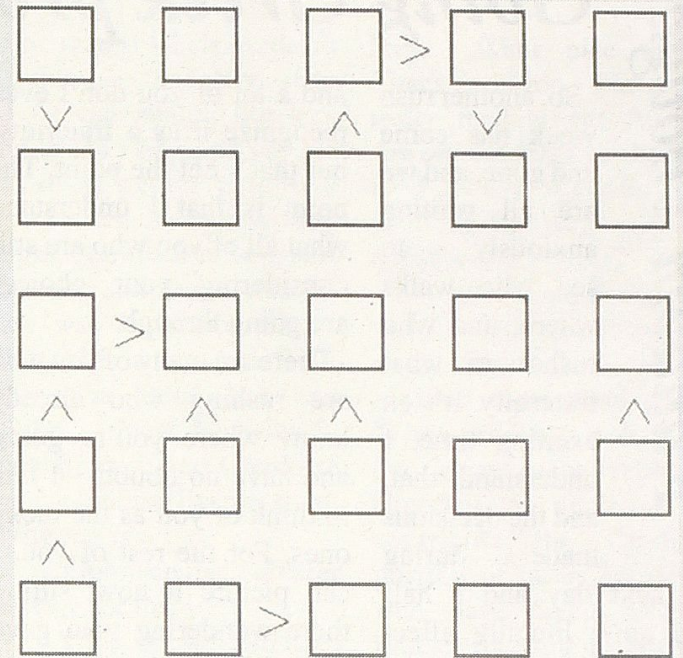
The commercial just so happened to advertise the Victoria's Secret Fashion Show. I tuned in on December 4 to see if my eyes were deceiving me. I literally stopped dead in my tracks: they have already sold out shows all over Europe and most in the U.S.

What I remember most distinctly about the Spice Girls was their focus on young girls. They were such an influence of "girl power," bringing an emphasis of strong and loyal friendship between females.

I suppose the idea of girl power can be taken in either a positive or negative aspect, but look at it this way: the phrase made it into the Oxford English Dictionary. That says something doesn't it?

With the tour in the states starting, "Say You'll Be There" and get tickets for a great reunion. Don't say "Goodbye" to the Spice Girls... just "Spice Up Your Life!"

## PUZZLE CORNER



Puzzle courtesy of [www.sudoku-puzzles.net](http://www.sudoku-puzzles.net)

Answer to last week's puzzle:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	9	8	1	2	5	3	1	7
7	3	5	6	9	8	1	3	4
5	2	1	10	1	7	2	3	1
8	1	3	8	6	9	3	10	7
10	1	2	9	10	6	1	2	5
15	5	3	1	4	2	8	9	6
10	9	1	10	7	1	2	10	8
11	8	2	1	2	9	5	8	1
10	8	3	9	1	1	7	3	6
10	7	9	17	8	9	16	9	1
15	9	6	5	1	4	6	3	2
12	6	5	2	7	8	4	1	4
12	8	4	1	7	1	20	8	9

**Futoshiki**

The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 5 in each row, ensuring that each column also only contains the digits 1 to 5. In addition, inequality constraints are specified between some of the squares, such that one must be higher or lower than its neighbour. These constraints must be honoured as the grid is filled out

By Kevin Bilbrey

# Collegiate "fashionistas" should learn what trends to avoid

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

Let me make this quite plain: you should never wear leggings with a shirt that does not come past your butt. This is a fashion rule that is to be abided with no exceptions. UGG boots should only be worn with pants at appropriate times. Boots are meant for cold weather, not skirts and springtime.

And, your hair should never be in a pouf higher than an inch at the most. It is no longer 1980 and some things just look ridiculous.

I get it! Being trendy is fun. Trust me, I know trendy. After spending my entire summer

and winter break at the hipster hotbed of American Eagle Outfitters, I have the right to

**"There is really nothing I can say to justify UGG boots.**

**Are they warm or comfortable? I have no idea and simply cannot understand their appeal.**

**They are not even practical... Someone needs to explain the phenomenon of their appearance in so many closets."**

comment on fashion's latest fads. It is my conclusion that some trends should die, and die hard.

I shall take this time to acknowledge that leggings can be a helpful accessory to own. They are slimming and look great with long sweaters and whimsical skirts. If you are wearing a t-shirt with leggings, however, a very unflattering look is created. No one wants to see that much of you in all your spandex glory. Exposure and skin-tight do not go together.

There is really nothing I can say to justify UGG boots. Are they warm or comfortable? I have no idea and simply cannot understand their appeal. They are not even practical... they're

suede, which gets ruined when wet, and the bottoms are foam and provide no traction. Someone needs to explain the phenomenon of their appearance in so many closets.

