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Hulme speaks on Olympic safety

Ryan Cannon
Staff Writer

Sandy Hulme, associate professor of political science, took part in two radio shows last week discussing the political implications of the Olympics and terrorism. The two shows aired Saturday and Monday on National Public Radio out of Boston, Mass.

"I don't think the Olympics themselves will be disrupted," Hulme said. "However, you can't guarantee safety." The United States has definitely tried. U.S. military forces including 15,000 troops, police, and Secret Service agents, Black Hawk helicopters and F-16 fighter jets armed with anti-aircraft missiles now patrol a 90-mile radius around Salt Lake City, Utah, this year's Olympic host.

President George W. Bush has equal faith that no terrorist attacks will occur at this year's games. He told reporters in Salt Lake, "I'm so confident about the security situation that I came."

Hulme specializes in the political ramifications of the Olympics, how they have been used politically over time. He said, "It's amazing how something seemingly as unpolitical as sports can be used for politics." Adolf Hitler used the 1936 Olympics as propaganda to show the world what the Nazi party was about. At the 1972 games in Munich, Palestinian terrorists kidnapped and murdered 11 Israeli athletes. Even President Jimmy Carter used the Olympics as a political tool by boycotting them in 1980 to protest the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

A marathon runner in college, Hulme was outraged at the 1980 boycott. "These athletes were deprived of their opportunity to compete." These athletes, according to Hulme, were used, and used wrongly.

Hulme did say that although the Olympics are most likely safe, proximity to the world's media may make the areas near the games attractive to terrorists looking to make an impression.

According to Hulme, there are two types of terrorists: those who want to cause change and those who simply want to get themselves on the political radar. The Olympics are safe from the first type because so many world powers attend the games—they would make too many enemies. However, those who are only looking for press are the most dangerous. Said Hulme, "If all you want to do is advertise your cause, it doesn't matter if people don't like you."

Small housing units still plagued with dial-up connection

Nikole Canute
News Editor

The issue of wiring campus small housing units continues to weigh heavy on the information technology office's small shoulders. As most students and faculty zip along the College's Ethernet connections, residents of small housing units continue to crawl. According to David Reed, director of information technology, that situation is not going to change before updates are made on the current system. "The task of upgrading the quality of connection, the quality of service, for all of those students [in residence halls] is probably likely to come first in terms of the priorities we are setting for improving the network," said Reed.

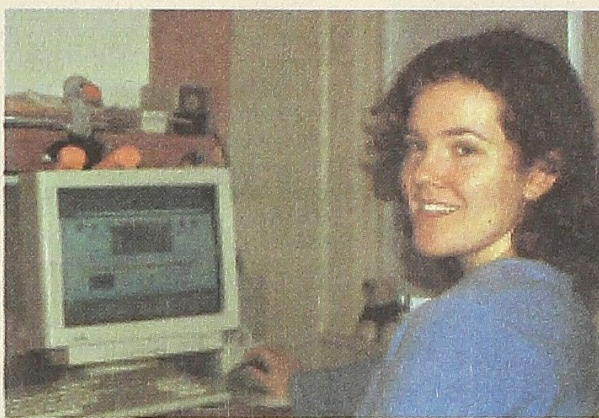
Currently, only students living in residence halls have access to the campus network through the Ethernet. Others must connect through a dial-up system.

Although many small housing units have more than one phone line, residents have found them inadequate to service both their Internet and phone usage needs. Meg Freeland (02), resident of the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority house, said, "It's really frustrating. Eight girls sharing one phone line to talk on is bad enough, but eight girls using one line for Internet access is worse."

Members of the Theta Chi fraternity have invented their own solution to the problem. For under \$1,000, Theta Chi purchased the equipment necessary to build a broadband network, complete with file-sharing and Internet access, in their house. Residents say their system is "quite effective," although the hardware was ex-

pensive.

According to Reed, preliminary design work has been done by information technology to allow the administration to understand what steps would have to be taken to extend Ethernet access to small housing units. Estimates have placed the cost at roughly \$250,000. The largest es-



timated piece of the project is the necessary digging of the trenches to place the Ethernet pipes.

For roughly the same cost as extending Ethernet access to small housing units, Reed estimates that the College can make improvements to the existing Ethernet system in residence halls. Improvements would include moving from a shared Ethernet system to a switched Ethernet system and moving from a ten megabit per second Ethernet to a 100 megabit per second Ethernet, vastly increasing the network speed. The upgrades are projected to begin next year.

"As much as we would like to be able to extend the direct connection to the small

unit housing, it is for the good of the larger number that has to be the overriding consideration here...that is the trade-off we are looking at," said Reed.

Freeland disagrees. "It is one of those situations where the people across the street already have a system that works. I think that everyone should be put on the same level before they start upgrading other people," she said.

The cost for an Ethernet connection has been changed in recent years. Students were once required to pay a \$75 per semester fee for an Ethernet connection, but the information technology office abolished the fee because it caused logistical problems. As a result, the number of students who connect to the Internet has increased.

Reed emphasizes that there is no "separate pot of money that represents the \$75 fee for connectivity." In other words, there is no connectivity fee built into tuition costs.

Administration has discussed alternatives that would extend Ethernet access to small housing units without having to dig trenches, thus allowing for quicker action. A "microwave" system would allow small housing to connect wirelessly. However, security and reliability concerns would hang over that kind of project.

"There has been clear recognition on the part of the administration that this would be a desirable thing to do," Reed said. "The question is, at a time of budget stringency, where is it on the priority list?"

Megan Sloat (03) lives in the Service House and must dial up to connect to Alma's network.

Photo by Dan Joyce

LaCroix spearheads recycling program

Anne Mabbitt
Staff Writer

April LaCroix (05) has begun work on a recycling project for campus beginning this year as a part of her McGregor tutorial. This program, aided by SUN (Students United for Nature) seeks to establish a lasting program of recycling and discover ways to reduce waste on campus.

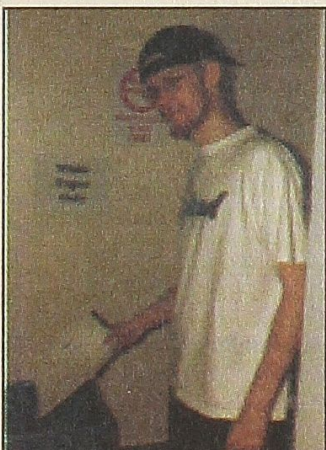


Photo by Dan Joyce
Jon Buist (03) helps LaCroix with her program by recycling some paper.

LaCroix, who discussed the college's previous programs, intends to create a program that will keep students' interest in the future. She said, "It's an issue of keeping students excited about it."

By the end of this year, the program will hopefully have guidelines showing how to run a good recycling program on a small campus. Currently, recycling exists in all major dorms for white paper, plastics 1 and 2 (which are identified by a symbol on the product), newspapers, and magazines.

However, students rarely recycle their waste. People often use the recycling receptacles as trash deposits. When trash is

thrown into recycling bags, it can no longer be recycled. Hence, people often find bags marked for recycling being treated like regular trash. Also, students need to remember that bottle caps cannot be placed in the recycling receptacles. Every week, these caps need to be removed before the bottles can be recycled which greatly reduces the efficiency of the program.

LaCroix wants to divert waste from landfills and move to sustainability. She wants Alma students to meet our needs at the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. A first step that LaCroix plans to take is to educate the campus and begin advertising through brochures and campaigns.

"The program," LaCroix said, "is a very basic initiative that needs to be everywhere. From this project we hope to develop more 'green' initiatives."

In the future, LaCroix and SUN hope to perform Waste Stream Measuring, a process that would require the Physical Plant to examine one of five trash bags before they are taken to landfills. The bags would then be sorted into recyclable and non-recyclable material. The recyclable material would then be weighed and multiplied by five to determine how frequently the campus throws away recyclable material.

"It's really important," LaCroix said, "that other students get involved. It is not just SUN's responsibility."

LaCroix is hopeful about the program, as she has already seen the changes in what some people choose to throw away and what they choose to recycle. Many students have already begun recycling objects like shampoo bottles which would otherwise be thrown away.

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NEWS

GAO turns up heat on Cheney in energy probe

Chris Machnacki
Staff Writer

David Walker, comptroller-general and head of the General Accounting Office (GAO), has announced his intention to sue Vice President Dick Cheney in federal court over his non-compliance with GAO requests for information regarding the National Energy Policy Development Group that Cheney chaired last year.

The GAO is the investigative arm of Congress, with authority to audit public spending, review government programs, and initiate investigations of federal departments and agencies. The non-partisan comptroller-general heads the GAO and serves a fifteen-year term.

The current imbroglio between Cheney and the GAO dates back to an April 19, 2001, request by representatives John Dingell and Henry Waxman, both Democrats and members of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on Government Reform, for information regarding the process by which the Bush Administration developed its National Energy Policy. Dingell and Waxman sought information on the composition of the energy group, a list of people with whom it met, and minutes of those meetings.

Dingell, Waxman, and others expressed concern with the energy policy due to its alleged reliance on oil and gas drilling at the expense of environmental protection and renewable energy resources.

Repeated attempts by the GAO to gain this information failed. Cheney and his staff do not recognize the authority of the GAO to investigate the activities of the vice president. Also, both Cheney and President George W. Bush maintain that divulging this information would set a dangerous precedent by making it impossible for the president and members of his government to solicit confidential advice. Walker greeted this reasoning with the words "Talk is cheap."

The controversy gathered momentum until the September 11 terrorist attacks, at which time the GAO announced it would pause its investigation due to the national emergency.

The recent collapse of energy giant Enron gave new life to the GAO investigation. Under pressure from Congress, the White House admitted that Kenneth Lay, a former Enron CEO and friend of Bush, met once with the energy group as it formulated its recommendations. Later, the White House acknowledged that Lay had multiple meetings.

The evidence that Enron garnered a great deal of regulatory freedom via heavy campaign financing raised suspicions in Congress that its influence extended beyond the legislative branch. Many legislators, including most Democrats, have eagerly sought to determine if Enron substantially influenced the final report of the energy group.

The GAO toned down its requests after renewing the investigation, dropping its demand for minutes of meetings and instead seeking the names of individuals who met with the committee, the dates of their meetings, and the subjects discussed. The White House remained unimpressed with the GAO's requests.

On February 4, Walker announced that the GAO will file suit in federal court in an effort to secure the information. The lawsuit marks the first time the GAO has gone to court to retrieve information in its 80-year history. Both sides have expressed confidence that they will win in court. Litigation, however, could take years to reach a decision.

While publicly supportive of Cheney, many Senate Republicans have privately urged Cheney to cooperate with the investigation. They fear a protracted legal battle could convince observers that Cheney has something serious to hide, thus damaging chances for eventually passing the energy policy in the Senate and harming Republican prospects in the 2002 elections.

Judicial Watch, a conservative watch-dog group, the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Sierra Club, both environmental groups, have also filed suit against Cheney and the energy task force seeking the same information.

Democrats 'Bush' judicial choice

Brendan Guilford
Staff Writer

Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota has indicated that he and several ranking Democrats in the Senate will oppose President George W. Bush's nomination of Charles Pickering to the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans, Louisiana.

"There are some very serious questions about Mr. Pickering. Women's groups, civil rights organizations, a number of people have called attention to the facts that have been coming out in the last several days, and we're trying to make that judgment," said Daschle.

Before the entire U.S. Senate may consider Pickering, the Senate Judiciary Committee must first approve him. With such noted Democratic opposition this will not be an easy task. He has already appeared before the committee twice, with additional hearings possible.

Many Democrats disagree with the nomination because they believe Pickering is too conservative on certain key issues, including abortion and civil rights.

Ranking Republican members of the Senate Judiciary Committee have criticized the Democratic stance, citing Pickering's tenure as a U.S. district judge in Jackson, Mississippi, since 1990, and as a Mississippi state senator, in addition to his opposition to the Klu

Klux Klan within his state. Republicans also argue Pickering has worked regularly for minority group interests in Mississippi.

Democratic Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee Patrick Leahy of Vermont has given no indication of when the panel will vote on transferring Pickering's nomination to the Senate for a full vote.

In addition to recent activity in the Judiciary Committee, Daschle has also been steadily raising money for the 2004 presidential election.

His \$1.6 million is third in fundraising only to Senator John Kerry, who has been actively campaigning since just after the previous presidential election's precarious conclusion and has raised \$3.8 million, and Senator Joe Biden, who has raised just over \$2.2 million. "This has been called the first primary. If you haven't raised enough money, you won't be taken seriously," said Larry Makinson, a senior fellow at the Center for Responsive Politics.

A campaign-finance overhaul bill is set to go before the House of Representatives, which would double the current amount of money an individual can give to a presidential candidate from \$2,000 to \$4,000 dollars.

While Republican leadership in Congress is generally against the bill, President Bush has told them not to count on his veto. Bush stands to get one of the biggest boosts in funding for the 2004 election if the bill makes it through Congress.

RA selection begins

Amanda Bauschke
Sports Editor

The 2002-2003 academic school year resident assistant (RA) selection process has begun.

Although there are only 20-24 positions available, approximately 60 perspective RA's have submitted applications. Students not selected are encouraged to apply next year.

The selection is a simple three-step process. The first step involves filling out an application including recommendations from a faculty member, a student leader on campus, and a current RA.

The second step in the process is carousels. In the carousels, the perspective resident assistants are placed in different situations that they may be faced with as a resident assistant. At these stations the perspective RA's are evaluated by current resident assistants. There are five or six perspectives in the room at a time.

The third step in the process is an interview with the hall directors. If perspective RA's did well at the carousels, they were invited back to interview for the position. Hall directors have the final decision in deciding which students are good for the position.

Current RA's say there are some great advantages to using this selection process. "You get several opinions with this type of process," said Jason Manke (02), resident assistant. "You get opinions from the current RA's, but you also get opinions from the hall directors who will be the bosses if the students get the job."

There are certain characteristics the resident assistants and hall directors look for in students going through the selection process. "We look for people that are outgoing and that have good people skills," said Manke. "We also look for people with good first instincts on situations they are presented with."

Kyle Ritsema (05) is currently going through the selection process. When asked why he would like to become an RA, he said, "It is a leadership opportunity that will help prepare me for a job as a teacher after I have finished college. It will also allow me to get more involved with student life on campus."

Dave Blanford, Bruske's hall director, said, "I feel it [RA selection] is going well. We have a good number of applications and a good quality of applicants."



Milosevic stands trial

THE HAGUE, Netherlands --

Former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic went on trial today on charges brought over crimes committed in Croatia, Bosnia and Kosovo. Charges brought by the United Nations war crimes tribunal in The Hague include crimes against humanity in Croatia from 1991-92 and crimes against humanity in Kosovo in 1998. The tribunal's Bosnia charge includes genocide and is based on the massacre of thousands of Bosnian Muslim men and boys, the siege of Sarajevo and the deportation or imprisonment of over a quarter of a million people. Milosevic, who ruled Yugoslavia for 13 years, has dismissed the trial as a conspiracy and has refused to appoint defense counsel. "Not guilty" pleas have been entered on his behalf for all three charges, and the tribunal has appointed three international lawyers to ensure that he has a fair trial.

Ninety-seven new customs agents head to Michigan

WASHINGTON --

The United States Customs Service will be sending 97 new agents to Michigan in an effort to increase security at the Canadian border. According to Representative Joe Knollenberg, the Customs Service plans to have 308 new staffers along the Canadian border by next fall. Michigan will be receiving more agents than any other state, with 78 going to Detroit, 16 to Port Huron, and 3 going to Sault Ste. Marie.

Pneumonia identified as cause of covention attendee's death

CHERRY HILL, New Jersey --

Pulmonary bacteria pneumonia--not meningitis, as was initially suspected--is now being pointed to as the cause of death of 45-year-old Joanne Hemstreet of Kingston, Massachusetts. Hemstreet died at 3:14 a.m. Sunday morning at Kennedy Memorial Hospital in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. One of 400 Cendant Mortgage employees attending an annual national sales meeting at the Cherry Hill Hilton Hotel, Hemstreet was taken to the hospital Saturday after displaying flu-like symptoms for four days. Six women and one man staying at the same hotel have also been admitted to the hospital, but none are exhibiting the same form of pneumonia that killed Hemstreet. The meningococcus bacteria that caused Hemstreet's pneumonia can also lead to meningitis, which caused hotel officials to quarantine the building from 2 a.m. to 10 a.m. Sunday. Eighty-four people treated at Kennedy Memorial Hospital, as well as the emergency room staff, have been given antibiotics as a precaution.

Drag-race death leads to murder charges

DETROIT, Mich.--

Aaron Reynolds of Detroit and Mustapha Atat of River Rouge were arraigned this weekend on second degree murder charges following the death of Denise Edwards, 35, of Detroit. Reynolds and Atat were allegedly drag racing at speeds of 100 mph when Reynolds lost control of his car and crashed into Edwards and two other men who both sustained injuries. Other charges include failure to stop at the scene of a personal injury accident, felonious driving, and drag racing.

NEWS

Rec Center schedule meets student approval

Kari Joy Johnson
Staff Writer

The schedule proposed earlier this year to help allow varsity sports teams practice in the Alan J. Stone Recreation Center has positively come into effect with barely any conflict from other student athletes, community members, or individuals who use the building.

Although the facility schedule varies from week to week, it is designed to meet the team needs of men's and women's tennis, men's and women's track and softball, while still allocating time for intramural sports teams as well as any individuals wanting to use the facility.

As proposed, the schedule allows for at least one of the four courts, usually the MAC court, to be available at any given time for use by non-varsity sports teams. Amy Blackburn, director of the recreation center, has seen a definite increase of overall student usage and views the schedule as a positive tool to help meet the needs of everyone. "I am impressed and glad to see the student usage up, it is excellent to be able to meet the flexibility of students," said Blackburn.

The only variation put into effect regarding the set proposed schedule concerned the varsity baseball team. "Rather than extending the time [originally] allotted to athletics in the Recreation Center for baseball, there were two batting cages installed into the Hogan building," said Dean of Students James Kridler.

Due to the fact that overall student usage has increased since returning from Christmas break, Blackburn and other Recreation Center employees noticed individuals may need to work around the

varsity sports scheduling more now in comparison to the fall.

However, the facility's availability is not commonly considered a problem with students or community members; it is finding the best time to access the building that generally concerns individuals.

Sabrina Jankowski (05), an employee at the Recreation Center said, "When I talk about scheduling with community members, people complain about when they can't get into the building in the mornings, not as much how. The biggest problem is that [varsity] sports teams need to practice early in the morning, so students can get in at night; if they [varsity athletes] are going to commit to a team, then they should get in here early enough."

Carly Day (04), a student who regularly uses the Recreation Center, feels the new schedule works well to meet everyone's needs and mentions the only stipulation on her part is that "it takes a little bit more planning to use the courts."

Unlike other athletic facilities, the Recreation Center does not currently enforce time limitations on any of the athletic equipment within the fitness room. According to employees and students who regularly use the facility, time spent on the equipment has not been a problem.

"I know when the building is busy and when to use it; if I want to use the courts, I learned that I have to call ahead and reserve one," said Justin Desjarlais (04), a student who regularly visits the Center.

In striving to meet the needs of all who use the facility, the proposed schedule will most likely be used again next year when similar needs have to be met.

"The schedule is a compromised schedule. Everybody gave something and everybody got something," said Kridler.

Professors prepare senior comprehensive exams

Anne Mabbitt
Staff Writer

As seniors crawl closer to their final day at Alma, they have begun to realize that their graduation requirements may not just involve the completion of mandatory classes. Most departments on campus require students to complete some sort of comprehension. Each department has different criterion.

Burnet Davis, professor of political science, explains that political science majors are required to take the Major Field Achievement Test (MFAT). This is a nationally standardized test consisting of objective questions. Previously, the department required majors to take the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) at Central Michigan University. However, the MFAT is less expensive and more easily accessible, as the test is administered on Alma's campus.

Communication majors and minors will have to assemble a portfolio that is a compilation of previous works done by that student and original works created in their senior seminar. Nicholas Dixon, professor of philosophy, explained that all philosophy majors are required to do a senior thesis in place of an exam. These theses do not guarantee departmental honors. In order to receive honors distinction, majors must have a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.5 in their major plus a high grade on their thesis project.

A rare case in comprehensive examinations required for graduation is the history department's self-written exam. All full-time faculty members of the department and one half-time member prepare the exam. Questions on the exam deal with history courses taught regularly by tenured or tenured track professors. The exam consists of 150 questions of an objective nature. Previously, the department used both a written and oral examination, but quit when it became too time consuming for the professors.

James Mueller, associate professor of economics, explained that students majoring in economics are required to take the MFAT. Students wishing to graduate with honors must also complete an honors thesis. Currently the department is in the process of evaluating the test. By the end of this year, Mueller hopes to have made improvements.

In another rare case, Cameron Reed, professor of physics and astronomy, described the physics department's choice not to require a comprehensive examination. Majors were previously required to take the GRE. However, because so many students took the test in order to attend graduate school, they decided to drop the formal requirement. Furthermore, physics is a discipline that moves in a sequence that is uniform

across the country.

"We are lucky in physics," Reed said, "in that the curricula across the country would be fairly uniform. You could take a student from Central or State and they would have the same physics as we have here."

The modern language department has some rather unorthodox requirements for its majors, according to Deborah Dougherty, associate professor of modern language. One major requirement is that students have to complete one semester abroad in their language. They also take an external exam given by the French, Spanish, or German governments. Education majors with Spanish majors or minors are also required to take the Spanish Subject Test of the Michigan Test for Teacher Certification. Additionally, modern language majors are required to take an internal exam, which consists of writing thesis length work and presenting it to the department.

Dougherty said, "Because we are one of the few institutions that requires a semester study abroad for students seeking a major in foreign language, Alma students perform exceptionally well on the external exams as compared to students who may not have had that experience."

The psychology department requires majors to take the GRE's Psychology Subject Test. Many students also take the Aptitude Test, which involves both verbal and connotative skills, although this is not a requirement for graduation. This test tells students how they stack up in the national cohort and also tells the department how well they are teaching the material to students.

Of the GRE scores, Walter Beagley, professor of psychology and cognitive science, said, "We're quite pleased with our students' scores."

The biology department requires students to take the MFAT. The biology section involves four subsections that analyze student knowledge on different levels. The classes they have taken influence their scores. Kay Grimmes, associate professor of biology, suggests that students review their basic biology text before taking the exam.