Bangs are pesky little buggers. Pinning them back can often times be the best way to deal with their eye irritating tendencies. There is a difference between removing your hair from your sight line and forcing your hair to defy gravity. A little volume is understandable, but when your hair requires half a bottle of hair spray and 18 bobby pins to achieve its levels... there is something wrong. Not to mention the look achieved resembles a peacock's fantail without the majestic color or

beauty.

We should all learn from the past when it comes to fashion. All of our parents have those pictures in the family album where they exclaim, "What was I wearing!"

One day, it will be our turn to be the old ones looking back wondering why we thought we looked so good. However, there are some trends that make me wonder what people are thinking... today. It should also be pointed out we are college students.

Therefore, we are supposed to live in jeans, sweat pants, and all things comfortable. Pretentiously expensive outfits for an 8:30 a.m. class only make people hate you.

## 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](mailto:o9kdbilb@alma.edu) or address letters to *The Almanian*, Newberry Hall, Alma College.

### Advertising Policy

Advertisements can be submitted to [o8radots@alma.edu](mailto:o8radots@alma.edu). The Ad Manager reserves the right to restrict any advertisements for content.

### 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

## Going Greek provides richer collegiate experience

So, another rush week has come and gone, and we are all waiting anxiously to see who walks where, and who rushes to what fraternity. It's an exciting time, I understand that, and the decisions made during the next day and a half will quite literally affect the course of the rest of your collegiate career and beyond.

Now, there are probably many of you reading that are wondering what fraternity I belong to, since I obviously understand the importance of what joining a fraternity or sorority means. I am a brother in Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. I know, it's not a part of the Inter-Fraternity Council,

and a lot of you don't even recognize it as a fraternity, but that's not the point. The point is that I understand what all of you who are still considering your choices are going through.

There are many of you who are rushing who already know where you're going and have no doubts—I like to think of you as the lucky ones. For the rest of you, I can picture it now, sitting there wondering who gave you a bid, if you even got a bid, hoping that you make the right choice so that you aren't miserable for the rest of your collegiate career. It is not a fun time.

However, I can say this: joining a Greek organization is probably going to be one of the best decisions you make in your time here at Alma College. There is nothing else on this campus that offers the sense of

belonging and fellowship that being in Greek life offers. Your brothers/sisters become your best friends, your home away from home that you can count on to be there when nobody else will be. Going Greek is quite literally becoming part of a family that you choose. Trust me on this one—your fraternity/sorority will be one of the most important aspects of your life while you are at this institution, and probably beyond.

So, why am I saying all of this? Why talk about how important the bonds of fraternity are? Well, I am saying it because for all of you who are about to join, I wanted to remind you that this decision is one that is (or at least should be) made with a lot of thought and pensiveness behind it. Because what you decide to become could quite literally

decide who you become—not just on this campus, but also in the world beyond it.

See, in Phi Mu Alpha, we have a saying that has been passed down from the very first chapter to now, and it goes, "We are in the business of making men." That is what we do, and it is the goal of all of the fraternities and sororities on this campus to help all of you find those characteristics within yourself that shape you to be the best man or woman that you can. It is about building you up to the

pinnacle of what you can be as a person, and providing a group of like-minded individuals to help you along the way. At least, that is what it has been for me, and I sincerely hope that is what it is like for you.

In the end, I just want to say that I greatly encourage you all to go Greek, to find those bonds that make for a more rewarding collegiate experience and a deeper understanding of who you are as a person. It is like nothing else you will ever do.

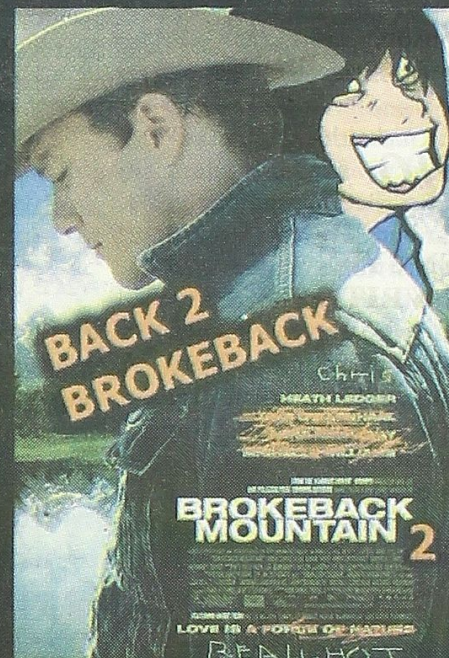
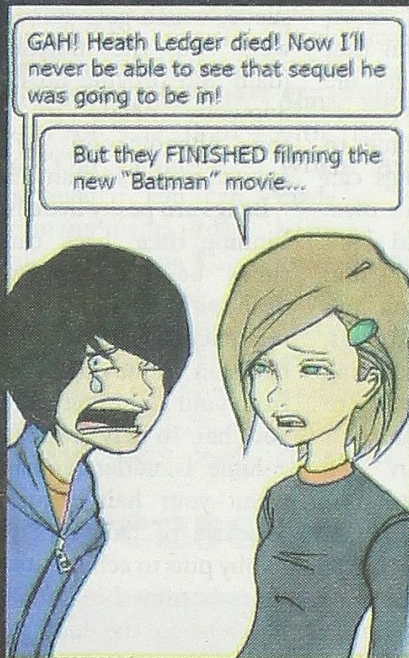
Kevin Billbrey,  
Opinion  
Editor