The education department, explained Tony Rickard, associate professor of education, requires their students to take the Michigan Test for Teacher Certification, which acts as both a comprehensive examination and a certification requirement. Only elementary education majors are required to take this test as their comprehensive examination.

Rickard said, "Alma students have a very high pass rate. In the rare event that a student does not pass, the test can be retaken. It is administered four times a year."

Perhaps the best advice to receive regarding comprehensive examinations is given by Davis who said, "Get a good night's sleep before the test."

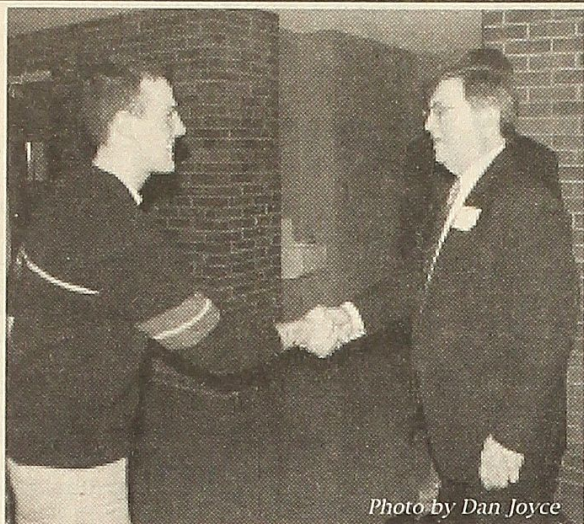


Photo by Dan Joyce

Ryan Cannon (04) and a member of the Alma College Board of Trustees shake hands after board members discussed college life with students Friday night. The men and women who make up the College's governing body wanted a taste of student experiences during their campus visit to help direct key aspects of the College's future.

Campus housing changes ahead for Alma

Brendan Guilford
Staff Writer

Dean of Students James Kridler laid out before the Student Affairs Committee of Student Congress the newest idea in a series of proposed changes to on-campus housing on Jan. 4.

A national trend of "substance-free" housing may be coming to Alma at the beginning of the next academic year. Alma is planning on following many other Michigan colleges and universities by offering students the choice of living on a floor where alcohol and tobacco are not allowed under any circumstances.

The residence hall most likely to be chosen for the new plan is Bruske Hall, thanks to its enclosed living arrangements. The Student Affairs Office, in conjunction with hall directors, will determine exactly how many floors will be run under the new guidelines, with the possibility of an entire tower of Bruske becoming "substance free." Bruske Hall has a capacity of 197 students; therefore, approximately 98 of the available beds would be set aside for the new policy.

Student reaction to the idea has been predominately positive, as many students had expressed interest in living in a "substance-free" hall before the idea was officially proposed.

Some students expressed concern about ending up on the floor even if they are not interested in living on a "substance free" floor.

"I think if there are enough students into the idea and no student who doesn't want to live there has to, then it's a great idea," said Adam Sudia (03).

Dean Kridler made a special note of such concerns in his proposal to the student affairs committee.

"Students who choose to live in 'substance-free' housing would have to sign a commitment to abide by the rules, and anyone who is currently living in the floors that are chosen would have to sign the form as well or move to the normal floors," Kridler said. He also explained that students who were displaced by such a change would get high priority for staying within Bruske, after those students who are squatting their rooms.

In addition to a "substance-free" hall, the committee has listened to talk of changes regarding paying for double-single rooms. In the past, students who had a roommate move out could opt not to pay the higher single price and risk being placed with a new roommate. The potential new policy for next year will force students in such situations to immediately pay the single price or move out so that another student who will pay the increased cost may have a single to themselves.

Kridler said, "We hope that this will allow us to get some of the upper-classmen students off of the single waiting-list and into the rooms they've been waiting for."

Both plans are still subject to revision before a final decision is made. They will be finalized by the time housing selections for next year have to be made.

If students have any questions about the possible changes, they may ask their hall director for more information or call the Student Affairs Office.

OPINION

Staff Editorial

No good reason for the defense increase

In the 20 weeks since Sept. 11, the Bush administration has put together a budget that increases America's spending on defense to \$361 billion in 2003. In comparison, Bush asked for \$53.8 billion to fund the Department of Education and \$58.8 billion to finance the Department of Transportation. The addition comes thanks to a slash of funds in areas including Medicare, Social Security, and urban renewal. Many may think the increase is justified, citing the war on terrorism and a need for reassurance that jumbo jets never fly into our tall buildings again.

But those are not good reasons to pump more dollars into an already sky-high defense fund. Indeed, the budget increase begs the question: Who exactly are we arming ourselves against? Middle-Easterners with knives?

According to research out of Yale University, America is responsible for 40 percent of the world's defense spending, even though we only have 4.7 percent of its people. We have amazing warships that transform into giant battle stations, incredible nuclear-powered aircraft carriers and B-52 bombers that can fly and refuel across the world, complete with cruise missiles that can be hundreds of miles away from their target but still score a hit. We have planes, tanks, missiles, and satellites that no other state can rival. In short, America could win any military contest blindfolded and with one broken arm. That idea is wonderful.

Yet the defense budget continues to grow in the name of defending the democratic world from the threat of terrorism. Much of America, including its leaders, seems to be forgetting that states do not like to be pushed around. They enjoy sovereignty, and prefer not to have other nations meddle in their affairs, just like America. Yet the defense increase, at its core, seems to be indicating that it is America's way or the highway. Unfortunately for nations that choose the highway, the on-ramp is loaded with guns and tanks and the world's best military technology. Bush has harped on the idea that nations that harbor terrorists will clash with America's military might.

That behemoth of might may very well and should find a solution to the Iraq problem, and the Iran problem and the North Korea problem. Each of these nations, and some others, has the ability and the stupidity to threaten the security of the United States, as well as the lives of its citizens.

But the solution to the problems posed by these states is hardly solvable by tossing planes into the air and firing away. Indeed, military might may get rid of the insects and dictators that plague certain areas of the world, like it did with the Taliban. But the aggressors (the U.S.) must go further. It is not enough to destroy a puzzle and leave the remnants scattered about for housekeepers to sweep up. No, military might, used correctly for political goals instead of military ones, should lay the foundation for a new puzzle. Military might should be the starting point for an extension of the great democratic system we live under into the parts of the world that are unfortunate enough not to live under its benefits.

The increase in the defense budget does not indicate the Bush administration is particularly keen on bringing democracy to those parts of the world. History shows that the greatness of America has been a result of its extension of business practices, ambitions—indeed, its whole culture—into every corner of the world. Those are the things that we need to bring to places like North Korea and Sudan. An increase in the defense budget hardly seems like the way to get them there.

Letter to the Editor

Dear editor,

I feel that for the past few weeks I have become "that one black guy complaining about stuff." So, this letter will consist of me organizing and presenting the thoughts of my peers.

Many students agree with Ryan Cannon in that "The College's approach to diversity is admirable, [but] its good intentions are misplaced." However, some find Cannon's good intentions to be "misplaced" as well. In response to his statements about race, Alison Moll (05) of Ferndale, Mich., said, "He's denying race, and that isn't the answer. We need to accept 'race' and learn from all races." Moll continued to say, "It's like he's saying he doesn't want diversity."

Cannon's assertion that the "only factor that made [Lucille Clifton and Nanette Reynolds] different from the majority of the student body and faculty was the color of their skin" is completely false. Skin color dictates experiences in this country, and each "race" has different experiences that are shaped by their skin color and the culture associated with that color. Therefore, a white professor cannot tell you how it feels to be called a towel head or chink. A white student from the Detroit suburbs cannot tell you what it's like to come from a 99 percent black or Hispanic community to a school that is 95 percent white. A white U.P. student cannot tell you how much it hurts to hear someone say, "My family would disown me if I dated a black person."

Why is it that so few students here want to know or understand these things?

Upon reading Cannon's article, Vernon Newhouse, a junior at U of M-Ann Arbor, said, "It's like he doesn't care about cultural diversity. He talks about diversity in a sense that is not really diverse. It's

like he's looking at a full color image, but he's color blind. He doesn't see the true depth of the picture. His idea of diversity is talking about things that are common knowledge instead of things that expose people to something different."

Nathan Howell (03) of Boyne Falls, Mich., agrees. "[Ryan] has some good points, but he doesn't take into account that everyone takes race as an issue." Howell feels that Cannon's idea of race-free relations is "a good theory, but that's all it is, a theory."

The idea of "race" in America is rooted in physical differences and socio-economic disparities. For instance, I cannot get sunburned (trust me, I've tried). Blacks develop sickle-cell anemia at a much higher rate than any other "race" in America. Only 7.5 percent of Mexican-Americans graduate from college. Blacks, Hispanics and Native Americans are much more likely to live in poverty than whites. The educational systems available in the aforementioned communities have poorer facilities and lower paid teachers than their white, suburban counterparts. These differences, among others, continue to separate us.

Why do students here want to ignore these issues?

Our problem is that some students here are apathetic, and while they ask for varying viewpoints to be expressed, they consider some viewpoints invalid. When challenged to think about certain things, they take a side without considering "the whole picture." As long as these students continue to believe there is no value in the "cliché racial differences humdrum," we'll remain at a standstill. Open your minds. Like I said before, there cannot be progress without consciousness. Now take a side.

Delvard Newhouse (02)

The Almanian

Serving Alma College since 1907

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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.

Letter Policy

All letters to the editors must meet the following standards of publication: signed, include the author's phone number and address, and pertain to the Alma College community. Letters are published as layout space allows with priority given to letters under 250 words. Submission of a letter does not guarantee publication. We reserve the right to condense letters for layout purposes. Deadline for publication is 5 p.m. the Friday before requested publication. E-mail letters to the editors at almanian@alma.edu or address letters to Newberry Hall, Alma College.

Staff Editorial Policy

Opinions expressed weekly in the "Staff Editorial" reflect the views of *The Almanian* staff. These views in no way reflect the views of the entire Alma College community.

*The Sisters of
Alpha Gamma Delta
congratulate all new
members of the Greek
community especially . . .*

Katie Donigan
Sarah Halbert
Katherine Karjalainen
Jennifer Loomis
Nicole Lewis
Kim Reeve
Erin Wicker

OPINION

Time to come clean



Chris Machnacki

Vice President Dick Cheney should immediately grant the General Accounting Office (GAO) the information it seeks in its lawsuit against him and his energy task force. Continued refusal to cooperate lends credence to charges that the energy policy owes too much to the Big Energy executives who helped put Bush and Cheney in the White House.

The issue should be crystal clear. Last spring, while Cheney's task force toiled in secret, an undisclosed number of executives from energy companies met with it in an effort to influence its recommendations. Infamous former Enron CEO Kenneth Lay had his fair share of meetings. For example, at one April meeting, Lay sought to oppose wholesale price caps on electricity. The next day Cheney announced that the administration opposed wholesale price caps on electricity. Coincidence?

In opposing the GAO, Cheney and President Bush argue that acceding to GAO demands for information relating to with whom the task force met and what items they discussed will imperil the ability of the president to seek confidential advice.

This argument might be more convincing if anyone believed that Cheney sought a wide variety of opinions when formulating our energy policy. However, representatives of environmental groups and renewable resource



firms didn't appear first on the list of invitations to the White House. They weren't exactly middle or last on that list, either. That list, as it now appears likely, consisted solely of energy executives from traditional energy sources like oil and natural gas. Unsurprisingly, the final report emphasized expansion of oil and natural gas drilling and streamlining of environmental safeguards.

The administration's argument makes one thing very clear: groups that donate large sums to presidential campaigns can expect to gain private access to national decision-making procedures; everyone else, better luck next time.

The American people cannot accept this. We should not need a long, drawn-out lawsuit to find out who wrote our energy policy. Transparency in government is a key feature of democracy, and unfortunately the current administration has repeatedly demonstrated its contempt for this principle. If protecting the privacy of a handful of energy executives is more important than the right of 280 million Americans to know where government policy comes from, something is wrong.

This week the House will finally vote on adopting the same campaign finance reform bill that passed the Senate earlier this year. Every American favoring clean government should interest himself or herself in the outcome. The collapse of Enron and the access of energy executives to our energy policy-making symbolize our corrupt system. Campaign reform may not instantly revitalize our troubled system, but we should welcome anything that can reduce the obscene amount of money in politics.

Now is the time for Cheney to make a statesmanlike gesture to the opposition and prove that he deserves his glowing reputation for excellence in government service, much applauded during the 2000 campaign.

Christian music rocks the house

Nearly every week "The Almanian" prints a review of a CD by Dan Joyce, a veritable connoisseur of fine music. Each time, I read the article and think things along the



Tim Slade

lines of "Who on Earth are these people?" and "When is someone going to do a review of a CD or band that I like?" I have been thinking these thoughts for at least two months, and while I never voiced any of them to my superiors on the staff, these desires have finally peaked, and I am taking matters into my own hands. I have wanted to review a CD by an artist that I enjoy mostly because I love music in general, and when I find an artist that is truly excellent I want to share their music with everyone around me. However, another driving force behind this has been the desire to correct the popular misconception (which also happens to be a pet peeve of mine) that Christian music and Gospel music are one and the same, and that in fact all music by Christian artists is choral in nature. It annoys me to no end to walk into a music store and see artists like DC Talk, the Katinas, Amy Grant, Grits, Petra and Plus One all lumped under the heading "Gospel"; those bands should be classified under the headings of rock and roll, latin rock, adult top 40, hip-hop, '80s glam rock and boy band-type music, respectively. Throwing them all into one group is like saying that Salt 'n' Pepa, Santana, *NSYNC, Scorpion, Barenaked Ladies and Peter Cetera all have the same sound; it is patently absurd. The only thing the first group of artists have in common is their Christian faith, and the desire to communicate that in song.

Having established the above, I must state that I am not going to actively review a CD, just throw out some information about a number of artists that the reader should really check out, even if just to humor me. My hunch is that lovers of quality music will find the tunes excellent and the lyrics far more uplifting than any of the sex-, drug- or alcohol-driven garbage on the radio today.

The first person whose work should be investigated is the late Rich Mullins. He is the biggest reason Christian music is what it is today. During his 42 years on Earth, he cranked out more than a dozen albums, in the process writing a number of the praise and worship songs currently in use (including "Sing Your Praise to the Lord," "Awesome God," and "Verge of a Miracle"). As a lyricist, he had the gift of capturing in a simple-yet-eloquent manner the deep emotion of his faith ("If I stand, let me stand on the promise/That You will pull me through/And if I can't, let me fall on the grace/That first brought

me to You"); as a songwriter, his creativity led him to explore a variety of different styles ranging from lighter rock to a cappella soul, utilizing rarely heard instruments, such as the hammered dulcimer, to great effect. For a taste of his music, listen to his album "Songs" (Reunion Records, 1996).

Second on the list is Jennifer Knapp, a relative newcomer to the Christian scene (her first album, "Kansas," was released in 1997 by Gotee Records) whose folk-influenced, acoustic-guitar-driven rock has made her one of the most popular artists on the scene today. One of the rare artists who can walk out alone on a 1200-square foot stage in front of 70,000 people with nothing but a guitar and a microphone to hold them spellbound, she was forced to do just that on multiple occasions when the organizers of the Creation Festival found themselves short a pair of bands because of transportation problems. Again, her greatest strength is in her lyrics; she has a very naked and open style of writing, using lots of emotionally intimate imagery. In her song "Whole Again," she adopts the pose of a broken, prodigal daughter yearning for the days when she was Daddy's little girl, asking "If I give my life, if I lay it down/Can you turn this life around?/Can I be made clean by this offering of my soul?/Can I be made whole again?" Potential listeners would do well to check out her debut album for a representative sample of her music.

Last, but never least, comes the band Caedmon's Call. While many folk look at the name and assume them to be a Celtic band of some sort, they are nothing like that. Rather, they specialize in songs driven by intricate and demanding guitar work (often involving extremely bizarre chords that sound great but leave most guitarists gaping), the obligatory piano and fabulous harmonies. Once again, however, their strongest point is their lyrics; they have a tendency to use extremely accurate and thought-provoking metaphors that are simultaneously amusing and heart-piercingly accurate. A classic example would be the following lines from "Coming Home," off their eponymous album from 1997: "You say you want a living sacrifice/Well, I am a burnt offering/Crawling off the altar and back into the fire/With my smoke-filled lungs I cry out for freedom/But I keep chaining myself to my rotting desire/And I hate the stench, but I've swallowed the key/And with it stuck in my throat, can You hear me?"

Anyone interested in hearing some quality music should look into each of the above artists (my personal favorite being Caedmon's Call); they all produce great tunes with a message that can be appreciated by all, regardless of their religious beliefs. For further information or other recommendations, PIG me. At the very least, download an mp3 for each and give it an ear; this is the type of music that you love off the bat, and then it just grows on you more and more. Happy listening!

Dear Scottie

Dear Scottie,

Please help! It's almost Valentine's Day, and I'm a romantic retard! I want to get my girlfriend something special, but my cash flow is just a trickle and I don't have any stellar ideas. What should I do?

- Baffled in Bruske

Dear Baffled,

Don't fret! There are tons of creative ideas out there for you! My suggestion would be to turn on a movie or a TV show. Take Chandler's proposal to Monica on "Friends" as an example; you don't have to propose to your girlfriend, but a room filled with candles and a nice personally made dinner would be a great idea. Also take a peek on the Internet. Do a search for "Valentine's Day ideas," and I'm sure you will come up with numerous sites giving many ideas, from dirt-cheap make-your-own-cards to elaborate week-long vacations. Whatever you decide on, make sure it is from your heart and she will love whatever you get her.

Dear Scottie,

It's halfway through my last semester at Alma College, and I'm really coming down with a bad case of senioritis. I have zero motivation to do anything, and I've got way too many other things to do, like find a grad school and a job, to spend my time worrying about irrelevant classes. How can I get motivated to get anything class-related done?

- Lazy Lounger

Dear Lazy,

Well, you have a couple of options here. One, you can continue not doing any of your homework. You are a senior, and you most likely will be graduating (assuming you pass the classes you still need to complete); take it

easy—you deserve it. Two, you can communicate to your professors just how busy you are and how much you have going on. They might have some helpful tips as to how you can handle the end of your senior year. Three, prioritize your time—make sure you get what you absolutely have to done for class, but make grad school and job searches a top priority since those things lead to the rest of your life. In any case, most seniors feel the same way you do, and my best advice is to keep plugging along and do what you think is right. It is your life, and no one can tell you how to live it.

Alpha Xi Delta
wants to congratulate
its Winter 2002
New Members!

Ashley Budde • Kristen DeGraaf
Jennifer Koch • Jen Mooney
Nichole Panik • Nicole Pisarski
Courtney Rheinhardt • Anne Sexton
Sarah Stempky • Lori Tedford
Jacqueline Winnell • Olga Wrobel



We love you!



FEATURE

Four years of song and one night of fun

Ashleigh McElrath
Freelance Writer

Instead of writing a senior thesis, students majoring in a performing art can elect to perform a recital. They don't have to spend agonizing hours writing and revising. It sounds simple.

That isn't exactly the case, as **Chris LaCroix (02)** revealed. "It took me a long time to choose the music I wanted to sing and make sure it all fit with the program that I wanted to perform," he said. "I also had to make sure that all the requirements, like singing in at least three languages, were filled since it was the equivalent of my thesis."

LaCroix's presentation began promptly at 8:00 p.m. Friday in the Heritage Center. Seats filled quickly and programs were hard to come by as at least twenty people entered following his opening piece "The Trumpet Shall Sound." **Matt vandenBerg (02)** accompanied LaCroix with his trumpet. Next, LaCroix sang a song

cycle by Franz Schubert called "Die schöne Müllerin op. 25 (The Fair Maid of the Mill)," composed of 8 parts. He followed with Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's "Madamina," to conclude part one of the show. If you could have seen him off stage at that time, he looked rather pleased.

"It went about as good as it could have," he commented.

The second half of the performance consisted of some English songs like Stephen Sondheim's "Into the Woods," John Bucchino's "Set," and some Monster Ballads from "Jekyll and Hyde," "Beauty and the Beast," and "The Phantom of the Opera." Alma's Artist-in-Residence, Anthony Peterson, accompanied each piece and did a magnificent job. **Brett Rigby (04)**, tenor, accompanied LaCroix for a portion of "Into the Woods."

The closing piece, Andrew Lloyd Webber's "The Music of the Night", described LaCroix's performance perfectly.

"I was really pleased with all the aspects of the recital. There was a really good turn

out and I couldn't have expected a better performance."

This recital adds to the many accomplishments LaCroix has under his belt. He has been featured in all of Alma College's honors recitals and has taken first prize three times at Alma's annual Songfest.

In addition to showcasing his vocal talent, singing with the choir and symphony orchestra, he has received an award for excellence in acting. He portrayed the roles of Matt in "The Fantasticks," Prince Dauntless in "Once Upon a Mattress," and was also involved in "Oklahoma!" and "le Nozze de Figaro" at the Bay View Summer Music Festival in Bay View, Mich. Locally, he has performed in "The Music Man" and "A Funny Thing Happened on the way to the Forum." In the future, LaCroix plans on pursuing a master's degree of music in musical theatre. A close friend of LaCroix's, **Amy Plackowski (02)**, commented, "I have been singing with him for eleven years and it is incredible to see how much he has grown and matured as a singer."

Good work Chris.

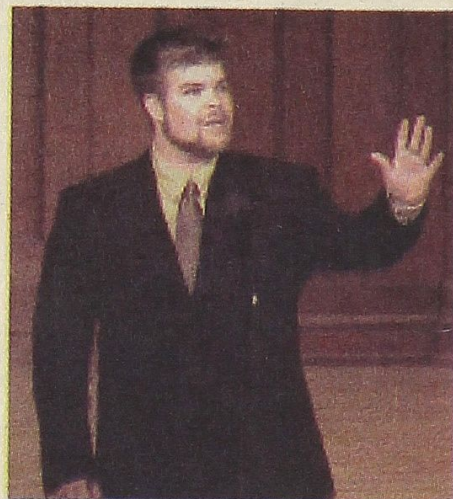


Photo Courtesy of Chris LaCroix

LaCroix (02) has performed in numerous concerts at Alma College as well as in the community.

Classic 'Count' returns better than ever

Tim Slade
Staff Writer

Battling historical literary precedent and the inertia of Hollywood, "The Count of Monte Cristo" proved that not only is it indeed possible to create a film worthy of the novel upon which it is based, but it is possible to produce an excellent work within a given genre following a series of abysmal failures.