## Awkward

## Misconception

By Chris Schneider



## Motocross addiction brings excitement, new way to live

KATE LOVE  
STAFF WRITER

Just after World War II, the United States remained focused on flat track racing as it had before the war; however, Europe was busy creating the Motocross des Nations.

The Motocross des Nations was created in 1947 to determine World Team Motocross Champions. Europe is where motocross racing began about 60 years ago.

Ten years later, a separate series, named the World Motocross Championship Series, was created. By the late 1960s, motocross had spread to the US and taken a firm grip.

The reason motocross was successful - even in the early

stages - was because of its affordability. Although the machines were very heavy, underpowered, and the simple suspension systems made the bike hard to handle on rough terrain, the participants found it a highly challenging sport and it was easy for spectators to watch up-close.

The American Motorcyclist Association (AMA), established pro and amateur races in the late 60s, but motocross grew so fast in the states that by 1972 the AMA established a formal National Championship Motocross Series.

Also in 1972, the idea of racing in sports stadiums and bringing motocross to the people was founded. That series of racing soon coined the term "supercross", combining the

Super Bowl and motocross.

The sport of motocross became so that race weekends were scheduled, races were broadcasted, motorcyclist manufacturers were competing

**"Personally, I am hooked and addicted to motocross. Every weekend that the motocross or supercross championships are on, I excitedly adorn my motocross apparel and scream and cheer at the television, just like football fans have a tendency of doing."**

to make the fastest bike, and riders gathered sponsors, bringing the sport to new audiences.

Today, motocross and supercross riders are household names and off-road motorcycle sales are soaring. Along with sales and generalizations, the level of competition has soared to new heights. The AMA United States' Motocross and Supercross Championships are the nation's most attended motorsport on dirt.

In my opinion, motocross is the best sport in the world. Not only can you just ride to have fun, but you can also compete and live your life through the sport. The professional riders nowadays make their living racing every weekend, doing what they love and are good at.

Personally, I am hooked and addicted to motocross.

Every weekend that the motocross or supercross championships are on, I excitedly adorn my motocross apparel and scream and cheer at the television, just like football fans have a tendency of doing.

Not only does watching motocross get my blood pumping, but being able to ride a dirt bike is just plain thrilling. The adrenaline of jumping and the speeds through the woods and on a track is exhilarating.

If you happen to be flipping through channels on Sundays and you come across a motocross or supercross race, I suggest you stop and see what all the hype is about. Who knows? Maybe you'll even become as addicted as I am.



# Jeff Johnson advocates self-honesty in social justice



Photo courtesy of Skip Traynor

Jeff Johnson spoke on the importance of the plight of the music industry and about having honesty in how we deal with social justice.

## AARON POOLEY STAFF WRITER

Black Entertainment Television's Rap City host Jeff Johnson brought a message of political activism

and social change to Alma on Monday.

Known on Rap City as Cousin Jeff, Johnson, in addition to the keynote speech, spoke earlier in the afternoon on a panel

concerning the state of the music industry.

At the panel, Johnson addressed his concerns over the falling out of the small town record store and the consolidation of record labels in recent years.

What used to be some 150 record companies are now four or five major labels that control nearly every aspect—and which focus on advertising rather than the quality of the musicians they pay. And we are all familiar with this—small town record stores disappear and Sam Goody takes their place. Alma doesn't even have a Sam Goody anymore—a perfect situation for the record labels and Wal-Mart to join forces to provide our city with the smallest selection of the world's most commercialized music.

A question was asked in regards to the tremendous shift that hip-hop music has experienced since its early days to the corporate controlled MTV top ten of today. Johnson commented that the shift from N.W.A-era rap to today's "Slap My Bitch Up" occurred because

major record labels modeled the hip-hop industry after the *Chronic* album. But let's be fair—hip-hop and rap are one of all genres that have been sucked dry by Sony and Virgin. Pop music once meant Madonna and Prince—*Purple Rain* was a perfect album. With Alternative and Rock there was Pearl Jam and AC/DC. Now Nickelback, Buckcherry, Good Charlotte and Matchbox Twenty stand in the top ten.

But Johnson had a greater message for music.

Why do we listen to music? Do we listen for our 99 problems, or does the music speak to something beyond ourselves? Our musicians resonate with the audience that purchases their music. Dylan was never loved by all—some still can't stand his voice, but he said something. Johnson argued that our music shouldn't just be a reflection of our general population but should speak—the music should speak—to why in God's name does anyone have a message at all?

Johnson wanted social honesty. Have a big house?

Fine. Want nice things? That's good too. But are we really feeding the hungry? Are we donating to the local food pantry the eats from Scottie's that we bought but didn't want?

No one can say that people take advantage of welfare until they have worked at their local food pantry. When students realize that our government relies on churches to purchase and contribute the significant portion of meals for people who have fallen on hard times—the same government who will spend any amount of money on killing people in a country far, far away from home—might have a different concept of social justice. This is a sensitive topic not spoken in most circles.

But, as Johnson pointed out—let's be honest with ourselves. What are we doing to make a difference? In light of Johnson's Martin Luther King Jr. message—so as not to make King into a "Black Santa Claus"—so as not to perpetrate a false idea of what King's legacy is—let's be honest.

# Juno exhibits different kind of viewing experience

## LAUREN SYPNIEWSKI STAFF WRITER

Walking out of the movie theater into the lightly falling snowflakes, I had but one impression: it was different.

Not to imply in any way that "Juno" failed to reach my expectations - that is not what I mean when I say different. Although I try to approach each movie with the least amount of expectation possible, this usually remains a difficulty.

Anyhow, I went to see *Juno* after skimming reviews hinting over and over again at the film's comedy. Naturally, I expected the film to be such, especially after noticing one of the leads starred in "Super Bad."

I moved into my seat at the top of theater number nine, promptly removing my shoes and placing my sock covered feet on the chair before me. After ten minutes (or so) of disappointing previews and a man who came out to inform us on the theater's rules regarding cell phones and loud noise, we were all set.

Instead of being the comedy crammed with crude humor the mockery of serious subjects that I expected, *Juno* ended up being a serious story with comedic tendencies.

It all starts with a chair. At least, that's what Juno believes it begins with. After that night, there is a little something more

than just digestion taking place in her midsection... something that three pregnancy tests verify.

Juno's predicament was caused by a mutual decision of her and friend, Paulie Bleeker: a shy, small, track-running boy.

Walking out of the general store, pregnancy stick still in hand, she considered her options, eventually deciding not to tell her friend and promptly head for the clinic. This way, no one would know and it would all be over.

However, she could not go through with the abortion. Instead, she finds a couple wishing to adopt her child. As she begins to waddle more and more, she begins to see the baby growing within her as a human and less, as she would say, a "sea-monkey."

During the first half of the film, I was both taken aback and disturbed by this girl's indifference, disgusting sarcasm, and disrespect. No matter who she was speaking to, she addressed them in slang terms and had a disrespect bordering on a rehabilitating clinic case.

Juno constantly referred to her child as "baking in the oven", and would just as soon shoot it out, hand it over, and have nothing to do with it. Honestly, I found little humor in this, which was surprising to me, considering my expectations for comedy.

Being strongly pro-life, I found great distaste in Juno's thoughts and feelings, even though I did admire her for her choice to put the child up for adoption.