Based on the novel of the same name by Alexandre Dumas père, "The Count" succeeds, with much buckling of swashes and rollicking of adventures (whatever that means - it's just always in reviews of this sort of movie). This shows that Hollywood can in fact set a movie in 16th-19th century France and not butcher it horribly, as was the unfortunate case with "The Three Musketeers" and "The Man in the Iron Mask." Strangely enough, both of those rather awfully realized movies were also based on Dumas père's works ("Les Trois Mousquetaires" and "Le Vicomte de Bragelonne").

While loyal fans of Richard Chamberlain surely had their doubts as to James Caviezel's ability to portray Edmond Dantes, the unjustly imprisoned protagonist of the movie, the casting personnel hit the nail right on the

head. The dark, brooding features and tormented soul he brought to the character inspired far greater empathy and felt far more real than the cold and inscrutable version of the man Chamberlain produced back in 1975. Likewise, the choices of Guy Pearce as the envious, conniving Fernand Mondego; James Frain as Villefort, the corrupt magistrate; and Michael Wincott (who happened to play Rochefort in 1993's "Three Musketeers") as the deliciously insane Dorleac, warden of the Château d'If, were strokes of genius.

Filmed in Ireland and various other regions of the UK, *Count* serves up stunning cinematography, from the beautiful shots of the Island of Monte-Cristo to the awe-inspiring Château d'If, 19th-century France's answer to Alcatraz. In addition, the costume designers and the [whatever the name is for the people who supply props and sets for indoor scenes] were masterful, recreating the opulent *châteaux* and costumes for a marvelous effect for "society" scenes in the film; especially impressive was the mansion at which the Count of Monte-Cristo's first *fête* is thrown, reminiscent as it is of Versailles' backside and gardens.

Part of what makes this movie so wonderful is the attention that was paid to certain relatively small issues that could have easily hamstrung the movie and rendered it merely average. For example, one of the major reasons that both "The Three Musketeers" and "The Man in the Iron Mask" were so annoying was the wildly differing accents the actors used. While it may be unreasonable to

expect actors to be able to master a French accent simply for one movie, it is not unreasonable to ask them all to butcher it in roughly the same way; in both of the aforementioned movies, each actor pronounced each foreign word differently, even when their characters were supposed to be from the same regions of France. In "Count," however, the actors not only pull off more-than-passable pronunciations of the French and Italian words and names, but all manage to do so with the same accent.

The other pitfall the movie avoided was the dreaded Phantom Menace curse: throwing in a racially-stereotyped sidekick (remember Jar-Jar?) for no good purpose but to provide comic relief. When Jacopo is first introduced to the movie, the viewer is left wondering how a ghetto-fied Latino made it to 19th-century France (especially one so reminiscent of Veggie Tales' favorite spud, Mr. Lunt), and dread begins to creep in when his first few lines serve no obvious purpose other than drawing a laugh from the audience. Later in the movie, however, Luis Guzmán's character is instrumental in helping the Count turn from his single-minded hate and see that his beloved Mercedes still loved him, thus validating his existence in the movie.

Overall, the film is an exciting thriller filled with enough swordfighting, romance, plotting, treachery, and beautiful costumes to satisfy anyone's tastes. If you haven't seen it, go watch it; if you have, see it two or three more times. It is absolutely worth it.

Grade: A



Dagmara Dominczyk and James Caviezel get close and personal in *The Count of Monte Cristo*.

G u y
P e a r c e,
D a g m a r a
D o m i n c z y k,
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J a m e s
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FEATURE

For your pleasure, a Valentine's Day history

Olga Wrobel
Feature Editor

When there is a plethora of red roses, pink hearts, and chocolate everywhere you turn, it is a sure sign that Valentine's Day is coming soon. People in relationships may be planning special surprises for their significant others, while the rest of us wait for Feb. 14 to be over as soon as possible. Valentine's Day may seem to be a typical "Hallmark" holiday, but it was not created by the industry. The history of this "day of love" goes back centuries, and is more interesting than many might believe.

The original Valentine's Day was not known by that name for hundreds of years. In the fourth century B.C., Romans celebrated the feast of Lupercalon, a pagan fertility rite. On Feb. 15, Roman men would sacrifice goats for fertility and dogs for purification. They sliced the goat hide and dipped it in the blood, smacking it against women in the streets. This was not a punishment of any sort; the females believed that the blood would bring them luck.

Young men participated in a rite of passage in which they picked a teenage girl's name out of a giant urn, and

the two would become "assigned" to each other for the upcoming year. This was in no way a chaste partnership, and it usually ended in marriage.

In A.D. 496, the Catholic Church and Pope Galasius outlawed this celebration due to its immoral undertones. Like other pagan festivals, the feast was overwritten with a Christian agenda. The lottery was still in use, but the young men would pick names of saints instead. They were expected to emulate the life of their chosen saint for the remainder of the year, rather than spending time with young fertile women.

The pope changed the date of the holiday to Feb. 14, which was known as the first day of mating season for birds. The church also needed a saint to represent the day, and St. Valentine was chosen.

Valetine lived in the second century A.D., and while Claudius II reprimanded marriage, Valentine performed ceremonies in secret. When he was caught, Claudius sentenced him to death, and after being clubbed, stoned, and beheaded, he died in A.D. 269.

However, legend has it that Valentine was not only a martyr of those who were secretly in love; he had a romance of his own. It is said that while in jail awaiting death, Valentine fell in love with the blind daughter of his jailer. Though the father felt sympathy, there was

nothing he could do to change the fate of his prisoner. The night before his death, Valentine wrote a letter to his beloved. When she opened it the next day, he was already dead, but a yellow crocus fell from the card and on it was inscribed "From your Valentine." As the woman held the card, she was cured of her blindness. This is the story of the first "Valentine."

Since its roots hundreds of years ago, St. Valentine's Day has become a tremendously popular holiday. Some of the first Valentines sent were in Great Britain. At the end of the eighteenth century, cards, due to the printing technology, replaced written notes. In the 1840's Esther A. Howland sold the first mass valentines in America.

Today, this holiday is not only celebrated in the United States, but also in the United Kingdom, Canada, Mexico, France, and Australia. One billion cards are sent each year, which makes this the second largest card sending holiday. Women purchase 85% of Valentines.

One of the best-known symbols associated with Valentine's Day is Cupid. He is a mischievous, winged child whose arrows cause those they hit to fall in love. In ancient Greece he was known as Eros, the young son of Aphrodite, and to the Romans he was known as Cupid, the son of Venus.

Even though some people may love Valentine's Day and others may despise it, it is interesting to understand what is behind it all.

Mamma Mia! Abba-solutely Terrific

Rebecca H. Monsour
Layout and Design

Mamma Mia! is not a typical musical. It is a love story, a remembrance, and a comedy. This production took at least twelve years to evolve and surprisingly did not start with a plot or characters. It began with 22 songs written by the 70's Swedish musical group Abba. This musical was also produced by two of Abba's original members Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus.

Mamma Mia! first debuted to a sold out crowd on April 6, 1999, at London's Prince Edward Theatre. Critics were skeptical that an entire musical based solely on songs written by a pop music group could be any good. Then the disclaimer came over the loud speaker of the auditorium, "We remind the audience to please turn off all cellular phones and pagers, and we would also like to warn the audience that there will be platform shoes and white spandex in this production. Enjoy the show!"

This play has performed to sold out crowds since its debut and when it opened at Detroit's Masonic Temple Theater on December 27, 2001 theatre goers had to buy their tickets at least two months in advance.

Award-winning British playwright Catherine Johnson wrote the story behind the songs. She created a mythical Greek Island to set the scene where single mother Donna Sheridan, played by Dee Hoty of the *Will Rogers Follies* and *Footloose*, prepares for the wedding of her only daughter, twenty year old Sophie, played by Michelle Aravena of *West Side Story* and *The Sound of Music*.

Sophie decides that she wants her father to walk her down the aisle; the only problem is she does not know who her father is. She finds her mother's diary and realizes that her father could be one of three men, so she invites them to her wedding and they accept. Other guests attending include Rosie and Tanya, members of Donna's old girlie rock group "Donna and the Dynamos."

Rosie and Tanya, who are played by Gabrielle Jones and Mary Ellen Mahoney, provide much of the comic relief in this

musical through physical comedy and dance numbers, including Abba classics *Dancing Queen*, *Super Trouper* and even *Take a Chance on Me*, all songs written by Andersson and Ulvaeus.

Since its opening, *Mamma Mia!* has quickly stolen the hearts of its audience. Critics have also agreed that it has risen to the ranks of other such musicals as "The Phantom of the Opera", "The Lion King" and even "Rent." Audiences can expect to hear a smaller pit band containing less than nine instruments so as to keep the songs sounding just as if Abba was performing on stage.

Many laughs, smiles and bobbing of heads await the future audiences of *Mamma Mia!* A surprise ending and a curtain call that leads the audience to dance in the aisles is also a major crowd pleaser. The cast dances and sings its way into the hearts of everyone who sees it, and the encore of four more Abba songs leaves everyone with a tune in their heads.

Grade: A



Mary Ellen Mahoney portrays the funny, witty, and charming character of Tanya; one of the members of Donna and the Dynamos.

WQAC's Top 30

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------|---|
| 1 | NITIN SAWHNEY | Prophecy |
| 2 | ZERO 7 | Simple Things |
| 3 | SOMETHING CORPORATE | Audioboxer |
| 4 | UNWRITTEN LAW | Elva |
| 5 | SNEAKER PIMPS | Blood Sport |
| 6 | INCUBUS | Morning View |
| 7 | BENT | Programmed To Love |
| 8 | KEEPERS OF THE CARPET | Entitled |
| 9 | SOUTH | From Here On In |
| 10 | PARK | No Signal |
| 11 | GREEN DAY | International Superhits |
| 12 | BEN FOLDS | Rockin' The Suburbs |
| 13 | KATNAPPING | Broadcast Day |
| 14 | THRICE | The Illusion of Safety |
| 15 | N. MERRIWEATHER | Lovage: Music to Make Love to Your Old Lady By Sugareen |
| 16 | 19 WHEELS | Songs of the Kinks |
| 17 | VARIOUS ARTISTS | Cheap Trinkets |
| 18 | BELTONES | Moon Theory |
| 19 | MOON THEORY | Animosity |
| 20 | SEVENDUST | Regeneration |
| 21 | DIVINE COMEDY | Screaming Gun |
| 22 | B.R.M.C. | You'd Build A Robot |
| 23 | BISCAYNE | Step To Where It Shines |
| 24 | MERSEY SIDE | Big Boi & Dre Present Outkast |
| 25 | OUTKAST | No Helmet No Pads... Just Balls |
| 26 | SIMPLE PLAN | Rotten Apples - Greatest Hits |
| 27 | SMASHING PUMPKINS | A Story of White |
| 28 | AEREOGRAMME | I'm Waking Up To Us |
| 29 | BELLE AND SEBASTIAN | Uberjam |
| 30 | JOHN SCOFIELD | |

as heard on 90.9 FM WQAC

FEATURE

Scott Timmreck
Editor in chief

The members of Phi Mu Alpha want you to know that their fraternity isn't a professional fraternity. It's not an honorary and is in no way affiliated with Pi Kappa Lambda, the national music honorary. Phi Mu Alpha, like the more recognized five fraternities on campus, is social.

Phi Mu Alpha's nine brothers insist their bonds are as strong as those in any fraternity, if not stronger. Guided by a passion for music, the brothers form their links through an interest in enriching the human spirit. "I think, like any fraternity," says **Karli Lopez (02)**, "Phi Mu Alpha aims to make its members better people."