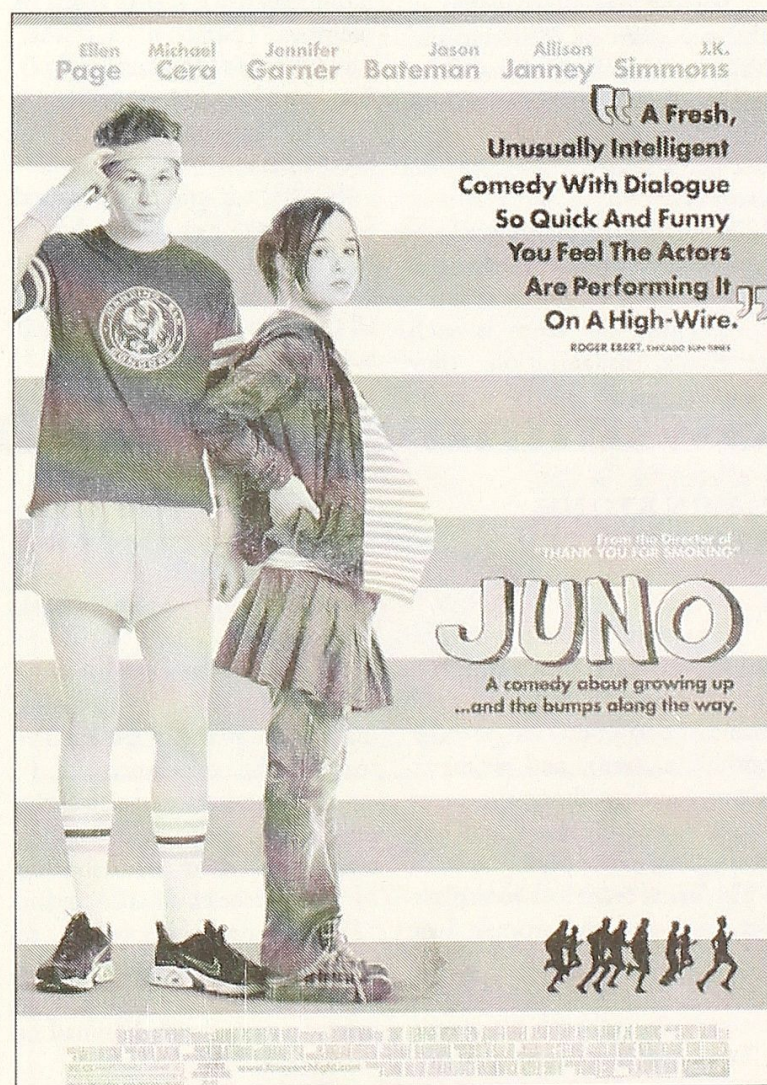
However, as the movie rolled on, Juno's attitude began to change, as did my view of her. The pregnant teenager started caring about how the child would be cared for, wishing for its happiness and security.

And yet, there was still something about this girl that bothered me immensely. She still had the attitude of superiority and, with every chance, still decided to let everybody know that she had no respect for them.

The film bothered me in that it claimed that by the end Juno had fallen in love with Bleeker, the child's father. Juno narrated in parts of the movie, saying that she knew most couples fell in love before they had a child, yet she fell in love during and after.

If this were so, the movie and Juno herself did an extremely poor job of showing this love. The audience was told just five minutes before the movie's ending. If it is going to be believable, it must be demonstrated through the actions and words of the characters; the viewers were left just to believe and not worry.

Here I sit, spitting out vice after vice found within the movie. Yet, there were enjoyable parts



Graphic courtesy of www.imdb.com

as well - I am not denying that. The film possessed its comedic and lighthearted side, which I saw especially prominent in the little comments made by Juno's father.

All in all, I enjoyed *Juno*. I liked watching the changes made within her character as

she realized all that was taking place within her.

However, I disliked parts of her character and the apparent arrogance she always portrayed. Once again, perhaps it is just those expectations of mine that get in the way. I'm left saying the same thing. *Juno* was different.



# New year brings successful launch of Alma ski team

**ELEANOR KING**  
**STAFF WRITER**

It is hard to imagine a college sport that has no practices, no official budget, no coach, and a fluctuating number of members. Nonetheless, this is exactly what the Alma College Ski Team (ACST) consists of - not to mention a great deal of dedication.

This is the first year for the ski team, and they appear to be surviving quite well with limited resources. Every Saturday and Sunday the team travels to competitions throughout Michigan.

Their season will consist of three more events, including this upcoming weekend. For the first two competitions, skiers will alternate between Crystal Mountain and the Cannonsburg Ski Resort.

The third week will bring divisionals back in Thompsonville and, to finish the season, the ski team will compete in Marquette for regionals. Alma participates according to the United States Collegiate Ski Association (USCA) - their competitors through the USCSA include Michigan State, Western Michigan, Central Michigan, and Grand Valley State University.

Adam Valentino and Jen Watson founded the ski team this fall when Watson transferred from Western.

Watson had participated in the ski team at Western and Valentino has been skiing from a young age. The two were both familiar with the USCA and decided to start a new sport on campus.

The ACST is primarily student-run, with its founders serving as president and vice-president.

Because the team is such a young organization they



Last weekend the ski team traveled to Cannonsburg Ski Resort. The team stayed together at teammate Charlie Oppenheimer's house.

*Photo provided by Charlie Oppenheimer*

have not had much time to accumulate funding to pay for their weekend excursions. "We have contingency money, and we will apply for a budget [next] year. For now though, this is probably one of the more expensive sports from its members personal account," said **Charles Oppenheimer (11)**. For members to compete at Crystal Mountain runs around \$100 a person.

"[Costs] can add up to around \$2000 for just skis, boots, bindings and poles - and that does not include lift tickets and all the other little expenses that accumulate," said Watson.

Due to their lack of substantial funding, the Alma College ski team has been staying in some interesting places. This past weekend they camped out at Oppenheimer's home in Rockford - about 15 minutes from Cannonsburg Ski Resort.

Oppenheimer said that he was happy to open his home to his fellow skiers. He does, however, have a few rules. "My parents were there, so I sent out an email letting everyone know that we had to behave ourselves. Nobody can really complain, because it is so much better than paying for lodging," said Oppenheimer.

**Joani Schmeling (11)** was grateful for such optimal hospitality. "His parents are really cool, and we had the best meal. Mrs. Oppenheimer is a fantastic cook - it was just a lot of fun," said Schmeling.

Because of the nature of a college student's average income, the team still keeps paid lodging relatively cheap. The previous weekend the team stayed in a motel and each member had to pay \$36 dollars for two nights at the Mountain Valley Motel.

"The key word there is 'motel,' not 'hotel'. Let's just say... it was pretty classy," said Schmeling. However, these circumstances

have not stopped them from performing well each weekend.

At the last competition, **David Moilanen (11)** placed second in slalom - a zigzag downhill race. On Saturday, January 12, **Ben McMurray (09)** placed eighth in slalom, and the following day both Moilanen and McMurray made it to the top ten in giant slalom.

For a new organization on campus, the ACST has been skiing very well, and Watson is hopeful for the upcoming regionals. "These should be some great races, good competition, and a lot of fun for everyone involved," said Watson.

## Swimming pushes hard with conferences looming

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

The Alma swim team went to Olivet this past weekend in a valiant effort to take home an overall win. While both the men's and women's teams came up short, the team swam incredibly hard and left everything in the pool.

The men's team lost 76-115 last Saturday, and the women lost 100-103.

Chris Hamstra, head coach, seemed pleased with his team's efforts, despite coming short of a win. "It was a rough meet as far as the scores came out," he said, "but we swam really fast, so things are moving in the right direction." Indeed, the Scots did swim fast, having either a personal record or seasonal record in almost every event.

The Scots are at a disadvantage compared to other schools in the MIAA conference due to their

small size. "Most of the teams in MIAA have more people than we do," Hamstra said. "It's really the only thing holding us back right now."

The Scots are comprised of eight males and 16 females, making them one of the smaller teams in the conference.

Hamstra emphasized the importance of the diving team and their contribution to the success of the team. "They're probably going to be our top point getters," he said, "and they're making huge improvements with Kimball as their coach."

The diving team consists of four women and two men. Hamstra believes that they will "score well at the league championship," and Kimball is helping turn around and strengthen the diving team as well.

Other strong events are the women's breaststroke and the men's backstroke and butterfly.



The swim team usually practices twice a day in preparation for their meets.

*Photo courtesy of Tony Rosenblum*

Hamstra also said that, as a team, the sprint freestyle is also very good.

Hamstra said that the team is doing well. "Training is getting a little bit easier," he said,

"and they're getting excited, especially after last weekend."

Despite their loss, the Scots gave the meet all they had and, as a team, swam one of their fastest meets this year. Coach Hamstra

says the team is pumped with the season coming to a close in the next month. "We're in our last push," he stated. "It's our last month before the MIAA championships."



## Scots face string of tough competition

**LAUREN SYPNIEWSKI**  
STAFF WRITER

Squeak. Shuffle, shuffle. Squeak. Faster. The white Nikes skidded on the auditorium wood, creating a shrill squeal that reverberated off the gym walls. Every pair of eyes fixated themselves on the rust-colored ball which moved smoothly from woman to woman.

"Teamwork is all we have to work with," said **Ashley Wojtas (08)**. "To win games we need everyone giving their all and not settling for individual play. We have worked hard to build this team and working together is what will keep getting us wins."

As practice ends, the women bee-line to the drinking fountains located outside the doors. Sweat drips from their foreheads and they welcome the cool liquid. Voices fill the hallway as they laugh, joke and talk.

"The togetherness of our team this season has grown immensely," said **Meagan Hoblet (10)**. "We have had our rough streaks, but everybody's

love for the game has taken over."

"Calvin and Hope are huge rivals for us," continued Wojtas. "We need to be focused and determined to beat both of these teams. I am confident that we can win. Our team is a silent powerhouse and if we use our strengths, crash the boards, and take care of the ball, then there isn't a team in the league that can hold us back."

**"Our team is a silent powerhouse and if we use our strengths...then there isn't a team in the league that can hold us back,"**

**Ashley Wojtas (08)**

As the girls had hoped and expected, Alma conquered Rochester on the January 19 with a score of 70-35.

The Scots were not able to convert the Rochester win into a winning streak as Alma took a

loss this past Wednesday to top ranked Hope. The Scots kept the score close for most of the first half, but lost 53-72.