But, adds vice-president **Francisco Garcia (02)**, "we're bonded together by one principle - music."

The music's the thing, Lopez says, that the brothers value as highly as their brotherhood. "We don't just play music," he says. "We live in passion for music." Members are not required to be music majors. Indeed, they can even be members of other social Greek organizations, but they must be willing, according to another member, to search for truth through music. And they must, of course, embody the ideals of the fraternity. They must be upright and honorable men.

Ossian E. Mills, the fraternity's founder, set those ideals out in the organization's first charter in 1898 at the Boston Conservatory of Music. Seven plus decades later, in 1972, 20 Alma College students brought a copy of those ideals to campus, and the first class of Phi Mu Alpha was born. After a period of inactivity, 15 men refounded Alma's chapter in 1986, and its nine current members and five probationary members (pledges) are excited about their group.

Olga Wrobel
Feature Editor

Founded: The national chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota was founded in 1903 at the University of Michigan School of Music in Ann Arbor, Mich. The Theta Eta chapter at Alma was founded in 1996. Before that the group had been Omicron Psi Omega since 1994.

Active Members: Currently, there are 22 active members.

President: Lyndsey Lanagan (02)

Famous Sigma Alpha Iotas: Singer/songwriter Sheryl Crow is a SAI alumna.

Interesting Facts: SAI is the only women's musical group on campus. Contrary to popular belief, it is a social fraternity rather than a professional one.

Activities: The women of Sigma Alpha Iota have a strong bond that stems from their love of music, and their main goal is to "Get music out on campus, and let everyone know how great it is," **Marie Teller (04)** told *The Almanian*. Every year, the sisters put on the Woman's Composers Concert, which will take place on Mar. 8. They also help with Jazz Fest every year. The women also have many activities within the chapter, including the closed formal, which will be in April. The fraternity welcomed five new members this winter. Kiss the pig is sponsored by Sigma Alpha Iota. This activity takes place during homecoming week, and the candidates earn points by the amount of money placed in their

In addition to bearing the flag at Alma's convocations, brothers present the American Music Concert for the campus every March. They hold a Christmas concert every year, and this year, donated all the proceeds to Toys For Tots. Last year, brothers participated in what they call Mills' Music Mission (after their founder) and traveled to hospitals to sing for the sick. Their spring jazz festival at the College, complete with professional musicians, brings 20 high school bands to campus to compete for scholarships and awards.

Members of Phi Mu Alpha have no house. Instead, they occupy a large room in Bruske Hall, decked out in red, black and gold, the fraternity's colors. A virtually unused foosball table takes up a portion of the floor space, which is strewn with couches that possess attitudes from the 70s and 80s. A Nintendo 64 connects to a large entertainment system, and composites are hung neatly on the walls between random desks and file cabinets. This is the brothers' chapter room. It is also their home, but they hope to find a house within the next two years. "Getting a house would give us exposure," says **Randy Beutel (02)**.

For the Phi Mu Alpha brothers, exposure remains a problem. Because the group is not part of the Interfraternity Council (IFC), to which Alma's other social fraternities belong, it cannot participate in the formal rush process. Brothers cannot host parties because of the location of their "house," and the chapter exercises fairly strict rules on alcohol consumption.

Nonetheless, brothers remain true to their fraternity and the musical passions it stands for. "We're a brotherhood, first and foremost," said Garcia. Indeed.

ΦΜΑ



Photo by Dan Joyce

The brothers of Phi Mu Alpha make up a one of the campus' social fraternities. "We don't just play music. We live in passion for music." Members share deep bonds of brotherhood in addition to their love of music. They will hold a concert for the campus in March.

ΣΑΙ

jar throughout the week. The winners must kiss a pig, and this past fall the honor went to Dr. Ute Stargardt and Deb Moon. The money collected was donated to the Red Cross and the victims of the Sept. 11 tragedy.

How the Women's Fraternity Views Itself: As stated above, the mission of the sisters of SAI is to foster interest in music, and promote contact among people who share this interest. "We do whatever we can to get music out," said Teller. **Carrie Washburn (04)** also has strong feelings for the group. "My favorite thing about being in Sigma Alpha Iota is being among a group of women who share the same love for music as I do. It is what ultimately brings us together," she said. There is a lot of diversity within the group; the women are not required to be music majors.

For more information on Sigma Alpha Iota, visit their website at <http://www.alma.edu/students/organizations/sai/>



Courtesy Photo

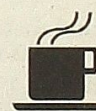
The sisters of Sigma Alpha Iota foster an interest in music and promote contact with those who share the interest. Watch for the Woman's Composers Concert, coming to campus Mar. 8.

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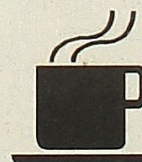


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OPINION

Point/Counterpoint

Valentine's Day: joy or joke?

Reannon Broekema
Opinion Editor

It's almost Valentine's Day, and whether you groan with disgust at the absurdity of the holiday or melt with an overflow of feelings for your significant other, people around the country are preparing for the annual day of "love."

To some, Feb. 14 means relationship bashing and the reaffirmation of our choice of singledom, because really, who needs that mushy-gushy crap? To others, it's the chance to devote an entire day to showing that special person in your life how much they mean to you.

Regardless of your anti- or pro-Valentine's Day attitude, you cannot avoid the onslaught of cheesy trinkets and sappy cards. Protesters take solace in the fact that it's only one day, and can be boycotted by passing along the "I Hate Valentine's Day" poem or wearing all black. Rejoice! You saved unlimited amounts of money (and potentially an astronomical argument) because you didn't buy that dozen orange-pink Ada Perry roses specially shipped in from California or that XBOX "NBA 2002" game.

Best wishes to the anti-Valentine's Day grinchers; I hope your overflowing pockets and callous attitudes make your day a bright one. I prefer to happily celebrate the meaning of the day—to recognize the special people in your life because you love them.

Valentine's Day's main celebration is with the special someone in your life. What's so wrong with recognizing this relationship? Yes, your feelings do not all of a sudden blossom tenfold on Valentine's Day and return to normal the next, but

this person is obviously a significant part of your life—don't they deserve a special day for giving you a part of themselves?

I don't choose to partake in the commercialism of the day; it's not about buying the reddest roses or the sweetest chocolates. While I enjoy these gifts as much as anyone, they can be given every day; I prefer to find meaningful and unique gifts that really show how I feel about special people in my life.

Love is a celebration and it should be recognized for the wonderful thing that it is. Feelings of love should not be scoffed at or scorned; these feelings often take precedence over many things. How can a day celebrating something so important, so treasured by many (look at the common desire to be romantically involved at some point in most people's lives) be such a bogus event?

People love every day, regardless if it is Feb. 14 or Aug. 14; it is important to take this annual opportunity to remind the special people in your life just how much they mean to you. Love has many faces, not just romantic; family and friends should also be celebrated! Without these people you would not be the person you are today. They constantly support you and care for you; don't let them feel like they are not special to you!

Whether you are single or not, it is hard to avoid the onslaught of red and pink mushiness this time of year. There will always be people who cringe at the thought of such a day. But I hope that everyone will realize that Valentine's Day is not just about finding an acceptable gift to satisfy another's material needs; Valentine's Day should be a unique opportunity to recognize the special people in your life and your devotions to them.

Ryan Cannon
Staff Writer

Here it comes again. The chocolates, the flowers and the giant white bears with sewn-on hearts. Pink, red and white as far as the eye can see. Ugh.

Valentine's Day: another night for couples to empty their wallets on five-dollar greeting cards and silk underwear, while singles do the same on Hagen-Daas. While it may be a wonderful time to spend with loved ones, the holiday's history and what is has become begs the question: is it truly worth celebrating?

February has been a month for lovers for about 2,300 years. Pagan Romans celebrated Valentine's Day, and originally called the Lupercalia festival on the ides (fifteenth) of February. The day was dedicated in honor of the god Faunus—a.k.a. the goat-footed Pan. The grand finale of the feast was when all the teenage girls put their names into a large urn, and the young men took turns drawing the names out. The woman pulled would be assigned as that man's sexual partner for the rest of the year. More often than not these pairings ended in marriage.

In the fifth century A.D., the Catholic Church felt the need to stamp out the tradition of frivolity and premarital sex. Pope Gelasius declared Feb. 14 Valentine's Day to coincide with the pagan celebration and outlawed lottery system. Valentine was a priest during the rule of Emperor Claudius II of Rome. Claudius outlawed marriage for young men because he believed bachelors made better soldiers. Valentine was imprisoned and beheaded for marrying young couples in secret. Legend has it that he fell in love with his jailor's daughter and wrote her a love letter before being executed and signed it, "From Your Valentine." A noble imprisoned in the Tower of London took up the saying again when writing his wife in the fifteenth century.

In modern times, the thought of Valentine's Day makes Don Hall, Jr., CEO of Hallmark Inc., salivate. Last year Americans sent over one billion greeting cards, second only to Christmas. At \$3-\$4 a pop that's a multi-billion-dollar industry

for a single day. Instead of worshipping a saint or a god, Americans now worship the golden calf of commerce. Everywhere from Amazon.com to Scotty's now sports sweets and trinkets that are the perfect gift for the one you love.

Valentine's has become a day of expectation. A boyfriend does not have the option to do something special as a surprise on the day he had better—or else. Often the staple of flowers and chocolates is not enough; a good boyfriend must be creative, spontaneous, and exciting. We also feel the wrath of a disenchanted significant other. Sean Connery's advice in "Finding Forrester," "Unexpected gift, unexpected time," seems much more special. But any man foolish enough to "forget" Valentine's Day is going to hear about it for a long time.

The word holiday comes from the words "holy day." Valentine's is the feast of a saint, and the festival of a god, not just a chance to go out and purchase Pokemon greeting cards and bushels of Sweethearts. Even the non-Christian and non-pagan can take more away from Valentine's than just candies and lace: the ideas that have been celebrated for multiple millennia transcend world-views. Peace, community and joy come from the pagan festivals while the story of St. Valentine celebrates the triumph of love and faith over persecution.

The ideals that Valentine's Day represents aren't realities for many people in cultures everywhere. Rape, incest, domestic battery and genital mutilation are realities for women not just in places like Afghanistan, but the United States as well—even little old Alma. For the past four years, the holiday has become the jumping-off point for a movement to raise money to end violence against women all over the world. Vday.org proclaims Valentine's Day as V-Day "Until the Violence Stops." When all women live in safety, no longer fearing violence or the threat of violence, then V-Day will be known as Victory Over Violence Day.

Looking at the holiday's history, natural evolution, and current status, the truth is clear: Valentine's Day was never meant to belong to Hallmark™.

Congratulations New Sorority Women

ΑΓΔ

Donigan, Katie
Halbert, Sarah
Karjalainen, Katherine
Loomis, Jennifer
Lowis, Nicole
Reeve, Kimberly
Wicker, Erin M.