**Lacey Best-Rowden (10)** took a leadership spot on the team during the game. Leading Alma with 16 points.

However, the future still looms ahead of the team with the game again Calvin College tomorrow. The women last game played Calvin in December, losing 43-71.

"Anything can happen in our league," said Hoblet. "There have already been many upsets this season and it depends on what team shows up and wants the victory more. Hope and Calvin are both great teams, but we have shown that we can be great too."

After the game against Calvin College, the women's basketball team has eight more games to play, ending with the MIAA tournament at the end of February.

"Our coaches have supplied us with the recipe for success," said Wojtas, "[and] as a team we need to use those plays and execute them."

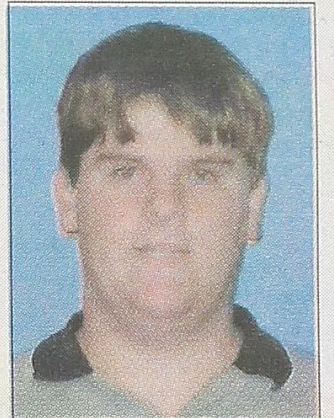


Photo by Catherine Finely

Sophomore Forward Kathryn Bigelow shoots over the heads of two Adrian defenders.

## Duke Blue Devils look ahead to another promising season

**GAVIN STONE**  
STAFF WRITER



The Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) is renowned for its strong rivalries, tough competition, and years of unstoppable basketball teams. This year, the ACC is once again a force to be reckoned with, sporting two of the top five teams in both the AP poll and the USA/ESPN poll.

More specifically, rival teams Duke University and the University of North Carolina (UNC) are proving to be two of the best, if not the two best teams in the entire nation.

Duke University (also known as the Blue Devils) is coached by one of college basketball's greats, Mike Krzyzewski. Overall, Krzyzewski's overall career brings a winning record of 702-202, and his overall career as a coach is 775-261. In his 28 years as Duke's head coach, he has won 12 national Coach of the Year awards and has taken his team to the NCAA tournament every year for the past 12 years.

The Blue Devils have made it to the final four ten times in the past 27 years and have won the big dance three times, in 1991, 1992, and 2001.

Duke's last season, while still fairly impressive, was a building year. This year, they are led by their only senior, DeMarcus Nelson, and, so far this season, their record is 15-1.

Cameron Indoor Stadium, one of the nation's most well known venues for college sports, has been in use since the 1940s.

The Duke fans, known as the Cameron Crazies, are among the most boisterous, passionate, and engaged crowds in all of sport history. Even when watched, the noise and movement coming from the wall-to-wall packed stadium can be more entertaining than games.

Duke's home record is among the most impressive in the country. Since 1932, the Duke Blue Devil home record is 819-183. In other words, Duke Basketball has won 82 percent of all home games in the past 76 years.

Recently, formerly top ranked team UNC was toppled by unranked Maryland, pushing them below Duke in both the national standings and in the ACC's rankings.

The two teams have one of the biggest college rivalries in sports, certainly within the top three, if not the greatest ever.

When they play each other, it is always one of the year's most exciting games. During some years, more people have watched Duke v. UNC than national championship games. The games are noted for upsets, ferocious crowds, and "on your toes" excitement.

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# Scots basketball earns first win for new coach

**CHELSEA CLARK**  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Maroon and Cream have been off to a slow start this season, but this week took several important strides towards improvement.

Alma forward, **Ryan DeHaan (09)** was named MIAA Player of the Week for week ten after leading the Scots with back to back performances, scoring 18 points. His scoring allowed the team not only to make a huge comeback against Tri-State but also win their first game under new Head Coach Terry Smith.

DeHaan shot an exceptional 70 percent for the week. DeHaan was on the mark every shot in the Olivet game, missing only one free throw the entire game. He also pulled down 14 rebounds between the two games last week, only turning the ball over twice in 54 minutes of play.

The Scots increased their record to 1-12 overall with their first win of the season bringing them to 1-3 in conference play. The win came when the Maroon and Cream traveled to face the Comets of Olivet last Saturday.

Olivet took a four point lead at halftime, but the Scots continued with their game plan of strong ball movement and a focus on their three point shooting. After the break, the Olivet Comets came out on fire, quickly extending

their lead to double digits.

Smith saw their hopes of a first victory fading away but never gave up trying new tactics. He rearranged the line up and allowed the Scots to step up to the challenge. The new strategy worked and Alma was able to not only erase the Olivet lead, but add to their own. Finally, it ended in a close 65-63 win.

The Scots were tough to handle behind the three point line as the team put together a total fifteen three point baskets. DeHaan shot six for six from the three point line and ended with 18 points and five rebounds.