ΑΞΔ

Budde, Ashely
DeGraaf, Kristen
Koch, Jennifer
Mooney, Jen
Panik, Nichole
Pisarski, Nicole
Rheinhardt, Courtney
Sexton, Anne
Stempky, Sarah
Tedford, Lori
Winnell, Jacqueline
Wrobel, Olga

ΓΦΒ

Cline, Jennifer
Crandell, Kimberly
Johnson, Kari Joy
Karchon, Megan
Kelley, Mary
McIntosh, Stacey
Plasencia, Julie
Poppelstone, Brenda
Wasek, Laura

KI

Brewer, Christy
Brooks, Marilee
Drebus, Cynthia
Fisette, Nicole
Granke, Leah
Kotecki, Erika
Kramer, Claire
Lane, Darek
Langeni, Phiwa
McKendry, Shannon
Millikin, Amber
Mottern, Alieshia
Pickhover, Autumn
Rohrkemper, Nicole
Vance, Jessica
White, Heather L.

ΦΣΣ

Alden, Hailey
Baker, Maura
Bartholomew, Kristi
Cooper, Jennifer
Kanaske, Amanda
Kellog, Kathleen
Kennerly, Darby
Keyes, Angela
Terrill, Amanda
Wickline, Brenda

Olympics bring patriotism with concern

U-WIRE copy
Staff Editorial

The Breeze (James Madison U.)

Monday marks five months from the Sept. 11 attack, and we once again assess the state of the nation and our emotions. Generally, we have become more relaxed as things return to an apparent state of normalcy.

We are starting to not think twice about flying, headlines are focusing on more local news, and we seem less concerned with terrorism as a whole. In the midst of returning to the way things were, the United States is given a new reason for concern.

A few years ago, we were named the hosts of the 2002 Winter Olympics. At the time, the nation was not aware it would have just experienced terrorism-induced turmoil when the event would come. Now it's here. The big question is what this means for the state of the nation.

The Winter Olympics can bring with it the assurance of the national stability required to hold the event. A celebration of U.S. culture comes along with holding the Olympics. This year's Olympics hope to be a symbol of American pride to display to the many visiting countries we're welcoming onto our turf. With any luck, the Olympics will serve as a way to further world unity and celebrate the unique and special cultures that each nation brings to the competition.

But in the midst of the fun and revelry, is there an underlying worry that the Olympics could be a possible target?

The Olympic Games have been the target of attacks in the past. According to historycentral.com, members of an Israeli Olympic team were killed in 1972. The bombing at our own Atlanta Games in 1996 stunned the unsuspecting nation.

According to a Feb. 9 report in The Washington Post, the security for this year's Olympics is the most expensive ever. In an effort to keep participants and spectators safe, \$310 million has been spent. During the Olympic Opening Ceremony, newscaster Bob Costas said the Olympics this year mark the largest security event in the history of the United States. This should relieve some anxiety, although it is apparent that concern over the safety of the Games is on people's minds.

Many years, the Olympic Games come and go without much concern from the general public. This year, things have changed. While the United States is getting back to normal, we have a new awareness of our patriotism and our support is more generous than in years past. The Winter Olympics likely will be a more special event than the Olympics of previous years.

While we are subjecting ourselves to the possibility of another attack by the sheer size of the event, the United States is bringing the nation and ultimately the world together with the Olympic Games.

~From Your Panhellenic Council~

SPORTS

Olympic fever hits Salt Lake City

Matt Helmus
Staff Writer

The Olympics are upon us again and promise to bring even more excitement and patriotism to the U.S. Opening ceremonies, held Friday in Salt Lake City's Rice-Eccles Stadium, featured a flag found in the remains of the World Trade Center and President Bush mixing with the athletes. Bush told them, "The whole country is pulling for you."

While remaining interested and confident in the athletics, Bush and many others are concerned with the security of the games. During the opening ceremonies, the local airport was shut down and sniper teams were stationed in the city. The 2,500 athletes in the games will be protected by around 16,000 security workers from 59 different agencies in the private and governmental sectors.

The games still have a positive feel with the spirit of Olympic pride showing. The Salt Lake Games feature some relatively new and exciting sports: Skeleton, a sport described by AP writer Tom Withers as "grabbing that sled on the wall of your garage, jumping on it headfirst and flying down a world-class bobsled run at 80 mph with no brakes", returns for the first time in 54 years. Other sports which are recent add-ons to the Olympics include

snowboarding, curling and women's hockey.

The U.S. women's hockey team will try to defend their 1998 gold medal after coming through a grueling 32 game pre-Olympic tour undefeated. While they are considered heavy favorites, the men's team will have a hard time duplicating the 1980 "Miracle on Ice" in the first games on American soil since the unlikely heroes beat the Soviets in Lake Placid. The Russians, Canadians and Czechs are among the favorites to get the gold.

Speed skating is another event where Americans don't look to garner many gold medals. On the men's side, Dutch skaters look to dominate. Bob DeJong, Carl Verheijen, and Jochem Uytdehaage are considered the medal favorites in the 5,000 and 10,000 meter races, beating out even Gianni Rome, their fellow countrymen who holds the world record in the 5,000. Chris Witty holds U.S. hope for medals on the women's side. Witty was the only American double medalist in Nagano but is currently trying to get rid of her lingering mononucleosis.

The Salt Lake games will be the largest Winter Olympics in history. Approximately 2,526 athletes will compete for 477 medals in 78 events. The games have a western feel, being held for the first time in the western heartland. Natalie Maines, lead singer of the country group the Dixie Chicks, summed it up best at the opening ceremonies with: "Y'all ready?"

FAST Stats

MIAA Men's Basketball Report

League	W	L	Avg.	Opp.
Hope	8	2	79.5	69.3
Calvin	7	3	70.4	65.7
Kalamazoo	7	4	68.5	66.4
Albion	5	5	64.7	63.9
Adrian	5	6	68.5	69.2
Olivet	4	6	66.7	72.5
Alma	0	10	65.8	77.2

MIAA Women's Basketball Report

League	W	L	Avg.	Opp.
Hope	11	1	70.5	55.1
Kalamazoo	9	3	67.2	57.6
Adrian	7	5	66.1	68.0
Calvin	7	5	61.1	61.2
Albion	5	7	58.2	56.8
Saint Mary's	4	8	57.0	63.5
Alma	3	9	58.0	59.7
Olivet	2	10	54.2	69.3

IM sports continue rich tradition

Matt Helmus
Staff Writer

Have nothing to do on a beautiful afternoon? Join Alma's rich tradition of friendly sporting competition. Over the years Alma students have come up with countless ways to have fun and stay fit.

One of the first sporting ideas in Alma's history involved field days. In the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries field days were very popular. Field days involved inviting another college to campus for casual competition in a wide array of sports. One of the first recorded events against Saginaw Valley in 1897 included track events and bicycling. In 1900, a track meet with Olivet was held in Ithaca. The event came complete with a band and a meal for everyone.

The MIAA got in on the act and made the field days formal competition in the early twentieth century. Alma teams competed as the Fighting Presbyterians and the Maroon and Creams. In 1908, the MIAA field day on campus moved forward due to a circus heading into town.

Students also came up with ways to have fun with our own campus community. College-wide field days were held in 1893 and 1894 with events including a three-legged race, a lock-step race, and a basketball throwing competition. Among the prizes were neckties and free shaves. In 1888, students competed for the designation of college champion in wrestling and gymnastics.

Many other sports stressed team competition on campus. In the early days of the college an annual Faculty vs. Seniors baseball game was held. In 1938 the women on campus decided to put together their own football team. One paper designated them "prettiest in the nation."

Another popular tradition on campus in the early twentieth century was the annual tug-o-war across the Pine River. The event pitted the freshmen against the sophomores with the losers getting an unwelcome bath. One poster publicizing the event pointed out the atmosphere of friendly competition: "Frosh - You lousy scums - Appear for a cleansing - Prepare to shame the crystal waters of the Pine with your polluted hides."

The changing years have not seen a loss in popularity in the intramural arena. In 1980, the champions of the flag football league went off to compete in national competition. They garnered 14th place out of 51 teams in the Sugar Bowl Classic - a tournament with many of the top teams from around the nation. Currently popular intramural sports include basketball, floor hockey, and football. Many students continue to uphold Alma's athletic tradition by getting out, having fun, and staying fit.

ACUB presents: GAME NIGHT!

Friday at 8pm
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Games will be provided.
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ACUB wants to say
GOOD LUCK
to the traveling quiz bowl members!

SPORTS

- Sports Line -

Olympic games sell out to youth market



Once again it is time for that all important event that happens once every

four years where athletes compete in some of the coldest conditions on Earth, the X-games...wait...no, I mean the Olympics. I'm sorry but I get those two confused especially since the International Olympic Committee has added thrilling, speedy sports like snowboarding, aerial skiing, and the aptly named "skeleton" — which, after you go head first down an icy track at obscene speeds, is what they hope to find left of you. I don't even think those extreme athletes competing in the X-games would be crazy enough to participate in an event called the Skeleton.

This year we Americans are forced to watch the "new Olympics," where old stand-bys like downhill skiing are ignored by the cameras in favor of "younger" more "hip" events such as aerial skiing. Aerial skiing? Is that the little mermaid on water skis or an Olympic event? The Olympics have changed their image in order to appeal to a younger market, hoping that the immature audience will give previously poor ratings a solid boost. I have a suggestion for the next Olympic games: add more events like CURLING if you REALLY want to give your ratings a boost.

One thing that really baffles me about the Olympics is how much people actually look forward to figure skating. Figure skating? How can you categorize figure skating as a sport, the winners are based on the marks they receive from judges. And as we all know from the honest sport of boxing, judges can always be trusted to give their most truthful opinion.

With all of the changes to the winter Olympics this year, there is one thing that remains constant...Olympic hockey. Ah yes, Olympic hockey. Quite different from the hockey of the NHL, which encourages brute strength and force, Olympic hockey favors speed and technique; players in Olympic hockey actually have to move the entire 60 minutes on the ice. For Americans, Olympic hockey is entirely different from the smash-mouth, concussion-causing hockey of the NHL. Instead of going through people, players must now find a way around their opponent (and believe me there are plenty of ways around an opponent because the rink is the size of the Pontiac Silverdome).

From the breathtaking excitement of the opening ceremony, where the torch kept getting passed from person to person and circled endlessly around the rink as the audience looked on dizzily, to the awe-inspiring events of the closing ceremonies, where athletes will pack up shop and scrape up the remains of those still on the skeleton track.

The Olympics are sure to have an event suitable for everyone in the family...that is if your family's last name is Kinevil.

Team Profile Women's Basketball

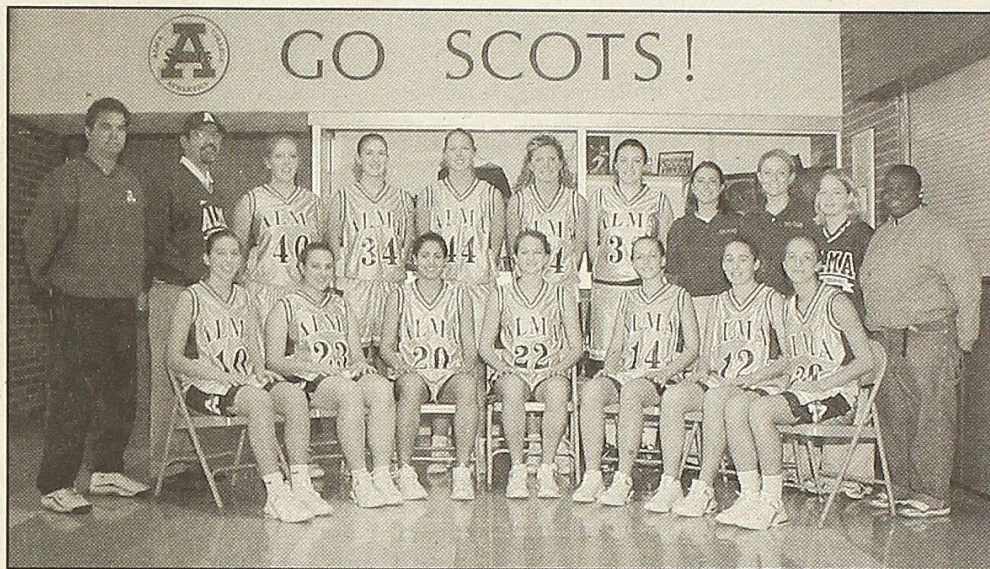


Photo courtesy of Skip Traynor

Tiffanie Taylor
Staff Writer

Although their record might not show it, the women's basketball team is overflowing with talent. Both team and personal statistics display the team's ability to shoot from behind the arc, and a new school record has been set for the number of rebounds in one season. Remarkably, this year's roster, sporting seven freshmen, is the youngest in the College's history.