**Jordan Redditt (11)** and **Josh Shattuck (08)** added to the game with three three point baskets a piece. They also added 15 and 13 points respectively to help create the comeback. **Matt Brown (09)** chipped in with two of his own three pointers while creating a tough defense with seven rebounds against the Comets.

Coming off this win, the Scots had the new found confidence they were going to need when they played the conference leaders, Hope College, this past Wednesday.

The game was home - the Scots were coming off their two strongest games of the season and they were all poised to prove the doubters wrong with a major upset against the Flying Dutchmen. Alma took the loss 55-81.



Photo courtesy of Tony Rosenblum

**Junior Matt Brown drives towards the basket hard during an Aquinas game earlier this season.**

The Scots are a young team with a roster that features only two seniors and three juniors. The team played a strong first period, staying within three points, but the Dutchmen took the reins after that and did not look back. For the second half, Hope continued

down a decisive and well-played road to victory, scoring another 34 points to Alma's 24.

Shattuck led the team in points ending with 14, including 12 of his points coming from behind the three point line. Brown and **Venias Jordan (08)** added another seven points a

piece to the Alma score board.

The Scots will, next game, will be against the Bulldogs of Adrian College tomorrow at Adrian. The tip off will be at 3 p.m. Both teams will be looking to their second conference win as Adrian is also 1-4 in conference play.

## Scotlight: Matuzak shines on and off the court

**ELANORE KING**  
STAFF WRITER

While most people's memories begin to blur as they transcend beyond kindergarten, **Ashley Matuzak (08)** has one memory that sets the stage for the rest of her life: when she was in kindergarten, Matuzak shot her first basketball.

Coming from a family full of athletes, Matuzak started playing at age five at her local YMCA and on her driveway. Matuzak's tight-knit family is part of the reason she started playing basketball.

"My brothers and sister always played sports. I had to go to every single game of theirs when I was younger. I guess I wanted to be a lot like them, so I followed in their footsteps." Matuzak claims her father was a huge inspiration for her to play.

Jeff Matuzak was Ashley's coach for eight years. After coaching both football and baseball, Matuzak said she and her father really had a connection with basketball.

While the father-daughter team enjoyed basketball on the court, her mother, Karla Matuzak, could always be found cheering in the stands. "My parents have attended just about every one of my games in college and just about every

game of my life," said Matuzak.

Since she held that first basketball in her five-year old hands, Matuzak has been dedicatedly playing ever since.

From Saginaw, Michigan, Matuzak attended Nouvel Catholic High School and graduated in 2004.

While at Nouvel, she participated in varsity basketball and received the Saginaw News All-Area Honorable Mention, as well as the Captain's award, Most Valuable Player award, and Nouvel's Athletic Leadership award.

During the 2004 season, the Nouvel woman's team received the All-State award, and this was just the beginning for Matuzak. She was so inspired by her High School coach, Kris Hemgesbach, that she followed in her footsteps and applied to Alma College.

"Tooz [Matuzak] started out like most frosh coming off the bench and has blossomed into one of the leagues top players," said Charles Goffnet, head coach of the women's basketball team.

As a Scot, Matuzak has been all but hidden from recognition. During her sophomore year, she received the teams most improved player and, as a junior, was the most valuable player and captain.

While her slew of awards

and recognition are impressive, these are not the things that Matuzak remembers the most about the game she loves.

"I have learned how to communicate with different types of people. I also learned how to work with others separately and as a team," stated Matuzak. These skills will have a positive impact on her future this spring.

In April, Matuzak is graduating and hopes to have a job shortly after. Although she is a business major with an emphasis on marketing, Matuzak is not quick to let go of her passion for basketball and is straightforward about her future.

"I would like to have a job that revolves around athletics. I plan on coaching one day and I will also try to stay involved through a women's league," said Matuzak.

Matuzak also gives her advice to those who have ever contemplated joining a sports team. "Go for it. The worst that can happen is that you won't make the team, but at least you tried."

She had no regrets about her athletic endeavors, even though they have busied her life over the past four years. Between basketball, classes, SIFE, and her off-campus job, Matuzak has been actively involved since she started her education at Alma.

To add to the madness, or perhaps as a side effect of it all, she injured both of her knees early last year. Doctors are still unsure what is causing the pain, but Matuzak refused to let her injury impede on her goals.

"They hurt a lot to play on still, but there is not much left of the season," she said.

With the end of this basketball season comes the closing of Ashley Matuzak's legacy at Alma. But with the grit, determination, and leadership gained through basketball, the future will be the opening of a new chapter of her life, one beyond college athletics.



Photo by Catherine Finely