"With such a young team our goals were to come in and work hard and try to improve each day," Coach Charlie Goffnett said. "We got off to a decent start but because of the tough losses in 2002 our confidence has been shaken. Realistically this team has put themselves in a position to be successful but just has not closed out games in the end and that is where the experience factor comes in."

Mindy VanDamme (05) added, "We're just frustrated. We've lost so many close games that it's hard to pick ourselves up."

As far as the rest of the season goes, "Work hard, hang tough, be persistent," Goffnett said. "We need to finish as high as possible to get a better seeding in the upcoming conference tourney."

The Scots, now 3-9 in the MIAA, only have two more regular season games to improve their record before the MIAA Tournament gets underway toward the end of February.

But with the entire roster in a position to return for the 2002-2003 season, the Scots' future is looking brighter.

"I told our players that sometime this year or next, we are going to be a good team if we are interested in improving," Goffnett said. Also, "We as coaches will be better next year knowing what each of these players can contribute on and off the court."

The three juniors on the team, Janell Twietmeyer, Shelley Ulfig and Kristie Gehrs are this year's captains. But Goffnett has an interesting philosophy about leadership that many people can learn from.

"Everyone needs to be a leader...If you sit around waiting for someone to motivate you in life you are not going to get anything done. Leadership is an art that only a few can master. People will follow leaders that walk the walk and are credible."

Good luck to the Scots as they finish out the 2001-2002 season.

Roster

Jillian MacDonald, Jesse Rosten, Kristie Gehrs, Eryn Mercer, Crystal Jacob, Linda Slough, Karen Hall, Colleen Trybus, Anne Love, Michelle Dettling, Shelly Ulfig, Janell Twietmeyer, Head Coach: Charlie Goffnett, Assistant Coach: Mark Guyette, Student Assistant: Mary Klingner

Men's basketball team 0 for 10 after two losses

Kevin Goodwin
Staff Writer

Did you ever want something so bad you can taste it? That's how the Alma College men's basketball team felt last week after two disappointing losses on the road to Olivet on Wednesday and Hope on Saturday. "It's hard to put into words what the season has been like," said Bill Johnson (03). "It's been a struggle all season long."

The Scots have not been able to win a game in the MIAA this season, as Alma drops to 0-10 in the conference, and 3-19 overall.

The Scots began the week traveling to Olivet for a game against the Comets (10-13, 4-6). It was the same old story for Alma, as the Scots got off to a slow start and had to play catch-up the rest of the game. The Scots trailed 28-20 at halftime, but rallied early in the second half thanks in part to the play of Aaron Kanitz (02) who scored seven points during the stretch and Dan Chewning (02) who capped off the rally with a three point play to give Alma a 30-28 lead. But Olivet struck right back, as the Comets built an 11-point lead, 49-38, with 7:21 remaining in the game.

Trailing 55-44 late in the game, the Scots staged a second rally in hopes of securing their first win in the MIAA this season. Spencer Wideman (02) paced the Scots during the stretch, hitting two three-point baskets to pull Alma within

seven. The Scots' confidence began to swell even more after Joe Baysdell (05) threw down a dunk against the Olivet defense to pull Alma within five, 55-50. After Michael Dyson made one-of-two free throws for the Comets, Brian Kujawa (03) converted a three-point play to bring the Scots within three, 58-55.

Dyson made two more free throws with 59 seconds left to give Olivet a 61-55 lead. But Alma answered as Rob Taylor (03) hit a jumper with 46 seconds remaining. Matt Brawley then made two foul shots to give the Comets a 62-57 lead, but the Scots came right back on a three-point play by Kujawa with eight seconds left in the game.

On the following inbound play, Alma fouled Travis Schell and sent him to the line with just under five seconds remaining. Schell missed both free throws and gave Alma a chance to win, but Wideman missed a three-point basket at the buzzer and the Comets secured the victory. "We started out terribly, but battled back to make a game out of it," added Johnson, "we just couldn't pull it out in the end."

Kujawa led Alma with 22 points and eight rebounds, while Taylor added 10 points and grabbed a team-high 11 boards.

On Saturday, the Scots found themselves up against conference titan Hope (17-6, 8-2) as Alma traveled to Holland.

The Scots rallied from a 16-point deficit in the final six minutes, 26 seconds, but the Flying Dutch made enough free

throws down the stretch to turn back the Scots 82-78.

Chad Carlson hit a jumper to give Hope a 76-60 lead with 6:26 remaining. Baysdell scored 10 of his team-high 14 points in the final minutes to key the Scots comeback attempt. Drew Martin (05) made a field goal with 33 seconds remaining to bring the Scots within three, 79-76. Matt Taylor and Chad Carlson each made a free throw to put the Flying Dutch back up by five. Dan Chewning answered with a field goal with two seconds left, but Taylor hit another foul shot with one second remaining and clinched the win for the Flying Dutch.

Baysdell led the Scots with 14 points, while Taylor chipped in 12 points and Brian Kujawa added 10.

"We just hit another scoring draught in the second half like we always do," said Johnson.

The Scots have two league games remaining before the start of the MIAA tournament, where the last place Scots will try to play the role of spoiler. "Although it's been a tough season thus far," added Johnson, "we know that it can all be turned around with a win or two in the conference tournament."

The Scots will play Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. as they travel to Albion College for an MIAA game. The Scots then return home on Saturday, Feb. 16, for their last game of the regular season against MIAA foe Calvin College. The tip-off is slated for 3 p.m.

SPORTS

Women's team batting .250, 3-9 after tough losses

Tiffanie Taylor
Staff Writer

The women's basketball team dropped the ball this week, losing to both Olivet and Hope. These two last minute losses dropped the Scots to 3-9 in the MIAA.

On Wednesday evening Alma looked for a win against Olivet. The first half was a back-and-forth battle with the Scots leading 32-25 going into the locker room. But the Comets made a strong comeback, scoring 10 of the first 13 points in the second half, and tied the game at 35.

With the game tied at 37, Olivet went on a 10-0 run. Alma eventually worked their way back into the game to make the score 52-50 with 1:48 remaining, but a 3-point play gave the Comets the victory with a final score of 57-52.

The Scots' Shelly Ulfig (03) contributed 12 points and 11 rebounds, while Janell Twietmeyer (03) added 14 points. Sophomore Karen Hall

also chipped in with 10 points and 10 rebounds.

Alma hit the courts again Saturday afternoon to try their luck against Hope, whose record was 21-1 going into the game. A close first half put the Scots within reach of a win, but a turnover and a few easy baskets for the Flying Dutch changed the direction of the game. The Scots managed to pull within one, but free throws made with two-tenths of a second remaining clutched the win for Hope with a 71-68 victory.

Despite the tough loss, many of Alma's players had a great showing. Ulfig, who now holds the school record for rebounds in a season with 245, scored 14 points and nabbed 10 rebounds. Twietmeyer and Jillian MacDonald (05) both scored 13 points and Hall contributed 12.

The team closes out the home portion of its season on Wednesday as they take on Albion College at 7:30 p.m in the Caepert gymnasium.



Shelly Ulfig (03) scored 14 points in Alma's 71-68 loss against Hope College on Saturday afternoon.

##	Player	TOT-FG				3-PT				REBOUNDS							
		FG	FGA	FG	FGA	FT	FTA	OF	DE	TOT	PF	TP	A	TO	BLK	S	MIN
24	Karen Hall.....	f	4	5	0	0	4	4	2	3	5	4	12	1	2	0	36
40	Janell Twietmeyer...	f	4	11	1	6	4	4	0	4	4	3	13	5	5	0	33
44	Shelly Ulfig.....	c	3	8	0	0	8	13	5	5	10	3	14	0	2	1	29
12	Mindy Vandamme.....	g	2	7	2	3	2	2	1	2	3	1	8	2	1	0	33
14	Kristie Gehrs.....	g	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	1	1	0	12
10	Jillian MacDonald...		2	4	0	0	9	9	0	1	1	3	13	0	2	0	29
20	Bryn Mercer.....		4	6	0	1	0	2	0	1	1	3	8	0	5	0	25
22	Crystal Jacob.....		0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	3
TM TEAM.....									1	3	4						
Totals.....			19	42	3	11	27	34	9	21	30	19	68	9	20	1	200
Score by Periods			1	2	Total												
Hope College.....			32	39	- 71												
Alma College.....			25	43	- 68												

Campus

Calendar

All Week Register for Spring Term courses		Friday <i>The Actor's Nightmare</i> and <i>Sr. Mary Ignatius Explains it All for You</i> 8:00 p.m. Heritage Center theatre	
Tonight <i>The Actor's Nightmare</i> and <i>Sr. Mary Ignatius Explains it All for You</i> 8:00 p.m. Heritage Center theatre		Chorale and Glee Club 8:00 p.m. Presbyterian Hall	
Wednesday <i>The Actor's Nightmare</i> and <i>Sr. Mary Ignatius Explains it All for You</i> Heritage Center theatre 8:00 p.m.		Saturday <i>The Actor's Nightmare</i> and <i>Sr. Mary Ignatius Explains it All for You</i> 3:00 p.m. Heritage Center theatre	
John Echohawk Co-Curricular Speaker 8:00 p.m. Heritage Center		<i>The Vagina Monologues</i> 8:00 p.m. Heritage Center theatre	
Women's Basketball vs. Albion 7:30 p.m. Gymnasium		Men's Basketball vs. Calvin 3:00 p.m. Gymnasium	
Thursday <i>The Vagina Monologues</i> 8:00 p.m. Heritage Center theatre		Sunday <i>The Vagina Monologues</i> 3:00 p.m. Heritage Center theatre	
		Alma Symphony Orchestra 3:00 p.m. Presbyterian Hall	

Classifieds

Make someone happy...advertise in the classifieds for only ten cents/word...wish a happy birthday, congratulate a good deed, sell something you don't need, ask for something you want done, or just share some words of wisdom...shoot an email to almanian@alma.edu with your advertisement...

Happy 20th Birthday Buckley...February 13th.
~Dad, Mom, and Jota

The Michigan Historical Museum system has summer positions (May15-mid-August) for historical interpreters in the Upper and Lower Peninsulas. Must be 18 years or older, able to pass drug test and enjoy working with children and adults. Positions start at \$7 an hour. Application deadline is March 1 or until all positions are filled. For details call 517-241-2381 or email JoAnn Carroll at CarrolJA@mi.gov

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